

ROAD CHATTER

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

P.O. Box 803

Volume 60 Issue 9

Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0803

September 2026

www.nirgv8.org

UPCOMING NIRG EVENTS

September 10 Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm.

September 15 Monthly Meeting, Wheeling Township Service Center, 7:30 pm.

September 25-27 18th Annual Lake Geneva Poker Rally. See Page 3 for details.



OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

September 7 Happy Labor Day.

September 13 Knights of Columbus Car Show, 537 S York St, Elmhurst, 8am - 2 pm, Free.

September 22 Fall begins at 7:05 pm CDT.

In this Issue

Page 2 – President Scott Gilday talks about past and upcoming club events and sends along a photo of Mike Heatherly's tech talk at the August meeting.

Page 2 – We welcome a very special new member.

Page 3 – Our first event of the fall, our 18th Annual Poker Rally, is coming up this month. Full details here. Also, information about the Knights of Columbus car show in Elmhurst Sunday, September 13.

Page 4 – Gary Osborne sent us a report on the annual Geneva Concours d'Elegance. Details and photos here.

Page 6 – Minutes of our August 18 monthly meeting.

Page 7 – Mike Heatherly reports on the 29th Annual Will County Car Show.

Page 7 – A few words from your editors.

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

Back Cover – Gary Osborne Shows his Carl F. Benz Award at the Geneva Concours d'Elegance.



Attention Members

With these warmer days we encourage everyone to drive their Early V-8's to the monthly meeting and arrive early for some tire kicking in the parking lot. Scott Gilday is going to update us on the status of his 1969 Mustang restoration.

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

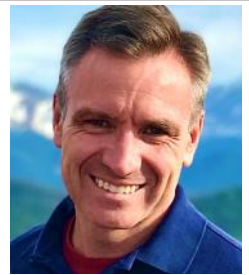
Publishing deadline is the
25th of the month.

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

Hello again,

Welcome to September. Soon fall will be upon us with cooler temperatures and leaves turning colors – great V-8 driving weather! Hopefully you have some plans for Labor Day weekend that involve taking a drive in your V-8.



We had a fun August. Unfortunately, due to heavy rains we had to cancel our Annual Picnic at Timmermann's ranch. However, we had an enjoyable monthly meeting where, in addition to kicking the tires a bit, Mike Heatherly demonstrated his new tool for identifying manifold leaks. This tool generates smoke which is then forced under pressure into your engine to show any areas that might be leaking. I had never heard of this before – very cool.



Looking ahead to next month, in addition to our regular monthly meeting, several of us plan to attend the club's annual Poker Rally event in Delevan, Wisconsin on September 25-27th. If you haven't participated before, please join us for a great time!

Welcome New Member

The Northern Illinois Regional Group extends a warm welcome to Erica Kozmic of Simpsonville, South Carolina where she is a school teacher. She recently joined the National club as well.

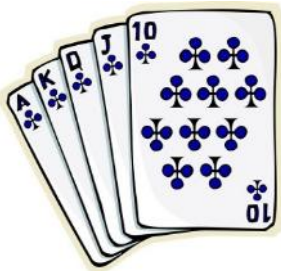
Erica is our group's first 3rd Generation member, being the daughter of Eric & Cheryl Kozmic and granddaughter of Joe. Welcome Erica!

UPCOMING EVENTS



The time is almost here for our first event of the fall! You are invited to join your Northern Illinois Group friends for a driving tour to the Lake Geneva area for our eighteenth annual poker rally Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27.

We will gather at 9:30 am at the Town and Country Mall at the corner of Palatine and Arlington Heights Roads Friday morning September 25, **leaving at 10:00 am** for the tour to the Lake Geneva area. There will be a lunch stop about noon at a restaurant somewhere between Arlington Heights and Delavan - you never know how we will get there.



We are staying at the Delavan Comfort Suites. If you had a room last year, your room is already reserved for this year. Although the deadline for reserving rooms has passed, if you do not have a room and want to attend, please contact Ken Bounds to see if we can find you accommodations.

