

# February Newsletter

## January Meeting Highlights

In preparation for 2016 there was some discussion on Committees & a Tentative Schedule of Events.

**Pulling:** Pulling Contracts will be sent out Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> to those Towns who committed to pulls last year. All those towns interested should request a pulling contract no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>. and the deadline to return the contract is May 1<sup>st</sup> to guarantee an available date. May 1<sup>st</sup> is also the deadline for ordering trophies and ribbons. Dates are filling up fast for our 2016 events so we encourage those wanting to have a pull to contact either the President, Keith Boulier (768-6911) or the Pulling Chairperson, Larry Bull (480-203-5898) to secure a date.

**2016 Restoration Project:** The crew have been busy every Saturday working on this year's Raffle Tractor, a 1941 Allis Chalmers C. It's going to be a "beauty" Many thanks goes to these guys for taking time out of there Saturdays to work on this project. One of their biggest "perks" to this project is all the joking around they do and even bigger all the goodies that Tami provides for them to chow down on. You're spoiling them all Tami!

Tickets are available for sale & can be picked up at the next meeting or by contacting any member.

Books of (6) tickets sell for \$5 each. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the organization: **C.A.N.C.E.R.**

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The 50/50 was won by Keith Boulier in the amount of \$63 and he donated it back to the club.

Our next meeting will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Washburn Snowmobile Club House. Anyone wanting to come for dinner should be there between 11am-1pm.

They can choose off the menu. Meeting will start at 2pm. Try to come for dinner and support the Snowmobile Club.

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## **Sending Cheery thoughts to:**

**Jane Bartlett who broke her arm.**

**Carolyn Cheney who was in the hospital for back issues**

John Miller who is still having severe back issues

**Feel better soon!**

**Annual Tractor Trek Update for 2016**

The 2016 Annual Memorial Tractor Trek Committee had their first planning meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Committee members are: Meredith & Phyllis Folsom, Tom & Diane Crawford, Mike Ehlermann & Jane West, Keith & Cheryl Boulier.

Date was confirmed for the Trek for **Sunday August 7, 2016.**

The route will start at the museum in Littleton and continue on several back country roads leading into Houlton and then progressing to RT#2 (Bangor Rd.) & then traveling towards Hodgdon and then back to the Littleton Museum. Plans are being confirmed for some “points of interest” stops along the way as well as breakfast & dinner breaks. We will continue with updates as they are confirmed.

Our members and friends from P.E.I. plan to be with us again this year on our Trek and to save those lugging tractors that long distance we are asking those members here who would be willing, to allow these members to use one of their tractors for the day of the Trek. They in turn are willing to do the same for any of our members who wish to go on one of their Treks. Closer to the time of our Trek I will have a number of tractors needed. I assured them that getting enough tractors would not be a problem.

Over the years we have tried to vary our locations for the Trek so this enables all our members' whiter they be in the Valley, Central Aroostook or Southern Aroostook which could include our members South of Houlton to participate in the Trek and not always have to travel long distances to the starting point.

As always **our goal** with our Trek each year is to **raise funds to support Hospice Services here locally in Aroostook County.** All donations received will be divided between Hospice of Aroostook and The Aroostook House of Comfort.

**Our Memory Board** which is mounted on Richard Rand (member) awesome antique farm truck will be our led vehicle in the Trek. Those who wish can have a name/names of a loved one placed on the memory board for a **\$25 donation per name. More information on the Memory Board will be available in upcoming Newsletters.**

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**Mark your calendars!!**

**The West Prince Tired Iron Antique Tractor Club from P.E.I.**

Are having a tractor trek on July 10<sup>th</sup> and wanted to invite our club to join them this year. They are willing to provide any tractors needed. Keith & I plan to go this year and encourage any of our members who are able to join them this year on their Trek. I'm sure it will be a fun filled day for sure! We have so enjoyed them joining us for the past several years in our Trek and it would be nice to support them this year.

**Updates on the club website:** I'm in the process of getting the updates done for our club website and should have them done on or before Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. This will include the tentative events schedule for 2016, pulling rule changes, Trek info, Annual Raffle info and Scholarship information. Please keep checking the site for updates.

[www.nmatc.org](http://www.nmatc.org)

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**Agri-Business Trade Fair:** Dates for 2016 are: **April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Our club will be having two booths again this year and plan to promote our 2016 Raffle Tractor which is a 1941 Allis Chalmers. We want to do the booths in mostly (Orange) to promote Allis Chalmers. We are looking for items to display in the booth like old manuals, tin signs, clothing etc. Please let me know if any of you members may have something we can use. We also plan to promote where part of the proceeds are going this year from our raffle which is the group: **C.A.N.C.E.R.** This group of very caring people are dedicated in supporting those going through the many challenges involved with fighting cancer right here locally. They depend on donations in order to do all they do.

