



A Note From the President

Issue No. 3 Spring 2013

The difference between last years tractor drive and this years drive was about 50 degrees. Last year we were looking for shade, this year we were looking for a wind break. I want to thank everyone for braving the cold and participating in the drive. My hat goes off to not only the drivers, but for Jerry May and Dennis

Stolzenburg allowing the use of their trucks and trailers to follow along to pick up anyone's tractor that broke down. And a special thank you to everyone who prepared the fine lunch, the Ottawa County Sheriffs Department for traffic control, and to all the great people of Minneapolis.

I had a short meeting with the

Board and we have discussed the idea of keeping the same route next year and hopefully this time we can make the entire 39 mile trip. We will have more on this as next years drive draws near.



KTC Annual Tractor Drive

I have looked forward to each tractor drive for the past five years with great expectation. This year was no different. This was the first year that we had a threat of rain. Not really cold enough for snow. But not far from it. We had high hopes of having 40 plus tractors for this years drive. But cloudy gray skies, a brisk north wind, the threat of rain and the temperature that was to barely look over the edge of 40, kept many drivers wrapped in a blanket, huddled around a warm stove this year.

This was not a typical day in May. But twenty-six drivers made the trip to Bennington the morning of the Fourth of May. Their tractors were clean, fueled up and ready for the days trip. Every one was bundled up as if it was a morning in January. Heavy coats, hats that covered the ears and gloves. Jim Becker called everyone over for a short drivers meeting. He wanted to remind everyone to keep the line tight and that a couple trucks were following in case someone had the misfortune or good luck of breaking down. Jim Becker and Cain Hiner did route a shorter route in case the weather was not cooperating. Everyone wanted to wait to decide on

the shorter route when we stopped for our first break.

The parade started promptly at 9:00 AM and we made our way west to main street of Bennington and then north. Directly into the wind. We rode for a little over an hour and stopped for our first break. It was unanimous. The shorter 22 mile trip was the choice of many. Even Chris and Amy Helm's little ones who were in a trailer covered by heavy quilts. When we stopped for our first break, someone offered a warm truck and cookies and Evan and Madi did not hesitate. They bounced out of the trailer and into the warm truck. The truck which was one of the drivers in the family of tractors that day. The newest addition to the drive, Dave Gengler's Minneapolis Moline, broke down a few miles back and was being trailered.

Taking the shorter route took us directly to Minneapolis and we arrived about a half hour early. The lunch crew had anticipated us taking the shorter route and had already started cooking.

The First John Deere??

In 1912, Deere & Co. began to develop prototypes for their own tractor. The only one that ever went into production (in 1918) is now known as the "Dain" tractor. It is named after Joseph Dain, the engineer who designed it. Only 50 to 100 or so "Dain" tractors were built and sold. That same year the Deere Company bought the Waterloo Engine Company, in order to obtain a factory in which to build tractors.

The Waterloo Engine Company was manufacturing the Waterloo Boy tractor that it had introduced in 1913. The "Dain" project was halted for two reasons: Joseph Dain had died, and the Waterloo Boy tractor was less expensive to build. Deere & Co. elected to continue manufacturing the Waterloo Boy tractors until 1924. This gave them plenty of time to develop a new tractor. It was called the Model D and it was introduced in late 1923 as a 1924 Model.

The "Dain" was the first tractor with the John Deere name on it, but very few were produced. It was not a commercial success. The Waterloo Boy tractors were mass produced by the THOUSANDS by Deere & Co. between 1918 and 1924. The Model D was the first MASS PRODUCED tractor with the John Deere name on it. It was made until 1953.

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KTC Tractor Drive Cont...

The parade down main street was not scheduled to start until 1. This was good and maybe not so good. The good side the extra time in the park gave some ample time to fix two tractors that had broken down during the drive. Roger Miller's Oliver broke a belt and Dave Gengler's Minneapolis Moline needed a rotor cap replaced. All tractors that started the drive were now back in line.

The long break gave us plenty of time

to eat, make repairs and give away door prizes. Congratulations to all the winners.

At 1 pm, all tractors running, we bundled up and maneuvered our way to downtown Minneapolis for our parade down main street. There was a small crowd on hand who braved the cold temperatures to cheer us on as we drove down main street and by the nursing home and then started south for our trip back to Benning-

ton. The drive back was a little better. With the wind out of the north, we were now facing the south and although the temperature did not increase, with the wind now at our backs it felt much warmer. We stopped one more time on old 81 for a few moments to stretch the legs. Our next stop was back at Bennington Oil. We quickly loaded our machines and climbed into our

warm trucks and headed home for much needed rest. It was not our best drive, but it is one we will talk about for years to come.



