



# Thunder Words



July, 2019 ~ Volume 42, #7  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International

**July Club Event & Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 20 at 11:00 am**  
[Durham Museum](#)

801 S 10<sup>th</sup> ST, Omaha

Docent led tour (\$9 each)

Soda fountain lunch (\$8-10) and meeting

Cars will be displayed at east end of parking lot

**Hosts: Rob and Vicki Kinsey**

*Directions and map on p. 9*

## Prez Says

Joyce and Gaylan Abood's beautiful golf side home was a perfect setting for a spectacular June picnic and meeting.

Credit for the wonderful meal goes to **Joyce** and her daughter, *Laurie*, who served as hostess. **Gaylan** took credit for the weather. However, **Joyce's** brownies were a close second.



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The evening was topped off with a five T-Bird caravan touring the neighborhood, including a stop to inspect **Dave and Sandy Freeberg's** garage. The pictures displayed in this newsletter will better describe the garage's contents than I could. Thanks to both members for hosting a very memorable event.



**Rob and Vicki Kinsey's** plans for the July meeting were outlined and it sounds like another super outing. Rob has a knack for finding new and interesting venues. With my railroad background, I'm looking forward to visiting the Durham Museum.

**Bob Young** is putting together a multi-club overnight event for August 24, 2019. This event will be a tour of the Armacost Museum in Grandview, MO. Grandview is in the southeast section of Kansas City. He has invited the St Louis, Kansas City, Iowa, and Nebraska T-Bird clubs. He is making hotel

arrangements for the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Arrangements have not been finalized. However, the event may be a dinner Friday evening and a lunch after the tour on Saturday. You can "google" the [Armacost Museum](#) which has a



great selection of cars. If you are interested in such an event, please let me know and I will forward you the final details when they are available. At this writing, Bob has about 10 couples interested between the Iowa and Nebraska Clubs.

Get those T-Birds on the road. Lots of events during the summer months. So far, June has been especially nice.

More later,  
**Jack Sanford, President**

### **Minutes of June 13 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by the president, **Jack Sanford**, with 12 members, spouses, and one guest present at the villa of **Gaylan and Joyce Abood** in Elkhorn. Thank you **Gaylan and Joyce Abood** for hosting the meeting. Also present was a guest, **Lori Liffing**, the daughter of **Gaylan and Joyce Abood**, who acted as a hostess, serving beverages and the picnic lunch to members. As trustee, she wanted to meet the members who may be helpful in selling their Thunderbird on their demise, if no other family member wanted it. Someone commented that the brownies were the best he has ever



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tasted. After the picnic lunch and the business meeting, there was a tour through the Indian Creek Estates and a tour of **Dave Freeberg's** garage.



### Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting was made by **Bob McGowen** and seconded by **Marty Bierman**. Carried.



### Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's report as **Jeff Brown** was absent.

### Old Business

**Rob and Vicki Kinsey** will host the meeting for July 20th at 11:00 AM with a tour of Durham Museum in Omaha. Park on the east end of parking area. There will be a light lunch at the Durham Museum.

**Jeff Hoffman and Jim Lantz** will be hosting the August 17th meeting. It will be taco/nacho bar in Roberts Park, 56<sup>th</sup> and Sumner in Lincoln. The shelter house is reserved starting at 4 PM. Other details will follow with a possible tour of the Capitol Building and Sunken Gardens earlier in the afternoon, maybe around 2 PM.

**Rob and Vicki Kinsey** will host the September meeting at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha. Preliminary schedule is for Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM and dining at El Bees with specific details to follow.

Results from the electronic voting on including 2002-2005 Retro Birds was 61% in favor but short of 66% needed to pass.



### New Business

Depending on the interest, there may be an overnight multi-club event scheduled at the Armacost Museum in Grandview, MO, on August 24<sup>th</sup> organized by **Bob**

**Young.** Lodging accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn Express. Please indicate to **Jack Sanford** your interest in attending. There will be no entrance fee for members touring the museum.

**Jack Sanford** presented several great choices of a logo patch for our club. A motion to select #2 of the choices was made by **Marty Bierman**. A preliminary price of \$4 was received by **Jack Sanford**. The motion was seconded by **Gaylan Abood**. Motion Carried. Please let **Jack Sanford** know of your interest in how many you desire for your caps, shirts and/or coats.



### Announcements

There are lots of car activities in July. The Fremont Car Show with cash prizes is July 13<sup>th</sup>. The Ceresco Auto show is July 12<sup>th</sup>.



