

Thunder Words

Happy
Valentine's
Day

February 2024 ~ Volume 47, #2
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: This time of year really prevents us from enjoying our cars unless one is fortunate enough to have a heated garage for the T-Bird. If so, then it is an ideal time to catch up on car projects like cleaning and waxing, minor repairs, and scheduled maintenance. If one does not have a heated space, then it's a good time to catch up on car-related reading and plan future outings when the weather warms up. Lately, I have been doing both, but more of the latter. However, don't give up hope since there are only about six more weeks of winter until the March Lincoln swap meet. Now I have to get more gas for the snow blower.

Martin Bierman, President

50th annual Rocky
Manginelli
Memorial swap
meet.
Sunday, March 3,
2024
4100 No. 84th St.
Lincoln, NE

February Important Dates:

2 – Groundhog Day
14 – Valentine Day
17 – Presidents Day
28 – Rare Disease Day

Next Meeting
March 21, 2024,
6 PM
Track Side Bar & Grill
13901 Guildford 7
Waverly, NE



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Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club January 2024 (No meeting in January)



April 2023, Fremont



June 2023, Waverly



July 2023, Omaha



August 2023 Waverly



September 2023, Nebraska City



October 2023, Waverly



August Event – Walnut, IA



Mel's Diner – Fremont - April



Foliage Tour – North Omaha - October



Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman



Question- A Classic T-Bird owner is thinking of selling the car and wants to know what it is worth,

Answer- A short answer would be, “What anyone is willing to pay is what it is worth.” However, price guidelines have been taken from various auctions and private sales. *Old Cars* publishes the values yearly in its price guide. The market has been depressed for these cars lately, and these are only guidelines. One could also search “E-Bay” or “Bring A Trailer” auction sites for more prices. The table below lists prices for various categories of

condition by year. Power accessories, air conditioning, radial tires, and wire wheels would also add value. Category 1 - Excellent; restored show car; not driven; work of art. Category 2 - Fine; well restored or excellent original; driven less than 1000 miles yearly. Category 3 - Very Good; restored or original driver in good shape; “20” footer*. Category 4 - Good; Driver and needs work. Category 5 - Restorable; needs complete restoration; needs everything; may not be running Category. 6 - Parts Car; weathered, wrecked and /or stripped for its parts.

*“20” Footer – At twenty feet the car looks good. Any closer and flaws can be seen.

	Category 6	Category 5	Category 4	Category 3	Category 2	Category 1
1955 Conv. Note: add \$1800 for hardtop	\$3,040	\$9,120	\$15,200	\$34,200	\$53,200	\$76,000
1956 Conv. Note: add \$1800 for hardtop; 10% for 312 engine	\$3,040	\$9,120	\$15,200	\$34,200	\$53,200	\$76,000
1957 Conv. Note: add \$1800 for hardtop; 100% for supercharged V8 (F bird); 50% for dual quad (E bird)	\$3,420	\$10,260	\$17,100	\$38,480	\$59,850	\$85,500

Source: *Old Cars* Price Guide February 1, 2024, edition



The following is from the San Francisco Bay Area Thunderbird Newsletter in what is known as Paul's Corner. There are two items in this story that would be good to pass on. The first one is about how to release a hood when the hood cable breaks and the second is what to do when smelling electrical wires burning.

"I received a call from one of my old customers, and he wanted me to pick up his 1955 Tbird and do a few repairs. I picked it up in Tiburon and brought it to his property in San Francisco. He wanted to fix his gas gauge, windshield wipers, shift boot, gas cap, and a few other little items. I was backing it out of his garage in San Francisco when the horn started to blow by itself. I tried to open the hood to disconnect the horn wire that went through the steering column to stop the horn from blowing. The hood cable broke in my hand. I also started to smell an electrical burning smell. I turned off the key right away and the smell stopped. I restarted the engine to get the car off the street. I put the car on a rack to raise the car in the air so I could open the hood from underneath. I had heard about this procedure to open the hood from underneath the car. I now had an opportunity to try it out. Luckily, he had a long flat bar about 3 feet long and one and half inches wide. I could see the release lever from the bottom of the car with a handy dandy flashlight. The lever was in line with the exhaust manifold. The manifold was in the perfect position to use as a fulcrum point to pry on the release lever for the hood in order to open the hood. The hood popped open very easily. I wanted to disconnect the battery because of the burning electrical smell that I had noticed out in the street. It is ironic that this had happened because I had just bought and installed on my car an emergency hood release cable at the Sacramento meet. It was late in the day, and I just wanted to leave after I thought about what could have happened, like a big fire under the dashboard. This is a day in the life of a mechanic. This also is an example of why you must always be alert while working around an automobile."



Thoughts on being a classic car hobbyist: It's still the best way to spend time.

