



HIT 'N' MISS

Newsletter of the
Western Antique Power Associates

www.wapa.us

JUNE, 2013

President's Report

By Bob Smith

I was talking to one of our newest members at the Antique Truck show in Perris and some things he said I feel the need to share with the membership. The topic of why he joined WAPA came up. Well for one, he was impressed at the board meeting that all members have a say in what is being discussed by the board members. He said that there are no clicks where only a few decide how to run the organization. He also enjoys the down to earth members who are always willing to help you if need be. Now that is a testament to the great folks that makes up WAPA. My hat goes off to all of you for making this an organization many others want to be a part of.

My next topic is on the great turnout of WAPA members at the recent Cal Poly Tractor and Car Show. I counted 30 members. That's 20% of the membership. It was great to see everyone having such a good time even though it was close to 100 degrees. The big shade tree helped along with a slight breeze. By the time you read this we should have moved the donated items from the Joe Brown Chicken Ranch in Chino. Cal Poly offered a building to store the items. Speaking of Cal Poly, we are currently in negotiations for a home for the WAPA museum. I am forming a committee where their main goal will be a signed contract which will benefit both WAPA and Cal Poly. This committee will be chaired by our Museum Director Craig Maxwell and will include 4 other WAPA members. This is very exciting stuff so the committee will keep you all up to date on the progress.

My View

By Tom Millett

I joined WAPA in 1988 just as Pete Petersen was coming into office as President. In those days we did a few one day events, but our main activity was a two week Knott's Berry Farm show in the spring of the year, and L.A. County Fair in September when it was hotter than Maw Perkins wood fired cook stove. Back then the word "Museum" was never mentioned, to my knowledge. It wasn't until during Bob Swan's long tenure as President from 1993 to 2000 was consideration given to lay aside money which was called a "Museum Fund". Bob pushed hard to get the Board of Directors to agree that a certain percentage of all revenue be set aside in that special fund. In those days we reaped in some fairly large bucks.

Now, several years later, we sit on a big wad, and have encouraging news that might take us in the direction of our goal. Things are still 'iffy', but our President, Bob Smith, is working very hard at securing a place to hang our hat. It's not my intent to get into details of Bob's plan. That's his gig. My goal is to make sure that as things unfold, we all set aside egos and vocal attacks toward this future endeavor. Often times too many cooks spoil the broth. Don't misunderstand me. I'm not for the world denouncing any member expressing a critical opinion. However, with that opinion goes an obligation to have a suggested solution.

So, with all that being said, let's get behind Bob and help him guide this ship to the dock.

WAPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL NOT MEET SATURDAY, JUNE 1 DUE TO SHOW CONFLICTS. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, JULY 6, 9:00 A.M. AGRISCAPE BUILDING AT CAL POLY (NEXT TO THE FARM STORE)

June Birthdays

Bill Bains
Wayne Eastman
Dorothy Groce
Jim Guptill
Kay Johnson
Kay Lalieker
Larry Madole
Barbara Moody
Merle Morse
Joe Mueller
Nan Nelson

Happy Birthday!



MEMBER PROFILE : Joe Giocomarra

By Tom Millett

He will be 95 years young by the time you read this. Born on May 29, 1918, Joe Giocomarra was raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa and schooled in a one room school house setting. This man's life is so packed with adventure and danger that my short synopsis won't even scratch the surface. He joined the Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) for a year after his high school graduation in 1937. Moving on, he rode the freight trains around the country, which was common for hobos, and slept in hobo camps. They always had good soup and were a very friendly bunch. He learned quickly that when riding in box cars with the door open, always put a railroad spike at the jamb so that with a sudden stop of the train, the door won't close trapping you inside. He decided to work in San Francisco at O'Neil Lumber Co. which shipped lumber all over by sea vessels. That led to his urge to go aboard ship. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor he was going to get drafted, but when it was learned he had sailing experience, the draft board sent him back to San Francisco and into the Merchant Marines.

