



Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

NEWSLETTER
November 2021



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The punctuality streak continued, as President Brett Andrews gavelled to order our October 14, 2021 meeting promptly at 7:00 PM. After calling the meeting to order, he greeted the 17 members and 1 guest who were present, and especially welcomed back Mark and Jackie Allen, who had been unable to attend recently due to health issues.

Attendees: The 17 members present at this meeting were: Brett & Peg Andrews; Roger & Lisa Hamm; Dave & Deb Harvey; the afore-mentioned Mark & Jackie Allen; Nancy & Julie Blake; Jim Ross & Beverly Knauper (AKA, "Jim & Bev 1.0"); Paul Loschi; David & Susan Menke; Jim Russell; and Darrel York. Our guest was Robert Wagner, who owns (among other cars) a '56 T-bird (recently restored) and a 4,900-mile "survivor" '57 T-bird. We hope to see him back at future meetings, hopefully as a member of our fun club.

Approval of Minutes: Referring to our October newsletter, which contained the minutes of our September 9th meeting, President Brett asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Roger obliged, and Jim Ross provided the second to Roger's motion. Brett then asked if there were any corrections that should be made. Hearing none, he called for the vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

Membership Update: President Brett made sure that Rob, our guest, was made to feel welcome in our group (and by the way, Roger volunteered that he had a membership application in his car, if Rob were so inclined).

Bev noted an error in her email address on our roster, and Lisa noted that she has a new email address. President Brett noted that these changes would be made, and an updated roster will be provided to all.

Brett maintains a "cell-phone" list, which he passed around and asked everyone to review (and update, if necessary).

No members have acquired new T-birds since our last meeting. For the benefit of our guest, Brett explained that T-bird ownership is not a requirement for club membership. He cited Mark & Jackie as one example. Their T-bird was destroyed in an accident, and its replacement was

the genesis of our unofficially-affiliated, one-off "Miata club". He also cited Nancy who had her pride and joy T-bird totaled in an accident and later sold her second T-bird yet remains a very-active and valued member of the club.

Brett is still planning to help Guy with his brake problem (Dave has volunteered to intern with Brett on the project).

Sunshine Committee Report: Birthday cards were sent to both Jan Gifford and Jim Ross (who share a common birthday), and a get-well card was sent to Mark Allen. A condolence card was sent to Deb on the passing of her father. Anniversaries mentioned for October include Brett & Peg (50th !!!) and Dave & Nancy Moore (37 years).

Treasurer's Report: There were no changes since the previous report (all's quiet on the financial front).

Club Activities/Events: It was agreed that the joint event in September with the Tri-State Mustang Club (a picnic-style outing at the Halderman Barn Museum) was quite a success. The museum was a treat to visit, the presentation by John Clor was very entertaining, and the food was outstanding. As the old expression goes, "A good time was had by all."

The October club event is going to be a 73-mile driving tour, to include 7 historic covered bridges in the Montgomery County and Preble County area. The gathering place on Saturday, October 16, will be Rob's Restaurant in BROOKVILLE, OH (wink, wink), no later than 10:45 AM so we can depart at 11:00. It was also mentioned that for those interested, there will be a cruise-in at the Rose Music Center after our tour finishes. Brett provided his and Peg's cell phone numbers, in case anyone going on the tour needs to reach them.

The November club activity was discussed, and due to prior interest, the conversation centered on a potential trip to Valley Vineyards, in Morrow, OH. There seemed to be enough interest that it was agreed we would do the event, tentatively on November 13th. Brett took a count of the number interested and will use that information to make a group reservation (for their "early" seating on that day). He will follow up with a confirming email to the membership containing all the necessary details for the event.

Nancy, Julie, and Beverly K. volunteered to do the decorations for our December event, our annual Christmas party (there will be no official club meeting in Dec). Brett will include the "white elephant" gift exchange rules in our next newsletter - be on the lookout.

Old Business: As previously announced (in more than one meeting and newsletter), tonight we will be holding our biennial elections for the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The terms to be served will begin on January 1, 2022 and will end on December 31, 2023. The current Vice-President (Roger Hamm) automatically accedes to the office of President, so per the club bylaws he has charge of the elections process. If you recall, all elected positions are

"self-nominated," using a form that can be downloaded from our web site. All self-nominations were due to Roger by our September meeting date, so proper planning could be done for the elections.

