

# Thunderbird Special

*A Thunderbird Midwest Club publication*

June 2025 issue

**Visit our Website: [thunderbirdmidwest.com](http://thunderbirdmidwest.com)**



June Meeting Info Merchandise	2
President's message Meeting Minutes	3
Club History file July Picnic Reminder	4
Wrap Up of Cruise & TBird Day	5
2025 Club Calendar	6
Want Ads	7
Photos	8
Special Days Wrap Up Dam Days	9
Map to meeting place	10



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**June 14th Meeting Info**

June meeting **Caspers 4625 Nicols Rd, Eagan, 55122**

Social Hr noon-1pm, Meeting 1-pm

Menu choices:

1. 5oz Top Sirloin (served medium)
2. Walleye Fingers
3. Chicken Ceasar Salad with soup
4. Bacon Cheeseburger topped with cheddar, bacon, lettuce, tomato
5. Chicken Sandwich topped with cheddar, lettuce, tomato

Price = \$25.00ea      Price includes soft drink, tax, and gratuity

Your caller will contact you the weekend prior to the meeting. If for whatever reason you don't receive a call before the Thursday before the meeting, contact by email or phone Donn Olson with the number of people attending the meeting and their menu selection.

**Club Merchandise**

Item	* note: 2XL or larger additional cost	Cost w/logo
Lt weight jacket, black only		\$71.20 w/name see note
Heavy weight jacket, black only		\$109.98 w/name see note
Crewneck sweatshirt		\$26.89 w/emblem see note
Hooded full zip sweatshirt		\$38 w/emblem
Denim jacket (mens or ladies)		\$95.06 w/name see note
TShirts (mens or ladies)		\$23.78 w/emblem see note
Polo Shirts Men or ladies		\$23.98 w/emblem see note
Caps		\$21.98 w/emblem

If you have any questions concerning the merchandise, please contact Darlene Roehl: her contact info is just above and to the left on this page. You can also see additional info on these items on our Website, Thunderbirdmidwest.com.

## President's Message

Hello everyone,

Well, we had a great cruise, lunch stop and trip to the National Eagle Center in Wabasha. I am not too sure what the final count was but it was a good group of members that attended. There were a few who chose to meet us at Nelson's Creamery for lunch. While at the Eagle Center members were able to explore the center itself while we waited for our group program to start. Our presenter was very good at giving his presentation and we learned a lot of interesting things about the Eagles, they only weigh about 8 lbs., they are like pre-teens within a few of months, they can only hold between two-ten lbs. in their talon's. We had a live Eagle that our presenter brought out of a cage (he fed it a rat tail). It was kind of interesting to watch the eagle pull off all the fur the spit it away. This was a cruise not to miss. Thanks to all who participated in this cruise/event. There will be a few videos to show at the June meeting.

The board members held a meeting after the last member meeting to find out what positions we would be looking to fill in December. I want to put the feelers out now. We will be looking for a Treasure, Member at Large (merchandise), Newsletter Editor/Web Master, Activities members. If you have any interest in learning more about these positions or any of the board positions, feel free to reach out to me or any of our board members. Voting will take place in December.

As always, Stay Safe, Stay Healthy.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Vangel President

## May 2025 T-Bird Club Meeting Minutes

The Thunderbird Midwest May meeting was held on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Broadway Pizza in Blaine, MN. The meal included a large variety of pizzas, a lettuce salad, and a choice of soft drinks.

The free meal ticket drawing was won by Pat Lieske. Cindy Mattson, Donn Olson, and Kevin Nivison were the card game winners.

Club President Deb Vangel called the meeting to order with 27 members in attendance. Birthdays and anniversaries for the month were recognized.

There was a discussion about the Spring Cruise & Thunderbird Appreciation Days to be held on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Our event committee representative Gloria Lonergan has organized a trip to Wabasha, MN to tour the National Eagle Center. Lunch will be in Nelson, WI at the Creamery. Gloria also gave a report on the Dam Days car show and potluck that she and her husband Jim have been the hosts of for many years at their home in Morristown, MN on Saturday, May 31st. Sign-up sheets for both events were distributed.

Deb shared some Mother's Day cartoons and Mom blooper videos. Then we watched a YouTube video about the 1958-1960 Square Birds.

