



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

July 2022



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: President Roger Hamm gaveled the June meeting of Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio to order promptly at 7:00 PM, at MCL Cafeteria. He extended special greetings to our newest members, Mike and Donna Bach. He then introduced Mike and Donna to all the members present

Attendees: Those members in attendance this evening (12) included Roger & Lisa Hamm, Dave Harvey, the aforementioned Mike & Donna Bach, Nancy & Julie Blake, Jim Ross & Beverly Knauer, Paul Loschi, and Dave & Susan Menke.

Approval of Minutes: Since the minutes of the May 2022 meeting had been published in the June 2022 newsletter, President Roger called for a motion to approve those minutes. The approval motion was offered by Dave Menke and seconded by Paul Loschi. There being no comments or corrections, the motion was passed unanimously.

Membership Update/Discussion: Dave Menke reported that he's still working on a potential new member (the prospect has not yet made his decision, and Dave continues to encourage him to join us).

There were no changes reported as to contact information (addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, spouses, etc.).

Mike & Donna Bach reported the recent purchase of a 1966 "Q" Landau, described as "teal" in color (purchased sight unseen out of Illinois).

Sunshine Committee Report: June birthdays are: Dave Harvey (18th), Mark Allen (29th), and Mike Bach (12th). Anniversaries in June include Paul & Sherry Loschi (20th, 13 years), Dave & Susan Menke (23rd, 43 years), and Mike & Donna Bach (27th, 52 years). Congratulations to all.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported on the club's financial activity for the month, including deposits of dues for 2 new members.

Club Activities/Events: The club event for this month is scheduled for Sat, June 25th, and will consist of a driving tour to the Bicycle Museum of America, in New Bremen, OH. Departure will be at 8:30 from the McDonald's in Vandalia (Rt. 40, just west of I-75). Dave described the museum and what we can expect to see, as well as the lunch stop and the ice cream stop. He will send an email reminder shortly before the trip, asking everyone who will be going to RSVP, so that the tour doesn't leave anyone behind at McDonald's.

President Roger invited anyone who has an idea of an event they would like to have the club participate in, to be sure to bring that to his attention. Dave Harvey mentioned 3 possible events that had been previously mentioned that hadn't yet made it onto our "event pool" - those events include the Garst Museum, AKA the Annie Oakley Museum (Greenville), Ford's Garage (a restaurant in the Cincinnati area), and the Salty Dog Museum (Shandon, OH). Roger also suggested that we add the Airstream Heritage Center (Jackson Center, OH) to the "event pool."

Dave Menke mentioned that he has in mind a beautiful drive for the September event, to get us from Vandalia to Troy (this is in conjunction with the annual WACO Fly-In). He expressed concern for any members driving up from the south as to whether or not they would want to drive back roads to Vandalia or take the highway to Vandalia and join the back roads tour to Troy.

Old Business: President Roger reported that Past President Brett Andrews (custodian of all club "physical" property) had turned over the 2 canopies ("excess property" of the club) to Bev Knauper, to donate to her church, Batavia Faith Methodist Church. The canopies will be used by the church for the first time the week after next.

Miami Valley Car Club has indicated that they would be interested in our two Car Show signs, but arrangements have not yet been made to turn over the signs to MVCC.

New Business: President Roger mentioned several of the standing car events/cruise-ins, including the Friday evening Beavercreek cruise-in held at Vineyard Church, the Saturday evening Kettering cruise-in held at the Kettering Town Center, as well as the monthly Germantown Saturday Night Out (to be held on June 12th) and the Sugarcreek Fabulous 50's Fling Car Show (also on June 12th).

Jim Ross mentioned that the Cincinnati Concours is this coming weekend and is quite worthwhile to attend.

The next club meeting will be on July 14th, at MCL Cafeteria.

Open Floor: President Roger was asked for a report on the Springfield Car Show and Swap Meet. He reported rain all day Friday, with Saturday being very busy (and hot!). He had no luck in trying to sell his '78 Diamond Jubilee on Saturday, he took his '86 on Sunday (no luck with that,

either). Roger reported that someone sold a T-bird over the weekend at Springfield, it just wasn't either of his. Roger talked to the young buyer about the possibility of joining our club.