Restoring the Minni Mo

Dave Gengler was 8 years old in the early 60's when his uncle boosted him up on a faded yellow 52' Minneapolis Moline. He may have made a couple of laps with Dave to make sure he was plowing or tilling rows correctly before he turned him loose to navigate Minni Mo on his own. Dave spent the next few years working the fields around Beloit before packing up and moving to Salina to start his adult life. The Minni Mo was sold and eventually stored in an open air shed just off the highway northwest of Beloit. The left front tire was shredded, birds used the engine compartment as a place to build their nest and dust was now the cover for the almost forgotten 1952 propane fueled Minneapolis Moline.

Chris Helm heard stories about tractors from his, now father-in-law Dave Gengler and from some help from family members in Beloit found the abandon old tractor. Early in 2012 the tractor was loaded

onto a trailer and brought back to Salina.

Knowing very little about the Minneapolis Moline and even less about a propane fuel system, late 2012 they started taking her apart piece by piece.

It was a family effort. Each part was carefully photographed and cataloged. Hours was spent on the Internet looking for missing parts and manuals.

The engine was no different than other gas engines. We pulled the pistons and replaced the rings and replaced the old valves. A new radiator was needed, The tractor had to be separated to do the engine work. Grease was layers deep many places and had to be chiseled off. Each part of the tractor was carefully checked and cleaned. If it was broke it was replaced. If it was bent, it was straighten.

Everything was put back together. New tires replace the old—worn tires. The points and distributor were installed. The hoses that connected to

the propane were replaced, tank was charged and tested. The only thing that was not replaced was the evaporator. That was the question that was on everyone's mind when they decided to turn on the "gas". The cables were connected to the new battery, the key switched on and the starter button pushed. It started! After a few moments of running the engine quieted down and even without a muffler, it

was pretty quiet.

A lenk was discovered and after a seal was replaced it was ready for the paint booth.

It was a lot of hours, sore backs, skinned knuckles and plenty of grease in places you didn't know you could get greased and the Minni Mo was back to life and ready for the May tractor drive.



Salina Area Vo Tech Vehicle Extravaganza in April

The first event for Kansas Tractor Club members this year was held at the Salina Area Vo Tech's Vehicle Extravaganza. Club members proudly displayed 28 tractors. Leonard the Bull made an appearance and Gary Sutton from

Culver displayed his antique engines. There was a really good crowd on hand and a constant flow of people walking through our display. We would like to send a special thank you to the organizers of this event for inviting us. Alt-

hough we had to deal with a little wind, it was a comfortable day to be outside. A live band played great music across the way from us and there were plenty of cars, trucks and motorcycles to enjoy. And of course Tractors.



Be sure to check our web site for new and updated information on events and sponsors. Remember to use your membership card at all sponsor locations. And most of all, tell them thank you for sponsoring the Kansas Tractor Club.

Special Thanks to Sponsors of the Kansas Tractor Club Tractor Drive.



City Pharmacy
Bennington State Bank, Minneapolis
Bennington Oil
Vision 4 Safety
Lott Implement
Genes IGA
Auto Tek
Fuller Septic Tank Service

American Ag Heritage Festival in Belleville, KS

July 6, the Kansas Tractor Club has been invited to the American Ag Heritage Festival in Belleville. The organizers of this event reached out to the KTC to help kick off what is hoped to be an annual event. This being a holiday weekend may find many club members with other plans. But we are hoping that many of you can make the trip. It will be a great opportunity to show off our tractors to what could be a great

crowd. One of the events that may be of interest to some will be a Judging contest. There will be categories for Best Restored, People's Choice and Original / Unrestored. There is a form on their Facebook page. You can find it by going to the Kansas Tractor Club website and click on the event. We hope to see many members in attendance.



Always Looking For New Members. Sign up Today!

Our club is still less than a year old and we are now over 85 members. But we know there are more people who are not aware that the club exists. We need you to get the word out. Give potential new members this newsletter, once you have finished, and be sure to tell everyone about our web site. www.kansatractorclub.com



An annual membership is only \$20.00 and includes discounts at 25 different businesses in Central Kansas. Be sure to check out our web site for a list of sponsors. You don't have to own a tractor to join. You can enjoy the benefits of being a member and you can always get a tractor later.



