

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

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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October-November-December 2023

Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley

From Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large

Hello EDGE&TA members,

Hope your summer wasn't too hot and that you are now enjoying cool, fall weather before the snow flies! Even in the sweltering heat and humidity many of the branches had their big summer shows. Hope you were able to go to a few of them and enjoyed listening to the sounds of engines running and watch tractor parades and pulls. We are getting ready to go to the SW Regional show next week down in the San Deigo, CA area hosted by Branch 22. By the time this gets to you it will be over. Then the Eastern Regional show is set for December 2nd in John's Island, SC, near Charleston hosted by Branch 259. This will be the last of the Regional Shows for this year. Next year's National Show will be in Medina, OH on July 19th and 20th hosted by Branch 192. The only Regional Show next year scheduled at this time is the Central Regional Show June 7th and 8th 2024 in Ozark, AR hosted by Branch 90.

We are trying to keep the website updated with new information. When you go to edgeta.com, if you see anything that you think needs clarification just let your Director or me know. We will go over your ideas and make the appropriate changes.

In these days of emails, text messages, and all the other technologies this has opened a whole new area for hackers. Robot computers go on websites and get public information and use it to their advantage. We know people in different organizations and offices that get spam emails asking for gift cards or other types of electronic money (Zelle, Venmo, etc.) Be VERY careful if you get an email asking for any Gift Cards or money to be transferred online. Some members have received emails that LOOKED like they came from me or one of the officers in their branch asking for Gift Cards. I will Never email any of you asking for your help monetarily. If you ever receive an email

like that, pick up the phone and call the person that it seems to have come from. Also, hover over the return email address where it has the name. If it has another email address, you can be sure that it is a scam. EDGE&TA has Not been hacked due in part by our awesome Webmaster, Josh Dilsaver.

This newsletter is sent by mail to every Branch President. Also, it is posted on our website. Additionally, we send it via email to all the branch contact people. We strongly encourage every branch to forward the newsletter to every member in their branch that has email. This is an easy way to get information out to many members. We think that someone in each branch has an email list. This might be the newsletter editor or secretary or membership person. So, if you, the contact person, don't have a list please forward it to that person. This is a great way to get information out.

Our Central Regional Director, John Roderick, will be retiring at the end of his term which is the last day of the National Show in Medina, Ohio. Everyone in the Central Region pass this information along and think about volunteering to fill this position. The Central Region includes Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana and Texas. If you need more information, give John or me a call.

The end of an era is coming to a close. Our National Secretary/Treasurer, Carrie Jo Parmley, is retiring at the end of the year after 12 years of service to EDGE&TA. As of January 1, 2024, our new Secretary/Treasurer will be Michele McGill from Branch 9 Grants Pass, Oregon. The website will be updated with all the new information on January 1st. There will be more information in the next newsletter that will be coming out at the first of the year.

Until Next Time, Play Safe, Stay Safe.

Jeff Fenske

Jeff Fenske, President and Director-at-Large

From Ron Hansen, Vice President & SW Regional Director

Hello All,

Hopefully you all have been having a FUN and Safe show season? The latter part of this summer has been busy with lots of shows and events.

For all the branches here in the SW Region, we just had our SW Regional Show hosted by Branch #22. It was held at Bates Nut Farm in Valley Center, CA.

What a GREAT show. The members of Branch 22 came together for a very well organized and fun show. The proprietors of Bates Nut Farm were extremely accommodating with great breakfasts both days and a delicious dinner on Saturday evening.

It was nice to get 2 Steam Traction Engines to attend the show. Thank you to the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, Vista, CA. Thanks for bringing these over and operating them throughout the weekend. There were lots of spectators coming through. "Thank you" to all the exhibitors that brought tractors, engines and items for display. A total of 6 EDGETA Branches attended this year's regional show. If you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to give me a call. Don't forget to drain the water and winterize those engines and tractors.

Wishing you All a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Ron Hansen

Ron Hansen, Vice President & SW Director

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From John Roderick, Central Regional Director

“Remembering My Dad’s Toolbox”

I don’t know about you all but the older I get, the more my memory changes. It is so strange that I cannot remember what I ate for breakfast but can remember things from my childhood so clearly. These memories often appear when I am working in the shop, mowing the yard, or, sometimes just driving down the road.

I know each of you have a toolbox. I have two or three. Each one is for something different, some for when I work on tractors, some for when I do woodworking and I even have one for when I go fishing!!

As I have mentioned before in my articles, my father was a farmer and mechanic. He worked a few years after getting out of the service as a farmer. It did not take long before he realized he was not going to be able to make a living for us from the land, so he started using his knowledge of how cars and tractors worked to land a job as a mechanic at Bill Burn’s Auto Shop in the small town where we lived.

I was working in the shop the other day and began looking for a particular tool to complete the job. I started to think about my dad’s toolbox. He had only one. It seemed no matter what the problem was, he had a tool in the box to take care of it. From the car to my mom’s ironing cord which she was constantly twisting off because she was left-handed, he always went to the same box and, presto, there was the tool to fix the problem.