### Brag Box

There were a couple of brags including the following:

**Bob McGowan** is going to step up to high gear on the restoration of his '57 T-bird.

**Dave Freeberg's** granddaughter is getting married.

**Rob Kinsey's** daughter and granddaughter traveled to France for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day

**Gaylan Abood** bragged about the perfect weather day for our meeting and cruise through the Indian Creek Estates and touring **Dave Freeberg's** garage.



### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Mary Lou Bierman** and seconded by **Rob Kinsey**. Carried.

Respectably Submitted,  
**Gaylan Abood, Secretary**



## T-Bird Tech Talk

“How high of a pressure radiator cap should I use?”

By **Martin Bierman**



**Question** ~ A '55 T-Bird owner wants to know how high a pressure radiator cap to use.

**Answer** ~ The T-Bird radiator cap is a 13 lb. pressure cap. However, several years ago I developed a radiator leak in a high efficiency 4 core radiator that was less than four years old and only used for about 5000 miles. A reliable radiator shop found a crack in the upper tank joint and repaired it. However, another leak occurred in another joint and I elected to replace the radiator. The repair shop owner said he had seen several of the new T-Bird radiators with such leaks and recommended changing from a 13 lb. radiator cap to a 7 lb. cap



to prevent joint leaks. I had noticed that the Classicbirds website has had multiple members write in about using a 7 lb. cap and they have had no problems. Members from Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California have commented on this and have not had

any over-heating problems with the switch.

I could not find a 7 lb. cap that resembled the T-Bird radiator cap at any of the usual auto stores and the usual T-Bird vendors did not carry any either. Finally, I located a 7 lb. cap at Tee-Bird Products, Inc. in West Chester, Pennsylvania. It is Motorcraft RS-68 E6HZ-8100-D or Tee-Bird Products # 8100A for \$9.90 (see photo). Tee-Bird Products, Inc. website is [www.tee-bird.com](http://www.tee-bird.com) and order phone number is 1-800-423-3723. Ford dealers can also order this cap as it is used on 1992-94 F-250 and F-350 trucks. Several Ford parts websites also feature it. Its part number also crosses over to a Murray cap #7007 that O'Reilly auto parts carry.



### Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

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## Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club Meetings and Events

**July ~ Saturday, July 20. 11:00 am.** [Durham Museum](#) (former Union Station), 801 S 10<sup>th</sup> ST, Omaha. Docent led tour (\$9 each), soda fountain lunch (\$8-10), meeting, gift shop. Cars will be displayed at east end of parking lot for all to see. **Hosts: Rob and Vicki Kinsey.**

**August ~ Saturday, August 17. 5 pm.** Taco/nacho picnic. Roberts Park, 56<sup>th</sup> & Sumner, Lincoln. Earlier activities to be announced. **Hosts: Jim Lantz and Jeff Hoffman.**

**September ~ Sunday, September 29 at 2:30 PM** [Lauritzen Gardens](#), 100 Bancroft ST, Omaha. Dinner and meeting at El Bees, 10402 S 144th St, Omaha. **Hosts: Rob and Vicki Kinsey**

**October ~** Details to be announced. **Hosts: Ted Dimmitt and Fran Graser.**

**November ~ Host: Open.**

**December ~ Saturday, December 14. 5:30 pm.** Holiday dinner and meeting. [Mahoney State Park](#), Ashland. **Hosts: Cathy and Bob McGowan.**



### CTCI Events

“Birds on the Bay” International Convention. May 4–9, 2020. Sarasota, FL.

### 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 – 9 pm] ~ **Keystone Center**, 7803 Military AVE, Omaha.

Wednesdays [5 pm] ~ **Cruisers Bar**

and **Grill Classic Car Show and Shine**, 8634 F ST, Omaha.

Wednesdays [5 – 8 pm] ~ **Raising Cane’s Cruise Night**, 1058 E 23<sup>rd</sup> ST, Fremont.

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> Friday ~ **Cruz Nite, We’ll Smoke U BBQ**, 1773 Hwy 6, Gretna.

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

### Shows

#### July

July 4 [10 am – 5 pm] ~ **Dorchester Auto and Tractor Show ‘n Shine**, 1145 Hwy 33, Dorchester.

July 4 [Register 8 am – noon] ~ **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Car, Truck, Tractor, and Cycle Show**, Hooper.

July 4 [Register 7 – 10 am] ~ **Annual Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show**, downtown Seward.

July 6 [Register 8 am – noon] ~ **Dewitt Car Show**, Dewitt.

