

# ROAD CHATTER

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

Volume 44 Issue 1

P.O. Box 0803

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

January 2010

[www.nirgv8.org](http://www.nirgv8.org)

## UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

**January 9** Installation Dinner. See Page 3 for details.

**January 14** Board of Directors Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm.

**January 19** Monthly Meeting Wheeling Township Service Center, 8:00 pm.



## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

**January 10** 33rd Annual Illinois Region AACA Auto Parts Swap Meet, Don McCue Chevrolet, St. Charles, IL, 8am-1pm, \$4 donation

**January 17** 37th Annual Swap Meet, Great Lakes Vintage Chevy Club, Bill Jacobs Chevrolet, Joliet, IL, 8am-1pm, \$4 donation

## In this Issue

**Page 2** – President Dan Pudelek reflects on the Christmas Brunch while looking forward to exciting events in the new year.

**Page 3** – Details about the January 9 Installation Dinner at the Wellington in Arlington Heights.

**Page 4** – Thank you to Ed Fontana for submitting a great article about his '47 Coupe. Read all about it here!

**Page 6** – The Christmas Brunch was a resounding success with a large turnout. Details and photos provided.

**Page 8** – We extend a hearty V-8 welcome to new NIRG members.

**Page 9** – Make plans now to treat your Valentine to dinner and a play on Valentine's Day! The date is over a month away, but reservations must be confirmed by February 1. No exceptions!

**Page 10** – In last month's Rearview Mirror we mentioned a tech talk given 30 years ago on Flathead Cooling by Chester Lawrence. In this month's Tech Corner we present Chester's article - Part 1 of 2.

**Page 11** – Rearview Mirror – information about club events over the past 40 years – and a Flathead Flashback from 14 years ago.

**Page 12** – Our V-8 Gals page is all about New Year's resolutions - and a neat tip for New Year's party favors.

**Back Cover** – Our Photo of the Month: Ed Fontana's beautiful '47 Coupe, Old Blu.



## Barrett-Jackson Auction

The 2010 Barrett-Jackson auction will be held from January 18 - 24 in Scottsdale, AZ. [SPEED Channel](http://www.speedchannel.com) will be covering the event again this year. Coverage starts on Tuesday, January 19. Check your TV listings for exact times.

**2010 OFFICERS****President**

Dan Pudelek

**Vice President**

Frank Madrigali

**Secretary**

Stan Stack

**Treasurer**

Joe Serritella

**Membership Chairman**

Ken Bounds

**Health & Welfare**

Neil McManus

**Tour Chairman**

Joe Novak

**Newsletter**

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

**Board of Directors**

Dave Arnswald

Ron Blum

Ed Fontana

Neil McManus

Alan Wall

**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](mailto: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 DESK OF PRESIDENT**

Hello to All,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Diane and I had a great time; the grandkids are getting to where you can almost carry on a full conversation. They're 4 and 2; the best part was watching them opening all the things that Santa left for them.



The Christmas Brunch at Drury Lane this past December was wonderful. The weather was a little cold, but nothing like 2008 when the temperature was around 0 and the wind was blowing at about 30 mph. We had a very nice turnout this year and as always the food was outstanding. I was glad to see all the ladies; we don't get to see or meet all the members' wives but maybe once or twice a year and it's always nice to meet the other half of our membership. I'd like to thank Stan Stack for arranging everything - great job!

Our first big get-together for 2010 will be our Installation Dinner. This year Ron Vaughan has once again agreed to entertain us with his talented fingers, so don't miss this great event. If you haven't already sent in your check for the dinner please do so A.S.A.P. - Frank Madrigali would appreciate it. As long as I'm reminding you of things to do, your dues are also due so if you have not renewed, please send them to Ken Bounds. It's very important to Ken and Carolyn who are putting the membership roster together so the sooner you get your dues paid the sooner the roster can go to print.