President Brett turned the floor over to Vice-President Roger to hold the elections. Roger announced that only one self-nomination form had been received for each of the offices up for election. Due to this circumstance, Roger quoted from our by-laws: "Should only one eligible individual have submitted a candidacy letter for an elected position, the Vice-President will so announce that situation on the day of elections. That candidate shall be considered as being elected and shall assume that elected position on the date specified in Part 5, Term of Office." Continuing, Roger stated, "Thus, the officers for 2022-2023 shall be the following: President, Roger Hamm (by automatic accession from Vice-President); Vice-President will be Scott McGaha; Secretary will be Dave Harvey; and Treasurer will be Lisa Hamm. Obviously, the only changes to the officer positions will be Brett Andrews will become Immediate Past President, Roger will become the new President, and Scott McGaha will become the new Vice-President. Their terms will start on 01 January, 2022 and will end on 31 December, 2023."

Brett mentioned again our apparel vendor, Twin Design. He offered their catalog to anyone who wants to take it home for perusal and possible ordering. He only asked that the catalog be brought back to the next meeting.

Deb asked about the agenda item "Club Activity Plans," which lists Scott's name beside it. She asked if this position was created when Scott retired from the Presidency nearly two years ago to become Past President. She also asked if he would be going forward with this position, or would it fall to Brett as Past President, or what will happen. Brett stated that when Scott left the Presidency, he expressed an interest in continuing to help plan club activities, on an ad-hoc basis. This is not a formal position (either elected or appointed) within our club but is in the category of "Scott stepped up and volunteered, and Brett eagerly accepted his offer." Brett stated that it will be up to Roger to determine if this ad-hoc position will be continued as is, or possibly modified in some fashion.

A link to Carl's Ford Parts has been added to our website, based on a recommendation last month from Jim Ross (they seemed to be the only supplier who could provide a particular part that Jim desperately needed).

New Business: Darrell commented that if anyone had any 1989-1997 T-bird Super Coupes, he had some information that one might be interested in. He mentioned a place in Milford that specializes in Super Coupe parts. He also mentioned some projects he's currently working on. Finally, he mentioned that he was recently elected (in absentia, since he missed the election meeting) to be the President of the Tri-State F-100 Club. Congratulations, Darrell!

Calendar of Car Events:

1. TSWO Historic Covered Bridge Tour - Sat, October 16
2. Next club meeting - Thurs, November 11

Open Floor: Beverly mentioned two items pertaining to John Clor, who did a presentation at the Halderman Barn Museum during our September combined Tri-State Mustang Club/Thunderbirds of SW Ohio Club gathering. The first item (which John actually mentioned during his presentation) is that our club is not affiliated with "Club Connect" (or Ford Performance Club Connect), so she recommended that someone within our club should provide their email address as a contact point, and get our club properly registered with Ford Performance Club Connect (she mentioned that the other local Thunderbird club had already registered).

The other item that she mentioned was the trademark application that Ford filed in January 2021 for the Thunderbird name. She asked John if that was merely to keep another company from acquiring the name, or if it meant something. She reported that John's answer was "Oh, it means something."

What followed was a lively discussion of other situations involving trademarks, name reboots, etc. Darrel referenced the legal battle that Ford fought after not trademarking "GT40" and finding out later that another company had the trademark to the name. After much wrangling, Ford resolved the issue by dropping the "40" from the name, and trademarking "GT" instead.

Note: this supplemental reference information was added after the meeting. Quoting an article published January 20, 2021 by www.thedetroitbureau.com, "The trademark application filed on January 13, 2021 states that the Detroit automaker continues to reserve the registration for use on 'Motor vehicles, namely, concept motor vehicles, four-wheeled motor vehicles.'" In other words, not paraphernalia. Interestingly, the Thunderbird trademark had expired (either by oversight or by design, no one knows) in March, 2020, about 10 months before the January renewal filing. Put this together with John Clor's intimation to Bev and draw your own conclusions.

Adjournment: As Brett began his spiel to adjourn the meeting, Nancy spoke up and mentioned that she had brought some Halloween cookies and some candy to the meeting, and that everyone should feel free to help themselves to as much of each item as they cared for (the Secretary can vouch for the "deliciousness" of the cookies).

A motion for adjournment of the meeting was made by Darrel and seconded by Dave Menke. The vote in favor of the motion passed unanimously, and President Brett banged the gavel at 7:44 PM. Friendly conversations continued for quite some time after the meeting officially ended.

Brett Andrews
President

Birthdays & Anniversaries in November: We have two of our own with birthdays this month, but no anniversaries. Sending you two the happiest of birthday wishes from TSWO on your special occasion.



November Birthdays

25th: Guy Gifford
27th: Dave Menke

November Anniversaries

None



Thoughts from the President:

I know you all have been dying to know this, but fall is my absolute favorite season. I thoroughly enjoy the renewing and refreshing nature of spring and what car buff doesn't appreciate summer for the car shows and cruise-ins. But in my book, nothing beats the crispness in the air of a beautiful fall morning and the awesome color display that fall can bring. I'm bettin' there isn't a one of you that didn't romp in a pile of raked leaves when you were a kid and absolutely enjoy it when you watch little ones do the same today. Just to clarify, I don't hate winter. I just prefer the other seasons. After all, there is something to be said about sitting down in your most comfortable chair, sipping a hot cup of coffee on a cold, snowy winter's day, and maybe watching a little football or good old movie knowing there is no more grass to cut for months. The sad part of late fall and winter is putting our birds into hibernation until next season. But just think, each year we get to go through the glorious ritual of freeing our classics from their prisons and letting them run free.

As we near the end of another year and head full tilt into the 2021 holiday season, it's time to stop a moment and reflect. We've all experienced some ups and downs during this extended pandemic period - - some of you more downs than ups. I remember thinking during last year's holiday season the fact we weren't going to have our annual club Christmas party was of little consequence to me when I had to come to grips with the reality that Peg and I would not have Thanksgiving or Christmas with our family (the first time in 43 years). But as the situation seems to be improving and we've been able to resume club activities, we've resurrected our friendships that were never really gone, just on hold. I refuse to dwell on the past, but rather celebrate what's ahead. Peg and I, as will many of you, will enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas 2021 with our children and grandchildren and have a Christmas dinner with dear friends in our Thunderbird family.

I want to congratulate our new club officers for 2022-2023. Roger will be president and Scott will be our new vice president. Dave Harvey and Lisa Hamm will be returning as our club secretary and treasurer respectively. Let's all kick in to help them run this club just like you've helped me.

Notice: Your TSWO 2022 club dues are due in January. Lisa will be ready to accept your TSWO dues payments at the November meeting and at the December Christmas gathering. For those of you who are VTCI members, their dues payment is also due in January.

Finally, as has been our annual tradition, we have no formal club meeting in December. Instead, we enjoy a Christmas dinner together with music and the ever nerve-racking "White Elephant" gift exchange. Included at the end of this newsletter are the rules on how the gift exchange will take place. It's important you familiarize yourself with these rules. Anyone not bringing a wrapped gift will not be permitted to participate in the exchange. In addition to the dinner and gift exchange, every other year we have the official passing of the gavel from the outgoing to the incoming club president. So, on December 9th Brett will perform the ceremonial gavel pass to Roger (Although Brett will remain president through 31 December).



Other Dates in November to Remember



Daylight savings time ends on November 7st. Set your clocks back



November 11th 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

President: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992

Vice President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992
Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885

Our Club Tour of Historical Ohio Covered Bridges

It was a chilly and blustery day, but that didn't stop 15 of our club members and a guest, along with 7 Thunderbirds, in participating in the much-anticipated tour of seven southwest Ohio covered bridges. Participants included Brett & Peg, Roger & Lisa, Dave & Deb, Paul & Sherry, Dave and Susan, Jim R & Beverly K, Jim Russell, and Nancy, Julie & Sharon (the guest: Nancy's daughter). Members met in the parking lot of Rob's Restaurant in Brookville and at 11:00 am departed on their circuitous adventure winding mostly the back roads for approximately 73 miles. The tour took the group from Brookville westerly to the first two bridges (Warnke & Geeting bridges) then south to Eaton (Christman Bridge), and then west and south to Fairhaven (Harshman Bridge). The group again headed further south to Hueston Woods (Hueston Woods Bridge) where the crew made a rest stop to stretch their legs, take some pictures, and chat for a while. After this brief respite, we were off again east through Camden and Gratis on our way to Germantown. On the way we visited the last bridge we were able to drive across (Brubaker Bridge) just west of Gratis. It was then on to Germantown. This was the only bridge on the tour that was pedestrian traffic only, so again we parked the cars and walked onto the bridge to take in the river view. By the time we reach this point the weather had warmed considerably and the wind had slowed down to a moderate breeze, making this last bridge visit quite enjoyable. This was the last stop on the tour and members at this point were on their own. So, we said our goodbye and see you in November. Below are only a few of the pictures taken, other will be posted on our website. Unfortunately, the best picture (actually a video) of all the cars driving through the Brubaker bridge and emerging on the other side was a bust. The video was lost and I'm assuming it was operator error on the part of the tour guide (me). So sorry, it was such a memorable moment. Maybe next year we'll do it again.



White Elephant Gift Exchange Rules of Play



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 "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.