

# Thunderbird Special

*A Thunderbird Midwest Club publication*

April 2026 issue

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



March Meeting Info	2
President's message	3
March Meeting Minutes	
Club History file	4
Want Ads	5
2026 International Convention	6
Special Days Upcoming Events	7
VTCI Application	8
Club Calendar	9
Meeting Map	10

It's hard to tell what month this is with this crazy weather pattern. Here it is the first part of April with very little snow....no complaints except "Do I need a jacket or not"?

Between the weather temperature and the price of gas, we can go crazy trying to keep up with both of them.

**Vintage Thunderbird Club International**  
 From 1955 to 2005 All years welcome  
 The VTCI is for you



Contact: Jack Wake  
**secretary4vtci@gmail.com**  
 OR visit  
**www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net**  
 and join VTCI online!



**Deb Vangel—President**

9324 5th Ave S  
 Bloomington, MN 55420  
 904-614-2934  
 Vangel.Deborah@gmail.com

**Donn Olson—V.President**

6245 263rd Street  
 Wyoming, MN 55092  
 651-260-6961  
 olsod55@gmail.com

**Randy Mattson-Treasurer**

4380 245th St.  
 Forest Lake, MN 55025  
 651-464-7581  
 randy.mattson18@gmail.com

**Jennifer Hepler—Secretary**

19152 Ismay Path  
 Lakeville, MN 55044  
 612-723-8447  
 jjhepler@hotmail.com

**Darlene Roehl—****Member-at-Large**

20511 Kalmeadow Court  
 Lakeville, MN 55044  
 952-469-6448  
 t-roehl@charter.net

**Gloria Lonergan—****Activity Director**

203 Sidney St,  
 Morristown, MN 55052  
 507-685-4486  
 glonergan66@yahoo.com

**Cliff Lieske—****Newsletter Editor****Webmaster**

2501 38th Ave NE #163  
 St. Anthony MN 55421  
 612-616-3862  
 cwlieske@comcast.net

**April 18,2026 Meeting Info**

Broadway Pizza at 11822 Aberdeen St NE in Blaine on April 18th.

The meal menu is

**Pizza Bar with Salad. Price is \$23.00 each.**

Social hour from Noon to 1:00pm. Meal starting at 1:00pm

The club meeting follows the meal.

*Just a note:*

*Our current Roster of Members is at 63 paid up as of today.*

*There are two members that have committed to re-up but have not paid as of yet will bring the total to 65.*

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**

Here is the link to the website for ordering T-bird Midwest Merchandise. [Thunderbird Midwest Merchandise | Brady Gifts and Promotional | powered by OrderMyGear,](#)

[Thunderbird Midwest Club](#) offers custom branded apparel and gear like jackets (lightweight, denim, softshell) and caps featuring their logo, sold through their website, likely using OrderMyGear for their online store powered by [Brady Gifts and Promotional](#), providing merchandise for their classic car club members and fans.

If there are any issues with this link, Darlene can probably answer most of not all of them. .

## President's Message

Hello to everyone,

Hope this finds that you all had a wonderful Easter and that you did not eat too much chocolate or eat too many eggs.

I am hoping that we finally start getting some nice weather so that we can get our T-birds out and about. Now is the time that several Car shows start to pop up or cruises. As always, if you see or hear of something that the club might be able to participate in, please let us know.

It looks like May will be a busy month with the Spring Cruise, Monthly Meeting and Dam Days. Oh, and there is also Thunderbird appreciation day on 17 May. Hopefully some of you will drive your cars around on that day so people can enjoy looking at them.

Not much else to mention at this time.

Take care, stay safe, stay healthy.

Deborah Vangel

President

## Thunderbird Midwest Meeting Minutes for March

On Saturday, March 21, 2026, the Thunderbird Midwest March meeting was held at the Richfield VFW with 30 members in attendance. The meal choices were a California burger, a walleye sandwich, a hot turkey sandwich, or a taco salad.

President Deb Vangel called the meeting to order and went over birthdays and anniversaries. The free meal card was won by Gloria Lonergan. The 34/33/33 game was won by Rick Madsen, Pat Hartell, and Deb Vangel.

The spring cruise is set for the St. Paul Gangster tour. Our club event planner Gloria Lonergan has arranged for us to go on the bus tour from 12pm – 2:00pm. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Reservations will be made at the end of March.

Thunderbird Appreciation Day is Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>. Randy Mattson found out about a car collection near Loretto, MN. More details to come regarding this event.

The club's first car show of the season will be at the Morristown Community Center as part of Dam Days on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>. We'll leave at 8:15am from the McDonald's in Lakeville off I-35 S exit 81. Gloria and Jim Lonergan will host a potluck at their home as part of this annual event. The club will furnish hamburgers and brats. A sign-up sheet was distributed.

