

E.D.G.E. & T.A.

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Volume No. 26, Issue No. 2

April-May-June 2025

Editor, Tina Brown

In this Issue, you will hear from:

- *Jeff Fenske: President and Director-at-Large from Kingsburg, CA*
- *Ron Hanson: Vice President and Southwest Director from Acton, CA*
- *Mike Pollock: Northwest Director from Anchorage, AK*
- *David Scibek: Central Director from Farmersville, TX*
- *Travis Brown: Eastern Director from Eagleville, TN*

Together with their combined experience they are here for you and your Branches to help in any way to make your show experiences even better!



WWW.EDGETA.ORG



From Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large

Hello Everyone,



We started the New Year off right with a trip to sunny **Southern Arizona**. The Wellton Show is always a big event with exhibitors coming from all over the United States. Lots of people in the cold country spend their winters in the Yuma area and some of them even bring tractors and engines. We always look forward to the third weekend in January to get our year started off right!



I exhibited two small hot air engines and my wife, Glynnna, displayed her **1885 New England Butt Manufacturing Company shoelace machine**. It is a 16-spool braider that seems to draw a crowd as she hand cranks and does her talk.

Several of the exhibitors camp out there with their RVs and it is always fun to spend time with members you only get to see once a year. The warm weather and delicious food are a plus!


After spending some time in the sunshine, we decided to get back home to get ready for our local spring show season here in the **Central Valley of California**. The weather has warmed up here and we have had our Branch annual luncheon and election of officers and one engine show so far. The next couple of months will be busy for our branch with shows and parades. That's what we look forward to.

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Jeff continues...

Then we will be getting ready to head back to **Oklahoma for the National Show in Shawnee, near Oklahoma City, June 20th-21st**. This should be a great show, and I hope that since it is centrally located this year there will be many members that take part in this event. This will be the **26th Annual Farming Heritage Festival**. For more information on this show, you can go to our website <https://edgeta.com> .

 This will be the last newsletter that will be mailed by USPS to every branch President. We have been emailing the newsletter to the branch contact person and the President for a few years now. We have asked the contact person to forward the newsletter and any correspondence from EDGE&TA to all the branch contact list. If you don't have a list for your branch, now is the time to make one. It takes a little while, but it is SO handy to send out branch information to everyone. You can also read, download and print from the EDGE&TA website. All the last 24 years of the National newsletters are on the website. On email we can put in color photos and are not as limited space wise as with printed versions. So, if any of the branches want to send photos of their shows and events feel free to email your Director or Tina, the Secretary/Treasurer. Those email addresses are online and on the last page of this newsletter.

***Now is the time to make sure you send in all your membership dues for the coming year.** Our dues remain at \$20 per member. This includes \$3 million dollars in liability insurance for every member. This total number is around \$90,000 per year. We pay our Secretary/Treasurer \$12,000 a year for all her work year-round and Josh \$1,200 a year for all the website updates and maintenance. Then there are fees with the website and stickers, membership cards, postage, D/O insurance reimbursement for the branches, National Show \$1000 and Regional Shows \$500 to go toward expenses, travel expenses for the Directors to go to the National Show and Meeting and other miscellaneous expenses. Our dues cover a lot of different expenses. It is also time to make sure your officers are current.

Fill out the Officer Update Form on the website for 2025.



Our [edgeta.com website](https://edgeta.com) has a lot of information on it. You can go there and find out the answers to most of your questions. Also, your Directors can answer questions. Feel free to give any of us a call or email if you need anything.

So, for now, go out and have fun with your old equipment. Just remember to be safe and follow the safety rules. These are all on our website.

Play Safe.....Stay Safe....

**Jeff Fenske President EDGE&TA Jeff Fenske,
President and Director-at- Large**



From Ron Hansen, Vice President & SW Regional Director


Hello All

Welcome to Spring.

Soon it will be tractor and engine shows season.

*** Reminder the Club/National member dues are now due please.**
Please keep your membership current and in good standing with your local branch. Thank you

Coming up here in the **SW Region on June 7-8, 2025**, will be the SW Regional Show hosted by **Branch#136**. This year's show will be at the **Historic Patrick Ranch in Durham, CA**. This looks to be a Great Venue for this year's Regional show. The grounds at the Ranch are very nice. Please look on the National events web page for more information and show details. Branch #136 is working towards having a Great Show. Please attend if possible.

