Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

April 2022

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The March meeting of Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio was gaveled to order (promptly at 7:00 PM) at MCL Cafeteria by President Roger Hamm. After welcoming the members present, Roger especially welcomed Paul Loschi, and reported to the club about a serious traffic accident that involved Paul and his truck (not Paul's fault) recently. As is often the case, it seemed that a driver became impatient and did something stupid (passed Paul's truck on the right, using the berm). The driver then crashed into a car stopped in that berm and knocked that car into the side of Paul's truck. Thankfully, Paul was OK, but the driver of the stopped car was very seriously injured. She survived and will thankfully be OK.

Roger also reported briefly on an electrical issue that Brett and Peg Andrews experienced at their house when they returned from their recent trip. While the possibility of danger (arcing, potential fire) was great, Brett picked a good electrician to troubleshoot the problem, and in a matter of a few hours of time, all was well.

Attendees: Those members in attendance were Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave & Deb Harvey, Brett Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross, Paul Loschi, David & Susan Menke, Jim Russell, Tom Tirey, and Darrell York.

Approval of Minutes: President Roger then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, as published in the March newsletter. The motion was made by Scott McGaha and seconded by Brett Andrews. There being no comments or corrections offered to the minutes, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

Brett noted that an error had been made in the February newsletter regarding Karl and Meritta Eby's anniversary. It was actually on February 9th, not the 29th, as reported in the newsletter mailed to members prior to the meeting (the copy of the newsletter on our web site has been updated with the correct information).

Membership Update/Discussion: President Roger asked if anyone had made contact with any potential new members. Not surprisingly, given that it's still winter, no one had anything to report. Roger then asked if there were any contact information changes (phone numbers, addresses, email addresses). No one reported any, but Paul Loschi reported that he's still not

receiving any emails from any club members. He's going to contact Spectrum to see what help they can be in resolving the issue.

No one had anything to report as to buying or selling any T-birds.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Roger mentioned all the March birthdays (reported in the recent newsletter), and congratulated Nancy Blake on her March 1st birthday, Scott McGaha on his March 2nd birthday, and Deb Harvey on her upcoming March 14th birthday. There are no anniversaries in March.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa provided her customary Treasurer's report, including a deposit of dues from 2 members in February. At this time, all current members have paid their 2022 dues, except for one.

Club Activities/Events: Scott reminded us of the discussion last month about sharing the responsibilities for monthly activities among the members. He indicated that Mark & Jackie Allen had volunteered to put together the May event, in conjunction with Thunderbird Appreciation Day (Sunday, May 15th). The event will begin at Warped Wing Barrel & Smokery in Springboro and will include lunch (more details will follow from the Allens).

Dave & Susan Menke will handle our September event, which will involve the Waco Air Museum Fly-In. Dave will figure out back-road routing so that we don't have to use I-75 to get there.

President Roger suggested a lunch outing at the Florentine Restaurant in Germantown. Roger and Lisa have been there and can recommend it. After some discussion, it was agreed that this would be our March activity (Roger & Lisa, organizers), and that it will be held on March 26th at 11:30. Lisa will send an email to all club members to inform them of the event.

Other options for future events were discussed by several members. Packard Museum in Dayton, Bicycle Museum in New Bremen, Butler car collection in Erlanger, Jim Walker car collection north of Dayton, Garst Museum (AKA, "Annie Oakley" museum) in Greeneville, British Car Museum event at Eastwood Metropark, all were mentioned as possibilities.

Old Business: President Roger brought up the disposition of no-longer-needed club property, and he turned over the discussion of this topic to Brett (who is the current custodian of the items). It was agreed that we would offer the Car Show signs to Miami Valley Car Club (gratis). If they aren't interested, Brett will simply dispose of the signs. Dave Harvey made a motion to that effect, which was seconded by Paul Loschi. The motion passed unanimously.

In addition to the Car Show signs, the club owns 2 pop-up awnings (10' by 10' and 12' by 12') to dispose of. We had previously agreed to retain our walkie-talkies, T-bird banners, and "oldies" CD. There was discussion around the possibility of offering the pop-up canopies to members on a request basis, first come, first served. Dave Harvey asked Brett if there are any Bylaws

constraints that would prevent taking this approach with the canopies. Brett, Scott, and Roger agreed that the proper approach would be to declare the canopies to be of no value, and that if any member would want one, they would need to let Brett know.

