

Thunder Words



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

June 2024 ~ Volume 47, #6
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: I am sorry that our tour of Lincoln on Thunderbird Appreciation Day, May 19, had to be canceled. Our tour guide had surgery, and others had conflicts that day. It was just as well since the weather was rainy. Hopefully, we will have better luck with our Indian Cave tour on June 15. This is a driving event and picnic. Please come in your T-Bird, another classic car, or just your everyday driver. I would like to see as many of our members participate as possible. See the driving instructions in the newsletter.

Martin Bierman, President

Indian Caves State
Park Tour & Picnic
June 15, 2024
See pages
8 and 9
Dick will lead us
from
Nebraska City.

June Important Dates:
3 – Nat. Donut Day
5 – Constitution day
14 – Flay Day
18 – Father's Day

Next Meeting
June 20, 2024
6:00 PM
Copper Kettle Cafe
9905 Sapp Brothers
Drive
Omaha, NE 68138



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<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
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Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club May 2024

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM at the Trackside Bar and Grill in Waverly, NE. Members present were **Marty and Mary Lou Bierman, Jeff Brown, Diane Bessette, John Moore, Tom Woodman, Joel Hutchins,** and **Acting Secretary Jack Sanford.** **Joel** introduced his brother, **Mark**, as a guest. **Joel** is our newest member, and he was introduced to all who missed him at his first meeting.

April's minutes were approved with a motion by **Tom Woodman** and a second by **John Moore.**

Treasurer report by **Jeff Brown.** One bill was approved. Two members have been dropped from the roster for lack of dues. One dropped because of age, and efforts to contact the other went unanswered. This member has sold his Thunderbird.

Old Business: Due to illness, graduation, and vacations, **Tom Woodman** moved to cancel the May 19, 2024, T-Bird Appreciation Day Tour. **John Moore** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the **members.** There was discussion that this tour may be held at a later date.

John Moore raised the question of inviting Thunderbird owners to our events even though they are not club members. **President Bierman** answered that all Thunderbird owners were welcome. Communication is a limiting factor, as the person inviting guests should pass on any posts regarding the event. This would include attendee counts when the number of participants is needed for room size and/or number of meals.

Marty and Jack reported on the Gretna Grills and Skills Car Show last Saturday. The '55-'59 Class was won by a 1955 Chevy 210 with enormous chrome under the hood. There were three Thunderbirds in the show of about 95 vehicles.

Next month's event is still on the table even though **Dick Heinke's** wife, **Diane**, had a stroke and has been hospitalized. The Indian Caves tour and Picnic will occur on June 15th at 1:00 PM. See Page 9 in June's newsletter for details. A reminder will be sent before June 15, and we will caravan to the Caves.

New Business: **Marty** is still planning a tech session in July, with **Mary Lou** hosting a shopping tour of Elk Horn.

August is still undecided because of the Club members attending the 2024 International Convention in Des Moines.

John Moore, host of the Friendsgiving Dinner, asked for suggestions of venues and monetary limits, which sparked a host of pertinent conversations.

Brag:

Jeff Brown - now has trustworthy brakes, but the brake pads are not what they used to be. The new ones are inferior.

Joel Hutchins - Had his car running. Brother Mark helped with the timing.

Jack Sanford—On Sunday, his youngest of twelve grandchildren will graduate from high school. All twelve have graduated. Now, he has eleven great-grandchildren to get through school.

Martin Bierman—My oldest grandson is getting married on June 8th, the same date as Mary Lou and my wedding day.

John Moore: On March 21st, as he was crossing the Platte River at Linoma, his 2002 T-Bird turned 28,000 miles.

Tom Woodman: After a year and a half, he will have the headliner installed in his latest rebuilt T-Bird.

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS. **Mary Lou** made a motion to adjourn with a second by **Jeff.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jack Sanford, Acting Secretary



Bird Tech Talk

By Martin Bierman

“Why are my new ignition points not testing properly?”

I was completing a restoration of a 1955 T-Bird tach drive distributor and prepping it to run on my Sun 404 distributor tester when I encountered something different about the new ignition points set I was installing. When I used my multi-meter to test the faces of the points for continuity when closed, I got no continuity reading. I pulled out a set of NOS Holley points from the 50s and tested them. Sure



enough, there was continuity when the points were closed. This was strange; my only conclusion was that the new points were coated with something preventing continuity when closed. A little research on several forums and YouTube videos confirmed this. I found references to an ignition points protective coating, possibly wax, which those authors recommended removing with a solvent. I also read that new ignition points are coated with tungsten to prevent premature wear and it was recommended not to burnish or file the points lest one remove this and cause premature wear. So, I tried solvents such as lacquer thinner, and 3M wax and grease remover. Neither made a difference, and I still had no continuity when the faces of the points were closed. Finally, I ran one pass of fine emery paper through the points, and this did the trick. I now had

continuity when the point's faces touched each other and lack of continuity when the points were open. I installed the points in the distributor and hooked up my multi-meter to the primary wire and to a ground. When the distributor shaft was spun slowly by hand, I could see the continuity fluctuate with non-continuity as the points opened and closed. The distributor was now ready for the Sun 404 tester.

