



# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

## *Newsletter*

June 2016



### MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** The club president, Roger Hamm, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 12, 2016 at the MCL Cafeteria.

**Attendees:** Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Nancy & Julie Blake, Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross, Guy & Jan Gifford, and Jay Walsh.

**Approval of Minutes:** The membership was asked if there were any proposed changes, additions, or deletions to the April 2016 meeting minutes, as shown in the May 2016 newsletter. With no concerns being raised, the minutes stand approved as published.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roger had gone to Franklin to look at a 1966 Tbird Landau that Brett had received a call about before the meeting. He passed around some pictures he had taken. It's rather rough for the \$2500.00 being asked. More of a \$500-\$ 1000 car.

When asked, Nancy indicated the engine was about ready to be put back into her 1966 thunderbird renovation. She is still thinking it will be mid-summer before it is ready.

Scott reported many difficulties with his car simply quitting on him even when driving down the road. He has also had problems getting it restarted after short times of driving it. He has had it in the shop a couple times with nothing found yet. His woes have involved a couple AAA calls to get his bird to a safe nesting spot. Some suggestions were offered by members that he will take under consideration.

### REPORTS:

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa reported that there was one change in the clubs financial status with the deposit of dues for one member since the April report.

**Event Planning:** Scott reminded all of the Cars and Coffee event this coming weekend on the upper deck of the parking garage at the Greene.

Scott also provided information about a show in Ft. Wayne, IN, on May 14.

The "Donut Trail" tour That Beverly brought to our attention last month was discussed again. We will try to get that arranged for our June event. Scott has other commitments the weekend after our June meeting and Roger and Lisa will be in VA that weekend. So we will aim to have this event on Saturday, June 18. It involves touring nine different donut shops in Butler County. Once signed up you get your passport that is stamped at each donut shop and when complete you can get a Donut Trail t-shirt. We will solidify this at the June meeting.

Guy again encouraged the clubs consideration of a tour of the Pennsylvania House in Springfield. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Members were reminded of the 4th annual Gale Halderman's Garage Museum cruise-in on July 13th from noon to 4 p.m. The address is 6476 U.S. Rt 40, Tipp City, Oh. Mr. Halderman was one of the key designers of the Ford Mustang and also participated in the design of Thunderbirds.

VTCI International Convention, August 10-14, 2016, in Kansas City, Ka.

No news back on our newsletter submission to the VTCI Newsletter Contest.

Roger did not get with the manager of local Golden Corral restaurants to discuss their interest in having a car. He will put this on his list for next month.

Some discussion was done about the Lofino's cruise in on Fridays. We will continue to have members attend the Friday after our meetings throughout the summer.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Roger brought up the Springfield Swap Meet that will be held this Memorial Day Weekend. Another cruise-in mentioned was in Vandalia but dates were not provided.

Beverly brought up the car show at the Sharonville Transmission plant later this year that benefits the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. More information to follow.

**Open Floor:** No additional topics were raised.

**Adjourn:** With no further discussions, Roger requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Guy and seconded by Scott. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

*Roger Hamm*  
President

**Next Meeting: June 9th, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering**

### *Message from the President*

Now that June is here, car show season is in full swing. I was able to attend the Spring Cars & Parts swap meet and show this past Memorial Day weekend. It was a perfect day for a car show & there were a lot of cars in the car show on Saturday. I was able to take our retro bird to the show, and luckily, no rain came during the show to dampen spirits. I wasn't quite so lucky on the way home as I ran into a heavy downpour. Oh, well, free car wash.

I came across an interesting article on the Thunderbird Nest Forum and thought I would share it with our members with the Retro Birds. It describes how to make an adjustment to the hardtop, if you are having problems getting it to fit properly on your car. I hope this is a helpful article for all of us Retro Bird owners.

I am hoping to have a possible new member at our June meeting, as I met a gentleman at my part-time job in Franklin who has a silver 50th anniversary 2005 Tbird that he uses as a daily driver. He also pointed me to a website that I found interesting. It is [www.portauthority.com](http://www.portauthority.com), and has a lot of information



#### June Birthdays

17<sup>th</sup>: Kaye Lenz

#### June Anniversaries

None



**Reminder: June 20<sup>th</sup> is the first day of Summer**

#### Upcoming Club Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Donut Trail Tour	18 June	TBD
2. Dale Halderman Museum Cruise-in	13 July	Tipp City
3. Gilmore Museum (tentative)	Aug-Sep (Tentative)	Battle Creek, Mi

#### CLUB OFFICERS

President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992  
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992

Vice President: Scott McGaha (937) 439-1138  
Secretary: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131

# Retrobird Hardtop Alignment Procedure

If you're having trouble aligning the hardtop on your retrobird during installation, here is a procedure that has been passed around members of the Retrobird Nest for years. If your problem is getting the top to sit correctly on the mounting points, or had to try and try again just to get the front bolts to engage. Rather than force it and risk stripping the threads on the mounting bolts or locking tabs, here's a simple adjustment that lets the top go on smoothly and easily, as if it was factory fitted to your T-Bird.

(1) Make sure the top's rear locking levers are pushed all the way to the rear.

(2) Lower the top's rear pins into their receivers. Then lower the front of the top onto the front mounting points. Pull the rear locking levers half way toward the front; the pins will drop further into the receiving holes. The locking tabs on the front corners of the hardtop should line up with the mounting casings on the top corners of the windshield. At each corner, use the top tool to push the locking bolt up through the casing and into the receiver hole in the locking tab. If the bolt doesn't slide easily into the hole, you'll need a custom fit. If it does slide in, give it a few turns to engage the threads. If the bolt doesn't engage easily, with minimal pressure, then you'll need a custom fit.

