

# *Thunder Words*



**July, 2018 ~ Volume 41, #7**  
**Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club**  
**Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird**  
**Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International**

## ***July Club Meeting***

**Saturday, July 28**

**Hosts: Marge and Ron Schultz**

**2:15 ~ Meet at Veterans Memorial Park, 9<sup>th</sup> and N. Main, North Bend.**

**2:30 ~ Caravan to the Schultz's Lake Home, #36, Pioneer Lake.**

Club meeting. Enjoy a pontoon boat ride and relax on the patio, beach, or pergola. A light snack, tea, and lemonade will be provided. Bring your own adult beverage, if you'd like.



**5:30 ~ Caravan to the Bottom Road Bar & Grill, Morse Bluff.**

**RSVP by July 21 to [marschultz@aol.com](mailto:marschultz@aol.com) or 402-719-8244**

**Directions and maps on p 9**



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



## Prez Says



Thanks to **Rob Rohrbough** for sponsoring the meeting. The Fire Barn is one of my favorite meeting places.

We had one guest, the **Abood's** granddaughter, **Katrina**.



The heat of the day didn't stop **Dave Freeburg** from driving his '57 T-Bird, convertible style. However, the heat did cancel a countryside tour.



**Jim Rowe** brought his '56 Ford 2-door. After the meeting, he pointed out how he had improved its original appearance inside and out.



**Ted Dimmitt** explained how his hip replacement was really an easier

operation than trying to repair his shattered right femur. Ted had fallen and fractured his right leg but didn't know it until it gave out as he was walking down his driveway. Replacing the hip was the doctor's suggestion. Ted was carrying a cane and **Fran** advised she was the one using it to keep him in line.



July's meeting was not changed from the newsletter and I promise to have final details for the August meeting before the August newsletter. September's meeting is still on for September 29 at Speedway in Lincoln. This is a show and shine event, so we would like to have a good showing of T-Birds. Ted and Fran set October 6 at Leroy's in North Bend for the October meeting. Our Christmas Party will be held December 1 at Mahoney State Park.

If anyone would like to have a jacket embroidered let me know. Thanks to **Jeff Hoffman** for taking the meeting minutes as **Mary Lou** was fooling around Ireland with **Marty**.

*Jack Sanford, President*

**Minutes of**



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



## June's Meeting

The June meeting of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club was called to order by **President Jack Sanford** at 1:20 pm on Sunday, June 10, at the Fire Barn in Waterloo, NE. There were 18 members and one guest in attendance. Members drove two classic Thunderbirds, one Retro-Bird, and one '56 Ford.

### Minutes

**Bob Routh** motioned to approve the May minutes as published in the newsletter, seconded by **Gaylan Abood**. Motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

The club treasurer was not in attendance so no treasurer report was available.



### Old Business

### Calendar of Events

**July 28 - Ron and Marge Schultz** will host the club at their lake home. Meet at Veterans Memorial Park in North Bend, NE at 2:15 p.m. and caravan to their lake home at #36, Pioneer Lake. Dinner later at the Bottom Road Bar & Grill in Morse Bluff, NE.

**August 26 - Jack and Kayla Sanford** have arranged a rally and tour to Thresher's Park, Waverly, NE. Miniature train rides will be available.

Dinner to follow at the Trackside Restaurant in Waverly.

**September 29 - Jim Lantz and Jeff Hoffman** will host at Speedway Motors' Cars and Coffee event in Lincoln with lunch to follow.

**October 6 - Ted Dimmitt and Fran Graser** will host the October club meeting at Leroy's Steakhouse in North Bend at 5:00 pm.

**December 1 - Bob and Cathy McGowan** will host the club's holiday party in the Nebraska Room at Mahoney State Park, Ashland. It is uncertain if the park entrance fee will need to be paid or not.

### Club Jackets

Embroidery of club jackets is still available. Jackets must be provided to Brad Taylor at 3202 No.205<sup>th</sup> in Elkhorn. He can be contacted at 402-677-3315 to do the embroidery for \$35 each. Members are to provide their own jacket.



### New Business

**Jack Sanford** gave a recap of the Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club's Spring Fling. There were seven Thunderbirds on display by attendees from Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, and Texas. The ice cream social was moved indoors Friday evening because of the 104° temperature. Green Machines was one of the many Des Moines tours for attendees. Green Machines in housed in an old Packard





dealership and has sold four Little Birds this year.

There was no new business for the club members to consider.



