



# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter  
November 2022



## MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** President Roger Hamm gaveled our September meeting to order at 7:00:27 PM (27 seconds late!), in our customary meeting room at MCL Cafeteria. He welcomed to the meeting the current members in attendance, as well as 3 new members. Those new members are: Terry & Carol Powell from Tipp City and David Koehler & Barbara Kraemer from the Cincinnati area (Barbara was welcomed *in absentia*). Terry & Carol have a 1957 T-bird, and David & Barbara have a 1965 Landau Special T-bird. David calls himself the "flat-head guy," as he has several older Ford products in addition to the Landau Special.

**Attendees:** Roger & Lisa Hamm, Dave Harvey, Brett Andrews, Larry & Jo Doelker, Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross, and the afore-mentioned new members in attendance, Terry & Carol Powell, and David Koehler.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the previous (September) meeting having been published in the recent newsletter, President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Jim Ross offered the motion for approval, and his motion was seconded by Larry Doelker. President Roger asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the minutes, as published. Hearing none, he called for a vote on the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

**Membership Update/Discussion:** Updates as to new members were previously covered in the Call to Order section of these minutes, as part of President Roger's greetings to the group.

No members reported any updates regarding newly acquired, or recently disposed of, Thunderbirds. Likewise, no members reported any changes to member contact information.

President Roger reported that he had to put a new battery in his '86 (thanks to his AAA Premier membership, the battery cost was covered!). He did mention that AAA is about to change their policy (for NEW member) with respect to battery replacements. Members joining AAA as Premier members in the future will not have the advantage of one free dead-battery replacement per year, as has been the practice in the past.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** There are no birthdays occurring in October, but Brett & Peg Andrews celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Dave & Nancy Moore will celebrate their 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to these long-time-married couples.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported no change in our financial condition since last month's meeting. Next month's report will include the dues for our new members, both of which were paid tonight (and will cover them through the end of 2023).

**Club Activities/Events:** As to our November event, there was some discussion around whether or not we wanted to go to Valley Vineyards (located at 2276 US-22 &, OH-3, Morrow, OH 45152) for our November event. For the benefit of any of our members who haven't attended this event in the past, you grill your own entrée over outdoor charcoal grills designed to accommodate many "chefs" at a time, and then you go inside to get the rest of the meal (side dishes, dinner rolls, dessert, soft drinks, if you wish) and sit at the tables reserved for our club. In years past (although not last year for some reason), when the outside temperature got too cold, they opened up inside grilling - more comfort for the "chefs" and better lighting so they could better see what they were creating. Included with the event ticket price are 2 drink tickets (redeemable for 2 glasses of wine).

More information can be found at <https://valleyvineyards.com/cookout/>. As described on their web site, the "House Dinner" is \$40/person (plus tax) and includes your choice of a NY Strip, Salmon, Shrimp, or Crab Cakes. You will also get 2 drink tickets good for any house wines, beers, or wine slushies. If you wish to upgrade your entrée to Filet Mignon, the "Vintner Dinner" is \$50/person (plus tax) and includes a Filet Mignon with 2 premium drink tickets that cover ANY wines, beers, and wine slushies.

After much discussion, we decided to make this our November event, after all. Reservations will be made for the 5:00 PM seating/grilling on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Meals must be paid for at least one day in advance of that date by calling Valley Vineyards at (513) 899-2485, identifying yourself as a member of Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio which has a reservation for November 12<sup>th</sup>, and providing your credit card information.

**Old Business:** No old business to report.

**New Business:** This month's event had previously been planned to be a brunch on Saturday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, at Clifton Mill Restaurant. After noting a couple members who had calendar conflicts on the 15<sup>th</sup>, it was decided to move this event to Saturday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> (same time, meeting at the restaurant at 11:00 AM). President Roger will send an email to all our members reminding them of the event, and also advising them of this change to the original plan.

