



Thunderbirds

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

November 2025

(www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: With several vigorous whacks of the President's gavel, President Scott McGaha began this month's meeting at MCL Cafeteria at 6:50 PM on Thursday, September 11th. After offering copies of the agenda to any who might not have brought their own, he welcomed 20 members to tonight's meeting.

Attendees: The 20 members in attendance tonight included President Scott McGaha, Vice President Mike Hall, Treasurer Lisa Hamm & Past President Roger, Secretary Dave Harvey & Deb, Mark & Jackie Allen, Brett Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Adam Gulden, Ron Heinz, Dave Menke, Ron & Linda Prater, Jim Russell, Shane Soniat, and new members George & Susan Touchette. A great big TSWO welcome to our newest members, George & Susan!

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were published in the October newsletter (sent out recently by email). President Scott asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion of those minutes. The motion was made by Ron Heinz and was seconded by Adam Gulden. President Scott then opened the floor for any discussion, questions, comments, etc. regarding the September minutes as posted in the most recent newsletter. He reported what appeared out to be a "copy/paste" error (dang Windows and its zombie operator!) in the current minutes. The issue was that the minutes reported that the Shrine Car Show would be on Sunday, September 24, when in fact, it had already occurred on Sunday, AUGUST 24. The Secretary said he'd investigate that item, and the results of his findings were reported (parenthetically) two sentences ago. With the (assumed) correction of this anomaly, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Membership Update/Discussion: President Scott asked our newest members, George & Susan, to introduce themselves and their T-bird. It turns out they have a 2003 powder blue Retro-bird, which they've owned for about 2 weeks now. It has around 39K miles, and they are the 3rd owners. Scott then asked if there were any changes to report on anyone's contact information (such as addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc.). There were no updates to any current member information.

President Scott then asked if anyone had any Thunderbird updates (either vehicles newly acquired or recently disposed of, or work in process or recently completed). Roger Hamm reported that he got his Diamond Jubilee back, and it is here tonight. He recently had the heads done, since the car had blown a head gasket earlier. He also repaired leaks in his steering gear box and transmission.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Scott reported, as listed on the agenda, there were two October birthdays: Adam Gulden, on the 6th; and Karen Burrey, on the 8th. In addition, there are four October anniversaries (one already past): Brett & Peg Andrews, on the 2nd, Dave Koehler & Barb Kraemer, on the 18th; Dave & Nancy Moore, on the 20th; and Shane & Julie Soniat, on the 22nd. Congratulations and best wishes to all on their special days.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that there was no activity in September, therefore our balance remained unchanged. She is prepared to accept dues tonight, if anyone wants to get that out of the way now.

Old Business: President Scott stated that officer elections (Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) are to be held at this meeting, October 9th. Vice President Mike Hall (the official in charge of the election, because he has no pony in the race) reported that, as of tonight's meeting, he had received a candidacy letter for the office of Treasurer, but we still need candidates for Vice President and Secretary. Each office is for a 2-year term, beginning on January 1st following the election; however, due to automatic accession to the President's office at the expiration of the 2-year elected term, election to the office of Vice-President amounts to a 4-year commitment to the club. Mike appealed to all the membership for someone to step forward to assume these two offices, as new blood is always appreciated. Remember, all officer positions run for 2 years, beginning on Jan 1 following the election (i.e., the upcoming terms will run from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027).

New Business: No new business was brought to the floor.

Next Club Meeting: Our next club meeting will be on Thursday, November 13th, in our customary MCL Cafeteria meeting room. Please join us as 5:45 PM for dinner, and our meeting will start at 6:45 PM.

Open Floor: President Scott posed a couple questions for Retro-bird owners.

Q1) Does anyone know why the light switch on Retro-birds pulls out?

A1) Because it's a generic Ford headlight switch, used on other cars that have fog lights. In fact, since these lights on a Retro-bird are on all the time the headlights are on, the "pull-out" feature does ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!

Q2) How many ways can you open the trunk of a Retro-bird?

A) The key-fob button; the button in the driver's door (can be disabled with a key, to protect trunk content), or the key-activated switch behind the driver's seat that connects via cable to the trunk lock.