Our club picnic will be held on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at Aquatore Park in Blaine, MN. Thank you to Cliff and Pat Lieske for securing the reservation.

The fall cruise date is set for Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> in Waseca. There will be a rolling car show at 1:00pm with a line of cars traveling around the lake. Gloria has a room reserved at Club 57 where we will be able to hold the September club meeting. More details to follow.

President Deb reminded everyone to note which events they are signing up for as the head count is important for planning, reservations and fees.

Deb showed some funny cartoons and car videos. Also, some videos of the top ten funniest cars and the 25 dumbest cars from the 1960's. A couple of the cars shown were the Oldsmobile Jetfire and the 1968 Chevrolet Z28.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at Broadway Pizza in Blaine. Social hour begins at 12:00pm. Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Hepler, Club Secretary

# Club History File by Randy Mattson

## 30 YEARS AGO...

According to The Thunderbird Special, March, 1996

- The Park Tavern had an extra 45 people on a Saturday evening in February.
- Also, 45 members plus 5 "friends" worked the World of Wheels. We are wanted back for next year.
- Don & Fern Langer's son was married last month. Congratulations to them.
- The VTCI North Central Regional is in Springfield, Illinois in June. Room rates are \$55.00 at the Travelodge Hotel. Who's going?
- We will again meet at the Park Tavern in Bloomington this month.

## 20 YEARS AGO...

According to The Thunderbird Special, March, 2006

- February's meeting at Gulden's had the lowest attendance in many years.
- Wally Warpeha had an article with details on how to build a scale model of the Thunderbird Italian.
- We have 5 major events scheduled for this year in need of volunteers. Please consider helping out.
- A list of members' email addresses were still presented in the Special along with some interesting Thunderbird related websites.
- The meeting for March will be at the Lookout Supper Club in Maple Grove.

## 10 YEARS AGO...

According to The Thunderbird Special, March, 2016

- 31 members assembled at the Timber Lodge in Bloomington last month.
- Gloria Lonergan reported that meeting locations are getting harder to find. Some restaurants are requiring a guarantee of \$1,000 in sales.
- The Twin Ports Mustang & Ford Club shared an article Dispelling Automotive Myths. Thank you to Judy Aunet, who is a member of both clubs.
- The club is looking at a drive to the Spam Museum for the Spring Cruise.
- The March meeting at Gulden's in Maplewood will have a guest speaker from the Minnesota State Patrol.

