

Thunder Words



December 2025, Volume 48 #12
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club



Prez Says: We will soon end another T-bird year with our business meeting scheduled for December 18th, 6 PM, at the Copper Kettle in Omaha. The Friendsgiving event in November met the 20-reservation requirement on the nose. Thanks to those who came, and double thanks to **Jim Lantz** and **Jeff Hoffman** for hosting the outstanding feast and contributing hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments at Firethorn Golf Club in Lincoln. There was enough delicious food for a group twice our size! Our newest members, **Gary** and **Marsha Hash**, **Scott** and **Renea Steffens**, all from Iowa, were able to join us.

A slate of officers was presented and voted upon by unanimous ballot: **Marty Bierman**, president; **Rob Kinsey**, vice president; **Jeff Brown**, treasurer; and **Mary Lou Bierman**, secretary. Of course, **Jack Sanford** stayed on as Editor of Thunder Words since his salary was doubled. **Jack** sure does a great job! **Marty** is planning events for '26 and encourages members to submit ideas as well, so next year will be varied and entertaining. My special gift to **Marty** as incoming Prez is how to spell "HORS D'OEUVRES". **Vicki** and I wish everyone a happy holidays and a New Year!

Rob

Next Event
Business Meeting
December 18, 2025
Coffee Kettle Cafe
Omaha, NE
6:00 PM

2025/26 Meeting Dates:

Omaha – December 18
Waverly – March 19

Next Business Meeting
December 18, 2025
Coffee Kettle Café
9905 Sapp Bros. Drive
Omaha, NE 6:00 PM



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
Sponsored by **Lee Sapp Ford**



Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club, November 2025

Meeting occurred at the annual Friendsgiving Dinner.

President Rob Kinsey opened the meeting at 6:45 PM by introducing the newest club members: **Gary** and **Marsha Hash** from Brooklyn, IA. **Marsha** was elected Vice President of the CTCI Board. She is the region 2 Director and handles the CTCI newsletter contest. **Scott** and **Renea Steffens** are from Wiota, IA. **Renea** has operated the VTCI Convention Country Store for years. **Rob** thanked the hosts, **Jim Lantz** and **Jeff Hoffman**, not only for the facility but also for their contributions to the dinner, including the appetizers, beer, and wine. The buffet-style dinner was as advertised. Not only was it delicious, but there was ample, enough so that to-go boxes were offered. It is always a pleasure to attend the Firethron Country Club. As a bonus, they furnished a TV so we could keep track of the Huskers' football game.

Those present at the Firethron Country Club dinner were **Marty & Mary Lou Bierman**, **Jeff Brown & Diane Bessette**, **Larry & Gail Dawes**, **Gary & Marsha Hash**, **Dick & Diane Heinke**, **Jeff Hoffman**, **Joel Hutchins**, **Don Indra**, **Rob & Vicki Kinsey**, **Jim Lantz**, **Jack Sanford**, **Scott & Renea Steffens**.

Rob introduced the officer slate for 2026, compiled by the nominating committee. **Marty Bierman**, President, **Rob Kinsey**, Vice President, **Jeff Brown**, Treasurer, with a late candidate for secretary, **Mary Lou Bierman**. **Joel Hutchins** made a motion to accept all the candidates, with a second by **Larry Dawes**. The motion carried. **Jack Sanford** agreed to continue as the newsletter editor.

Rob closed the meeting with a reminder that the next meeting would be in Omaha at the Coffee Kettle Café on December 18th. He added that there wouldn't be meetings in January and February, making March 19th the first 2026 meeting in Waverly, NE.

Respectfully submitted by **Jack E. Sanford**, Acting Secretary



Jeff H. Marty Mary Lou Vicki Rob Gary Jim Marsha

TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman

Decal Set Solutions



John La Duke had an excellent article in last month's newsletter on installing the data plate decal. I too was an avid model maker in my boyhood, assembling WW2 aircraft and military vehicle models. I found the decals difficult to place properly and frequently tore them. Some crinkled up and fell off the model when they dried. Therefore, when I needed to place my data plate decal on my freshly restored 1955 Thunderbird Blue T-Bird, all those boyhood memories haunted me. I researched decal placement on the internet and found that solutions were available to help remove the decal from the paper and to allow it to be slid into position easily. They also help the decal adhere to the surface better. The setting solutions also allows the decal to lay over protrusions better and allow air bubbles to be squeegeed out easier. I used Micro Set by Microscale Industries, Inc. to help set my data plate decal and took all the other precautions mentioned by John. Placement went near-perfect, and it has held up for 30 years now; however, I did not spray a clear coat on it. Testors also makes a decal set solution.



