

# ROAD CHATTER

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

Volume 59 Issue 12

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

December 2025

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

## UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

**December 14** Christmas Luncheon - see details on page 3.

**January 7** Deadline to RSVP for Installation Dinner. See enclosed flyer.

**January 17** Installation Dinner. See Page 3 .

**No regular meetings in December**



Happy  
Holidays



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**Page 2** – Re-elected President Scott Gilday introduces the newly elected NIRG Officers (they may look familiar), talks about the fun events we had in November, and looks forward to upcoming events.

**Page 2** – Congratulations to the newly elected officers for 2026.

**Page 3** – Dawn Zulas is hosting our annual Christmas luncheon at Spavone's in Bloomingdale. See details here.

**Page 3** – See information here about the January 17th Installation Dinner. Also see enclosed flyer to RSVP to Jay Hinshaw.

**Page 4** – Este Scheve once again hosted our annual V-8's and Veterans luncheon at the Patio in Lombard. See details here

**Page 5** – We can't say goodbye to Thanksgiving without thinking about what a V-8 Guy is thankful for.

**Page 6** – Minutes of the November 11 monthly meeting.

**Page 7** – Your editors mark a milestone.

**Page 8** – Rearview Mirror – information about club events over the past 50 years, plus a Flathead Flashback.

**Page 9** – Remember to review the Events Calendar each month; also, see who has a birthday or anniversary this month.

**Page 10** – Check out the for sale and wanted ads.

**Back Cover** – Our group on the Lake Michigan Shore on the Fall Colors Tour.



A reminder that 2026 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 2026 roster.



**2025 OFFICERS****President**

Scott Gilday

**Vice President**

Jay Hinshaw

**Secretary**

Gary Osborne

**Treasurer**

Ron Blum

**Membership Chairman**

Ken Bounds

**Health & Welfare**

Dawn Zulas

**Newsletter**

Ken and Carolyn Bounds

**Tour Chairman**

Open

**Board of Directors**

Ken Bounds

Ciena Gilday

Mike Heatherly

Rusty Medlin

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**

Welcome to December. I hope you and your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

First, I would like to introduce our newly confirmed 2025 officers. I will continue as President and congratulations go to our officers and board members who will remain in their positions: Vice President Jay Hinshaw, Treasurer Ron Blum, Secretary Gary Osborne, and Board Members Este Scheve, Rusty Medlin, Mike Heatherly, George Zulas, Ken Bounds (who will also continue in his roles as Road Chatter Editor and Membership Chairman), and lastly our Youth Director, Ciena Gilday.



Next, I would like to thank Este Scheve and Ken and Carolyn Bounds for helping to make November a great month. Este again hosted our annual Veteran's Day Lunch at The Patio in Lombard to honor our members who served, and Ken and Carolyn made our monthly meeting special, with Ken's wrap-up Tech Talk on his '50 Ford Convertible's perplexing master brake cylinder replacement and Carolyn's special homemade Fall/Thanksgiving themed cookies. This month, please plan on attending our Christmas Brunch being hosted by Dawn Zulas at Tony Spavone's in Bloomingdale on December 14th. As is our normal tradition, there will be no monthly meeting in December

Thanks to the help of our board members, officers, and members, 2025 was a great year filled with several fun activities. We had many opportunities to get our V-8s out and enjoy fun tours and great company. For next year, our Board and Officers are putting together another great slate of activities, and we look forward to seeing you, starting with our Annual Installation dinner on January 17th at Cooper's Corner in Winfield. And, as always, we welcome members to step up and help plan and run additional activities.

Happy Holidays!!

## Congratulations to the newly elected NIRG Officers for 2026!

President Scott Gilday, Secretary Gary Osborne, Treasurer  
Ron Blum

Board of Directors: Ken Bounds, Ciena Gilday, Mike  
Heatherly, Rusty Medlin, Este  
Scheve, and George Zulas.