CTCI UPDATES

CTCI Board Meeting Highlights May 17, 2024

President Chuck Thompson started the meeting by reminding everyone that this Sunday, May 19, 2024 is Thunderbird Appreciation Day. He encouraged all members to contact their local club to find activities in their area. Most importantly he asked all members to get out and enjoy celebrating with other T-Bird enthusiasts. Finally, he wanted to let everyone know that they should take lots of pictures and send them to the office so we can add these to The Early Bird.

Treasurers Report: John is currently working on the first quarter financials and should have them ready for next meeting.



Investment Fund Update: Garrett Shropshire reported that the investment account is now greater than the original investment and greater than end-of-year 2023. The investment plan is following the previously approved "U S Treasury Bond ladder" and the yield rates are increasing as the approved plan is fully implemented.

2024 Convention Update: Marsha Hash presented the status of the 2024 International Convention to be held in Des Moines, IA from August 20-25, 2024. She noted a good news item that all of the original block of rooms have been booked at the "convention rate". She has asked Garrett to work with the hotel to obtain additional rooms at the "CTCI block room rate". Marsha also reported that the registration site that is attached to the CTCI website (www.ctci.org) is up and working. To date we have over 35 registrations completed. It was also noted that the May-June issue of The Early Bird (which most members will receive over the next 2 weeks) includes all of the registration information as well as a registration form for those members who do not want to register on-line. It is recommended that members register for both the Convention and the Hotel as soon as possible.

Member Renewals: Garrett presented membership renewals through April 2024. Last year (12/31/2023) we ended up with 4,015 active members. Between January and April 2024, we gained 62 new members. We converted one new member from the Test Drive Program. We are deep in the 2024 Membership drive. To date we have only received 56 notices of drop outs. At this point we still have 709 members who are pending renewal this is better than last year at this time last year and we are still above the 507 members who did not renew from 2022. The May-June issue of The Early Bird will NOT be sent to those members who have NOT renewed. This has always been a significant motivator for membership renewal.

Office Activity: Garrett also reminded everyone that we are still looking for "Modern Classic Retro" Owners and Experts. Just like for our Classic Thunderbirds, we need to identify those special individuals who can offer help to others. While we have gotten some interest, we will need assistance in Technical Areas, Rebuild Specialists, as well as members with judging experience. He encouraged any member interested in assisting to contact the office or a CTCI board member.

Director Election: Chuck Thompson reminded all members of the upcoming Director election. The election will cover Regions 2, 4, 6, and a Director-at-Large position. Each interested member should be thinking about creating a bio. Per the CTCI Bylaws, Candidate bios must be received by the CTCI office prior to August 1, 2024, and will be published in the September-October Issue of The Early Bird. If you have any interest, please see your Regional Director, Jim McLaughlin – Nominating Committee Chair, or contact Chuck for details.

The Board approved a plan to form a joint LLC with VTCI for the purpose of running a joint Convention in 2025. The current planned date for the Convention is September 9 through 13, 2025. Bob Bly and Brian Carron are tasked with finalizing the plan.

Garrett Shropshire presented a membership marketing plan to the Board. The board approved the plan with some improvements. Darcy has been tasked with Facebook posts and improvements and Garrett has been tasked with obtaining a '02-'05 Thunderbird owners listing and creating a direct marketing campaign. Both Darcy and Garrett are responsible for reporting back to the board by the



next meeting in July. At that point, the board will decide to continue with the plan, change direction with a different plan, or stop the member marketing plan completely.

The Website Committee updated the board on changes to make the website more accessible. The site was changed to remove the "login requirement" to renew membership. Since that change has been made there have been fewer complaints in getting locked out of the CTCI site.

Chuck Thompson reminded everyone that all nominations for the Paul Hudgins Award are due to the office by August 1.

Chuck also talked about the Ford Johnson Memorial Trophy (1955-57) and Ron McCloud Memorial Trophy (2002-05). They are fun competitions only for those Thunderbirds that are driven from your home to the convention site. The mileage will be counted from your Chapter President's residence to the convention site at the Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel. More information is in the May – June issue of The Early Bird.

