

ROAD CHATTER

Early Ford V-8 Club—Northern Illinois Regional Group #8

P.O. Box 0803

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

www.nirgv8.org

Volume 41 Issue 3

March 2007

MARCH NIRG EVENTS

8 Board of Directors Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm

20 Monthly Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 8:00 pm

25 "A Day at the Races" Hosted by Ron Blum. See Page 3 for more details.



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 4 Petroleum & Advertising Show, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, 8 am-2 pm, Admission \$5

March 18 Peotone Car Club 19th Annual Swap Meet, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, 8 am, Admission \$3

March 31 - April 1 Chicagoland Antique Advertising, Slot-Machine & Jukebox Show, Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, 9:30 am-5 pm (Sat) & 9:30 am-3 pm (Sun), Admission \$7

In this Issue

Page 2 – Read the message from our President, Dan Pudelek. Also, minutes of the February 20th meeting.

Page 3 – On March 25 we will have "A Day at the Races" hosted by Ron Blum. Please mail your reservations with checks payable to Ron as soon as possible, or bring your payment to the March 20 meeting.

Page 4 – In our March feature article, Tom Buscaglia tells the story of how he found and restored his '51 Tudor and some of the fun he has had with the car.

Page 8 – See the write-up of our Valentine's Day Brunch at the Milk Pail in West Dundee. Many thanks to Ron and Sue Dopke for hosting this event.

Page 10 – Our February monthly meeting included a discussion of radial tires on classic cars. The theme continues in this month's Tech Corner with tire safety and a tip on reading tire date codes.

Page 11 – Rearview Mirror – NIRG happenings from years past.

Page 12 – Our V-8 Gals page includes new American Heart Association guidelines for women, plus a tasty, healthy recipe.

Page 13 – The NIRG events calendar has been updated with our plans for 2007 – save these dates! Note the revised date for Auburn Motorfest III.

Back Cover – Photo of the Month – Tom Buscaglia's '51 Ford Tudor.

Reminder:
Daylight Savings Time starts on March 11 this year.

Attention Members

Due to ongoing renovation of the Wheeling Township Building, the first floor meeting room may not be available for several months; therefore, all Director and regular Monthly Meetings may be held on the lower level until construction is completed.

2007 OFFICERS**President**

Dan Pudelek

Vice President

Tom Buscaglia

Secretary

Mike Heatherly

Treasurer

George Zulas

Membership Chairman

Ken Bounds

Health & Welfare

Stan Stack

Tour Chairman

Joe Novak

Newsletter

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

Board of Directors

Ron Blum

Ron Dopke

Tom O'Donnell

Joe Serritella

MEETINGS

8:00 pm on the third
Tuesday of the month at
the Wheeling Township
Service Center, 1616 N.
Arlington Heights Road,
Arlington Heights, IL

NEWSLETTER

Send submissions to
Editor, 1N410 Forest Ave.,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
or e-mail

editor@nirgv8.org
or call

630-858-9474

Publishing deadline is the
25th of the month.

The Road Chatter is pub-
lished monthly by NIRG.

Other Early Ford V-8
Regional newsletters are
welcome to use material
from the Road Chatter
provided the Road Chatter
is credited as the source.

From the President

The board of directors and the officers are doing their best to come up with ideas to keep the club busy this coming year. One of the jobs as President is to try and motivate the members to get involved and to participate. I know that over the years a lot of you have put on tours and had tech talks and I thank you for that. But this is a new year and I need your help and input once more. As you know we have some new members in the club, that may not remember how to tune up that old flathead after being away from it for 20 or 30 years, or this may be their first flathead motor. I would like you to take some of that knowledge and share it with your V-8 brothers. It doesn't matter if it's a small thing like changing the oil, or maybe rebuilding a carburetor. Some of us need all the help that we can get. What I'm saying is that if you have an idea for a tech talk or there is something you would like to discuss at the meeting, just ask one of the board members or officers.

We also are in need of some day-long tours, if there's a place that you like to drive to that you think others may enjoy, or some neat back roads only you know. Over the years the club has been to many places and on many tours and I for one have never been disappointed. There are train museums and car collections that we could tour; all we need is your input and time. Joe Novak is our Tour Chairman and he is ready to help you in any way he can. Joe has put on day tours, weekend tours, and week long tours and has the knowledge and background to help make your tour a success. Spring will be here soon so think about the many fun things you could do for the club and the fun you'll have doing them with the club.

