



THUNDERBIRDS

OF SOUTHWEST OHIO

Newsletter

March 2022



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: With the lilting sounds of dinner music still wafting in through MCL's overhead speakers in the dinner/meeting room, President Roger Hamm gaveled the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM. Secretary Dave Harvey mentioned that he had spoken to one of the staff earlier, and she said they would turn the music off at 7:00. Since that appeared to have slipped her mind (or she didn't realize that it was now 7:00), Dave suggested that everyone speak up loud enough to be heard, while he tracked down someone to shut off the music (although it felt longer than that, the music only played for about 4 minutes after the start of the meeting). Roger mentioned that Brett and Peg couldn't be here with us, as they had tested positive for COVID the previous week. As of today, they have now tested negative and are doing OK, but they didn't want to risk possibly exposing any members at the meeting - they hope to be back next month.

Attendees: Attendance was a bit sparse, as only 11 members (and no guests) were on hand. Those members were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave & Deb Harvey, Mark & Jackie Allen, Nancy & Julie Blake, and Dave & Susan Menke.

Approval of Minutes: As to the January meeting minutes (published in the February newsletter), President Roger asked if there were any questions or corrections. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Nancy Blake and seconded by Jackie Allen. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Membership Update/Discussion: This time of year being a difficult time to recruit new members, no one had any reports of prospects that haven't already been mentioned before. As the cruise-in and car show scenes ramp up, there will undoubtedly be more to report here.

None of the members present had any changes to report in their contact information (addresses, phone numbers, email addresses). Some discussion was held around the difficulties that Paul Loschi has experienced in receiving Roger's emails. Several members offered potential solutions, but at least Paul's wife Sherry is receiving the emails. Further discussion was held regarding "bounced" emails that some members had received back when doing a "Reply All" to other messages, and Scott reiterated the fact that absolute precision is required when typing

email addresses (and be aware that auto-correct can sometimes do funny things, if you're not careful).

No members reported any changes in cars. However, there was some discussion around license plates (regular? personalized? historic vehicle?), and what was appropriate or desired by various members. Scott told the story about a friend who was stopped while driving his car with historic vehicle plates, shortly after exiting The Greene. The friend managed to talk his way out of a ticket, but no one else reported ever having been stopped for this reason.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Roger reported that, as stated in the newsletter, tomorrow (Feb 11th) will be Peg Andrews' birthday, February 14th will be Nancy Moore's birthday, while Jim Hayden will celebrate his birthday on the 19th and Gina Hctor will celebrate her birthday on the 24th. As to February anniversaries, there is only one to report - Karl & Meritta Eby celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary on February 9th (*later note: this is corrected information vs. what was published in the February newsletter and was verified by Meritta both as to the date and the number of years*).

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported on the club's financial transactions for the past month, which included a dividend paid on our account and 3 membership renewals. Lisa reported that she has sent emails to any members who haven't yet paid their dues. Since she'll be going to Virginia next week, she also plans to call all these people to ask if they had received her email, and what their intentions are as to renewal. She will also be reiterating that membership dues should be sent to her, as she is the financial recordkeeper.

Club Activities/Events: Scott McGaha reported on the Christopher's Restaurant outing last month, and that everyone enjoyed the food and companionship.

Scott mentioned several possible future events, unfortunately not all of which would necessarily be of interest to every member. Deb Harvey reported on a brewing seminar that she's currently taking through UDOLLI and suggested that a brewery tour (with food) might be of interest, even if one is not a beer drinker. Scott also mentioned Warped Wing in Springboro as a possibility for a lunch and tour.

Dave Harvey mentioned a possible trip to the Packard Museum, and Deb Harvey suggested the Sign Museum in Cincinnati. Although our club has been to both of these museums before, there seemed to be a lot of interest in a trip to the Sign Museum for our February event. Union Terminal was also mentioned as a possibility. After further discussion, it was agreed that we would go to the American Sign Museum on Saturday, February 26th, and we would meet at the museum at 10:00 AM. Scott will send an email to all members outlining this plan, with a request to RSVP so he will have an idea of how many people to tell the museum to expect for our group.

Scott said that at some time he is going to have to return to Utah for an indeterminate time to continue caring for his very-ill brother. Consequently, he may have some difficulty in planning

our monthly events. Dave and Deb Harvey suggested that we might want to adopt the model used by their Southern Ohio Chapter, AACA as far as planning our monthly events. SOC, AACA has their November and December meetings pre-determined (annual business meeting and annual Christmas party), but they open up the remaining 10 months for members to sign up for the month of their choice and assume responsibility for planning and executing the club event for that month (the sign-up sheet is typically broadcast in the 4th quarter of a given year, with people being asked to sign up for their choice of month in the following year). In this manner, the work of planning events is pretty well distributed among the members, and members planning an event have plenty of time to plan it.