Where the heck did 2023 disappear to? I just can't adjust to how fast the months fly by as I get older. The year seems to have just completely disappeared. I remember being told that the older one gets, the faster time goes by—now I completely understand exactly what that means. I always thought that things would slow down as I aged, but it is just the opposite. At the speed time passes, one learns just how valuable it really is! Thankfully, one great use of time that we're all involved in is car stuff. Whenever I'm at a loss for something to do, I simply go to the garage, uncover my car, and usually find several reasonably easy things that I have put off in the past that I can now address. Due to having this advantage, staying busy is not a problem for me. I always find something that I can write, clean, fix, or polish. It comes with the old car hobby! When I was younger, time felt as though it dragged along at a seemingly endless pace, now it's just the opposite, it flies by day after day. With some of the things going on in other parts of the globe, I'm reminded that it's simply wonderful to be able to live in peace in the United States. Even with our various social and economic issues, I believe that we have the best standard of living, and the greatest freedoms and opportunities, of any nation on the planet. I'm sure many of you feel exactly the same way. Just to be able to enjoy an old hobby car is something we take for granted, but there are many places in this world where even that would be impossible. Our advantage is the huge availability of cars, parts, fuel, fellow enthusiasts, and so on, much of which is virtually unheard of in some countries. So, the next time you hear folks complain about the cost of the hobby, remind them of how lucky we are! We are able to openly enjoy our vintage rides, and I think we sometimes take that for granted. In fact, I might have been losing sight of those things several months ago when I was seriously considering getting out of the old car ownership and restoration hobby. The reason was that I was finding it increasingly difficult to work on the underside, inside, and outside of my GTO. Any car enthusiast reading this who qualifies as a senior citizen probably knows exactly what I mean. The old body just doesn't cooperate like it did in the past, and I don't expect it to improve in the future. However, more recently I have been able to work around under the vehicle to detail parts or bending over a fender cleaning and detailing the engine compartment for long periods. If I can't get the work done standing up, or at the very least, just bending over for reasonably brief stints, I'll have someone give me a hand. One way or another, I manage to get the tasks done that the GTO requires. Meanwhile, some of my family members keep trying to convince me to sell the car I've had for many years and retire from the hobby. I'm sure many of you have faced similar situations. I keep reminding them that it is what I enjoy doing, despite my complaints, physical stresses, aches, pains, and cost. And now that I am down to only one car, much of that is also reduced. I think they all understand, but since not all of them are really involved in the hobby, they just think I'm crazy. And maybe they are right. But sitting in front of the television watching sitcoms in the afternoon is not for me! I'm sure many of you know exactly what I mean—it's a condition that we all suffer with sooner or later! So, now we are about to start a fresh new year, and hopefully we all will remain able to continue to work on and enjoy our favorite pastime for many more years to come. I take encouragement from reading the letters sent to this magazine by loyal readers. They cover the gamut of the classic car hobby, from restoration to maintenance and everything in between. There is no bragging or complaining, just real-life owner experiences on real life classic cars. Reading about other enthusiasts' experiences reminds me of how spending time on our classics is very unlike working on current cars. With the classics, we are almost like historians, bringing back a lost treasure and using it for what it was made to for: driving and enjoyment. So, while there may be the occasional suggestion at home about parting with my old car, I have the good fortune to have two grown sons who are also interested in the old car hobby; with their help, hopefully, I'll be able to do this for many more years to come! Now, where did I put that adjustable wrench? I just need to tighten this fitting.

From J.C Hacketts Oldies
Productions Newsletter and
shared by Howard Johansen



CTCI NEWS

CTCI Elects New Officers for 2024

Today, 1/5/24, the CTCI Board met to elect the officers who will lead CTCI in 2024.

First, the Board welcomed four new members to the 2024 Board. They are:

John Knapp – Director Region 1
 Brett Sargent – Director Region 3
 Jim McLaughlin – Director Region 5
 Bob Bly – Director at Large

The newly elected officers are:

President – Chuck Thompson
 Vice President – Jim McLaughlin
 Treasurer – John Kledis
 Secretary – Bob Bly
 Director Emeritus – Darcy Knapp
 Ex Officio – Brian Carron

Newly elected President Chuck Thompson recognized the outgoing 2023 board for their service. He made a special note of thanks to those who have completed their elected term on the Board. They include:

Darcy Knapp – Director Region 1
 Michael McLucas – Director Region 3
 Brian Carron – President and Director Region 5
 John Smith – Director at Large

On behalf of the CTCI Board,
 Chuck Thompson -- President

CTCI Board Meeting Highlights January 12, 2024

President Chuck Thompson outlined his goals for 2024. They are to increase CTCI membership (both for CTCI and our chapters); improve chapter relations and communications; offer more CTCI activities both at a national scale and local (in partnership with the local chapter); and finally, set up committees to support the above priorities.

