Power from the Past

EDGE&TA Branch 240

Spring 2026



Rasmussen's Windmill
At Pima fairgrounds

Editor, Rose Tidwell
Layout Artist, Jim Fieber

Antique engines and tractors
Power from the Past
"No Style Like Old Style"
Southern Arizona

Upcoming Events

May 2, 2026 our Club Annual meeting and potluck luncheon (with meat supplied) and voting for board positions. This year we will gather together starting at 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post 109 at 15921 Houghton Rd. (*new great location*)

July 4th, parade in Benson Arizona, followed with a BBQ at Bucky and Tara Stevens home. Celebrate the red, white, and blue as the U.S.A. turns 250. Potluck with hamburgers and hot dogs provided.

July 18th Pioneer Days in St. David, AZ with a parade and display. Always lots of kids and good food.

September 18-20 Santa Cruz County Fair in Sonoita, AZ. Always looking for volunteers with the making and serving of ice cream from our churns and there will be ropes to make as well. Display your tractors and engines, and dry camping available.

September 24-27 Cochise County Fair and **Sept. 23-27** Southern New Mexico State Fair in Las Cruces New Mexico.



<u>What we've been up to</u> (and our apologies if we have missed anything or anyone. We welcome additional eyes and ears at these events that would like to share.)

On **Oct. 25** we helped with a PTO fund raiser at Benson primary school, ropes and a display by Zane Parker, Virgil Schmidt, Julia Davis, Kevin Lange and Mark Jensen.

Nov. 8 we set up our display at the Caterpillar Proving Grounds for the Cruisin' for United Way car show. Lyle and Cheri Rasmussen and the whole family worked together on the rope machine. Nothing like a giant mine truck to make your tractors shrink in comparison. Members participating were Lyle, Cheri and Jonathan Rasmussen, Darrell Dwyer, Barry Kanner, Kevin Lange, Bucky Stevens, John and Joyce Levengood, Matt Stewart, Larry Kastens, John Krenzel, Ray Fisher, Sonny and Gail Clark, Julia Davis, Mark and Joyce Bott and Zane Parker.

Also in November a crew of Lance Amatulli, Jo Stupy, Donna and Allen Goodman, Zane Parker and Kevin Lange worked up the ground at the High Desert Working Dogs field for their annual trials. But not til after they met for breakfast and I heard there was more fiddling with some tractors then working the field. Sound familiar?



Christmas in Benson again at the community center for our Christmas dinner and meeting on Dec. 6. Thanks to Lyle and Cheri Rasmussen for organizing the event and shopping for the gifts along with those donated by Greg Skaggs and Joyce and John Levengood. Members attending were Jim White, Zane Parker, Jerry and Jo Beth Hayes, Lyle and Cheri Rasmussen, Ray Fisher, Greg Skaggs, John Overton, Matt Stewart, Larry and Deanna Kastens, Frank and Teri Bessler, Darrell Dwyer, John and Jaime Davenport, Julia Davis, Mark Jensen, Len Becwar and Jane Bright, Lance Amatulli and Jo Stupy, Bob and Lou Nath, Paul and Lili Brick, John, Joyce and Jim Levengood, George and Mitzi Frick, Harvey and Betty Ross, Allen and Donna Goodman, Charlie Bub and Rose Tidwell.



And special thanks to Jim White and Mark Jensen for decorating their rides and representing us at the night parade in Benson, AZ on **Dec. 6.**

Then **on Dec 13** we made our way to Huachuca City for their Christmas parade with participating members Mark Bott, Larry Kastens, Karen Reid, Jim White, Julia Davis and Ames, Zane Parker, Charlie Bub and Rose Tidwell.