Now that we're into our New Year it's time we start planning our road trips tours, events and tech talks. I know every year we ask for volunteers to come up with things to do and places to go and you, the members, always come through. This year will be no different. I will be asking for your help and input, so please put your thinking caps on so we can make this a fun year full of good memories.

As most of you know the Eastern national meet for 2010 is being held in Concord N.C. which is just outside of Charlotte. Four members are planning to attend; I'm hoping that more members will put some serious thought into joining us for the trip. I know it's a long haul to N.C. but I think it's a trip that would be well worth the effort. If you have never been to a national meet this would be a good one to attend, it's in a beautiful part of our country where there is a lot of great history and site-seeing to enjoy. So till our next meeting drive safely and stay warm.

President

Daniel Pudelek

# *2010 Installation Dinner*

## *January 9, 2010*

Place: [Wellington of Arlington](#)

2121 South Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights, IL  
847-439-6610



Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM Open Bar  
7:30 - 8:30 PM Dinner & Cash Bar  
8:30 - ????? Program, Awards

Cost: \$35.00 per person includes dinner, 1 hour open bar and gratuity.

**Come and spend a fun evening with your V-8 Club friends. Music provided by our own Ron Vaughan.**

- ◆ **Introduction of NIRG Officers for 2010!**
- ◆ **Presentation of Service Awards!**
- ◆ **Many Valuable Door Prizes! Note: additional door prize donations welcome.**

**RSVP date is January 1st. If you want to attend, don't delay call Frank Madrigali at 708-344-8063 today.**



## Ed & Roni's 1947 Ford Deluxe Coupe "Old Blu" The Elegant Coupe By Ed Fontana

When I was a young boy I lived in the northwest side of Chicago. We lived in a 3-flat apartment building owned by my parents. My Uncle Red, as we called him, and his family lived on the second floor. Uncle Red had a real nice car that he would keep very clean. He washed it all the time. He knew that I liked this car very much and gave me rides in it all the time. Being a young boy at eight years old, I didn't know what kind of car it was, but I was crazy about this maroon colored car.

As I grew up my affection and interest for old cars increased and as a young teenager I realized that my Uncle Red's car was a 1947 Ford Deluxe Coupe. As I grew up, my interest in cars grew with me. I always had that maroon Ford coupe in the back of my mind and hoped some day that I can own one.

When my wife Roni and I were dating, we went to a family party. My Uncle Red was there and knew that we were to be married and said to my future wife, "I want you to know, Ed likes cars." From that time on, Roni knew Uncle Red was not kidding.

As time went on, Roni & I always went to car shows and we enjoyed these shows very much. After our kids graduated high school and started their own careers, it was time for me to look for an old car that I wanted to restore. During the



spring of 1987, my wife and I went to Holland, Michigan for the Tulip festival. It was there that I saw a '47 Ford Coupe at a local car show. I told my wife, this is the kind of car I want to get and restore. Roni liked it very much and from that time on I started to look for a Ford Coupe.

It took me almost two years to find a car that I was looking for. In August of 1989 I finally found a 1947 Ford Deluxe Coupe that was for sale. This car was in storage for 35 years on a family estate in Hickory Hills, IL. The owner's father purchased the car new from Grossinger Ford of Chicago, IL. The dealer's I.D. plate was still on the engine firewall.

After I purchased the car, I stored it in a warehouse until I was ready to restore it. During that time, I joined the early Ford V-8 Club Illinois Region. As new club members, my wife and I were welcomed with open arms. I immediately got important information about my car from fellow club members and that fellowship was greatly appreciated.

In March of 1990 I took my car out of storage, brought it home, and started the restoration project. In recent years, I had worked on various kinds of cars, but never took on a total restoration project of this size.

The car was totally taken apart, the body was taken off the chassis and the chassis was stripped of all front end and mechanical components. The bare chassis was sand blasted and painted. The engine, transmission, rear end and brakes were totally rebuilt.



