

Thunder Words



September 2026, Volume 49 #9
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club



Prez Says: At our August meeting we tackled some club administrative subjects. We discussed raising the dues at the July meeting and continued that discussion at the August meeting. A motion to continue the dues at \$15 for 2027 passed. We unanimously voted to reimburse the Newsletter Editor's expenses. Finally, we began the process of reviewing our club Bylaws last written in 1982. I want to thank all the members that took part in these discussions and those that will help amend the Bylaws.

Cooler weather is coming so please take advantage of our club's September and October events. The details are listed in this newsletter. If you can't drive your T-Bird come with your regular car.

Nominations for club officer positions will be held at the October meeting so please consider running for one of the positions. None of the positions take an excessive amount of time and any one of our members is capable of serving. This is your club and it is run on the work of volunteers. If at some point no one is willing to serve in these positions the club will cease to exist. Don't let that happen!

Martin Bierman, President

Mike's Open House
9701 No. 204th Street
Elkhorn, NE
September 5, 2026
Noon – 5 PM
BYOB

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
September 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, July 2026



Secretary's report: President **Bierman** called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. with 10 members present.

Minutes - The minutes of July's meeting were approved with motion by **Rob Kinsey** and second by **Joel Hutchins**.

Treasurer's Report - none as **Jeff Brown** was absent.

Old Business - Calendar of events- August 9 Fort Omaha show was reviewed by **Jack Sanford**. September 5 - Open House and show and shine 12-5 p.m. at Mike's Classic Cars with barbeque provided. Members are also invited to **Jack Sanford's**

90th Birthday celebration September 5, 3-6 p.m., at Elks Lodge 6410 S. 96th St., Omaha.

October 4- Joint meeting with Hawkeye Classic Thunderbird Club at Steffens's home in Wiota, Ia. Details in the newsletter. November 21- Friendsgiving party. **Jack Sanford** reviewed the appetizers to be provided by the club. Dinner will be off the menu. Motion to approve Newsletter Editor's expenses was unanimously approved with motion by **Rob Kinsey** and second by **Bob McGowan**. Raising the club dues was discussed and a motion to continue the present dues of \$15 for 2027 was made by **John La Duke** with a second by **Rob Kinsey**. The motion passed by a vote of 4/3 with one abstention. **John La Duke** agreed to collect the gift cards at the Friendsgiving Dinner and take them to Cedars Children Home in Lincoln.

New Business - The club bylaws were written in 1982 and are out of date and need to be amended. **Rob Kinsey** and **Jack Sanford** will review the bylaws and make recommendation for amendments.

Brag Box- none

Adjournment- 6:55 p.m. with motion by **John La Duke**.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Bierman.



Marty, Mary Lou, Jack

Tom, John, Bob, Larry, Joel



TECH TALK

By Martin Bierman

Ceramic Detail Spray



I tried this product recently and was impressed. Easy to use and left a slick gloss shine.

Jay Leno's Garage Ceramic Speed Detailer Spray Quick Car Detailer for Cars Trucks Motorcycles and Watercraft. Enhances Gloss Slickness. Hydrophobic Protection. Boosts Ceramic Coatings

(16 OZ) \$12.97 on Amazon.

- **INSTANT GLOSS AND SLICKNESS** Advanced ceramic technology instantly enhances paint depth and gloss leaving vehicles looking freshly detailed with a slick professional finish
- **HYDROPHOBIC WATER AND DIRT REPELLENT** Creates a protective barrier that repels water dust and dirt keeping paint cleaner longer and reducing the need for frequent washes
- **BOOSTS EXISTING CERAMIC COATINGS** Extends the life and performance of existing ceramic coatings and paint sealants maintaining durability and gloss overtime
- **LONG LASTING PROTECTION** Provides up to 90 days of protection for all paint types making it ideal for maintaining freshly detailed vehicles and protecting daily drivers
- **VERSATILE AND EASY TO USE** Perfect for cars trucks motorcycles and watercraft; ideal for quick touch ups or full detailing sessions providing professional results in minutes



The fifth-generation Thunderbird

The fifth generation Ford Thunderbird is a large personal luxury car series, produced by Ford for the 1967–1971 model years.

This fifth generation saw the second major change of direction for the Thunderbird. The Thunderbird had fundamentally remained the same in concept through 1966, although the design had been revised twice. The debut of the Ford Mustang in early 1964, and subsequent introduction of the larger, more upmarket Mercury Cougar to compete with the similarly larger Dodge Charger, began to erode the Thunderbird sales. This drove Ford engineers to increase the vehicle's size yet again, with Ford even introducing four-door Thunderbird Landaus.