### Brag Box

**Jim and Jeanie Rowe** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 20. He won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 1990 – 2015 category at the Ashland car show. He and **Rob Rohrbough** had their Thunderbirds parked side-by-side.

**Rob Rohrbough** was at the club meeting, in spite of having been sick, but he had recovered and was going car shopping after the meeting.

**Gaylan and Joyce Abood's** granddaughter, Katrina, won a trophy for ice skating. She gets up at 6 am every morning to practice.

**Dave and Sandy Freeberg's** 23 year old granddaughter has been honored to be accepted into the Nebraska Ballet Society. She has also become engaged.



**Dave Burkland's** 18 x 18 garage has been replaced by a 25 x 40 garage in their new house.

**Jack Sanford's** Thunderbird has been accepted in the Route 66 display.



### Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the club meeting was made by **Bob Routh**, seconded by **Rob Rohrbough**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Hoffman for  
Mary Lou Bierman, Secretary*



### Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

<b>President</b>	<b>Jack Sanford</b>
	402-392-1350 jesanford@cox.net
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Rob Kinsey</b>
	402-434-9053 rkinsey@krbkllaw.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jeff Brown</b>
	402-572-1995 fnhog2@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Lou Bierman</b>
	402-289-4516 nefron2@cox.net
<b>CTCI Rep</b>	<b>John LaDuke</b>
	701-330-7908 sphaeralcea516@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Jeff Hoffman</b>
	402-499-6063 ne.thunderbirds@gmail.com
<b>Social Media</b>	<b>Jamie Karl</b>
	402-474-4422 jamiekarl@gmail.com
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Lee Sapp Ford</b>
	402-342-6767 lee@lsford.com

"ThunderWords" is the official publication of the NebraskalandThunderbird Club, Chapter 65 of Classic Thunderbird Club International. Annual dues are \$15, send to Jeff Brown, 7225 S 103<sup>rd</sup> ST, LaVista NE 68128.



## T-Bird Tech Talk

*“My T-Bird starter turns very slowly when hot.”*

**By Martin Bierman**



**Question** - A 1956 T-Bird owner complains that his 12 volt starter turns very slowly when the engine is hot. It is so slow that he is worried it won't start.

**Answer** – Assuming the battery is fully charged and the cables are of correct gauge and the terminals are clean, then the starter is the likely cause of the problem. This is called “heat soak” and occurs due to worn field or armature windings or the armature dragging on the bushing. Replacing the starter with a proper rebuilt one should solve the problem. I was able to buy an excellent rebuilt 12 volt starter from NAPA on-line for \$49 with a total charge of \$74 with core charge and shipping. Most T-Bird vendors charge twice that and want your starter as a core or charge a large core charge.



If one is going to replace the starter,

consider upgrading to the Powermaster 9002 Powermax Plus high torque starter. This is a starter with modern gear reduction technology and has just become available for the Y-Block engine the last couple of years. It is very lightweight at less than 12 lbs. and has a high torque for quick starts even in engines with a high compression ratio. It does not use a Bendix drive but has a gear drive which eliminates another source of failure. One can use the solenoid on the firewall and the starter can be “clocked” to fit neatly against the engine. Price is \$193 with free shipping from JEGS High Performance. Summit Racing also carries it.

### **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club Meetings and Events**

**July ~ Saturday, July 28. 2:15 pm.** Meeting at Ron and Marge Schultz's lake home. Meet at Veteran's Park in North Bend, caravan to Lot # 36 at Pioneer Lake and dinner at Bottom Road Bar & Grill, 3041 Co Rd 26, Morse Bluff. **Hosts: Ron and Marge Schultz.**

**August ~ Sunday, August 26** (Time TBD). Rally and tour of Thresher's Park, Waverly. Miniature train rides available. Meeting details to be announced. **Hosts: Jack and Kayla Sanford.**

**September ~ Saturday, September 29.** [Speedway Motors Museum of American Speed Cars and Coffee.](#) Meeting and lunch details to be announced. **Hosts: Jim Lantz and Jeff Hoffman.**

**October ~ [Leroy's Steakhouse](#),** North Bend. Details to be announced. **Hosts: Ted Dimmitt and Fran Graser.**

**December ~ Holiday Dinner.** Details to be announced. **Hosts: Cathy and Bob McGowan.**





## CTCI Events

**Thunder 'n Lightning in the Smokies. August 15 – 19.** Knoxville Convention Center, Knoxville, TN. Sponsored by the [Smoky Mountain Classic Thunderbird Club](#). Convention chair is Bill Long at 865-458-0426.



