THUNDERBIRDS

OF SOUTHWEST OHIO

Newsletter

September 2026
(www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The August 2026 meeting of the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio (TSWO) car club was held on Thursday, August 13th, at MCL Cafeteria, located in Kettering, OH. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by President Mike Hall and paper copies of the meeting agenda were distributed to those club members who did not already have one.

Attendees: Eighteen TSWO members were in attendance: President Mike, Vice President Adam Gulden, Treasurer Lisa Hamm and Roger, Secretary Scott McGaha, members Mark & Jackie Allen, Jeff Almond, Nancy & Julie Blake, Larry & Jo Doelker, Dave Harvey, Ron Heinz, Paul Loschi, Dave Menke, Norm Orlowski, and Jim Russell

Approval of Minutes: After asking if anyone in attendance at the meeting had any comments or changes to the July meeting minutes as published in the August club newsletter, President Mike called for a motion of approval. Such motion was made by Dave Harvey and seconded by Vice President Adam.

Membership Update/Discussion: There were no changes to existing contact information for those members in attendance at the meeting.

Vice President Adam said he needed additional copies of the membership application form to pass out to people interested in joining the club that he meets at area car events. President Mike reminded everyone that membership applications can be printed off the club website and encouraged everyone to carry copies in their Thunderbirds when attending car events to hand out to folks interested in joining the club.

Thunderbird Updates: When asked if anyone had any new Thunderbirds recently purchased or repairs/improvements made to existing Thunderbirds, Larry Doelker announced that he recently got a new convertible soft top and a coil-over-plug installed on cylinder #7 of his yellow '02 retrobird.

Dave Menke announced that with assistance from Roger Hamm he had resolved the "hub cap issue" with his '66 Flairbird

Sunshine Committee Report: Moving on to the next item on the agenda, President Mike acknowledged the 3 club member birthdays and 2 wedding anniversaries occurring in August. The names and dates for those birthdays and anniversaries were published in the August edition of the club newsletter and again on the evening meeting agenda.

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

Old Business: Under the topic of Old Business, President Mike asked for a brief overview from Secretary Scott on how the cruise in was at the Boomerfest festival at St. Leonard on August 8th. Scott reported that weather was nice, attendance was good, and about 45 cars showed up for this event. He was assisted by Roger Hamm, Dave Harvey, and Rick Kolmin. Ed Conway also showed up at this event with his red '03 retrobird.

President Mike gave an overview of Hot Summer Nights in Bellefontaine, OH, which also took place on August 8th. Despite a brief rain shower during the middle of the event, it was a success with over 400 cars on display and thousands of people in attendance on the streets of the town.

New Business: Under new business, President Mike 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. A review of the arrival time and activities planned for the upcoming visit to the Model T Museum in Richmond, IN, on August 15th were discussed.

Upcoming club events in September include a trip to Valley Vineyards in Morrow, OH for a cookout dinner. A date for this event has not been determined yet. The All-Ford Show in Wilmington, OH, takes place on Sunday, September 27th.

The October planned event is another covered bridge driving tour in Montgomery and Preble counties. No date has been set yet.

The event for November is a pizza party. Suggestions were solicited for pizza places to host this event. A venue decision will be made soon and communicated to the club.

Dave Menke reminded everyone of the club Christmas dinner that will be hosted at the Station House restaurant at St. Leonard on Thursday, December 10th. Meal options are still being finalized, but we are looking at having a buffet with a few entrée options to choose from. Arrival time and a final headcount of those planning to attend will need to be determined by the end of November.

Open Floor: Under open floor, an overview of the Thunderbird display before the Dragons baseball game on Sunday, July 26th, was provided. We had 5 Thunderbirds on display and 10 people attended the game. Due to the low turnout despite favorable weather, we will probably not do this event again next year.