Brett Sargent proposed and the board approved a plan to recognize 25 and 50-year members. Brett will be working with Chuck and others to finalize the details of the plan.

The next Board meeting is set for July 19, 2024

On Behalf of the Board,
Chuck Thompson, President



2024 International Convention

Celebrating 70 Years of Thunderbird Fun

Hotel Reservations: Call 888-236-2427 or use the link below.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1701122189009&key=GRP>

Dear CTCI Member, The 2024 International Convention is shaping up to be 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.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a registration form to register by mail.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register online.

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.

Here are the details:

Host Hotel:

Sheraton West Des Moines

1800 50th St

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Reservations: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1701122189009&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

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

June 15 – Tour and Picnic – Indian Caves – Club event – Host – Dick Heinke – (See pages 8 & 9)

June 20 – Business meeting – 6:00 PM – Coffee Kettle Café – 9905 Sapp Brothers Drive - Omaha

July 20 – Tech session at Marty’s garage and Shopping for the women with Mary Lou in Elkhorn

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

August 20 -25 – 2024 International Concours Convention – Des Moines, IA (see pages 5, 6, & 7)

Indian Caves State Park Tour and Picnic

Dick Heinke is spearheading a picnic and tour for 1 PM on June 15 at The Indian Cave State Park, South and west of Brownville, Nebraska. **NOTE:** The entrance fee for Nebraska vehicles is \$7.00 per auto, while the entrance fee for out-of-state vehicles, such as Iowa, is \$14/ auto.

Tour coordinator, Dick, has revised his meeting place. The following instructions, one from Lincoln and one from Omaha, will put both groups together south of Nebraska City on Highways #2 & #75 at 12:15 PM. Dick will lead both groups to the Caves.



This photo shows the turn-off into Budweiser’s parallel lane to the highway, where the Lincoln group will be waiting for the Omaha group. Then, with us in a line, I will pull onto the highway towards the 73/75 and exit to Auburn.

Dick suggested that the **Lincoln** folks meet him at the Menards South Parking Lot, 8900 Andermatt Dr. in Cheney, at 11:45 A.M.

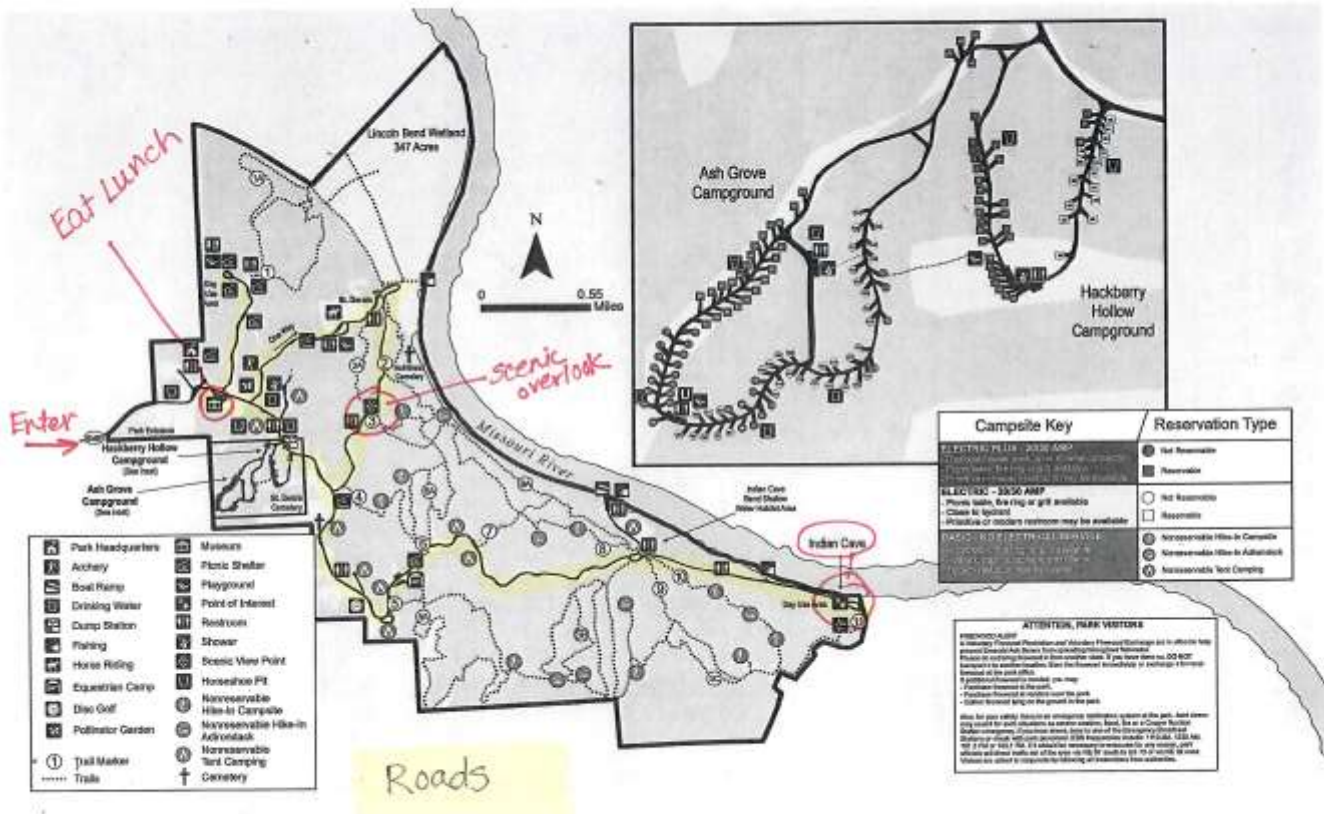
The **Omaha group** should rally at 11:30 a.m. at Plattsmouth’s Casey’s, Oak Hill Road, and Highway #75.

