

Thunderbird Special

A Thunderbird Midwest Club publication

June 2026 issue

Visit our Website: thunderbirdmidwest.com



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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!



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June Meeting Info

June 20th meeting is at:

Caspers

4625 Nicols Road, Egan, MN

Noon-1:00 PM – Social hour

1:00 PM – Meeting

Menu:

5oz Top Sirloin (served medium) - \$24.00

Walleye Fingers - \$24.00

Chicken Caesar Salad with Soup - \$24.00

Bacon Cheeseburger with cheddar, bacon, lettuce, tomato - \$24.00

Chicken Sandwich topped with cheddar, lettuce, tomato - \$24.00

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

Caller Help Needed

We need to replace one of our callers. This only requires a small time commitment.

Please contact Donn Olson, olsod55@gmail.com or 651-260-6961 if you would be willing to fill this position.

Club Merchandise

[Here is the link to the website for ordering Thunderbird Midwest Club Merchandise. \(https://thunderbirdmidwest.itemorder.com/shop/home/\)](https://thunderbirdmidwest.itemorder.com/shop/home/)

This website offers a couple of different mugs along with a variety of apparel including polo shirt, sweatshirts, jackets, and caps featuring our club's logo. You can also have your name embroidered on the jackets.

Upcoming Club Events

The Defeat of Jesse James Days Car Show – Saturday September 12th – Northfield, MN

More information will be in the newsletter as the date gets closer.

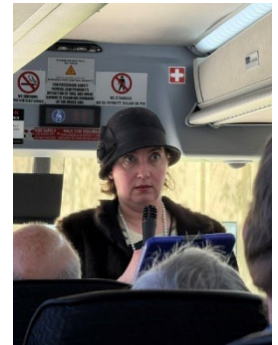
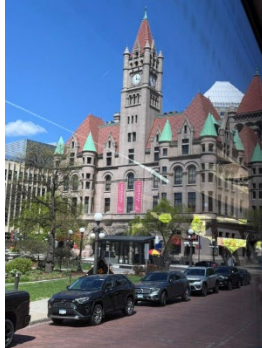
Fall Cruise – Saturday September 19th – Waseca, MN

The fall cruise will be at Club 57, Waseca, MN on September 19th. This is a car parade starting at noon. We've done this many years ago and everyone had such a good time. I have a room reserved for our club, where we will have our September meeting. There is no cost to use this room. I'll prepare breakfast, have a short meeting, then proceed with the parade. The parade travels through downtown Waseca, around the lake and back to the start. Prizes are awarded after the parade. We will meet at McDonalds exit 81 Highway 35 at 7:30. Lunch will be on your own as there are 2 restaurants on sight. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the June and August meeting. If you would like to join us and won't be at any of the meetings or for more info you can contact me, Gloria, 507-685-4486 or glonergan66@yahoo.com.

Recent Club Events

May 9th Spring Cruise Gangster Tour

Seventeen club members attended. Nine gathered for lunch after the tour. Our tour guide was Radio Sally.



President's Message

Hello to everyone,

Our May meeting was done at a new spot, and it was great to see members that we have not seen in some time. The Gangster Tour was pretty fun, and we learned that MN became a notorious "sanctuary for criminals" during the prohibition era. St. Paul had the likes of John Dillinger, the Baker-Karpis Gang, and Harry "Dapper Dan" Hogan and several others. I think that those of us that attended the tour learned something that we may not have known about St. Paul. Thanks to all that attended this tour.

It looks like car show season is in full swing. I know that the club has not participated in very many car shows in the past few years but I for one am not up on figuring out which ones would be good for our club to participate in, so as always if you know of any that you think the club members might want to attend, please let us know. I do know that there are several groups on Facebook that post Cruises and Shows for people to attend. One of them that I think is pretty good is Twin Cities Car Cruising Group (I have not affiliation with this group other than following them on Facebook). That is all for now.

Hope everyone stays safe, and healthy.

Sincerely,

Deborah Vangel, President.

May 2026 Thunderbird Midwest Meeting Minutes

On Saturday, May 15, 2026, the Thunderbird Midwest Club meeting was held at a new location, Maxx's Bar & Grill, Ham Lake, MN. We thanked them for hosting us.

