



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

February 2023



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: At our first meeting of the new year, President Roger Hamm got us off to an outstanding start by continuing his practice of beginning our meetings promptly at 7:00 PM ET (00:00 UTC). We were once again back in our customary meeting room at MCL Cafeteria, after having been displaced to the other (smaller) meeting room for our November meeting. Following his Call to Order, he extended a warm welcome to the 17 members in attendance.

Attendees: Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave Harvey, Brett Andrews, Mark & Jackie Allen, Nancy & Julie Blake, Larry & Jo Doelker, Jim Hayden, Dave & Susan Menke, Jim Russell, and Tom Tirey & Gina Hctor.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the previous (November) meeting having been published in the December newsletter, President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Brett Andrews made the motion for approval, and that motion was seconded by Larry Doelker. President Roger asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the minutes, as published in December. 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 updates to their contact information.

As to Thunderbird updates, Scott McGaha reported that he had recently acquired a 1960 Square Bird, in light turquoise. He said that he had actually bought it in August 2021, but had to wait until December 2022 (16 months later) for it to be delivered (he was told "supply chain issues," plus it was made in China). Scott actually had brought the car with him this evening, and after unboxing it, he showed it to the group. Turned out that it was a fully functional die-cast model, purchased from 3000Toys.com. Scott had previously purchased model cars from this vendor, and (except for the lengthy delivery delay) he is very satisfied with the company and its selection of toys.

He then informed us that he had also bought (this past August) a full-size 'Bird, being a 1975 Big Bird. He claims to have "bought it by accident," and the story he told about the purchase tends to support that viewpoint. He received a notification from BringaTrailer.com that this particular car was going up for auction for the next 7 days (Scott's note - '75 T-birds are not known as being particularly "collectible," so he wasn't expecting it to go very high; also, he was only window-shopping, and was not seriously looking to

buy a car). He noticed on Day 2 that it had only one bid (\$2,500), and he also knew that it had a reserve (reserve amounts, of course, aren't disclosed by the web site). Figuring that the car should probably sell in the \$10-\$12K range, Scott felt sorry for the seller, since the car wasn't getting any serious nibbles, so he asked (via the comments section on the listing) whether or not everything worked on the car, and also asked for additional pictures, videos, etc. His thought was that this additional information, coupled with an off-handed bid on his part, could end up helping the seller move the car at a better price. He was fairly sure that the reserve would be near \$10K, so he considered bidding \$5K for it, to perhaps generate some additional interest. However, after talking to the seller and finding out that he had spent nearly \$5K getting the car properly prepared for sale, he put in his off-handed bid of \$7,000 on Day 4, fully expecting that either his bid wouldn't meet the reserve, or some additional interest would drive up the bid above his and help the seller out). Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on how he looks at it), when the sale closed, Scott was the next owner of this '75 Big Bird (located in W. Virginia). The owner decided to lower his reserve had been to \$7,000 and voila, Scott's stable had increased, just like that. After making delivery arrangements, Scott contacted his "Thunderbird midwife" (who has now been present to receive 2 of his Thunderbirds, both of which were delivered while he was in Utah) to take delivery of the car when it was delivered. After performing some research following the purchase (by the way, Scott, that's usually done in the reverse order), he learned that the '75 'Bird is the longest and heaviest 2-door car that Ford ever made. It's over 19' long and weighs over 5,000 lbs. As is often said, that's his story, and he's stickin' to it! Side note: Scott's garage is not long enough to accommodate this car, so it looks like this new acquisition will have to live off-premises.

President Roger reported that he had bought a 2002 Retro Bird from Jim Hayden, who now is apparently "Bird-less." Both Roger and Lisa's Retro Birds are 2002 models.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Roger reported that there is only one anniversary in January among our members, and that is Guy & Jan Gifford on the 28th, when they will be commemorating 67 years of marriage! In addition, two of our members have January birthdays: Roger Hamm on the 16th, and Paul Loschi on the 18th.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that, since December 1st, she has deposited \$20.00 of dues into our account, and has written a check for \$14.99 to pay for our web site name.

