



THUNDERBIRDS

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

January 2024

(www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)



In lieu of our monthly club meeting, on December 14th, we held and 25 club members attended, our annual Christmas party and White Elephant gift exchange at the MCL Cafeteria. Members in attendance included Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave & Deb Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Jo & Larry Doelker, David Koehler & Barbara Kraemer, Dave & Susan Menke, Carol & Terry Powell, Mike Hall, Gayle Conrad, Paul & Sherrie Loschi, James Russel, Mike & Donna Bach and Adam Gulden.



White
Elephant
Gift
Exchange

As they have done for many years, Nancy and Julie presented members with a hand-made Christmas ornament and a cup filled with Christmas goodies. As the attendees arrived, the stack of White Elephant gifts got bigger and bigger. After most attendees had arrived, they were invited to make their way through the MCL dinner line. Prior to commencing the gift

exchange, Scott presented Roger with a gift from the club for his efforts serving as our president for the last two years. Roger was presented gift cards for O'Reilly's Parts Store and to local area restaurants. Roger then presented Scott with the mantle of power, the club gavel. Before commencing the gift exchange Scott took a few moments to discuss the possibility of a club outing to see the new movie "Ferrari" sometime in January. Additional information will be forwarded to club members as to a proposed date(s). Nancy and Julie, assisted by Brett and Peg, were thanked for their efforts for setting up and decorating the party room.

Soon the gift exchange was underway. Lisa had participants select a number (1-24) from a basket. Barbara Kraemer drew the number "1" and so she was given the choice of the first gift from the table. Because no other gifts had been selected yet, Barbara had to keep that gift, at least for the moment. By the Rule of Play if someone took that gift from her, she could select again from the table or another player's gift. However, if no one took her original gift throughout the entire game, at the end she would have the option of retaining the gift she originally selected or taking any gift in the room. As you'll see from the party pictures on our website, Barbara had her gift stolen more than once. I'll make no attempt to provide an accounting of who selected what gift or which gifts changed hands. However, I will say several of the gifts changed hands, some multiple times, before the game ended. The pictures on our club website will tell the story.

After the game was over and our meals had settled, the finale of our celebration was the enjoyment of a slice of the delicious Christmas cake provided again this year by Nancy & Julie. The evening ended as we wished each other Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Below are a few photos from the event. Additional pictures are available on our website under "Recent Club Events" in 2023.



A Special Note from Nancy: I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas Party. I would like to thank those who helped set things up, and those who helped with the cleanup. Thank you so much.



President's Message:

Winter greetings to all fellow TSWO members and Happy New Year wishes!!

On December 14th of last year, a large crowd gathered in a small dining room at MCL Cafeteria for our annual club Christmas party. Club members Nancy and Julie Blake, along with their small cadre of helpful elves, did a nice job re-arranging the room to accommodate everyone and decorating the tables in holiday colors. I know I enjoyed the evening; I hope everyone else in attendance did so as well.

As we begin the new year, I hope everyone is excited to look forward to many fun, unique, and enjoyable Southwest Ohio Thunderbird events in 2024. I'm putting together a yearlong calendar of events that you'll see the first draft of in the agenda for our January club meeting. It's a "living document," as we say in the workplace, and I'm counting on everyone's input and help as the year progresses to make it the best that it can possibly be. Even if you cannot regularly attend the monthly club meetings, I hope you'll use the meeting agendas we'll email out each month to keep abreast of what is happening within your Thunderbird club and what our planned upcoming events will be. My aspiration for this club under my leadership is for it to be more than a car club that gets together one evening a month and has dinner in a cafeteria. But I'll need help and participation from everyone in the club to make that happen. Our new club vice-president, Michael Hall, also has some great ideas for making the monthly meetings themselves more interesting for everyone in attendance. Details to come soon in our next club meeting on January 11th, at 7 p.m. at MCL Cafeteria. I look forward to seeing you then. Until then, drive safely everyone.

Scott

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

January Birthdays

January Anniversaries



16th: Roger Hamm
14th: Gayle Conrad
18th: Paul Loschi

28th: Jan & Guy Gifford (68 yrs)



Reminder: Annual TSWO Dues Are Due

Per our club bylaws, club dues are to be paid not later than the first club meeting in the year for which the dues are to be paid. Members who are delinquent for paying dues for more than 60 days will be dropped from the TSWO membership roster. Just as a reminder for you VTCI members, your VTCI dues are also due in January.



Which Thunderbird is Most Desired by Car Collectors?



As usual, while doing my periodic scan of the internet, I ran across an article by Ben Branch, written in May 2021 entitled, "Ford Thunderbird Phase One D/F Supercharged - The Fastest American-Built Production Car of Its Day". He points out that for the mid-20th century collector of American cars one of the top vehicles desired is the Ford Thunderbird Phase One D/F Supercharged (pictured here). It was developed for NASCAR under Robert S.

McNamara, the Ford Division General Manager.

For the 1957 Daytona Speed Week, Ford built a group of 100 supercharged cars which included 15 supercharged versions of the 1957 Thunderbird. All 15 of these supercharged birds were built on January 25, 1957, and were equipped with a single carburetor 312 V8 engine, the McCulloch VR57 Phase 1 supercharger, and a heavy duty three-speed manual transmission. These Thunderbirds had no radio, heater, clock or lighter and sported black tires, no fender skirts, and



small hubcaps. However, seat belts were added as was a fiberglass hard top for better aerodynamics.

During Speed Week, Harold Mauck drove one of those supercharged birds to a top speed of 138.755 mph for the Two-Way Flying Mile and beat the Corvette by 6 mph. Though not originally intending to go into production with the supercharged Thunderbird, to celebrate its performance Ford subsequently built 195 of the 1957 Thunderbird with the F-Code Paxton-supercharged four-barrel V8 which also included the full array of options making this among the most collectible Thunderbirds ever made. Of the 15 original prototypes built, just eight are known to survive which makes them the rarest of the "F" birds.

Auction History of Three of the Original 15 Prototypes:

1957 Ford Thunderbird Phase I D/F: sold for \$250,000. 2011 Monterey, Mecum Auction

1957 Thunderbird Phase I D/F 312/300 HP, 3-Speed: sold for \$260,000, 2011 Indy, Mecum Auction

1957 Ford Thunderbird D/F Phase 1 - sold for \$250,000, 2011 Kissimmee, Mecum Auction

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763

Vice President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591
Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885

