



Newsletter

of the Badger Steam & Gas Engine Club

Fall, 2016

Baraboo, Wisconsin

53rd Annual Show News

Our luck with the weather failed this year, giving us the worst attendance since 2007, the last time we had a rainout. The attendance figure for 2007 was not available to me, but it was perhaps even lower than this year's 9,208. Attendance in 2015 was 12,500. Our record show attendance (13,500) was in 2013 when we had our Made in Wisconsin feature, for our 50th Anniversary show. The exhibitor count at 1,061 this year was slightly lower than some years, but about the same as some others. Last year, we had about 1,200 and in 2014 we had 1,083. The exhibitor count is a little dicey, since some people do not register their exhibits. This year's exhibitors were from 16 states and England and Canada.

All three features this year can be counted as successful, despite the weather. The Implement Feature did attract many unusual items, and was a chance to showcase the large implement collection owned by the Club itself. A collection that is probably larger than most of us thought, since it often tucked away in various buildings! The rain was a problem for wooden pieces, and probably did deter some exhibitors from coming. Almost all potential exhibitors who were contacted directly did come, and brought some wonderful, odd equipment. The Implement display in the Feature Building was "manned" by mainstay Pete Holzman, Jim McGhee, Art Woodward, and Louise Coates. The Cast Iron Seat Collectors put on a terrific show, and there were members of that group who came from Washington, Idaho, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, as well as from the more usual Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Visitors to the Feature Building enjoyed the colorful and diverse displays. The Seat Collectors were pleased with the facility and our show in general, and made a donation to the

Club. Tom Miller was the Club liaison with the Seat Collectors, and did a great job. The 100 Years of Delco Light Plants exhibit was also a big hit with the public and Paul and Heather Kohlwey did a marvelous job of organizing and setting it up in the Feature Building. The intriguing display drew a constant flow of people, many of them previously unaware of the existence of that technology. All three features shared the Feature Building quite amicably, and the fact that the building was full was commented on by some visitors.

Golf cart renters praised our show, and were so happy/grateful to be able to attend and tour the show. The new food vendors were well-received and the vendors in the Flea Market were especially welcome. The Youth Seam Engine Project went well again, with all engines working.

On the flip side of happy, we did get a letter complaining about golf carts being used by able bodied people. At the September meeting, a motion was made and carried to limit the size of personal golf carts, ATVs, etc. The rental carts are not oversized, and in fact only can carry two passengers, but personal vehicles can be quite large at times. Another issue at the show was people driving tractors over the drain field, even after being told not to. More signs will be posted. Perhaps it can be roped off? One problem in the Feature Building was that some potential exhibit space was occupied by carts of tables, and stacks of extra, unused chairs. One cart was immobile, so there was no getting rid of it. Eventually most of the chairs were moved outside alongside the building.

Just FYI for our 54th annual show, the features will be Oliver and the 100th Anniversary of Wisconsin Tractors. The dates are August 18, 19 & 20, 2017.

By then, we should be ready to do this all over again, right?

See show pics on pp. 7 & 8.

Special Thanks To...

In no particular order, these people are owed some special attention:

The BATS (Baraboo Area Technical Society) held their meeting at our grounds on the Tuesday before the show, and helped with various chores: assembling signs, sweeping sand into the bricks on pavement by the gas station, to name a few.

You probably used these during the show. Jerry Phelps made 26 recycling barrels, for cans and plastic. More have been requested.

Speaking of barrels, Doug Johnson was kept busy with putting trash barrels out before and during the show, and most likely putting them away after the show. He also did a favor for the Implement Feature by placing a call to a neighbor who showed up an hour later with an exhibit to fill an empty spot in the Feature Building. Wow! Service or what??! And, he was called upon to tow people out of the mud a few times. He says we need more barrels, about 100 more barrels...

Tom Miller was a big help getting the Feature Building ready for occupation during the show – vacuuming/sweeping floors, moving tables and chairs, washing chairs, as well as helping the Seat Collector group get settled in and putting up his own beautiful display. Neal Stone also kindly helped clean the Feature Building, sweeping floors and moving stuff, even though I'm sure he probably had other things to do!

Bill Williams and Jim McGhee worked to get the ticket booth "annex" ready for the show, as well as the booth up at the north (flea marketer) gate. Carpentry and painting were involved, and three lines are now able to pass easily through the ticketing area. New cash registers were programmed by Bob Coates for use in the ticket

booths. Paul Hasheider trained the ticket sellers on the changes and managed the ticket sales with the new improvements.

