



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

April 2020



MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE: In March, due to the current coronavirus outbreak, the Club Officers and Board of Directors determined that it was prudent for the health and well-being of our membership to cancel the March club meeting and any club activities that may have been considered for March. An e-mail to that effect was sent to club members. Since then as we learn more about the nature of the spread of this virus and in conjunction with the President's and Ohio Governor's guidelines/directives I have decided to cancel future TSWO meetings and any club related activities until further notice. This and any future newsletters will not contain any official club meeting minutes until such time we resume our club meetings. The February club meeting minutes will be put on the floor for approval at our next official club meeting.

In Memoriam of Kaye Charlene Lenz



Kaye Charlene Lenz, wife of long-time club member Jim Lenz, passed away on February 28th. Viewing services were held at the Trinity Church in Miamisburg on Friday, March 13th and a memorial service was conducted at the church on Saturday the 14th. A floral bouquet was sent on behalf of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio. The club membership wishes to extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to the Lenz family and especially to our dear friend Jim on the loss his wife of 46 years.

Club Activities/Events: Our future as to when we will be able to meet again as a club and participate in outside activities is unknown. However, there are a few annual events we look forward to - - Thunderbird Appreciation Day, our club picnic, and our Christmas party. It is highly likely that the Thunderbird Appreciation Day will be cancelled, though the powers-to-be may change it to a later date. Second, our picnic. Typically held in September, that event may be possible, so we should be thinking of a when and where to hold it. Finally, the Christmas party. We pretty much know when it will be. However, I am open to suggestions on the where (a different location perhaps) and/or what to do at the party (other activities in addition to or in lieu of the White Elephant). Jot down your ideas and we'll talk about them at our next meeting.

Calendar of Car Events:

VTCI Events: The VTCI South Central Regional Meet is scheduled in New Orleans on June 11-13, 2020 and the VTCI International Convention is going to be held Aug 11-16 in Oregon. I received a recent e-mail from the VTCI International Convention co-chair indicating that the convention was still going to occur.

Other National Thunderbird Club Events: The International Thunderbird Club (ITC) will hold its convention on September 17-20, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan, while the Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) International Convention "Birds on the Bay" will be held on May 4-9, 2020 in Sarasota, Florida.

Brett Andrews
President

Next Meeting: All Future meeting and club events are cancelled till further notice



April Birthdays

4st: Jay Walsh
6th: Ruby York

April Anniversaries

none



Did You Know? A Thunderbird History Factoid

In 1961, Ford introduced the "Bullet Bird." The convertible model became synonymous with John F. Kennedy, starting with his inaugural parade. In fact, according to the Thunderbird Registry, there were 50 identical Thunderbird convertibles used in the parade.

These Birds were a special, ultra-limited edition which were created by Ford specifically for the presidency. It was a somewhat self-congratulatory move, since one of Kennedy's first acts as president was to appoint former Ford executive Robert McNamara to Secretary of Defense. These 50 T-bird soft tops were called "*The Presidential Edition or the Mahogany Thunderbird Convertible*". These identical cars were distinguished from other 1961 Thunderbird convertibles by their special paint color, never used before or since.

After the parade the cars were shipped back to Ford. From there, some were shipped to service schools for mechanics to use during training. Others were given to various Ford executives as company cars. Needless to say, the remaining Presidential Thunderbirds are extremely rare.



Thoughts from the President



So far, this year has started off to be one to remember-and maybe not so fondly. Much has and will continue to happen that's increasing our daily stress. We're are dealing with the world-wide spread of the coronavirus with only a slight lull in the constant political negativity which is driving wedges among friends and families. Within our own club, members are coping with the recent loss of a loved one. It's a challenge to stay positive, but we just can't let it get us down. You may have heard this before. On September 30, 1859, Abraham Lincoln recounted a story in which he described an Eastern monarch who once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence, to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. The sentence he was provided was "And this, too, shall pass away".

