



Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio Newsletter



June 2024
(www.thunderbirds-sw-

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: President Scott McGaha hammered our May meeting to order at 6:46 PM on Thursday, May 9th, at MCL Cafeteria. He welcomed the 19 members in attendance.

Attendees: Those members in attendance tonight included President Scott McGaha, Vice-President Mike Hall, Secretary Dave Harvey, Mark & Jackie Allen, Jeff Almond, Nancy & Julie Blake, Adam Gulden, Ron Heinz, Paul Loschi, Dave & Susan Menke, Ron & Linda Prater, Jim Russell, Owen & Carol Taylor, and Charlie White.

Approval of Minutes: Since the minutes from the April meeting had been published in the May newsletter (sent out by email on Monday), President Scott asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion of those minutes. The motion was made by Jim Russell and was seconded by Ron Prater. President Scott then asked if there were any questions, concerns, corrections, comments or anything else regarding the April minutes as posted in the most recent newsletter. There being no questions, concerns, corrections, comments, or concerns about the minutes, President Scott called for a vote to approve the minutes, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Membership Update/Discussion: President Scott asked if anyone had any changes to report in contact information or any other roster updates. There were none to report.

Next, President Scott asked if anyone had any Thunderbird updates (either vehicles newly acquired or recently disposed of, or work in progress or recently completed). Dave Harvey reported that he and his son were still occasionally troubleshooting the electrical problems with their '64 T-bird. After having started and run successfully when moving the car to its storage facility, all of a sudden it wouldn't restart once it was put in place. The starter turned extremely slowly, and the negative battery cable became too hot to touch. After removing the starter and having it tested, it was pronounced "OK, but it turns a bit slowly." They reinstalled the starter, but still had the same problem. The next step will be to remove the battery and have it tested (to make sure it isn't internally shorted). More to follow at the next meeting.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Scott reported our May birthdays and anniversaries. Birthdays included Jim Russel (a week ago, on May 2nd), and Sherry Loschi (tomorrow, May 10th). Anniversaries being celebrated in May (coincidentally, both these couples share the same anniversary) include Dave & Deb Harvey (their 37th) and Jeff & Gayle Conrad (their 33rd).

Treasurer's Report: Since Treasurer Lisa Hamm was not going to be at the meeting (due to accompanying Roger to the hospital for some tests that needed to be run), she called Scott and asked him to relay to the group that the only change in our financial condition for the past month was the deposit of Jeff Almond's dues.

Special Presentation: To recognize a famous annual May car event, Vice-President Mike Hall decided to have this month's presentation be all about the 1961 Thunderbird Indianapolis 500 Pace Car. While this was the 50th anniversary of running of the first Indianapolis 500, it was not the 51st race, due to suspension of the race during the war years. The 1961 Thunderbird, with its breathtaking new styling, was a natural choice to be designated the Pace Car. Ford produced a total of 34 of these special cars, one being the Official Pace Car, one being an alternate Official Pace Car, and 32 being Official "500" Festival Cars. All 34 cars were painted in a unique gold color that was not available on any other car (not even other Thunderbirds). All cars featured white convertible tops and black interiors (either leather or vinyl), and sported Firestone Tires (which was a sponsor of the 500). One exception to this uniform design was that the Official Pace Car was outfitted with a light Pearl Beige leather interior (elegant, indeed!).

The 32 "Festival" cars were used in the traditional parade held in the week leading up to the race. Those 32 cars plus the alternate Official Pace car represented the 33 drivers who would start the race. Each of the 32 "Festival" cars was sponsored by a Ford dealership, which got to emblazon its name on the rear quarter panel of the car. Once the race was over, the "Festival" cars were turned over to the respective sponsoring dealers, which (presumably) then offered the cars for sale to the public. Of the 34 special Thunderbirds, only 6 have been located and documented to date (one of those 6 was destroyed in a fire in Wisconsin). Of the remaining five, two are located in Indiana, one in Wisconsin, one in Arkansas, and one is believed to be in Iowa.

To close out his presentation, Mike showed a short home movie of various celebrities and drivers being driven around the track in one of these special Thunderbirds.

Special thanks to Mike for his time and effort in presenting this special 1961 Thunderbird, the Indianapolis "500" 50th Anniversary Official Pace Car.