Kevin Johnston (a new member), and Allen Steele did a great job leveling the exhibitor parking area on the north end of the grounds. The rain rendered the area unusable this year, but it will be welcome next year.

Speaking of rain, Allen Steele is owed a big THANK YOU for hauling several loads of gravel to different especially soggy spots on the grounds during the show. He was kept so busy he had very little time to enjoy his new building in the Sand Box area. He also generously allowed the M. Rumely fund raising dinner to be in the building on Saturday night of the show. Much better than a tent! Mike Spahn's 80 hp Case was used to steam the corn.

Art Woodward allowed two of his tractors to be used for the people haulers.

Thank you, Vern Hohl of Hohl's Farm Supply for donating the propane for the Gas Engine Shed.

Additional thanks to Robert Stewart for clearing several acres of land in the north part of the grounds. This was done after the show, using his own equipment.

More thanks follow, and I'm sure there are many people who were not mentioned here who did a lot of work before, during, and after the show. To those unsung heroes, or those we tend to take for granted, many thanks.

Thank You One and All !

Thanks is not enough, but it's what we have to offer for the great outpouring of help at the shingle mill this year. In spite of the weather and muddy conditions, our club-sponsored endeavor was running full speed ahead with lots of great help from all over Wisconsin and from two men from

Alabama. When we needed help, it was there and so well done.

Every one of these men and women did an outstanding job! It made the show enjoyable for everyone since all this help allowed workers to take time to see the show and get their *feet wet*.

Our 2016 crew, who worked prior to the show as well as during the show, included: Ron Dahmen, Doug France, Fred Gawronski, David & Barb Grotophorst, Jeanne Gempfer, Mark & Bernie Gisi, Paul Hasheider, Russell Hoege, Richard & Gayle Hoege, Hannah, Josiah, Isaiah & Jed Hoege, David Klemm, Rives 'Rivits' Morelock, Jerry Moll, Hollis Olson, Linda Potter, and Dennis & Melodie Pulvermacher. Special thanks to Larry Dahmen who provided two tractors—one ran the mill and the other ran the cutoff saw. Also, a big thank you to Russell Hoege for caulking the shingle mill roof before the rain came. Prayers for Ron Dahmen who is on dialysis awaiting a donor kidney and transplant surgery.

Thanks to each of you for your help in making the 2016 show a memorable experience. Hope to see all of you back in the mill in 2017!

In appreciation and gratitude, Bob & Reta Hoege

Women's Building Thanks

Jean Brew and Jan Bruski want to say thank you to Lyle Opperman and crew for installing the paneling. Also, thanks to everyone else for their efforts. There was more help than usual this year.

Jan says they are looking at "Sewing Machines" and "Baking" as the themes for the 2017 show, so you can start thinking about that for next year.

Membership Updates

Membership Secretary Crystal Hasheider reported the following new members since the Summer Newsletter. You will recognize several relatives of Club members in the list.

AUGUST: Roger Hillestad Jr., Lodi; Grace Schell, Baraboo; Ron Schell III, Baraboo; Phil Schroeder, Loganville; Michael Stier, Middleton; Emil Eldridge, Baraboo; Russ Kasten, Tomah; David Rokus, Port Washington; Meredith Selden, Sauk City; Ruth Thompson, Pardeeville; Bob Topp, Arena; Paul Wolff, Baraboo; Edward Davis, Melrose; Vince Holt, Baraboo; Matt Larsen, Baraboo; Emma Prindle, Baraboo; Alex Sliter, Sauk City; Russell Snyder, Elroy; Gavin Sprecher, Plain; Chris Thompson, Hillsboro; Stephen Dickson, and Elizabeth Johnson-Dickson, Winter Park, FL; David Hubbard, Boscobel; Doug Klapper, Portage; Anna Krause, North Freedom; Bob Ostrowski, Rosholt; Robert Renick, Waukegan, IL; and Gabriel Teniente, Wisconsin Dells. **28 new members signed up during the show, and we believe it is a record number!**

SEPTEMBER: Beth Sluys, Madison

OCTOBER: Carl Henry, LaCrosse

We also lost seven Club members: Clifford Atkinson, Ernest Fagiano, Floyd Harke, James Kruschke, Florence Meisel, Bernice Olson and William Sellner, Sr. More information is on p.5 of this newsletter.

Total membership is now 827.

