



# Thunderbirds

## of Southwest Ohio Newsletter

December 2023



### MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** Only a few seconds after 7:00 PM EDT on Thursday, November 9, 2023, President Roger Hamm gaveled our meeting to order at our usual location, MCL Cafeteria. Following his call to order, he reminded everyone that this is his last meeting as President of TSWO, since Vice-President Scott McGaha will automatically accede to the office of President on January 1, 2024 (the December meeting will be strictly "party time," so it doesn't count as part of Roger's official duties as President). After this announcement, he welcomed the near-record-size group in attendance tonight (**23** in all, just one short of last month's 24 attendees!).

**Attendees:** The 23 members attending tonight (both "old" & "new") were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave & Deb Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Gayle Conrad (a fairly-new member, attending her first TSWO meeting), Larry & Jo Doelker, Adam Gulden, Mike Hall (who will become our Vice President on January 1), Dave Menke, Terry & Carol Powell, Ron & Linda Prater, Owen & Carol Taylor, and Charley White. Also, present was Ron Heinz, who joined our club at this evening's meeting (a guest when he came in, a member when he left!). Welcome to TSWO, Ron, and a belated welcome to Gayle!

**Approval of Minutes:** Since the minutes from the October meeting had been published in the November newsletter (sent out by email late last week), President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Before receiving a motion for approval, Vice President Scott McGaha (who had presided at the October meeting in Roger's absence) raised a question about a statement that was in the October minutes, as follows: "...it was agreed that we would switch locations year-to-year between MCL and The Florentine Restaurant, in Germantown (the site of last year's club Christmas party)". Scott recalled having made that suggestion at last month's meeting, but he didn't recall that the club had voted on or otherwise approved his suggestion. After some discussion, all agreed that there had been no official action taken at last month's meeting with respect to the location of any future Christmas parties. President Roger then asked for a vote on this correction to last month's minutes, and the vote was unanimously in favor of the correction. With the correction approved, he went on to request a motion for approval of the minutes, as now amended. The motion was made by Jo Doelker and was seconded

by Brett Andrews. There being no further questions or concerns about the minutes as published in the newsletter and amended tonight, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Membership Update/Discussion:** President Roger called on our guest/newest member, Ron Heinz, to tell us about himself and his T-bird. Ron stated that his parents bought new a 1978 Town Landau, which Ron owns and has maintained since the 1980s. It's mostly all original, and in pretty nice condition. He is also a member of the Fairlane & Torino Club. Six years ago, he started his own local meet, with this year's meet comprised of 49 Fairlane & Torino cars, as well as 26 other Fords. While he doesn't have any plans to open up the meet to other Ford lines, he did offer the possibility (if we're interested) of having our club join their meet, which will be held early in October, 2024, thus giving us plenty of time to put this on our calendar (a perk: we would have our own designated parking area for our T-birds). A flyer will be available later with full particulars.

President Roger then called on Gayle Conrad to introduce herself and tell us about her T-bird(s). She and her husband, Jeff, both have '56 Thunderbirds. His is Colonial White, and hers is Peacock Blue. Jeff's car was "down" for 47 years, and hers was "down" for 45 years. Jeff brought them both back from the dead, and her car is within a couple weeks of completion. Gayle says her husband owns quite a few cars (13 or so), ranging from Model Ts, Model As, up to a '63 Cadillac, currently being finished up. They belong to 3 car clubs, Ohio Valley Early Birds, International Thunderbird Club, and now TSWO.

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

Next, President Roger asked if anyone had any Thunderbird updates (either vehicles newly acquired or recently disposed of, or work in process or recently completed). Roger said that he's still "arguing" with his convertible, that it's not cooperating with him at all.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** President Roger reported that there are no wedding anniversaries in November. However, there are three birthdays to report: Terry Powell (on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a few days ago), Guy Gifford (on the 25<sup>th</sup>), and Dave Menke (on the 27<sup>th</sup>).

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that, since October 1<sup>st</sup>, there has been no change in our treasury balance. However, with dues starting to come in, she will have some activity to report at our next meeting.

**Club Activities/Events:** President Roger reminded us of the Event Pool that appears on each month's agenda. He noted that he has penciled in the Fairlane & Torino Club event that Ron Heinz mentioned earlier this evening.

Vice-President Scott McGaha reported that all club officers helped at the Stoddard Avenue Pumpkin Glow carving on Saturday, October 28. Scott was there the whole week, whereas Roger

& Lisa and Dave & Deb were there on Saturday. The participants reported that the carving experience was enjoyable, and everyone made them feel welcome. It was also reported that the food was good, too.

**Old Business:** Dues are now payable for 2024. Lisa will be more than happy to take your payment tonight, if you wish, or you can mail your check to her.