There seemed to be support for this idea, and in fact, there were a couple of members who spoke up to volunteer for specific months. There was a lot of discussion around all types of possible events, and it was agreed that this topic (members signing up to plan and execute a specific month's event) will be put on the agenda for our next meeting.

Having said that, Mark and Jackie Allen volunteered for a May event, and Dave and Susan Menke volunteered for a September event.

Old Business: Routing the train back onto the main rails following a wide-ranging, wandering, wonderful discussion on a number of topics, President Roger then asked if there was any old business to handle. One item was disposal of no-longer-needed club property. Since this topic was tabled at the January meeting, due to the small number of members present, it continued on the table until next month's meeting, for the same reason.

President Roger reported that Brett has signed our club up with Ford Performance Club Connect (web site: <https://fordperformanceclubconnect.com>), and this should help give broader exposure to our club, as well as other Ford-related car clubs.

As to the three walkie-talkies that had been discussed last month that Scott's brother was willing to donate to the club, Scott brought them with him this evening to give to Brett. Since Brett and Peg weren't present, Dave Harvey volunteered to deliver the walkie-talkies to Brett, as well as to deliver some more handmade cards from Nancy to Peg to be used by the Sunshine Committee. Thanks to Nancy for the beautiful cards, and thanks to Scott's brother for the walkie-talkies.

New Business: There was no new business to bring to the floor.

Calendar of Car Events:

1. Next TSWO club meeting - Mar 10, 2022
2. West Carrollton Marching Band has invited us to their car show - June 4, 2022 (registration begins at 9:00 AM)

Open Floor: There was some reminiscing about past donations that the club had made. Roger clarified that there was a one-time donation from the days when we had some surplus funds, due to income from the Bellbrook Car Show. The club, in general, does not make donations now, due to our only source of income being members' dues.

Nancy mentioned that she had brought to the meeting several car magazines, and invited everyone to browse the stack and take what they wanted.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the group, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was made by Dave Menke and seconded by Scott McGaha. The motion passed unanimously, and President Roger gaveled the meeting to a close at 7:56 PM.

Roger Hamm
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in March: We have several birthdays to celebrate in February and one anniversary. As you see, we have one member celebrating their birthday on Valentine's Day. The happiest birthday and anniversary wishes to all our February celebrants from the TSWO membership.



March Birthdays

Nancy Blake (1st)
Scott McGaha (2ndth)
Deb Harvey (14th)

March Anniversaries

None



As we enter into the month of March, we all start to think about the beginning of spring, which will be on the 20th. I, for one, am very much looking forward to spring arriving, as it means that we will finally say goodbye to the cold weather that February has brought upon us and, hopefully, no more snow. It is also when many celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. Saint

Patrick's Day, also known as the Feast of Saint Patrick, is a cultural and religious celebration held on March 17th, the traditional date of the death of Saint Patrick (c. 385 - c. 461), the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and

the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. Christians who belong to liturgical denominations also attend church services and historically the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol were lifted for the day, which has encouraged and propagated the holiday's tradition of alcohol consumption.

Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador (for provincial government employees), and the British Overseas Territory of Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated in the United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Brazil, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival. Modern celebrations have been greatly influenced by those of the Irish diaspora (those who identify with a "homeland", but live outside of it, particularly those that developed in North America). However, there has been criticism of Saint Patrick's Day celebrations for having become too commercialized and for fostering negative stereotypes of the Irish people.

Roger



TSWO Tour of Cincinnati "American Sign Museum"



On Saturday, February 26th, 10 members of our club were able to make it to our February club event to the American Sign Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio. The members in attendance were Dave and Deborah Harvey, Dave and Susan Menke, Jim Ross and Beverly Knauper, Mark and Jackie Allen, Roger Hamm and Scott McGaha. Everyone had a great time viewing all the amazing signs inside the museum. Some of these were old-time wood signs, then some were the old incandescent bulbs and, then some of them were of the neon type. We also got to watch a couple of the neon glass blowers heating up and bending pieces of glass into different shapes and sizes. The museum also provided a nice video explaining some of the signs they had and how and where some of them were acquired.

After spending about two hours at the museum, we all then drove a short distance to the Camp Washington Chili House restaurant for a nice meal before heading back to our respective homes. Some of the nice meals we enjoyed were 4-way chili with spaghetti, chili, cheese and either beans or onions, chili dogs, chili, and some decided to enjoy a nice breakfast. After spending almost two more hours eating and telling some great tales, we decided it was time to head home. Additional photos of the museum will soon be available on our club website.



The Good, **Bad**, and Funny of Our Florida Trip

(Subtitle: They Say Bad Things Come in Threes)

by: Brett Andrews

(Authors Note: You may enjoy this article just a tad more if you delay looking at the pictures until you get to the point where it tells you to do so.)