Calendar of Car Events:

One-Time Season Car Events:

Ron Heinz gave a very detailed report on the 8th Annual FCA and Ford Car Show held on Sunday, September 28th. He noted that this was their largest show ever, with 153 cars pre-registered (including 11 Thunderbirds, 70 Fairlane Torinos, two Carroll Shelby Cobras [1 of which was a replica while the other was the genuine article] and quite a variety of other styles of Fords). In addition, there was a Shelby-De Tomaso at the show. Quite a few cars simply showed up unregistered, so the actual count of cars was higher than the 153 registered. This show is always held on the last Sunday in September (Sept. 27th, next year) and is a non-competitive opportunity for Ford and Torino owners, as well as Thunderbird owners, to gather and enjoy some food together and to admire all the cars.

Scott gave a detailed description of the Covered Bridge tour adventures that we all had (including some lost drivers and cars) and also covered the Valley Vineyards dinner. Everyone had a good chance to relive that day!

There was some discussion about what to do for November. After much discussion, it was decided that we would get together on Saturday, November 8th, surrounding the Ohio State game. If Ohio State plays in the evening, the get-together will be more lunch oriented. If Ohio State plays early afternoon, the event will be more dinner oriented. Watch your email Inbox for final details - be flexible!

Jackie Allen handed out a list of 41 suggested events, and she asked that each member circle their top 5 things they'd like to do as a club. The information should be returned to Jackie as soon as possible, so the committee can organize the responses. She noted the Dayton Dragons event was inadvertently left off the list, so if this is one of your top 5, be sure to write it in.

Recurring car events: Horsepower Farm Cars & Coffee from 8:00 AM to noon (1st Sat of each month, year around).

Special Presentation: Vice-President Mike Hall gave a special presentation on the 1978 Diamond Jubilee (this marked Ford's 75th anniversary as a car manufacturer). There were many unique features to this special car, making them very desirable. Mike described several other details that made this car special. To view/revisit his complete presentation, please navigate to our web site (<http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com>) and click on the "Items of Interest" tab.

Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Scott called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jim Russell and seconded by Dave Menke. Without objection, President Scott summarily declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Scott McGaha
President

T H A N K F U L

Birthdays & Anniversaries in November: It's an all-guys birthday month but no anniversaries. From your T-bird Club family, enjoy your day.



November Birthdays

4th: Terry Powell
15th: Tom Dupius
27th: Dave Menke

November Anniversaries

None



November greetings to all TSWO members,

It is hard to believe it is November already and the year is almost at an end! With the "holiday season" approaching, this is a busy time for most of us, myself included, so I will try to keep this brief.

Club Dues for 2026: Looking at Treasurer Lisa's monthly financial reports, it looks like many of you have already renewed your club membership for next year. That's excellent!!! If you haven't renewed yet, payment is due by the January 2026 club meeting, after which you will be considered delinquent. Delinquent members have 60 days to pay their annual club dues in full to remain in the club. (Put another way, if you forget to pay your dues by the January 2026 meeting, you can still pay by the March 2026 meeting to remain in the club. If you haven't paid by the March 2026 meeting, then we assume you no longer wish to remain in the club and your name will be removed from the active club member roster.)

If you are a new member who joined TSWO in the last 3 months of 2025, your dues payment upon joining the club is good through the end of next year - you don't need to make another dues payment until renewal time for the year 2027. The dues amount, by the way, is \$10 *per household*, not per person.

Club Officers for 2026-27: We are still seeking candidates for the positions of club secretary and club vice-president for the next two years.

The primary responsibility of the club secretary is to record the minutes at each monthly club membership meeting and prepare a final draft of those minutes to the club president for review and publication in the monthly club newsletter.

The primary responsibility of the club vice-president is to perform the duties of the club president when the president is unavailable. After serving two years as vice-president, the person holding this position will accede to the club president position for the next two years. The new year will be upon us before you know it! If you would like to help keep our Thunderbird club active and vibrant, please consider submitting a candidacy letter for one of these open positions.

