



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

December 2022



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Once again, continuing his fine tradition, President Roger Hamm gaveled our November meeting to order at exactly 7:00 PM, in the room adjacent to our customary meeting room at MCL Cafeteria (a larger group had reserved our usual room). The meeting being rather sparsely attended, nevertheless he extended a warm welcome to the 11 members in attendance. It was noted that Bev Knauper had been exposed to COVID recently, so she and Jim stayed home to protect the rest of us - thank you for your consideration, Jim & Bev!

Attendees: Roger & Lisa Hamm, Dave & Deb Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Dave & Susan Menke, and Jim Russell.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the previous (October) meeting having been published in the recent newsletter, President Roger asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Brett Andrews made the motion for approval, and that motion was seconded by Susan Menke. President Roger asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the minutes, as published. Hearing none, he called for a vote on the motion, and it was 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 did.

No members had any contact information that requires updating.

As to Thunderbird updates, Jim Russell reported that (intermittently) he can't get his '56 to shift into reverse (it's a manual transmission). Roger suggested that it could possibly be a linkage problem, and there was some discussion as to other possible causes.

Dave Harvey reported that he is having a problem with the right air flow control on their '57. When the air flow control lever indicates "Off," he's getting what seems to be a full flow of air, and when the control lever indicates "Right Air," there seems to be no air flow. He suspects that there's a mis-adjustment of the connect point for the outside cable sleeve to the control vs. the inside cable itself, but so far, he's been unable to make any progress toward remedying the problem (mostly because the vintage A/C that they had installed a few years back is seriously

limiting access to the back of the air flow control). As weather permits (and as his motivation improves), he'll continue trying to fix it.

Sunshine Committee Report: There are no anniversaries to report for the month of November, but three of our members celebrate birthdays this month: Terry Powell (new member) on the 4th; Guy Gifford (one of our most-senior members) on the 25th; and Dave Menke on the 27th.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that she has received dues from 3 members, those being the Powells and the Koehlers (both new members who joined recently), as well as their own dues (Roger & Lisa). Thus, \$30.00 has been added to the treasury for this past month.

Club Activities/Events: As of this moment, we have no event planned for January. Roger asked for members to provide guidance/input as to what they would like to see for our January activity (remember, the December gathering is not a meeting, but strictly a social gathering, so there won't be an opportunity to discuss a January event until the January meeting). Anyone with ideas or suggestions is encouraged to email Roger with their thoughts.

This coming Saturday, November 12, will be our outing to Valley Vineyards. As of this time, there have been only 8 commitments to this event. Roger will send a reminder email after tonight's meeting, in order to encourage more people to attend.

The December meeting slot will be occupied by our annual social/party and will be held at the Florentine Restaurant (21 W. Market St., Germantown, OH). By consensus, it was agreed that the party will begin at 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 8th. Food will be ordered off the restaurant's regular menu.

As before, we will hold the traditional White Elephant/Dirty Santa type of gift exchange (members who wish to participate would bring a gift costing roughly in the \$20/person price range or so, as we don't want the cost to get out of hand!) More details, and the gift exchange rules, will be published in the December newsletter.

Old Business: No old business to report.

New Business: None to report

Calendar of Car Events: The Springfield Swap Meet and Car Show will be held this coming Saturday, November 12th.

Open Floor: Brett brought our club apparel catalog to the meeting tonight for members to review. Given the low turn-out, he'll plan to bring it again to the January meeting.

Dave Harvey suggested that, in the event that we decide to go to Valley Vineyards again, we consider making it an October event, rather than November. This gives the dual advantages of daylight for cooking (since the time doesn't "fall back" until November) and the likelihood of warmer weather for outdoor cooking.

Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Jim Russell and seconded by Dave Menke. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Roger Hamm
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in December: We have five members celebrating birthdays this December, but no anniversaries this month. Enjoy your special day.

December Birthdays

December Anniversaries

- 9th: Darrel York
- 10th: Lisa Hamm
- 15th: Beverly Knauper
- 17th: Julie Blake
- 31st: Brett Andrews

None



December has arrived, and with it are everyone's thoughts about the coming holiday we all know as Christmas. Everyone starts thinking about what gifts to give members of their families. I know that can be exhausting, as you have to go to stores and shop for whatever their family members had on their shopping lists. We also start making plans on how to get together for the holidays. Some of us have to fly due to being so far away and others drive to the family homes. It can be very hard on some of us, especially those who have to spend the holidays alone, due to work or not having enough funds to pay for the expense of leaving their own home.