## Want Ads

1973 Thunderbird for sale

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

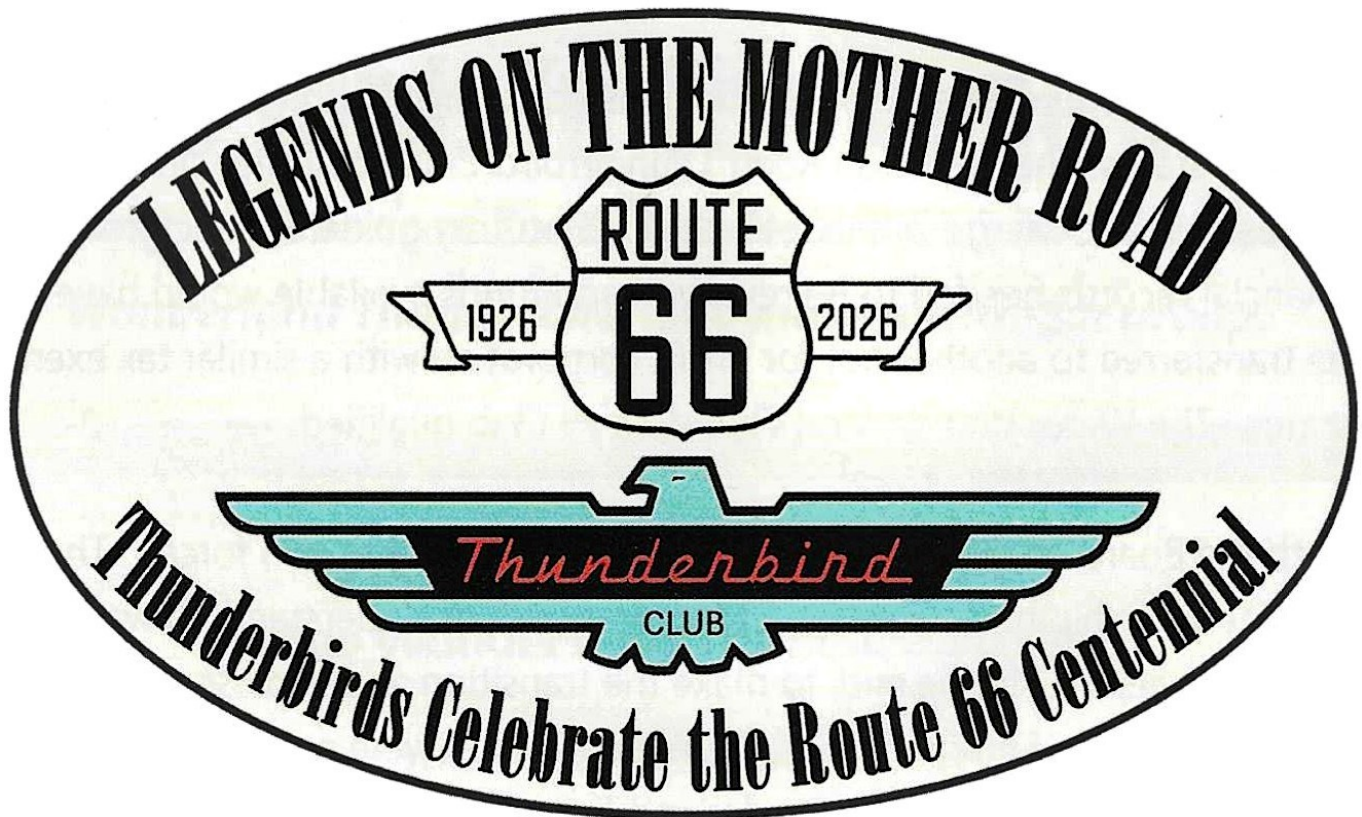


### Thunderbird Parts for Sale

1961-63 Miscellaneous interior and exterior parts. No body panels.  
Rebuilt power booster. Master cylinder and wheel cylinders.  
Radiator for a '61.

Contact info: 763-280-4631 ask for Dick.

Just an reminder, as a member you can use the Want Ads at no cost. And your ad doses not have to be Thunderbird or car related. It's also good to sent some photos of your item. I can scan a photo ifr that's what you have or you can send me your photo by email to me. I will work with you on your ad until it's what you want. All I ask is that you kind of watch after your ad for updates or other photo.



## **2026 VTCI/CTCI Convention Flagstaff, AZ**

In commemoration of the Route 66 Centennial, selecting a location for the 2026 Convention along this historic thoroughfare is notably significant. Hosting the event in Flagstaff, Arizona, a beautiful city located right on the "Mother Road", will provide Thunderbird enthusiasts with an opportunity to experience travel along the "highway that's the best."

Time for a International Convention. This one is located in Flagstaff, Arizona. Again it's a joint convention involving the mini Birds and the Big Birds. Great things planned so it looks like it will be a great show. The March/April Scoop has a fantastic article detailing most of the planned activities. If you don't have the Scoop, become a member of the VTCI and check it out.

I will work on getting the registration form in next newsletter. You can also open up the VTCI website and get what you need.

## Member's Special Days

### April Birthdays

11...John Kroska      18...Diane Blazevic  
!4...Mariyln Davern      18...Donn Olson  
16...Bobbi Fischbein      19...Jim Halvorson  
17...Tom Head

### April Anniversaries

9...Roger & Jan Boelter  
15...Steven & Jane Rollin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SPRING CRUISE** The gangster tour on May 9th has a reduced price. It is \$40.00 instead of the \$50.00 they first quoted me. I have reserved for 22 people. The following have signed up...Lieske, Roehl, Larson, Hepler, Moey, Hartell, Olson, Lonergan, Cobbs for 3, Deb, and Rick and Pam. If you still want to attend please let me know as soon as possible to guarantee a seat. When I talked to them, they said there was another group interested in that date but they haven't confirmed anything yet. We will meet at 11:30-11:45 at the Wabasha cave 215 Wabasha St. S, St Paul. You can call my landline 507-685-4486 or email me [glonergan66@yahoo.com](mailto:glonergan66@yahoo.com). if you would like to add your name to the list and hopefully I can accommodate you. Thank you for all that respond.

**DAM DAYS CAR SHOW..** There will be a change this year for the car show. There will not be an entrance fee nor will there be judging. However there will be door prizes. There will be golf carts available at the show for transportation so you will be able to get back and forth. We will leave McDonald's on 35 S exit 81 at 8:30. We'll proceed to the Lonergan's so you can drop off your pot luck item. As always the Lonergan's will host the pot luck at there home. If you sign up for a salad please put down the kind of salad so we don't have duplicates. The club will furnish the burgers, brats, and buns. There was a sign up sheet at the March meeting and also at the April and May meetings. If you will not be at one of these meetings and would like to attend let me know. Landline 507-685-4486 or email me [glonergan66@yahoo.com](mailto:glonergan66@yahoo.com).

Don't forget, we are always looking for places to visit. The best thing you can do if you have an idea, contact our Activity Director Gloria, She help you in any way she can but she's a master at making arrangements and working the schedule. Please don't wait till the last minute so that we can get the info in the newsletter and work out the details.

