



THUNDERBIRDS OF SOUTHWEST OHIO

Newsletter
August 2023



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Promptly at 7:00 PM EDT on Thursday, July 13, 2023, President Roger Hamm called our meeting to order with a single swat of the President's gavel, in our customary meeting room at MCL Cafeteria. Following his Call to Order, he extended a warm welcome to the 11 members and 1 guest gathered together in the room.

Attendees: Those attending were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave Harvey, Brett Andrews, Larry & Jo Doelker, Mike Hall and his guest (sister Phyllis), Paul Loschi, and Dave & Susan Menke. Mark & Jackie Allen were unable to be present, as Mark was taking Jackie out to dinner elsewhere for her birthday.

Approval of Minutes: Since the minutes from the June meeting had been published in the July newsletter (sent out by email exactly one week before tonight's meeting), President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Past President Brett Andrews made the motion for approval, and that motion was seconded by Larry Doelker. There being no questions or concerns about the minutes as published in the newsletter, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Membership Update/Discussion: President Roger reminded us of the new member (Terry Wilson) that he recruited at the Brookville car show (unfortunately, due to work necessities, Terry was unable to attend tonight). Roger also mentioned another couple of people that both he and Brett have recently given applications to, but nothing firm has developed yet from any of those contacts. No one else had anything more to report regarding new or prospective members.

President Roger then asked if anyone had any changes to report in contact information or roster updates. There were none to report.

As to T-bird status updates, Roger reported that his '78 Diamond Jubilee is still in Indianapolis, and that it's still for sale at Gateway Classic, listed at \$14,500.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Roger reported that there are three anniversaries in July, being that of Darrel & Ruby York (on the 1st of the month, being their 28th anniversary!), Jay & Bea Walsh (on the 15th of the month, their 56th anniversary!), and Jim Ross & Beverly Knauper (on the 29th of the month, their 16th anniversary). President Roger also reported four July birthdays: Susan Menke (on the 2nd), Jackie Allen (on the 13th, today), Dave Koehler (on the 16th), and Tom Tirey (on the 20th). Happy anniversaries and birthdays to all!

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that, since June 1st, our treasury has been increased by \$20 (\$10 for 2023 dues from the aforementioned Terry Wilson, and \$10 prepaid 2024 dues from Darrell York).

Club Activities/Events: President Roger reminded everyone of the event pool which is listed on each meeting's agenda. In addition to those, here are some car events, as described in numerous hand-out flyers that Roger, Jackie & Mark, and Dave have received from various cruise-ins and shows, as well as some weekly cruise-ins:

WEEKLY CRUISE-IN EVENTS:

Thursdays, 4:00 PM: *Get Air Cruise-In, Huber Hts*

Fridays, 4:00 PM: *Beavercreek Cruise-In, Vineyard Church*

Saturdays, 5:00 PM: *Kettering Cruise-In, Kettering Assembly of God Church*

Sundays, 4:00 PM: *Cruisers and Cones, Airline Dairy Crème, Vandalia*

ONE-OFF EVENTS (SHOWS AND CRUISE-INS):

July 16 (Sun), 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: *Brookhaven Cruise-In (one Country Lane, Brookville) - Free, door prizes, food trucks, people's choice awards*

August 5 (Sat), 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM: *Shade Tree Auto Show (1617 N. Longview St., Beavercreek) - \$15/car, T-shirts and dash plaques to first 50 entrants, Top 35 awards plus Best of Show, food & drink available, entertainment by Bob Pitsch (please bring a canned good for donation to the Beavercreek FISH food pantry)*

August 20 (Sun), 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM: *Antioch Shrine Custom Car, bike & Truck Show (107 E. First St.) - \$15/car, dash plaques, door prizes, Top 25 awards (participant judging), music, food & beverages available. Our own Larry Doelker has been a long-time Shrine member and active booster for this show.*

August 22 (Tue) through Aug 27 (Sun) - **THUNDERBIRD REUNION, FORD WORLD HEADQUARTERS, DEARBORN, MI** (a joint effort of International Thunderbird Club, Vintage Thunderbird Club International, and Classic Thunderbird Club International). Information on this event should be found in each of the respective club magazines, as well as on their web sites. If you can't find the info in the first source you check, keep looking!

August 26 (Sat), 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: *Family on Wheels Car Show (Miami Valley Center Mall, 987 E Ash St, Piqua) - \$10/car, dash plaques to first 200 vehicles, door prizes, 50/50, silent auction, numerous awards*

September 10 (Sun), 8:00 AM - ??????: *Gathering of the Geezers (Kil-Kare Raceway, 1166 Dayton-Xenia Rd, Xenia) - cost is \$15 (spectator) or \$20 (car show & swap meet) or \$25 (drag racin!). Don't miss it, too much to list here.*

September 23 (Sat), 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM: *Crestview Baptist Church Car Show (6600 Salem Ave, Clayton) - Free, dash plaques to all, door prizes, gift bags, food & beverages, numerous awards*

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR CAR EVENTS:

"MiamiValleyCruiser" is a Facebook group that maintains up-to-date listings of all types of cruise-ins, car shows, and other car-related information

