

Thunder Words



September 26, 2021 – Nebraskaland T-Bird Club at the Larsen Tractor Museum

October 2021 ~ Volume 44, #10
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International



www.Nebraskalandtbirds.org
<https://www.facebook.com/nebraskatbirds/>

Sponsored by Lee Sapp Ford



Prez Says: We had a good group for the tractor museum tour and presentation including three ladies, **Dianne Sterns**, **Mary Lou Bierman** and **Barb La Duke**. Quite a bit of history of which the State of Nebraska can be proud. See **Quent's** minutes for items covered at the Pizza Ranch meeting which followed the tour. The October Foliage Tour should be on everyone's list. **Jack** and **Kayla** always plan a fun and scenic event. Remember you need not drive your bird to participate. Nominations for next year's officers will be received at the October meeting. Open offices at this writing include president and vice president. **Quent** has agreed to serve another year as secretary, if elected, and **Jack** has agreed to serve as next year's newsletter editor. Please send **Jack** an email before the next meeting if you are interested in holding an office or come to the meeting to express interest. We will elect new officers at the November annual dinner meeting and the new officers will assume their duties in January. Enjoy your birds a while longer before old man winter puts them in hibernation.

Rob



LESTER LARSEN TRACTOR TEST & POWER MUSEUM

East Campus University of Nebraska – Lincoln, NE



Minutes

Minutes of the September 26th Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:14 PM at the Pizza Ranch Restaurant in Lincoln, NE by **President Rob Kinsey** with 7 members in attendance. Earlier, 11 members participated in a tour of the Larsen Tractor Museum, at the University of Nebraska's East Campus.

Minutes from the August meeting were recognized and a motion and second to approve, passed.

Treasurer's report: none

Old Business:

Jack was out on the road finalizing next month's, Oct. 24, activity, which will be a Fall Foliage Tour with a small treasure hunt. Complete information will be in the newsletter. **Jack** said there may be a trophy/prize. Treasures, I am sure! The drive will end in Waverly at the Trackside café.

Work is still in progress for our Christmas festivities at the Firethorne GC. Watch for more info.

New Business:

Nominations are due for club officers in October. If you are one that would seek a position in the officiating of the Club, please let **Jack** know. Officers will be installed in December.

New members were welcomed: **James** and **April Clark** who are proud owners of a '62 Bird. If you are a CTCI member, make sure you vote for directors. All information was in your last Early Bird issue.

The Eastern Nebraska Western Iowa Car Council (ENWICC) will be having their swap meet on March 6, 2022, at the Lincoln County Event Center.

Brag: Phil Brown: Attended the 50-year reunion of a car club he formed in Indiana. The Club has now increased to the point it owns property with garages, which are used by the members.

Rob Kinsey: This 820 John Deere Tractor was donated to his undergraduate fraternity by a John



Deere collector and Rob was asked to spearhead a raffle to raise funds. \$50,000 was raised and the gentleman who won the raffle donated the 820 to the tractor museum. Rob drove the 820 all over the place and had a great time as a city kid playing farmer.

CHECK YOUR *NEWSLETTER* FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS.

President Rob Kinsey adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, **Quentin Moeller, Secretary**





Rob, Quentin, Jay, Lauren, Dianne, Phil, Tom



Lauren's '57 Rob's '57 Quentin's '57 Jack's '56



MEMBER PROFILE

My Goldenrod Yellow 1955 T-Bird Story

Martin & Mary Lou Bierman

The story of my Goldenrod Yellow 1955 Thunderbird begins in early 1999 at a local swap meet. I bought a pristine T85 3 speed transmission with overdrive for a very reasonable price. I always wanted a manual overdrive car and now I needed to find a car for this transmission. I also wanted to build a performance T-Bird with components that one would use in the 1950's. I bought a recently repainted Goldenrod '55 in Oregon and had it shipped in May 1999. Over the next three years I acquired a heavy-duty truck Y-Block and had it rebuilt with a .030 overbore, heavy-duty rods, balanced internals, ported '57 large valve heads and a street performance camshaft. A 3x2 barrel manifold with 3-1956 carbs, high lift valve train, and aluminum flywheel were added. Headers and a 2-inch exhaust completed the rebuild. A complete front end rebuild and heavy-duty sway bar, a 4.27 rear end from a station wagon and traction bars finished the project.



