

# ROAD CHATTER

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

P.O. Box 803

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

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

Volume 51 Issue 4

April 2017

## UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

**April 13** Board of Directors Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm.

**April 18** Pizza Meeting, Papa Passero's, Westmont. See page 3.

**April 29** Safety Check & Photo Op, Roundheads, Lombard. See page 3.



## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

**April 2** 40th Annual Illinois Region AACA Auto Parts Swap Meet, Don McCue Chevrolet, St. Charles, IL, 8am-1pm, \$5 donation

**April 23** 34th Annual WIPC Car Show/Swap Meet, Elmhurst, 8am - 2pm, \$3.

**April 28-30** 40th Annual Spring Jefferson Car Show & Swap Meet, Jefferson Fairgrounds, Jefferson, WI. Admission \$8, Parking \$4.

## In this Issue

**Page 2** – President John Emmering talks about all the fun we can enjoy with our Early V-8s and the camaraderie of our fellow club members.

**Page 3** – Don't forget to come to our Annual Pizza Meeting on April 18 at a new location, Papa Passero's in Westmont. Details here.

**Page 3** – Join your fellow V-8ers for a vehicle safety check, photo shoot, and vehicle appraisal opportunity at Roundhead's in Lombard, followed by lunch, on Saturday, April 29.

**Page 4** – Ron & Colleen Steck hosted an Eggs & Eights breakfast, minus the "Eights" on March 26. Read Ron's report here.

**Page 5** – The NIRG welcomes three new members and a familiar Early Ford V-8.

**Page 6** – John Emmering has done it again! Read his latest story about hoodlums and their affinity for V-8 Fords. Thanks John.

**Page 8** – Minutes of the March 21 monthly meeting.

**Page 9** – NIRG awarded 1st Place in inaugural Early Ford V-8 Club regional group website competition.

**Page 10** – Make your hotel reservation now for Great Lakes Rendezvous 6 - our joint tour with the Northern Ohio group to South Bend.

**Page 11** – Rearview Mirror – information about club events over the past 40 years, plus a Flathead Flashback.

**Page 12** – Our Tech Corner this month serves a double purpose - some tech info about 46-47-48 Fords, plus Neil McManus' story about his '47 Woodie.

**Back Cover** – Photo of the Month: Marty Duling at our 1986 Central National Meet standing between his '36 Cabriolet and a '36 Stainless Ford.



## \*\*Attention Members\*\*

Do not show up at the regular meeting place this month – no one will be there! Instead, bring the family to Papa Passero's in Westmont on April 18 – see Page 3 for details.

**2017 OFFICERS****President**

John Emmering

**Vice President**

John Scheve

**Secretary**

Gary Osborne

**Treasurer**

Joe Serritella

**Membership Chairman**

Ken Bounds

**Health & Welfare**

Phyllis Madrigali

**Tour Chairman**

Ron Steck

**Newsletter**

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

**Board of Directors**

Ron Blum

Ken Bounds

Scott Gilday

Tom O'Donnell

Ron Steck

**MEETINGS**

7:30 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 published 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 THE PRESIDENT**

Coming in to work at the courthouse on a Monday morning after a big weekend is not always the easiest thing for me. One thing that does perk me up when I enter the building is when a bunch of my co-workers, who are Facebook friends, chime in saying, "man looks like you guys had a great time with your cars this weekend", referring to posts I've made of some of our NIRG activities. I always enjoy posting photos from our events such as "Eggs and Eights" "Duals Nights", our Picnic and various other road tours and goings-on for my friends and family to see.



Likewise there is a fellow I know named Tom who attends our church. Tom has come up to me often and expressed his envy of our group as he has seen my posts featuring tours down Route 66 and to other destinations. When Tom's father passed away I noticed a slide show at his wake showing a photo of his father 70 years ago behind the wheel of a new 1947 Ford Convertible that had been his pride and joy. Tom said his dream is to own a car like his Dad's V-8, but with all his other financial responsibilities I suppose it will never be.

All this brings me to the realization of how fortunate we are to be in the small percentage of the population who has been able to fulfill our dream of owning an antique automobile such as an early Ford V-8. There are plenty of people who would love to be in our shoes but who just can't make it happen. For us, during the warm months there are always club events, cruise nights or car shows to participate in and the joy of driving, showing and working on our cars never gets tiring.

