

Thunder Words



January 2022 ~ Volume 45, #1
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: I welcome the opportunity to serve as your club president this coming year. Our club will face several challenges in 2022 and the most serious challenge is one of member participation. I and our officers plan to work to improve this by offering members interesting weekend events with opportunities to use their cars. As always members are also encouraged to provide ideas for activities that interest them. At the December meeting we also decided to have a regular monthly meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The

locations will alternate between Omaha and Lincoln at a pre-arranged restaurant. Our club events will then be scheduled on weekends throughout the warmer months. This meeting schedule will provide consistency and members will always know that a meeting is the third Thursday of each month. Another challenge is that of member recruitment. Throughout the last several years we have lost members to change of life status and death. We all need to work hard to recruit new members and the best way is to use our Thunderbird at activities, parades, cruise-ins, meetings, etc. Our website continues to provide us new members, but the best recruitment tool has been the car accompanied by an enthusiastic member. Finally, COVID has presented challenges for our club gatherings the last two years. I can only hope the virus surge will end soon so we can all get back to normal. Stay safe and healthy and join us at January's meeting.

Martin Bierman



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>

Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



Minutes of the December Meeting

December's meeting was held at El Bee's in Omaha. Before the meeting opened President elect **Marty Bierman** remarked that his term in office didn't start until January. However, this did stop him from rapping the Club's official gavel and opening the meeting at 5:03 PM, with eight members present: **Marty Bierman, Robert Routh, Jeff Brown, Bob McGowan, Rob & Vicki Kinsey, and Jack & Kayla Sanford. Mary Lou Bierman** had just returned home from having back surgery, resulting in her missing tonight's meeting. The members wished her a speedy recovery.

Marty thanked **Rob** and **Vicki** for setting up the meeting. He then brought **Rob** up to the front and presented him with a certificate signifying **Rob's** two years as Club President.

The November minutes were approved as they appeared in the December Newsletter.

Jeff Brown reported that the club's finances were normal and that he had sent all the food bank money as describe in the December Newsletter. Presently, **Jeff** reported, we have a roster of 48 members. However, there are only 24 members who have paid their dues leaving 24 overdue. Discussion on unpaid dues resulted in having the dues facts displayed in the January Newsletter along with a plea to pay dues. **Marty** suggested that a membership roster be sent to all the members. This action should be held off until the end of January when more of the unpaid dues have been submitted.

Under old business **Jan** and **Bob Sibal** were thanked for sponsoring the game and prizes at the November Dinner. It was a fun activity, and the Club is very appreciative of their input and generosity.

New business centered around member participation at meetings and events. Presently, our Lincoln membership is greater than Omaha. This should be considered in event planning. It was then decided that we should reestablish our by-law requirement that we meet on the third Thursday of each month. **Jack** will contact Lee Sapp's Ashland location to see if the dealership can accommodate a monthly meeting. A meeting time of 6:00 PM seemed the most logical. There were several suggestions to solicit more interest from the members: Establish a technical hot line. **Bob McGowan** related how he didn't drive his 1956 Bird because of a driver door problem. He called **Marty** and was referred to the December Tech Talk where it explained the striker plate operation. Other suggestions: Participate as a group at the annual Ashland parade and car show. The rally run for fun events seem to be popular. It was brought out that a lot of the members are afraid to drive their cars very far from home, so events like nursing home visits, picnic, and local show and shine venues might be the type of events for club participation. **Rob** will check on Speedway Motors for a return visit. They have expanded since our last visit. The subject was closed with the third Thursday of January as our next meeting date. January 20, Pizza Ranch, 6 PM, Lincoln. See page 6. **Marty** announced that the VTKC (Vintage Thunderbirds Kansas City) was hosting an International Convention August 10-14, 2022 (see page 6 for details). Also, the CTCL was holding their convention October 25-30, 2022, in San Antonio, TX. Details will be in the Jan/February Early Bird.

Brag box: **Bob McGowan** told of a 16-year-old girl receiving a 1960 T-Bird from her grandfather. It is in pristine condition. White on white with a red interior. The car is back East and is being shipped to Omaha. The editor saw the car in Omaha December 16. It was being driven by the girl's father. Car looked brand new.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.



T-Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman

“My gas gauge doesn’t read correctly”



Question- A '55 T-Bird owner notes that his fuel gauge reads only one half full when his tank is filled. What’s wrong and how can it be fixed?

Answer- Most commonly the fuel tank sender unit is at fault. The sender can be accessed by removing the trunk rubber mat and removing the small round access plate in the center of the trunk floor. Disconnect the yellow wire on top of the sender and ground it to a good metal ground with the ignition key on. If the wire is intact to the gauge and the gauge is functional, the gauge needle should go full scale. If this occurs, one knows the gauge and wire are intact and the sender is likely the problem. If the gauge does not move, either it or the wire to it is bad. The gauge will need to be removed and tested separately. (See Gil’s Garage on the CTCI website under the Car Tech tab for instructions on testing gauges.) If the gauge tests ok, the wire should be tested with an ohmmeter for continuity. If the gauge and wire test ok, the sender is the likely cause for the poor gauge function.