A repaint of the hood and engine compartment, new interior and modified dashboard with updated gauges, new black convertible top, re-chromed bumpers, and wide white wall radial tires improved the appearance.



After the engine and all its speed components were installed, it was time to start it up, break in the camshaft and do some driving. The engine ran beautifully, and I did a few hard runs from a standing stop with my wife Mary Lou in the car. After about the fourth run the car died and would not start. Of course, panic set in and I thought the worst of it. Mary Lou leaned in and said "dear, you have a lot of nice gauges in the dash, but the fuel gauge says you are out of gas." She was kind enough to stay with the car while I brought a can of gas from the shop.

In May of 2002 the car was ready, and I planned to trailer it to Dallas for the Dallas T-Bird club's sponsored yearly T-bird drag

race. Several weeks before the event Mary Lou and I were at a sonic drive-in and the wind blew a large rack of food trays onto the front of the car denting the hood, breaking the windshield, and denting the windshield stainless. I managed to replace the windshield before the race and fixed everything else later. The car did well at the 1/8-mile dragstrip track, and we had a great time. With the 4.27 rear gears it had great times off the line and easily handled an E-Bird with dual quads; it also raced neck and neck with an F-Bird but was beat by a fender length. Wheel spin was a problem on launch and when I took it back to Dallas in 2003, I had put a posi-traction in the rear end and used a set of small slicks. The car did better with these changes. The black car I'm racing against is a '57 F-Bird but without the supercharger. Note my slicks and the number on the windshield in white shoe polish. Hubcaps and skirts were removed for the races. I won this race and all others in 2003. Over the years it has been a joy to drive especially on the highway since its throttle response is great. With the overdrive it can easily be driven at 60 mph at 2300 rpm. Gas mileage is good since it runs on the center 2-barrel carb unless the accelerator is pushed more than a third way down. However, this car is not for the faint of heart.



CTCI NEWS

Highlights of CTCI Video Board Meeting

September 10, 2021

- The Board received an update from Gaylan Abood, Chairman of the Investment Committee. Board approved the motion to close the Ford Interest Advantage Account. The account balance is \$212K and earning a very low .065% per year. The Board voted to move \$132K over to our Investment firm and withhold \$75K for future CTCI projects that will be for the benefit of the membership. Also, the Board approved the recommended change to increase the previously approved range for equities investment and lower the amount of fixed securities.
- President and Region 5 Director Brian Carron informed the Board that the Website Maintenance Provider Request For Proposal (RFP) had been sent out to the membership with responses by interested parties due on September 22nd.
- Vice President Ed Benson outlined the Strategic Plan as it relates to the Membership Committee. He also led the group in a brainstorming session to improve relations with chapters and members.
- Region 1 Director Darcy Knapp gave an update on the “2021 Test Drive” member offer. This is a continuation of the successful TEST DRIVE program utilized last year.
- President and Region 5 Director Brian Carron presented the plan for the 2022 International Convention that has been approved by the Convention Committee and the Exec/Finance Committee. The Board approved the plan to hold the convention in San Antonio, Texas in the Sep/Oct 2022 timeframe. Specific dates will be sent out as soon as possible when we have a better handle on hotel availability. The Board also approved funding for an Event Planner to assist with convention planning actions. Be watching for further updates/details to be sent in e-Blasts and in the Early Bird. Host Clubs will be the Austin Thunderbird Owners and the Vintage Thunderbirds of Houston Clubs along with support provided by CTCI Region 5 members and the CTCI Board/Office.
- The Election Process continues on schedule the next item is the Blast of the candidate Bio’s and the release “On-line Electronic” ballots to all of the members on 9/16/2021.
- Several cost savings ideas were approved, for immediate implementation. The Board also approved the purchase and set-up of the CTCI File Portal to help store and maintain digitized versions of historical pictures, stories, etc.