If everything fits, then you're good to go... proceed as usual. But if things don't line up well, then continue to Step 3 for a custom fit.

## Custom Fit:

(3) There's a plastic panel at the front of the headliner; it's held on by several metal clips across the inside of the panel (Fig.1).

You'll have to remove this panel. See Fig 2. Take care not to let the whole panel fall once it's loose! Set the panel aside.



Fig. 1 - Remove the plastic panel, at the front of the headliner.

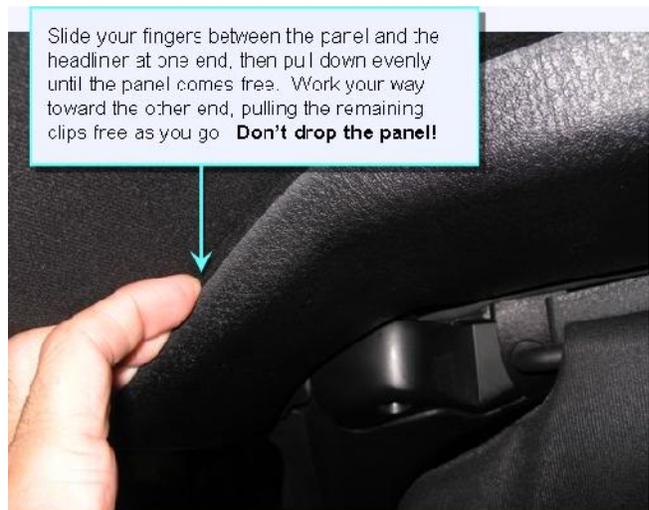


Fig. 2 - How to remove the panel.

(4) With the panel off, you'll see three adjustment screws on each of the locking tabs (Fig. 3). To adjust a tab, use the top tool to loosen all three screws to the point that you can slide the tab around with a little pressure.

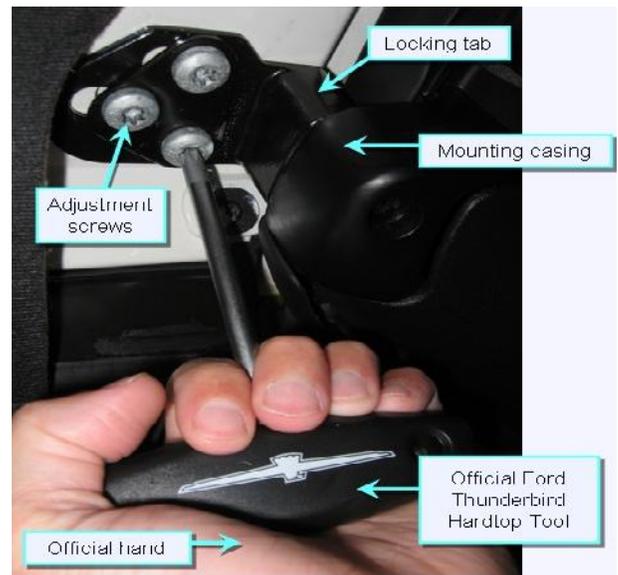


Fig. 3 - Front left corner of the hardtop, with locking tab adjustment screws exposed.



Fig. 4 - Align the locking tab with the mounting casing.

(5) Move the locking tab until it lines up with the mounting casing beneath it (Fig 4).

(6) When the tab is aligned, push the locking bolt up into the receiving hole and give it a few turns to ensure that it engages easily, without requiring undue pressure (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5 - Loosely engage the locking bolt, to make sure that it turns easily.

- (7) Leave the bolt loosely engaged to help hold the tab in place, then adjust the mounting tab on the other side. Make any final adjustments to ensure that both sides are properly aligned before tightening the adjustment screws.
- (8) With both mounting bolts slightly engaged to hold the locking tabs in place, tighten the three screws on each tab to lock them into their new, perfect-fit positions.
- (9) Pull the rear locking levers the rest of the way forward to lock the rear in place.
- (10) Tighten the front locking bolts.
- (11) Reattach the plastic panel (Fig. 6).

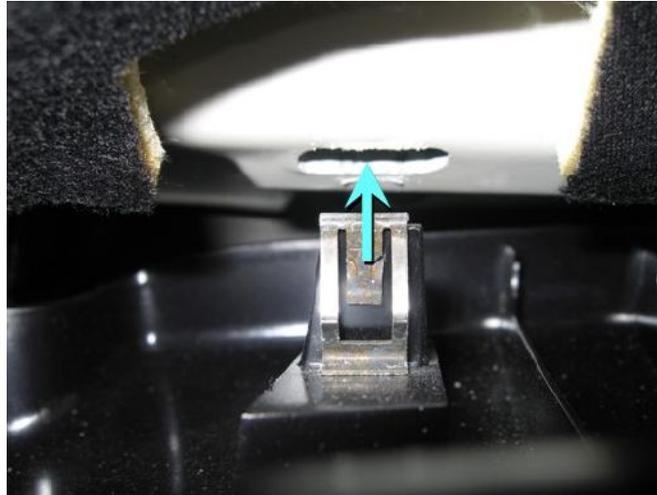


Fig. 6 - Reattach the plastic panel. Align the metal clips with their corresponding slots and push.

**Done!** Factory fit to your T-Bird!