My Dad was the head of the house. While he and my mom discussed everything before deciding what to do, there was the utmost respect for him and the fact that he was the leader in our family. Not to get too mushy or religious, I wanted to include an article I found about toolboxes, fathers, and how the two could be compared. Please stay with me. This is an adaptation of the article to make it fit my dad and my experiences, but I want to give credit to the original author, Edd Sterchi.

In my dad’s toolbox, you could find:
Adjustable wrench: Fathers must adapt to any situation. My dad was good at this. He could go from my best friend to fish with to the disciplinarian I needed at times.

Carpenter’s pencil: Fathers must draw boundaries for the family. Dad set the boundaries according to

the job he was doing or what I was asking to do.

Level: Fathers must be fair and keep a level head. I know I tried my father's patience but cannot remember many times he lost his cool.

Pliers: Fathers must be able to hold everything together. My father had a pretty serious injury while I was in high school, but he held us all together and came out of the situation with class.

Hammer: Fathers must be effective in driving home important points. Oh man! Most dads are good at this – at least mine was.

Utility knife: Fathers must be able to cleanly separate undesirable things to keep the family safe. This was absolutely my dad's best trait. He kept us safe and cared for no matter the situation surrounding us.

Screwdriver: Fathers must keep turning their families in the right direction. I am so thankful for things I learned from my dad and think he made me a better person.

A variety of nuts, bolts, and washers: Fathers had to make sure every family member, child and adult, was fitted with the right consequence as well as the right praise.

Tape measure: Fathers must be measuring and monitoring the families' resources to make sure they provide for them.

Duct tape: Fathers must be ready to apply a quick fix to problems, so things do not get out of hand. If duct tape can't fix it, it can't be fixed!

Extension cord: Fathers must plug into prayer to help every family member. My dad was not big on being in church every time the doors opened but he was the best example of a Godly man I can ever imagine.

Fathers are important and they must use many tools and take the time to build and mend the family into a strong structure. When I think about my dad and all the things in that toolbox, along with his fantastic sense of humor, I cannot help but pray I have the same important tools on hand to keep my family loved, focused, and plugged in so they can be successful in life. I know I owe so much to my dad for my success in my career and family life.

John Roderick, Central Regional Director

2024 National Show
Hosted by Branch 92
July 19-20, 2024

Mike Pollock, Northwest Regional Director

Hello from Latitude 61 Degrees, North. Fall is quickly approaching here in the Northland ...the leaves have that all too familiar yellow/golden tinge, there is new snow on the surrounding mountain peaks, & the Canadian Geese parents are doing touch-and-go flight training with this year's youngsters! This morning, the temperature here in Anchorage was 40 degrees!

Our summer has just flown by! Our Branch participated in plow days, a show at the Wasilla Transportation Museum, 4 parades and the Grand Finale, 14 days at the Alaska State Fair. We had a display in the equestrian barn and a large outdoor display...over 40 tractors and engines. In spite of the rainy weather, we managed to have a pull on 10 of the 14 days. And yes, we consumed too much Fair food!

In the past couple of months I've had the opportunity to speak to many of the Northwest Region branches.....I hope to chat with all of you in the coming weeks. Our geography may be different, but we all have our common interest in old iron. It's been interesting to learn of the variety of activities the different branches are involved in. I'm also impressed with everyone's concern for safety!

It's hard to think of the 2024 show season when we haven't yet put away our 2023 displays, BUT we know how quickly the clock turns. I'm asking you to give some consideration to your Branch hosting the 2024 Northwest Regional Show. Regional Shows help promote our hobby and give us another opportunity to show off our collections.

A branch can host a show solo or join forces with a neighboring branch. EDGETA provides a financial stipend to help with expenses. Would you bring this up at your next meeting?

Thanks to the other Regional Directors and President Jeff for their help with my new job...I believe I'll be taking the training wheels off soon! As always, if there is any way I can assist your branch, please contact me (talk or text) at 907-229-3500 or email, farmall1945@alaska.net.

That's it for now. Remember, get ready to rake the leaves, check your anti-freeze, find the snow shovel & most importantly, be safe, be happy!

Mike Pollock, Northwest Regional Director

From Travis Brown, Eastern Director

Wow, where does the time go? It seems like it was just last week we were getting back from Oregon and the National show. Then we hustled to get our grain bound for the show.

In July many members attended the Adams Tennessee show. Adams is famous for having a threshing show since 1969. It's a great show to attend and usually hosts around 6 steam engines, a whole lot of show tractors and many hit and miss engines. This year they had 7 steam engines, and my friend from Kentucky and I teamed up to haul them in and out on our semi-trucks. It's a hot job hauling steam engines in Tennessee in July. Those things are heavy and have to be pushed and pulled around and winched on the trailer. Add in the blocks and chains and you are getting a pretty intense workout in heat and high humidity.

I had to work the first day of the show, and one of my sons went up and played on our big Keck. It's a 1921 20hp Keck Gonnerman built in Mount Vernon, Indiana. Ours weighs 24,000 pounds and is a real fun engine to run.