Dan

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Secretary Mike Heatherly

Dan Pudelek called the meeting to order at 8:12 pm.

Treasurer George Zulas reported a club balance of \$2,292.19.

George said an ad would be placed for club clothing. He said he would hold the order open until he obtained the minimum quantity required. Further, he will not collect money from members until the minimum order size is reached. It took over a year to get the minimum order together last time and he doesn't want to hold anyone's money that long.

Membership Chairman Ken Bounds reported that we currently have 76 members. Ken said he will send rosters to members who do not regularly attend monthly meetings. The club welcomed long time member Cliff Dixon. He will be more active in the club now that he is retired.

Continued on Page 7

NIRG
Early V-8 Ford Club
Presents
“A Day At The Races”
At Hawthorne Race Course
Sunday March 25, 2007

**Parking, Admission, Race Program, Buffet,
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12:00 noon Buffet
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There Was a Ford in My Future

By Tom Buscaglia

My life changed in 1957 when my brother offered to sell me my dad's old '51 for \$80.00. I wasn't quite 17 and so I jumped at the opportunity. My dad said "If you can afford it, you can have it" so I quit the football team and got a job at a bakery, making a dollar an hour. What more could a 17 year old ask for?

I would drive around for hours in that car, taking on the streets of Chicago's Northwest Side, my green car cruising down Harlem Avenue before eventually steering my way over to Skip's on North Avenue in search of someone to race. Sundays would be spent at the at the Oswego Drag strip, off Ogden Avenue just past Route 47. Good thing gas was only a quarter a gallon.

Fast-forward thirty years to 1989. It was August and I happened to be thumbing through the paper and saw an advertisement for two 1951 Fords. It said: "2 '51 Tudor Fords. Restoration started on one-the other parts car." I didn't think much of it; I didn't want two cars, wasn't even sure I wanted one, so I put the paper in the mess heap and carried on with the rest of my day. The following month, I saw the ad again and noticed the seller dropped the price for the cars by \$400.00...that was enough for me to give the guy a call. I thought restoring the car might be a nice project for me to work on with my son (who later told me he had no interest in getting his hands dirty!) and took the ride down to Kankakee to have a look.

Both cars were quite a sight. There was the car he was restoring...that looked too done. Then there was the one he was using for parts...that was my car! I told the man I was interested in buying the one he was stripping and he looked at me like I was a couple of bricks short of a full load. But I saw that car and knew what I wanted to do with that car. He called me a month later to ask if I was still interested. His price? \$1,000.00 *minus* the hubcaps. SOLD!

I towed it back to my driveway in Elmhurst. Most of the car was in the trunk, literally, with the engine sitting waiting to be dealt with and the block was cracked, but I have to say, it looked pretty good sitting there!

10. Collectors item. Only 53K ml. Xtras incl (414) 923-1575
 2 '51 Tudor Fords. Restoration started on one-the other parts car. \$3800firm (815) 933-9107
 '58 MGA Roadster Restor. started. Most parts new Must sell reloc \$2000 351-6911

The Ad That Started it All



My first restoration gesture was heading out to see Chester Lawrence. He was getting ready to move and was getting rid of his 'inventory' so I thought I could get some much needed inventory of my own. But I was not fast enough! A Mr. Duzell and one Mr. Paladino were much faster, and swept up most of the goods. They did manage to save me a good block for \$125.00 and Chester threw in a 'Ford O' Matic' for another \$25.00 bucks.

Now I'm off and running, the fun begins!

My search for a rear window leads me to Iola – but no luck! Drive another 40 miles north to 'Zeb's Junkyard' - on a tip and good luck, or so I thought. Two weeks later I find out some guy two blocks from my very own driveway had one for \$10.00!!! I do believe the hunt and the bargains (?) are what make the hobby fun. It's the journey, not the destination right? Going to a swap meet with Larry, Dick, and Dan are as good a way of wasting a Saturday or Sunday as any. And it got my car to where it is today.