### Area Shows and Events Weekly/Monthly

Tuesdays ~ **Culvers**, 14<sup>th</sup> ST & Old Cheney, Lincoln.

Tuesdays [5 pm] ~ **Don and Millie's Cruise Night**, S 23<sup>rd</sup> ST & Cornhusker RD, Bellevue.

Wednesdays [5 - 9pm] ~ **Keystone Center**, 7803 Military AVE, Omaha.

Wednesdays [5 pm] ~ **Cruisers Bar and Grill Classic Car Show and Shine**, 8634 F ST, Omaha.

Fridays, ~ **Culvers**, N 27<sup>th</sup> ST, Lincoln.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday [6 – 9 pm] ~ **Sonic Drive-In**, 1910 Market LN, Norfolk.

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday [8 – noon] ~ Cars and Coffee, **Speedway Motors Museum of American Speed**, Lincoln.

### Shows July

July 4 ~ **Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show**, Downtown, Seward.

July 18 ~ **Vinnie's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Show**, Wilderness Ridge Golf Course, 1800 Wilderness Woods Place, Lincoln.

July 22 [noon – 3 pm (Register 9 am)] ~ **Annual Stir-Up Days Car Show**, Ashland.

July 29 ~ **Gretna Days Car Show**, McKenna AVE, Downtown, Gretna.

July 29, [11 am – 3 pm (Register 8 am)] ~ **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Last Hot Sunday in July Auto/Truck Show-n-Shine**, Louisville.

### August

August 5 [11 am – 3 pm (Register 9 am)] ~ **Lancaster County Super Fair Show & Shine**. Lancaster County Event Center, 84<sup>th</sup> & Havelock, Lincoln.

August 5 [12 – 3 pm (Register 9 am)] ~ **Fun in the Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show**. 17303 Evans ST, Omaha.

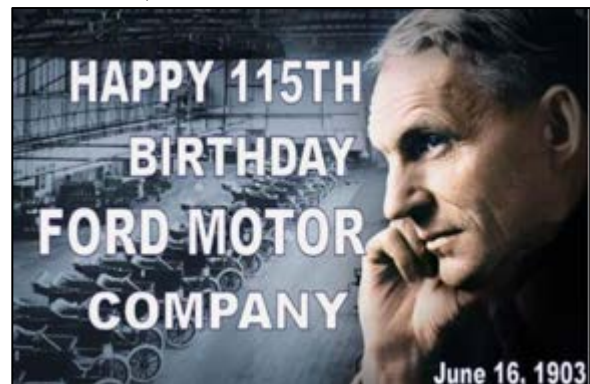
August 12 [12 – 3:30 pm (Register 9 am)] ~ **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Car Show**. Valley.

August 18 [12 – 4 pm (Register 8 am)] ~ **All Ford Show**. Frankfurt Square at 13<sup>th</sup> ST, Downtown, Columbus.

August 18 ~ **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hallamfest All Vehicle Car Show**. Hallam.

August 19 ~ **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show**. Stolley Park, Grand Island.

August 19 [10 am – 3 pm] ~ **Vintage Wheels at the Fort**. Fort Omaha, 5730 N 30<sup>th</sup> ST, Omaha.



YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS  
BUT YOU CAN BUY A **THUNDERBIRD**  
AND THAT'S ABOUT THE SAME THING



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







Find us on:  
**facebook**



Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

Published by Jamie Karl · 7/1 · June 19 at 7:55 PM · 3

Blessed are the rust buckets!

<https://barnfinds.com/jumped-the-pond-1955-ford-t-bird/>



BARNFINDS.COM

**Jumped The Pond: 1955 Ford T-Bird**

By Josh Mortensen It's amazing how many GIs stationed overseas...



Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

Published by Jamie Karl · 7/1 · May 30 at 6:13 PM · 3



The new

**Ford THUNDERBIRD**

-masterpiece of engineering

*A new kind of personal car that combines sports-car styling and performance with passenger-car conveniences*

If you've seen this sleek-looking number on the road, chances are you haven't forgotten it. A mere 54.2 inches from door top to fender, with a 102-inch wheelbase, this all-American-built personal car is already influencing future automobile design. And appearance is only half the story. Beneath the Thunderbird's beautiful all-steel body you'll find fresh new features. For example, the Thunderbird's

steering wheel telescopes in or out a full three inches. The Astro-Dial Control Panel includes a tachometer, signal lights for oil and generator, and a clock with sweep second hand. The Thunderbird answers to the controls with nimble responsiveness that is wonderful to experience.

