

# Thunder Words



**February 2022 ~ Volume 45, #2**  
**Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird**  
**Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club**  
**Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International**



**Prez Says:** COVID struck again, and we had to cancel January's meeting due to the surge in cases in both Omaha and Lincoln areas. We are going to try again and meet the third Thursday of February. The recent moderate winter temperatures have tempted me to uncover one of the Birds and take a nice drive, but I have resisted the temptation so far. However, I do miss our meetings and the opportunity to discuss cars and activities. We need to get a slate of interesting activities or events for the weekends of our warmer months. I invite all our members to come to the next meeting and help plan the events.

This is your club, and you should decide what activities the club sponsors. I'm open to all ideas and especially ones that involve the use of our Birds. These can be simple events such as meeting for coffee on a nice Saturday morning to more demanding ones like participating in one of our local car shows. Tech sessions, picnics, cruises are all possibilities. We need to shake off the COVID lethargy and make plans to be together with our cars.

*Martin Bierman*



**Next Nebraskaland T-Bird Club meeting**  
**February 17, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Pizza Ranch**  
**8420 Lexington Ave.**  
**Lincoln, NE**  
**2021 Review Slideshow**



[www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org](http://www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>

Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



### *Minutes of the January Meeting*

As no meeting was held, we have no minutes to report. However, there was some action taken on the items discussed at the December meeting. **Jack** did talk to **Lee Sapp** about holding meetings at his workplace. **Lee** thought the idea was good in theory, but he didn't have a suitable conference room. Showing some of our Birds at his garage would not be possible with the covid restrictions as his showroom must remain unoccupied for the displaying of automobiles.

**President Bierman** set up the agenda per the by-laws to meet the third Thursday of each month, alternating between Lincoln and Omaha. Presently, the Pizza Ranch and El Bee's are the two sites designated.

**Bob McGowan's** story of Alice (his '56 T-Bird) is in the 2022, January/February Early Bird, page 13.

Member, **Bob Young** is the 2022-23, Chapter President for the Hawkeye Thunderbird Club. Several of our members are members of the Hawkeye Club as **Bob** is a member of ours. We wish him luck and will support him in his endeavors to lead during these difficult times.

Member **Brian** posted the following on Facebook.



**Brian Carron** posted in [CTCI Region 5 Thunderbird Club](#)

January 25 at 9:51 AM



## T-Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman



### Another technique for valve adjustment

In the recent past we had a tech session on adjusting valves using my mule '55 T-Bird engine. One method demonstrated was the method listed in our tech notes on our website. It involved removing the distributor cap and marking the distributor rim when the rotor was at #1 cylinder and top dead center and then marking the rim in eight equal parts. One then simply used a remote starter to move to each mark and adjust both exhaust and intake valves according to the firing order (see "Adjusting Valves" by Scott McGilvray on the tech page of our website).

There is another somewhat simpler way to adjust valves using the "EOIC method". One uses a remote starter to move the valves and look for the exhaust valve to begin to open and then set the corresponding intake valve.



Watch for the intake valve to just close and then set the exhaust valve. One does not need to follow the firing order and can start at #1 cylinder and proceed with #1 through #8. This method is shown by Tim McMaster, engine builder, in the YouTube video [How to adjust valve lash on a Y Block Ford V8 - YouTube](#)

Remember to disconnect the coil wire when using a remote starter. Set the valves .019 inches with a feeler gauge.