There were 29 members present.

Deb Vangel called the meeting to order. Deb listed birthdays and anniversaries. Deb also mentioned that May 15th is Armed Forces Day.

Evy Hunt has resigned from being a caller. We need to replace her so please reach out to Donn Olson, olsod55@gmail.com or 651-260-6961 if you would like to fill this position.

Thunderbird Appreciation Day is Sunday, May 16th. The 1st Annual Forest Lake Police Dept. Car Show is being held at Running Aces from 11:00-2:00 that day.

The Spring Cruise was held on Saturday, May 9th. 17 members of the club enjoyed a Gangster Tour starting at the Wabasha Cave location in St. Paul. The tour bus guide pointed out several properties that housed gangsters and showed where the Hamm's mansion once stood. It was a very interesting tour and the group who attended learned a lot about how corrupt the St. Paul Police Department was in the '30s and how easy it was for the gangsters to pay the cops off and as long as the gangsters didn't commit any crimes in St. Paul, the cops would look the other way.

After the tour, nine members enjoyed a delicious lunch at Joseph's Restaurant in St. Paul.

Gloria passed around a sign-up sheet for Dam Days which is being held on Saturday, May 30th in Morristown. Once again, Jim and Gloria Lonergan will be hosting a potluck at their home in conjunction with the car show. The club will provide burgers and brats. Those who are going will meet at McDonald's Exit 81 in Lakeville off I-35 S at 8:30 AM and travel to Morristown together.

Gloria passed around a get-well card for Darlene Roehl who has been in the hospital.

Saturday, July 18th is the date for the annual club picnic. This year it will be held at Aquator Park in Blaine, 9191 Lincoln St. NE. Thank you to Pat and Cliff Lieske for making the reservations. The club has the shelter from 9-2, KFC lunch will be served at 11:30. Gloria passed around a sign-up sheet for your selection of white, dark or chicken strips. The sign-up sheet will be passed around again at the June meeting, or you can call Gloria at 507-685-4486 or email at glonergan66@yahoo.com.

Randy Mattson won the free meal card. The 30/30/30 game was won by Ron Moey, Donn Olson, and Mary Hyberg.

Deb showed some pictures of the enjoyable May 9th Gangster Tour. She also showed a couple videos which told about the history of the gangsters in St. Paul in the 1930s. In 1932, 20% of all bank robberies happened in Minnesota. An interesting time indeed!

Respectfully submitted,
Renee Olson for Jennifer Hepler

Club History File by Randy Mattson

30 YEARS AGO...

According to *The Thunderbird Special*, June 1996

- The May meeting was smaller than usual with 37 members in attendance.
- President Randy Mattson was late to the meeting because of over-heating issues with his 1965 convertible.
- There were 8 Thunderbirds in the parking lot looking mighty nice.
- The call is out for Thunderbirds for the Northtown Show. Don Langer would like to see 50 Thunderbirds in the mall that weekend.
- There were several car shows listed in this newsletter to choose from. Get that 'Bird out and show it off!
- June's meeting is at the Park Tavern in Bloomington.

20 YEARS AGO...

According to *The Thunderbird Special*, June 2006

- New member Mike Schauer was welcomed at the May meeting at Broadway Pizza. Mike brings a 1962 M Series to the club.
- Barb Nordberg was one of the winners of the first 33-33-33 drawing. She donated her winnings back to the club.
- There were 11 cars for the spring cruise to visit a collector of oil cans and matchbox cars.
- Jim Lonergan showed off the new club banner.
- We'll be cruising to Bootlegger's in Mayer for our June meeting.

10 YEARS AGO...

According to *The Thunderbird Special*, June 2016

- May's meeting was held with the spring cruise to Elmer's Auto & Toy Museum in Fountain City, WI. 23 people attended.
- Edwin Mann from Hewitt, MN is the new member this month. He has a 1963 hardtop and a 1953 Ford Customline 4 door.
- June events include Dam Days in Morristown and Back to the '50s.
- Part 5 of Wally Warpeha's article, "Restore or Resto-mod?" was in this issue.
- We'll be cruising to Mayer for the June meeting at Knucklehead's.

