

GAMTRA WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Well, that was another quick trip around the sun. Another year is almost in the books. And we're all another year older. Funny how time slips away. Time to enjoy some downtime & work on some of those projects that have been gathering dust in the back of the shop or do that maintenance you've been putting off. Don't forget to spend some time with the old timers in your life. I've lost some really good folks in the past year. If you've got a friend that's in their 80's or 90's that still has a clear mind, you've literally got a library at your disposal, take advantage of it! When they're gone you lose that option. As always have fun and BE SAFE!

Our next meeting, which will be our Christmas get-together, will be Thursday, December 7 at Jackson's Cafeteria in Gastonia @ 6:00. Also note that this is a two-month newsletter. Our January meeting will be back at the Citizens Resource Center in Dallas on Thursday, January 4 @ 6:00.

I went to the show in Carthage, NC for the first time this year. If you've never been it is definitely worth the trip. About a 3 hour drive from Stanley. It's really hard to comprehend how one family can accumulate such a collection. Multiple large buildings full of every kind of agricultural and mechanical antiques imaginable. For those of you who have been going to engine shows long enough to remember Big Edds show in Newton, NC, a lot of his stuff wound up there when he sold out. The only thing I thought was missing was there were very few antique and junk dealers, which are a staple (and much enjoyed part) of most of the shows in this area. It could be that we just didn't make it to the area they were set up as we didn't cover the whole place, there's just too much to see it all in one day.

The Florida Flywheelers Swap Meet is January 17-24 in Ft Mead, Florida. Here's a list of some local Christmas parades:

- Cramerton Dec7@4pm
- Cherryville Dec9@10:30am
- Lowell Dec9@4pm
- Dallas Dec10@3pm
- Stanley Dec13@3pm
- McAdenville Yule Log Celebration Dec14@5:30pm
- Ranlo Dec16@1pm
- Mt Holly Dec16@6pm.

And of course, the world-famous Cat Square Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 9 at 1pm. For those that have never been, this is one of the coolest

parades in NC. It's only loosely organized, for the most part it's "go to the end of the line and get in". They do put the horses and mules at the back so everyone doesn't have to walk through the horse and mule stuff, other than that it's mostly a free-for-all. If you go, go early as parking is usually a hassle and an unbelievable amount of traffic on two lane country roads not designed for it. Plan on being in traffic 'till dark if you go, but it's worth it!

Another interesting tradition for anyone new to the area is the Cherryville New Years Shooters. They start at midnight on New Years Day & travel the whole community shooting big guns & scaring off boogers and evil spirits. It obviously works as no boogers or evil spirits have ever been seen in the area. Always some interesting characters in that group too. Check 'em out if you've never been. Just go to Cherryville on New Year's Day & listen for the noise!

I have a confession to make. For more than 30 years I've made fun of all you guys (and girls) puttering around on those 'N' Ford tractors. Last week, I became the owner of one. Whether it was poetic justice, a complete lack of good judgment or just the desire to own one more piece of motorized machinery that's older than I am remains to be seen. I will make myself available for stick poking or the throwing of small rocks at the next meeting.

We've added quite a few to the email and snail mail list. Welcome to the fold! If you have anything you'd like published in the newsletter, need to change an address or just need a shoulder to cry on give me (Reggie) a call @ 704-263-2980. Keep trying till you get me. Also, if you know of any good junk stores, off the beaten path flea markets or anything else that might be enjoyed by our group let me know & I'll spread it around. One more thing, y'all help me out with any upcoming engine & tractor shows, swap meets or other gatherings of interest you know about.

Here's hoping everyone has a great Christmas and holiday season! Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things! Chill out, take plenty of naps, drink plenty of coffee, slow down, be nice to the checkout girls and waitresses, check on your elderly friends and neighbors and dance like no ones watching!

Reggie