

ROAD CHATTER

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

P.O. Box 803

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

www.nirgv8.org

Volume 46 Issue 3

March 2012

UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

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

March 10 Luncheon, Pioneer Turners Hall - See page 3.

March 20 Pizza Meeting, Lou Malnati's, Elk Grove Village - See page 3.

March 25 Eggs & Eights, Geneva - See page 3.



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 4 Chicagoland Petroleum and Advertising Show, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, 8 am, Admission \$5

March 11 Daylight Saving Time begins. Set your clocks forward one hour.

March 18 Skip's 25th Annual Swap Meet, Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL, 6:30 am - 2 pm, Admission \$8.

March 20 Spring Begins! Time to bring the V-8s out of hibernation.

In this Issue

Page 2 – President Tom O'Donnell talks about current events and makes a call for attendance at our exciting 45th Anniversary event.

Page 3 – We have several club events planned for March; read all about them here and plan to attend those that you can.

Page 4 – We had a super Ladies Night Out event on February 12, hosted by Joe Novak - read the report here.

Page 5 – A few words from the National President including updates on upcoming National Meets.

Page 6 – John Emmering submitted a neat story about the importance of 1949 Fords in his family along with some historical family photos.

Page 10 – Details about more upcoming events - mark your calendars and register now for the Barrington Concours and our Anniversary Cruise.

Page 11 – Your editors talk about the newsletter contest, meeting with an international editor, and more.

Page 12 – Minutes of the February 21 monthly meeting.

Page 13 – NIRG welcomes another new member and says a sad farewell.

Page 14 – This month's Tech Corner presents some facts and figures about our 75th Anniversary car, the 1937 Ford.

Page 15 – Rearview Mirror – information about club events over the past 40 years, plus a Flathead Flashback.

Pages 16 – Our V-8 Gals page has some timely recipes, appropriate for St. Patrick's Day.

Back Cover – Our Photo of the Month: John Emmering's beautiful 1949 Custom Deluxe Fordor.



Attention Members

Do not show up at the regular meeting place this month – no one will be there! Instead, bring the family on March 20 to Lou Malnati's in Elk Grove Village – see Page 3 for details.

2012 OFFICERS**President**

Tom O'Donnell

Vice President

Frank Madrigali

Secretary

Stan Stack

Treasurer

Joe Serritella

Membership Chairman

Ken Bounds

Health & Welfare

Joe Serritella

Tour Chairman

Scott Gilday

Newsletter

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

Board of Directors

Ron Blum

Scott Gilday

Dan Pudelek

John Scheve

John Slobodnik

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 DESK OF PRESIDENT

Hello to my V-8 Friends.

Roger Obecný's wife Karen passed away on February 12; we offer our condolences to Roger and his family.

Welcome to our new member, Sam Van Bruggen. When you see him at a meeting, introduce yourself to him and make him feel at home.



Congratulations to Carolyn and Ken on another First Place in the newsletter contest. The Road Chatter is the glue that holds the Group together. It contains news of upcoming events and reports on past events. Carolyn and Ken add in the extras of the Tech Corner, V-8 Gals and "In the Rear View Mirror". They also solicit articles from members making it a very interesting magazine in your INBOX every month.

The Rosters were passed out at the February meeting. If you missed the meeting, they will be available at this month's meeting. Scott Gilday gave a very good presentation on how to rebuild a transmission.

The primary election is on our meeting day this year, so the Pizza Meeting has been moved to March 20 at Lou Malnati's in Elk Grove Village. Look for the announcement in this issue.

July 23, 2012 our Regional Group will celebrate its 45th Anniversary. Bill and Marty Valters have planned a very entertaining event on July 29 to celebrate this achievement. This group has survived this long because the membership has been interested enough to get together at our meetings and tour with other members in our cars. I would like to see 100% participation in this event. This event does not require you to have a running car, just a desire to have a good time. So please sign up early and help make Bill and Marty's first tour a success.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Pizza Meeting

Tom O'Donnell
NIRG President

Save the Date: A Night at the Races – Friday, April 20

Ron Blum has arranged a heck of a deal for one of our most popular events. We will experience the thrill of harness racing at Maywood Park, 8600 W. North Avenue in Melrose Park. Our special package price of \$20 includes admission, a gourmet buffet, and much more. Even valet parking is included!

The signup deadline is March 20; contact Ron Blum at 847-650-7059 to let him know you will be attending.

UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS

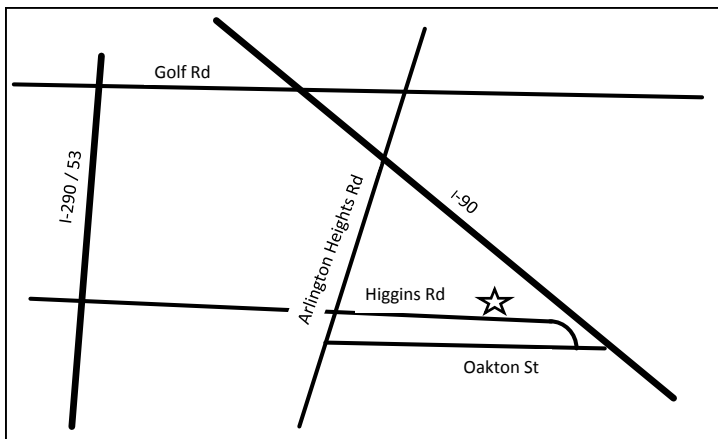
Pioneer Turners Luncheon - Saturday, March 10 at 1:00 pm

Ron Dopke and Charles Kaiser are hosting a luncheon featuring giant corned-beef sandwiches and chips Saturday, March 10, at 1:00 pm at the Northwest Pioneer Turners in Schiller Park. The lunch is a bargain price of only \$10, drinks extra. Ron signed up about 20 members at the February meeting; if you plan to attend and have not signed up, **please call Ron right away at 815-344-1335** so they can have adequate supplies for us.



[Turner Hall](#) is located at 3825 Willow Road in Schiller Park, one block west of Des Plaines River Road and less than 1/2 mile south of Irving Park. From Irving Park Road, go south on Bobby Lane, which becomes Willow Road. Come and join your fellow members for some V-8 camaraderie; we hope to see you there. With this mild winter, who knows? Maybe we will see a few V-8s!

Don't miss the Pizza Meeting. Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30 pm



Note New Location!

[Lou Malnati's Pizzeria](#)

1050 E Higgins Road
Elk Grove Village, IL



\$12 per person - includes ALL U
CAN EAT pizza, soft drinks, tax
and tip .

Cash bar. Spouses and guests are welcome!

Eggs & Eights - Sunday, March 25 at 9:00 am

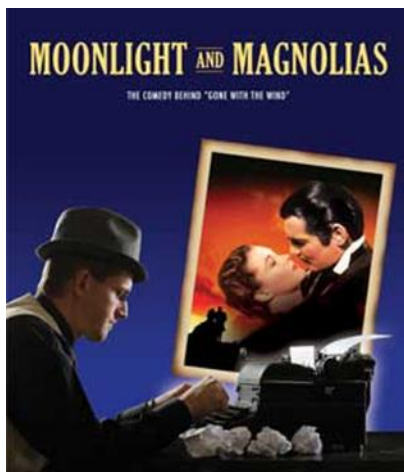
Tom Buscaglia is hosting a Sunday breakfast get-together. This is just an informal, relaxed way to join your fellow NIRG V-8ers for breakfast. If you are interested in attending, please contact Tom at 630-584-8573 by March 20 or let him know at the Pizza Meeting.

The Eggs & Eights will be held Sunday, March 25, at 9:00 a.m. at [Egg Harbor Café](#), 477 S 3rd Street in historic Geneva. After breakfast there is plenty of opportunity for shopping in over 100 specialty shops nestled in historic storefronts and charming Victorian style homes.



If the weather is nice, bring your V-8, but modern iron is certainly welcome! Egg Harbor Café is located in downtown Geneva just three blocks west of the Fox River, five blocks south of State Street (IL Route 38, or Roosevelt Rd).

Ladies Night Out – February 12
***Moonlight and Magnolias* – Pheasant Run Resort**
By Ken Bounds



On Sunday, February 12, our members had the opportunity to treat their Valentine to dinner and a play. Our ladies night out event was the play *Moonlight and Magnolias* presented by Fox Valley Repertory at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. Everyone began gathering around 1:00 pm for cocktails on an unusually pleasant mid-winter day. President Tom O'Donnell presented a white corsage to each lady.

The play began at 2:00 at the intimate Mainstage Theatre. *Moonlight and Magnolias* was hilariously performed and is based on actual facts. Famed Hollywood producer David O. Selznick acquired the movie rights to *Gone with the Wind* a month after the novel was published. After taking two years to cast the movie, Selznick began shooting in January 1939; three weeks

into shooting the historical epic, the script just wasn't working. Selznick fired director George Cukor, pulled Victor Fleming off *The Wizard of Oz*, and locked himself, Fleming, and Chicago writer Ben Hecht in his office for five days until they re-created the screenplay. With only peanuts and bananas to sustain them, they worked through and acted out Margaret Mitchell's bestseller and in the process made movie history. The play dramatizes that five-day episode, re-creating what must have been a unique Hollywood tale. The acting was first-rate and most of us had tears of laughter in our eyes.

