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George Ball 2018-2020

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2021

Don Taylor 2018-2020

Carmen Viviano 2018-
2019



**EARLY FORD V-8
CLUB**

ON THE ROAD

ST. LOUIS R.G. #124

Aug. 2019 Volume 34 No. 8

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August Meeting—1 PM

Maggie OBrien's

3828 S Lindbergh, Sunset Hills

Sunset Village Shopping Center



Hostess: Bonnie Abler

Please RSVP to Bonnie by Aug. 14

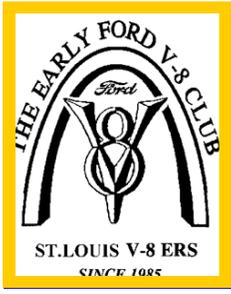
636-464-0629

<https://maggieobriens.com/>



President's Message

By Mike Huber



Hello V8ers,

Our July meeting was hosted by Lee and Laura McDurmont and although it was hot that day, they had plenty of room inside to accommodate all 29 members in attendance. A huge barbeque feast was prepared; thanks to Lee for cooking out in the heat and Laura for setting out an assortment of desserts and side dishes. Others brought several pot luck items for us to enjoy. We had one guest that Bruce Williams invited who is working on a 35 coupe, and there were several members we have not seen in a while.

We discussed doing a fall tour possibly in October hosted by Don and Rose Taylor. He would like the Missouri members going to caravan together to Troy Illinois, where Don will take us from there to the Diamond Mineral Springs in Grantfork. The Group has been there before, and we always have good food and a fun time.

The Central National Meet is just around the corner, August 23-27, and if you are going you should have made your hotel reservations, because I am sure they are going fast. Diane and I are looking forward to attending and visiting several sites that include the memorial bricks of deceased club members at the Ford Foundation Museum.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Bonnie Abler on August 18th at Maggie O'Briens on South Lindbergh. September meeting will be hosted by the Whites and October by the Hartnagels respectively. The November meeting is still open, if anyone wants to host that month. I mentioned some car show events coming up soon and here is a short list:

August 4 Homecoming car show in Mascoutah Illinois

Aug 11 Car show at Machinist Hall on St Charles Rock Road 9-4 Sponsored by OLD RIDE

Aug 17 Annual Gateway Arch Riverfront All Car Show at Laclede's Landing from 10-4:30

Aug 31-Sep 1 Car Show at Gordon F Moore Community Park, 4550 College Ave in Alton Illinois

Sept 29 Octoberfest Car Show in St Charles – Stock Cars only, Boones Lick Road and South Main 9-4

Oct 12 Old 66 Chain of Rocks Bridge Car Show, Noon until 4.

There is Free admission to these car shows – some fees are charged to enter a vehicle

Try and stay cool in the heat and drive those V8's whenever you can.

See you soon, Mike

July 2019 MEETING

Mike Huber called the July meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., and thanked Lee and Laura for their hospitality in hosting the meeting in their home. There were 29 in attendance and a guest who has a '35 Ford was expected later. There was no report from the Vice President. Mike thanked everyone for contributing items for the newsletter and Mary asked everyone to provide information on upcoming events for the newsletter. A card was sent to Don Toeniskoetter on the passing of his sister-in-law. Mike then recognized the July birthdays and anniversaries. The Taylors are planning a Fall Tour, possibly in October, to the Diamond Mineral Springs restaurant in Marine, IL. The rest area at I-270 and Riverview was mentioned as a possible meeting location. The Central Regional Meet will be held in Auburn, IN over the dates of August 24-27. Don Toeniskoetter stated that he and his daughter went to Auburn and he has a photo of the Club members' bricks which he'll send to Mary for the newsletter. The bricks were still on skids and they laid the members' bricks down together for the photo. Don Rogers added that the bricks are scheduled to be in place in time for the Meet. Upcoming car shows were mentioned and will be in the next newsletter. The next meeting will be hosted by Bonnie Abler on August 18 at Maggie O'Brien's on South Lindbergh. Please rsvp to Bonnie by August 14. The September meeting will be hosted by the Whites and the Hartnagels will host in October. The Treasurer's report is close to last month's. If anyone would like something added to the website, please contact Theresa. George Ball won \$28.50 in the 50/50 drawing. The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m. Everyone then enjoyed a wonderful meal that included grilled hamburgers, turkey burgers and chicken (prepared by Lee) along with an assortment of side dishes and desserts.

