



A Historical Non-Profit Corporation

NEWSLETTER

October 2015

2015 Show Report

The 2015 annual Missouri River Valley Steam Engine Show and Back to the Farm Reunion can be recorded in the history book. This year's show was blessed with perfect weather, temperature beginning the show in the high 70s and not terribly hot during the balance of the show. Rain did come during Thursday night, but was over before the start of Friday's show. I believe that we can chalk up our great attendance this year due to the excellent weather, and always due to our location, adjacent to I-70.

Our featured tractor this year was International Harvester, which was represented in large numbers. There were also many other tractors on display during the show.

New Buildings

The AC Club completed their building on the grounds, just prior to this year's show, and was well received by everyone.

Jim Cunningham erected a John Deere building on the grounds, and I'm sure this building was also well received by the John Deere enthusiasts.

Another addition to our show this year was the small engine feature building. This building is located in the small engine area, to house the featured small engine each year. This year our show was host to approximately 125 hit and miss engines, and this is an area that the Association has seen considerable growth in the past several years. Members Bob Painter and the Burlingames have worked hard to increase the small engine participation. Another fine show piece in the small engine area was a steam powered truck on display from Arnold, Missouri by Dan Mulderig. The 2015 North Central Region of the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association held their annual meeting at the show this year.

Also since last year's show, the Association has erected a Blacksmith Shop. Don Nichols is our head resident blacksmith, along with help from many others. There is also an individual that sets up his own blacksmithing in the horse area.

New Steamers

The steam engine area had two great additions to the regular steamers this year. New members Ron and Carla Clark and sons, Shane and Waylon, brought their 1908 Rumley to our show, and it will be housed on our grounds for future shows. Mr. David Heinlein of Marthasville, brought an under mounted Avery steamer to our show, which was quite different in appearance compared to all the engines at our show. An Avery resembles more of a locomotive look, with the boiler on top of the working engine. The Avery spent a lot of its time during the show powering the sawmill. The sawmill man, Roy Koirtyohann, says the Avery does the best job of powering his sawmill. Roy also stated that he sawed a 30" log on his 85th birthday during the show. As always, sawing watermelon at 5:00pm on Friday and Saturday was a big hit.

Additional Show Activities

- Barb Wyss said the house tours were very good this year. Barbara had help from members of the Cooper County Historical Society this year. She said that she really enjoyed their help, and looks forward to working with them again next year.
- Miles Wolfe stated that this year's Sunday pedal pull had 76 kids participate, which is almost a record in itself, especially for an event held on Sunday afternoon, when a lot of the show is already headed back home. The tractor games on Thursday night was fun to watch.
- The Saturday morning "I Think I Can" small tractor pull had 52 tractors, and took 2.5 hours to complete.
- Our Country Church is complete now, with the laying of the floor and other work completed since last year's show. Church attendance on Sunday morning was overflowing, and everyone seemed to be having a good time.
- For the kids, our show has a barrel train that goes around the grounds, and we also have a small train that runs on a circular track. Both of these rides are constantly busy during the show.
- In addition to the trains, our show was fortunate to have the petting zoo return this year. The petting zoo had goats, chickens, and many other farm livestock represented. Kids always enjoy the animals.
- Also, for the first time, our show had a display of live alligators. Many spectators took in the alligators and were fascinated by them.

Tractor Cruise

This year's Friday tractor cruise was host to 44 tractors. After a shorter drive than usual, the participants took in a tour of the Warm Springs Ranch, Home of the Budweiser Clydesdales. The participants really enjoyed the shorter ride, unlike the fifty (50) mile drives in the past. For future reference, the cruise will probably be a shorter ride, and the group will do something similar to the ranch tour. If you have any suggestions for the tractor ride participants, give Marty James a call @ (660) 882-5633.

Speaker System

Another added feature to our show was the overall showgrounds speaker system. This year was the first year that we had a show announcer to announce events, interview participants, and just basically go around and take in the sounds and activities in progress. Velma Lang took on the role of show announcer and also participated by helping our parade announcers, Miles Wolfe and Kee Groshong.

Musicians

Also, new to our show this year was the AMICA CLUB, which stands for Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors Association. Our show had members from Arkansas, Iowa, Saint Louis, and Kansas City that came on Saturday to show and play their antique musical instruments. Some of the instruments were so big, that they came housed in their individual box trailers. Saturday evening, a group from their club came over to the rock crushing area, and told me that they had a lot of fun, and look forward to coming back to our show next year. I hope everyone got to see and hear some of the musical pieces that they brought to this year's show.

Horses

The horse barn area was busy this year. New this year was a corn field, to demonstrate gathering corn.

Draft horse activities were busy Sunday morning, with races and obstacle courses. A lot of individuals are always fascinated with horses.

I couldn't mention everything or everyone that has a job at the show, or you'd never get through reading this newsletter. If I didn't mention you, it does not mean that your job, or activity is not vital to the success of our show. Everyone is important and does a great job. I want to thank everyone who helped make this year's show a huge success. Thank you for all your hard work and sweat. Without all of us working together, it could never happen. We are already thinking about next year's show, "The Gathering of the Orange" which should really be a crowd pleaser.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Dues

Now is the time to get those membership dues paid for 2016. Membership dues are \$20.00 for a single membership or for husband and wife, including children under age 12.

Election of Officers and Board Members

In December, the Association will be electing a new slate of officers and some new board members. The Nominating Committee is actively pursuing persons who would like these positions. If you would like to become an Officer or Board Member of the Association, give Nominating Committee Chairman, Dennis Ficken, a call @ (660) 537-2826.

Membership Dinner & Recognition Night

****THERE WILL BE NOT BE A MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th ****

Annual Membership Dinner and Recognition Night will be held at the Wooldridge Community Center in Wooldridge, Mo on **Saturday evening, November 7, 2015** starting at 6:00pm. All members attending are asked to bring a covered dish, with table service. The Association will furnish the drinks and the meat.

Also, there will be a gift exchange for those attending. Please bring a small \$5.00-\$10.00 wrapped gift, to participate in the gift exchange. I hope to see everyone at the annual membership dinner.

Sincerely,

Earl Haller, President
Missouri River Valley Steam Engine Association