

Cast Iron Quarterly

Bluebonnet Antique Tractor Club, Branch 171 of EDGETA
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<http://www.bbatc.org>



Keeping our agricultural history alive!

Merry Christmas! Well it has been an interesting year indeed. A little more rain than last year, just barely. There was an election, but I'm not going there. Hurricane in New York. School shooting and all the stuff that would depress even the most optimistic of us.

I could sit around and belly ache about the shape of our country, but I choose to think about good things like God, Family, and old iron. So, next time the government pulls something, get out your Bible, read it with the family and then go for a tractor ride. You'll be better for it.

Temple Report

Every year there is one show I try to make and that is the Texas Early Days Tractor & Engine Association show in Temple Texas. This is the biggest and I believe the best tractor and engine show in the state. There is something for everyone to see, even the ladies.

I have been wanting to bring engines to show there for a couple of years, but something always happened to keep me from showing. This year was different. Not only did I show, but the family and I made a get-a-way out of it. We camped next to our display Friday and Saturday nights, and even went to the church service on the grounds in the old wooden church.

It is a different world when you're an exhibitor. We arrived Friday around 3:00 PM and registered. They gave us dinner passes for Friday night. We picked out a spot and set up the display and tent. Friday is not open to the public, so I got to look at the swap meet stuff before the crowds came in on Saturday. Friday night after dark a few of the engine guys put on a light show. There were lots of antique lanterns and yellow dogs shinning in the night and a few of the engine guys put glow sticks on the spokes of their engines and fired them up. It sure was pretty. There was also practice tractor pulls until late on the lighted track.

When we woke up the next morning a cold front had come through and it was a bit cold. We had brought some warm clothes, but not enough. It was still a great show even though the number of spectators were down slightly because of the cold. It was a lot of fun talking to spectators and other engine guys. I even saw a few of the club members. If Friday night was cold, Saturday night was even colder. The wind had kicked up along with the temperature drop. That night there wasn't a lot of hanging out because of the cold.

There were plenty of tractors, engines, farm equipment, parts vendors, crafts booths, and food to keep a person busy for a long time. It was hard for me to stay with my display, (which I won a prize for "Outstanding Display"), because I wanted to go see all the things there.

I plan to be back next year and do it again. I hope more club members will come camping, (if you call ahead you can even get a site with electricity for \$20 a night, otherwise it's free). Hope to see ya next year!









Remnants of a rare Fairbanks Morse tractor.



This rare Fairbanks Morse tractor came out of Angleton. It had been used as a stationary engine.



Engine brake



Swap meet









Tech Talk

Rust

If you do any restoring, sooner or later you're going to have to deal with rust. It doesn't matter if you're restoring tractors, implements, engines, or cars, you will have to do something about the rust. Man has been fighting rust every since the first cave man left his tractor out in the rain all winter.

Because we live near the coast, we have to fight this cancer more than our brothers in drier country. I love going to my in-laws up in Lubbock and driving around looking at the old iron. The rust up there is usually only surface rust and it is a dark brown. Things up there last forever.

OK, I don't think I have to tell you how to spot rust. We have all seen the damage it does, but what is rust? To put it in simple terms, rust is basically the result of a battery. Not the battery under the hood, but the battery in the metal. The same principle that makes your battery work is the same principle that causes corrosion.

In a battery you have two dissimilar metals and an electrolyte. The way they work is the transfer of ions from one metal to the other metal. The electrolyte is the means or pathway for the ions to flow. This ion transfer is how we get voltage from a battery. This is known as galvanic action.

So, you're scratching your head now wondering what this has to do with your hood looking like Swiss cheese. The iron that is used to build tractors and other items we enjoy are not made from pure iron. The iron is a mix of different types of metal. In the mix you have atoms of one kind of iron next to an atom of a slightly different iron. This is where you have the dissimilar metals as in a battery. We still need an electrolyte. Can you guess what that is? Yes, it is water. Water causes the transfer of ions from one atom to another atom. In the process the iron is trying to return to its natural state, that being iron ore. Salt water is a much better electrolyte than plain water. So, living close to the coast is bad news for our old iron.

