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**EARLY FORD V-8
CLUB**

ON THE ROAD

ST. LOUIS R.G. #124

August 2023

Volume 38 No. 8

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If you think you are smarter than the previous generation...50 years ago the owners manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves. Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.

President's Message

By Bruce Williams



Fellow V8-ers,,

Well, we truly had a fantastic July meeting at the home of David Diehl and his wife Mary Kreppel. They, along with their friend Brian, provided burgers, brats, and beverages in a delightful, shady setting in their back yard. And we had a fantastic turnout, with NINE (!!!) V8's in attendance. That's the most old Ford products at a monthly meeting in years! Thanks to David and Mary for hosting, and thanks to all who drove something old. You may recall that David had arranged for the Webster-Kirkwood Times to provide some coverage of our meeting, and indeed, reporter Sim and photographer Zach showed up and spent the entire afternoon with us. They asked tons of questions, took many photos, and otherwise attempted to look enthralled as we spoke of the fascination of all things Ford, and the wonderful bonds of friendship that have developed over the years in our club. We are all hoping for a great write-up that features our club and encourages others to find out more about us. George and Maxine have arranged some exciting plans for the August meeting in St. Charles (see details elsewhere in the newsletter), so please plan on attending and be sure to RSVP. Theresa and I will be at a wedding, so we will reluctantly miss the festivities. But we'll see you next time.

Safe travels and stay cool,

Bruce

Take a look at the 2023 Calendar in this issue. There are a few spots left at the end of the year. Is it time for you to host a future 2023 meeting?

George and Maxine promise us a great feast on August 19th (Saturday) at Pio's Restaurant in St. Charles. They picked Saturday because we can have a private room with **inexpensive** entrees

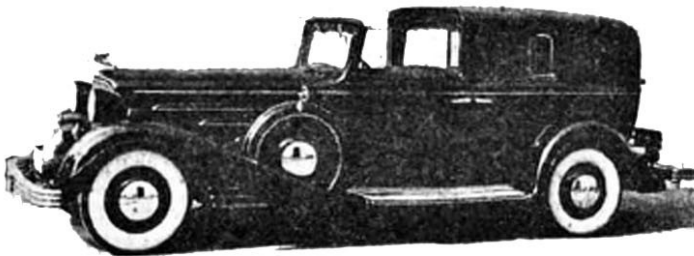
There are some of you that we haven't seen for a while. Please make a point to attend one of our up coming meetings. We would love to see you again

Here's a link to see a great story and coverage of The Grand National meet in Dearborn this past June. (put your cursor on the link and Ctrl/Click)

[https://na01.safelinks.protection.ou...%3D&reserved=0](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.foxsports.com/story/golf-grand-national-2023-06-19&reserved=0)

Blast From The Past !!

Joan Crawford's Deluxe Cadillac Towne FOR SALE



ORIGINAL COST \$11,000
Has Travelled Only 12,000 Miles
Virtually New and in Perfect Condition
Special Fleetwood Custom Built Body
Rear Compartment - Radio - 6 New Vogue Tires
Sixteen Cylinder Cadillac Motor
Special Equipment Throughout

**AN EXCEPTIONAL BUY
\$1,250 Cash**

Can be seen and demonstrated at
MELVILLE COOPER — USED CARS

8835 Sunset Blvd.
OX 4281 • BR 21480

July Meeting Report

By Bruce Williams

Bruce opened the meeting with a thank-you to David and Mary for hosting, and for all the special details they provided to make the meeting so special.

Bruce then acknowledged the attendance at the meeting by a reporter (Sim) and a photographer (Zach) from the Webster-Kirkwood Times, who were there to possibly publish an article about our club.

Bruce reviewed the list of up-coming events, including the August, September and October meeting plans. George Ball discussed the August meeting at Pio's, and Diane Huber noted that people may want to avoid I-70 traffic ("Festival of the Little Hills" weekend) and enter St. Charles from I-370 on the north side. Lee McDurmort discussed September meeting plans at the 1356 Public House, and Jerry and Judy Potthoff confirmed the October meeting will again be at their house.