The body came to be my biggest challenge. It was in worse condition than I originally thought. In the coming months this restoration project was showing great progress. The chassis was totally completed; the engine, transmission, rear end and brakes were rebuilt and assembled onto the chassis. The extensive work on the body was finally completed. The body was then placed on the chassis and the car was now ready for painting.

My wife wanted the car to be painted a dark blue so the color choice was Barcelona Blue. Soon after the car was painted, buffed out and glazed, it went to the interior shop. When I brought the car home from the interior shop, my wife and I, neighbors & friends looked and stared at it. My wife said "We're naming our '47 Ford Old Blu, the Elegant Coupe."

After 3 years & 4,000 labor hours, the restoration project was finally finished. It's been 13 years since we finished the project. Old Blue has been in countless car shows & has received numerous awards. If only my Uncle Red could see Old Blu, the Elegant Coupe!

## 2010 Dues are past due! Don't miss an issue of the Road Chatter!



If your dues have not been received by the end of January, this will be your last issue of the Road Chatter and your name will be omitted from the 2010 Roster.

If we have not received your dues, there will be a red notice on the back cover of your Road Chatter saying "Last issue if dues are not paid." There will also be another membership renewal form inside your Road Chatter.

If you are unsure whether or not you have paid your dues, contact Ken Bounds at 630-858-9474.

## Christmas Brunch By Ken Bounds

What a great turnout we had for our annual Christmas Brunch! The weather was nice, if a bit chilly, allowing 43 members and guests to attend this event, held on December 6 this year at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. Our thanks go out to Stan Stack for setting up and hosting the brunch. It was extra special to see some of our members present who have been experiencing some recent health issues, especially Dick Alfini, Joe Dispensa, Don Braun, and Judy Buscaglia.

As usual, the food was terrific and of the very best quality. Members meandered around the piers piled high with every imaginable choice. Chefs stood by to carve meat, to prepare omelets and other egg dishes, while the chef manning the donut machine stayed busy. Some chose to start out with the breakfast dishes, such as Eggs Benedict and the like, while others knew exactly what they wanted to do – dive right in to the main course. Two waitresses kept us supplied with coffee, juices, and champagne while the constant stream of members beat a path between our semi-private room and the food area. Hopefully everyone left just a little room to sample the huge variety delicious desserts.



Before, during, and after the meal there was plenty of time to share friendship and conversation with fellow V-8ers. As the festivities wound down to the end, everyone said their goodbyes along with holiday wishes and went their separate ways, some stopping to shop at the adjacent Oakbrook Center.

Attending were: our Hosts Stan & Jo Anne Stack, President and First Lady Dan & Diane Pudelek, Dick & Dot Alfini, Dave Arnswald, Ben & Ginny Ashley, Ken & Carolyn Bounds, Don & Elaine Braun, Tom & Judy Buscaglia, Joe & Marie Dispensa, Lloyd & Gladys Duzell, Ed & Roni Fontana & Guest, Stan Gaynor, Earl & Gene Heintz, John Judge, Garry & Joan Kelly, Frank & Margaret Koeder, Joe & Nell Kozmic, Frank & Phyllis Madrigali, Joey Novak, Joe & Delice Serritella, John & Barbara Slobodnik, Len & Irene Vinyard, and Larry & Jerry Webb.

This being the final Early Ford V-8 event of 2009, we want to say thanks to all the officers, directors, and members for making this a terrific year of touring and other exciting events. Keep V-8ing!



## Welcome New NIRG Members

The Northern Illinois Regional Group extends a warm welcome to Joe & Paula Baughn of Owasso, OK. Joe's sister is Marissa Claybaugh (husband Rick), our other "long-distance" members from the Sooner State. Joe & Paula have a 1946 Ford Super Deluxe Club Coupe and joined the Early Ford V-8 Club in 1974! We welcome you to our group and hope to see you at a national meet or other event.



