

“The Headliner”

Newsletter of the Northern Ohio Regional Group #20 Early Ford V-8 Club of America



Volume 22 Number 1

January 2015

Mission Statement: “To preserve and authentically maintain vehicles manufactured by the Ford Motor Company for the model years 1932 through 1953 inclusive, and to serve as an accurate and technical source of information concerning these automobiles for the benefit of its members as well as the general public.”

I hope you all had a Peaceful and Happy Holiday Season.

It's time to start thinking about planning for the New Year. We as a group will have our first Board Meeting to discuss the direction our fine club will be heading.

We have two National Meets this year, The Eastern National in Concord N.C. Meet, June 8-11 and The Central National Meet in Brainerd, Minn. July 12-16. Also our one and only TOUR NATZI Jack Bukszar, will be coordinating our annual Joint Tour with the Illinois Gang. This year we will converge in Dayton, OH. This will be a fun packed weekend as it always is.

In addition, I believe that Neal Garland has a few surprises up his sleeve for Day Trips. If any member has a suggestion or wants to participate in planning or have an outing, now is the time to become an active member. Sitting on our hands and letting the other guy do it is not what this Fine Group is all about.

Think about giving a little back, the rewards of feeling good are more than satisfying. Anybody can sit in the rocking chair.

You are somebody that can make a difference. Hope to see a big turnout at our first meeting. READ YOUR NEWSLETTER for all the information.

N JOY UR V8 B4 ITS 2 L8

. **Jeep**



Officers & Board 2015

President: Jeep Iacobucci
Vice President: Frank Posar
Secretary: Virginia Herrmann
Treasurer: Dan & Diane Francis

Directors

Jack Bukszar
Rich Jandrey
Steve Kroner
Earl Peters

**All Meetings are held at
Stow Community Center
3800 Graham Road
Stow, OH**

“Kick Tires”: 7:00
Meeting Begins: 7:30
Ends: 10:00 or Sooner

Website:

www.norgov8club.org

Editor

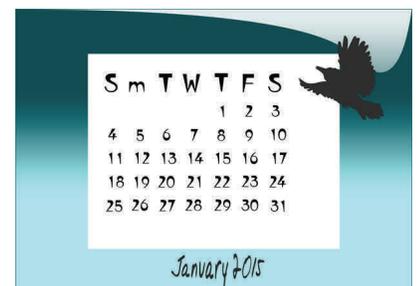
Annette & Craig Gorris
10160 Echo Hill Drive
Brecksville OH 44141
440-526-6138
annette.gorris@gmail.com

Welcome New Member

George & Elaine Hlavacs
6024 Ledgeview Dr.
Peninsula OH 44264
330-653-9670

They own the following:

- 1949 Ford Convertible
- 1950 Ford Custom Tudor
- 1951 Ford Crestliner



2015 Activities At A Glance

- **January 25th** Nifty Fifties Swap Meet, Information on Page 4 of this Newsletter
- **February 20th 7:30 PM** Monthly Business Meeting at Stow City Center



Reminder...2015 NORG Dues Are Due

Members your 2015 NORG Dues are due. The dues are still only \$25.00 per year. This is still the best \$25.00 you will spend this year. There is a membership form on the following page. Please complete the form and return it to Craig Gorris with your \$25.00 .



If you have not yet please do your best to send in your dues Today!!.

Cookie Bakers



February Meeting

Virginia Herrmann

March Meeting

Neal & Momoe Garland

April Meeting

Bruce Lewicki

May Meeting

Diane Francis

June Meeting

Charlie Jandik

July Meeting

Need Volunteer

August Meeting

Need Volunteer

September Meeting

Beth Schilling

October Meeting

Annette Gorris

November Meeting

Rose Deyling

**Northern Ohio Regional Group 20
Early Ford V8 Club of America
Membership Form
Annual Dues \$25.00**

**Year
2015**

Date: _____ National Number: _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone Number _____

E Mail Address _____ Newsletter by E Mail Y ___ N ___

Fax _____

BIRTHDAY, MONTH & DAY: Self _____ Spouse _____

Winter Address _____ From _____ To _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Newsletter sent to: winter address or E Mail? Circle One.

List all Early Fords you own from 1932 to 1953 and Highest Award won at a National Meet:

| YEAR | MAKE | MODEL | AWARD |
|------|------|-------|-------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Make Check Payable to: N.O.R.G.

MAIL TO:

Craig Gorris

10160 Echo Hill Dr.

Brecksville, OH 44141



THE NIFTY FIFTIES
of Northern Ohio, Inc.

WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE 28th Annual

All-Makes Cars & Trucks

2015 SWAP MEET

at AutoNation Ford

Westlake

23775 CENTER RIDGE RD., WESTLAKE, OHIO

Formerly John Lance Ford

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25th

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Admission - \$4.00, (early birds - 7 AM) \$5.00

Food & Refreshments Will Be Available

76 INDOOR SPACES

PLENTY OF UP-CLOSE PARKING!

