



THUNDERBIRDS

OF SOUTHWEST OHIO

NEWSLETTER

March 2020



MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: After waiting patiently for the clock to tick over the top of the hour, President Brett called to order the February 13th TSWO meeting promptly at 7:00 PM at the MCL cafeteria. He welcomed the rather sparse crowd and handed out agendas to any who needed them. He also commented that several people (perhaps 10 or so) had let him know in advance that they would be unable to attend this meeting.

ATTENDEES: A total of 9 members were present, including: Brett & Peg Andrews, Roger Hamm, Dave Harvey, Jim Lenz, Tom Tirey & Gina Hctor, Scott McGaha, and Dave Menke. Also present were a couple of "drop-in" guests (Carl & Meritta Eby) - more about them later in the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: When the topic of approval of the minutes was broached, Scott raised his hand. After being recognized by President Brett, Scott said that he had detected a slightly different "flavor" to the minutes. It was acknowledged that this was because of the neophyte Secretary, who was trying to create a good impression for the rest of the Club. Brett then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting, as published in the February newsletter. Scott made the motion, and it was seconded by Roger. The floor was then opened for further comments about the minutes. Hearing no comments, Brett put the motion to a vote, which passed unanimously.

Membership Update: Brett introduced our guests, Karl and Meritta Eby, and told the story as to how they came to visit us this evening. Many of you are no doubt familiar with the publication "Southwest Ohio Auto & RV" (I think I have the name right). Part of the magazine has a 1-page feature article by Bill Holder called "Nice Ride" (sometimes also called "Sweet Ride"). Anyway, some time back, Bill spotted President Brett and Peg's Merlot Retro-Bird and asked if he could feature their car in one of his columns. Never the shy one, Brett readily agreed. In addition to all the other information necessary for a nice write-up, Brett apparently also provided the Club's website address to Bill, and he included it in the article. Fast forward to the present. Karl and Meritta have a black 2002 Retro-bird that they've had for about 5 years. Wanting to get hooked up with similar minded T-bird enthusiasts, Karl spotted the article featuring Brett's car and took note of our web address. From there it was a simple matter for him to read our minutes online and find out that we meet at MCL on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Voila! "Drop-in" guests.

Meritta commented about Thunderbird Nest and the many activities that they've participated in as members of that forum. Based on her excitement, this might be a good spot for Retro-bird owners to check out.

As to member contact information, it was noted that a new roster had been emailed before the meeting (to reflect the addition of Dave and Susan Menke). Note: the roster will be updated again next month, as Karl & Meritta joined our club at this evening's meeting.

Regarding T-bird status updates, Roger has obtained an estimate for repainting his '66 Bird.

Sunshine Committee Report: As reported in the agenda for tonight's meeting, February birthdays include: Brownie (9th), Peg Andrews (11th), Nancy Moore (14th - Valentine baby), Jim Hayden (16th), and Gina Hctor (24th). In addition, Gina and Tom will be celebrating their anniversary on the 28th.

Treasurer's Report: In Lisa's absence, Roger did a creditable job in presenting the Treasurer's report.

Club Activities/Events: Scott McGaha (Activity Planning Director) took the floor and discussed the upcoming outing to the Cincinnati Museum Center. After some discussion, it was agreed that all who wanted to go would meet at the Museum Center lobby at 9:45 AM on Saturday, February 15.

Discussion for a tentative March outing wavered between the Butler Classic Car Museum in Erlanger, Ky and the new Old Scratch Pizza in Centerville. Come prepared to discuss options at the March meeting.

It was also proposed that we consider for our September outing a trip to the Waco Fly-In/Car Show. Apparently, this is quite an interesting event.

Old Business: As stated last month, if you haven't paid your TSWO dues and your VTCI dues, you're DELINQUENT and need to pay those dues NOW! While VTCI membership is not a requirement in order to be a member of TSWO, we strongly encourage every TSWO member to be sure that they are a member in good standing with VTCI, also.

The main item of old business had to do with our previously-announced election to fill the third position on our Board of Directors. Due to the limited attendance at the February meeting, Brett announced that the election would be held in March, instead. Please make every effort to attend and participate in the election.

New Business: President Brett encouraged members to submit articles to the newsletter. Your club wants to hear from you! He also encouraged members to offer suggestions to improve our web site. Don't be shy, please let us know if you have ideas to improve it.

Calendar of Car Events: The next TSWO Club meeting will be on March 12.

Also, it was reported in the latest issue of "Thunderbird Scoop" that the South Central Regional meet now has a firm date, which will be June 11-14, 2020. This event will be in New Orleans.

Finally, it was reported that the International Thunderbird Club convention is going to be held Aug 11-16 (although the Secretary's notes did have a question mark surrounding this report). Subsequent to our meeting, ITC announced that its convention would actually be held on September 17-20, 2020 in Detroit.

Open Floor: No comments or concerns were raised

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Brett requested a motion to adjourn. In Jan Gifford's absence, Jim Lentz stepped up and made that motion, which was seconded by Gina. The motion passed unanimously, and President Brett gaveled the meeting to a close at 8:17M.

Brett Andrews
President

Next Meeting: March 12, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering



March Birthdays

1st: Nancy Blake
2nd: Scott McGaha
14th: Deb Harvey

March Anniversaries

none



Thoughts from the President

Greetings fellow Thunderbird lovers and Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all!!