Dave Menke told an interesting story about a young kid (maybe 21 years old or so) that he met at a Good Guys event in Columbus a couple years ago. The guy had a somewhat-rough '68 Buick Skylark that he had bought on Craigslist, that he had driven from Ann Arbor, MI (his hometown) to the Columbus Good Guys show, with the top down all the way. Dave asked him if he was going to drive the car back home with the top down, and the guy told him that even if it rained, the top was staying down all the way home.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the group, President Roger asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Dave Menke and seconded by Jim Ross. The motion was approved, and the meeting gaveled to a close at 7:39 PM.

Roger Hamm
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in July: It looks like July may be our peak month for birthdays and anniversaries. From the TSWO membership, we wish you happiness on this your special day.



July Birthdays

2nd: Susan Menke
3rd: Jim Lenz
13th: Jackie Allen
20th: Tom Tirey

July Anniversaries

1st: Ruby & Darrel York (27 yrs)
15th: Bea & Jay Walsh (55 yrs)
29th: Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross (15 yrs)



Hello, fellow TSWO members. It is now the month of July. This month we celebrate the founding of our country in 1776. This year it will fall on a Monday, so it will be a 3-day celebration across the country and across our area. Many towns and cities here in Ohio will begin celebrating with parades, festivities and fireworks on Friday and lasting into Monday. There will also be several car cruise-ins and car shows then. One of the good places to enjoy the festivities is Centerville's Americana Festival with a car show on Monday. I enjoy being able to watch fireworks after it gets dark outside.

We happen to live in an area where we can go outside and see fireworks from Trotwood, Miamisburg, Moraine, New Lebanon and Dayton.

This month, the Germantown Saturday Night out car show is on the 16th, the Hot Air Balloon Challenge car show is also on the 16th in Middletown with registration from 2-4 pm and the Voss Auto Network will be having their cruise-in on the 22nd at their used car parking lot. It is always a nice show and they have trophies made from car parts, should one decide to get their car judged. I don't plan on having mine judged, but will plan on attending this show. These are some nice places to take your T-birds and get them shown to the public. Who knows, you might meet another T-bird owner that might be interested in becoming a member of our club. Of course, the Lettering cruise-ins are every Saturday evening from about 4 pm until about dark and there is also the cruise-in on Friday afternoons at the Vineyard Church on Indian Ripple Rd and also the Rip Rap Roadhouse cruise-ins every Friday afternoon. Rip Rap Roadhouse cruise-ins are usually published on Facebook showing all the cars that showed up that afternoon.

This month's club meeting will be at MCL Cafeteria on July 14th at 7 p.m. I hope to see many of you there. Have a great month and be sure to take your T-birds out while the weather is good for T-birding. See you there.

Roger



Cruise to the Bicycle Museum of America (cancelled)



Unfortunately, the club cruise to and tour of the Bicycle Museum of America on 25 June was cancelled due to lack of participants.

Our club secretary, Dave, reported that only 5 club members (He & Deb, Mark & Jackie, and Dave Menke) were able to make it to the rendezvous point (McDonalds in Vandalia). David M, unfortunately, informed the group he would not be able to make the tour. So, they discussed the situation, and made the mutual decision that the trip should be postponed until more people were

available to participate. Not wanting to let a good morning go to waste, according to Dave the morning had a "silver lining". The 5 of them had a great time at McDonald's, spending more than 2 hours talking, laughing and just having fun.

Another Piece of T-Bird Trivia

Prepared by: Brett Andrews

Introduction: I always thought the exterior design of the '55 baby bird had a striking resemblance to the '55 Ford Fairlane but without a back seat. Although I never found anything to confirm (or deny) my suspicions that Ford intentionally piggybacked off the Fairlane for much of the baby bird exterior design, I did come across some interesting information on one recognizable design characteristic from the '55 Fairlane that was under consideration to include on the '55 T-bird --- The chrome side molding. The below article was published by Macs Motor City Garage (MCG) on their website. It has been replicated in its entirety so you can learn more about this proposed sharing of a unique design characteristic. This article can be found at (<https://www.macsmotorcitygarage.com/the-phantom-1955-fairlane-thunderbird/>).

