

# Thunder Words

# Happy New Year!

January 2023 ~ Volume 46, #1  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



**Prez Says:** Happy New Year! I hope all our members had a blessed and merry Christmas despite the frigid temperatures. At our December meeting I presented a proposed list of events for the year which included activities throughout the area. I tried not to duplicate events from previous years. The list was only a proposal, and we need to have member input so please attend the January meeting and give your suggestions. I received a call from **John Smith**, president of Heart of America Classic Thunderbirds of Kansas City and CTCI board member, that his club is planning a CTCI regional event in Kansas City in early June this year. I hope to have more information on this in the near future after the CTCI board approves it. Please join us at the January 19 meeting.

**Martin Bierman**



Next Meeting  
January 19, 2023, 6 PM  
Apple Barrell  
9905 Sapp Brothers Drive  
Omaha, NE



[www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org](http://www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>  
Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



## Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club meeting December 15, 2022

**President Martin Bierman** called the meeting to order at 6:13 P.M. at the Trackside Bar and Grill in Waverly, NE. There were 6 members present.

In opening remarks, the first order of business was to thank **Jack** for all of his hard work and the many wonderful gifts he prepared for our Friendsgiving Celebration in November. Well done, **Jack** and a big THANK YOU.

Last month's minutes were approved with a motion by **Bob Routh** and a second by **Jeff Brown**.

**A treasurer's report** was given by **Treasurer Jeff Brown**.

### Old Business:

There was no old business discussed.

### New Business:

A general discussion was had regarding proposed calendar events. There were many suggestions and the specifics of which be discussed at future meetings.

Meeting places were discussed and for the time being we will continue with our scheduled meeting places of The Apple Barrel and the Trackside Cafe on every other month rotation.

Meeting attendance was discussed and will be addressed at future meetings. As we get older it sometime is not easy to attend meetings and as of yet we have not dreamed up an exciting incentive to attend. If you have any fantastic ideas, please come to a meeting and share them.

Next years "Friendsgiving Celebration" was discussed and if I understand at this writing it has already been scheduled and booked. Details to follow.....much latter.

### Braggs:

There were no brags at the meeting, however, listed in the latest issue of "The Early Bird", CTCI 2022 Newsletter Awards.....TAH DAH...trumpets please.....**GOLD AWARD** (that's GOLD) young feller....**Jack Sanford** - "Thunder Words" Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club.

Well done, **Jack!!** You do have to admit that our newsletter is one fine piece of work!

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS.

A motion to adjourn was made by **Jack Sanford** with a second by **Bob Routh**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Quentin Moeller, Secretary**

**Hemmings December's Motor News Magazine** featured a buyers guide on the 1955-1957 Thunderbird. The article talked about the many features of the early bird and what to look for in buying a sporty open-air, two-seater. These were commonly known facts to our Club Members.

The following charts were shown:

#### What to Pay

	Low	Average	High
1955	\$37,000	\$56,000	\$89,000
1956	\$44,000	\$69,000	\$106,000
1957	\$51,300	\$76,000	\$126,200

#### Parts Prices

Convertible top, black canvas \$602, Carpet Kit \$190, Front Nose Panel \$438, Front fender repair panel \$83, Grille ('55-'56) \$398, Grille ('57) \$398, Hardtop weather strip kit \$412, Hood scoop chrome ornament \$75, Quarter panel ('55-'56) \$5,000, Quarter panel ('57) \$5,000, Quarter panel repair section \$284, Porthole window kit \$320, Rear main seal, neoprene \$21.



