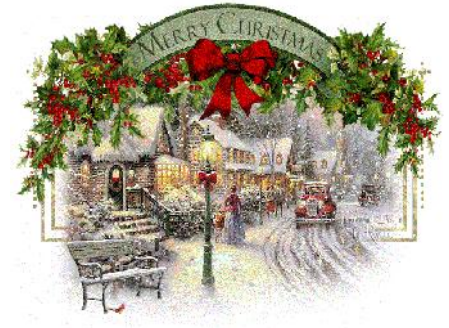




# Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio



**Newsletter**

**December, 2014**

[www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com](http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com)

Prior to the meeting, Brett and Peg surprised Nancy with a cake in honor of her 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Everyone enjoyed a piece of cake for dessert and Nancy took the rest home to share with Charles. (See pictures later in the newsletter as well as Nancy's Thunderbird story from the Dayton Daily News)

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

**Call to Order:** The November meeting was called to order by our President, Beverly Knauper, at 7:00 p.m., November 13th at the MCL Cafeteria.

**Attendees:** Peg & Brett Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Ruthie & Wayne Dennis, Jan & Guy Gifford, Lisa & Roger Hamm, Beverly Knauper & Jim Ross, Scott McGaha, and Jim Lenz.

**Approval of Minutes:** The October meeting minutes as shown in the November newsletter were without question or concern by the membership, and thus stand as published in the newsletter.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

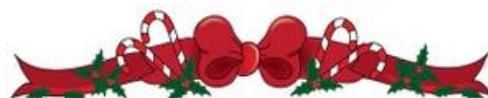
Roger announced he purchased a rare 1963 Thunderbird Morocco. It will need some work, but what a find.

Our President encouraged the membership to attend the All-Ford Swap Meet that will be held at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, November 29 and 30. Several members plan to attend, but no plans were made at this time to car pool or meet for lunch.

Beverly reminded the membership that both TSWO and VTCI dues are due in January 2015.

Beverly also mentioned several items from the Scoop magazine. First was a reminder of the Thunderbird 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration to be held in Dearborn Michigan, June 25-28. It is too early to make definite plans, but several members showed interest in going. Second, Beverly questioned whether we should enter our TSWO newsletter in the contest outlined on page 22 of the recent scoop. If we decide to enter, we need to have our entry to them by March. Next she mentioned if you are looking for gift ideas for the T-bird enthusiast you can look in the latest Scoop magazine or go to the Powersport Flyer website which has retro T-bird and Thunderbird 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary items.

As a project for 2015, Beverly would like for the club to do a review of our TSWO bylaws and revise them as necessary.



## REPORTS:

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa Hamm reported that she had written two checks from our treasury to reimburse a club member for club incurred expenses. She also presented the current club treasury balance.

**Event Planning Committee:** Roger, Vice President and Chairman of the event planning committee, again mentioned the upcoming after Thanksgiving All Ford Swap Meet in Columbus and suggested that if several members we planning to attend we could possible plan to get together for lunch. Although several members were interested in going, they were unsure if they could make a commitment at this time.

**Show Committee:** Brett reported that he has not heard any more from Kevin Sorice, the representative of the Sons of Italy, although he had specifically sent him messages asking what their intent was for next year. Until such time as we hear from the Sons of Italy there is nothing further to discuss on the topic. Wayne reported he had once again talked with the person in charge of the Beaver creek Popcorn Festival which is held every year on the Labor Day Weekend. Apparently, the Popcorn Festival Planning Committee approved, in principle, our club handling their car show. They are preparing a proposal for us to consider which we should receive in time for our January Club meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Our Christmas Party will be held at the MCL Cafeteria on December 11. Plan to arrive about 6:15. Nancy & Julie, Ruthie & Wayne will arrive early to arrange the tables, set out decorations and make things pretty and festive. We thank them for their hard work and generous spirit. We will again this year be having a white elephant gift exchange. So each person be sure to bring a wrapped present. We had such fun with it last year and anticipate the same response this year.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Beverly asked us all to be thinking of ideas that we could do sometime next year to showcase the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thunderbird. So, let's bring some ideas to our club meeting in January.