**UPCOMING EVENTS****Annual Christmas Brunch – Sunday, December 14**

**What:** Annual Christmas Brunch

**When:** Sunday, December 14, 12:00 noon

**Where:** Tony Spavone's Ristorante, Bloomingdale

Dawn and George Zulas are hosting our annual Christmas Brunch Sunday, December 14 at noon at Tony Spavone's Ristorante at 266 West Lake Street in Bloomingdale. We will be ordering off the menu.

Spavone's is on the south side of Lake Street (US-20) one mile west of Bloomingdale Road or 3.5 miles west of the Lake Street exit off I-355.

**If you have not signed up and you would like to attend, please contact Dawn or George at 630-362-4120 by December 10.**



***2026 Installation Dinner***  
***January 17, 2026***



**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 2026**
- ◆ **Recognition of Service to the NIRG**

**See enclosed flyer for dinner selections and more information.  
RSVP with dinner choice and payment to Jay Hinshaw by January 7.**



## 18th Annual V-8s & Veterans Luncheon By Este Scheve

On November 8th, 18 members and family gathered at the Patio Restaurant to enjoy barbeque, friendship and a few adult beverages in our annual salute to our Veterans.

Those attending were Arlene and Ron Blum, Ken and Carolyn Bounds, Tom Buscaglia, Mike Heatherly, Rusty Medlin, Tom O'Donnell and his daughter Maureen Joos, Gary and Dawn Osborne with their daughter Joyanna, John and Este Scheve, and George and Dawn Zulas along with their son Tom and Denise Brussels. Everyone was visiting and having a good time and, of course, we thanked our Veterans in attendance for their service!



Our Hosts John & Este Scheve



Arlene & Ron Blum



Maureen Joos and Tom O'Donnell



Dawn, Joyana, & Gary Osborne



Rusty Medlin and Denise Brussels



Tom Buscaglia and Mike Heatherly



The Zulas Family



Ken & Carolyn Bounds



Este thanks the Veterans





## Thanksgiving 2025

### What an Early Ford V-8 Guy is Thankful For

Thanksgiving morning arrived crisp and cool, the kind of autumn day that makes an Early Ford V-8 guy pause on the porch and smile at the sound of rattling leaves skittering across the driveway. As he walked toward the garage, coffee steaming in one hand, he felt that familiar flutter of anticipation—because behind that old wooden door waited something worth being truly thankful for.



With a gentle pull, the hinges groaned, and there it was: his Ford V-8. It didn't matter whether it was a '32 Cabriolet, a '37 Coupe, or a '41 Station Wagon—what mattered was the feeling. The graceful fenders, the chrome that seemed to catch even the dimmest morning light, the smell of old gasoline and oiled metal. It was more than a car. It was history that still had a heart-beat.

He was thankful for Henry Ford's stubborn brilliance, for the flathead V-8 itself, for the way it rumbled like a living thing. He was thankful for the long Saturdays spent with a wrench in hand—sometimes muttering, sometimes celebrating when a rust-frozen bolt finally gave in. Those hours weren't chores; they were therapy, a kind of mechanical meditation.

He was thankful for the people the car had brought into his life: the friends met at swap meets, the club members who always had just the right part tucked away, the folks who waved from sidewalks during parades. Early Ford V-8 people weren't just hobbyists—they were a family connected by steel, grease, and stories stretching back nearly a century.

He was thankful for the memories. For the first time the engine turned over after a long rebuild. For evenings spent cruising back roads, the flathead humming like it remembered every mile. For grandkids riding in the rumble seat, eyes wide with the same wonder he once felt at their age.

And as he opened the garage wider and climbed inside, he realized he was thankful for time—the time to preserve something worth preserving, the time to appreciate a slower rhythm, the time to enjoy a machine that asked for patience and rewarded it with soul.

With a tap of the starter and the familiar chuff of the V-8 coming to life, he backed out into the golden November sunlight. Another Thanksgiving had arrived, and once again, he had plenty to be grateful for: good friends, good memories, and the timeless rumble of a Ford V-8 carrying him forward.