With these things in mind let's make the most of this new spring season and plan to get out and have some fun with our cars. It will be nice to see some cars out to club events that we have never seen before or at least not seen in a while, alongside the familiar members' cars we know and appreciate. Tours and events are always more enjoyable when we get to know some of the newer members better and see some "new" Ford V-8's join one of our convoys. With the recent additions to our membership I hope those coming on board will jump in and be a part of the upcoming events.

Our spring opener "Eggs and Eights" was a great time and we're off to an excellent spring start with good attendance at meetings and some new members coming into the fold. See you all at the annual Pizza meeting Tuesday April 18th!

**Save the Dates!**

**May 20** - Ron Blum will be hosting "A Night at the Races" at Hawthorne Race Course - more details next month.

**June 29 - July 2** - Sign up now for our Joint Tour with the Northern Ohio Regional Group. See details on Page 10.

**UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS**

**Papa Passero's is the place to meet for  
the Annual Pizza Meeting.  
Time to get together with V-8ers for an  
enjoyable evening of food & fun!**

Papa Passero's Family Pizzeria  
6326 S Cass Avenue  
Westmont, IL

Date: Tuesday, April 18

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person - includes ALL U CAN EAT pizza, soft drinks, tax and tip. Cash bar.

Hosts Ron & Arlene Blum have reserved a large room, so we will have plenty of space. Spouses and guests are welcome!

Papa Passero's is located on Cass Ave at the corner of 63rd St. Those of you coming from the north, take I-355 and exit at 63rd Street. Go east on 63rd 3.7 miles and turn right on Cass - Papa Passero's is on the right. There is plenty of parking for our cars - if the weather is nice, bring your Early V-8.

**Northern Illinois Regional Group Spring Safety Check and Photos**

**Saturday, April 29 (Rain Date May 6)**

**Roundhead's of Lombard, 205 W Roosevelt Rd, Lombard, IL**

Spring is here and it is time to get those Early V-8s out of the garage! This event will be held at Roundhead's Pizza & Pub, located on Roosevelt Road just one mile east of I-355. Roundhead's is on the south side of Roosevelt, immediately east of Heritage Cadillac.

Time: 9:00 am through 11:00 am - time may be extended to be sure all cars are included.

Lunch: We will break for lunch sometime between 11:00 and noon.

Don't have a V-8? No problem! Come in modern iron and join the fun.

**Safety Check**

**Photo Opportunity**

**Professional Appraisals**

Frank Koeder is a Certified Appraiser and has agreed to provide vehicle appraisals for your Early V-8 at a very special price for NIRG members.

For More Information

Contact Ken Bounds at 630-858-9474 if you plan to participate or if you have any questions.



## Eggs & Eights Breakfast - Geneva, Illinois

By Ron Steck

Photos by Ken Bounds

We had our annual Eggs and Eights breakfast at Egg Harbor in Geneva on Sunday the 26th. The morning started with rain and it was a little chilly out. We had 31 participants show up for a great breakfast and catching up on life over the winter. There were no V-8s driven due to the rain, so we did our tire kicking outside the entry of the restaurant. We may have to adjust our future breakfasts to a later date so the weather would be a little more cooperative.

The group who braved the weather were Ron & Arlene Blum, Ken and Carolyn Bounds, Tom and Judy Buscaglia, John and Robin Emmering, Scott Gilday and his daughters Reese and Ciena, John Judge, Joe and Nell Kozmic, James and Kathy Larson, Frank and Phyllis Madrigali, Michael and Grace Mohawk, Joe Novak and Millie Olds (the future Mrs. Novak), Gary Osborne, Dan Pudelek, John and Este Scheve, John and Barb Slobodnik, Ron and Colleen Steck, and Jeff Trilling.



Ron & Arlene



Tom & Judy



Robin & John



Ciena, Scott, & Reese



John



Nell & Joe



Kathy & James



Phyllis & Frank



Grace & Michael

More Photos on Next Page





Joey &amp; Millie



Gary &amp; Dan



Este &amp; John



Barb &amp; John



Colleen &amp; Ron



Jeff

## Welcome New Members

Our regional group membership rose to 82 in the past month.