After the play we had another opportunity for meeting in the lounge area for some lively



Tom Buscaglia carefully pins Judy



Several members of our group enjoying some V-8 camaraderie before the play



conversation where we were joined by Joe & Marie Dispensa. Joe just had knee-replacement surgery less than two weeks earlier and was getting around surprisingly well. Great to see you out and about, Joe. Next we moved to the Harvest Restaurant for a three-course gourmet dinner. The service was excellent and the meal was outstanding. We express our thanks to Joe Novak for setting up a delightful afternoon and evening of entertainment and dining.

Thanks also to everyone who attended, including our host Joe Novak with Millie Olds, Ken & Carolyn Bounds, Tom & Judy Buscaglia, Joe & Marie Dispensa, Lloyd & Gladys Duzell, Earl & Gene Heintz, Joe & Nell Kozmic, Tom & Madeleine O'Donnell, Joe & Delice Serritella, John & Barbara Slobodnik, Ron & Colleen Steck, and Len & Irene Vinyard.



Anticipating a great dinner

From the National President

Carolyn and I have just returned from the National Board meeting in San Diego. We had a good time doing some sightseeing and visiting the Big3 Swap Meet, but spent most of our time on Club business. We took a big step toward improving the way we produce minutes of our meetings that should help us get meaningful information out to all members in a much more timely manner.

This month I would like to talk to you about upcoming [National Meets](#) and encourage each of you to attend one or more meets. We are proud that we are returning to a schedule of three National Meets for the first time since 2007. Our first 2012 meet will be the Eastern National Meet in Hiawassee, GA, June 19-22. Several NIRG members are planning to attend; we will have a group driving together - please let me know if you would like to join us. Rooms are still available at the overflow hotel. I have a supply of raffle tickets for the rebuilt Flathead engine being raffled there and will bring them to upcoming events.

The Central National Meet will be held August 20-23 in Branson, MO. Our venues there were not seriously damaged in the recent tornado. We are still looking for volunteers to help with various tasks at the meet. Please let me know if you plan to attend. We are excited that for the first time, online registration is available for a National Meet. If you are ready to register or just interested in more information about the meet, go to <https://secure.cornerstonereg.com/efv8meet> to read details about the meet and/or complete your registration. We hope that this meet will attract a large group from NIRG.

The Western National Meet will be in Redmond, OR, September 12-14. Carolyn and I will be there, but don't plan to drive. We DO plan to drive to the Grand National Meet scheduled for June 16-20, 2013, at Lake Tahoe. Watch for much more information about the cross-country tour to the meet next year; there will be some fun opportunities for regional groups to participate when the tour comes through. Finally, I'm happy to announce that at our meeting the Board awarded the 2014 Eastern National Meet to National Capital RG#36 in Maryland. Mark your calendar for June 1-4, 2014!



Ken receives the club gavel from Bob York

Ken

Four Forty-Nine Fords in the Family

By John Emmering

Occasionally when displaying my 1949 Ford at car shows or cruise nights I have been asked, "Is there a special reason why you choose a forty-nine Ford?" The short answer is yes! 1949 Fords have had a significant place in my family history and it's a story I do enjoy telling.

The first forty-niner in the family was a brand new Bayview Blue Custom Tudor purchased by my grandfather Henry Emmering in 1949. After tooling around in a Ford Model "A" from 1929-1940 and driving a used 1938 Ford Standard 60 hp V-8 Tudor during the war years, Grandpa put in his order for one of the new 1949 Fords in May 1949 and took delivery a month later. Finally at 46 years of age Grandpa Henry was the owner of his first new car when he took delivery on the 1949 Custom Tudor, and how proud he must have been driving that attractive new car.

Since the demand for the new 1949 Ford was high the dealer added a radio and accessory seat covers to Grandpa's car to add to his profit margin. That was the only time Grandpa ever had a radio in a car. My Dad at age 20 admired that car also. After obtaining his driver's license in 1945 Dad had started out with a 1937 Ford, then tried a 1935 Ford roadster and by 1948 drove a cherry 1936 Ford Fordor. Dad had been impressed with the 1949 Ford since he saw his first one, which was a 1949 Ford Oak Park Police patrol car. Dad began to set his sights on buying one of the new 49's himself.

The big day of October 21, 1949 came and Dad stopped by Murphy Motors in Cicero to take delivery on a brand new 1949 Ford 6 cylinder Seamist Green Standard Business Coupe. Dad got a \$350.00 trade-in allowance on his 1936 Ford and bought the '49 coupe for an even \$1500.00. Since the 1950 models were already on the lot Dad got a good deal on this remaining 1949 model. At 20 years old and now working fulltime as a draftsman for Western Electric, Dad had his first new car and felt real pride of ownership with that shiny new coupe.

Soon Dad bought a back seat for the business coupe and added 1950 door panels and a 1950 Custom horn ring along with three ribbed fender skirts. These items were available for a few dollars at the Murphy Motors parts department. Some blue dot tail lights were put in and a couple aftermarket accessories also to make the car a little sharper. Dad had some enjoyable years with his car until the draft came along in 1951 with the Korean War raging. Dad however, after induction to the Army, ended



Grandpa's new 1949 Custom Tudor on East Ave in Berwyn



Dad's standard six business coupe

up with orders for France. My grandparents looked after the '49 coupe taking it out for an occasional Sunday drive during his absence.

