Thunder Words



November 2026, Volume 49 #11

Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club



Prez Says: Our joint meeting with the Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club at **Scott** and **Renea Steffens'** homestead October 4 was a great way to start the fall season. **Scott** displayed five of his Thunderbirds and told us more were stored in some of his garages. **Renea** served members a delightful luncheon complete with dessert. Thank you **Scott and Renea** for being such gracious hosts. Be sure to plan on attending the November Friendsgiving dinner and details are in this newsletter. At the December meeting we will vote on the amended club bylaws. These are published in the October and this newsletter. Please review them and provide comments or questions before the final vote.

Martin Bierman, President

Most Americans will still need to change their clocks this fall. Daylight saving time is scheduled to end on **Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026**, when clocks across most of the United States are **set back one hour** and the country returns to standard time. It is the earliest possible date that the annual time change can occur.



Friendsgiving Dinner
November 21, 2026
6:00 PM
Sean O'Casey's
2523 So. 140th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

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 – November 21

Next
Business Meeting
December 17, 2026
6:00 PM
Waverly NE

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

Minutes of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club, October 2026



Secretary's report: President Bierman called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. with 12 members in attendance.
Minutes - The minutes of September's meeting were approved with motion by **John La Duke** and second by **Jeff Brown**.
Treasurer's Report- Jeff Brown reported the checking account balance and two bills for the web site were submitted and paid. Two members' dues checks were submitted. He will also pay the ENWICC dues. Christmas food banks donations were discussed and $250 will be paid to three area food banks at Christmas.
Old Business- Jack Sanford reported on the October 4 joint event with the Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club at the Steffens home. He thanked Scott and Renae for being gracious hosts. The Friendsgiving dinner November 21 at Sean O'Casey's Pub will feature a slide show of our past year's events. The club will provide the appetizers and members will order off the menu. See the newsletter for details. The amended club bylaws were published in the October newsletter and will be repeated in the November issue. A vote to adopt the bylaws will be done at the December meeting. Members were encouraged to review the amended bylaws and provide any comments prior to the December meeting. Speedway Motors will host Coffee and Cars October 31 at their Lincoln store.
New Business- Nominations for the 2027 & 2028 club officers included **Martin Bierman** - President; **Rob Kinsey** - Vice-President, **Jeff Brown** - Treasurer; **Joel Hutchins** - Secretary; and **Jack Sanford** - Newsletter Editor. Motion to approve the entire slate was made by **John La Duke** with second by **Larry Dawes** and the motion carried. We will vote on these nominations at the November meeting.
Brag Box- Tom Woodman has completed the rebuild of one of his 1955 T-Bird doors.
Joel Hutchins - has not used his cars in two months.
Rob and Vicky Kinsey - attended Rob's high school reunion.
Larry Dawes and his son **-** cruised around Chalco with their black '55 bird.
Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Bierman.



L to R – John, Tom, Joel, Vicki, Rob, Jack



Marty, Mary Lou, Jack, Gail, Larry, Niel, Jeff, John

TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman

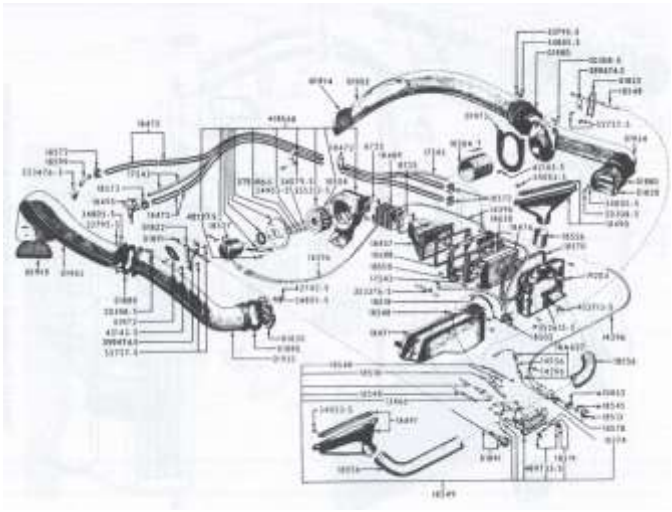
"My heater won't work"



Question – A 1955 T-Bird owner says his heater won't work. What is wrong and how can this be fixed?
Answer - This is an interesting complaint since most T-Bird owners complain that their T-Birds are too hot and they don't want more heat! However, this owner likes to drive his T-Bird in the Spring and Fall and sometimes needs heat on the colder days.

