

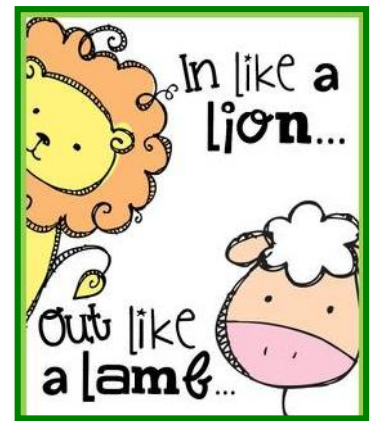


# THUNDERBIRDS OF SOUTHWEST OHIO

## Newsletter

March 2015

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



### MEETING MINUTES

**Call to Order:** The February TSWO meeting was called to order at the MCL Cafeteria at 7 p.m., Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Beverly Knauper presided, warmly welcoming everyone on such a cold evening.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting Nancy distributed a Valentine bag of cookies and candies to all the members. Thanks Nancy for your thoughtfulness.

**Approval of Minutes:** No questions were raised by the membership concerning the January meeting minutes as shown in the February newsletter. Therefore they stand as published in the newsletter.

### Announcements:

Jan Gifford mentioned that she had visited with Leona and reported that she was doing very well.

Beverly again advised the membership that TSWO dues need to be paid by our March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and VTCI dues were overdue as of 31 January. Lisa, our treasurer, identified those who have not yet paid their TSWO dues.

Beverly also reminded us of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Thunderbird festivities at Dearborn, MI on June 25-27. When the members were asked, by a show of hands, who might be serious about going, a majority of hands went up. Beverly distributed an information sheet with details and with several websites for information.

Beverly brought and passed around several newsletters of other VTCI clubs for our interest.

### REPORTS:

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa identified corrections made to our treasury records and identified the current end of month account balance.

**Event Planning Committee:** Roger mentioned that he had received a postcard from the Corvette Museum and asked if anyone would be interested in taking a trip there. Since the idea was met with a positive response, Roger said he would look into it further and report back.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Scott McGaha has been trying to find social activities in which we, as a club, could participate. One suggestion made at last month's meeting was going to the movies together. Scott brought his notebook computer to provide information on shows and their available times. Even though there were several that interested the membership, it was decided that the weather was a difficulty at this time. The idea will be presented again when winter withdraws some of its fury.

Based on a January meeting suggestion, Brett had drafted a letter which Beverly distributed to the membership. The letter, intended for local Ford dealerships, offers to display our T-birds this summer at their dealership as a way to recognize the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thunderbird. This effort would fulfill the purpose of our club which is to promote interest in Ford Thunderbird automobiles and to dispense, both to members and to other interested parties, technical and historical information relevant to our hobby.

Per our previous plan to examine our by-laws incrementally at the next several meetings to determine if any changes are necessary, the membership, lead by Beverly, discussed the first three articles in our by-laws. Topics included in those three articles are name and location of the club, club purpose, eligibility, application, termination, and dues. Anticipating significant changes to article IV, members were asked to come to the March meeting prepared with specific recommended changes.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sherryl Darby, manager of the Middletown/Franklin Sonic was to be our guest speaker at the meeting. It was later learned that an emergency situation kept her from attending. She had contacted us via our website indicating she was interested in having our club exhibit our Thunderbirds at a cruise-in at the Sonic this summer. It would give us an opportunity to show our cars, highlight the T-bird 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and may also be a source of new members. Ms. Darby will be talking to us at the March meeting.

**OPEN FLOOR:** From the open floor, Wayne commented on the eligibility requirement in article II. In an effort to attract new members, he questioned the wisdom in limiting the membership solely to owners of Thunderbirds. He suggested at least thinking about allowing other classic car owners to obtain membership in the club. Some issues that would arise from such a change include a possible need to change the name of the organization, compliance with VTCI and the status of our incorporation with the State of Ohio. This suggested change will be brought up again at the March meeting as well as a review of Article IV of the by-laws.

**ADJOURN:** At 7:54 Beverly asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Lisa and seconded by Wayne.

Beverly Knauer, President



March Birthdays

- 1st: Nancy Blake
- 2nd: Scott McGaha
- 23rd: Gary Hufford

March Anniversaries

None





## From the President's Nest

As I write this, the ground is STILL buried under untold inches of snow. The other day as I was shoveling six inches of white off the roof of the car, the song "California Dreamin'" (remember the Mamas and the Papas?) was running through my mind accompanied by images of our Pacific Coast Roadster RetroBird and our California Special Mustang. I must be ready for car season.

