



2025 Central National Meet • Springfield, Illinois

June 22-26, 2025

Registration Information

Dear Fellow V-8ers,

The Northern Illinois Regional Group is pleased to invite you to “A V-8 Family Reunion,” the 2025 Central National Meet. We are working hard planning a fun time for an enjoyable week. While you are at the meet, members of the Northern Illinois Group are at your service to help you enjoy your meet experience. Look for anyone wearing a red badge holder. They will be able to answer your questions or connect you with the person you need.

These are three important forms we need you to complete and return to us:

1. Meet Registration Form – Tell us about yourself and make your selections for meals, touring opportunities, and meet merchandise. Details about these offerings are provided on the following pages. Please sign the acknowledgement and release of liability on the last page of this form.
2. Vehicle Registration Form – Complete one form for each vehicle you plan to enter. Information about the Division in which to register your vehicle is on the second page of the vehicle registration form.
3. Concourse Judging Invitation – We invite each member to join the judging team. Our Meet Concourse Chairman and the National Chief Judge will be assembling teams based on your input. If you have not judged before, consider signing up as a novice judge to gain experience and learn what this is all about. Complete one form for each person desiring to serve as a judge.

The meet hotel is the Crowne Plaza Springfield, located at 3000 S Dirksen Parkway, just ½ mile from exit 94 off Interstate 55/72. The overflow hotel, Holiday Inn Express, is located on the same property adjacent to the Crowne Plaza.

At the Crowne Plaza, there is a large parking area restricted for our Early V-8 vehicles. Feel free to park your Early V-8 in the restricted area whether you are staying at the Crowne Plaza or at another hotel. There is also ample parking for your truck or modern vehicle. We will have security guards patrolling the V-8 parking area as well as the trailer parking site overnight.

Trailer parking will be on the campus of the Lincoln Land Community College, less than four miles from the Crowne Plaza. This is in a quiet area off the main streets. The fee for trailer parking includes rental of this space and overnight security. Maps and driving directions for those bringing trailers will be provided before the meet.

Most meet activities will take place at the meet hotel. Activities include registration, raffle, operational check, vehicle cleanup, all meetings, outdoor swap meet, welcome party, vehicle concourse, ladies’ luncheon, and awards banquet.

We are looking forward to a fun time with plenty of V-8 fellowship and are happy that you have planned to join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact registration by email at registration@2025cnm.com or by phone at 630-858-9474. **We can’t have a reunion without you!**

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Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday, June 22	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Early Registration Open, Raffle Room Open
Monday, June 23	7:00 am	Vehicle Cleanup Area Open
	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Swap Meet
	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Desk, Raffle Room, Operational Check Open
	9:00 am – Noon	Tour Lincoln Presidential Museum
	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Bus Tour – Historic Homes
	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Tour Lincoln Presidential Museum (repeat of morning tour)
	6:00 pm	Welcome Party
Tuesday, June 24	7:00 am	Vehicle Cleanup Area Open
	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Swap Meet
	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Desk, Raffle Room Open
	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Operational Check Open (Closes for Owners/Judges Meeting)
	9:00 am – 12:30 pm	Bus Tour – Historic Homes (repeat of Mon. tour)
	9:00 am – Noon	Tour Lincoln Presidential Museum (repeat of Monday tour)
	2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Early Ford V-8 Foundation Meeting
	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Meet the National President
	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Owners/Judges Meeting (Note: Attendance is mandatory if you are displaying a vehicle on the concourse or if you are judging)
	8:00 pm	Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, June 25	7:00 am	Concourse open for parking; Vehicle Cleanup Area open
	7:00 am – 8:00 am	Judges Breakfast
	8:00 am – Noon	Raffle Room Open
	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Swap Meet
	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Concourse/Judging
	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Ladies luncheon
	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Pick up Your Choice Raffle prizes
	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Cruise-In, Motorheads
Thursday, June 26	9:00 am	Historic Route 66 driving tour – followed by picnic at Lake Springfield
	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Pick up Your Choice Raffle prizes
	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Social Hour – Cash Bar
	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Awards Banquet
	7:00 pm	Awards/Presentations

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Hotel and Meal Information

Most activities, including Early Ford V-8 vehicle parking, the Wednesday Concourse, and many meet events will be held at the meet hotel, the Crowne Plaza, conveniently located near the Stevenson Drive exit (Exit 94) on I-55. The adjacent Holiday Inn Express will serve as our overflow hotel if rooms are no longer available at the Crowne Plaza.

Important Note: Below are descriptions of planned meals and food available during the Meet. If you have any special dietary needs that prevent you from consuming the foods listed, please note this in the spaces provided on the Meet Registration Form. We will work with the hotel and the caterer to accommodate your needs.

