

Thunder Words



July 2024 ~ Volume 47, #7
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: We certainly have had bad luck on our tours. The Indian Cave tour was canceled due to poor RSVP response and the weather. Hopefully, **Dick Heinke** will be able to reschedule this tour in the fall for fall foliage viewing. Check the schedule of events for changes in July's event since I won't be able to host a July 20 event. I also will miss the July 18 meeting. If you have not considered attending the CTCI International convention in Des Moines on August 20-25, please make your hotel reservation now and complete the convention registration form online at ctci.org or in our newsletter. You have to be a member of CTCI to attend, but if you are not a member, you can join online. Also, you do not need to bring a T-Bird to the convention, but if you do, there are multiple classes to show it in or place it in the display class and not worry about cleaning it up. This will be a fun-packed convention and the closest one to us for some time.

Martin Bierman, President

Hickman Hay Day
Car Show
9am – 3pm
July 27, 2024
Hickman, Nebraska
Details page 2

July Important Dates:
4 – Independence Day
17 – Hotdog Day
23 – Cowboy Day
21 – Full Buck Moon
30 – Cheesecake Day

Next Meeting
July 18, 2024
6:00 PM
Track Side Bar & Grill
13901 Guildford #7
Waverly, NE



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
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Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

June 2024

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. at the Coffee Kettle Cafe in Omaha, NE. In attendance were **Martin** and **Mary Lou Bierman**, **Rob Kinsey**, **Jack Sanford**, **Jeff Brown**, **John La Duke**, and yours truly, your humble secretary **Quentin Moeller**.

The May minutes were approved by a motion made by **Rob** with a second by **Mary Lou**.

Jeff Brown gave the treasurer's report.

Old Business: The tour of Indian Cave had to be canceled. We may try again this fall.

Our July activity at **Marty's** shop was also canceled as **Marty** and **Mary Lou** are out of town on family business.

The club decided to attend the July 27th Hickman Hay Days car show; details will follow.

August is occupied by the CTCI Convention in Des Moines. There is no other activity for August. Members going are Bierman's, Jeff Brown, and Jack Sanford as of this date.

For September, a suggestion was made to attend the car show at Southeast Community College on the 8th.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

Brag:

Jack had a garage sale.

Jess's fan belt no longer squeals. After seven years, his fender skirts are in the final stages of restoration.

The July 18th meeting is at 6:00 PM in Waverly at the Trackside Bar and Grill. Plan on attending, as this year's and next year's activities will be discussed, and your input is very valuable.

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

Mary Lou made a motion to adjourn, and **Jeff** seconded it.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Moeller, Secretary

A follow up for the Hickman event

Reported by Quentin

"I spoke with Kelli (402-416-2004), who told me she would gladly stage our club's cars together. If the first person to register tells them they are with Nebraska T-Bird Club, she or her staff will take care of us. She also stated that she was looking to do other shows to benefit veterans, and I told her to contact me if they plan any other shows. Always ready to support veterans. Unfortunately, as in all the past years, I found out I will be in Denver that weekend for my granddaughter's baby shower. I normally would be excused from the function, but my sons from California are coming in, so family calls."

The Hickman car show event will require an RSVP. If you plan on going, please RSVP to Jack at jesanford@cox.net – 402-578-3743 by July 26, 2024. Thank you.



Maintenance Tips

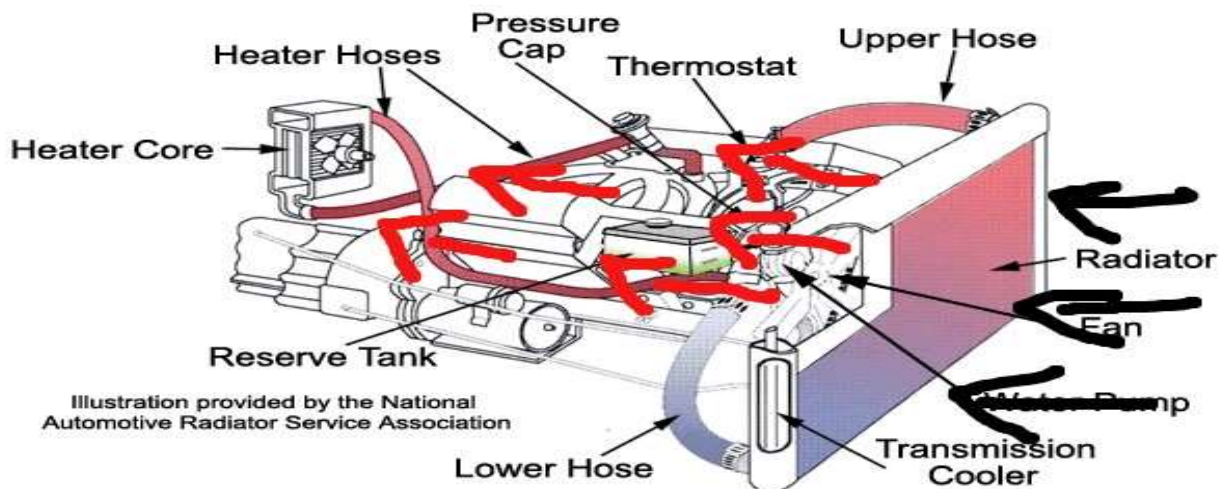
Taken from the CTCI Technical Internet group 5/22/24