Club Activities/Events: Scott McGaha mentioned a conversation that he and Dave Harvey had at the Christmas party, in which they talked about a possible outing to the Butler Car Collection in Erlanger, KY. Dave & Deb Harvey have been to this collection with the Southern Ohio Chapter of AACA, and they reported that it was a trip well worth doing. After some discussion as to whether to try to do this in January or February, the consensus was that we would shoot for Saturday, February 11, for this event (which will be the Saturday following our February meeting). Scott will communicate this to the members, and will request RSVPs from our members so we will have some idea as to how many people will be attending (mostly, so we can make appropriate lunch plans afterward).

Old Business: Dues are "due." Also, Brett has our apparel catalog with him this evening, in case anyone wants to peruse it for some new club duds.

New Business: Brett Andrews explained an inconsistency that had recently been discovered in our By-Laws, and which was inadvertently overlooked when we last updated our By-Laws. The proposed By-Laws

change was listed in the January newsletter, and Brett made a motion that the membership approve the proposed change (this approval is not binding on the Board but is merely an advisory indication of support - however, since the Board prepared the change, it can be safely assumed that they will implement it once the membership has approved). Brett's motion was seconded by Dave Harvey, and President Roger called for a vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

President Roger reported that he had gotten an email from VTCI President, Rod Wake, in which President Wake said that VTCI is holding a newsletter contest to select a club with the best newsletter. The contest will be open until the end of June. President Roger asked Newsletter Editor Brett Andrews to use his discretion in selecting the best of our club newsletters and sending it in to VTCI for consideration in the contest.

Calendar of Car Events: The next club meeting will be on February 9th at our customary location, MCL Cafeteria (dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting promptly at 7:00). Two days after that meeting is the proposed visit to the Butler Car Collection in Erlanger, KY.

Open Floor: Brett Andrews, Newsletter Editor, made a plea for members to write personal Thunderbird stories/articles to be published in our newsletter. Brett made the first contribution of this type, being an article in the January newsletter. Please take the time to write up something for him, to help out with the content of our newsletter.

Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Dave Menke and seconded by Scott McGaha. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Roger Hamm
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in February: We have multiple February birthdays to celebrate, but no anniversaries. A happy birthday wish from TSWO to all our February celebrants.



February Birthdays

- 11th: Peg Andrews
- 14th: Nancy Moore
- 19th: Jim Hayden
- 24th: Gina Hctor
- 26th: Barb Kraemer

February Anniversaries





Hello, fellow TSWO members. Here we are at February, when we get to find out if the old groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil will let us know if we are going to get an early spring or if we will have to endure a longer stretch of winter weather. Unfortunately, I heard that the old guy DID see his shadow, so I guess we will get six more weeks of cold weather, Shucks, I sure hoped he wouldn't. But now that we know what to expect, the big question is how did the ceremony of Groundhog Day get started and where is Punxsutawney located?

On February 2 each year, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania holds a civic festival with music and food. During the ceremony, which begins well before the winter sunrise, Phil emerges from his temporary home on Gobbler's Knob, located in a rural area about 2 miles southeast of the town. According to tradition, if Phil sees his shadow and returns to his hole, he has predicted six more weeks of winter-like weather. If Phil does not see his shadow, he has predicted an "early spring". Punxsutawney's event is the most famous of many Groundhog Day festivals held in the United States and Canada. The event formally began in 1887, although its roots go back even further. The event is based upon a communal light-hearted suspension of disbelief. It is organized by the "Inner Circle" - recognizable from their top hats and tuxedos- who ostensibly communicate with Phil to receive his prognostication. This suspension of disbelief extends to the assertion that the same groundhog has been making predictions since the 19th century.