Welcome Reception

The Monday evening Welcome Reception will feature a “Taste of Italy” buffet in the Crowne Plaza ballroom. The buffet includes Crowne Caesar salad, antipasto salad, meat lasagna, asiago chicken piccata, tri-color cheese tortellini with marinara & alfredo sauces, herb buttered broccoli, garlic bread sticks, and tiramisu bistro cake. Iced tea and water are included. There will be a cash bar. There will be entertainment following dinner.

Ladies Luncheon

On concourse day, the Ladies Luncheon will be held in the beautiful Crowne Plaza ballroom where attendees will see renowned Lincoln presenter Randy Duncan speaking about Abraham Lincoln’s home life. The luncheon will feature a choice of chicken salad sandwich featuring white meat chicken salad on a buttery croissant, seasoned potato wedges, and chef’s selection of dessert -or- Crowne house salad consisting of mixed greens, shredded Colby jack cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers, grilled chicken breast with fresh fruit and chef’s selection of dessert. Iced tea and water are included. Before and after the luncheon, participants should have time to see vehicles on the concourse, which will be held on the expansive parking lot right in front of the hotel.

Concourse

Food will be available for purchase on the concourse.

Thursday Driving Tour and Lunch

Our Thursday driving tour will end at the Beach House at Lake Springfield where participants will be served a catered lunch. The lunch buffet will consist of a barbeque pulled pork sandwich, cole slaw, baked beans, red skin potato salad, cookie, and iced tea, lemonade, or water. Participants may choose to skip the driving tour, but still sign up for this event and attend the lunch at the Beach House.

Awards Banquet

The Thursday night awards banquet begins with a cocktail hour (cash bar) followed by a plated meal in the ballroom. Meal choices are chicken caprese with fresh mozzarella, tomato, basil, and a balsamic glaze, Pork tenderloin medallions in a lemon rosemary sauce; or pan-seared salmon served with a lemon dill beurre blanc sauce. All meals begin with a house salad, include chef’s selection of vegetables, rolls and butter and are topped off with a dessert. Iced tea and water are included.

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Tours

Many historic sites in Springfield are small and space on these tours is limited. Buses are being used on one of the tours because parking at sites other than the Lincoln Presidential Museum is extremely limited. Space on the tours will be assigned first come, first served, so please sign up early. We will make every effort to accommodate everyone and may contact you to determine if you are willing to switch to a different tour time. Bus tours are subject to cancellation if not enough participants sign up.

Lincoln Presidential Museum Tour

The Lincoln Presidential Museum, opened in 2005, is a “must see” destination. Participants on this tour will provide their own transportation to the museum, which is located just 5 miles from the Crowne Plaza. Cost for this tour includes admission to the museum; parking is not included. Parking for your Early V-8 or other vehicle is available in an enclosed garage across the street from the museum at a cost of \$5.00 for up to four hours, paid by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or AMEX. Cash is not accepted in the garage. Cash-only patrons may pay at the museum ticket desk between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. We plan to travel to the museum in groups. This tour is available Monday morning, Monday afternoon, or Tuesday morning, so you can arrange it around your arrival time or other tours. You can stay as long as you like; suggested viewing time is 2½ - 3 hours.

Historic Homes Tour

This is a bus tour of two highly historic homes: the Abraham Lincoln home and the Dana Thomas House. The tour of the only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned, where he lived from 1844–1861, lasts about one hour. The Frank Lloyd Wright designed Dana Thomas House is one of the best preserved and most complete, including interior furnishings, of the Wright Prairie Style houses; the tour lasts about one hour.

This tour will be offered Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. The price includes museum admission, bus transportation, and bus driver tip.

Route 66 Driving Tour

On Thursday you can “Get Your Kicks on Route 66.” A driving tour designed for our Early V-8s will leave from the Crowne Plaza. You will enjoy a laid-back drive on Historic Route 66 as you crisscross various alignments of the original route and pavement. The tour will end with a catered lunch at the Lake Springfield Beach House.

Touring on Your Own

In addition to these organized tours, representatives of the Springfield Convention and Tourism Bureau will be on hand to provide information about visiting other Springfield sites such as the Illinois State Capitol, Lincoln’s tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery, the Old State Capitol where Lincoln tried cases before the Illinois Supreme Court and delivered his famous “House Divided” speech in 1858, the Lincoln-Herndon law office where Lincoln practiced law, and Lincoln’s New Salem where he lived before moving to Springfield.

