# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio Newsletter

October 2026

(www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)

## MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order**: The September 2026 meeting of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio (TSWO) car club was held on Thursday, September 10th, at MCL Cafeteria, located in Kettering, OH. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by President Mike Hall who made sure everyone in attendance had a paper copy of the meeting agenda who needed one.

**Attendees**: Fifteen TSWO members were in attendance: President Mike, Vice President Adam Gulden, Treasurer Lisa Hamm and husband Roger, Secretary Scott McGaha, members Brett Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Dave Harvey, Ron Heinz, Rick Kolmin, Norm Orlowski, Shane Soniat, George Touchette, and new member Matt Heidenreich.

**Approval of Minutes**: After welcoming everyone in attendance, President Mike got the evening's meeting underway by opening the floor for any comments, questions, etc. concerning the minutes of the August club meeting, as recently published in the September club newsletter. Secretary Scott posed a question to those in attendance at the meeting concerning the name of the upholstery shop that Larry Doelker took his '02 retrobird to for a replacement convertible top. From Scott's recording of the August meeting, it sounded like Larry said "Adkins" or "Atkins" upholstery shop located in Trenton, but Scott was unable to find a shop by this name on the internet. Larry was not in attendance at the meeting to verify the name, but others confirmed that there is an "Adkins Upholstery" shop, located in Trenton, OH, that does good work. A website for the business was also found during the meeting. A brief discussion of replacement convertible tops followed after which a motion was made to approve the September meeting minutes. Dave Harvey made the motion, which was seconded by Rick Kolmin.

**Membership Update/Discussion**: Next, President Mike welcomed new member Matt Heidenreich to the club. Matt is the owner of a very nice '65 Thunderbird, painted the rare factory color of "Honey Gold" with matching interior. Matt recently attended a car show at one of the local Dorothy Lane Markets with his T-bird, where he ran into an owner of a Buick Electra (later confirmed to be Mike Armstrong, organizer of the "That Day in May Festival" in Oakwood) who encouraged him to join the local Thunderbird club. Matt searched for our TSWO club's website where he found contact information for and reached out to President Mike for more information about the club. Matt is excited to join a local club of other Thunderbird owners.

There were no changes to existing contact information for those members in attendance at the meeting.

**Thunderbird Updates:** When President Mike asked if there were any Thunderbird updates by anyone in attendance, Roger Hamm shared the (mis)adventures he experienced the prior Sunday after attending a car show at the (now closed) Underground Chucks restaurant in Miami Township with his '78 Diamond Jubilee Thunderbird. Roger experienced car trouble on the way home when a good Samaritan stopped and offered to give him a tow home after he went home and retrieved his trailer. The entire saga is too lengthy to include in these meeting minutes. Interested club members will have to hit Roger up for the complete story. The underlying issue with Roger's Diamond Jubilee was due to a clogged or crimped fuel line, which was replaced during the afternoon's adventures.

Next, Ron Heinz shared that he recently picked up the front seats for his '90 Super Coupe from Dewey's Auto Trim where he had new leather covers installed. Ron hopes to have his Super Coupe put back together and ready for driving and display soon.

**Sunshine Committee Report:** Moving on to the next item on the agenda, President Mike acknowledged the 3 club member birthdays and 3 wedding anniversaries occurring in September. The names and dates for those birthdays and anniversaries were published in the September edition of the club newsletter as well as on the evening's meeting agenda.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lisa Hamm again reported that there was no activity in the club treasury for the month of August, so the balance at the beginning and the end of the previous month was the same.

**Old Business**: A review of the club's August 15th visit to the Model T Museum in Richmond, IN was the topic of old business. Feedback was heard from several club members who participated in this activity. All found the visit to be very worthwhile and more than they expected.

**New Business:** Under new business, President Mike again reminded everyone that raffle tickets were still available for the die-cast model of the T-bird, truck, and trailer that will be awarded to one lucky ticket holder at the November club meeting.

**Club Activity Plans:** Next, discussion of plans for upcoming club activities got underway. Discussion of possible dates for a September visit to Valley Vineyards for another one of their weekend cookouts ultimately resulted in the decision by meeting attendees to postpone this for another time as no remaining Saturdays in September were available for the majority of those interested in participating in this activity.
Club member Ron Heinz reminded everyone of the upcoming Fairlane Club of America's All-Ford Meet at Bennie Combs' home in Wilmington, OH, on Sunday, September 27th. RSVP to Ron or Dani (937-657-3975) if you plan to attend.

The planned event for October is a covered bridge tour. Scott McGaha and Brett Andrews are putting together the itinerary for this event. Details and a potential date will be communicated soon to everyone in the club.

The November event will be a pizza party. Ron's Pizza in Miamisburg will likely be the venue. Date, time, and location will be communicated to all club members as the month gets closer.

The club Christmas party will be hosted by the Station House restaurant, located on the St. Leonard campus in Centerville, on Thursday, December 10th. Additional reminders with details will come as the date approaches.