Treasurer's Report: John Kledis gave the Treasurer's report. He explained that he is currently working on the year end financials for CTCI. He is also working on the 990, which is the form that is used for our tax reporting to the IRS. So at this time he had nothing new to report. He continued to believe that we would show a functional loss of \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the year. He did note that "all items being equal" that the new approved dues increase would have changed the current loss into a positive gain for the year.



2024 Convention Update: Marsha Hash presented the status of the 2024 International Convention. The International Convention will be held in Des Moines, IA, from August 20-25, 2024. She noted that Garrett Shropshire had completed his negotiations with the hotel and the contract has been approved. She outlined the benefits of the hotel stay which includes free breakfast, free wi-fi, and includes a large parking area for the display – judging of our Thunderbirds as well as a wash station. The convention committee is planning for the Welcome Party and Awards Banquet to be held at the hotel, as well as several interesting tours to local attractions. Finally, she explained that the committee hoped to have the Convention registration site and form completed by the end of January. Meanwhile, we do wish to remind all members that hotel registration is open. Please see the CTCL website or The Early Bird to get the link for hotel reservations. Please register early to hold your place for the 2024 Convention hotel.

Member Renewals: Garrett presented membership renewals through the end of 2023. We ended the year with 4,015 members which is higher than we estimated. In 2023 we added 218 new members. Garrett was pleased that the club exceed 4,000 members before the end of the year, but noted we still need to continue to work on gaining new members. He noted the possibility to increase members in 2024 as the result of the vote to now include '02 – '05 Retro – Modern Classics in CTCL.

Garrett outlined that we are currently in the member renewal process. Because we moved up the process by one full Early Bird cycle (about two months) that we are now way ahead of last year's renewals. Currently we have approximately 1550 members who have not yet renewed their membership.

Office Activity: Garrett presented the Office Activity Report. He noted that beyond the membership items the staff had been mostly involved in four areas. First, to help create/improve CTCL's new member recruitment programs and brochures; second to modify all CTCL's documents relating/referencing Retro – Modern Classics; third to complete all of the financial bookkeeping items related to the 2023 Convention; and fourth by assisting the 2024 International Convention Committee in planning for the next convention.

The board approved the Investment Committee's recommendation to move towards more fixed investments. The investment committee will be working to develop a new plan for 2024 and present it to the board.

In a separate action, the Board approved the appointment of Brian Carron to the Investment Committee.

2023 Convention Recap: Brian Carron presented, and the Board approved the final 2023 Convention Financial Report. That report showed a net profit of \$3,157.01. In addition, the Board approved returning all of the chapter donations back to the individual chapters. That amount was NOT included in the net profit amount previously presented. The Board noted and thanked all of the chapters for their generous donation. Those monies are being returned with grateful thanks and hopes that chapters will continue to invest, involve and support future CTCL conventions. Finally, the Board approved presenting part of the Convention profit back to the host chapter - Central Florida T-Birds. The Board recognized and appreciated the effort of the Central Florida T-Birds for putting on the Convention and is very glad to share in the profit.

2024 Board Meeting Schedule: Chuck Thompson presented the 2024 Board meeting schedule. The meeting dates are as follows:

January 12, 2024
 March 15, 2024
 May 17, 2024
 July 19, 2024
 September 20, 2024
 November 15, 2024
 January 10, 2025 – Election of Officers
 January 17, 2025.

Chuck Thompson discussed the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 which will occur in 2026. He explained that a national committee had been created. While it is too early to know what national or local events would be planned, he did want for all members to be aware of the upcoming anniversary and for CTCL to begin thinking on how best to become involved.

The Board appointed Bob Bly and Brian Carron to work with the other three Thunderbird organizations (VTCL, ITC, and Thunderbird Nest) to see where we might work on "co-branded" events.



As with every Board meeting, the Board reviewed all member comments about CTCI operations submitted over the past two months.

The next Board meeting is set for March 15, 2024

On Behalf of the Board,
Chuck Thompson, President



It's that time of year again. **The club dues are past due.** Please use the attached form to submit your dues. The dues are still a low \$15 per year. This is probably the best deal in town. Established in 1975, the **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club** is dedicated to preserving and enjoying one of the most excellent cars ever created the **Ford Thunderbird**.

Advantages of club membership include:

- Regular driving events and monthly meetings every third Thursday
- Social functions include picnics, shows, and the annual Christmas/Friendsgiving party.
- Members with restoration and repair experience
- Assistance with parts acquisition and location
- The CTCI master judge will assist with authenticity issues.
- Monthly newsletter with a calendar of events and tech articles
- Club participation in car shows and parades.
-

The club treasurer reports that there are still delinquent members. Make sure you are not one of them.