The vice president of the Inner Circle prepares two scrolls in advance of the actual ceremony, one proclaiming six more weeks of winter and one proclaiming an early spring. At daybreak on February 2, Punxsutawney Phil awakens from his burrow on Gobbler's Knob, is helped to the top of the stump by his handlers, and purportedly explains to the president of the Inner Circle, in a language known as "Groundhogese", whether he has seen his shadow. The president of the Inner Circle, the only person able to understand Groundhogese through his possession of an ancient acacia wood cane, then interprets Phil's message, and directs the vice president to read the proper scroll to the crowd gathered on Gobbler's Knob and the masses of "phaithphil phollowers" tuned in to live broadcasts around the world.

The Inner Circle scripts the Groundhog Day ceremonies in advance, with the Inner Circle deciding beforehand whether Phil will see his shadow. The Stormfax Almanac has made note of the weather conditions on each Groundhog Day since 1999; the almanac has recorded 12 incidents in a 20-year span in which the Inner Circle said the groundhog saw his shadow while the sky was cloudy or there was rain or snow coming down, and in one case said the groundhog did not see his shadow despite sunshine. So, just how accurate is Punxsutawney Phil?

The Inner Circle, in keeping with the suspension of disbelief, claims a 100% accuracy rate, and an approximately 80% accuracy rate in recorded predictions. They claim that whenever the

prediction is wrong, the person in charge of translating the message must have made a mistake in their interpretation. Impartial estimates place the groundhog's accuracy between 35% and 41%.

Past predictions

Punxsutawney Phil's predictions

							1886	1887	1888	1889
1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	
1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	
1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	
1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	
1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	
1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	
1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
2020	2021	2022	2023							

- "Long winter" (107)
- "Early spring" (19)
- "War clouds have blacked out parts of the shadow." (1)
- No appearance (event canceled) (1)
- No record (10)

As you can see, he has predicted an early spring only 19 times since 1887, a long winter 108 times, no record written 10 times. So, it appears that most days, the groundhog sees his shadow and lets us know that most likely, winters will be long. So, don't be putting your gloves, scarves, and

heavy coats away just yet, as you will be needing them for quite a bit longer. Stay warm and fix yourself a hot cup of cocoa!

Roger



The Genesis of Valentine's Day

The following tidbit was published in our Feb 2018 newsletter, but since we've added many new members, I thought I'd repeat it for their knowledge and edification. Once you internalize this piece of romantic history, Valentine's Day will take on a whole new meaning. And you thought it was a Hallmark conspiracy.



The day gets its name from a famous saint, but there are several stories of who he was. The popular belief about St Valentine is that he was a priest from Rome in the third century A.D. Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death. There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February, he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine".

Did You Know? I Didn't

(prepared by: Brett Andrews)

Periodically I do quick scans on Facebook and other sources looking for things that are unusual or interesting, likely not widely known, that may be of interest to you be they car related or not. One of my recent finds was an article, "*The Plymouth car company's name honored the Pilgrims ... with strings attached*", written by Gary Gastelu of Fox News. I have taken snippets of information from that article to pass on to you. If you are interested in reading the entire article, you'll find the web address at the end of this writing. What follows was extracted from the article.



1928 Model 72 Plymouth's first car

Plymouth sailed into the sunset in 2001, but the discontinued automotive brand remains firmly etched in American history. Launched by Chrysler in 1928 as a budget offering to compete with Ford and Chevrolet, Plymouth left behind many iconic models, such as the Fury, Barracuda and Superbird.

It's appropriate that one of Plymouth's most famous models would be the Voyager, as the brand itself honored the Pilgrims that traveled across the

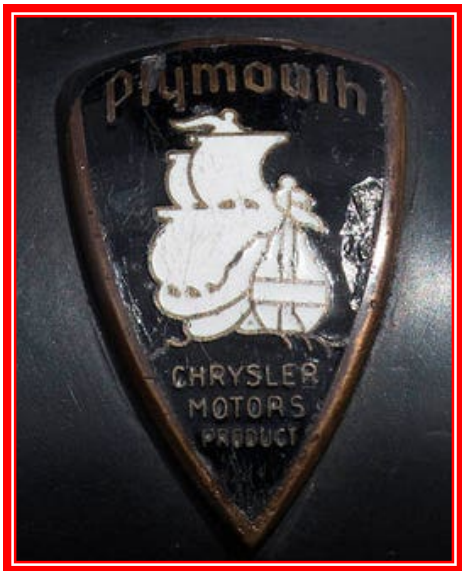
Atlantic and helped settle America. Well, sort of.