In order to understand what is wrong, we need to understand the heater system. The heater is controlled by vacuum from the top of the fuel pump, the same vacuum source as the wiper system. A black rubber vacuum hose runs from the engine area through the firewall to a metal tee that sends a vacuum hose to the wiper and another vacuum hose to the heater box under the dashboard. Inside the heater box is a valve #18502 (sometimes referred to as a "spider or grasshopper valve" due to its looks) which is connected to a cable #18518 that runs to the dash temperature lever on the dash heater controls. When the dash lever is moved to give more heat the valve in the heater box is opened to another vacuum hose that runs to a heater valve on the front of the intake manifold #18495. When vacuum reaches this valve it is opened and sends hot radiator fluid to the heater core via the heater hoses. The heater motor fan moves air over the heater core into the heater box and heats the passenger compartment.





In order to solve the no heat problem, one must check that all vacuum hoses are good and not cracked and leaking vacuum. Access to the heater box vacuum hoses and valve can be obtained by removing the screws that attach the plenum at the left side of the heater box and removing the plenum. Using a vacuum gauge, vacuum should be checked going into the heater box, coming out of the "spider valve" and at the heater valve on the intake manifold. Lack of vacuum prior to the "spider valve" would suggest a vacuum leak or plugged hose prior to the valve. Lack of vacuum in the hose exiting the "spider valve" would indicate a defective valve which is fairly common. If vacuum is present at the heater valve on the intake manifold but no heat is present then the valve is not opening and needs replacement. Sometimes this valve will also leak coolant or whistle like a tea kettle when it is defective. If the valve is stuck open heat would be present at all times and cannot be shut off by the temperature lever at the dash.



Inspect the cable from the temperature lever to the "spider valve" for proper movement and function and replace as needed. Also inspect the heater hoses and heater core for any plugging or leaks.

All the T-Bird vendors have vacuum line replacement kits, reproduction heater box valves, and heater valves at the intake manifold; the latter two valves can also be found on e-bay as new old stock parts. Classic Auto Supply Co., Inc. (CASCO) carries a kit to replace the vacuum valves and lines with a manual valve and cable which is easy to install and eliminates the vacuum system entirely.

2027 Dues are Due.
See form on page 10.

Region 1 Convention

June 3-6, 2027 - Albany New York

Registration is Open!

Dear CTCI member,

Please join us for ***Cruisin' the Capital June 3-6, 2027***

Register by mail with downloadble/fillable pdf forms for **members** & **non-members** or **Register online** and we look forward to seeing you in 2027!

The headquarters hotel is:

Holiday Inn Express & Conference Center

400 Old Loudon Road, Latham NY 12110

Phone: (518) 783-6161 Room Block code: CTC

Hotel registration online: https://bit.ly/4k3hOtB

The hotel is just minutes from the ALB airport and offers free shuttle service.

Watch for updates and additional information in the *Early Bird* and on the CTCI.org website: **https://www.ctci.org/2027-ctci-convention/**

The hotel is located 15 mins from downtown Albany, 20 minutes from historical Saratoga Springs, 45 mins to Lake George and 30 mins from Bennington VT. Take a driving tour, bus tour or adventure on your own across the glorious Upstate NY Region and enjoy ***Cruisin' the Capital***!!



Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club By-Laws

The bylaws state that amendments shall be announced in the monthly newsletter at least one month before the December voting meeting. Both the old and new bylaws are depicted here for your review.

Changes in red – October 1, 2026
The original 1982 bylaws in purple (O).

Article I – Name

A. The name of the organization is Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club, hereinafter referred to as N.T.

O. The name of the club is Nebraskaland Thunderbirds, hereinafter referred to as N.T.

Article II - Address

A. The principle address for the transaction of business of N.T. is ~~here in fixed at~~ 825 South 206th Avenue, Elkhorn, NE 68022.

O. The principle address for the transaction of business of N.T. is herein fixed at 7922Himebaugh Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68134.

Article III – Purpose

A. To operate and maintain an organization to encourage and promote the admiration and ownership, restoration and preservation, of the Ford Thunderbird automobile.

O. To operate and maintain an organization to encourage and promote the admiration and ownership, restoration and preservation, of the *Classic Thunderbird* defined herein as a two-passenger 1955, 1956, or 1957 Ford Thunderbird automobile.

