



Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio



Newsletter

April 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The March 2026 meeting for the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio Car Club was officially called to order at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, February 12th. Members gathered in the private dining room at MCL Cafeteria in Kettering, Ohio. President Mike Hall presided over the meeting, warmly welcoming everyone and making sure all attendees received copies of the evening's agenda.

Attendees: A total of 19 club members attended the meeting. The attendees included President Mike Hall, Vice-President Adam Gulden, Treasurer Lisa Hamm, Mark & Jackie Allen, Brett & Peg Andrews, Ed Conway, Roger Hamm, Gary Hufford, Rick Kolman, Paul Loschi, Dave & Susan Menke, Ron & Linda Prater, Tom Tirey, George Touchette, and Norm Orlowski.

Approval of Minutes: President Mike moved on to the next agenda item and requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2026 meeting. The minutes had been published in the March 2026 club newsletter and emailed to all members. Dave Menke made the motion to approve, and Ron Prater seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Update: President Mike encouraged members to share any updates regarding new or potential club members. Mike welcomed our newest club member Norm Orlowski who has an '02 Black retrobird.

T-Bird Updates: Dave Menke provided updates on his 1966 Thunderbird, proudly announcing that his '66 is ready to go and they are now a two Thunderbird family. Mike recommended "Bring a Trailer" as a useful website for those interested in finding another Thunderbird.

Sunshine Committee Report: Mike acknowledged five club members celebrating birthdays in March, to include Nancy Blake (March 1st), Scott McGaha (March 2nd), Deb Harvey (March 14th), Kim Conway (March 20th, and Gary Hufford (March 23rd). There was one anniversary on March 14th, Terry & Carol Powell celebrating 21 years.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm delivered a financial status report for the club covering both January and February, as she was out of town during the February club meeting. Her report identified the deposit of club member dues and a transfer of a dividend received in

the club's savings account over to our checking account. Lisa also reported that a check for \$260 check was incorrectly charged against our club account when no such expenditure was made. Through Lisa's diligence the error was corrected with no loss of TSWO funds.

Old Business: Mike reported that 23 club members and a guest attended lunch at Ford's Garage last month. Adam commented on the outstanding food, and Mike agreed that food, events, and car shows are central to the club's activities.

New Business: Susan Menke suggested that the club's Treasury cover the registration costs for the Club President, or an appointed representative, to attend the national VTCl Convention each year. The proposal prompted discussion, resulting in several motions. Brett Andrews referenced our bylaw regarding club fund expenditures. He stated that expenditures other than those previously approved and identified in the current bylaws will be reviewed by the current Board of Directors (President Mike Hall, immediate past president Scott McGaha, and permanent member Brett Andrews). Brett indicated an action item will be created and the status/decisions of the reviewing body will be periodically presented at club meetings until a final decision is made and appropriate procedures are established. As such, President Mike tabled further discussion pending the decision of the Board of Directors.

Club Activities/Events: Mike thanked the Activities committee for organizing a variety of events for the membership. Ron Prater, coordinating the March 21 event to see the John Richardson collection at the Sugar Creek Packing Company in Washinton Court House stated club members and guests will meet at the SugarCreek Foods car collection at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 for a two-hour tour of hundreds of restored cars, motorcycles, boats, and RVs. Dinner will follow at The Willow in Washington Court House for a 4:30 p.m. reservation for those who can attend.

Jackie Allen explained the April Hawthorn Hill - Wright Brothers Mansion private Thunderbird Club tour. Club members and guests will meet at Carillon Park on Saturday, April 18 before the 2:30 p.m. departure by shuttle to the mansion for a 90-minute tour. Afterward, they will return to Carillon Park for a 4:30 p.m. dinner reservation at the Carillon Brewing Co. Everyone must register by calling Carillon Park, mentioning the Thunderbird Club private Hawthorn Hill Tour on April 18 at 2:30 p.m. and pay \$16 per person by credit card.