Club Activities/Events: As a reminder, Thunderbird Appreciation Day will be on the 3rd Sunday in May (the 19th). Although not tied into that date specifically, we will be holding a doughnut run around that date, either Saturday or Sunday (depending on the forecast). Scott and Brett are organizing this event. Scott handed out a possible itinerary for the members to review. Scott

discussed several items concerning the possible itinerary, but the final decisions as to stops will be made by the organizers, Scott and Brett.

The Troy Strawberry Festival will hold a car show, as usual, on Sunday, June 2nd. This could be a good club event, if we could have several people enter their Thunderbirds.

Hemmings Great Race participants are scheduled to have lunch in Lancaster, OH, on Sunday, June 23rd, at 12:30 PM. We're going to try to organize a trip to Lancaster to view the Great Race cars while the drivers have lunch.

July's event will be a Covered Bridge tour - more details to follow.

August will have two events to choose from that occur on the same date, a trip to Greenville, Ohio, to visit the Garst Museum/Annie Oakley Museum and an outing to Hot Summer Nights in Bellefontaine, OH. There was some confusion originally on the date of the Hot Summer Nights event, but it has since been confirmed by <http://topofohiocruisers.com/> to be on August 10th. (NOTE: it was decided by event planners after the May meeting to drop the Hot Summer Nights event in Bellefontaine from the club activities list for this year due to the date conflict. We will move it to the list of club activities for next year.)

We will be assisting St. Leonard in hosting a cruise-in from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Saturday, September 7th. This event is mostly intended for the residents at St. Leonard to enjoy some time outside with some old cars.

September has several events that should be of interest to our members: Dayton Concours d'Elegance (September 15th); WACO Fly-In (September 21st & 22nd, with a car show on the 22nd); Fairlane & Torino Club meet (September 29th, with Ron Heinz hosting); Tipp City Mum Festival (September 28th & 29th, with a car show to kick the event off on Friday evening, the 27th).

Old Business: There was a great deal of discussion around whether or not we wanted to participate in some parade events. The first one coming up is the Air Show parade on Friday, June 21st. A question was asked if we might have missed the deadline for submitting the application to participate, but Scott will check on this (hopefully, we'll be able to get into the parade). There is also a parade in Mason in September that might be a possibility for us.

New Business: A new page has been added to our web site (<http://www.thunderbirds-sw-ohio.com/>) to allow members to order club apparel (click on the link labeled "Club Apparel" on the left side of the page).

Calendar of Car Events: Our next club meeting will be on June 13th at our usual location, MCL Cafeteria (with dinner at 5:45 PM, followed by our meeting at 6:45 PM).

One-time car events:

- VTCI International Convention, Grand Rapids, MI - August 7th - 11th.
- Dayton Concours d'Elegance - September 15th at Carillon Park

Recurring car events:

- Cars & Coffee at Horsepower Farm from 8:00 AM to noon (1st Saturday of each month, year around).
- Cars & Coffee at Liberty Center from 8:00 AM to noon (3rd Saturday of each month, May October).
- Dayton Cars & Coffee at Austin Landing from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM (*generally* the 4th Saturday of each month, April - October, although it moves to the 3rd Saturdays in July and August, and to the 2nd Saturday in September, in order to coordinate with the Dayton Concours d'Elegance, which will be the next day).
- Springfield Cars & Coffee in downtown Springfield (*generally* 9:00 AM to noon on the 1st Saturday of each month, April - September: exceptions are June 1st, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM, and August 3rd, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM).
- 30th Annual Hot Rod Power Tour (expecting nearly 6,000 cars) will be held from June 10th through June 14th. It will launch this year in Bowling Green, KY. Day 2 it will move to Nashville, TN. On day 3, the tour migrates to Louisville, KY. On day 4, it moves to Hebron, OH, and finally concludes on day 5 in Indianapolis, IN. Visit <https://www.motortrend.com/events/hot-rod-power-tour-2024-route-announcement/> for more details.
- Kettering American Legion (5700 Kentshire Dr.) holds cruise-ins once a month (on Sundays) from May through September, beginning at 11:00 AM. This year's dates are: May 19th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th and September 22nd.

Open Floor: Vice-President Mike Hall commented that MCL is now open (at least for the summer months) until 8:30 PM.

Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Scott called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Dave Menke and seconded by Jim Russell. With a rap of the gavel, President Scott declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM EST.

