THUNDERBIRDS

of Southwest Ohio

Newsletter

September 2025

(www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: President Scott McGaha began this month's meeting at MCL Cafeteria with a couple whacks of his Presidential hammer at exactly 6:45 PM on Thursday, August 14th. After offering copies of the agenda to any who might not have brought their own, he welcomed 14 members to tonight's meeting.

Attendees: The 14 members in attendance tonight included President Scott McGaha, Vice President Mike Hall, Secretary Dave Harvey, Treasurer Lisa & Past President Roger Hamm, Brett Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Larry & Jo Doelker, Adam Gulden, Ron Heinz, Gary Hufford, and Jim Russell. Ron & Linda Prater emailed President Scott that they would be unable to attend, due to an urgent medical situation with their dog. Mark & Jackie Allen were unable to attend, due to Mark being in Atlanta to be with his sister during a serious illness. Rick Kolmin also sent his regrets.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July meeting were published in the August newsletter (sent out recently by email). President Scott asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion of those minutes. The motion was made by Past President Roger Hamm and was seconded by Secretary Dave Harvey. President Scott then opened the floor for any discussion, questions, comments, etc. regarding the July minutes as posted in the most recent newsletter. Although there was a brief discussion about an erroneous meeting date having been listed (in addition to the correct date), there were no other comments, corrections, etc. noted about the minutes themselves, and they were approved as presented in the newsletter by unanimous consent, taking into consideration the aforementioned meeting date comment.

Membership Update/Discussion: President Scott asked if anyone had any leads as to any prospective members, but there were no prospects to report. In addition, he asked if there were any changes to report on anyone's contact information (such as addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc.). As was the case with prospective members, there were no updates to any current member information.

He then asked if anyone had any Thunderbird updates (either vehicles newly acquired or recently disposed of, or work in process or recently completed). Roger's '78 Diamond Jubilee is still in the shop, and he expects it to run like a top when it's finished.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Scott reported, as listed on the agenda, there are 3 August birthdays: Ron Heinz, on the 14th (today – he brought a cake to share with everyone after the meeting); Jeff Conrad, on the 24th; and Bea Walsh, on the 26th. In addition, there are 2 August anniversaries: Roger & Lisa Hamm, on the 4th; and Jerry & Karen Burrey, on the 14th (today). Congratulations and best wishes to all on their special days.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported there was no activity to report for July.

Old Business: President Scott reminded everyone that officer elections (Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) will be conducted at the October meeting, and that anyone interested in running for one of these offices can download a Candidacy Letter from our web site, complete it, and deliver it to current Vice-President (soon to be elevated to President) Mike Hall, no later than at the September club meeting. The term of each office is 2 years, and further details can be found in the July newsletter (the last couple of pages or so). Please re-read that section of the July newsletter (or see Article V, Election Procedures, in our by-laws). Either of these sources can be found on our web site. Please SERIOUSLY consider "throwing your hat into the ring" for one of these positions. Our club would benefit greatly from the ideas and efforts of "new blood," so please give this some very serious thought.

New Business: At President Scott's request, board member Brett Andrews verbally described the election process.

Next Club Meeting: Our next club meeting will be on Thursday, September 11th, in our customary MCL Cafeteria meeting room. Please join us as 5:45 PM for dinner, and our meeting will start at 6:45 PM.

Open Floor: No topics were raised during this period.

Club Activities/Events Pool: For the proposed (not final) list of club activities being discussed/planned for the remainder of the year, please refer to the meeting agenda that Scott sent out earlier this week. These plans are fluid in nature, so stay tuned (and be sure to read all future newsletters) for updates.

Scott reiterated that we have had several club events recently, including: B&B Riverboat lunch cruise (Ron Prater & Jackie Allen coordinated this event, and Jackie said that Ron "carried the water" on this outing, while she assisted with many of the details); a Thunderbird show preceding the Dayton Dragons game (after which the skies opened up and rain poured down sufficiently that the game had to be canceled); "Hot Summer Nights" parade and Cruise-In in Bellefontaine; and the Washington Township ice cream social.

Calendar of Car Events:

One-time car events:

- Boomerfest will be held at St. Leonard's this coming Saturday, August 16th. Those who are willing to help out at this event are asked to be at St. Leonard's between 11:00 and 11:30 AM. There will be quite a selection of live music, as well as plenty of food.
- St Leonard's Cruise-In will be on Saturday, September 6th. Those who are going to help at this event are asked to arrive at 9:00 AM to help set up (the cruise-in hours are from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM). There will be food and music.
- The Shrine Car Show will be on Sunday, August 24th.
- 8th Annual FCA and Ford Car Show will be on Sunday, September 28th.