10'x10' Vendor Space - \$10.00

Vendor Set-Up: Sat. 4:30-6PM & Sun. 6-8AM

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Frank @ 330-467-0465

Denny @ 330-571-3594

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

NIFTY FIFTIES OF NORTHERN OHIO

P. O. Box 142

Macedonia, OH 44056

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION ALONG WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ Email: _____

OF SPACES: _____

A Very Interesting Story of Two Young Men Who Built a “Hot Rod”, Raced It Once and How It Was Purchased Almost 60 Years Later By a Mr. Robbins

A single shot from a BB gun may have saved one of the most historic 1932 Ford Deluxe three-window coupes in drag racing history from completely rusting into oblivion.

In 1954, Francis Fortman and Kenny Kerr decided to build a car for the 1954 World Series of Drag Racing, the first such event hosted by the Automobile Timing Association of America. The event was held at Half Day Speedway in Lawrenceville, Ill., about 20 miles from Chicago, none too far from Fortman and Kerr's home. Other young participants included Arnie “The Farmer” Beswick driving a new Oldsmobile, Art Arfons in the Allison airplane-engined “Green Monster” and Fred Lorenzen in a Cadillac-powered Ford convertible. Fortman and Kerr did not become big names like some of their fellow competitors that day. However, the 1932 Ford three-window coupe they built and raced for that event placed first in the A-B class with a 105.88 mph speed.



After that day of racing, Fortman and Kerr hung up their helmets and parked the Deuce for good. As driver, Kerr took home the trophy from the track. As the builder, Fortman took home the Deuce as his own trophy. He then parked the car outside until fate intervened and the car became a bona fide barn find in 2012. “[Fortman] told me a ’32 Ford race car was worth nothing in 1954, so instead of selling it, he put it in a field and put a tarp on it,” said Ken Robins, the 1932 Ford's new owner. “So it spent 20 years under this tarp until one day, kids were shooting the windshield with a BB gun, so he put it in the barn.

But from the day he brought it home in 1954 to the day I bought it, it was never touched or started.” The Deuce Robins bought in the summer of 2012 is the '32 every hot rodder dreams of finding or building in their head while lying awake at night. The car is a simple, purpose-built car with several period go-fast tricks, and the fact it's based on one of the rodding world's most lusted-after cars is pure luck. “He was just looking for a good car to race and it just so happened he found a '32 three-window,” Robins said. “[Fortman] owned a frame repair shop in Chicago and Kenny Kerr came to him and said, ‘Why don't we have fun and build a drag car?’ Fortman was reluctant, but he said OK. “[Fortman] purchased the car in Chicago, made a deal and put down a deposit and when he came back, he found the seller had taken the radiator out of it. He got back in his car because he told him he wasn't going to buy it without a radiator, but he reluctantly went back and bought the car.” The car was brought back to Kerr's shop, where it was channeled over the original frame. An alcohol-burning flathead Ford engine with four Strombergs was mated to a stock Ford three-speed crash box that led to a standard 1940s Ford rear axle welded to make it a “locker.” The car had other modifications standard to hot rods of the day: a 1940 Ford steering wheel and a filled roof and cowl vent, a rollbar, custom interior door panels, and a metallic red spray job with a white-painted grille insert and firewall. It was a race car, however, so a rollbar was installed and the deck lid was secured using screws. A hand-operated fuel pump and fuel tank were installed in the passenger compartment, next to the single driver's bombardier seat obtained from a salvage yard.



“The fuel system by today’s standards is absolutely suicidal,” Robins said. “Keep in mind; they had nothing to go by. This is just what they did. “I have a couple hot rods, and people have now built ’32 Fords with the bomber seats designed just like this car is designed, but when [Fortman] did it, he didn’t have a car to by. It just all fell into place.” A search for the car also fell into place for Robins. His friend, a fellow Model A enthusiast, stopped by Robins’ business at Restoration Plus in Cary, Ill., and mentioned he knew of an old Ford race car in the area, although he wasn’t sure of the type of Ford or exactly where it was parked.

“We went in the area and we knocked on doors,” Robins said. “At the third door, an elderly gentleman came to the door and I said, ‘I don’t mean to bother you, but do you have an old race car?’ and I asked if there was any way we could see it.” The gentleman was Francis Fortman, and since he was acquainted with Robins’ friend, Fortman showed them to the barn where the Ford had been parked since the mid 1970s. “We went into the barn and we go in the back corner and there was a 1932 Ford drag car with an alcohol-burning flathead,” Robins said. “Because my buddy was into Model A’s, he said, ‘I have no interest,’ so I took him home. I asked the gentleman if I could come back, so I came back and he pulled out the original sheet from the first World Series of Drag Racing, and in it he showed me how he had won his class with another gentleman.”