Club Calendar

JANUARY

24 – Gameshow Battle Rooms:
 1661 West End Blvd, St Louis Park, MN
 11:30 Lunch at Chi-Chi's
 1:30PM – Meet at Gameshow Battle Rooms

MARCH

21 – Club Meeting – VFW Richfield:
 6715 Lake Shore Dr. S, Richfield, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour
 1:00PM – Meeting

MAY

9 – Spring Cruise – Gangster Tour
16 – Club Meeting – Maxx Bar & Grill:
 17646 Central Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour
 1:00PM – Meeting
17 – Thunderbird Appreciation Day
30 – Dam Days Car Show:
 Morristown, MN

JULY

18 – Club Picnic – Aquatore Park:
 9191 Lincoln St. NE, Blaine, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour
 1:00PM – Meeting

SEPTEMBER

8-13 – VTCI/CTCI Convention - Flagstaff, AZ
12 – Defeat of Jesse James Car Show
 Northfield, MN
19 – Fall Cruise – Waseca Car Show and Club Meeting

NOVEMBER

21 – Club Meeting – Maxx Bar & Grill:
 17646 Central Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour
 Meeting – 1:00PM

FEBRUARY

21 – Club Meeting – Caspers:
 4625 Nicols Road, Egan, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour

APRIL

18 – Club Meeting – Broadway Pizza:
 11822 Aberdeen St NE, Blaine, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour
 1:00PM – Meeting

JUNE

20 – Club Meeting – Caspers:
 4625 Nicols Road, Egan, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour
 1:00PM – Meeting
19-21 – Back-to-the-50's:
 Minnesota Fairgrounds

AUGUST

15 – Pizza Pub:
 5660 Bishop Ave, Inver Grove Heights, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour
 Meeting – 1:00PM

OCTOBER

17 – Club Meeting – Broadway Pizza:
 11822 Aberdeen St NE, Blaine, MN
 Noon – 1:00PM – Social Hour

DECEMBER

5 – Saturday Christmas Party – Caspers:
 4625 Nicols Road, Egan, MN

Events & Information

Minnesota Vikings Legend Paul Krause Car Show – Saturday June 13th – Webster, MN

The car show is at Paul Krause’s man cave at 4455 40th Street Webster, MN 55088. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Paul’s man cave will be open to tour.

Questions: Contact Ted Schmolke @ 612-250-0540

MSRA Back To The 50’s Weekend – Saturday June 19th – 21st – MN State Fairgrounds St. Paul, MN

The details can be found at: msrabacktothe50s.com.

VTCI/CTCI Combined Convention - September 9th -12th - Flagstaff, AZ

Details are found at: CTI.org and vintagethunderbirdclub.net

Minnesota Legislation Update

In a recent Hagerty Insurance online article they discussed a change to the current Minnesota laws that would affect when cars with collector plates can be driven. It is not clear if MN House File 3865 would limit driving collector vehicles to only weekends. More information is found at Hagerty.com/media, search for *“Is Minnesota Trying to Limit When You Can Drive Your Classic?”*.

Unique Marine

For those of you looking to purchase a boat, Unique Classic Cars in Mankato now has Unique Marine.

Member’s Special Days

June Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 – Randy Mattson | 15 – Tina Irvine |
| 5 – G.Roger Couture | 17 – Jean Bauer |
| 5 – Mary Hyberg | 17 – Peggy Head |
| 8 – Merrill Fischbein | 20 – Sharon Quern |
| 12 – Sue Couture | 22 – Rick Wimmer |
| 12 – Iris Huber | 24 – Cindy Mattson |

June Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 – Rick & Pat Wimmer | 16 – Carl & Pat Hartell |
| 4 – Tom & Peggy Head | 19 – Don & Lynn Swanson |
| 7 – Bob & Tina Irvine | 29 – Merrill & Bobbi Fischbein |
| 13 – Don & Evelyn Hunt | |