B. To serve as a medium for the exchange of ideas, information, and parts for admirers and owners of the Ford Thunderbird automobile, and to aid them in restoring and preserving these automobiles in their original likeness.

O. To serve as a medium for the exchange of ideas, information, and parts for admirers and owners of the Classic Thunderbirds, and to aid them in restoring and preserving these automobiles in their original likeness.

C. To provide an organization as a basis for a local social club by the promotion of good fellowship, and to participate in activities including the use of their Thunderbird automobile.

O. To provide an organization as a basis for a local social club by the promotion of good fellowship, and to participate in activities including the use of their Classic Thunderbirds.

D. To unite and organize all admirers and owners of the Thunderbird automobile who are interested in restoring and maintaining their automobiles in a manner that will promote admiration and respect.

O. To unite and organize all admirers and owners of the Classic Thunderbirds who are interested in restoring and maintaining their automobiles in a manner that will promote admiration and respect.

E. To further the interests of owners and drivers of Thunderbird automobiles, and to promote the safety and enjoyment of motoring in all phases.

O. To further the interests of owners and drivers of Classic Thunderbirds, and to promote the safety and enjoyment of motoring in all phases.

F. To engage in any other legal activity related to that described above from time to time authorized or approved by the members of the club. (no changes)

Article IV – Membership

A. Membership shall be open to all persons who are interested in the purposes of this club. (no changes)

B. No member shall obtain pecuniary gain from this organization. (no changes)

C. General membership in N.T. shall run from January 1 to December 31 of each year. Membership dues for the forthcoming year shall be due in November and delinquent on the first of January of the following year. Failure to pay the dues will result in being dropped from the forthcoming year's roster and removed from the monthly newsletter mailing list.

O. General membership in N.T. shall run from January 1 to December 31 of each year. Membership dues for the forthcoming year shall be due December 1 of each year. Nonpayment of dues by December 31st results in automatic termination of membership. The terminated member will be dropped from the roll on January 1 of the following year.

D. Definition of Membership. Membership consists of up to two adults and their children who are under 18 years of age. Voting privileges are limited to the two adults whose names are listed on the membership form.

O. Membership shall include both the husband and wife of a household.

E. Membership is not transferable or assignable. (No change)

F. The Club Officers, (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, hereinafter referred to as Officers) may recommend rejection of the application for membership of any person, and the expulsion of any member when that person's association with N.T. is not considered to be in the best interests of the club. Any such recommendation shall be approved by the general membership, by secret ballot. The voting procedure to implement this subparagraph shall be that as delineated in Article VIII, Amendments, except as otherwise specifically provided in this subparagraph.

O. The Board of Directors may recommend rejection of the application for membership of any person, and the expulsion of any member when that person's association with N.T. is not considered to be in the interests of the club. Any such recommendation shall be approved by the general membership, by secret ballot. The voting procedure to implement this subparagraph shall be that as delineated in Article VIII. Changes or Amendments to By-Laws, except as otherwise specifically provided in this subparagraph.

Article V – Elections

A. An election will be held in November of each year. The names of members nominated for offices at the October meeting will appear on the election ballot. Members nominated for office after the close of the October meeting, and prior to the taking of the vote at the November meeting, shall not appear by name on the election ballot, but may be voted upon by write-in vote only.

O. An annual election will be held in November of each year. Nominations of candidate persons whose names will appear on the election ballot shall be made and accepted only at the October meeting of the club. Late candidacies for office arising after the close of the October meeting, and prior to the taking of the vote at the November meeting, shall not appear by name of the election ballot, but may be voted upon by write-in vote only.

B. Any member personally present at the October meeting may place his or her name in nomination for a particular office or have his or her name placed in nomination by another member, provided that at the latter event the nominee agrees to serve. A member not personally present at the October meeting may place, or have placed, his/her name in nomination for a particular office or offices provided a written letter of consent to serve in a particular office, is received by the President or Secretary or before the close of the October meeting.

O. Any member personally present at the October meeting may place his or her name in nomination for a particular office or have his or her name placed in nomination by another member, provided that in the latter event the nominee agrees to serve, if elected, in the office for which nomination is made. A member not personally present at the October meeting may place, or have placed, his/her name in nomination for a particular office or offices provided a written letter of consent to serve in a particular office, if elected, is received by the President or Secretary on or before the close of the October meeting.