# T-Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman



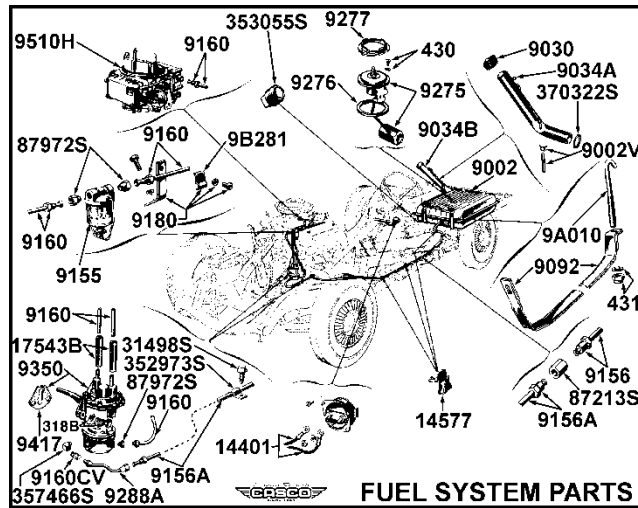
“The rubber hose to my fuel pump is cracked”

**Question-** The owner of a 1955 T-Bird has found a cracked rubber hose to his fuel pump and wants recommendations on replacing it.

**Answer-** The rubber hose, part number 9288A, connects the metal fuel line on the frame to the inflow fitting on the fuel pump. With age and ethanol fuel the rubber can crack producing a leak of gas or allowing air the fuel line. Ethanol containing fuel can also soften the rubber and collapse the inner lining producing an obstruction to fuel and starving the motor of fuel. Most T-Bird vendors now sell ethanol resistant hoses. However, some of the hoses sold in the last few years have had a much smaller orifice in the brass fittings The photo on the left shows the openings in the inlet brass fittings for a NOS hose (upper hose), a fuel resistant hose sold the last few years (middle hose) and new fuel resistant hose sold by CASCO (lower hose). The photo on the right shows the outlet brass fitting openings for the same hoses. The middle hose fitting orifice on each hose end is much smaller and could lead to fuel starvation. Therefore, when purchasing a replacement fuel hose, one needs to be sure it is ethanol fuel resistant and has the larger brass fitting openings to guard against fuel delivery problems. (Diagram courtesy of Classic Auto Supply Co.)



the fuel pump. With deteriorate and to be sucked into



## CTCI UPDATES

Dear CTCI Member,

On behalf of the Board and staff, we wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

In case you have not already received it, please know that the November-December issue of Early Bird is on the way. This issue was scheduled to mail out later than normal so that all of the Convention coverage and results could be included.

For members whose dues are up for renewal, a renewal form and return envelope are enclosed. If you recently renewed without the reminder, please disregard it.

The 2023 Regional Convention is scheduled for October 24th-29th in The Villages, Florida. Plans are progressing for a full slate of events to include Concours Judges Training and Judging, Driving Tours and other fun events. The Brownwood Hotel & Spa is our headquarters hotel. The room rate is \$199 plus tax. *Reservations can be made now.*

- Group Direct Booking Link - No login/Attendee Code needed:

Reservation URL: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110411?groupID=3721196>

or

Guests can call the hotel at 352.626.1246, **press 1 for reservations.**

**Brian Carron**

**President**



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## CTCI Board Meeting Highlights

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### Out of Cycle Board Meeting - 12/29/2022

The CTCI Board held an "Out of Cycle" Board meeting that focused specifically on the outcomes of the 2022 International Concours Convention held in San Antonio, Texas. CTCI put this convention on for our members. This was a key member benefit and an investment for future conventions. The Board discussions focused on four specific areas: Overall member / participant impressions; Member Attendance; Financial Aspects; Key Lessons Learned

- Overall member / participant impressions: To date most of the comments from those attending the convention were positive. This was our first CTCI convention in the post-pandemic world and it was fun getting re-acquainted with many old friends and making new ones. All and all, the weather was great, the HOST chapters Houston Classic Thunderbird Club, Austin Thunderbird Owners, the San Antonio Classic Thunderbird Club and CTCI came together and worked long and hard. This convention gives us hope for the future because 50% of attendee's were first timers and they will return for future conventions and renew their CTCI membership. The CTCI Board has commissioned a few surveys of attending members to help guide future convention planning efforts.
- Member Attendance: We had a good turnout but fewer CTCI members attended than we estimated based on historical convention data. Attendance was down from previous conventions over 20% (14% adjusted for current membership). It is unclear which if this attendance represents the "post COVID new normal" or attendance percentages will rise over time. Car entries were also down significantly from the original plan.
- Financial Aspects: The convention showed a financial loss, due to attendance and cancellations. The loss was handled by the



Convention LLC. Convention expenses exceeded income in the areas of hotel room nights, Food and Beverage and Operational support.

