

# Thunder Words



**June 2026, Volume 49 #6**  
**Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird**  
**Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club**



**Prez Says:** We finally got to do a tour for Thunderbird Appreciation Day. Prior years had been rained out, and it looked like it was going to happen again, but the skies cleared Sunday morning May 17 and four Classic T-Birds were off on a tour of local Lincoln drive-ins. They stopped mid-tour at **Rob Kinsey's** home to view his train collection and finished for lunch at a Sonic drive-in. At our club meeting May 21, we planned to attend several car shows for the summer months. We are also looking for a member to arrange a club picnic this summer. At

this time, we also do not have a host for the Friendsgiving Dinner in November, so we need a club member to step up to arrange this in the Omaha area. I hope our members will be generous with their time and help arrange these events for our club. Our club meeting attendance has been low the last two months, so I ask everyone to try to attend the June meeting in Omaha and drive your T-Bird to the meeting.

**Martin Bierman, President**



**Next Event**  
No scheduled event for June.  
Please see pages 5, 6 & 7 for  
Lincoln and Omaha car show  
listings

**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**  
June 18, 2026  
6:00 PM  
Omaha, NE



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



## Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club, May 2026



**Secretary's report- President Bierman** called the meeting of May 21 to order at 6:20 p.m. at Trackside Bar and Grill in Waverly, Nebraska. Six members were present. **Jeff Brown, Joel Hutchins, Dick Heinke, Jack Sanford, Marty and Mary Lou Bierman. Minutes-** The minutes of April's meeting were approved with motion by **Jeff Brown** and the second by **Joel Hutchins**.

**Treasurer's report-** Treasurer **Jeff Brown** gave the checking balance. There were no bills due.

**Old Business - Joel Hutchins** gave a report on the Thunderbird Appreciation Day tour. Four Thunderbirds were present driven by **Rob Kinsey, Jack Sanford, John La Duke and Joel Hutchins**. The tour consisted of stops at various drive-ins in Lincoln. Mid tour the group stopped at **Rob Kinsey's** home to view his train collection. The final stop was at a Sonic drive-in where members had lunch. The May 2 Gretna Grilles and Skills car show was reviewed by **Jack Sanford**. His 1956 code T Thunderbird took first place in class and **Martin Bierman's** 1955 Thunderbird was best of show. The Meadowlark Model A Club hosted the event, and **Jack Sanford** is their treasurer. They made a significant contribution to the Gretna high school Skills program to send members to the National Skills USA summit.

**New Business - July 19 Ashland, Nebraska car show** was chosen as a club event. August 9 car show in Valley, Nebraska will also be a club event. No June event was offered. No one has agreed to host the Friendsgiving Party in November, and we need to obtain a host. **Bob Young** of the Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club would like to have a joint event sometime in September or October. A possible location for a joint meeting was discussed. Members were also advised about the Fremont car show on July 11. They hope to have 500 cars attend.

**Brag box- Dick Heinke** related his experience in Tehran, Iran 48 years ago. **Jack Sanford** noted that after four outings this year his car finally developed a problem where he lost his brakes possibly due to a bad brake booster. **Jeff Brown** related that he bought a soft top in 1968 for \$65. **Joel Hutchins's** grandson graduated from UNL with a chemical engineering degree and has a job with ADM. **Joel** also is sending his family to South Korea this summer. **Mary Lou Bierman** reported that her grandson graduated from UNL with a bachelor's in arts and his capstone project was a display of nose art on World War II bombers. He created a replica of a fuselage where he placed his nose art and had multiple display panels regarding it. The meeting adjourned 7:18 PM after motion by **Jeff Brown** and second by **Jack Sanford**.

Respectfully submitted, **Mary Lou Bierman**.



