



# THUNDERBIRDS OF SOUTHWEST OHIO

*Newsletter*

January 2019

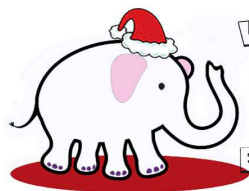
([www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com](http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com))



On December 13<sup>th</sup> eighteen TSWO club members and a guest gathered at the MCL cafeteria to celebrate the holiday season at our annual Christmas Dinner. Club members in attendance included Scott McGaha, Brett & Peg Andrews, Roger Hamm, Nancy & Julie Blake, Jan & Guy Gifford, Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross, Jackie & Mark Allen, Tom Tirey & Gina Hocter, Jim Hayden & Beverly Lake, Dave & Deb Harvey, and a guest Mark Stacy who came as Roger's guest.



Once everyone had arrived, our President, Scott McGaha, welcomed all to our celebratory gathering, introduced Roger's guest, and wished all a Merry Christmas. He then invited everyone to proceed to the MCL serving line to get their dinners. During the meal members enjoyed a delicious meal, lively conversation while being entertained with Christmas music provided by Brett. Scott also thanked Nancy and Julie for doing such a wonderful job once again decorating the tables and providing the punch and beautiful Christmas cake we would enjoy for dessert. In addition to the white elephant gifts that we would soon be exchanging, several club members also brought additional small gifts (Christmas candies & cookies, handmade ornaments, a 2019 club calendar, and more) that they passed out to all the attendees once again displaying the true Christmas spirit.



White  
Elephant  
Gift  
Exchange

Then the time came to start the White Elephant gift exchange. It could not be delayed any longer. Who would be the one robbed the most this year. Numbers, prepared and provided by Roger & Lisa, were drawn to establish the order of gift selection. Beverly Lake, who had drawn the number 1, began the activity by selecting a gift from the table since there were no other gifts yet available to pilfer from anyone else. The game then moved on to participant #2. As each person's number was called, they took a gift from the table or claimed one from someone who had previously opened theirs. As the game initially progressed it appeared everyone was selecting a gift from the table rather than absconding with one that had already been selected by someone else. That didn't last long. Eventually a few gifts started exchanging hands almost at a fever pitch with several items exchanging hands more than once. It will be easy to tell (Gina) from the party photos on our website who had their gift taken from them most often. After completion of the gift exchange we relaxed and enjoyed a slice of that delicious Christmas cake.

As the evening drew to a close we all pitched in to help clean up and then wished each other a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year until we see each other next year.

Below are a few pictures from the gathering. A full set will soon be available for viewing on our club website. If you have additional Christmas dinner pictures you'd like to share on our website, please provide them to Brett (electronic format preferred).

*Scott McGaha*  
President

**Next Meeting: January 10th, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering**



January Birthdays

16th: Roger Hamm

January Anniversaries

28<sup>th</sup>: 62 years  
Jan and Guy



**Message from the President**

Greetings fellow TSWO members and Happy New Year wishes to you all. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and is looking forward to more fun Thunderbird things to do in 2019. Our club closed out 2018 with another great Christmas party at MCL cafeteria, which Brett has provided a fine review of in this newsletter. Attendance at the party was very good, but if you were not able to make it this year, I hope to see you at another club meeting or event very soon.

And speaking of events, I have started putting together our club events calendar for 2019 and already have quite a few things penciled in. The International Thunderbird Club (ITC, the "other" international thunderbird club) is hosting their big convention in Cleveland, Ohio in August of this year, which might be something some of our club members, who also belong to ITC, might want to consider attending. No word yet on where Vintage Thunderbird Club International is hosting their big convention this year. I am only aware of the Northwest Regional convention being held in July in Spokane, Washington. Locally, we have other Thunderbird events for 2019 to plan -- a Thunderbird Appreciation Day event, perhaps another Dayton Donut run or rolling cruise-in event, maybe catching dinner and a play at La Comedia Dinner Theatre, an overnight trip to Kentucky, a summer picnic, and much, much more.

Warmer weather, and with it another Thunderbird enjoyment season, will be here before you know it! I hope to see all of you at our next club meeting at MCL Cafeteria on January 10th, 7 p.m., as we begin planning these and other fun club activities for 2019.

Until then, drive safely everyone.

Scott McGaha

TSWO 2018 Christmas Dinner Photos (see our website for more pictures)



## New Years Resolutions: Where Did They Come From?

(Intro by Brett Andrews; unedited article by Sarah Pruitt, Dec 2017)

As one of my New Year's resolutions I wanted to find out where making New Year's resolutions came from. I found out, now I'm sharing it with you.

"The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the New Year—though for them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted. During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor—a place no one wanted to be.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the reform-minded emperor Julius Caesar tinkered with the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the New Year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the New Year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, the English clergyman John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the raucous celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the New Year. Now popular within evangelical Protestant churches, especially African-American denominations and congregations, watch night services held on New Year's Eve are often spent praying and making resolutions for the coming year.

Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves, and focus purely on self-improvement (which may explain why such resolutions seem so hard to follow through on). According to recent research, while as many as 45 percent of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8 percent are successful in achieving their goals. But that dismal record probably won't stop people from making resolutions anytime soon—after all, we've had about 4,000 years of practice."



### Upcoming Club Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. To Be Determined		

### CLUB OFFICERS

President: Scott McGaha (937) 439-1138  
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992

Vice President: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131  
Secretary (acting): Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131