C. A write-in vote shall not be valid unless the write-in nominee shall have consented in advance of the election to serve, if elected, in a particular office so designated by the write-in candidate. If the write-in candidate shall not be personally present at the November election meeting, said designation of office and consents required by this subsection shall be in writing and delivered to the President or Secretary prior to the counting of the ballots. (no change)

D. After nominations are closed by the President at the October meeting, the President will preside over and administer the November election.

O. After nominations are closed by the President at the October meeting, the President shall appoint an election commissioner to preside over and administer the November election. The election commissioner shall not be a candidate for any office in the election to be had.

E. Absentee ballots may be mailed to the current President or Secretary prior to the election in November. Absentee ballots will be secret ballots and not opened or recorded until the counting of ballots during the November meeting. No voting by proxy will be permitted. (no changes)

F. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot and will be by simple majority vote of the proper ballots cast. The President, in the case of an office having only one candidate, may declare the office filled by the candidate without a secret ballot.

O. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot and will be by simple majority vote of the proper ballots cast.

G. All elected candidates must be asked if they accept the office and answer in the affirmative for the office to be filled. (new)

Article VI – Officers

A. The administration and management of N.T. is hereby vested in the current officers of the club. (no change)

B. The officers of the club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor.

O. The officers of the club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

C. The term of office shall be two years January 1 through December 31.

O. The term of office shall be two years January 1 to December 31 of each year.

D. Any vacancy in any office occurring before the expiration of the term shall be filled by a majority vote of the Officers, with the exception that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the existing Vice-President, in which case the Officers shall then proceed to appoint a new Vice-President to serve out the remainder of the term of the former Vice-President.

O. Any vacancy in any office occurring before the expiration of the term in that office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, with the exception that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the existing Vice-President, in which case the Board of Directors shall then proceed to appoint a new Vice-President to serve out the remainder of the term of the former Vice-President.

E. Members elected to hold the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor must be members in good standing in N.T.

O. Members elected to hold the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Advisory Council Representative shall be members in good standing in Classic Thunderbird Club International and N.T.

F. Omit

O. It is not necessary for members in good standing with C.T.C.I. to hold the offices of Activities Director and Newsletter Editor.

F. The President shall conduct all social and business meetings of the Club and shall be authorized to establish committees as he/she deems necessary for the betterment of N.T. Consent must be given by a majority of the Officers for any amount to be spent more than fifty dollars ($50.00).

O. The President shall conduct all social and business meetings of the club, and shall be authorized to establish committees as he/she deems necessary for the betterment of N.T. Consent must be given by a majority of the board of Directors for any amount to be spent in excess of thirty dollars ($30.00).

G. The Vice-President shall conduct all meetings in the absence of the President. With the absence of both President and Vice-President, any Officer may preside over the meeting.

O. The Vice-President shall conduct all meetings in the absence of the President.

H. The Secretary shall record the minutes at all meetings. The Secretary shall deliver the minutes to the Newsletter Editor prior to the next month's published Newsletter. The Secretary must keep active files on members and all other pertinent information pertaining to the club. Omit this paragraph and move it to Treasurer's duties.

O. The Secretary shall record the minutes at all meetings. Th Secretary shall read aloud the minutes of the previous meetings and must keep active files on members and all other pertinent information pertaining to the club. Current membership rosters must be published no later than March 30 of each year.

I. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies collected and disbursed by N.T., which said funds shall be deposited in a bank or savings and loan account under the name of Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club. The bank shall be designated by the current officers. The signature of the President and treasurer shall be on record at the chosen institution of N.T. The treasurer will submit a report each month to the club. Current membership rosters must be published no later than March 30 of each year.

O. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies collected and disbursed by N.T., which said funds shall be deposited in a bank or savings and loan account under the name of Nebraskaland Thunderbirds. The bank shall be designated by the current officers. The signature of the President and Treasurer shall be on record at the chosen institution of N.T. The Treasurer shall be in charge of collecting all assessments at any event and be responsible for collection all membership dues. The treasurer will submit a report each month to the club and render an annual accounting and report of all financial transactions to the club.

J. The Newsletter Editor shall have full responsibility for composing, editing, publishing, and emailing of all newsletters and or special notices of bulletins of N.T. Omit final paragraph.