**F-Code 312ci V8  
Paxton/McCulloch  
VR57  
Supercharger  
300 Horsepower  
1957 Thunderbirds  
Three speed auto  
transmission**



### 2022 Dues are Due

If you haven't paid your dues, you are delinquent. See dues remittance form page 11



## CTCI NEWS



### Highlights of CTCI Video Board Meeting

#### January, 2022

- The Board has filled all of the open positions:
  - Region 3: **Mike McLucas**
  - Region 5: **Brian Carron**
  - Region 6: **Jim Rodgers**
- The Board has elected all of the Officers for 2022:
  - President. . . . . **Brian Carron**
  - Vice President. . . . . **Chuck Thompson**
  - Treasurer. . . . . **John Kledis**
  - Secretary. . . . . **Bob Bly**
  - Director Emeritus. . . . . **Ed Benson**
- Treasurer's report: **John Kledis** reported that he is currently working on the end of the year reports. He did not see anything that would significantly change the year end from the last report.
- **Gaylan Abood**, Investment Committee Chairman, presented the end of the year investment report. The committee recommended moving the expired bond funds into a Fixed Income ETF. He reported that the entire investment is up 5.5% since inception. The board approved the committee's recommendation and report.
- **John Smith** presented the year end invoice committee report. During the year 102 invoices were sold. The original Ford invoices continues to be a foundation of the provenance of our classic Thunderbirds. The board approved the committee's recommendation and report.
- **Brian Carron** presented the 2022 International Convention Update. The Convention Pre-Registration Form has been completed. Pre-Registration has been set at \$50.00. A form has been included in The Early Bird and will be added to the website.
- **Darcy Knapp** outlined the changes that will be made to the Virtual Convention Website to continue the site into 2022.
- The membership and individual chapters are reminded that the Board is looking for input and involvement in finding locations for the next regional and international conventions. The membership and chapters are asked to forward ideas on the following items:
  - Need chapters to step-up and agree to sponsor the next Regional Convention in 2023. This could be a judged and/or driving tour event. Interested chapters should contact **President Brian Carron**.



- Looking for chapters interested in sponsoring the next International Convention in 2024. Interested chapters will need to have their proposal completed so that it is ready for the Sept/Oct 2022 Board meeting. Interested chapters should contact **President Brian Carron**.
- **Brian** outlined the new 2022 Newsletter contest which will be awarded at the 2022 International Convention.
- **Brian** also reminded chapters and individual members that we are looking for input and nominees for the various CTCI Awards which will be presented at the convention.
- **Garrett Shropshire** gave an update on the Office Activity Report and membership numbers for the year. Overall CTCI ended up 2021 with 4,577 paid active members. That is only down 145 members from 2020. In addition, **Garrett** reported that we gained 443 new members during the year. He reported that our membership initiatives and strategies are working and that we signed up 148 test drivers during the year.
- Several items of New Business were approved during the meeting:
  - **Darcy Knapp** outlined the need to upgrade the server that hosts our website.
  - Mecum – CTCI Partnership to give a member benefit of reduced entrance fees to Mecum Auctions / Events.
  - **Kerry Kravik** was nominated to fill the open position Ford Johnson Award Chairman.
  - **Brian Carron** outlined all of the members for the various CTCI committees.
  - The date of the video Board meeting in November has been changed to November 18, 2022.
- The next board meeting is set for March 11, 2022.

On Behalf of the Board,

**Brian Carron, President**



5



**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

“Thunderbirds Flock to Texas”

CTCI INTERNATIONAL CONCOURS CONVENTION

October 25-30, 2022

Enthusiasts from across the Thunderbird world are invited to a fun International Concours Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Trailer or drive your Classic Thunderbird to participate in Concours or Touring judging. Or drive your Thunderbird and take part in the driving tour of the beautiful Texas Hill Country.

Come experience 300 years of San Antonio history and participate in the events being considered. Examples include bus tours to the Toyota truck assembly plant, the Historic Alamo, Texas Missions, Riverwalk and Market Square, Tower of America’s Space Needle, Natural Bridge Caverns and a Car Cruise through Luckenbach and Fredericksburg.

This International Concours event, the first in four years, is expected to sell out quickly. To reserve your spot, complete the form below and submit your deposit check for \$50.00. Alternatively, you can preregister using the CTCI website store at [www.ctci.org](http://www.ctci.org). This deposit will be applied towards the cost of your convention registration or refunded if your plans change.