First, we welcome back Ron Ek of Des Plaines who rejoined us at the February meeting after taking a few years off. Ron originally joined the club way back in December 1979. Among his collection of antique vehicles, Ron has a '32 Ford Roadster and a '52 F-1 Pickup. Ron has a special place in NIRG history - he introduced the first 50-50 raffle at our monthly meeting in December 1980, a tradition that continues to this day. Ron and his friend Bill Balough also organized the annual swap meets that our club formerly hosted, starting in April 1983. Glad to have you back, Ron!

The NIRG extends a warm welcome to Ray & Mary McMahon of Naperville. Ray bought a '36 Club Cabriolet, shown on right, in 1999 from our very own Marty Duling. Ray also owns a pair of Model As. He joined the National Club and our regional group in March. We look forward to meeting Ray and Mary soon and hope to see that sweet '36 on the road soon. Some of us old-timers remember that car on many tours, usually trying to keep up with it as Marty zipped along with the aid of a Columbia axle.

Finally, we were also joined this month by John & Marilyn Krenger of Bull Valley. Welcome! John has been a member of the National club for several years and planned to enter his '40 Convertible in our 2014 Central National Meet, but unfortunately had to cancel the car when it was not ready. We hope your Convertible is ready now and that we get to see it and meet you soon at some club events. John & Marilyn also own a '35 Phaeton, a '31 Model A, and a '63 Corvette.



Stickers are included in this issue with contact information that you can add to your rosters.

## Ford V-8's Pitted Against the Law as 1938 Public Enemy #1 Floyd Hamilton Roared Across the South By John Emmering



Floyd Hamilton

The theft of a pickup truck is not the most serious crime on the books. In this case however it seems to have been the turning point which led Floyd Hamilton, brother of Bonnie and Clyde accomplice Raymond Hamilton, back down the path of a public enemy and many years behind bars.

Becoming the family breadwinner at age 14 when his father abandoned the family, Floyd went to work fulltime. Regrettably Floyd became drawn into serious law-breaking as he helped his brother Raymond, five years his junior, who was involved in the crimes of the Barrow Gang. When Raymond was imprisoned Floyd aided his escape from the Eastham Prison Farm by planting a gun in the prison yard. After Raymond made his escape Floyd joined him in two 1935 Texas bank robberies. The brothers were apprehended separately later that year. Raymond was executed by the State of Texas as a habitual criminal while Floyd was confined in Leavenworth Penitentiary for two years after a conviction for aiding and abetting his brother Raymond and Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker.



After release from Leavenworth Prison in 1937, Floyd drifted in despair, unable to find work to support his wife and family. After unsuccessfully seeking employment on a road construction project, Floyd's companions "Terrible Ted" Walters and Jess Keathnley suggested they steal a nice looking 1938 Ford V-8 pickup truck owned by Paul Donald of Bowie, Texas. According to some reports the trio used the Ford V-8 pickup in the burglary of a drugstore in Ringgold,

Texas. Floyd then stripped the truck's V-8 engine and tires for use in his own older model Ford V-8 automobile and abandoned the truck in the country near Dallas, setting it on fire.

Dallas County Sheriff's detectives soon linked Jess Keathnley to the theft of the truck and were willing to drop his charges for information on his more sought after cohorts Ted Walters and Floyd Hamilton. Floyd and Ted soon found themselves under arrest and were sent for trial to Montague County, Texas where they were held in the County Jail. Floyd recalled that a Texas Prison Captain had once told him that if he ever was sent to a Texas State prison he would be killed in retaliation for aiding in his brother's escape, since a corrections officer had been killed during the incident. Floyd was determined not to end up in the Texas Prison system.

Desperately working on an escape plan, Floyd had a saw blade smuggled in to him and sawed free a bar in his cell. On April 30, 1938 after the bar was removed Floyd had another inmate, Ervin Goodspeed, a slight man in custody for horse theft, slip through the bars. When the Sheriff's grown son Kenneth Chandler came by with food for the prisoners Goodspeed stabbed him in the leg, snatching the keys and freeing Floyd and Ted. Floyd and Ted offered to dress Chandler's wounds but he refused treatment and the two made good their escape, taking a number of the Sheriff's firearms with them.