O. The Newsletter Editor shall have full responsibility for composing, editing, publishing, and mailing of all newsletters and/or special notices or bulletins of N.T. He/she will mail a copy of the newsletter to local area Thunderbird clubs when special events are upcoming.

K. The Officers have full responsibility for coordination the plans and ideas for all special events and activities. Any club member in good standing may suggest an activity for participation by the club, and after the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a club meeting, the Officers shall be responsible for carrying out the plans for such events or activities. They have permission to call on any member in good standing for assistance in making preparations for said events or activities.

O. The Activities Director has full responsibility for coordination the plans and ideas for all special events and activities. Any club member in good standing may suggest an activity for participation by the club, and after the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a club meeting, the Activities Director shall be responsible for carrying out the plans for such events or activities. They have permission to call on any member in good standing for assistance in making preparations for said events or activities.

L. Omit entire paragraph.

O. The Advisory Council Representative shall at the direction of the President be responsible for correspondence with the national offices of Classic Thunderbird Club International, as well as with the Advisory Councils and/or representatives of other c.t.c.i. chapters. The Advisory Council Representative shall report all pertinent information to the President and Newsletter Editor for publication in the newsletter.

M. Omit entire paragraph.

O. Elected officers shall be limited to serving not more than two (2) consecutive years in any one office.

Article VII – Meeting of Members

A. There shall be a monthly meeting of the N.T. club on the third Thursday of each month, except January and February, unless a meeting date is changed by the Officers. This regular monthly meeting will be held regardless of whether an event or activity is held during the same month. The meeting place shall be determined by the Officers. Omit following paragraph.

O. There shall be a monthly meeting of the N.T. club on the second Friday of each month, unless the meeting date be changed by the Board of Directors. This regular monthly meeting will be held regardless of whether or not an event or activity is held during the same month. The meeting place shall be determined by the general membership by vote,

utilizing that part of the voting procedure specified in Article VIII which is consistent with the intentions of this subparagraph.

B. Written notices of events and meetings shall be included in the monthly newsletters. (no change)

C. Meetings and/or events can be altered by the Officers.

O. Meetings and /or events can be altered by the Board of Directors.

Article VIII – Amendments

A. These bylaws may be amended from time to time. Amendments can be proposed by any member in good standing. All such amendments shall be reduced to writing and be delivered to the President or Secretary of the club for inspection, reading, and discussion at a regularly scheduled club meeting held at least one month prior to the regularly scheduled club meeting at which the vote on the amendment shall be taken. Notice of the proposed the bylaws shall be announced in the monthly newsletter preceding the meeting at which the vote on the bylaw shall be taken. The vote shall not be taken unless the emailing of the monthly newsletter precedes the meeting scheduled for the vote by at least seven (7) days. Affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in good standing present and voting is required to amend a bylaw. No absentee ballots shall be allowed.

O. These By-Laws may be changed or amended from time to time. Changes or amendments can be proposed by any member in good standing. All such changes or amendments shall be reduced to writing and be delivered to the President or Secretary of the club for inspection, reading, and discussion at a regularly scheduled club meeting held at least one month prior to the regularly scheduled club meeting at which the vote on the By-Law change or amendment shall be taken. Notice of the proposed change in the By-Law shall be announced in the monthly newsletter preceding the meeting at which the vote on the By-Law shall change or amendment shall be taken. The vote shall not be taken unless the mailing of the monthly newsletter precedes the meeting scheduled for the vote by at least seven (7) days. It shall take the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in good standing personally present and voting to amend or change a By-Law. No absentee ballots shall be allowed.

Dated this _____day of _____, 202_.

_____
President

_____
Secretary

2027 Membership dues - $15.00

Names(s)_____

Address_____

City/Town_____State_____Zip_____

Phone Numbers: Home_____Cell_____Work_____

Email(s)_____

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



Ford Thunderbird (seventh generation)

The **seventh generation of the Ford Thunderbird** is a personal luxury car that was built by Ford from the 1977 to the 1979 model years. In a key marketing shift for the model range, Ford repackaged the Thunderbird from a full-size car to an intermediate car and ceded its full-size luxury coupe status to the Ford LTD Landau coupe. Rather than being the traditional Ford counterpart of the Continental Mark V, the Thunderbird would share the chassis with the Mercury Cougar and the Ford LTD II before the Ford Fox platform version was introduced for 1980.