Now it gets interesting. Keep in mind the Merchant Marines was a non-military service that carried all the supplies to our men in the battlefield. The enemy went after those ships big time, and without guns aboard, the ships had no defense, except Navy escort. Joe had three ships torpedoed out from under him. Two sank and a third one was beached after unloading troops. After one of the sinkings, he was in a lifeboat for 33 days before a PBV spotted him. He still smarts that the Merchant Marines refused to pay him for those 33 days because he wasn't working aboard ship. In the Pacific, those Kamikaze planes were bombing supply ships by the numbers and that's when Joe applied to be drafted into the Army or Navy. But, once again they wouldn't take him and he remained a Merchant Marine until the end of WWII in 1946.

Once the war ended, Joe found work at General Controls, a company making all kinds of control devices. As a repair representative, even though he traveled a lot, he was with them 25 years. This took him to his final career move, Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) in Pasadena where he retired as a machinist in 1988.

You will see Joe at most WAPA events, still loading and unloading a couple of his favorite engines and enjoying the companionship of WAPA people. If you don't know Joe in person, search out a man that looks and acts 30 years younger than he is.



What is it?

Answer in next month's Hit"n"Miss

Upcoming Shows

Show Director Rob Skinner

Steve McQueen Car and Motorcycle Show

Saturday, June 1

Chairman: Bob Smith (909) 435-9978

Located at the Boys Republic, 1907 Boys Republic Dr., Chino Hills, 91709. Showtime: Saturday, June 1, 8:00am to 3:00pm. Setup: 6:00am – 7:00am. Do not go in the main gate or you will get caught up in the car show traffic and they might want \$50 from you. I will guide you in the back way. From the 71 FWY, exit Grand Avenue and go west to Peyton Dr. Turn left to Eucalyptus. Turn left and just past the grade school on the left is the Boys Republic behind the row of pine trees. Go ¾ of the way down and you will see an entrance with a white three-rail fence and a concrete one lane road going through the field. Turn in and go to the baseball field on the left. We are along the fence in right field. Parking is just behind the fence. The theme is "The Great Escape". They will have a replica compound and a motorcycle jumping a fence. No Ron, you cannot string barb wire on the stanchions instead of rope.

La Habra Valley Community Fair (formerly Sonora High Car Show)

Saturday, June 8

Setup at 7:00 a.m. Show begins at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman: Rob Skinner (562) 694-2301

The fair is a community event designed to showcase the Large Livestock, Small Livestock, Creative Arts, Construction Arts and other educational and leadership projects of the youth in the community. On Saturday is the Car Show, which is a fund raiser for the kids in FFA. If you want to come back on Sunday, much of the livestock raised by the kids will be auctioned off. Bring home a turkey, pig, goat, or cow for dinner. WAPA will be in our usual location on the grass, with parking nearby.

Another Benefit for WAPA Members

By Rob Skinner

A useful tool available to our members is the WAPA Email List, a private forum for use by members to discuss engines, share pictures, offer machinery for sale, get help, or whatever else is on our minds.

Usage is as simple as sending an email. Type out your message, send it to the WAPA address, and then the email will be forwarded to all the list participants. To reply to a message that you've received from The List, just click "reply," like you would for any other email. It's that simple.

Because it is a private email list, accessible only to members, there is no chance of receiving spam, and it is impossible for anyone else to get a hold of your email address.

One of most valuable features of the WAPA Email List is its timeliness. If there is important business that can't wait until the publication of the next Hit & Miss, you can find out about it from The List. It's especially handy when there are last minute changes to a show or to board meetings.

To sign up for the WAPA Email List, just visit our web page at www.wapa.us, and click the link near the bottom of the page.

