

Thunder Words



Photo by Mary Paulsen

May 2024 ~ Volume 47, #5
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



Prez Says: We had a good turnout at our last meeting and at the fellowship lunch at Culvers in Lincoln on April 21. The weather was beautiful for the event, and members drove their T-Birds. **John Moore** invited **Jim** and **Mary Paulsen** from the Kearney area as guests. **The Paulsen's** own a 2003. **Rob Kinsey** in Lincoln has planned May's driving tour for Thunderbird's Appreciation Day on May 19. Check the newsletter for details and the map of the tour. I hope to see everyone in May.
Martin Bierman, President



T-Bird Appreciation
Day
Cruise
May 19, 2024
11:00 AM
Country Inn Suites
Lincoln, NE

May Important Dates:
1 – May Day
5 – Cinco de Mayo
12 – Mother's Day
27 – Memorial Day

Next Meeting
May 16, 2024
6:00 PM
Track Side Bar & Grill
13901 Guildford #7
Waverly, NE



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford





Karen Ann Indra died Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk, NE. Services were held Friday, April 12, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norfolk. Karen was born July 15, 1943, in St. Joseph, Mo., to Charles and Lucille (Tobin) Thompson. She attended Catholic elementary school and high school, graduating in 1961. Karen attended Benedictine College in Atchinson, Kan., earning a Spanish degree with a French minor. She then attained a master's degree in Spanish from the University of Iowa. Karen taught Spanish at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, then 29 years at Norfolk High School, and four years at Lutheran High Northeast. She was a Habitat for Humanity and the Civil Service Commission member and had interpreted for the Norfolk Police Department and Faith Regional Health Services. Karen was also involved with the retired teacher's group. Karen taught GED classes for Hispanics and was still teaching them at the time of her death. She had a great love for the Hispanic community and was very involved in their worship and lives. Karen is survived by her spouse, Donald of Norfolk; daughter Beth Ann (Brett) Johnson and grandchildren Zach and Gabby, all of Wasilla, Alaska; sister-in-laws Evelyn Indra and Roseann Indra, both of Norfolk; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and friends. Preceding Karen in death were her parents: parents-in-law, Arthur Sr. and Agnes "Peg" Indra; brother-in-law Ed; brother-in-law Arthur Indra Jr.; and brother-in-law Dennis Indra.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.homeforfuneraisine.com.



Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

April 2024

President Martin Bierman called the meeting to order at 5:56 P.M. at the Coffee Kettle Cafe in Omaha, NE. (note café name change). In attendance were **Martin** and **Mary Lou Bierman**, **Bob McGowen**, **Rob and Vickie Kinsley**, **Jack Sanford**, **Tom Woodman**, **Clarence Johnson**, **Phil Brown**, **Bob Young**, and yours truly, your humble **secretary Quentin Moeller**.

To start the meeting, **Bob Young** was introduced as a chairperson for the upcoming CTCI Convention. On a sad note, we were informed of **Karen Indra's** passing—our sincerest condolences to **Don** and his family.

The March minutes were corrected and approved.

There was no **treasurer's report** given.

Old Business: Tentative activities were discussed. The April event for lunch at Culver's is on Sunday, the 21st.

On Sunday, May 19th, Thunderbird Appreciation Day, we will tour Lincoln. We will meet at the Comfort Inn at 11:00 AM and end up at Lee's Chicken Restaurant for lunch.

On June 15th, there will be a picnic/tour at Indian State Park. Bring your lunch. Brownville Winery.

July...Marty's tech session at his shop. **Mary Lou** to host Elk Horn shopping.

August...CTCI Convention in Des Moines.

Sept... There is a Lincoln car show on the 8th.

Oct... An event with the Hawkeye Club in Iowa. **Jim** and **Jeff** hosting.

Nov... Friendsgiving Dinner - **John** and **Michelle Moore** hosting.....

As always, these are subject to change; there will be more information as time progresses. It was noted that Larry Smith has used parts for sale.

New Business: **Martin** passed out some membership material so that we could better advertise for new members. **Bob Young** gave out information on the International Convention in August.

There were no official "Brag

The May meeting, May 16th, is at 6:00 PM in Waverly at the Trackside Bar and Grill. Plan on attending as the year's and next year's activities will be discussed, and your input will be very valuable.

Brag: **Quentin's** son just bought the new remanufactured 1966 Mustang convertible.

Rob - reported that EL Bee's was closing on April 25, 2024.

Jack – their 11th great-grandchild- was the first boy with the last name Sanford.

Bob Young – just had a grandson named Robert A. Young III.

Bob McGowan – The Rotor cuff has healed, and he is back playing pickleball.

