



THUNDERBIRDS

of Southwest Ohio

NEWSLETTER

October 2021



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Continuing his long-standing history of punctuality, President Brett Andrews gaveled our September 9, 2021 meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM (as confirmed by both Verizon and AT&T phone clocks - since they agreed, the time must obviously have been correct!). Almost everyone had finished eating their MCL meal by then (but having said that, the club secretary is hereby self-reporting that he was a glaring example of one who didn't finish before the start of the meeting - he blamed his predicament on the fact that his dessert got in the way of a timely meal completion).

Attendees: After calling the meeting to order, President Brett welcomed the 12 members in attendance. Attendees included: Brett Andrews; Roger & Lisa Hamm; Dave & Deb Harvey; Scott McGaha; Nancy & Julie Blake; Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross; Paul Loschi; and Dave Menke.

Approval of Minutes: President Brett referred to our September newsletter, which everyone should have received, and which contained the minutes of our August 12 meeting. He asked if anyone had any corrections or additions to make. Scott noted a correction as to the one-owner 1976 T-bird that was reported to be somewhere in his neighborhood. After Nancy reported to Scott that she had been unable to locate the car in their neighborhood, Scott clarified that the car was "near" their neighborhood. With this clarification/correction, President Brett called for a motion to approve the minutes as published, then corrected. Scott moved for approval, and his motion was seconded by Dave Menke. The motion was approved unanimously.

Membership Update: Scott reported chatting up the club with one Brian Click at the Lions Club Bellbrook Show. Brian had a red 1963 Bird at the show.

Scott also reported talking to an individual at the Kettering Town Center cruise-in. While this individual brought a Ford Falcon travel wagon to the cruise-in, nonetheless she is interested in T-birds and hopes to have one someday. Scott provided her a club marketing packet.

There were no individual member updates to report (neither email addresses, physical addresses, phone numbers, newly acquired or recently disposed of cars).

Brett mentioned that, since the weather has broken somewhat, he might be able to get over to Guy's in the near future to help with his grinding-brake problem.

Scott gave a report on the visit that he and Dave made to Corey's Auto Repair (Chris Richards, owner), located at 143C Westpark, Centerville. Corey's is a small shop that doesn't advertise, other than word of mouth (thanks, Jim Russell, for this referral). Jim has had some work done there on his '56 Bird and seems to be satisfied with their work. Note: the owner is reluctant to have too many T-birders talking about his shop, because he doesn't want to become known as a "Thunderbird shop." If you do reach out to him, their phone number is (937) 435-2277, and their email address is ccarrepairs@yahoo.com.

Corey's being a bit of a drive for Dave Harvey to make, he's going to try out Weber's Automotive Service, on Linden Ave. They're a little larger operation, having 8 service bays and plenty of other inside storage to accommodate those types of repairs that might require some down time waiting on parts, etc. On September 27, Dave will be taking in the first of 3 cars that need attention. Perhaps he'll have at least a partial assessment by the next meeting.

Sunshine Committee Report: As noted in the newsletter, both Jan Gifford and Jim Ross share a common birthday, September 25. Also, Mark & Jackie Allen celebrated their 32nd anniversary on September 9.

It was noted that Mark is scheduled to have surgery on September 15. A card was sent to Mark, from the club, to let him know we were all thinking of him and wishing him the best on his pending surgery.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa reported that two members' dues were deposited this month, raising our Treasury balance by \$20.00 - there were no disbursements to report.

Club Activities/Events: As previously reported, our club will join with the Tri-State Mustang Club for a gathering/picnic on Sunday, September 19th, at the Halderman Museum Barn in Brandt, OH. The gathering is expected to begin around 11:00 AM, with a presentation at 12:00 by John Clore, a very entertaining speaker from Ford Performance Connection, and the pitch-in lunch will follow. It was noted that this is the same day as the Dayton Concours D'Elegance.

Scott discussed our October event, a covered bridge tour (scheduled for the 16th, with a rain date of the 30th). Scott and Brett will put together the details, which may include a breakfast gathering before departure at Rob's Restaurant in Brookville. Be sure to attend the meeting next month for the complete agenda.

Scott stated that he will again be assisting with the Stoddard Ave pumpkin carving on Saturday, October 23rd and Sunday, the 24th, preparing for the actual event on October 25th and 26th. No one who wants to help carve pumpkins on Saturday and/or Sunday will be turned away! Perhaps this could be considered a community-service project for TSWO members.

It was suggested that our club's November event should be the cookout/dinner at Valley Vineyards in Morrow, Oh. The club has been there on several occasions, and it appears to be one of our more popular outings.

December's "non-meeting" meeting will be our traditional Christmas Dinner/White Elephant gift exchange (\$20 cap on gift cost, so offering up your old unwanted T-bird will promptly be ruled "out of order"). Guidelines for the White Elephant will be published in the November newsletter.

Old Business: Brett reminded everyone that tonight (September 9th) is the deadline for submitting self-nomination forms for candidates for Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer (elections are next month).

Club shirts - Brett brought along the full-size official "Twin Design" catalog, available for borrowing for a month at a time (meeting to meeting). He clarified that the light blue polo shirt is considered the "official" shirt for fair weather club meetings and club events. During colder weather, apparel for club meetings and activities have no particular requirement though it is suggested to wear a garment (i.e., sweatshirt) that has the club logo (the one with or without the Ohio outline).