I agree with the 180 thermostats; the coolant flow is the same once it opens. The lower opening temperature doesn't change how much heat the engine puts out or its eventual operating temperature. The outdoor temperature, or more accurately, the **temperature difference** between the outdoor and the coolant temperature, drives how effectively the radiator releases heat. The coolant **flow** determines how much heat can be removed from the engine. So, all a 160 thermostat does is make the car run richer on cool days when the coolant temperature may top out below 180. Or put another way - on a hot desert day when there is only a 60 or 70-degree difference between the outdoor temperature and the coolant, more flow is your friend. The 160 thermostat is sidelined because it opened and stayed open long before you overheated.

This is the first time I've heard of anyone removing the lower radiator hose to flush the coolant. I'm not sure how that would work with the engine running. The water pump's suction is through the lower hose, and with it open to the ground, you are trying to make the flow go against the pump action. It seems like the engine may end up running starved of coolant.

Years ago, I'd normally flush through a disconnected heater hose (heater on high) until the water looked clear before the environmental rules changed, and I had to capture the antifreeze and not let it run down the street to the storm drain. Now I take a short drive (heater on high), drain the coolant in a pan (engine off), fill it with fresh water, and repeat until the coolant looks clean enough, usually 3 or 4 repeats. After the first 'drain and fill,' the water goes down the drain in the laundry sink and goes to the waste treatment plant. The first drain is where essentially all the antifreeze is, and that is collected and recycled.

To actually refill and flush, you have to get the engine up to operating temperature each time you refill so that you have circulated the water to move the crud around and mix it well with the leftover coolant. In my experience, you only get about 1/2 the coolant out when you drain the system. Whether a flush is needed depends on the maintenance history of the car. On my own cars, where they get maintained, I normally drain the two gallons and then replace them with two gallons of new antifreeze. Usually, a small amount of additional water will also be needed.





2024 International Convention

Celebrating 70 Years of Thunderbird Fun

Hotel Reservations: Call 888-236-2427

Marty's registration forms for the Convention. [Click here](#)

Dear CTCI Member, The 2024 International Convention is becoming an enjoyable event. The Hawkeye host chapter has lined up some outstanding events and activities. If you have already registered to attend, thank you, and we can't wait to spend time with you in Des Moines. If you haven't yet registered, here are two options.

Important Deadlines

July 15: Cancellation deadline. No refunds after July 15.

July 20: Sheraton discount room block expires.

Aug. 1: Deadline for car entries. No late entries will be accepted.

Aug. 2: Late fee added to convention registrations.

Watch for the Convention spread in the May-June issue of Early Bird with photos and more details. A registration form will also be enclosed.

Come celebrate 70 years of Thunderbird fun in Des Moines! You will be glad you did.



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Here are the details:

Host Hotel:

Sheraton West Des Moines

1800 50th St

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Direct line: (515) 223-1800

Group discount rate is \$139 per night and includes cooked-to-order breakfast daily. Group name: Hawkeye. Room block expires on July 20 and is filling up fast so make your reservations now.

Convention Check-In runs all day Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 20-21. The first 50 who check in for the Convention and have Sheraton reservations staying through Saturday, Aug. 24, will be entered in a drawing for a FREE suite upgrade for the week.

Welcome Party - Wednesday, Aug. 21

Tavern Restaurant, right across the street from our hotel. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Marvin Hill of Hills Automotive Classic Car Restoration and Parts, there is no charge for the Welcome Party for registered attendees. Just mark it on your registration to get a ticket. Featuring a salad, pizza and pasta buffet and cash bar for soft drinks, wine and beer. Entertainment by Richie Lee & the Fabulous 50s band.

Concours & Modern Classic Retro Judging – Friday, Aug. 23

Full slate of Concours classes and divisions for 1955-1957 Thunderbirds: Concours I, Concours II, Touring Class and Display Class.

For 2002-2005 Thunderbirds: Stock Class, Modified Class, Display Class

Tours

Wednesday, Aug. 21 – Motor coach tour to John Wayne Birthplace and Museum. Marion Robert Morrisson, aka John Wayne, was known and loved around the world. Discover his roots in the modest home he was born in, and explore artifacts and exhibits from his career. \$50 per person.

