Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

April 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 10, 2016 at the MCL Cafeteria, with club president Roger Hamm presiding.

Attendees: Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Brett & Peg Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, and Guy & Jan Gifford.

Approval of Minutes: The February 2016 meeting minutes, as shown in the March 2016 newsletter, were unquestioned by the members, and therefore stand approved as published.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roger mentioned that his new 2002 retrobird had arrived from California. . He purchased it on eBay. It is white with a black top. He indicated that it was in good condition as expected. They have purchased special tags for the car but have chosen to not divulge what they say until they are installed on the car.

Members were again reminded that both TSWO and VTCI dues were now overdue. Individuals who have not paid their TSWO dues will be removed from the club membership roster.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Lisa reported the clubs income and expenditures and our current financial balance.

Event Planning: Scott mentioned that due to member unavailability there will be no March club activity. It was also mentioned, based on an e-mail from Beverly, that there was to be a cruise-in at Gale Halderman's museum in Tipp City on July 13th from noon to 4 p.m. Mr. Halderman was one of the key designers of the Ford Mustang and moderately participated in the design of Thunderbirds. Several club members attended an interview with Mr Halderman in Tipp City On August 3, 2014. See the September 2014 newsletter to read more about Mr. Halderman and the interview.

Brett mentioned in a previous meeting that he and Peg were returning to the Gilmore Museum near Battle Creek, Mi in May and suggested other members may wish to go. Further discussion proposed, and it was generally agreed the trip be planned to stay for two nights. The group selected 13-15 May as the dates to go. We'd drive up Friday afternoon/evening, tour the facility on Saturday (Sunday morning if necessary) and drive home Sunday. An option that is directly on the way home would be to stop in Auburn, Indiana to tour the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum. Brett will provide hotel information for Battle Creek at the April meeting.
Guy suggested a possible trip to the historic Pennsylvania House in Springfield, Ohio as a club event.

Several VTCI events were also mentioned to include (1) VTCI Regional Meet, April 27- May 1, 2016, Chattanooga, Tn, (2) VTCI Regional Meet, June 2-5, 2016, Norman, Ok, and (3) VTCI International Convention, August 10-14, 2016, in Kansas City, Ka.

OLD BUSINESS:

At the February meeting the membership had decided that we wanted to submit our newsletter for consideration in the VTCI newsletter contest. Brett selected our August 2015 Newsletter as our candidate. This issue contained not only our minutes from our July 2015 club meeting but also included three separate articles written by Roger, Wayne, and Beverly covering the Thunderbird 60th anniversary celebration in Dearborn, Mi. The membership agreed on this issue as our contest entry and Brett was to submit it per the VTCI criteria.

Roger once again encouraged members to consider writing an article for possible publication in the Scoop Magazine as requested by VTCI.

New Business: There were no new business issues to be raised at this time.

Open Floor:

Brett distributed the updated TSWO membership application that indentified our new club officers. He also mentioned based on the club approval he had received at the previous club meeting, he has removed the Sons of Italy Car Show section from our website

Adjourn: At the end of discussions, Roger requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Jan and seconded by Lisa. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Roger Hamm
President

Next Meeting: April 14th, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering

Message from the President

It is now April. That means that it is officially car show and swap meet season here in Ohio. It starts with the Ford Owners swap meet in Columbus on April 2-3, which Lisa & I went to on April 2. As we went into the car corral building, we met up with Brett who was talking with the owner of a 1966 T-bird Town Landau that had his beautiful blue car for sale. We enjoyed our conversation, despite the fact that the temperature had dropped to more winter-like weather, as it was very cold and windy and we even had some snow on the way back home. I sure hope we get back to warm weather, as it is hard to work on my convertible when it is cold outside.

I would like to remind you that we would still like to hear your stories about your T-birds, such as what you like about them, and how you came to buying it. Feel free to send in your T-bird stories to Brett, so he can get them in our newsletter. Remember, our April meeting is Thursday, April 14th…….

April Birthdays

4th: Jay Walsh

March Anniversaries

None

Upcoming Club Events

Event	Date(s)	Location
1. Gilmore Auto Museum (tentative)	13-15 May	Battle Creek, Mi
2. Dale Halderman Museum Cruise-in	13 July	Tipp City

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992
Vice President: Scott McGaha (937) 439-1138
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992
Secretary: Brett Andrews (937) 237-1131

What are the chances for a New Ford Thunderbird?

(prepared and edited by: Brett Andrews)

There are a lot of folks who believe or are fervently hoping the Thunderbird will see another phoenix resurrection. One of those is Thunderbird Concepts, a supplier of parts and accessories for the retrobird. The following is, in part, a reprint of some of their thoughts along with a few conceptual pictures of what a new Thunderbird may look like.

According to Thunderbird Concepts they interact with retrobird owners on a daily basis and have witnessed how these owners cherish their T-birds. The retrobird is a unique, limited-production, American icon. That's what makes it even more exciting for the Thunderbird enthusiast. It's a unique vehicle that has too much history to just "die off". Thunderbird Concepts and many others are of the opinion that Ford will bring back the Thunderbird some day. Who is to say what the next models of Thunderbirds will look like, you just have to know that it will not die off because Ford would never kill off their iconic automobile.

Is this the Thunderbird of the Future?

According to Thunderbird Concepts, the Ford Motor Co. communicated that this is not the end of the line for its famous icon. The retrobird's release from production referred to the decision as putting the name back in its "future-product vault." According to Steve Lyons, Ford Divisions president, "We promised all along that this Thunderbird would have a limited production run, and we're being true to our word…… Thunderbird was a terrific image builder for the Ford brand showroom at a time when we needed it."

