

# Thunder Words



March 2020 ~ Volume 43, #3  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International

## MARCH CLUB EVENTS

### Tech Session

**Marty Bierman**

Fuel filters, pumps and hoses

**Saturday, March 28**

**11:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**20802 Elkhorn Drive**

**RSVP BY MARCH 25 to Marty at**

[Nefron1@cox.net](mailto:Nefron1@cox.net)

*See directions and map – p. 4*

### Downtown

### Shopping / Tour

**With Mary Lou Bierman**

Saturday, March 28

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Meet at 20802 Elkhorn Drive  
Meeting and Lunch 12:30 PM

**Firebarn  
Waterloo, NE**



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## Prez Says

Great conversation and knowledge gained at the



February meeting at Pizza Ranch, Lincoln. Many thanks to **Tom Woodman** for sharing key info on painting history and axel bearing installation and to **Jack Sanford** for showing the video on Thunderbird history from concept to retros. **Tom Woodman** found another '57 bird he couldn't pass up and admitted, under cross examination by **John LaDuke**, he actually found two since our last meeting. **Tom** is redefining the term "project car"!

The March meeting will be in Elkhorn hosted by **Marty and Mary Lou Bierman**. **Marty's** Tech Talk will be on T-Bird fuel filters, pumps, and hoses. **Mary Lou** has a new shopping event for the ladies. **Don and Karen Indra** are planning to host our April meeting in Norfolk. However, **Don** advised us **Karen** took a fall and broke her hip. The Norfolk event, if **Don** keeps it on the calendar, will include a tour of the Johnny Carson Museum and Jim Marr's car collection. Jim is a car restoration master. His collection includes 20 cars and 40 years of collectibles. Here's to a speedy recovery for **Karen**! More on April at the March meeting.

Our Christmas dinner meeting will be at the historic Ferguson House in downtown Lincoln near the State Capitol December 5th, 6 PM. **Bob and Jan Sibal and Rob and Vicki** are hosting.

See you in March!

**Rob Kinsey**  
President

## January 2020 Meeting

## Minutes

There were 16 members present for the meeting. No Thunderbirds were driven to the meeting. The club members were entertained with a video showing how the birth of the Thunderbird was necessary to compete with Chevrolet's Corvette. The video was made for the History Channel. It covered all Thunderbirds through 2002.

**Tom Woodman** gave a talk on two subjects.



**Tom** displaying an Air Vent he removed from a pink T-Bird showing a blue inside color. Discussion of this miss-match



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may have been factory painters at the end of their shift cleaning their paint guns on the undersides of the vehicles or the car was once painted blue.

**The second subject** was about front wheel bearing spindle seals.



The above picture shows a front wheel bearing with the race removed. The next picture shows the same wheel race with two types of spindle seals. It is hard to see in the photo, but the seal with a lip should be avoided. It will not seal tight against the spindle. In replacing the bearings, they should be tight vs. loose. Test the tightness by spinning the brake drum. Make sure the brake shoes are loose for this test. The spindle bearing nut must have the cotter-key hole through the notched nut. Replacement nuts are sometimes thinner than the original. The cotter-key keeps the nut from working loose.



### Treasurer's Report

No Treasure's Report

### Old Business

Logo patches are going fast. This money-making endeavor has brought in \$158.00 for the club to date. There are only 15 logo patches remaining. See Jack to get yours.



These embroidered 2 x 3 1/2 inch logos can be sewn on or glued with fabric glue onto shirts, jackets, caps, dashboards, etc.

#### Logo Prices

1 logo - \$ 5	6 logos - \$26
2 logos - \$ 9	7 logos - \$31
3 logos - \$13	8 logos - \$35
4 logos - \$18	9 logos - \$39
5 logos - \$22	10 logos - \$43



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The **Member Profile** feature has received three stories. Still plenty of time to send yours in. [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net)

### New Business

A motion was made to have **Marty's** Tech Session March 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in **Marty's** garage, followed by lunch at the Firebarn in Waterloo

**Mary Lou** will lead an Elkhorn shopping spree at the same time.

### Brag Box

**Tom Woodman** has acquired a new '57 project car, which he purchased in Texas. The T-Bird was in pieces. He had to partially assemble the car. After several hours of work, he loaded it on a trailer and hauled it back to Nebraska.