**Western Antique Power Associates
Minutes of the Board of Directors
May 4, 2013**

Board Members Present Bob Smith, Tom Millett, Joe Siddons, Craig Maxwell, Ron Haskell, Chuck Mayernick & Don Young.
Board Members excused Kelley Garcia, Rob Skinner & Leroy Overstreet.
Members present Gus Lukrofka, , Dick Bouma, Roger Hahn, Dale Linn, Ernie & Dorothy Groce, Phil Sigmon, Jerry Nichols, Al Antonucci, Jeff Holmes, Dave Stockton & David Gregg.
Visitors None
Call To Order President Bob Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00am.
Flag Salute Led by Dick Bouma.

REPORTS

President Bob Smith welcomed everyone and announced that the door prize at each meeting will consist of one item if attendance is 1 to 24 members present and two items if there are 25+ members. He also announced that a B-17 bomber will be flying at the Chino Air Show today. It was at Brackett Field yesterday. He announced that there will be a special meeting of just board members following this meeting. Details of that meeting will be given out at a later time.

Vice President Absent
Secretary Tom Millett made a motion to approve minutes of the April 13, 2013 board meeting. Second by Siddons.
Treasurer Kelley Garcia Absent. Her report distributed to all members present.
Membership Chuck Mayernick submitted a written report as follows: paid members (123), unpaid members (9), life members (26), Honorary members (4), Charter members (1). On motion by Mayernick and seconded by Haskell, the following new member was accepted by the Board: Teresa Moran. On motion by Mayernick and seconded by Young, the following new member was accepted by the Board: Patsy Holmes.
On motion by Millett and seconded by Haskell, the following delinquent members were removed as WAPA members: Ross Brock, Kim Eastman, Dean McAfee, Bill McCormick, Tim Neely, Daniel Panzone, Henry Partida, Carl Sharp & Robert Tallent.

Purchasing Ron Haskell elaborated on his plans to provide transfers for new shirts. All members can buy their own shirt from any source and place the WAPA transfer on the shirt. The club will no longer have to store shirts.
Dick Bouma demonstrated a new technology banner that extends like the vintage movie projector screen. It retracts into a very compact case and easy to carry. Ron will look further into the possibility of one or two for WAPA events.

Shows The Antique Truck Show – Sat. May 5th at the Perris Rail Museum. Show Chairman is Ron Haskell. Show has been sanctioned.
Cal Poly Engine, Tractor & Car Show – Sat. May 11th. Show Chairman is Bob Smith. Show has been sanctioned.
Steve McQueen Car Show at Boys Republic in Chino Hills – June 1st. Show Chairman Bob Smith. Sanctioned on motion by Siddons and seconded by Haskell.
La Habra Citrus Festival at Sonora H.S. – June 8th. Sanctioned on motion by Haskell and seconded by Millett.
Details of each show will be written up in the next issue of the Hit"n"Miss.

Library Joe Siddons had nothing to report.
Safety Don Young cautioned that with the Cal Poly Strawberry Festival coming up we watch small children around the roped off areas and when driving tractors. All tractor owners will be required to sign a liability waiver.

Museum Craig Maxwell stated the meeting that was scheduled with Cal Poly officials to discuss merits of a museum was cancelled.

Editor Tom Millett presented a copy of the May Hit"n"Miss showing the colored insert. Every one agreed that the color was far superior to B&W.

Glendora Castle No report
Cal Poly Restoration Project: Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business Dick Bouma gave an update on the matter of the 200HP Western engine. Dick is continuing to seek out information on the ownership of the property. Dick will give further updates as things change. The items on the Chicken Ranch have to be moved very soon. Cal Poly will accept some of the items and WAPA will accept the donation of all other items. Details are being worked out.

New Business Because there are WAPA sanctioned Shows on both the 1st and 2nd Saturdays in June, the Board agreed not to have any Board/Member meeting in the month of June.