**NOVEMBER 11 MEETING MINUTES**

Submitted by Gary Osborne

It was a packed room as President Scott Gilday opened up the meeting to a lively crowd. There were no guests in attendance so he got right into the meeting agenda. Which, of course was filled with all kinds of new information for the members.

The election of new Officers for 2026 was completed and here are the results:

President - Scott Gilday, Treasurer - Ron Blum, Secretary - Gary Osborne,  
Board of Directors - Rusty Medlin, Ken Bounds, Mike Heatherly, Este Scheve,  
George Zulas, Ciena Gilday (youth director)



Reappointed positions - Vice President - Jay Hinshaw, Membership Chairman - Ken Bounds,  
Health and Welfare Chairwoman - Dawn Zulas, Newsletter Editors - Ken and Carolyn Bounds.

**Membership Report**

Ken Bounds reported that we have 54 active members with 37 that have renewed. If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, please get it in to Ken.

**National Club Report**

Ken Bounds reported that the Eastern National Meet for next year is still being planned. Many details have yet to be worked out.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ron Blum gave this report: Revenues of \$4682.12 from events, 50/50, and CNM. Expenses of \$160 for Road Chatter and D&O insurance.

**Health and Welfare Report**

Dawn Zulas passed around several cards for the members to sign for Ron Steck, (back surgery), Judy Buscaglia, (cancer treatment), Diane Pudelek, (cancer treatment). Please keep these people in your prayers in the days ahead as they go through their recoveries.

**Previous Events**

- Ron Blum reported that the Fall Colors tour was spectacular. A very nice driving day along Sheridan Road and to visit the Bahai Temple. Everyone had a great time!
- Este Scheve reported that the Veteran's Day Luncheon at The Patio was really wonderful. Good food and a great time as we celebrated our Veterans.

**Upcoming Events**

- December 14 - Christmas Brunch at Spavone's in Bloomingdale
- January 17 - Installation Dinner at Cooper's Corner in Winfield
- February - Valentine's Brunch - TBD

**Additional Items**

After a short break to enjoy Carolyn's cookies, Ken gave a presentation on Part 2 of his brake master cylinder replacement on his 1950 convertible. The slides shown really helped the mem-

**NOVEMBER 11 MEETING MINUTES- CONTINUED****Submitted by Gary Osborne**

bers see what was involved in the process. It was a complicated procedure that caused a lot of headaches, but he was able to get it taken care of, and the car is back on the road.

The last items for the evening were the raffle drawings. The 50/50 raffle was won by Bob Miller who took home an extra \$30. Then there were three drawings made for \$25 Turkey Gift Cards from Jewel. The winners were: Gary Osborne, Tom O'Donnell, and Scott Gilday.

Meeting Adjourned early.

**Attendance:**

Ron Blum, Ken Bounds, Scott Gilday, Mike Heatherly, Jay Hinshaw, Rusty Medlin, Bob Miller, Tom O'Donnell, Gary Osborne, John Scheve, Este Scheve, George Zulas, and Dawn Zulas.

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

Exactly 20 years ago, on November 30, 2005, a *Swamp Holly Orange* Yellow Freight truck rolled into our neighborhood, trailer behind. It stopped at our house. The driver used a pallet jack to unload a large 200-pound crate and wheeled it into our garage. It was our first massive printer, a Xerox 7750.

Earlier that month, Road Chatter Editor Diane Wrobel informed the man she had replaced as editor in 1979, NIRG President Ron Dopke, that she would be stepping down at the end of the year after 331 issues. The call went out for a new editor.



Carolyn and I spent a lot of time that November thinking about taking on the job as editors. We considered a lot of changes: creating the Road Chatter electronically instead of the old type and paste method; moving to an all-color format; printing the newsletter in house on tabloid-sized paper to save money. We installed Microsoft Publisher on our computers, came up with a new format and look, and in December did a lot of test printing. We accepted the job.