**Gaylan Abood** bragged that their granddaughter, Katrina, has become a great speaker. She has won several speech contests as a freshman at Bennington High School.

This is in addition to her trophies from skating contests.

(Her talent was not inherited from her grandparents.)

### Adjournment

There being no further business President **Rob Kinsey** adjourned the meeting.

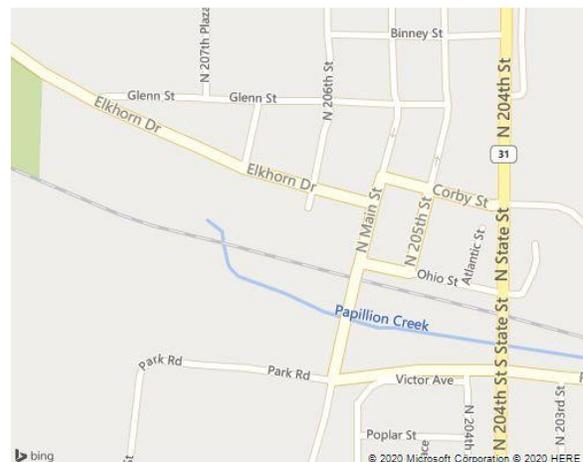
**Gaylan Abood**  
Secretary

### Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club Meetings and Events

**March ~ Sunday March 8, 2020, Lincoln, NE, 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet, Lancaster Event Center.**

**March ~ Saturday, March 28 at 11:00 am.** at my shop in **Elkhorn** at 20802 Elkhorn Dr. I will give a tech session on T-Bird fuel filters, pumps, and hoses for about 45 minutes. **Mary Lou** will lead the women on a tour of several shops in Elkhorn. We will leave my shop at 12 noon for lunch and a meeting at Fire Barn Sports Bar and Grill in Waterloo. I have arranged their party room for lunch off the menu and the meeting. Members should drive their T-Birds weather permitting. Parking is plentiful at my shop and the Fire Barn. **Mary Lou** and **Kayla** can take 8 people in their SUVs to the Elkhorn shops if needed.

Directions- **From Omaha:** Dodge to Hi-way 31 (204<sup>th</sup> St); north on Hi-way 31; turn west on Corby for two blocks then south on Main Street for ½ block then west on Elkhorn Drive for about 4 blocks. 20802 is on the north side of the street at Housley Bros. garage rental across from the Chamber of Commerce building/parking lot. **From Lincoln:** I-80 or Hi-way 6 to Gretna exit then north on Hi-way 31 to Elkhorn and follow same route as above.



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**April ~ Saturday April 25, 2020, Norfolk, NE** meet at Johnny Carson Museum at 11:00 AM, tour for an hour and a half. Eat at Pizza Ranch and then go out to Jim's around two. Tour Jim's and then adjourn around 4:00 PM. This event is being hosted by **Don & Karen Indra**. Directions to follow.

## **T-Bird Tech Talk**

**By Martin Bierman**

“What should I do in the Spring to get ready for driving season”?



**Question-** A Classic T-Bird owner wants to know what is necessary to get ready for the driving season.

**Answer-** Assuming the T-Bird was stored for only the last few months during the winter here are the areas to inspect and treat to get ready for the driving season. First, inspect under the car for any leaks that may have developed over the winter and indicate problems that need to be addressed. Look at the back of the wheels and tires for any evidence of brake fluid leakage from the wheel cylinders. Check for oil, transmission, rear end, and radiator fluid leaks. Next check all fluid levels and replace as needed to include antifreeze, power steering fluid, battery water, manual transmission and rear end gear oil and brake fluid. Check the oil and change the oil and filter if it was not done last fall. Check the battery voltage and charge it if needed. Check the tire air and set all tires at 35 psi. Check the age of your tires on the date code and replace if more than eight years old. Fill the gas tank with fresh gas. Check for any rodent damage to under hood wires

or nests in the air cleaner and exhaust pipes.