Power steering, power brakes, power windows and a 4-way power seat are available.

OPTIONAL HARD TOP CAN BE QUICKLY REMOVED ...



Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

Published by Jamie Karl · 7/1 · June 10 at 8:39 PM · 3



The "Light-of-Hand"  
Performer

If there is one characteristic aside from the lines of the car that distinguishes the Thunderbird, it's the light touch.

Never before has any car come so close to becoming an extension of the driver himself.

To begin with, it is neither a sedan nor a sport. Rather it is a tidy package with plenty of leg room and plenty of stowable room. And its body is all steel as it should be.

And then there is the light-touch steering that you will find as delightfully different from any car you have ever driven.

Of course, the major part of this control stems directly from the power plant. The 200-cubic-inch (just under 3 liters) overhead-valve V-8 has a special 4-barrel carburetor and high-compression heads. It puts 198 brake horsepower at your disposal. And this, in a car with an over-all road weight of just over 3000 pounds, is a fact that lifts many a European system!

For the man who enjoys his own best work, the straight-athletic Thunderbird leaves nothing to be desired especially if the car is ordered with the optional Automatic Overdrive. But for the man

who can't be bothered or who has un-attended responsibilities, the Thunderbird's own automatic transmission is dark soap with glory.

Now what about steering? Ford engineers don't go along with the idea that a high-performance car such as the Thunderbird should have overly fast steering for the American highway. It steers with the ease you are accustomed to and you can have it power-steered if you wish.

As for brakes, Thunderbird brakes are bigger than they need be—11 inches in diameter—and give you instant smooth, straight-line stops. Easily, too, because they are of the self-energizing disc-drum type... use the car's energy of motion for extra stopping power.

As for the ride, it's level. It's firm. It's comfortable. An all-day trip is refreshing—not tugging. You get real all-weather protection, too. Power roll-up windows. A hard top that lifts or is off with one motor and a fabric top that's snug and smooth.

Finally—a Thunderbird is never farther than your Ford Dealer's lot service. Incidentally, if the Thunderbird sign is parked on your shoulder—be's the man to see!

**Ford THUNDERBIRD**  
An exciting original by Ford

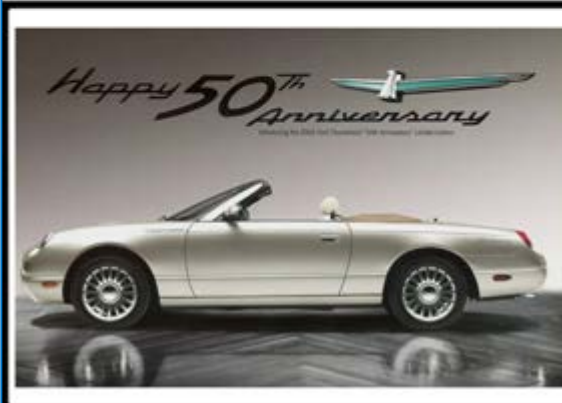


Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

Published by Jamie Karl · 7/1 · June 2 at 10:15 AM · 3

Ford Thunderbird -- Eleventh generation (2002-2005)

After a five year hiatus, Ford introduced a new Thunderbird for 2002. Returning to the original formula for the Thunderbird, the latest version had a two-seat coupe/convertible layout like the first-generation Thunderbird and retrofuturistic styling to match. The eleventh generation Thunderbird was built at Ford's Wixom Assembly Plant and was based on the company's DEW98 platform, which was shared with the Lincoln LS and Jag... See More