Want Ads

1973 Thunderbird for sale

Exterior color: Dark Gold Metallic, Interior color: Tobacco, Mileage: 51,740

Engine 460 CID, Transmission: Automatic

Contact: Ray Koski, Phone: 612-866-1921 or 612-240-0628

Email address: raymondkoski@hotmail.com

Asking \$10,000



2003 Ford Thunderbird Limited Edition

Exterior Desert Sky Blue, with whisper white accent. All original. 3.9L 32V DOHC aluminum engine, 5 speed automatic transmission w/overdrive. 17inch tires w/chrome cast aluminum wheels. Power retractable soft top, removable hard top, includes stand. Less than 15K miles in mint condition. Asking \$36,000 Contact: Jodi - 612-708-5792



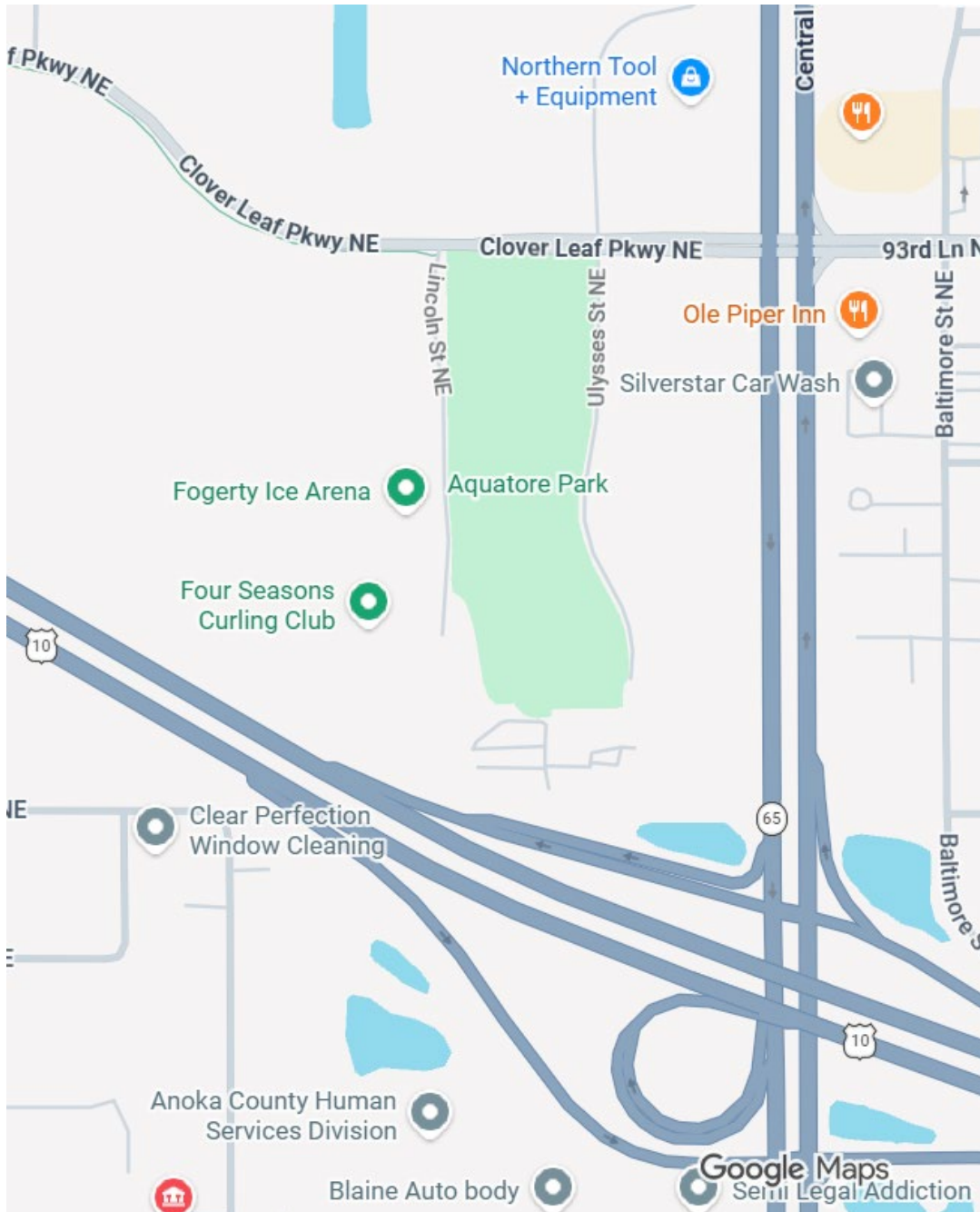
Thunderbird Parts for Sale

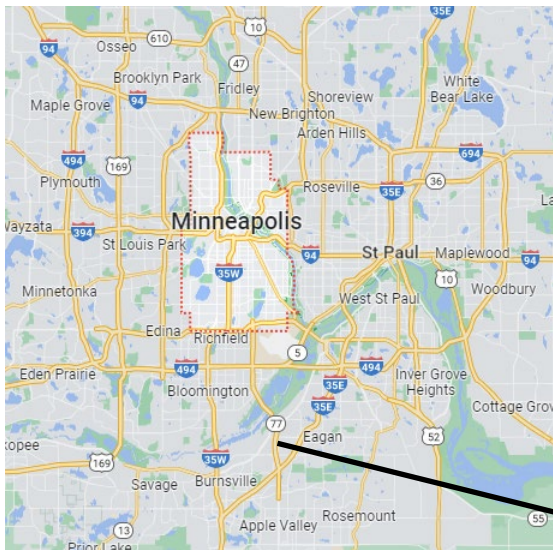
1961-63 Miscellaneous interior and exterior parts. No body panels. Rebuilt power booster. Master cylinder and wheel cylinders. Radiator for a '61.

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

Club Picnic July 18th, 2026

