

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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October-November-December 2020

Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley

From Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large

Hello everyone. Hope you are all staying healthy and safe this year. 2020 has really turned out to be unprecedented as far as disasters go. We thought the Coronavirus was bad, then it turned into a Covid Pandemic. As if that wasn't bad enough, we started having riots, looting and burning of some of our cities. Now, we are having wildfires that have burned more than 5 million acres on the west coast with over 3 1/2 million acres in California. We are about 40 miles away from Creek Fire and in no danger at all except from breathing all the smoke! Firefighters are making progress and have some containment and hope to have the fires put out by mid-October. It is really hard to feel positive now but we need to try to find something good to think about. We have heard that many branches are having shows and events. We hope to start planning tractor and engine shows here on the west coast where we have had such strict state regulations. Anyone want to trade governors with California?? As most of you have probably heard, the people in the state haven't even been able to get a haircut....Well, not unless you are Nancy Pelosi !! Anyway, we are hoping to be back to a somewhat normal year in 2021. We have been invited to display at a county fair 30 miles south of us. It will be a Drive Through fair. We are to set up 20 feet apart and 8 feet back from the road and can NOT leave our display area. No walking around the grounds. Cars will be driving one way down the lane to get to the overpriced Fair Food. No exhibits in buildings, no animals, no rides. People can go online to see the animals virtually!! What has happened to us ??? 2020 is a SAD year.

Because of the pandemic and lack of activities, our membership this year is way down. At this time, we have about 6,000 members. We understand that branches couldn't even get together much less have shows. Our hope is that next year everyone will be so tired of sheltering in place and will have had time to get our tractors and equipment in tip top condition and will be ready to get out and go. We hope our membership will go up next year. Please encourage those that didn't sign up this year to rejoin next year. All the Regional Directors will be calling their branches to check in and help in any way they can. If you have any questions,

ideas or need help just give your Director or me a call. I have gotten great input from branches across the country and enjoyed talking with all the different members.

As most of you know by now, Dick Tombrink, Northwest Director, and Buster Brown, Southwest Director retired after serving EDGE&TA for many years. A big thank you goes out to them for their service. Morrie Robinson is the new Northwest Regional Director and Ron Hanson is the new Southwest Regional Director. Go on the EDGE&TA website to find their information and see their photos. Their contact information is also on the last page of this newsletter.

Even though we have not had many events, we still had one accident. Another parade where a tractor hit a parked vehicle. Anytime you are driving your tractors be aware of how wide you are and stay at a safe distance away from Everything and Everyone. Remember if an accident occurs at any event, YOU are responsible for getting pictures, witness statements and filling out a Notice of Insurance Occurrence Claim Form which is found on our EDGE&TA website. Please call either me or Bob Craig if you have any questions about this form. If you don't do this there is no way for the insurance company to have the information to start a claim. This needs to be done in a timely manner. There is more information about Safety and Accidents on our website.

We are missing our shows and our friends and can't wait to get back to normal again. Until then all of you Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.

Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large and National Safety Officer



www.EDGETA.org

From Bob Craig, Vice Pres. & NC Regional Director, Youth Driver Certification Officer

Greetings from the North Central. Well, things around here aren't great, but I know we are better off than a lot of areas. The first show we attended was in Miller, Missouri. While it wasn't large, there were 4 steam engines and a 35-70 Aultman Taylor tractor, machines were all busy threshing, bailing & other activities, several smaller tractors, some nice engine displays, flea market, good entertainment and plenty of people looking.

In August we traveled to Branch 11 in Winfield, Kansas. Due to Covid, activities were a bit curtailed. Their tractor display was strong, but, unfortunately, not many people there looking.

At the end of August, we went Northeast of Kansas City to the farming community of Hamilton, Missouri. This is the first time I have been there--certainly don't want it to be the last. There was a large swap area and 3 sawmills. Most of the time they were all run by steam. Also, there was a tractor pull that consumed all of Saturday. they had lots of pullers. There were several members from Branch 16, my home branch, showing engines.

The first part of September we went to Boonville, Missouri. The grounds continue to grow. All major brands have their own building. The weather knocked out the tractor pulls, but everything else was great. They have a large parade daily. The announcer is a gentleman by the name of Miles Wolfe. I've had the privilege of knowing Miles for many years. Hearing him announce is worth the trip. He is a wealth of knowledge on any tractor or piece of equipment made.

September the 18-20, we attended a show by Branch 84 in Caney, Kansas. We got to make new friends and visit with folks we have known for years. Due to Covid, attendance was held back. Saturday the show was well attended, and weather high in the 70's without a cloud in the sky. That's as good as it gets.