Submitted by Bonnie Abler



Um,
Um,
Good



The Tribal Council...Don, Russell, Howard and Don



Our Hosts...Lee and Laura McDurmont



Howard, Carmen and Barb (Always Surrounded by the Ladies)

Photos by Peggy Crawford

A Brief History of my '51 Ford by Bruce Williams

I've owned my '51 Ford 4-door for over 30 years now. It's been a great car and it's always fun to drive. I thought I'd write down a bit about its history and how I came to acquire it.

The Inspiration: The first gleam in my eye for a later flathead occurred around 1987, and was inspired by frequent page-turning thru the "V8 Album" published by the V8 Club many years ago. It contains many original factory photos taken of V8's. There was something about all the photos of the '49-'51 cars that invoked some serious nostalgia for me, and I began to think seriously about finding something. I felt that the '51's had the best look and the right amount of chrome and stainless trim.

The Acquisition: As I regularly did, I was talking to my brother Doug about how I was starting to get an urge for a '49-'51 V8. He immediately replied that he saw an ad in the "antique autos for sale" section in the Post-Dispatch (remember when every Sunday, we'd open the classifieds to see what was for sale?). It was a '51 4-door in Columbia, MO. I think the description was something like "ran when parked, \$1000". I made a phone call, and before I knew it, Doug and I were in his truck on the way to Columbia with a 2-wheel dollie in tow, and I had eight hundred dollar bills in my wallet. Up close, the car was a complete but tattered original with a few rust holes, lots of surface rust, and not a lot of chrome trim that looked salvageable. But at least I had a shot at getting it to run, right????

The Challenge and the big Setback: After letting it sit in my driveway for a couple weeks, I started to check her out to see what I had. I had visions of driving that smelly, rusty hulk around the neighborhood and I could hardly wait. With a battery in it, the motor cranked over about a quarter-turn and stopped... "@\$\$#\$\$%#@#)!!!". Soaking for days with Marvel Mystery Oil had no effect. Pulled the heads and saw that horrible sight of several cylinders totally rusted. Well, a new short block was needed, and things sat for a while. At about this time, I managed to convince Theresa to consider marrying me. I don't think either of us knew where life would take us, but I recall that she was not anywhere near as excited as I was about the '51 being a part of the journey. That was reinforced when I told her we were taking a road trip to pick up a rebuilt engine from a guy in Pittsburgh. That was a trip from hell; we departed on a beautiful Spring day in early April, only to find ourselves in a blizzard that eventually dumped over 20 inches of snow as we made it to Ohio. We got the engine and started back to StL, and I-70 was closed on the eastern edge of Ohio. We slept on cots in a banquet hall with what seemed like 500 other people. Eventually, we made it home 24 hours later than planned. I told Theresa that after that experience, everything else we do with old Fords will be a breeze.

Another Setback: So now I had an engine that I had heard run on the rebuilder's test stand, and it had chrome acorn nuts on the heads. It's gotta be great! Put it all together and got it ready to start, put coolant in it and went to bed, with expectations that all will be running smoothly the next morning. Bright and early, I'm out in the garage and I decide to check the radiator, and I'm shocked and sick to see that the coolant is down all the way below the tubes! I look for obvious leaks and don't find any. So I pulled the plugs and cranked it over, and saw that nightmare sight of coolant coming out of one cylinder. What a disaster. I pulled that head and find that the guy had crudely brazed a massive crack from a valve seat down probably $\frac{3}{4}$ " down the cylinder bore. It was horrible, and I had just thrown away several hundred dollars. Threats and demand letters from my attorney father-in-law had no effect, and I had to start over. So this time I called Dennis Carpenter and ordered a rebuilt short block. Three weeks later, I'm assembled and running!