July 12 [4 – 9 pm] ~ **Ceresco Days 14<sup>th</sup> All-Ford Product Show and Shine**, in the park, Ceresco.

July 12 ~ **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Collector Car Appreciation Day**. Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA).

July 13 [8 am – 4 pm] ~ **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruisers on Main Street Fremont Car, Truck, and Bike Show**, Fremont.

July 17 ~ **Vinnie’s 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Show**, Wilderness Ridge Golf Course, 1800 Wilderness Woods Place, Lincoln.

July 20 [Register 9 am – noon] ~ **Old Settlers Car Show and Picnic**, downtown Western.

July 21 [Noon – 3 pm (Register 9 am –



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noon)] ~ **Annual Stir-Up Days Car Show**, Ashland.

July 27 [Noon – 4 pm, (Register 9 am – noon)] ~ **Traditions Car Show**, downtown Hickman.

July 28 [Register 8 am – noon] ~ **Gretna Days Car Show**, McKenna AVE, downtown Gretna.

July 28 [11 am – 4 pm (Register 8 – 11 am)] ~ **Cruis'n Classics Auto Show**, 1050 Saltillo RD, Lincoln/Roca.

### August

August 3 [10 am – 2 pm (Register 8:30 am)] ~ **inMOTION Auto Car Show & Shine**, 131 Russwood Parkway, Lincoln.

August 3 [5 pm – 9 pm (Register 5 – 7 pm)] ~ **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Cars Under the Stars Car Show**, Dillon Brothers Harley Davidson, 3838 North HWS Cleveland BLVD, Omaha.

August 4 [11 am – 3 pm (Register 9 – 11 am)] ~ **Lancaster County Super Fair Show & Shine Car Show**, Lancaster Events Center, 84<sup>th</sup> ST and Havelock AVE, Lincoln.

August 11 [Noon – 3 pm (Register 9 am – noon)] ~ **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Car Show**, Valley.

August 17 [10 am – 2 pm (Register 8 – 10 am)] ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Greenwood Days Car Show**, Greenwood.

August 18 [10 am – 3 pm] ~ **Vintage Wheels at the Fort**, Fort Omaha, 5730 N 30<sup>th</sup> ST, Omaha.

August 18 [11 am – 3 pm] ~ **Third Annual Stanley Kucera Memorial Car and Tractor Show**, 40 N Walnut ST, Wahoo.

August 25 ~ **Millard Days Car Show**, 13780 Millard AVE, Omaha.

### September

September 1 [10 am – 2 pm] ~ **Midtown Car Show**, Turner Park, 31<sup>st</sup> ST &

Farnam, Omaha.

September 1 [Noon – 4 pm (Register 9 am - noon)] ~ **Packer Car Show**, Collin Stadium, 20<sup>th</sup> & M ST, Omaha.

September 2 [Register 9 am – noon] ~ **All American Car and Truck Show**, CHI Health Center Omaha, Lot D, 455 N 10<sup>th</sup> ST, Omaha.

September 8 [Register 8 – 10 am] ~ **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Havelock Avenue All-Makes Car and Truck Show**, 6232 Havelock AVE, Lincoln.



### **Member Question and Answer**

**Q** ~ I just bought my first enclosed car hauler. My '57 will now ride in comfort 😊 :) I bought a 20' trailer and the bird is just over 16'. Since the tie downs are located fore and aft, I think I need basket straps to fit over the tires and are secured either in front of or behind the tires. At least for the front, I think these would take less effort to put on than axle straps. I'm not sure how these would work on the back since I have skirts on (the car has skirts on, not me). Anyone use basket straps on the rear of a bird that had skirts on? Am I better off using axle straps on the back? Any reason I can't use axle straps on back and basket straps on the front wheels?

**A** ~ Use axle straps on the rear arm of the lower front control arm. On the rear, criss-cross them to the rear spring frame mounts. Don't use wheel basket straps and with fender skirts because it would be a problem on the rear tires



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**AVAILABLE**

**For Sale – Howard Larson’s 57 T-Bird**

Photos and story in the January-February 2019 issue of The Early Bird. Best reasonable offer. Interested parties may contact Howard Larson at 712-281-8812



**For Sale - Dick Heinke's 55 T-Bird**

I have come to the painful decision that I want to sell my 55 T-Bird that I totally restored. I have not shown it since 2005 when it won two awards - one in Omaha (the first showing) and a gold in Cleveland. The effort received the 2004 "Best Restoration Award" from the Nebrskaland T-Bird Club.

