

E.D.G.E.&T.A. NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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July–August–September

Editor, Carrie Jo Parmley

From Larry Voris, our President and Director-at-Large

Our second summer has arrived. The first was in February and March when we had some 70 & 80 degree weather. I got my winter project completed a few weeks ago, and it is ready for the National show to be held in Billings, MT in mid-August. I'm still kicking the "paint" thing around. If I paint it, then I'll have to be more careful on how I use it. Now, I can load it on the trailer, throw a strap over it and we're ready to go.

We need to discuss the benefit package that EDGETA furnishes its members. As I have related in the past, EDGETA is not Insurance Company. We purchase a policy that covers our members. I will tell you all again how this works. I have clubs call and want to buy insurance to cover their activities. We do not have a license to sell insurance, and I wish you all would wipe this out of your vocabulary. By being a member of EDGETA, you receive the benefit package. When your club joins EDGETA, you are now known as Branch 302 or the next number in line. We don't know anything about "The Hoot's Holler Tractor & Engine Club." When you write and ask if this club has benefits, you will probably get a "No" answer. If you write and ask about Branch 302, then you will get a "Yes" answer. On your letterhead and your web sites, I want to see the EDGETA Logo, and Hoot'n Holler Tractor & Engine Club, Branch 302 of the Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Assn. If we are going to furnish you benefits, then EDGETA should be recognized, too.

It seems that when we get a new branch, they agree to all of our guidelines for tractor pulls. This means 3.5 mph--NOT 4.0, 6.0 or 10.0 mph. If you need to run these higher speeds, then you are in the wrong place. You can't have an EDGETA pull and then announce that the next 4 classes will be covered by "xyz insurance company." If you have the performance pulls, they need to be on a different time and day and under a different name; then their insurance covers the whole thing.

Next, if we have needs to lease fair grounds, museum grounds or a public place, be very careful on what you sign.

We want to cover only the area that we are responsible for. We must mark the area that we are going to use, and the rest belongs to someone else. We are not going to use our benefit program to cover something that we are not using nor have access to.

If anyone uses volunteers or helpers at an EDGETA sponsored show, the volunteers and helpers must be members. We had our Insurance cancelled this year when a branch used a volunteer and that person was injured. This was an expensive lesson for EDGETA. We have to think before we let someone help us. Ask them if they are an EDGETA member before letting them help. If they aren't a member, just say sorry you have to be a member before you can help us.

This is another subject that we need to address. If one of our members is injured, how many of our members have hospital insurance to cover an incident that might happen?

You all can go on line at www.edgeta.com and read the safety guidelines. It will help you and everyone in the organization if we follow the guidelines that the Board of Directors has set forth. These safety guidelines are what help us purchase the benefit package at a very reasonable price.

Hope to see you all down the road at a show somewhere.

Larry

Insurance Update July 2012 by Johnny Burger SC Director

The stated purpose of EDGETA is **"To promote collection, restoration, preservation and exhibition of gasoline and oil engines, gas and steam tractors, power driven machinery and other equipment of historical value and, further, to promote the fellowship of those with common interests."**

On the 15th of April, 2012, we lost our insurance because of excessive claims from last year. We had a new insurance carrier on April 16, and the cost went up. Around the 1st of April, I was made chairperson of the insurance committee. On April 16, you

should have been in my shoes. Our insurance agent sent out over twenty-one proof of insurance certificates. Some clubs were in a panic to get the certificate. I would like to see the same effort in following our safety rules or participating in EDGETA the way it was intended to be.

Have you checked out what it would cost for non-EDGETA insurance for just one show? Tractor pull insurance from an outside agency for one show runs about \$2500.00 per event. Some clubs have a tractor pull as often as three weeks in a row. It is obvious that these clubs do not exist for the purposes for which EDGETA exists. Many of these clubs don't want an EDGETA officer at their show because they knowingly break our rules, but they get the cheaper insurance from EDGETA at the expense of the rest of us who follow the rules. One branch attempted to provide EDGETA insurance to non-members for an individual event. They stated they did not want these pullers to be full members of their club. This should not be allowed.

