



# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter  
March 2026



## MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** The February 2026 meeting of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio car club was called to order in the private dining room at MCL Cafeteria, located in Kettering, OH, at 6:46 p.m. on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> by President Mike Hall. President Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting while passing out extra paper copies of the night's agenda to those in attendance who did not already have one of their own.

**Attendees:** There were 20 TSWO members in attendance at the meeting: President Mike Hall, Vice-President Adam Gulden, Secretary Scott McGaha, Mark & Jackie Allen, Jeff Almond, Brett Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Larry & Jo Doelker, Roger Hamm, Dave Harvey, Ron Heinz, Gary Hufford, Dave Menke, Jim Russell, Shane Soniat, and George & Susan Touchette

**Approval of Minutes:** As the next item of business on the agenda, President Mike called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2026 meeting of the TSWO club as published in the February club newsletter that was recently e-mailed to all members. Such motion was made by Dave Harvey and seconded by Adam Gulden.

**Membership Update/Discussion:** Next, President Mike canvassed all attending members for any information on new or potentially new members to the club. No new or potentially new member information was brought forward at this meeting.

**Thunderbird Updates/Repairs:** The floor was next opened for discussion by any club member wishing to share information about any new Thunderbird purchases or repair work made to an existing Thunderbird. There were no new Thunderbird purchases to report, but Jeff Almond shared that he had recently purchased new parts (mirrors and upper control arms) for his Thunderbird but has not yet had a chance to install them. Dave Menke informed everyone that he has his '66 Towne Landau Thunderbird ready for the 2026 spring/summer driving season already.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** Next, Mike acknowledged the 6 club members, all female, celebrating birthdays in February. There were no club member anniversaries in February. The names and birthdays of all celebrants were published in the February newsletter as well as on the agenda for the evening's meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Club Treasurer, Lisa Hamm, was out of town and thus unable to attend the February meeting. Lisa e-mailed the treasurer's report to all club officers prior to leaving town, but no one remembered to bring a copy to the meeting, including husband, Roger, who left his copy on the home printer.

**Old Business:** President Mike gave a brief overview of the January club event, which was viewing a showing of "National Lampoon's Vacation" at the historic Plaza Theatre in Miamisburg, followed by dinner at TJ Chumps. Eleven club members attended the movie showing and 9 members were able to stay for dinner afterwards. Club member Jo Doelker was acknowledged for bringing this event suggestion to the Activity Committee. Those attending thought it was an excellent suggestion for an indoor, wintertime club activity and one that we may likely turn to again in the future.

**New Business:** The next item on the agenda was "new business," wherein a lengthy discussion got underway to consider a new venue for the 2026 club Christmas party. Club member Dave Menke and President Mike did a site visit prior to tonight's meeting and met with Chef Greg Fitzgerald at the Station House restaurant at St. Leonard's in Centerville to consider using this facility to host our Christmas event in December. The banquet facilities at the Station House are already booked for another St. Leonard event on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> (our normal club meeting night), but Chef Greg offered to let us reserve the main dining room for our exclusive use on that night.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a vote was taken and decision made to go ahead and reserve the dining room for December 10<sup>th</sup> as long as there was no deposit requirement and the reservation can be canceled in the future with no penalty.

**Club Activity Plans:** Next, the meeting moved to a discussion of the planned February club event which is dining together at Ford's Garage in Norwood, OH, just outside of Cincinnati. The time for this event will be Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Jackie Allen is coordinating this event and she already has a reservation in place at the restaurant for our club on the above date. There is room out in front of the restaurant for up to 5 classic cars, if anyone wants to drive their Thunderbird to this event. The space is striped off as a no parking area, but Jackie has gotten prior approval from restaurant management that we can park approximately 5 cars in this area, on a first-come first-serve basis. Additional classic cars will have to be parked in the normal restaurant parking area. A reminder e-mail will be sent out to all club members prior to this event to get a final headcount of all attendees.

A brief reminder of the March club activity - a visit to the SugarCreek Foods car collection in Washington Court House - followed the February event discussion. Ron Prater will be organizing this event and final plans will likely be hashed out at the next club meeting in March. The April club activity will be a visit to Hawthorn Hill, the Wright brother's home in Oakwood. Jackie Allen is coordinating this event and will have more details soon.

Secretary Scott next led a brief discussion about an optional club event on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The Grafton Hill neighborhood is hosting a home and garden tour on this date and would like to have some classic cars on display during this event. There was enough preliminary interest expressed by those club members in attendance that more information will be gathered as it becomes available for this event.

**Open Floor:** During the open floor section of the meeting, President Mike announced a gift to the club from Gary Hufford of a diecast 1/24 scale model of a Ford flair-side pickup towing a trailered retrobird. Discussion followed on how the club could use this gift as a fundraiser for the club - perhaps as a silent auction or raffle prize. Further discussion will take place. The next gift to the club was a hardcover copy of "Thunderbird Fifty Years" by Alan H. Tast, which was donated by Mark & Jackie Allen. President Mike will have the book available to anyone who would like to check it out.

Next, club member Larry Doelker informed everyone of the Middletown Shrine Club's Mother's Day car show at Smith Park in Middletown. This is always one of the first big regional car shows. President Mike reminded everyone that the next TSWO club meeting will be on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:45p.m., at MCL Cafeteria.