We also welcome to the club John & Barbara McCarthy of Crystal Lake. John recently purchased a '39 Pickup project and has been ambitiously taking on a total restoration. We have been following John's progress on the Fordbarn forum. They also own a '29 Ford Roadster Pickup and a '90 Mazda Miata. We look forward to seeing John & Barbara at upcoming meetings and events. Welcome!



Joe & Paula's and John & Barbara's contact information will be included in the 2010 Roster, to be issued next month. Those receiving the Road Chatter electronically will also receive this information in the e-mail.



**Jim Smith has gone.** He was such a good man and very talented. Hundreds if not thousands of automobile enthusiasts came to Lee's Brake and Clutch in Des Plaines for all their brake and clutch needs. Always friendly, helpful, and efficient, Jim performed his work with great expertise. Sadly, no one is going to take over the business. The parts and machines are for sale and the building has been purchased by the automobile repair business next door. Thank you Jim, we will remember you every time we press on the brake or clutch pedal in our antique and classic automobiles.

**James L. Smith** of Mount Prospect since 1961 Born on Sept. 29, 1936, passed away Thursday, March 29, 2009, following complications from diabetes. The Grand Kazoo has led his last parade. Jim was well-known in Mount Prospect, having received the Shining Star Award for organizing the Pine-Wille Marching Kazoo irregulars, a kazoo-playing band of neighbors and friends, a popular entry in the Village's 4th of July parade for over three decades. Jim was the devoted husband of Pat (nee Holm), always on her team, supporting the many volunteer activities outside their home. They were married Nov. 19, 1960. Jim enlisted in the Navy and was assigned to the USS Kearsarge aircraft carrier. Grampa Jim was full of jokes and ideas on how to have fun. **We will miss him!**



**Lee's Brake & Clutch Service**  
Des Plaines, IL  
Gone but not forgotten!

Photos by  
Robert Lightfoot



*This article was submitted by Ron Dopke and reprinted with permission of Packards of Chicagoland.*



# Valentine's Day 2010

## Sunday, February 14

**Treat your Valentine to Dinner & a Play!**

### Over the Tavern



### A Hilarious and Touching Family Comedy

It's 1959 in Buffalo, New York – Elvis, drive-ins, and The Honey-mooners made life fun and simple. Not for the Pazinski household though! Polish-Catholics Chet and Ellen live above their tavern with their four teenagers, each questioning family values in their own mischievous ways. And when wise-cracking 12-year-old Rudy questions the Roman Catholic Church to ruler-cracking Sister Clarissa before his confirmation, the outcome is a hilarious yet touching comedy that would even make the Cleavers at a loss for good advice!

Place: Pheasant Run Resort  
4051 E Main St (IL-64)  
St. Charles, IL

Time: 1:00 PM Cocktails, cash bar  
2:00 PM Play: Over the Tavern  
4:30 PM Dinner

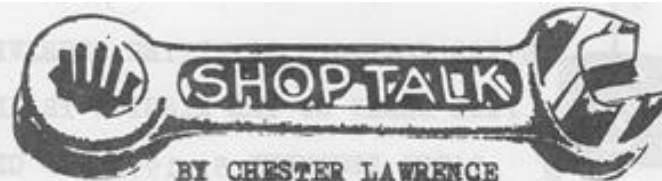
Cost: \$55.00 per person includes theatrical play, dinner, and gratuity.

Three-course dinner includes: Salad, your choice of entrée and dessert, coffee, tea or milk. Indicate your choices on the enclosed flyer and return it with your payment to our host, Joe Novak. Checks should be made payable to **Joe Novak**.

**RSVP Deadline is February 1, 2010**



## TECH CORNER



BY CHESTER LAWRENCE

### COOLING THE FORD V-8 FLATHEAD

Getting the old Ford hot is easy, cooling it is another story. I won't cover any far out "fixes" or "remedies" here. The V-8, as Henry designed it and without modification, will run daily or cross country as they were built and tested to do.