While Robins and Fortman visited, Fortman told of how the Deuce would not start once they arrived at the track. A fellow racer noticed their troubles and explained the problem was the ignition. He happened to own a shop that sold the parts Fortman and Kerr needed and would supply it. “They drove to Iowa that night, bought the ignition and they installed it the next morning,” Robins said. “It got the car running and they ran it twice down the track. When Fortman built the car, it had all new gauges in it, and the odometer now shows 8/10 of a mile because the car went down the track twice.”

Robins eventually asked if the car was for sale, and after Fortman conferred with his wife — “She said, ‘Absolutely don’t let the man out of the house,’” according to Robins — a deal was made for Robins to buy the car, but he had to wait until after Father’s Day. Since purchasing it, the only work Robins has completed on the car is a tire change and a thorough cleaning. Despite the deterioration the car suffered while parked outside, Robins said the crowd “went nuts” over the car at the Iron Invasion traditional hot rod show in Woodstock, Ill., the only place the car has been shown. “This is a true time capsule,” Robins said. “Basically, this car is the Holy Grail of hot rods, but to Francis, it was just another car. He was actually a pioneer that built the car that everyone tries to copy today, which is really amazing.” Although the car is certainly restorable, it has considerable rust in the lower portions of the body. Robins has no plans to restore the body or make it run. “I would never restore this car. It should be untouched, because if it is restored, it’s just another ’32 Ford,” Robins said. “Where are you going to find a car from the first World Series of Drag Racing? “It is more of a piece of Americana and artwork and hot rod history than it is a car.”

While Robins has realized the dream of many hot rodders, he has hopes the dream lasts long enough for him to find the trophy from the car’s day at the track, and to perhaps find it a more suitable home. “I would like to find a museum interested in it. This is a true time capsule that should go down in history as drag racing folklore.”



Dave & Nancy Collette's Progress on their 1947 Ford Convertible



Late last year Dave & Nancy Collette purchased a 1947 Ford Convertible from Loretta Duda.

Dave Duda had started on the vehicle before his untimely passing. Dave brought the car home and began the process of finishing the car.

Nancy sent these pictures to share with N.O.R.G. members.

"Keep up the good work Dave & Nancy"



Two Great Early Ford V-8 Club National Meets Planned For 2015

For More Info: www.earlyfordv8.org

Early Ford V-8 Club of America

2015 Eastern National Meet Schedule and General Information

June 8-11, 2015

Thank you for your interest in the 2015 Eastern National Meet hosted by the Piedmont Region, of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America. The headquarters for the meet will be at the host hotels, Hilton Garden Inn, The Wingate Hotel and the Hampton Inn and Suites, off Bruton Smith Blvd near Charlotte Motor Speedway.



The Wingate Hotel
7841 Gateway Lane
Concord, NC 28027
Phone: 704 979 1300

Hampton Inn and Suites
9850 Weddington Rd Extension
Concord, NC 28027
Phone: 704 979 5600

Hilton Garden Inn
7831 Gateway Lane
Concord, NC 28027
Phone: 704 979 2900

Meet Rates: \$99.00

\$104.00 & up

\$109.00

(Rates do not include fees/taxes of approximately 13%)

Over 250 rooms have been set aside at the three hotels which are adjacent to one another. Registration packets, etc. will be available at The Wingate Hotel. Registration codes for each hotel will be provided with your registration confirmation. Since we are the mega center for NASCAR (Over 90% of the race teams are within an hour's drive of the speedway), we will incorporate this theme into our meet. We are also fortunate to have Dennis Carpenter Industries in our backyard, so we will take advantage of this asset. Listed below is the proposed itinerary for your planning purposes. Note that times may change as we get closer to the event and we plan to add other activities.



THE GREAT V-8 NORTHWOODS GETAWAY

JULY 12-16, 2015

CENTRAL NATIONAL MEET



The Twin Cities Regional Group # 46 would like to invite you to attend the 2015 Central National Meet, July 12-16, 2015. Once again, we will be hosting the Meet in the beautiful Minnesota lake country at one of the premier resorts, CRAGUN'S on Gull Lake.

Since 1940, CRAGUN'S has been making people feel special. Whether it's a friendly smile from a staff member, a special menu, or going the extra mile to assure that our event is a success, rest assured our group will be treated right at CRAGUN'S on Gull Lake.