Thursday, Aug. 22 – Motor coach tour to two “car person heaven” destinations. See the world-class private collection of Dennis Albaugh. Featuring at least one Chevy convertible every year from 1913 through 1976; one of every color 1957 Chevy convertibles--17 in all, plus Camaros, Corvettes and much more! This collection is not open to the public; the Hawkeye club received permission for the tour. And, go behind the scenes at Karl Kustoms, a builder that is well known and respected in street rod and racing circles. Karl Kustoms encompasses 45,000 square feet and has turned out many national award-winning Street Rods. They do everything onsite except chrome...have their own engine building area, high-tech paint booths, upholstery department, race car and truck departments plus auto and racing accessories. \$60 per person.



Friday, Aug 23 - Motor coach tour for lunch on the 33rd floor of the Ruan Center in downtown Des Moines, overlooking the Iowa State Capital Building. After lunch, you will bus to the East Village in downtown for a couple hours of shopping then return to the hotel around 3:30 PM. \$60 per person.

Saturday, Aug. 24 - Driving tour to American Dream Machines, a specialty dealer in collector and muscle cars since 2003. One of the largest full service muscle car shops in the country.

Guest Speaker - Thursday, Aug. 22 - 5:30 - 7 PM. John Kraman from Mecum Auctions will make a presentation regarding the current Auction Trends and Collector Car Hobby, plus price trends.

Awards Banquet - Saturday, Aug. 24

At the Sheraton. Social hour with cash bar starts at 5:30. Dinner served at 6:30 and Awards Program starts at 7:15. Plated meal with a choice of 3 proteins: glazed Iowa pork chop, stuffed chicken breast or grilled salmon. Just mark your selection on your registration. Served with salad, chef's choice of starch dish, seasonal vegetables, and of course, dessert. \$65 per person.

Sign up today to enjoy summertime fun with Thunderbirds and the people who love them. The headquarters hotel is affordable; half price compared to 2023. Experience the friendly hospitality of the Midwest. Hope to see you there!

2024 Calendar of Events

July 16- 19 – Skyliner Club international meet – see details below

July 18 – Business meeting – 6:00 PM – Trackside Bar & Grill – 13901 Guildford #7 - Waverly, NE

July 27 – Hickman Car Show – 9 am-3 pm – Downtown Hickman, NE. Need to RSVP.

August 7 - 11– VTCI 2024 International Convention – Grand Rapids Airport, MI

August 15 – Business meeting – 6:00 pm – Coffee Kettle Café – 9905 Sapp Bros. Dr. Omaha, NE

August 20 -25 – 2024 International Concours Convention – Des Moines, IA (see pages 6&7)

September – 8 – 43rd Annual all makes car and truck show – Southeast CC 90th & “Q” – 8 - 4 pm.

John Stekly sent the following information.

“I am a member of the Skyliner Club, which is having its national meet in Omaha in July. Attached is the info. Since many of the Tbird club members like old cars, I thought I would attach the info in case any of the folks from our Tbird club want to stop by the Skyliner Club’s national meet. I plan to be at the Skyliner club’s national meet in Omaha.

Thank You, John Stekly”
Click below for details.

[Skyliner Convention](#)



Photos from the June Business Meeting



New Sign



Jeff Mary Lou Jack John Quentin Marty Rob



Jeff



Jack

Rob



For Sale Larry Smith Collection

Member Larry Smith's collection of used 1957 T-Bird parts and some '55-'56 parts. Contact Tom Taylor, Larry's son-in-law, for more information and prices at tomt@semaaneng.com. Bins of door parts, hubcaps, wiring, starters, and generator cores and much more!



For Sale Rick Gough's '56 Bird

Rick Gough is selling his 1956 T-Bird. The following is the description of his Bird:

It has been garaged ever since I bought it in 2012, except when I have had it out on the road. I had it running until about 3 years ago, but my health has not let me keep it up. It has a porthole top, no convertible top. The fuel pump has been replaced. The tires were updated for better road handling. The entire braking system was replaced with current state-of-the-art brake fluid. The original starter has been rebuilt. All the brake drums were replaced when we replaced the braking system. It has a 3-speed manual transmission—about 79,000 miles.

It has been under a cover whenever it was in the garage. I have a new winch, the lift sling, and a top cover for when it is off the car.

One of the front hood brackets is broken and needs replacing, as do the rear anchors for the top. Looking for \$11,500.

Rick Gough - Email address: fmgssg@cox.net

Member Birthday

July

John Henderson - 13

Rob Kinsey- 16

Ruth Henderson – 19

Clarence Johnson – 22

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
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CTCI Rep	Martin Bierman - 402-289-4516
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Sponsor	Lee Sapp Ford - 402-944-3367

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