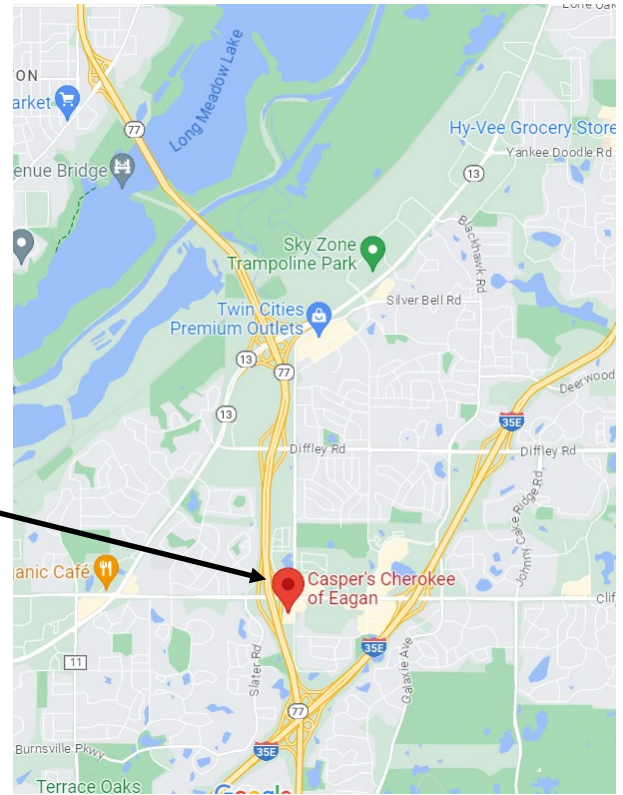
This year's club picnic will be held Saturday July 18th in the west shelter at Aquatore Park 9191 Lincoln St. NE, Blaine, MN. Parking is available in front of the shelter as well as across the street from the shelter. Restrooms are available at the bandshell, which is close to the shelter. We have rented the shelter from 9-2. Lunch will be at 11:30. The meal choices are white meat, dark meat, or chicken strips. Each meal includes cole slaw and mashed potatoes, the cost is \$11.00 per meal. Bring your own beverage (no alcohol). You are also encouraged to bring a dessert to share. There will be a sign-up sheet at the June meetings, or you can call Gloria, 507-685-4486 or email Gloria glonergan66@yahoo.com. There will also be an email sent out with additional information.





Caspers
4625 Nichols Road
Eagan, MN

Take MN-77/Cedar Avenue to Cliff Road.
Caspers is on the east side of MN-77.



Cliff & Pat Lieske
2501 38th Ave NE #163
St. Anthony, MN 55421