Dave Kerperien noted that the annual All Ford Show at McDonnell Park and Don Taylor noted that it was Rosie's birthday, so the group sang "Happy Birthday" with strong enthusiasm (and minimal regard for being in tune).

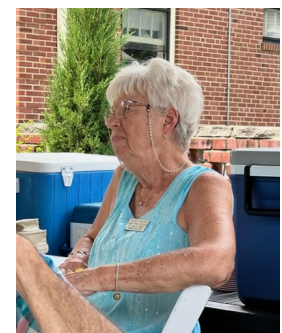
Bruce noted that he remains in contact with Josh Walker, the director of the auto/diesel repair program at St. Louis Community College, so that we can support and mentor students as they prepare their '41 Ford for entry in the 2024 Great Race.

Lastly, Bruce noted that this summer was the 50th anniversary of the acquisition of his '32 Victoria. He indicated that he will try to resurrect or re-write the story of driving the car that summer down to Miami to attend college.

Bruce then adjourned the business phase of the meeting.

July Meeting Report (con't)

Photos by George Ball and Judy Potthoff



July Meeting Report (con't)

Photos by George Ball and Judy Potthoff



2023 Calendar of Events R.G. 124

Month	Date	Event	Time	Hosts
January	15	Cancelled	1:00 PM	Cancelled
Feburary	18	Maggie Obrien's	1:00 PM	Conrads
March	19	Wildwood Pub & Grill	1:00 PM	Crawfords
April	15	Pizza Ranch	1:00 PM	Roarks
May	6 7 21	Kirkwood Driving Tour Model "T" Swap Meet Museum of Transportation (All Ford Show)	9:30 AM 6:00 AM 10:00 AM	Williams
June	10 25	Kirkwood Route 66 Festival Ice Cream Social	All Day 1:00 PM	Williams
July	16	Northeast Corner of Lockwood and Sappington	1:00 PM	Diehl
August	19	Lunch at Pio's ***Saturday***	1:00 PM	Ball and Carroll
September	17		1:00 PM	McDurmont
October	15		1:00 PM	Potthoff
November	19		1:00 PM	
December	17		1:00 PM	

August 19th Meeting

Hosted By Maxine Carroll and George Ball

The August meeting will be held on Saturday the 19th of August at 1:00 p.m. at PIO's Restaurant in St. Charles. Pio's is located at 403 1st Capitol Dr.

George and Maxine promise us a great feast. They picked Saturday because we can have a private room with inexpensive entrees, many under \$10



Lunch Favorites

Served with soup or salad, mashed potatoes and vegetable. 9.59 each
Upgrade potato selection to a baked potato or broccoli for \$1.00

R Roast Beef Dinner	Breast of Chicken Boneless chicken breast, fried, broiled, or grilled.	Tilapia Breaded or Broiled
Catfish Fillet Breaded or Broiled	Chicken Fried Steak	Cold Plate* *Ask Server for Selection

Sandwiches

Served with choice of salad or soup or fries & slaw.

Tilapia Sandwich Your choice of breaded or broiled tilapia fillet 9.59	B.L.T. - 8.99 Served on white or wheat toast
Deluxe Hamburger (6 oz.)* - 9.29 Add cheese 60¢ • Add bacon 99¢	R Open Face Beef Served with mashed potatoes or French fries - 9.99
R French Dip Fresh roast beef served with au jus for dipping 10.29 Add cheese 60¢ • Add grilled peppers & onions 99¢	Pork Tenderloin - 9.59 Add cheese & mushroom 1.00 Served Parmesan style 1.00
Chicken Parmesan Sandwich - 9.59	R Pizza Burger - 9.79 Beef and sausage patty topped with marinara and pizza cheese
Veal Parmesan Sandwich - 9.59	Classic Chicken Sandwich Your choice of breaded or grilled - 9.29 Add cheese 60¢ • Add bacon 99¢ Portabello Mushroom - 8.59
Buffalo Chicken Sandwich* - 9.99 Breaded Chicken Breast dipped in hot sauce, white cheese topped with Ranch and Bleu Cheese	
Italian Meatball Sandwich With tomato sauce 9.59 • Add cheese 60¢	

Triple Decker Sandwich

Substitute French fries for a cup of soup or dinner salad for 1.00.