President Roger reminded everyone that the December meeting will not be an official meeting, but will consist entirely of dinner, followed by a "White Elephant" gift exchange. The full rules for the gift exchange were published in the November newsletter, which everyone should have received late last week. Note that the suggested price point for each gift is in the \$20 range.

**REMINDER:** dinner preceding the December 14 "non-meeting"/party will begin at **5:30 PM**, not the customary 6:00 PM (this is to allow sufficient time to conduct the gift exchange and still be out of MCL by 8:00 PM).

**Calendar of Car Events:** As noted above, our next club meeting (AKA, "non-meeting"/party) will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> at our usual location, MCL Cafeteria (with dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by our gift exchange and party beginning around 6:30-ish, if not a bit before).

**New Business:** President Roger had no new business to discuss.

**Open Floor:** Scott mentioned that he had recently ordered some VTCI grill badges for both his cars and offered to show them after the meeting to any who wanted to see them, and maybe consider ordering them. In addition, he has purchased some grill badges from ITC. He also has an extra VTCI window cling that he offered to sell at his cost to anyone who might be interested.

Scott reported that most of the "stuff" that he had received from Penny Shanley, widow of the late Ken Shanley, and had offered to our club members last month was nearly all taken (except for a lot of dash plaques, and some card-stock car-show window placards). He said anything that is left after tonight's meeting will be recycled.

Scott also reported that Horsepower Farm near Middletown will be holding their annual Christmas Cars, Coffee and Toys for Tots event on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. They will accept cash donations, as well as unwrapped toys for children from 1-17, benefiting needy children in Butler, Warren, Hamilton, Greene, and Montgomery counties in Ohio, as well as some areas in northern KY.

Brett Andrews, our webmaster, made a plea for everyone to make sure he has a picture of each of your Thunderbirds which he would like to post on our web site. Then, switching hats, in his capacity of newsletter editor, he implored the members to provide articles for our newsletter (which, you will recall, recently received a "Gold" award from VTCI for newsletter excellence).

Anything goes, whether car-related or not. This is a way for us to get to know each other better.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Nancy Blake and seconded by Peg Andrews. With a single rap of the gavel, President Roger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM EDT.

***Roger Hamm***  
President



**Birthdays & Anniversaries in December:** We're loaded with Birthdays for December, but no anniversaries. We have one member celebrating their birthday on Christmas Eve and another on New Years Eve. A very Happy Birthday to you all from your TSWO family.



**December Birthdays**

4<sup>th</sup>: Carol Powell  
9<sup>th</sup>: Darrel York  
10<sup>th</sup>: Lisa Hamm  
11<sup>th</sup>: Ron Prater  
15<sup>th</sup>: Beverly Knauper  
17<sup>th</sup>: Julie Blake  
24<sup>th</sup>: Dave Moore  
31<sup>st</sup>: Brett Andrews

**December Anniversaries**

None



As this year is coming to an end, it is also the end of my tenure as the president of Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio. The last two years have been enjoyable, and I was pleased to be able to lead our club these last two years.

I have seen us lose a few members in the past two years, but those have been more than offset by all the new members we now have. I believe we have close to 50 members in the club, and I hope to see it grow even more in the next year. I will be turning the presidency over to Scott McGaha, who I am sure will follow in my footsteps and



continue to help our club grow. He will be a great leader and I expect we will continue to find fun and exciting activities to do as club events in 2024 & 2025, some with our T-birds and some just as a chance to get together and enjoy being around other club members.

I also want to thank all you members who have shown your support and expressed your feelings for the job I have done as your president. It really made me feel like I did something right and that you approved of the job I was doing. I will leave this office knowing I gave it my best and that I now have to turn the office over to the new president. Please show him the respect and pleasure for the job that he will begin on January 1. I am sure he will do a fantastic job and lead us onto a brighter future. Again, thank you all and I will see you at our Christmas party on the 14<sup>th</sup>.



## It's A Two-Seater Plus

(by: Brett Andrews)



them before, so initially it was not a big deal until I saw the back end. By now you've looked at the pictures, so my following words won't be much of a surprise.

This past July I was sitting at home on a Friday evening watching the Mecum Auction being televised from Harrisburg, Pa. Normally, I'm aware of when a Mecum or Barrett-Jackson Auction is going to be televised and check online to see the lineup of cars just in case there's a few I specifically want to see. However, this auction snuck up on me. While relaxing and munching popcorn, a '57 Babybird came rolling across the stage. I've seen many of

Normally, I pride myself on being somewhat an automotive purest, meaning I'm not crazy about classic cars being heavily modified from the way they rolled off the production line. However, this one was unique in one respect -- It had a rumble seat referred to as the "Birdnest". As far as I could tell everything else on the car was just as it should be. It was a standard 312 V8 with automatic transmission.



