

ROAD CHATTER

Volume 60 Issue 1

Early Ford V-8 Club - Northern Illinois Regional Group #8
P.O. Box 803
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803
www.nirgv8.org

January 2026

UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

January 8 - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm.

January 17 - Installation Dinner. See Page 3 for details.

January 20 - Monthly Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm.



January 1 - Happy New Year!

January 11 - 51st Annual VCCA Swap Meet, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone. 7 am - 1 pm. \$7 admission.

In this Issue

Page 2 – President Scott Gilday talks about recent and upcoming events and manages to publicly embarrass daughter Reese. Happy Birthday Reese!

Page 3 – Jay Hinshaw has arranged our Annual Installation Dinner for January 17 - details here.

Page 4 – See Dawn Zulas' report on our Christmas Brunch.

Page 5 – A few words from your editors.

Page 6 – This month's Tech Corner is about new Illinois laws.

Page 7 – Our V-8 Gals have some New Year's thoughts about various foods, plus a tasty recipe.

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 at the Annual Christmas Luncheon.



Monthly Meeting - January 20

We hope to see many of you at the January meeting. We plan to kick off the new year with Scott discussing a new Ford project he has started with daughter Ciena. Plus some Carolyn Cookies!

A reminder that 2026 dues are due. If you have not already renewed, please submit your renewal form and payment to the Membership Chairman now so you don't miss an issue of the Road Chatter and to ensure that your information is published in the 2026 roster. And Thank You to the 37 members who have already renewed.



2026 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

Welcome to 2026. I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to the year ahead.

I would like to thank Dawn and George Zulas for planning our annual Christmas Luncheon at Tony Spavone's Ristorante in Bloomingdale. We had a nice turnout, and very good food and drink. What a great start to the holiday season!



Reese turned eighteen this year, so we had to do our best to embarrass her by putting her name and a message on the sign for the historic Catlow Movie Theater in downtown Barrington. We also enjoyed a nice dinner out.



Our activities for this year will start on January 17th 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 (we also take Zelle or Venmo).



Also, please don't miss our monthly meeting on January 20th where I plan to walk through a new Ford project Ciena and I have taken on.

I look forward to seeing you this month! And please don't forget to check us out on the web at nirgv8.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*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

Menu: You will provide your waiter your choice of:

- ♦ Hungarian Style Stroganoff. Sautéed sirloin tips with onions and mushrooms in a blended sour cream and sherry demi glaze.
- ♦ Chicken Piccata. Sauteed and deglazed with white wine and lemon juice.
- ♦ 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 is due to Jay Hinshaw by January 7

If you have not gotten your RSVP in to Jay and want to attend, please call him at 773-791-6494 as soon as possible so he can complete arrangements

Your payment can be made by check, Venmo, or Zelle - see flyer for details



Annual Christmas Luncheon

By Dawn Zulas

Photos by Scott Gilday and Dawn Zulas

On December 14th, 15 members and family met at Tony Spavone's Ristorante in Bloomingdale for our annual Christmas luncheon. Food and service were excellent, and the private room was an added bonus for conversation and catching up with our fellow V-8 members.

Thank you to all who came and made this a great success: Scott and Nicole Gilday, Rusty and Melanie Medlin, Gary and Dawn Osborne, Ron and Colleen Steck, Tom Zulas and Denise Brusel, George and Dawn Zulas, son George Zulas and fiancé Tammy Snider, grandson Jake Carpenter.



Melanie & Rusty, Dawn & Gary, Nicole & Scott, Colleen & Ron, Denise & Tom, George & Dawn, and Tammi, George, and Jake



President Scott, right, and First Lady Nicole



FROM THE EDITORS

Ken & Carolyn Bounds

What a month we had in December. In late November Tiger, our 18½ year old cat, had been getting very sick. He had kidney issues for quite a while and it was catching up with him. After several visits to the Vet, his kidneys shut down on December 2nd and we had to put him down. We really miss him.

On a much happier note, we left three days later on our annual anniversary trip to Maui. This year we had a special treat. Eric and Cheryl Kozmic flew all the way from South Carolina and joined us at our resort for a week. We had two beautiful oceanfront villas just two doors apart. Eric and Cheryl joined us for a very special anniversary dinner. We took them to some of our favorite restaurants, went to a “slack key” music show, went on a fun whale watch (saw many humpback whales up close) and may have enjoyed a few adult beverages along the way. Eric and Cheryl had a chance to take a day trip to Oahu to visit the USS Arizona Memorial, the Battleship Missouri, and several other sites.

Eric has had a long tradition of paying his regional group dues in person. This year was no exception. Eric had already paid his 2026 dues in May, but Ken was determined to shake him down again in person for the 2027 dues.