Also, reservations are being accepted at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort & Spa. The reservation number is (210) 647-1234 and the reservation code is **G-TIC2**. The hotel on-line registration link is:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SANHC/G-TIC2>

Early arrival check-in begins on Tuesday October 25th, 2022, with a full schedule of activities beginning on October 26th and the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, October 29.

Stay tuned for Constant Contact updates, check the Early Bird and view updates on [CTCI.org](http://CTCI.org).

-----CUT ON LINE-----

2022 CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Complete the information below and mail this form with a check for \$50.00 payable to:

CTCI Classic Convention Productions, LLC

Attn: Sharon Bosley

P.O. Box 2053

Mission, Kansas 66201

CTCI NO: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**No refunds or cancellations after September 17th, 2022.**

Pre-Registration Questions? Call the CTCI office at (816) 421-827



[www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org](http://www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>

Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



## **Calendar of Events**

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 16 *Jack & Kayla's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary*

February 17 Nebraskaland T-Bird Business meeting Pizza Ranch Lincoln

February 21 Presidents Day

March 6 ENWICC Swap Meet - Lincoln

April

May 19-22 Mocking Bird Run Chattanooga, TN – see page 64 Jan/Feb Early Bird

Watch our website "[SmokyMountainThunderbirds.org](http://SmokyMountainThunderbirds.org)" for updates

June

July

August 10-14 VTCI Convention Kansas City, MO - see page 7- 8

September

October 25-30 CTCI Convention San Antonio, TX - see page 6

November

December

### **2022 VTCI International Convention**

More detailed information at [VTCI.com](http://VTCI.com) under VTCI Happenings/events

### **2022 VTCI International Convention**

#### **Meet in the Middle**

August 10-14, 2022 – Kansas City, MO

Embassy Suites, Kansas City Airport

Wednesday is registration day with a free welcome party in the PM

Thursday has a half day bus tour to the World War I museum

Friday has an all-day bus tour to the Bingham-Waggoner Estate and Truman Presidential Library/Museum with a box lunch

Friday night has a pizza party

Saturday is the Concours car show with awards banquet that evening

Hotel rates are \$129 plus tax per night

Saturday Night Dinner is \$60 per person

The VTCI website should have the registration details and forms soon



### 2022 VTCI International Convention Registration August 10-14, 2022

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current VTCI # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 VTCI Chapter Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are You Willing To Judge?  Yes  No      Trailered Car?  Yes  No  
 1<sup>st</sup> Entry - Year \_\_\_\_\_ VIN# \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Entry - Year \_\_\_\_\_ VIN# \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division (write in 2<sup>nd</sup> car only) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Senior Divisions Only - When Became Senior? / City \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Judged Divisions**

- Senior Participation: T-Birds having received 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention.
- Display: Open to all years

**Judged Divisions** (see Vol 1 concours rules on website, [vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net), free PDF to members)

- Senior: T-Birds having received 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention and are eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" award.
- Primary: Eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" award 1955-1979 only. Only path to obtain Senior.
- Driver: 1955-1979 only, engine compartment, trunk & undercarriage not judged
- Late Model: 1980-1997 300 point system all areas judged
- Modified: 1955-1997 300 point system all areas judged
- Touring: 1955-1997 only. Undercarriage not judged, some modifications for safety, reliability & comfort allowed, see Vol 1 Concours Rules
- 2002-2005: 100 point system, no undercarriage judged
- 2002-2005 Modified: 100 point system, no undercarriage judged
- Wixom Preservation & Authenticity Awards - Internationals only (separate application 30 days in advance):