After military service my Dad returned home to his car and job and then a steady girlfriend came into his life, my Mom. My parents were married in early 1954 and I came on the scene later that year, taking my first automobile trip after leaving MacNeal Memorial Hospital in the back of that 1949 Ford Coupe. Later I preferred standing behind the passenger seat so I could get a better view out of the windows.

By 1957 both Dad and Grandpa had traded in the forty-niners and our family car became a 1957 Ford. Grandpa traded in his 1949 Tudor for a 1956 Mercury. The '49 Fords were fondly spoken of however and we had pictures of them in the family album. As children, my sister and I always shouted out when we saw a 1949 or 1950 Ford drive by with "there's a car like our old one!" As time went on those cars became fewer and fewer and really began showing their age. The forty-nine Fords became a distant memory until 1971 when another one came into our lives.

At 16 years old I was really interested in antique cars and managed to purchase a 1928 Model "A" Tudor. After working on the car over the spring and part of summer it was clear that it would be a long term project not really suitable for a teenager. In August of 1971 my Dad came home one day and told me he had seen a real nice 1949 Ford on a used car lot in Elmhurst. Dad took me out to see the car, a Sea-mist Green Custom Fordor. I was impressed with the nice original condition it was in. The car was a V-8 with overdrive, which proved to be a great feature. We learned the car was from Fresno California and had not seen a Chicago winter. This would be a great "Rouge class" car today. It took very little to convince me that this would be a much better vehicle than the Model "A", since I could actually start driving it right away. Getting behind the wheel for the first time was a treat and the '49 shifted smoother than our Pinto, the car I learned manual shifting on.

When we got the 1949 Fordor home after purchase, I thought it needed a new paint job since oxidation had set in. My dad gave me some rubbing compound though and after a few days of rubbing the rough finish the paint shined like new again. That 1949 Ford was sure nice for driving to High School and out with friends. Each month Hemming's motor news classified ads offered plenty of reasonably priced NOS parts. I bought NOS bumpers, side stainless trim, an NOS clock, mirrors, skirts, etc..... Those were the days when the car was only 22 years old and the parts and accessories were not yet highly sought after by collectors. The car did have many admirers though. Gas station attendants always had nice comments and while stopped at red lights other drivers would



My father, Army Private John B. Emmering, home on leave in 1951



My Sea-mist green Custom Fordor in 1972

occasionally ask, "How much would you take for it?" possibly thinking I was a naïve kid who would sell it cheap.

College days began as I entered Western Illinois University and I only had use of my 1949 Ford during summer vacation and breaks. By my senior year I traded my 1949 to my Dad for the family Pinto which was more practical for a college student. Dad had done a lot with the car while I was away at college and it really became his hobby. After college graduation I entered the Army, got married and then settled down in Aurora starting my police career and raising three kids. I still loved to read about old cars and follow the hobby and I hoped to possibly get an old Ford once again in the future.

Our tale resumes in 2004 when I found myself working as a civilian at the U.S. Army Education Center in Kuwait as an Education Counselor to our troops. I had recently been divorced and after working in Germany since 1991 in Army Education I took this temporary assignment in the Middle East to earn the money I would need for a move back home to the U.S.A. There in Kuwait in my down time I began to check out "shoebox Fords" for sale on the internet and saw several I liked on EBay motors. After losing a few bids on cars I liked I found a Colony Blue 1949 Custom Fordor up for bid in McFarland, Wisconsin. Why no one else wanted to bid on a rusty 1949 Ford Fordor is a mystery to me and I easily won that bid. I called the owner in McFarland (next to Madison, WI) and he agreed to hold the car a couple months for me until I came back to the states and I sent him a check in payment for the car.



eBay picture of my '49 Ford

After returning to the states I drove up to McFarland and after turning in off I-90 got my first glimpse of my 1949 Ford as it sat in the seller's driveway. The '49 bore Illinois plates from 1966, the last year it had been driven on the road. It was nice seeing that old familiar profile and sentimentality took over from common sense to give me a nostalgic and optimistic feeling about the car. On initial inspection I found two cracked side windows and BB holes in the cracked windshield. The grill and all chrome plated trim area were badly pitted. On the inside the driver's seat had a large hole where the driver sat. The rear bumper was smashed and rocker panels rusted through on both sides. The car smelled of moth balls, which fortunately had saved it from becoming a haven for mice. The engine did start and the car ran but the exhaust system was rusted out and the brakes did not work.



