

October Meeting: 2024 Eastern National Meet Review By Dave Gunnarson

Thirteen members of NVRG attended the Eastern National Meet in Clayton, NY. The October membership meeting featured a review of the meet by several of the participants. Here's some of the images from the meet.





Left to Right: Dave Gunnarson, Joan Rial, Dick Rial, Jim Labaugh, Grove Newcome, Wendy Newcome, Jane Thomann, Terry Thomann, Liz Simons, Bill Simons, John Ryan



Part of the show field adjacent to the meet hotel



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&p Front with the President November 2024



President's Message—November 2024

<u>NVRG needs you</u>! - a new leader for our traditional Fairfax Car Show. The leader's tasks are primarily to interact with Fairfax City folks in the months ahead of this event and then to organize a group of our club members to serve on show day. NVRG members staff entrance tables, direct parking, judge for trophies, etc. A very willing and experienced cadre of NVRG members have always turned out in force to support the leader and make the event a success. We just need a leader to make it all happen. Dave Westrate will work with whomever assumes this responsibility to be sure they have the support they need. Please look at the "Help Wanted" notice in this issue and consider taking on this important task.

As I write this, our traditional Fall Tour has just completed. With exceptionally nice weather, a group of NVRG members enjoyed the sights of beautiful Southern Maryland and the Northern Neck of Virginia. Thanks yet again to Bill Simons and Dave Gunnarson for organizing the tour.

The Fall Tour winds up our usual jam-packed fall activities calendar. With the main touring season behind us, we begin to ease into a quieter period. However, there's still one major event left in the year: the annual Holiday Party at P. J. Skidoos in Fairfax on December 7th – our premier social event of the year. See the notice in this issue for more details. I look forward to seeing you there!

The AACA Hershey meet will be the focus of our next and final membership meeting of the year on our traditional second Tuesday, November 12th. The location is our usual venue, the Green Acres Center Senior Center in Fairfax City. Doors open at 7:00 and the program starts at 7:30. I will be out of the country on my own "fall tour" and will not be able to attend.

Best V-8 wishes,

John

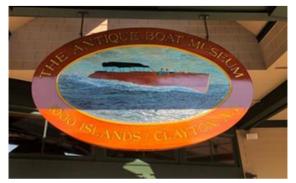
2024 NVRG Officers and Terms	2022 Directors and Terms	Committee Members
President – <u>John Ryan</u> (2023 & 24)	Membership – <u>Gay Harrington</u> (2024-25)	Fairfax Show – <u>Dave Westrate</u>
Vice President –Joe Freund (2024-25)	Programs, Refreshments – <u>Dave Gunnarson</u> (2023-24)	Tours Chair – <u>Hank Dubois</u>
Secretary – <u>Nick Arrington</u> (2023 & 24)	Webmaster – Rusty Rentsch (2024-25)	Property – <u>David Skiles</u>
Treasurer – <u>Bill Simons</u> (2024-25)	Sunshine – <u>Keith Randall</u> (2023-24)	At-large – <u>Jim LaBaugh</u>

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(cont'd from p. 1)



The Antique Boat Museum in Clayton features and amazing collection of freshwater boat history including some fantastic mahogany boats, marine engines, history, and many other displays.



One of many boats on display



The following are a few of the cars lined up on the show field:









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A 1935 German coach-built Ford



A Canadian-built Ford Meteor



Many meet participants went on the driving tour to an EFV8 member's garage



Bill Simons said that this was the most beautiful EFV8 Club meet he has attended in the past 30 years!

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OUT AND ABOUT

Drive-In Movie Tour September 28 & 29 By Hank DuBois

Like last year, this year's tour was plagued with threats of bad weather, this time from Hurricane Helene. When it became evident that Helene would stay to the south and west of us, we decided to go ahead with the event despite the possibility of rain, especially on Sunday. Only a few members had signed up for the tour this year, with a couple of those cancelling, so only Bill and Liz Simons ('49 Convertible), Jim LaBaugh, and Hank and Cindy Dubois were at Fair Oaks Mall on Saturday to begin the tour. The presence of Bill and Liz's '49 Convertible provided visual evidence that it would in fact be an Early Ford Tour!