Most cars in the 30's, 40's and many into the 50's used alcohol as a winter coolant. Alcohol lowers the boiling point to about 180° (water boils at 212°). I'm one of the many who found permanent type anti-freeze too expensive in the 30's and 40's. But remember that these cars and trucks were in daily use with this coolant.

Permanent type (Ethylene Glycol) anti-freeze raises the boiling point (50-50 mixture) to about 230°. This type should be used year round in your Early V-8. It provides rust protection, better cooling at higher temperatures, and little or no evaporation. In the '42 to '48 V-8's with pressure systems, the boiling point is raised 3° for each pound of pressure in the system.

All automobile engines create very high temperatures when the fuel is burned in the combustion chamber to propel the vehicle. One-third of this heat is used for power, one-third exits unused out the exhaust system, and one-third is conducted through the cylinder walls and heads into the cooling system. Poor engine lubrication also causes extra friction and adds heat to the entire system.

The next 6 steps are suggested for a spring or periodic cooling system "tune up."

1. Check the entire cooling system for leaks. Inspect hoses for cracks, hardening, or any that have collapsed.
2. Check fan and water pump belts and adjust to proper tension.
3. Check the exhaust system for restrictions of any kind. Remember that one-third of the heat generated by the engine must escape through the exhaust system.
4. Clean the radiator fins so that the fan can draw air completely around all tubes.
5. Check the ignition timing and vacuum brake. Late timing causes extra heating.
6. Make sure thermostats are in and properly operating. Always run thermostats, as they warm the engine faster for better performance and lubrication, and do not cause overheating.



#### 10 Years Ago This Month – January 2000

Incoming President Ken Bounds took over the gavel at the January 18 meeting after we all survived the Y2K scare. Lin Stacey presented an interesting tech talk on V-8 Ford jacks. Dan & Diane Pudelek hosted a very successful Installation Dinner on January 22 at the Terrace in Lombard. There were lots of comments about how good the food was. Every person attending won a door prize.

#### 20 Years Ago This Month – January 1990

Incoming President Joey Novak presented a letter in the January Road Chatter encouraging member participation. The Installation Dinner/Dance was held January 20 at the Back Door in West Chicago, hosted by John Witthoef. Sadly, we did not find a written report on the event.

#### 30 Years Ago This Month – January 1980

Len Vinyard arrived early for the January 8 meeting, triggering an alarm which summoned the Bensenville Police. Don't know if Len is still locked up. Earl & Gene Heintz arranged and hosted the January 19 Installation Dinner/Dance at the Millionaire's Club in Lombard. Over 40 V-8 families and guests enjoyed the Prime Rib dinner and unlimited drinks, followed by the program of door prizes and awards. Len Vinyard emceed and handed out the door prizes and outgoing President Chet Lawrence made a brief speech. The partygoers danced to the music of Crystal Vision.

#### 40 Years Ago This Month – January 1970

At a business meeting held January 29, club officers were elected: President - Len O'Connor; Vice Presidents - Leroy Deneau and Dave Mann; and Secretary/Treasurer - Rich Perschell.

#### Flathead Flashback

**Bob Paladino, Angie Paladino, Irene Vinyard, Betty Cech, George Cech, and Barb Pope at the 1996 Central National Meet in St. Louis.**





Happy New Year! I can't believe it is 2010. It seems like yesterday that we were partying like it was 1999. With every new year comes the thought of New Year's Resolutions. I'm still on the fence about mine. It will probably be the same ones I've been working on for the last 20 years. I came across some statistics for New Year's resolutions. Looks like I'm pretty normal. I also came across a "how-to" for New Year's Favors that I thought I'd pass along.