Scott McGaha
President

Birthdays & Anniversaries in June: We struck gold for birthdays and anniversaries for June. We have five birthdays and four anniversaries. Best wishes and congratulations to you all.



June Birthdays

Michael Bach (12th)
Dave Harvey (18th)
Becky White (18th)
Jo Doelker (24th)
Carol Taylor (28th)
Mark Allen (29th)
Mike Hall (29th)

June Anniversaries

Larry & Jo Doelker (16th)
(51 yrs)
Charlie & Becky White (18th)
(47 yrs)
Paul & Sherry Loschi (20th)
(15 yrs)
Dave & Susan Menke (23rd)
(45 yrs)
Michael & Donna Bach (27th)
(54 yrs)



Greetings fellow Thunderbird appreciators!

I will keep this brief so that both author and reader can return to enjoying this lovely mild June weather we've been having here in the Miami valley these past few days.

If you were unable to make it to the Dayton Donut Run that took place on Saturday, May 18th, you missed a GREAT TIME!! We had a good turnout, and the weather was nearly ideal despite the forecast calling for a chance of rain. I anticipate there is a short write-up about the event elsewhere in this newsletter, but be sure and check out the full article, including more pictures, on the "Recent Club Events" page of our TSWO club website.

And speaking of club events, we have two more exciting events on the calendar for June. They both fall on the same weekend, too!

The first is participation in the 46th Annual Vandalia-Butler Air Show Parade in Vandalia, Ohio, on Friday, June 21st. I received the check-in instructions via e-mail earlier this week and will be reviewing them at our next club meeting this Thursday, June 13th. Please come to the meeting to hear all about it, and I hope you will be able to participate with your Thunderbird. We need to have a good turnout for this event!!

The second event is a lunch trip to Lancaster, Ohio, on Sunday, June 23rd. The 2024 Hemmings Great Race, the world's premier old car rally, is scheduled to stop there for lunch that day on their way to the finish line in Gardiner, Maine on June 30th. Details for this event will also be discussed at our next meeting, but the general plan is to be in Lancaster, Ohio to cheer them on

when they stop for lunch (and maybe get our picture in a future edition of Hemming Motor News magazine).

We also have a covered bridge tour to put together for July, and plans are already in process for a trip to Greenville, Ohio to visit the Garst Museum on Saturday, August 10th.

That's just a small sampling of what's happening in your TSWO club this season. Please try to attend the next club meeting on Thursday, June 13th, to learn more about these events and other upcoming car activities in the region.

As always, drive safely everybody.

Scott



TSWO “Thunderbird Appreciation Day”

Donut Run 2024

(by: Brett Andrews)



It's has been several years since the club has done a donut run, so members were looking forward to the 2024 run with much anticipation. It was talked about for several months with the ultimate decision to do it in conjunction with Thunderbird Appreciation Day which was to be celebrated on May 19th. However, in Scott's research to select the shops to visit, he noted that a few of the shops were not open on Sundays and others of them closed early. So, it was agreed it best if we observe Thunderbird Appreciation Day on Saturday, the 18th. As that date approached, it looked as if the weather would not cooperate. Scott sent out several e-mails and made multiple

calls concerning the event, not the least of which focused on the possible impact of the predicted weather. We were on pins and needles. Just when it looked like the event may have to be postponed to a later date, the weather began changing for the better. Though the prediction was at the 30+ percent probability of rain on our event date, when the day arrived it was beautiful, and we didn't see a drop of rain.

Club members rendezvousing at the first of our eight donut shop stops included our president (Scott McGaha), our VP (Mike Hall), Mr. Secretary (Dave Harvey), Brett & Peg Andrews, Mark & Jackie Allen, James Russell, and Charlie White. Also accompanying us on our days adventure was Scott's guest and navigator Nick Fullenkamp. We also had a surprise guest who we only remember as Shane. While at Jim's Donut Shop Shane was just driving by, he saw our T-birds parked out front, went home, got his Thunderbird, joined us at Jim's Donuts, and traveled with us to several of our stops (needless to say, he was given a club membership application).

Thunderbirds brought to the event included Scott and Nick in Scott's '02 Retrobird, Mike rolled along in his '60 Squarebird, Dave's cruised in his '57 Babybird, Brett & Peg toured in their '04 Retrobird, James shifted those manual gears in his '56 Babybird, and Charlie sported around in his '04 Retrobird. Joining the car group was Mark & Jackie in their honorary T-bird Corvette.



