



# Thunderbirds

## of Southwest Ohio

### NEWSLETTER

#### November 2020



**Next Meeting: All meetings cancelled until further notice**

**Calendar of Car Events:** Below is the current status of various Thunderbird events.

**VTCI Events:** No known major VTCI events scheduled for the remainder of this calendar year.

**Other National Thunderbird Club Events:** The Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) International Convention "Birds on the Bay" has been rescheduled to April 20-24, 2021 in Sarasota, Florida.

**VTCI Newsletter Contest:** If you have not yet read it in the current Scoop magazine, I am pleased to announce that on Monday, October 18th, I received a package from VTCI. In that package was a letter from the VTCI president, Ron Wake, informing me that our club newsletter had received the Silver VTCI award. This is our club's second newsletter award. The first was when Peg was our club secretary and newsletter editor. This is uplifting news in these challenging times. Without the motivation of club members to recommend and participate in our monthly club activities and Scott doing the leg work to identify, plan and organize our events, our newsletter would be sorely lacking in content. With your help, by submitting items for inclusion in our newsletter, we can continue producing a document that the membership finds enjoyable to read and makes winning such awards an annual occurrence. See a copy of Mr. Wake's letter and the accompanying certificate at the end of this newsletter.

*Brett*

**Birthdays & Anniversaries in November:** This month we have two birthdays to recognize, but no anniversaries. TSWO extends a hardy and Happy Birthday wishes to Guy and Dave.

#### November Birthdays

- 25<sup>th</sup>: Guy Gifford
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Dave Menke

#### November Anniversaries

None



## Thoughts from the President:

Well my T-birder friends, another month has come and gone. As was predicted back in the spring, the pandemic is on the upswing across the country. Ohioans have seen many more of our counties elevated to "RED" level 3 due to the drastic increase in cases and some are on the cusp of "Purple" level 4. I can only hope and pray that you all are still safe and are practicing due diligence. Just like Peg and I, I'm sure you all have been heavily impacted by the government or self-imposed restrictions with which we're having to live, but in the long run it will be for the good. The hardest decision Peg and I have had to make was telling our daughters that as a family we will not be celebrating Thanksgiving at our home this year like we've done for the last 45 years. Over time our family has grown from Peg and I and three daughters to eventually three sons-in-law and five grandchildren all gathered around our dining room table. It was a tight squeeze, but what memories. That's not going to happen this year, but it's a small sacrifice to ensure that we'll likely be together next year. With the holidays fast approaching, I'm sure you all are in similar situations and have had to make some tough decisions. Just hang in there, stay positive and keep smiling. As I once said in a previous newsletter quoting Abraham Lincoln, "And this too shall pass", we just can't get complacent and let our guard down.

On the lighter side, as I highlighted last month, Peg and I were planning to put up a "Fall Tree" in our living room and decorate the outside of our the house with mums, pumpkins, corn stalks, orange lights and fall leaf garland. That mission has been accomplished. I finished decorating outside, put up the Christmas tree, and placed the orange lights on it. Peg has completed the indoor decorating to include adorning the tree with a fall decor theme. In case you're interested, the advantage of a Fall tree is not only its beauty and the pleasure it brings during the Fall/Thanksgiving season, it also means I won't need to go to our storage unit, get the tree, drag it home, and labor to put it up at the end of November when it's cooooldrrrr. We'll just take the fall decorations off and put on the Christmas ones after Thanksgiving. Voila!!! However, I still face the task of taking it down, bagging it up, and returning it to storage - in the coooold. Oh well, it's a family tradition and well worth the efforts. If there is any time for all of us to keep those family traditions alive as much as possible, it's now.

Last month I mentioned my up-in-the-air dilemma concerning whether or not there would be Trick or Treating in Dayton and its effect on how much Halloween candy I needed to buy. As you all know by now, it's on. With that, I made my decision. I bought plenty of candy and self-sealable plastic Halloween bags. We're going to be ready for the onslaught of trick or treaters. Our idea is to prepare the Halloween bags in advance. On Halloween, I'll set up a table across my sidewalk and slightly in front of my front porch. Multiple pre-bagged candies will be spread out on the table and the children can take one without having to reaching into a bowl. The table location provides social distancing and the individual pre-bagged candy spaced out on the table will minimize the possibility of spreading germs.

Count your blessings and Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

Stay Warm, Stay Safe and Stay Happy!!!