The squarer, sharper styling was popular, as this generation became the bestselling in the history of the Ford Thunderbird. Helped by a US$2,700 drop in price from 1976, over 318,000 were sold in 1977 and 352,000 in 1978 (the best single sales year in Thunderbird history), followed by 295,000 in 1979. The styling of its unique wrap over roofline would carry over in smaller versions of Ford automobiles such as the 1978–1983 Ford Fairmont Futura and the Mercury Zephyr Z-7 coupes which were originally designed as Fairmont-based downsized Thunderbird proposals.

Development and production history



Thunderbird 1977



Thunderbird 1978

Since Lincoln reintroduced the Continental Mark series in 1969, it had shared common engineering and underpinnings with Thunderbird. During the 1970s, this led to the latter car becoming heavy and expensive in comparison to competition from Chrysler and General Motors. For the 1977 model year, as both cars were redesigned, the Thunderbird was split from the Continental Mark V. As the Ford LTD II replaced the Torino, the Thunderbird replaced the Elite. Alongside the Mercury Cougar XR7, the Thunderbird became more competitive in the bestselling reasonably priced intermediate personal luxury car market against the Chrysler Cordoba/300, Dodge Charger/Magnum XE and the General Motors A-body quartet of the Buick Regal, Chevrolet Monte Carlo, Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme and Pontiac Grand Prix.

1979 Ford Thunderbird1979 Ford Thunderbird

Although not as deliberate a downsizing as what was to come to future Ford cars, the 1977 Thunderbird was shorter than its predecessor, shedding nearly 10 inches (254 mm) of length and 900 lb. (408 kg) of weight; height and width remained essentially unchanged. The 1977 Thunderbird was created on the existing intermediate car platform by recycling a select mix of body, interior and

trim parts from the previous year's Ford Elite, Mercury Montego and Mercury Cougar combined with all new styling from the doors back to create a dramatic new Thunderbird look. The Thunderbird was distinguished from the LTD II and Cougar 2-door models by its unique wrap-over "basket handle" roofline with opera windows and large rear side quarter windows separated from the rear window by thin C-pillars. Headlamps hidden with retractable covers and full-width dropped center taillamps made a comeback from the late 1960s. As such being based on the intermediate Ford platform, a wider range of powertrains were now available. The base engine was 302 cu in (4.9 L) Windsor V8 (130 hp), while the larger 351 cu in (5.8 L) 351M (149 hp) and 400 cu in (6.6 L) 335 (173 hp) along with T-tops were available as options along with the 351W. In California, the 302 was not available. Although the smaller engines had lower output than the previous generation's 460 V8, the lighter weight did compensate towards overall performance; the 400 was dropped in 1979 with the introduction of CAFE requirements.

1978 Diamond Jubilee Edition

In 1978, Ford offered the "Diamond Jubilee Edition" Thunderbird to commemorate the company's 75th year as an auto manufacturer. This option package escalated the price of the car to almost US$12,000 ($59,235 in 2025 dollars), virtually doubling the base price; it included every option except a moonroof and an engine block heater. It was originally available in only two colors—Diamond Jubilee exclusive "diamond blue" metallic, or "standard issue" ember metallic—both with matching velour cloth seats with a "biscuit" design. Later in production, Ford offered leather as an option and offered white as an exterior color with blue or white trim and interior. This option was available on the Continental Mark V as well for the much more substantial cost of US$23,000 ($113,533 in 2025 dollars).

In 1979, a similar option package was available named "Heritage". It included basically the same optional equipment, still with only two-color options available: maroon or light medium blue. The Heritage option remained available for the next two generations of the car. All Thunderbirds received a new grille pattern and revised taillamps for the last model year of this generation.

Production totals

Year	Production
1977	318,140
1978	352,751
1979	284,141
Total	**955,032**

2026 Calendar of Events

November 21 – **Friendsgiving Dinner – Sean O'Casey's Pub - Save the Date – Details will be in the October Newsletter**
December 17 – **6:00 pm – Business Meeting Track Side Bar & Grill – 13901 Guildford 7, Waverly, NE**

