



# Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

November 2023



## MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** Promptly at 7:00 PM EDT on Thursday, October 12, 2023, President Roger Hamm gaveled our meeting to order at our customary location, MCL Cafeteria. Following his call to order, he extended a warm welcome to the rather large, assembled group (24 in all!). Some of those in attendance were guests who are becoming members. Roger introduced the Taylors (Owen & Carol, from Maineville, OH, located near Kings Island). Owen stated that Carol owns a 2004 Vintage Mint Green Retro-bird, which they drove to the meeting tonight and which was sitting out in the parking lot as he spoke. Roger also introduced Charley White, who has a recently acquired red 2004 Retro-bird with a white top. This is the second Retro-bird that he's owned, and he freely admitted that his wife, Becky, picked this one out, since she liked the previous Retro-bird so much that they had bought in 2003 and have since sold.

**Attendees:** Those 24 members (both "old" & "new") attending were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Mark & Jackie Allen, Nancy & Julie Blake, Bill Caesar (new member last month), Larry & Jo Doelker, Adam Gulden (also a new member last month), Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross, Paul & Sherry Loschi, Dave Menke, Jay & Bea Walsh, as well as our newest members, Owen & Carol Taylor and Charley White. Welcome to the Taylors and also to the Whites (both Charley & Becky)!

**Approval of Minutes:** Since the minutes from the September meeting had been published in the October newsletter (sent out by email a week before this meeting), President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Brett Andrews made the motion for approval, and that motion was seconded by Peg Andrews. President Roger noted that last month's meeting agenda contained an error as to Larry Doelker's birthdate, it having been reported as being on September 12<sup>th</sup>, when in fact, it was on September 21<sup>st</sup>; however, that error was corrected in the minutes as published. There being no other questions or concerns about the minutes as published in the newsletter, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Membership Update/Discussion:** President Roger mentioned our newest members (the Taylors and the Whites - see above for further details). However, before proceeding any further, he wanted to make a special presentation. President Roger received a letter addressed to "Newsletter Editor" from Rod Wake, VTCI President, in which it was announced that our newsletter (produced by Brett Andrews, our Newsletter Editor) had been recognized with a "Gold" Award from VTCI. This is a formal recognition of the excellence of our newsletter, and the group gave Brett a well-deserved round of applause for this recognition.



President Roger then asked if anyone had any changes to report in contact information or roster updates. There were none to report.

Next, President Roger asked if anyone had any Thunderbird updates (either vehicles newly acquired or recently disposed of, or work in progress or recently completed). Roger volunteered that he's working on his convertible now. Scott McGaha reported that he recently bought a second top (white, with storage cart) for his 2002 Retro-bird.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** President Roger reported that there are 3 October anniversaries: Brett & Peg Andrews (on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, their 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary!), Dave Koehler & Barb Kramer (on the 18<sup>th</sup>, their 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary), and Dave & Nancy Moore (on the 20<sup>th</sup>, their 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary). There were no October birthdays on the agenda to report, but it was noted that Adam Gulden's birthday was inadvertently omitted - his birthday was on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and he spent it at a Super Coupe meet.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that, since September 1<sup>st</sup>, she has deposited the dues for our 4 newest members (2 reported in last month's minutes and 2 reported tonight), thus enriching our treasury by \$40.

**Club Activities/Events:** President Roger mentioned that we have traditionally gone to Valley Vineyards for our November event, but he proposed moving it up to October this year (in order to allow more daylight time for the outdoor grilling). After some discussion, it was agreed that we would do this event on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Scott reminded us that he had discussed the Stoddard Avenue Pumpkin Glow at last month's meeting as a possible social event (not car-related) that we could participate in. He reiterated some of the history of the event and expressed his personal passion for participating in this event. He invited the club to participate, also, and after some discussion, it was agreed that we would plan to go as a club on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM to around 2:00 PM or so.

**Old Business:** President Roger turned the floor over to Vice-President Scott McGaha for a report on the status of our officer elections (2-year terms beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2025). Scott reported that he had received one candidacy letter for each of the officer positions: from Lisa Hamm for Treasurer; from Mike Hall for Vice-President; from Dave Harvey for Secretary. Since there were no contested races, the candidates were declared to be elected by acclamation. It should be noted that, per our by-laws, Vice-President Scott McGaha automatically will accede to the club Presidency on January 1, 2024, for the next 2 years (this is why we never elect a President, since the current Vice-President is destined to be the next President).