Club Activities, Past, Present, and Future:

Past: We had a good turnout at our Marion's Pizza Party last Saturday, November 8th. Fourteen members attended, and after a half hour or so of socializing at our reserved table, everyone placed their pizza and drink orders at the counter, which were quickly prepared by our Marion's Piazza hosts and enjoyed by everyone. After some additional socializing after our meal, several of us re-assembled at a nearby Ritter's Frozen Custard stand for dessert before heading our separate ways.

Present: Our club Christmas party will be held in place of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on December 11th at MCL Cafeteria. We will be putting the final touches on our Christmas party plans at the November club meeting. Please attend the November meeting to be informed of our plans, and then we hope to see you again at the celebration in December.

Future: The club activities committee has met recently to plan out monthly activities for next year based on your recent feedback. Activities and dates are subject to change as we get into next year, but we hope to have the proposed activity schedule to you on paper at the November meeting. It will also be sent out to all club members via e-mail shortly thereafter. The intent is to have the proposed schedule in your possession at the start of the year so you can possibly adjust other events on your 2026 social calendar around the TSWO events that you would like to participate in. Stay tuned!

Well, so much for brevity. . . I'm sure there was something else I meant to relate in this message, but I'll stop for now and save it, whatever "it" was, for the November meeting agenda, which I'll be working on next. Hope to see all of you at the next club meeting this Thursday, November 13th.

Until then, drive safely everyone!

Sincerely,





As Scott mentioned in his President's Message, the club activity for November was an early evening trip to Marion's Piazza in Kettering, just a stone throw from our club meeting venue, the MCL Cafeteria. On November 8th, fourteen TSWO members met at Marions, **AFTER THE OHIO STATE GAME**, for some camaraderie and good eats. Members participating included Scott McGaha, Mike & Jeanne Hall, Dave Harvey, Lisa & Roger Hamm, Brett & Peg Andrews, Jim Russell, Mark & Jackie Allen, Ron & Linda Prater, and Ron Heinz.



Notes & Reminders

1. **Club Apparel:** We've had a lot of new members join our Thunderbird family in the last year or two and we are so pleased to have you. This note is to let you know we have an official club shirt and two club logos. If you are interested in obtaining a club shirt, please see our club website (www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com) and click on the menu item "Club Apparel". There you'll find pictures of our official club shirt (men and women) & logos, where and how to obtain our shirts, and other embroidery options available to you.
2. **T-bird Photos for our Website:** If you have visited our website, you've noticed that among all the menu items is one entitled "Member T-bird Gallery". Here we capture owner provided photos of their classic Thunderbirds. Based on the current information available, we have approximately 60 Thunderbirds in our club. However, we only have photos of about half of them on our website. If you would like a picture of your T-bird included in this photo collection for all to see, just send a photo (jpeg preferred) as an attachment in an e-mail to our webmaster, Brett Andrews, at misc5500gen@gmail.com.
3. **Supplement to Scott's reminder of club dues.** If you are a member of Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI), of whom we are an affiliate club, their dues are also due in January. See the VTCI website at vintagethunderbirdclub.net for the current dues amount and methods for payment.



HOW TO COOK A TURKEY

- Step 1. Buy a turkey
- Step 2. Have a glass of wine
- Step 3. Stuff turkey
- Step 4. Have a glass of wine
- Step 5. Put turkey in oven
- Step 6. Relax and have a glass of wine
- Step 7. Turk the bastey
- Step 8. Wine of glass another get
- Step 9. Hunt for meat thermometer
- Step 10. Glass yourself another pour of wine
- Step 11. Bake the wine for 4 hours
- Step 12. Take the oven out of the turkey
- Step 13. Tet the sable
- Step 14. Grab another wottle of bine
- Step 15. Turk the carvey!



*Helpful Hint for
making an
unforgettable
Thanksgiving Turkey*

*"The year has turned its circle,
The seasons come and go.
The harvest all is gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.
Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields, their yellow grain,
So open wide the doorway
Thanksgiving comes again!"*



*To the members and families of the
Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio*

*May your table be surrounded by loved ones
and your heart with gratitude this Thanksgiving.*



CLUB OFFICERS

**President: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763**

**Vice President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591
Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885**