We have planned a fun, relaxing weekend with some leisurely drives over scenic back roads, some visits to nice restaurants and plenty of time for shopping or just relaxing. We will be playing our traditional poker game with prizes awarded for the best high and low poker hands. Weather permitting, we will be playing car games Friday afternoon.

Our Saturday driving tour will take us to a first-time destination for us. This is always a fun time. Prizes will be awarded at dinner Saturday evening.

Please confirm with Ken Bounds by text or phone at 630-408-4006 or at ken@boundshome.com to let him know if you plan to participate in this event. There will be a final confirmation at the September meeting so we can get a count for reservations at various restaurants and tour stops.

Knights of Columbus Car Show - Sunday, September 13

Tim Ricordati sent us information about this free show 8am - 2 pm in the parking lot behind the KofC building at 537 S York St, Elmhurst. All years, makes, and models of vehicles are invited. There will be entertainment and a 50-50 raffle. Rain date: Sunday, September 20.

My Day at The Geneva Concours d'Elegance 2026

By Gary Osborne

Sunday, August 23, was the date of the Geneva Concours d'Elegance 2026. What a beautiful day it turned out to be. Sunny and in the 70's all day! This event is not your typical car show where most of the cars are one brand or similar styles. It is promoted as an event of automotive art along the likes of Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. Over the years this has become the destination in the Midwest for those seeking to enjoy the displays of amazing automobiles from all over the country. Because of the beautiful cars, the setting, and the professionalism of those hosting the event it truly is an amazing event.

Last year several friends told me that I should enter my 1932 Ford Cabriolet into the show. I have to admit that I didn't think it belonged there among all the beautiful and exotic automobiles that the Concours was known for. And to top it off you just can't enter a car, it must be nominated and approved by the host organization. I sent the registration in back in April and my little old Ford was approved to be in the show. But there were others in our Northern Illinois Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club who entered cars. Pat Maroney entered his 1950 Ford Custom Deluxe Convertible, Tim Wiggins his 1907 Ford Model N Runabout (which had recently completed a 120-mile tour in Minnesota), and Chris Orphal his 1941 Mercury Convertible. Also, I should mention that Randy Yockey's Friendly Ford was a sponsor of the show.



Tim Wiggins' 1907 Ford



Gary Osborn's 1932 Ford



Pat Maroney's 1950 Ford

I arrived at 7:00 am at the registration tent, was handed a "goody bag" and told to follow someone in a golf cart who would take me to my designated spot. Once in my spot on the main strip, I began to wipe down the car to set it up for judging. It was different than I was used to on the Concourses of the Early Ford V-8 Club. No hoods, trunks, or doors are to be opened unless instructed by the judges. No fire extinguisher at the left front tire and most importantly no points judging. When the judges arrived, I really didn't know what to expect. They both asked me detailed questions about the car and its restoration. They had me open up



1935 Ford Phaeton from Libertyville

all the hoods, doors and rumble seat areas. They seemed very knowledgeable about what they were looking for in the car, which was authenticity, uniqueness, originality, quality, and just overall beauty of the car. I informed them that it was a point judged car and had received the prestigious Dearborn Award from the Early Ford V-8 Club of America.

After the judges left, I made my way around the Concourse to look at all the beautiful cars. The first on my list was to find the cars of any of our NIRG

Members. Pat Maroney's 1950 Ford Convertible sure looked good on the Concourse. He takes great pride in displaying the car for everyone to enjoy. Then there was Tim Wiggins' 1907 Ford Runabout. Very nice, in a class of its own! I also talked with prospective member Chris Orphal about his 1941 Mercury Convertible. He had just gotten it running in time to make the show, and it sure looked good.



Chris Orphal's 1941 Mercury



Prestigious Benz Trophy

As I walked around the Concourse I saw all types of beautiful automobiles from all eras. There were Packards, Cadillacs, Buicks, Studebakers, Pierce Arrows, Mercedes Benz, Locomobile, Stutz, of days gone by. Even one you may have never heard of; a 1936 Horch Roadster. Of course there were also many beautiful examples of modern cars. Thousands of people were there to view these wonderful automotive works of art. Such a grand variety of cars.