October 10-11, we have the North Central Regional at Branch 28 Cabool, Missouri. If you can, please try to attend.

I know this has been a different type of summer; there has been lots of cancellations and health concerns. I hope you all have been able to get out and do something. Be sure to be mindful of all restrictions in your area. If you have any young ones that need certified for youth driving certificates, please have your safety officer take care of the young ones.

After many years of service to EDGE&TA, Dick Tombrink has left the board of directors. His knowledge will definitely be missed, and I am personally grateful for what I have learned from him.

Dick and Sue please enjoy your retirement.

Bob Craig, Vice Pres. & NC Regional Director, Youth Driver Certification

From John Roderick, SC Regional Director

I grew up in a very small town in Northeast Texas. My Dad attempted to make a living farming after returning from the war. It didn't take long for him to realize he couldn't make it with 40 acres and a Farmall Cub.

As I grew up, I never realized we were poor, but I guess we were. My parents always seemed to make sure I had what I needed. That all changed in 1964 when my Dad lost his eye in an accident while using a hammer and chisel. He was off work for over a year so my mother and I both had to go to work. My first job was raking hay on a B Farmall for 35 cents an hour. I was 13 years old at that time.

I don't have many regrets in my life, but I do regret not taking advantage of the knowledge my Dad had to offer when it involved working on what we now call antique cars and tractors. He was truly a great mechanic.

My Dad worked as part of a pit crew for a gentleman who raced at the Devil's Bowl every weekend. We traveled every weekend to different race tracks, but the Devil's Bowl was the one I remember the most.

I remember times when I would beg to go to work with him and help. He would assign me the task of cleaning tools or scraping gaskets. I didn't realize at that time that this was a very important part of the learning process, and I was not ready to tune an engine or replace a clutch on a tractor.

After the garage closed, my Dad would go to the fields to work on farmer's tractors or work on them under the trees in the backyard. (Shade tree mechanic at its best.) He would go to the widow women's houses and work on their cars and even replaced parts without charging them a penny.

Today, when I am working on one of these old tractors and I have a problem, I find myself thinking, "If my Dad was here, he could figure this out." He was truly a great man and mechanic, so it is with much honor and respect I dedicate this article to John Paul Roderick—my Dad!

John Roderick, SC Regional Director



From David Millsap, NE Regional Director

Greetings from the NE Regional Director currently in the SE Region.

It's been a long HOT, busy summer here in the southern reaches of the NE Region. I'm coming to you live from the White Sandy Beaches of the Grand Strand of South Carolina, Myrtle Beach.

As with most of the rest of the country, not much has happened this summer. State fairs, along with county fairs, have been called off due to the virus. Not much to report on. Auction sales have even slowed down. If you're not in the hay fields, human interaction is almost non-existent.

On a positive note, some Branches have had activities with good success, and I would like to applaud them for their hard work. Hopefully Branch 249 will host a tractor ride later this month, weather permitting. (The Old Farmers' Almanac is forecasting a long cold spell). We can only hope. I hope they, along with the wooly worms, are wrong.

I look forward to a good 2021 season with more tractor shows and events to attend than one has time to.

Gotta go-- the tide's a comin' in.

Be safe in all your activities

David Millsap (Sappo), NE Regional Director

Travis Brown, SE Regional Director

Hello everyone. Hope you all are doing well. It's been quite the year, pandemic and all. Then we add on the wildfires out west and hurricanes down south. I shudder to ask what is next? Hoping things calm down and we return to a bit of normalcy soon.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON OUR WEBSITE

Here in Tennessee we are doing well. I just got through with our local show here in Eagleville, TN. We have also been to shows in Boonville, Indiana and Piney Chapel, Alabama in the last month.

The Eagleville show was down a bit on show tractors and hit and miss engines as well as spectators, but we made up for it in pulling tractors and steam engines. We had 8 steam engines on site, sawing wood, threshing wheat, driving around the grounds, etc. We hosted a hot rod tractor and truck pull Thursday night that went well, and then followed it up by pulling antiques Friday and Saturday--into the morning hours both nights.

The tractor games went well, but they were pushed for time with the incoming rain predicted. Ladies can come win a prize at our skillet throwing contest. We had a wrench throwing contest for the guys and also games for the kids.

The threshing operation went very well; we pushed through a tiny shower and got all the wheat through the Keck Gonnerman thresher before a decent squall came through late Saturday afternoon. The same rain put an end to the sawmill operation when the belt came off during the rain and just when things were getting interesting with a monster of a walnut log on the carriage.

