

# Thunder Words



*Foliage Tour October 18, 2020*

November 2020 ~ Volume 43, #11  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



**Prez Says,** The December 5th Christmas party has been rescheduled for **December 4, 2021** due to virus concerns. The Ferguson House in Lincoln transferred our deposit to next year. The virus also cancelled our regular October meeting at North Bend. Thanks **Ted Dimmit** and **Fran Graser** for contacting the restaurant. Two October outdoor events did go as scheduled. We joined the VTKC outing at the Air and Space Museum for a few hours on Saturday the 17th. This was a great opportunity to talk with members of the KC club and view their newer T-

Birds. **Gary Olsen** filled out an application for membership. He couldn't recall whether he got 60 miles to the gallon or 60 gallons to the mile with his '65 bird. The weather was beautiful and we socially distanced. The foliage tour the following day was enjoyable. Thanks, **Jack Sanford**, for plotting the course and leading the charge. Four members, **Jack and Kayla Sanford, Richard Heinke and Diane White, Marty and Mary Lou Bierman and Rob and Vicki Kinsey** drove their birds. **Tom Woodman** left all his birds at home but enjoyed the view through his SUV's windshield.

Unless there is an objection, since all offices have a single candidate for 2021, they will be "sworn in" electronically. **Quintin Moeller** has agreed to serve as secretary. Thank you, **Quintin**, for agreeing to assume that role and thank you **Gaylan Abood** for serving as this year's secretary! Electronically the Nebraskaland T-Bird Club Directors met and, in an effort, to be transparent the following items were passed:

1. Continue to support the food banks of Omaha \$100, Lincoln \$100, and Fremont \$50.
2. Continue to collect Club dues for 2021.



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3. Continue to publish the Newsletter monthly.

Your officers are working hard for you and are eagerly awaiting the return of normalcy. Thanks also to the 2020 officers for their service this year and agreeing to serve again next year. We have a good team! Welcome again to our new members who joined in 2020. A new roster is forthcoming thanks to **Jeff Brown**. Please submit ideas for events in 2021 so we can get them on our calendar. Here's to a virus-free 2021!

**Rob Kinsey, President**

### October 2020 Meeting

Cancelled account Covid-19 restrictions.

Two driving events were held during October 17-18<sup>th</sup> weekend.

2020 Christmas Party cancelled account Covid-19 restrictions.

No immediate future meetings planned.

### Minutes

No meeting in October

### CTCI NEWS

"First off, we would like to thank all of the members for voting in the election. We would also like to thank the individual candidates for willingness to serve CTCI.

The CTCI election has concluded, ballots counted, and the results have been tabulated.

The motion to affirm the move CTCI Corporation to Wyoming has passed.

**John Smith** has been elected as Director at Large.

**Kerry Kravik** has been elected (Unopposed) as Director – Region 2.

Charlie Hensley has been elected as Director – Region 4.

**Sue Smith** has been elected as Director – Region 6.

Please join the entire board in congratulation the new directors.

In closing, we want to recognize and thank all of our out-going board members for their service and involvement in the leadership of CTCI."

CTCI Board of Directors

**Bob Witt**, President

### Tech Talk

**Joel** submitted [this link](#) as a thought for the future of shade tree mechanics.

"I have always wondered about this for the semi-old cars and I think it is a fair point. There may be a huge gap in collectibles over time." **Joel Schlessinger**.

[Click to view article](#)



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## Member Profile

### My 1955 Thunderbird Blue T-Bird

By **Martin Bierman**

The weekend of September 26, 1994 started out as trip to St. Louis to visit my daughter in college on her birthday and ended with me buying a Thunderbird Blue 1955 T-Bird from a family in Cahokia, MO. The car had been advertised in a local trader magazine and was a two owner Los Angeles car its whole life until about a year prior when the owner who was dying of lung cancer brought it to his brother's home in Cahokia. The car had been



stored for 20 years in the garages of the California owner and had been recently put back into service for 100 miles before being brought to Missouri. It had one repaint and was correct except for an after-market continental kit. I bought the car and rented a U-Haul truck and trailer to bring it home. Mary Lou and I drove it several times and brought it to a club meeting. After one drive it died about three houses from our home.