The drive to Stephens City was very enjoyable and followed one of our favorite tour routes: Route 29 through the Bull Run Battlefield; Route 55 to Linden; Route 66 to Front Royal, Route 340 to Route 277 then on to Stephens City. After checking in to our hotel, it was off to the nearby Roma Restaurant for dinner where we were joined by Dave and Sarah Gunnarson for a great Italian/Greekthemed meal.

After dinner, we drove the short distance to the Family Drive-In arriving well before movie time. The first movie showing on Screen 1 was *Beetlejuice*, *Beetlejuice* which Bill, Liz, Jim, Hank and Cindy elected to watch while the first film on Screen 2 was *Wild Robot*, which Dave and Sarah selected. Bill, Liz, and Jim had seen the original *Beetlejuice* movie, liked it and assumed that its sequel would also be good. Wrong! It was really bad. Dave & Sarah had to return home after the movie but Dave told me later that *Wild Robot* was pretty good. Too bad we hadn't all known that going in. I guess the old maxim "you pay your money and take your chances" applies to today's movie scene as well as to the lottery or horse racing!

Upon returning to the hotel after the movie, Bill decided to cover the '49 Convertible due to the probability of rain and not knowing if would leak. Sure enough, the next morning it was clear that it had rained during the night, and it looked like it would probably rain during the day. With that in mind, Bill & Liz decided to head home, leaving Jim, Cindy and I to continue the Tour along with Bruce and Loretta Metcalfe who joined us at the hotel after breakfast. Bruce was driving their trusty '30 Model A Coupe which would provide visible evidence that it was still an Early Ford Tour!

Leaving the hotel, we drove to Millwood, VA to visit the Red Schoolhouse Antique Shop. This classic antique shop is housed in 2 buildings, specializes in English/Scottish antiques (primarily furniture), and is owned by a couple who live in Scotland. The owners source the antiques mostly in Scotland and ship containers of merchandise to the shop several time a year. The containers are delivered to the shop for unpacking, delivery/shipment of sold pieces and, stocking up the shop. This well-established shop does a brisk business locally and, via its website and Facebook, has clients throughout the US as far away as California. The lady who was working at the shop told us that most of their customers had older country homes for which the shop's antiques are well suited. So, in contrast to the current trend in gray furnishings and décor, brown wood is still good with their customer base!

After an enjoyable time at the Red Schoolhouse, we headed to Upperville, VA, for lunch at the Hunters Head Tavern which is one of our favorite tour lunch spots. I was a bit worried about the Metcalf's Model A in the light rain and fog that we encountered over Ashby Gap, but Bruce said the Coupe did just fine with its updated lights and wipers. We had a really fine lunch and enjoyed some interesting conversations mostly about our pre-retirement lives. After lunch, Bruce & Loretta headed back to Berryville and Jim, Hank & Cindy headed east on Route 50 to Fairfax in mist and light rain but avoiding the heavy rain forecast for later that afternoon.

All in all, this year's Drive-In Movie Tour, though pretty light in attendance, turned out to be quite a lot of fun and provided some good memories for those who did participate.

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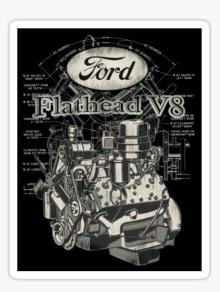
Foreign Affairs

By Nick Arrington

Friends, neighbors, and flat head fans, Nick Arrington and Bob Vignola both suffer from "Small Car" syndrome, probably due to some childhood ailment or being dropped on their heads at a young age.

Both have an affinity for cars produced by British Leyland as well as Henry Ford. Both won trophies at the Hunt Country Classic last month with Bob's Morris Minor and Nick's Nash Metropolitan, which he has owned since he was 18 years old. Yes, neither has a flat head but if the world only liked vanilla there would be no Baskins Robbins. If you squint hard at the Morris you can kinda see a fat rendered Ford.





Research Field Trip, Vol. 3: Setbacks and Opportunities

By Chris Elenbaum (Col, Ret., USAF)

I often ask myself, "Why do we do this?" Why do we keep and acquire the things we do? Why do we hatch beautiful plans for beautiful car projects but take our sweet time about getting them done? Each step along the way, we hit a snag and spend a month thinking it through to arrive at a revised, more beautiful plan in our manifold destiny. Well, this month I hit one of those snags.

