

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

## From George Christmas, President and SE Regional Director

I would like to thank Rudy Snow and the members of Branch 89 in Henderson, Texas for hosting the 55<sup>th</sup> annual national show. It was a very nice show complete with a tractor pull. There was rain in the evening, but during the day, the weather was great. There were quite a few interesting pieces of machinery to see as well. The area was also rich in oil history, if you enjoy history of any kind like I do. It would be a great area to visit just for that. The Board of Directors also held the National business meeting at the show. Many questions were asked concerning barrel trains and tractor pulling. The FAQ section on the website covers most questions associated with both of these. However, if after you read that section and you are still unclear, please do not hesitate to contact your regional director or anyone of the directors.

This year with the annual election, we had a change at the position of director at large. **Larry Voris**, who has served the association for several years as **Director-at-Large** and also **President**, rotated off the board. Larry has been a driving force for many changes and additions to the operation of the association. He served as President for many of those years. I truly want to thank him for all he did leading the association. I could write an entire article on just the things he has accomplished, but I will just say he has been a champion for the association. Larry travels to many shows, so when you see him, please let him know what a great job he has done.

Many of you know the new Director-at-Large, Buster Brown. Buster was voted in at the National Annual Meeting. Buster has been very involved in the preservation of antique farm equipment for many years. He is a President of Branch 206. Please welcome Buster as the new Director-at-Large.

Everyone should have their memberships and dues paid by now. It is very important when you report your members that you include their name,

address and phone number. These are important pieces of information. Please note the information needed on the **BRANCH MEMBERS FORM**. It is required for the insurance coverage to be in effect for each member. You must report new members within 30 days. It is also required that each branch complete both the **BRANCH OFFICERS and also DIRECTORS UPDATE FORM**. These forms serve to help us identify who can be contacted at the branch. It verifies the officers for the D & O insurance. The form is set currently so that if there is not a change for a specific position, you can fill it in with the word “same,” submit it and the form will let the secretary know the correct contacts for your branch.

Unfortunately, we have had a noticed decrease in the membership from last year. We have had some branches drop their membership. This was discussed at length during the board meeting this year as to what could be done to retain current members, but also attract new members. As with any organization, the life blood is consistent and increased membership. The only way to keep our hobby alive and going is by passing it to the younger generations. There are so many things out there for folks to do and let’s face it, agriculture no longer has the attention of the masses any longer. We do have something that can appeal to everyone and that is a rich history of how things were done and the marvelous machines created to help accomplish those task. Static displays are nice but the generation coming along want to see things work and get involved with it. We also discussed the minimum number of members needed to form a branch and also renew as a branch. We felt this may be an issue for some of our branches. We will be discussing this and bringing it to the membership in the future for vote.

Please review the safety section with your branches. The safety requirements are not optional. You can’t use the ones you like or agree with and ignore the rest. The safety requirements were put

together by members of the organization with experience in operating tractors, engines and the other equipment. These requirements are not difficult to follow. These were put into place to protect the membership. If you are not following them, you could be putting the other members of the organization at risk. A club or organization is a group of people with the same goal or vision. They look out for each other. Please keep that in mind as you are showing off your antique farm machinery.

Please remember any correspondence with the National must include your branch number. When your club applied for membership, your club agreed that it would be known as a Branch of EDGE&TA. That number should be on any documents you send to the national secretary. Your club is Branch #\_\_ of Early Days Gas Engine and Tractor Association. Please make sure you are making your club known as such.

I hope everyone has a safe summer. I look forward to seeing some of you at the shows. Please practice safety to protect spectators but also to protect ourselves.

**George W Christmas, President and Southeast Regional Director**

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**Insurance Update, March 2015, By Dick Tombrink, NW Regional Director**

We just had the EDGETA National Meeting for this year in April in Henderson, Texas. This branch is primarily a tractor pulling branch. In addition to the pulling tractors, there were some interesting other exhibits of tractors and stationary engines. It is

always interesting to see what other branches are doing and what other members are restoring.

I also attended the NW Regional Show and meeting at Shoshoni, WY on June 13-14, hosted by Branch 72. They have their show in a park area in Shoshoni. They have a tractor pull for the fun of it, no prizes, just bragging rights they said. In addition, there were stationary engine displays, arts and crafts vendors, three steam engines, and very hospitable people. Unfortunately, our other EDGETA branches did not support them very well. There were only 3 of us from Branch 29, no other branches were represented.

A couple of things came up at the EDGETA National Meeting in Henderson that I want to remind you of. When you sign up a new member, you must issue that person a yellow EDGETA Membership Card immediately with the current sticker on it, and you must send to Carrie Jo that person's name and contact information within 30 days of that date. If you don't, that member does not have insurance.