Marty, the first grandchild to be married is a grandson. Another grandson has just signed up for Ranger training.

CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS. **Bob** made a motion to adjourn with a second by **Tom**. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Moeller, Secretary



MEMBER HELPFUL HINTS

By Dick Heinke

I just finished with my spring cleanup of my T-Bird and have an observation to confess:

The worst part of this effort is usually getting the white-walls acceptable.

I must have gotten lucky some time ago because I bought a spray bottle of “Karnak” cleaner for autos. I sprayed a few shots of this stuff on the tires, whitewalls, wire wheel spooks, and hubs... and...WALLA... it was only a matter of brushing them off and rinsing to get them magically white.

I don't remember which automotive aisle I found this stuff on... but the name reminded me of “Johnny Carson”! Buy some of this stuff and shorten tire cleanup!

Fuel Pump Fixes

Unknown

Here is another possible answer to the fuel pump availability for our cars. I just saw a notice on Facebook about where to get a fuel pump repair kit. It is called Then and Now. The part number is FPA-231, and the phone number is 781-335-8860.

Thunderbird in Cinema

Taken from Big “D” Little Birds Newsletter

The Ford Thunderbird has become one of America's personal luxury car market pioneers. The “Littlebird” appeared in movies, television shows, and even on a U.S. postage stamp. In 1973, a new comedy film, American Graffiti, appeared in movie theaters. The film was directed by George Lucas and featured a 1956 Thunderbird driven by late co-star Suzanne Somers. The Thunderbird used in the movie was initially purchased by Clay Dailey and his wife in 1964 on a used car lot in San Bernardino, CA. The car had been painted red and showed 55,000 miles on the odometer. After moving to Petaluma, CA, the Dailies painted the car back to its original color, white. In 1972, when Clay's wife had parked the car in downtown Petaluma, she found a note on the windshield asking if she would allow the car to be used in a new movie. She thought the note was a joke but called the number anyway. To her surprise, Lucas Films wanted to use the car! She and her husband agreed, and the T-Bird appeared in the movie with all the night shots done in downtown Petaluma so the couple could be there to watch the movie being made. When Chevrolet brought its first two-seat Corvette to the New York Auto Show in 1953, no one could imagine that it would inspire Ford to punch back and deliver one of the most important nameplates in automotive history: the “Littlebird” that soared—the immortal Ford Thunderbird.

Remember When

Taken from Hawkeye Reflections

The freezer actually had to be defrosted! That's right. You'd have to defrost the freezer manually every now and then—sometimes, it took all day and involved a lot of scraping!

Uses for Dryer Sheets

Pop a dryer sheet inside your folded sheets to ensure they have that “just washed” fresh smell when you make a bed. Keep a dryer sheet in your stored luggage. It won't smell musty when you need to use it.



CTCI UPDATES



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

- May 16** – Business meeting – 6:00 PM – Trackside Bar & Grill – 13901 Guildford #7 - Waverly, NE
- May 11** - Skills and Grills – Car – Truck – Tractor Show – Gretna High School – Register 9-11 am
- May 19** - Thunderbird Appreciation Day – Meet at the Country Inn & Suites – 11:00 AM (See page 9)
- June 15** – Tour and Picnic – Indian Caves – Club event – Host – Dick Heinke – (See page 10)
- August 7 - 11**– VTCI 2024 International Convention – Grand Rapids Airport, MI
- August 20 -25** – 2024 International Concours Convention – Des Moines, IA (see pages 6&7)



Thunderbird Appreciation Day Lincoln Cruise 11:00 AM, May 19, 2024.

Sponsor and leaders – Rob and Vicki Kinsey

Rob’s Cell 402-430-6628

Approximately 1 hour and 20-minute cruise

We will start at the South Parking Lot of Country Inn & Suites, 5353 No. 27th St.
Take the 27th Street exit from I-80. Folkways Drive and the Country Inn Suites are approximately 1.5 miles away.
From there, we travel south on 27th Street to Holdredge Drive.

At Holdredge Dr., we travel east along the East Campus.

Near 48th Street, we make a “U” turn and travel back west on Holdredge to 33rd Street.

At 33rd Street, we turn left to “O” Street.

At “O,” we turn right and proceed to 16th Street.

At 16th Street, we turn left to “H” Street.

At “H” Street, we turn right to 14th Street.

At 14th Street, we turn left on “N” Street.