**Mary Lou** asked if it "had any gas in it". The gas gauge read three fourths full but there was no fuel flow from the pump and a stick in the tank confirmed that it was out of gas. The fuel sender later was found to be frozen in the three fourths position. Once again **Mary Lou** was called into action and helped push it home.



The car was an excellent candidate for restoration, and I began a total disassembly which was delightfully easy since it was a California car. The restoration started as a high-quality driver one but soon morphed into a CTCI concours frame off restoration.



Complete engine and transmission rebuilds were done by local shops and the body and paint were completed by Auto Kraft in Lincoln. I estimated 1500 hours of my own time were spent on disassembly and reassembly which was completed early summer 1997. It has power steering, power windows, two tops including a black canvas soft top, Fairlane eyebrows, and the after-market continental kit. The car was shown at CTCI conventions in Des Moines, San Antonio, Dallas, Cleveland (twice), Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, Omaha, and Wichita (twice). It accumulated 11 Gold and 10 Gold Medallion awards missing another Gold Medallion by a couple of points. After 2006 I retired it from CTCI competition and drove it occasionally to local shows or events. In 2016 it again was shown in Kansas City at a VTCL convention and since then it has been officially retired. Over the last 26 years since I have owned it less than a thousand miles have been put on the original odometer. So, what is next for the former trailer queen? I plan a 12-volt conversion and radial tires so it can be a more reliable driver and it will return to the road.



***Nebraskaland T-Bird Events***  
**VTKC (Vintage Thunderbird of Kansas City) SAC Visit**  
**October 17, 2020**



Members attending were Rob Kinsey, Marty Bierman, Quintin Moeller, Bob and Diane Young, Jack Sanford.



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### Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club Platte River Foliage Tour October 18, 2020



Diane White, Mary Lou Bierman, Kayla Sanford, Vicki Kinsey, Rob Kinsey, Marty Bierman, Richard Heinke, Tom Woodman



Barker's Candies at Greenwood, Nebraska



Schramm Education Center (formerly Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium)



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Logo patches are going fast. This money-making endeavor has brought in \$172.00 for the club to date. There are only 12 logo patches remaining.

See **Jack Sanford** to get yours.



These embroidered 2 x 3 ½ 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

*Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club*

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“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, Treasure, 7225 S 103<sup>rd</sup> ST, LaVista, NE 68128.

The [Member Profile](#) feature has received five stories so far. There is still plenty of time to send yours in. We would love to hear about your thunderbird. Any length of story is welcome. Send stories to Jack at [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net).

**2021 Membership Dues - \$15.00**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and check for membership dues payable to the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club care of Jeff Brown, Treasure, 7225 South 103 Street, LaVista, NE 68128



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# For Sale

**Richard Heinke**

has the following items for sale.

He is moving and needs to clean out his garage.

**All parts are sold as is.**

- 1) 17700A interior rearview mirror. \$25
- 2) 1750B. Vacuum wiper motor. \$75
- 3) 9600-55 T- Bird air cleaner Assy \$300
- 4) ECK-9510 Tlist-1074 Holly carb. \$300
- 5) 6volt starter motor complete. \$200
- 6) 6A506 Felton valve cover gasket pair \$20
- 7) 6051B 392 head gasket pair. \$50
- 8) misc. door handle hardware. Offer!
- 9) A right-side outer rocker panel that I made of 20-gauge steel. The price for this part in a shipping carton is \$250. When I remanufactured my '55 T-Bird frame off, I included these because they are stronger than NOS and more stretch resistant overcoming "door sag"!

See at 17300 Yankee Hill Road, Bennet, NE

Phone : 402-432-2199

Email: [d37heinke@gmail.com](mailto:d37heinke@gmail.com)



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Don't forget to vote Tuesday



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