**Calendar of Car Events:** President Roger isn't sure if the Friday evening Beavercreek Cruise-In at Vineyard Church is still going on or not, but if so, undoubtedly this event will conclude by the

end of October. The same comments apply to the Kettering Cruise-In (formerly held at the Kettering Towne Center, but now being held at Kettering Assembly of God Church).

Our next club meeting will be at MCL Cafeteria on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Next, there was some discussion around the December (i.e., "Christmas") meeting/party and whether or not previous discussions about holding it at the Florentine Restaurant in Germantown would pan out. There are some logistics to be worked out if we change our location from MCL for the meeting/party, and a final decision as to the December location will be made at our next meeting in November. Regardless of location, we will hold the traditional White Elephant/Dirty Santa type of gift exchange (gift cost should be roughly in the \$20/person price range or so, as we don't want the cost to get out of hand!) More details, and the gift exchange rules, will be published in the November newsletter.

**Open Floor:** No topics were brought to the floor at this time, that had not already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Larry Doelker and seconded by Brett Andrews. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:34 PM

*Roger Hamm*  
President



**Birthdays & Anniversaries in November:** We have two members celebrating birthdays this November, but no anniversaries this month. Gentlemen, enjoy your special day.



November Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup>: Terry Powell  
25<sup>th</sup>: Guy Gifford  
27<sup>th</sup>: Dave Menke

November Anniversaries

None





I was happy to see the great turnout to our October club outing to Clifton Mill Restaurant for breakfast/lunch on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were 12 members present and 7 lovely T-birds carrying these 12 members to Clifton Mill. Members present included Brett & Peg Andrews (2004 Merlot Retrobird), Lisa & Roger Hamm (1986 Blue Elan), Dave Harvey (1957 Pink), James Russell (1956 Red), Larry & Jo Doelker (2002 Yellow Retrobird) new members Terry & Carroll Powell (1957 Blue), Mike & Donna Bach (1966 Turquoise Town Landau). We had a great time, despite having to wait almost 2 hours before being seated. While

waiting, we all just waited outside enjoying the beautiful weather and enjoying the nice comments we got from everyone that was there admiring our Thunderbirds. Be sure to check out the write-up on our website.

I hope everyone had a great Halloween on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Many of us who live in areas where there are many houses in the neighborhood had to enjoy (?) going out and buying a lot of candy and giving it out to all the kids in their neat outfits.

This month many of us will be getting our wonderful Thunderbirds settled into their beds for the winter, which is coming to us soon. I have not yet put my 'Birds up for the winter, thanks to the wonderful warm weather we had at the end of October. I am still hoping that we will have a warm November to follow the warm end to October, so I can drive them a little bit longer this year.

This month we also honor our veterans on Veteran's Day on November 11. Make sure you thank our veterans who bravely served our country, defending our freedom and our way of life.

Then, on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate

Thanksgiving Day. That is traditionally a day when families all come together, some driving long distances to be with their families and cooking big meals and eating until they bust. It will also be a day filled with football games. Many families decide to take Friday off work so they can have that extra day to recover from all that delicious food they ate the day before and then take off to go back to their respective homes.



This month, our club will also be doing our annual visit to Valley Vineyards (2276 US 22 & OH 3, Morrow, OH 45152) to enjoy cooking our own steaks, salmon, or shrimp on the outdoor grille (if the weather is warm enough). If it is too cold to grill outside, they will have their indoor grill operating, but it looks like we might luck out and have nice warm weather for our grilling pleasure. I always look forward to doing this outing and trying to cook my own steak and seasoning it the way I want. This will be done on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday after our monthly meeting. If you haven't contacted me to let me know if you will be attending, please email me so I can put you on my list. You will need to call Valley Vineyards at least by Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, to

make your meal payment (513) 899-2485. They are reserved under Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio, so be sure to let them know that when you call. You will have to pay for your meal at that time. I currently have the reservation for 14, but if we have more than 14, I can call and increase it before the 11<sup>th</sup>. I hope to have a good turn-out for the meal. See you all there! Until our meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>, have a good time and be sure to make it to the meeting and to our Valley Vineyard outing.