Ed Conway asked about The Day in May Oakwood car show just as Ron Prater stood up to present this year's opportunity. Scott McGaha emailed Ron that The Day in May festivities will be held on Saturday, May 16, which is the day before the annual Thunderbird Appreciation Day. Members who participated last year enjoyed the event, and 11 club members showed interest in driving their Thunderbirds this year.

A member inquired about the Dayton Dragon's Thunderbirds displayed on Sunday, July 26 prior to 1:00 p.m. game time. Members were reminded that all proposed Club activities for 2026 are posted on the club website. Ed Conway also suggested the Washington Township Ice Cream

Social & Car Show is typically held the second Sunday in August. The free event is expected to be on August 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Open Floor: Rick Kolman invited club members to attend the Greene County Career Center for a two-hour tour and lunch being conducted on one of these four dates (April 2nd, 15th, 24th, and May 1st). For more information, contact Rick Kolman at 937-238-0317 or rickkolmin1955@gmail.com.

Calendar of Car Events:

Horsepower Farm Cars & Coffee: on the first Saturday January Thru December
2227 Trinity Drive, Middletown, Oh

Special Presentations: Mike's presentation for the March meeting focused on the 1958, 1959, and 1960 "Square Birds." Mike's T-bird tip was a slide entitled "A Bird in a Tree" that pictured an image of a wheelless 1960 T-bird perched high up in a tree. The slide deck and video for this presentation will soon be posted on our club's website at: <http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com> under "Items of Interest".

Next Club Meeting: The next club meeting is scheduled for April 9th at 6:45 p.m., to be held at MCL Cafeteria.

Adjournment: With no further business, President Mike called for a motion to adjourn. Roger Hamm made the motion, which was seconded by Adam Gulden. With no objections, Mike declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Mike Hall
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in April: Three of our members are celebrating their birthday this month and we have but one anniversary. All of you enjoy your special day.



April Birthdays

4th: Jay Walsh
4th: Kyle Debruler
30th: Carol Orlowski

April Anniversaries

14th: Gary & Susan Hufford
(37 yrs)





Our club just got back from a really great tour of the Sugar Creek Packing Company's private car, truck & boat collection. This sets the stage for a great coming year of classic car shows to enjoy. I look forward to attending as many as possible to enjoy the wide variety of beautifully restored classic cars (Especially Thunderbirds). One thing that I like about Classic Car Shows is the people. Classic Car people are a different breed. I find them to be pleasant, patient, polite, and very interesting to talk with. I see that quality in our club members as well as in the people at the shows I attend. I never get tired of seeing a car owner beam with pleasure at the moment

someone shows interest in their car. It can often lead to a life history of the car if you care to listen. This always makes me happy. I hope it does the same for each of you as you venture into the coming year of gleaming chrome and mirror finish paint jobs at those exciting Classic Car Shows.

Mike



Revisiting the John Richardson Collection (by Brett Andrews)

On March 21st our club and guests met at the Sugar Creek Packing Company in Washington Court House, Ohio to again take a self-tour of the John Richardson Collection. This is not an open-to-the-public museum, but rather a private collection of the Richardson family which can be seen by appointment only. Thanks to our Events Committee for making all the arrangements.

It was a beautiful second day of Spring unlike our club's last visit in May 2023 when it was a chilly and misty morning. This visit marked the club's fourth to the collection since our formation in 2008. Several members in our group and even some of the guests have toured the collection before, but it's always a treat to see it again, since it is forever changing. Club members participating, with their guest names in parentheses if provided, includes Mike Hall, Adam Gulden, Lisa & Roger Hamm, Scott McGaha (Mike & Karen Armstrong; Carol Holm and son Chris Holm; Scott's brother Todd; Eric Davis; Adam Smith, and Bill Smith), Brett Andrews (son-in-law Craig Davis), Mark Allen (sons Reid and Dan), Ron & Linda Prater, Gary Hufford, Jeff Almond, and Ron Heinz. Unfortunately, there were several other guests accompanying club members whose names were not made available to this author prior to the tour as previously requested.

By 2:00 p.m. the majority of the group had arrived, and we were invited into the facility and greeted by our tour guides Cody Noble and Rob Jordon. We initially made our way into the first showroom area where we had a short question and answer session with Cody and Rob followed by an attempt at a group photo prior to the start of the self-tour. We captured most of our group, though a few had already slipped away.

