



Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

February 2016



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. January 14, 2016 at the MCL Cafeteria, club president, Roger Hamm, presiding.

Attendees: Roger and Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Brett and Peg Andrews, Nancy and Julie Blake, Beverly Knauper and Jim Ross, and Guy and Jan Gifford.

Announcements: Since the December 2015 meeting was our Christmas dinner and not a formal club meeting, there are no minutes to approve.

It was announced that Roger has been notified that Wayne and Ruthie Dennis has left the club. Wayne has been elected president of another car club and has chosen to devote his time to that effort.

Everyone wished Roger a happy birthday which he will be celebrating on Saturday. Likewise a happy anniversary wish was given to Guy and Jan for their 60th wedding anniversary on the 28th of January.

Brett described he and Peg's newest auto acquisition —a 2004 merlot retrobird with sand interior. They purchased it in Cumberland, Md four days before Christmas. Some Christmas present! He also mentioned that the Christmas pictures have been added to the recent events section on our website.

Guys is working on his 60 T-bird and intends to soon be painting it light blue, as it was originally,

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Lisa reported that she had prepared and provided copies of the 2015 annual summary of financial actions to club officers. She also identified the financial income and outlays that occurred since our November 2015 club meeting and gave us an end of year account balance. In addition she identified those of our 2015 club members who have not yet paid their 2016 club dues.

Event Planning: Scott mention that there was no club activity planned for January but that he was putting together ideas for this season and asked for input from the membership. His immediate proposal for February was attendance to a movie together, but no final decision was made at this meeting. He also suggested other ideas for the year to include another trip to the Wheelhouse Restaurant to for dinner to grill our steaks, a covered bridge tour, Imax at the Wright Patterson AFB museum, tour of a vintage home in Springfield. More discussion will follow at the February meeting. Brett mentioned that he and Peg were planning to return to visit the Gilmore Auto Museum in Kalamazoo, Mi probably in May and offered other the opportunity to go along. Because of the travel distance and time it will take to tour the museum Brett and Peg will likely be spending the night.

OLD BUSINESS:

The issue of getting new members was again broached along with the suggestion of eliminating the requirement from our club bylaws that new members had to join VTCI to be a member of our club. The membership was reminded that VTCI bylaws require at least 50% of the members in a chapter must be members of VTCI. Some members indicated they would still remain members of VTCI because of the various perks (Scoop magazine, participation in VTCI sanctioned events, etc). It was also mentioned that TSWO could drop from VTCI as a chapter, but our members could still remain VTCI members. Members were reminded that this option would require several critical actions to occur and decisions to be made such as filing to drop our corporation status, determining our legal responsibilities regarding our financial account and physical properties, maintaining our website, etc

New Business:

VTCI is looking for article inputs from the chapters for inclusion in the Scoop magazine. In the words in an e-mail from our Regional Director, Leo Gravelle, "Our publication should be made up of a mix of social articles, stories about club events, parties and functions. It should also have personal interest stories—stories about some of our people which make up our clubs. We should have regular technical articles dealing with the care and maintenance of the Thunderbird. And yes, we ought to have some humor once in awhile". So, if you like to write, here's your chance.

The VTCI is once again having the Newsletter Contest. An article concerning the contest will appear in the March-April Scoop issue. As a club, we need to decide if we want to participate this year. If we choose to enter, we'll need to send our input in via email in a pdf file format by May 1, 2016. The basic criteria are as follows.

Originality of the newsletter. Is it well done and Thunderbird appropriate? Are the articles included interesting and build enthusiasm? The style of the format is considered. Is it neat with artwork included that enhances the contents, do the photos or drawings complement the text? What is the central purpose of the publication? Are there technical articles to help members with their cars, are there parts sources included? Is there a president's message that reports past events and coming events? Are there dates and locations of upcoming local and area meetings for members to take part in? Does the chapter participate in local shows and events that promote the club and Thunderbird cars in general? Does it include local meeting minutes including local and regional club activities? And finally does the newsletter promote VTCI objectives and serve as a medium of exchange of ideas and information about the VTCI and the hobby in general? Does it encourage enrollment in the parent club (VTCI) and encourage participation in Regional and International conventions? These last areas will count for a substantial percentage of the total points.

Brett, as our web master, asked if anyone had any problems with deleting the Sons of Italy car show section from our web page. There were no objections, so it was agreed that it would be deleted at the next update.