This is a decal available for your regulator. It is applied the same as John and Marty described.

CTCI

Highlights of CTCI Video Board Meeting November 14, 2025

Welcome, Bob Young: Welcome to Bob Young, who will be filling the position of Director At Large. He was appointed to fill the balance of Chris Ames' term.

Treasurer's Report: John Kledis presented the 10-month financials. In the first ten months, John did note that we still have a functional loss for the year, but that is being offset by the investment income. On the Balance sheet, John discussed that we are in fairly good shape. He stressed again that CTCI needs to continue to reduce overhead expenses wherever possible and increase membership.

Member Renewals: Garrett Shropshire, through the Office Activity Report, documented Member Renewals. Last year (12/31/2024), we ended up with 3,601 active members. Between January and October of 2025, we gained 156 New Members. In addition, we gained 26 members who returned to CTCI from prior years (before 2024). As of 10/31/2025, we are now at 3,238 active members. We are pleased that we have achieved (and exceeded) our anticipated membership count of 3,200 by the end of the year. At this point, we have 487 Members who have not renewed. Of that total, we have only received 61 notices of dropouts.

Support & Administrative Services Contract: The Board was presented with a proposed contract for support and administrative services for CTCI with Attache' International, LLC. The Board wanted time to review the proposed contract further and tabled it until the next meeting set for December 12.

Office Activity: The Office Activity report showed Invoice and Merchandise sales. For 2025, CTCI has had over \$12,031.75 in Merchandise Sales, which is slightly less than last year at this time. In addition, 41 requests have been made for factory invoices.

Election Results: The Board Certified the election results for the Board of Directors election. The CTCI Board of Directors election concluded on October 28, 2025, for Board positions effective January 1, 2026. The Certified election detailed results are as follows:

For Region 1

John Knapp.....73 (Winner)

Donna Jessie.....29

Total Votes.....105

(Empty Votes).....3

Valid Votes.....102

For Region 3

Tony Seibert.....83 (Winner)

Thomas Przedwojewski.....20

Total Votes.....111

(Empty Votes).....8

Valid Votes.....103

For Region 5

Jim McLaughlin.....89 (Winner)

Pocahontas Cole.....44

Total Votes.....140

(Empty Votes).....7

Valid Votes.....133



For Director At Large

Ross Woodman.....275 (Winner)

David M. (Mike) Mills...192

Ralph Cowell.....183

Total Votes.....716

(Empty Votes).....66

Valid Votes.....650

Total Members eligible to vote*: 3,096

Total Votes Cast 716

Percent voting: 23.13%

*members with valid e-mail (includes members who later "bounced" & "opt out")

Change to OP&P regarding the Officer Election: The Board approved an amendment to document the order of ALL officer elections.

2025 Joint Thunderbird Convention Report: Brian Carron provided a financial update on the 2025 Convention (Grapevine, TX) that just wrapped up. Brian presented that we made a net profit. The Board approved returning the donations received from CTCI chapters.

Proclamation of Thanks to the Brian Carron Family: The Board voted and approved a formal Proclamation to thank Brian Carron and his family for all of their efforts in planning and leadership of the very successful 2025 Convention in Grapevine, TX.

2026 Convention: The Board approved supporting the Joint TOA convention that will be held on September 8 – 12 in Flagstaff, AZ. Flagstaff was chosen to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Route 66. The Board authorized Classic Convention Productions to allocate \$8,000 to be used as "seed money" for the convention and to start the planning process in conjunction with the TOA. Additional decisions about activities (such as Judging & Tours) for the convention will be discussed at the December 12, 2025, Board meeting.

Format and Planning for Future Conventions and Shows: The Board agreed to finalize plans for 2027 as well as future conventions at the next Board Meeting. This includes discussions on future joint events with TOA.

Participation and Support at Ford Nationals in Carlisle, PA: The Board agreed to table the discussion on participation at the Ford Nationals in Carlisle, PA until the next board meeting.

