



# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio



## Newsletter

September 2021

*Fall Begins: Sept 22nd*

### MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** In his usual punctual manner, President Brett Andrews gaveled our August meeting at MCL Cafeteria to order promptly at 7:00 PM, on 12 August 2021 at the MCL Cafeteria. He welcomed a somewhat-smaller than usual crowd of 11 members, including a special welcome to Darrel York, who we haven't seen in a while. Brett also noted that "Jim & Bev 1.0" (AKA, Jim Ross and Bev Knauper) arrived during his welcome due to high traffic volume from Cincinnati, bringing the final count to 13 members at this meeting.

**Attendees:** The 13 members in attendance included Brett & Peg Andrews, Roger & Lisa Hamm, Dave & Deb Harvey, Bev Knauper & Jim Ross, Paul Loschi, Scott McGaha, Dave & Susan Menke, and Darrel York.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Brett referred to our August newsletter (unusually long, partly due to reporting of by-laws changes that were up for vote in July) and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2021 meeting as published in the August newsletter. The motion was made by Roger and was seconded by Scott. After asking for any comments or corrections to the minutes and hearing none, President Brett asked for a vote to approve the minutes as reported. The motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Update:** There were no member contact updates to report. Brett mentioned that if any member want to add a additional email address to the club roster, simply let him know.

Scott told an entertaining story about the discovery (in his own neighborhood) of a 1-owner, 90K+ miles, always-garaged, running/drivable 1976 Thunderbird, black with burgundy red interior. The owners are in their 90s, so they don't drive any more (their son, who's into cars, drives them wherever they need to go). After chatting with the gentleman for a while, Scott left some club info, as well as his phone number, and asked if he would give that to their son.

Roger left his club business cards on 4 (unattended) Thunderbirds that were at the Voss Cruise-In, inviting the owners to call if they might be interested in joining our club, but he hasn't received any calls yet from any of the owners.

Dave Menke is still working on his club prospect. Someone suggested that Dave invite his prospect to the September event (discussed later in the minutes), with no pressure to join the club (just hope to pique his interest in us).

Brett mentioned both Guy Gifford's brake problem and Jim Lenz's window problem. Due to various reason both issues are still unresolved but hoping cooler weather and less busy schedules will permit the correction of these malfunctions.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** President Brett reported that Beverly Lake has a birthday on August 25, Bea Walsh has a birthday on August 26, and Roger & Lisa Hamm had an anniversary on Aug 4 (37 years!), which Roger said they celebrated at the Golden Lamb. Scott quipped, "So, you went from New Lebanon to Lebanon for dinner?" and generated some light laughter at his witticism. Brett mentioned that he and Peg will have their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October, but they don't know the details yet of their celebration, as it's in the hands of their daughters.

Speaking of Bea Walsh (see above), Jay and Bea took their '57 T-bird to the Voss Cruise-In. Jay and Brett met up, and Brett was introduced to Bea for what Brett believes was their first meeting. After being introduced, Brett said "You have a birthday coming up" (undoubtedly, one of the most unusual introductions that Bea has ever had).

No get-well or condolence cards were sent in the past month.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa reported no changes this month from last month's report.

**Club Activities/Events:** Scott reported on our July activity, which consisted of a gathering of 11 of our members (including our "Miata branch") at the Rip Rap Roadhouse cruise-in on July 23. The weather was good, and everyone enjoyed getting together with our cars at this venue.

Scott discussed some options for our August event, expressing the desire that, due to the uncertain COVID situation, the event be kept simple. He suggested that we go to First Watch for breakfast (located at 5245 Cornerstone N. Blvd, Centerville - just north of Wilmington Pike and Feedwire Rd.), and that we park our cars on the Wilmington Pike side of their parking lot, away from the restaurant. (In the event of inability of First Watch to accommodate our group, Plan B could be either Bob Evans or Cracker Barrel, both of which are very close)

He also mentioned the possibility of having dinner at the new Old Scratch Pizza in Centerville.

After some discussion, the consensus was that we would meet for "brunch" at 10:00 AM on Sat, Aug 21, at First Watch.