White or Wheat Toast.
Ham, Turkey, Bacon, Lettuce,
Tomato, Mayo.
Served with French fries - 9.59



Side-door entrance!



Across the Street Parking

Please RSVP to george35ball@gmail.com or maxine4331@gmail.com if you plan on attending. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!"

Maxine and George

Diane Huber noted that people may want to avoid I-70 traffic ("Festival of the Little Hills" weekend) and enter St. Charles from I-370 on the north side.

50th Anniversary- My 1932 Ford Victoria

(An Eventful Summer I'll Always Remember)

By Bruce Williams

In 1972, I graduated from Kirkwood High School and departed in late August for the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida to study Mechanical Engineering (some would say I minored in “Beach Sociology”). Once on campus and on my first attempt to find the cafeteria, I met a like-minded (i.e., hungry) guy by the name of Doug Mohr who was from Cleveland. Doug and I wandered a while to find the cafeteria in our dorm, and our common interest at that moment started a friendship that has lasted for 50 years. Doug and I would occasionally sit along-side the canal that ran thru campus after hours of study (sort of) and think about home and what we missed. Doug talked about bringing his rusty and worn-out jeep back to Miami, and I, having restored a '29 Model A pickup, wanted an old car to drive. But I knew that Model A, with 4:11 gears, would not be suitable in crazy Miami traffic. We dreamed on, but never took action.

In the summer of '73 back in Kirkwood between my freshman and sophomore years, I made one of my occasional visits to fellow Ford enthusiast Dave Conrad's place, to see what neat old Ford activities he was up to (Note- another of those visits to Dave in 1984 led to the acquisition of the '46 Mercury that I'm currently restoring). As we talked, I told him about how I'd like to take an old Ford back to Miami, but that my pickup just wasn't suitable. Dave then told me about a '32 Victoria he had just looked at in North County as a possible contender... very original and complete.



My '29 Model A traded for the Victoria

Gears in my head started turning, and Dave gave me the owner's phone number. A call quickly ensued and the owner said he'd sell it for \$2400, which I didn't have. I did negotiate and close a deal to trade my pickup and \$200 cash for the Victoria. Whereas my Dad (who funded a majority of the restoration starting

at age 12) thought I was making a big mistake, I knew that I had made a great deal. My brother Doug helped me tow it home, and he very kindly allowed me to work on it in his garage for the next several weeks to prep it for a long drive to Florida. So I called Doug Mohr, who had concluded that his jeep was not up to a 1300 mile trip, and I said that I had our means of transportation to Miami... not telling him that the '32 hadn't run since 1957 and I had zero idea of its condition and roadworthiness. We made plans for Doug to fly from Cleveland to St. Louis, and then we'd load up and drive to Miami.



The Victoria interior as purchased

Nothing to it...

Over the next several weeks, I worked on the '32 during every free moment I had after my summer job working construction and painting. I stripped paint, did bodywork, and rebuilt engine components. I painted it with black DuPont lacquer, and accented it with red wheels and grill insert. I scrounged a couple used tires, oblivious to the horrible condition of the tires that I did decide to use. It easily started up and ran quite well, and it looked pretty sharp. I taped aluminum foil to the headlight reflectors to give me something that approximated lights, and I vacuumed the dank and scratchy original mohair that mostly remained. I was ready for the journey.



My 32 Vickey in Ready-To Drive Condition

Doug flew in from Cleveland and we loaded up our school stuff, clothes, tools, and a tent for camping on the trip, totally filling the back seat and the Victoria's "bustle". We had dinner with my family, and got a good night's sleep for the long trek that would start the next day.