The next Board meeting is set for December 12, 2025, at 10:00 AM Central

On Behalf of the Board, Bob Bly, President



T-Bird Appreciation Day, Lincoln, NE., May 2025.



2025/26 Calendar of Events

December 18 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Coffee Kettle Café, 9905 Sapp Bros. Dr., Omaha, NE

January 23-25 – Midlands International Auto Show – CHI Arena & Convention Center

March 6-8 – 71st World of Wheels – CHI Arena & Convention Center

**March 8 – 51st Annual Rocky Mountain Manginelli Swap Meet – Sandhills Global Event Center - Lincoln
(same location, new name – 4100 North 84th Street)**

March 19 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Track Side Bar & Grill – 13901 Guildford 7, Waverly, NE



Please use the attached form to submit your dues. The dues are still only \$15 per year, probably the best deal in town.

2026 Membership dues - \$15.00

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email(s) _____

Please send this form and check for membership dues payable to Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club care of **Jeff Brown**,
Treasurer, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128

Established in 1975, the **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club** is dedicated to preserving and enjoying one of the greatest cars ever created: the **Ford Thunderbird**.

Advantages of club membership include:

- Regular driving events and monthly meetings every third Thursday
- Social functions such as picnics, shows, and the annual Christmas/Friendsgiving party
- Members with restoration and repair experience
- Assistance with parts acquisition and location
- CTCI master judge to assist with authenticity issues
- Monthly newsletter with a calendar of events and tech articles



Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President	Rob Kinsey	- 402-434-9053
Vice President	Martin Bierman	- 402-289-4516
Treasurer	Jeff Brown	- 402-572-1995
Secretary		
CTCI Rep	Martin Bierman	- 402-289-4516
Newsletter	Jack Sanford	- 402-392-1350
Historian	Bob McGowan	- 402-334-2593
Social Media	John La Duke	- 701-330-7908
Sponsor	Lee Sapp Ford	- 402-944-3367

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Santa Claus

(also known simply as Santa, or as Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Father Christmas, or Kris Kringle) is a legendary figure originating in Western Christian culture who is said to bring gifts during the late evening and overnight hours on Christmas Eve. Christmas elves are said to make the gifts in Santa's workshop, while flying reindeer pull his sleigh through the air.

The popular conception of Santa Claus originates from folklore traditions surrounding the 4th-century Christian bishop Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children. Saint Nicholas became renowned for his reported generosity and secret gift-giving. The image of Santa Claus shares similarities with the English figure of Father Christmas, and they are both now popularly regarded as the same person.

Santa is generally depicted as a portly, jolly, white-bearded man, often with glasses, wearing a red coat with a white-fur collar and cuffs, white-fur-cuffed red trousers, a red hat trimmed with white fur, a black leather belt and boots, and carrying a bag full of gifts for children. He is popularly associated with a deep, hearty laugh, frequently rendered in Christmas literature as "ho, ho, ho!"

This image originated in the United States during the 19th century, after Dutch settlers brought the legend of Sinterklaas ("Saint Nicholas") to 17th-century New Amsterdam (present-day New York City). The 1823 American poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas", written by an anonymous author, recounts Saint Nicholas arriving at the author's home on Christmas Eve in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The poem laid the foundation for modern depictions of Santa Claus, strengthening the association between Santa Claus and Christmas. Over time, this connection has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, children's books, family Christmas traditions, films, and advertising.

Wikipedia

TIP OF THE MONTH

Last month, we talked about how to drive your vehicle in inclement weather. This month, we are going to talk about what you should do before you drive.

Prepare your vehicle: Check your tires for tread and proper inflation, inspect your battery, and ensure all lights are working. Make sure your windshield wipers and fluid are in good condition.

Pack an emergency kit: Include blankets, warm clothing, a flashlight, a first aid kit, high-energy snacks, water, and a phone charger.

Keep your gas tank full: Aim to keep it at least half full to prevent fuel line freeze-ups and to have a reserve if you get stranded.

Member Birthdays**December**

Mary Lou Bierman - 12

Gaylord Lacy - 19

Jack Sanford - 27

Alice Brown - 30

If you want to be recognized, please send your birthdate to jesanford@cox.net.

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year