The goal of everyone that shows a car there is to let people see their cars, ask about them, and just enjoy letting them gain an appreciation for these cars. But there is another desire of the owners, and that is to be selected to win a Benz Trophy. This is a trophy named after Carl F. Benz who some consider to be the father of the automobile. It's a very prestigious trophy to have in any car collection. Of course; it's all in the hands of the judges to determine who will receive it. You just never know how they are thinking.

A couple of hours later the judges walked around to inform the owners if they had won the award. Believe it or not they informed me that I had won and would now be eligible to drive in the parade before the viewing stands. Two others from our Club also won: Tim Wiggins, and Chris Orphal. It was an honor to receive the trophy before



Gary drives to the reviewing stand

all the people as the Master of Ceremony talked all about the 1932 Fords and my Cabriolet in particular. I'm very thankful that I had friends that believed my car had the potential to win the Benz trophy. I had a lot of fun at the Geneva Concours d'Elegance 2026.

AUGUST 18 MEETING MINUTES**Submitted by Gary Osborne**

President Scott Gilday began the meeting at 7:35 pm. He welcomed everyone, and thanked them for coming out. The Business went as follows.

Membership Report

Due to our Membership Chairman Ken Bounds being out of town, President Scott read from Ken's notes. We currently are at 56 members with the possibility of one more who may join soon.

**National Club Report**

The Peaks and Prairie Tour in Montana was very successful. Everyone had a great time.

The Amish Country Tour in Pennsylvania is August 24-28. Some of our members will be attending.

There will be an Eastern National Meet in Williamsburg, Virginia June 21-25, 2027.

Treasurer's Report

Ron Blum reported: the Club had revenues of \$33.50 from dues and the 50/50 raffle. The Club had expenses of \$175 from the Road Chatter and room rent.

Health and Welfare Report

Scott Gilday's Father's significant other had a stroke and then successful surgery, and is now recovering well. John Scheve, Ron Steck, and Ken Bounds are all recuperating well from their recent surgeries.

Previous Events

Gary Osborne reported that the Duals Night at Culver's was a success. 26 members came out on a beautiful evening to enjoy the cars, burgers and each other. Fun time.

The Annual Picnic unfortunately was cancelled due to weather. Maybe next year.

Upcoming Events

- September 25-27 - Lake Geneva Poker Rally
- Fall Colors Tour - TBD
- Veterans Day Luncheon - TBD

Additional Items

After all the business was attended to, we took a short break to enjoy some donuts supplied by Jay Hinshaw. When we gathered back, Mike Heatherly had set up a display for using a smoke leak detector to check for leaks on different parts of the engines. He had several attachments that were used throughout the process. His presentation was very thorough and informative.

The 50/50 Raffle was drawn and Scott Gilday happily took home his winnings of \$20. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Attendance

Ron Blum, Scott Gilday, Ciena Gilday, Mike Heatherly, guest Rob Heatherly, Jay Hinshaw, Pat Maroney, Rusty Medlin, Gary Osborne, Nick Pruc, George Zulas, Dawn Zulas.

29th Annual Will County Car Show By Mike Heatherly

The town of Lockport had the 29th annual swap meet and car show on Sunday August 16. It is a very pretty park with varying elevations and a lot of shade trees. The turnout was smaller than earlier years - 300 to 400 cars where it usually draws over 700.

All show cars were parked on asphalt due to the severe rain earlier in the week, to protect the grass. There were antique cars and numerous resto-mods. The swap had virtually no Early Ford V-8 items. Sam Van Bruggen was there with his 1940 Ford Standard Coupe.



