



THUNDERBIRDS OF SOUTHWEST OHIO

Newsletter
March 2023



MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Despite the hubbub of ongoing conversations following dinner, President Roger Hamm gaveled our meeting to order promptly at midnight UTC (or, if you prefer, 7:00 PM EST) on Thursday, February 9, 2023, in our customary meeting room at MCL Cafeteria. Following his Call to Order, he extended a warm welcome to the 16 members in the room.

Attendees: Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave Harvey, Brett Andrews, Nancy & Julie Blake, Larry & Jo Doelker, Jim Ross & Bev Knauper, Paul & Sherry Loschi, Dave & Susan Menke, and Jim Russell.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January meeting having been published in the February newsletter sent out over the weekend, President Roger asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Scott McGaha made the motion for approval, and that motion was seconded by Dave Menke. President Roger asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the minutes, as published in the newsletter. Hearing none, he called for a vote, and it was passed unanimously.

Membership Update/Discussion: President Roger asked if anyone had any updates as to any potential new members for the club, but no one did.

As to member contact information updates, Roger reported that his & Lisa's home phone number listed in the roster needs to be changed to Roger's cell phone number, as their home phone has been out of order for about 3 months or so.

As to members who might have acquired or disposed of any Thunderbirds, there were no updates to report. As an aside, President Roger reported that he recently sold his last mini-van, and that he is now "Windstar-less" for the first time in a very long time.

Sunshine Committee Report: President Roger reported that there are no anniversaries in February among our members. Lisa modified Roger's statement slightly, to mean "among our current members." She took note of the fact that February 14 was the anniversary of Ed ("Brownie") & Leona Brown (both now deceased; "Brownie" was our first [and only] "Lifetime Member"), and she asked that we think of them on Valentine's Day. President Roger noted the

following February birthdays: Peg Andrews (11th); Nancy Moore (14th); Jim Hayden (19th); Gina Hoctor (24th); and Barb Kraemer (26th), one of our newer members.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lisa Hamm reported that, since January 1st, we received the annual dividend from our credit union, and as has been her custom, she transferred the dividend from our savings account to our checking account. She also deposited \$60.00 of dues into our checking account. This amount included an inadvertent duplicate \$10.00 payment by one of our members, which, per agreement with the member, has been applied as his 2024 dues.

Club Activities/Events: President Roger noted that he had added Queen City Riverboat Cruise to the event pool. Larry Doelker suggested adding Entertainment Junction, which focuses on model trains and their history.

Old Business: Per President Roger, nothing to report.

New Business: Per President Roger, nothing to report.

Calendar of Car Events: Our next club event comes up in two days, on Saturday, February 11th. This is an outing to the Mike Butler Car Collection in Erlanger, KY, to be followed by lunch at Dewey's Pizza in Erlanger. Scott reminded everyone of the "house rules" regarding this private collection of more than 200 vehicles (cars, trucks, tractors, etc.). He also mentioned that the property is "mildly" heated, so he suggested that we dress in layers to maintain appropriate comfort. We'll meet there at 10:00 AM., when the facility opens its doors for the day. It looks like the attendance could be around 14 or so members, based on a show of hands tonight.

The next club meeting will be on March 9th at our usual location, MCL Cafeteria (dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting promptly at 7:00).

Open Floor: Brett Andrews reported that the Bylaw amendment that was approved by the membership last month has officially been put into our Bylaws record (and it has been posted on our web site).

Jo Doelker offered a comment expressing congratulations to our newsletter editor, saying that he does a fabulous job and that the club has a great newsletter. Editor Brett blushed a bit, but he appreciated Jo's kind words. As a reminder, Brett is still asking us to contribute articles for the newsletter, perhaps telling your story as to how you became a "Thunderbird person" or any other car-related story you'd care to share.

Adjournment: There being no other business to be addressed, President Roger called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was offered by Brett Andrews and seconded by Jim Ross. The meeting was then declared adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Roger Hamm
President

January Newsletter Correction: While talking with Dave Moore at our club outing on February 11th, he mentioned that the birthday of his wife Nancy is February 15th, not 14th, as published in our January newsletter. Club membership records have been corrected.



Birthdays & Anniversaries in March: We have three birthdays to celebrate in March and one anniversary. The happiest birthday and anniversary wishes to all our March celebrants from the TSWO membership.



March Birthdays

1st: Nancy Blake
2nd: Scott McGaha
14th: Deb Harvey

March Anniversaries

14th: Terry & Carol Powell
(18 Yrs)



March has finally arrived, and this means that we will be setting our clocks up one hour, losing an hour's sleep on the night of the 11th. So, make sure you don't forget, as it will be the Saturday night after our March meeting. March is also when spring arrives, and its warmer temperatures will have us starting to think about getting our T-birds out of their hibernation and letting them spread their wings. It is also when St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on the 17th.