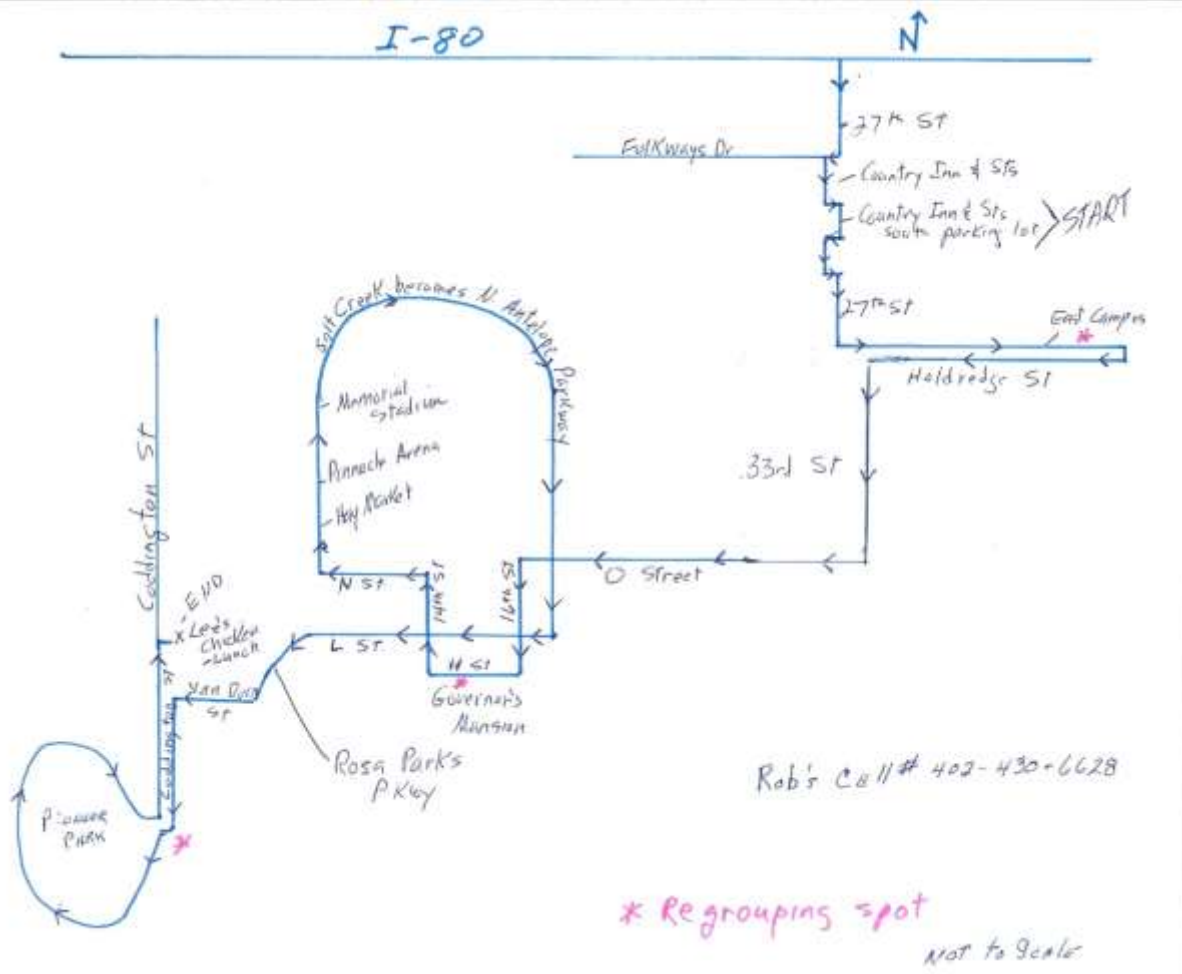
“N” Street turns into Salt Creek Parkway. Salt Creek Parkway runs north and becomes No. Antelope Pkwy.

This makes a circle, and we proceed to “L” Street, where we turn right or west.

“L” Street becomes Van Dorn Street. When we come to Coddington Street, we turn left and circle Pioneer Park.

When we circle back to Coddington Street, we will be at Lee’s Chicken Restaurant for lunch and the end of the tour.

Maps will be distributed to all cars on tour.



