

# Thunder Words



January 2026, Volume 49 #1  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club



**Prez Says:** Happy New Year! We put last year in the books and can now look forward to the coming year. I want to thank our 2026 officers for agreeing to serve this year: **Rob Kinsey**, vice president; **Jeff Brown**, treasurer; **Mary Lou Bierman**, secretary; and **Jack Sanford**, editor of our newsletter. Our club cannot function without members willing to volunteer their time for these positions. The New Year traditionally comes with resolutions for the future months. One resolution that I am going to make is to devote more time to driving and using my T-Birds. I would encourage our members to do the same and also to make a resolution to attend as many of our club meetings as possible. We are not holding any meetings in January and February, so put the March 19 meeting on your calendar. At that meeting, we will start planning events for the year, so I ask that members think about what kind of events they would like to see planned. If you can't attend the March meeting, please email me with suggestions at [nefron1@cox.net](mailto:nefron1@cox.net). Car shows, short local tours, a picnic, a member's garage tour, and a favorite lunch spot are all examples of events needed. This is your club, so let the officers know what you want to enjoy this year. Finally, the dues are due, so please send your \$15 check to our treasurer.

**Martin Bierman, President**

Next Event  
Business Meeting  
March 19, 2026  
Track Side Bar & Grill  
Waverly, NE  
6:00 PM

2026 Meeting Dates:  
Waverly – March – May – July – Sept. – Dec.  
19 21 16 17 17  
Omaha – April - June - Aug. - Oct.  
16 18 20 15  
November Friendsgiving - TBD

Next  
Business Meeting  
March 19, 2026  
Track Side Bar & Grill  
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 2025

**President Rob Kinsey** opened the meeting at 6:15 PM. Guest **Neil Dawes** was introduced. **Neil** is **Larry's** and **Gail's** son. **Larry** had an incident with the sidewalk, which left him unable to drive (temporarily). Other members present were **Mary Lou** and **Marty Bierman**, **Joel Hutchins**, **Jeff Brown**, **John La Duke**, **Tom Woodman**, **Rob** and **Vicki Kinsey**, **Scott** and **Renea Steffens**, and **Jack Sanford**.

**Rob** thanked everyone for coming, noting that this was the largest number of members at a business meeting in some time. Only the dinners drew more attendees. **Rob** recognized the Newsletter Editor for his job.

**Minutes:** The November Club minutes, as displayed in the December Newsletter, were approved by a motion from **Marty**, seconded by **John**. The motion carried.

**Treasurer: Jeff** reported that he would be donating to the Nebraska Food Bank. We collected \$510.00 in gift cards for the Nebraska Children's Home—a big thank you to the Club. The CTCI Convention Committee refunded our \$250.00 donation. **Rob** had received the check. The ENWIACC dues have been paid. A motion to approve the report was made by **John** and seconded by **Marty**. The motion carried.

**Rob**, as outgoing President, presented **Marty**, incoming President, with the Club Gavel.

**Marty** presented **Rob** with a plaque recognizing his service as Club President in 2025.

**Old Business: Marty**, **Mary Lou**, **Scott**, and **Renea** attended the Hawkeye Christmas Party. One of the party's features was a bus tour of the Christmas lights. The main takeaway from the bus ride was how lovely the lights were; however, the people who lived in those neighborhoods had to be home before dark, or they wouldn't be able to reach their homes. The cars were lined up for blocks to see the light displays. All agreed it was a great party, and they had a good time.

**Scott** inquired if the club had ever entered the World of Wheels car show as a unit. He said that he, **Alan Task**, and one other from the VTCI Club had entered three cars and won the club award, along with individual awards. A discussion ensued but no action was taken.

**New Business:** None

**Brags: Jeff Brown's** daughter is engaged. No date for the wedding has been set.

**Shout-Out:** Coffee Kettle Café was a little short-handed, so **Renea** stepped up, obtained the waitress's ordering pad, and took the last four members' orders. **Renea** said, "Old habits die hard." The waitress was thankful and impressed. Nice job, **Renea**.

The next meeting will be at Waverly on March 18, 2026. Mark your calendars—no meetings in January or February.

Respectfully submitted by **Jack E. Sanford**, Acting Secretary.



## TECH TALK

*By Martin Bierman*



Tired of a modern 12-volt battery ruining the classic look of your engine compartment? Weskar can help. The Belgium-based company provides authentic battery caps and stickers to convert a modern battery to a classic one. Below are a description of the Weskar Ford Power Punch Caps kit and a photo of the kit installed on a modern battery. Weskar says:

“Customize any modern battery of your classic car with this Ford Power Punch (1954-68) Push-in Caps kit. Perfect to replace your modern caps with these vintage classic caps. In other words, with this Ford Power Punch (1954-68) Caps kit, you can turn your modern battery into the famous vintage battery "Ford Power Punch" which was used in 1954-1968 in Fords and other models.