Another source of car shows, cruise-ins, etc. is "miamivalleynovas.com/carshows.html"

Old Business: President Roger ONCE AGAIN reminded everyone that the club's biennial officer elections will be held in October, just 3 months away. He reminded everyone that nomination petitions will be due at the September meeting (the forms can be downloaded from our web site). He again asked for some 'new faces' to step up and volunteer, as we have been rotating through the same group of officers for a while now. Since the Vice President (currently, Scott McGaha) automatically accedes to the Presidency (per our Bylaws), 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. Please consider 'throwing your hat into the ring' for one of these positions. Candidacy petitions will be due in by our September meeting, and can be found on our web site (<http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com/>, then click on "TSWO Bylaws" on the left, then item #6 Elected Officer Candidacy Letter). When you click on that link, the form will download to your computer. Simply print the form, fill it out, and turn it in no later than the September club meeting (which will be on the 14th that month). Please *seriously* consider nominating *yourself or someone else* (with their permission, of course) for any of the 3 positions up for election in October (Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer).

Calendar of Car Events:

Our next club meeting will be on August 10th at our usual location, MCL Cafeteria (with dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by our meeting beginning promptly at 7:00).

Next Saturday, July 22nd, is the Ohio Challenge Balloon Show and Car Show, held at Middletown's Smith Park. In addition to a car show, it's also possible to take balloon rides. Car show registration is from 12:00 to 2:00, and the show is from 2:00 to 8:00.

New Business: For our New Business, Mike Hall had a special presentation of his vast collection of Thunderbird model cars and other memorabilia. First, Mike introduced his sister, Phyllis, who accompanied him to the meeting. She's been a T-bird fan about as long as Mike has been. Before he delved into his presentation, there was some light-hearted banter as to whether or not T-birds constituted good "date cars." There were a variety of opinions expressed on that topic, as well as (perhaps) some subtle recognition of the virtues of T-birds as "date cars."

Mike is a collector of any Thunderbird-related memorabilia. After unveiling the portion of his collection that he brought tonight, he showed (and talked about) some of the more-unusual items in his collection. He started off with a 1956 T-bird containing a fifth of Jim Beam whiskey (unopened, distillers tax stamp still intact). Next was a '55 T-bird coin bank, in bronze. He next showed a '56 T-bird pencil box, complete with a Thunderbird pencil. And speaking of unusual - have you ever seen a '56 T-bird lint brush? Those of us attending the meeting now have seen one. He also showed a T-bird Avon Wood Country cologne bottle. Next came a '56 T-bird coffee mug, styled along the lines of a drive-in restaurant, such as were widespread "back in the day." He also showed us a '57 T-bird pencil sharpener, followed by a '55

T-bird Christmas ornament. The next items he showed us was his collection of 4 big brass Thunderbird belt buckles. In 1970 and 1971, Proctor and Gamble attached toys to their detergent packages, including "Go Cars." One of the many types of cars attached to the P&G products was a 1970 Thunderbird, which Mike demonstrated for us (although a linoleum floor would have worked much better than the MCL carpet!). Mike also showed us a Thunderbird rubber stamp (which he said was for "important correspondence"). Next, he showed us some Thunderbird plates (mostly intended for display purposes, rather than for eating).

One of the more-unusual items Mike showed was an uncanceled 2005 "First Day of Issue" Thunderbird stamp. He also showed a Thunderbird flag and a trophy his car won at the recent Mustang Club and Thunderbird Club event held at the Halderman Museum Barn, in Brandt, OH. Mike's award was one of only 20 handed out at the event, which was attended by probably a couple hundred Mustangs and 3 T-birds.



Mike also showed a few friction toys, all T-birds, of course. He also showed some of his official Ford accessories, including a Thunderbird key ring, a Thunderbird tie tack (1960 white T-bird illustrated on this one, of course). In addition to the older T-bird memorabilia, he showed us a functional Retro Bird (doors, hood and trunk open). He also showed us some "promo cars," which were produced for dealers to hand out to car buyers (or perhaps seriously-interested buyers, to encourage them). One of his items was a '56 solid pewter T-bird, and another was a tiny solid pewter T-bird. He also had Thunderbirds from the Hot Wheels, Johnny Lightning, and Matchbox brands.

Mike also showed a model of a '61 T-bird Indianapolis 500 pace car. This model T-bird (painted in gold) was requested to be the pace car due to its futuristic styling.

As you can tell, Mike is quite the T-bird memorabilia collector. It was very interesting to see the variety of items he brought to the meeting, and to listen to his excitement and enthusiasm as he talked about his collection (and Thunderbirds, in general). A big "Thank You" goes out to Mike for sharing a part of his collection with us this evening.



Open Floor: Scott mentioned that Miami Valley Car Club is still trying to pull off the Bellbrook Lions Club Car Show one last time, despite the loss of the primary driver of that event within MVCC, Ken Shanley, an MVCC founding member who passed away on June 9th. The club's intent is to hold this final show in Ken's memory. If anyone is able to help either in advance of the show or the day of, such help will be greatly appreciated by the members of MVCC.