On the Road: By now, I had straightened some sheetmetal, patched some rust, stripped and sanded the body for what seemed like 9 months, and painted it "silvertone grey". A couple years later, I bought a Lebaron-Bonney interior kit and installed it myself. The headliner was a real challenge! I added new brakes and tires, rebuilt odds and ends, and spent lots of time chasing plateable grill pieces and NOS stainless. Over time, it become a pretty good looker, and it definitely ran and drove really nice.

Final Chapter: Now it gets driven not as much as it used to. When we lived out in Pacific, it was a frequent means of getting the kids out for dinner and ice cream. We drove it a lot on the curvy, hilly roads around Eureka and had lots of fun with it. I've driven it to National Meets in Tulsa, Dearborn, and Indy. It's been dependable and enjoyable, and I like its comfort, speed and convenience. But I will admit that if I get the urge for something new, it will probably be the one I sell (I haven't sold an old Ford of mine since I traded my Model A pickup for my '32 Victoria in 1974). But there's no garage space left, so anything new will make the '51 the odd man out. I had promised Theresa that I'd get her a '58-'60 Thunderbird for that big milestone birthday (won't say which one), and now that was 7 years ago! So she keeps poking me... "when are you going to get rid of the '51 and buy me that T-bird?" But whenever I take it out for a drive, I just enjoy it SO much! In any case, I think I need to be a man of my word, so some day, it might be up for sale. We shall see...

Thanks for letting me share my story.

Bruce Williams



Photo 1: Bruce & Theresa with finished car.

Photo 2: Bad engine coming back out.





Upcoming Events



August 4 Homecoming car show in Mascoutah Illinois

Aug 11 Car show at Machinist Hall on St Charles Rock Road 9-4 Sponsored by OLD RIDE

Aug 17 Annual Gateway Arch Riverfront All Car Show at Laclede's Landing from 10-4:30

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Sept 29 Octoberfest Car Show in St Charles – Stock Cars only, Boones Lick Road and South Main 9-4

Oct 12 Old 66 Chain of Rocks Bridge Car Show, Noon until 4.

There is Free admission to these car shows – some fees are charged to enter a vehicle

Aug 24– 27 — Central Regional Meet Auburn, IN

Sponsored by Ohio RG # 141, Indianapolis RG # 56 and Auburn Blue Oval RG # 169.

Come and see all that Auburn has to offer, including a recreation of the iconic Ford Rotunda, now part of the Early Ford V-8 Museum. It's filled with eighteen 1936 Fords, including the sensational 1936 Stainless Steel Ford Sedan. www.earlyfordv8.org



2019 Sign-up to Host Activities

September — Whites

Fall Tour — Taylors

October — Hartnagels

November — **Open**

December — Roarks

Please everyone consider to host an activity for one of the months.

Be creative, be different, be adventurous! Diane Huber





Stories

Thanks to Bruce Williams for this month's story! Do you have a story to tell about your car, your experiences or adventures with your old car? An article that you'd like to share? I'm sure other club members would love to hear them! Photos are welcome, too. Please send them to me via email.

*Special thanks to Don for helping me get the newsletter out this month.