New Business: Roger raised the topic as to whether or not our club should remain as a chapter affiliate of VTCI (Vintage Thunderbird Club International). Several members offered their opinions, and many questions were asked. The main stumbling point appears to be VTCI's requirement that affiliated chapters which are incorporated (as we are) must assure that at least 50% of the chapter's members are also members of VTCI. While we currently satisfy that requirement, the concern is what would happen if our percentage of VTCI members in our club should happen to fall below that required percentage.

Several members questioned the value to the club of VTCI affiliation. After much discussion of the pros and cons of VTCI affiliation, no action was taken at this time. More discussion will be needed before a decision can be made.

Roger noted that next month's meeting falls on Holy Thursday and will also be during the time that he and Lisa will be at the Bristol race (meaning that 3 of the 4 officers will not be present, as well as any other members who might prioritize Holy Thursday over our club meeting). The proposal was made to delay our meeting by a week, from April 14th to April 21st. Brett asked if the 21st was available to us at MCL, and Dave reported that when he called them a couple weeks ago about the possibility of having to move our meeting, the 21st was available then (he'll reconfirm that MCL after tonight's meeting). Dave then made a motion to postpone the meeting, and Paul Loschi seconded.

Open Floor: Scott mentioned that the Miami Valley Car Club may be looking for help in putting on the Bellbrook Car Show, part of the Lions Club Festival. There was discussion around whether or not we felt that we could consider participating in this event as a club. There was very little support among the members for TSWO club participation in this event, but individual members might feel inclined to help out.

Mid-Ohio Ford Club Columbus Spring swap meet will be April 2nd (9AM-5PM) and 3rd (9AM- 2 PM).

Adjournment: Motion for adjournment was made by Darrel York and seconded by Jim Ross. Not surprisingly, the motion passed unanimously, and President Roger gaveled the meeting to a close at 8:15 PM.

Roger Hamm
President

NEXT CLUB MEETING REMINDER: The April Club meeting date has changed. We will now meet at MCL at our usual time on Monday, April 11th. Be sure to mark your calendar.

Birthdays & Anniversaries in April: We have two birthdays to celebrate in April, but no anniversaries. From the TSWO membership, Happy Birthday to our two April celebrants.

April Birthdays

Jay Walsh (4th)
Ruby York (6th)

April Anniversaries

none

April begins the first month of spring, and with that, the beginning of warmer weather. Many of us are ready to finally take off our heavy coats, gloves, and scarves and replace them with sweaters and light jackets and eventually shorts and short-sleeved shirts. I am definitely ready to put away my winter coat and start going outside without a jacket or sweater. However, it appears that winter wants to stick around until sometime into this month!

Also, spring brings with it Easter Sunday and the great Easter Bunny. But, why do we have a bunny as a symbol of Easter and not a chicken? The rabbit and the egg became intertwined with the spring holiday because of their pagan roots representing fertility and rebirth. It seems possible that these two images merged into the egg-laying rabbit of German lore, instead of a (practical) chicken.

Regardless of who's laying them, eggs are an Easter image that have come to represent Christ's emergence from the tomb and his resurrection. One possible reason for decorating eggs is that they were adorned for enjoyment on Easter morning once Lenten fasting was finished.

Whether it was pagan or Christian associations with the rabbit that ultimately influenced the Germans, we may never know. But one thing is certain: The Easter Bunny will continue to bring joy and excitement to children across the country every Easter Sunday. So, enjoy your Easter and the nicely decorated eggs and the children as they hunt for those elusive eggs strewn in the yards of local churches and homes.

Roger

Lunch at the Florentine Restaurant

On Saturday, 26 March, ten TSWO members (Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave & Deb Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, and James Russell) met for lunch at the quaint Florentine Restaurant in Germantown, Ohio. The day was cold and blustery with the snow flying all day.

> Florentine Restaurant History: Before it was converted to a restaurant, the Florentine was a hotel. In fact, it was the second oldest inn in Ohio and was opened in 1814-1816 by Philip Gunckel, the founder of Germantown. In 1862, the new owner William Leighty, changed the name to the Leighty House. The Florentine has hosted many famous Americans including Henry Clay, Secretary of State to John Quincy Adams and Clement Vallandingham, a notorious Southern sympathizer. The hotel was again sold in 1911 and renamed The Florentine Hotel.
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> The hotel's most impressive features are the beautiful wooden center staircase, the ornate wrought iron rail balcony on the hotel front, and the main room fireplace which is original to the building. The most recent addition is the picturesque bar that reportedly has origins in Europe and once served in an ice cream parlor in New Orleans before finding its home in Germantown.
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> By 1940 the hotel was primarily a local bar with a few live-in tenants. It closed in 1974 until purchased and restored by locals in 1976 and re-opened as a restaurant in August 1979.