At least two of the books that Hank Dubois loaned me sagely advised that finding a useable flathead block would be a challenge – and of course my first attempt proved that point. After tearing down the 8BA, I discovered what appeared to be a casting imperfection and after scraping and scrubbing, it turned out to be a catastrophic crack along the oil pan mounting rail right into the cooling jacket of the block. "Unrepairable" was the advice of the flathead friendly shop. Well, what a letdown. But I am undeterred! The club has once again come through with options to survey at least two more motors. But this isn't the field trip in this month's report because who doesn't run into a few forks in the road along the way?

In response to my first report, long time club member Dave Henderson suggested that he knew of a useful Model A frame for me. That lead didn't quite pan out, but when I suggested that I might rather look at buying a complete car, he asked me to come take a gander at his 1931 Model A project. So, I rustled up a league of extraordinary gentlemen, Hank Dubois and Nick Arrington, for a trip to Dave's house in Vienna, VA. Now I don't really consider myself an American picker, but I absolutely love visiting another guy's garage to see what he's been up to for as many years as Dave's been up to it.

Now when one goes to visit a gentleman like Dave Henderson, it's best to be all eyes and ears. As a Korean War veteran, Dave was a draftee and served a successful tour in the Army. The Army instills a certain know-how in a guy and Dave's garage boasts ample amounts of that. He's been well established in his Vienna home for 56 years now. As we ventured into the garage, we immediately came to a 1980 Olds Cutlass Supreme well-worn but still a driver – I had a '77 myself as my very first car.

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His has over 190K miles and mine was undoubtedly melted down and stamped out into new parts shortly after I sold it to a kid in Detroit in the mid 1990's. As Dave turned our eyes away from his messy workbench – just like my own – we admired his collection of Hershey swap meet stickers which he collected over 54 consecutive years of attending the event! Now that's a whole new level of devotion.

Continuing, next in the garage line up is a wonderful '64 Mercury Comet Caliente 2 door, the second-best trim option after the Cyclone, and with a 260 V-8, the predecessor to the venerable 289. As we continued further in and over top of an in-floor mechanic's pit, hidden deep in the garage corner was an early 1950's white Jaguar 120 eager to be driven again someday. All around us, the shelf-covered walls are filled with endless boxes of treasure that fits this thing and that. If you have things, you need things to fix those things, and few things are ever un-useful things.

But finally, in the very back, sits the '31 Model A in a nice state of in-process restoration. It has a nice original steel body awaiting paint and a new interior awaiting installation. This seems like the perfect car for my AV-8 project . . . but you'll have to wait for another article to find out the rest of the story. It was a wonderful visit for a league of gentlemen on a leisurely Friday and we have Dave to thank for that.



The '31 Model A

In the meantime, next time you see Dave, thank him for his service to our nation and for all his years as a dedicated caretaker for these old cars. Or better yet, send him a note or give him a call. Keep those flatheads cranking!







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The following originally appeared in Hot Rod magazine, Sept. 30, 2019

Simca Used Ford Flathead V-8s Until 1961 and We Found One!

By Steve Magnante

To most American viewpoints, the Ford flathead V-8 was produced from 1932-1953, and that was the end of it, right? Yes and no. French automaker Simca used the flathead right up through 1961 in brand-new cars, some of which were imported to the U.S. Making it crazier, at the time, Simca was owned by Chrysler, which used the tiny Simcas to fight off VW Beetles in dealerships that otherwise had nothing small until the arrival of the 1960 Valiant. Let's explore this wild V-8powered Simca Vedette Trianon.

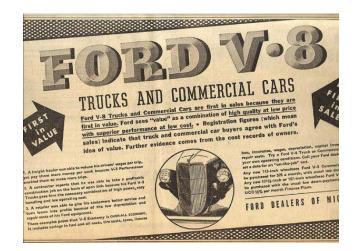
Groovy Factoids

--The V8-60 flathead is quickly differentiated from its larger siblings via its 17 head studs. The original 221-cube flathead used 21 studs (1932-1938). In a move to improve gasket life, Ford increased the stud count to 24 on 1938-1942 221 engines and on all 1939-1953 239- and 255ci engines.