Sam Van Bruggen with his 1940 Coupe



1937 Ford at the show

FROM THE EDITORS

Ken & Carolyn Bounds

We have just returned from a fantastic trip to Maui to celebrate Carolyn's birthday and her June retirement. We ate at some terrific restaurants, saw some of our favorite entertainers, and spent a lot of time talking with old and new friends. We even met a couple who recently moved to a Geneva National home on Lake Como. We arrived right after Hurricane Lala and fortunately had no problems.

We want to thank Gary Osborne for his great writeup on the Geneva Concours d'Elegance (different Geneva) and congratulate him and other club members on their Benz award. Also thanks to Mike Heatherly and Scott Gilday on their contributions to the Road Chatter this month.

We add a special welcome to Erica Kozmic. Although she won't be able to come to many club events, we hope our members get to meet her someday. Everybody in the club knew Joe Kozmic and his cars. Joe drove them to 25 National Meets and countless club events. Now the cars are in the good hands of son Eric and his wife Cheryl. They drove the '53 Mercury to our 2025 National Meet and are active members of their South Carolina RG# 163, as well as our RG. We are very happy that Erica has decided to join us and become our group's first 3rd Generation member!

We are looking forward to a fun time at our Poker Rally in a few weeks.



Ken & Carolyn



10 Years Ago This Month – September 2016

The 9th Annual Poker Rally to the Geneva Lakes area drew 22 members and eight classic Fords and Mercurys. There was a lot of fun with car games, people games, some great meals, and a driving tour to Monroe Wisconsin. Joey Novak won the car games, John Slobodnik won the people games, and Larry Webb was the grand prize winner. Gary and Dawn Osborne were first-time participants.

20 Years Ago This Month – September 2006

On the first weekend in September, 18 NIRG members attended the 23rd Annual Frankenmuth Auto Fest in Michigan, driving five Early V-8s and two other classics. The end of September brought the 29th Lake Geneva Classic Car Rally with 21 members and several vehicles participating. Little did we know that this was the last time we would see Rally founder George Kreissl.

30 Years Ago This Month – September 1996

Three members took home trophies from the September 8th Kane County show. Sam Dix attended the September 17 monthly meeting as a guest. On September 19, several members had a great time on a tour of the Chicago Ford Plant hosted by John Pater. On September 28-29, thirty members participated in our annual tour to the Lake Geneva Classic Car Rally, organized by Ken Bounds. Nell Kozmic took 7th Place in the poker game out of about 11,000 hands played.

40 Years Ago This Month – September 1986

The September Road Chatter contained a profile of Frank Koeder's '39 Convertible. On the first September weekend six couples participated in an "Escape Weekend" tour to Port Washington, Wisconsin, organized by Norm & Dolly Collins. There were plenty of delicious meals and nice places to tour. On September 21, Len & Irene Vinyard hosted an outing of 10 couples to Wrigley Field to watch the Cubs beat the Pirates 3-2. There may have been some food and beverages involved.

50 Years Ago This Month – September 1976

At the September meeting it was decided that the "Christmas Party" would be changed to an Installation Dinner, held in January, because of hectic schedules in December. Len Vinyard was planning the first one for January 22. On September 25 & 26, 28 V-8ers and family participated in the infamous "joint tour" with the Peoria Group at Starved Rock State Park, organized by Marty Duling. Infamous because the Peoria Group did not show up.

Flathead Flashback

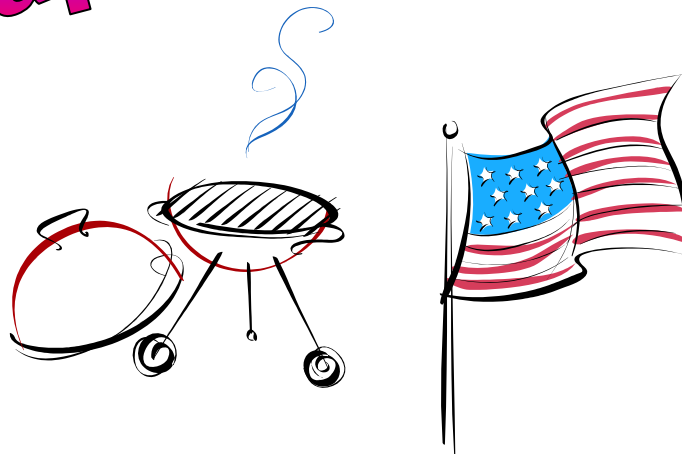
Este Scheve attempts to win the long-distance award in blindfolded driving, 2016 Poker Rally.