Gavin Opperman's Boy Scout Project

Submitted by Wade Opperman

Gavin Opperman oversaw the completion of his Eagle Scout project on May 7th 2016: building 20 wood benches for the Club. As a part of Baraboo Troop 77, Gavin organized people to cut and drill the wood pieces in an assembly line style at his grandfather Lowell Opperman's work shop, with the help of his father Wade Opperman. The 340 wood parts were brought to the Club grounds and assembled in the feature building with the help of over 15 people who bolted them together and then waterproofed the benches. Gavin was very happy to help the Club provide additional seating for their guests.



Gavin and the boys from Troop 77 put some finishing touches on the 20 benches they made for the Club. Great job, guys, and thank you all so much!
Photo by Wade Opperman

Exhibitor Banquet, 2016

The report from the Exhibitor Banquet is rather sad this year. There were only 38 attendees. I was looking over older newsletters, and I don't have attendance figures for every year, but in 2003, there were 135 people there, and numbers varied some, but stayed around 100, give or take until 2010. I have no count for 2011, but starting in 2012 and 2013, the number dropped to 64, then to 60 in 2014, 56 in 2015, and now 38 this year. Any comments? Questions? Suggestions? Is this something we should continue or not?

I believe the original idea for the banquet was mainly to have a pleasant social evening. It was not intended to make money for the Club, but to honor some people who had done favors for the Club, and to just have a relaxing social evening and get to know one another a little better. Besides, sometimes it's surprising what engine and tractor people look like when they are cleaned up!

The group that attended this year seemed to enjoy themselves. The meal was served buffet style this time, and that went quite well, especially with a smaller group. Although it seemed that interest had waned in door prizes last year, some people wanted to continue the custom, and it did provide some entertainment, and yes, there enough prizes to go around. Even after the door prizes were gone,

people lingered to talk, and it truly was a fun evening after all.

Is This Heaven? Yes, It's Iowa.

Fall Bus Trip, September 24, 2016

The bus left Baraboo at the ungodly hour of 5:30 a.m., but nobody missed the bus. We arrived early at the pickup point in Sauk City, and waited a while for one person who turned out to have gotten on in Baraboo, but was missed by yours truly who must have had a quick nap during the boarding process...so embarrassing! There were a few last minute cancellations due to health issues, so we had 35 passengers in all. It was a looong ride out to Ken Kass's farm, but I think we all thought it was well worth it. We arrived there around 9:45 a.m. and left around noon, so we had a good 2 hours to spend with amazing tractors and engines. Ken was a wonderful host, so patient with our questions, and with a lot of knowledge to share, as well as some entertaining stories to tell about the histories of the tractors and engines. He collects Iowa-based machines, and has a very interesting collection of them, including brands many of us had never heard of. The collection is not strictly Iowa-based, however. He does own several Waterloo Boys and other rare John Deere tractors, but also has a Pioneer, Big Four, some Altmann-Taylors, some Rumelys, Flour City, to name a few. His young grandson was also there, helping us with some of the questions, and obviously is an enthusiast as well. The two hours + seemed to pass in a flash, and soon we were passing out the lunch and boarding the bus to head east to Independence. There we visited the Heartland Acres Agribition Center, where there was a variety of displays of farm antiques and collector cars. After that, we headed into Independence for a quick stop at the beautifully restored Illinois Central Railroad Depot.

We saw flooding along the Wapsipinicon River, as we drove over the bridge into town, and another bridge on the way out of town. Otherwise, we were on Hwy. 20, which is a divided highway, and we weren't so close to the landscape. We ate supper at

the Kitchen Buffet at Diamond Jo Casino in Dubuque, and then headed non-stop for home. It was a long day, but well worth it.



Two of Ken's rare Iowa built tractors. Above: a Galloway "Bear Cat", the only one known, which he purchased shortly before our visit. Below: the Plowboy, made by the Interstate Tractor Co. of Waterloo. This one was never used!

Deaths:

Clifford D. Atkinson, age 74, of Middlesex Township, PA died August 31, 2016. He was born in 1942 in Pittsburgh, the son of John C. and Anna Elizabeth Frederick Atkinson. A Club member since 1994, he was a retired mechanic for the North Pittsburgh Telephone Co. He was an avid hunter

and outdoorsman, and was also a retired Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Pennsylvania Wildlife Commission, and a member of the Mars Historical Society. He collected gas engines, corn shellers and other agricultural items. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Marjorie L. Barner Atkinson; two daughters, Mona L. Ash (Marvin Dwain) of Maryland and Rebecca A. Grove (Charles I.) of Georgia; one son Clint R. Atkinson of Valencia, PA; two grandchildren, Isabel and Ian Ash, and one sister, Diane Barclay of Evans City. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Grant Atkinson.