A product of Chrysler engineering and craftsmanship, Plymouth has been so named because its endurance and strength, ruggedness and freedom from limitations so accurately typify that Pilgrim band who were the first American Colonists," was how the name was first explained, according to enthusiast website AllPar.com.

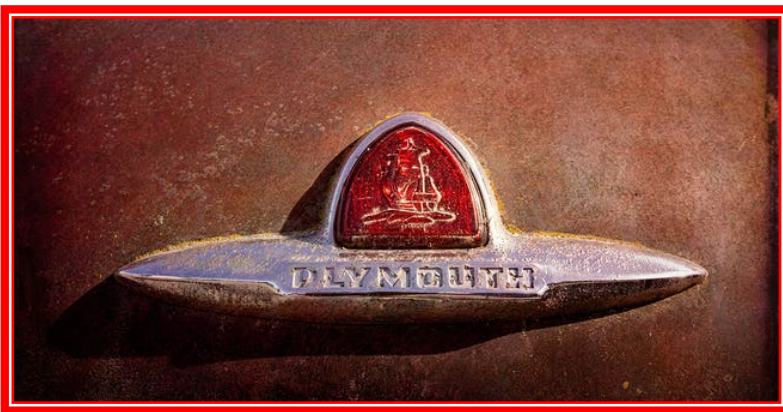
But while Plymouth's logos have featured images of sailing ships based on the Pilgrim's Mayflower, the name's origin isn't quite that simple. However, according to Chrysler's official history, the company's vice president of sales, Joe Frazer, hitched the company's prospects to another famous brand. Frazer suggested the name Plymouth because the farmers they were trying to reach with the low-priced models were familiar with the products of the Plymouth Cordage Co. of Plymouth, Massachusetts, which was the world's largest producer of rope and twine, with much of it used in the agriculture industry. Whether it was the name or the prices, Plymouth kept Chrysler afloat during the Great Depression, and became the third best-selling brand in the U.S. in 1931.



Plymouth used various versions of Mayflower imagery over the years. Its use of the Mayflower imagery also came and went, but it was there at the end with a modernized version of a sailing ship in the company's final roundel.



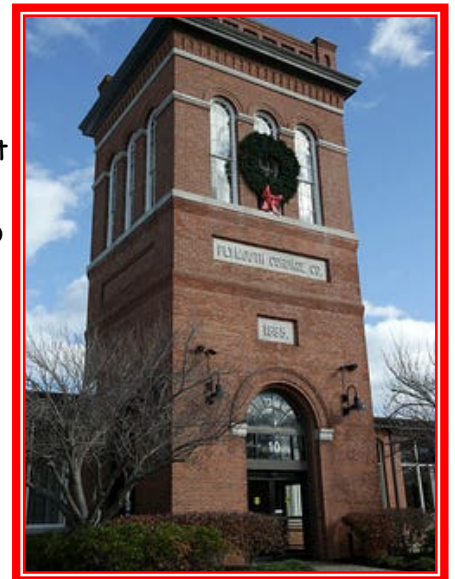
**Final Plymouth Logo
a modernized take on the Mayflower**



A portion of the Plymouth Cordage Co. factory remains as part of an office and retail complex. As for the fate of the Plymouth Cordage Co., it went out of business in 1964 after 140 years and its assets were purchased by the Columbian Rope company, its name coincidentally tied to the man whose explorations opened the door to the Pilgrims' journey to the New World.

The complete article can be found online at

<https://www.foxnews.com/auto/plymouth-car-companys-name-honored-pilgrims-strings>



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