My current 1949 Custom Deluxe Fordor before restoration

Arrangements were made to tow the car to a shop in Lemont, Illinois where mechanical work would be done while I returned to work overseas, this time in war torn Afghanistan. I flew back to Germany and made my way to my new 8 month assignment at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost province, Afghanistan. At FOB Salerno a co-worker and I set up a new Army Education center starting off in just

MORE UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS

Barrington Concours d'Elegance

This year's Concours will be held **Sunday, July 15th** at the **Makray Memorial Golf Club** in Barrington. You can participate in one of two ways:

Showfield

Through **March 31st**, the Concours is accepting nominations for its 2012 showfield (Scott Gilday showed his "topless" '41 at last year's Concours). While they'll be featuring Italian cars & motorcycles, they do have pre- and post-war American classes along with a preservation class. Cars are judged using the modified French judging rules: Judges will look for cleanliness, fit and finish, level of restoration, paint choices for components, interior condition, and finally the presenter's attempt to preserve the vehicle's "period correctness." There is no fee to show your car. And if your car is accepted, you will receive two VIP passes, which includes admission to the show and lunch & drinks in the VIP hospitality suite (worth \$150). Exhibitor registration information and forms are available online at www.barringtonconcours.org/exhibitor.html. If you plan on nominating your vehicle and/or have any questions about the showfield, please contact Scott Gilday at sgilday@msn.com or 847-277-0695.



Car Club Court

This year the Concours is highlighting area car clubs with a "**Car Club Court**". Each club will have its own "**Corral**" with reserved spots for club members' cars. Club members displaying their cars will receive one general admission ticket to the Concours (worth \$20). Based on members' interest at last week's meeting, we have reserved 5 spots for NIRG members and may be able to get more. If you're interested in participating in the Corral, call or email Scott Gilday (see above) for a registration form before our next meeting on Tuesday, **March 20th**.

Northern Illinois Regional Group 45th Anniversary Cruise July 29, 2012

Marty and "Captain" Bill Valters have put together a very nice brunch cruise to celebrate our Club's 45th Anniversary. We have plans to rent a bus to transport the members to Navy Pier from the Wheeling Township Center. In order to do this we need an accurate count of who will attend. The Club will be paying for the bus, so we would like to see as many people as possible sign up by March 31. The deadline for signing up is the June meeting.



We will be cruising on the Mystic Blue. The boat has handicap facilities. The cost is only \$55 a person and includes a buffet-style brunch as well as all soft drinks and coffee; there will be a cash bar on our deck. Captain Bill will buy the first round. The boarding will begin at 12:30 pm; the Mystic Blue boat will leave the dock at 1:00 and cruise south to McCormick Place and then north to Montrose Harbor and return to Navy Pier at 3:00. If there is rough weather, the cruise will be within the breakwall.

Please make your checks out to the NIRG and send them to Tom O'Donnell, 651 E. Meadow Lane, Palatine, IL 60074.

FROM THE EDITORS

Ken & Carolyn Bounds

If you have received your January/February *V-8 Times* or attended the February meeting, you probably know that the *Road Chatter* was once again awarded First Place in the Early Ford V-8 Club U.S. newsletter competition. On behalf of the Northern Illinois Regional Group we humbly accept this recognition. Our congratulations to the editors of the other newsletters who also received awards and our thanks to all those who enter the competition. This is the seventh time the *Road Chatter* has been awarded first place since the newsletter competition began in 1980, going all the way back to editor Diane Wrobel's Best Overall in 1982.

We also thank David Kelley, Chairman of the newsletter competition, for this honor. We learned that David had a recent health issue and wish him the best for a speedy recovery. David spends many hours of his time reading and evaluating as many as 43 newsletters a month and is one of many V-8 Club volunteers who make this such a great organization. Thank you for your service to the Club!

At the huge swap meet following the face-to-face board meeting in San Diego last week, we had the privilege of meeting Terje Sæthre, editor of the Norway RG #102 *V-8 Forum*. Terje's *V-8 Forum* has deservedly won 1st Place in the International category many times and 2011 was no exception. Terje gave us a copy of his latest issue (right); all we can say is "WOW!" The *V-8 Forum*, published quarterly, is much more than a newsletter – it is a professionally-produced magazine of 52 pages. Unfortunately, not understanding Norwegian, we can only comprehend the photos and the bits of English sprinkled about. Thank you Terje and congratulations!

Finally, we would like to thank all members of the Northern Illinois Regional Group for your support. Without you and the exciting activities of this great group, there would be no *Road Chatter*. Thank you to John Emmering for the super story about '49 Fords in this issue. We encourage all members to "keep 'em coming." We need stories about your V-8s, tech tips, items for the V-8 Gals, and more.

In the better late than never department: as many of you know, Bill and Marty Valters spend the winter (why??) in Florida. Back in November, wild game hunter Bill sent us this picture (left) of a 150-lb wild hog he shot in the Everglades. We've just had so much to publish in the past few months we didn't have space for a hog that size until now. We look forward to Bill & Marty's return and thank them for arranging our 45th Anniversary Cruise.



