



# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

**Newsletter**  
April 2023



## MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** President Roger Hamm gaveled our meeting to order (3 seconds late!) at 7:00:03 PM EST on Thursday, March 9, 2023, in our customary meeting room at MCL Cafeteria. Following his Call to Order, he extended a warm welcome to the 15 members in the room.

**Attendees:** Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Larry & Jo Doelker, Jim Ross & Bev Knauper, Paul & Sherry Loschi, Dave & Susan Menke, and Jim Russell.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the February meeting having been published in the March newsletter (sent out the Friday before this meeting), President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Larry Doelker made the motion for approval, and that motion was seconded by Paul Loschi. President Roger asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the minutes, as published in the newsletter. Hearing none, the motion was declared to be passed unanimously.

**Membership Update/Discussion:** President Roger asked if anyone had any updates as to any potential new members for the club, but no one had any to report. Having said that, Brett Andrews (our webmaster, in addition to his duties as Past President and Newsletter Editor) reported that there had apparently been a glitch in our web site, as when he logged in recently, there was a small batch of web site emails that showed up from last September and October (no one knows why these emails got 'stuck' and were just recently released). A couple of the emails were membership inquiries, which Brett followed up (with appropriate apologies and explanations as to the delays in replying). Brett has exchanged emails with both of these people and is hopeful that these contacts will result in new members.

Dave Menke reported that he had observed a Bullet Bird along the road on his many trips to Piqua, and he has dropped off club information occasionally, but never got any response. On his latest trip, the Bullet Bird was gone, but it has been replaced by a Mustang and an Expedition (so the owner must be a "Ford guy").

President Roger reported receiving a call from a gentleman with some Turbo Coupe parts for sale; specifically, driver's door, trunk lid, bumper cover, and right-side taillight. If anyone is interested, reach out to Roger.

Past President Brett reported that a couple messages have come into the web site about a '64 T-bird and a '65 T-bird being offered for sale. If anyone might be interested in following up on either of these, reach out to Brett.

Jim Ross reported that he got an email from the owner of Woody Sander Ford about a 2004 Retro-Bird (Merlot with Sand interior) that is being offered for sale with only 41 miles on the odometer. If anyone might be interested in this unusual car, contact Jim for more details and owner contact information.

As to members who might have acquired or disposed of any Thunderbirds, the only update was from Scott McGaha, who reported that he has finally titled and registered (with Historical Vehicle registration) his "accidentally-acquired" '75 T-bird.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** President Roger reported that Terry & Carol Powell will celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 14<sup>th</sup>. He also reported the following March birthdays: Nancy Blake (on the 1<sup>st</sup>); Scott McGaha (on the 2<sup>nd</sup>); and Deb Harvey (on the 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that, since February 1<sup>st</sup>, she has received \$30.00 in dues (all club members dues are now paid).

**Club Activities/Events:** First, Scott reported on our trip to the Butler Car Collection in Erlanger, KY, last month. Everyone seemed to enjoy the trip, viewing this vast collection of cars, trucks and other motor vehicles. Likewise, everyone enjoyed our lunch afterward at Dewey's Pizza, along with much conversation.

Next, he reported that he had followed up on Jim Ross's suggestion about having lunch at Ford's Garage Norwood, and there was much discussion about this being a possible March club event. Following the discussion, the consensus was that we would go to Ford's Garage Norwood this coming Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, meeting there at 1:30 PM.

**Old Business:** Per President Roger, nothing to report.

**New Business:** President Roger noted that our biennial club elections will be coming up in October (terms will run from 01/01/24 through 12/31/25). Nomination petitions need to be presented to the club Vice-President (Scott) by the September meeting. He encouraged new people to consider running for one of the positions, as we have recently experienced a recycling of club officers in various positions. New blood is certainly welcomed.