In addition, the kit consists of 7 pieces: 6 push-in caps in ABS plastic. Perfect for a battery hole (not screw) of 3/4" / 19mm. It is possible to lightly sand it if the hole is smaller. If it is larger, we can provide you with adapter rings. Contact us

- 1 sticker for the front of the battery "Ford Power Punch."



Cost is \$23.95 with \$3.78 shipping. The kits can be ordered through eBay by searching “Ford Power Punch battery caps”. Yellow caps and glue-on caps are also available. Shipping is from Belgium, so be patient. Users comment on the need to be sure the cap vent holes are open to avoid battery fluid seepage. One user reported that the Group 27 battery caps did not fit.



# CTCI

## Highlights of CTCI Video Board Meeting

Dec. 12, 2025

**Special Meeting – Approval of New Contract:** The Board reviewed and approved a new contract with Attache' International. This contract covers Member Services; Administrative Services; Merchandise, Factory Invoice & Records Storage; and Design, Layout, & Publication of *The Early Bird Magazine*. The new contract includes significant savings for CTCI from the previous contract.

The next Special Board meeting (Officer Elections) is set for January 5, 2026, at 10:00 AM Central.

The next regular Board meeting is set for January 16, 2026, at 10:00 AM Central

On Behalf of the Board,  
Bob Bly, President



Neil

Gail, Larry, Mary Lou, Marty, Rob, Vicki   Scott, Renea   Jeff, Tom, John, Joel



## 2026 Calendar of Events

**January 23-25 – Midlands International Auto Show – CHI Arena & Convention Center**

**March 6-8 – 71<sup>st</sup> World of Wheels – CHI Arena & Convention Center**

**March 8 – 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Manginelli Swap Meet – Sandhills Global Event Center - Lincoln**  
(same location, new name – 4100 North 84<sup>th</sup> Street)

**March 19 – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – Track Side Bar & Grill – 13901 Guildford 7, Waverly, NE**



Please use the attached form to submit your dues. The dues are still only \$15 per year, probably the best deal in town.

### 2026 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**,  
Treasurer, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128

Established in 1975, the **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club** is dedicated to preserving and enjoying one of the greatest cars ever created: the **Ford Thunderbird**.

Advantages of club membership include:

- Regular driving events and monthly meetings every third Thursday
- Social functions such as picnics, shows, and the 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 a calendar of events and tech articles



*Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club*

President	Martin Bierman	- 402-289-4516
Vice President	Rob Kinsey	- 402-434-9053
Treasurer	Jeff Brown	- 402-572-1995
Secretary	Mary Lou Bierman	- 402-289-4516
CTCI Rep	Martin Bierman	- 402-289-4516
Newsletter	Jack Sanford	- 402-578-3743
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.

## Celebrities who owned or drove the classic Thunderbird

Frank Sinatra – 1955	Natalie Wood – 1955
Clark Gable – 1955	Marilyn Monroe - 1956
John Travolta – 195	Annette Funicello – 195
Glynis Johns – 195	Paul Drake – 195

Ford produced 16,155 Classic Thunderbirds in 1955

Ford produced 15,631 Classic Thunderbirds in 1956

Ford produced 21,380 Classic Thunderbirds in 1957\*

Ford produced 37,892 four-seater Thunderbirds in 1958\*

Ford produced 67,456 four-seater Thunderbirds in 1959

Ford produced 92,843 four-seater Thunderbirds in 1960

1961 -1966, Ford produced an average of 75,165 Thunderbirds per year.

\* A three-month production delay of the 1958 model affected the sales of Thunderbirds.

**TIP OF THE MONTH**

If you live in Eastern Nebraska or Western Iowa, you have had a chance to exercise some of the driving tips featured in past issues of this newsletter. Although our weather has been challenging, it is nothing compared to the weather in the states bordering ours.

The tip for this issue is taken from the Iowa State Highway Patrol.

"Unless it is a dire emergency, when inclement weather hits, just stay home."

**Member Birthdays**

January

Marsha Smith – 17

If you want to be recognized, please send your birthdate to [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net).





January 2025

Dave Freeburg's family is selling his 1957 T-Bird



March 2025

First Business Meeting in 2025



May 2025

T-Bird Appreciation Day – Lincoln



July 2025

Marty &amp; Mary Lou's Tech/Shopping event



February 2025

Dave Freeburg April 1, 1943 – December 18, 2024

Don Sudbeck September 4, 1933 – Jan. 18, 2025

Long-time Club members passed.

April 2025

Fellowship Luncheon - Murdock Grill



June 2025

Grills and Skills Car Show - Gretna



August 2025

Oxbow Living Center Car Show



September 2025  
Event Canceled  
September Business Meeting



October 2025  
Loess Hills Tour



November 2025  
Friendsgiving Dinner – Lincoln



December 2025  
Passing the certificate



T-Bird Appreciation Day May 18, 2025



Oxbow Living Center August 23, 2025



July 17, 2025, Business Meeting - Omaha