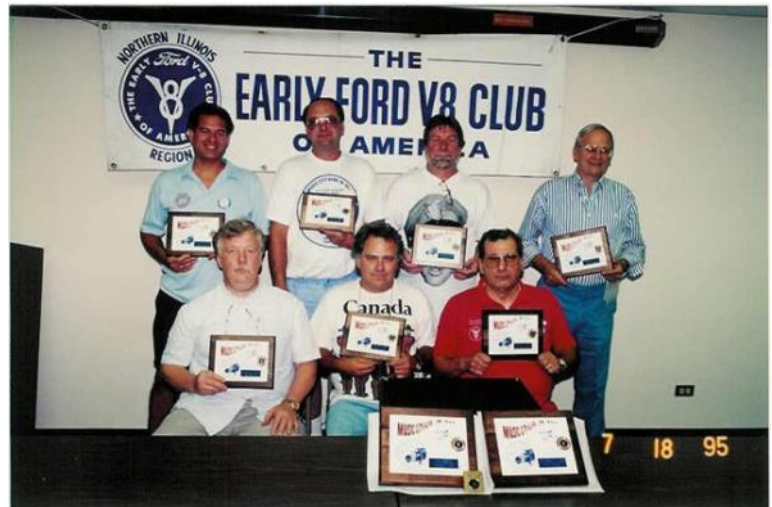
And I've been to many with that '51 of mine. We've seen parts of this country together that I never would have seen otherwise. Like Branson, Missouri. Why would I have wanted to? My most memorable moment was the invitation in September 1998 to participate in the 7th Annual Cuneo Concours de Elegance at the Cuneo Museum.

It was a terrific day, the sun was out and all of the cars were looking more than fine parked on that massive green lawn out in Vernon Hills. Come late afternoon I was in my glory after learning that I had won an award. You had to be there to appreciate my surprise. I am talking 1929 Packards, 1935 Buicks; you name it, all choice machines. What in the hell do they want with a Shoebox Ford?

Of course, I dismissed this great news as somebody pulling a funny one on me and went about my business of consuming my brew and important conversations with the other guys about the prices of parts. But this gentleman with the "award" news wouldn't stop. He found me again later in the day to ask me if I would move my car to the front of the mansion for pictures and the presentation of the award! I was stunned. If this is some kind of joke I'm going to.....



Shoobox Meet - Indianapolis 1992



1995 Nashville Central National Meet Awards

But it wasn't a joke. My head was in the clouds as Jim Matea from the Chicago Tribune bestowed me with the honored Press Award; giving my fellow V-8'ers and me our 15 minutes of fame. That award was particularly special because of where I got it. My dad worked for Cuneo family, at Cuneo Press, back in the day, and when I told him that my car won an award he said, "My boss gave you an award?"

I still smile when I think of that day.

So there you have it, that car of mine has given me lots of stories to tell. I've been to a lot of places with the old girl and have loved every minute of our time together. That, my friends, is what owning an old car is all about. And the experience wouldn't have been as fun without the V-8 club.

FLATHEADS FOREVER, Tom

- Alpine Blue with gray metallic int.
- Heavy duty high efficiency radiator
- Jamco heavy duty sway bar
- Front disc brakes
- Electronic ignition
- Isky 77B cam w/roller tappet lifters
- Bored .20 over
- Milled heads
- Radial tires
- Air conditioning-when it is working!
- Tinted windows
- LeBaron Bonney interior
- Original clock converted to quartz (one of my better decisions)
- Heavy-duty undercoating
- Completely rebuilt Fordomatic transmission. As Murphy's Law states, once you have something done, you will find out that it is unnecessary. The transmission I mentioned was purchased from Chester Lawrence. Well, rumor has it that it may have come out of Rich Doligale's pickup. I didn't find this out until many, many years later.
- All chrome redone by ARI out of Iowa when it was cheap to have chrome done.
- Radio is original. However, I very seldom listen to it as the glass packs are more therapeutic.
- Fenton Headers



Proud Dad - May 1996

FEBRUARY MINUTES CONTINUED

Health and Welfare Chairman Stan Stack reported that Arlene Blum is doing well after recent surgery. The Alfinis are doing well and hope to be at the Pizza meeting. Wally Anderson's cancer is in remission. The Collins' are moving to Grayslake. Their new address is in the NIRG roster.

The club thanked Ron Dopke for putting on the Valentine's Day brunch.

A discussion took place regarding upcoming events.

- George Cech is looking into an outing to the Volo museum.
- On June 16th there is a potential outing planned to Sycamore for a Vintage Car Race and display.
- The club is looking for ideas to celebrate its 40th Anniversary in June.
- The picnic is still planned for August 12th.
- Tom O'Donnell noted that the Auburn Motorfest III has been moved to September 5 - 8.
- Joe Novak spoke briefly about the Ladies Night Out event planned for Sunday October 7th. It will be an early afternoon brunch followed by the *Odd Couple* play. Stan Stack volunteered to handle the final details setting up the event.