I have even had a request for insurance coverage from an individual who owned several tractors. He was mostly interested in receiving the insurance advantage. An individual cannot receive EDGETA benefits without being a member of a sanctioned branch.

The application to join EDGETA that each branch filled out required that you understand and agree with our safety rules. All clubs that joined EDGETA put "Yes" on this question.

EDGETA officers put together safety rules in hopes of keeping down accidents and to get cheaper insurance for all of us. In our branches, we have people who have worked in almost all skills including insurance. I get calls from representatives of a pulling club who want to see the insurance policy. They could care less about our rules. They want to know if the club is covered, even if basic rules are being consistently broken.

Last year we had so many accidents, the insurance dropped us. Some of these accidents could have been prevented by following our safety rules. Most importantly, all branches should be required to allow only stock, antique tractors to pull. Pulling clubs which do not follow the stated purposes of EDGETA, as stated in the first paragraph, would have no interest in or reason to join EDGETA if insurance were not available. I see nothing wrong with hooking an old tractor to a sled to see what it can do, but when you rebuild the tractor for power just to win a trophy or money, you no longer serve our purpose. Most pulling clubs want to change our rules to allow them to run faster, have more weight, etc. They join EDGETA only for the insurance

and, therefore, threaten our financial security.

At the national meeting in Billings, Montana, this year, I would like for all officers to review our rules concerning membership requirements to see if certain areas could be improved. I think it is vital to the existence of our great national organization that we strengthen our rules to protect EDGETA from those who consistently, and on purpose, seem to violate the mission of our organization. By breaking rules through their practices in conducting only pulling events and breaking rules likewise in regular club activities, they jeopardize the rights of all members. Branches consistently and purposely breaking our rules should result in being removed from our roster

Johnny Burger
SC Regional Director/ Insurance Coordinator

**From Dorene Yearian—VP EDGETA & NC
Regional Director**

SAFETY HELPS US ALL

Last year we lost our insurance and had to get another company to cover us. The cause was too many claims that were costly. Because of this, our insurance premium will go up and so will the cost to you. This member year you pay \$4 for dues and \$4 for insurance. We, at National, will absorb the increase for insurance for this year, but next year the insurance cost could double or triple to you.

It is very important for you to read our safety requirements and follow them. We need to have years with no claims, and we can only accomplish this with all of you following the safety requirements.

One of the biggest claims was when a branch let a non-member (spectator) volunteer at a pull on the pulling sled. The non-member got hurt when the weight came back on him.

Remember, if you do not follow our safety requirements or enjoy this hobby in a safe manner, it reflects on and hurts every member of this association. If one member makes a mistake or acts foolishly it costs us all.

A helpful suggestion would be to have your safety officer download the safety requirements and go over them at your meetings and/or your shows. If you don't understand something, we all would be glad to help or discuss it with you.

Dorene Yearian
NC Director

*****Have a safe show season.*****

**Also from Dorene—VP EDGETA & NC
Regional Director**

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BRANCHES

Now is the time you should already be planning your tractor trips for the summer/fall. I've already attended one – fish to eat (yak!) and tooo many Allis' BUT the visiting with all my friends and all the other good food was well worth it (actually the Allis' were pretty good).

Don't forget to check online for the branch shows nearest you – we need to support each other's shows. NC Regional meeting will be held at Branch 28, Cabool, MO this year October 12 & 13. This is always a good show with a lot of demonstrations. It is a working show.

You also need to support the regional show in your area – there are six and be sure to attend the National show in Huntley, MT, August 18-19 (near Billings). Please attend the business meeting and tell us your views – we really need to hear from you. Only with your input can we have a great organization you can be proud of.

**Dorene Yearian
NC Director**

From Dick Tombrink, NW Regional Director

If you have questions regarding our EDGETA insurance benefits, contact Johnny Burger. He is now the primary contact for insurance related questions. I handled this aspect of the EDGETA organization for about 10 years and decided it was time to turn it over to another director. I am sure Johnny will do a good job in answering your questions. I have enjoyed talking to members of the branches and helping you with your questions. If you have a question that you think I can help you with, please feel free to call or email me.