Jack Sanford, Dick Heinke, Jeff Brown      Mary Lou & Marty Bierman, Joel Hutchins

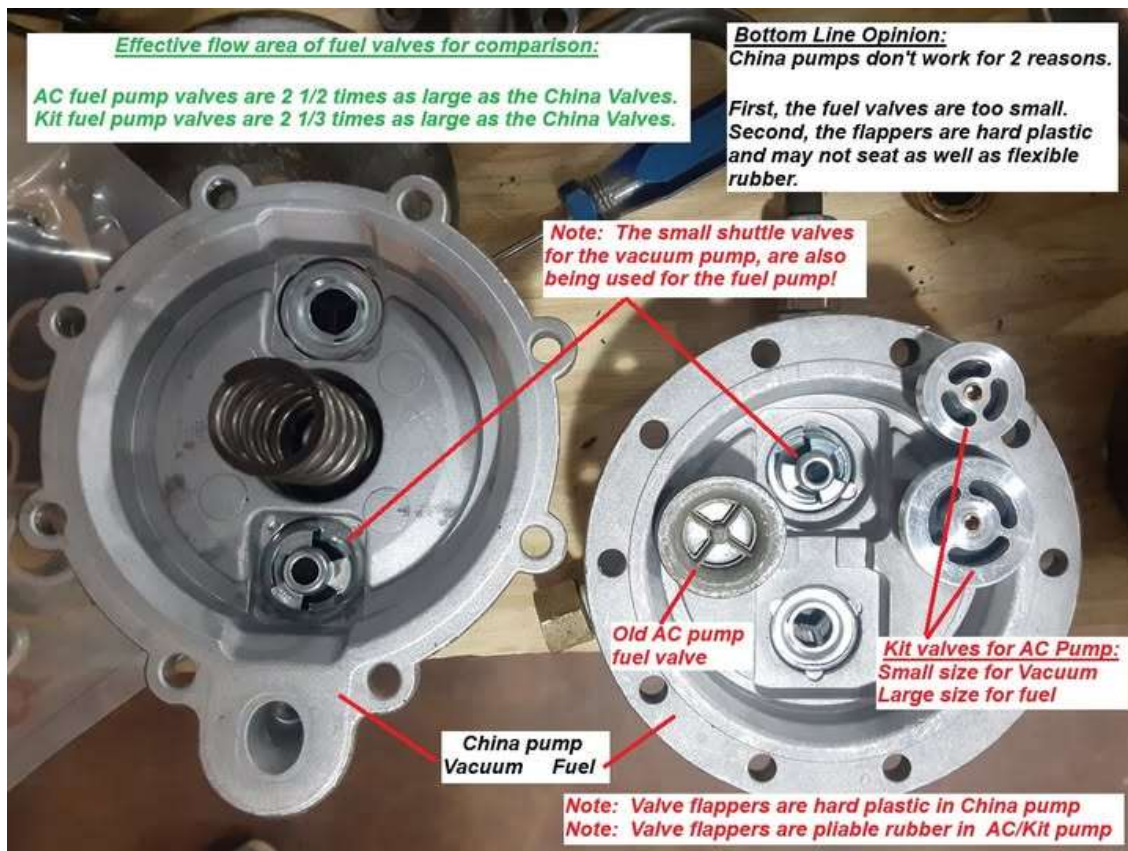


# TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman



Much has been written about China fuel pumps, the ones with the Phillips screws, not working. Bill Prince 's analysis from his Facebook post April 14 is excerpted below. "There was yet again a post yesterday concerning fuel pumps made in China. Here is the deal on China pumps! There is not issue with the quality of China pumps. However, there is an issue with the design of China pumps. Long story short - they don't work, so don't try to use them. Why, you might ask? They have two issues. First, there are two shuttle valves in the vacuum pump and two shuttle valves in the fuel pump. In the original AC pump, the vacuum pump valves are relatively small in diameter and the valves in the fuel pump are relatively large. However, the China pump uses the same small diameter valves in the fuel pump as in the vacuum pump. The AC pump's large fuel valves have about 2.5 times the flow area as the China pumps fuel valves. Secondly, the AC Pump uses flexible rubber for the fuel and vacuum valve flappers. The flexible rubber produces a better seat and can seat around micro contamination in the valve. The China pump uses a hard non-flexible plastic for the flapper. It will not seat as well with or without contamination. I rebuilt my old AC pump over a year ago and it works perfectly. The China pump had very difficult time priming, starting, and the engine would die when driving. No need to go to an electric pump, which brings along its own issues. Find an old AC pump or maybe an old one made in Canada and rebuild it. They worked great back in the day and can still work great. So why do the China pumps use the same small valves in both the vacuum and fuel pumps? Most likely cost, as the tooling, jigs, and inventory is simpler. They might even use the small valve in other pumps - maybe having them available when designing the Ford pump or vice versa. The China pump gave me a lot of grief when I was trying to get my 1955 Thunderbird running with an engine swap (292), so I was determined to find out why they don't work. And I think that I did. I found no issues with fit, or castings, or contamination, or damage to the main diaphragm, seating surfaces of the main casting bodies, or anything. Just a bad design".