Brett advised members that if you're buying a baseball type cap to be aware of what you're ordering. It all depends on the look you're going for. He then went on to explain how to interpret the catalog descriptions of baseball hats typically worn by our club members. Hats come in 3 profiles - low, medium, and high which is an indication of how tall the hat is. Hats are either "structured" or "unstructured". A structured hat has a reinforcing support material on the inside of the front panels to make the front stand more smoothly and prominently. The unstructured hat has no such additional support. Finally, hat size adjustments are usually one of four options: stretch bands, Velcro fasteners, adjustable buckles, or plastic snaps. Of the four, the stretch band is non-adjustable, per se, and only adjusts to head size by the stretching of the elastic. It is the least desirable according to our supplier.

Brett is monitoring the COVID situation, to see if anything will need to change as far as our club operations. He emphasized that all events will be at participants' own discretion as to participation, masks vs. no masks, etc.

New Business: There was no New Business to discuss

Calendar of Car Events:

- a. Halderman's Museum Barn - Sep 19
- b. Covered Bridge Tour - Oct 16 (rain date: Oct 30)

Open Floor: Jim Ross mentioned a recent good experience he had with Carl's Ford Parts in Canton, OH who happened to have an extremely rare part Jim had been seeking. Brett indicated he would add Carl's to the list of parts suppliers on our club website.

Adjournment: In a rare break in tradition, we decided not to bother Jan at home for her customary motion for adjournment (Jan, we hope your feelings weren't hurt). In Jan's absence, the motion for adjournment was made by her club twin, Jim Ross (remember, they share the same birthday, so that **MUST** make them fraternal twins!). Jim's motion was seconded by Roger, and (unsurprisingly) the motion carried unanimously.

Brett Andrews
President



Birthdays & Anniversaries in September: No club member birthdays this month, but we have two anniversaries. Here's wishing you a happy time on your special day.



October Birthdays

None

October Anniversaries

2nd: Brett & Peg Andrews (50 yrs)
22nd: Dave & Nancy Moore (37 yrs)



Thoughts from the President: What Makes Our Club Who We Are?

I'll be the first to admit, about two years ago I was a little worried that our club was heading toward extinction. We lost some old members, and we weren't picking up new ones. Then, COVID hit. Was this our death nell? But as Covid marched on, a surprising thing happened. We picked up several new members. But that's only part of our story. Over the last several years we had two families who lost their T-birds to accidents and although they didn't buy another Thunderbird, they didn't quit the club (kind of makes you understand why we say you don't have to own a T-bird to love them). But that's not the end of who we are. Almost monthly now we hear our members report talking up the club to a Thunderbird owner who didn't even know we existed. Not Done Yet. Then, I remember the conversations I've had with members who have been or currently belonged to other car clubs. Almost to the person they mention how they so enjoy how well we get along as a club and how we're always planning activities to do together. It goes without saying we love our Thunderbirds. We love to drive them, show them, tell others about them. Sure, if the Thunderbird didn't exist, we'd all be doing something different and likely wouldn't even know each other. But, even with the Thunderbird, it's still the perseverance and commitment of members who give the club vitality. To keep us moving forward we need every member to actively get involved - - serve in an office, attend the meetings, participate in the club activities, contribute to the newsletter.

On a different note, I'm really looking forward to our covered bridge tour on October 16th (rain date the 30th). As I've mentioned previously, it's important for planning purposes that we know how many folks (and cars) will be participating, so we have enough maps and walkie-talkies to go around. So, please come to the October meeting ready to let us know if you'll be going on the tour. If you will be touring with us, but can't be at the October meeting, please send both me and Scott an e-mail to let us know you're going on the tour so we can provide you the latest information. According to the experts, we can likely expect a beautiful fall color show by mid-October. What an exhilarating drive it should be.

Brett



Picnicking with the Mustangers



On Sunday, Sept 19th, eight TSWO members (Brett, Scott, Dave M. (with guest), Dave & Deb, Jim R., and Jim & Beverly [version 1.0]) joined, as invited guests, the Tri-State Mustang club at their club picnic at the Gale Halderman Barn Museum. The weather was a little hot and humid. By early afternoon it was pushing 90. Although the temp didn't cooperate, the gathering was quite enjoyable. During the first hour attendees talked, look at and took pictures of the collection of Mustangs and our Thunderbirds. Around noon the guest speaker, John Clor, from the Ford Motor Company, gave a presentation on Ford Performance Club Connect. Club Connect is a website where Mustang/Ford clubs can register their clubs for free and will receive/can access information concerning car shows and other car related events nationwide, announce your club events, ask questions, and be eligible for various promotions. John also gave several humorous background stories from his days with the Ford Family, Lee Iacocca, Gale Halderman, and others.

After the presentation it was time to eat, and boy was there food galore. Though I didn't get an exact count, I would estimate approximately 40-45 folks were in attendance and there was still food left over. With full stomachs, folks made their way into the museum and took in the hundreds, if not thousands, of pictures on the walls including concept drawings by Gale Halderman (which Ford allowed him to keep when he retired), model cars, memorabilia, and the classic mustangs sitting center floor. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Gale's 2002 Torch Red retrobird parked outside.

It's safe to say that all who were in attendance had a great time, heat notwithstanding. TSWO extends its deepest appreciation to the Mustang Club for their gracious invitation to participate in their picnic at the Halderman museum. Below are but a few pictures from the event. Others will be posted on our website. Please note below Jim & Bev's dual allegiance. Jim is wearing a Mustang shirt and T-bird hat and Bev is wearing a Mustang Hat and T-bird shirt.



CLUB OFFICERS

President: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131
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Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885