Using dogs to track the escapees, the Sheriff's men and State Police were unable to locate them after they ran through a shallow creek. The criminal pair soon located an unattended 1937 Ford



Floyd and Ted drove through the roadblock undetected





**Floyd and Ted stole a maroon 1938 Ford Deluxe before the Bradley Arkansas Bank Robbery**

V-8 sedan and stole it to make their getaway. As they approached a police roadblock Ted lay down on the floor of the back seat and Floyd drove through slowly with a hat covering the top of his face, avoiding detection by the officers. Crossing into Louisiana the pair found a brand new maroon 1938 Deluxe Ford V-8 and stole that vehicle. Floyd commented that he liked Ford V-8's because "they would always start fast and a few seconds could mean a lot when you're trying to get away." Floyd and Ted subsisted by committing robberies as they traveled and were designated by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover as Public enemies #1 and #2.

Boldly entering the bank at Bradley, Arkansas on June 6, 1938 at 9:10 am, they confronted the lone teller Jack Meeks with loaded .45 pistols demanding he turn over the bank's cash. Meeks handed over only \$685.25 although there were thou-

sands more on hand. As the robbers pulled away, Meeks opened up with a shotgun, striking the rear of the Ford. The maroon 1938 Ford V-8 was found abandoned miles down the road with buckshot damage to the back of the car. Floyd and Ted then switched to an Oldsmobile for a while. On June 8, 1938 Floyd, Ted and a third man robbed the Minden, Louisiana Bank of \$18,000. In August they saw a Crittenden County Deputy Sheriff park his blue 1937 Ford V-8 Tudor to go into a barbershop for a haircut in Marion, Arkansas. Floyd saw the Deputy had left the keys behind and soon pulled away in the unmarked Ford.

The last job Floyd and Ted would pull was the robbery of the offices of the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in Nashville, Arkansas on August 12, 1938. The pair only netted \$67.36 in the robbery. While speeding past a road block after the robbery, police bullets hit the radiator disabling the 1937 Ford V-8. They then commandeered a Plymouth that passed by from its wealthy owner and chauffeur. When the Plymouth was riddled with bullets the pair took to the woods hiding out for a week. Cold, hungry and desperate they evaded capture and were able to hop onto a box car on a freight train bound for Dallas.

Arriving in Dallas on August 21, 1938, Ted and Floyd separated, but both were apprehended that day. Floyd ended up back in Leavenworth Prison on Federal Bank robbery and interstate auto theft charges. The authorities arranged to ship him to Alcatraz soon after. In 1943 Floyd managed to escape his cell block in Alcatraz with three others. Thought to have been killed in the escape attempt Floyd hid in a cave along the shore of the island for two days. The cold water and crabs made things uncomfortable and Floyd left the cave and was recaptured. Because of the escape attempt, Floyd served nine years in solitary confinement in a cold dark 5½ x 8 foot cell and was housed for a time next to Robert Stroud, the "Bird Man of Alcatraz".

Floyd's life turned around through letters from an elderly woman, Hattie Rankin Moore and her pastor W.A. Criswell of Dallas, Texas who paid Floyd a visit at Alcatraz. With a noticeable change in his life Floyd was transferred back to Leavenworth and eventually released from Federal Custody. He was paroled from the Texas Prison System in 1958. Ted Walters was killed in a 1971 gun fight with Texas Rangers. Floyd however, reunited with his wife Mildred and worked many years for Dallas auto dealer W.O. Bankston, who made a habit of giving ex-offenders a chance. Floyd's prison ministry work after his release led to full pardons from Texas Governor John Connelly and President Lyndon B. Johnson. Floyd returned once again in 1970 to Montague, Texas where he had broken out of jail in 1938, this time to address the congregation of the First Baptist Church with the story of his changed life.



**A Deputy Sheriff left his keys in his 1937 Ford resulting in its theft**

## MARCH 21 MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Gary Osborne

President John Emmering called the meeting to order at 7:47 PM, a little late because everyone was having a great time catching up on things. There were 32 members in attendance.

The meeting opened with our President giving the latest scores for the Team Contest which are as follows: Henry Ford – 180, Henry Ford II – 280, Edsel Ford – 280.

The scores speak for themselves, but it looks like one team has a different strategy for winning. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK TEAMS!!



### Board Meeting Report

John Emmering reported that at the March 9th meeting most of the time was spent on the planning of the upcoming Pizza Meeting and the remaining calendar events. In attendance were John Emmering, Ken Bounds, John Scheve, Scott Gilday, Tom O'Donnell, Ron Steck, and Ron Blum.

### Membership Report

Ken Bounds reported that the Club Roster has now been sent out to all members.