The online Mecum writeup described the car as having only 84 miles on it. Maybe after a full restoration that may be the case, but not if that's its original miles. Had that been the actual mileage, it would have commanded a lot higher bid than the \$25,000 it sold for. I noticed one other thing. In my youth I've ridden the rumble seat in old cars, and they all had reinforced step pads to use to get in the rumble seat. I saw no such embellishments on the rear of this car. This makes me think that maybe the rumble seat was somewhat just for show. Nevertheless, it is an interesting eye-catching feature that I thought you may enjoy seeing.

**Postscript:** In one of my scans through Facebook earlier this year, after I drafted the above article for future use in a newsletter, I ran across a picture of a red '57 T-bird with a rumble seat just like the one shown above. At first, I thought it was the same car, but then as I began to read and research more, I discovered that, in fact, the rumble seat was an aftermarket option for the '57 Thunderbird only. The "Birdnest" rumble seat was built by a company called Bird's Nest of Burbank, CA. According to what I could find, about 120 were ordered. Installation only required the removal of the stock trunk and bolting in the steel replacement frame, lid, and seat. Below pictured are more examples of the installed article. Note that the Willow Green car is sporting a full continental kit (assuming also containing a spare tire) which was standard on the '56 bird, but not on the '57. The Doeskin Tan '57 just has the spare tire mounted directly to the bumper, no extension kit. Neither the Dusk Rose nor Star Mist Blue Babybirds have an externally mounted tire at all, so where's the spare? I have no clue how the Willow Green '57 got a full continental kit. I could find nowhere that a continental kit was a Ford factory option on the '57. It was either an aftermarket add-on or they installed a '56 kit on the '57. Also pictured below is an advertisement that was found on eBay by a gentleman. He copied the picture of the article and posted it on the internet as an interesting find for car folks. The advertisement, put out by the Bird's Net company, is announcing their rumble seat option.

I don't know about you, but I've never actually seen one, but I sure would like to.





## Club Shirts

With so many new members joining our club, it's time to publish information on the source of our club shirts. First, I'd like to mention what our guidelines are regarding club shirts. Several years ago, collectively the club agreed we needed a standard club shirt and logo. A logo was designed and approved, and the ultramarine blue shirts shown below were selected as the club shirt and color. Not only was the warm weather shirt and its color standardized but so was the thread color for the club logo. This shirt serves as our semi-official club shirt and is intended to be worn when the club is participating in a group activity such as club meetings, car shows/cruise-ins, site/museum tours, informal lunch/dinner gatherings, etc. during the car show/cruise-in season. It was also agreed that for club activities during the off-season, when warmer clothes were appropriate, members were encouraged to show club unity by wearing clothing articles emblazoned with our club logo such as sweatshirts, jackets, hats, etc. There is no specific clothing article specified, as was done for the summer shirts, nor are there any colors specified for the clothing or thread. You can go wild.

Our current supplier is **Twin Design**. They are located about a mile south of the MCL Cafeteria on Far Hills Avenue. They are situated in the back corner of the Woodbourne-Hyde Park

Shopping Center at 5769 Far Hills Avenue. As may not be fully implied by the name but is, in fact true, the business is owned and operated by twin sisters, Dixie and Nancy.

Initially I would take orders for shirts and other items such as hats from members, take them to Twin Design, and pick them up when ready. However, over the last few years, new members have found it more beneficial to make a personal visit to the store to not only order their summer club shirt, but to also look through display of other clothing articles that could be worn in the cooler months. Nancy and Dixie will even embroider our club logo on any clothing article or other items such as canvas bags, blankets, pillow cover, etc. If the material can be embroidered, they can do it. They have our two logo patterns and thread colors for the summer shirt.

Below are photos of the men's and women's semi-official club shirts. With the way inflation has been going, I currently don't know the price of these shirts. The shirt price does not include the cost of any embroidering. They can also embroider your name on the shirt. There are no criteria as to which side the club logo should be on the shirt, but generally if the guys get a pocketed shirt, they put the logo on the right side and their name above the pocket. It is your preference as to which side the club logo is placed on a no pocket shirt. We also have a club name logo (shown below) that members have typically placed on hats and sweatshirts.

Mens [K500]/Womens [L500], Shirt,  
no pocket, ultramire blue)



Men's Shirt (K500P, Pocketed,  
ultramarine blue)



Thunderbird Logo WITH Ohio Outline



Thunderbird Club Name logo:





I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.  
I made it some pajamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away,  
But first-- it wet the bed.



**From the club officers to all the  
members of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio,  
here's wishing you the most joyous Christmas  
and prosperous New Year**



**CLUB OFFICERS**

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