Also regarding people movers, barrel trains and sleds, if you take your sled to another non EDGETA event, you are not covered by EDGETA insurance. Our insurance does not extend to those situations. If you take it to another place, non EDGETA event, you need to require that entity to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming your branch as additional insured.

After the EDGETA National Meeting, I was discussing swap meets with our insurance agent. In the past when a member was selling parts at his exhibit, they were not covered for that situation. As we talked, our insurance agent said that we do have premise liability insurance. As a result, we have made a change on our EDGETA webpage under insurance, as follows, (the changes shown in italics):

**"EDGE&TA Branch Swap Meets**

Swap meets are something that must exist in order to continue the search for historical equipment to restore as well as for parts for the equipment that cannot be purchased in the open market.

*Branches who have swap meets, and EDGETA members buying or selling at an EDGETA swap meet or an EDGETA event, are covered by our liability policy for premise liability only. Individual EDGETA members selling their parts/equipment at an EDGETA swap meet or at an EDGETA event have no product liability coverage. (Note that the member is not operating a business as stated below).*

**The EDGE&TA insurance policy does not provide general liability coverage for the products sold/traded.**

EDGE&TA swap meet vendors are not covered by our EDGE&TA insurance policy. Under the present policy conditions, a commercial vendor (truck/trailer load) member or non-member of EDGE&TA is not insured under the EDGE&TA Insurance policy. The EDGE&TA insurance coverage for an EDGE&TA member will not extend to his/her business; we suggest they purchase a commercial liability insurance policy to protect them and EDGE&TA for the products they are selling."

For more information on what premise liability covers, Google it on the internet.

Have a safe and great summer. Think safety, and remember to think about what you are about to do to be sure it is a safe action!

**Dick Tombrink, NW Regional Director**

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**From Don Young—Vice President and SW Regional Director, Safety Chair, Youth Driver Cert.**

In the past few years, there have been accidents involving loading and unloading tractors. Several years ago, a person was attempting to load his tractor and the engine was not running well. Part way up the ramps, the engine began to run properly and the tractor flipped over backwards, fatally injuring the operator.

There have been at least three more such incidents that I have been aware of, most recently three weeks ago. The same situation--the engine not running well, then corrected itself, and the tractor went over backwards.

Personally, I always back my tractor on a trailer, but that is not for everyone. Possibly a safer way would be to winch it on. It is up to the individual to do whatever they feel is safe.

When I am winching a tractor or engine on the trailer, I attach a chain to the trailer and to the equipment to prevent them from rolling away in case of a winch failure.

We all hope the rest of the show season is safe for everyone.

**Don Young—Vice President and SW Regional Director, Safety Chair, Youth Driver Cert.**

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**From Clyde Brummett, SC Regional Director**

I enjoyed the National Show in Henderson Texas. Thankfully, it was not rained out. It is a good thing I was able to make it. By the time I got back home, my left hip had deteriorated to the point that I was not able to travel. I had hip replacement 3 weeks ago and am doing well, but slow progress. I will be released to travel by mid-July, and am I ever anxious to make another tractor show. I plan to see many of you at the S.C. Regional show in Ruston, Louisiana Aug. 21, 22. It is being hosted by the Bouef River Antique Tractor Club.

I hope to make a few other shows this summer and fall. I am also planning to make a trip to central Nebraska to pick up a 1952 John Deere A with electric start. It currently has a wide front end and comes with a narrow front also. Perhaps I will find another bargain or two there or on the trip home.

Activities pick up in the summer months, and I am reminded that calls for extra diligence to safety practices. I shared with you a few months back about the battery explosion on my 4630 New Holland. Damage could have been minimal if I had a good fire extinguisher nearby. A good fire extinguisher is a good investment (if you keep it with the tractor or machinery).

Accidents happen, and there no guarantees that one will not happen to you, even if you carry a rabbit's foot.

We went into the emergency room a number of years back with all four of our children in tow. One was already on crutches with a broken ankle and our oldest son was limping. He had scooted his bare foot on the carpet and embedded a sewing needle in his foot.

The nurse looked at my wife and said, "You are

going to have to start paying the preacher more.” After a brief hesitation, my wife pointed to me and said, “He is the preacher.” "Mmmm." We had just moved into town to accept a new pastorate. Moral of this story, be extra careful when charting new territory. No one would have guessed there was a needle in the carpet.

Having spent several years in the commercial brush hogging business, I have learned to expect the unexpected. Be extra careful when operating tractors on hillsides, even if they aren't very steep. A hidden stump on the uphill side or a stump hole on the downhill side can easily flip the tractor.

Be safe and I hope to see you soon.