There have been some new people added to the club, former member Ron Ek has rejoined, and Ray & Mary McMahan and John & Marilyn Krenger have joined us. Welcome to the Club! We now have a total of 82 members.

Ken introduced Lifetime Member Marty Duling, who drove up from Springfield to join us at the meeting. Marty is a long-time member, served as our President twice, and was Chairman of our 1986 Central National Meet. It was great to see Marty.

### National Club News

Ken also gave a brief report on National News. Our new Midwest Director Steve Kroeger's report on the February National Board Meeting was in the March issue of the Road Chatter.

The Grand National Meet will be held in Dearborn, Michigan June 11-15, 2018. Ken & Carolyn are handling registration for the meet. There will be much more information coming soon.

The National club has sent out 700 surveys to random members to get some feedback about the Club. So far 250 have been returned. This is a good start to helping the Club see what the members are feeling about how the Club is doing.

### Treasurer's Report

Ron Blum gave the report. There was \$421.00 in income from the 50-50 raffle, business ads, and membership dues. There was \$368.14 in expenses for the meeting room, Road Chatter, Valentine's Brunch, and the Club Roster.

### Health and Welfare Report

Phyllis Madrigali reported that Gladys Duzell is doing well, Ken Bounds' eye surgery was successful, and John Judge will be having foot surgery in May.

If you have anything that you would like the club to keep in our thoughts and prayers please call Phyllis or send her an email.

### Past Events

John Emmering reported that he saw several V-8 members at the MARC swap meet in Roselle on March



## MARCH 21 MEETING MINUTES - CONTINUED

19, including Tom Buscaglia, John Slobodnik, George Zulas, Tom O'Donnell, Len Vinyard, Jack Frank, John Judge, Larry Webb and Lou Prazza.

### Future Events

- The Eggs and Eights breakfast will be at Egg Harbor Café in Geneva on March 26th.
- The Annual Pizza Meeting will be April 18th at a new location, Papa Passero's Family Pizzeria, 6326 Cass Ave in Westmont.
- The Safety Check will be April 29th at Roundhead's in Lombard.
- The Spring Fling will be Memorial Day Weekend in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- The H.I.P. Tour on the Lincoln Highway is June 3rd.
- The Eastern National Meet is June 7-11 in Chantilly, Virginia.
- The Joint Tour with the Northern Ohio group to South Bend will be held June 29- July 2.

### Additional Items of Interest

After a short break for refreshments provided by Tom & Madeleine O'Donnell, we gathered back together for a Tech Talk by John Scheve. John talked about some of the wheel and axle problems that he has experienced on his 47 Coupe. He explained about axle shaft removal and wheel repairs that was beneficial for us all. After a brief question and answer session the 50-50 Raffle was drawn. John Emmering went home \$40 richer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Those in attendance were:

Richard Anderson, Ron Blum, Ken Bounds, Allen Bryant, Marty Duling, John Emmering, Scott Gilday, Jay Hinshaw, Paul Jenson, John Judge, Frank Koeder, Joe Kozmic, Paul Levine, Paul Lunecki, Frank Madrigali, Phyllis Madrigali, Pat Maroney, Neil McManus, Joe Novak, Tom O'Donnell, Gary Osborne, Dan Pudelek, John Scheve, John Slobodnik, Stan Stack, Ron Steck, Jeff Trilling, Ron Vaughan, Len Vinyard, Larry Webb, Chuck Wrobel, and George Zulas.

## NIRG Awarded 1st Place in Inaugural Website Contest

Last month we told you that our website was judged #1 in competition with all Early Ford V-8 Club regional group websites. This month we received the certificate shown here.

We are very proud of this recognition and encourage all our members to visit the website, [www.nirgv8.org](http://www.nirgv8.org) often for updates and reports on group tours and activities.

Thanks go out to you, our members. Without you there would be no website.



## MORE UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS



### Great Lakes Rendezvous 6 Northern Illinois Regional Group Northern Ohio Regional Group South Bend, Indiana June 29 - July 2, 2017



Tentative Schedule  
*Please Note Corrected Dates*

**Hotel:** Doubletree Suites, South Bend - Room Rate of \$139 per night, plus tax  
Make your reservations now - call 866-893-5713 - ask for the Early Ford V-8 Club rate or click [here](#) to make your reservation online. Please note that parking fees are included in our rate.