--During the first five years that Ford's small V8-60 was available in France (1935-1940), a young Zora Arkus-Duntov (1909-1996) was living in Paris. There, as the Nazi invasion loomed, he smuggled gold bullion and coins to Belgium aboard a flathead V-8powered Ford, modified with a hollow frame tube to hide the treasure. During many late night runs, Duntov dreamed of ways to improve the Ford's performance. The eventual result was the famous post-World War II Ardun flathead Ford hemispherical conversion cylinder head kit. By the time German tanks rumbled into Paris on June 14, 1940, Duntov and his wife Elfi were preparing to emigrate to the United States. On December 4, 1940, the Duntovs arrived at New York City's Ellis Island aboard the Spanish steamship "Nyassa." Seven years later, in 1947, Duntov unleashed his Ardun Hemi conversion kit, which increased output from 100 to 160 hp. Unfortunately, the kit cost \$500 and there were few takers. But when the 1951 Chrysler Firepower debuted in 1951, it was clear that its designers took a long look at Duntov's creation.

VINTAGE FORD ADS







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2025 Annual NVRG Membership Dues Renewal is Set for 12/1/24-1/31/25

...but you can renew early and avoid the holiday rush!

By Gay Harrington

If you have already renewed your NVRG dues for 2025, you have received a confirmation from me that you're "all paid up." THANK YOU!

Annual dues for the Northern Virginia Regional Group (NVRG) are **\$25.00**. <u>Please make checks</u> <u>payable to Northern Virginia Regional Group (NVRG)</u> and mail to:

NVRG MEMBERSHIP

P.O. Box 1195

Vienna, VA 22183

If you prefer to pay your dues renewal electronically via ZELLE, please contact NVRG Treasurer Bill Simons at <u>bsimons@rustinsurance.com</u> to arrange the payment.

Here are a few good reasons to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP in the Northern Virginia Regional Group (NVRG), Regional Group #96 of Early Ford V-8 Club of America:

-Keeping the hobby alive and well. Maintaining a membership and recruiting new members keeps the love of the hobby going and inspiring others to do the same. <u>Membership forms for both the</u> <u>NVRG and the National Early Ford V-8 Club are easy</u> to access on our website.

-Camaraderie. Connecting with others who have common interests and enjoy these Early Fords/Ford products is why we exist. Our NVRG has members in 10 states and the UK, and the distances among us don't get in our way when we want to find each other and enjoy a conversation about our mutual interests!

-Expertise. The NVRG membership has a great depth of experience and expertise in all decades of early Fords and Ford products for the "flathead years" (1932—1953). Learning and sharing our knowledge and having access to the local, regional, and national network of folks with expertise is a

a valuable benefit of membership in both the NVRG and the national Early Ford V8 Club of America. A hallmark of our NVRG is that members generously share their expertise and "hands on" problem solving experience with each other.

-Website. You'll find both current information and an interesting archive section. The website is easy to navigate with drop-down listings. If you haven't been on the website, visit nvrg.org.

-Monthly newsletter. The monthly Valve Clatter newsletter is a terrific benefit of NVRG membership. The articles and tech tips are interesting and useful. Members can place a FOR SALE or WANTED ad in the classifieds. NVRG members are encouraged to submit their own articles and photos of interest for inclusion in the Valve Clatter. Member Nick Arrington is the co-editor/coordinator for this award-winning newsletter.

-Monthly membership meetings. NVRG meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month with programs driven by member interests. The location for each meeting is published a month or more in advance in the *Valve Clatter* newsletter in the EVENTS CALENDAR section.

-Fun events and gatherings. The NVRG has member events, shows, tours, meetings, and social gatherings from March through December. The *Valve Clatter* EVENTS CALENDAR lists the happenings, so members can plan accordingly.

-A great bargain! NVRG membership is still a bargain at only \$25 per year (just \$2.08 per month). A cup of coffee costs more than our monthly subscription cost!



