



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

February 2026



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The January 2026 meeting of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio car club was called to order in the private dining room at MCL Cafeteria in Kettering, OH at 6:45 p.m. on January 8th by President Mike Hall. After passing out extra paper copies of the meeting agenda to those members in attendance who did not already have one, Mike got the meeting underway by welcoming everyone to the first TSWO meeting of 2026. He expressed his hope that everyone had a pleasant 2025 holiday season and conveyed his happy new year wishes to all in attendance.

Attendees: A total of 21 existing members plus one new member were in attendance at the meeting. Existing members included President Mike Hall, Vice-President Adam Gulden, Secretary Scott McGaha, Treasurer Lisa Hamm and Roger, Mark & Jackie Allen, Brett & Peg Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Larry & Jo Doelker, Dave Harvey, Ron Heinz, Dave Menke, Ron & Linda Prater, Jim Russell, and George & Susan Touchette. Newly joining member, Kyle DeBruler was introduced by Vice-President Adam prior to the start of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Next, President Mike sought a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the November 2025 club meeting as published in the January 2026 edition of the TSWO club newsletter. Such motion was made by Roger Hamm and seconded by Larry Doelker.

Membership Update/Discussion: President Mike officially introduced and welcomed new member, Kyle DeBruler, to the club. Kyle is the proud owner of a 1995 Thunderbird LX, which led to his friendship with Adam Gulden, who convinced him to join TSWO. Welcome Kyle!! Mike then asked if there were any other new memberships to share or if any existing members had any changes to their contact information. A brief discussion then ensued concerning new/additional e-mail addresses for club members Rick Kolmin and Ed Conway. At the conclusion of this discussion, it was decided the next update to the club roster would not occur until March 2026, when we would have a clearer picture of total club membership following the deadline for 2026 club dues payments. Any permanent changes for Rick's and Ed's contact information would be included in the March update to the roster.

Thunderbird Updates/Repairs: The floor was next opened for discussion by any club member wishing to share information about any new Thunderbird purchases or repair work made to an existing Thunderbird. There were no new Thunderbird purchases to report, but Ron Heinz shared recent progress made on repairs to his '78 Thunderbird and said if the weather is favorable next month, we may get to see it at the February club meeting. A short discussion then followed concerning the merits of periodically starting, and when possible, driving our Thunderbirds during the winter season.

Sunshine Committee Report: Next, Mike acknowledged the 4 club members celebrating birthdays in January and the single club member anniversary occurring this month. The names and dates of all celebrants were published in the January newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Because there was no formal club meeting in December, Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported on the state of the club treasury for both November and December. Once club membership numbers have settled out in March, Lisa has committed to e-mailing a final 2025 year-end statement to all club members.

Old Business: President Mike gave a brief synopsis of the club Christmas party that was held on Thursday, December 11th in lieu of the normal club meeting. Sixteen club members attended the club dinner and white elephant gift exchange that followed. Pictures from the party are now available for viewing on the TSWO club website.

New Business: Under "new business," President Mike acknowledged the new club officers for the 2026-2027 term: President - Mike Hall, Vice-President - Adam Gulden, Secretary (trial basis) - Scott McGaha, and Treasurer - Lisa Hamm. Mike then thanked the outgoing club officers for their service to the club during 2024-2025. A special "thank-you" gift of a metal sign exhibiting an advertising campaign for the 1966 Thunderbird was presented to outgoing club president, Scott McGaha, in appreciation for his service to the club over the past two years.



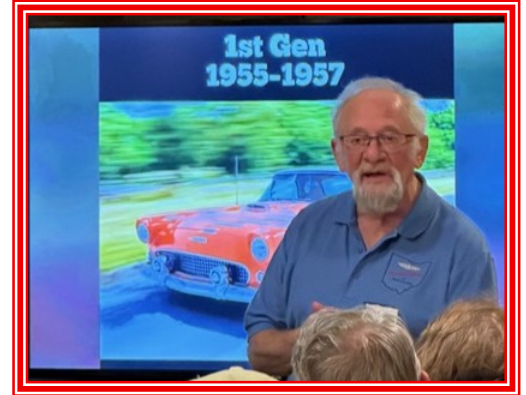
Club Activities/Events: Next, Mike led a group discussion concerning the next planned club activity which would be a visit to the historic Plaza Theatre in Miamisburg on Saturday, January 10th, for a viewing of the movie National Lampoon's Vacation. Dinner afterwards at a local Miamisburg eatery (TJ Chumps) would follow.