The sender should be removed from the tank and inspected for any corrosion that may be limiting full motion of the float arm; the float should also be inspected for any leakage that may have filled it with gas. Simply shaking it may reveal liquid inside and if present the float should then be replaced. If the sender looks ok and the float is not fluid filled, one can attach the yellow wire to the sender and attach a ground wire to a good ground; then turn the key on and move the float arm throughout its range and watch the gauge



needle. If the needle does not move appropriately, the sender is bad and should be replaced. When replacing senders or gauges be sure to keep the voltage the same for both units i.e., if the gauge is 6-volt, the sender must be 6-volt. Pictured is a reproduction 12-volt sender, matching gauge, and gasket offered by CASCO. Also, while the sender is out of the gas tank one can inspect the interior of the tank for rust or debris. As always there should be no smoking or sparks in the area while doing these evaluations.



CTCI NEWS

Highlights of CTCI Video Board Meeting

December 10, 2021

- Treasurer's report: **John Kledis** reported that we made a small profit in November. We are as a club continuing to run in the black.
- President **Brian Carron** gave the 2022 Convention update. The dates for the International Convention have been set for 25 – 30 of October 2022. The hotel contract has been signed. The convention committee continues to meet and the structure and the framework for the TO-DO list is complete. Each area is working to identify sub items and costs. The pre-registration form is mostly complete. It should be ready for inclusion into the Jan-Feb issue of The Early Bird.
- **Charlie Hensley** gave an update on the Mockingbird Run. The 2022 event is held by the Smokey Mountain CTC, and this will be the 10th anniversary. It will take place on May 19-22, 2022, and will be held in Chattanooga, TN. More information is located in The Early Bird calendar of events.
- **Darcy Knapp** reviewed the CTCI Facebook engagement. She shared the current numbers of members for each of the Region Facebook pages. **Darcy** further explained that there is a lot of new involvement in the Facebook pages and are growing rapidly.
- 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**.
- **Garrett Shropshire** gave an update on the Website Active Management RFP. **Garrett** explained that SEO Web Mechanics was the successful bidder for the RFP. It is our intention to complete the contract and have everything in place for a January start. The Board approved the recommendation.
- **Brian Carron** updated the board on the request for information regarding the CTCI Merchandise program. This request for



information was sent to possible suppliers to gauge interest in helping CTCI modify the current merchandise methods and cost structure. The goal is to get responses back before the next board meeting.

- The board agreed to hold their first board meeting of the year on January 14 via Zoom (normally a “in-person” meeting). Tentative meeting schedule for the balance of the year (6 meetings – every other month) has been sent out. The dates for 2022 are: 1/14; 3/11; 5/13; 7/15; 9/9; and 11/11.
- It was with great reluctance that the board agreed to accept the resignation of Region 3 Director **Cathy Stubbs** and Region 6 Director **Sue Smith**. The board will refer the openings to the search committee who will make recommendations to the board to fill the open positions.

The next board meeting is set for January 14, 2022.

On Behalf of the Board,

Brian Carron, President

[Calendar of Events](#)

January 20 Pizza Ranch - Lincoln, NE 6 PM – see page

February

March 6 ENWICC Swap Meet - Lincoln

April

May 19-22 Mocking Bird Run Chattanooga, TN – no details

June

July

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

September

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

November

December



Next

Nebraskaland T-Bird Club Meeting

January 20, 2022

6:00 PM

Pizza Ranch

8420 Lexington Ave.

Lincoln, NE

Mocking Bird Run

May 19-22, 2022 – Chattanooga, TN

The Smoky Mountain CTC is planning to host the 10th edition of Mockingbird Run, “MBR X”, in the spring of 2022. The location will be in Chattanooga, TN, where it was planned in 2020 and then postponed. Like the MBR’s of the past, it will feature driving event and tours with no serious judging. Mark May 19-22, 2022, on your calendars if you live in a reasonable distance. Watch our website “SmokyMountainThunderbirds.org” for updates and registration materials when the date gets closer.

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





Coming Soon!!!
T-BIRDS FLOCK TO TEXAS
CTCI International Concours Convention
When: October 25-30, 2022
Where: San Antonio, Texas

Save the Date!!

We are going back to San Antonio for the first time since 1997. Since then, the city has become the 7th largest city in the US with even more sights, sounds, and attractions. This will be a CTCI Concours Convention. Plus, an interesting and exciting schedule of events and activities is in the cards to make this Convention even more memorable.

The Convention will be held at the 4-Star Hyatt Hill Country Resort. This highly-rated spa/golf resort sits on 300 acres and is 2 miles from SeaWorld San Antonio, 10 miles from Government Canyon State Natural Area, and 17 miles from The Alamo and San Antonio's famous Riverwalk.

Further details are in progress! Stay tuned for Constant Contact updates, check the Early Bird specials, and view updates on CTCI.org for registration, Concours, Fun Run, Cruise, and other information about planned events.

Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio!



Dues are Due!

Membership dues are \$15 yearly.

Payable to Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

Mail check and updates to:

Jeff Brown

7225 South 103rd Street

LaVista, NE 68128

See p. 10 for club membership form

Don't be the one not paying your dues!



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

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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

The **Member Profile** feature needs your help. Send your story to Jack at 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, Treasure, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128