**Thunderbird Presentations:** Mike's presentation for the February meeting was "The 1955, 1956, & 1957 Baby Birds." The slide-deck for this presentation should be posted soon on our club's website at: <http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com/items-of-interest>.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to be addressed, President Mike called for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made by Adam Gulden and seconded by Shane Soniat. With no objections, Mike declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

*Mike Hall*  
President

**Next Club Meeting:** March 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 pm, MCL Cafeteria



**Birthdays & Anniversaries in March:** Here's to our March birthday and anniversary celebrant. Enjoy your special day!!!



**March Birthdays**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Nancy Blake
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Scott McGaha
- 14<sup>th</sup>: Deb Harvey
- 20<sup>th</sup>: Kim Conway
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Gary Hufford

**March Anniversaries**

- 14<sup>th</sup>: Terry & Carol Powell  
(21 yrs)





Are you folks as sick of winter as I am? My Thunderbird is too. It keeps looking at the garage door and whimpering. I'm so looking forward to classic car shows and great times with our club this year.

At our February meeting, we had two different donations that I want to mention. First, Gary Hufford donated a beautiful Maisto model set of a yellow retro bird on a trailer and a yellow Ford pickup truck to pull it. The set is still factory sealed in its original packaging. Gary suggests that we use it as a fund raiser for the club and after some discussion, the club felt that it would work best as a raffle. This will be worked up in the near future.

Secondly, Mark and Jackie Allen donated an excellent book on Thunderbirds called "Thunderbird - Fifty Years" by Alan H. Tast. It's in new condition, very well written, and full of wonderful T-Bird pictures. They also donated a copy of March 2026 Hemmings Motor News. Because of this donation, I have decided to create the first club library and will bring it with me each month so that any member can borrow a book or other publication to take home and read. I will contribute some VTCTI "Scoop" magazines and other T-Bird goodies as well. Other library contributions will be welcome. They will be available for checkout at every meeting. Please enjoy them.

Thanks so much to Gary Hufford and to Mark and Jackie Allen for these excellent club contributions.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the March 12th meeting.

*Mike*



## Breaking Bread Together at the Ford Garage

(by: Brett Andrews)



It was a balmy afternoon on Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, when 23 TSWO members and a guest rendezvoused at the Ford Garage Restaurant in Norwood, Ohio to enjoy a meal together in this automotive-themed eatery. Members joining in included Mike Hall, Adam Gulden, Scott McGaha, Roger Hamm, Brett & Peg Andrews, Mark & Jackie Allen, Ron & Linda Prater, Larry & Jo Doelker, Dave Koehler &

Barb Kraemer, Jim Ross & Beverly Knauper, Jim Russell, George & Susan Touchette, Ron Heinz, Shane & Julie Soniat, and Kyle DeBruler and his lady friend, Darian.

As expected, the place was packed. Just to find a parking space was a challenge except for those of our group who brought their T-Birds and were permitted to park directly in front of the restaurant entrance, namely Dave & Barb, Ron & Linda, and Kyle & Darian. The size of our group necessitated that we wait outside until they were ready for us to enter. Although our large contingent required 4 tables, we were close enough together that we could yell and throw things at each other rather easily. For over two hours, in what seemed like but a few minutes, we ate and talked, and ate and talked about a myriad of topics, some of which I bet were pretty tall tales. Shortly after the 5 o'clock hour it was time for a few of our party to move on to other activities in their lives so the group began to disperse. On our way out, several of us paused to scope out Kyle's T-bird which wasn't parked out front initially.

In addition to the images below, more photos of our afternoon together will soon be available on our club website. If anyone has additional pictures from this days event that you're willing to share on our website, you can send them to me at [misc5500gen@gmail.com](mailto:misc5500gen@gmail.com).



## March Reminders



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

March 20<sup>th</sup>, the first day of Spring



Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 pm: As was mentioned in Jackie's February 27th e-mail, the club once again has the opportunity to tour the private car collection of John Richardson, CEO of the Sugar Creek Packing Co, in Washington Court House (2101 Kenskill Ave). The club has

visited this by-appointment-only collections in the past. They have a fully operational automotive restoration facility on site, so the collection is in a perpetual state of change. Even if you've been there before, it will be a little different now. Feel free to invite a friend along. After the approximate 2 hour tour, we'll head to the Rusty Keg Tavern at 1801 Columbus Ave in Washington Court House for an early dinner. Please let Jackie know by March 12<sup>th</sup> (date of our next club meeting) if you plan on attending the tour and the dinner.



## TSWO Membership Dues "FINAL NOTICE"

To those current TSWO members who have not yet paid their membership dues for 2026, this is the final notice that will appear in our club newsletter. Per our club bylaws, dues are to be paid not later than the club's March general membership meeting of the year for which they are due. The club's March meeting is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup>. Those members, for whom the dues have not been paid by that date, will have their membership voided. For those of you who have chosen to depart the club, we're sorry to see you go, but do appreciate the time you did spend with us. You can continue to access our website to monitor club news and activities.

To all the members of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio  
and especially those of you pumping green Irish blood,  
**HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY**



May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sunshine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



**CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591  
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763

Vice President: Adam Gulden (513) 615-6269  
Secretary: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414