*Roger*



## Club Brunch at Clifton Mill



On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 members of our club and 7 Thunderbirds gathered at Clifton Mill at 11:00am for brunch. Roger identified the attendees and their T-birds in his President's Message. The day was absolutely gorgeous! The sun was shining, it was warm, and there with a slight breeze. The trees surrounding this quaint and historical eatery were in full fall color and the smell of fall wafted in the air. Apparently, a lot of other folks had the same idea about going to the Mill for breakfast on this picture-perfect fall day. The restaurant was packed. It was nearly 2 hours before we were seated. However, that turned out to be a small blessing. Our group decided to wait outside for our table, which gave us the opportunity to meet and talk with our newest club members. With our 7 Thunderbirds parked on each side of the road in front of the restaurant, we got to watch restaurant patrons and town sightseers walk down our row of T-birds. You could see the appreciation in their eyes, and in some cases a little envy. You just know this is the kind of day any classic car owner would relish, ideal weather, rustic scenery and your classic sitting front and center for all to see and enjoy.

Although it took a while to get seated, and then a slightly longer time to take our orders and bring the meals, it was all worth it. We were able to continue our conversations from outside while enjoying some really good fixins'. Below are just a few pictures from the day's event. There are many more on our club website under "Recent Events". Using my newsletter editor's discretion, I couldn't pass up including this picture of our club secretary taking a crack at the Clifton Mill challenge. The Challenge: If you can eat two of their pancakes, you get a third one free. For those of you who couldn't attend, you'll have to ask David how he did on the challenge. Soon it was time to leave. We slowly wandered out to our T-birds, talking all the way. If others of our group did as Peg and I; they took a scenic route home to extend the day just a little bit longer. I think I can say without challenge, fun was had by all.



Look at the size of those pancakes



# Ford Thunderbird Field Guide: Know Your 'Bird Nicknames'

Prepared by: Brett Andrews

The following is an edited version of an article written by Mike Austin that appeared on the below identified Hemmings web site. My editing predominantly consisted of (1) the removal of what I deemed superfluous information to conserve space in our newsletter, (2) minor rewording of some of the information for clarity, and (3) changing out a few of the car images to provide a more representative picture of the specific generation.

<https://www.hemmings.com/stories/2020/07/30/ford-thunderbird-field-guide-know-your-bird-nicknames>

## Introduction:

Ford's Thunderbird spans 11 generations and several thematic and mechanical variations. Keeping them straight, though, isn't that hard because the collective Thunderbird enthusiast community has given each one a nickname. Thunderbird nicknames, however, are much easier than many other codewords, like the endless alpha-numeric of BMW and Mercedes-Benz model generations. So, let's take a quick tour of all 11 Thunderbird names and how they got that way.

## Classic Bird (aka Early Bird, Little Bird, Baby Bird): 1955-'57



Why: It's the original recipe. "Classic" and "Early" are kind of self-explanatory, while "Little" and "Baby" refer to the fact that it's the only two-seater in the family tree until the 2002 model.

Need to Know: A serendipitous convergence of what Ford executives and stylists were already thinking, plus a response to the 1953 Chevrolet Corvette, the first Thunderbird used plenty of off-the-shelf parts to keep costs down. Buyers didn't seem to care, as the first-generation T-Bird vastly outsold the early 'Vette.

Today's Price Range: Starting around \$20,000 with a sweet spot just under \$50,000 according to the current listings in the Hemmings Classifieds. Fresh restorations, restomods, and rare option combinations can inflate the asking price to just under six figures.

## Square Bird: 1958-'60



Why: It's boxy but good.

Need to Know: Room for five made the 'Bird bigger and less sporty but also a whole lot more appealing to the general public. Sales of the second generation exploded to around four times the total of the first generation, and

increased every year.

Today's Price Range: Under \$20,000 up to \$60,000, according to Hemmings classifieds.

## Bullet Bird: 1961-'63



Why: It's sleek and streamlined like a projectile.

