



HIT 'N' MISS

Newsletter of the
Western Antique Power Associates

www.wapa.us

AUGUST, 2018

Remembering Joe Giocomarra By Bob Smith

WAPA has lost a good friend and longtime WAPA member, Joe Giocomarra. Joe passed away Sunday night, July 22, peacefully in his home from complications due to bronchitis.

Joe just recently celebrated his 100th birthday the end of May and was very happy that he reached that age. Joe was still active and sharp right up to the end, dancing and having a good time at his birthday party. Don't we all wish we could enjoy life as Joe did.

A funny story we heard from a close friend of Joe's, was



when he turned 99 his driver's license was to expire. Joe was bound and determined to keep driving, so he got the books, studied and went down to DMV to take the test. He got 100 percent.

Joe was a close friend of Leroy Overstreet. They both worked at Jet Propulsion Laboratories together in different departments. When Leroy joined WAPA he told Joe about it so Joe went to a friend in Henderson, Nevada, bought a couple of engines and joined the club

too. Leroy retired from JPL and Joe kept on working until he was 75.

Joe touched many hearts and we will miss him dearly. We remember the good times we all had together. Vaya con Dios Joe.

For more interesting information about Joe Giocomarra please visit this website:

<http://outlooknewspapers.com/local-veteran-100-enthralls-with-adventure-ales/>

President's Report By Ron Haskell

Just because we haven't had any shows lately doesn't mean that a lot is not going on with WAPA. A number of club members have been involved with moving donations from the Rippy machine shop in Whittier to the Hathaway Ranch in Santa Fe Springs, and to Larry Madole's business in Chino.

Many trips have been made and a lot of volunteers have helped. I hope I don't miss anyone: Dan Kato, Joe Siddons, Merle Morse, Bob Smith, Jim Treadwell, Larry Madole, and I. Many thanks to all, and especially to Larry for allowing us to place the 40' high cube container on his property. Larry positioned it and leveled it up where the WAPA tractors used to sit. Now we can retrieve the items temporarily stored at the Hathaway Ranch. As soon as we get the shelving installed in the container, we can start to put the donations in—hopefully in an organized fashion so we can find things again.

We also got many heavy duty metal tables, work benches and cabinets. We would also like to get some of the smaller parts from the Western 160 cleaned up and inside, out of the weather. So look for an announcement of work parties to load the container as we will need some help.

As I write this the weather man is predicting over 100° weather for the next week, so we will wait for cooler temperatures for our work parties.

WAPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018

9:00 A.M.

AGRISCAPE BUILDING AT CAL POLY
(NEXT TO THE FARM STORE)

Spark Plug Intensifier By Rob Skinner

Three simple things are required to make an engine run: fuel, air and spark. Considering the simplicity of the formula, one would think that we wouldn't spend so much time building up our biceps by pulling on flywheels. Alas, there are many subtle nuances that can adversely affect the trinity required to make an engine run.

Early in the development of spark ignition, it became obvious that there are factors that can prevent the spark from igniting the fuel-air mixture. One such factor is carbon fouling of the spark plug caused by incomplete combustion.

In the worst case, the carbon will create a direct short across the spark plug's insulator, preventing the engine from running. The solution is to clean the plug. But long before a spark plug becomes completely shorted, the carbon contamination slowly builds and slowly degrades the intensity of the spark.

George Meissner, in the early 1900's, fretted over this problem, as have most modern enginemen. He noticed, as many of us have, that by pulling off the spark plug wire and creating a small gap between the wire and the plug, that an engine with a contaminated plug would sometimes fire. Mr. Meissner, however, took the idea one step further. He built a spark-gap attachment, and patented the idea.

Meissner's Spark Plug Intensifier is basically a glass ball containing two electrodes. As the spark plug fires, the engine operator can see the spark in the intensifier. Meissner's intensifier is unique in that it acts as a magnifying glass, making the spark easier to view by the operator.

In the standard high-tension ignition circuit, the spark is not really instantaneous. It's very fast, but many things happen as the voltage builds. If we were to monitor the voltage in slow motion, as the magneto fired, we would see the voltage rise from zero until it was sufficiently high to jump the gap on the spark plug. Depending upon many variables, this might happen at about 8,000 volts. The voltage then remains steady for a short period until the supply from the magneto is insufficient to maintain the spark. Clearly, a long duration spark has a better chance of igniting the fuel-air mixture.

In the ignition circuit with a contaminated plug, the contamination acts as a resistor, bleeding off the voltage as it builds. When the plug fires, it will be of shorter duration than if the spark plug was in good condition. If the contamination is bad enough, it will bleed off so much voltage that it never reaches the intensity to jump the spark plug gap.