Scott mentioned an unfortunate experience he had at a spring club event, a meal at Ford's Garage. He was the last one to leave (everyone else had already departed), and his car wouldn't start. As a result, he

suggested in the future that we make sure that everyone's vehicle is started and running before we all leave an event. The members all agreed that this would be a good practice to follow in the future. After Scott's suggestion, there ensued a lengthy discussion of battery/alternator/ground problems and solutions, and all types of electrical problems.

Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Paul Loschi, and seconded by Jo Doelker. With a drop of the gavel, President Roger declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM EDT.

Roger Hamm
President

Birthdays & Anniversaries in August: We have one club member celebrating a birthday this month and our club president and his bride are celebrating their anniversary. Hopefully I'm not telling tales out of school, but Roger and Lisa have gone to Virginia to surprise and celebrate his mother's 99th birthday along with his brother and sister-in-law. As an added surprise for everyone attending the birthday celebration, Roger and Lisa plan to renew their wedding vows at their church on Sunday. Best wishes to you all on your special day.



August Birthdays
Bea Walsh (26th)

August Anniversaries
Roger & Lisa Hamm (4th)
(39 yrs)



Greetings, fellow TSWO members. We have made it through the summer months of June and July, and now we are starting the month of August. This month is when many local schools open up and have students back to start another year of learning. It means that now in the mornings and afternoons, we will possibly get slowed down by those big yellow school buses either picking up or dropping off students on the way to school or on the way home. *Guess we will also have to be more careful when we drive*

as kids may dart across the road without looking. Make sure you keep your eyes open. Watch out for them when you are driving.

August is also a busy month for many counties across the United States with them having their county fairs going on at their county fairgrounds. This got me wondering how county fairs first got started and what is the history behind them? So, I did some research and found some interesting facts about how they got started.

In medieval Europe, a "fair" was usually a religious gathering, but modern fairs are more about farming. The first U.S. county fair, held in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1807, was basically just a

sheep-shearing demonstration and contest. It was the brainchild of sheep farmer Elkanah Watson, who wanted to promote better farming practices. Bolstered by its success, Watson began developing agricultural fairs that included contests and activities for the whole family.

At the heart of county fairs, in Watson's day and today, are livestock shows, where judges inspect animals presented by local farmers for overall quality and award prizes to those with the best livestock. The friendly competition became wildly popular with the agricultural community of Massachusetts.

The Evolution of The County Fair

As word spread about the livestock shows and agricultural contests Watson hosted, other counties began to plan their own fairs. By the mid-1800s, county fairs were widespread across the eastern and midwestern states. Food vendors, baking contests, horse races, and games of chance were added to the rosters to entertain the hordes, and local merchants set up booths to sell their wares to the gathered crowds.

By 1841, Watson's county fairs had grown so popular that New York announced the United States's first state fair. The New York State Fair took place over two days in September in Syracuse, New York with the goal of furthering public education about agriculture and farming practices with livestock shows, lectures, and exhibits. The event was hugely popular, with an estimated attendance of between 10,000 and 15,000. Today, the New York State Fair is still a popular event, so much so that it now takes place over two weeks rather than two days.

Roger

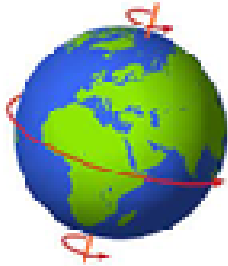


You're Moving Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Million Miles Per Hour and Don't Even Know It

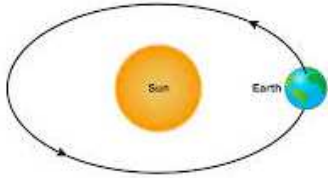
(by: Brett Andrews)

For a long time, Peg and I have been interested in learning about and seeing new pictures of our universe. There are multiple satellites loaded down with all types of measurement equipment orbiting multiple planets, even our sun, sending back data about those celestial bodies that will take scientists years/decades to analyze. Up until about a year ago, the most amazing of those was the images provided by the Hubble Telescope. Those pictures of distant galaxies and space phenomena were a sight to behold. Then came the James Webb Space Telescope. Now we marvel at images of distant objects in our universe that are so far away that the light from the farther most object seen by the Webb telescope to date travelled 13.1 billion years before it reached its mirrors. The massive size of our universe is beyond our wildest comprehension. As a youth, I believed we were just floating around in

space and the only real movement we experienced was the rotation of Earth that gives us our 24-hour day and our orbit around the sun that establishes our year. I recently ran across the following on just how fast we are moving in space. See if you are as amazed as I was. Hold on, here we go.



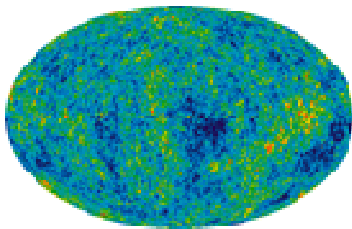
The earth rotates on its axis at: 1037 mph



Earth orbits the Sun at: 67,000 mph



Our solar system orbits in the Milky Way at: 514,000 mph



Estimated speed galaxies are expanding
away from each other is: 163,000 mph

Total Combined Speed 745,037 mph

Dizzy Yet?

CLUB OFFICERS

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