The odometer has 945 miles on the car since total frame off restoration. The engine is stock except for solid state ignition module in the distributor (no points). There are many pluses such as 3 speed with overdrive transmission, Halogen headlights, 12 volt alternator and electrical system, dual

master cylinder with front disc brakes, extra noise barrier in the under body paint scheme (foamed enamel) Solid state T-Bird radio AM/FM with cassette player, Stock spoke wheels with 5 white wall radial tires.... and more.



I will entertain viewing and will decide on the basis of the successful best offer. A couple years ago, I declined a bid at auction of \$50,000. My phone number is (402) 432-2199. Dick Heinke

**Andy Grimm’s Collection – For Sale**

- 1951 Mercury Sports Sedan; dark green \$19,250.00
- 1955 Ford Country Sedan, two-tone blue \$13,250.00
- 1956 Thunderbird, hardtop only, colonial white and red \$29,600.00
- 1960 Ford Fairlane 500, aquamarine, 4-door sedan \$ 9,700.00
- 1966 Mustang, 2-door hardtop, V-8 automatic, red \$ 6,975.00
- 1972 Mustang Sports Roof CJ, dark green \$11,625.00
- 1989 Mustang Red Convertible, Kenny Brown Modifications \$12,175.00
- 2010 Shelby GT 500, dark blue \$36,000.00

Quality number 2 and 3 per January/February Hearst black book collectible value guide.

Andy Grimm  
402-991-7975 office, 402-681-1242 cell  
402-330-5355 home, [agrimm@cox.net](mailto:agrimm@cox.net)



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**Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club**  
Published by Jamie Karl [?] · June 1 at 4:06 PM · 🌐



**Michael Smalley ▸ 1957 Ford Authority**  
June 1 at 3:18 PM

Steering Gear Box Lubricant!  
The 1957 Ford Car and Thunderbird Shop Manual specifies for the Steering Gear Box Lubricant to be checked every 1,000 miles and replenished as necessary with SAE 90 oil. I'VE OWNED 1957 FORDS FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS AND NEVER ONCE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS! No wonder they tend to have stiff, worn out steering gears.

Checking the oil level is as easy as removing the small nut/bleeder cap from the top of the steering gear box and topping off with SAE 90 mineral oil, (<https://www.napaonline.com/en/p/FHQ65201>). This is also the proper oil for 1957 Fords with manual transmissions (Don't be tempted to use synthetic or multi weight lubricants unless you have a modern transmission.

I have heard that STP may be substituted in the steering gear box and is less likely to leak from those old seals.

The steering gear box can be seen in this photo between the exhaust manifold and the fender. The small nut/bleeder is off center towards the fender side. Don't touch the large nut in the center unless you are going to properly adjust the sector shaft pre-load.

**Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club**  
Published by Jamie Karl [?] · June 7 at 6:44 AM · 🌐

Then there were the E-Birds. The first one, the 'Thunderbird Super V-8' was powered by the same engine with the same compression ratio but, instead of one Holley quad-barrel carburetor feeding fuel in, there were two. That's why performance jumped from 247 horsepower to 272 horsepower at 4,800 rpm and 336 pound-feet of torque at 3,400 rpm. Then there was the 'Super V-8' with the Racing Kit that increased the compression ratio to 10.0:1 from 9.7:1 which saw the power figure bounce up to 286 horsepower at 5,200 rpm and 343 pound-feet of torque at 3,500 rpm.

Finally, there was the 312 V-8 fitted with a supercharger which was sold with the 'Thunderbird Special Supercharged V-8' designation and had an F at the beginning of the VIN number.

These special cars, of which only a few hundred were built, had over 300 horsepower under the hood and 340 pound-feet of torque thanks to the addition of the McCulloch supercharger to the single Holly quad-barrel carburetor.

The most powerful Corvettes at the time, fitted with a high compression version of the 283 4.6-liter OHV V-8 could only put out about 283 horsepower.

<https://www.topspeed.com/.../1957-ford-thunderbird-e-code-ar1...>



TOPSPEED.COM  
**1957 Ford Thunderbird E-Code @ Top Speed**

## Directions to Durham Museum

801 S 10<sup>th</sup> ST, Omaha

From I-80, take Exit 454 (13<sup>th</sup> ST).  
Turn left/north onto 13<sup>th</sup> ST.  
Continue for 1.1 miles.  
Turn right/east onto Williams ST.  
Continue for 0.2 mile.  
Turn left/north onto S 10<sup>th</sup> ST.  
Proceed to 801 S 10<sup>th</sup> ST.  
Park in the east parking lot.



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