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Keith and I wanted to inform our members that both he & I will be stepping down from our positions as President and Secretary next year. We hope to be able to phase out of some responsibilities during this year so it will make the transition easier for whoever will take our place.

Please know we are not leaving the club in anyway and will still be here to lend a hand but just not as Officers anymore.

This is a decision we made together as we feel it's time for someone else to step up and be involved in these two positions. Change is always a good thing and brings new ideas and allows others to be a part of helping to oversee the operations of our club and its members.

I would like to see Keith be able to pull his tractors this year and not always feel he needs to be at the forefront of keeping things running okay all the time. I will also enjoy just being on the sidelines cheering him on and taking pictures.

I have started the process of recruiting members to help take over a lot of the responsibilities I have now with several committees as well as my role at the pulls. I

will continue my basic Secretary duties till the end of the year and hopefully by then have the Secretary Position one that is not as overwhelming as it is now.

Keith plans to do the same with his position as President. He too will be phasing out of some responsibilities on committees and at the pulls.

I'm trying to compile good notes and up to date files as well for whoever takes over our positions. We are hoping by informing everyone now of our decision that we can gradually make the transition come election time an easier one for everyone.

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**Needs:** In the process of trying to delegate some of our responsibilities we are looking for members to please help in the following things. We want to do this early on this year so it is not a huge transition at the end of the year.

**Pulling:** Need someone to help on the registration table for the pulls which includes, registration of pullers, announcing, recording distances pulled, membership dues/insurance, selling Raffle Tickets. After the pulls the pulling results needs to be typed up so it can be posted on the club site.

**Points for pulling:** This something that I keep during the pulling season on a excel spread sheet and at the end of the pulling season will need to be tabulated and totals done in order to determine the Top Pullers and Runner-Ups as well. This in turn is needed in order to place the order for the License Plates given out at the Awards Banquet. We will need a volunteer for this as well.

**Club Trailer Transportation:** This is something Keith has done and also made sure that everything needed is in the trailer for each pull. In order for him to be able to pull this year he needs to be able to haul his tractors to each pull which means he can't haul the club trailer as well. So there will need to be someone to take over this job for each pull this year.

**2016 Raffle Tickets:** Need someone to keep these tickets and make them available at all meetings and pulling events etc. along with enough Petty Cash to make change. Those sold will need to be kept in a suitable container till the Awards Banquet when we have our drawing.

**Committees:** We need (3) more people to help on the Awards Banquet Committee with the overall planning. I have offered to stay this year in the capacity of Chairperson but just to help oversee what needs to be done overall and hope to be able to delegate most of my other responsibilities for that night like announcing, helping with the awards, auction, setup, to those on the committee and then next year the committee can appoint a new Chairperson. I will still support by cooking things for the auction and with cleanup but other than that hope to be able to relax and visit during the evening behind the scenes.

**Annual Trade Show:**

I will help with setup this year at the annual Trade Show but will need a new Chairperson for that event another year. Again I will leave notes on all that needs to

be done for this event to whoever would like to volunteer to head this up another year.

**Annual Tractor Trek:** We have a great committee on board for this year's Trek and Keith & I will stay active on this committee for this year but will need someone either on the Committee or a member to Chair this Committee another year.

Both Keith & I plan to still take care of our basic duties of our Offices till the end of this year but need to down size our involvement in certain areas listed above before then.

**Fair Week: (Museum)** Our club has an agreement with the Fair that we will be there all (8) days with enough volunteers to take care of the museum as well as offer tractor train rides and also a display and demonstrations. This takes a lot of planning and also the need for several volunteers. But in exchange we get to store all our club equipment which includes our truck, trailer, tractor train and much more totally free of charge which is a huge benefit to our club. I also hope to be able to delegate some of these responsibilities as well another year to the museum committee.

I plan to stay involved in taking care of the Tractor Train overall as I really enjoy working with the kids. I will also keep the website updated as well as the club FB page and willing to still do the monthly newsletter.

Keith and I both love this club and have enjoyed being a part of helping to make it successful along with our many members support. We are not leaving the club and will still be there to support all we can.

We felt to notify all you members early on this year so we can better plan how to make the needed changes gradually this year instead of trying to do this all at once at the end of the year.

We really appreciate all those who have already offered to help and hope others will be willing to step up as well. **Thank You! Keith & Cheryl**

**Found this an interesting picture of a bit of history with Snowmobile Races at the Northern Maine Fair Grounds. Not sure of the year??**