*Brett*



The below article was located on the following Hagerty website. <https://www.hagerty.com/media/car-profiles/2002-05-ford-thunderbird-getting-more-attention/>. The only editing of the done article was the removal of the multiple large pictures and insertion of the included. All the verbiage is as originally written.

## The 2002-05 Ford Thunderbird is getting more attention

by: Mike Austin  
17 May 2019



The year was 1999. Eagle, Mercury, Plymouth, Oldsmobile, and Pontiac still existed. The 1999 North American International Auto Show in Detroit was at its peak, and so was the retro-futuristic movement, demonstrated by throwback concept cars like the Nissan 240Z, Pontiac GTO, Chevy Nomad, and Ford Thunderbird. Previously discontinued in 1997, the return of the T-Bird in concept form was a reboot recalling the 1955 two-seat convertible original. The press went nuts, and a production car was in the works.

And then, a long, slow ebb of enthusiasm. The production car didn't come out until the middle of 2001 as a 2002 model, more than two years after the concept's debut. It still took home *Motor Trend's* [Car of the Year](#) award, and there was enough interest to sell 31,368 copies, on par with the Chevrolet Corvette. But 2003 sales were less than half that, at just 14,678.

Based on the same platform as the Lincoln LS and Jaguar S-Type, the 2002-05 Thunderbird repeated some of the same mistakes as the first generation that inspired it. It was large, but only a two-seater. It was sporty, with a 252-horsepower V-8, but far being from a sports car, with a flexy body structure and mandatory automatic transmission. In 2005, Ford announced that the Thunderbird would once again fly off into the sunset, ending production a little more than four years after it began.

While many 11th-generation Thunderbirds were bought new in the interest of preservation, the market treated it as a used car. When new, these sold in the \$40,000 range. Today, the median #3 (good) value is \$17,250. Low-mile #1-condition cars saw a slight increase in 2016, but overall the Thunderbird's values have been flat for the last seven years, suggesting that we're at the floor.

Perhaps that stability is what's driving the recent interest in the last of the Thunderbirds. While the Hagerty Vehicle Rating (a measure of how a car's value and buyer interest is performing relative to the overall market) is only up two points, to 71, since our latest update, quoting activity has been steadily rising since 2017. In other words, people are looking to buy Thunderbirds, even if values are flat.

It's no surprise that the Baby Boomer generation loves this car, making up 60 percent of quoting activity, with a disproportionate amount coming from Florida and Texas. The Thunderbird is less popular with younger buyers, with Gen-Xers making up 10 percent of quotes and Millennials a mere 2 percent, both far lower than the overall average for those age groups.

That suggests the Thunderbird isn't a future money-maker, because long-term values depend on curiosity from younger owners to maintain interest over the years. With 1980s-era nostalgia [in full swing](#) and '90s not far behind, is there hope for some double-nostalgia for the post-millennium retro era?

Whatever the future holds, right now the Thunderbird is an affordable, stylish cruiser with enough trunk space for a long road trip. And yes, I said stylish, despite my cynicism for the boomer-pandering bodywork at the time. (Maybe I'm getting soft in my 40s.) It's not a Corvette, nor was it ever meant to be. Instead the 2002-05 model evokes the best qualities of American autos from the 1950s and '60s: elegance, flair, and plenty of comfort behind the wheel. At the very least, there's nothing else quite like it on the road today.

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### A Couple of Reminders



Daylight savings time ends on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure you set your clocks back



November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans day. If you see a vet, thank a vet. If you are a veteran, thank you for your service to our country.

### CLUB OFFICERS

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# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio Newsletter Silver Award Letter and Certificate for 2020

*Vintage Thunderbird Club International, Inc.*

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President  
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October 10, 2020

Dear Newsletter Editor;

Congratulations on your winning the award for your newsletter in 2020!

The Newsletter is a valuable part of a successful chapter club. Having a talented and successful Editor is the key to a good newsletter and your chapter is privileged to have you. Whether this is your first time to receive an award, or whether you have a string of them posted on your office wall we appreciate your continuing efforts and hope you will submit one of your Newsletters every year!

Rod Wake, President

VTCI

[Vintagethunderbirdclub.net](http://Vintagethunderbirdclub.net)

Vintage Thunderbird Club International      2020 Chapter Newsletter Contest

*Silver Award Presented to*

**Brett Andrews, Editor**  
For  
Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio Newsletter  
Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter Judge

*Cliff Lieske*

Date: 8/2020

VTCI President

*Rod Wake*

Date 8/2020