Need to Know: The 1961 models were within an inch the same size as the Square Birds, but they looked lower, longer, and wider, with a body featuring jet aircraft styling cues. The landau roof was first available in 1962.

Today's Price Range: Plenty of options under \$25,000, with nicer examples and those with rare engines/options listed for \$60,000 or more.

## Flair Bird: 1964-'66



Why: A more formal, upright design with plenty of chrome. Nicknamed for its styling and profiling.

Need to Know: The new sheet metal kept the Thunderbird at the top of the sales chart in the personal luxury segment and ended up being the last convertible until the 2002

reboot. Disc brakes were added in 1965, and a new egg-crate grille closed out the model run in 1966.

Today's Price Range: Slightly more of a value play than the Bullet Bird on the low end. Options can be found in the low teens with fresh restorations with asking prices around \$50,000.



## Glamour Bird: 1967-'71



Why: While predating the glam-rock era by a few years, this Thunderbird dropped the sporty façade and went fully into large luxu-boat territory.

Need to Know: The aviation-themed dashboard from this generation is pretty cool. In 1970, the flush hidden-headlamp grille gave way to a pointed snout. Not loved nearly as much as other Thunderbirds, this generation has a lower survival rate, making them rarer today.

Today's Price Range: That rarity is reflected in the few currently for sale in the Hemmings Classifieds with prices from \$10,000-\$20,000 which is in line with recent auction results.

## Big Bird: 1972-'76



Why: It's the biggest and heaviest Thunderbird.

Need to Know: It's more than 18 feet long, over 2 feet longer than a current Ford Explorer. The Big Bird shared its body and underpinnings with the Continental Mark IV.

Restyled just a year after its debut, in part to meet the new bumper standards. By 1975 the emissions-hobbled T-Bird was still cushy, but, down to 218 hp, also incredibly slow.

Today's Price Range: Another rare bird in the Hemmings Classifieds, \$10,000 and below seems to be the going rate for most examples.

## Torino Bird: 1977-'79



Why: No longer a sibling to the Continental, this Thunderbird was based on the Ford Torino.

Need to Know: Shorter in wheelbase but not appreciably smaller than its predecessor, the move to a midsize platform (and a price cut) resulted in record sales. Ford moved more than 300,000 copies the first two model years, and nearly that many for the third.

Today's Price Range: You can get all the Torino Birds you want for \$15,000 or less, although you don't see many for sale.

## Box Bird: 1980-'82



Why: Square and slabby, like a hexahedron.

Need to Know: It's the first Thunderbird on the Fox platform, and the downsizing to an intermediate form meant room for four instead of the previous six. Sales dropped nearly in half in 1980, dwindling to just over 45,000 in 1982.

Price Range: This and the previous generation are the lowest points in the T-bird line with availability and pricing that reflects lack of collector interest. They go for under \$15,000.

## Aero Bird: 1983-'88



Why: An aerodynamic shape that caused a stir in the showroom and put Ford back into relevance in NASCAR.

Need to Know: The top-of-the-line model was not the Windsor V-8 but the Turbo Coupe, with its turbocharged 2.3-liter four-cylinder. In 1987 the aero look went a step

further with flush headlamps and an output increase to 190 hp to match the style. Sales rebounded in this generation, averaging nearly 150,000 a year across the total run.

Today's Price Range: When you can find one, they seem to go for \$10,000 or more. Given the increasing popularity of cars from the 1980s, we'd expect to see more examples and climbing prices in the future.

## Super Bird: 1989-'97



Why: Adapted from the supercharged Thunderbird Super Coupe (or SC) model available in this generation.

Need to Know: Evolving the aerodynamic look of the Aero Bird, the Super Bird was a legit grand touring machine in SC trim, with lots of torque from the supercharged 3.8-liter V-6

and other goodies like electronic-adjustable shocks. That engine was highly tunable as well. The Windsor V-8 came in 1991, followed up with the modular V-8, although both were only available with an automatic transmission.