Mary Rogers mrogersstl@aol.com

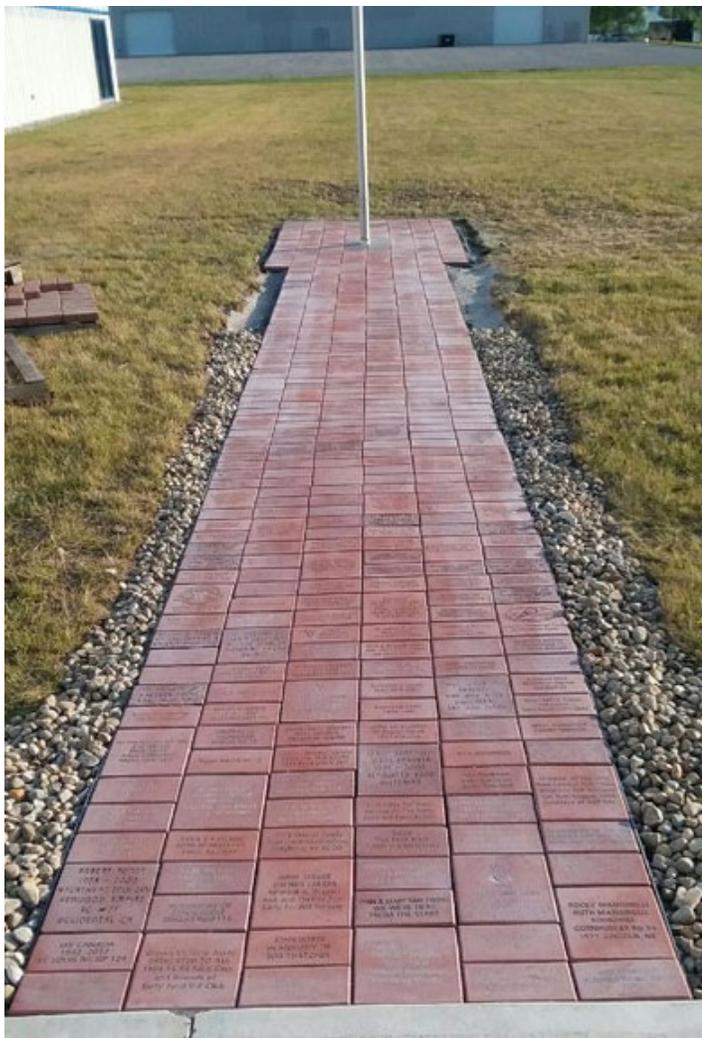
Thanks

Thank you, Ford V-8 Club friends, for your individual messages about Dona's death, the donation to the Missouri Botanical Garden in her honor, and the wonderful article in the July newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated!

George

BRICKS

Well, the job's finally completed and all the hundreds of memorial bricks we've sold over the years are in place well ahead of the 2019 Central National Meet in late August.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

AUG. 3 – Breakfast at 8 AM at Village Café,
6127 Ronald Reagan Dr., Lake St. Louis, MO
63367. Just off Hwy 64 at Hwy N across the
street from Walmart. 636-561-0235

EVERY WEDNESDAY – The ROMEOs meet at
Freddy's 2675 State Hwy K, O'Fallon, MO
63368 at 11:00 AM

EVERY THURSDAY – The ROFers meet at Lion's
Choice 17294 Chesterfield Airport Rd.,
Chesterfield, MO 63005 at 11:00 AM

AUG. 18 MEETING 1 PM — Maggie OBrien's,
Sunset Hills, 3828 S Lindbergh Blvd. See
details on page 1.

August

Birthdays & Anniversaries

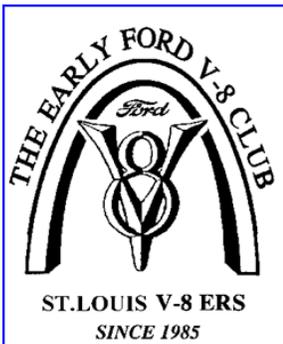
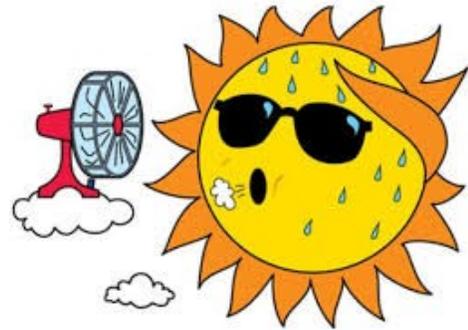
9 Hartnagel Anniversary 61st

11 Jack Krause

17 Diane Huber

21 Bob Lemen

23 Decker Anniversary 34th



Mary Rogers, Editor
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

St. Louis R.G. Web Site

<https://stlv8club.org/>