



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio
Newsletter

December 2025

(www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)



NOTICE: The minutes from our November 2025 club meeting will be posted in the January 2026 newsletter so its contents will be fresher in the minds of the January meeting attendees during the November meeting minutes approval process.



Birthdays & Anniversaries in December: Talk about a lot of celebrating going on this holiday season. We know of 10 individuals celebrating birthdays and two couples with anniversaries. As you may notice, we have one member celebrating their birthday on Christmas Eve and another on New Years Eve. From your TSWO family, may you all have a joyous celebration on your special day.

December Birthdays

4th: Carol Powell
6th: Rick Kolmin
8th: Jeff Almond
10th: Lisa Hamm
11th: Ron Prater
13th: Fay Dupuis
15th: Beverly Knauper
17th: Julie Blake
24th: Dave Moore
31st: Brett Andrews

December Anniversaries

Tom & Fay Dupuis
(58 yrs)
Rick & Ann Kolmin
(16 yrs)





Holiday greetings and happy new year wishes to everyone in TSWO!!

As a man "of a certain age," I feel obligated to say a few words at the outset about the weather. As Corporal Maxwell Q. Klinger from M*A*S*H would say, "Holy Toledo!! It's cold enough to freeze the nuts off a Jeep out there!" We've had two (2!) measurable snowfalls already this season, and it's not even

(officially) winter yet. It's been several years since we've had this much snowfall and days of freezing temperatures this early in the season. I hope everyone is staying warm and avoiding frost bite to any and all extremities when out and about in the "polar vortex."

This is a busy time of year for nearly everyone, but I hope you've marked your calendar for the evening of Thursday, December 11th, to attend the TSWO Christmas party at MCL Cafeteria. This is the 2nd Thursday of the month, the usual day for our monthly club meeting. But instead of our normal meeting, we will be gathering instead to share a meal and seasonal fellowship in celebration of the Christmas season and the end of the year. We will again have a "white elephant" gift exchange, so be sure and bring a wrapped gift to participate in this activity. Our "rules of engagement" for the gift exchange should be published elsewhere in this newsletter. To allow a little extra time for socializing and the white elephant gift exchange, please plan to arrive around 5 p.m. instead of the normal 5:30ish timeframe. We will be in our usual private dining room. We may actually have use of both private dining rooms, for a little extra elbow room, if the other room has not been reserved by another party.

Looking ahead to 2026, I would like to remind everyone that our Activities Committee has planned out a full calendar of monthly club activities for the coming year. The schedule was e-mailed out to everyone back in November by Jackie Allen. Activities are subject to change and not all dates have been nailed down at this time, but the idea is to keep this activity schedule at hand throughout the year (maybe place it on your refrigerator door, if you do that sort of thing) to serve as a reminder to hold dates open for club activities that you want to participate in, such as donut runs, covered bridge tours, a particular car show, restaurant and museum visits, etc. As in prior years, details and final dates will be communicated via e-mail as each activity gets closer.

That's about all I have for now, so I won't keep you any longer than necessary. I will close by again wishing everyone a very, merry Christmas and a happy new year with many miles of safe Thunderbird cruising in 2026.



Rules of Play for the White Elephant Gift Exchange



Our annual Christmas gathering will be held at the MCL Cafeteria in Kettering on December 11th. Members should arrive between 5:00 and 5:30pm with the group transiting the dinner line at 5:30. Our gathering will include a White Elephant gift exchange which we have done for several years. The following are the guidelines for playing the game.

Each individual who wishes to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange is to bring a wrapped gift to the party. The monetary value of the gift should be in the \$20 range, give or take, according to the generosity of the giver. The gift should be wrapped in such a manner that it appears desirable to all potential recipients, without the item itself being discernible through the wrapping. Oversized and/or falsely weighted packaging is allowed and even encouraged to add to the "fun" element of the game. Placing an item in a simple gift bag with a piece of tissue paper on top is generally discouraged unless done in an especially creative way that adds to the spirit of the game. At the start of the game, all participants will draw numbers to determine the order of play. The person drawing number "1" goes first, followed by the person drawing number "2", and so forth, in numerical order, until all participants have had a turn.

