



# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio Newsletter



June 2023

## MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** President Roger Hamm gaveled our meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM EDT on Thursday, May 11, 2023, in our usual meeting room at MCL Cafeteria. Following his Call to Order, he extended a warm welcome to the 15 members present in the room.

**Attendees:** Those attending were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Dave Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Mark & Jackie Allen, Nancy & Julie Blake, Larry & Jo Doelker, Mike Hall, Paul & Sherry Loschi, and Dave Menke.

**Approval of Minutes:** Since the minutes from the April meeting had been published in the May newsletter (sent out last Monday), President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Brett Andrews was once again recognized first by President Roger as having made the motion for approval, and that motion was seconded by Dave Menke. There being no questions or concerns about the minutes as published in the newsletter, the minutes were deemed approved.

**Membership Update/Discussion:** President Roger asked if anyone had any updates as to potential new members, discussions that may have been held, etc. No one had anything to report. Roger made some comments (telling quite a story along the way) about his and Lisa's recent experience with the Kettering Cruise-In, held every Saturday evening at the Kettering Assembly of God Church on E. Stroop Rd.

President Roger then asked if anyone had any changes to report in contact information or roster updates. There was none to report.

As to T-bird statues updates, Past President Brett commented that he got his car out of its garage. President Roger reported that he thought he had his Diamond Jubilee sold, but the buyer backed out, despite having paid a \$450 buyer's fee.

Past President Brett reminded everyone of the recent email that he had sent out regarding a gold '64 T-bird that's for sale on a dealer lot in Huber Heights (it has around 120K miles on it). The car has a large dent in a rear quarter panel (which apparently happened on the dealer's lot), as well as a big dent in the roof. Also, the steering wheel would not slide to the right, as it should, in order to lock the vehicle into Park.

Secretary Dave Harvey reported that a tiny amount of headway has been made in resolving the passenger-side fresh air flow problem on his and Deb's '57 T-bird. With the able assistance of their son, Aaron Scully, they now have the car up on jack stands (which allowed easier access to the nuts under the floor that hold the 4 seat bolts in place) and have removed the seat. This will give badly needed maneuvering room as they dig under the dash to continue working on the problem.

Dave also reported that he and Deb finally got their '64 T-bird back from the collision shop, where it had resided since late last summer after being involved in a parking-lot incident on May 15<sup>th</sup> of last year. It was a "joyful reunion," and the car drove like a breeze back home from Piqua.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** President Roger reported that there is one anniversary in May, being that of Dave & Deb Harvey (on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month, their 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary). Dave commented that she has given him 35 renewals, for which he has been very grateful. President Roger also reported the following May birthdays: Jim Russell (on the 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Sherry Loschi (yesterday, the 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that, since April 1<sup>st</sup>, our treasury has been enriched by \$10 in dues received from new members Mike & Jeanne Hall.

**Club Activities/Events:** President Roger reminded everyone that Thunderbird Appreciation Day will be on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, and our club will celebrate it by a trip on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, to the Richardson car collection in Washington Court House, OH. We will meet at the collection at 10:30 AM, where we will hear a brief introduction to the facility, followed by at-will viewing of all the many vehicles (cars, trucks, campers, barn finds, etc.) on display there. If you have indicated an interest in this event (or will shortly be doing so), Brett will be sending out copies of a map to the site. This tour will be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

**Old Business:** President Roger again reminded everyone that the club's biennial elections will be held in October. He repeated his plea for some 'new faces' to step up and volunteer, as we have been rotating through the same group of officers for a while now. Since the Vice President (currently, Scott McGaha) automatically accedes to the Presidency (per our Bylaws), any election races would be for the positions of Vice President (with automatic accession to the President's position in two years), Secretary, and Treasurer. Please consider 'throwing your hat into the ring' for one of these positions. Nomination petitions will be due in by our September meeting.

Note: nominating petitions can be completed either by a member on his/her own behalf, or on behalf of another worthy member (be sure to obtain his/her permission first, of course). The actual form can be found on our web site (<http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com/>). Simply click on "TSWO Bylaws" on the main page, then click the link beside #6, labeled "Elected Officer Candidacy Letter." When you click on that link, the form will download to your computer. Simply print the form, fill it out, and turn it in no later than the September club meeting (which will be

on the 14<sup>th</sup> that month). Please seriously consider nominating yourself or someone else for any of the 3 positions up for election in October (Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer).

**New Business:** Mike Hall, our newest member, made a special audio/video presentation to the club, consisting of a collection of original Ford Thunderbird advertisements and TV commercials. Although Mike's collection is vaster than he had time to present, those items that he showed us ranged from introductory ads and commercials for the "all-new 1955 Thunderbird" up through ads and commercials for much later models of T-birds. Mike started out with his favorite, an ad comprised of a composite picture of a '66 Town Landau being piloted by an airline captain, showing the captain reaching for the overhead controls in his car, undoubtedly similar to what he would do in the cockpit of his airplane. The concept is that the captain was readying for flight in his Town Landau (quite a striking impression).