As most of you TSWO members know, Peg and I recently made a trip to Florida to visit family and for some warm weather relaxation/rejuvenation after our bout with covid. After the first and longest of our driving days we spent an uneventful evening in Columbia, SC. On day two it was off to Jacksonville, FL where we planned to spend a few days visiting Peg's sister and family. On that drive gremlin #1 struck. About 2 hours into the drive, I heard a thump. I didn't see any damage on the windshield and though I ran over something on the road. Later when Peg raised her sun visor reality struck. The windshield was beginning to crack on the passenger side with about a 16" crack running from the top edge in a moon shape pattern down and across the window. We made it to our hotel in mid-afternoon with no problem. I was able to contact our insurance company who made arrangement for repairs at a shop only 10 minutes from our hotel. Long story short, we were able to get a new windshield installed in two hours the next morning, allowing us to enjoy the rest of our time with family in Green Cove Springs and St Augustine.

Day five of our southern travels would take us to our end destination, our daughter's home in the Fort Lauderdale area. The morning after we arrived, I headed out to a car wash to remove the road grime collected during the trip. After passing through the wash, I pulled into the area where the interior was to be cleaned. It was then gremlin #2 struck. A tire low pressure warning light illuminated. Upon checking the tire pressure reading shown on the dash, it indicated my right rear tire was at 9 lbs. I nervously waited for the car cleaning to be completed. I was fortunate that there was a gas station next to the car wash where I was able to buy about 30 lbs of air pressure for \$1.50 (remember the days when air was free at all gas stations). After slightly overinflating the tire to give me a little more time, I searched on my phone for a tire repair location. Again, luckily, I found one about a block away. As the tire guy and I went out to the car to look at the problem, he immediately spotted the trouble that for some reason I had failed to see - - a nail. It had punctured the tire close enough to the sidewall to put it out of the realm of repair, hence I needed a new tire. Once that problem was corrected the remainder of the vacation was uneventful, sort of. A few days before heading back to Dayton I received a notice on my phone that our home security cameras were off-line. Thinking that the nasty rain and freezing weather Dayton recently experienced while we were gone knocked out power in our area which had kicked our Wi-Fi router off-line and that all I'd need to do was reset it when we got home. Yah, right. Wishful thinking. Notwithstanding the tire and WiFi issue, the rest of our time in Florida was great. The weather was fantastic except for a relatively brief rain on one day. While there we were blessed to be able to watch our grandson win his first ever high school mile run in a come-from-behind thriller during a track meet at his high school.

Our trip home was great. We spent our first night on the road at Tybee Island, SC in a hotel on the ocean and enjoyed dinner at a popular and rustic Crab Shack. Day two had us traveling to Cherokee, NC which is

nestled in the Smoky Mountains. Our final day on the road began with a drive through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. What a sight to behold in the morning.

Upon arrival at home and after unloading the car, I tackled the camera offline issue only to find Gremlin #3. It wasn't that our Wi-Fi router needed resetting, it was a complete loss of power in all electrical outlet sockets in three rooms including the den with our computer and the Wi-Fi equipment. Upon contacting our electrician, we were told the first appointment availability would be in eleven days. So, to have computer and internet access, I ran an extension cord across the hall from the den to a bathroom socket. Now we must watch out for the tripping hazard in the hallway for the next few weeks.



Okay, you say I see where the "Good" comes from - - the beautiful southern weather, oceans, and scenic mountains. The "BAD" is kind of obvious with three expensive gremlins, but where is the "Funny". Well, that happened while our daughter, grandson, Peg and I were attending one of our son-in-law's soccer games, which just happened to be that one day it rained. When the game was over, we went back to the car. I was putting chairs in my daughter's car trunk when Peg spotted something on the taillight. If you look closely at the bottom of the right taillight in the first picture, you'll see something small and whitish on the lens. Now look at the second picture. What

you are seeing is the skeletal/mummified remains of a tiny lizard that had crawled inside the taillight. That's funny. When I pointed it out to our daughter she said she knew about it and that it has been there for 3 years. Now that's really funny.



Why would she leave it in there, you ask? Well, according to our daughter, the mechanics said it would cost her \$1300 (parts and labor) because it was a sealed unit, so she'd have to completely replace the taillight assembly. Now that's not funny. Although I didn't use the word in the title, there is also a "Really" moment to this story. While relaxing one afternoon shortly after seeing the taillight lizard, I did some online research. Come to find out a new taillight assembly can be purchased for about \$150-200 and after I watched a YouTube video on how to replace that very taillight assembly, I could do it in 30-45 minutes with a few simple hand tools. When I

told my daughter, she said (ready for it) **Really!!!** But our vacation time had ended and so the lizard skeleton is still touring around southern Florida making his or her presence known every time the brakes are applied. Our daughter plans to leave the lizard where it is since it such an interesting conversation starter.

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