For our September event, we had previously discussed joining with the Tri-State Mustang Club in their outing to the Halderman Museum Barn, in Brandt, OH. This event will be on Sun, September 19. As of our August meeting time, planned arrival time will be around 11:00 AM in

order to tour the Museum, with comments from John Clor (Enthusiast Communications Manager for Ford Performance) around 12:00 PM, and picnic-style lunch around 1:00 PM. Our club members are asked to bring desserts to this event (Mustang Club members will provide sides, while the Mustang Club itself will provide meat and drinks). For planning purposes, the Mustang club anticipates about 30 of their members might attend, plus however many of our club might attend. We will firm up the number of our attendees at our Sept meeting and try to coordinate the desserts so as to offer an appropriate variety.

There was a question raised if this event will take the place of our traditional club picnic, and it was confirmed that this is the case.

President Brett also suggested doing a tour for one of our events (there was some discussion around doing a covered bridge tour). No firm decision was made on future events, other than the August and September events mentioned above.

**Old Business:** It had been suggested in our July meeting that, due to the extended hiatus (16 meetings missed!) caused by COVID-19, perhaps the club officers might consider extending their terms of office by one year, thus pushing back the next scheduled election from October 2021 (with term beginning 01-01-22) to October 2022 (with term beginning 01-01-23). The officers discussed this possibility and its ramifications, and respectfully declined to request extension. The consensus was that we should stick with the present process, which will call for an election in October of this year.

Roger has received two candidacy letters so far. Brett mentioned that, if anyone is interested in the positions of Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer (for the 2-year period beginning 01-01-2022), he had blank candidacy letters with him, or the form could be downloaded from our web site (<http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com/>, then click on "TSWO Bylaws", then Item #6 "Elected Officer Candidacy Letter"). All Candidacy Letters are due to Roger by our September meeting.

**New Business:** President Brett talked about our new club apparel vendor (Twin Design, located in the Swiss Village shopping center on Far Hills Ave, just north of Whipp Rd). He indicated that he has a catalog from our former vendor, and that most of the items in the old catalog will be available from our new vendor (although pricing in the catalog might no longer be 100% accurate). Also, some information had been published in the August newsletter, to which members were referred. Brett is our contact person for all orders, so if you're interested in club apparel, please contact him. If you order something, Brett will pick up the merchandise when it's ready and pay for it, and you will then reimburse him.

Brett inquired as to whether or not the members want to continue the "White Elephant" gift exchange during our Christmas gathering, held in December in lieu of a formal club meeting. After some discussion, the consensus was to continue the White Elephant gift exchange tradition.

**Calendar of Car Events:** Our next meeting will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>, again at MCL Cafeteria. Please join us for dinner, if possible, before the meeting, and be prepared for a timely drop of the gavel at 7:00 PM to start the meeting.

Roger asked about the JDRF car show in Sharonville, and Darrel reported that it was not going to be held this year (and maybe never again). Darrel had organized this event for many years but has now retired from that responsibility and turned it over to others. It appears that insufficient planning has been done for this year's event, thus necessitating the cancellation (suspension?).

While Darrel had the floor, he also mentioned the upcoming (Sat, Aug 14) Downtown Saturday Night Car Show to be held in Franklin, OH.

Brett mentioned the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Gathering of the Geezers, which will be held at Kil-Kare Raceway on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> (with a rain date of Aug 29<sup>th</sup>). The event includes good old-fashioned drag races, a car show, and a swap meet.

Other events include:

- 1) Vineyard Church Cruise-In on Fri evenings, located on Indian Ripple about a mile east of I-675 on the right side (this is the former SVG cruise in)
- 2) Kettering Cruise-In on Sat evenings, at shopping area near Woodman and Dorothy
- 3) Rip-Rap Roadhouse on Fri evenings, participants in cruise in receive a 20% discount on food
- 4) Xenia Grace Chapel will have a car show on Sep 25
- 5) See <http://miamivalleynovas.com> for many more event listings

**Open Floor:** Brett noted that COVID is making a revival, due to the Delta variant. He cautioned that we might be put into a situation where we must, for the safety of our members, suspend club meetings until the trend can be reversed. He continues to monitor the reported COVID cases and the trends.

**Adjournment:** Brett called for a motion for adjournment. Tradition lives on in our club, and while not present in person, Jan Gifford "phoned it in" by making her customary motion after Scott called her. Jan's motion was seconded by Scott, and President Brett called for a vote on the motion. The approval vote was unanimous, and Brett gaveled the meeting to a close at 7:53 PM.