Brett reminded everyone that our Bylaws provide that the Vice President automatically accedes to the Presidency, thus any election races would be for the positions of Vice President (with automatic accession to the President's position in two years), Secretary, and Treasurer.

President Roger reminded everyone to "Spring Forward" to Daylight Saving Time this coming Saturday night/Sunday morning.

President Roger received an email from Bob McNeil (VTCI) regarding the 2024 international convention to be held in Grand Rapids, MI. The proposal from VTCI was for the convention to be sponsored not only by VTCI, but also to be co-sponsored by local chapters in the area of the event. The consensus of our group was that this would likely be too big an undertaking for us to participate as a co-sponsor.

**Open Floor:** Scott reported that he's still getting duplicate copies of the Hemmings magazine, so he offered up his extra copy of the March issue to anyone who wants it.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Dave Menke, and seconded by Jim Russell. The meeting was then gaveled to a close at 7:44 PM.

***Roger Hamm***  
President

**NEXT CLUB MEETING REMINDER:** Our next club meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup> at MCL

**Birthdays & Anniversaries in April:** We have two birthdays to celebrate in April, but no anniversaries. From the TSWO membership, Happy Birthday to our two April celebrants.



April Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup>: Jay Walsh

6<sup>th</sup>: Ruby York

April Anniversaries

none



Hello, fellow TSWO members. I hope everyone has a good Easter weekend. Lisa and I left for Virginia to spend the weekend with my mother and for me to enjoy the Bristol races. This week we had all kinds of weather, from chilly mornings to nice, warm afternoons. It kind of makes one have to wear a heavy coat in the morning, only to have to take it off and wish you had worn a short sleeve shirt or blouse. I hope this weird weather would make up its mind what season we were in!

Easter is usually associated with colored Easter eggs and Easter egg hunts and with the Easter bunny. How did these traditions get started? Here is a little bit of trivia or history of these traditions.

The use of painted and decorated Easter eggs was first recorded in the 13th century. The church at that time prohibited the eating of eggs during Holy Week, but chickens continued to lay eggs during that week (I guess no one told them that they couldn't lay eggs that week), and the idea of specifically identifying those as "Holy Week" eggs brought about their decoration. The egg itself became a symbol of the Resurrection. Just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg symbolizes new life emerging from the eggshell. In the Orthodox tradition eggs are painted red to symbolize the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

Easter egg hunts are popular among children in the United States. First lady Lucy Hayes, the wife of Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes is often credited with sponsoring the first annual Easter egg roll on the Monday following Easter on the White House lawn, in 1878. That year the event was moved to the White House from the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, where large numbers of children had gathered beginning in the early 1870s to roll their eggs and play on Easter Monday. Members of Congress feared the large crowds on Capitol Hill was damaging the grounds. By 1876 Congress and Pres. U.S. Grant passed a law that forbade the practice of egg rolling on Capitol Hill. Some historical records note that the Hayes first opened the White House lawn to egg rolling festivities the following year, in 1877, after a young boy asked President Hayes directly for permission to use the space.



The custom of associating a rabbit or bunny with Easter arose in Protestant areas in Europe in the 17th century but did not become common until the 19th century. The Easter Bunny is said to lay the eggs as well as decorate and hide them. In the United States the Easter rabbit also leaves children baskets with toys and candies on Easter morning. In a way, this was a manifestation of the Protestant rejection of Catholic Easter customs. In some European countries, however, other animals, for example the cuckoo in Switzerland and the fox in Westphalia, brought the Easter eggs.



See you all Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> for our next TSWO meeting at MCL Cafeteria.