Today's Price Range: Generally under \$15,000, although they are in short supply according to both the Hemmings Classifieds as well as the Super Coupe Club of America forum.

## Retro Bird: 2002-'05



Why: Ford was getting in on the retro trend when it brought the T-Bird back on a platform shared with the Lincoln LS and Jaguar S-Type.

Need to Know: After a strong first year, sales declined every year. Two reasons are generally given for the drop--a two-year wait from the concept to production and a sedate driving experience. Or, maybe it was that, like the 1955 model that inspired the design, the two-seat layout had limited appeal to buyers. Today, the Retro Bird is gaining a following as a modern, comfortable cruiser.

Today's Price Range: Many of these were taken care of since new, so there's ample supply of good examples. Asking prices, such as in the Hemmings Classifieds go, from about \$10,000 on the low end to \$40,000 for an ultra-low mileage car, with plenty of choices for around \$20,000.



## Rules of Play for the White Elephant Gift Exchange



Our Christmas gathering is planned to be held at the Florentine Restaurant in Germantown on December 8<sup>th</sup> at which time we'll have our traditional White Elephant gift exchange. Below are our guidelines for the play of the game.

Everyone who wishes to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange is to bring a wrapped gift to the party. The monetary value of the gift should be in the \$20 range, give or take, according to the generosity of the giver. The gift should be wrapped in such a manner that it appears desirable to all potential recipients, without the item itself being discernible through the wrapping. Oversized and/or falsely weighted packaging is allowed, and even encouraged to add to the "fun" element of the game. Placing an item in a simple gift bag with a piece of tissue paper on top, is generally discouraged unless done in an especially creative way that adds to the spirit of the game.

At the start of the game, all participants will draw numbers from a pool to determine the order of play. The person drawing number "1" goes first, followed by the person drawing number "2", and so forth, in numerical order, until all participants have had a turn.

The person drawing number "1" has the unique opportunity to choose a single gift from amongst all the gifts available. A "reasonable" amount of examination of all gifts prior to selection is allowed. Other players awaiting their turn can provide immediate (vocal) feedback to the current player as to what is a "reasonable" examination. Picking up and perhaps gently shaking gifts to determine their weight and size should generally be allowed (see oversized packaging and false weighting suggestion above). The use of

X-ray machines, metal detectors, Ouija boards, and other extreme measures to determine a gift's contents IS NOT allowed!!

Once person "1" has selected a gift from among all gifts available, he/she opens that gift and displays it before all remaining players. Play then moves to the person who drew number "2". Player "2" has the option of either taking the gift that was opened by player "1" or selecting an unopened gift from the remaining selection of all gifts. If an unopened gift is selected, player 2 must unwrap the gift and display it to all players. Play then moves to the person who drew number "3." However, if player 2 decides to take the gift previously opened by player "1", player "1" must select another gift from the remaining pile of gifts, open it and display it to all remaining players. Play then moves to the person who drew number "3". Play continues in a similar manner for all remaining players until everyone has had a turn.

When it is a player's turn, he/she has the following 2 options:

- select an unopened gift from the remaining available gifts, open it, and display it to all other players. Play then moves to the person who drew the next higher number.

-- OR--

- take a previously opened gift that is in the possession of another player, forcing that player to either take another previously opened gift in the possession of another player, or select an unopened gift from the remaining available gifts.

During a turn, a player cannot take back a gift from the same person that took the gift from them immediately prior - that is, a "tug of war" scenario is not allowed.

Once a gift has exchanged ownership 3 times, that gift is retired from play. The final person possessing that gift is also removed from further play in the game.

After all players have taken their turn, if player "1" still possesses the gift they opened during their turn, and it has not changed ownership at any point during the game, then player "1" has the option of:

- keeping the gift they opened during their turn, thereby ending the game

-- OR--

- exchanging that gift for one that **has not** been retired during the course of the game. The player whose gift player "1" is taking must accept player "1's" gift in return, and the game ends.



#### CLUB OFFICERS

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