

ROAD CHATTER

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

Volume 59 Issue 2

P.O. Box 803
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803
www.nirgv8.org

February 2025

UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

February 8 - Valentine's Luncheon. See Page 3 for details.

February 13 - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm.

February 18 - Monthly Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm.



February 14 Happy Valentine's Day. Remember your special person.

Feb 8-17 117th Annual Chicago Auto Show, McCormick Place, \$17 adult, \$12 seniors 62 and older.

Feb 18 33rd Annual BOPC Swap Meet & Car Corral, Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles. 8am - 2pm. \$8 admission.

In this Issue

Page 2 – President Scott Gilday talks about the club calendar for the upcoming year and gives a brief update on his '41 Ford engine rebuild.

Page 3 – Dawn Zulas has arranged a Valentine's Luncheon in Barrington for February 8. See details here. If you want to attend the luncheon, please contact Dawn right away because the RSVP date is January 31.

Page 4 – Tom Myers has sent in a really nice article about how he acquired and restored his rare 1945 Pickup. Thank you Tom!

Page 7 – Tom's article provides the perfect segway to a repeat of John Emmering's 31 millionth Ford article from December 2015.

Page 8 – Jay Hinshaw hosted our Annual Installation Dinner on January 11 - see report with pictures here.

Page 9 – Just in time for Valentine's Day, our V-8 Gals have some words of wisdom. Plus a tasty recipe.

Page 9 – Remember to review the Events Calendar each month; and see who has a birthday or anniversary this month. Also, a brief update on statics about the upcoming 2025 Central National Meet.

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

Page 11 – Check out the for sale and wanted ads.

Page 11 – A few words from your editors.

Back Cover – The new NIRG Officers for 2025



Attention Members

We encourage everyone to come to the February monthly meeting. John Scheve will be doing a tech talk detailing his work on rebuilding the front end on his 1947 Coupe.

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

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 V-8ers,

Welcome to February. I wish everybody a very happy Valentine's Day. With January behind us and the first day of spring less than two months away, it will be time to dust off your V-8 before you know it. Hopefully, you're working on one or two winter projects to get your car ready.



First, I would like to thank Jay Hinshaw for once again hosting our annual Installation Dinner. We had a great time and got to swear in this year's new officers.

Unfortunately, we could not hold our monthly meeting in January, as mother nature got the best of us with frigid cold weather and we decided to cancel. However, we look forward to seeing people at our upcoming Valentine's Day Lunch on February 8th and at our Member Meeting on February 18th.

We've been busy planning our calendar for 2025, and it looks like we are going to have another fun-filled year ahead of us. Please check out our website at www.nirgv8.org for a preview of what's in store. While

you're there, check out all the helpful information Ken and Carolyn Bounds have posted about our Regional Group.

As an update on our 41 Fordor project, here are a couple of pictures of the engine block that has now been bored to 3 3/16 inches, one-eighth of an inch over the stock 3 1/16 -inch bore, and our crankshaft that is being machined as we speak.

I look forward to seeing you this month. In the meantime, stay warm!



UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS**2025 Valentine's Luncheon**

- Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2025
Time: Noon
Place: Makray Memorial Golf Club, 1010 S. Northwest Hwy, Barrington
Cost: \$41.50 per person including tax and gratuity. Coffee/iced tea/soft drinks are included; other beverages are additional; attendees will pay their server directly.

Dawn and George Zulas invite you and your sweetheart to join them at Makray Memorial Golf Club for the club's annual Valentine's Luncheon.