History



1969 Ford Thunderbird interior

For 1967 the Thunderbird would be a larger car, moving it closer to Lincoln as the company chose to emphasize the "luxury" part of the "personal luxury car" designation. Ford decided to abandon the Thunderbird's typical unibody construction for this larger car, turning to a body-on-frame method with sophisticated rubber mountings between the two to improve noise/vibration characteristics and reduce weight by a small margin. An overhead console (first appearing on the previous year's Town Landau) containing illuminated indicators for emergency flasher use, low-fuel warning, door-ajar and seat-belt reminder light returned in a revised format. The listed retail price of the two-door Landau coupe was US\$4,704

(\$45,420 in 2025 dollars). The convertible, increasingly a slow seller, was dropped in favor of a four-door model that was 2.5 in (6.3 cm) stretched, featuring suicide doors, a signature feature of the Lincoln Continental four-door sedans of that era. It remained in the lineup through 1971 but never generated substantial sales.



The 4-door Thunderbirds featured quite narrow rear 'suicide' doors. 1969



Thunderbird coupe rear seat

The 1967 design was radically different from previous Thunderbirds. Ford's stylists delivered a radical shape that in many ways anticipated the styling trends for the next five years. A gaping wide "fishmouth" front grille that incorporated hidden headlights was the most obvious new feature. The look was enhanced by the flush-fitting front bumper incorporating the bottom "lip" of the "mouth".

The sides were the barrel-like style that was very popular during this period. The belt line kicked up "coke-bottle" style after the rear windows, again a styling trait that would prove ubiquitous. Large C-pillars (and a small "formal" rear window on the 4-door) meant poor rear visibility but this was in line with the fashion of the time. The taillights spanned the full width of the car, and featured, as in previous Thunderbird models, sequential turn signals.

In contrast to the radically different exterior, the new interior carried over nearly all of the themes established by the previous generation: most notably a dash panel with separately housed instruments, along with a downward sweeping/integrated center console and a wraparound rear seat/"lounge".



429 Ford Thunder Jet

The 1968 Thunderbird saw the introduction of the new 385 series big-block "Thunder Jet" 4V (4-barrel carburetor) 429 cu in (7.0 L) V8 engines. Like many Ford engines of the time, they were conservatively rated at 360 hp (268 kW) (SAE gross). The new engine made the cars some of the quickest and fastest Thunderbirds ever produced, despite their larger size and increased curb weight. The 1968 and 1969 model years saw minor trim changes.



For 1969, the Continental Mark III was launched as a two-door only personal luxury coupe that was based directly on the four-door, 117 in (2.97 m) wheelbase Thunderbird chassis, and from that point until the end of 1976, Ford Thunderbirds and Continental Marks were related cars. They would share commonality again later from 1984–1998.

For the 1970 model year, the Thunderbird was stylistically updated with the addition of a large bird's beak-style projection out of its grille. Offered in 2- or 4-door models, all 1970–1971 Thunderbirds had prominent angular lines on the hood leading to a jutting tip, that also formed the center of the grille work, that was not a too thinly disguised bird beak. Semon "Bunkie" Knudsen, a former GM executive now President of Ford, is said to be responsible for this dramatic change. As with the 1967–69 models, the 1970–71 models had sequential turn signals incorporated into the full panel taillights at the rear of

the car. In 1971, Neiman Marcus offered "his and hers" Thunderbirds in its catalog, with telephones, tape recorders and other niceties. They retailed for US\$25,000 for the pair (\$198,747 in 2025 dollars).



•
1967 Ford Thunderbird Landau sedan

•
1968 Door

•
1969



Ford Thunderbird 2-Landau

Ford Thunderbird Landau coupe

•
1969

Ford Thunderbird Landau sedan

1970



1971 Ford Thunderbird Landau coupe



•
Ford Thunderbird hardtop coupe

•



Production totals

Year	Production
1967	77,976
1968	64,391
1969	49,272
1970	50,364
1971	36,055
Total	278,058

2026 Calendar of Events

September 5 – Mike's Open House – Noon – 5 pm – Club's September event – See detail below

September 9-13 – [VTCI Thunderbird International Convention*](#) - Flagstaff, AZ

September 12 – Eagles F.O.E. 104 16th Annual Classic Car Show – 1530 Ave F, Council Bluffs, IA – Registration 12 to 2 p.m. - Awards - 5:30 p.m.