Event	Quantity	Cost	Total Cost
Single/Family Registration _____	_____ x	\$45.00	\$ _____
Additional Car(s) (List info for 3 <sup>rd</sup> car on back) _____	_____ x	\$15.00	\$ _____
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Welcome Reception _____	_____ x	FREE	\$ FREE
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> Tour: National WW1 Museum/Memorial, ½ day tour Transportation, admission included. Lunch on your own	_____ x	\$35.00	\$ _____
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Tour: Bingham-Waggoner Museum/Estate & Truman Library/Museum, full day tour Transportation, admission, box lunch included	_____ x	\$70.00	\$ _____
Evening Reception _____ Pizza Party _____	_____ x	\$15.00	\$ _____
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Awards Banquet</b>			
Grill Seared Chicken Breast _____	_____ x	\$60.00	\$ _____
Beef Tenderloin _____	_____ x	\$60.00	\$ _____
Grilled Atlantic Salmon _____	_____ x	\$60.00	\$ _____
Cheese Tortellini _____	_____ x	\$60.00	\$ _____
T-Shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL _____	_____ x	\$15.00	\$ _____
Polo-Shirt Men <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL _____	_____ x	\$35.00	\$ _____
Polo-Shirt Women <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL _____	_____ x	\$35.00	\$ _____
Total Enclosed (in US funds) _____			\$ _____

**Make checks payable to: Vintage Thunderbirds of Kansas City**      Registration cutoff date July 19th, 2022  
**Send to:** Cliff & Pat Lieske 4160 Tyler St NE Columbia Heights, MN 55421

**Hotel Information:** Embassy Suites Kansas City Airport 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway Kansas City, MO 64153  
 Reservations: 1-816-891-7788 Email: [mkcpd@atriumhospitality.com](mailto:mkcpd@atriumhospitality.com) Cutoff date is July 19, 2022  
 Mention "Vintage Thunderbird Club". Rates are \$129.00 + tax/night w/breakfast (ADA rooms available, contact hotel)

**Early registration bonus:** Paid in full registration received by March 1, 2022 receive four chances for a free Embassy Suites room night. Three chances if received by April 1st, two chances if received by May 1st, and one chance if received by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Multiple winners, can only win once, based on number of room nights booked, will be announced at the Awards Banquet.







**LOOKING TO BUY  
MUSCLE, CLASSICS OR  
LOW MILE CARS, SUVS  
AND PICKUPS  
\$500.00 FINDERS FEE  
CALL OR TEXT REX @ 308-  
379-9086 –  
rriedy57@gmail.com**



**Used one owner!**



**FOR SALE**



**Bob Sibal is selling his 1956 Thunderbird.**

White/White, Red/white interior, porthole hard top, convertible top, power windows, 312 engine, automatic transmission, www radial tires, and wire wheels. Owner has owned this car for over forty years. Car runs great and has always been garaged.

You can reach Bob at 402-560-0261 or [ajsibal@aol.com](mailto:ajsibal@aol.com)



### Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

**President** Martin Bierman  
 402-289-4516 nefron1@cox.net  
**Vice President** Robert Routh  
 402-423-5249 rrouth@clinewilliams.com  
**Treasurer** Jeff Brown  
 402-572-1995 fnhog2@gmail.com  
**Secretary** Quentin Moeller  
 303-204-1761 qmoeller@Yahoo.com  
**CTCI Rep** Martin Bierman  
 402-289-4516 nefron1@cox.net  
**Newsletter** Jack Sanford  
 402-392-1350 jesanford@cox.net  
**Historian** Robert McGowan  
 402-334-2593 mcgowanlaw@outlook.com  
**Social Media** John La Duke  
 701-330-7908 sphaeralcea516@gmail.com  
**Sponsor** Lee Sapp Ford  
 402-342-6767 lee@lsford.com

"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> Street, LaVista, NE 68128



Nebraskaland Club Logos. 2X3½ inch patch can be sewn or glued on with fabric glue. Looks great on shirts, caps, and jackets. Contact Jack at 402-392-1350 [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net)

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

### 2022 Membership Dues - \$15.00

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