How do you stop rust? Since it is not possible to mix pure iron, the next step is to remove the electrolyte, (water). This is why we paint or coat things made of iron. The problem with this is all coatings allow a small amount of water to seep through. The older the coating, the more seepage.

How do you get rid of rust? One way is sand blasting. This works very well, but is not to be used in all situations. Sand blasting can warp thin flat metal. It can get lodged in passage ways. It can end up in places such as an engine where it can do great damage.

You can also replace the rusted piece of metal. This requires a good deal of metal working skill.

Then there are chemical rust neutralizers such as Phosphoric acid. This turns rust from iron oxide, (rust), into iron phosphate.

Whatever method you use, the process will start over if you do not coat it with something to keep the water off the metal.

So now you know more about rust than you ever wanted to know.

Vernon

Aldersgate Methodist Church





Santa Fe Heritage Festival









Out and about



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Final Quarter of 2012

Well guys and gals, we've made it through another year with our growing organization, adding more vintage iron collectors and their fine treasures along the way. As our club is about to enter its 8th year, a fact that I'm very proud of, I can only hope that we pick up more of these great individuals who sincerely have the interest and appreciate what we're all about - vintage tractors & implements, and the hit & miss engines.

As we enter 2013, we'll be sending out the annual dues collection notices, which will remain at \$20. You will have until Friday, March 8th in which to remit your dues as we will have to get those checks deposited into our account so that a single check from the club can be sent to EDGETA (and received by March 15th). Members who fail to remit their dues in that time frame will be dropped from the roster until the dues are paid.

Before closing, I want to remind everyone that we will be focusing heavily on safety this coming year. I recently requested that all of you pull up the required *EDGETA Safety Rules* on the Internet and read those rules so that you know what is expected from each of us to avoid any and all incidents, in particular, injury incidents. If we all abide by the rules, and practice good safety at all times, we should never experience such incidents.

In closing now, I wish each of you and your family members, a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Prosperous, & Happy New Year!

Larry

What's for sale



For Sale: John Deere H. Built in 1945, electric start, rebuilt starter, new generator, good battery, runs good and starts easily. For more information contact Dennis Hyatt

Contact:
dah1121@aol.com
PH: 409-766-0105

7/30/2012



For Sale: 1953 Farmall Super M. The tractor has a new power steering unit, new tires, parade seat behind the driver's seat, soft carriage style top, and a new battery. The tractor has no leaks, and starts and runs perfectly. Price \$3,250.00

Contact:

Mike
DuRant
281-485-8101

7/30/2012



For Sale: Farmall H, located in Ben Wheeler, TX (12 miles southeast of Canton. If interested, and for a complete description of the restoration please call Mike.

Contact:
903-515-0826
after 11/29/12



For Sale: Farmall Cub (sickle mower is not included). The tractor has a clicking noise in 2nd and 3rd gear, but otherwise performs as expected. Asking \$1,200.00.

Contact:
George
pgtwist@yahoo.com
Expires:
3/20/2013



For Sale: 1947 Farmall model B. Great condition with extensive rebuild. The following items are new or replaced: pistons, rings, sleeves, wrist pins, kill switch, starter, radiator, sealed fuel tank, battery box, muffler, decals, paint, and tires.

Contact:
Tom
Menefee
281-684-2907
3/26/2012



For Sale: Farmall 450 on propane. Tractor runs and drives great. Asking \$2,500.00

Contact:
Tom
409-502-0065
kdsantafe@aol.com
Expires:
2/15/2013



For Sale:

Farmall SM propane. Asking \$650. If interested, contact is to the left.

Contact:
Alex
Simpson
281.844.1224
thecubman94@aol.com
4/1/2013



For Sale: Farmall M. It starts and runs just fine according to club member Bill Sharp. Asking price \$1,800

Contact:
Mr.
Jacobson
979-799-
5721
4/27/2012



For Sale: Two nice older restored JD's. An A and a B, located in Wimberly Texas. Asking price \$2,800 each

Contact:
Denver
Pletcher
512-667-
4598
d.pletcher@yahoo.com
sipletcher@gmail.com



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