Have you ever wondered how or why December 25th was chosen as the date for the birth of Jesus Christ? Well, as it turns out December 25 was considered the date of the winter solstice

in the Roman calendar, though actually it occurred on the 23rd or 24th at that time. A late fourth-century sermon by St. Augustine explains why this was a fitting day to celebrate Christ's nativity: "Hence it is that He was born on the day which is the shortest in our earthly reckoning and from which subsequent days begin to increase in length. He, therefore, who bent low and lifted us up chose the shortest day, yet the one whence light begins to increase."

Linking Jesus to the Sun was supported by various Biblical passages. Jesus was considered to be the "Sun of righteousness" prophesied by [Malachii](#): "Unto you shall the sun of righteousness arise, and healing is in his wings."

Such solar symbolism could support more than one date of birth. An anonymous work known as *De Pascha Computus* linked the idea that creation began at the spring equinox, on March 25, with the conception or birth (the word *nascor* can mean either) of Jesus on March 28, the day of the creation of the sun in the Genesis account. One translation reads: "O the splendid and divine providence of the Lord, that on that day, the very day, on which the sun was made, March 28, a Wednesday, Christ should be born".

In the 17th century, Isaac Newton who, coincidentally, was born on December 25, argued that the date of Christmas may have been selected to correspond with the solstice.

Conversely, according to Steven Hijmans of the University of Alberta, "It is cosmic symbolism ... which inspired the Church leadership in Rome to elect the southern solstice, December 25, as the birthday of Christ, and the northern solstice as that of John the Baptist, supplemented by the equinoxes as their respective dates of conception."

I hope that all of us in the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio have a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May it be full of joy and happiness, and for those of you who get to get away to be with your families, may it be a wonderful time with them. Until next year comes, let's hope we are all safe and are able to get together again in the new year 2023.





Valley Vineyards: Here We Come Again



On Saturday, November 12th, ten of our TSWO members met at the Valley Vineyards Restaurant in Morrow, Ohio for what has become one of our clubs almost annual go to places. Those attending included Roger & Lisa Hamm, Dave & Deb Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Tom Tirey & Gina Hoctor, and Dave Koehler & Barbara Kraemer. Historically, when we went to the Valley Vineyards we did so in October, but this year the trip was delayed. That month made a really big difference. If you remember, October was beautiful. The weather was warm, and the trees were in their full fall color. The same can't be said for November.

Ironically, the weather was nice and comfortable during the first 10 days of November. Then on the 11th it all came crashing down. As you recall, we were hit with a lot of rain on Veteran's Day then overnight the bottom fell out of the temperature, and we woke up Saturday morning to snow and near freezing temperatures. Though the snow was on and off most of the day, the temperature stayed near freezing.

Since it was Valley Vineyards policy not to fire up their indoor grill until the temperature hit 30 degrees, we found ourselves grilling outside where it was 32-33 degrees. Fortunately, the grilling area was fairly warm with all the glowing embers from the grill fires. Since we had reservations for the first seating at 5:00 pm there were not many people there when we first arrived, but by the time we started to grill our main entrees the place began to fill quickly. We got our salads, did our grilling, grabbed our side dishes and dessert, and settled in for our meal and some lively conversation -- many of us with wine in hand. After about two and a half hours, we realized it was about time another batch of folks would be arriving for the next meal shift. That was our cue that it was time for us to leave. We said our goodbyes and headed home. Below are pictures of the members talking and enjoying their meals. There are additional photos on our club website under "Recent Club Events".



That **Red** and/or **Yellow** Dot on Your Tires: What's It For?

Edited by: Brett Andrews

Although I've noticed red and/or yellow dots on my car tires, I never really gave their existence much attention or wondered about their purpose. Then I ran across a short writing about the dots which perked my interest, so I did a little more research. The below is an amalgamation of excerpts from several internet articles on the subject and briefly touches on the two prominent method of tire balancing.

Yellow and **Red** dots are used to indicate inconsistencies in a tire's weight, construction, and structure, which can cause them to vibrate when spinning. Vibrating, unbalanced tires can affect ride quality, fuel economy and braking effectiveness. A vibrating tire/wheel assembly makes controlling your vehicle more difficult, especially at high speeds, and can increase stopping distance. A hopping tire/wheel loses full contact with the road surface generating less friction when braking. The section of tire that touches the road, called the contact patch or footprint, isn't much larger than the palm of your hand. So, if you see **Red** and **Yellow** paint dots on the sidewall of your tires, it's perfectly normal.

