



Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

May 2022



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: At 7:00 PM (promptly) on Monday, April 11, 2022, President Roger Hamm gavelled to order the April TSWO meeting at MCL cafeteria (note: this was a special Monday meeting, since 3 of the officers would have been unavailable on the regularly-scheduled meeting date of April 14th). He greeted the 11 members present and thanked them for adjusting their schedules to this new (one-time only) meeting night.

Attendees: Those members in attendance were: Roger & Lisa Hamm; Scott McGaha; Dave & Deb Harvey; Brett & Peg Andrews; Mark Allen; Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross; James Russell.

Approval of Minutes: President Roger then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting, as published in the April newsletter. The approval motion was made by Peg Andrews and seconded by Jim Russell. There being no comments or corrections offered to the minutes, the motion carried unanimously.

Membership Update/Discussion: President Roger asked if anyone had made any contacts with any prospective new members. While no one else had anything to report, he reported that he had received an email from Michael Bach, from the Cincinnati area, who expressed interest in joining our club. Roger gave Michael his contact information, and Michael said he'd pull down a membership application from our web site. Roger invited Michael to try to make it to our meeting tonight, but unfortunately, Michael told Roger that he probably wouldn't be able to be at this meeting. Roger is anxiously awaiting Michael's application to arrive in the mail. Roger also mentioned that Michael owns a 1966 Landau, apparently painted Turquoise.

No one reported any changes to their contact information. Dave Harvey asked if anyone knew whether or not Paul Loschi had been able to get his email problems resolved (Paul is not receiving club emails). No one knew if his issues have been resolved or not.

No one reported buying or selling any T-birds since the last meeting. Scott McGaha reported that he got his '02 out of storage yesterday (after having to jump-start it), and he happily drove it to the meeting tonight. Brett Andrews reported that, in order to avoid battery discharge

while parked for long periods, he removes the battery when the car is first stored and takes it home to maintain it during the winter. Much discussion revolved around various types of "jump-start" boxes and the pros & cons of using them. Dave Harvey mentioned that his '54 Olds and '57 T-bird both have "old-style cases/new-technology insides" (AGM). The manufacturer of those batteries (formerly Antique Auto Battery, now known as Jim's Battery Mfg.), emphasizes in no uncertain terms NOT to use a jump-box on their batteries, but to use ONLY another car battery to assist in starting, if needed.

Dave Harvey reported that he and Roger were making some progress on remedying the leaks in the carb on Dave and Deb's '57. As they found out, Dave apparently has the wrong rear float bowl, so the next step is to try to find the correct part for round 2 of their carb repair efforts. While the problem has not yet been resolved, Dave and Roger learned a lot about float bowls on Holley carbs.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Roger reported that there are two April birthdays, Jay Walsh on the 4th and Ruby York on the 6th. There are no April anniversaries.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Hamm presented the Treasurer's report since the last meeting, which included 2 separate deposits for dues for 3 "member units" (families). Unintentionally, she deposited an extra \$10 (which she had tucked into the checkbook cover that she uses) - this "extra" money will either be considered a gift by our generous Treasurer to the club, or it will be returned to her.

Club Activities/Events: Scott McGaha and several others discussed possible April event plans. Options discussed were the Packard Museum Spring Fling, "Hail to Horsepower" car show on April 30th at Horsepower Farm (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM), a trip to the Garst Museum in Greenville (AKA, the Annie Oakley Museum), Salty Dog Museum, among others. After some discussion, it was agreed that we would piggy-back onto the "Hail to Horsepower" event on April 30th as our club "event."

The May event, organized by Mark & Jackie Allen, will be on May 15th (Thunderbird Appreciation Day), and will consist of lunch and an informal car "show off" at Warped Wing in Springboro. We'll meet there at 10:45 AM, and we're going to try to park all our cars in a row facing Springboro Pike, so that passers-by can enjoy all the Thunderbirds. (In the event of rain, we agreed that we would still meet for lunch there, even though not everyone might want to drive their T-birds in the rain.)

The June event will be organized by Dave & Deb Harvey and will consist of a driving tour to The Bicycle Museum of America, located in New Bremen, OH. Dave & Deb went on this same tour with their AACA chapter, and they enjoyed it so much that they thought that TSWO members would like to see the museum, too (and enjoy the scenic drive to get there).