Saturday, I was up early and headed to Adams. I played around on the engine and got it all fired up and greased and oiled. It gave us a little injector trouble, and finally I flushed a line and got it working. Little rust it seems. Then we got on the sawmill and about then my oldest son showed up. He jumped on the engine, and I got to enjoy watching them saw from the shade. Did I mention it was hot?

Too soon the show was over, great turnout this year. We loaded up everything and took all the engines back to their homes.

Then it was time for our home show at Eagleville Tennessee. We all worked hard and had a good time. Somehow everything worked all show. We did a little maintenance on the thresher where some vermin had chewed up some leather before the show, and it worked like a champ. Well except for one thing. We threshed rye this year, because it was donated to the club. I must confess to having little experience with a thresher. We started threshing at our show about a dozen years ago, and before that I might have pitched bundles for thirty minutes into a thresher. I have friends who are way more knowledgeable about threshers and can go on for days about the differences and

how to adjust one. I'm happy if it does not jam and wheat and straw go where they are supposed to do. Anyway we soon realized that rye threshes different than wheat. I called a expert and he told me that back in the day they probably changed the teeth on the concaves to special teeth for threshing rye. We did not have the special teeth and the factory did not answer when we called. Seems like they closed about 1955 or so! So our rye yield was a little light. Probably a good amount went into the straw stack and a decent portion still was attached to the head when it went into the grain wagon. It still put on a show so we were happy about that. Learn something new every day.

Our sawmill fired up Saturday. The saw did great with our expert from Indiana running things. Wayne can make a sawmill work where others can't. He came down a few times and helped us set it up when we first moved it from the farm that donated it. We ran a bunch of eastern red cedar through and made some nice boards. The logs were provided by a local show member from his place after a tornado came through and knocked over several trees. That storm came within five miles or so of our show grounds and was way too close for comfort.

Our tractor pull did well. It is a non-EDGETA sanctioned pull and when the two days were over they had 520 hooks. They pulled until 3:30 am the first night and wrapped up early the second night by only pulling from 2pm until 12:30 am. The highlight of the pull in my opinion was where we took two of our Keck Gonnerman steam engines and hooked them to the pulling sleds. We filled the fireboxes with pine shavings and turned off the lights and pulled the sleds down the track while showering sparks the whole way down. It is a real crowd pleaser. I don't let the sled guy load us up too much, I don't want to find the breaking point of 100 year old cast iron, although I see others pulling their engines much harder elsewhere.

We got all the show items put up and are winterizing our big engine. Typically we head to southern Indiana in October to do a little plowing at Boonville, but this year we are expecting our first granddaughter that week and my wife has put a stop to any trips. To say she's excited would be putting it mildly. This year we are going to the harvest fest at Cannonsburgh in Murfreesboro with our little Keck. It's a half scale built by my grandfather.

Cannonsburgh is known nationally as a replica town in the middle of Murfreesboro built to commemorate the 1976 Bicentennial. Many old buildings were moved in to this village, so it has a church, log cabin school, log cabin house, water wheel with grist mill, blacksmith shop etc. It made the news when the Mayor announced they were thinking of moving it to make room for a minor league baseball park to be erected at taxpayers' expense. I think they have backed off of moving the village but it just shows that our history is an afterthought to the builders and developers of the world. I imagine they look at all the acres taken by the civil war battlefield north of town with envy thinking how fast they could scrape off the trees the soldiers fought and died around and put up houses and parking lots.

Anyhow, stay safe and be careful hauling. Hope to see you at a show somewhere soon!

Travis Brown, Eastern Director

**From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./
Editor**

Since this is my last Newsletter to the EDGETA members, "Thank you" for your contributions to the EDGETA organization for the past 12 years that I've been in this position. I am retiring as of December 31. Your cooperation and your efficiency in handling the business of your particular Branch is to be commended. I have enjoyed working with all of you and your branch officers throughout my years of service as we have promoted our hobby. The responsibilities of both you and I are required to keep the hobby safe and working properly. Sometimes issues become a little tedious, but we work to effectively accomplish what is required by our insurance providers to keep everyone safe.

It has been a pleasure to have met and visited with many of you at various events. You have done an excellent job of keeping your Branch members and information updated, and I appreciate your hard work and dedication to our hobby. Even though I am retiring from this position, I am not retiring from the hobby.

As many of you will remember, I followed Ruth, who was very efficient, and I had "big shoes to fill." For those of you who knew her, she is just

as alert and spry as ever to me. I spoke with her on the phone earlier today (Monday). She is still very interested in our hobby and keeps up with everything going on. It's like talking to the same "Ruth" as I remember her when I inherited this position from her. She led me through as I learned "the ropes" of the job. I thought some of you might remember Ruth and would be interested in how she is doing now at 93 years of age, if I heard her correctly, and she is doing well.

Good luck to each of you with your hobby as we move on. I will continue to be involved with EDGETA as a member of Branch 124 in Texas. As many of you are aware, I have a 1953 Super C Farmall that has been in my family since new, and I drive it in parades and shows, etc. My husband has a collection of IH tractors as well, so we will continue to be a member of EDGETA and enjoy our hobby.

Thank you for the past 12 enjoyable years as an officer of EDGETA. I wish all of you the best!

Carrie Jo Parmley

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