Ken & Carolyn

FEBRUARY 21 MEETING MINUTES**Submitted by Stan Stack**

President Tom O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 8:20 pm.

Tom introduced two new guests, Sam Van Bruggen and his son-in-law Brad Werkman of Tinley Park. Sam is a member of the National Club; he has a '40 Coupe and a '41 Pickup. Sam joined our regional group at the end of the meeting.



Our NIRG Road Chatter took a first place award. We acknowledge Ken and Carolyn Bounds who take on this task every month and produce a product that is extremely professional in its content, stories, pictures, event presentation, personnel member updates, etc. We are very proud and grateful to them for all their effort. As you all know Ken is our National President this year and was at the National V-8 Board Meeting in San Diego and not at our monthly member meeting.

Treasurers Report by Joe Serritella: Starting balance \$4,394, ending balance \$4,453.

Membership Report by Tom O'Donnell: We have now 81 paid up members.

Health and Welfare by Joe Serritella: Joe's daughter Cathey continues to battle cancer and is waiting for proton radiation. Bob Magnusson had heart surgery and is doing well. Roger Obecnys's wife Karyn passed away unexpectedly at age 62. We all are expressing our condolences to Roger. Cards to Roger would be appropriate.

Tour Chairman Report by Scott Gilday:

- Scott called on Joe Novak for a summary on Ladies Night Out. Joey stated that 24 people attended and had a great time.
- Saturday March 10, Pioneer Turners Luncheon. Schiller Park, IL. 1:00 pm-- \$10 best corned beef sandwich. Call Ron Dopke 815-344-1335 for details - they need an accurate count.
- Tuesday March 20, Pizza Meeting (no regular member meeting at Wheeling Township location). Lou Malnati's 7:30 pm, Elk Grove Village on Higgins Rd.
- Sunday March 25, Eggs & Eight's, Geneva, IL. Breakfast at Egg Harbor sponsored by Tom Buscaglia at 9 am; bring your V8's.
- Friday April 20, Night at the Races, Maywood Park sponsored by Ron Blum.
- Early June - tour to Kokomo, IN. Will be scheduled for first or second week in June; will leave on Friday morning and return on Sunday morning. More information later.
- June 14 & 15, Barrington Concours D'Elegance, Makray Memorial Golf Club. Contact Scott for details.
- Saturday June 16, "Duals Night" at Mariano's Food Store in Palatine, IL.
- Sunday July 29, 45th NIRG Anniversary Brunch Cruise Tour on Lake Michigan. We will have a bus available from Wheeling Township meeting parking lot. Approximate cost \$55 per person includes brunch; cash bar available. Scott will provide more information in coming months.

Tonight's Tech Talk was presented by Scott Gilday. Scott rebuilt his 41 transmission 3 times, so he was able to tell us the "do's and don'ts" of removal, rebuild, and reassembly. Scott provided a Powerpoint

FEBRUARY 21 MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

presentation of procedures and pictures and also demonstrated on a '41 transmission set up on a table with all the parts and gears. Scott's presentation was well received and very professionally done. Future Tech Talks will be provided by Roger Hunz - fuel systems and John Scheve - 37 to 40 engines.

Garry Kelly won \$27 in the 50/50 raffle and donated \$18 back to the club.

Thank you to Delice Serritella for the homemade cookies.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 by Tom O'Donnell.

Attendance: (26 members and 1 guest) Rich Anderson, Joe Dispensa, Ron Dopke, John Emmering, Lloyd Duzell, Ron Ek, Scott Gilday, Mike Heatherly, Earl Heintz, Paul Jensen, John Judge, Garry Kelly, George Kubik, Paul Linzer, Frank Madrigali, Joe Novak, Tom O'Donnell, John Scheve, Joe Serritella, John Slobodnik, Stan Stack, Ron Steck, our newest member Sam Van Bruggen and his guest, son-in-law Brad Werkman, Ron Vaughan, Len Vinyard, and Alan Wall.

Welcome New NIRG Member

The Northern Illinois Regional Group extends a warm welcome to Sam & Nina Van Bruggen of Tinley Park. Sam, a member of the National V-8 Club since 1988, attended our February meeting with his son-in-law Brad Werkman and joined on the spot. Sam said that he had been recruited over the years by several NIRG members - he must have weakened. Sam & Nina have a fleet of antique Ford vehicles, including a '40 Standard Coupe, a '41 Pickup, a '15 Model T Touring, a '25 Model T Speedster, and a '30 Model A Phaeton. Their contact information should be on a label included with this issue that you can add to your 2012 Roster. We hope to see you and your vehicles at upcoming meetings and events - come when you can. Welcome!