Friendsgiving Dinner – Sean O'Casey's Pub

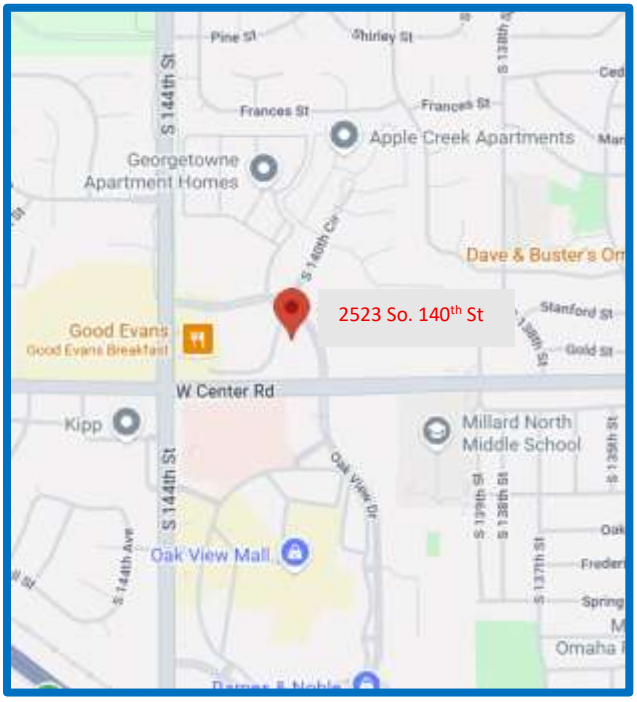
November 21, 2026

6:00 PM - Meet and greet – 6:30 PM - Dinner

Sean O'Casey's is an Irish Pub with a suitable party room. There is a bar, very handy to the party room for those who would like to wet their whistle. The President will conduct a short business meeting and a slide show depicting the Club's events from the past will be shown. This year we will be ordering from the menu and paying by individual check. The Club is furnishing the Starters. The Pub's menu is varied and the prices are reasonable. The menu is shown below. I have eaten there several times and found their Saturday Special as the best deal. The manager wrote the special in so we could take advantage of it. He also didn't expect any price change before our dinner. **Don't forget we will be collecting gift card for the Lincoln Children's Home at the dinner.**



We are asking for a head count, so please RSVP to Jack at 402-578-3743 **or jesanford@cox.net.** The cut-off date is **November 19, 2026.**



Sean O'Casey's PUB

402-593-1746

2523 So. 140th Ave
Omaha, Ne. 68144

Soups & Salads

Soup of the day- ask server- cup $3.99 bowl $4.99

Side salad- with crisp lettuce,cucumbers, onion and croutons-choice of dressing- $4.99

Chef Salad- mixed greens, cheddar cheese, turkey, ham, eggs & croutons- choice of dressing $10.99

Garden Salmon Salad- mixed greens, & tomato wedges, topped with a grilled salmon fillet- choice of dressing $14.99

Grilled Chicken Cobb Salad- grilled chicken breast, bacon bits, tomatoes, boiled egg & cheddar cheese on crisp lettuce, choice of dressing $10.99

Dressings- ranch, blue cheese, thousand island, creamy raspberry vinaigrette, french, creamy cucumber, Italian, Oil & Vinegar, or Balsalmic Vinaigrette (blue cheese add .75)

SATURDAY SPECIAL
WHISKEY STEAK
PARMESAN POTATOES
AND SIDE SALAD.
$14.99.

Specialties

Bangers and Mash with Onion Gravy- "Bangers" is the term often used for sausage in Ireland and "Mash" refers to the potatoes being mashed instead of being prepared another way. Served with traditional onion gravy. Side of sauteed vegetables. $12.99

Meatloaf- Homemade meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and a side of sauteed vegetables. $12.99

Fish & Chips-beer-battered fish fillets, deep fried, served with fries and tartar sauce $12.99

Grilled Salmon Fillet- grilled salmon fillet topped with a lemon-dill sauce. Served with rice and sauteed vegetables. $15.99

Creamy Garlic Chicken Breast-grilled chicken breast with a creamy garlic sauce. Served with rice & sauteed vegetables $12.99

New York Strip Steak *- with roasted new potatoes, and sauteed fresh vegetables $17.99

Chicken Tender Platter-breaded chicken breast tenders, deep fried & served with french fries. $12.99

**Consuming raw or undercooked meat, poultry, seafood or eggs may increase your risk of food borne illness.*

Starters

Chicken Tenders- breaded chicken breast filet, deep fried, with bbq or ranch dressing $9.99