Because it's nearly impossible to manufacture a perfectly balanced, perfectly round tire, manufacturers identify any irregularities with these dots of paint. The dots help technicians correctly install and balance the tire. Properly balanced tires and wheels are critical to driving comfort and safety, and those paint dots help make that happen.



The **Yellow** dot indicates where the manufacturer has identified the lightest spot on the tire. This helps the balance technician match that spot to the heaviest spot on the rim—which is almost always where the valve stem is mounted. By aligning the valve stem and the **Yellow** dot, a wheel has a better chance of being more easily balanced.

In the same way that tires are never perfectly balanced from the manufacturer, tires are never perfectly round. They have high and low points which occur where the belts are joined, and these points can cause vibrations. The **Red** dot indicates the tire's highest point. Most of the time a wheel rim will also have a dot—either a drilled dot or a sticker to indicate its low point; if you have these marks, you

should align the **Red** dot with the mark on the wheel and ignore the **Yellow** dot. This minimizes the vibration caused by the high point of the tire.

If both **Red** and **Yellow** dots are visible on your tire and you don't have any dots or marks on your wheel rim, **Red** takes precedence over **Yellow** and you should align the **Red** dot with the valve stem. Cancelling out the high point takes precedence over the lightest point of the tire, which can be addressed with wheel weights.

Wheel Balancing: This process spins a tire/wheel assembly to identify the location(s) where weights need to be placed to eliminate vibrations and help tires roll smoothly. Out-of-balance tires may develop dangerous bald spots, which negatively affect tread wear, and shorten tire life. Out-of-balance tires can also cause premature suspension component failures.

The two most common types of wheel balancing are dynamic and match-balancing. During dynamic balancing, wheel weights are added to counteract tire imbalance that results in tire hop. Match-balancing matches the tire's low point to its wheel's high point, providing a smooth ride.

When having new tires mounted and balanced, ask your tire installer if their wheel balancing equipment can match-balance tires. This is especially important if your wheels lack any markings.



Do You Need A Club Shirt?

Over the last year plus, we have gained several new club members. So, it's time to bring out the commercial for our club shirt. Shortly after our club's formation in 2008, the membership agreed we needed a standardized club shirt and logo. Though not mandatory for club members, it is a sign of unity.



The membership further agreed these shirts with logo should be worn during the months of car shows and cruise-ins (usually May-Oct). The current source of our club shirts, and other apparel if you desire, is Twin Design in Kettering. They also do the embroidering. Our warm weather club shirt (both men and women's versions available) is an ultramarine blue polo type shirt that we typically wear to club meetings, car events, and other activities we participate in as a club. As a minimum, it is embroidered with our club logo. Several members also option to have



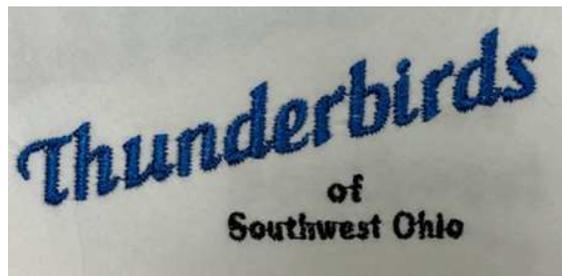
their name placed opposite the logo on their shirt.

In the colder months (after car show/cruise-in season), some members have tended to purchase, and have embroidered, various cooler weather gear (sweatshirts, hoodies, jackets, etc). They then wear these to club meetings and events we do during cooler weather. The color and style of the cold weather apparel is optional. We actually have two club logos (see below). One logo consists of the club's name

inside an Ohio outline. This logo is placed on the club's summer shirts and is optional on cold weather clothing. Members use the logo without the Ohio outline on hats or as an alternative on colder weather clothing. Our vendor has indicated they will also embroider either of our logos on items you provide (i.e., shirts, jackets, hats, canvas bags, etc.).



If you are interested in looking into getting a club shirt or other items provided by our vendor, I will be bringing their catalog and other information to our January 2023 club meeting. We can talk specifics and I can give you some notional pricing information, though I suspect there may be some price changes due to the inflationary period we are currently experiencing. I would be glad to take



member orders and provide them to our supplier or you can go directly to their shop, see some of the other apparel they have, and place your own order. They already have both logos available in their computer files. I would note that we would like to keep the thread color the same on the warm weather club shirt. For cold weather items, it's your choice.



Two Final Christmas Reminders

It's the only time of year you can sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of a sock.

It's not what's under the tree that's important, it's who's around it.

*To all the members of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio,
have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year*

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992	Vice President: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414
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