**Clyde Brummett, SC Regional Director**

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**From Buster Brown, Director-at-Large**

My name is Buster Brown and I live in Yuma AZ. I was voted in as Director-at-Large at the National EDGETA Meeting in Texas in April. I am also President of Branch 206.

The reason I ran for Director-at-Large was to try and give something back to EDGE&TA. This is in return for the many years of their service that I have enjoyed. I have been involved with engines, tractors, steam engines, and hot air engines starting around 1978. When I joined EDGE&TA, that was an honor. I was very proud to belong to such a great group. There were a lot Branches joining and it was growing. Over the years, something has happened as EDGE&TA is losing branches. This is not good. I know that a lot of old collector people are passing, but I do not think this could cause us to lose 17 branches in one year. It may be that every Branch should have a couple of active recruiters. I went to the county fair every night this year looking for younger people to join our Branch 206. I got 6 names to work on. There are some good kids out there that do not know your Branch even exists. Go talk to them.

The problem with my own branch and meeting other prospective members is that the next closest show is 135 miles away. There is no place for these younger people to get older gas engines or tractors. We now have a trading area where we allow the selling of old gas engines, tractors, and related merchandise. In 2 years, this area has recruited us 4 or 5 new members. These people have to be members of EDGE&TA to show and sell.

We got word last year that they were not covered by EDGEA&TA liability insurance. This problem came up at the National Meeting in Henderson. Dick Tombrink, who is the Chair of the EDGEGTA Insurance Committee, went to work on this and got it corrected. It is now corrected on the website information as well. Every member owes him a “Very Big Thanks” for taking care of that. This may have kept many branches from leaving the EDGETA organization. It would be nice to know why we lost 17 branches last year. I am sure it is not totally old people dropping out.

This bothers me. There is a big difference between making them stay with EDGETA and making them want to stay with the EDGETA organization. This is where our job as managers starts.

I want to thank everyone that voted for me for Director-at-Large. I will do my best to make things better with members in mind. Thanks again.

**Buster Brown, Director-at-Large**

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**THANK  
YOU**

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**From Wayne Timchuk, NE Regional Director**

I don't know where the summer's gone but Memorial Day seems like yesterday and Fourth of July is just around the corner. My how time flies! I hope everybody has been enjoying our summer so far. I know in my area, we have been really wet. Corn is doing great, but the beans don't seem to like the extra water. And now on to some serious stuff.

I just got back from my Northeast Regional Show and Meeting in Sharon Springs New York. I was amazed at the beauty of the area. It was like civilization left them 50 years ago. There were a lot

of neat old houses that were in nice shape and a lot of buildings and homes that were left in a rundown condition. But it's beautiful up there. One thing I liked about the area--**no Burger King's, no McDonald's and if you want to go to Wally World it was quite a drive.**

I arrived on Thursday night at the show grounds. What a beautiful place! The property is owned by a gentleman and his son; they have a large greenhouse. The land is laid out in two levels, which makes it really nice. You can sit on a hillside which overlooks the pulling track and then on top of the hill, the campers and a lot of displays were up there. Then on the lower level, they had the vendors and a lot of display set up down there. They had a real variety of tractors on display, some I've only seen in pictures. The other pulling track was set up for garden tractors; that was interesting to see. They also had a nice selection of construction equipment scattered around. There was a Euclid dump truck, some Cat equipment and miscellaneous backhoes. They had dozers and a pan running one afternoon. It was unique to see that old stuff working.

I want to thank all the officers and personnel that put that show together; they really did a good job. I want to specifically thank Jim, Joe, John and Dominic for being such gracious hosts and also for their generosity. I also want to specifically thank Robbien for the great meals that she and her husband put on.

We held a meeting on Saturday evening; we didn't have a big crowd, but it was a pretty informative meeting. We discussed some of our insurance problems and some of the changes. We also discussed how to improve the show safety and make it more people-friendly. We discussed a couple of safety issues which were handled to my satisfaction. All in all, they run a pretty tight ship. Keep up the good work.

I want to once again thank the Northeast Power Association Branch 101 of Early Days Engine and Tractor Association. Keep up the good work.

The trip up to Sharon Springs was a nice ride, but the trip home was a little more trying. I sat in traffic for 2 1/2 hours on Interstate 86 while they searched cars for the convicts that escaped. What a joke!

In closing, remember, we are just getting into our season of shows and activities, so think twice and be sure to do everything safely. Remember Safety Starts at Home with YOU!!!!

Everybody have a safe and happy Fourth of July

Celebration and be safe!!

**Wayne Timchuk, Northeast Regional Director**

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**From Dorene Yearian, NC Regional Director**

For some of us in the mid-west, we are in the beginning of the show season; of course we are tired of the weather – rain. My dry creek bed driveway hasn't been dry, and there have been some impassible moments. There are two important things to remember – safety and support.