The Phantom 1955 Fairlane Thunderbird

Posted on [December 29, 2021](#) by [MCG](#)



Join us as we explore the mystery of the oddball 1955 Ford Thunderbirds equipped with Fairlane chrome trim.

The Ford factory photo above shows a unicorn. That's a 1955 Thunderbird, all right but it's wearing thick, Fairlane-style side trim, a feature that never appeared on regular production T-Birds. (Fortunately, many will say.) How the Thunderbird got and then lost the '55 Fairlane bright metal is an interesting story, in part because it has been told so many ways.

One place to start is on Feb. 20, 1954, at the Detroit Auto Show above, where FoMoCo boss Henry Ford II and his brother William Clay Ford are seen admiring the brand new 1955 Thunderbird, which made its public debut at the show. Reportedly, this prototype was completed only the day before on February 19, when actual T-Bird production was still more than six months away. And as we can see, the flashy checkmark-motif bright metal trim, as found on the full-size '55 Fairlane passenger cars, is nowhere to be seen.



This would seem to indicate that in February at least, the Fairlane-esque trim was not yet part of the Thunderbird's production plans. However, others have suggested that since the '55 Fairlane was not yet introduced at this date, the distinctive Fairlane side trim was held back as well. Either story seems plausible enough.

Meanwhile: Leading up to the start of production at the Dearborn Rouge plant on September 9, the decision was made to add the exuberant Fairlane-style side trim. We know that because dealer brochures, advertising art, and Ford publicity photos were all produced that proudly displayed the extra bright metal, as shown in the artwork above. The addition of the Fairlane trim may seem awkward, but it makes sense from this angle: The T-Bird was a halo car, intended to elevate the image of the entire Ford product line. Shared chrome trim would help to tie the identities together.



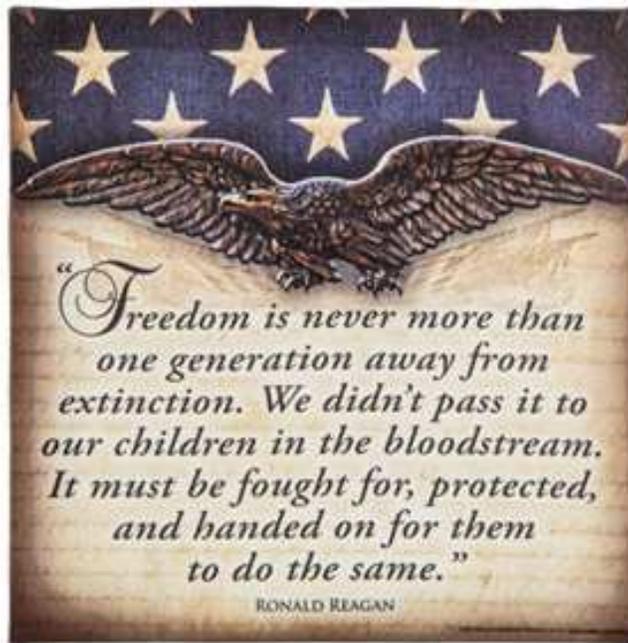
**Enchantment unlimited . . . the new
Ford THUNDERBIRD** 

But at some point, before the start of production and the official public product launch on October 22, the decision was reversed, and the trim was removed. In one version of the story, it was Henry Ford II himself who vetoed the Fairlane trim, asserting that a sports car should not wear so much chrome. (He certainly had the authority.) Among other things, this last-minute change meant that all the marketing

materials had to be redone, as in the photo below. Note that the new photo was staged in the same driveway at the same house as the previous photo shown at the top of this page.



Last-minute production changes like these are not so uncommon in the auto industry. As the automakers like to say in the fine print, "features and options are subject to change without notice."



CLUB OFFICERS

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