That's why we have chosen once again (for the 3rd time) to host the Central National Meet at CRAGUN'S in the Brainerd Minnesota lakes area. If you attended the Central National Meet in 1987 or 2000, you know what we are talking about: remote location, beautiful views and surroundings, full use of lake facilities, excellent dining and accommodations, a **Great V-8 Northwoods Getaway**. All accommodations provide a relaxing view of the woods and water. All rooms have a refrigerator, microwave, fireplace, and coffee maker.



Need Club Clothing

Looking for N.O.R.G Club Clothing? Frank Posar has been working with a new vendor that offers 1st class clothing, embroidered with our N.O.R.G logo at very competitive prices. Both men's and women's sizes are available. Frank has worn the jacket to our meetings and the quality of the product is excellent.

Club Clothing List

All items subject to change due to rising costs and quantity of orders
(Additional cost for 2xl and larger sizes)

- Coaches jacket with large Logo on back.....\$60.00
- Long sleeve Denim shirt with club logo.....\$42.00
- Short sleeve Denim shirt with club logo.....\$40.00
- Knit golf shirt with club logo.....\$30.50 (pocket extra)
- Jersey Super sweat shirt with logo.....\$34.00

All prices are +Tax

Please coordinate all purchase and questions through:

Frank Posar

(330) 467-0465

posarf@roadrunner.com

Remember When

F.W. Woolworth Co.

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| BACON and TOMATO 50c <i>Toasted Three Decker Sandwich</i> | PLAIN or TOASTED SANDWICHES |
| BAKED HAM and CHEESE 60c <i>Toasted Three Decker Sandwich</i> | HAM SALAD Sandwich 30c |
| CHICKEN SALAD 65c <i>Toasted Three Decker Sandwich</i> | EGG SALAD Sandwich 30c |
| HAM SALAD and EGG SALAD 50c <i>Toasted Three Decker Sandwich</i> | AMERICAN CHEESE Sandwich 30c |
| <small>Also available on two slices of bread on request.</small> | PRESSED HAM Sandwich 30c |

FOR A REAL TREAT!
TRY OUR SUPER DE-LUXE HAM SANDWICH—BAKED HAM SLICED VERY THIN AND STACKED HIGH ON PLAIN BREAD, TOAST OR HARD ROLL
40¢ YOU WILL LIKE IT! 40¢

Fountain Features

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| DE LUXE TULIP SUNDAE 25c 2 Dippers of Ice Cream covered with Crumbled Fruit or Fresh Fruit in Season | SUPER JUMBO BANANA SPLIT 39c ½ Banana covered with 2 Dippers of Ice Cream and Crumbled Fruit, or Fresh Fruit in Season | EXTRA RICH ICE CREAM SODA 25c POPULAR FLAVORS Made with 2 Dippers of Ice Cream Crumbled Fruit or Fresh Fruit in Season |
| CHOICE OF STRAWBERRY, PINEAPPLE, CHERRY, CHOCOLATE OR HOT FUDGE Topped with Whipped Topping, Round Raisins and Cherry King | CHOICE OF STRAWBERRY, PINEAPPLE, CHERRY, CHOCOLATE OR HOT FUDGE Topped with Whipped Topping and Biscuit Nuts | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| MALTED MILK 25c Popular FLAVORS Made with 2 Dippers of Ice Cream | MILK SHAKE 25c Popular FLAVORS Made with 2 Dippers of Ice Cream | |
| BANANA SPLIT Regular 25c Popular FLAVORS Made with 3 Dippers of Ice Cream | FRESH ORANGE JUICE Regular 20c Large 30c Freshly Squeezed to Order | |

HOT NESTLE'S WITH WHIPPED TOPPING 15c
AND WAFERS

Home Style Desserts

| | |
|--|---|
| APPLE PIE Per Cut 15c <small>1½ Additional with Ice Cream</small> | LAYER CAKE Per Cut 15c <small>1½ Additional with Ice Cream</small> |
|--|---|

WOOLWORTH COFFEE—ALWAYS GOOD

HAVE A COKE GOES GOOD WITH FOOD

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Early Ford V-8 Club of America
Northern Ohio Regional Group #20
P.O. Box 1074
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

First Class Mail

Happy January Birthday

- Regis Schilling 3
- Foster Buchtel 9
- John Schigulinsky, Rags Stallard 14
- Craig Gorris 17
- Morrie Dannenhirsh 21
- Mike Wisniewski 29



The Headliner Deadline

1st Day of each month. Please e-mail articles, tech tips, outings, adds, club news and pictures to:

Annette Gorris
annette.gorris@gmail.com

Don't Forget to Check out our updated website :

www.norgv8club.org

For Sale: 1951 Ford 3/4 ton pickup.

**For details call Neal Garland
at 330-666-5979**

WANTED: Front cover and a crankshaft for an 8BA engine. Crank does not have to be a good one, as these items will be used on a "display only" engine.

**Call Neal Garland at 330-666-5979
if you can help**

Next Meeting February 20th