While it's a bit early to rouse the TBirds from their winter roosts, if you're looking for something car-related to do, don't forget the All-Ford Swap Meet at the Ohio Expo Center on April 4 and 5. Now is also a time for planning. If you didn't get my email about hotel reservations for the 60 Years of Thunderbird celebration in Detroit on June 25-27, here is the contact information Wayne found for us. Call Haley Apperson at the Doubletree by Hilton - 1-313-336-3340. Going through web links hasn't been providing the group rate. Her email is [Haley.Apperson@hilton.com](mailto:Haley.Apperson@hilton.com). We've decided as a club to attend cruise-ins this summer to spread the word about the Thunderbird's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Try to identify some possible cruise-in sites so we can discuss them at our club meeting. Ford dealerships are possibilities. Some restaurants (such as Sonic and Quaker Steak) will sometimes hold cruise-ins. Speaking of our next club meeting, we'll continue reviewing our club bylaws so look at Articles 1-5. I'll see you there - minus a winter coat...hopefully.

### Upcoming Club Events

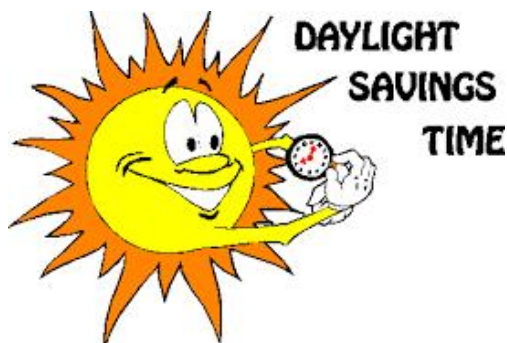
<u>Event</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. VTCI International Convention	May 20-24	Kelowna, British Columbia
2. Thunderbird Tribute Concours d'Elegance	June 14	Ault Park, Cincinnati
3. 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of T-bird	June 25-27	Dearborn, Mi

### 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

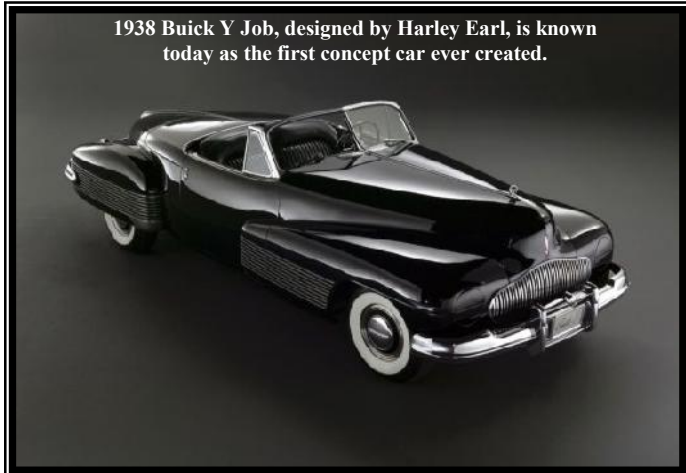
**Next Meeting: March 12th, 7:00 pm, MCL Cafeteria, 4485 Far Hills Ave, Kettering**



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead Saturday night, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Finally another hour of evening daylight.**

## The First Concept Car: The Y-Job

Where did the idea of a "concept car" come from? What was the point if they would never build a production model for the masses? Well, chances are you have never seen it, or even heard of it, but there's a little piece of the 1938 Buick Y-Job in every one of today's automobiles. That's because this 20-foot-long dream machine just happens to be one of the first - if not the first - concept car to ever be built. From its hidden headlights to the tip of its massive rear bumper, the Y-Job is pure automotive sculpture that was never intended to be sold. It was built for one reason only: to stare into the face of the future.



The idea came from Harley Earl who was head of General Motors' Art and Color Section. Before joining the company in 1926, he had worked in Hollywood, Calif., creating one-off custom bodies for Earl Automobile Works, a company founded by his father. The company also built aircraft fuselages, an area of design that would influence young Earl for the rest of his life. Once at GM, Earl set about making a name for himself and impressing his new boss, Alfred P. Sloan, the company's president. Earl's first task was to work on the 1927

LaSalle, a rival for the Cadillac. In March 1927, the LaSalle reached dealer showrooms and was an immediate success. Buyers raved about the car's longer, lower and wider stance, a theme that would be repeated on many of the designer's future creations.

Earl's development of the Buick Y-Job (the letter "Y" was used by the aircraft industry to denote a prototype) avoided outside interference from other GM departments as much as possible. In making the Y-streamlined, Earl lowered the body (total 58" tall) and lengthened its hood and boat-tail-shaped trunk. He eliminated the traditional running boards and installed flush-mounted push-button door handles and chrome strips along car's fenders to emphasize the concept's long and low styling. The nose retained a version of the Century's toothy grille but the headlights pods were removed from atop the fenders and concealed just above the bumper, and added what would become Buick's "bombsight" hood ornaments. Although primarily a theoretical styling exercise, the Y-Job contained a number of important technical advancements, such as finned brake drums (another aircraft-inspired idea), power windows and a power-operated top that, when not in use, retracted inside its own compartment and was concealed by a hinged steel cover.

(The above is edited from an article found on the web at: <http://www.newsday.com/classifieds/cars/buick-s-secret-y-job-was-an-out-of-this-world-concept-car-1.5733029> . It was necessary to edited down the original article due to space constraints. Every attempt was made to retain the integrity of the basic intent of the original article).