

# ROAD CHATTER

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

Volume 58 Issue 1

P.O. Box 803  
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

January 2024

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

## UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

**January 11** - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm.

**January 13** - Installation Dinner. See Page 3 for details.

**January 16** - Monthly Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm.

**February 5** - Deadline to RSVP for Valentine's Day Luncheon - see Page 6.



## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

**January 1** - Happy New Year!

**January 7** - 49th Annual VCCA Swap Meet, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone. 7 am - 1 pm. \$7 admission.

## In this Issue

**Page 2** – President Scott Gilday welcomes in the new year with updates about coming events.

**Page 3** – Jay Hinshaw has arranged our Annual Installation Dinner for January 13 - details here.

**Page 4** – Pat & Dee Maroney hosted our annual Christmas Luncheon December 17 - see Dee's report here.

**Page 5** – A reminder that dues are due for 2024.

**Page 6** – Nicole and Scott have set up a Valentine's Luncheon for February 10 - read about it here.

**Page 7** – A few words from your editors.

**Page 7** – A brief update on 2024 National Meets.

**Page 8** – As we kick off 2024, this month's Tech Corner is a salute to the '49 Ford, which celebrates its 75th Birthday this year.

**Page 9** – Page Our V-8 Gals page has some handy uses for those silica gel packets that come with, well, everything.

**Page 10** – Rearview Mirror – information about club events over the past 50 years, plus a Flathead Flashback.

**Page 11** – Remember to review the Events Calendar each month; also, see who has a birthday or anniversary this month.

**Page 11** – We send condolences to the Steck family on the tragic passing of their granddaughter.

**Back Cover** – Our group at a fun and well-attended Christmas Luncheon.



## Meeting Reminder

If you like crawling around under your Early V-8 (and who doesn't?), then the January 16 meeting is for you! Ken Bounds will be presenting a tech talk on a tool that makes greasing your car a little easier plus information on an improved hydraulic brake switch. Plus, you will be able to enjoy Jay's fresh-brewed coffee AND some famous cookies by Carolyn. Hope to see you there!

**2024 OFFICERS****President**

Scott Gilday

**Vice President**

Jay Hinshaw

**Secretary**

Gary Osborne

**Treasurer**

Ron Blum

**Membership Chairman**

Ken Bounds

**Health & Welfare**

Dawn Zulas

**Tour Chairman**

Open

**Newsletter**

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

**Board of Directors**

Ken Bounds

Rusty Medlin

Tom O'Donnell

Este Scheve

George Zulas

**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**

Hello again,

Welcome to 2024. I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to the year ahead. So far, we've been fortunate enough to have mild weather, so it's been a bit easier to finish up those end-of-year car projects.



I would like to start by offering my deepest condolences to Ron and Colleen Steck and their family for the sudden loss of their granddaughter Quinn. I cannot even imagine what they must be going through, and we will keep them in our prayers.

Regarding our club events for December, I thank Pat and Dee Maroney for all their hard work planning our annual Christmas Luncheon. We had a great turnout, and the food and experience at Tony Spavone's was great. We were happy that Ken and Carolyn Bounds were able to make it back from Maui in time to join us, and could dance to some of the festive songs that restaurant owner Tony sang for us (Frank Sinatra would have been jealous). What a wonderful way to kick off the holidays!

As there were limited opportunities drive our V-8s in December, our family decided to take a quick break and visit New York City to check out the holiday sights and enjoy some tasty food, including some authentic Chinatown favorites.



Our activities for this year will start on January 13th with our annual Installation Dinner planned by Jay Hinshaw at Cooper's Corner in Winfield, where we get to meet our new officers and honor those who served the club last year. If you have not done so already, please get your RSVP and check to Jay. Also, please mark your calendars for our Valentine's Day luncheon on February 11th at the Makray Oak Terrace restaurant in Barrington.

I look forward to another great year and hope to see you at our upcoming activities.

**UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS**

## *2024 Installation Dinner*

### *January 13, 2024*



Place: Cooper's Corner  
Winfield, Illinois  
Time: Social Hour begins at 6:00 PM  
Cost: \$40.00 per person includes dinner  
and gratuity.



**Come and spend a fun evening with your V-8 Club friends**

- ♦ **Social Hour/Dinner**
- ♦ **Swearing In of NIRG Officers for 2024**
- ♦ **Recognition of Service to the NIRG**

Menu: You will provide your waiter your choice of:

- ♦ **Homemade Pot Roast.** Served with mashed potatoes. Topped with celery, onions, and carrots in a natural gravy.
- ♦ **Chicken Marsala.** Sauteed with onions and fresh mushrooms. Deglazed with Marsala wine and finished with demi glaze and sweet butter.
- ♦ **Fresh Atlantic Salmon.** Sauteed in a lemon butter white wine sauce.

Each entree served with fresh garden salad and warm bread, unlimited soda, ice tea or coffee, and ice cream for dessert.

**RSVP with payment should be were due to Jay Hinshaw by January 3**  
**If you have not gotten your RSVP into Jay and want to attend, please call him at**  
**773-791-6494**

# *Happy New Year*



## Annual Christmas Luncheon By Dee Maroney

The NIRG December Holiday luncheon was held on the 16th of December at Tony Spavone's Restaurant in Bloomingdale. Twenty-five members, family, and friends were in attendance, including Rusty & Melanie Medlin, Millie & Joe Novak, Dan & Diane Pudelek, Este & John Scheve, Ron & Arlene Blum and their neighbor Audrey Rohlinger, Scott & Nicole Gilday, Gary & Dawn Osborne, George & Dawn Zulas with their family members Tom & Denise and Georgie & Tammy, Ken & Carolyn Bounds, and Dee & Pat Maroney.

The food was delicious, the room & ambiance terrific and owner Tony Spavone singing Christmas songs to our group was spectacular. Tony sang a special tribute song to our 20 year anniversary, couple Ken & Carolyn.

Our group enjoyed the company of each other and enjoyed an afternoon counting the many blessings this friendship brings. Gary said a deeply felt prayer as together we prayed for those suffering from losses this holiday season and for God to bring comfort to all in the New Year.



Tony serenades Carolyn and Ken



Anticipating a great meal



Enjoying a great meal



Hosts Dee & Pat Maroney



Nicole & Scott Gilday



Ron & Arlene Blum and Audrey



## Annual Christmas Luncheon Continued



**Dawn & George Zulas**



**Tom Zulas and Denise**



**Tammy & Georgie**



**Dawn & Gary Osborne**



**Este & John Scheve**



**Melanie & Rusty Medlin**



**Millie & Joey Novak**



**Dan & Diane Pudelek**



**Ken & Carolyn Bounds**



A reminder that 2024 dues are due. If you have not already renewed, please submit your renewal form and payment to the Membership Chairman by the end of the year so you don't miss an issue of the Road Chatter and to ensure that your information is published in the 2024 roster. This will be your final issue if dues are not received by January 31!



## 2024 Valentine's Luncheon

**Date:** Saturday, February 10, 2024  
**Time:** 11 am  
**Place:** Makray Memorial Golf Club, 1010 S. Northwest Hwy, Barrington  
**Cost:** \$39.00 per person including tax and gratuity. Coffee/iced tea/soft drinks are included; other beverages are additional; attendees will pay their server directly.

Scott and Nicole invite you and your sweetheart to join them at Makray Memorial Golf Club for the club's annual Valentine's Luncheon. Everyone seemed to have such a great time at this venue last year, so we decided to do an encore.