As we get into the show season, remember to keep thinking about safety. In the last couple of years, we have had several big claims that could have been avoided. As a result, our EDGETA insurance premiums will go up for next year. We all need to work together to reverse this trend and prevent accidents from happening. It will require each of us to keep safety on the top of our list every day. As I think I have told you before, we had a saying where I worked before I retired to "Take 2" before you acted. Take 2 seconds, 2 minutes, or whatever it takes to think through what you are about to do to be sure it is a safe act.

We are at a busy time of the year for our branch. As you know my Branch 29 will host the National EDGETA show and meeting this year in conjunction with our Huntley Project Threshing Bee, just east of Billings Montana. It will be held on August 18-19. We have been working diligently to make sure we will

provide a show that you will remember and enjoy. We will feature IHC equipment in conjunction with the new Chapter 40 of the International Harvesters Collectors Club, which has just been formed in Montana. Yes, all their members that exhibit any equipment are EDGETA members. Our show is more active than most shows; we encourage exhibitors to show how their equipment was used in the past. We encourage members to demonstrate their equipment and participate in tractor games and the tractor pull. Our tractor pull is more for fun; we do not have classes, but each tractor hooks on to see how far they can go. We bind grain on site and thresh with steam and gas tractors. After it is cleaned, it is ground into flour and baked into bread with Dutch ovens. We have a blacksmith shop complete with a line shaft. We have a sawmill with a planer, edger, buzz saw, and a shingle mill. We exhibit plowing with gas tractors and steam engines. A members' breakfast is served each day starting at 7 am. Our show starts at 10 am and wraps up about 4 pm. On Saturday, we will have the EDGETA National Meeting at 5:30 pm followed by dinner about 6:00 pm. We have a local poet that will entertain us with stories of farming and ranching in the old days. We request that you pass this information on to your members and encourage them to come to the Big Sky Country. Montana is a great place to vacation. Check out our web site, www.antiquetractorclub.org. If you can join us, and we hope you can, there is an RSVP form on our website that we request you fill out and return to us so that we can reserve space for your exhibit, RV or for the Saturday evening meal. It will help us do our best to accommodate your time with us. RV parking is available at the show grounds, but there is a busy, noisy train track nearby. We are arranging for parking spots away from the busy track that are quieter, but we need to know if you need a RV spot so we can plan for it and accommodate you. All spots are dry camping. If you have any questions regarding the National Show that I can help you with, please contact me.

Hope to see you at our National Show in August! In the meantime, please be safe.

**Dick Tombrink
NW Regional Director**



From Don Young, SW Regional Director

A number of shows have passed already, many on the same days, making it difficult to decide which ones to attend. Tulare, California was the largest one to start with in April. I was able to personally speak with officers from twelve SW Branches. Cal Poly Pomona, California was a successful show in May. Two years ago, I was contacted by management at Cal Poly to organize a tractor show in conjunction with their strawberry festival and car show. This year I was able to get forty-nine tractors from local individuals to make a successful show. Branch 22 in the San Diego area had a great kick-back weekend in June with tractors, engines, miniature engines, rope machines, water pumps, etc. and of course lots of food.

As our membership grows, we need to make sure that we take that extra step to be safe. Accidents do happen, so we must be very careful. As I have mentioned before, there are some times that is safer to back your tractor on your trailer. There have been times that tractors have flipped over backwards, in some cases with fatal results. Another practice that some members do is use only two ramps when loading narrow front end tractors. Be aware of your local laws in securing your equipment to your trailer. If you will be passing thru other States, check their laws as well.

There is a local branch that refuses to mail the year stickers to members that have paid by mail. Also, our membership year is from April 15th til April 15th and you must not remove the sticker that is on your yellow card until April 15th. It is an unnecessary burden on our very busy secretary to need to contact her to find out if and when a member is current. For the new members that join, a copy of the safety rules that may pertain to them and a copy of the bylaws would be helpful to them. Many times I have seen new members do something that is unsafe or against the rules because they don't know.

I appreciate all the calls and emails that I receive concerning safety and youth driver questions. So far this year I have issued over two dozen youth driver cards, which is a great indication that we have young people that are interested in our hobby.

