

# Thunder Words



February 2021 ~ Volume 44, #2  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



**Prez Says,** As the snow continues to pile up around my garage, I hope you are thinking about hosting an activity. Being shut up by both the snow and the pandemic really makes me hopeful for some sort of normalcy. Let **Jack** know if you have an event to add to our 2021 calendar. The Cruis'n Classics Auto Show will carry a '55,'56,'57, T-Bird category if we can sign up at least seven T-Birds.

Save the date of July 25, 2021, for this event, which will be held at the Shriner's in Lincoln. Details will be published in later newsletters. We are continuing to consider a Zoom meeting in late February to discuss 2021 planning. Please think about member stories for publication in our newsletter, CTCI's Early Bird, and participating in the CTCI's virtual convention. Don't forget your special someone on **Valentine's Day**.

**Rob Kinsey, President**



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## Club News

**Hill's Calendars:** Anyone in my neighborhood is welcome to pick one up.

### **Marty**

**Cruis'n Classics Auto Show, Lincoln Shrine Center July 25, 2021.** Put this date on your personal calendar. We need seven cars or more to have a 55-57 T-Bird category. Additional information will be available in future **Thunder Words** editions.

**Boomer Calendars\*:** if you want a calendar call **Bob McGowan** and he will be happy to give you one. If you want more than one for your kids, or another car buddy, for example, you are welcome to them. When they are gone, they are gone. But my guess is that the station will probably still have some throughout the year.

\*Editor's note: It is a nice calendar.

## CTCI News

Those members with internet received two important CTCI announcements January 15, 2021. Our Regional Director, **Brian Carron** was elected President of the Board. **Brian** is also a member of our Club. We wish him good luck and a hearty congratulations.

The other board assignments are listed below:

Vice President - **Ed Benson**  
 Treasurer - **John Kledis**  
 Secretary - **Jim Rodgers**  
 Director Emeritus – **Bob Witt**

The Board approved a virtual convention for 2021. A new web site has been created for the Virtual Convention: <https://cybirdspace.com>. If you prefer to go through Facebook, you can get on the CTCI site and follow the event link or use the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2098509523780916>.

All Thunderbirds are welcome. Submit your best T-Bird picture. This is not a contest; it is for pride. We all think a lot of our Birds and this is a chance to show them off without having to leave the comfort of your home. The Virtual Convention site has a lot of information for your perusal. With the never-ending pandemic, this is a great way to enjoy your Bird and Club.

See **President Carron** complete letter on the next page.



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Hello Region, 5 Chapter Presidents/Vice Presidents and Newsletter Editors

A couple of quick items of interest.

1. We are in need of your assistance.

Recently members received a couple of email blasts about the *Early Bird* magazine and the need for articles. I can't emphasize enough the importance of this call for articles (technical and non-technical), pictures and human-interest stories about member Thunderbirds and Chapter activities. While the pandemic has put a dent in all of our activities over the past year, I know we all have a story or two to tell about our Thunderbirds and the enjoyment we've experienced owning them whether for one year or from the day they rolled off the assembly line. As a member in good standing in all the Region 5 Chapters, I've seen our outstanding newsletters and I know there are a lot of great stories that could be submitted today for publication in the *Early Bird*. The need for articles is an on-going one so if members are not ready to write a story today, just remember that we can always use stories tomorrow as well. Just asking that you spread the word to Chapter members.

Inputs for the Early Bird can be sent to Garrett Shropshire at [earlybird@ctci.org](mailto:earlybird@ctci.org)

2. As you know by now, our 2021 conventions were cancelled. However, there was a bit of good news that emerged during our pre-convention planning. We discovered that Hagerty insurance offers a 5% discount on your collector car insurance policy for **CTCI** members. Contact **Hagerty Insurance** reps at 1-800-822-4050 and talk with them about this offering. Just need to have your **CTCI** member number handy. The only caveat is that if you are currently receiving discounts based on the number or value of your collection you may not be eligible for this additional discount.

Again, please spread the word on the above items at your Chapter meetings and through your newsletters. Thanks in advance for your help and assistance in making *The Early Bird* and **CTCI** a success!!

Stay well and Stay Safe.

Respectfully,

**Brian Carron**

Region 5 Director

And

President,

**Classic Thunderbird Club International**



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# TECH TIP

## Cotter Pin Marker

Idea by Stephen Lester, Saratoga Springs, New York  
 Illustrations by Stephen Holt, Urbana, Illinois

## Tiny Tips Classic

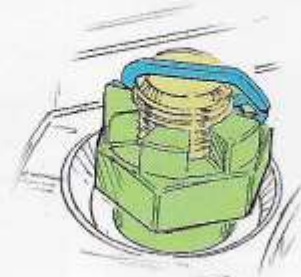
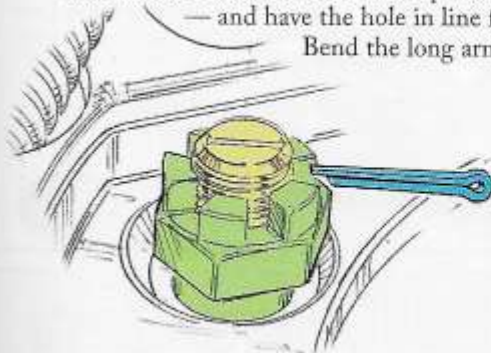
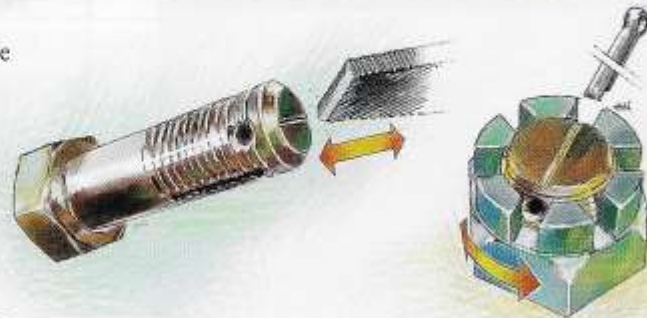
From MAFCA Members

**P**UTTING IN COTTER PINS, by getting the castellated nuts aligned with the hole in the bolt, can be difficult for those of us whose eyesight isn't what it used to be or who are working in poor light. But a little preparation will make cotter pin assembly much easier.