### Menu

#### House Salad

*with choice of dressing*

#### Your Choice of Entrée Selections:

*served with fresh rolls and butter*

#### **Petite Filet**

*4oz petite filet served with cabernet garlic demi,  
roasted garlic mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables*

#### **Chicken Piccata**

*lightly breaded and seared, served with angel hair pasta,  
lemon caper butter and seasonal vegetables*

#### **Grilled Salmon**

*Smoked tomato butter, jasmine rice blend and braised spinach*

#### Dessert

Please RSVP to Scott Gilday with your headcount via phone/text (312-953-6855)  
or email [srgilday@msn.com](mailto:srgilday@msn.com) NO LATER THAN February 5.

**FROM THE EDITORS****Ken & Carolyn Bounds**

We hope everyone had a great holiday season and have rested up enough to hit the ground running on those New Years' Resolutions!

If you have not already done so, please consider signing up to attend our Annual Installation Dinner on January 13. This is always a great way to kick off the new year and meet the new group officers. Jay Hinshaw needs your RSVP now!



We spent the first two weeks of December on our annual anniversary trip to Maui. As we mentioned last month, the devastating August fires have forever transformed the quaint town of Lahaina. Since we have returned, we have been asked many questions. Some brief takeaways:

- Overwhelmingly, the islanders want tourists to return. Tourism accounts for 80% of the economy and the residents there want to work and make a living.
- The residents of the Lahaina area are incredibly resilient. By outward appearances, you would never know the tragedy they have endured. But the stories they tell are heartbreaking.
- Reconstruction will take a very long time – likely decades. And Lahaina town will never be the same.

Please plan to attend the January 16 monthly meeting. Ken will present a tech talk on a useful tool and an easy update to improve the brake switch on Early V-8s with hydraulic brakes. More importantly, there will be cookies by Carolyn! Ken will also be glad to answer any questions you may have about the situation in Maui.

*Ken & Carolyn*

**2024 National Meet Updates****2024 Central National Meet • Auburn Indiana  
June 17-21, 2024**

Full registration is now open! Visit the meet website at [2024cnm.com](https://2024cnm.com) for full registration forms, the tentative schedule, how to make your hotel reservations, and more.

Most meet activities will be held at the Early Ford V-8 Foundation Museum. Come see the newly opened Jerry Windle events center.

As of now, we have received 73 registrations - including nine full registrations.

**2024 Eastern National Meet • Clayton, New York  
September 15-20, 2024**

Early registration is available and we expect the full registration package soon. Visit the meet website at [efordv8-59.org](https://efordv8-59.org) for registration forms, how to make your hotel reservations, and more.

This meet will be held in the stunning 1000 Islands area of Upstate New York. This will be a very special experience. So far, we have received 55 registrations for this event.





## TECH CORNER



**2024 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1949 Ford. We thought we would kick off the new year by bringing you some interesting technical information and historical facts about this revolutionary model and contemporary world events.**

### Firsts

- First independent front suspension with coil springs
- First year with longitudinal rear springs replacing the old transverse springs
- First year for the open driveshaft - gone was the torque tube
- First year for optional overdrive transmission
- Unique blacklight instrument panel with luminescent dials