Ernest C. Fagiano, age 83, of Ellwood, IL, died June 29, 2016. Ernest worked at Joliet Wrought Washer Works, formerly in Rockdale, for 32 years, followed by employment at Filtration Group in Joliet until retirement. He was a lifelong parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Joliet. He had many interests, including traveling, music, stamp collecting, and was a World War II history buff. A member of the Club since 2001, Ernest was also a member of the Will County Threshermans Association, and was an avid collector of small steam engines and models. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Loretta (nee Kramerich); children Jane and Greg Fabiano; grandchildren Anthony Fagiano, Christina (Cesar) Valle, and Dominic Fagiano; great grandchildren, Christopher and Isabel Valle. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Minnie Fagiano.

Floyd D. Harke, age 90, of Ripon, WI, formerly of Fox Lake, WI passed away April 26, 2016. Born in 1925 in Princeton, WI, he was the son of Herman and Clara (Jahns) Harke. He attended school in Princeton. Floyd entered the U.S. Army on June 28, 1944, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945, where he received a Purple Heart. He worked for 50 years as a caretaker for Fox Lake Trailer Park. He also worked as a DNR Deputy in Fox Lake. He was a member of Randolph VFW Post 9510. A member of our Club since 1993, he was also a member of the Pickett Steam and Gas Engine Club. Survivors include his sister Deloris Hein of Ripon, WI and

numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. He is further survived by friends, Richy, Spark, Gary and Lynn. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Irma Wiese; three brothers, Leo, Harley and Arden Harke.

James G. Kruschke Sr., age 71, of Reedsburg, died unexpectedly on August 13, 2016 in his home. He was born in 1944 in Camp Douglas, the son of George and Hilda (Larson) Kruschke. He married the former Donna L. Brockman in 1962. He joined our Club in 2000. Survivors include his four children: James (Virginia) Kruschke Jr., of Reedsburg; Richard (Sonja) Kruschke, of Wisconsin Dells; George Kruschke, of Reedsburg and Anita (Jason) Bell, of Wonewoc; six grandchildren; two great grandchildren; three sisters; Allice "Joy" Weyrough, of Twin Lakes; Jeanette Chase of Camp Douglas, and June Hicks, of Sparta; a brother; Gerald (Mary) Kruschke of Mazomanie; many nieces and nephews, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna, on July 23, 2002; his parents; one grandson: Phillip Kruschke; four brothers; Bud, Ralph, LaVerne and Donald Kruschke; and three sisters: Helen Stillwell, Edith Jones, and Bernice Kruschke.

Florence H. Meisel, age 95, died July 31, 2016 at ManorCare Health Services, Fond du Lac, WI. She was born in 1921 in Merrimac, a daughter of Lewis and Ellen Kellogg George. On December 20, 1947, she married Walter A. Meisel. He preceded her in death in 1990. Florence joined the Club in 1995. She enjoyed crafts, cooking, baking, and playing cards. She also had a green thumb. She is survived by two daughters: Illeen Weinke of Fond du Lac and Pamela (Tom) Ebertz of Arizona; three grandchildren, Jason (Kristy) Weinke of Eldorado, Jon (Tina) Weinke of Appleton, and Jacqueline Hilt of Fond du Lac; and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Walter; two sons: Walter Jr., and Elton; a daughter, Loretta; a granddaughter, Beth Ann Weinke; a son-in-law, Duane Weinke; three brothers; Lewis, Charles and Tom; and three sisters: Leona, Isabelle, and Cora.

Bernice P. Olson, age 90, of Janesville, died June 10, 2016 at Rock Haven Nursing Home. She was

born in 1926 in Brainerd, MN, the daughter of Ernest and Minnie (Holiday) Burnard. Bernice married William Liptow in 1942, he died in 1972. She then married Hollis Olson in 1973. She was employed at the Woolen Mills, Mercy Hospital, Meadow Park Nursing Home, and as a farm wife. She has been a member of the Club since 2010. She is survived by her husband, Hollis of Milton; three children; Doris (Hadley Erdman) Ziegelmeier of Milton, Barbara (Lou Miceli) Bowman of Albany, and Fred (Cheryl) Liptow of Shopiere; numerous grand, great grand and great great grandchildren; a sister, Esther Wenzel of Janesville; and six half brothers and sisters in Brainerd, MN. She was preceded in death by her first husband, William Liptow; a daughter, Carol LaCount; and four sisters. **William Frank Sellner, Sr.**, age 85, of Lodi passed away on October 6, 2016. He was born in Roxbury to Frank and Paula (Rada) Sellner in 1931. He married Marie Seiler in 1952. He was the founder and entrepreneur of Bill's Welding & Repair (Bill's Towing & Auto Repair, LLC). He has been a Club member since 2007. William is survived by his daughter, Sharon; son, William Jr. (Kathy); grandchildren, Matthew, Kody, William III and KateLynne; sisters-in-law, Betty Sellner and Mary Seiler, and also his canine friend, Scotty. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a brother John; and sister, Ellen Romie.