There was also some discussion regarding the Back to the 50's Weekend at the MN State Fairgrounds that will be held on the weekend of June 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>. The next club meeting will be on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> to allow club members to attend the Back to the 50's event.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hepler, Club Secretary

# Club History File by Randy Mattson

## 30 YEARS AGO...

According to *Thunderbird Midwest News*, June, 1995

- 59 members attended the May meeting at the Venetian Inn.
- Jack & Joyce DeJoy from the World of Wheels were our guest speakers.
- Jack Nessen has the route planned for the caravan to the VTCI Regional in Indianapolis. 15 couples have signed up to go.
- We have 15 Thunderbirds signed up for the Tousley Ford Show, featuring the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thunderbird.
- We also have 15 'Birds signed up for the show in Bandana Square, thanks to Don Langer.
- June's meeting will be at Orrie's Bar & Grill in Bandana Square.

## 20 YEARS AGO...

According to *Thunderbird Midwest News*, June, 2004

- The food was fantastic, as usual, at the May meeting at Gulden's.
- Jim & Gloria Lonergan had a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in the Dam Days Car Show in Morris-town. There will be a pot-luck at their house.
- Since the Mattsons will be out of town during Stockyard Days, we need a replacement for organizing this show in New Brighton.
- Wally Warpeha had a 1 ½ page article on proper tires for our Thunderbirds.
- We'll be cruising to Bootlegger's in Mayer for our June meeting.

## 10 YEARS AGO...

According to *Thunderbird Midwest News*, June, 2014

- We had 38 members at the Timber Lodge Steakhouse in Bloomington for our May meeting. Everyone agreed, "Let's come back!"
- We had 2 caravans attending the VTCI Interntional in Kelowna, BC, Canada.
- Cliff & Pat took the time to report "wrap-up" reports on the Spring Cruise, the International and Dam Days.
- Our back up secretary, Sheryl Widme, filed the minutes this month and she did a fine job.
- There is no meeting this June. See you at one or more of the car shows.

## A Reminder about July's Picnic

Scheduled for Saturday July 19th, It's a potluck event along with KFC box lunch of your choice, The July newsletter will give you all of the details. Part of which you will select from 3 choices that KFC offered. Also Gloria has a list of who's bringing what. If we have weather like we had for Dam Days, everyone will want to be there.

So mark your calendar for July 19th and watch for the article in the next newsletter.

# Spring Cruise/TBird Appreciation Day

## Wrap Up By Cliff Lieske

Saturday May 18th Cool (45degrees but the rest of the day was perfect).

The Thunderbird Midwest Spring Cruise/Thunderbird Appreciation Day event was well attended and the weather started out a little chilly, but it wasn't raining so no complaints there. The plan called for Pat and I to meet and then lead 8 other couples to a meeting place about 30 miles south. No problem, we've did this quite a few times in the past. Our plan was to meet Jim and Gloria, the master planners for this event, and from there they would lead the group which had grown to 14 cars(11 Thunderbirds9 retros, a '61 convertible and a '65 Landau) plus 2 Ford Edges and a Ford Ranger pickup). Well forget that plan. Back track to 10:30 the night before. Gloria called us... "Jim became quite ill, would we lead the group because they had to cancel out?" After I picked myself up from the floor, I said of course we would. The only part of Gloria's plan that we knew about was what stops we would be having and some idea as to who we would contact when we arrived. Okay, we're ready let's go.

The first stop would be in Nelson, Wisconsin for lunch at the Nelson Creamery. All we had to do was to find our way there. We were given written directions by Gloria and we were equipped with 2 phones with GPS. What could go wrong? I was trying to drive, listen to Pat with directions from the GPS, and look at a rough map I had made that morning. I think any one of them would have worked but trying to combine them was not the smart thing to do. We ended up too far south and east which added a few miles to our travel. Thankfully we stopped to figure out what to do when Bob and Theresa Cornish pulled up and offered their leadership since they knew a bit more about that part of Wisconsin. Finally lunch was now saved. Nelson's had our lunch orders ready for us plus their ice cream made a perfect ending.