As **President Martin Bieman** has suggested, you are not obligated to drive your T-Bird. However, regardless of your transportation, we need to know if you plan to join the tour. Please RSVP to **Jack**, jesanford@cox.net, or 402-578-3743 by June 13th if you are planning on meeting **Dick** in Lincoln or **Marty** and/or **Jack** in Plattsmouth.

We should each bring a picnic lunch and beverages. I will lead everyone from the entrance to the picnic area and tables just down the hill from the museum, where we can stop first for orientation and to view pertinent information.

After lunch, we will take a 5-mile drive around the park to the cave area adjacent to the Missouri River. Afterward, we can parade through the park back to the entrance and to Brownville for a stop at “Whisky Run Creek Winery” to observe their exciting business and maybe have a glass of their beautiful wines and possibly buy a bottle to take home (if inclined). The winery was built over the original caves where whisky was stored beginning in the 1850s when remarkable whisky was brewed to and through the 1920 Prohibition era. Perhaps we can go down into one of the caves currently used for wine and cheese tasting parties to experience the calm environment of temperatures in the 50’s (like our T-Birds...). I have been told that an investigation of the connected caves revealed many copper utensils for brewing that were actual distilling devices when they were in vogue. Enjoy the day before “Father’s Day.”





Tech session and shopping in Elkhorn

Marty and Mary Lou Bierman will host the Club on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

A tech session at Marty's garage.

Mary Lou will entertain the women with a shopping tour in Elkhorn.

The event will conclude with a 12:30 pm lunch at the **Bieman's** home.

Detail in July's Newsletter.



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<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
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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!



FLAG DAY

ON JUNE 14, 1885, in a one-room schoolhouse in Waukesha, Wisconsin, schoolteacher Bernard Cigrand asked his students to write essays about the US flag to celebrate the 108th anniversary of the flag's creation by an act of the Continental Congress. It was the first observation of what would later be called Flag Day. Cigrand went on to advocate for the celebration of Flag Day for the rest of his life. The observation of Flag Day gradually became more widely practiced. In 1907, the holiday gained its greatest national advocate when the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks became the first national organization to celebrate it officially. In 1911, the annual celebration of Flag Day became mandatory for all Elks lodges. The first National Flag Day was celebrated on June 14, 1916, following a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson. Wilson also led a celebration of Flag Day the following year, but national celebrations of the day were sporadic after that until 1949, when President Harry Truman signed a bill into law making Flag Day an official annual national observance. Taken from the June Elks Magazine.

Father's Day has a fascinating history!

The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910. The person behind this idea was Sonora Smart Dodd, who wanted to create an equivalent holiday to Mother's Day for male parents. Inspired by a church sermon about Mother's Day, she believed fathers should also be celebrated. Her father, who raised her and her siblings after their mother died, served as the inspiration for this special day. Local religious leaders supported the idea. In 1924, U.S. Pres. Calvin Coolidge supported the observance, and in 1966, Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson issued a proclamation that recognized the day. It became a national holiday in 1972 when Pres. Richard Nixon signed legislation designating the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

May Meeting



Tom Woodman's newest project drew the attention of the Hutchins brothers and Jeff Brown.



To: *Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club,*

*Thank you for the flowers. Their presence and several club members helped make **Kayla's** memorial a glorious celebration.*

Thanks again,

Jack Sanford Family



May 11



Marty's



Jack's

Member Birthday
JUNE
 Marva Hansen - 3
 Tom Woodman - 27

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 |

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