## Board of Directors Meeting Highlights Video Conference May 15, 2026

**Treasurer's Report:** John Kledis is currently working on the first quarter financials and should have them ready for the next meeting. At this point, it is too early in the renewal cycle to understand the membership renewal income. He discussed that he reviewed the 2026 CTCI membership revenue, and it looks like we are near break-even. He stated that he is pleased with the financial shape of the Club. John stressed that we need to continue to control overhead expenses and increase membership for the balance of 2026.

**Member Renewals:** Garrett Shropshire, through the Office Activity Report, documented member renewals. Garrett shared that Last year (12/31/2025), we ended up with 3,271 active members. Between January and April of 2026, we gained 59 new members. In addition, we gained 15 members who returned to CTCI from prior years (before 2025). As of 4/28/2026, we are now at 2,779 active members. We are nearing the end of the regular renewal period. We are sending reminders to those missing members. At this point, we have 511 members who have not renewed. Of that total, we have only received 55 notices of dropouts.

**2026 Member Renewal Marketing Plan:** Garrett outlined that three different chapters were sent CTCI materials for shows and events. He will continue to send materials to chapters to support and encourage membership in CTCI. The Board discussed and is creating recommendations for evaluating direct financial support requests. A chapter request for support is now located on the CTCI website.

**Office Activity:** The CTCI Activity Report & stats for the Factory Invoices and Merchandise Sales for the whole year of 2025 and year to date for 2026 are included for your review. We have assisted the invoice committee in processing 22 Invoice requests so far in 2026, which is up from 16 at the same time last year. Merchandise sales for the year to date are at \$6,336.85. We are UP in merchandise sales from the same period in 2025. In addition, since we are NOT adding to the inventory, our balance sheet for the store continues to get better (turning inventory into cash).



**Joint Convention 2026:** The CTCI Board discussed the current progress of the 2026 Joint (TOA) Convention. At this point, only the hotel contract has been finalized. The registration page on the Website is now up and functional. All events have now been planned. The Committee will work over the next few weeks to finalize many of these details.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee proposed, and the Board approved, improved procedures to help the membership gain a clearer understanding of each candidate's background and qualifications to assist the CTCI Board.

The next board meeting is set for July 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM Central

On Behalf of the Board,  
Bob Bly, President

## 2026 Calendar of Events

**Because we don't have a planned June event, listed are car shows from the Eastern Nebraska Western Iowa Car Council (ENWICC) 2026 Car Council Book, [www.enwicc.com](http://www.enwicc.com). These shows are close to Lincoln and Omaha. You can research each show in the Council book. If you don't have a book, the shows are listed on the internet at their website [www.enwicc.com](http://www.enwicc.com).**

**June 6 OMAHA, NE** - West Omaha Auto & Cycle Show. Living Faith Global Methodist Church, 182nd & Q; Registration begins at 9am, Show 10am to 2pm, No Registration Fee; **FREE ADMISSION**; Accepting Donations of Canned Goods for the Food Bank. For more information call 402-393-2321. Ad, Page 93

**June 6 VALPARAISO, NE** - Val Days Car Show, Main Street. Registration 9am to 12pm; Show 12pm to 3pm; Awards 2:30pm. **Entry fee \$20**. Food Vendors and Craft Show. Hosted by Val Tavern. Contact: Onley Roach 402-840-8337.