Mike next showed us a variety of original TV commercials for 1955, 1956 and 1957 Thunderbirds, followed by quite a number of other ads and commercials for late-'50s models, as well as select early and mid '60s models (he threw in for good measure an Ohio Lottery commercial that featured a 1966 Town Landau being restored by a young lady in memory of her father). Finally, to complete his presentation, he included some commercials for Retro-birds.

Mike's enthusiasm not only for Thunderbirds, but also for Thunderbird ads and TV commercials, was evident as he presented the various selections from his collection. A great big thank you to Mike for his time and effort in putting together (and presenting) such a variety of Thunderbird ads and TV commercials! Thank you, Mike!

### **Calendar of Car Events:**

Our next club meeting will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> at our usual location, MCL Cafeteria (dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting promptly at 7:00).

Kettering Cruise-In (at Kettering Assembly of God Church) is running every Saturday evening at 5:00 PM.

Beavercreek Cruise-In (at Vineyard Church) is running every Friday evening at 4:00 PM.

Troy Strawberry Festival Car Show will be on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

"Thunderbird Reunion" (a joint effort by Vintage Thunderbird Club International, International Thunderbird Club, and Classic Thunderbird Club International) will be held in Detroit at Ford World Headquarters, from August 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms can be found in the respective national club magazines (and perhaps on their respective web sites).

"MiamiValleyCruiser" is a Facebook group that maintains up-to-date listings of all types of cruise-ins, cars shows, and other car-related information.

Another source of car shows, cruise-ins, etc. is "miamivalleynovas.com/carshows.html"

**Open Floor:** Dave Menke mentioned that he had a small collection of blank retro "service stickers" that would have been applied at one time to driver door jambs whenever a car was serviced. He offered them to anyone who is interested.

President Roger mentioned that his Diamond Jubilee Thunderbird is still for sale.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Sherry Loschi and seconded by Larry Doelker. The meeting was then gaveled to a close at 7:59 PM EDT.

*Roger Hamm*  
President



**Birthdays & Anniversaries in June:** We've hit a jackpot month for June. We have five birthdays and four anniversaries. Our best wishes to the celebrants on this their special day.



**June Birthdays**

- Michael Bach (12<sup>th</sup>)
- Dave Harvey (18<sup>th</sup>)
- Jo Doelker (24<sup>th</sup>)
- Mark Allen (29<sup>th</sup>)
- Mike Hall (29<sup>th</sup>)

**June Anniversaries**

- Larry & Jo Doelker (16<sup>th</sup>)  
(50 yrs)
- Paul & Sherry Loschi (20<sup>th</sup>)  
(14 yrs)
- Dave & Susan Menke (23<sup>rd</sup>)  
(44 yrs)
- Michael & Donna Bach (27<sup>th</sup>)  
(53 yrs)



June is a month filled with several happenings. First, we have the observance of Flag Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. Next is the observance of Father's Day on the third Sunday. Then, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, we observe the beginning of summer with the summer solstice occurring on that date.

Flag day is a day honoring the national flag and is observed on June 14. The holiday commemorates the date in 1777 when the United States approved the design for its first national flag.

The idea to set aside a day to honor the national flag came from several sources. Bernard J. Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, in 1885 urged his students to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday." He later wrote an essay published in a Chicago newspaper that urged Americans to proclaim this date as the day to celebrate the flag. In 1888 William T. Kerr of Pennsylvania founded the American Flag Day Association of Western Pennsylvania, an organization to which he dedicated his life. A lesser-known claim is that of George Morris of Connecticut, who is said to have organized the first formal celebration of the day in Hartford in 1861.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as the official date for Flag Day, and in 1949 the U.S. Congress permanently established the date as National Flag Day. Although Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, Pennsylvania celebrates the day as a state holiday. Each year the U.S. president delivers an address that proclaims the week of June 14 as National Flag Week, and all Americans are encouraged to fly U.S. flags during that week.

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother's Day—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers, and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2023 occurs on June 18th.

The summer solstices are the two moments during the year when the path of the sun in the sky is farthest north in the Northern Hemisphere (June 20 or 21) or farthest south in the Southern Hemisphere (December 21 or 22).

At the summer solstice, the Sun travels the longest path through the sky, and that day therefore has the most daylight. When the summer solstice happens in the Northern Hemisphere, the north pole is tilted about  $23.4^\circ$  ( $23^\circ 27'$ ) toward the Sun. Because the Sun's rays are shifted northward from the equator by the same amount, the vertical noon rays are

directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer (23°27' N). Six months later, the south pole is inclined about 23.4° toward the Sun. On this day of the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere, the Sun's vertical overhead rays progress to their southernmost position, the Tropic of Capricorn (23°27' S).

According to the astronomical definition of the seasons, the summer solstice also marks the beginning of summer, which lasts until the autumnal equinox (September 22 or 23 in the Northern Hemisphere, or March 20 or 21 in the Southern Hemisphere). The day has also been celebrated in many cultures. For example, in Scandinavia, the holiday of Midsummer's Eve is observed on a weekend near the time of the solstice.