We also spent a busy week in Maui celebrating our 2nd anniversary. We drove the road to Hana and took a helicopter ride. I wonder if we were thinking about the Road Chatter?



Lucky and Charlie – the Road Chatter CopyCats

Our first issue would be coming out of that new printer less than a month after it had arrived. Our Copy Cats, Lucky and Charlie, supervised the process. Every copy had to be printed – e-mailing a PDF version was not even a dream at that time.

How time flies! Twenty years later who could have known that Yellow Freight would be gone. Also gone would be that Xerox 7750 and our dear Copy Cats. But we are still here, except for a 40-month vacation a few years ago – thank you John Emmering for filling in. **This is our 200th issue!**

*Ken & Carolyn*





### 10 Years Ago This Month – December 2015

A Christmas Luncheon scheduled for December 6 was cancelled due to a lack of signups. Ken and Carolyn Bounds were commemorating their 10th year as Road Chatter editors. On December 27, long-time life member and three-time past president Chester Lawrence passed away at 94 years old.

### 20 Years Ago This Month – December 2005

Long-time Editor Diane Wrobel issued her final edition of the Road Chatter in December. It contained letters from President Ron Dopke thanking Diane for her many years of award-winning work and welcoming new editors Ken & Carolyn Bounds. Diane also included a detailed letter thanking many members for their contributions and support and welcoming Ken & Carolyn. On December 4, forty-one members, family, and guests attended a Christmas Brunch at Seasons of Long Grove, hosted by Ed & Roni Fontana.

### 30 Years Ago This Month – December 1995

The Annual Christmas lunch was hosted by Norm & Dolly Collins December 10 at the Village Tavern of Long Grove. Unfortunately, Dolly could not join the large group of members and family as she was rushed to the hospital that morning with a heart condition. The Club treasury was \$40 richer from the auction of a gingerbread house donated by Judy & Tom Buscaglia.

### 40 Years Ago This Month – December 1985

The December Road Chatter contained another detailed update on the 1986 Central National Meet from Chairman Marty Duling showing that detailed planning for the meet was making great progress. Wayne & Terry Heineman hosted a Christmas party in their home December 14. Alas, we could not find a report.

### 50 Years Ago This Month – December 1975

Forty-three happy V-8ers attended a terrific Christmas party December 12 at the House of Flame in Schiller Park, hosted by Bill & Susan Simms. They enjoyed a cocktail hour, a family-style dinner, and several hours of dancing to a band. During a break, door prizes were drawn and President Bob Hanselman announced the new officers for 1976.

### Flathead Flashback

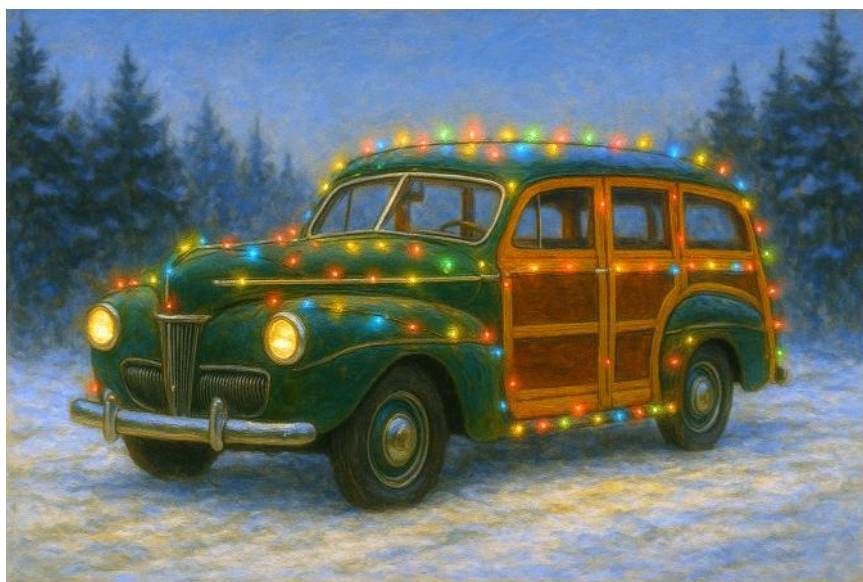
**Part of our group at the 2005 Christmas Brunch.**





## NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>September</b> 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting 26-28 Lake Geneva Poker Rally	<b>October</b> 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting 25 Fall Colors Driving Tour	<b>November</b> 8 Veterans Luncheon 11 Member Meeting <i>Note Special Date</i> 13 Board Meeting	<b>December</b> No Meetings 14 Christmas Luncheon, Tony Spavone's
<b>January</b> 8 Board Meeting 17 Installation Dinner, Coopers Corner, Winfield 20 Member Meeting	<b>February</b> 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	<b>March</b> 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	<b>April</b> 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting



*Merry Christmas*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**  
**MARY ANDERSON (12/4), DAN PUDELEK (12/10), JANIS DIX (12/15),**  
**MARGARET KOEDER (12/25), KEN BOUNDS (12/26),**  
**KITTY FREIHAGE (12/29) AND RICH ANDERSON (12/31)**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**  
**MICHAEL & GRACE MOHAWK (12/3), KEN & CAROLYN BOUNDS (12/6),**  
**JOHN & MARILYN KRENGER (12/12), AND TERRY & KITTY FREIHAGE (12/19)**



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



## Vehicles For Sale



This 1940 Ford 1/2 ton pickup is a full restoration. The engine is a 1951 Mercury flathead, 3 speed transmission, 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.**

**Congratulations Ron!**

## Other Items For Sale

1940-1948 Ford 16" wheels. Three new at \$60 each; two used at \$30 each. **Contact Ron Dopke at 815-344-1335.**

Pressure pot for sandblaster, no holes. Wood stove - not pot belly. **Contact George Zulas at 630-362-4120.**

### The Items Below are Offered by Ray McMahon

Professionally rebuilt 1936 LB engine. The rebuild was done by Speed Performance Engineering and Dyno tested. I have documentation on all components that were used as well as video of the engine on the Dyno. Includes rolling stand. Price **\$11,750.**

Good set of original 36 cast iron heads, **\$175.**

Original 36 Cam in good used condition, **\$85.**

Original Ford 8 Day Clock Mirror (pull string) with Mounting Bracket. Very Rare. Mint condition, **\$1,275.**

Heart shape Vacuum Windshield Wiper Motor Chrome plated in mint condition, **\$1,050.**

Generator restored and tested by Joe Serritella, **\$275.**

Original voltage regulator restored and tested by Joe S. tested together with the generator above, **\$100.**

1936 Ford Tool Set includes wrenches, jack, tire pump, tire irons, grease gun, screw driver, tool pouch and Reference Book 1936 Ford V-8, **\$500.**

**Call Ray McMahon at 630-853-6832.**

## Wanted

Wanted: 2-speed 6-volt blower motor for 1940 Ford hot water heater. **Contact George Zulas at 630-460-0095.**

Wanted: 47 Ford Coupe interior door handles. **Contact Mike Heatherly at 630-234-5384.**



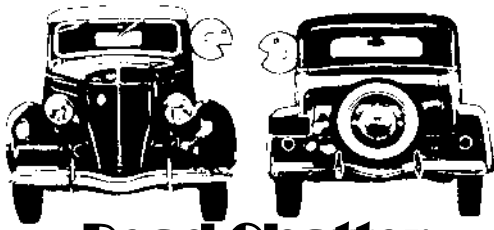
– Service/Parts Department Hours –  
7:00am – 3:00pm  
*All Makes & Models are Welcome!*

<https://www.friendlyford.com>

**Sales & Service: (630) 924-8686**

Happy Holidays





## **Road Chatter**

1N410 Forest Ave  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



**Photo of the Month**  
**Our Group Enjoying the Annual Veteran's Luncheon**