Membership Meeting Reports:

August 10, 2016

About 70 people were present. The meeting was called to order by President Coates. The Membership Secretary reported one new member and the deaths of two members. Mark Beard reported adding three new food vendors: Boy Scouts from Sauk City, a church group from Sauk City, and the Durwood's Glen group of Baraboo. Ticket booths at the front gate have been revamped for better flow, and the new cash registers are set up. The Job Board is up, and help is needed. The Railroad Committee has purchased some signal lights. Jerry Phelps is taking care of can recycling. John Friske reported on progress on the Fairbanks Morse engine. Louise Coates reported on the

Implement Feature and showed the new feature tee shirt. She also reported on the waiting list for the Fall bus trip.

September 21, 2016

About 54 people were present. President Coates called the meeting to order. The Treasurer's report was read. There were 9208 people through the gate; last year there were over 12,500. The Membership Secretary reported four deaths, and 28 new members signed up during the show. All three features were successful, despite the weather. Golf cart rental was also successful. The new food vendors were well-received, especially the one in the Flea Market. The Youth Steam Engine Project went well; as usual, all engines worked. More help is needed after the show for cleanup, putting things away. Doug Johnson needs more barrels for trash pickup. Our 2017 feature will be Oliver. Contact info is needed from that group. Hohl's donated propane for the Engine Shed. There were some complaints about golf carts. A motion was made to limit size of personal golf carts, Gators, etc. MC. Some tractors are being driven over the drain field. Signs needed for that area. There were 321 camping sites rented this year. Bob Bristow presented a proposal to better utilize the Machine Shop, inventory the machinery, do a layout, etc. He asked for volunteers, and may possibly have a meeting this fall. Dick Roznos wants to donate Walter Meisel's clover huller to the Club. A very unusual hay press was donated to the Club, and was brought back from Illinois by Paul Hasheider, Bill Klemm and Joe Prindle. Robert Stewart cleared some land on the new parcel, after the show.

Club Calendar and Dates to Remember

Membership Meeting Dates: Meetings begin at 8 p.m. **November 16, 2016; January 18, 2017**
Membership Meetings are held at the Baraboo Civic Center, 124 Second St., Baraboo, WI in Room 18 (south end of hall) from November through April. From May through September, meetings are held in the Women's Events Building at the show grounds on Sand Road. Executive Board meetings are held

at 7 p.m. on membership meeting evenings in the same room, if members care to attend.

Annual Meeting – February 26, 2017

19th Annual Swap Meet – May 5, 6 & 7, 2017

Auction – May 6 at 10 a.m.

54th Annual Show – August 18, 19 & 20, 2017

Contact Information for the Executive Board

President: Robert Coates 608-764-5563

Vice President: Allen Steele 608-963-0574

Recording Secretary: Robert J. Mattson 608-393-3021

Membership Secretary: C. Hasheider 608-522-4277

Treasurer: Bill Klemm 608-522-4905

Director: Paul Grotophorst 608-355-1000

Director: Paul Hasheider 608-522-4277

Director: Neal Stone 608-254-7195

Show Photos (More in the Winter issue)



It looks like Mark Beard has Al Riddle treed, while Doug Johnson (on tractor) grins when he sees me taking this picture. Thanks to all three for taking care of this problem!



A new visitor this year was this 1922 3/4 ton Samson truck, made in Janesville, brought by Gary Birk of South Wayne.



This rare 1950s wheel loader displayed by Ron Linzmeier of Wisconsin Rapids, was made in Kansas by Richardson Mfg.



One of the colorful exhibits brought by the Seat Collectors.



Gene Williams of Darien exhibited his 1938 F20, complete with Farmer's Friend loader, which promised "All Mechanical Operation/ No Hydraulics."



A favorite in the Delco exhibit- "genuine Delco-Light Oil comes in yellow cans", but this can is red...!



A beautiful McCormick-Deering grain drill from the 1930s was exhibited by Andy DeBruin of New London.