Also available for touring are various Route 66 landmarks such as the Cozy Dog Drive In, Shea’s Gas Station, and more. Two of the newest Route 66 destinations are the Route 66 Experience at the Illinois State Fairgrounds and Motorheads, which we will attend on our Wednesday evening Cruise-In.

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Meet Merchandise

Note: To ensure you receive the Meet merchandise that you want, we recommend that you pre-order with your registration. You will receive the items you pre-ordered upon Meet check-in. Limited quantities of Meet clothing will be available on site at the Meet.

T-Shirts

Meet t-shirts are 100% cotton, men's cut, Yellow Haze in color.



Men's Shirts

Meet shirts are in a men's style and are Regatta Blue in color, short-sleeved, poly cotton twill, with the meet logo embroidered on the left chest.



Polo Shirts

Meet polo shirts are in a men's style and are Cool Grey in color with the meet logo embroidered on the left chest. This is a very nice quality poly/cotton blend shirt.



Caps

Meet caps are a structured baseball-style cap, dark Navy blue in color, with the meet logo embroidered on the front, "2025 Central National Meet" embroidered on the back arch and "Springfield, IL" embroidered on the Velcro strap.



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Meet Merchandise**

Gearshift Knob

The Central National Meet will feature a 1937 Ford-style gearshift knob generously provided by Dennis Carpenter Restoration Parts, featuring the Meet logo as the center insert.



Hat Pin

This is a 1" diameter collectible hat pin with the Meet logo, shown actual size.



Raffles

Your Choice Raffle

Items will be displayed and additional tickets can be purchased in the Registration/Activities area at the Crowne Plaza • June 22 - 25

Tickets: \$20 for sheet of 26 tickets

**Prize pickup will be from 3:30 to 4:30 pm Wednesday, 6/25
And 3:00 – 5:00 pm Thursday, 6/26**

If you can't be there to check your numbers, please have a friend do it for you. Prizes must be picked up and will not be shipped.

Large-Item Raffles



V-8 Jewelry Box

This beautiful jewelry box was hand crafted by renowned woodworker Frank Wheeler of Santa Rosa, California using recycled wood. Donated by Carolyn Bounds.

**Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10
Drawing June 25 at the Ladies' Luncheon**

See Additional Raffle Items on Next Page

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More Large- Item Raffles

Tickets for each item are \$10 each or 3 for \$20
Drawing June 26 at the 2025 CNM Awards Banquet
Need not be present to win

Need a New Carburetor?



**New in box Stromberg 97 carburetor –
Made in England – \$525 Retail value -
donated by Ken and Carolyn Bounds**



One winning ticket will be
drawn for each carburetor.

**Genuine Ford 8BA carburetor – Will be
professionally rebuilt by Charlie Schwendler of
New York who donated his services**

Win this 22-inch Ford V-8 Neon Sign



\$450 Value!

Ford Lighted Neon Sign

- Height: 21"
- Width: 22"
- Depth: 4"
- Weight: 16 pounds
- Manufacturer: Neonetics
- Licensed by Ford Motor Company

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Meetings and More

On Tuesday there will be several meetings in the spacious activity room, Plaza I, located close to the Meet registration desk.

Early Ford V-8 Foundation Presentation

At 2:30 pm you will have the opportunity to meet representatives of the Early Ford V-8 Foundation and Museum to learn about the status of the Foundation and on-going projects at the Auburn Museum.

Meet the National President

At 3:00 pm, National President Dave Gunnarson and members of the Board of Directors will give you the inside scoop on your club, the Early Ford V-8 Club of America. This is your opportunity to meet these folks in person and ask any questions you may have about the Club, future activities and plans, etc.

Owners/Judges Meeting

This meeting, hosted by National Chief Judge Ken Bounds, begins at 4:00 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting. If you will be judging vehicles on the Concourse, your attendance is mandatory. Every participant who is showing a vehicle on the Concourse should attend to understand the judging process, Concourse procedure, and the plan for parking vehicles on the Concourse. This meeting will include a video presentation on the judging process and introduction of the judging teams.

Ice Cream Social

On Tuesday evening everyone is invited to an ice cream social at 8:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza. Weather permitting, this event will be held on the scenic rooftop terrace overlooking the concourse. In the event of rain, we will need to move indoors. There is no charge for this event, generously sponsored by B&P Enterprises of Minnesota. What a great way to wrap up the day!

Wednesday Evening Cruise In

After the concourse, everyone is invited to take their Early V-8s or other vehicle on a short 5.5-mile drive to a cruise-in at Route 66's newest landmark, Motorheads. This restaurant has a great theme and food selections for everyone. There will be a special parking area reserved for our V-8s. Maps to Motorheads will be provided.