Did you know that today's modern St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the United States are often characterized by commercial lucky charms and green beer—all of which has very little to do with the historical figure of St. Patrick? Actually, it took centuries for the holiday to have the elements that now seem crucial to its celebrations.

The March 17 celebration started in 1631 when the Church established a Feast Day honoring St. Patrick. He had been the Patron Saint of Ireland who died around the fifth century. But, very little is known about who he actually was.

It is known that he was a Roman citizen because Britain was Roman at that time and he was enslaved and taken to Ireland, where he either escaped or was released. He then became a priest and went back to Ireland, where he had a lot of luck converting the Druid culture into Christians.

St. Patrick was actually born Maewyn Succat, but he changed his name to Patricius (or Patrick), which derives from the Latin term for "father figure," after he became a priest. And that supposed luck of his is the root of all the themed merchandise for modern St. Patrick's Day.

It wasn't until the early 18th century that many of today's traditions were started. Since the holiday fell during Lent, it provided Christians a day off from the prescriptions of abstinence leading up to Easter, and around the 1720s, the church found it got kind of out of control. It was to remind celebrants what the holiday actually stood for that the church first associated a botanical item—customary for all saints—with St. Patrick, assigning him the symbol of the likewise lucky shamrock.

Modern-day celebrations and themes continued to take shape during the rest of the 1700s. In 1762, the first New York City parade took place. It wasn't until 1798, the year of the Irish Rebellion, that the color green became officially associated with the day. Up until the rebellion, the color associated with St. Patrick was blue, as it was featured both in the royal court and on ancient Irish flags. But since the British wore red, the Irish chose to wear green, and they sang the song "The Wearing of the Green" during the rebellion, cementing the color's relevance in Irish history.

The green beer became a later addition. In fact, it wasn't until the late 20th century that Ireland repealed a law that initially kept everything—pubs included—shut down for the day. Since then, thanks to a marketing push from Budweiser in the 1980s, downing beer has become a common way to celebrate, despite how closely it's tied to the actual meaning of St. Patrick himself.

Also associated with St. Patrick's Day is the mythical leprechaun. What does a mythical leprechaun look like and why are they so special? A leprechaun looks like a little old man and dresses like a shoemaker with a cocked hat and leather apron. According to Irish folklore, leprechauns were cranky tricksters who you wouldn't want to mess with. They live alone and pass the time by mending the shoes of Irish fairies. According to the legend, the fairies pay the leprechauns for their work with golden coins, which the leprechauns collect in large pots—the famous pot of gold often associated with leprechauns. The legend says that if you catch a leprechaun, you can force him to tell you where he hid his pot of gold. Supposedly, this pot of gold is hidden at the end of a rainbow. Because you can never find the "end" of a rainbow, you can't get the pot of gold. To get the gold, you first have to catch the elusive little Leprechaun.

The cheerful, friendly 'Lil elf most Americans associate with St. Patrick's Day stems from a 1959 Walt Disney film called *Darby O'Gill & the Little People*. The Americanized, good-natured leprechaun soon became a symbol of St. Patrick's Day and Ireland in general.

Roger



TSWO Visits the Mike Butler Private Car Collection



On a bright, but lightly crisp, morning on Saturday, 11 Feb 2023, thirteen TSWO club members and two guests visited the Mike Butler Car Collection in Erlanger, Ky. Attending club members included: Roger & Lisa Hamm, Scott McGaha, Dave Harvey, Brett & Peg Andrews, Jim Ross & Beverly Knauper, Jim Russell, Dave Koehler, Dave Moore, and Larry & Jo Doelker. Accompanying Larry & Jo was their daughter Maria and grandson Fernando. We were extremely pleased to see Dave Moore, a long-time club member, was able to join us at the museum. After a brief docent orientation about the collection and facility layout, we began our meandering tour through this multi-room flashback in time that triggered many trips down memory lane. After nearly two hours, our wandering was complete, and we assembled around a 1957 Thunderbird for our customary group photo. We were soon on our way to Dewey's Pizza for lunch, which was just a stone's throw from the museum. The pizzeria was busy. Our group size necessitated a 20-to-30-minute wait before they had enough tables to accommodate us. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the lively conversation. As it was Peg's birthday, Scott led the group in singing a rousing Happy Birthday to her. Eventually the meal ended, and it was time for all to head off on our separate ways anticipating what next month's club activity may be. Below are a few pictures from the event. Many more can be seen on our club website.

NOTE: The Butler Collection consists of nearly 250 American built cars and trucks dating from 1900 to 1980. The collection is only open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. No entry fee is charged, they only ask for a donation of \$15 per person with 100% of the proceeds going to Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky.