The July event (tentatively) could be a trip to the Butler car collection ("Collection 21") in Erlanger, KY. Scott penciled this on the schedule for July 9th, subject to confirmation. The August event will be a trip to the British Car Show (1st Saturday in August). This is a car show for British cars only, but we could plan to attend as spectators, parking all our Birds together for maximum effect.

Dave and Susan Menke are organizing the September event around the WACO Fly-In.

October is still open, as is November.

There was some discussion around whether or not to hold our Christmas party at the Florentine Restaurant in Germantown. Lisa will check into this possibility after she gets back from her upcoming trip to Virginia.

VTCI will be holding its international convention on August 10th-14th, in Kansas City. All are encouraged to attend.

Old Business: All members have renewed their dues, except for one couple. They stated that it's difficult for them to attend our meetings, but they didn't rule out the possibility of rejoining the club at a later date.

As to club property disposal, the Car Show signs are still on hand, and no one has spoken up to request either of the two pop-up awnings.

New Business: Next club meeting will be on May 12th, at MCL Cafeteria. As always, we'll gather around 6:00 PM for dinner, followed by our meeting at 7:00 PM sharp.

Open Floor: President Roger was admired/congratulated for his recent hair cut. There was no other Open Floor discussion.

Adjournment: The motion for adjournment was made by Mark Allen and was seconded by Brett Andrews. The motion carried unanimously, and President Roger hammered the meeting to a close at 8:05 PM.

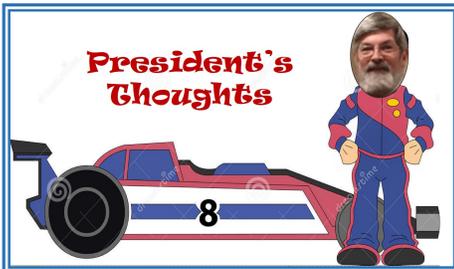
Roger Hamm
President

Birthdays & Anniversaries in May: We have two birthdays and one anniversary to celebrate in May. The TSWO membership wishes our celebrants a joyous time on their special day.



May Birthdays
James Russell (2nd)
Sherry Loschi (10th)

May Anniversaries
Dave & Deb Harvey (30th)
(35 yrs)



Hello, fellow TSWO members. We are finally getting into the warm months of spring. As April leaves and May begins, it is time for us to celebrate our wonderful mothers. Every May, all across America and elsewhere in the world, we take the time out to thank our mothers for everything they have done for us in the past. We grew up with them taking time to make sure we were fed, clothed and comforted when we were upset or hurt.

Many times, we have taken them for granted, as they always seemed to be there, even when at times, we wished they weren't. In many households, moms made the rules that we as children had to obey, and as we grew up and became adults, we still at times, make sure we do as they say. So, I hope that everyone who still has their mothers around, be sure to thank them for all they have done for us and wish them a very happy Mother's Day.

Also, now that the weather is beginning to warm up (unless winter decides to come back and bite us again), we will be getting our wonderful Thunderbirds out and taking them out to car shows and cruise-ins. I know I have been anxious to finally get my Thunderbirds out of hibernation and stretch their wings and attend some cruise-ins and car shows this month (finally)! I also enjoy going to these, as it is fun meeting other car lovers and seeing what they have done with their cars and sometimes I get some good ideas for ways to make mine look nice and what they might have used to make their paint jobs look so shiny. But, mostly, it is just good to get out and sit down and enjoy the fresh air and talk about my Thunderbird with whoever may stop by and look at my car. I also like to encourage strangers to join our Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio club, even if they don't own a Thunderbird. Let's hope May will be a great month and warm and dry.

Roger

Let Us Not Forget



Memorial Day, also known as Decoration Day, is celebrated on the last Monday in May. Officially made a holiday by Congress in 1971, this holiday commemorates those who lost their lives while in service to the United States in the Armed Forces. In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act. That act encourages all Americans on Memorial Day to stop what they are doing at 3:00 p.m. local time for a minute of silence to honor and remember those who have died in service to our nation. The proper flag protocol on Memorial Day is to raise the flag briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains until noon. It is then raised to full staff for the remainder of the day.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.



DID YOU KNOW? Your Tires Can Be Putting You At Risk!!!