**June 7 OMAHA, NE** - 4th Annual Cars for a Cause 13780 Millard Ave. (Millard Hobby Lobby) 10am-2pm. **\$20 Registration** fee. Proceeds of show are shared with Angel's Among Us. Contact AJ either at omahalodge288events@gmail.com or 402-253-5192 (email preferred) or website at: [www.c4ac.us](http://www.c4ac.us)

**June 13-14 PICKRELL, NE** - Pickrell Picnic Show 'n Shine Car Show, Main Street. 9am 3pm. **Goody bags to all entrants**. Events in the Park start at 9am. Cornhole Tournament-time to be announced & Rodeo at 7pm. Sunday June 14th, Community Church Service at 10:30am, Windsor Dinner at 11:30am, Side-by-Side Farm Tour at 1:00pm. Open Invitation! Join in the FUN! Contact: Ross 402-239-0284 or rosstrauernicht@gmail.com Ad, Page 97

**June 13 GILTNER, NE** - Putting Giltner on the Map. Giltner Daze Car Show; Main Street, Registration 9am to 12pm, Show 12pm to 4pm, **Entry fee \$20**, Top 40 plus Trophies & Cash Prizes, Free T-Shirt to 1st 50 cars, Goody Bags & Dash Plaques to 1st 100 cars. Door Prizes, 50/50 Drawing, DJ by Knucklehead Garage. Lots of Family activities. Contact Al Coats 402-631-3015 or Alex Coats 402-604-1901. Ad, Page 95

**June 13 GREENWOOD, NE** - Greenwood Fun Day Car Show at 619 Main Street. Registration 9am to Noon; Show Noon to 3pm; Awards 3pm. **Registration fee \$20** Hosted by Accent Electric. For more information contact: Ginger Colson or Megan Slater 402-789-4015

**June 13 LINCOLN, NE** - 4th Annual Fashion on Wheels Car Show. 6100 "O" St. Gateway Mall in the Dillard's West Parking Lot. Registration 11am, Show 12pm-4pm. **Registration Fee \$10**. Dash Plaques for the first 50 cars. Trophies Awarded. All proceeds benefit Autism Family Network of Lincoln. Presented by Advanced Auto Parts and Dillard's. Contact Dan Macgowan 402-601-4831. Call or Text is Preferred.

**June 13 MANLEY, NE** - DRJ Productions Presents Hot Rod Fun Run, Manley City Park; **No Entry Fee**; Reg-



istration 10am; Start Engines at 11am. 80+ Miles. FREE Event Shirt to First 50 pre-registered by June 1st; Pre-register with Name, Car/Truck Info, Phone & Shirt Size at hotrodsfunrun@gmail.com. Watch our Facebook page for More Info; Check us out at www.facebook.com/hotrodfunrun or Contact: Brad Tuttle, 402-234-2400 Ad, Back Cover

**June 13** OMAHA, NE - Wheel Tech Proudly Presents the Inaugural Pizza, Pasta, & Sausage Nazionale Motor Festa at the Palazzo 5110 N. 132nd St. Registration Begins 7:30am, Show Opens 10:30am. Largest One-Day Show on the Planet **and FREE**. Hot Rods! Customs! Trucks! Bikes! Great Food & Vendors Arcade. Meet Legendary Arnie "The Farmer" Beswick! Live Music All Day & Night. RAIN DATE: Sunday

**June 14** LINCOLN, NE - Cars at The Stars, The Ice Box, 1800 Transformation Drive. Show Time: 12:00 PM-4:00 PM | Vehicle Check-In: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (West Side Garage Door). Vehicles displayed inside the arena and at the entrance to the arena. Classic movies, music, and live interviews by PA announcer Craig Estudillo. Raffle prizes and trophies awarded. Concessions and bars available. Free admission to the public. **Registration Fee: \$25** per vehicle. Contact: addison@lincolnstars.com or (402)-474-7827 Ad, Page 97

**June 14th.** Also Presented by Storm Solution Specialists. For more Information: www.omahaitaly.com or 402-203-3530 Ad, Page 96