Open Floor: Scott mentioned that he had spotted a 71 thunderbird parked at a building day after day as he drove to and from work. One day he stopped and left our club advertizing materials and his contact information on the vehicle. Soon he received a call from the individual who expressed serious interest in joining our club. Scott hasn't heard from him in a while but intends to follow up.

Adjourn: At the conclusion of discussion, Roger asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Jan and seconded by Peg. The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Roger Hamm
President

Next Meeting: February 11th, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering

Message from the President

We are getting closer to being able to get our T-birds out of hibernation. This winter has not been too bad here in Ohio. We had a very mild December with temperatures in the 50's and 60's. Then January came along with a drastic change and temperatures near 0 and highs in the 20's most days. However, we lucked out and missed out on the heavy snow which hit just south and east of us. I am glad we didn't have to shovel 2-3 feet of snow. Let's hope the rest of the winter will be mild and we have an early spring.

I am looking forward to warm weather and being able to go to car shows or cruise-ins. I hate looking at my T-bird sitting under its cover and also hate looking at my convertible needing to be finished, but with no heat in my barn, it has just been too cold to do anything on it. So, let's all hope for warm weather in February.

I hope that our club can have some great outings this year, and I am sure that you all feel the same. I really enjoyed the ones we did last year, and maybe we can do more. Please let me or one of our officers know if you can think of some activity that you think we might enjoy as a club event and we can bring it up for discussion at one of our meetings to see how the other members feel about it. I would like to try to have one event planned every month through November.

Let's make 2016 our best year ever for our club and hopefully, if we get our birds out more this year, we might be able to attract other bird owners to join our club and enjoy our club activities also.



February Birthdays

9th: E.D. Brown
11th: Peg Andrews

February Anniversaries

14th: Leona and Brownie



Upcoming Club Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Gilmore Auto Museum (tentative)	May 2016	Kalamazoo, Mi

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992

Vice President: Scott McGaha (937) 439-1138
Secretary: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131

Retrobird Blown Spare Tires

by Brett Andrews

Now that I have my own retrobird and don't have to gawk over someone else's, I've taken to researching everything from what accessories should I get for it, where to get spare parts, and certainly technical issues with the car like the coil-on-plug (COP) problem. One repeated failure that caught my attention was retrobird exploding spare tires. I'll admit that the number of reports I uncovered are not that substantial, but what really bothers me is I've been around and worked on cars for decades and personally have never seen spare tires exploding for no reason.



Here are a few reported cases I ran across on line. They've been sanitized to remove names and edited for space.

1. I had a bad tire on my 2002 Bird, so I told the tire shop to put the spare on. When I removed the cover for my spare, I was surprised to find that the tire casing had literally come apart in the spare tire well. (This tire had never been used.) It did have the firestone recommended air pressure in it also. Well it seems that the tire is no longer available and no one makes it.
2. Sept 18, 2010: Just had a call from a friend with a 2002. His Firestone spare tire "blew" just sitting in the trunk of his car and his car is garaged all the time. He's never had to use the spare but was aired up to specs.
3. From July 31, 2011: A gentleman reported that his spare in the trunk of his 2002 bird, blew while on the road trip he just started yesterday.
4. February 29, 2012: The firestone temp tire on my 2002 blew out sitting in the trunk - an amazing amount of damage on a tire that was never used on a car that spends most of it's time in the garage!
5. May 22, 2012: I had a flat on my bird while on a trip. I changed it to the space saver spare and made it to a tire shop. Several months later while charging the battery, I discovered the tire had blown in the trunk!
6. March 7, 2013: A couple of weeks ago we were watching TV, and heard what sounded like a shotgun blast. It was the spare, which had a mfg date of 3001.
7. June 2014: A report on a 2004 MAXXIS spare tire that blew up in the trunk. This is a first report for this brand.



The spare on the 2002 retrobird is a T185 60 17 by Firestone and on the 2003 to 2005 it is a MAXXIS. If the spare is original to your car when manufactured it is at least 11 to 14 years old. It may be older depending on when the tire was made. If you have a retrobird and haven't checked your spare in a well, you better do so. All indications are these spares are no longer available and so you may need to employ a full size alternate workaround. Get in the habit of checking your spare each time you check you full size tires. Remember, that spare is not a regular tire, so don't drive over 50 mph when installed.