September 17 – Business Meeting – 6:00 p.m. -Track Side Bar and Grill – 13901 Guildford 7, Waverly, NE

September 18 – Fast Cars & Freedom benefit for the Museum of Speed – Victory Lane, Omaha
Special Guest Al Unser, Jr. – Single ticket - \$150.00

October 4 – Joint Event with the Hawkeye Club – Viola, IA – Save the date – Details to follow

November 21 – Friendsgiving Dinner – Sean O'Casey's Pub - Save the Date – Details will be in the October Newsletter



Featuring
Boyd &
Charles
BBQ

JOIN US FOR OUR
2026
Open House
Saturday 09.05.2026

12:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Cruise in with your classic, muscle or exotic and park in front for a show & shine. Don't have a classic car? Bring your daily driver and join us. Extra parking will be available for spectators.

Bring a cooler of your favorite beverages, if desired!

MIKE'S
Classic Cars
Quality Repairs, Restoration & Service
Est. 1978

9701 N. 204th Street, Elkhorn, NE 68022 - Right
across from the army reserve center

We will meet at the Runza located at 3910 No. 203rd Street, Elkhorn, NE at 2:00 PM and depart at 12:15 PM. The Runza is on the east side of 204th just north of Maple Street.

We do need to know if you are going to join us, so we won't leave without you. Please let Jack know by September 4, 2026, whether you will be joining us. Jack can be reached by phone at 402-578-3743 or by email at jesanford@cox.net

As you know, this is the same day as the opening of the University of Nebraska Football season and my surprise birthday party (3-6 pm). A pretty busy day. I plan to tape the football game, attend Mike's open house, and make it to my party by 3:00 pm.

A quote from the President: "If you can't drive your T-Bird come with your regular car."

October's Joint Event is with the Hawkeye Thunderbird Club. October 4, 2026, 1:00 PM at Scott and Renea Steffens' home, 71233 Jackson Road, Wiota, IA,. This is a garage tour as the Steffens have several garages and thunderbirds. Renea and Scott are treating us to lunch. You do not need to bring anything, unless you would like something besides tea and water to drink. **Directions:** From Atlantic, IA, go 6 miles east to Wiota, IA, on highway #83. Continue east on highway #83 one half mile to N-28, turn right and go 3 miles and then go left on G-35 (Jackson). Two and a quarter mile on the right side of the road is 71233 Jackson, the Steffens' home. There are a lot of buildings. On the north side of the road directly across the road is a pond. If you reach highway 148, you have gone too far. Renea would like a head count, so if you are going, let me know, and if there is enough of us going we can caravan to the Steffens. Jack – 402-578-3743 – jesanford@cox.net. [20260830 map to Steffens.png](#) *

*Hover your mouse over the word map above and then control – click and a map will appear. The red dot in the center of the map is Steffens.



Harvest moon*

When is the Harvest Moon?

In 2026, the Full Harvest Moon is on Saturday, September 26, reaching full illumination at 12:49 a.m. It will appear full for 3 days so start looking early if the weather is clear!

Note that the Harvest Moon is not always in the same month. It's the Full Moon that occurs closest to the autumnal equinox. Usually, as with 2026, it's the September Full Moon, but occasionally it's in October, depending on how the lunar cycle aligns with the Gregorian calendar.

In addition, the Harvest Moon is an astronomical event that astronomers have long recognized, and it's not associated with traditional folklore and Native American Moon names that are used to track the lunar months. The Harvest Moon typically occurs in September, replacing the Full Corn Moon. However, it occasionally lands in October, replacing the Full Hunter's Moon.

What is the Harvest Moon?

For several evenings, the Moon rises very soon after the Sun sets, resulting in an abundance of bright moonlight early in the evening. Traditionally, this extra light aided farmers in harvesting their summer-grown crops. On average, there are just a little over 12 complete Moon cycles every year (about 29.53 days in a synodic month). The Harvest Moon isn't like the other Moons.

*Usually, the Moon rises an average of about 50 minutes later each day.

*However, for the few nights around the Harvest Moon, the Moon seems to rise at nearly the same time, just 25 to 30 minutes later across the northern U.S. and only 10 to 20 minutes later farther north in Canada, as well as in Europe.

Additionally, the Harvest Moon rises at sunset and will increase near sunset for several nights because the difference is at a yearly minimum. It may almost seem like there are Full Moons multiple nights in a row.

*Taken from, The Old Farmer's 2026 Almanac

FOR SALE

Former member, Gaylan Abood has his collection of Early Bird Magazines for sale. If you are interested, you can reach Gaylan at 402-677-0514.

Member Birthdays September

Dick Kirshenbaum – 04

Kathy Fullerton – 13

Joel Schlessinger – 14

Jerry Swensen – 16

Gary Hash – 22

Jeff Hoffman – 28

Robert Routh - 30

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

Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club

President	Martin Bierman	- 402-289-4516
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