### Statistics on New Years Resolutions

- 40 to 45% of American adults make one or more resolutions each year.
- Among the top new years resolutions are resolutions about weight loss, exercise, and stopping to smoke. Also popular are resolutions dealing with better money management / debt reduction.
- The following shows how many of these resolutions are maintained as time goes on:
  - past the first week: 75%
  - past 2 weeks: 71%
  - after one month: 64%
  - after 6 months: 46%

<http://www.proactivechange.com/resolutions/statistics.htm>

### New Year's Favors

#### What You'll Need:

- Paper towel tubes
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Wrapping paper
- Tape
- Curling ribbon
- Small candies



#### Instructions:

1. Make sure the paper towel tube is clean inside and out. Cut tubes to measure approximately 6 inches long; then cut each tube in half.
2. Cut a piece of wrapping paper that is 11 x 6 inches. Center pieces of tube side by side on paper, leaving a 1-inch space between the tubes. Wrap paper around tubes and secure with tape.
3. Tie one end of the paper with curling ribbon. Fill the tube through the open end with candy. Tie the remaining end shut. Use scissors to curl the ends of the ribbon.
4. Have guests break tubes in half to find goodies inside.

<http://www.bhg.com/holidays/new-years/crafts/new-years-favors/>

Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average... which means, you have met your New Year's resolution. - Jay Leno

**NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR**

<b>January</b> 9 Installation Banquet at the Wellington 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting	<b>February</b> 11 Board Meeting 14 Valentine's Day Dinner & Play - St. Charles 16 Member Meeting	<b>March</b> 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting	<b>April</b> 8 Board Meeting 20 Pizza Meeting
<b>May</b> 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting	<b>June</b> 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting 24-26 <a href="#">Eastern National Meet - Charlotte, NC</a>	<b>July</b> 8 Board Meeting 20 Member Meeting	<b>August</b> 12 Board Meeting 14 Early Ford Day - Volo Auto Museum 17 Member Meeting
<b>September</b> 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting 24-26 Lake Geneva Poker Run	<b>October</b> 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting - Officer Nominations 18-20 <a href="#">Western Meet</a>	<b>November</b> 11 Board Meeting 13 Veteran's Day Lunch 16 Member Meeting - Officer Elections	<b>December</b> No Meetings

*Happy New Year!*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
 DON DREWS (1/1), JOANNE MCMANUS (1/2), GENE HEINTZ (1/3),  
 JACK FRANK (1/4), JOE NOVAK (1/11), GEORGE ZULAS (1/13),  
 RON DOPKE (1/14), GORDON COLDITZ (1/21), RON BLUM (1/23),  
 JO ANNE STACK (1/23), EARL HEINTZ (1/28) & LARRY WEBB (1/31)**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO  
 RON & ARLENE HAYDEN (1/9), JIMMY & HEATHER GUIDO (1/20)  
 & JOE & MARIE DISPENSA (1/27)**



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



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**For Sale**

A pair of Inner Fenders for a 1942-46 1/2 ton pickup for sale. The price is \$300 for both the right and left fenders. They are in pretty good shape with just a little rust. Contact Tom Myers, 847-398-6022.

Restored 1932 V-8 Chassis #18-6511 (very early) including front end, rear end, torque tube, steering column, rear spare tire carrier, front fender braces and headlight bar. For more information call Alan Wall, 847-869-4181 or cell 847-927-1932.

2 Unity Spotlights 6" Dia., 46-48 Ford-Mercury Heater, new parts for 53 Ford Pickup (Glove Box-Hood Trim-Visor Brackets) contact Jerry Gundersen, 847-395-2370.

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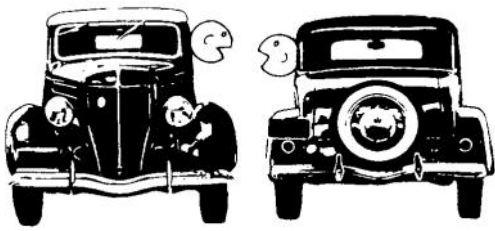
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## Road Chatter

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**Photo of the Month**  
**Old Blu the Elegant Coupe**