 **The National Hall of Fame submission deadline has now closed for the year 2025.** There have been some Great Nominations submitted for recognition. The results for the 2025 Hall of Fame will be announced at the National show. They will also be recognized in the next National Newsletter and with the respected local branch.

Thank you ALL for what you do to keep the Antique Tractors and Engines going in this hobby.

Sincerely

Ron Hanson, Vice President Southwest Director

HALL OF FAME!!!





From Mike Pollock, NW Regional Director

Greetings from the Not-So-Frozen-North!

We hope this note finds you all healthy, safe and ready for the '25 Show season. We here in **Anchorage** have already participated in a **Winter Carnival Parade** and are awaiting our next events in May. Our weather has been unusually warm, and we've not had much snow.

For several days in early March, our yard was completely free of snow.... I even got the lawn mower out and serviced it! Nicer weather and more daylight tell us showtime is just around the corner. Get ready and as always, be safe!

*** 2025 Northwest Regional Show.** The NW Regional show will be hosted by **Branch 72 at Shoshoni, Wyoming, near Riverton on June 14th & 15th.** Thank you to Carl Stark & the rest of Branch 72 for offering to host this show. We are looking forward to meeting Carl and the rest of the Br72 folks. Come join us!

***2025 National Show.** On **June 20th and 21st, Branch 260** will host the **2025 National at Shawnee, Oklahoma.** June will be a busy month for EDGETA! Oklahoma is one of the states I have not yet been to. I'm looking forward to checking out the countryside and seeing everyone at the show.

***2026 National Show.** **Branch 29** has offered to host the **2026 National Show in Huntley, Montana.** Thanks to President Ken Amann & the Br29 crew for hosting this event. This show will take place on **August 22nd & 23rd of 2026.** I personally have always enjoyed my visits to Br29's shows...you will too. Mark your calendars!

Branch Officer Update Be sure to update your Branch's officer's information, even if there are no changes. The form is on the Website.

Well, that's it for now. As always, if there is any way I can be of help to your Branch, please call/text to 907-229-3500. Stay warm...stay safe...be happy!

Mike Pollock, NW Regional Director

Northwest Region Activities

Skyler Silcock, President of Branch 263, Oakley, Idaho submitted this photo of him and his son, Waylon, 'cruising the farm' on their JD 820. Skyler says this is an example of Branch 263's youth involvement program!



Mike continues...

Branch 52 participated in Anchorage's annual Ful Rondexvous Winter Carnival in February. Old tractors, old jeeps & a few old guys participated! Note the absence of snow!



From David Scibek, Central Regional Director

Greetings from the Central Region!

Not a lot to report since our last correspondence. It was a mild Winter here in Texas except for the "customary" week or so in February. I know that some of you in the Region saw a lot worse weather than we did here.



Locally, the IH Club (with help from several members from local EDGETA Branches) hosted the 33rd annual National Winter Convention in Fort Worth and got excellent reviews from those who attended.

The big news to report is the continuing effort by Branch 260 in McCloud, Oklahoma in preparation for the National Show this June 20th-21 in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Shawn Singleton and his staff are working diligently to make this show a great one. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

There has been an update to the Youth Driver License Program. Please review that update on the National Webpage. I believe this will make the testing and submittals of the applications more efficient and easier for the Safety Directors to complete an application for the licenses. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through the National Website.

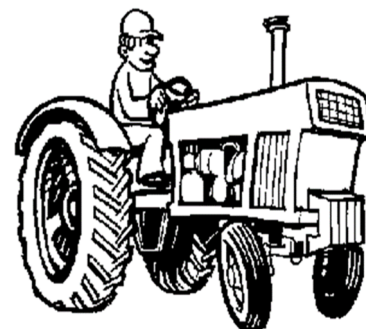
With Show season starting to get into full-swing this quarter, please remember safety is first and foremost. Please check the National Guidelines and be diligent when it comes to the requirements for your shows, and activities.