Hope you all have a safe year

Don Young
SW Regional Director/Youth Driver Coordinator



From Wayne Timchuk, NE Regional Director

A short communication from the Northeast region

Well, summer and the heat arrived way too early. We were in the high 80's in March and April--way too early. The month of May was a scorcher, too. June hasn't been any better, and it has been super dry. The farmers planted their corn and soybeans early, and they've come up pretty nice. But with no rain, it is starting to take its toll on the crops. We had about 7/10" of rainfall in early June, and this morning I had 1/10" rain. I have been watering the garden, and it doesn't look too bad. That's getting to be a job.

Well, for some better news. I just got back from Fruitport, Michigan where we had our regional meeting. I want to thank Keith Anderson and his crew for being very gracious hosts. We held our meeting after the potluck supper. They had a group singing and playing instruments that were very good. When we gave them a break, we held our meeting. We had a very good turnout and, hopefully, I answered all their questions. So, all in all, it was a good meeting and show. Oh, I forgot the food was super good and you know me in food! They had a very nice well-organized display of equipment and tractors and miscellaneous activities for everybody. They were very safety conscious and did a very good job of keeping track of things. I had a very nice trip up and back from the show grounds. The weather cooperated--no rain but a little hot. One thing about their fairgrounds is they have a lot of big shade trees, and, boy, that sure helped. I didn't hear what the total attendance was, but it seems people were saying it was down a little. With the size of the fairgrounds, it is pretty hard to judge the crowd. The tractor pull went off without a hitch, and it was well attended. They featured Oliver tractors and farm equipment and had a nice display. I was impressed by the one gentleman that had a piece of equipment behind every tractor. That sure looked nice in the parades. Once again, I want to thank Keith and his crew for a wonderful weekend.

Well, this weekend I will be going back to that area for a big Oliver summer show. It will be held at Hickory Corners at Gilmore Car Museum. That is a very beautiful grounds with some interesting displays. I was there a few years ago, but I hear they've added more buildings, a restaurant, and other facilities. Now Remember, safety starts with you and it starts at home. Be super careful and get help when loading or unloading tractors and equipment; that is one of the most dangerous times. Also be sure to secure your loads safely. If you see something that doesn't look safe, be sure and report it to the safety personnel at the show.

Remember it's always "BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY!!"

Remember SAFETY FIRST and enjoy the rest of the shows for the rest of the season.

**NE Regional Director
Wayne Timchuk**

From George Christmas, SE Regional Director

Well I hope everyone is having a great summer. The weather is heating up. It just amazes me how fast time goes by. I have been coaching little league baseball this season, and we are now preparing for the All-star's game. I thought repairing old farm equipment took up a lot of time, but that is nothing like baseball. Have you ever sat and wondered, "How did the guy that invented baseball come up with it?" Then you have to think he actually had enough friends that said, "Sure, we can do that." To me that is an amazing concept. This man had enough people believe his idea was worthwhile. I am sure some of you could care less about baseball, but that is the same type of idea that someone had with old farm equipment. Someone was sitting around one day and thought, "Hey, let's get our old steam engines and show them off." Well, you guessed it; his friends with him thought, "Man that is a great idea." There you have it--a tractor show was born.

People have changed a lot since that time. Our laws have changed, too! At one time it was up to the spectator to be careful and not get hurt. These days, it's the folks putting on the show who must make it as safe as possible for the spectators and hope they don't do something careless. People no longer want to take responsibility for their own actions. It is always someone else that caused the accident. We must protect ourselves against this mentality. You are asking yourself, "How do we do this?" Well, there is no foolproof plan. The board of directors for Early Days Gas Engine and Tractor Association has spent many hours looking at safety practices to help protect the members of EDGE&TA from liabilities like this.

Here is the best part. It is up to the membership to read these guidelines and realize, "Man, that is a good idea." Just like the first folks to play baseball or put on that farm equipment show, someone has to say that it is a great idea. I would like to do that. It is very important that everyone, not just a couple of people, but everyone of our exhibitors observe the guidelines for safe practice while putting on a show. Without everyone working together as a team, no one is protected. You cannot look over the actions of some just because of who they are or something like that. The guidelines are there for two

reasons: (1) to protect the public from harmful old equipment made before all the safety features and (2) to protect the exhibitors from the public. I have said it before. It takes everyone working together to make the show experience a safe one.