We had many visitors to Steam Hill as so many shows were shut down. We even had a visit from some of our friends in the branches in Cumming, Georgia and East TN/Virginia Branch, although NE Director Millsap was unable to attend.

Now it's on to planning the National Show for next year (again) and wrapping up the show season. Looks like we might go out twice in October, once to a local Old Timers Day and once to Boonville Indiana again.

I hope to see many of you next year September 10-11 for the National Show in Eagleville Tennessee.

Travis Brown, SE Regional Director

From Morrie Robinson, NW Regional Director

Greetings from the NW Region.

Yes, it has been an unusual year. As Charlie Brown would say "Good Grief". The West is burning up. We have heavy smoke and can't see our lower fields.

Most of the major National Shows--Rollag & Mt. Pleasant, as well NW Shows-- Brooks & Lynden, have all been cancelled. The small shows have filled the need.

Filer, Idaho Branch 150, used the 1st weekend of Brooks, July 24-26, as show dates. The Fairgrounds

have lots of trees for shade and clean facilities. (I was surprised how open Idaho events are compared to Washington.) The show was well-attended by engine and tractor enthusiasts. It was laid back and all seemed to enjoy it. The old iron is what brings longtime friends together and the chance to meet new ones.

Dick Tombrink retired after being the NW Director for 20 years. I had the opportunity to get to know Dick and Sue when I was appointed as NW Advisor and National/Regional Show Coordinator eleven years ago. I have been appointed to take Dick's place as NW Director. Dick's organized manner will make it easier for me to follow in his footsteps.

Thank you, Dick, for your many years of dedication.

Morrie Robinson, NW Regional Director

From Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director

Hello Folks,

This is Ron Hanson, your newly designated SW Regional Director. I would like to take this moment to let you know a little about myself. I have been an antique stationary engine enthusiast for about 40 years. My father, Bob Hanson, first got me interested in the stationary engines when I was young with our first engine, a John Deere Model E 1½ HP in about 1980. I now have a collection of more than 15 engines.

I have been involved with Branch 30, Antelope Valley California Rusty Relics for about 25 years. I am currently the membership Chairman for the club. I have also held the positions in the club as President and Vice President.

I would like to take a moment to thank Mr. Buster Brown, past SW Regional Director for his service and dedication to the National EDGETA organization. I do realize that I have some pretty big shoes to fill. Buster Brown has assured me if I need help, he's there to give some direction and advice.

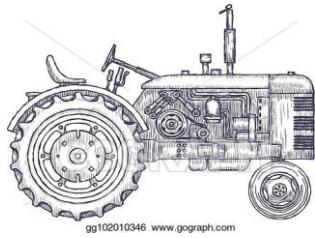
I look forward to serving you as your new SW Regional Director. I have been asked to serve on the Insurance Committee, also.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have a question or concern about the National EDGETA organization. I will do my best to find the correct answers to your questions.

Thank you.

Ron Hanson, SW Regional Director

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON OUR WEBSITE



Practice "Safety First"

From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./Ed.

As the year winds down, most of you have sent the majority of members you will have for our membership year which ends April 15, 2021. We are definitely on the down side of the calendar year, with many fall activities being cancelled because of the Covid. However, we did attend an event last weekend hosted by a very old Texas town, Jefferson. There are many historic buildings, etc. We had 80 tractors there and a big parade with it, along with many spectators. I think everyone was just ready to get out and do "Something."

On another note, "thank you" for doing a good job submitting your membership and dues for the year. Most of you are aware that the insurance auditor comes to my house randomly to examine the individual Branch# files to verify how members were submitted with payment and how the proof of payment was kept. He is also interested in the process I use to record membership and how I determine the total maximum number of members during our year running from April 15 one year to April 15 of the following year. He pulls random branch files to check the record of membership and the number for which we've paid as of that date. This may help explain the reason for my insisting that your record of membership submitted match the amount of the check included. A copy of that check is stapled to the list submitted for examination purposes. That's why we request a "clean list" from you. All of our guidelines are included in the By-Laws which are posted on the EDGETA website.

Also, by the end of the year, it will be time to

update your officers and directors on the website. Again, this is information that we must keep current.

If you should have questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them or refer you to the appropriate director for the information.

Remember, our website, EDGETA.org, is an excellent source of information for instant answers. Utilize it when you have questions. We work hard to keep the information current and readily available to our members.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./Ed.



2021 National Show, Sept.10-11

*Hosted by Branch 202
Tennessee Historic Gas & Steam
Association
Eagleville, TN*

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Remaining Shows 2020

***North Central Regional Show
October 9-10, 2020
Branch 28
Cabool, MO 65689
Free admission and parking***