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

Mixed dessert plate

**Please RSVP to Dawn Zulas with your headcount via phone/text (630-362-4120)
or email dawnzulas@yahoo.com NO LATER THAN January 31.**

Must be in My DNA By Tom Myers

It all started in 1989. I worked for IBM as a Large Systems Field Manager in the Chicago area and received an informal award for \$1,500 for resolving ongoing customer satisfaction issues in a significant account. During one of my many status meetings with the DP Manager, I noticed pictures of what appeared to be a restored 37 Coupe on his desk. Since most of the service issues were resolved we had time to discuss other interests. Seeing the picture made me think out loud that I would like to restore an old car. He mentioned that he was going to offload an old Ford truck in one of his barns, because he was through with restoration projects and asked, "Are you interested?" Of course, I said "Yes, how much?" I agreed to the deal (\$1,500) without seeing the condition of the truck. That weekend, I was surprised as my son was when he delivered it onto my driveway. Oh Boy, what did I get myself into!! A friend, Senior Engineer at IBM and member of a V-8 Club, suggested I join the Northern Illinois Regional Group #8. This was very helpful throughout the process.

My love for mechanics started at an early age when my older brother was rebuilding his 1947 Chevy en-



My new project arrives at home with a "truckload" of parts

gine in our driveway. While he was annoyed with me hanging around and asking lots of questions, he appreciated my fetching the different tools he needed to get the job done. In high school, I tinkered with my 1936 Plymouth but didn't have the interest to rebuild its oil burning engine. When I was in the Navy, I had a 1958 Chevy that squealed when I raced the engine. A friend convinced me that the lifters were "floating," so I packed the hydraulic lifters with washers. I discovered the real problem was a bad timing gear. Then came an engine overhaul of my 1965 VW Bug in the same driveway my brother used. Over the years I did most car maintenance and repair jobs by rolling up my sleeves and diving into repairs. I read the Motors Repair Manual and any other book I got my hands on, because back then, YouTube or AI wasn't created yet. I convinced myself and my wife that I could handle a restoration project of the 1945 Ford pickup truck.

After clearing my garage, the first order of business was to start collecting coffee cans for nuts and bolts. Then I cut a hole in the ceiling and installed a chain hoist on some beefed-up rafters. I built 4 horses to

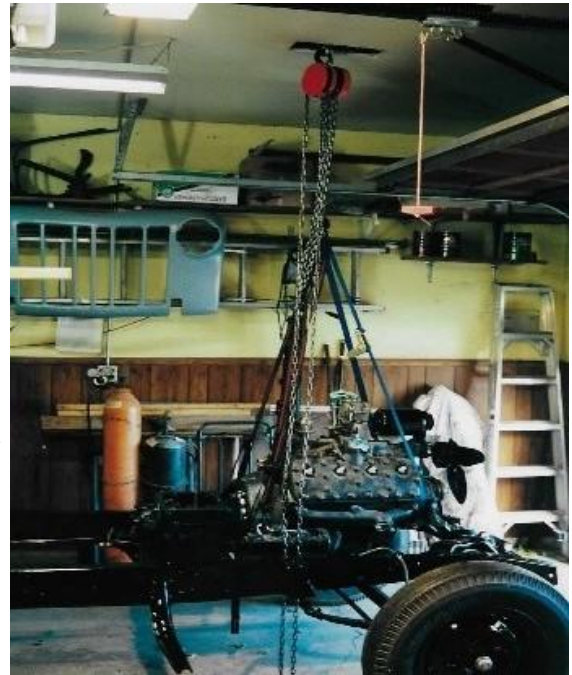
mount the bed and cab separately off the frame, that would allow me to roll the motor and frame, so I could start the long process of removing, cleaning and labeling parts.

The next order of business was to collect equipment like an engine stand, air compressor, air tools, sand blaster, welder, paint guns, etc. It all took money and time, neither of which I had. From August 1987 through 1998, my free time was spent scraping, blasting, grinding, welding and sanding the frame and body parts as well as looking through parts manuals, web sites and local swap meets to create a parts list for this project.

In April 1998, I took the 59A engine to a machine shop in Skokie, Illinois along with a box of new parts I thought it needed. They used most of my parts and some of their own to complete the job in a few weeks. It took me another couple of months to prime and paint the frame before I installed the engine, rebuilt 4-speed transmission and new clutch assembly. I was pleased to discover the frame and engine numbers match.