#### Thursday, June 29

Meet at Lincoln Oasis; depart at 10:00 am. Drive 75 miles to South Bend via I-80/94 and US-20. Check in to hotel and meet the group from Ohio.

#### Friday, June 30 and Saturday, July 1

Various tours, including the Studebaker National Museum, the History Museum (including the Oliver Mansion), the South Bend Chocolate Factory Museum, and more. Driving tour to Shipshewana and Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum. More events may be added as planning continues.

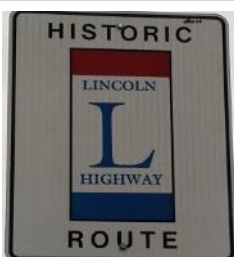
#### Saturday Evening

There will be a banquet and presentations in the beautiful atrium at the Doubletree. The banquet must be reserved and paid for in advance - watch for a reservation form coming soon.

#### Sunday, July 2

Breakfast, say goodbyes, and return home. Time permitting, optional tours may be added.

**Contacts**      NIRG - Ken Bounds      [ken@boundshome.com](mailto:ken@boundshome.com)      630-408-4006  
                         NORG - Jack Bukszar      [lakewood46@cox.net](mailto:lakewood46@cox.net)      216-407-9992



### Historic Illinois Pavement (HIP) Tour #2 The Lincoln Highway

On Saturday June 3, 2017 we will be touring the Historic Lincoln Highway. The tour will be about 150 miles round trip and will be driven on much of the original 1913 route. More details to follow soon!



### 10 Years Ago This Month – April 2007

Forty-eight members and guests enjoyed the Pizza Meeting April 17 at John's Pizza in Addison, hosted by Bob & Angie Paladino. President Dan Pudelek announced at the meeting that the Road Chatter had won 1st Place in the 2006 newsletter competition. Tom & Judy Buscaglia hosted the first Eggs & Eights breakfast at Egg Harbor in Geneva. Because of the beautiful day with temperatures in the 70s, the group of 25 was able to enjoy breakfast outside.

### 20 Years Ago This Month – April 1997

New member George Zulas was introduced at the April 15 Pizza Meeting. Jerry Webb took home \$33 from the 50-50 raffle. Diane Wrobel submitted an article with tips about the many uses of baking soda.

### 30 Years Ago This Month – April 1987

The Pizza Meeting at John's Pizza was a big success with 54 members and guests in attendance. The second annual NIRG V-8 Treasure Hunt was hosted April 14 by the Duzells and the Freihages. Tom O'Donnell submitted a tech tip on hinge pin removal.

### 40 Years Ago This Month – April 1977

The highlight of the April 12 meeting was the presentation of a NIRG Life Membership to Ron Dopke for his 8 years of outstanding service as newsletter editor and countless other contributions to the club, including providing the meeting place at Hewlett-Packard. There was a large attendance at the April 17 Brunch-Tour, with Marty & Leah Duling and family arriving in their newly-acquired '36 Club Cabriolet.

### Flathead Flashback

**We actually ate breakfast outdoors at the Eggs & Eights in Geneva, ten years ago on April 29, 2007.**







## TECH CORNER



**In 1978, Neil McManus wrote a letter to Roger Neiss, then Editor of the V-8 Times. In addition to telling the story of his 1947 Woodie that he acquired in 1976, Neil also detailed many of the differences between the 46-47-48 models. Below is Neil's letter, which was printed in the Jan-Feb 1981 V-8 Times. It is not only Neil's story about his car, but also this month's Tech Corner.**

When I acquired the car two years ago from a friend of mine, he told me it was a 1947 but looking at the car I kept telling myself it was a 1946 and my friend was wrong, although the registration did say it was supposed to be a 1947. My friend had acquired the car sometime ago and had completed the woodwork utilizing a 1942 Woodie and his knowledge of woodworking learned when he completely rebuilt his 1932 B Wagon. As a result of being stored so long, the odometer read 42,000 miles which I believe to be accurate.

The work left for me to do was mechanical including a clutch and linkage, rewiring the car and engine work. The engine incidentally is a Ford factory rebuilt with a plate attached to the bellhousing indicating a rebuilt engine from the Somerville rebuilding factory. When I started working on the car, I soon realized that the car was indeed a 1947 but had all the parts and characteristics of a 1946.