Next start the car and allow it to reach operating temperature. Check again under the car for any fluid leaks. It is not unusual for the automatic transmission to spit some fluid out the overflow valve until the torque converter fills up. Check the automatic transmission fluid level when the car is hot and in park and after having run through the gears several times.

Now you are ready to drive the car. Start slowly and check the brakes for good pedal height and stopping ability. Listen for any unusual noises or rattles. Enjoy your first ride of the year and the upcoming driving season.



### **Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club**

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## MEMBER PROFILE

I used to be a heavy smoker—5 packs a day. **Bev** would buy two cartons each week when she went to the grocery store and anything that I smoked over that came from my budget. When I quit (for the third time) I went to SmokeStoppers and they said to take the money that you would spend on cigarettes and put the money away and then buy something special. I took the money I would have spent and bought a pair of lizard cowboy boots. On the one-year anniversary of my quitting **Bev** said that she also had put away the money she would have spent. She continued to do so and when I thought we had enough to buy a T-Bird we went to Kansas City to check out one that had been advertised there. The guy who showed us the car asked if we were familiar with T-Birds and I had to say no. He advised that we have someone who knew the cars check it out. That morning there was an article in the newspaper about the Kansas City T-Bird Club and the article included **John Smith's** name and number. I called **John** and hired him to look at the local car. **John** gave me a written report saying that the car was not one that I should purchase. Right after Christmas that year **John** called me and said that he had attended the St. Louis Club Christmas party and that there was a car there that I should check out. On January 23, 1996 I drove to Kansas City (the temperature was below zero) and we drove to Greenville, Illinois, just east of St. Louis and checked out the car. It needed to be redone—but was rust free. I bought the car and hired **Carroll Hessenhauer**, the guy who showed the car, to redo it—frame up. The car was ready to go in May—I flew to St. Louis, picked up the car and drove it to my first CTCI Convention in Des Moines. **John Smith** was there, and he helped me get the car ready for the show since I had driven through rain on the way there. The car took first place in '55 Touring. I had to have the

car redone in 2011--after returning from a club meeting I set the parking brake in front of my garage and for some unknown reason I left the car in neutral; I got out of the car to raise the garage door and the parking brake did not hold; the car rolled down the drive and was headed across the street where some children were playing; I was running alongside the car and cranked the wheel; the car took out the community mail box. **Doug Kielian at Auto Kraft** here in Lincoln suggested that since the entire back half of the car needed to be redone, I should have the entire car redone—to which I agreed and which he did. Then, in 2014 I was headed to the CTCI Convention when the car continued to overheat. Just south of Kansas City we decided to give it up and headed back home. From start to finish the round trip took 13 hours. At that point with the help of **Phil Brown**, for which I am eternally grateful, I had the engine overhauled.

**John Smith** told me in 1996 to join CTCI which I did, which lead me to the **NebraskaLand Thunderbird Club**. I thoroughly enjoy my car and the Club. **Robert Routh**



**Bob's car in front of Graceland**



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## ROBERT ROUTH

### PROFILE

Lives in Lincoln, Nebraska  
1955 Torch Red T-Bird  
Red and White Interior  
Soft and Hard Tops  
Powered by 292 V8  
Automatic Transmission  
Simulated Wire Wheels  
Radial Tires  
Restored in 1996 & 2011  
by  
Carroll Hessenhauer '96  
Auto Kraft – Doug Kiellian '11  
Bought in Illinois  
Owned 24 years

## CTCI EVENTS

[“Birds on the Bay”](#) International Convention. May 4–9, 2020. Sarasota, FL.



The Trail Birds of Southwest Florida is proud to host the 2020 CTCI International Convention at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Sarasota, Florida. The Hyatt Regency is giving us a great rate of \$145.00 per night. This rate will be good for three days prior to and three days after the convention if you want to extend your visit in beautiful Sarasota. Hotel Reservations can be made by calling the Hyatt Regency, Sarasota, Florida at 1-877-803-7534 or local 941-953-1234. Code for discount rate is: CTCI.

Please note the schedule for this event is Tuesday through Friday. The banquet will be on Friday night rather than Saturday night as might be expected. Registration is now open!

[Download registration form HERE](#)



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