

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

## From George Christmas, President and SE Regional Director

I would like to thank Branch 52 of Wasilla, Alaska for hosting the 56<sup>th</sup> National Show. Special thanks to Richard Greeno, Mike Pollock, Denny Purviance and Mike Kerr. The show was held in conjunction with an annual town festival in Palmer, Alaska. There was a parade on Saturday in Palmer. It was one of the largest turnouts for a parade I have seen. There was a show with tractors and engines, with a tractor pull that afternoon. On Saturday night there was a catered dinner with the main dish Salmon. I can't say enough about the food. After the meal, we were given a history of the area and how it was settled by the granddaughter of a couple who came to the area as a colonization project by the United States government. On Sunday, we toured the transportation museum in Wasilla. There were lots of interesting items to see on the history of transportation in that area. Again, I can't say enough about the effort put into to the show and the hospitality of our host.

The board of directors held their meeting during the National Show. There were 2 Bylaw changes voted and passed by the members. First, the number of members needed to renew as a branch was lowered from 20 members to 10. It is our hope to retain branches and members that would otherwise fall below the old requirement of 20. Second, the members voted and passed an amendment to the reimbursement of the secretary. The old practice was to compensate the secretary/treasurer with 20% of the total dues received. The new bylaw will allow for a flat fee of \$9500.00 or 20% whichever is greater. There is a lot of time and work that goes into the secretary/treasurer position. Unfortunately, with the drop in membership, the salary for the secretary/treasurer has declined but the work remains the same. This will make the salary fair.

The board also decided to make the helmet requirement for lawnmower pulling drivers optional. A lot of feedback has been received on this requirement since the pulling guidelines were

established. Now it will be the responsibility of the driver to decide if he/she would like to wear a helmet.

The question was asked, "Why isn't there a financial report posted on the web site." Well, the board felt it was not in the best interest of the association to post financials on a website open to the public. It was decided to send a statement to the branch secretary with the stickers and buttons at the beginning of the year. This will be the responsibility of the branch officers to provide that information to the members.

The board discussed the reporting of non-EDGETA events for insurance purposes. If you remember, in the past we were required by our insurance provider to list all shows attended by members. That requirement changed and the reporting was suspended. Unfortunately, the more things change, the more they stay the same, sort of.

Due to an incident that placed the association at risk for questionable activity, the insurance provider has asked that the branches approve and record events in the branch meeting minutes. There are branches which only meet once a year and the members travel throughout the US. These members are concerned about how this process would affect them. The board decided the approval of the branch could be documented in the meetings or documented in an email from the branch president or safety officer. The board is looking into developing a web form that will automate that process and help with documentation. The key to the whole issue is documentation. It must be documented as approved by the branch. Please let us know if you have suggestions or questions.

**This section is very important.** It needs to be very clear. Each branch is responsible for keeping copies of all membership lists sent to the national secretary. When the branch sends in a membership list there are several things that need to happen. First, the member list must be complete with member's name, address and phone number. **The list will not be accepted if they are not complete.**

There should also be a check with the correct amount of dues to coincide with the number of members on the list. An example--is if you send a list of 25 members along with that completed list there is to be a check for \$300. That is \$12 per member. The secretary will not accept lists without complete information or checks without a list of members. **If any of the information is incorrect it, will be returned to the branch to be corrected.** This may interfere with insurance coverage, so make sure you have everything correct before you send it. Remember, if we don't have a name, complete address and correct amount of dues the individual is not covered. Also, member lists and dues for the year are to be received by the secretary/treasurer on or before March 15. This gives time to record and process everything by the start of the fiscal year. Please contact any of the directors if you have questions.

I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer. There are lots of shows going on with more on the way. If you have any questions or suggestions please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the shows.

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

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

I just returned home from our EDGETA Annual National Meeting and Show in Palmer and Wasilla, Alaska. Branch 52 did a great job organizing and making the weekend a success. They planned their show around the Colony Days parade in Palmer. I believe there were about 30 tractors that participated in the parade, as well as many other interesting floats. We spent a day in Wasilla at the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry. There were many interesting exhibits of equipment that was used to settle Alaska. Thanks to Branch 52 for making it a memorable show.