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You are cordially invited to attend the

2024 NVRG HOLIDAY GALA

Saturday, December 7, 2024

P. J. Skidoos 9908 Fairfax Boulevard., Fairfax, Virginia Lower-level banquet room by way of restaurant interior staircase

ATTIRE: COAT & TIE Our celebration begins with cocktails at 6 pm (cash bar)

Menu Selections

Fresh green salad with house dressing, bread, dessert, & tea or coffee included with each dinner entrée

Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus 10 oz with red potatoes & green beans \$36 per person

Fresh broiled Salmon, lemon butter or honey Dijon Glaze, red potatoes, & green beans - \$33 per person

Grilled lemon chicken breast with rice pilaf & green beans - \$31 per person

Dessert: Chocolate Mousse, Ice Cream or Sherbet

Please mail your check (payable to NVRG) <u>with the completed Menu</u> <u>Selection Checklist</u> not later than November 29 to:

Joe Freund 650 Springvale Road Great Falls, VA 22066-3304 Also, let Joe know if you need a ride to and from P. J. Skidoos. We look forward to seeing you there with wrapped gifts for the traditional gift exchange. Don't forget items that the spouses will enjoy!

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2024 NVRG Holiday Gala Saturday, December 7, 2024 Menu Selection Checklist

NAME:		
	MEMBER	SPOUSE/OTHER
Select one entrée below per person		
Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus - \$36.00 Fresh Broiled Salmon - \$33.00 Grilled Lemon Chicken Breast - \$31.00		
Select one dessert below per person		
Chocolate Mousse Ice Cream Sherbet		

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK:

*For those selecting fresh broiled salmon, lemon butter and honey dijon glaze will be served separately at each table.

Please make your check payable to: NVRG

Mail Payment & Menu Selection Checklist NLT November 30. Thank you.

Mail To:

Joe Freund 650 Springvale Road Great Falls, VA 22066-3304

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Car Show Coordinator

Our club needs a contact /coordinator for this yearly car show which has been going strong for almost 30 years. Duties include 3 or 4 short meetings with city staff (totaling 10-20 hours per year) and coordinating assignments such as Signage, Parking, Same Day Registration and Judging. The city does much of the "heavy lifting" and plenty of NVRG members step up for day of event tasks.

Contact Dave Westrate or John Ryan for more info to help us continue this club tradition.





November NVRG Membership Meeting Hershey Meet Review

The November 2024 NVRG Membership Meeting will features pictures and stories from those who attended the recent AACA Fall Meet in Hershey, PA.

There will also be refreshments and fellowship, so don't miss it.

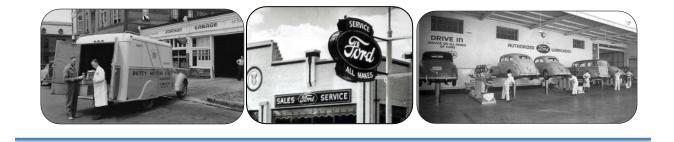
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 Time: Doors open at 7:00 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm Location: Green Acres Community Center in downtown Fairfax



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Northern Virginia Regional Group <u>Automart</u> (Buy, Sell, Trade)



NOTE: The Automart is maintained and updated by NVRG member Nick Arrington. If you have a submission, update, or correction, please contact Nick at <u>nta1153@verizon.net</u>. To be included in the upcoming issue, ads need to be submitted by the 18th of each month. **<u>WANT AD GUIDELINES</u>**: Ads expire after running six months. The expiration date (the issue in which the ad last runs) is listed at the end of each ad. Expiring ads may be extended another six months at the request of the ad submitter.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1950 Ford 2dr stock body restored with skirts, white and red interior, paint colonial white, engine has 2 Stromberg 97's, offy heads, reds_headers and dual exhaust, 12-volt solid state ignition, alternator. Extra gauges for water temp and amps plus Tach Radial tires, runs cool. Call or text **Bob Belsley**, 571-437-8401; bsbelsley@aol.com. \$21,000. (6/24)







1929 Ford Roadster Steel Body by Brookville. New condition never installed. \$6500.00. **Mark Lupo-sello**, 703-399-0999. Please leave message.