By: Brett Andrews

Back when I was a young teenager living in Pennsylvania, I bought my first car - - a 1956 Ford Sunliner convertible, 312 cu in that had been modified from "Three-on-the-tree" to a three speed on the floor (identical to the one pictured). Boy could that car burn rubber. I was forever going through tires, clutches and throw out bearings, but was it fun. When I needed a tire or two, since I couldn't afford new ones, I could always find a gas station or junk yard that sold used tires. I'd pay \$3 or \$4 to have them mounted, then I was off to leave more black tire tracks on the back roads of Portage, Pa. If I had a flat, (almost) any service station would patch it regardless of the tread condition or tire age. In case you didn't know, those days are now pretty much gone.



In last month's newsletter I wrote about what you should do when getting your classic out of storage to prepare it for a new season of cruising. Then, for some reason, I remembered a



situation that happened to me a little over a year ago. I had a slow leak in one of the tires on my 2002 Ford F-150 (don't have that truck anymore). I took it to my mechanic at AAA to have the tire checked and repaired. They put it up on the lift, took a quick look, and brought it right back down. They told me they couldn't fix it. I figured the sidewall was damaged or there was a problem with the rim. They informed me the tire was too old. It was almost 11 years old.

Their company policy stipulated that regardless of the tires condition they would not perform a repair on a tire over 10 years old. So, I end up having to buy a new tire even though the tire looked in really good shape.

I forgot about that incident until I started thinking about something to put in the May club newsletter. So, after a little research I found some information on car/tire shop policies on the repair of older tires. Come to find out, AAA was being gracious at 10 years. During my internet surfing, I found that many shops and auto manufacturers have an even lower criteria than AAA. Here, in summary form, is some tire repair need-to-know information I found in an article entitled "**Why Many Tire Shops Won't Repair Older Tires**", written by John Matarese on July 5, 2017.



His complete article can be found at: <https://www.dontwasteyourmoney.com/why-many-tire-shops-wont-touch-older-tires/>

In the article he points out that even if your old tires still have plenty of tread left, but are a few years old, you may learn your tires are too old to be patched, rotated or even balanced anymore. He points out examples of customers who were shocked when they found themselves in the same predicament I was in with my truck. Their tires were too old to repair.

You may wonder, maybe it's a Federal or State law? Mr. Matarese researched that question and found there are no such laws regarding tire age. Turns out its not law, it's just policy.

He also notes that major car manufacturers including Audi, BMW, Buick, Dodge, Ford, Jeep, Mercedes Benz, Toyota and VW now recommend on their websites and in owner handbooks that tires be replaced after six years. As a result, many tire chains won't touch seven-year-old tires because of liability issues. It all goes back to the Ford Explorer/Firestone tire rollover issues from 1997 to 2001, which resulted in stricter tire laws across the country.

He cautions that if you plan to buy a used car that is a few years old, the tires may look fine, but you could find yourself in the same situation; the tires are too old to repair. He hints that there are shops around who'll patch a seven-to nine-year-old tire, but not many anymore.

Mr. Matarese mentions that the rubber trade association, as well as Michelin and Continental, said tires can be safely used for up to 10 years, provided the tread is not worn and there is no visible dry rot. But automakers say those seven-year-old tires could still be unsafe and suggest that you buy new ones for your family's safety.



He does recommend you learn how to decode the manufacturing date which is stamped on each tire. It just so happens that about a decade ago I prepared an article on that very subject that was published in our newsletter. However, just in case something has changed since that

writing, I'm providing the web address for the article Mr. Matarese references as it is likely more current. That tire decoding article can be found at the below web address:

<https://www.tirerack.com/tires/tiretech/techpage.jsp?techid=11>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: If you must buy a new tire or a set, it may be prudent to ask the dealer to show you the date of manufacture on the tire(s) before it/they are installed. You never know how long they have been in the warehouse or on the dealer's shelf. You could be installing a tire that is already two or more years old. Also, don't forget about the spare. Remember the article I published in our newsletter several years ago about exploding spare tire in the trunks of retrobirds even though the tire had never been used.



*"Mothers Don't Sleep,
They Just Worry with Their Eyes Closed"*

**To all the mothers in TSWO,
Enjoy your special day. You certainly deserve it**

CLUB OFFICERS

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Vice President: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414
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