In my last newsletter, I talked about the insurance requirement that non EDGETA activities need to be approved and documented prior to the activity taking place for branch members to have coverage under our insurance. We stated that this should be discussed in a branch meeting and documented as approved in the branch minutes. We received some comments that this was not feasible for some people.

Some branches only have four meetings per year. Also the snow birds found it difficult to get approval on an activity while they were on the road.

We discussed this at length at our Alaska board meeting and came up with another method that, hopefully, will help document approval of non EDGETA activities. We are designing a form on our website home page that will enable branch members to fill out the activity information and email it to the President and Safety Officer of your branch. They in turn can make the decision to approve it or to not approve it, and return the email back to you with their decision. Their decision should be based on whether the non EDGETA activity is similar to what we would do at our EDGETA shows. For example, participating with your tractor in local holiday parades or other non EDGETA tractor shows or pulls is certainly an acceptable activity. Remember we only cover antique tractor pulls, and you need to follow our EDGETA safety requirements, so this does not allow you to run a "souped up" tractor in a non EDGETA activity. Also running your tractor down the road from one field to another is not a normal EDGETA activity. And driving your tractor to the show grounds is not covered; you should haul it, and then it is covered by your auto insurance.

If you know someone from another branch has gotten approval for the activity you are looking at, you do not need to get a second approval. So if you are with members from other branches and one of them has received approval, you are all approved to attend the activity and have EDGETA insurance coverage. All that is required is for one branch to approve a non EDGETA activity for all branch members to be covered.

In summary you have 3 ways to get approval for non EDGETA activities as follows:

1. Discuss it in a branch meeting and document in the minutes that it is approved.
2. Fill out the form on our website, which will go to the President and Safety officer for their approval. They will send the form back to you with or without their approval. They will keep the form showing that it has been approved until after the activity.
3. You can call the president or safety officer of your branch and ask them verbally to approve it. If they do, they need to document it, dating it and keep the documentation until after the activity. This

means that the president and safety officer must be diligent in responding to your request promptly and documenting the date of the request.

If you do not see the form on our website when this newsletter is issued, please bear with us it is being developed. It should be there shortly.

Our insurance carrier is not taking away any insurance coverage we have had in the past. They are just requiring us to document our attendance to non EDGETA events to be sure we are not stretching our insurance coverage where it was not intended to apply.

We also discussed the mandatory requirement that Helmets were required for Lawn and Garden tractor pulls. Under X 1, it states "Helmets will be worn in all pulling classes and while practicing". We decided to change it to "Helmets are optional in all pulling classes and while practicing." This is in response to questions of why our safety requirements require helmets.

**Dick Tombrink, NW Regional Director**

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

There are record-breaking temperatures in Southern California, 123 degrees in Palm Springs, six major wild fires and a few earthquakes greater than 3.0 magnitude.

The National Show hosted by Branch 52 in Palmer, AK was awesome. Saturday morning started with a fantastic breakfast, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, sausage links, sweet rolls, coffee and juice.

Following breakfast, the ninety-minute parade with over one hundred entries was held. The EDGETA Board of Directors and their friends rode in the parade with about 35 tractors from both

Alaska branches along with many other entries. The streets were lined with hundreds of spectators. We drove past a senior center to the delight of the citizens. The weather was perfect 50-70 degrees. Unlike most other parades, this one did not pause or stop. It kept a constant pace. There were many vendors and shoppers. Occasional light rain didn't bother anyone.

The Saturday night dinner was held in the train depot. Dinner included salmon prepared different ways along with numerous sides.

The after-dinner meeting was attended by many branches. Following the meeting, a relative of one of the original homesteaders entertained us with the history of the beginning of the great State of Alaska.

On Sunday, we traveled a few miles away to Wasilla to the Alaska Transportation Museum. A delicious pancake breakfast with all the fixings was served, followed by a church service. The large indoor-outdoor museum consisted of engines, tractors, trucks, cars, airplanes, boats and many other artifacts. We also took a side-trip to Matanuska Glacier.