### Technical Specifications

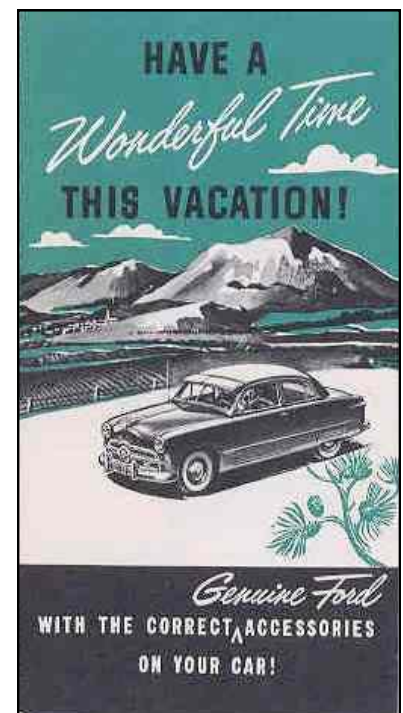
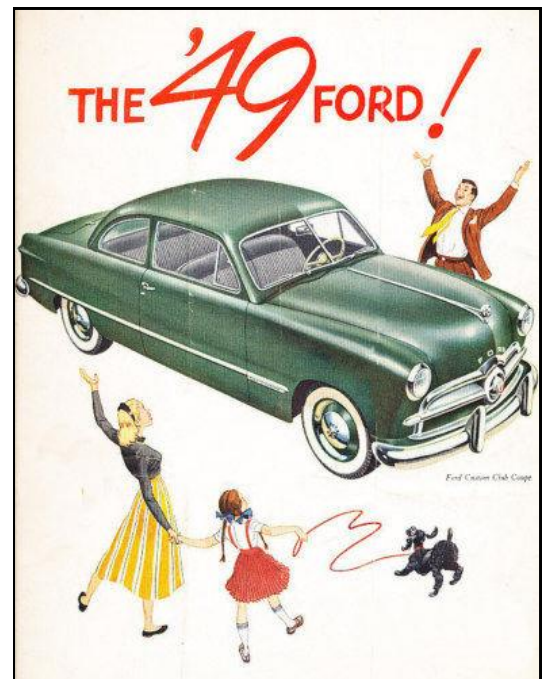
- Price – from \$1,333 for the 6-cyl Business Coupe to \$2,107 for the V-8 Station Wagon
- Weight – ranged from 2,871 lbs. for the 6-cyl Business Coupe to 3,531 lbs. for the V-8 Station Wagon
- Engines – 239 cubic inch Flathead V-8 rated at 100 horsepower and 226 ci 90-hp Flathead Six
- Production totals – 1,118,740; Fewest - Ford Club Coupe, 4,170; Most - Custom Tudor Sedan, 433,315
- Most expensive accessory – Custom radio (7 tubes) at \$83.75

### Notable

- Ford introduced the new models at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel June 10, 1948 (six weeks after Mercury and Lincoln)
- The 1949s were Ford's longest production models, lasting from their June 10, 1948, introduction through mid-November 1949
- Ford dropped the term "Deluxe" and "Super Deluxe," simply calling the base models "Ford" and the upscale models "Ford Custom"

### History

- On January 17 the first Volkswagen Beetle arrived in the United States
- The first Emmy Awards were presented on January 25
- On April 4 twelve nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty in New York, creating NATO
- The play *South Pacific* opened on Broadway April 7
- George Orwell's classic *Nineteen Eighty-Four* published June 8
- On June 19 the first NASCAR "strictly stock" race is run at Charlotte Speedway
- On August 28 the last 6 surviving veterans of the American Civil War met in Indianapolis
- RCA introduced the 45 RPM record in 1949
- On December 11 Chicago Bear QB Johnny Lujack passed for 6 touchdowns, defeating the Chicago Cardinals 52-29





## V-8 Gals

Almost every shipment that arrived here during the holidays had one of those silica gel packs in them. Those immediately go in the trash. Boy was I surprised when I came across this article on Woman's Day on-line that says they are actually useful for other things. Who knew? I'm going to start saving them for my next cell phone mishap.

### 8 Genius Ways to Use Silica Gel Packets

#### 1 Save a Drowned iPhone

It's common knowledge that cell phones and water don't mix, but life happens. So the next time you drop your cell in the toilet, the sink, or a pool, skip the rice trick and use silica gel. Remove the SIM card from the device and put it in a Ziplock bag filled with silica packets. Leave it there at least overnight, put the SIM card back in, and you're all set.



#### 2 Get Rid of Musty Smells

Have an older book at home? You've probably noticed its musty odor. For a quick fix, put it in a bag of silica gel packs—the smell will disappear in no time! The packets will also save the books from molding.

#### 3 Dry Out Hearing Aids

The same trick that works to save cell phones works on hearing aids, too. Similarly, don't forget to remove the battery first.