**June 14** OMAHA, NE - 14th Annual All Corvette Show at Peers Auto Works 4331 S. 90th St. Registration 8am-10am; Show 8am-12pm; Awards 12pm Sharp! **Pre-registration \$20, Day of Show \$25**. Pre-register at Peers Auto Works. Coffee & Donuts available at the Show. Hosted by the Cornhusker Corvette Club. All proceeds go to the Nebraska Soap Box Derby Association. Contact Justin Steimer 402-315-8006 or justin.steimer10@gmail.com Ad, Page 102

**June 18** – Business Meeting – 6:00 PM – **Coffee Kettle Café**, 9905 Sapp Bros. Dr., Omaha, NE

**June 20-21** ASHLAND, NE - Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum presents the Father's Day Car & Bike Show 2026. Two-Day Indoor Car & Bike Show Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-3pm, Awards 2:30pm. Registration April 1st - June 13th Visit: sacmuseum.org to register. **Registration Fee \$50 which includes FREE museum Admission all weekend, a T-shirt, hospitality room and other merch.** Open to ALL Classic and Modern Show Cars & Bikes. Ad, Page 106

**June 20** GLENWOOD, IA - Mills County 5th Annual Car/Truck Show. Presented by Mills County Historical Museum. 104 Lake Dr. Registration 8-11am, Show 11am-3pm, Judging Begins at 11:30am; Awards 2:30pm. **\$20 entry fee day of show.** Goodie Bag for first 50 entries. 1st, 2nd, Place Awards. RAIN DATE June 21st. Information Call 712-527-5038 or see our website at http://mchm.info or Email: mchminfo@gmail.com Ad, Page 103

**June 20** PAPPILLION, NE - 8th Annual Hot Classic Nights, Grace Baptist Church 205 E. Halleck St. Hosted by Chevrolet Classic Club; Registration 4pm; Show 5:30pm to 9pm; Awards 8:30pm; We welcome car clubs. All proceeds to Moving Vets forward organization. Contact: Randy 402-885-0643 or Gena, 402-960-5957. Ad, Page 105

**June 21** MEAD, NE - Starduster's Father's Day Show and Shine Car Show at S. Vine St. & W. 4th St., Registration 9am to 12pm; **Registration Fee \$10**; Show 9am to 2pm; Judging 1pm; Cash Awards will be awarded by Club Members. Breakfast & Lunch on site. The Hotdog Man is coming. Presented by Starduster's Car Club. For additional information contact Bob Hannan at: nebraska.robert@gmail.com or 402-443-6776 or Darin Poston 402-440-3798 or Bob Segebart 402-719-3475 Ad, Page 105

**June 27** COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA - Wheels of Courage Car Show, Quaker Steak and Lube, 3320 Mid America Dr., **\$20 per entry**, register by 11am; Judging Begins at 12pm; Awards at 1pm. 16 Judging Categories; Outside Judging 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Trophies in all Categories. All proceeds benefit Jennie Edmundson Hospital Cancer Center Charitable Patient Care Fund. For more Information call: 712-396-6040 or visit www.jehfoundation.org Ad, Page 108

**June 27** NORTH BEND, NE - North Bend Fire Department's 6th Annual Car/Truck/Bike/Tractor Show. Old Settlers Days. **Registration \$20** (day of show only) 9am to 10:30am, Judging 11am to 1pm, Trophy presentation 2:30pm. Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in all classes. Dash plaques for the 1st 50 registered. All proceeds go to North Bend Volunteer Fire Dept. For more info: Call 402-652-8161 or patnbfire@gmail.com. Ad, Page 107

**June 27-28** BEATRICE, NE - 58th Annual Swap Meet & Flea Market; 8am to 8pm Chautauqua Park, Grable Ave & Hwy 77; Come & Go Show and Shine during Swap Meet on Saturday June 27th starting at Noon. Car-Show Sunday June 28th at 9am is sponsored by Beatrice Chamber. Hosted by Jayhusker Auto Club Contact: Roger Mohling at 402-239-4579.