On our return back to Palmer, we stopped to take a picture of a moose that was roaming along the highway. Some of us were invited to view the 557 steam train restoration project ([557.alaskarails.org](http://557.alaskarails.org)).

It was daylight around the clock. I wasn't sure whether it was time to go to bed, get up, eat breakfast or supper. It was a great experience as it was my first time to Alaska.

Think Safe---Be Safe.

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

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

Seems like the National Meeting came and went too fast. Branch 52 did a very nice job—what a nice show. It was planned with other events that made it exciting. They also did a very nice job in setting up the Annual Meeting and the Saturday night meal. In addition, the Director's Meeting was close to the motel. The Director's meeting went very well also. I will let others explain the outcome and decisions.

There was a parade during the activities and all of the directors rode in a very nice wagon. The parade was long and there were hundreds of people watching. I wanted to go around a second time, but got voted down. Also at the meeting, there were some very interesting museums to visit—all very nice.

There is a lot of history in the Wasilla and Palmer areas. Thanks to Dick Tombrink for arranging for us a tour of the restoration on a steam locomotive—the 557. It’s hard to believe when it is finished, it will be better than when it was new. After finishing, with the water treatment and care it will receive, it should last 100 years. It would be nice to know how many man-hours it will take from start to finish.

One thing I noticed was now many small airplanes there were in Alaska. Someone told me that at the airport in Anchorage there were 470 small aircraft. There were rows and rows of them. I guess that is the only way to get to some areas and to some of the lakes for fishing—sounds like fun.

When I got back to Yuma, the first week there were 3 days where the temperature was 120, 122 and 123 degrees. This is HOT...wish I could have stayed in Alaska for the summer.

There will be no shows in this area until next winter. I have called a few Presidents of branches and visited with them to see how things are going. One said they had lost a couple of members over EDGETA not insuring golf carts at shows. I told him if it is licensed for the road, they should have it insured and if not licensed, it should be under homeowners or a specialty insurance. Golf carts have nothing to do with gas engines or tractors.

People need to know: EDGDETA is not an insurance company—it is an organization of gas engine and tractor enthusiasts with good insurance.

I got a phone call from Steve in Quartzsite, AZ regarding his show next winter. It will be the week following Branch 206 show which is the third weekend in January. For more information, go to [www.maineeventshowplace.com](http://www.maineeventshowplace.com)

Remember if you go to shows this summer, wear your smiley face. It makes ever one feel better.

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

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**From Wayne Timchuk, NE Regional Director**

Well, the National Show is past. I wish I could have been there. From the report that I got, it was a good show and meeting.

Things in my area have been bad. The spring was miserably wet; then it went hot and dry. Most of our crops are about a 30 days late. My garden is the worst I ever had.

Our shows have started, and the heat and the miserable weather have not helped. I hope shows in your area are doing better.

As you get ready for your shows, always THINK SAFETY--- at HOME, on the ROAD, and at SHOWS. We also need to THINK about the HEAT as we get older.

Well, I hope everybody has a GREAT and a SAFE SUMMER SHOW SEASON!.

**Wayne Timchuk, NE Regional Director**

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**From Dorene Yearian, NC Director**

**HALL OF FAME**

All who submitted a nominee for the 2016 Hall of Fame have been notified. The recipients of the 2016 Hall of Fame have or will receive their plaques at a Regional Meeting. There were no recipients at the National Meeting this year.

The deadline for the 2017 Hall of Fame (February 9) is 120 days prior to the National Meeting in Fruitport, MI (June 8-10). I’m sure there is someone in your branch who deserves to be in the Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association’s Hall of Fame.

The EDGE&TA Hall of Fame was established in 1998 in the interest of honoring those who have made significant contributions to the collection, preservation, and exhibition of antique tractors, engines, and equipment. Every EDGE&TA member is eligible for this award. Posthumous submissions will be accepted with past EDGE&TA membership.

