



Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

February 2017

Happy
Valentine's
Day

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. January 12, 2017 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, Guy and Jan Gifford, and Mark & Jackie Allen.

Announcements: Since the December 2016 meeting was our Christmas dinner and not a formal club meeting, there were no December minutes to approve.

Roger welcomed the club members and wished all a Happy New Year. There were no new members added in the last month, no changes to club member information, nor any new T-bird purchases or restoration activities by club members.

Mark did identify the fan noise problem he had in his retrobird as having been tracked to a faulty thermostat and housing. He provided a picture of the parts and identified "Thunderbird Specialties" as a source of supply for that part.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Lisa gave the financial report for December 2016 and distributed to all members a copy of the Annual Financial Report as required by our club bylaws. The report identifies the 2016 club financial status for the start and end of 2016 and summarizes by month the revenues and expenditures for 2016.

Event Planning: Scott recommended and the membership agreed to cancel our proposed club trip to the American Sign Museum for Saturday, January 14th, due to the anticipated bad weather. The membership further agreed to reschedule the trip to the Museum in Cincinnati to the following Saturday, January 21. Members will drive separately and should arrive at the museum by 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$15 (\$10 for seniors) and there is off-street parking at the museum. The group also plans to go to the Greyhound Tavern on Buttermilk Blvd in Kentucky for lunch together after the tour. It was mentioned that members may also be interested in going to the Hamilton Swap meet after lunch. A decision on that activity will likely be made over lunch on the 21st. There had been some discussion of the possibility of going to the Ice Festival in Hamilton, Ohio on the weekend of the 14th, but there was little interest in that.

Brett reminded folks of our trip to the Gilmore museum near Battle Creek Michigan which was cancelled last fall. Keep it in mind as an event for later in the spring.

Beverly also mentioned she received word from Darrel that the JDRF Car Show will be held on September 23rd this year at the Ford Transmission plant in Cincinnati. Darrel had also sent word of a cruise-in at the Ford dealership in the King's Auto Mall in Cincinnati on July 1st.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business to discuss

New Business: There was no New Business to discuss

Open Floor: Brett announced that he had recently purchased the 500+ page shop maintenance manual for his 2004 retrobird. Since many of the operations and systems on the 03-05 retrobirds are the same, he offered it to anyone who may find it useful while working on their vehicle.

Adjourn: At the conclusion of discussion, Roger asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Jan and seconded by Jackie. The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Roger Hamm
President

Next Meeting: February 9th, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering

Message from the President

January was an unusually warm month, except for the very last weekend of the month. I hope some of you were able to take advantage of the very warm weather and get some work done on your Tbirds, so you won't have to spend as much time once Spring and cruise season finally arrives. I was able to get a lot of work done on my convertible during the warm spell, especially the week between the 15th and 22nd of the month. I finally was able to get the transmission lines put on the car and started trying to figure out the vacuum lines inside the car for the air conditioning. Even while looking at diagrams I printed from the manuals I had, it was, and still is, somewhat confusing as to which line goes from which connection to which connection on the other end of the line.

I wish to thank Scott for all the wonderful ideas he came up with for our club. I am sure all our members that were able to visit the American Sign Museum in Cincinnati had a good time. We were able to enjoy all the history we got from our tour guide about signs from the 1800's to the 1900's. I liked seeing some of the old Holiday Inn, McDonald's, Howard Johnson and even Hamm's Beer signs. It was even neat to see an old Earl Scheib sign that came from California that had a bullet hole in it! Then after we were finished with our sign museum tour, we drove a short distance into Kentucky to enjoy a wonderful brunch at the Greyhound Tavern. Some of us decided to enjoy breakfast food while some of us decided to have a good lunch meal. Our waiter was very good and even had some of us laughing when he explained where one of us could find something, then letting her know he would get it for her. Those of you who were not able to attend will just have to see if she would speak up!

Of course, now that the temperature is getting back to normal winter weather, I guess I will have to find something else to do until it warms back up again. Maybe I can try to look and see if I am missing (or misplaced) anything I need for one of my Tbirds. Until then, guess all we can do is wait for spring to arrive and warm weather and hope it is not six more weeks of winter.

Remember, our next meeting will be Thursday, February 9th at 7 pm at the MCL Cafeteria in Kettering, Ohio. See you at the meeting!

TSWO at the American Sign Museum Tour: As Roger mentioned above, we had a fantastic turn out of club members (and one guest) at our tour on January 21st. Below is a photo of the group at the completion of the tour just before we headed for lunch. Additional pictures from our day's activity will soon be available on our website.



February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries

none



Upcoming Club Events

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

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992 Vice President: Scott McGaha (937) 439-1138
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992 Secretary: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131

A One of a Kind Thunderbird Treasure

The 1963 Ford Thunderbird Fastback "Italien" Concept Car

(extracted and edited from a Barrett-Jackson online auction announcement)

Truly unique in all the world was the 1963 Thunderbird Italien Concept Car. Departing from the traditional Thunderbird greenhouse, this special 1963 Thunderbird featured a new roof line with aerodynamic styling and a customized leather interior with bucket seats front and rear. The car had a candy apple red paint job and interior with a standard 390 block and automatic transmission.

The Italien was a styling study from Ford's own Thunderbird styling department and was designed by Ford's own Thunderbird Stylists who actually built the plywood buck over which they sculpted the clay model of the roof in their own studio and then gave the car to Vince Gardner who made the one piece plaster cast over the clay from which he made the fiberglass roof and deck lid. Car designer/builder Vince Gardner constructed the Italien while working for Dearborn Steel Tubing Co., Ford's outsourcing contractor.



The Italien received a complete, original, rotisserie restoration by Duluthian Thunderbird restorer Tom Maruska in August 2007. The Italien was featured in Ford's 1962-63 "Custom Car Caravan" and appeared in Autoramas throughout the United States. The Italien was also featured in 14+ magazines in 1963 and 1964 such as "Motor Trend", "Hot Rod", "Car Life", "Motorcade", and "Speed and Custom". It appeared in the 1964 New York Worlds Fair's "Cavalcade of Custom Cars" and was prominently featured in a special World's Fair publication.

After appearing in the World's Fair, Ford records indicated the Italien was destined for a fate typical of most Ford concept cars -- The crusher. However, in September 1964, it was sold (or presented) to actor Dale Robertson of TV's "Tales of Wells Fargo", "Wagon Train" and other shows. Around 1986, noted Ford collector Don Chambers purchased the car with the idea of adding it to the auto museum he planned for his retirement. Don became terminally ill and thus offered the Italien for sale. Thunderbird restorer Tom Maruska purchased it in January 2006 and completely restored it to exacting and documented original specifications. "Legendary Ford" magazine featured a series covering its restoration over five issues culminating with the Italien appearing on the cover of their November/December 2007 issue. The Italien was also featured in a series in the VTCI "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine. The Italien sold at the 2008 Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale Arizona auction for \$660,000