Northern Illinois Regional Group logo clothing vendor
for polo shirts, denim shirts, sweatshirts, jackets:
EmbroidMe, 905 E Rand Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 577-1240 <http://nirgfordv-8club.promoshop.com>

Karyn Obecny - August 19, 1950 - February 12, 2012

Longtime NIRG member Karyn Obecny passed away February 12 after a brief illness. Roger and Karyn joined the Northern Illinois Regional Group in 1978. Karyn is survived by Roger, their four children, and four grandchildren. The club made a donation to the Animal Welfare League in Karyn's memory. Our thoughts and prayers are with Roger and the family.





TECH CORNER



2012 is the 75th Anniversary of the 1937 Ford. We hope you like the following interesting technical information and historical facts about this art-deco model that some call the ugly duckling.

Firsts

- First all-steel roof on closed cars, saying goodbye to the fabric insert
- One-piece “alligator” hood hinged at the rear
- Headlights incorporated into front fenders for the first time in a Ford
- Two-piece windshield replaced familiar flat windshield
- New Club Coupe body style with full-width rear seat
- Introduction of the 60 hp V-8 engine
- Battery is now under the hood instead of under the floor
- Starter button moved from floor to dash
- Water pumps relocated from the heads to the engine block to stop overheating forever

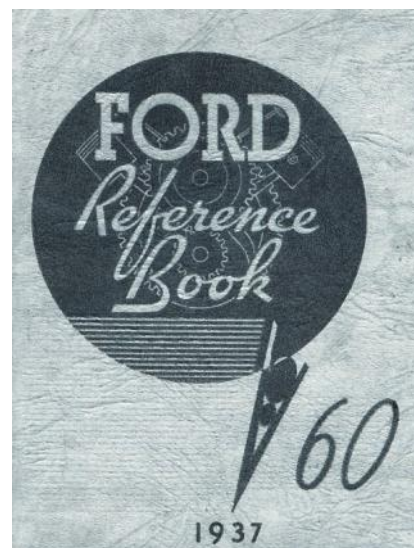


Lasts

- Last year for the classic Roadster body style
- Last year for the 21-stud V-8 85
- Last year for pod-mounted tail lights and license plate brackets
- Last year for the external luggage rack
- Last year for Cabriolet designation, replaced by Convertible
- Last year for the classic body stripe, replaced by rustless steel

Technical Specifications

- Price – from \$529 for the Standard 60 hp Five Window Coupe to \$859 for the Convertible Sedan
- Most expensive accessory – Radio at \$48 installed, open cars \$1.50 extra
- Weight – ranged from 2,275 lbs for the Standard 60 hp Five Window Coupe to 2,991 lbs for the Station Wagon
- Engines – reliable 221 cubic inch Flathead V-8 rated at 85 horsepower and new 136 ci V-8 60
- Introduced – November 14, 1936
- Serial numbers – 85 hp: Beginning – 18-3,331,857 End – 18-4,186,446
60 hp: Beginning – 54-6602 End – 54-358,334
- Production totals – 848,608; Fewest-Deluxe Roadster, 1,250; Most-Standard Tudor Sedan, 308,446



Accomplishments

- Ford built its 25-millionth automobile, a '37 Deluxe Fordor Touring Sedan, on January 18, 1937
- A '37 Ford Club Coupe was the winner of the 1938 Monte Carlo Rally



10 Years Ago This Month – March 2002

The March Road Chatter included a description from Tom O'Donnell about a June fund-raising tour to benefit the Early Ford V-8 Foundation. At the March 19 monthly meeting President Ken Bounds showed a video about the building of a 1950 Ford. The meeting got off to a late start because ballots from the primary election were still being tabulated in our meeting room.

20 Years Ago This Month – March 1992

Our guest speaker at the March 17 monthly meeting was Jeff Meyer, President of the Illinois Route 66 Association. Jeff talked about events planned for the 3rd Annual Route 66 Motor Tour that Marty Duling would be hosting for our club in June. President Ken Bounds advised that 45 Early Ford regional groups had signed on to support the March of Dimes Walk/Drive America event in April. Ed Fontana provided details about new club clothing.

30 Years Ago This Month – March 1982

Sam Barone went to the March 9 monthly meeting as a guest and left as a member. Membership Chairman Chuck Wrobel reported 81 paid members (sounds familiar). John & Grada Lasky hosted a Spring Fling event on March 21. Over 30 V-8ers, family, and friends met at Randhurst Shopping Center, toured to brunch in Cary, then went on to Richmond where the ladies enjoyed shopping in the antique and specialty shops and the guys found a pub. Hard to believe.

40 Years Ago This Month – March 1972

The March newsletter praised members who had renewed their membership, but warned those who had not that they would be dropped on March 31. For the first time, the newsletter contained a story about a member's Early V-8; President Len O'Connor detailed the very interesting road trip when he acquired his '32 Cabriolet. The newsletter advised that the National Club had accepted 41-48 Ford vehicles into the club.