**June 28** BEATRICE, NE - Homestead Days Classic & Street Rod Car Show. Chautauqua Park, Registration: 8am to 12pm; Judging begins at 12pm; Trophies for 1st & 2nd Place in all Classes. (trophy presentation at 4pm) Dash Plaques for first 100 participants! Door Prizes! For more info: 402-223-2338 or



info@beatricechamber.com or beatricechamber.com Ad, Page 109

**June 28** LINCOLN, NE - 28th Annual Rebels Car Show, Pioneers Park, 3201 S. Coddington Ave. **\$25 Registration Fee.** Registration 8am to 12pm; NO preregistration. Dash Plaques for the First 150 Participants. "BIG" Trophies for all classes with Specialty Awards. RAIN OR SHINE Contact: Dave O'Melia 402-440-2505 or E-mail: rebelscarevent@gmail.com or Facebook: rebelsautoclub. Ad, Page 110

**July 11** – Fremont Car Show 8-4 PM - Registration \$25 ([www.johncfremontdays.org](http://www.johncfremontdays.org)) – CCB pages 39-116

**July 17** – Ashland Stir Up Days – 9-3 PM – Registration \$20 ([visitashland.org](http://visitashland.org)) – CCB pages 41-123

**August 9** – Valley Days Car Show – 9-3 PM Registration \$20 ([valleydays.net](http://valleydays.net)) – CCB page 44

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** – Vintage Wheels at the Fort – 10 – 2 PM – Free Registration – Vintage Vehicles 1900 – 1970 only 30<sup>th</sup> & Fort Street, Omaha, NE.

### Thunderbird Appreciation Day Tour



Thunderbird Appreciation Day Tour was set up and led by Rob Kinsey. It was a clear day, but very windy. The T-Bird photos shown throughout this newsletter were owned and driven by Rob Kinsey, John and Barbara La Duke, Joel Hutchins, and Jack Sanford. We toured through several Sonics, Don and Millies, and Culvers. The highlight of the tour was a visit to Rob's Lionel train collection and operating trains. Vicki treated us to drinks and cookies.





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



## June, the Month

The name *June* is the modern-day adaption of the Latin word *Junius*, which has its origins dating back to the ancient Romans. There are multiple theories as to what the month of June was named after. One theory is that it was named after the Roman goddess of marriage, Juno. Another theory is that its name originates from the Latin word *juniores*, which translates into “younger ones”. Yet another possibility is that the month was named after Lucius Junius Brutus, the founder of the Roman Republic. June was called *sera monath* by the Anglo-Saxons, which translated into “dry month”.

June used to be the fourth month in the year. Before Julius Caesar came to power, the calendar year only had 10 months. In 46 BC he created the Julian calendar by adding two more months to the year, which made June the sixth month. No other month in the year begins on the same day of the week as June.

June has both the longest and the shortest days of the year, depending on where you’re standing! If you live in the northern hemisphere, then June 21<sup>st</sup> is the longest day of the year. If you live in the southern hemisphere, then the 21<sup>st</sup> is the shortest day of the year. The first day of summer in the northern hemisphere is June 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you were born in June, then you’re one of two-star signs. If you were born on or before June 20<sup>th</sup> then you’re a Gemini. Geminis are said to be passionate, adaptable, and smart. If you’re born on or after the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, though, then you have the Cancer star sign. Those born under the Cancer sign are said to be loyal friends with great emotional depth. June was apparently not very popular with William Shakespeare, as it was only referenced in two of his famous plays – Cleopatra, and Henry IV.

June has its own beetle named after it. Called the June beetle, or June bug, it’s normally only found within the months of May and June in the United States of America.

The period of time from the middle of May to the middle of June was considered by the ancient Romans to be an ill-omened time for marriage. The story goes that Ovid, a Roman poet, consulted with the high priestess of Jupiter and asked when a good time for his daughter’s wedding would be. The high priestess decreed that he should wait until after June 15<sup>th</sup>. Contrary to Roman beliefs about the best and worst times to get married, June is now considered one of the very best months!

June has some incredibly varied month-long observances around the world. In the United States, June is LGBT+ Pride Month, Great Outdoors Month, and National Oceans Month. On the other side of the world in the United Kingdom, June is National Smile Month!