A brief discussion regarding future club events followed in which it was announced that our planned date for displaying our Thunderbirds at a Dayton Dragons home game will be Sunday, July 26th. All the Sunday home games in June were already booked by other activities on the plaza before the game.

Plans for our February event, a visit to Ford's Garage in Norwood, OH, were also discussed. Details will be in an upcoming e-mail to all club members.

Calendar of Upcoming Car Events: The only car event being promoted at this time is the recurring Horsepower Farms Cars & Coffee event in Middletown, OH on the first Saturday of every month, 8am-noon. Google "Horsepower Farms" for more information.

Special Presentation: Mike's presentation for this month's meeting was entitled "An Introduction to the Eleven Generations of Thunderbird: 50 years of Excellence in Design." This presentation served as a preview to future Thunderbird presentations wherein Mike will take a deeper dive into each generation of Thunderbird. The slide-deck for this presentation and a link to a unique AI-generated video that shows a moving Thunderbird morphing into all eleven generations, can be viewed on our club's website at: <http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com/items-of-interest>.



Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Mike called for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made by Jackie Allen and seconded by Mark Allen. With no objections, Mike declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Mike Hall
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in February: Well ladies, you own the birthday list for February, but isn't it unusual that we have no anniversaries for the Valentines Day month of February? Happy Birthday to all our February celebrants.



February Birthdays

- 4th: Linda Prater
- 11th: Peg Andrews
- 14th: Nancy Moore
- 16th: Jeanne Hall
- 24th: Gina Hctor
- 26th: Barb Kraemer

February Anniversaries





It was my pleasure to preside over the first Thunderbird Club meeting as your new President. The meeting went well and I truly appreciate the interaction and positive comments from all of you members. This coming year will be a lot of fun for all of us, as our Events Planning Committee has produced some interesting and fun events to enjoy. We'll

get many chances to show off our pride and joy Thunderbirds as well as good times at Museums and Restaurants.

I welcome your input on events, club meetings, and even presentations. As much as I enjoy presenting fun facts about Special Edition Thunderbirds each meeting, I welcome topics that you may wish to present. Just let me know ahead of time so that we can plan a club meeting to include it. I'm always willing to learn something new about Thunderbirds.

Looking forward to a great year ahead,

Mike



A Nostalgic Trip Back in Time

(by: Brett Andrews)



On January 10th, ten TSWO members met at the unique piece-of-history Plaza Theatre in Miamisburg, Ohio to attend a showing of National Lampoon's Vacation. Club members enjoying this nostalgic event included Mike & Jeanne Hall, Scott McGaha, Roger & Lisa Hamm, Mark & Jackie Allen, James Russell, and Ron & Linda Prater.

Below is what the theatre's website has to say about the history of this restored landmark.

"Twenty-two cents. That's all movie lovers had to pay to see a movie at the Plaza Theatre when it opened on December 25th, 1919. The Weaver brothers believed "if they build it, the people would come" It would feature clear projection, new movies, a Wurlitzer organ, and almost 700 seats. The Theatre remained a community icon for 50 years until 1968 when televisions and other commercial factors began competing



with Theatre goers. The Theatre became a western retail store in 1968 which closed in 2002; the Theatre stood vacant from 2002 until it was beautifully restored. The Plaza Theatre reopened on Christmas Day of 2015, thanks to the efforts of the non-profit organization passionate about revitalizing the unique downtown Miamisburg."



Following the movie, eight of the ten moviegoers adjourned to TJ Champs restaurant for dinner. Unfortunately, due to another later-that-evening commitment, Ron & Linda could not join in.

This was truly a unique way to kick off the club's 2026 activities and just may have to be included on the list of things for the club to do in 2027.

**Next club meeting: Feb 12th, 6:45 PM,
MCL Cafeteria**



CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763

Vice President: Adam Gulden (513) 615-6269
Secretary: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414