The body and bed parts were in rough shape. Therefore, I could only take this restoration one step at a time. My neighbors were very curious to see my progress, but not really pleased with my grinding on the metal parts late into the night and on most weekends with my garage door open. They kept asking me if I had any idea when the truck would be done; I had to remind them that Rome was not built in a day. I promised my truck would be in the Arlington Heights 4th of July Parade someday.

In the spring of 2002, my good friend and attorney stopped over to check out my ride. The cab was mounted on the frame, all necessary electrical connections were made and the radiator installed. So I started it up for him. It was very loud since no mufflers were installed. I put a bench inside the cab and took him for a ride around the block. Fortunately, no police were around as it didn't have a license



Mounting the Engine and Trans



Garage Paint Shop



Rusty Bed



Fenders and Running Board



K L SCHMIDT



Interior



Engine Compartment

plate and none of the lights worked. I was excited as it was the first time I had it on the road. Everything seemed to work mechanically.

In the spring of 2004 I was finished with my project so I registered for the 4th of July Parade. My wife and I made it through the entire parade route which took over 2 hours with out incident. Then 2 miles from home one of my signs blew off.

When we stopped to get it, a vapor lock stalled us for 20 minutes. My wife was mortified. We have been in several other parades and all but a few have presented unique issues.

While I purchased the truck in North Central Illinois, I would like to locate K L SCHMIDT whom I assume was one of the first owners of the truck or someone in his family who might remember the truck so I could learn the history of my purchase.



The truck finally makes it to the 4th of July parade!

I was born in 1945 so this '45 Pickup and I appear to have a DNA match; therefore, this project has been very special to me. Now if only I could do the same restoration on my 79 year old body. Happy Motor-ing.





TECH CORNER



A 1945 Series 59C ½ Ton Pickup becomes the 31 Millionth Ford By John Emmering

As the German war machine was in the process of capitulation in Europe, Ford Motor Company briefly turned its attention to the production of the company's 31 Millionth vehicle on Thursday May 3, 1945. This time the vehicle was not a stylish sedan, since passenger car production had not yet resumed. The 31 Millionth Ford was a Spartan-appearing 1945 series 59C ½ ton pickup truck. Lacking the fanfare of earlier production milestones this event did not garner national press coverage or lavish ceremonies. As the pickup rolled off the Rouge assembly line however, worker's spirits were lifted as the prospect of a return to full peacetime production increased.



The U.S. War Production Board authorized a resumption of civilian pickup truck production in February of 1945 when it perceived a need for trucks for business and agricultural use. Initially a clone of the 1942 Model 29C pick up was produced. By May the trucks had been designated as Series 59C incorporating the modifications prepared for the 1946 models. These early pickups were designated 1945 models and the 59C series was continued throughout 1946. The pickups were the only civilian trucks built by Ford in 1945 and came only in "Village Green" with cream colored grills. Just 564 of these trucks were built in 1945 and they were not equipped with a spare tire due to war time shortages. These early post war trucks were eagerly purchased by businessmen and farmers weary of repairing and maintaining their tired older model pickups.



1945 Model 59C restored to its original glory



True to form this example also lacks a spare

Annual Installation Dinner By Ken Bounds

We beat the cold front! On a pleasant mid-winter day, 17 members gathered on January 11 at Cooper's Corner in Winfield for our annual installation dinner, hosted by Jay Hinshaw. The food and service were excellent again this year. We had plenty of time to visit among our group at a long table.

After our meal and with much prodding from the audience, returning President Scott got up and said a few words to thank officers and club members for their service and participation the past year and to introduce the new officers for 2025. John Scheve did the honors of leading the officers in the traditional "So Help Me Henry" swearing in pledge while Carolyn documented it all for the history books.

This year everyone stayed around visiting quite a bit longer than last year. We didn't have to worry about the bitterly cold weather and blowing snow that we had in 2024. Unfortunately, the deep freeze hit us again in a few days. At least this evening a great time was had by all.

In attendance were President and First Lady Scott & Nicole Gilday, event organizer VP Jay Hinshaw, Ken & Carolyn Bounds, Mike Heatherly, John Judge, Frank Madrigali. Rusty & Melanie Medlin, Gary Osborne, Dan & Diane Pudelek, John & Este Scheve, and George & Dawn Zulas.