**Open Floor:** Under open floor, Secretary Scott queried those Retrobird owners in attendance at the meeting to see if any of them were experiencing any issues with the latching mechanism on their convertible soft tops. This is a common failure point on these Thunderbirds. No one other than Scott is experiencing this problem presently, but Scott offered to go into more detail on this topic at a future meeting.

**Calendar of Car Events:** Three recurring area car events were listed on the agenda and discussed at the meeting:

- Horsepower Farm Cars & Coffee— 8am-noon, the 1st Saturday of every month Jan.-Dec. 2227 Trinity Drive, Middletown
- Rip Rap Roadhouse Friday Nite Cruise-Ins, starts at 7 pm, 6024 Rip Rap Road, Dayton,
- Liberty Center Cars & Coffee – 8am-noon on the 3rd Saturday, May-October, at Liberty Center parking garage off Taylor Street in Liberty Center.

**Thunderbird Presentation:** Mike's presentation this month was on the 7th generation T-bird – the 1977-79 "Torino Birds." The presentation will be posted on the TSWO website.

**Next Meeting:** Following the Thunderbird presentation, Mike reminded everyone that the next monthly TSWO meeting will be on Thursday, October 8th, 6:45 p.m., at MCL Cafeteria in Kettering.

**Adjournment:** There being no further items on the agenda, President Mike called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Adam Gulden and seconded by Shane Soniat. With no objections, Mike declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

*Mike Hall*
**President**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Happy Birthday wishes and Anniversary congratulations to our September celebrants.

**October Birthdays**

6th: Adam Gulden
8th: Karen Burrey

**October Anniversaries**

2nd: Peg & Brett Andrews (55 yrs)
8th: Dave Koehler & Barbara Kramer (40 yrs)
20th: Dave & Nancy Moore (42 yrs)
22nd: Shane & Julie Soniat (9 yrs)

Something exciting happened to me this month. I made a new classic car friend – someone I would never have suspected.

I was recently in Pigeon Forge with a large family group, enjoying the country styled surroundings together. As it turned out, there was a classic car show going on for miles down on the main strip. Of course, a bunch of us guys wanted to go see it. As we discussed getting ready to drive to the strip to see them, I asked if anyone else wanted to go. To my surprise, my thirteen-year-old great niece spoke up that she liked classic cars. After I got up from the floor (figuratively), I invited her to join us, which she did. Turns out she had a great time and loved all the classic cars and trucks. Especially, all the great colors of the 1950's models.

The next Saturday, there was a car show in Bellefontaine at one of the big Auto Groups, so I invited her to join me. I picked her up in my Thunderbird, which she absolutely loved, and we spent several great hours viewing all the classic cars and trucks there. She liked learning about each one and picked out several that she would love to have someday. My Thunderbird was the only one there, but had there been more of them, I'm sure she would have picked them.

I say all this to point out that it can still happen, yet. You can find a classic car buff to share with in the most unlikely place. Now, I have a friend who wants to go to car shows with me, and I'm delighted. I would never have dreamed it would be a thirteen-year-old girl.

*Mike*

# The All-Ford Car Show

On Sunday, September 27th, ten TSWO members and a member guest attended the All-Ford Car Show near Wilmington, Ohio. Club participants included Adam Gulden, Shane Soniat, Jeff Almond, Dave Harvey & guest Aaron Skulley, Scott McGaha, Ed Conway, Gary Hufford, Ron Heinz, and Lisa & Roger Hamm. While at the event TWSO signed up three new members.

Our club had the opportunity to meet with many members of "The Fairlane Club of America". The show not only showcased Fairlanes but also Thunderbirds, Mustangs, Falcons, Cougars and Torinos. Ron Heinz, a good friend of the property owners where the event was held and a longstanding member of The Fairlane Club, spearheaded the effort. It was a beautiful day to enjoy the cars and share a potluck lunch.

Below are a few pictures from the show provided by Roger. If anyone has other photos or information they would like to add about the day's events, send it to me and I can include it in the writeup ad photos which will soon be added to our club website under "Recent Club Events".

# Important Reminder

Lisa Hamm, our TSWO treasurer, will begin accepting 2027 club dues ($10) beginning this month. You can pay her at the club meeting or mail it to her. Her home address can be found on our Club Membership Roster. (Note: we do not publish home addresses of club members)

## From the "Just in Case You Didn't Know" File

## October 18th is "Sweetest Day".

Sweetest Day started in Cleveland, Ohio, around 1921-1922, as a charitable effort by local candy makers and an advertising agency to distribute sweets and small gifts to orphans, the elderly, and other less fortunate individuals. The holiday spread nationally, with support from companies like American Greetings, and evolved to celebrate all forms of appreciation for loved ones, friends, and acquaintances.

## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591
Vice President: Adam Gulden (513) 615-6269
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763
Secretary: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414