Announcements None.
Adjournment 10:40am
Next Meeting **July 6, 2013**
Tom Millett, Secretary



This Old Iron--Bob Critz

By Bob Smith

Stearns Gas Engine 4HP Circa 1900

Stearns Manufacturing was located in Los Angeles from 1900 to 1904. They were down the street from Western which did not manufacture engines yet. When Stearns went out of business, most of the workers went to work for Western. That is why you see some similarity in some of the designs and parts. Bob worked for SDGE (San Diego Gas and Electric) as a lineman. A supervisor for SDGE found the engine in Ramona, CA, and told Bob about it. When Bob went to look at it there were quite a few parts missing. It was missing the crank shaft, head, rod, main bearing shaft, governor, and timing gear. The flywheels were being dragged through a field to knock down weeds. Bob was lucky in finding a crank shaft that fit in a junk yard. With the help of Ron Haskell to do most of the machine work, the two got the engine back to its operating glory. Bob's Stearns engine represents one of only three known to exist and also the only Stearns engine in running condition. Bob Finds that the engine runs better on Coleman camp fuel.

- 2013 WAPA Officers**
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|-----------------|------------------|
| President | Bob Smith |
| Vice President | Leroy Overstreet |
| Secretary | Tom Millett |
| Show Director | Rob Skinner |
| Treasurer | Kelley Garcia |
| Librarian | Joe Siddons |
| Membership | Chuck Mayernick |
| Purchasing | Ron Haskell |
| Safety | Don Young |
| Museum Director | Craig Maxwell |
| Editor | Carol Haskell |



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Cal Poly Tractor & Car Show/Strawberry Festival

By Bob Smith

I have never seen so many WAPA members in one place since the installation dinners we used to hold. I counted 30 members in attendance. Ernie and Dorothy Groce were the first to arrive at 6:00am and I believe everyone else arrived prior to 7:00 a.m.. The engines were once again assigned the road next to the big tree. We enjoyed shade the whole day from the 100 degree sun. There was a larger turnout of tractors this year, we enjoyed the day driving around the field. Greg Stires enjoyed driving his 1/2 scale Reeves Steam tractor up and down the road and blowing his steam whistle making some in the crowd jump. Along with the many that normally attend this show, there were several new members showing some equipment that we have never seen before. The host Dan Hostetler, brought fresh strawberries for WAPA to enjoy and presented a placard at the end of the day. Some WAPA members received trophies for their tractors on display. WAPA members present were: Leroy Overstreet, Joe Giocomarra, Merle Morse, Garrett Mindham, Ron Haskell, Larry Evans, Ken Evans, Dick Bouma, Phil Sigmon, Ernie and Dorothy Groce, Al Antonucci, Jerry Nichols, Richard Taylor, Howard Henkels, Jeff & Patsy Holmes, Dan Kato, Roger Hahn, Dutch Bankston, Tom Millett, Lance & Stephanie Wilson, Tom Fee, Don Young, Gus Lukrofka, Greg Stires, Joe Siddons, Sonny Rowlands, and Bob Smith. If I have forgotten anyone, please let me know. We must give a big thanks to Greg Stires' truck driver Tom who was instrumental in moving the Gleaner from the barn to the show and back. Tom was very impressed with his backing skills. Once again, thank you all for making this a truly successful show.



Tom Millett and Bob Smith receiving the Cal Poly WAPA Appreciation for Participation plaque.



Jack Homes



Ernie Groce



Greg Stires

* * * * *

Back Country Service

Submitted by Jim Davis

As a guitarist, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so ...the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my guitar and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."



Antique Truck and Equipment at Orange Empire Railway Museum

By Ron Haskell

Once again WAPA was well represented with ten members displaying engines and tractors. The weather was good, not too hot, lots of antique and classic trucks to look at and the train museum to visit.

Members displaying were: Bob Smith and Tom Millett with Bob's Rider-Ericsson; Tom Denson with his 3 hp Fuller & Johnson, and scale model of same engine, Fairbanks Morse ZD and air compressor powering a model steam engine; Don Young with his 1939 General GGTractor; Merle Morse with 1½ & 6 hp Sandwich engines; Ron Haskell with 7 hp Economy; Dutch Bankston with 55 hp Holt; Jim Knox with his Denney hot air engine; Dan Cummins with a Novo Jr, Cushman Cub and a Stover engine; Wayne Eastman with an 8 cycle Aermotor; Mike Andrews for general support. And Guests Don Wiley and Lenny Green with his Earth Master Tractor.