#### 4 Protect Documents

Put some in your safe or wherever you have important documents that need to be kept moisture-free. If you store documents or memorabilia in the basement, garage or similar storage areas, using silica gel is especially important, since those areas are prone to extra moisture.

#### 5 Keep Rust at Bay

Put a pack or two in your sewing needles so they don't develop rust. The same goes for other metal household items, like your tool box.

#### 6 Defog Your Windshield

Driving with a foggy windshield can be dangerous. Leave some gel packets on your dashboard to keep it clear.

#### 7 Keep Vacation Clothes Dry

If you're on your way back from a vacation, chances are you took a few dips in a pool—and you're traveling with a damp swimsuit or wet towels in tow. Avoid a moldy, smelly situation by packing your bathing suit in a gel packet-filled Ziplock bag to wick away the moisture.

#### 8 Keep Vitamins Fresh

If you store vitamins or medicine in your bathroom's medicine cabinet, the humidity can affect the pills every time you open the bottle. Increased moisture could lead the coatings dissolving earlier than needed. To avoid this, put a packet in the bottle.

<http://www.womansday.com/home/organizing-cleaning/g2084/uses-for-silica-gel-packets/>



#### 10 Years Ago This Month – January 2014

Frank & Phyllis Madrigali hosted the annual Installation Dinner January 11 at Rockwood Taphouse in Downers Grove. Thirty-four V-8 Club members, family, and guests came out on one of the nicest days of a cold, snowy January to celebrate our new officers and the beginning of a new year of V-8 fun. All evening we were treated to the piano stylings of our very own Ron Vaughan.

#### 20 Years Ago This Month – January 2004

Ken & Carolyn Bounds hosted the well-attended installation dinner January 14 at The Terrace Restaurant in Lombard. Sadly, it was our last time at this location because the restaurant was scheduled to be torn down and replaced by a CVS Pharmacy. Everyone enjoyed a great dinner and the excellent entertainment provided by Ron Vaughan. Service awards were handed out and President Ken Bounds was surprised with a lifetime membership for many years of service to the Club.

#### 30 Years Ago This Month – January 1994

About 50 members braved a terribly cold night to attend the annual Installation Dinner hosted by Dick & Dot Alfini at Café 59 in Warrenville on January 15. The high temperature that day was -9 with the low dipping to -18. Brrr. Only 13 members ventured out on an even colder January 18 to the monthly meeting, where Earl Heintz was presented with a lifetime membership for his long-time service to the Northern Illinois Regional Group.

#### 40 Years Ago This Month – January 1984

At the January 10 monthly meeting, Chuck Wrobel presented a tech talk on reconditioning Early V-8 electric clocks. The Cechs and the Vinyards hosted the annual Installation Dinner January 14 at Klas Restaurant in Berwyn. A crowd of 52 members and 16 guests enjoyed a feast of roast duck, beef, and veal cutlet and danced to the sounds of a two-piece band. Plenty of awards and door prizes were distributed.

#### 50 Years Ago This Month – January 1974

Attendance was down at the January 8 meeting due to several inches of slushy snow, but those in attendance got business done. On January 14 several members attended a demonstration at Redi-Strip in Addison and were impressed by the operation. Alan Wall, Paul Jensen, and Ron Dopke each left a gas tank for cleaning. (For a price of \$25!!)

#### Flathead Flashback

**New club officers at the 2014 Installation Dinner.**



## NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>January</b> 11 Board Meeting 13 Installation Dinner, Cooper's Corner, Winfield 16 Member Meeting	<b>February</b> 8 Board Meeting 10 Valentine's Luncheon, Barrington 20 Member Meeting	<b>March</b> 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting	<b>April</b> 11 Board Meeting 16 Pizza Meeting (Tentative)
<b>May</b> 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting	<b>June</b> 13 Board Meeting 17-21 Central National Meet -Auburn 18 Member Meeting	<b>July</b> 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting	<b>August</b> 8 Board Meeting 20 Member Meeting
<b>September</b> 12 Board Meeting 15-20 Eastern National Meet, Clayton NY 17 Member Meeting 27-29 Lake Geneva Poker Rally	<b>October</b> 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting	<b>November</b> 9 Veterans Day Lunch, Location TBD 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting	<b>December</b> No Meetings