Fortunately our final destination, the National Eagle Center was only 4 miles away so off we went. The Center is a great place to visit. Lots to see, including 2 eagles that have been rescued are there because they can not fly due to their injuries. Our club had arrangements for a program they offer where we could learn lots more about the eagles. This was well worth the travel. The speaker told us so many facts about the eagles and he was accompanied by a beautiful bird. Really interesting even for us old timers. One funny incident during the talk was when he pointed out that the eagle is capable of shooting their poop 15 to 20 feet. Our members who were seated in the first two rows all moved to the back row. You know, just in case. This program was a beautiful ending to a good day. Everyone soon were on their way to home or elsewhere. So special thanks to Jim and Gloria for the arrangements, Bob and Theresa Cornish for leading us part way, and to all of the members who made this event a fun one.

A few photos on page 8.

## ~~JANUARY~~

No Club Meeting

## ~~FEBRUARY~~

~~17—Club Meeting-Broadway Pizza~~

~~1PM Social hr Noon-1~~

## ~~MARCH~~

~~15...Meeting-VFW~~

## ~~APRIL~~

~~19..Club Meeting-Stockyard Tavern:~~

~~1PM Social hr Noon-1~~

~~456 Concord Exchange S, South St Paul,~~

~~1PM Social hr Noon-1~~

## MAY

10—Club Meeting-Broadway Pizza

1PM, Social Hr Noon-1

18—Spring cruise. Wabasha Eagle

Center+Cruise—TBird Appreciation Day

31—Dam Days-Morristown

## JUNE

14—Club Meeting-Caspers 1PM,

Social Hr Noon-1

20-22—Back-to-the-50's

Fair grounds

## JULY

19—Club Picnic-Park

TBD—All Ford Show Spire Building

2025 Larpenr Ave W Falcon Hts

## AUGUST

16—Club Meeting- Inver Grove Heights-

Pizza Pub 1PM, Social Hr Noon-1

## SEPTEMBER

6\_Jesse James Car Show Northfield

20\_Club Meeting-Stockyard Tavern

1PM Social hr Noon-1

## OCTOBER

5—Fall Cruise

18—Club Meeting-VFW, Richfield

1PM Social hr Noon-1

## NOVEMBER

15-Club Meeting-Broadway Pizza-Blaine

1PM Social hr Noon-1

## DECEMBER

7—Club Christmas Party-Caspers

in Eagan



## Want Ads

### 1976 Thunderbird for sale, Club member

Lipstick package,  
offered one year, only 730 built.  
146,000 miles asking \$ 6,900

**James Hendricks 952-955-1626.**

**Call for more photos and/or information**



### 1973 Thunderbird for sale, by a club member

Exterior color: Dark Gold Metallic Interior color: Tobacco  
Engine: 460 ci Transmission: Automatic Milage: 51,740  
Contact info: Ray Koski Phone: 612-866-1921 or 612-240-0628  
Email address: raymondkoski@hotmail.com Asking \$10,000



### 2003 Retro for sale

Exterior, Desert Sky Blue, Interior black and cream  
Milage: 143,600 3.9 V8 Automatic  
Asking \$10K firm  
Contact info: Allen at 763-226-5473  
Email address: allen.schlipp@gmail.com



## Spring Cruise/TBird Day——— Photos



## Dam Days——Photos





## Member's Special Days

### June Birthdays

1...Randy Mattson	12...Iris Huber
	15...Tina Irvine
5...G.Roger Couture	17...Jean Bauer
5...Mary Hyberg	20...Sharon Quern
8...Merrill Fischbein	22...Rick Wimmer
9...Dee Gartner	24...Cindy Mattson
12...Sue Couture	28...Jody Bjornskad

### June Anniversaries

3...Rick & Pat Wimmer  
4...Tom & Peggy Head  
7...Bob & Tina Irvine  
13...Don & Ivy Hunt  
14...Paul & Janet Fuss  
16...Carl & Pat Hartell  
19...Don & Lynn Swanson  
29...Merrill & Bobbi Fischbein

I failed to list a birthday for May: Bob Thaman May 7th.

## About the photos

A note about the photos from our Spring Cruise/Thunderbird Appreciation Day. All of the photos, and I know there's not many, were taken by Randy Mattson. I failed to take any myself but Randy, being an old newsletter editor, remembered how it was. So thanks Randy.