Next Board Meeting is set for October 8, 2021

On Behalf of the Board - Brian Carron, CTCI President

Dear CTCI Member,

The Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) is soliciting bids for a Website Maintenance Provider (WMP) to conduct active management of our Website. Our Website was built using WordPress in a template structure.

The purpose of the attached Request For Proposal (RFP) is to gather information from WMP's so that we can select one that we believe will be the best choice to accomplish the objectives of the CTCI. The RFP covers design, development and maintenance tasks.

If you/your organization/firm is interested in being considered as our WMP for our Website (www.ctci.org) please respond to this RFP by submitting the requested information in the format outlined below.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Classic Thunderbird Club International, (CTCI) is seeking a Website Maintenance Provider (WMP) to conduct active management of our Website. The Website was built using WordPress. If you/your firm is interested in being considered as our WMP for our Website (www.ctci.org) designer/developer/maintainer, please respond to this RFP by submitting the requested information in the format outlined below.

1. General Information:

Name of Your Organization's/Firm's Contact Person

Address/Telephone and Fax Number

Email Address

You/your organization's/Firm's Website address

2. Ownership Structure of Organization:

Provide brief history of your organization/firm

Describe the ownership structure of your organization/firm

Are you incorporated? (Date and State where incorporated)

Are you 100% U.S. owned?

Are you insured/bonded? (E&O, etc.)



3. Describe your Organization/Firm Staffing:

The number of staff in your organization/firm?

Are all staff U.S. Citizens?

Provide an organization chart for your organization/firm

Provide biographical information for each of your key staff

4. Explain approach to performing the following duties:

Provide weekly back-ups

- Discuss where Back-ups will be stored-internal/external?
- Discuss If Back-ups utilize a “outside third party” – who/where is it?
- And is it U.S.-owned?

Conducting monthly site maintenance

Scanning for virus-worms-malware (correct, if needed)

Monitoring for brute force attacks and adjust fire wall as needed

Designing/Conducting updates to site as required/needed

5. A minimum number of Website Updates are envisioned; see below. Are there others that should be proposed/conducted?

- Every other Month Post Front and Back Cover (JPEG)
- Every other Month Convert text - Table of Contents (txt)
- Once per year replace approximately 5 photos on Board and Staff
- Once per year replace approximately 8 physical and e-mail addresses
- 20 times a year replace linked documents
- 15 times a year update linked chapter web pages
- 24 times a year update-modify - correct text in html templated pages
- 10 times a year correct - fix broken links
- 52 times a year (weekly), update roster – login
- 52 times a year (weekly), update store customer list

6. Price/Cost Schedule:

- Propose to conduct the above duties for a base term of 1 year with two option years
- Propose any escalators envisioned in Year 2 and Year 3
- Estimated Extra costs for Back-ups storage & access (if applicable)
- Estimated Extra costs for virus/malware software/scans (if applicable)
- Estimated number of hours to perform above duties/month
- Total of “all-inclusive” cost per month
- If you propose additional website updates to be performed, please identify/price them separately as options



7. References:

Please provide a list of references/clients you/your firm is actively supporting

8. Submission:

Your submission is requested no later than September 22, 2021 in electronic form, preferably a PDF file.

Submission shall be no more than three (3) pages double space in Arial 12 pitch

Basis for contract award

- This will be a best value contract award. We will select the best overall offer based on all technical/non-technical information provided and cost/price.
- A contract may be awarded to a bidder who is deemed responsible in accordance with the RFP and whose proposal conforms to the requirements and is judged to represent the best value to CTCI.
- We will compare differences in technical features/capabilities with differences in cost/price. In making this comparison we value superior technical approach greater than lowest cost/price. This may result in an award to a higher rated higher priced offeror and where we reasonably determine that the technical and or overall business approach of the higher price offeror outweighs the price difference.
- We will strive for maximum objectivity in our selection process but by its nature, is subjective and therefore, professional judgement is implicit throughout the entire process.
- While we value all evaluation factors other than cost/price when combined are significantly more important than cost/price. However, cost/price will still contribute substantially to the best value award decision. We will not make an award at a significantly higher overall cost/price to us to achieve only slightly superior technical features.

9. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact the CTCI Office at ctcioffice@ctci.org with your written questions only, please.

Thank You, Brian Carron, President



Tractor Museum Manager, Lance Todd, explaining Henry Ford's involvement with tractors.



Calendar of Events for 2021

Sign Up Sheet

Foliage Rally Run for Fun – 3:00 PM - October 24, 2021

Meet at I-80 Exit 420 Chester's

The 50-mile rally will end at the Track Side Café in Waverly, NE.

There will be photo and shopping opportunities as you and your partner try to find the selected items along the way. Clip boards, pencils, score sheets and maps will be provided. Hopefully, the leaves will have enough color to produce great photos.

October 3rd – ENWICC Annual Foliage Tour – Waubonsie State Park, IA – 12 PM

October 3rd – Speedway Museum Free Drive In Movie – Quasar – Valley, NE - 5 PM

October ___24th - Foliage Tour/Rally Run for Fun –3:00 PM - Start at I-80 exit 420 Chester's – end at Waverly's Track Side Café - Jack & Kayla

November ___20th Friendsgiving – Jan & Bob Sibal - Jeff Hoffman & Jim Lantz

December _____Open_____

Continuous Weekly and Monthly Summer Events.

Tuesday's – Lincoln, NE - Culver's, 14th Street and Old Cheney Road. May through October.

Fourth Wednesday of the month – Lincoln, NE – Cruis'n Classics Night at Don & Millie's, 5200S. 56th Street, 4-8 PM; January through November. Mention you're here for the Cruis'n Classics when ordering.

Wednesdays – Omaha, NE – Cruisers Bar and Grill Classic Car Show and Shine. 8634 F St., 5 PM; April 21 through October 27.

First Friday of the Month – Percival, IA, Cruise Night at Sapp Brothers Truck Stop, 6 PM.

Fridays – Lincoln, NE, Culver's, North 27th Street, May through October.

Fourth Fridays – Brownville, NE, Main Street, 5: PM; April through October.

Saturdays – Omaha, NE, Coffee Cruise Omaha, Hy-Vee parking lot, 156th Street and Maple Road, Omaha – 7:30am – 9:30am.



Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

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Nebraskaland Club Logos. 2X3½ inch patch can be sewn or glued on with fabric glue. Looks great on shirts, caps, and jackets. Contact Jack at 402-392-1350 jesanford@cox.net

The Member Profile

feature needs your help. Send your story to Jack at jesanford@cox.net.

- **Note from member Dick Heinke**

As you are aware, parts for our T-Bird transmissions are not readily available. Last week it became readily apparent that the transmission in my ride was failing. I found a total 3 speed overdrive transmission on our friend, **Thomas Woodman's**, overstuffed storage rack, purchased it, disassembled it and married/merged the best of both into one very serviceable transmission. It is now back to being my semi-daily ride thanks to my well-equipped neighbor's shop at **HIS automotive at 70th and Van Dorn** and savvy T-Bird mechanic, **Martin Asch*** who is becoming a T-Bird expert. I can strongly recommend him and his shop for casting out demons with our choice of rides. In case any of the club are looking for parts, I have accumulated some serviceable parts such as gears, bearings and an overdrive unit without governor and speedometer adaptor.

My old 3 speed body is scrap due to a brass beating insert disintegrating inside of the counterbore resulting in the gear shaft rattling around like a Berber in a boxcar...hmmm! I also have several other parts left over from the original car restoration, for members to negotiate if desired and needed.

Advise if any member has a need!

Kind Regards,

Dick Heinke

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