Just as a side note. Thirty-five years ago, I lost my big toe and second toe on my right foot under a riding mower. If the safety features that are on new mowers today were on that mower then, I would still have all of my toes. You see, I was doing something very unsafe. I did not think it was at the time, but now that it is all over, I know it was not good to stand behind a riding mower while someone is operating it in a live grass-cutting mode. It only takes a second for something to go wrong.

That is all it takes, a second! Please take the time to learn these guidelines and practice them. Make sure your neighbor knows and practices them as well. Safety is all of our jobs! Have a safe show season, and I hope to see ya'll out there.

**George W Christmas
Southeast Regional Director**

Regional Shows

***Northwest Regional Show--August 1-4
Host--Branch 26—Berthusen Park***

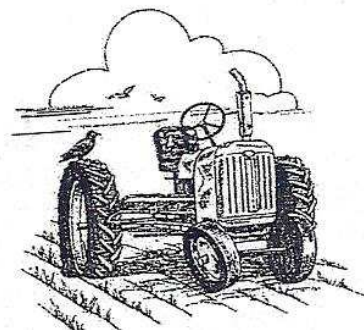
***North Central Regional Show—Oct. 12-13
Host--Branch 28—Cabot, Missouri***

***South East Regional Show—October 5-6
Host--Branch 202***

***South West Regional Show—October 26-28
Host—Branch 134—Cedar City, UT***

***South Central Regional Show—October 27
Host--Branch 157—Plumerville, AR***

See EDGETA.com for details for shows



Secretary/Treasurer/Editor-Carrie Jo Parmley

Presidents, please share the information in the Newsletters with the members of your branch. It is important that your members be aware of the information their regional directors pass along to them as well as to get key information that may personally affect them. I ditto all the comments regarding safety that you've read throughout this letter, but I'll not repeat them.

On another note, I'd like to thank all of you who have been so cooperative during the transition. There have been times when either you or I have had questions, or maybe both of us had questions. The Board of Directors has been very supportive. Also, some of you have asked about Ruth. She's still available and is on call whenever I need her; she's always gracious to assist. Her years of experience are invaluable. Let's all give her a big "THANKS" for her service to EDGETA.

One item of big importance is the updating of our webpage. Sally is doing a great job of keeping information posted as she receives it. The following housekeeping items need to be addressed. The first is of utmost importance. We still have a good number of branches who have not updated officers for 2012:

- Please update your officers and directors if you have not done so. Go to EDGETA.com and click on "Branch Officer Update Form" on the Homepage. Thanks to Sally, you no longer have to enter all the names again if they are the same as the prior year. Change only the ones that need changing and "submit." However, you must go through the process to keep your branch information current. We absolutely must have correct contact information.
- Always include your branch number on all correspondence, both paper and e-mail. As Larry Voris stated in his message, we identify you by EDGETA Branch #, not by the name of your Club.
- Make checks payable to EDGETA not to Carrie Jo Parmley. They are payable to the organization.
- Once again, if you order materials, please tell me the number of cards, stickers, etc. that you need, and I'll be happy to get them to you as quickly as possible.
- Remind members to keep their cards from year-to-year and replace when worn out.

Also, we welcome the following new branches:
230 Oregon 232 Arkansas 234 New York
231 Idaho 233 New York 235 Arkansas

We have 2 additional ones that have almost completed the process, so there's lots of activity.

I've enjoyed getting to know all of you and look forward to working with you in the future. Thanks again for your cooperation during my learning process.

Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treasurer

Remember--Safety First



Keep our Armed Forces in your prayers.

52 National EDGETA Show

Hosted by Branch 29

August 18-19

**Montana State University
Ag Research Center/Huntley**

**Museum of Irrigated
Agriculture Grounds**

**Located east of Huntley,
Montana on Hwy 312**

See You There!