A couple of members asked if the Algonquin Hill climb was going to be held this year. Lloyd Duzell was going to check with Ron Erenhoffer. Someone also asked if there was going to be a Hampshire car show in August.

Ken Bounds spoke briefly about the Eastern and Central National Meets. He encouraged members to seriously consider attending the Central Meet in Winona. 19 NIRG members have registered their cars for this meet so far. Members plan on leaving Sunday, July 15th via a scenic route. Arlen Olson will be there with his car art.

Club members briefly discussed if there was any interest in changing the start time of the meeting to 7:00 or 7:30. It was put up for consideration since so many active members are now retired. Our contract with Wheeling Township has 7:30 as the earliest time. The first half hour is generally used for set up. Only a couple of members expressed any interest in starting before 8 pm.

There was a discussion concerning an article in the *V-8 Times* about mounting radial tires on original rims. Overall it was felt they were a vast improvement. Ken Bounds shared his experience with Coker Classic tires and related they were made to match the original 600x16 tire profile and he was happy with

Continued on Page 9



Gladys Duzell passed along the news that former NIRG member Dave French passed away February 21 at the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. Dave and wife Judy moved from Warrentville to Destin, FL in 2001. Dave served as NIRG Vice-President in 1987 and his company, Action Screen Print, provided the club clothing for a number of years.

Valentine's Brunch

Hosted by Ron & Sue Dopke

On Sunday, February 11, 2007 several members braved the cold to attend the Valentine's Day Brunch at the Milk Pail Restaurant in East Dundee. The event was hosted by Ron & Sue Dopke. They provided beautiful corsages to the ladies.

It was a great brunch with lots of delicious food. The dessert table was particularly yummy. We were treated to the sounds of the West End Jazz Band. During the brunch we were surprised to discover that Tom Buscaglia used to work with the band leader, Mike Bezin. You can read much more about the West End Jazz Band at www.westendjazzband.com.

The following members attended the Valentine's Brunch: Ken & Carolyn Bounds, Tom & Judy Buscaglia, Ron & Sue Dopke, Joe & Nell Kozmic, Paul & Joanne Linzer, Joey Novak & Dan & Diane Pudelek

Thanks to Ron and Sue Dopke for planning and hosting the event. Everyone had a wonderful time and left quite full.





FEBRUARY MINUTES CONTINUED

them.

Ron Blum spoke about the horse race outing to be held Sunday, March 25th. It will be a noon brunch with a the first race at 1 pm. Look to the Road Chatter for final details. \$19.50 per person will cover your parking, admission, program and brunch. One race will be dedicated to the V-8 club and members will be able to take a picture with the winning horse.

Jimmy Guido asked to talk for a few minutes. He said he was two years old when the club was formed and is looking forward to learning a lot from other club members. He works for W.W. Grainger and would be happy to help club members acquire the shop items available through Grainger. He brought two boxes of catalogs with him. Jim works at the Grainger facility in Franklin Park off of Manheim Road.

Dan thanked Judy Buscaglia for baking the excellent oatmeal cookies.

In Attendance:

Rich Anderson, Ron Blum, Ken Bounds, Tom Buscaglia, George Cech, Cliff Dixon, Lloyd Duzell, Jimmy Guido, Jerry Gunderson, Mike Heatherly, Earl Heintz, Paul Jensen, John Judge, Joe Kozmic, Paul Linzer, Neil McManus, Jack Nikolich, Joe Novak, Tom O'Donnell, Steve O'Neill, Dan Pudelek, Joe Seritella, Stan Stack, Alan Wall and George Zulas

Did you know?



Henry Ford entered and won only one race. In 1901, he won a ten lap race at the Detroit Driving Club in Grosse Pointe, MI by beating Alexander Wilton, the most accomplished automobile builder/racer of the era. This race has become known as the "race that changed the world". Henry Ford founded the Ford Motor Company two years later.



