



THE WHISTLE BLAST

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016! The year has flown by. It seems like they go faster every year! That means show time will be here before we know it.

2016 – Continuing the Tradition: The one-day show last year was successful as measured by the input from our members, exhibitors and visitors. Several items contributed to that success, including increased visibility from 43, less time and work required for set-up and tear-down activities, the variety of displays available. Of course, great weather also added to the success of the show.

We got lots of good suggestions from members and exhibitors for improvements for 2016. As previously noted, we'll be rearranging some of the areas so that the displays are more easily accessible with less wide open space between some areas. We'll also plan to move the restroom facilities closer to the main areas of activity for convenience. We will plan to offer a donation-only lunch as last year, but will also welcome Hobo Kettle Corn back to the show to sell food and beverages. The Rossville Lions Club was very satisfied with their participation in last year's show, so they are planning to return.

We are still working on plans for the show, so your input is very important. Feel free to contact any of the directors with your thoughts, send us an email at tsgpa@dcwi.com. All members are encouraged to attend the general meetings before and after the show.

Help celebrate the Indiana Bicentennial: The Tippecanoe County Historical Association will host "Heritage Day: 200 years of Work and Play in Indiana" on May 7, 2016 at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Park in Battle Ground. They have invited us to bring and demonstrate some equipment. This function will include historical activities or demonstrations for children and families, so be thinking about activities that might be fun and interesting for youngsters. The event will be free and open to the public. Contact Doug Miller at (765) 497-1834 if you are able to participate in the day's activities.

Christmas Party: The Annual Christmas party was attended by about 45 people, and the auction brought in over \$1,300 for the Association. There was a wide selection of items donated for the auction, including jewelry, homemade baked goods, vintage and collectible toys, tools, books, and quilts, as well as a one of a kind wooden crane. Basically – something for everybody. Thanks to all who contributed auction items, purchased items, and/or made donations. Thanks also to Auctioneer David Hobbs and to MCL Cafeteria & Bakery for set-up for the party.

2016 Show Volunteer Opportunities: The one day set-up worked well in 2015, so we will plan to do the major set-up activities on Friday, July 29. There will be work for anyone who can spend some time that day. Tear down will start about 4:00 p.m. and will be complete in a couple of hours. Again, the more help we have, the quicker we'll get done.

On Saturday, we will need help for gates and registration, and shuttle drivers and riders.

The Registration area will be responsible for registering exhibitors, collecting membership dues, registering golf carts, and selling hats, T-shirts, and buttons. Contact Vicky Mellady to volunteer.

Gates volunteers will be responsible for directing visitors or exhibitors to the appropriate areas, providing flyers, registering golf carts and accepting donations. Contact Vicky Mellady to volunteer.

Tractor drivers will be needed for the shuttle during the show. You need to be over 18 years of age and a licensed driver with your own tractor. We'll also need riders on the shuttle wagon to make sure that guests get on and off safely. Kirk Young is coordinating drivers and riders. Contact him at (765) 714-6702.

Amber Waves: The weather allowed Shane and his helpers to plant wheat in the field, so we'll look forward to watching that grow and ripen through the spring and summer.

Volunteering: As suggested by one of our members, in the next newsletter, we'll plan to include a form you can fill out and return to indicate what times and areas you would be willing to work on show day. That newsletter will probably be mailed out in May, so we can get responses back in time for the pre-show General Meeting, so we can work then to get any open slots filled before the show.

Show activity schedule: We will make some changes to the activities so that things are a little more spread out through the day. The Skillet Toss will be held at 11:00 a.m. and the Kiddie Tractor Pull will begin at 1:00 p.m. The show hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In memory: Two of our members passed away since the last newsletter:

- Margaret Fultz passed away on October 28. She and her late husband, Ora, were long-time members who actively participated in the show for many years. Our sympathies are extended to the Fultz family.
- Jim Bray, a member since 2004, passed away on December 3. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Pam and family.

Upcoming events:

- Directors & Advisors Meeting – March 24, 2016 – 7 p.m. at Shane's
- General Meeting – June or early July – Date to be determined.
- 2016 Show set-up date – Friday, July 29, 2016 start at 8:00 a.m.
- 2015 Show date – Saturday, July 30 2016 - 8:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. EST
- Tear-down date – Saturday, July 30 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Membership: TSGPA currently has 56 adult members and 81 lifetime members.

2016 Show flyer: A flyer for this year's show is included with this newsletter. If you need more to distribute at other shows or to friends & family, contact Doug Miller.

President's Comments: It was good to see everyone who attended the Christmas party and auction. Thanks to all who brought or bought auction items.

Although it's the middle of winter, before you know it, it will be summer, and we'll be ramping up for the show. We expect to have more exhibitors at the show this year – we hope that if you weren't able to exhibit last year, that you'll consider bringing your favorite tractors, engines, implements and your friends to the show this year.

As always, we really need our membership to step up to work at the various areas during the show. We need your participation to make the show the best it can be.

Thanks,
Shane

Tippecanoe Steam and Gas Power Assn.
Officers:
President: Shane Kerkhove - 765-463-1635
Vice President: Vicky Mellady – 765-543-5954
Secretary: Ronda Cassens – 574-870-5263
Treasurer: Doug Miller – 765-497-1834



Directors:
Peggy Bryant – 219-984-5936
David Burton – 765-583-4544
Ernie Halsema – 765-572-1036
Fred Halsema – 765-572-1036
Marshall Martin – 765-463-9359
TSGPA email – tsgpa@dcwi.com