If you have decided not to rejoin, we are sorry to see you go. Please notify our treasurer, Jeff Brown, letting him know. That way, we won't worry about whether we missed you somehow. No explanation is necessary. You can e-mail Jeff at fnhog2@gmail.com or send a note to him at 7225 South 103rd Street, LaVista, NE 68128.



2024 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**, Treasure, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128

2024 Calendar of Events

March 3 – 50th Annual Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet - Lancaster Event Center

March 21 – Business Meeting - Track Side Bar & Grill – 13901 Guildford 7 – Waverly, NE 6:00 PM

FOR SALE

Tom Woodman has the following for sale.

Two 1956 power seats without motors - \$100.00 Each

Editor's note: I have never seen seats for sale before. If you are restoring, consider this opportunity.

A 1957 Trunk lid (no rust) \$325.00

Editor's note: This is also a rare opportunity, a lid with no rust!

Tom's phone number is 402-464-0596



CONGRATULATIONS ON 30 YEARS

From the first meeting at our house in June 1975



Thank you for keeping



*Nebraskaland's
Classic Thunder*

FOUNDERS

Chuck & Lani Korenko

Sacramento Classic Thunderbird Club

Taken from a 2005 Nebraskaland newsletter.

Notable quotes

"If you want to know how old a woman is, ask her sister-in-law." (Eva Gabor)

- "Old age comes at a bad time." (Ed Sullivan)

- "Inside every Older person is a younger person wondering what happened." (Stevie Wonder)

- "Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard, there is nothing you can do about it." (Golda Meir)

- "The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened." (Mark Twain)

- "I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do." (Phyllis Diller)



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- "Nice to be here? At my age, it's nice to be anywhere." (George Burns)
- "First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up; then, you forget to pull your zipper down." (Rob Reiner)
- "You spend 90 percent of your adult life hoping for a long rest and the last 10 percent trying to convince the Lord that you're actually not THAT tired." (Princess Grace)
- "Old people shouldn't eat Health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get." (Bob Hope)
- "At my age, flowers scare me." (George Burns)
- "It's like you trade the virility of the body for the agility of the spirit." (Ed Sullivan)
- "The years between 55 and 75 are the hardest. You are always being asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down." (T.S Elliot)
- "At age 20, we worry about what others think of us... at age 40, we don't care what they think of us... at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." (Ann Landers)
- "When I was young, I was called a rugged individualist. When I was in my fifties, I was considered eccentric. Here I am doing and saying the same things I did then, and I'm labeled senile." (Milton Berle)
- "The important thing to remember is that I'm probably going to forget." (Martin Scorsese)
- "We don't grow older, we grow riper." (Pablo Picasso)
- "It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." - (Andy Rooney)
- "The older I get, the better I used to be." (Lee Trevino)
- "I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me — they're cramming for their final exam." (George Carlin)
- "Everything seems to slow down with age, except the time it takes cake and ice cream to reach your hips." (Elizabeth Taylor)
- "Grandchildren don't make a man feel old, it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother that does." (Norman Vincent Peale)
- "When your friends begin to flatter you on how young you look, it's a sure sign you're getting old." (Mark Twain)



- "You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks." (Dennis Quaid)

- "There's one advantage to being 102, there's no peer pressure." (Adam & Eve)

- "There are three stages in man's Life: he believes in Santa Claus, he does not believe in Santa Claus, he is Santa Claus." (Leon Phillips)

- "Looking fifty is great — if you're sixty." - (Joan Rivers)

- "Time may be a great Healer, but it's a lousy Beautician." (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

Not long ago and far away

Santa was getting ready for his annual journal. But there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular elves, so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule. Then Mrs. Clause told Santa that her mom was coming to visit. That stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth, and two had jumped the fence and were out heaven knows where. More stress. Then, when he began to load the sleigh, one of the boards cracked and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys. So frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of coffee and a shot of whiskey. When he went to the cupboard, he found the elves had hid the liquor and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, he dropped the coffee pot, and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw it was made from.

Just then the doorbell rang and Santa cussed on his way to the door. He opened the door and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said: "Where would you like to put this tree Santa?"

And that my friend, is how the little angel came to be on top of the Christmas tree.

Member Birthday
February
John Stekly - 4
Joyce Abood 10
Bob McGowan – 20
Joan Lacy - 23
If you want to be recognized, please
send your birthdate to
jesanford@cox.net.

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President	Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516
Vice President	Robert Routh - 402-423-5249
Treasurer	Jeff Brown - 402-572-1995
Secretary	Quentin Moeller – 303-204-1761
CTCI Rep	Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516
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