Day One: we took off with plans to get to Nashville and find a place to camp. That leg was generally smooth on back roads to avoid most of the interstate. It was 90+ degrees for most of the day, and large bumblebees kept getting pulled in by the cowl vent. We arrived in Nashville and saw the "Roger Miller King of the Road Inn" off in the distance and so we pulled in to ask if they knew where we could camp. By extreme good fortune, the attractive young lady behind the front desk said, "you can camp at our farm"; naturally, we thought that was a fantastic idea. We followed her directions to the farm, only to find that she had a sister. We parked and set up our tent, while experiencing a pretty intense glare from the girls' father. When the first young lady got off work, she came home and said that she and her sister would take us out on the town... soon we were drinking a bunch of beer at a place called the Bluegrass Inn, and some time after 11pm, others joined us and we found ourselves "pool hopping" at an apartment complex. It seemed to be pretty innocent fun, and we made it back to the farm and Doug and I crashed in the tent.

Day Two: we woke up to find we had a flat tire, the first of several. We put on the spare and kept our fingers crossed. Additionally, it seems that one of the girls was in need of a ride down to Murfreesboro, TN to start her year at Middle Tennessee State U, and Doug volunteered us to take her. So she somehow managed to pile her stuff into the car, and she had to sit on Doug's lap for the journey. I don't recall Doug protesting the seating arrangements. We dropped her off without issues, said good-bye and thanks, and motored on toward Atlanta as our next destination. We soon had a low tire, aired it up and kept rolling. And it was soon low again. After a few cycles like this, I discovered that the air was leaking from the dry-rotted valve stems. We bought five small hose clamps and installed them on the valve stems, and those tires didn't leak again for several years. All the issues with tires meant that we were a few hours later than planned into Atlanta, and we were testing my useless aluminum foil headlight "enhancements" in fairly dark conditions. We decided to stay in a cheap motel and get a good night's sleep and shower in the morning.

Day Three: We planned to make it to somewhere in central Florida and camp at some suitable spot. All the driving was to be on interstate roads, and it was uneventful for the most part. But as luck and an inoperable gas gauge would have it, we ran out of gas and coasted down to the bottom of an exit ramp. But again our good

fortune came to the rescue, as the first car to exit after us stopped and volunteered to get us some gas. They were super friendly and we were quickly back on our way. We indeed made it well over the Florida state line, and set ourselves up for a planned 3-4 hour sprint down to Coral Gables. We stopped at a fairly remote area and pitched our tent, presuming we'd have a quiet night.

Day Four: Some time during the night, an 18-wheel cattle truck parked about 20 feet from our tent. So the sounds of mooing cows kept us from getting much sleep. We broke camp in the morning and took off, making pretty good time at 55-60 mph (estimated- the speedometer was broken). Near Ft. Lauderdale, the car started bucking and missing pretty badly. This went on for maybe 10 minutes, and then it cleared out and ran fine the rest of the way. We made it the University around noon, and all our other college buddies were amazed and impressed that we made it.

Epilog: In hindsight, it was pretty crazy to attempt the journey in the '32. If we'd had a major problem, I don't know what we would have done. But we were young and full of adventure. Now, I worry and spend too much time anticipating what could go wrong. Yeah, it kinda takes the fun out of things. I sure hope that somewhere in Nashville, there are two sisters that tell their kids and grandkids about the time two guys from "the north" in an old car came to town and hung out with them. It should make everyone smile. I drove the '32 frequently in that condition until about 1981, when it blew a head gasket and I parked it. Shortly thereafter, I tore it down and started a restoration that was finished by 1984-5. Doug and I stay in touch and see each other on occasion and we relive all of our Miami adventures. But the trip from St. Louis to Miami is probably our best story. Or was it the time we "borrowed" a 17th century Venetian gondola to see if it would float in the canal??? Hint- it did NOT float. That's another story for another day...



We've just arrived at U Miami- Doug on the left, me on the right

Almost finished with restoration
in 1984



Future Events:

SATURDAY, August 5th – Breakfast

636-398-5089 or raroark@att.net



Upcoming Events:

Saturday, August 19th Meeting at Pio's
Hosted by George Ball and Maxine Carroll

September 17th McDurmont's

October 15th Potthoff's

August

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 04 Jerry Potthoff
- 15 Diehl/Kreppel Anniversary
- 17 Diane Huber
- 19 Joni Orwick
- 21 Bob Lemen
- 23 Decker Anniversary (1985)



Don Rogers, Editor
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Wildwood, MO 63011-1738

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MAIL

St. Louis R.G. Web Site

<https://stlv8club.org/>