Each year the inductees to the Hall of Fame will receive their award in the form of a plaque with their name on it. The announcement of the year’s inductees will be made at the National business meeting unless other arrangements are made. This award will be presented to them at the National or Regional Show of their choice. A stand-in can accept the award if the inductee is unable to attend. Their name will then be put on the large Hall of Fame plaque that EDGE&TA keeps along with the previous year’s inductees. Their names along with their applications will then be put on our web site for all to view.

The Hall of Fame chairman will choose three anonymous judges that have no affiliation with the nominees. The nominee must receive two votes from the judges to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. In an effort to have all applications judged equally, the application guideline (on our web page) must be followed.

The deadline, February 9, is right around the corner and will be here before you know it.

## **Tom Yearian, Chairman**

### **National and Regional Shows**

There are 6 regions of EDGETA in the US for Regional Shows – Northwest, Southwest, North Central, South Central, Northeast and Southeast. There is always a regional show close to you to attend. If you look at a map of the NW Region, it is approximately 1226 miles from the WY-NE line to the Seattle coastline. All regionals cover a lot of miles, so the branches that are closer to the regional show need to help each other – make it a great show with your display.

Starting in 2017, the National Shows will alternate between three areas – the West, Mid-West, and the East. You will now have a National Show close to you every three years.

We on the National board hope you will attend one or all of these shows and attend the meeting at the National or Regional Show. Voice your opinion, give suggestions and/or ask your questions. You need to be heard. Your opinion/question could help us make our organization grow and/or become stronger. Your opinion/question might help another branch at the meeting.

Should you attend these shows? – Yes! Yes! Yes! Things have changed since the 1990's when we all got involved in EDGETA. Gasoline (fuel) and motels were cheaper back then for one thing. For another, we were all younger and more able! Don't quit displaying; keep yourself young.

When you attend, it gives our smaller branches a chance to get more exhibitors to their show and to make it more interesting for spectators. We all need to help them put on a good show for their area. If one member from each branch in the region would show up as an exhibitor at a regional show, just think how many exhibitors that would be for a small branch. You might change a spectator into an exhibitor.

When you bring a running display to a show – you teach. At the next show, bring a different

display – teach something different. When going to a show you've always attended, set up in a different spot with something different. Make the show new. We need to change our displays once in a while. We tend to take the same tractor or engine and mill and set up on the same spot every year. Move around and take something different – make the shows you attend NEW! Make the show you attend a better show. Be knowledgeable about your display – Teach! Turn a spectator into an exhibitor.

Why should you attend a Regional or National Show/Meeting? –

1. Make your voice/opinion heard at a meeting
2. Listen to what concerns other branches.
3. Help the hobby grow with your display
4. Learn from other exhibitors.
5. Networking for information/parts.
6. Teach!

Get involved in this hobby – it's worthwhile for you and the people around you.

**GO TO A NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL SHOW IN 2017!!**

## **Dorene Yearian, NC Director**

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## **From Clyde Brummett, SC Regional Director**

We call it our hobby, at least some of us who collect tractors and/or engines. Some are able to collect more of these than others. I do not label that as unfair, but rather a "fact of life". Some people collect different things, and some collect everything. Although I don't consider myself as such, I have actually been called a hoarder. Some family members have suggested I should call American Pickers.

I refer to my collected things as investments--realizing that investing is often a gamble. I strictly avoid the casinos but also realize when I invest in an antique, I am in a sense taking a gamble. One of my friends said, "I told my wife I have never lost money on a tractor." Someone said, "There is a first time for everything." To get to the point, while we may be gaining in the number of tractors or engines we own, we in EDGE&TA are aware that we are losing people from the EDGE&TA membership, partly due to the fact that the generation of people that grew up in farming are getting to be fewer no fewer.

When I am traveling, people often ask, "Why are you going to Pocahontas, Arkansas?" or "Why are

you going to Alaska?" I might say, "I collect antique tractors and/or engines." A short answer might be, "I am in the tractor and engine business," which would be true for some EDGE&TA members!