The birth flowers of June are honeysuckle and roses. Both of these flowers are symbols of all things relating to love, desire, generosity, and affection. If you were born in June, then there’s a good chance you’ll be a bit of a hopeless romantic! There are a number of countries that celebrate their flag days during the month of June. Sweden celebrates its flag day on June 6<sup>th</sup>, the United States celebrates theirs on June 14<sup>th</sup> and Denmark celebrates theirs on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

June has three birthstones – alexandrite, moonstone, and pearl. Alexandrite is said to represent longevity and health. Moonstones on the other hand are said to bring good luck and are associated with love and passion. Finally, we have pearls, the main birthstones of June. Above all else, pearls represent purity and faith.

June has an interesting variety of holidays, ranging from the official to the not-so. June 1<sup>st</sup> is both International Children’s Day and World Milk Day (National Milk Day is on January 11). In the United States, June is also a month for food-related holidays, but mostly just for candy. June 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Rocky Road Day (US), June 3<sup>rd</sup> is National Chocolate Macaroon Day (US), June 7<sup>th</sup> is Chocolate Ice Cream Day (US), and there are so, so many more! Let’s hope they manage to get fit in one day to go to the dentist, too! The most important is Father’s Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>, this year.



## 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.

## Thunderbird Second Generation

The new Thunderbird captured Motor Trend's Car of the Year award in its debut season, making history as the first individual model line (as opposed to an entire company) to do so. While many fans of the earlier, two-seat Thunderbirds were not happy with the new direction, Ford was vindicated with sales figures of 37,892 units, more than double the previous year despite losing three months of production and 1958 being a very poor year for car sales.

### *1958 Ford Thunderbird in Cameo Rose and Winterset White Two-Tone*

The car officially went on sale in late January 1958. By mid-March, Ford "announced that it is producing its new four-passenger Thunderbird on a heavy overtime schedule and assembling every possible car in an effort to meet demand [with] a backlog of 5,000 advance orders already on record"....hoping to produce "about twice as many Thunderbirds in April" as it had in February. The Thunderbird was one of only two cars to show a sales increase that year (the other being the Rambler). The convertible did not go on sale until June 1958, resulting in only 2,134 being built.



## 1959



*1959 Ford Thunderbird convertible*

For the 1959 model year, Ford made changes to the front, rear, and side ornamentation; leather upholstery was available for the first time. The rear suspension was revised, discarding coil springs for Hotchkiss drive with parallel leaf springs. A new V8 engine, the 345-hp 430 cu in (7.0 L) MEL-series, was available in small numbers. Sales almost doubled again, to 67,456 units, including 10,261 convertibles. Thunderbird advertising in 1959 targeted women in particular, showing glamorous models in

country club and other exclusive settings, and the sales figures bore out Ford's marketing plans.

## 1960



*1960 Ford Thunderbird hardtop  
1960 Ford Thunderbird in Sultana Turquoise  
Rear view showing the six taillights added for the 1960 model year*



With more trim

changes, most notably the addition of a third taillight in the rear clusters, 1960's sales figures hit another record: 92,843 units sold, including 11,860 convertibles. A rare option in this year was a sunroof; this "Golde Edition" (Golde was a German company whose sunroof patent Ford licensed) sold 2,530 examples. At the end of 1960, two Thunderbirds were constructed of stainless steel for the Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation to showcase the decorative use of stainless steel, at a price of



US\$35,000 each (\$380,906 in 2025 dollars). Because of the properties of stainless steel, the production dies would be destroyed as a result of the stamping of the parts. This was not a problem for Ford, as the next generation of T-Bird used a new body style. To duplicate the T-Birds 3,957 lb. (1,795 kg) normal production weight, body panels were made of Type 302 stainless steel, and trim pieces out of Type 430 stainless steel. At the time of their production, because of the maximum rolling mill for stainless steel only produced stock that was 72 inches (1,800 mm) in width, both cars' roofs were constructed from two 42-inch-wide sections welded together in the middle. Both T-Birds received mechanical

and interior restorations in the 1980s and survive to this day, with one on permanent display at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



## Skills and Grills Car Show



Jack Sanford's Best in Class 1956



Marty Bierman and his Best of Show 1955

### *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.

### Member Birthdays

June

- Marva Hansen – 3
- Renea Steffens – 5
- Tom Woodman – 27

**If you want to be recognized,  
please send your birthdate to  
jesanford@cox.net.**