**At the top is an original Meissner intensifier.
At the bottom is a modern copy using an
oiler sight glass.**

The Spark Plug Intensifier adds another gap to the circuit. When there is another gap, the circuit is incomplete, and voltage is not able to bleed through the contaminated spark plug. However, when the voltage builds up sufficiently, it will jump both the intensifier and spark plug gaps, creating a good spark of long duration.

There are drawbacks of such a system. Because there are *two* gaps, the voltage must be much higher before the spark will occur. If the magneto is weak, it might not be able to generate sufficient voltage to fire the system. Even if the magneto is in good condition, the higher voltage might cause it to degrade faster.

Are there benefits from a spark intensifier? Realistically, it's probably best to make sure you have a good magneto and a good spark plug. For the modern engineman, the primary benefit is that it's a neat little gadget to entertain observant spectators.

**Western Antique Power Associates
Minutes of the Board of Directors
July 7, 2018**

Board Members Present	Ron Haskell, Bob Smith, Kelley Garcia, Carey Stockton, Rob Skinner, Lance Wilson, Joe Siddons, Rob Skinner, Don Young
Board Members Excused	Dave Stockton, Jim Davis
Members Present	Dave Pasillas, Lance Bryant, Danny Ponce, John Rimpau, Carl Pfetzing, Dan Kato, Dale Linn, Roger Hahn, Phil Sigmon, Gil Stuart, Paul Montgomery, Paul Liverman, Larry Madole, Al Antonucci, Tom Millett, Tim Neely, Merle Morse, Tom Fee
Visitors	None
Reports:	President Ron Haskell called the meeting to order at 9:04am and led us in the flag salute.
President	Ron Haskell gave an overview of the past Vista show he attended and voiced his concern for the deterioration of engine row. With over 1,000 members only 1 member shows up to run engines. Carey Stockton had nothing to report.
Vice President	Acting secretary Bob Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2018 meeting. Second by Kelley Garcia. All in favor.
Secretary	Kelley Garcia gave an update on financials with total income YTD at \$8,163, expenses at \$5,690, and investments up YTD \$1,035.
Treasurer	Jim Davis was absent but assume the total membership still stands at 169
Membership	Lance Wilson had nothing new to report.
Purchasing	Don Young had no problems to report.
Safety	Rob Skinner made a motion to sanction the Marina del Rey Show on July 29. Second by Ron Haskell. All in favor. A discussion was raised regarding the Fort McArthur show and a decision was made to have WAPA provide a BBQ lunch for all in attendance plus the Fort McArthur people.
Shows	Joe Siddons had nothing new to report
Library	Bob Smith gave an update on the windmill project. Dan Kato donated a rope to assist with the project.
Museum	Ron put to the floor a nomination for chair of the 2018 nominating committee. Roger Hahn volunteered.
New business	10:15 am
Adjournment	Bob Smith, Acting Secretary

WAPA is now registered with AmazonSmile.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.



Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
 2. Sign in with your [Amazon.com](https://amazon.com) credentials
 3. Search for 'Western Antique Power Associates'
 4. Select your charity
 5. Start shopping!
 6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile
- Support WAPA by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

August Birthdays

**Richard Bouma
Steve Coppi
Donald Jensen
Dan Kato
William Lenox
Craig Rich
Max Steele**



Francine Rippy Donation
By Bob Smith

In 1966, member Francine Rippy and her husband opened a machine shop in Whittier next to the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital. Through the years they expanded the business into a brick building on a large lot directly behind the original. As the Hospital continued to grow there was a need for the property so this year Francine sold the property to the hospital. She had to move the business 2 blocks away into a much smaller building. That left quite a bit of surplus equipment and other items.

Francine notified WAPA and offered to donate the surplus items to the club. Dan Kato, Joe Siddons, and I went down to Whittier on a Saturday and moved



some equipment and other treasures to the Hathaway Museum property in Santa Fe Springs for storage. That space filled quickly so Francine donated a 40' cargo container to WAPA if we would take care of the move.



Larry Madole offered to give up a spot on his property to store the container so we contacted a company to move the container to Chino. Now we have room for more donations so another 3 trips were made to Whittier which included Ron Haskell, Merle Morse, Jim Treadwell, Dan Kato, Joe Siddons, and me to move equipment to be stored in the cargo container. Much of this equipment and items will be used in WAPA's shop facility when we get the go ahead to occupy space at Cal Poly. This will be a tremendous start to equip a shop for WAPA so we owe Francine a big WAPA thanks for her generosity.

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| Editor | Ron Haskell |
| Museum Director | Carey Stockton |
| Purchasing Librarian | Kelley Garcia |
| Show Director | Dave Stockton |
| Safety | Jim Davis |
| Membership | Don Young |
| Secretary | Rob Skinner |
| Treasurer | Joe Siddons |
| Vice President | Lance Wilson |
| President | Bob Smith |
| 2018 WAPA Officers | |



Kelley Garcia
 1721 Brookdale Ave
 La Habra, CA 90631-3229
cahaskell@me.com