



THE WHISTLE BLAST

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015! The year has flown by. It seems like they go faster every year! That means show time will be here before we know it.

2015 - A Year of Change: As communicated previously, the 2015 show will be a one day working show. The activities will take place in the soccer field area, adjacent to the field, where we will be doing active demonstrations throughout the day. Our goal is to continue to provide a glimpse of agriculture of the past, either to invoke memories by those who recall those times, or to stimulate interest in those who are too young to remember tractors without cabs or power steering, and with cast iron seats.

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.

We are considering options for food at the show, including a carry-in dinner at noon, with the organization providing the meat. Watch future newsletters for additional information. We will have water coolers the exhibit area.

Because of the distance from the field to the amphitheater building, we don't anticipate the need to access the building. Portable restrooms and handwashing sinks will be available in the show area.

We do anticipate using one shuttle wagon through the day for the convenience of guests to move through the exhibit area.

Please plan to bring your lawn chairs, as using the club's folding chairs on the will probably not work very well. We'll have some of the sitting benches available.

What will not change: All makes & models of antique equipment or cars are welcome – there's plenty of room for everyone. We are planning to continue the contests – the tractor skills, the lady's skillet toss, and the kiddie tractor pull. Proof of insurance for golf carts used during the show will be required.

Christmas Party: The Annual Christmas party was well attended, and the auction brought in over \$900 for the Association. Thanks to all who contributed auction items, purchased items, or made donations. Auctioneer David Hobbs did a great job. Thanks also to the Hobbs family for clerking the sale, and thanks to MCL Cafeteria & Bakery for set-up for the party, and for donating two meal cards for the auction.

A New Crop: The wet fall weather prevented the planting of wheat in the field at the show grounds, so the plan is that oats will be planted in the spring there.

2015 Show Volunteer Opportunities: The shorter show should make it easier for volunteers to pitch in to help out. It's never too early to think about helping out during the show. We will probably have a one day set-up, and will need help for registration, shuttle driving & riding, as well as tear down on Saturday after the show.

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 at 765-543-5954 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.

Donation Received: At the Christmas party, Randy Freshour presented TSGPA with a donation from the Rumely/Allis Chalmers Heritage Corporation Project in recognition of the loan of our dynamometer for use during the Gathering of the Orange last summer. We appreciate this generous donation.

In memory: Reason Biddle passed away on December 12, 2014. Reason was a lifetime member, and enjoyed exhibiting his antique cars. Our sympathies are extended to his family & friends.

Upcoming events:

- Directors & Advisors Meeting – Meeting will be scheduled for March or April – watch for card!
- General Meeting – June or early July – Date to be determined.
- 2015 Show set-up dates – Tentative – Friday, July 31, 2015
- 2015 Show date – Saturday, August 1, 2015 8:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. EST
- Tear-down date – Saturday, August 1 – 5:00 p.m.

New Opportunity for Tractor Exhibitors: Member Bill Kerr let us know that the local Knights of Columbus has decided to add a tractor division to their annual car show. The show will be July 11, 2015 at Central Catholic High School. For more information, contact Bill at aceflyboy@yahoo.com, or Matt Lewis, the car/tractor show director, at mj3lewis@frontier.com. Bill reports that they will award trophies to the top two spots for each division at the show.

Membership: TSGPA currently has 79 adult members, 3 junior members & 81 lifetime members.

Website Updated: Check out our website at www.tsgpai.org. It's been updated to include photos from the 2014 show. These photographs were taken by Bob Anderson. To see all his photos of the show, visit <http://public.fotki.com/redlinetoys/2014-tippecanoe-ste/>. Thanks to Bob for sharing these great photos!

President's Comments: Our show will be much different this year – we are looking forward to these changes that will require less work to set-up, coordinate and manage than shows in the past. We want to continue the 35 year tradition of the Steam & Gas Power Show, and reducing the amount of volunteer time required is one way to do that. Another way to keep things going is to increase member participation. Please plan to attend our General meeting before the show to share your suggestions for improvements in the show, or feel free to contact any of the Directors with suggestions for the show and the organization.

Thanks,
Shane

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