Personally, I like to think I am in the people business and tractors and engines are just an enjoyable way to make friends. They certainly make for interesting conversation pieces.

You avid collectors may be getting a little peeved at me by now, but there is a method to my madness. I really would like to see our EDGE&TA membership grow. How does that happen? How can we make that happen? I believe that the Man who himself is truth, gave us some good pointers.

1. First, let me start with what I believe just makes good sense; "He who would have friends must show himself friendly." Too often we are self-focused instead of focusing on other people. By nature, we tend to be self-centered. We need to purposely focus on other people. Some people may turn away when you start a conversation with complete strangers, but I have found that the majority will respond positively

2. A second thing I would suggest is to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We could do some deep thinking on this one. It is a principle that is easily stated, but not so easy to live out.

Illustration: If I go to a meeting where I have never been before, I like to be made to feel welcome and that they are interested in me as a person. I believe that is true of those visitors who come to our EDGE&TA meetings and shows. Every human being has an inner need to be needed and appreciated.

Every person is of worth (value) - no matter what. I recently met a man at a tractor show who told me he had no education at all. He said, "I can't even write a check." In visiting with him and others who knew him, I learned that he is a very skilled welder, and he has been for many years. I learned that he and his wife were very involved in their church. I hold that man in high esteem because first, he is a human being, and second, because he succeeded in life despite not being afforded all the privileges we take for granted.

I believe that I am in the "people business," not the tractor and engine business - although I love the hobby. I hope I never attribute more worth to tractors and engines than I do people. Whether it is your hobby or your business, it would be a lonesome experience without people.

We often talk about getting young people involved in our hobby, and we do need to. I believe, rather than focus on certain age brackets, we each just simply need to apply these principles to our daily living: Be friendly, be pleasant, treat others the way we really want them to treat us, avoid heated arguments in our meetings, settle our differences in private with the one(s) we disagree with when possible. Treat all people fairly.

It has been a great year. We made new friends at the Regional show at Pocahontas, Arkansas. Thanks to Chris Mitchell and all of Branch 185 for hosting the show.

The National show was great and we very much enjoyed Alaska and the members of Branch 52 of Wasilla, Alaska. Great show, great turnout and great people. Thank you Richard Greeno and the other officers and members of Branch 52.

I wish you all a great rest of the summer. Be safe, be friendly, be kind, and deal honestly.  
God Bless,

**Clyde Brummett, SC Regional Director**

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**2016 DUES/INSURANCE  
ARE \$12  
PER MEMBER**

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**From Carrie Jo Parmley, Secretary/Treas./  
Editor**

The National Meeting hosted by Branch 52 was a big success from all of the feedback I have received from the directors who attended. Wow!! Thanks to all of you in Alaska who helped to make this such a success. You've set a high standard for the future.

Housekeeping: If your branch officers and directors have not been updated in 2016, please have someone in your branch go to the EDGETA website,

EDGETA.com, scroll down to Update Officers and enter correct information. If it is the same, you may enter the word “Same” in the blank for that office. The same is true for the Director positions. This updated information is required by EDGETA in order for you to have the D&O Liability insurance coverage and must be done at the start of each year.

Also, there is a Member Form on the homepage as well. On the EDGETA.com home page, scroll down to Member Form. You may enter the information and print it, or you may print it out, make copies and enter the information as you wish. It will allow names and contact information for 24 members. I would highly recommend that branches take advantage of this form. Only 5 names could be entered on the old form, which takes pages and pages of paper along with a lot of extra postage to send. I think this will simplify your process and cut down on paper usage and cost of postage.

EDGETA LOGO:I have received requests from several branches needing a larger logo than the decal allows. I have scanned the logo with a very high resolution, which makes for a clear logo. I have provided a large enough form of the logo to be utilized on banners, etc. If you are in need of that logo for your flags, banners, etc., please let me know and I will e-mail it to you.