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This year started out with a number of us taking the road to Wellton for their annual Tractor and Engine Rodeo put on by EDGE-TA 206 with our help. Our tractor pulling sled was used and transported there by Bucky Stevens. Working the tractor pull was Kevin Lange, Bucky Stevens and Zane Parker with the help of a number of the local high school FFA and SKILLS students. And the high school SKILLS team received a diesel engine from our club member Matt Stewart. Others that made the journey were Larry Kastens, Matt Stewart, Jo Beth and Jerry Hayes, Greg Skaggs, Joyce and Mark Bott, Travis Bott and friend Cari, Lance Amatulli and Jo Stupy, Darrell and Pat Dwyer, Lyle Rasmussen, Julia Davis, Jim White, Bill Lanier, Sam Walker, Bucky Stevens, Jim Blair, Kevin Lange, Donna and Allen Goodman, Zane Parker, Charlie Bub and Rose Tidwell. Two fulldays of activities with extended days of dry camping were available. During the show there were antique tractor pulls, a daily tractor parade and antique parts and toys displayed for sale.

February we started out at the Blues Cruise & BBQ in Oro Valley with a engine and tractor display with Zane Parker, Mark and Joyce Bott, Darrell and Pat Dwyer, Jerry and Jo Beth Hayes, Jerry Alexander, Ray Fisher, Julia Davis, Jim Fieber, Bill Lanier, Brett S. The crowd was particularly attentive this year with lots of interaction. Good Times

February 28th 2026 Mel Perkins invited us all out to **Culver's** on the eastside of Tucson for the last time as he and Ruth will retire from this gig after serving as the host for **13 years.** Tractors and engine displays with Zane Parker, Darrell and Pat Dwyer, Mark Bott, Jim Fieber, Lyle Rasmussen, Mel and Ruth Perkins, Jim Blair, Carol and Kent Hardy, Len Becwar, Barry Kanner, Jim Bell, Kevin Lange, Jerry and Jo Beth Hayes, Julia Davis, John and Jade Davenport. Two participants from Willcox and Pima brought large trailers that were able to accommodate in six parking spaces of the new parking lot and the antique Mack truck with two more parking spaces Other visitors such a Frank and Teri Bessler, Roy Drewis, Darrell Day also enjoyed the day. I will give a little bit of history since I have been coordinator. After the Culver's building was constructed and opened in 2011 we made contact with the original owner Kevin Hart for PFTP to hold a show. I sought out print advertising in the *free activities column* in the Arizona Daily Star newspaper, which later ended. Also made flyers to hang at Culver's, Ace Hardware, PV Auto Center, Jack Furrier Tire Center and NAPA (Merles). With the current new manager, Matthew Elam, we have continued that relationship and have advised him that there will be a new person contacting him for future shows

We should all thank Ruth and Mel Perkins for all of their efforts over the 13 years!!!!

March meeting and club social at ***Drew Harrison's farm*** with dry camping and Jim Blair piloting the steam tractor. On Saturday we joined the weekend campers for a shared meal of Chicken and lots of sides after our meeting. Attendees included Len Becwar and Jane Bright, Jon Overton, Lance Amatulli and Jo Stupy, Joyce and Mark Bott, Kevin Lange, Jim Blair, Zane Parker, Darrell and Pat Dwyer, Jerry and Jo Beth Hayes, Julia Davis, Ernie Oertle, John Krenzel, Bill Lanier, Sam Walton, and Rose Tidwell

April 4th Chevy Showdown at Desert Diamond Casino with tractors and engines thanks to Darrell Dwyer, Len Becwar, Jerry Alexander, Barry Kanner, Jerry and Jo Beth Hayes, John Davenport, Zane Parker,

April 11 we gathered on the downtown campus of Pima County Community College for Rodders car show. Proceeds help fund their automotive school with engine and tractor display thanks to **Seth Hoyte,** Len Becwar, Mark Bott, Darrell Dwyer, Jerry Alexander, Jim Blair, Ruth and Mel Perkins, Bucky and Tara Stevens, Sonny Clark, Zane Parker, Lyle Rasmussen, John and Jamie Davenport, Barry Kanner, Leland and Donita Stevens, Julia Davis, Larry Kastens, Charlie Bub and Rose Tidwell.

We would like to hear more from our members and thanks for reading, **Rose Tidwell**

And Len Becwar and Jane Bright have notified me they have five more 5 gallon buckets full of pull tabs ready to donate to the Ronald McDonald house in memory of Sue Rasmussen and a club tradition started many years ago after the birth of twin girls to Lyle and Cheri Rasmussen led to their use of the facilities. These twin girls are now grown and Kristen recently made Lyle and Cheri grandparents for the first time, with twin Connie not far behind with a due date in September.