NIRG EVENTS CALENDAR

September 10 Board Meeting 15 Member Meeting 25-27 Lake Geneva Poker Rally	October 8 Board Meeting 20 Member Meeting	November 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	December No Meetings
January 14 Board Meeting 16 Installation Dinner, TBD 19 Member Meeting	February 12 Board Meeting 17 Member Meeting	March 12 Board Meeting 17 Pizza Meeting, TBD	April 9 Board Meeting 21 Member Meeting

Happy Labor Day!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

**ARLENE BLUM (9/5), ELAINE JANS (9/7), RON VLASIC (9/13),
LINDA LIVINGSTON (9/14), DAWN RICORDATI (9/16),
SCOTT GILDAY (9/17), & MELANIE MEDLIN (9/23)**

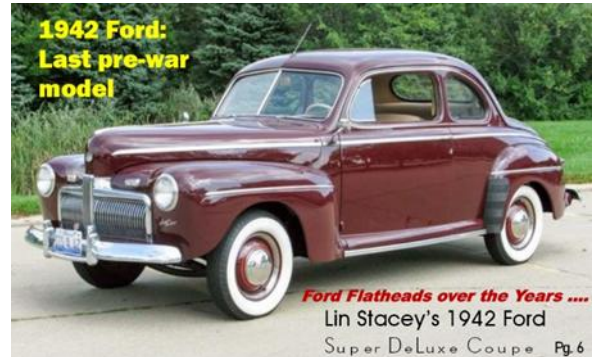
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

**GARY & DAWN OSBORNE (9/8), BOB & RHONDA MILLER (9/11),
RON & ARLENE BLUM (9/12), TIM & DAWN RICORDATI (9/22),
RUSTY & MELANIE MEDLIN (9/23), & DAN & DIANE PUDELEK (9/30)**

**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 - Plus See Next Page

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

Our good friend Peter Hibbert in Australia has several items for sale. He provided many pictures and we just don't have the space to show everything, so last month we sent all members a separate file with more information and pictures of: NOS 1951 Vacu-lite cigarette lighter, antique Michelin tire gauge & fittings, 1950 Ford hood ornament with decent chrome, vintage voltmeter, and a rare Economter vacuum gauge. Email: peter_hibbert@bigpond.com.

Engine stand with V-8 adapter from Red's Headers - pick up only - **Contact Tom O'Donnell at 847-991-6976.**

Spring spreader for transverse springs \$125 or best offer. **Roger Obecny, 708-772-1926**

The Items Below are Offered by Ray McMahon 630-853-6832:

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.**



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

<https://www.friendlyford.com>

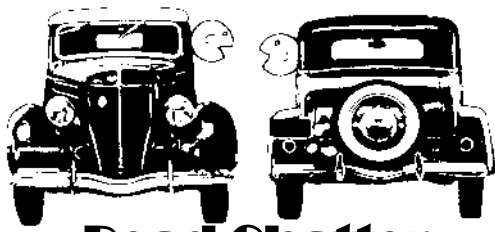
Sales & Service: (630) 924-8686

Wanted

Wanted: 15" wheel in good condition for 1951 Ford. Contact Tim Ricordati at 630-710-1790 or tricordati@gmail.com.

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, 47 Ford front bumper brackets. Radio delete cover, 1941 Ford. Contact Mike Heatherly at 630-234-5384 or email at mikehy@raacorents.com



Road Chatter

1N410 Forest Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Photo of the Month
Gary Osborne Shows his Carl F Benz Award
At the Geneva Concours d'Elegance