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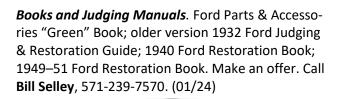
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Seeking skilled mechanic to help owner repair and maintain various antique foreign and domestic vehicles from 1941 to 1972. All vehicles garaged in climate controlled environment. Work 4 to 6 hours per month after initial assessment. Hourly rate based on mechanical experience and capability. Contact Joe at 703-627-1533 or by email: joefreund@verizon.net

PARTS & ACCESSORIES FOR SALE

'35 & '36 Gauges, locks, Champion Plugs, handles, fenders, bumpers, engine parts, wheels, radio, headlights, 5W Coupe doors, touring trunk lid, radiator, gas tank, WS frame, tools, V8 Times back issues. Gauges & locks for many years. '41 NOS F Fenders (top), pair \$350. '38 NOS RF Fender, Standard \$350. '38 Radiator (nice, no leaks) \$150, Jim Crawford, 301-752-0955. (05/24)



E Stord E

'32-'34 Inside Door Handles and Window Crank Handles: Inside door handles and window crank handles (standard and deluxe versions) and matching escutcheons for '32 cars, '32 commercial and trucks, '33–'34 cars (including commercial and trucks up to '37). All new, unused, excellent Drake reproductions in original packaging. **John Ryan** at john@ryanweb.com or 240-271-4097. (08/23)

'32 Headlamp Reflectors: Both Standard (2 bulbs) and Deluxe (1 bulb) versions available. These are new Drake reproduction original-type reflectors in original sealed packages and not currently available from the major commercial vendors. **John Ryan** at john@ryanweb.com or 240-271-4097. (08/23)

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Four slightly used black wall, all weather, radial tires, size 205/75 R 15. Perfect fit for a shoebox Ford. Production date: 31/21. Less than 600 miles on them. I recently traded them for white walls. Half price at \$100 each. **Bill Simons**, 202-734-2211, <u>bsimons@rustinsurance.com</u>. (07/23)

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1941 Ford Coupe dashboard -mostly complete Nice condition, original faux wood paint, very faded. 1923-25 Ford turtle deck with key. Solid, very good condition. Call or text **Mark Luposello**, 703-399-0999. Please leave message (12/24)

Pair of rechromed 1950 parking light housings. Like new. Asking \$485 for the pair. Contact **Bob Belsley** 571-437-8401 or <u>bsbelsley@aol.com</u>. (11/24)

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November			
12	Membership Meeting-7:30 PM. Location: Green Acres Senior Center. Program: Hershey Re-		
	view; speaker: Hershey Attendees		
13	Caffeine Double Clutch Breakfast—Fair Oaks Silver Diner at 9:30 AM. Questions? Contact		
	Wayne Chadderton at wjchad@gmail.com		
18	VC Submission Deadline – For articles/photos/want/sell calendar to content coordinators.		
26	NVRG Board of Directors Meeting—7:30 PM via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.		
December			
7	2024 Holiday Gala. No program.		
11	Caffeine Double Clutch Breakfast—Fair Oaks Silver Diner at 9:30 AM. Questions? Contact		
	Wayne Chadderton at wjchad@gmail.com		
18	VC Submission Deadline – For articles/photos/want/sell calendar to content coordinators.		
	NVRG Board of Directors Meeting—7:30 PM via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.		
January 2025			
8	Membership Meeting—7:30 PM. Location: Green Acres Senior Center. Program: TBD.		

Valve Clatter Content Coordinators				
SECTION	COORDINATOR	EMAIL		
President's Message	John Ryan	john@ryanweb.com		
Monthly Meeting Report	Dave Gunnarson	gunnarson@verizon.net		
Tour Report	Hank DuBois	handcdubois@verizon.net		
Event Calendar	Nick Arrington	nta1153@verizon.net		
Want Ads	Nick Arrington	nta1153@verizon.net		
Membership and Dues Report	Gay Harrington	hahsuj@gmail.com		
Restoration Reports	Nick Arrington	Nta1153@verizon.net		
Tech Articles	Cliff Green	dcliftongreen@gmail.com		

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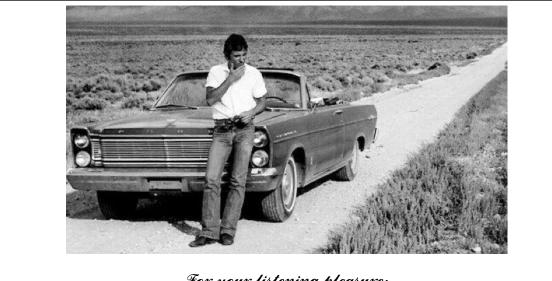
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When patronizing our advertisers, tell them you saw their ad in the Valve Clatter newsletter!









For your listening pleasure: <u>Born to Run</u> By Bruce Springsteen (Ctrl+Click to follow link)