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: President Mike's presentation this month was on the 6th generation Thunderbird – the 1972-76 "Big Birds." The full 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, September 10th, 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 Roger Hamm and seconded by Jim Russell. With no objections, Mike declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Mike Hall
President

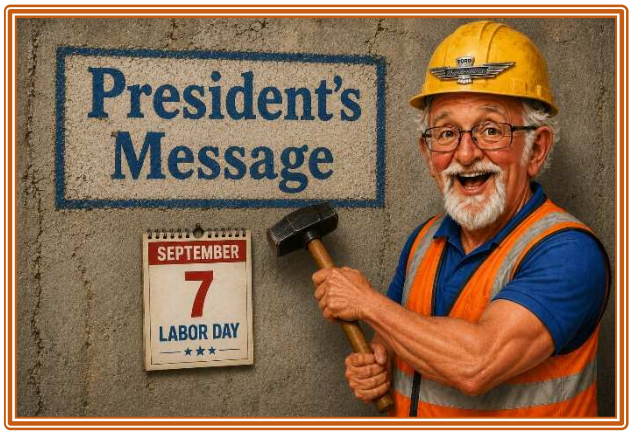
Birthdays & Anniversaries: Happy Birthday wishes and Anniversary congratulations to our September celebrants.

September Birthdays

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

September Anniversaries

9th: Mark & Jackie Allen (37 yrs)
12th: Mike & Jeanne Hall (55 yrs)
23rd: Ron & Linda Prater (37 yrs)



At the August club meeting, I touched on meeting procedures and changes I need to make. In short, the meetings are running too long. This presents a problem for the MCL Cafeteria staff as well as for our members getting home in good time.

This President thing is new to me and I'm still learning. One of my goals is to manage our meeting time better. I will be careful to keep my comments brief, and I ask your help as well. If we wander off the subject, which happens on occasion, just stop me or throw something at me (no tomatoes, please). I may interrupt an errant conversation to point us back to the subject, so please understand that it is necessary, even though I don't wish to offend anyone. Please bear with me as I learn this job as I go. I truly enjoy the camaraderie with all of you.

I am so pleased that you folks seem to enjoy my Thunderbird Presentations, and though they add to the length of the meetings, they seem to be well received. I will be continuing the 11 Generations of Thunderbird until complete, then plan to start a series on Thunderbirds in the Movies and on TV. There are some really great ones and we'll have fun with them.

See you all on September 10th.

Mike

A Brief History of Labor Day

(by: Brett Andrews)

Labor Day in the U.S. originated during the Industrial Revolution when harsh working conditions led workers to demand better pay and shorter hours.

In the late 1800s, people often worked 12-hour days and 7-day weeks in dangerous factories and mines. On September 5, 1882, about 10,000 workers marched in New York City to support a day off and fair treatment. Oregon became the first state to pass a law recognizing Labor Day on February 21, 1887, and more states quickly followed.

In May 1894, a major strike by railway workers in Chicago turned violent after federal troops were sent to break it up. To repair ties with unhappy workers, Congress rushed to pass legislation, and President Grover Cleveland signed Labor Day into law on June 28, 1894. Over time, the holiday shifted from strict union rallies into a general celebration of workers and the unofficial end of summer.

TSWO Members Tour the Model T Museum

On Saturday, August 15th, nine club members and a guest visited the Model T Museum in Richmond, Indiana. Participants included Mike Hall, Adam Gulden, Scott McGaha and friend Ken, Roger and Lisa Hamm, Jim Russell, Ron Heinz, and Larry & Jo Doelker.

The Model T Museum in located in the Historic Depot District of Richmond, Indiana and houses over 40 vintage vehicles, era exhibits, and a replica of a 1900s Ford showroom. The museum features Model T variants, including a 1909 Touring, a rare 1912 Town Car, a 1925 fire truck, and the famous 5-millionth Model T produced (a 1921 Coupe). The exhibit also showcases unusual uses for the car, including a home-built wooden snowmobile and an early Pietenpol Sky Scout airplane powered by a Model T engine. In addition, the site includes a working 1920s mechanic repair shop, a cutaway chassis demonstrating inner mechanics, and hands-on displays

Members arrived in the mid-morning allowing plenty of time to check out the museum and the "*Richmond Vintage Ford Agency*," which is located across from and is part of the museum. A "Ford Agency" is what Ford car dealerships were called in the early days of the automobile.

Following the tour, club members lunched together at the Firehouse BBQ and Blues, located practically within walking distance of the museum. Additional photos of the museum tour can be found on our club website under "Recent Events"

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
9-11 PATRIOT DAY

2026

25th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Happy Labor Day

CLUB OFFICERS

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