- Key Lessons Learned: A list key lessons learned are being generated that will benefit future host chapters.

The next board meeting is set for January 13, 2023.

## **Bylaw Election Results**

The Bylaw election results were announced during the October Board Meeting in San Antonio. Unfortunately, these results were not included in the October Board Highlights that were published in the Early Bird.

The Bylaw Election concluded on October 15, 2022. The item passed by a wide majority. Below are the results of the election:

Total Voting For Bylaw: 1,039

Total Voting Against Bylaw: 193

Percentage Voting For Bylaw: 84.33% or 1,039 out of 1,232

Election Participation Information:

Total Members eligible to vote: 4,213

Total Votes Cast 1,232

Percent voting: 29.24%

On Behalf of the Board,

**Brian Carron, President**



### 2023 Calendar of Events

**January 19** – Nebraskaland T-Bird Club meeting – 6:00 PM - Apple Barrell – Omaha, NE

**February 16** - Nebraskaland T-Bird Club meeting – 6:00 PM – Trackside – Waverly, NE

**March 5** – 49<sup>th</sup> annual Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet – Lancaster Event Center – Lincoln, NE

**March 16** - Nebraskaland T-Bird Club meeting – 6:00 PM - Apple Barrell – Omaha, NE

#### Notice from Club Treasurer, Jeff Brown

We have 24 paid members as of today.

The \$15.00 dues are due December 31.

I will begin contacting those who have not paid about January 8th. It's needed to get a roster completed by the end of January.

Please use the attach 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, **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club** is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of one of the greatest cars ever created the **Ford Thunderbird**.

Advantage of club membership include:

- Regular driving events and monthly meetings every third Thursday
- Social functions such as picnics, show, 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 calendar of events and tech articles
- Club participation in car shows and parades

#### 2023 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



## FOR SALE

**Tom Woodman** is getting out of the restoring business and is liquidating his inventory. **Tom** can be reached at 402-464-0569.

1. 1957 Ford Thunderbird project car.  
Car has a Nebraska Title.  
Car has a lot of new parts.  
Car has an automatic transmission  
Buyer would be advised to know how to weld, as welding will be required.  
Call **Tom** for details of car's condition.
2. 312 Pistons, crankshaft, rods
3. 292 pistons, crankshaft
4. One bare block
5. Cylinder heads
6. Thunderbird body rotator

## FOR SALE

**John La Duke** has a 15-inch wire wheel setup for '56 T-Bird for sale. Set includes 4 - 15-inch chrome wire baskets, 4 hub caps with white painted accents and all the retainer clips necessary. \$600.

Price includes a fifth center cap (the 5th basket was bent beyond repair). An individual wire wheel is available from most vendors for a continental Kit Wheel if needed.

**John** can be contacted by email - [sphaeralcea516@gmail.com](mailto:sphaeralcea516@gmail.com) or by phone at 701-330-7908 with questions or offers.

See photo:





New Newsletter  
 Feature  
 Member Birthday  
**January**  
 Kayla Sanford – 5  
 Robert Sibal – 6  
 Marsha Smith - 17

**If your birthday is missing, please notify the editor. Some of Your applications didn't have birthdays listed.**

*Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club*

<b>President</b>	<b>Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Robert Routh - 402-423-5249</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jeff Brown - 402-572-1995</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Quentin Moeller – 303-204-1761</b>
<b>CTCI Rep</b>	<b>Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Jack Sanford - 402-392-1350</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Bob McGowan - 402-334-2593</b>
<b>Social Media</b>	<b>John La Duke - 701-330-7908</b>
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Lee Sapp Ford - 402-944-3367</b>

“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.



**Before**



**After**