As mentioned, our day started with our 9:00 am showtime at Jim's Donuts in Vandalia. Here is our first group photo inside Jim's enjoying our coffee, and first donut of the day. At about 9:30 am it was time to be on our way. Our meandering trek took us to the next seven donut shops in this sequence: (2) The Donut Palace

(Huber Heights), (3) Baker Benji's (Dayton), (4) Duck Donuts (Dayton), (5) Ashley's Bakery (Oakwood), (6) Stan, The Donut Man (Dayton), and (7) My Favorite Muffin (Centerville). It was at this juncture that our original plan, which was to go to nine donut shops, was brought into question. While at My Favorite Muffin, Scott suggested, and the group agreed, to skip Bear Creek Donuts in Miamisburg because of a town festival that day which could present a challenge in finding parking and create a significant delay in our travel due to the large crowd.

The next question became whether the group wanted to substitute Bill's Donut Shop, which was just round the corner from where we were or move on to our last stop - - The Donut Haus in Springboro. The group elected the latter option. When My Favorite Muffin began to lock their doors, we knew it was time to move on to our eighth and final stop. Unfortunately, during our day's travel Charlie and Dave had to leave us at earlier stops due to prior commitments, but the remainder of the gang held on to the end.

As we purchased our last round of donuts at The Donut Haus and discussed the happenings of the day, Scott suggested we have a late lunch just up the road at the Warped Wing Restaurant. There was a unanimous "yes" and we were soon piled into our cars and heading for a cold beer, some non-sugary chow, and great conversation.

As I reflect on the happenings of the day, three special moments stand out. The first was already mentioned—Shane seeing our T-birds at Jim's, going home to get his, and joining us for a portion of the cruise.



The remaining events truly show the makeup and character of our club and its members. The second event took place at Baker Benji's. Since the shop had no parking lot of its own, we ended up parking just across the street at a Family Dollar store. James, however, parked on a side street by Benji's. We all retired inside, ogled over the selection, and made our purchases. Since there was no inside seating, we moved outside for the group photo in front of the shop. After the photos and as we meandered across the street to our cars, I noticed three young boys, who were riding by on bikes. They spotted Jim's '56 Babybird and stopped to look at it. Clearly, just from their movements and gestures they were awe-struck by this vehicle. Jim approached the boys and began a conversation. We were at such a distance we couldn't hear what was being said, but it was soon evident that he wanted these boys to have a great experience. It wasn't long before the boys were sitting in his car, and Jim was using their phones to take their pictures for a lasting memory.



The final situation occurred at while at Stan, The Donut Man. It is a very small shop with maybe 2 or 3 stools, so we just planned to go in, make our purchases, stand around and talk outside for a while, then move on. While inside, we met this little boy, Hunter, who was sitting behind the counter. He was playing with a diecast model car (visible on the car seat), so we questioned him if he liked old cars. He must have seen and was impressed with our T-birds and the Corvette parked outside. He came out with us and began to look them over. Before

long members had him sitting behind the wheel in almost every car. Folks were showing him some of the unique features of their car, while club members and Hunter's grandma, who apparently worked at Stan's, took pictures. He was soon being called our club mascot. As a reminder of that day, which Hunter will undoubtedly remember for a long time, one of our club members removed his Thunderbird wings pin from his hat and affixed it to Hunter's shirt.

What started out as being a possible bust due to the weather turned into a phenomenal day which both the club members, guests and those with whom we interacted will fondly remember. See our club website under "Recent Club Events" for more pictures of the TSWO Thunderbird Appreciation Day Donut Run 2024.



WHAT IS THE PROPER ETIQUETTE?

(by: Brett Andrews)



In mid-February, Peg and I were on a leisurely afternoon countryside drive on one of those balmy days we experienced this year. As we drove through a small town a few miles north of Dayton I noticed a home that had the American flag hanging on their front porch. That flag was tattered to shreds. As a retired military member and an employee of the Department of Defense for virtually my entire working career, I was a little saddened by the lack of attention the homeowner paid to properly displaying our Symbol of Freedom. A few days later, and out of the blue, the sight of that tattered symbol re-appeared in my mind's eye. Peg and I have displayed an American flag on the front of our home for decades and have always had a spare flag in storage should our Stars and Strips become damaged or soiled. My rapid judgment of the unknown individuals flying the disheveled flag made me question if I was as aware as I thought I was about what constitutes proper flag etiquette. So, I decided to do some research which I hoped would lead to writing an article for our newsletter. And it did. I couldn't think of a better newsletter edition to publish it in than June, after all June 14th is Flag Day. (As a side note, our oldest daughter was born on Flag Day.)