Until next time, be safe, have fun, and keep the traditions alive.

David Scibek
Central Regional Director

David Scibek, Central Regional Director

"Practice Safety First"



From Travis Brown, Eastern Region Director

My grandfather was responsible for introducing me to the world of steam engines (steam tractors). He worked with these massive contraptions in his youth; indeed, we have pictures of him sawing wood with one from 1938.

Later in life he decided to build one, a process that would take him 10 years to complete. He finished it when I was four, and we took it to many shows and events when I was growing up. He patterned it after an engine his neighbors used to thresh with and bought new, he recalled watching them unload it, it had to be quite the day to get one delivered new by rail back then.

I cannot recall a time before steam, without exaggeration, I have been around it all my life. One of the highlights used to be when we would go to the **Central States Thresherman's Reunion** every Labor Day weekend at **Pontiac IL**. We would miss school Thursday and Friday and go to the old grounds at the 4H park and have a wonderful time sawing wood with our half scale engine and half scale sawmill as well as going through the parade and getting thoroughly covered in soot and coal dust.

Grampa and myself or my brother would go all over to several shows and events around his small town in IL.

I have been blessed enough that I could raise my children the same way, taking them to shows and events and helping them to operate the steam engine. My wife soon realized that it was a losing battle, and that steam engine grease rarely comes out of any clothes it claims.

Later, when he passed, I moved the steam engine down to Tennessee as I had moved there to go to college and never left.

I was surprised to learn that they would not let me operate my prized steam engine at the shows in Tennessee. After a few years I started working on finding out how I could fix this injustice. Many told me it was impossible, others had tried and failed. I reasoned that if my grandfather could spend ten years laboring building this, I could spend ten years fighting the system.

In fact, after only five years, we had gotten the "powers that be" to sit down and negotiate a series of rewrites to the Tennessee law that would not only benefit our steam engine but also every other historic boiler in the State of Tennessee. In other words, I fought the law, and I won.

Most of the changes were made by studying what other states have done and adopting the best practices that we could all agree on. After the committee signed off, the **Boiler Board of Appeals** approved the changes, then the State Legislature voted on the changes and then after the Governor signed off the changes became law on **July 1, 2006**. This change would quickly lead to great increases in the number of steam engines operating in Tennessee, the average number of historic boilers at shows all across the state went from around 2 to an average number of 20.



Travis continues...

After we won that issue, I was at a show a few years later and saw something that concerned me. A steam engine owner had left his machine in the hands of a friend to go run an errand. During that time, it had a hand hole gasket fail, and the friend did not know what to do. He called me over and I took action to fix the situation before it got out of hand. Afterwards I realized that we could benefit from increased training for historic boiler operators, and we started doing so in what we call Steam School.

We patterned ours after the popular traveling steam school put on for many years by the folks from the **Pawnee Oklahoma Steam Show**. We have done this for nearly ten years in many different locations and in different configurations.

This year I have done two so far, one in **Tennessee** and one in **southern Indiana**. The one in Tennessee was an event sponsored by **Branch 202** along with assistance from the **City of Murfreesboro TN** who let us use a building at the historic **Cannonsburg Village** for our school. Then I traveled to **Evansville** to do a school hosted by the Southern Indiana Antique Machinery group at the **Vanderburgh County Fairgrounds**. We also attempted to saw with steam there and instruct people on the finer arts of circular sawmills but that was cut short when the steam engine had a flue to fail. That flue failure led to a very teachable moment on how to react when things are not going right.



Our focus on these schools is safe operation. We cover a lot of the basics like types and constructions of historic boilers steam oilers, steam injectors, fusible plugs, safety valves and even how to calculate the maximum safe operating pressure by checking thickness and using algebraic formulas. But the overall theme is to learn how to safely operate these engines and have a plan on what to do if that hand hole gasket fails or when the flue fails. Also keep two people on that engine because it will happen every show that someone is not paying attention to your 12-ton piece of machinery while you drive around and will walk in front or stop in your path. Steam engines don't typically have brakes, be ready.