Let me start by stating that the beginning of 2020 for our club has been quite rewarding. In our first two months of the year we have gained four new members. In January Dave and Susan Menke joined our club and then in February we signed up Karl and Meritta Eby. A hearty welcome to our new members. Let's keep our eyes open for more potential member opportunities as the new car season approaches. In addition, we've had two enjoyable club events so far this year - - the movie Ford v Ferrari in January and a trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center to see the Apollo 11 exhibit in February. I'm excited about some of the events Scott has been contemplating for us this year. The potential March event to Erlanger, Ky to the Butler Classic Car Museum sounds fantastic if Scott can get the logistics worked out.

I may sound like an old record, but I still want to encourage you to contribute articles to include in our newsletter, to suggest ways to improve our web site, and to continue proposing possible club activities. Thunderbird Appreciation Day is coming up on May 17th so we're looking for ideas on where we should take our birds to show them off.

Brett



Upcoming Club Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Butler Classic Car Museum (tentative) or Old Scratch Pizza (alternate)	TBD Mar 14th	Erlanger, Ky 440 Miamisburg-Centerville Road (Ohio 725)

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992

Vice President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992
Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885

February Club Activity: Hearing & Seeing History Our Visit to the Cincinnati Museum Center



Our monthly club activity took us to the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal on Saturday, February 15th. Six of us (Brett & Peg Andrews, Roger Hamm, Scott McGaha, and Tom Tirey & Gina Hactor) meet at the museum with the primary goal of hearing a lecture from an actual participant in the planning of the 1969 moon landing and to tour the Apollo 11 exhibit. Our first goal was met when we attended a lecture given by Marion Lee Johnson.

From 1967 to 1969, Mrs. Johnson worked as a mathematician with Boeing, who at the time was a leader in the building of the Saturn V rocket used to launch each of the Apollo missions. Mrs. Johnson worked on the Apollo program at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center under the direction of rocket designer Werner von Braun. As part of the team, Mrs. Johnson was responsible for calculations to simulate vehicle piece impact trajectories and was credited with an incredible perfect score over her 20 successful missions. Her name is included on the Apollo/Saturn V Roll of Honor. Following her stint with Boeing and NASA, Mrs. Johnson spent 26 years at Pfizer, Inc. as a project leader and was later a computer networking and security instructor at Branford Hall Career Institute in New Jersey.

After the presentation, we took time to wander around the main floor of the terminal marveling at the building's architecture, decor, and wall murals. We eventually made our way to the bottom floor to tour the Apollo 11 exhibit which was on an extensive around-the-U.S. tour to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. landing on the moon on July 20, 1969. The exhibit consisted of numerous large photos of the moon and mission related personnel and activities, but by far the most impressive piece of memorabilia was the actual Apollo 11 Command Module, named Columbia, that Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins occupied during their trip to the moon and their return and splash down on July 24, 1969.

After touring the exhibit, we then proceeded to discuss our options for a late lunch. We decided to try something different, so we chose the Highland Stag, a Scottish/Celtic restaurant in Springboro. Low

and behold upon arrival at the restaurant we discovered it was closed. (Note: After the fact it was learned that the Highland Stag had been closed for several months. However, their website, which was visited just the night before, made no mention of the closure). Ultimately, we elected to do lunch at the China Cottage just up the road from the Highland Stag location. After a tasty meal and friendly conversation we said our goodbyes and headed home. What an enjoyable day we had together hearing actual participants and seeing one-of-a-kind artifacts about the early days of our space program. Below are a few photos from our day's activity. More photos are available on our website under "Recent Events".



Marion Lee Johnson



Astronauts Armstrong, Collins & Aldrin



Apollo 11 Command Module

Do You Really Know What Leap Year Is?

(Reprint of an History Stories internet article written by Evan Andrews)



Nearly every four years, we add an extra day to the calendar in the form of February 29, also known as Leap Day. Put simply, these additional 24 hours are built into the calendar to ensure that it stays in line with the Earth's movement around the Sun. While the modern calendar contains 365 days, the actual time it takes for Earth to orbit its star is slightly longer—roughly 365.2421 days. The difference might seem negligible, but over decades and centuries that missing quarter of a day per year can add

up. To ensure consistency with the true astronomical year, it is necessary to periodically add in an extra day to make up the lost time and get the calendar back in synch with the heavens.

The Egyptians were among the first to calculate the need for a leap year, but the practice didn't arrive in Europe until the reign of the Roman dictator Julius Caesar. Before then, the Roman calendar had operated on a muddled lunar model that regularly required adding an extra month to maintain celestial consistency. Finally, in 46 B.C., Caesar and the astronomer Sosigenes revamped the Roman calendar to include 12 months and 365 days. This "Julian Calendar" also accounted for the slightly longer solar year by adding a leap day every four years.

Caesar's model helped realign the Roman calendar, but it had one small problem. Since the solar year is only .242 days longer than the calendar year and not an even .25, adding a leap year every four years actually leaves an annual surplus of roughly 11 minutes. This minute discrepancy meant that the Julian Calendar drifted off course by one day every 128 years, and by the 14th century it had strayed 10 days off the solar year. To fix the glitch, Pope Gregory XIII instituted a revised "Gregorian Calendar" in 1582. In this model, leap years occur every four years except for years evenly divisible by 100 and not by 400. For example, the year 1900 was not a leap year because it was divisible by 100, but not 400. The Pope's updated calendar remains in use to this day, but it's still not perfect—experts note that the remaining discrepancies will need to be addressed in around 10,000 years.



--REMINDERS--



**Daylight Savings Time begins 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8th.
Be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.**



Spring arrives on March 19th