The person drawing number "1" has the unique opportunity to choose a single gift from amongst all the gifts available. A "reasonable" amount of examination of all gifts prior to selection is allowed. Other players awaiting their turn can provide immediate (vocal) feedback to the current player as to what is a "reasonable" examination. Picking up and perhaps gently shaking gifts to determine their weight and size should generally be allowed (see oversized packaging and false weighting suggestion above). The use of X-ray machines, metal detectors, Ouija boards, and other extreme measures to determine a gift's contents IS NOT allowed!!

Once person "1" has selected a gift from among all gifts available, he/she opens that gift and displays it before all remaining players. Play then moves to the person who drew number "2". Player "2" has the option of either taking the gift that was opened by player "1" or selecting an unopened gift from the remaining selection of all gifts. If an unopened gift is selected, player 2 must unwrap the gift and display it to all players. Play then moves to the person who drew number "3." However, if player 2 decides to take the gift previously opened by player "1", player "1" must select another gift from the remaining pile of gifts, open it and display it to all remaining players. Play then moves to the person who drew number "3". Play continues in a similar manner for all remaining players until everyone has had a turn.

When it is a player's turn, he/she has the following 2 options:

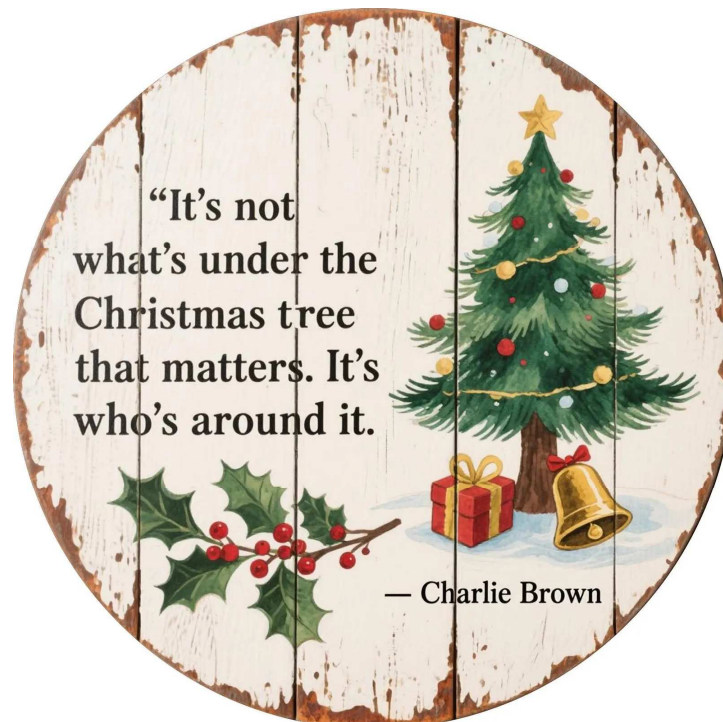
1. select an unopened gift from the remaining available gifts, open it, and display it to all other players. Play then moves to the person who drew the next higher number.
2. take a previously opened gift that is in the possession of another player, forcing that player to either take another previously opened gift in the possession of another player, or select an unopened gift from the remaining available gifts.

During a turn, a player cannot take back a gift from the same person that took the gift from them immediately prior - that is, a "tug of war" scenario which is not allowed.

Once a gift has exchanged ownership 3 times, that gift is retired from play. The final person possessing that gift is also removed from further play in the game.

After all players have taken their turn, if player "1" still possesses the gift they opened during their turn, and it has not changed ownership at any point during the game, then player "1" has the option of:

1. keeping the gift they opened during their turn, thereby ending the game
2. exchanging that gift for one that **has not** been retired during the course of the game. The player whose gift player "1" is taking must accept player "1's" gift in return, and the game ends.



To all the members and families of the
Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio;
May your Christmas be a miracle
and your New Year truly blessed



CLUB OFFICERS

President: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763

Vice President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591
Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885