The serial number begins with the familiar 799A which indicates a 1947 Super Deluxe Wagon and is a very low number meaning it 'would have been built in early production, probably the first month. The number on the transmission matches the frame number. The wiring of the car is that of a '46 not a '47 or '48 as the car has the "Long" horns mounted on the fender panel not in front of the radiator as with the later units. The car also has the '42-'46 style front bumper with the license plate bracket mounted on the cross bar between the guards.

The other obvious '46 characteristics are the parking light locations, the painted grille bars and painting in the upper grille chrome and the '46 style hood molding which I noticed when I took it to the chrome shop, had January 3, 1947 stamped with a rubber stamp on its underside.

The not so obvious differences that mark this car as a 1946 is the chrome and its location. Note that it is located above the bulge in the fender not on the bulge as is true with the later models. Also, all the chrome is of the ribbed design not the smooth type that is on the later models. The door handles also are styled like the chrome. After the mechanical work was completed, I had the bumpers and chrome plated and the stainless steel was restored by John Young and the paint work done in the original Monsoon Maroon by another friend who has painted numerous old cars but never a '47 Ford that looks like a '46.

Incidentally, the wheels are neither '46 nor '47 Ford but 1950 Mercury wheels and hubcaps which allowed me to use a set of 15" tires I had. I also have the hubcaps and wheels that came with the car and they are the '46 style hubcaps and ribbed style beauty rings.

My purpose in forwarding pictures and this description of the car is not to settle the differences between 1946-47-48 Fords but to point out that there were some 1947 Fords produced, which for all practical purposes were 1946 Fords. Apparently Mr. Ford wanted to give his customers future trade in value by titling these as 1947 Fords or wanted to have an excuse to raise the price of his product; in either case, nobody probably realized the controversy it would cause thirty years later.



Neil's Woodie, as it appeared in the Jan-Feb 1981 V-8 Times

**NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR**

<b>January</b> 12 Board Meeting 14 Installation Dinner, Carriage Greens, 17 Member Meeting	<b>February</b> 9 Board Meeting 12 Valentine's Brunch, Drury Lane 21 Member Meeting	<b>March</b> 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting 26 Eggs & Eights, Egg Harbor, Geneva	<b>April</b> 13 Board Meeting 18 Pizza Meeting, Papa Passero's 29 Safety Check, Roundheads
<b>May</b> 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting 20 Night at the Races, Hawthorne, Cicero	<b>June</b> 3 HIP Tour - US-30 8 Board Meeting 7-11 Eastern National Meet, Chantilly VA 20 Member Meeting 29 - July 2 Joint Tour, South Bend	<b>July</b> 13 Board Meeting 15 Tour to Amboy Depot Museum 18 Member Meeting	<b>August</b> 10 Board Meeting 12 Fords & Friends Cruise-In, St. Charles 15 Member Meeting
<b>September</b> 9 Tour to Russell Military Museum 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting 22-24 Lake Geneva Poker Rally	<b>October</b> 12 Board Meeting 14 HIP/Fall Colors Tour, IL River Road 17 Member Meeting	<b>November</b> 9 Board Meeting 11 Veterans Day Lunch, Sam's of Arlington 21 Member Meeting	<b>December</b> No Meetings

## Happy Easter and Passover

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**  
**ARLENE HAYDEN (4/2), DEE MARONEY (4/2), JUDY MYERS (4/7),**  
**PAUL LEVINE (4/16), RUSS SHMERL (4/19), RON EK (4/21),**  
**MARTY DULING (4/22), RON VAUGHAN (4/23), ROBIN EMMERING (4/28),**  
**CARA LUNECKI (4/28), & JOHN JUDGE (4/29)**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**  
**TOM & JUDY BUSCAGLIA (4/8), BEN & GINNY ASHLEY (4/11),**  
**ERIC & CHERYL KOZMIC (4/20), JOE & DELICE SERRITELLA (4/25),**  
**TONY & CAROLINE MIRELES (4/28), MARSHAL & SUE ADAMS (4/29)**  
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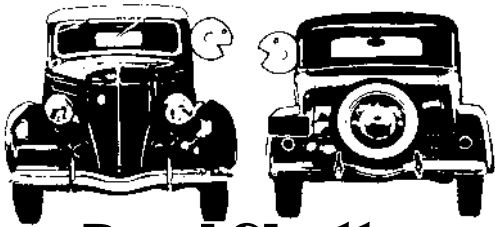
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