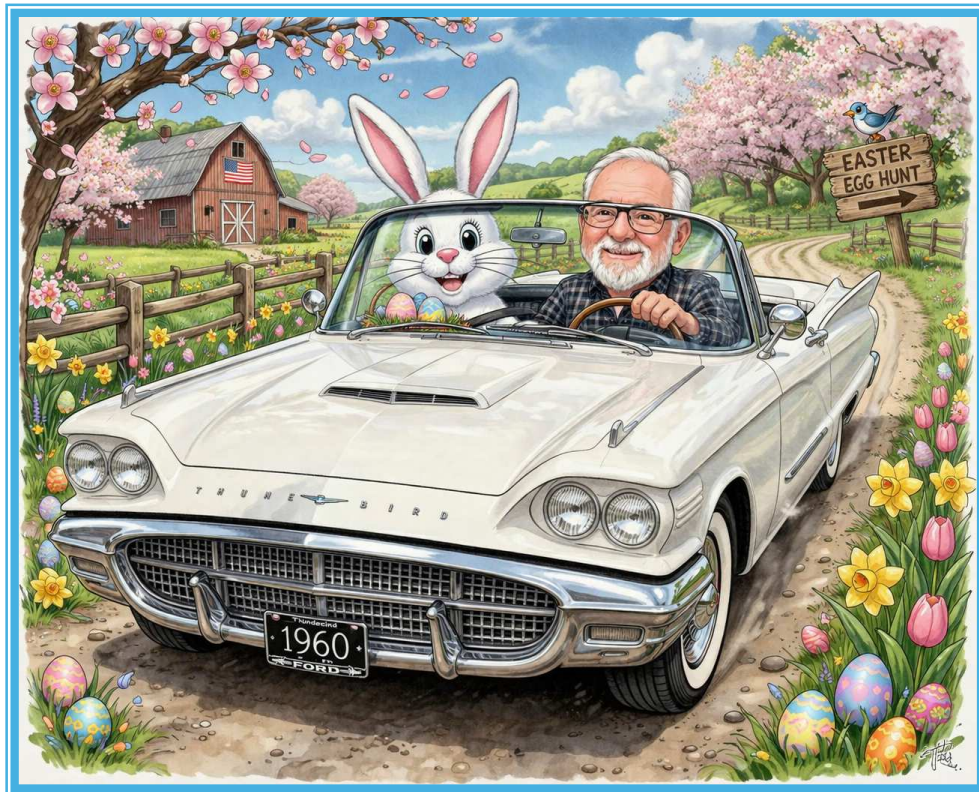
Cody and Rob followed us around answering the many questions we raised about the collection. What was most surprising about our free-wheeling browsing was that we were permitted to sit in the cars to get a close look at the interiors. They even started a vehicle or two because one of our group wanted to hear it run. It was evident to all of us that our guides absolutely enjoyed their jobs, not only as restorers of these vehicles but also meeting and talking with the people who tour the collection annually. For approximately two hours our group meandered through the collection, amazed by its variety while taking lots of pictures.

In a follow up text from Scott and a subsequent formal letter from our President, the club extended its grateful appreciation to our tour guides and to Mr. Tim Bateson, the curator of the collection, for their help in the advanced coordination planning and conduct of our visit. To round out our day together, many of our group headed off to dinner. Upon arrival at the Willow Restaurant, it was discovered they had put the club's reservation on the wrong date. Some of our members (Ron & Linda, Roger & Lisa, and Mike & Karen and their guest) were able to be seated immediately. Rather than waiting, Mike Hall, Scott & his brother Todd, Ron Hienz & his 2 guests, Adam & Bill Smith, and Eric Davis elected to dine across the street at the Rusty Keg Tavern. Here's a photo of our tour group though a few participants are missing as they were already out looking at cars. More pictures will soon be posted on our club website.



To the members and families of the
Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio
have a very

Happy Easter!



CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763

Vice President: Adam Gulden (513) 615-6269
Secretary: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414