

# Thunder Words



January 2024 ~ Volume 47, #1  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



**Prez Says:** I want to wish all our members a Happy New Year, and I hope your Christmas celebrations were peaceful and blessed. At our December 21 meeting, we installed our officers and appointed positions for 2024. All our 2023 officers and appointees agreed to remain in their same positions for 2024, and I thank them for their willingness to serve and their past service. We also decided not to hold any meetings in January and February due to frequent inclement weather and some members' winter vacations. Our next meeting will be in March and if there are any important matters that need to be done before March, we can do it by email. The

Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird club has been approved for a CTCI International Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, August 20-25, 2024. Please mark this on your calendar, plan on attending, and bring your Thunderbird if possible. More information will be available over the next several months in the *Early Bird* and our newsletter. Stay safe, and plan on coming to March's meeting.

**Martin Bierman, President**

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

### January Important Dates:

National Spaghetti Day, Jan. 4  
National Bagel Day, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>  
National Popcorn Day, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>  
National Puzzle Day, Jan 29<sup>th</sup>

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



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



## Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club December 2023

**President Martin Bierman** called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. at the Kopper Kettle Kafe in Omaha, NE. In attendance were **Martin and Mary Lou Bierman, Jack Sanford, Tom Woodman, John La Duke Clarence Johnson,** and yours truly, your humble secretary **Quentin Moeller.**

**November's minutes** were approved with a motion by **Tom** and a second by **John.**

No treasurer's report was given. If you have not sent in your 2024 dues, please do so. **President Bierman** reported that our internet fees and the Friendsgiving hors d'oeuvres cost had been paid.

Just out in the latest "Early Bird," our one and only newsletter creator has received the Gold Award for his excellent work on the newsletter.

**Old Business:** Election of officers for 2024: **President Bierman** asked if there were any further nominations. There were none. Motion to close nominations made by **Jack** with a second by **Tom.** All existing officers are hereby elected by acclamation for 2024.

**New Business:** It has been noted that the convention to be held this summer in Des Moines will be in conflict with the possible Thunderbird's show at Offutt Air Force base. There may be a problem providing the required eight cars for the event. We will have to address this as more information becomes available and decide whether we will be able to participate.

Due to a perceived lack of attendance, it has been decided to cancel the January and February meetings due to the weather. Our next meeting will be at the Trackside Cafe in Waverly on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 6:00 P.M., weather permitting. Please plan to attend as activities for the year will be discussed.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by **John,** with a second by **Tom.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, **Quentin Moeller, Secretary**



## Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman



What are these parts, and what will I do with them? Watch future newsletters to find out.



Don Indra, Marty has a project car he wants to sell you!





## Why Modern Headlights Are So Bright (And Why That Might Change)

by Lynnae Williams

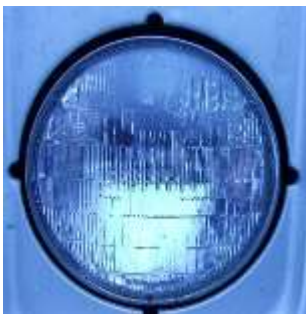
It's a familiar experience: You're driving down the road when a vehicle approaches in the opposite direction with its headlights shining bright, and you're temporarily blinded by the glare, unable to see anything in your path. These situations can leave you disoriented and wondering if it was your imagination or if headlights are just too bright for safe driving. If so, rest assured you're not alone. According to [a 2022 study of 2700 drivers by RAC](#), almost 90% of UK drivers said some or most headlights were too bright and dazzled them while driving. In the U.S., as far back as 2001, a [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA) survey found that 30% had experienced "disturbing" nighttime glare from headlights of oncoming traffic and vehicles following them. The problem became so concerning that in 2022, General Motors recalled 740,000 small SUVs in the U.S. because of the glare the headlights caused to oncoming drivers. It wasn't always this way. From the 1950s to the 1980s, [vehicles used sealed-beam headlights](#), which didn't produce enough light to keep drivers safe on the road. Fast forward a few years to the late 1980s and early 1990s, and halogen headlights with tungsten filaments appeared on the scene, with increased light output and better road illumination. However, the car industry didn't stop there.

As technology continued to improve, so did headlights, transforming nighttime driving visibility. Advancements in lighting technology and a [growing focus on road safety](#) prompted the automotive industry's shift to brighter headlights, with the most significant changes occurring in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when automakers began switching to high-intensity discharge (HID) or light-emitting diode (LED) headlights. These newer headlights were more energy-efficient and lasted much longer than halogen headlights, all while producing a brighter, whiter light, which significantly enhanced nighttime visibility and road safety. The higher lumens-per-watt ratio compared to halogen bulbs allows these new technologies to deliver brighter illumination on the road. LED headlights produce a more focused and higher-intensity light beam than their halogen predecessors, so they're perceived as much brighter.

While this technology has greatly enhanced safety by helping drivers identify obstacles, pedestrians, and road signs more easily, it has come at a cost -- blinding other drivers. This can be especially problematic when drivers are approaching from the opposite direction but can also cause problems when bright headlights shine in a driver's rearview mirror. The proliferation of SUVs and large pickup trucks with headlights positioned higher off the ground than sedans and smaller cars has also contributed to the problem. The height of these vehicles means the headlights are more aligned with the eye level of drivers in standard-height cars, which can increase the intensity of light that reaches their eyes.

Relief from the blinding lights of oncoming vehicles is on its way, with the NHTSA recently approving the first substantive update to the lighting standards since the 1970s. The new regulation allows adaptive driving beam (ADB) headlights, also known as smart headlights, which use cameras and sensors to assess road conditions and detect the position of oncoming vehicles, adjusting the direction and intensity of the headlight beams accordingly. They do this by automatically dimming certain parts of the beam to avoid shining directly into the eyes of other drivers. Improved road safety is arguably the most important benefit of using ADB headlights. Their ability to reshape the light they emit in real time could help reduce glare-related accidents at night. It'll be a few years before ADB technology is widespread in cars throughout the United States, but at least we know it's on the horizon. With these smart headlights, drivers will be able to see the road clearly without blinding others.

Read the [original article on SlashGear](#). by Lynnae Williams





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## Holiday Greetings From CTCI

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### Happy Holidays Thunderbird Enthusiasts

We recently made changes to your CTCI Club Store. You can now access the On-Line Club Store without using your password. All you have to do is go to the CTCI home page and click on the Club Store link to shop. When you make a purchase, we'll check it against your member number. You don't have to do anything else.

As our gift to you this Holiday season and through the end of January 2023, some popular items are on special.

- 21st Century Tech Tips paperback book. Sale price is \$5 (regular price \$8).
- Multi-page, color sales brochures for 1955, 1956, and 1957 have been discounted to \$12 (regular price \$18).

Some additional items have been marked down for final closeout.

Be safe and Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas

CTCI





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**Happy New Year From CTCI**

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It's that time of year again. **The club dues are 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.

**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 – 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Manginelli memorial swap meet - Lancaster Event Center

March 21 – 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**



**Member Birthday**  
**January**  
**Kayla Sanford - 5**  
**Marsha Smith - 17**  
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
Newsletter	Jack Sanford - 402-392-1350
Historian	Bob McGowan - 402-334-2593
Social Media	John La Duke - 701-330-7908
Sponsor	Lee Sapp Ford - 402-944-3367

“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.