Thanks to all for your support of this show. A good time was had by all.

A Left Hander in a Right Handed World Submitted by Tom Millett

All of you left handers out there can relate to this article. For all of you right handers, maybe you will have a little sympathy for us. When a right hander cuts with a pair of scissors, the blades are pushed together so the paper cuts easily. For a left hander the blades push apart not allowing a proper cut. We must compensate by inserting our thumb farther through and pull the bottom blade into the top blade. In the military when I fired the M-16 rifle there were precautions to take. The shells ejected out the right and back. Perfect for a right hander but for a left hander, the hot shells would whiz past your face and bounce off your right shoulder. To prevent a hot shell from going down your shirt, we had to button our top button to avoid any openings. For you right handers, grab a tape measure in your left hand and pull out the tape. What do you see? Now you get the picture. Now how does this relate to our hobby? The other day I borrowed a jib key remover from Leroy Overstreet. I went to use it and found that the tool would want to creep upward on the key as I struck it. After much frustration and closer examination, the tool had a slight taper to it and if you inserted the tool from the left the taper would make the tool want to move upward. If you inserted the tool from the right the taper would allow the tool to stay close to the shaft. This tool should have been sold with a warning to be used by a right hander only. Left handers beware.

WAPA at the California Gold Expo

By Ron Haskell

The third weekend in May is the California Gold Invitational Engine Exposition, held this year in Waterford Ca. This is for California built engines only, and not open to the public. This year WAPA was well represented by eight members. Merle Morse, Ron Haskell, Dick Bouma, Mark Panzone, Bob Critz, Bill Baldwin, and Mike Tyler. The feature engine was Sterling. Fifty engines were displayed.

Pictures can be seen at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/RonHaskell> Look in the album; California Gold 2013.

Spectator Demographics at Engine Shows

By Rob Skinner

Last month's article by Tom Millett was particularly thought provoking in regards to how our spectator demographic is evolving. It made me think of some of the people I've met at shows over the past year, and how we were able to learn from each other.

The Duarte show was especially interesting to me, perhaps because the community is very diverse and our displays attract a lot of the local residents. On that day, we were showing a corn sheller from the 1860's, letting kids shuck and shell the corn. One lady came by and expressed amazement at American mechanization of agriculture. She told me that when she first came to the United States, she would see fields full of crops, but could not understand why the fields were empty. In China, where she was born, fields were filled with workers manually tending the crops.

Another gentleman came by that day, who used to work on a farm planting corn. He demonstrated with an ear, showing how he would straddle the furrow, knocking three kernels off the ear, and then covering them with his foot. "Always three," he told me. I don't know why it was always three, perhaps it was for good luck.

Later in the day, a middle-aged lady came by and told me how her mother would shell corn by hand in Mexico. She would rub two ears together, knocking off the kernels. I tried it myself, like a Boy Scout rubbing two sticks together to make fire. Not one stubborn kernel came off the cob. Then the lady tried it with the same result. Obviously, we had defective corn.

Grandma was standing by watching. She spoke no English, but I was able to coax her over to show us what we were doing wrong. In a few seconds, she had those ears stripped clean! After watching her, the daughter and I were able to shell the corn by hand nearly as quickly. It was all in the technique. Despite the language barrier, it was clear that the old lady was happy to be able to share her experience with a couple of enthusiastic youngsters.

For me, spectator diversity is a key component of displaying old machinery, and the people are what make it fun.

CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Fairbanks ZD governor parts.
Tom Denson 951-687-8065
t.denson@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE: 1952 John Deere model A row crop tractor. Beautifully restored. New rubber. Padded seat. Stored at Chino Airport. \$3900 OBO. Must sell due to health. Friend of Dick Bouma. Contact Les at 949-285-1155 or les.w@wdland.com.