

GAMTRA AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Summer greetings everyone! The heat and humidity of Carolina summer is upon us, as well as the height of show season, 'skeeter season and wasp and yellow jacket and poison oak season. Hope everyone gets to take in a few shows and festivals. Lots out there to see. Have fun and BE SAFE!

We've had 2 deaths in the GAMTRA family recently. Cleo "Coco" Oates, long time GAMTRA helper and wife of Johnny Oates, died June 23 in Gastonia. She was 83. Also, Wally Martin, longtime member and purveyor of unusual antique tools and other strange objects, died July 18. His sense of humor and odd stuff in his pockets will be sorely missed.

We will have our first annual tractor ride on September 21, 2024 (rain date September 28, 24) beginning at 8am @ North Gaston High School by the ball fields. Unload and line up on arrival, leaving the school at 9:00. Route will be Dallas-BC Rd, thru BC, and back through the country & back towards Dallas and NG. The planned route is approximately 23 miles. There's a few rules we need to adhere to to make this a safe outing for everyone. 1. All tractors must be able to maintain 10 MPH. 2. One rider per tractor unless you have an approved buddy seat. 3. Operator must have a valid drivers license. 4. Each tractor should carry a chain or tow strap in case of a breakdown. 5. If traveling alone, leave emergency contact info with a fellow rider. 6. Obey all traffic laws. 7. No horseplay. 8. No shortcuts, stick to the planned routes. 9. No passing unless absolutely necessary. 10. No alcohol. 11. All tractors must have an orange triangle on back. If you have any other questions give Jeff a call at 704-913-4672.

Lots of large and small happenings going on this month, here's a few.

August 3: Rock Springs Car and Truck Show in Denver, NC.

August 1-3: Robbins Farm Days in Robbins, NC

August 9&10: Spokes and Cleats Antique & Tractor Show in Turnersburg, NC.

August 14-17: 76th Annual Rough and Tumble Engineers Society's Threshermans Reunion in Kinzers, Pa.

August 17: Northbrook Antique Tractor Pullers Show in Vale, NC.

August 21-24: Tri State Gas Engine and Tractor Show in Portland, Indiana.

August 29-September 2: Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in Mt Pleasant, Iowa.

August 30-September 2: Annual Hillsville, Va Flea Market.

August 31-September 1: Dacusville Farm Show in Dacusville, SC and Old Fashion Farm Days in Siler City, NC.

Also, August 30-September 1 is the Earl Scruggs Music Festival in Mill Spring, NC.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 1 at the Beam Truck Museum at 111 N Mountain St in Cherryville at 6:00. A little bird told me that Small Town Kitchen, located at 1101 E Church St in Cherryville was a neat little place to eat supper. They're open till 9:00 so you can go before or after the museum. There are also numerous other restaurants, from plain to semi-fancy, located in the area.

Y'all continue to keep me up to date on any small local shows you know of. Also, any neat antique or junk stores you run across so I can share with the group.

Funny things to say during a colonoscopy. "Now I know how a Muppet feels." "Could you write a note to my wife saying you found no evidence of my head being up there?" "Any sign of the trapped miners, Doc?"

Thought for the day from Rev Stone. Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.