So, I hope everyone will get to enjoy all these "holidays" this month. Also, be sure to enjoy driving your T-birds this month, as cruise-ins and car shows are already going on, and those would be great opportunities to show off your cars to others and possibly meet some potential members at those shows.

See you all at our meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> at MCL Cafeteria, 6 pm.

*Roger*

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*Three Times a Charm:  
Our Visit to the Richardson Car Collection*

*By Brett Andrews*

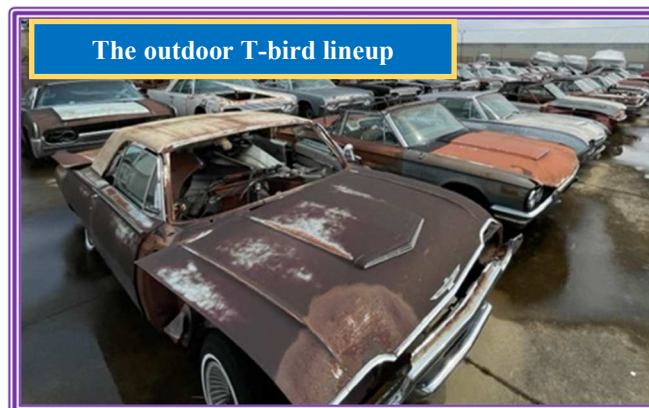


On May 20, 2023, eleven TSWO members made our club's third trip to the Sugar Creek Packing Company in Washington Court House to tour the John Richardson automobile collection. Participants in this day's event included Roger & Lisa Hamm, Brett Andrews, Mark & Jackie Allen, Jay & Bea Walsh, Jim Russell, Dave Menke, Paul Loschi, and Mike Hall. The early morning rain and misty weather hindered many from taking their T-birds out to celebrate Thunderbird Appreciation weekend. However, Roger & Lisa brought Tweety Bird, their 2002 Retro Bird, Brett weathered the elements in his 2004 Retro, and Paul arrived driving his '94 Thunderbird LX.

The private collection of Mr. Richardson, the President of Sugar Creek Packing Company, consists of nearly 300 vehicles. The collection is housed in a not-open-to-the-public facility and can be visited by appointment only. We secured our tour through Mr. Tim Bateson, the auto shop manager, and on the day of our arrival were aided by two shop restoration specialists, Kent and

Rob, who answered our endless barrage of questions. The crew that works in this facility not only restores and maintains Mr. Richardson vast collection but are also responsible for the care and feeding of approximately 80 packing company vehicles. As you will see, should you view the additional photos on our website, this eclectic collection consists of a combination of finely restored cars, boats, motorcycles, and travel trailers/campers across many eras. Additionally, there are scores of untouched vehicles just waiting in the queue for the expert hands of the restoration crew. I, and other members of our group, were curious if there were any Thunderbirds among the collection. Although there was only one unrestored Bullet Bird inside, there were 14 lined up outside biding their time while awaiting their turn. Of those outside, twelve were a combination of Bullet Birds and Flair Birds, while two were from the early 1970's.

At the conclusion of our tour, ten of us caravanned to the Rusty Keg Tavern in Washington Court House for lunch and friendly comradery. We were seated in a glassed-in patio where we enjoyed the sunshine after a chilly morning rain. The tavern featured an extensive menu, and the food was top notch. It was obvious to me our group was having fun with all the laughing and nearly non-stop conversation going on. Before we knew it, it was time to end our frivolity and make our way back to our homesteads. It was a day to remember. Below are a few photos from the trip. Many more can soon be seen on our website under the "Recent Events" tab.



# A Two-Seater Square Bird, No Way!!!

Prepared by: Brett Andrews

I ran across an article on Facebook by Bill Prince from the International Thunderbird Club. In that article he talked about a two-seater version of the 1959 Thunderbird. Based on the arrowhead looking chrome detail on the side of the door, it is a '59. He hints that Ford had a similar idea for the '58 Square Bird. In fact, he states Ford had a mock-up. I couldn't find anything online to prove or disprove that claim.

The article doesn't make it clear if the below picture represents a graphic manipulation or the cutting up and piecing together a 1/18 scale model. In his article he said it took him "a couple of hours in the attempt to get similar proportions of the 1957 2-seater Tbird". I'm betting it's a well-done graphic, not a full-size car. Though not real, it sure is interesting to look at.

Since his article was on Facebook, it was open to comments. Some folks thought it was cool and some thought it looked awkward. To achieve this look, he explained that it required shortening the roof, moving the rear wheels forward, shortening the rear deck, lengthening the front ahead of the wheels, removal of the vent window, modification of the bullet trim, moving the Thunderbird script to the front of the front fender, adding a front air vent, and mounting of a rear antenna.

So, what do you think?

Could you see yourself cruising in a Two-Seater Square Bird?





## Words of Wisdom to Fathers

*"My Father didn't tell me  
how to live.  
He lived and let me watch  
him do it."*

*Clarence Budington Kelland*

To all the TSWO Dads,  
Happy Father's Day



**Just a reminder: June 21st is  
the first day of summer.**

### CLUB OFFICERS

President: Roger Hamm (937) 728-0762  
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