Member general consensus was that the food was great, and our waitress was a delight. The young lady made one a fatal mistake. When she found out we were a car club, she showed a few of us a picture of some old cars in her family. That was all it took for several members to whip out their cell phones and search their photo galleries for the ideal picture of their T-bird to show her. As you'll see when the photos are posted on our website, she only just look out the window to see James Russell's '56 Babybird. I would not be surprised if our club visits this restaurant again. (See our website for additional photos).

Retrieving Your Classic T-Bird from Storage?

Here's What You Need to Do

(by Brett Andrews)

According to the calendar, Winter is over and Spring is here. The few exceptionally warms days we've had so far this year likely has you wanting to resuscitate your sleeping bird from its winter hibernation and get cruising. Most of you know what you need to check before putting your classic on the road. What follows is intended to serve as a simple reminder, so you don't miss anything critical.

In the Engine Bay:

If you used a battery tender to maintain proper charge during storage, your battery should be ready to go. Check to be sure the battery is fully charged. (Note: If you've had the battery hooked up to a cheaper trickle charger, the output voltage may have gone high enough to cause overcharging which can cause damage to a standard wet-cell lead-acid battery).

If your vehicle has been sitting for an extended period without a charger, your battery may be weak or drained. Check the charge. If low, recharge it. If it's dead, if may recharge or you might find it needs to be replaced. On retrobirds, when the battery dies it may be necessary to reset some items such as windows, radio pre-sets, etc.

Check the battery terminals for corrosion. If found, disconnect the cables and clean the battery posts and cable terminals. They can be cleaned with a solution of water and baking soda and an old toothbrush. Be sure to wear eye and hand protection. Before reconnecting, check for cables wear, then install using a tight connection.

Unless stored in a vault, your car is subject to critters building nests and storing food in your engine bay, especially in your air filter inlet tube and air filter housing. While camped out in your engine compartment they are also prone to nibble on hoses, belts, and cables; so check them thoroughly.

Check that you have a clean air filter. This may also be a good time to check/change your spark plugs, fuel filter and PCV valve.

Lastly, be sure to check all the fluid levels (engine oil, transmission, power steering, brake,

windshield washer, etc). It is recommended your oil be changed as soon as possible once you're on the road. Sitting over a long storage period (i.e., winter) engine oil can collect contaminants such as condensation, and in some cases, it can lose its viscosity.

Where the Rubber Meets the Road:

Check your tire air pressure and inflate to proper pressure as soon as possible. Tires should be inspected for tread wear, foreign objects in the tire, bulges, cracks, etc. While checking your tires, look under the vehicle for any indication of fluid leaks, including the shocks.

When initially stored, the vehicle should have been stored with a full or nearly full tank of gas. This will minimize condensation in the tank. It is strongly suggested that when first putting the vehicle in storage you add a fuel stabilizer to minimize condensation. If you hadn't added stabilizer to your gas tank before storing, then you should fill it up with high-octane gas and add an octane booster.

Ready to Fire Up Those Cylinders:

When you think you're ready to start her up, first make sure your tailpipe(s) is/are clear. Small rodents have a tendency to build nests and/or store food in tail pipes, as well. The picture to the left is of the handful of pecans that shot out of the back of a bullet bird during starting after it had sat over winter. Once started, let the vehicle idle for a while until it is warm and is running smoothly. Never rev the engine during this initial warm up.

Before you put it in gear to go for that first spin around the block, be sure to apply the brakes to make sure they work. Check that your headlights (high and low beam), taillights, turn signals, dash lights, and horn are all working properly. Once on the road for the first time, take it slow and easy and listen for any unusual sounds or actions the vehicle may exhibit and watch your gauges. There may be some initial brake noise due to the rust that accumulates on the brake drums or pads. Should the noise remain continuous, have the brakes checked.

Once all the above have been checked off, it's time to get out the hose, buckets, soap, Windex, shammy, and polish and get your machine ready to cruise.

CLUB OFFICERS

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