In memoriam; Let's take a moment to remember these club members.

Madalyn Day
Bill Massie
Phyllis Stevens
Leroy Welch



Year of the Goathead

Since moving to Arizona about ten years ago, I have become better acquainted with the weed known as goatheads and this past year they seem to be thriving. I have known them to be in Idaho, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arizona. They are also known as punctureveine. Why? As described they have punctured their share of mainly bicycle tires. Cyclist have armoured their tires with the latest and greatest in an effort to not get a flat.

Asking Google I learned they are much more widespread across the states then I realized and that they are an invasive species native to Europe.

I have put in some sweat equity trying to control this plant in our yard. I have used several tools in this battle including a shovel and a hula hoe as well as occasional chemical applications and Charlie with a flamethrower. And still I know this fight is not over after seeing an abundance of them brought back to our property carried embedded in tractor, trailer, truck and car tires after some of our shows this past year.

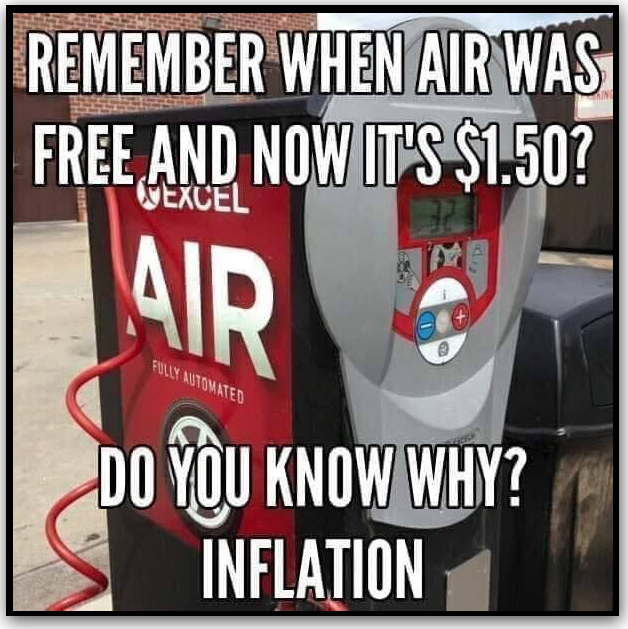
Most notably, at the Wellton show. We arrived to what looked like a field scraped bare of all vegetation, but soon to be revealed were the landmines left behind, goatheads. Soon they were covering the soles of our shoes and we unwittingly



transported them back to our rvs and hotel rooms where they lay in wait for us to find them on a barefoot late night nature call. But it did not take long for us to learn our lesson as every effort was being made to keep them at bay. And dog owners were doing their part by protecting the paws from harm.

This is much like the theory of how they migrated here from Europe clinging to the fleece of imported sheep.

After the show I know of one pair of flip flops abandoned to the trash can rather than be saved. This was after the goatheads coating the sole, led to her tap dancing her way through the grocery store.



And Matt Stewart thought he may have grown an inch or two as the layers built up on the bottom of his boots. But perhaps he was just feeling the pride of a lightened load after having made a donation to the local high school's SkillUSA Group. They now have a Chinese diesel engine added to their learning tools. This is an Arizona educational group that works to partner industry with educators and students in an effort to develop a skilled workforce.

The numbers are not in our favor to gain control of the goatheads, known more commonly on the east coast as sand burrs. Again from a Google search, experts claim a single plant on a good year can produce between 200-5,000 seeds, but with a potential of up to 100,000 seeds. And this past year seems to have given them prime conditions, with some even declaring a double crop.



And there has been a lot of local focus on another emerging invasive species in our area known as stinknet. They form yellow globe shaped flowers and produce an unpleasant aroma when crushed. It is believed we are still at a point where the experts claim we can eradicate this plant if efforts are taken now. But for the goathead we have passed this point known as the invasive curve.

Thanks for reading, Rose Tidwell and thanks to Jim Fieber for the layout.

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