Before you get out your wrenches, reach for a fine-tooth file with at least one good corner. I use a small, triangular file to put a shallow, but very visible cut on the thread end of the bolt, running parallel to the hole for the cotter pin.

This makes it much easier to line up the notches in the nut with the fine cut on the end of the bolt — and have the hole in line for the cotter pin.

Bend the long arm of the cotter pin over the end of bolt to conceal the mark. ☺



This Tiny Tip originally appeared in the November/December 1987 issue.

*If you have a helpful tip about Model A restoration or maintenance to share with MAFCA members, please send it, with a photo or sketch, to the MAFCA office: 250 S. Cypress St., La Habra, CA 90631 or email to: Restorer@mafca.com*



**Bob McGowan** bending a few cotter keys.



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**THE FUTURE IS COMING!**

Author unknown

This kind of makes a person think. Who would have thought we would all be told to stay in our homes to stay alive one year ago? Things do happen and we don't see them coming. Bring it on 2021.

**Some predictions: In the next 10 to 20 years:**

**1 — Auto repair shops will disappear...**

**2 — A gas/diesel engine has 20,000 individual parts... An electrical motor has 20... Electric cars are sold with lifetime guarantees and are repaired only by dealers... It takes only 10 minutes to remove and replace an electric motor...**

**3 — Faulty electric motors are NOT repaired in the dealership but are sent to a regional repair shop that repairs them with ROBOTS...**

**4 — Your electric motor malfunction light goes on ... so you drive up to what looks like a car wash, and your car is towed through while you have a cup of coffee... Then your car comes out on the other side with a new electric motor or component...**

**5 — Gas stations will go away...**

**6 — Street corners will have meters that dispense electricity... Companies will install electrical recharging stations ... in fact, they've already started in the developed world...**

**7 — Smart major auto manufacturers have already designated money to start building new plants that build ONLY electric cars...**

**8 — The "Coal Industries" will go away... Gasoline/oil companies will go away... Drilling for oil will stop... So, say goodbye to OPEC... The Middle East is in trouble...**

**9 — Homes will produce and store more electrical energy during the day then they use... It will be sold back to "The Grid" ... The Grid will store and dispenses it, to the industries that are high electricity users. Has anybody seen the Tesla roof??**

**10 — A baby of today will only see "personal cars" in museums. The FUTURE is approaching faster than most of us can even handle...**

**11 — Autonomous cars: In 2018 the first self-driving cars were already here... In the next few years, the entire auto industry will start to be disrupted... You won't want to own a car anymore as you will call a car with your phone, it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination...**



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12 — You will not need to park it; you will pay only for the 'driven distance' and you can be productive while driving. The very young children of today will never get a driver's license and they will never own a car...

13 — This will change our cities because we will need 90% to 95% fewer cars... We can transform former parking spaces into green city parks...

14 — About 1.2 million people die each year in car accidents (worldwide). That includes distracted or drunk drivers... We currently have one accident every 60,000 miles driven... However, with autonomous driving that will drop to one accident in about 6 million miles... That will save a million plus lives, worldwide each year...

15 — Most traditional car companies will doubtless become bankrupt... They will try the evolutionary approach and just build a better car ... while tech companies (Tesla, Apple, Google) will do the revolutionary approach and build a computer on wheels...

16 — Look at what Volvo is doing right now ... no more internal combustion engines in their vehicles starting this year with the 2020 models... They are using all-electric or hybrid only (with the intent of phasing out hybrid models in the not-too-distant future...

17 — Many engineers from Volkswagen and Audi are completely terrified of Tesla... Look at all the companies offering all-electric vehicles... That was unheard of, only a few years ago...

18 — Insurance companies will have massive trouble too ... because, without accidents, the costs of insurance will become cheaper... Their car insurance business model will disappear...

19 — Real estate will change... Because if you can work while you commute, or you can work from your home ... people will abandon their towers to move far away to more beautiful and affordable properties.

20 — Electric cars will become mainstream by about 2030... Cities will be less noisy because all new cars will run ONLY on electricity...

21 — Cities will have much cleaner air...

22 — Electricity will become incredibly cheap and clean, eventually free...

**WELCOME TO TOMORROW —**

***What will happen to all the collector automobiles???***



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The **Member Profile** feature needs your help. Send your story to Jack at [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net).



Nebraskaland Club Logos. 2X3 ½ inch patch can be sewn or glued on with fabric glue. Look great on shirts, caps, and jackets. Contact Jack at 402-392-1350 – [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net)

**Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club**

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“ThunderWords” is the official publication of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club, Chapter 65 of Classic Thunderbird Club International. Annual dues are \$15, payable to Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club care of Jeff Brown, Treasurer, 7225 S 103<sup>rd</sup> ST, LaVista, NE 68128.

**2021 Membership Dues - \$15.00 – Use this form to mail yours today.**

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