*Safety* – Please be safe in all you do. Our safety requirements are there for your protection and are everyday normal things we should all be doing to keep safe in our hobby. Remember, keep safe so you can have a lot of fun. I know we keep harping on safety and a lot of our hobby magazines have articles on safety. I think we all just want you to get to your destination safely so that you can enjoy the show. It is important to also remember that if you cross state lines, their laws could be different than your state and not knowing the law is not an excuse. Please follow all laws on hauling to a show. We all want you to be safe and enjoy this great hobby.

*Support* – There are many big and little shows around you that need your participation. Check them out. Make a list of all the local and interesting shows – pass that list around. Call your friends to see if they are interested in going. Go early to their show – maybe you could volunteer and help them while you are there. Make new friends. You never know if you might meet someone who knows someone that has that special part you need to finish your current project. Take information on your home show and pass it around – get people interested in your show. While you are helping them build participation in their show, you can build/advertise your own show.

Attend the National (2016 – Alaska) show or regional shows. Go to the meetings; we would all (directors) like to hear from you. We feel that every member and branch is important to this organization. Your individual input and or vote is important to all directors. If you have questions or concerns, please ask questions at the meeting or contact us at a later date. Check out our web site. We need your input to help run this organization and keep our web page updated. Our contact information is on the web site. Another way to show support is to attend your club meetings and get involved.

We need your safety and support to run this great organization. – Talk to Us!

**Dorene Yearian, NC Regional Director**

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**HALL OF FAME REMINDER**

Remember the deadline for the 2016 nomination (application) is 120 days before the National Show Meeting. There must be someone in your organization that you think should be honored. The application is on the web page – please follow it carefully and answer all the questions. We want all nominations to be judged equally and fairly.

**Tom Yearian, Chairman**

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**From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treasurer**

As most of the directors have stated, the April 2015 National Meeting in my home state of Texas in Henderson, a town southeast of me, is over. We had a record-setting wet spring, so things were a little “muddy,” as we say here. However, the rain stopped for the Henderson Show, and we had a great time and lots to see.

I want to welcome Buster Brown as the newly elected Director-at-Large. Buster is a very energetic, conscientious, and concerned guy when it comes to the EDGETA organization. He is also very knowledgeable about our hobby, which includes many years of experience with both tractors and all kinds of engines. Since he is the Director-at-Large, he is open to anyone for concerns or questions, as really all the directors are.

Also, I cannot pass over the contributions of Larry Voris, our former Director-at-Large and past president. He has devoted many hours and effort to making EDGETA a very successful organization and one that has provided many services to the members. We had a very nice visit with Larry and his brother Dean and their wives at the Red Power Roundup in Sedalia, Missouri in June. Larry continues “doing tractors.” Good luck to you, Larry, as you continue your hobby.

**Housekeeping:** If someone in your branch has not gone to the website and updated your officers and directors for 2015, please do so ASAP. In order for your branch to have D&O Liability insurance, this must be done at the beginning of each year. **Go to EDGETA.com, scroll down to the blue tab “Update Officers” and complete that as well as**

**the “Update Directors.”** If all of the information is exactly the same (including phone # and e-mail), you may enter the word “Same” in the first blank for that office.

Contact information for the new Director-at-Large, Buster Brown: 5144 W. Clip St., Yuma, AZ 85364 (928)210-6751. His information is listed on our website as well as that of all other EDGETA officers by clicking the yellow tab labeled “Administration.” Please utilize our website, EDGETA.com, which provides a wealth of current information. The latest information is posted there. Our webmaster, Josh Dilsaver, does an excellent job of keeping items current and events posted as he receives them.

Hope you all have a great July 4<sup>th</sup> and enjoy a safe hobby season.

**Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treasurer/Editor**

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----- **Welcome New Members** -----  
**Branch 245 – Shelton, WA**  
**Branch 246 – Crowley, LA**

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***Remainder of 2015 Nat’l. Shows***

**South Central Region – August 21-22, 2015**  
**Host - Branch 178 & Branch 179**  
**Ruston, LA**

**North Central Region - September 10-13, 2015**  
**Host - Branch 195 - Boonville, MO**

**Southeast Region - September 18-20, 2015**  
**Host - Branch 212, Fayetteville, GA**

**Southwest Region - October 2-4, 2015**  
**Host - Branch 184, New Mexico**

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**2016 – Annual National**  
**EDGETA Show & Meeting**  
***June 11-12, 2016 (Sat.&Sun.)***  
***Branch 52 -- Wasilla, Alaska***

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**2017 Annual National**  
**EDGETA Show & Meeting**  
***June 8-10, 2017(Thurs.-Sat.)***  
***Branch 42 – Kent, Michigan***