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



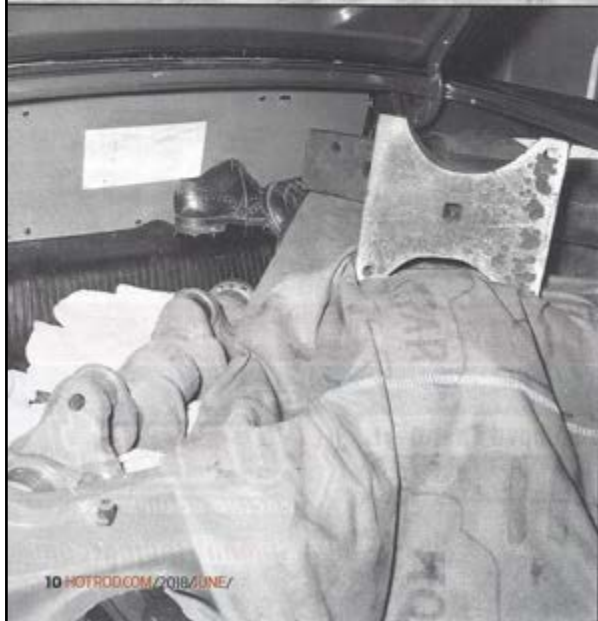


WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

DYNOMETER TESTING \$300

AC SPARK PLUGS

© Racer Brown/Petersen Publishing Co. Archive



10 HOTROD.COM 2018 JUNE

## The \$3 Dyno Test (or Was It?)

Is Vic Edelbrock Sr. (right) elated by the rear-wheel horsepower produced by Ford's brand-new Thunderbird, or are he and employee Murray Jensen just feeling sheepish about staging a series of April 1955 photos for Technical Editor Racer Brown without turning any tires? We'll likely never know, since all three are long gone.

Another enduring mystery is why the trio went to such trouble to set up a dyno-testing scene—realistic right down to heavy junk in the trunk (an anvil and crankshaft)—that we can't find in HOT ROD or any other Petersen Publishing Co. monthly.

Nor have we seen this particular car in print. Historian Greg Sharp, the NHRA Motorsports Museum's curator, believes it to be the personal T-bird that Vic bought new and drove on the street. It briefly served as a fancy test mule for developing Y-block speed parts. After another longtime employee, Don Towle, blew the stock slushbox at Saugus (California) Drag Strip, the car was parked, tarped, and eventually sold.

Cancer would claim the Edelbrock Equipment Co. founder at 49, in 1962. His 26-year-old son, Vic Jr., took over and grew the firm into an industry giant prior to his own death last June at age 80.

Dave Wallace



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





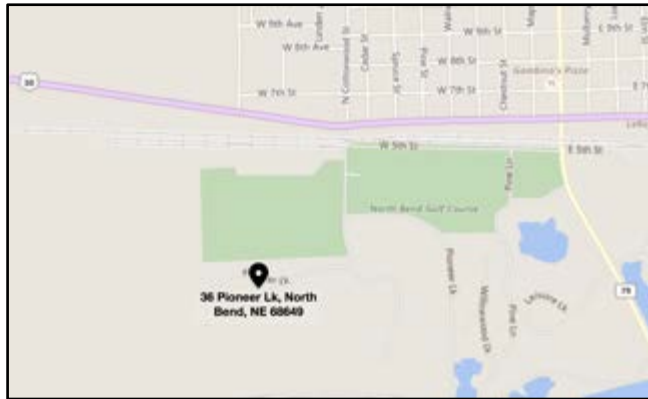
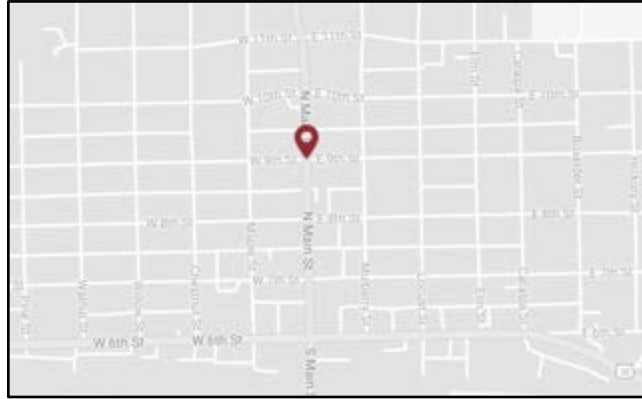
## DIRECTIONS AND MAPS FOR JULY MEETING

### TO VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

*FROM LINCOLN* – Take I-180, Hwy 34 and Hwy 79 to North Bend.

*FROM OMAHA* – Take Hwy 275 and Hwy 30 to North Bend.

*FROM ALL POINTS* – Veterans Memorial Park is 3 blocks north of the intersection of Highway #30 and #79.



### TO # 36, PIONEER LAKE

From Veterans Memorial Park, return to Hwy 30, turn right/west.

At Cottonwood ST, turn left/south and follow past golf course.

Contact Marge or Ron to let you through the gate, if you're not part of the caravan.

### TO BOTTOM ROAD BAR, 3041 Co Rd 26

From Pioneer Lake, return to Hwy 79 in North Bend.

Turn right/south onto Hwy 79 to Morse Bluff

Turn left/east onto Co RD 26. Bottom Road Bar & Grill is on the right.