Over the later years of my life, I find myself wondering why different generations of people respond differently to the same situation. That thought then triggers my memory of an Anthony Hopkins line from the movie "Amistad" in which he says, "Who we are is who we were". Which, as he described, means that who we are today is based on what factors influenced us and our ancestors. As a member of the Baby Boomer generation, I've tried to think of "Who was I"? What influenced me? I finally realized it was the gentler time of my youth. Fences didn't separate back yards. You knew your neighbors by name and sat on front porches in the evening talking - - no cell phones, iPads or ear buds. Personally, I'd like to live in those days again, but since that will likely never happen, I need to do what I can in my own little world to create that environment for myself and those around me.

So, what's that got to do with Thunderbirds and our club? Well, just think of how many times at a cruise-in or car show someone came up to you, looked at your classic T-bird and said, "We had one just like this when I was a kid". The memory of those days riding in that big beautiful car come flooding back to them. You can see it in their eyes and hear it in their words. You may not hear those music-to-our-ears words as often as you'd like, but when you do, you need to realize you're taking them back to a quieter and gentler time and they will appreciate you for providing the journey. So, polish up that Thunderbird and get ready to go out into our club's little world and make some people happy.

Brett



CLUB OFFICERS

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April Fools' Day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it

during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes. These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

Historians have also linked April Fools' Day to festivals such as Hilaria, which was celebrated in ancient Rome at the end of March and involved people dressing up in disguises. There's also speculation that April Fools' Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring, in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with "hunting the gowk," in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.

In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools' Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and Web sites have participated in the April 1 tradition of reporting outrageous fictional claims that have fooled their audiences. In 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees; numerous viewers were fooled. In 1985, *Sports Illustrated* tricked many of its readers when it ran a made-up article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a fastball over 168 miles per hour.

In 1996 Taco Bell duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and intended to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, after Burger King advertised a "Left-Handed Whopper," scores of clueless customers requested the fake sandwich.

The style of April Fools' pranks has changed over the years. Sending the unsuspecting on pointless errands was an especially prized practical joke in those earlier post-Julian days. In modern times, that form of pranking has shifted away from April Fools' merriment and seemingly become a rite of initiation into many groups, both formal and informal. Current tastes seem to run more to funny phone calls and media-driven extravaganzas. But it's still okay to reach back to older times for inspiration. Be a traditionalist — on April 1 send a co-worker to fetch a tube of elbow grease or 50 feet of shoreline.

A Simplified Story Behind Easter Eggs and Chocolate Bunnies

(Extracted from an internet BBC article in the "Newsround")

Easter is a Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that Christ died on the cross on a day called Good Friday and was then resurrected and came back to life on Easter Sunday. This is the most important day in the Christian calendar. Easter is on different dates each year, between 21 March and 25 April, depending on when there's a full moon in Spring. There are also modern traditions to mark Easter which are very common. But where do these modern traditions come from?

Why do we have Easter eggs?



A lot of us may chomp on chocolate eggs at Easter, but originally eating eggs was not allowed by church leaders during the week leading up to Easter (known as Holy Week). So, any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make them Holy Week eggs, that were then given to children as gifts. Victorians adapted the tradition with satin-covered cardboard eggs filled with Easter gifts.

Why are Easter eggs made of chocolate?

The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19th Century, but they were bitter and hard. As chocolate-making techniques improved, hollow eggs like the ones we have today were developed. They very quickly became popular and remain a favorite tradition with chocolate-lovers today.



What's the Easter Bunny then?



The story of the Easter Bunny is thought to have become common in the 19th Century. Rabbits usually give birth to a big litter of babies (called kittens), so they became a symbol of new life. Legend has it that the Easter Bunny lays, decorates and hides eggs as they are also a symbol of new life. This is why some children might enjoy Easter egg hunts as part of the festival. It doesn't do all the work alone though! In Switzerland, Easter eggs are delivered by a cuckoo and in parts of Germany by a fox.

MAY YOU HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER