



Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

(www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)

November 2012



MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Brett & Peg Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, E.D. & Leona Brown, Jim Ellinger, Guy & Jan Gifford, Roger & Lisa Hamm, Gary Hufford, Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross, and Jay Walsh.

Call To Order: The meeting convened at 7:00 PM, October 11th, at MCL Cafeteria, Brett Andrews presiding.

DISCUSSION:

Treasurer's Report: Lisa presented the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business:

Tour of a Private Car Collection: Gary is still working on getting us a tour of a large car collection in Washington Courthouse. We'll keep you posted.

Halloween in the Park: Members were given a final reminder that Bellbrook's Halloween in the Park would be held on October 20th from 2:30 to 6:30 P.M. Members were asked to bring their T-Bird or an old classic and some treats for the kids.

Christmas Party: Guy confirmed that all was set for our Christmas Dinner at the Milton Club. The Christmas Dinner will be on December 13th with a Social Hour from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 pm. The Milton Club is located at 640 Cosler Drive, Dayton. Cosler Drive is located between Smithville and Needmore Roads just off Burkhardt Rd. We'd like to know by the November meeting if you are planning to attend so that we can get a head count.

Bellbrook Car Show: There were still a few dash plaques remaining from our Bellbrook Car Show. If anyone would like one, please contact Brett.

TSWO Website: Members were queried if anyone had a picture of their T-Birds that they would like included on our website that are not currently displayed there. No photos were provided at this time. If you do have a picture you would like displayed, please get them to Brett in electronic form or a picture that can be scanned. Members were also asked if anyone had any suggestions for additions or improvements to our website. No specific suggestions were made. If you do have suggestions in the future, please bring them up during the conduct of a club meeting for group discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Visit to the Jim Walker Car Collection: A special thanks was given to Gary for his efforts in coordinating our visit to the Jim Walker car collection on September 27. There were some 40 cars from the 20s to the 50s along with hoards of other automotive memorabilia. We had a good turnout of members from our club and the Old Car Club from Wilmington, Ohio. Gary noted that Mr Walker remarked that we were one of the best tour

groups he has had and invited us back next year. (Note: Photos from the tour are now loaded on our website under “Recent Club Events”.)

Club Dues: Members were reminded that TSWO clubs dues for 2013 are due by January 10th, 2013. It was also noted that VTCI dues are also due by January 31st.

2013 Event Planning Committee: As suggested at our September meeting, Beverly is forming a committee to look into and layout a series of club events for 2013. Beverly distributed and explained a survey she developed that seeks member input on the types of activities you’d like to see us do as a club. A copy of that 3-page survey is included at the end of this newsletter. If you would like your event ideas to be considered, please complete the survey and return it to Beverly as soon as possible. She is also looking for volunteers to serve on the Planning Committee.

OPEN FLOOR: The floor was opened for questions and comments.

- a. Beverly displayed a T-Bird doggie jacket that she had purchased at Pet Smart
- b. Beverly mentioned she has information about a 1965 T-bird for sale, if interested
- c. Brett announced he had received an e-mail on our club website containing contact information from an individual selling baby bird parts, if anyone is interested.
- d. Brownie mentioned that Marion Bowling Lanes had established a party room that contains several bowling lanes and suggested we may want to consider doing a bowling club event. Brownie will check into and provide more details at a future meeting.

ADJOURN: At the conclusion of all discussion, Brett called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Jim Ross and seconded by Jan Gifford. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**Brett Andrews
President**

FOLLOW-UP NEWS:

Halloween in the Park: On October 20th the skies were cloudy, the wind was brisk, and the temperature ranged from a little nippy to bone chilling depending on who you asked. But, notwithstanding the weather, 12 members of TSWO braved the elements to participate in this years Halloween in the Park activities in Bellbrook. Ken drove his Monterey Mercury and Penny came in their Ford Galaxy convertible (top up). Members driving T-birds included Brett & Peggy Andrews, Guy & Jan Gifford, E.D. & Leona Brown, Roger & Lisa Hamm, and Nancy & Julie Blake. The crowd didn’t seem quite as big this year, but we still had fun seeing all the costumed children as they “Trick or Treated” us at our cars. See more pictures on our website.



Next Meeting: November 8th, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November

1st: Carl Geiger
25th: Guy Gifford

Birthday Correction: We had a misprint in our September Newsletter. It was Jan Gifford's birthday on September 25th, not Guy's. Sorry Jan. Happy belated birthday.

If you haven't been asked for the date of your special day, please provide the day and month to our club secretary, Peg Andrews, at 237-1131 or e-mail her at pegasus@woh.rr.com



Happy Thanksgiving

Best Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is here, so our minds have turned
To what time has taught us, to what we've learned:

We often focus all our thought

On shiny things we've shopped and bought;

We take our pleasure in material things

Forgetting the pleasure that friendship brings.

If a lot of our stuff just vanished today,

We'd see the foundation of each happy day

Is special relationships, constant and true,

And that's when our thoughts go directly to you.

We wish you a Thanksgiving you'll never forget,

Full of love and joy—your best one yet!

By Joanna Fuchs

Upcoming Club Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Club Christmas Diner	December 13 th	Milton Club

CLUB OFFICERS

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

Vice President: Beverly Knauper (513) 752-8821
Secretary: Peg Andrews (937) 237-1131

The following article was provided by Jan Gifford for the enjoyment of our TSWO members

This article, written by Stephanie Ragan, has been copied from "Rearview Mirror", the newsletter of the Santa Clarita Valley Antique Automobile Club.

FOR WOMEN ONLY: A WARM WELCOME TO THE HOBBY

As a relative newcomer myself, I have some observations and words of advice I would like to share with wives who are new to the hobby of collecting antique and/or classic cars. To those of you who say, "Oh, we're not actually collecting, we're just going to have this one car," I respond with those perceptive words of the younger generation, "Yeah, right." That's what I thought, too. But there's this little word that's going to change all that: PARTS. There are parts that your car needs, and parts that it might need some day. There are parts that it doesn't need, but would be good for trading for parts that it might need. There are parts that it already has, but it needs better looking ones. At this point you might say, "We're not going to show this car. We just want to drive it." But I have found that to a man, every car is a "show" car. You probably don't really care if the left rear ashtray is missing. How often are you likely to have a left rear passenger who smokes? But he cares. And he cares if all the hubcaps don't match, or the radio doesn't work, or the rearview mirror is incorrect (another word you're going to hear a lot.) "I know it's got a perfectly good one, but it's incorrect for a '48." After all, even if your new pride and joy is not going into competition, his car buddies are going to be looking it over. So it is, in fact, going to be "shown" and it's got to at least be respectable. Imagine his embarrassment if some total stranger at a car meet, glancing casually under the hood were to remark to him, "Hey guy, you know you got the wrong dipstick for that year?" Well, there is a never ending need (lust?) for parts, and they are frequently expensive and often hard to come by, as you will find out, the first time you are sent out into a mile-long flea market to turn up a _____ exactly like the one weighing twelve pounds and covered with grunge which you have been given to carry around in your purse for easy referral.

So if it hasn't already materialized, I would suggest that you prepare yourself for the imminent arrival of The Parts Car. It is, of course, the only practical way to go. All the parts your car will ever need, packaged in a rusty heap that has been "rescued" from a field where it has sat, axle deep in cow manure, for the last twenty years. Maybe, for some folks, it ends there, just like he promises. For us it didn't work out that way. Three of four days after the parts car took its place (my place) in the garage; it started the rubbing of the chin, the shaking of the head as he prowled around the soon-to-be-dismembered vehicle. "You know, Honey, I hate to say it, (not as much as I hate to hear it) but this darn car is just too good to part out. In some ways, it's better that our other one!" (Oh ___). Yes, on the grounds that it would be a criminal act equal to the slaughter of the innocents, the plans for the removal of parts was abandoned and we ended up, in due time (about 48 hours) with another parts car for our parts car. This was the one that was only going to be around for a couple of weeks 'til he could get all the stuff he needed off of it, and then it was definitely going to be hauled away.

Do you have any idea how much of a parts car is going to be salvaged? I didn't. The doors came off, the hood, "It's better that either of the others!", the back seat (for the springs), the rotten piece of smelly carpet in the trunk (for the pattern) -anything that can be sold or traded or leaned against a tree. There was so much of that car sitting around after it was hauled away sixteen months later, that I didn't even know it was gone. Our thoughtful neighbor lady actually came over one day to inquire if we knew that heavy metal trash pickup day was coming up. My husband was highly insulted.

By the way, you don't really want to know what lives in parts cars, especially in the depths of the scruffy seats. I will just mention that my husband once tried to convince me that the reason the entire floor of a certain car was rusted away was because of mouse urine. Yeah, right. He thinks I'll believe anything.

We did find enough tiny skeletons to construct a family tree going back countless generations, and in one of the parts cars we even found a large family alive and thriving, with new babies and a well-stocked larder of nuts and seeds. Also a very long shredded snake skin, which is why I'm not going to sit in that car, no matter what he does to it. The back seat, containing the rodent home, was taken outside and left near the woodpile to encourage relocation.

Now there's something else you should know about parts. As a species, they may start in the garage, but they don't stay there, or even in the basement if you happen to have one. Some of them are too valuable. You never know when someone might break into you basement and steal that set of new old stock head gaskets or the really cherry tail-light assemble, and besides he just plain likes to look at them during commercials. That's why the rebuilt water pump in on the coffee table and the crankshaft is resting across the arms of the newly upholstered reading chair. There has been an item sitting on the side of the sink in our powder room for the last six months. A recent inquiry brought the following information. It's a '41 Cadillac slyfon, and that is not a typing error. Just before Easter, I finally came to terms with it. I found an artificial zinnia of a coppery color that just matched, and stuck it in the middle of it where there is a little hole, possibly for just such a purpose. My husband approved, and seemed pleased that I was finally appreciating the ornamental value of these things.

You should also know about the new library you may have already started to acquire. The books will include everything that has ever been written about your particular brand of car, including histories of the company, every collection of photographs of all cars of the same vintage as your car, and railroad timetables that happen to have been printed in - get this!- the exact same year that your car came off the assembly line! There will be new magazine subscriptions, some of them costing more that your midwinter heating bill, and for God's sake, don't set a glass down on the cover of one. And of course there is Hemmings (cross your self). It's the one in the plain, brown wrapper that replaces your husband's face for the first several days after it arrives. It will often be found by the telephone with little pieces of paper sticking out of it. That's another thing. Your phone bill is definitely going to go up. The phone rings one evening, and your husband, the one who never answers the phone once he's settled in front of the TV, makes a dash for it, explaining, "That will be the guy in Kalamazoo I called earlier about a '51 clutch disk." Or Albuquerque or Trinidad. And antique car buffs are not bound by traditional mores regarding appropriate hours to call one another. When you grope for the phone ringing beside your bed at half past midnight, the guy in New Jersey is not really going to understand why you sound so testy when he know your husband has been waiting anxiously for the information on whether the rocker panels he has for sale are the correct ones for your car.

Lastly, I'd like to mention money. You are about to get your priorities straightened out for you. Any money spent on old cars is not money gone. It is an investment, unlike what you squander on food, clothing, travel (unless it's to a car show, but that's a whole 'nother column) and the beauty salon. You will constantly be reminded of "what these cars are going for at the big shows," and you will be read to from ads from Hemmings - and you had probably better not say something smart like "That's what they're asking, but do you know if that's what they're getting?" Be prepared, when you come home with a terrific bargain of which you are justly proud, something frivolous like, say, a second-hand vacuum cleaner, to have your news greeted with a look of sad reproach and something like "What you paid for that would have bought us an authentic license plate holder so we could have had the car on the road by Christmas."

I hope all of this forewarning doesn't sound too negative, because the antique car hobby is really a lot of fun. You meet nice people, your husband will have more friends than he has ever had before, especially when he is parting out a particularly popular model or has lucked into a deal for an outhouse full of the remaining mildewed, but original boxes from a car dealership that went bust in the forties, you'll go on neat tours and really thrill to the sight of a long line of these grand old automobiles slowly pulling out on the road, chrome gleaming in the sun. (That's when it's all worth it!), and you'll really learn a lot of interesting stuff. So just keep your mind open, your sense of humor finely honed, and your money in a secret Swiss bank account (just in case someone gets sick), and you're going to love the world of antique cars.

TSWO Activities Survey

Which of the following activities do you have an interest in attending as a TSWO club member?
(Mark all that apply)

- regular club meetings
- Christmas party meeting
- annual club car show (Bellbrook)
- club picnic at member's home
- club picnic at a park
- designated cruise-in (such as Lofino's)
- designated car show (such as Antioch Shrine)
- touring car-related museums/attractions
- touring non-car related museums/attractions
- cruises around the countryside in TBirds
- activities with other car clubs
- other non-car social events (concerts, dining, etc.)
- YOUR other ideas Please list other activities you would like to do as a club.

How far are you willing to drive a Thunderbird to attend a club activity? Mark ALL that apply

- Dayton area
- Wilmington area
- Middletown area
- Cincinnati area
- Beyond the above areas (please indicate if there are limits)

How far are you willing to drive a daily driver vehicle to attend a club activity? Mark ALL that apply

_____ Dayton area

_____ Wilmington area

_____ Middletown area

_____ Cincinnati area

_____ Beyond the above areas (please indicate if there are limits)

What factors determine whether you participate in a club activity or not? Please be as specific as possible in comments. For example, if cost is a factor, then indicate an approximate dollar amount that would prevent you from attending. If distance is a factor, please list approximate miles above which you likely wouldn't attend.

_____ **type of event – CAR-RELATED**

COMMENTS:

_____ **type of event – NOT Car-Related**

COMMENTS:

_____ **distance**

COMMENTS:

_____ **duration (how long the event would take, including drive time)**

COMMENTS:

_____ **cost**

COMMENTS:

_____ **OTHER – Please list**

What topics would you like to hear about from a guest speaker at a club meeting?

_____ None I don't want any guest speakers at club meetings.

_____ Car-Related Items

SUGGESTED TOPICS (Please help us by suggesting topics!)/GUEST SPEAKER

_____ Topics not related to cars, SUCH AS _____