VTCI NEWS

VTCI 2023 International Convention: The convention will be held August 16th through the 19th in Cartersville, Ga. The show field/car judging, and the awards banquet will be held at the Savoy Auto Museum in Cartersville. For pictures and additional information on the Savoy Museum, see their website at savoymuseum.org.



The Marriott Courtyard in Cartersville will serve as the host hotel with a room rate of \$129 for a king bed and hot breakfast. The Courtyard Marriott is located in the Clarence Brown Conference Center at 5460 GA-20, Cartersville, GA and can be reached at (678) 721-1660.

Scoop Magazine Cover Photos Needed: VTCI is in need of good quality portrait photos for the front cover of the Scoop Magazine. If you think your T-bird is Scoop cover worthy, go to http://vintageThunderbirdclub.net/tech%20articles/scoop_photos_low_res.pdf to view the article on what you need to know and do about becoming a Scoop Magazine Cover Car. Photos are to be e-mailed to the VTCI webmaster at vtci.webmaster@gmail.com.

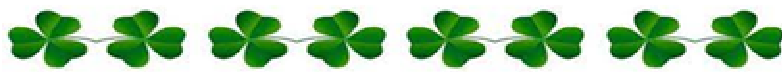


Will the Surprises Never Cease?

(by: Brett Andrews)

I ran across this picture on Facebook back in November 2022. Being an old aircraft mechanic, I was interested in how they were just pulling a simulated cockpit along with a car and test firing an ejection seat. Then I took a closer look at the car, and what do you know, it's a Thunderbird. Based on the faint horizontal strips that are stacked vertically on the rear of the quarter panel and the pointy nose, it has to be a 1961 Bullet Bird. Boy, these classics just keep showing up in the most unexpected places.





It's A Club Officer Election Year



Need Your Involvement: TSWO has been in existence since 2008. Members have come and gone, but we have a core group that's been with the club for a long time. Several members of that core group have served the club for a lot of years in one capacity or another and are still serving. Both the past and current club officers, and those holding non-elected positions such as webmaster, newsletter

editor, club activity coordinator, sunshine committee, etc, have done and continue to do a fantastic job. Over time, a few have held elected positions multiple times, with a few even occupying both an elected and an appointed positions concurrently. Having gained several new members over the last few years, our club appears to be growing. As such, we'd like to see new blood get involved in the club's leadership operation to bring in new ideas. Most of the positions only require a few hours effort a month, but it does take a commitment. Please get involved. Share the experience of making our club even better.

Our Election Process: The Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio elects new club officers every two years. This year is an election year, so here is a summary of our election process for our new members and as a memory refresher for those who have participated in elections in the past. Per our club bylaws, we have four elected positions; president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Under our assession rule, the vice president automatically assumes the presidency, if the president served a full 2 year term. If so, the president's position would not be contested during the election. However, should the president leave office during their term, the Board of

Directors (BOD) will determine if the vice president has served adequate time to assume the presidency or some other action is necessary.

Elections are held at our October club meeting in odd number years. The exact positions up for election will be announced in advance. Individuals wanting to be considered for an announced elected position must submit a completed and signed "Candidacy Letter" (the form is available on our club website) to the club vice president not later than 1 September. Only persons submitting a candidacy letter and meeting any special criteria that may be required, will be considered a candidate and placed on the ballot. Candidate nominations will not be taken from the floor on the evening of the election. Candidates for vice president and president (should the presidency be up for election) must be members of VTCI and agree to remain VTCI members during their term of office. Candidates for each position will be announced in the October club newsletter, which will be distributed prior to that meeting.

The club secretary will prepare a written ballot that will be distributed to all club members in attendance at the October meeting on which members will record their votes. Each family unit may not cast more than two ballots. Voting by absentee or by proxy is not permitted.

After all ballots have been collected, two club members (not current club officers or candidates) will be selected to confirm the vote count which will be certified by the vice president. Should there be three or more club members on the ballot for a single officer position and there is a tie between the two top vote getters, a run off vote will be taken with only the top two being considered in the second vote. Should only one individual have submitted a candidacy letter by the 1 September due date and they meet any necessary criteria for the position (i.e, must be a VTCI member), the vice president will so announce on the day of election. That candidate will be considered having been elected and will not be part of the election balloting process. The term of office for newly elected officers will begin on January 1, 2024.



Our Thunderbird Story

(Roger & Lisa Hamm)



I have always had a love for the 1964 to 1966 Thunderbirds, especially the 1966 models because of the full-length taillights and the sequential turn signals. I also thought the body lines were beautiful and the interiors with the curved rear seats and the front bucket seats plus the aircraft-style instrument clusters just made me wish that someday I would buy one. I had mentioned this to my wife, Lisa, many times



when we would go for drives, and I would see some older cars on the road with their shiny chrome bumpers and other neat items on them.