Photo #1 Tbirds getting ready for a cruise. Photo #2 It's lunch time at the Nelson's Creamery in Nelson, Wisconsin. They were ready for us with our preordered sandwiches. I didn't hear any complaints so I think everyone was satisfied. It looked like ice cream was the topper.

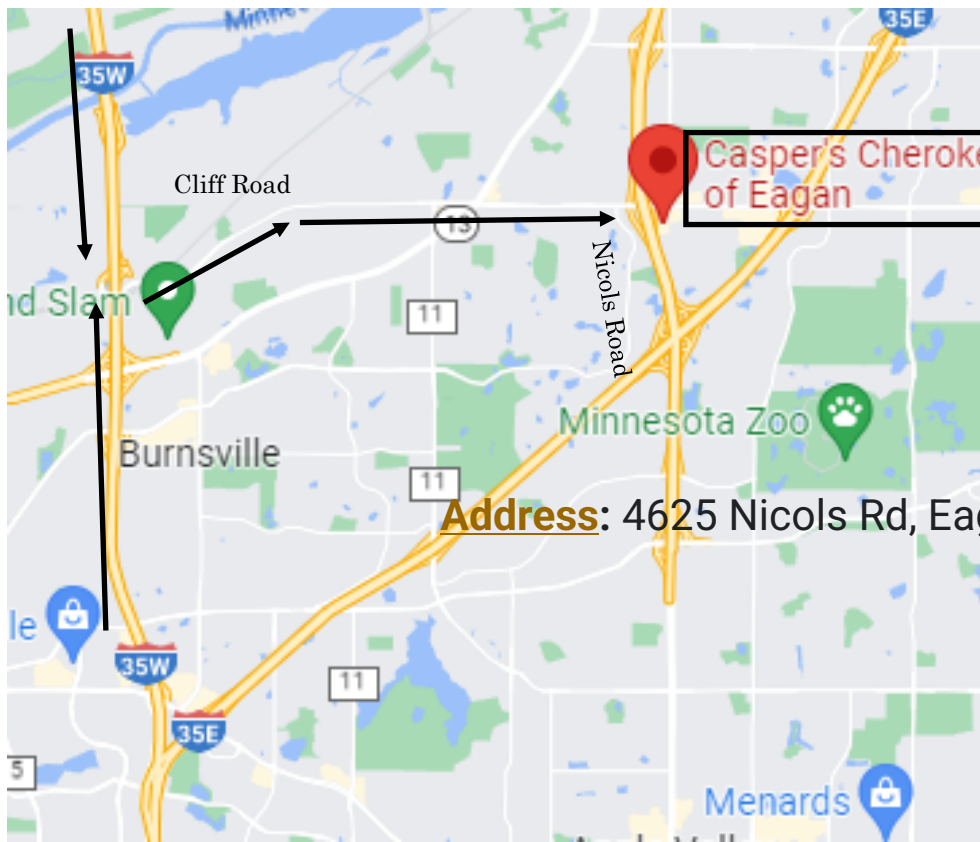
Photo #3 The hit of the day. Our speaker at the Eagle Center was excellent and all of learned a thing or two about this bird. We really enjoyed his presentation very much.

## Dam Day Write Up

Just a perfect day for a car show. The location for the show was changed this year but with the turn out of cars, they will be discussing where it will be next year. Our club could only come up with 5 entries but they were all very nice show cars. Jim & Gloria had two cars, their TBird and their '65 Ford convertible. Brent & Jennifer Hepler came in with their '61 convertible, David & Karen Larson had their '59 convertible, John Norlien brought his super nice '57 Thunderbird, Tom & Cherry Knight drove their near perfect '65 Hardtop, a good showing for the club. Not sure yet about the trophy winners but Thunderbird Midwest looked very good.

Back at Jim and Gloria's home lunch was the next order of business. As usual we had more food than people. Roger and Jan Boelter arrived to join us for lunch. I think everyone found what they wanted, it was a very good selection.

If I'm not mistaken, this was number 14 Dam Days at the Lonergan's home. A simple thank you just isn't enough for what they do for the club. They put a lot of work into this event all these years. It was a good gathering of friends and we talked about past Dam Days. This one I think had the best weather. Thanks again Jim & Gloria.



Casper's Cherokee  
of Eagan

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