### Condolences

Our deepest condolences to Ron and Colleen Steck and their family on the sudden passing of their 6-year-old granddaughter Quinn Marie Folisi on December 14. We received the message below from Ron:

*Dear Ford Club, members and families, on behalf of the and Steck families we want to express our sincere gratitude for your kindness. Thank you for your love, heartfelt prayers and support during the loss of our granddaughter, Quinn Marie. She now lives in the fullness of God's love.*

*For those of you who were able to attend Quinn's services, we are truly grateful. Your presence gave us comfort, peace and strength. Sincerely, Ron and Colleen Steck and families.*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

**GENE HEINTZ (1/3), JOE NOVAK (1/11),  
 GEORGE ZULAS (1/13), RON DOPKE (1/14),  
 DAWN OSBORNE (1/16), RON BLUM (1/23),  
 JO ANNE STACK (1/23), & LARRY WEBB (1/31)**

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





## Vehicles For Sale



### 1953 Mercury for Sale

- Rebuilt engine
- Rebuilt automatic transmission
- Brakes, shocks, rear springs replaced
- 12 volt and more

Asking price reduced to \$20,500

Email [novak\\_j@att.net](mailto:novak_j@att.net) for more photos. Call Joe Novak at 708-923-9953 for more info.



### 1936 Ford 5 Window Coupe for Sale

- Museum quality
- Third owner

Call Bob Miller at 847-651-7207 or by email at [roberthmiller2@comcast.net](mailto:roberthmiller2@comcast.net) for more info.



This 1940 Ford 1/2 ton pickup is a full restoration. The engine is a 1951 Mercury flathead, 3 speed transmission, Columbia two speed rear end. Frame is powder coated along with many suspension parts. New wire harness and many other items. Have all the records of the restoration and list of parts. Asking \$40,000. Contact Ron Steck at 630-777-4001.

## Other Items For Sale

Three 16" pickup rims. Contact Tom Myers at 847-308-1495.

R-12 Freon 12oz \$10 per can. Ignition resistor - new \$5. Condensers: 78-12300 fits 1940 helmet distributor \$5, 91-A 123000 Fits 1941 and up \$5 each. Spark Plugs for sale \$1 each: Champion F-14Y (8), Champion RF-14Y4 (6), Motorcraft AWSF 44C (8), AC Delco R45TS8 (8), AC Delco R44TSX (6), AC Delco R45LTS6 (5), AC Delco R43TS (1). Contact Roger Obecny at 708-772-1925.

**Have something to sell?**  
**Your ad could be here!**

Send your information, including your name and phone number, to the Road Chatter Editor.

## Wanted

Wanted: 1941 Ford starter, generator, and carburetor. Contact Vickie Beck at 847-946-5237.

Wanted: 1952 International L-150 Model 5 lug rims. Contact Mike Heatherly at 630-234-5384 or [mikehy@raacorents.com](mailto:mikehy@raacorents.com).



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Welcome to new advertiser DENT WIZARD. More about this business next month.

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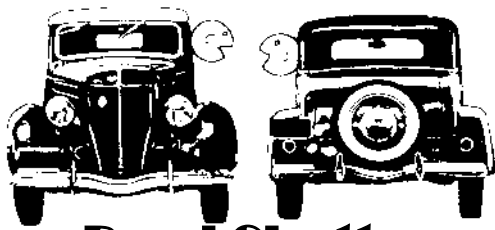


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## **Road Chatter**

1N410 Forest Ave  
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**Photo of the Month**  
**Tony Spavone Joins Our Group at the**  
**Annual Christmas Luncheon**