Nicole & Scott



Rusty & Melanie



Dawn & George



Mike



John & Gary



Frank & Jay



Este & John



Ken & Carolyn



Diane & Dan

V-8 Gals

It's February and with Valentine's Day only a few days away, love is in the air. Remember back to when you were younger and you would get those Conversation Hearts, "Be Mine," "Hug Me" and the like? Those sayings didn't mean so much back then. Wouldn't it be great to have more relevant sayings? The great people at Good Housekeeping did just that. Here's their list of top 10 things they wished the Conversation Hearts said. I could come up with a few more, but this is a great start.

10 Things We Wish Conversation Hearts Said

1. Sleep in Today
2. I put Gas in your Car
3. You Take the Remote
4. I Don't Love the Dog More. Promise.
5. You're OK.
6. Let's Cozy Up with Gone with the Wind
7. The Kids are at Grandma's
8. I Separated the Whites and Colors
9. The Dishes are Done
10. I Went to Starbucks



February 3rd is National Wear Red Day Supporting Women's Heart Health

Oreo Truffles

- 1 (16 ounce) package OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies, divided
- 1 (8 ounce) package PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 2 (8 ounce) packages BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate, melted



1. Crush 9 of the cookies to fine crumbs in food processor; reserve for later use. (Cookies can also be finely crushed in a resealable plastic bag using a rolling pin.) Crush remaining 36 cookies to fine crumbs; place in medium bowl. Add cream cheese; mix until well blended. Roll cookie mixture into 42 balls, about 1-inch in diameter.
2. Dip balls in chocolate; place on wax paper-covered baking sheet. (Any leftover chocolate can be stored at room temperature for another use.) Sprinkle with reserved cookie crumbs.
3. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour. Store leftover truffles, covered, in refrigerator.



10 Years Ago This Month – February 2015

The February Road Chatter included an article from George Zulas about his 1940 Ford Standard Tudor and detailed plans for many exciting events planned for the year. Unfortunately, there were no scheduled club events.

20 Years Ago This Month – February 2005

At the February 15 monthly meeting, George Cech announced that 25-year NIRG member Don Schuh had passed away that morning. We also learned that Chuck Davis had passed away in January. The club had two tours to Mr. Davis' terrific collection on Washington Island in Door County. A lot of interest was shown in attending the Eastern National Meet in Hiawassee, Georgia, in June.

30 Years Ago This Month – February 1995

The February Road Chatter included an announcement of the passing of Dorothy Bischoff. The Road Chatter also included an autobiography that Norm Miller submitted about the first 21 years of his life. At the February 21 monthly meeting there was discussion of the need to either raise funds or increase dues to cover costs and the latest postage increase. There was also much discussion about plans to travel to the Central National Meet in Nashville in July.

40 Years Ago This Month – February 1985

The February Road Chatter included an article submitted by Howie Bischoff about some 1932 Fords which had been used in Nepal and had been imported into the U.S. (Note – Alan Wall purchased one of those '32s). At the meeting it was announced that it was official – the NIRG would be hosting the 1986 Central National Meet!

50 Years Ago This Month – February 1975

At least 24 members armed with little more than a warm companion and some variety of anti-freeze challenged the cold weather on a sleigh ride February 8 at Prince Crossing Stables, organized by Sam Iusi. At the February 11 monthly meeting, Howie Bischoff suggested that members should wear name tags at club functions and volunteered to make up a sample.

Flathead Flashback

February 10, 2008: Joe Kozmic appears to have strayed a little too close to a tank at the Chicago Auto Show.



NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>January 9 Board Meeting 11 Installation Dinner, Cooper's Corner, Winfield 21 Member Meeting</p>	<p>February 8 Valentine's Luncheon, Barrington 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting</p>	<p>March 13 Board Meeting 18 Pizza Meeting, Pal Joey's, Batavia (location tentative)</p>	<p>April 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting</p>
<p>May 8 Board Meeting 20 Member Meeting</p>	<p>June 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting 22-26 Central National Meet - Springfield</p>	<p>July 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting</p>	<p>August 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting</p>
<p>September 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting 26-28 Lake Geneva Poker Rally</p>	<p>October 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting</p>	<p>November 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting</p>	<p>December No Meetings</p>



**2025 Central National Meet
 Springfield, Illinois**

2025 Central National Meet Update

Website: <https://2025cnm.com>

Full registration packages were sent out to all early registrants on January 21.

Full registrations received: 6

Early registrations received: 68

Cancellations: 3

25 registrants have made hotel reservations at the Crowne Plaza. Plenty of rooms available.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

**VICKI BECK (2/3), PAT STACEY (2/12),
 LEN VINYARD (2/14), & CHERYL KOZMIC (2/28)**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

STAN & JO ANNE STACK (2/14)

**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, 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.**



1936 Ford 5 Window Coupe for Sale

- Museum quality
- Third owner
- Asking \$40,000 or best offer

Call Bob Miller at 847-651-7207 or by email at roberthmiller2@comcast.net for more info.



1940 Ford Deluxe Tudor Sedan

- Starts, Stops, Runs
- This is a Preservation not a Restoration
- Available after October 14

Contact Roger Obecnny at 708-772-1925 to discuss price.



Totally restored 48" round original "Mr. Speedee" McDonald's neon sign. Mint condition, new neon tubes, all neon colors work. Asking \$600. Call Bob Miller at 847-651-7207 or by email at roberthmiller2@comcast.net

Wanted

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

Other Items For Sale

Traffic signal; - sits on a standard with base, stands approximately 6'6" tall. 120 volts, cycles through red, yellow, green. Great garage display. \$600.00 **Contact Ron Dopke at 815-344-1335.**

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

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

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.

FROM THE EDITORS

Ken & Carolyn Bounds

We are getting this issue out a little early so you will have information in time sign up for our Valentine's Luncheon on February 8. If you haven't yet confirmed, please contact Dawn Zulas right away to sign up. It should be a fun time.

On the other end, though, we need to let you know that the March issue will be a little late. We are leaving in a couple of weeks for our annual whale watching vacation to Maui and won't be back until March 2. We will do our best to put a rush on the Road Chatter.

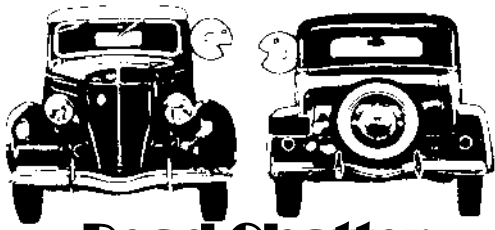
We send a big "Thank You" to Tom Myers for the great article about his rather rare 1945 Ford Pickup. Ford was not allowed to build any 1945 automobiles, but they were allowed to build civilian trucks for 1945, including about 19,700 Pickups. In fact, the 31,000,000th Ford ever built was a 1945 Pickup. Neat story, Tom.

We have been hard at work on various planning items for the 2025 CNM. Carolyn's 3D printer "Rosie" has been hard at work cranking out centerpieces for the awards banquet. These just may become collectors' items. We mailed dozens of letters to various vendors soliciting donations for the your choice raffle and meet goody bags. We have ordered raffle tickets for the large item raffles and are planning to send quantities to many regional groups to ask for their support. We received the neon V-8 sign for the raffle - the box is huge! We sent off a carburetor to Charlie Schwendler to rebuild for one of our raffle items and are anxious to see how it comes out (Ken just may want to keep it). We hired the entertainment for the Welcome Party. Many more tasks to be completed in the coming months.

Finally, we want to pass along condolences to a great friend of the club, Mickey Holton, on the unexpected passing of his wife, Barbara. Our thoughts are with you and we look forward to seeing you in Springfield.



Ken & Carolyn



Road Chatter

1N410 Forest Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



**Photo of the Month
NIRG Officers for 2025**