***Brett Andrews***  
President

**Birthdays & Anniversaries in September:** We have a few club members celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month. Here's wishing you a happy time on this your special day.



**September Birthdays**

25<sup>th</sup>: Jan Gifford

25<sup>th</sup>: Jim Ross

**September Anniversaries**

9<sup>th</sup>: Mark & Jackie Allen

(32 yrs)



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***Thoughts from the President:***

The focus of my thoughts this month fall in the "Was it Worth it?" category. August 22 had finally arrived. It was the day for my much-anticipated attendance to the annual "Gathering of the Gezzers" at Kil-Kare Raceway. In preparation for the event, I shined up the '66, packed a boat load of drinks, and headed off to this annual event with my son-in-law, Craig. It was a bright, sunny, cloudless, hot, humid, well a downright miserable day with a breeze that I would estimate at about 1.25 mph. Not a day that many would choose to be outside for hours, and hours, and hours, and ... well you understand the time involved in car shows. The event, a combination car show, swap meet, and old-fashioned drag races, was packed with cars (show and racing) everywhere you looked.

After arrival and getting the T-bird prepped for judging, Craig and I walked around looking at the nearly 100 show cars that were already there by 9:30 a.m. We then headed over to the bleachers to watch some racing. Setting in the stands (thank heaven they were wooden and not metal) about 100 yards from the starting line, the sound from these powerful machines was deafening (somewhere between 100 and a gazillion decibels). Fingers in the ears did little to negate the eventual slight deafness we experienced for the remainder of the day.

Around noon we headed back to the car show area and perused the cars that had arrived in the last two hours. Finding the '66, we sat guzzling liquids and catching up on our daily lives. It wasn't long and I got a call from Roger. He had attempted to come to the Gezzersfest but arrived just a tad late and discovered that registration window for the car show had closed, so he elected to attend a cruise-in elsewhere. However, as I described our environment and the atmospheric tortures we were experiencing, he took what appeared to be extreme pleasure in letting me know he was parked under shade trees and was cool as a cucumber. Can someone be impeached from office before they take office?

After the call, we grabbed an Italian sausage for lunch, downed more drinks and tried to keep cool. Looking around at the hundreds of folks, all enduring the same elements, it almost looked like a "who can sweat the most?" contest. We saw a judge wandering around, but the brain fog caused by torturous conditions caused us to miss the awards program. We realized our error

when we saw several folks carrying buckets containing a bunch of goodies. One question to them confirmed our suspicions. We skedaddled over to the awards area in time to find out the old '66 Bird had been selected as one of the top 35 show cars, so we too got a plaque and a bucket full of goodies. It was then back to the car to pack up and head down the road with the 4-50 air conditioner on max. (Note: a 4-50 A/C is four windows down and driving 50 miles an hour).

So, to answer the original question, "Was it Worth it? You Bet! Not because of the award, it was the comradery among car lovers; it was seeing cars you've not seen in a while; it was hearing the power of those mighty engines and the smell of the burnt rubber. The weather was just a test of my commitment and love for old cars.

*Brett*

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### Roger/Lisa's Line Up of Classics

I received the below two pictures of the Hamm 4 generation T-bird collection and thought I'd share it with the group. They include their '66, '78, '86, and '2002. According to Roger all he needs now is a 50's and a 90's generation to complete the full house, but he is speculative if that will ever happen.



*Labor Day Weekend  
4-6 September*



*Patriots Day  
11 September*

## Brunch at First Watch

As was decided at our August club meeting, we collectively want to keep outside club activities a little low keyed until we see where the Covid 19 upsurge is headed. So, our club activity for the month was brunch at the First Watch Restaurant in Centerville. On Saturday, August 21st, ten of our club members (Brett & Peg, Roger & Lisa, Scott, Tom & Gina, James, and both Dave's (Harvey & Menke) met at First Watch driving six club Thunderbirds shown in the pictures below. According to the comments I heard, the food was excellent. After the meal we congregated in the parking lot by our Thunderbirds to discuss a variety of topics, but I suspect mostly cars. Several passersby commented on the beauty of our vehicles and in one instance when a mother, with her young daughter, asked if she could take pictures, Brett and James offered to have the daughter sit in their respective cars while mom took the photo. Such a treat for the little one and such an ideal way to get the younger generation interested in classic automobiles.



### 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