**OPEN FLOOR:** There were no comments or issues raised during the open floor.

**ADJOURN:** At 7:42 Beverly asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Jan and seconded by Wayne.



**Next Meeting: Christmas Party, December 11th, 6:15 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering**



### December Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Leona Brown
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Lisa Hamm
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Beverly Knauper
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Julie Blake
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Brett Andrews

### December Anniversaries

No December Anniversaries



### *From the President's Nest*

I hope your Thanksgiving was bountiful and happy. As 2014 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on our Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio year. Members took their Thunderbirds to car shows and cruise-ins, we hosted a car show, and toured the Center for Automotive Research. Our club picnic overflowed with great food and delightful conversation. We said good-bye (sadly) and best wishes (heart-felt) to Gary Hufford, one of the club's founding members, and eagerly anticipate meeting our new members (hint to new members). Our meetings are filled with laughter and friendship.

We're lucky to share our enjoyment of Thunderbirds with one another. Make sure you pay your TSWO and VTCL dues so you can continue the fun in 2015. It's a big year - the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thunderbird. If you learn of Thunderbird celebration events let Peg or me know or announce them at a club meeting so we can put them in the newsletter. There is the June 25-28 event in Dearborn. The Ford Nationals in Carlisle, PA (June 5-7) will have a special Thunderbird display and is now accepting nominations of cars for display. The Ault Park Concours d'Elegance (June 12-14 in Cincinnati) is also having a special display of "60 Years of the Thunderbird". Nominations are now being accepted. I haven't located information about the Dayton concours yet. Seems like we may want to plan our vacations for June.

While 2015 should be an enjoyable Thunderbird year, we're not finished with 2014 yet. We have our holiday party on Thursday, December 11 at MCL. Last year's party was the most fun ever so don't miss this one!

**A Surprise for Nancy:** Nancy and Charles Blake reached a major milestone in their marriage this month. They are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Although Charles was unable to be with us at the meeting, the club joined together to celebrate this major life event by surprising Nancy with a cake commemorating their 60 year bond.



### CLUB OFFICERS

President: Beverly Knauper (513) 752-8821  
 Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 835-5992

Vice President: Roger Hamm (937) 835-5992  
 Secretary: Peg Andrews (937) 237-1131

### Upcoming Club Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Club Christmas Celebration	6:15 p.m. December 11 <sup>th</sup>	MCL Cafeteria

# Nancy and Julie's T-Bird Story

(As printed in the Dayton Daily News, January 7, 2004)

## A BIG BIRD NESTS IN KETTERING By John Bruning

People were always asking Nancy Blake what year her vintage Thunderbird was. So, she got custom tags that answered the question before it could be asked.

The tags—"LV MY 66"—also announce the affection she, husband Charles and daughter, Julie, have for their flawless, totally original 1966 Ford Thunderbird Town Hardtop.



Charles Blake long regarded the '66 T-Bird as his favorite make and model of vehicle and wanted to own one if the opportunity presented itself. One day in 1990 the Blakes were driving near Springfield, passed a used-car lot, and, "there it was," Nancy Blake recalled.

The car called to them, and they responded. It embodied everything they wanted in their first and only collectible vehicle. And despite its age at the time, the car was all-original, with fewer than 40,000 miles on the odometer, and looked like it just came from a new-car showroom.

That's where a "little old lady from Pasadena" comes in. As in the '60s pop song, the car's first owner actually was an elderly woman (presumed to be diminutive in stature) in Pasadena, Calif. And she chose her luxurious, options-loaded car well and took meticulous care of it. So did the second owner, so that the Blakes were eventually able to discover it perched magnificently in the car lot.

Charles Blake found the ideal hobby car for his family, and his wife and daughter became active members of the Heartland of Ohio Vintage Thunderbird Club of America. Nancy and Julie have taken the car to many cruise-ins and shows, with Charles joining in for major events. The family's home in Kettering is filled with trophies and awards.

But the Blakes' totally original big bird is really in a class of its own. T-Bird emblems spread their wings, respectively, in front, in the perfect, wide expanse of checkerboard grille, and, in back, in the midst of wide taillights with sequential turn signals. And the car's molded lines create a strong, distinctive look.

The original paint, a light metallic blue called Silver Mink, and the chrome accents gleam. "People either love the color or hate it," Nancy said.

The interior is luxurious, flawless and includes a curved rear seat. There is a powerful 428 engine, factory air and power windows and doors. Dave Hyder of Fairborn services the car.

The Blakes stay busy in the local and national T-bird clubs, and Nancy has served as treasurer of the local club since 1996. For that, and other volunteer services, she recently received the national club's top annual award, the Kimrey Award.

The family operates a home-based business, Blake Heating Service and Repair. There are three other adult daughters: Debbie Brooks and Sharon Henderson, both of Bellbrook; and Karen Blake, of Florida.