Onion Rings- thick coated battered rings $9.99

Cheddar Potato Skins-bacon & cheddar cheese filled skins topped with green onions & sour cream $9.99

Blue Cheese Potato Skins- with blue cheese, green onions and a hint of cayenne, diced tomatoes & sour cream $9.99

Chicken Wings- deep fried wings, tossed in your choice of a mild, hot or barbeque sauce, served with a ranch dipping sauce $10.99 (blue cheese- add 75 cents)

Three Cheese Artichoke & Spinach Dip- served with toasted french bread squares $9.99

Sandwiches

(All sandwiches served with your choice of cottage cheese, french fries, salad or soup- add $.75 for sweet potato fries or onion rings)

O'Casey's Club- ham, turkey, bacon, Monterey jack & cheddar cheese with mayonnaise, lettuce & tomato (hot or cold) $12.99

½ Pound Burger*-full half pound beef patty, on a kaiser bun. Lettuce, tomato, grilled onions & pickle by request. $12.99 (pick your cheese American, Swiss, blue , cheddar or jack .75)

French Dip- tender roast beef and jack cheese on a hoagie bun, served aus jus $12.99

Corned Beef Philly Sandwich- tender corned beef with mushrooms, peppers, sauteed onions and melted Swiss cheese on a toasted hoagie bun $12.99

Irish Club Sandwich- Roast beef, corned beef, Swiss & cheddar cheese on sour dough bread with horseradish sauce, lettuce and tomato. $12.99

Reuben Sandwich- corned beef, sauerkraut, Swiss cheese and thousand island dressing served double decker style on marbled rye $11.99

Chicken Sandwich-grilled chicken breast, topped with bacon and Monterey jack cheese $12.99

Grilled Steak Sandwich *-NY strip steak with mushrooms and cheddar cheese on garlic toast $15.99

Philly Steak Sandwich- grilled roast beef on a toasted hoagie with sauteed onions, bell peppers, mushrooms and Swiss cheese 12.99

Philly Chicken Sandwich-grilled diced chicken breast on a toasted hoagie with sauteed onions, grilled bell peppers, mushrooms and Swiss cheese $12.99

Pork Tenderloin- giant breaded tenderloin, served on a kaiser bun $12.99

Paddy Melt Sandwich - full half pound beef patty,, sauteed onions and cheddar cheese on toasted rye $12.99

Classic BLT-bacon, lettuce & tomato, mayonnaise on toasted sourdough bread $12.99

Fish Sandwich- our battered fish fillet with lettuce on grilled hoagie bun. $12.99

Grilled Cheese- served double decker style with American, Swiss and Jack cheese. $9.99

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October 4th Joint Meeting at the Steffens'

This farm is just east of Wiota, IA. It was a beautiful day for **Renea's** delicious lunch. **Bob** drove his yellow retro 'Bird, and I drove my gray '56; all the rest of the T-Birds belong to **Scott** and **Renea**. The grounds around the house and garages were well groomed, and **Scott** told me he farms the surrounding land. The building we had lunch in was part of a 150-foot Quonset. He had partitioned 40 feet off for a shop, with a lift, which you can see in some of the pictures. I especially liked all the yard art made from retired farm machinery. **Scott** did say he had more T-Birds in other garages on the property. He also had a cemented area in a gully where he kept part cars. Everyone had a good time enjoying the day. Attending from the Hawkeye Club: **Bob & Diane Young*, Jim & Kathy Ferris, Burt & Sue VanderSchel, Gary & Marsha Hash*. From the Nebraskaland Club: Marty & Mary Lou Bierman*, Larry & Gail Dawes, Jack Sanford*. Hosts Scott and Renea Steffens*.**

* Member of both clubs.















This year, Thanksgiving Day falls on **Thursday, November 26, 2026**, in the United States. In 1863, amid the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln called the nation to observe Thanksgiving with gratitude, repentance, and prayer for those who were suffering.

The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationship. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and man. Upon their arrival at New Plymouth, the Pilgrims composed the Mayflower Compact, which honored God. Thanksgiving begins with acknowledging God as faithful, earnestly giving Him thanks, in advance, for His abundant blessings.

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President	Martin Bierman	– 402-289-4516
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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, Treasurer, 7225 S. 103rd Street, LaVista, NE 68128.

Member Birthdays

November

Dick Heinke – 10

Nancy Schlessinger - 26

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