TECH CORNER



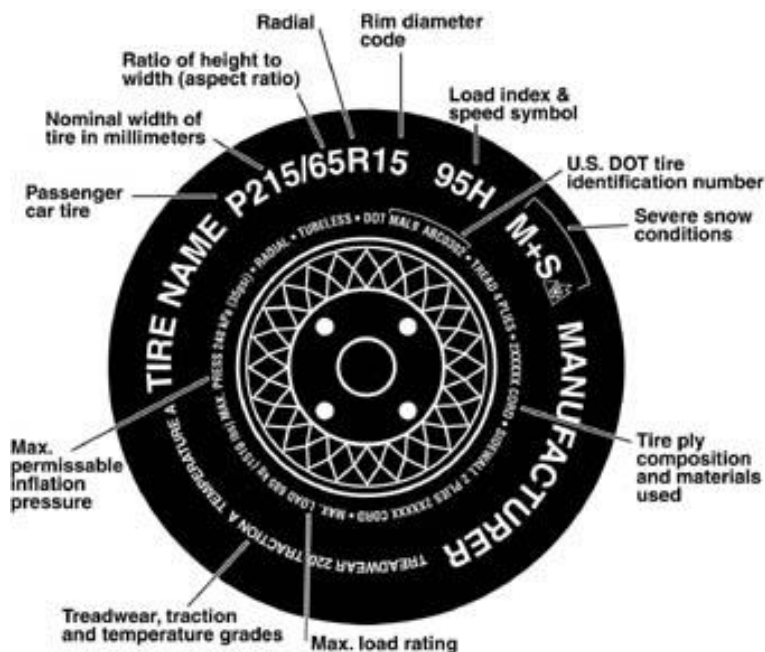
Tire Safety

By Ken Bounds

Those NIRG members who attended the February meeting know that we had a lively discussion of radial tires vs. bias-ply on the classic V-8's. The conclusion, at least by those in attendance, seemed to be that radials are the way to go. This discussion follows articles in the last two *V-8 Times*. All members who are struggling with the decision of whether to go to radials are encouraged to read Pages 17-18 in the November/December issue and Page 6 in the January/February issue of the *V-8 Times*.

In a related note, there has been discussion lately of just how long tires last and remain safe on classic cars. Joey Novak submitted an article that was published in the November 2006 issue of *StreetScene* magazine about date codes on tires. We didn't have time to get permission to publish the article, but that led us to research on the U.S. Department of Transportation web site.

There are various codes on passenger car tires relating to the size, speed rating, maximum inflation pressure, load rating, etc. For the purposes of this article we are interested in the U.S. DOT Tire Identification Number. To determine a tire's age look on its sidewall (usually the back side) for the letters DOT followed by one or more ovals containing numbers. The last oval will have three or four digits. If there are three digits, the first two are the week of the year and the last digit is the year of manufacture (the digits 229, for example, would indicate the tire was manufactured in the 22nd week of 1999). To distinguish between the 80 and 90 decades, tires manufactured in the 90's will have a triangular mark to the right of the manufacture date. Beginning with the year 2000 there are four digits. The first two are the week of the year and the last two are the year of manufacture (2301 indicates the tire was manufactured in the 23rd week of 2001).



Why is the date important? The tire industry is now saying that after five years the chance of tire failure greatly increases. Tire companies say time-related damage is difficult, if not impossible, to see. Constant exposure to the pressurized oxygen inside the tire causes rubber breakdown relatively deep in the tire carcass. Outside, ozone accelerates the oxidation process, which is definitely more severe in smoggy urban areas where ozone is prevalent. A stored tire deteriorates faster from interior breakdown than a tire in use, because flexing the sidewall tends to release beneficial lubricants from within the rubber. A stationary tire thus has a greater tendency to dry on the surface.

Bottom line: drive those V-8's! But also be wary of letting your tires get too old.



10 Years Ago This Month – March 1997

Editor Diane Wrobel was recognized with a plaque for 5th place for the Road Chatter in the 1996 newsletter competition. Jack Nikolich gave an excellent presentation on woodgraining a dash at the March meeting. New member Jordan Beller joined the NIRG.

20 Years Ago This Month – March 1987

Ladies night out was hosted March 28 by Joe & Nancy Novak at the Drury Lane Martinique where Gary Burghoff starred in the play Boney Kern. George Anderton presented a tech talk on welding at the monthly meeting, followed by a demonstration at Mohawk Spring Co. Neil McManus offered for sale the 1939 V-8 raffle car he won at the 1986 Central National Meet. New member John Judge attended the March meeting.

30 Years Ago This Month – March 1977

On March 10 NIRG members traveled via bus from Rolling Meadows to a tour of the Ford plant in Chicago. Marty & Leah Duling hosted the second NIRG Gourmet Night March 20 at the Village Tavern in Long Grove. Tom & June Young hosted a swim and pizza party March 26 with attendance of about 35 members and children.