Utilize our website. It stays current with the information that we have. If you see corrections that should be made, please notify us and we will get that done. We want it to be a primary source of accurate information. Often the answer to your question is at your fingertips and more quickly accessible than a phone call. We want to make life easier for you.

I have received a number of calls from various branches with questions regarding the timeline for dues, inquiries regarding Youth Driver information, questions regarding safety issues, and issues regarding officers for Branches. I can certainly refer you to the proper person to answer those questions and am glad to do that. Also, a good place to look is in the By-Laws which are posted on the website as well. Your best source may be the director for the specific region in which you are located. They are your representative and are in closer proximity to you than any other person in the administration.

Our President, George Christmas, has addressed the issues regarding submitting the membership with complete contact information and with a check included to match the number of members. Please follow the guidelines when submitting membership. Most of you do a very

nice and accurate job of submitting your membership and are very prompt with the additions as the join your branches. Be sure to put your Branch # on each item—list, check and correspondence to me. We recognize you by your Branch # only. Thank you for doing a great job.

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



[www.edgeta.com](http://www.edgeta.com)

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***Remaining Regional Shows - 2016***

**Northwest Regional, July 3-4, 2016  
Host – Branch 74 – Missoula, MT**

**North Central Regional, Aug. 19-21, 2016  
Host – Branch 79 -- Winfield, KS**

**Northeast Regional, September 16-18, 2016  
Host – Branch 162 -- New Manchester, WV**

**Southwest Regional, Oct. 15-16, 2016  
Host - Branch 209 – Visalia, CA**

**Southeast Regional, October 22, 2016  
Host - Branch 226 -- Hartselle, AL**

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***2017 National EDGETA Show  
& Meeting***

***June 8-10, 2017***

***Host – Branch 42 -- Fruitport,  
MI***

# 2016-17 Officers and Directors

**President & SE Director:**

George Christmas  
Term:2016-2019  
7327 N Hwy 501  
Latta, SC 29565  
(843) 392-0883  
(843) 392-0884 Fax  
E-Mail [in2batel@aol.com](mailto:in2batel@aol.com)

**NW Director:**

Dick Tombrink  
Term 2014-2017  
2250 North 12th Road  
Worden MT 59088  
(406) 967-6687 Voice  
E-Mail: [dicknsue@nemontel.net](mailto:dicknsue@nemontel.net)

**SC Director**

Clyde W. Brummett, Sr.  
Term Ends 2015-2018  
15762 Malone Road  
Gentry, AR 72734  
(479) 366-4883  
E-Mail  
[clydedt@centurylink.net](mailto:clydedt@centurylink.net)

**Vice President & SW Dir.:**

Don Young  
Term 2014-2017  
P.O. Box 635  
Pearblossom, CA 93553  
(661) 944-3229 Voice  
E-Mail  
[donsredtractor@hotmail.com](mailto:donsredtractor@hotmail.com)

**NE Director:**

Wayne Timchuk  
Term: 2016-2019  
P.O. Box 31  
New London, OH 44851  
(419) 929-8237 Voice  
(419) 929 8237 Fax  
E-Mail [stackhand69@aol.com](mailto:stackhand69@aol.com)

**Director At Large:**

Buster Brown  
Term 2015-2018  
5144 W. Clip Street  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
(928) 210-6751 Cell  
E-Mail:  
[busterbrown@hotairengines.com](mailto:busterbrown@hotairengines.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Carrie Jo Parmley  
15246 Seven League Road  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 360-0396  
E-Mail: [cjparmley2@gmail.com](mailto:cjparmley2@gmail.com)

**NC Director:**

Dorene Yearian  
Term 2015-2018  
P.O. Box 82  
Niangua, MO 65713  
(417) 473-6579 Voice  
E-Mail [trydiron@hughes.net](mailto:trydiron@hughes.net)

**NW Advisor :**

**Morrie Robinson**  
**National & Regional Show**  
**Coordinator**  
31445 Barben Rd.  
Sedro Wooley , WA 98284  
Phone 360-826-3782  
E-mail: [antiquetractor@yahoo.com](mailto:antiquetractor@yahoo.com)