*Steam is one of the items I specialize in as a director of **EDGETA**. I also have Tractor pulling as another area. Each director takes a few of these areas to divide up the workload so they do not just have the branches in their region, they also have other concerns as well. Luckily, we are able to communicate with each other quite often when anything arises.

And continues Travis!

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On our schedule this year is a small show at the **Tennessee Ag Museum in Nashville April 26**, a trip to **Oklahoma for the National Show June 20-21** the **Tennessee Kentucky Thresherman's Show in Adams in July 18-19**, a trip to **Rushville Indiana** for their show featuring our brand of steam engines (Keck Gonnerman) in **August 1-3**, our local show at **Eagleville in September 5-6** and then a trip to the East Region show in **Foley Alabama October 4** followed by a show in **Boonville Indiana** where we will celebrate 50 years of our family steaming **October 10-11**. It is going to be a busy year with all the things going on, hopefully we will see you at one or many of these events!



Travis Brown, Eastern Region Director



And last but not least, From Tina Brown, Secretary/Treasurer/ Editor

Happy Spring!

I don't know about you, but I am so happy with the nice weather and look forward to spending time outdoors!



Thank you to all members who have already sent their membership dues.

Reminders:

- Branches have been receiving stickers and membership cards for this year. Please email me if your branch requires any, and I will send them to you.
- The next newsletter will be emailed, not mailed. It's also available on EDGETA.com.
- Please be sure to visit EDGETA.com to update your officers' and directors' information for D&O Liability Insurance. Click on the "Update Officers or Update Directors" tab. If the officer's information has not changed from last year, you can enter "same as last year" instead of re-entering all the details. Then click "Submit."
- Include your Branch # on all correspondence, including emails and checks. This helps identify your organization accurately.

Enjoy a safe year!



Tina Brown, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor

National Show

Branch 260 – Shawnee Tractor & Engine Club - June 20-21st McLoud, OK

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26th Annual Farming Heritage Festival

Northwest Regional Show

Branch 72 – Wind River Flywheelers - June 14th-15th Shoshoni, WY
35th Annual Threshing Bee

Southwest Regional Show

Branch 136 – Vintage Iron - June 7-8th Durham, CA

Eastern Regional Show

Branch 211 - South Alabama Antique Tractor and Engine Club October 4th Stockton, AL

WWW.EDGETA.ORG

Utilize the website for helpful information!

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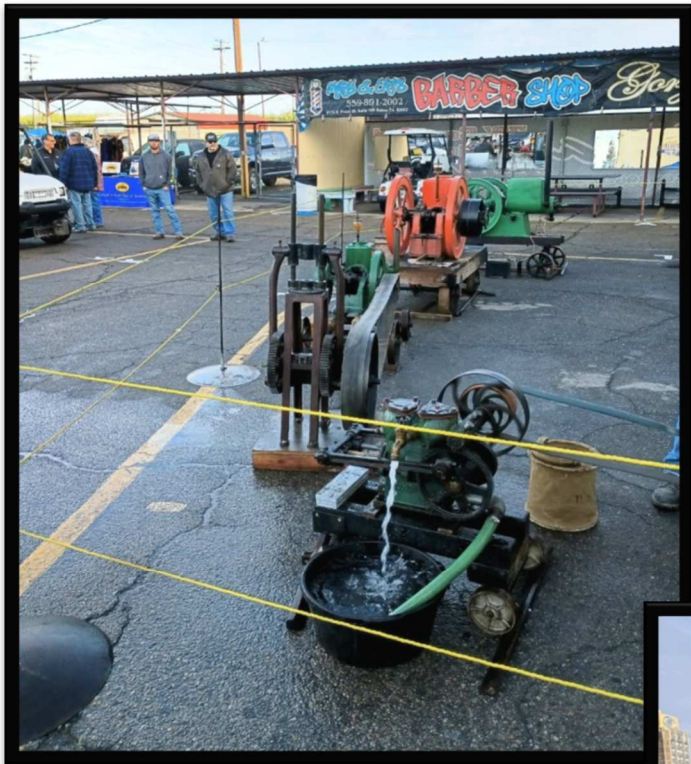
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Some “Extras”!!



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2025 National Show
Hosted by Branch 260
June 20th-21st 2025
Shawnee, Oklahoma

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