The story of our 1966 Thunderbird started in 1984 when Lisa and I decided to just go out for a drive in the northern Virginia area. We lived in Woodbridge, which is about 25 miles south of Washington D.C. We had decided to just go driving around the area, headed north towards Manassas and were about 10 miles north of our home. We were enjoying the drive, when I spotted a white 1966 Thunderbird sitting in the

front yard of a home. I said to Lisa "look, there's a 66 T-bird for sale in that yard we just passed." She asked me where and I pointed it to her at which time she suggested we go back and look at it.

I turned around and we drove up the person's driveway and then we got out to look at this car. While looking at the car, I was explaining to Lisa all the features on the car, such as the neat bucket seats, the AM/8-track stereo, power seats, power antenna, passenger recliner, and optional spinner hubcaps. I also showed her how the rear seats curved around and how the console met up with the rear seats, the wiper/washer controls, map light and antenna switch on the dash and how the instruments were inside the neat pods, like an aircraft.

The price I felt was pretty good, and when I told Lisa how much the owner was asking for it, she suggested we buy it (very much to my surprise)! I said, "are you sure?" and she said yes! I told her that I think I could probably talk him down on his asking price, so she told me to go ahead and try. I asked him if he would take \$500 less, and he said he couldn't go down that far, but he did go down \$100. I told him my wife didn't want to pay that much but let me see what she would be willing to do. After we looked the car over to see how much work it needed due to being very filthy inside, along with the exhaust leak it had, I went back to him and made another offer which was \$400 less than his asking price. He then came down another \$100, so we were about

\$200 apart. I, again, told him I had to talk to the wife. I knew at this time he had already reached a price we would have been willing to pay, but as the negotiator in me, I had to try for more. After sitting in the car for about 10 minutes discussing when we think we would be able to get it cleaned up and hopefully that it would pass the Virginia inspection, I went back to the owner and made one more offer to him, but he would not come down this time.

I accepted his offer and then told him I had to go to the bank to get him his money. I offered to write him a deposit to hold the car until we got back from the bank with his money, but he kindly said he would give us time to get to the bank and back without any deposit. So, we rushed to the bank, got the money, and went back to pay him. I asked him how we were going to get the T-bird home, he said we could probably just drive it home, which we did without tags on it. After we got the T-bird home, we started cleaning it up, using bleach to clean the white seats and after all our cleaning, she cleaned up very well and the interior is still the same as it was when we bought it; the only change was the new carpet and now new headliner, which the mice felt needed a few more holes in it.

I love this car; despite the troubles she has given me over the past 30 years. I have had to replace the master cylinder 4 times, booster twice, have rebuilt the engine, transmission twice, front brake calipers, rear brake cylinders, new brake lines. This car has made trips as far as Holland & Dearborn, Michigan to car shows as well as local car shows around Dayton & Cincinnati, Ohio as well as Richmond, Winchester, Cambridge, and Liberty in Indiana and anywhere I can find. I have always considered her to be just a good driver car and never expect to win any awards, so the shows that she has won awards are definite surprises to me.

Ever since we purchased this T-bird, I have been a member of VTCI (which was then VTCA) and ITC. I also joined the local chapter of Heartland Vintage Thunderbird Club of America, which when the national club ceased operations, our local chapter became the Thunderbirds of Southwest Ohio and a chapter of VTCI. I have purchased many other T-birds since our first one and am in the process of trying to get my most recent T-bird project completed—a 1966 (is there any other real year?) convertible. I have already rebuilt the engine and transmission and the body was painted with a nice beautiful dark blue paint job. I also decided to change the interior color from the original ugly olive green to white to match the interior of our first T-bird. I hope to eventually get this project finished, as it keeps getting put on the back burner as I work on my other vehicles, especially the hardtop.

That explains how I got hooked on the Thunderbirds, and it will always be my favorite model of car ever built and even better that it is a Ford product as I am a die-hard Ford lover!

I am still working on continuing my story by writing about our other current Tbirds-1978 Diamond Jubilee, 1986 Elan, 2002 yellow (Lisa's), and 2002 (black) mine.

Reminders

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



March 12th: Daylight Savings Time begins, set your clocks forward 1 hour



March 20th: First Day of Spring. Start planning to get those T-birds out of mothballs and prepped for the 2023 car season



CLUB OFFICERS

President: Roger Hamm (937) 782-0762

Vice President: Scott McGaha (937) 271-7414

Treasurer: Lisa Hamm (937) 782-0763

Secretary: Dave Harvey (937) 470-2885