I found many articles and references addressing US Flag etiquette. I elected to use the actual United States Code on US Flag protocol, which is the **4 US Code, Chapter 1: THE FLAG**. The Flag Code contains ten sections on all aspects of the flag to include rules on size, color, displaying, desecrating, destruction, etc. It also identifies and describes all the amendments that have occurred to each of these ten sections. Although this reference covers a variety of topics and situations on the dos and don'ts concerning our flag, I've decided to focus on those portions that address the protocols most relevant to a private citizen's expected responsibilities

to honor the flag and how they should display the flag at their homes. I would encourage taking the time to read the full US Code reference.

Before I move on, I've prepared a short quiz to let you test yourself on a few simple questions. These 5 questions focus on criteria in the US Code related to home display of the flag. In doing my research I discovered several things I didn't know. It was this lack of knowledge that spawned my decision to share with you some of what I found.

1. **When a new state enters the Union, according to the US Code, when is it appropriate to fly the new flag with the added star?**
2. **Can the flag be displayed at night, if yes, how?**
3. **Can the flag be flown in inclement weather?**
4. **When decorating with red, white, and blue bunting, what color is on the bottom?**
5. **When your flag is damaged what is the recommended manner of discarding it?**

A New Star is Born: When a new State enters the Union, a star is added to the flag. The US Code states that "such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission", meaning the new star should not appear on a flag you are flying until the July 4th that follows the new state's admission.

Flag Dos and Don'ts:

1. **Use of flag for advertising purposes; mutilation of flag:** The code prohibits anyone from placing, displaying, manufacturing, or selling a flag that contains "any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing, or any advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the United States of America...". In a nutshell this says that nothing should be placed on the flag or flagpole except as authorized by this code.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the flag:** Here's one of the protocols I didn't know. According to the code, the honoring procedures for the Pledge of Allegiance are identical to what we are accustomed to seeing during the playing of our National Anthem. You stand at attention, face the flag with your right hand over your heart. What I didn't know was military members in uniform render the military salute. If they are not in uniform or are a veteran, they may also render the salute.
3. **Display and use of flag by civilians:** This section of the code describes the rules and customs that apply to civilians and civilian organizations not required to conform with the rules made by and applying to government organizations.
 - (a) The flag should only be flown from sunrise to sunset but may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
 - (b) The flag should not be displayed during inclement weather unless it is an all-weather flag.

- (c) When displaying the US Flag, no other flags or pennant should be placed above, at the same level, or to the right of the flag.
- (d) When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall or in a window, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (observer's left).
- (e) If your flag can be raised and lowered, on Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon, then raised to the top of the staff.
- (f) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- (g) The flag should never touch anything beneath it.
- (h) It should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. When flown, it should never be festooned, drawn back or up in folds, but allowed to fall free.
- (i) Always arrange red, white, and blue bunting with the blue above, white in the middle, and the red below.
- (j) It should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged.
- (k) The lapel flag pin, being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- (l) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

A Personal Note: It annoys me to see the level of disrespect our flag receives today. Some of it is intentional, like those who burn or stomp on it, even though that action has been adjudged as free speech. Some countries like Cuba, Germany, Switzerland, and Taiwan have fines and/or imprisonment for such flag desecration. Some improper flag situations are unintentional and happen by accident, while others are out of ignorance for not knowing the proper etiquette. To some the flag is just a flag, to others, it's a symbol of something more important. As for me, if a person disrespects our flag, they're disrespecting our country.

Well, that's all folks. I've said my piece. If you read this with an interest in learning more about the protocol for our flag, you can find the federal code on the internet by searching for: [4 USC Ch. 1: THE FLAG](#). Once you've familiarized yourself with the various flag protocols you may find yourself, as I do on occasion, questioning if a flag you see is being appropriately displayed or if it is in good condition.



Have a **Happy Flag Day.**



Reminder: June 20th is the first day of summer.

**Any man can
be a father,
but it takes
someone special
to be a dad.”**

ANNE GEDDES



**A HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
TO ALL THE TSWO DADS**



CLUB OFFICERS

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