Here, in part, is what Ford had to say in March 2012 in response to a letter from Glen Lewis, a T-bird Owner, on the question of the future production of a new Thunderbird.

"Dear Glen,

Thank you for contacting Ford Motor Company. We appreciate the time you have taken to write us.

The Thunderbird is a timeless classic, an important part of Ford Motor Company's heritage, and this country's automotive history. At this time, we do not have an estimated date for when the new Thunderbird will be available at dealerships.

The Ford Thunderbird will make its return as a concept car. The new concept car is an indication of where we're headed with the Thunderbird when it goes back into production for the new millennium. It's also just one example of the exciting and dynamic new cars we plan to introduce in the future. For more information on the Thunderbird please visit Media.ford.com. …..

Thank you for contacting Ford Motor Company.

Sincerely,
Norma
Ford Motor Company
Ford Marketing Program Headquarters"

Let's keep our fingers crossed and "Dream the Dream"

Our 2002 Thunderbird Story

By: Roger & Lisa Hamm

We never had any idea when we purchased our 1966 Hard Top back in 1984 that Ford would do something in 2002 – bring back the Thunderbird as a retro to the originals produced in 1955 to 1957. When they did, Roger said they were definitely too expensive then. He did indicate that when they came down in price for a used one in the future that he might consider it.

Roger always browses on eBay and the internet in general for all things automotive. Some items caught his eye in early February 2016. There was a black one with 97,000 miles on it with a tan and black interior located in Austin, TX, that he even put in a bid for. However, that particular dealer never responded to him. Lisa even called them and was told that the car had sold. Well, even two weeks after, that particular car was still listed. Certainly wouldn't recommend anyone doing business with them.

There was another one listed in California that was white with a black hard top and all black interior. It had fewer miles at 62,000. It was a bit more expensive with the lower mileage. But we decided to go for it!!! On Thursday, February 4, Roger called the dealer to make an offer. The dealer already had one offer so Roger asked if they would accept an offer above that but less than the listing price. The dealer agreed to our offer. We got the purchase funds wired to the dealer Friday, February 5. The sale became final on Monday, February 8.

During the course of several days, emails were sent back and forth with information and documentation that we needed to review. We downloaded almost 50 pictures the dealer had on the website. He was very forthright in pointing out a problem with the back left bumper just below the tail light. He also provided a Car Fax document via email. There were also maintenance records and the Owner's Manual that were pictured to come with the car. All the hardware was included for hanging the hard top out of the way during the cruising season when the rag top would be used.

We received a package from the dealer later the week of the purchase with several documents that needed to be signed and sent back before our new beauty could be set up for delivery. The dealer made arrangements with a company named I and K Transport, LLC, out of Akron, OH. We got in touch with them and their driver in turn to coordinate the delivery.

On Sunday, February 21, our new white and black beauty arrived about noon. The driver was coming from a delivery in Indianapolis that morning and called us when he left there to give us about a two hour notice. We were going to have him drop the car off in an open parking lot out in New Lebanon proper that would have been a bit easier to work around than on our two-lane road where we live. We were headed out that way about 11:30 to grab a bite of lunch at the McDonald's. However, we were barely an eighth of a mile headed west on US35 when we saw a car hauler truck pulled off on the side of the road headed east. Sure enough, that was our guy. After a bit of talking somewhat in the road with a couple impatient folks honking when they went by, our delivery guy pulled out and headed down our road. We turned around, caught up with him and zipped around him to lead him in.

The driver was a really nice guy. Lisa asked where he was from originally as he had an accent we couldn't quite place. He said he was from somewhere in Russia and had been in the states about 20 years. It took him only about a half hour to unload and pull her into our driveway. He pointed out a couple other minor scratches (one on the roof and one on the passenger door that we still haven't confirmed) and

pointed out that what the dealer had said was a scratch on the bumper was really a crack. We weren't terribly concerned considering she's 14 years old. The interior was great save for two chips on the steering wheel. Other than being road dusty, she looked pretty darn good!

We took her for a ride back out to New Lebanon to get the lunch we had been headed for. Pretty nice ride!!!

And now for the rest of the story that is really fun.

We named our 1966 T-Bird The Owl . . . as in a snowy owl since she's white. We thought about what other birds are white in order to name our new beauty. We decided on The Dove. Roger had started to look at license plate possibilities. Lisa added to the list of possibilities. We cut-n-pasted pictures of the sample tags into a word document and sized them down to see what they looked like on one of the downloaded pictures of the car, both front and back. We narrowed it down to 18. We both decided on two that neither of was particularly fond of. We took the remaining pictures of the others, put them in a container and drew them out two at a time, each of us drawing out one slip. We proceeded this way, alternating who went first, until we were down to the last two. Lisa was to draw first on the last draw to make the final decision. She could see what one of the remaining picks was. She looked lovingly at Roger and said she was going to break the rules and pick the one that she had thought from the very beginning was a really cool choice. Roger was fine with that. It was actually the very first idea he had come up with.

And the winner was . . .

Roger had already purchased a cover for the whole car as well as a separate cover for the hard top for when it is in storage. We have new key chains with the 2002-2005 car on the fob. New remotes were also ordered as it came with only one and Roger wanted new ones with all the markings intact.

It is a once in a lifetime thing that we knew would not be possible again if we waited. We intend to have many good times in Our Dove.