*Roger*



## *Lunch in a Garage*



On Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, fourteen of our club members gathered at the Ford Garage Restaurant in Norwood, Ohio for lunch. Members in attendance included Roger & Lisa, Scott, Brett & Peg, Jim & Bev, Jim R, Dave & Barb, Larry & Jo, and Dave & Susan. It was a nice sunny day with a little nip in the air. When Jim Ross told us at a previous club meeting that it was a popular place, he was not kidding. Roger and Lisa had arrived early and put our club's name on a waiting list only to be told it would be 45 minutes to an hour to be seated. As we stood outside people flocked in and out of the place. The outside was decorated with a few old cars, gasoline pumps, a tire air pump, and a bell that dinged every time a car drove over the hose on the road just like in an old gas station. It was also adorned with two club member Thunderbirds. The restaurant permitted Jim Russell to park his '56 Baby Bird and Scott to park his newly purchased '75 Big Bird immediately outside the restaurant doors. As you would guess, the cars drew a lot of interest.



It wasn't quite 45 minutes, but close, and we were called inside. Restaurant policy prohibited tables from being pushed together, so we were fortunate in getting two side-by-side moon shaped booths that accommodated seven persons each. If you were on the inside of the semi-circle of the booth, you were there for the duration of the meal. The atmosphere inside was exactly as Jim Ross said it would be. There were wall-to-wall automobile memorabilia everywhere and even three old Ford car bodies circulating around the room on an overhead chain conveyer system just like an old Ford plant assembly line. As for this author, I felt the service was excellent. As busy as they were, you'd expect a long wait for your food once orders were placed, but that was not the case. Members sitting at an end position at each booth served as our indoor group photographers (Thanks to Jim Russell and Scott). Brett and Roger took additional indoor and outdoor photos that appear on our website. After about an hour and a half of great food and a lot of catching up with friends, it was time to go. Folks were still lined up at the door waiting to get in. We meandered our way through the waiting crowds. Once outside, we said our goodbyes and headed home.



## *Two of My Worlds Have Merged*

(by: Brett Andrews)

Ever since I was a teenager, I've loved watching drag racing (can't afford to participate). While in my teens, an older friend had a '57 Chevy he'd drag race mostly at York US 30 Dragstrip in York, Pa and I got to serve as a quasi-pit crew member. Over the years and to this day, I still manage to get to the

annual "Gathering of Gezzers" festival at Kil-Kare Raceway to watch old fashioned drag racing the way it used to be. Years ago, while Peg and I were on vacation visiting one daughter in Tucson and a second daughter at another time in Florida, I drug (not drugged) my respective sons-in law, who had never been to a drag race, to one. I don't think either of them was very impressed. That's when I knew they weren't "Gear Heads" like me. So, I guess their less than enthusiastic appreciation for the roar of engines and smell of burnt tire rubber was understandable. Oh well, each to their own tastes.



It was a little later in life that my interests were drawn to classic cars, specifically Thunderbirds. Well, my two interests have merged a little. While once again surfing the internet, I ran across an article entitled *"1955 Ford Thunderbird Looks Like a Top Fuel Dragster, Flexes Vintage Y-Block"*, written by Ciprian Florea and was published on 5 August 2021 in Auto Motorsport. As you can tell by the title, it's

story about a drag racing 1955 Thunderbird. The car, known as "Warbird", is owned by Royce Brechler.

The article is short. But, in addition to the above photo it has 6 more pictures as well as a video of the dragster running three races at Glory Days at Bryron Dragway in Byron, Illinois. The article also provides a short design description of the car and its 520 HP engine. As the article so correctly points out, "The last thing you'd expect from a T-Bird is to morph into a dragster,...". To read the full article, view the pictures, and watch the video, go to the below website:

[https://www.autoevolution.com/news/1955-ford-thunderbird-looks-like-a-top-fuel-dragster-flexes-vintage-y-block-166703.html#agal\\_0](https://www.autoevolution.com/news/1955-ford-thunderbird-looks-like-a-top-fuel-dragster-flexes-vintage-y-block-166703.html#agal_0)



**SPRING HAS SPRUNG, THE GRASS HAS RIZ,**

**I WISH I WERE IN THE CHOCOLATE BIZ!**

**Happy Easter!**

#### CLUB OFFICERS

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