Flathead Flashback

Rogues Gallery - this photo of handsome V-8ers was taken at an event in 1976. How many do you recognize? Photo from Marty Duling collection.



V-8 Gals

Happy St. Patrick's Day! It's time for the wearing o' the green and all things Irish. This is one of my favorite holidays. No gift giving. No expectations. Just some good eats and drinks. Guinness beer is a St Patty's Day staple. We always have Guinness on hand this time of year. Guinness is too rich for me but I figured there had to be some other ways to enjoy the beer. To my surprise there are tons of Guinness recipes available on the web. A quick search gave me two that I want to try. I hope you enjoy them too!

Extra Special Beef Braised in Guinness

2 1/2 pounds chuck meat cut into 1" chunks
 2 large onions, coarsely chopped
 6 carrots, peeled and sliced into thick chunks
 flour for dredging (about 2-3 tablespoons)
 12 oz. bottle of Guinness, room temp.
 3 ribs celery, cut into chunks
 1/2 teaspoon oregano, dried
 1/2 teaspoon basil, dried
 1 bay leaf
 salt and pepper
 fresh parsley, chopped



Dredge beef in flour, salt, and pepper. In a very hot stew pot, sear the meat until very brown. Add the beer, de-glazing bottom of pan to lift off small brown pieces. Add vegetables and reduce heat to medium flame. Add dried spices. Reduce to simmer and cook in covered pot 2 hours, or until meat is tender. Garnish with chopped parsley

Guinness Bread

1 cup regular rolled oats, plus additional	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 cups whole wheat flour	1/4 cup melted butter
1/2 cup brown sugar	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 teaspoons baking soda	1 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 (12 fluid ounces) can or bottled Guinness beer

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Grease an 8x8 inch baking pan.
2. Mix together the oats, flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a bowl. In a separate large bowl, stir together the butter, vanilla, buttermilk, and Guinness® beer. Pour the flour mixture into the beer mixture, and gently stir until well blended. Pour batter into the prepared baking pan, and sprinkle with additional oats if desired.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes, then turn the temperature down to 400 degrees, and bake for an additional 30 minutes. Turn the oven off, open the door, and allow to cool for 30 minutes in the oven before turning out onto a wire rack.

NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

January	February	March	April
12 Board Meeting 14 Installation Dinner 17 Member Meeting	9 Board Meeting 12 Ladies Night Out 21 Member Meeting	8 Board Meeting 10 Pioneer Turners Luncheon 20 Pizza Meeting 25 Eggs & Eights	12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting 20 A Night at the Races Maywood Pk
May	June	July	August
10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting 19 Tour to Pontiac, IL (tentative)	14 Board Meeting 16 Duals Night 19 Member Meeting 19-22 Eastern National Meet Hiawassee, GA	12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting 23 NIRG 45th Anniversary 29 45th Anniv. Cruise	5 Annual Picnic 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting 20-23 Central National Meet, Branson, MO
September	October	November	December
8 Duals Night 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting 28-30 Lake Geneva Poker Rally	11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting - Officer Nominations	8 Board Meeting 10 Veteran's Day Lunch 20 Member Meeting - Officer Elections	No Meetings TBD Christmas Brunch



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
 PETE MCMANUS (3/4), HARRIET LAWRENCE (3/14),
 HOWARD SIMONS (3/15), CHARLES R. KAISER (3/17),
 NICOLE GILDAY (3/20), JACK NIKOLICH (3/26)
 & MADELEINE O'DONNELL (3/26)**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
 JOE & PAULA BAUGHN (3/9)**

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



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New one-ton foldable shop crane (cherry picker) \$100. **New engine leveler** - \$50. Call Joe Novak 708-923-9953 or cell 708-289-2092.

1937, 90 hp motor, total rebuild, runs perfect, 50 lbs oil pressure. \$1,250. Call Paul Jensen 847-678-0123.

1973 Ford F-350 Ranger XLT pickup, Super Camper Special, 4-speed, 4bbl, 3.56 rear, no leaks, interior good, AM/FM/Cassette, CB, tach, sliding rear window, custom rear bumper, frame-mounted trailer hitch, good tires on custom wheels, excellent body - red/white, diamond-plate bed rails, tool box & running boards, new battery. Must sell—\$10,000 or best offer. Contact Elaine Braun, 847-634-3161.



Wanted

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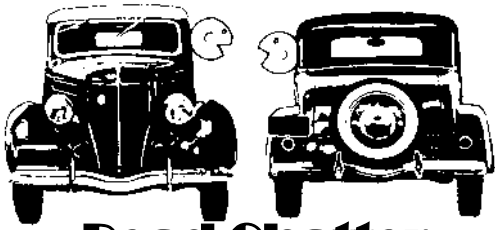
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**Photo of the Month
John Emmering's 1949 Fordor**