NEW Kansas Tractor Club Sponsors

Be sure to check out our web page for a complete list of Kansas Tractor Club Sponsors

Lorett Oil Co. LLC	Salina, Various Savings
B.W.P. Automotive and Tractor Repair	Salina, 15%
R.J. Fencing LLC	10% off Labor
North 81 Tractor Inc	Sedgwick, Various Savings

Orscheln's Tractor Display June 15th

Let's line them up once again at Orscheln's Farm and Home at 360 N. Ohio St. in Salina on Father's Day Weekend. Last fall many of you came out to Orscheln's Grand Re-Opening after a major remodeling campaign. It was a big success for the folks at Orscheln's and our tractor club. Patrons were encouraged to pick their favorite tractor and the winner was the recipient of a \$100.00 gift card.

We are not sure what to expect this year, but it will be another grand opening. The tractor club will be offering hamburgers and hot dogs for a small donation. This event will run from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday. Bring your tractor, your lawn chair and your stories. And while you are at it, bring a friend to become a new member. Let's line the entire parking lot with tractors.



Looking Ahead

A couple of more events were added to the event calendar on the Kansas Tractor Club web page. On June 8th, the Santa Fe Trail Auto Club Show is having a car show at Doerr Vernon Park in Larned. And on June 21st and 22nd, is the 25th Annual Antique Gas Engine and Tractor Show, Pittsburg, KS. Crawford County Historical Museum Grounds. Hosted by the Southeast Kansas Old Time Gas Engine and Tractor Club.

Looking ahead toward September we will be attending the Smoky Hill Museum Street Fair September 28th in downtown Salina. There will be a parade down Santa Fe and we will display our tractors at the street fair. The exact location will be posted later on the web site. There is always a large crowd for this annual event. Please mark your calendar.



Upcoming Events

Items in red are KTC attended events.

June

6/9	Americus Days Tractor Pull	1 pm
6/14-15	The Great Nebraska Tractor Drive, Wahoo-Lincoln, NE	All Day
6/15	Orscheln Farm and Home, Salina. Father's Day Weekend Tractor Display.	9am-3pm
6/21—22	25th Annual Antique Gas Engine and Tractor Show, Pittsburg, KS. Crawford County Historical Museum Grounds. Hosted by the Southeast Kansas Old Time Gas Engine and Tractor Club.	All Day
6/29	FHAPA Plow Day and Tractor Show at Delong Farm, Emporia.	All Day

July

7/6	American Ag Heritage Festival, Belleville, KS Tractors on the Square. Display and Judging classes, vendors, food, crafts, & street dance. Belleville Chamber 785-527-5524	9 am registration for judging All Day event
7/6-7	Saturday, Lebo Car and Tractor Show Sunday, Lebo KS Tractor Pull. FHAPA events.	9 am 1 pm
7/11-13	3I Show, Dodge City	All Day
7/19-21	37th Annual Threshing Show, Meriden	All Day
7/20-21	36th Annual Threshing Bee in Jewell County, Mankato. Featured Tractor Allis Chalmers.	All Day Parade 1:30
7/25-27	Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Assn., Bird City, KS. Antique Tractor Pull.	All Day

August

8/3	Country Threshing Days, Goessel.	10 am parade
8/6	Tri-Rivers Fair Parade, downtown Salina.	TBA
8/10	Four Wheeler Mud Run and Antique Tractor Pull, Beverly.	
8/15	Lyon County Fair Tractor Pull and Show, Emporia (Thursday)	6:30 pm
8/16-18	K&O Steam and Gas Engine Show, Winfield Antique Tractor Pull.	
8/17	Cowtown Days, Ellsworth.	All Day
8/24	Heritage Day, Yoder. Tractor Pull	All Day
8/31	Watermelon Festival, Clyde. Tractor Show.	9 am parade

September

9/2	Labor Day Festival, Palmer. Tractor Show 785-692-4562	All Day
9/8	FHAPA Fall Tractor Pull, LeRoy, KS.	1 pm
9/14	Roy Coffey Antique Farm Machinery Show, Gottschalk Park, Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson. Pre-Registration required. Contact Amy if you need a form.	8am-5pm

Kansas Tractor Club Newsletter

Kansas Tractor Club
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To:



Organization

List of Officers

President

Cain Hiner

Vice President

Dan Helm

Treasurer

Chris Helm

Secretary

Amy Helm

Board of Directors

Jim Becker Dennis Stolzenburg



**Be sure to check out
kansastractorclub.com regularly for
news and upcoming events.**

**Next newsletter publication will be
mailed September 1st 2013.
If you would like to submit a story and/
or pictures for the KTC newsletter,
please send it to dhelm537@gmail.com**