Eric, Cheryl, Carolyn, and Ken on whale watch



For the record: 2026 dues paid, Nisei lounge May 2025; 2027 dues paid, Pacific Ocean, December 2025

We had a terrific trip with great food, incredible weather, lots of whales, and truly great friends. Now it is back to reality - snow, cold, wind. But we have another opportunity very soon to see more V-8 friends. We hope to see many of you at the Installation Dinner January 17. Please let Jay know you are going! Meanwhile, Happy New Year and go Bears!

Ken & Carolyn



TECH CORNER



New Illinois Laws for 2026

As usual, there are many new laws that take effect in 2026. Here are a couple that affect driving in Illinois.

Drivers Licenses and Testing

HB 1226: updates the rules for renewing driver's licenses for older adults, starting July 1, 2026. The law raises the minimum age for required in-person renewal from 75 to 79. Drivers ages 79 to 86 must take a vision test and, if they have a violation, a written test, but they will not need to take a driving test based on age alone. Drivers age 87 and older, and those age 75 and older with a commercial driver's license (CDL), must pass a road test each time they renew. Immediate family members can also file a signed report with the Secretary of State's office if they believe a driver's medical or cognitive condition makes it unsafe for that person to drive.

New laws relating to bicycles

Key Changes for Drivers

Mandatory Lane Change: Drivers must now shift into an adjacent lane (if available and safe) to pass a cyclist, rather than just giving three feet in the same lane.

Right-of-Way: Drivers must yield to cyclists as they would to other vehicles, and must not crowd or threaten them.

Turning Rules: Be extra cautious when turning right, ensuring the cyclist passes first, and wait for oncoming cyclists before making a left turn.

Door Safety: Check for cyclists before opening car doors ("Dutch Reach" is encouraged).

Key Changes for Cyclists (and Protections)

Expanded Definition: E-bikes and e-scooters with top speeds under 30 mph are now legally considered bicycles, expanding who can use bike infrastructure and potentially covering riders for insurance/injury claims.

"Stop as Yield": Cyclists can now treat stop signs as yield signs (slow down, proceed when clear), a proven safety measure that reduces crashes, notes www.illinoiscyclelaw.com.

Shared Responsibility: Cyclists must follow traffic laws, travel in the same direction as traffic, and generally stay to the right, but are considered equal users of the road.

Digital Drivers Licenses

This one actually started phasing in recently. Illinois now allows digital drivers licenses for users of iPhones. This could be expanded to Android soon. If your current drivers license is a Real ID, then your digital version will also be recognized as a Real ID. TSA has announced that they will accept digital Real ID's as an acceptable form of identification at most U.S. airports. However, you must still provide your actual drivers license if requested by a law enforcement officer.



V-8 Gals

V-8 Gals is back this month, just in time to celebrate the New Year. Do you believe it is 2026?

Have you ever wondered if what you did or ate on the first day of the New Year would impact the rest of the year? The following are some New Year's Day food traditions from around the world. I might give some of them a try. Perhaps I'll try this Black-Eyed Pea Salad recipe.

- ♣ Cabbage is associated with wealth and prosperity. The word "cabbage" is also slang for money. In Germany, eating sauerkraut at New Year's is considered good luck.
- ♣ In China, a long noodle represents long life and eating them brings you a long life and good health. Don't cut them, though. You need to have those noodles make it into your mouth in one piece if you want good luck. Spring rolls, too, are considered good luck.
- ♣ In Italy, lentils are supposed to bring you good luck if eaten at New Year's. In some other parts of that country, eating risotto is considered to bring good fortune.
- ♣ In some countries, the circle is considered a symbol of good luck. A circle always comes back to the beginning, so to speak. In Holland, they eat doughnuts to bring good luck.
- ♣ In Spain (and other Latin countries), good luck is sure to come when you eat 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31.
- ♣ In addition to black-eyed peas in the South, collard greens will bring money and cornbread will bring wealth. The dish called Hoppin' John is a mix of black-eyed peas and rice, and is said to bring good luck.
- ♣ In the Philippines, a large display of food on the table at midnight symbolizes abundance throughout the New Year.

Black-Eyed Pea Salad

2 (15.5 oz) cans black-eyed peas

1 stalk celery, chopped

1 large tomato, chopped

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1 medium red bell pepper, chopped

3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

1 medium green bell pepper, chopped

2 tablespoons olive oil

1/2 red onion, diced

Salt and pepper to taste

1. In a medium bowl, toss together black-eyed peas, tomato, red bell pepper, green bell pepper, red onion, celery, and parsley.

2. In a small bowl, mix balsamic vinegar and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Toss into the vegetables. Cover, and chill in the refrigerator 8 hours, or overnight.

<http://Allrecipes.com>

In The Rearview Mirror

10 Years Ago This Month – January 2016

On a chilly, but dry January 16, forty-four NIRG members and guests gathered at the Rockwood Tap House in Downers Grove for our annual Installation Dinner. As guests arrived they were treated to the relaxing piano stylings of our own Ron Vaughan as Ron Blum completed the arrangement of a large variety of door prizes donated by V-8 vendors and friends and our own members.