**New Business:** President Roger reminded everyone that dues are payable no later than the end of the year. He stated that you can either give Lisa your \$10 tonight or at the next meeting, or you can mail a check to her (address is on the roster).

**Calendar of Car Events:** Our next club meeting will be on November 9<sup>th</sup> at our usual location, MCL Cafeteria (with dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by our meeting beginning promptly at 7:00).

Thursdays, 4:00 PM: Get Air Cruise-In, Huber Hts (last one of the season: 10/26/23)

Fridays, 4:00 PM: Beavercreek Cruise-In, Vineyard Church (last one: 10/27/23)

Saturdays, 5:00 PM: Kettering Cruise-In, Kettering Assembly of God Church (last one: 10/28/23)

## OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR CAR EVENTS:

"MiamiValleyCruiser" is a Facebook group that maintains up-to-date listings of all types of cruise-ins, cars shows, and other car-related information

Another source of car shows, cruise-ins, etc. is "[miamivalleynovas.com/carshows.html](http://miamivalleynovas.com/carshows.html)"

**Open Floor:** Brett Andrews mentioned that we need to discuss the Christmas party (specifically, the location), as this information needs to be included in the next newsletter. After a bit of discussion, it was agreed that we would return to MCL for this year's party. Therefore, please mark your calendars: TSWO Christmas party on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at a special (earlier-than-normal) start time of **5:30 PM for the meal**, with festivities to follow. In addition, it was agreed that we would switch locations year-to-year between MCL and The Florentine Restaurant, in Germantown (the site of last year's club Christmas party).

Scott mentioned that he had received a box of "stuff" from Penny Shanley, widow of the late Ken Shanley. The box included many miscellaneous car-show-related items, including pens, dash plaques, clip boards, tire gauges, etc. He invited everyone to peruse the box before leaving tonight, and feel free to take anything you might want.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Paul Loschi, and seconded by Mark Allen. With a single rap of the gavel, President Roger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM EDT.

*Roger Hamm*  
President



**Birthdays & Anniversaries in November:** Well, looks like we have an all-dudes birthday month and no anniversaries to celebrate. From your T-bird Club family, enjoy your day.



### November Birthdays

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

### November Anniversaries

None





On Saturday evening, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio (TSWO) travelled down to Morrow, Ohio to visit Valley Vineyards. The drive down was nice, as the weather was good. However, about 1 mile from the restaurant, there was a road closed sign, making us have to take a detour. Unfortunately, there was no detour sign anywhere for us to know where to turn to get back to the restaurant. I was using navigational guide on my car, but it took

us to a road that ended at a dead end, so then it became "figure it out for myself". But luckily I found my way and luckily, everyone who showed up found their way around, although it took a little longer to get there than originally expected. However, I was really delighted at the number of members who attended our October TSWO club event last month. We had a total of 17 members who drove all the way down to Morrow to go to Valley Vineyards and try out their cooking skills on the hot grilles set up outside the restaurant. Members present were Scott McGaha, Michael Hall, Brett & Peg Andrews, Dave & Deb Harvey, Charles & Becky White, Roger & Lisa Hamm, James Russell, Ron & Linda Prater, Michael & Donna Bach, Terry & Carol Powell. We all arrived in time for the 5:00 seating and after having to get an extra table set up due to more members showing up than we had originally called in a reservation for, we all picked our seats at the tables. Once everyone was there, we then started our trip outside to cook our steaks and shrimp and other delightful dishes. We had a great time enjoying our meals, and as always, the desserts were just as delightful and tasty, especially the pecan pies! We all ate and talked and laughed and after over 3 hours, we finally started to slowly work our way out to go home. I think Valley Vineyards was probably happy to see us all leave so that they could set up the tables for the next seating.

November is here and it is a month when we celebrate two holidays, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Do you know when Veteran's Day became a holiday and why the holiday came to be? Well, I did some research and found out some interesting information about this holiday.