Recurring car events:

- Horsepower Farm Cars & Coffee from 8:00 AM to noon (1st Saturday of each month, year around).
- American Legion Post 668 Cruise-In, 8220 N. Dixie Dr. (3rd Sunday of every month, noon to 4:00 PM)

Special Presentation: Special Presentation: Before proceeding with Mike Hall's special presentation, President Scott called for a brief break to allow people to grab a piece of Ron Heinz' birthday cake, to enjoy during the presentation.

Vice-President, Mike Hall, gave his presentation on the 2002 Ford super-charged Thunderbird one-of-a-kind concept car. The purpose of building this car was for Ford to gauge public interest in this type of car, and to try to determine if this might be a marketable car. When it was built, it was not street legal. Therefore, the dealer who bought this car had a lot of work to do (around $56,000 worth) in order to make it legal for street use. For Mike's complete presentation, please visit our web site (http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com) and click on the "Items of Interest" tab. All in all, this was a truly outstanding and desirable car.

Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Scott called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Adam Gulden and seconded by Jo Doelker. Without objection, President Scott summarily declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Scott McGaha
President

Birthdays & Anniversaries in September: We've several birthdays and anniversaries this month. Best wishes to you all as you celebrate your special day.

September Birthdays

13th: Bill Korber
21st: Larry Doelker
25th: Jim Ross
29th: Ed Conway

September Anniversaries

9th: Mark & Jackie Allen (36 yrs)
12th: Mike & Jeanne Hall (54 yrs)

Greetings Thunderbirders

While I don't wish to be "that guy" that incessantly talks about the weather, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge this crazy beautiful weather we've been having here in southwest Ohio for the past couple of weeks. And it looks like we're in for at least another week of the same. Gotta love it!!

I hope all of you have been able to get your Thunderbirds and other fun vehicles out of their "nests" to enjoy this fine weather for driving. On Saturday, September 6th, many club members helped once again to host a successful cruise-in at St. Leonard. By the time we finished the tiny bit of prep work for the event and had a donut or two and some coffee, the morning overcast skies gave way to a sunny and mild midday. DJ Tony was spinning a nice mix of songs, many of which had car-themed lyrics, while Chef Greg and his assistant grilled up some tasty hamburgers, hotdogs, and bratwursts for consumption. Club members Dave Menke and Dave Harvey sold 50-50 raffle tickets that resulted in a $76 cash prize going home to one lucky attendee. While cars came and went throughout the day, we had over 30 cars total in attendance.

And we still have a few more car-related events to look forward to before the season ends. Charlie White is inviting everyone to attend the final "***Car and Bike Cruise-In 2025***" event at the American Legion Post 668 in Vandalia on Sunday, September 21st, noon-4pm. Ron Heinz is our club liaison for the 8th annual "*Fairlane Club of America and Ford Show*" in Wilmington on Sunday, September 28th, noon-5pm. He will no doubt have final details for us at the September club meeting. And we're still trying to settle on a date and other logistics for our covered bridge driving tour and possibly combining it with our Valley Vineyards cookout event in Morrow. We will be discussing all of this and more at the next club meeting at MCL Cafeteria in Kettering on Thursday, September 11th, from 6:45-8pm. Bring your up-to-date social calendar and join us if you can!

TSWO Members Assist at St Leonard's Cruise-in

On Saturday, September 6th, TSWO members attended and aided the staff at St Leonard Senior Living Facility in Centerville by setting up and conducting their annual classic car cruise-in. Club participants included Scott McGaha, Dave Harvey, Roger & Lisa Hamm, Brett Andrews, Dave Menke, Ron Heinz, Adam Gulden, Jeff Almond, Charlie White, and Ed Conway. Members erected a tent, conducted a 50-50 raffle, distributed blank car description sheets to the classic car drivers, set out parking cones, and directed vehicles to the parking area. Club member cars on display included six Retro Birds, two Super Birds, and a Ford Fusion. Below is a few broad view picture from the event. Additional photos will soon be available on our club website.

An Update to an August Newsletter Writeup

(by: Brett Andrews)

In the August newsletter article covering our club's riverboat cruise on the Ohio River, in addition to a description and photos of the day's activities, the article concluded with a big Thank You to Jackie Allen for her efforts in coordinating the event. Later at the August meeting I learned that Ron Prater was also heavily involved in planning and organizing what turned out to be a fantastic club outing. Sorry Ron for failing to mention your equally significant contributions. THANK YOU. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Final Reminder - Club Officer Elections

Club officer elections will be held at our October 9th membership meeting. If you're interested in becoming a club officer (vice president, treasurer, or secretary), see the election description procedures writeup in our July newsletter or Article V, Election Procedures, in our club bylaws. Both sources can be accessed on our website. Completed Candidacy Letters for any of these three positions are due to VP Mike Hall not later than our club meeting on September 11th. Blank Candidacy Letters can be printed off from our website, under "TSWO Bylaws", item 6 on the list of bylaws attachments.

Monday, Sept 22nd 2:19 pm EDT

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414
Vice President: Mike Hall (937) 599-4591
Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 728-0763
Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885