35 Years Ago This Month – March 1972

The first feature article about a club member's car appeared in the newsletter. NIRG President Len O'Connor told the very interesting story of how he had purchased his 1932 Cabriolet sight unseen from a Hemmings ad and his trip to Bethesda, MD, to retrieve it. The newsletter reported that the Early Ford V-8 Club had approved the addition of 1941-48 Ford vehicles to the club.



The group that went to "Ladies Night Out" - Tony 'n Tina's Wedding in 2001.

V-8 Gals

The American Heart Association released updated heart guidelines on February 19th. The revised guidelines focus on advice for women. Heart disease is the largest single cause of death among women, accounting for 38 percent of all female deaths. In the United States, 42.1 million or just over one-third of all women have heart disease.

The new guidelines recommend the following:

- Exercise. Get at least 30 minutes of moderately intense exercise on most and preferably all days, 60 to 90 minutes if you need to lose weight.
- Diet. Eat mostly fruits and vegetables, whole grain and high-fiber foods, fish at least twice a week, and little salt. Limit saturated fat to less than 10 percent of calories, 7 percent if possible, and trans fats to less than 1 percent. Limit alcohol to one drink or less a day.
- Don't smoke. Use nicotine replacement products if needed to stop.
- Weight. Keep body-mass index under 25.
- Supplements. Consider omega-3 fatty acids (fish oil) if you already have heart disease. Do not take extra folic acid or antioxidants like vitamins E, C and beta carotene, for heart disease prevention.
- Blood pressure, cholesterol. Keep under control, with medicine if needed. Keep LDL or bad cholesterol under 100 if at high risk of heart disease and under 70 if at very high risk.
- Aspirin. Routine low dose aspirin therapy may be considered in women age 65 or older regardless of heart risk.



Talk to your doctor about the new guidelines and how you can benefit from them.



HEALTHY BANANA BREAD



3/4 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup butter, softened

2 egg whites

3 – 4 ripe bananas, mashed

1 cup whole wheat flour

1/2 cup white flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 cup plain non-fat yogurt

Cream sugar and butter. Add egg whites and mashed bananas. Then add remaining ingredients; mix well. Pour into large greased and floured loaf pan and bake for 30-40 minutes.

NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

January 6 Installation Dinner 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting	February 8 Board Meeting 11 NIRG Brunch at the Milk Pail 20 Member Meeting	March 8 Board Meeting 20 Member Meeting 25 "A Day at the Races" Hosted by Ron Blum	April 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting— Pizza Meeting
May 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting 30 Eastern National Meet, Fairfax, VA	June 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting	July 12 Board Meeting 15 - 20 Central National Meet, Winona, MN 17 Member Meeting	August 9 Board Meeting 12 NIRG Picnic— Hosted by the Brauns 21 Member Meeting
September 5 - 8 Auburn Motorfest 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting 28 - 30 Lake Geneva Cancer Rally	October 7 Ladies Night Out 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting— Officer Nominations	November 8 Board Meeting 10 Veteran's Day Luncheon 20 Member Meeting— Officer Elections	December No Meetings 9 Christmas Luncheon

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
 HEATHER GUIDO (3/2), HARRIET LAWRENCE (3/14),
 CHARLES R. KAISER (3/17), JACK NIKOLICH (3/26),
 MADELEINE O'DONNELL (3/26) & BETH DREWS (3/31)**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
 RON & EDIE VAUGHAN (3/2)**

**AND ALL THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS
 AND
 ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH.**



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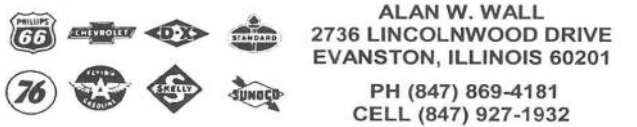


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When listing items for sale please provide your first and last name so club members can contact you.

Your Ad Here!

Do you have something to sell? Are you looking for a specific part? We can put it here!
To get your ad in the Road Chatter,
let the Secretary know at the monthly meeting or contact Ken Bounds.



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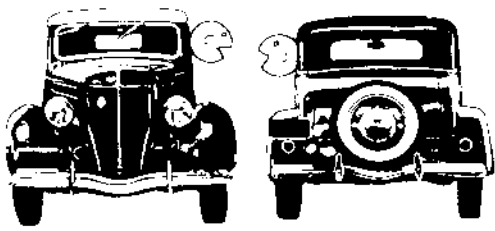
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Photo of the Month
Tom Buscaglia's 1951 Ford Tudor