# VTCI *Membership Application Form*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST NAME IN ROSTER? YES  NO

LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES  NO

LIST TELEPHONE IN ROSTER? YES  NO

PLEASE LIST THUNDERBIRD YOU OWN: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Annual dues: \$40.00 United States and Canada, \$60.00 all other countries. Due the 31st of January each year. Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

For NEW members only Send initial dues according to the month you join. You will then receive a renewal notice mailed with the November/December Scoop.

	US and Canada	All Other Countries
January / February	\$40.00	\$60.00
March / April	\$35.00	\$55.00
May / June	\$30.00	\$45.00
July / August	\$25.00	\$40.00
September / October	\$55.00	\$90.00 includes next year
November / December	\$50.00	\$80.00 includes next year



VISA / MasterCard (circle one)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above-please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable & mail to:  
Vintage Thunderbird Club International

P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275

\*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine.

This is a preliminary club calendar with many details yet to be entered. President Deborah Vangel will be arranging a Board meeting with the main topic will be our calendar.

**JANUARY**

**No Club Meeting**

**FEBRUARY 21 Caspers**

**[Eagan]**

**Club Meeting 1PM Social hr**

**MARCH 21 VFW [Richfield]**

**21—Meeting..1PM Social hr  
Noon-1**

**APRIL 18 Broadway Pizza [Blaine]**

**Club Meeting 1PM Social hr Noon-1**

**MAY 16 Maxx Bar/Grill [Ham Lake]**

**Club Meeting 1 PM Social hr Noon-1**

**18—TBD Spring Cruise**

**31—Dam Days-Morristown**

**JUNE 20 Caspers [Eagan]**

**Club meeting**

**Social hr Noon-1**

**JULY 18 Aquatore Park [Blaine]**

**Club Picnic**

**AUGUST 17 [??????]**

**Club Meeting 1PM Social hr Noon-1**

**SEPTEMBER 19 [VFW Richfield]**

**1PM Social hr Noon-1**

**Saturday 12 The Jesse James carshow in  
Northfield**

**International Convention 8th-13th**

**OCTOBER 17**

**[Broad Way Pizza]**

**Club Meeting 1PM Social hr Noon-1**

**Broadway Pizza**

**5—Fall Cruise TBD**

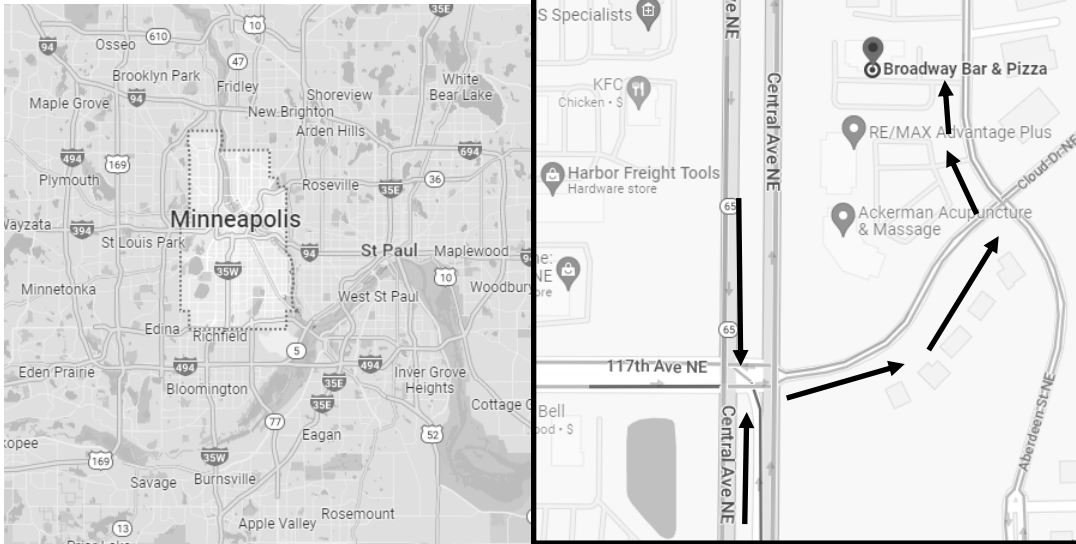
**NOVEMBER 16 [Maxx B/G Ham Lake]**

**Club Meeting 1PM Social hr Noon-1**

**DECEMBER ?? Caspers [Eagan]**

**Club Christmas Party**

**Caspers in Eagan**



**Broadway Pizza Saturday May 18th at 1 PM.**

**Social hour: Noon-1PM**

**Address: 11822 Aberdeen St NE, Blaine, MN**

**Cliff & Pat Lieske**

**2501 38th Ave NE #163**

**St Anthony, MN 55421**