20 Years Ago This Month – January 2006

New editors Ken & Carolyn Bounds issued their first edition of the Road Chatter. It contained letters from President Ron Dopke thanking Diane Wrobel for her many years of award-winning work and welcoming new editors Ken & Carolyn Bounds. On January 14, fifty members, family, and guests attended the annual Installation Dinner at Giacomo's Ristorante Italiano in Des Plaines, hosted by Ed & Roni Fontana.

30 Years Ago This Month – January 1996

A great turnout of 55 V-8ers, family, and friends attended the Annual Installation Dinner January 13 at the Atrium Restaurant in Arlington Heights, hosted by Ken Bounds. The Road Chatter reported that Madeleine O'Donnell first learned of Tom's election to President at the dinner. At the January 16 monthly meeting, incoming President Tom O'Donnell presented a tech talk about cleaning and lubricating windshield wiper motors.

40 Years Ago This Month – January 1986

Meet Chairman Marty Duling included his monthly update on the upcoming 1986 Central National Meet. New member Mike Sargis was introduced at the January 14 monthly meeting [Mike's son is currently a member. ed.] Marty Duling reported the big news that he was 95% sure that a 1936 Stainless Steel Ford would be at our Meet. Joey Novak won \$21 in the 50-50 raffle.

50 Years Ago This Month – January 1976

New President Marty Duling hosted a lively meeting that was well-attended by 35 members and guests despite very cold temperatures and 4-6 inches of new snow. Marty said he was going to work on a draft of By-Laws for the club and requested that members submit items for the newsletter. He also asked for volunteers to present tech talks at each meeting. There was discussion of hosting a Central National Meet after the successful 1975 meet hosted by the Peoria group, which consists of less than 20 members.

Flathead Flashback

National President Ken Bounds swears in new NIRG officers at the 2016 Installation Dinner.



NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

January 8 Board Meeting 17 Installation Dinner, Coopers Corner, Winfield 20 Member Meeting	February 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	March 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	April 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting
May 14 Board Meeting 19 Member Meeting	June 11 Board Meeting 16 Member Meeting	July 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting	August 13 Board Meeting 18 Member Meeting
September 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting 26-28 Lake Geneva Poker Rally	October 8 Board Meeting 20 Member Meeting	November 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	December No Meetings

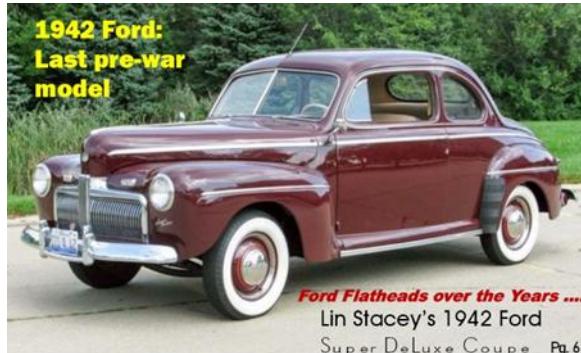


**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
GENE HEINTZ (1/3), MELISSA NOLAN (1/10),
GEORGE ZULAS (1/13), RON DOPKE (1/14), BOB MURPHY (1/14),
DAWN OSBORNE (1/16), TIM NOLAN (1/17),
RON BLUM (1/23), & JO ANNE STACK (1/23)**

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



Vehicles For Sale



1942 Ford Sedan Coupe Model 72B

Two Door, 5 Window, Moselle Maroon Color Dearborn Award Winner, Dearborn Medallion, & Dearborn Emeritus

Only 6,300 miles!

Rebuilt by Lin Stacey, V-8 Technical Advisor for 28 years

Asking \$28,000 (car is in Illinois)

Email: phstacey@sbcglobal.net Phone: 630-308-6081

Other Items For Sale

1928-1953 V8 Tools: Entire inventory of Lin Stacey's "Old Ford Tools" business. Over 2,500 tools for meet display. Approximately 800 are restored. Contact Pat Stacey for details and pricing of this collection. 630-308-6081 phstacey@sbcglobal.net

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.



– Service/Parts Department Hours –

7:00am – 3:00pm

All Makes & Models are Welcome!

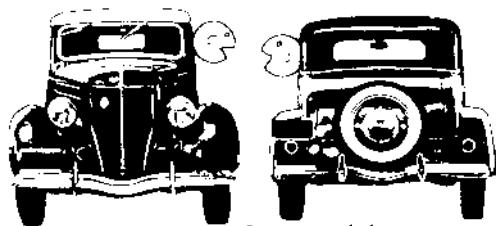
<https://www.friendlyford.com>

Sales & Service: (630) 924-8686

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.**



Road Chatter

1N410 Forest Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Photo of the Month
Our Group at the Annual Christmas Luncheon