Indian Caves State Park Tour and Picnic

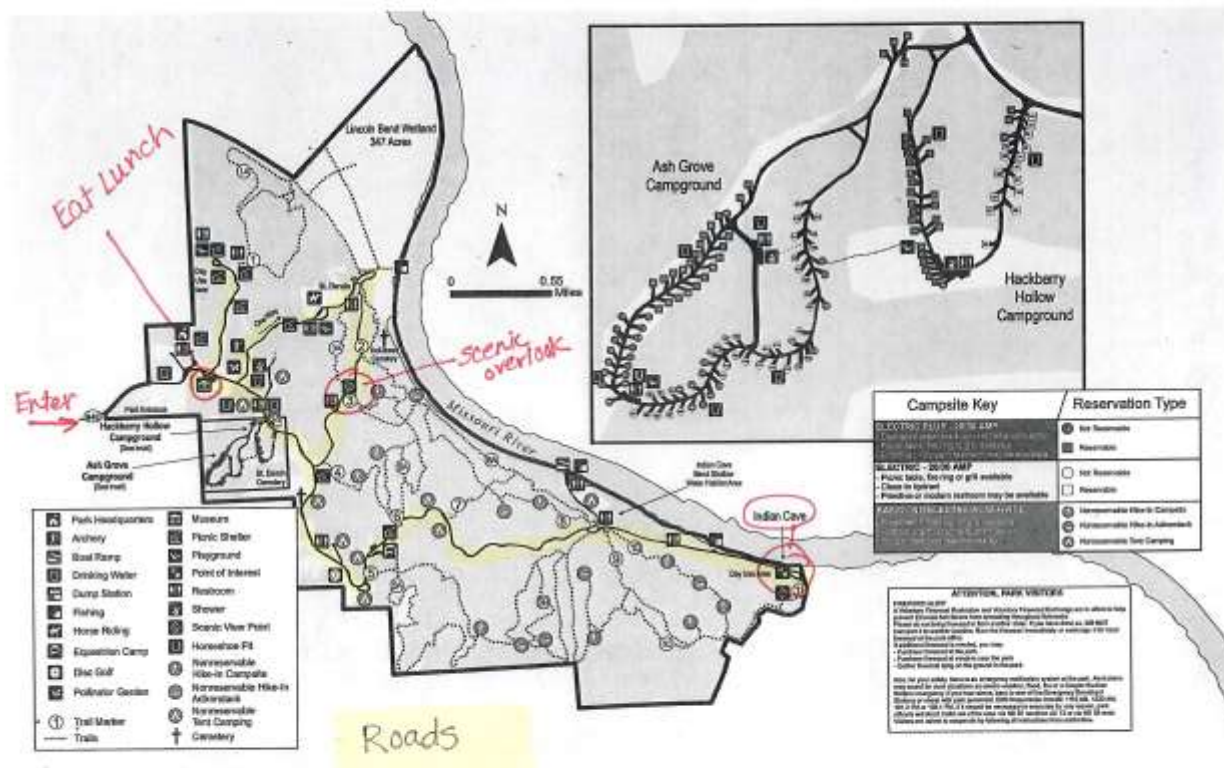
A picnic and tour have been scheduled for 1 PM on June 15 at The Indian Cave State Park, South and west of Brownville, Nebraska. NOTE: The entrance fee for Nebraska vehicles is \$7.00 per auto, while the entrance fee for out-of-state vehicles, such as Iowa, is \$14/ auto.

From Lincoln: East on Hwy 2 to Nebraska City, South on Hwy 75 to Auburn, East on Hwy 136 (9 miles), South on Hwy 67 (9 miles), East on 64E (5 miles).

From Omaha: South on Hwy 75, East on Hwy 136 (9 miles), South on Hwy 67 (9 miles), East on Hwy 64E (5 miles). You can also get there from Omaha by taking Interstate I-29 South and exit #110 to Brownville, NE.

We should each bring a picnic lunch and beverages for our lunches to use the local picnic tables near the entrance to the park. I will plan to meet everyone at the entrance to follow me a short distance to the picnic area and tables just down the hill from the museum, where we can stop first for orientation and viewing of exciting information.

After lunch, we can take a 5-mile drive around the park to the cave area adjacent to the Missouri River for an interesting observation of the cave. Afterward, we can parade on a drive through the park back to the entrance and to Brownville for a stop at "Whisky Run Creek Winery" to observe their interesting 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 interesting whisky was brewed to and through the Prohibition era of the 1920s. Perhaps we can go down into one of the caves used currently for wine and cheese tasting parties to experience the cool 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 true distilling devices when they were in vogue. Enjoy the day before "Father's Day"!



Fellowship Lunch at Culvers

April 21, 2024



Vicki Rob Marty Mary & Jim Paulson John



John & Barbara La Duke Sunset Coral



We've come a long way!!!



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>
Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



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!



Fellowship Lunch



Mary Lou Marty Crystal Rob John L. Jerry



Tom's rebuilt 1957

Member Birthday

May

Steve Fullerton - 2

Sara Stekly - 5

Marilyn Carron - 13

Larry Smith - 25

Mary Krecek - 31

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

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

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