The origins of what we currently known as Veterans Day date back to World War I or The Great War, when the Allied nations and Germany agreed to an armistice or a truce to end the hostilities. The war-battered countries agreed to lay down their arms at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11.

The war lasted from 1914 to 1918, and over 16 million people died. Although the Treaty of Versailles signed seven months later formally ended the war, Nov. 11 remained seared into the public psyche as the date that marked the end of an arduous four-year conflict that saw the collapse of several empires, changes in Europe's borders, women entering the workforce, and the development of more sophisticated weaponry.

The end of the conflict came to be known as "Armistice Day." President Woodrow Wilson designated Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of the holiday, featuring parades, public gatherings and celebrations, and a short pause on school and business activities at 11 a.m. In 1926, Congress passed a resolution that made Armistice Day an annual holiday.

A man from Emporia, Kansas, named Alvin J. King, led lobbying efforts to change Armistice Day to be called Veterans Day. While King was not a veteran himself, his stepson, whom he had raised, was killed in combat during World War II.



Through the efforts of his community and veteran service organizations, they raised enough money to send King and his wife to Washington to meet with elected officials and push for the name change. He earned the support of key politicians, and in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation that officially changed the name to Veterans Day.

But this wouldn't be the final change made to the holiday because in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. The intention behind the act was to create three-day weekends for federal employees and encourage tourism by celebrating three national holidays. Memorial Day and Columbus Day were observed on Mondays, while Veterans Day was on the fourth Monday in October.

People were confused with the date change and disapproved, so states continued to observe the holiday on Nov. 11. Once it became clear that the original date of Nov. 11 was significant to the country, President Gerald Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11th beginning in 1978. If the date falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the government observes the holiday on the previous Friday or the following Monday.

There may have been times where you've heard Veterans Day and Memorial Day and assumed they were the same holiday, but they're not. Aside from the fact that Veterans Day and Memorial Day are celebrated in different months (Veterans Day in November and Memorial Day in May), Memorial Day is reserved for those who died in service and is celebrated on the last Monday in May. Veterans Day is for both living veterans and veterans who have passed on.

*Roger*



## Our Annual Pilgrimage to Valley Vineyards

(by Brett Andrews)



**VALLEY  
VINEYARDS**  
WINERY • BREWERY

Since our president, in his message above, provided the when, where and who of our now annual Valley Vineyard trip, I'll just mention that although the day started out rainy, by early evening the weather cleared, and the sun came out as we gathered around the outdoor grill. I fully concur with Roger, it was great to have such a turnout, especially with nine of our newest members in attendance. The food was great, as always, and our table was abuzz with lively conversation. One highlight of the evening was when our own Mike Hall proudly showed us the beautiful trophy he and his flawless 1960 Square Bird won earlier that day at the Youngs Dairy Car Show. Congratulations, Mike!!! Before we knew it, the evening had slipped away, and it was time to depart. I guess it's safe to say we can mark our calendars for next year for a return visit. I must apologize that I didn't get as many pictures as I would have liked and sadly not everyone who attended was included in the ones I took. If anyone else has any photos from that evening, I'd be happy to get them. What I do have will soon appear on our club website under "Recent Club Events."



## TSWO Member Pumpkin Carving Talents on Display

As Scott described in our October club meeting, the carving of pumpkins was held at the Dayton Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on October 27-29 in support of the Stoddard Avenue Pumpkin Glow which occurred on October 30-31. Club members were invited to participate in the carving process. Based on the pictures I received, several of our club members joined in on the carving including Scott McGaha, Roger & Lisa Hamm, and Dave & Deb Harvey. According to Lisa, "Roger and I had a great time at the carving event. Scott got us well oriented as to where everything was and introduced us to some key folks that support the event and keep it going". For more details about the pumpkin glow, go to <https://www.facebook.com/TheStoddardAvenuePumpkinGlow/>. Here are two pictures showing the products of their efforts. You can see additional pictures on our website under "Recent Club Events".



# Rules of Play for the White Elephant Gift Exchange



Our annual Christmas gathering will be held at the MCL Cafeteria in Kettering on December 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm and will include our traditional White Elephant gift exchange. Here are the guidelines for playing 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.



**NOV 23<sup>RD</sup>: Thanksgiving Day**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**  
CLUB OFFICERS

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