

Northern Maine Antique Tractor Club July Newsletter

Summer is here!



Highlights from the June Meeting

Our June meeting was held at James Pelletier's camp on Pelletier Island. We want to thank James and his crew for the delicious Pig Roast. Complete with his famous Grapenut Ice Cream. It has become an annual event that we all look forward to.

Plans were discussed for the upcoming club events in July and August as there will be **no meeting in July**.

The following events will be taking place in July.

July 2nd Limestone Pull Time: 11am Location: Albert Michaud Park
Contact person is: Jon Poitras @ 325-4028

July 16th Fort Fairfield Pull Time: 3pm Location: Farm Park
Contact person: Phil Kilcollins @ 473-7830

July 17th Fort Fairfield Display Time: 8am-6pm. Location: Across the river on the
On the right.

We will be giving train rides as well.

Volunteers for drivers are: **Charlie Currier 8am-11am**
Keith Boulier 8am-11am

Need (2) more volunteers to ride caboose and help with the kids.

Drivers: **Keith Boulier & Chris Langille 11am-3pm** Cheryl (Caboose)

Need (1) more person to help ride caboose 11am-3pm

Drivers: **Dwayne Dow 2-6pm** Caboose Lynn & Cheryl (**Need one more driver**)

Please call me and let me know if you can help. 227-0749

August Events

The Fair this year will only be (8) days, starting Saturday, July 30th-Aug.6th. Our club will be doing the drag saw demo what days we have volunteers. We will also be selling Raffle Tickets.

We will not be operating our Tractor Train this year at the Fair due to recent insurance mandates that state our train only has coverage at our own club sponsored events, such as: Display in Fort Fairfield, Balloon Fest & in Washburn at their celebration. This means that where ever we have a pull or we sponsor a display as in Fort Fairfield, then our train is covered but it will not be covered at events such as, Easton Field Days, Mars Hill Annual Celebration, Houlton Festival or the Fair as these events are not sponsored by us as a club.

We feel these changes have come from the State level due to the hay wagon accident in Southern Maine. Although we have gone to great lengths over the years to make sure our train is safe and this year Tom Berube had the Fire Marshall inspect our train and we received a letter from the state stating it had passed, we still cannot get any insurance coverage. It was suggested we ask these communities if they would put us on their policy as an additional insured and they all refused. Unfortunately it is the case that a few, who do not have adequate safety measures, penalize people like our club who are running our train safely.

In order to get coverage on our own the premium would be between \$500-\$1000 and for only (3) months of operation of our train, this just isn't cost affective for us as a club to do. So as disappointing as it has been to these communities and to us as a club, we have to follow insurance guidelines.

So I have enclosed the Fair Volunteer Schedule for you all to review and I have taken the names off that volunteered for the train. But as you can see we still need help on some days to sell Raffle Tickets and run the drag saw and help with the museum as well. So please look over the schedule and let me know where you can fill in. I will need to know before July 25th as that is when I will be requesting all Fair passes for those who are helping.

If you sign up to help and can't make it please let me know so I'm not left shorthanded. Also if you review the schedule you will see we only have a very few members overall helping during Fair week and it takes more than that. Giving an hour or two to share the load is not a lot to ask. People need breaks that are helping long hours, so come by and offer to give some a break to go eat or a bathroom break.

Fair Continued

Please remember: We are able to store all our equipment in the museum free of charge which means a lot to our club overall so the tradeoff is that we commit as a club to help Fair week put on a display, demonstrations and answer questions visitors have about the museum and the items in it. So please try to help out Fair week so a few don't have to cover (8) days of the Fair.

In preparation for Fair week another part of our commitment is making sure the museum is clean and well organized. I'm planning on purchasing cement cleaner and the entire floor in the museum will need to be cleaned which hasn't been done since it was built. It needs it badly! I do not want to wait to do this a week before Fair so I'm setting a date of: **Saturday, July 9th starting at 10am to clean the museum from top to bottom.** Things will need to be moved in order to clean so we need (men) doing this. There is also a lot of general cleaning to be done like glass display cases etc. So those who can commit to help please let me know soon. If anyone is able to provide a fork lift it would be most helpful in moving some items.

Annual Tractor Trek

Our annual Memorial Tractor Trek will be held on **Sunday, August 7th** starting at the Museum in Littleton on Rt#1. Registration will start at 8:am and there will be coffee, donuts & muffins to start us all off on our journey.

All those planning to participate in the trek must have their dues and insurance paid. This can also be done the morning of the Trek. **Total cost is: \$30.** We will be leaving the museum around 9am and traveling a short distance on Rt#1 and will turn left onto the Station Rd. and continue on other country roads into the Rest Stop by Wal-Mart in Houlton where we will take a bathroom break.

We will continue from there on Rt#1 into Houlton and then to Rt#2 down to Hodgdon. There we will be stopping for our dinner break at Tom Quint's Farm. Tom will also be giving us a tour of his Dairy Operation.

Then we will head back on Rt#1 South a short distance, and turn onto the White Settlement Rd. and then continue on several other country roads and will be stopping in Houlton for an Ice Cream at Houlton Farms Dairy. Then back to the museum. A total of 37 miles.

Memory Board: The Memory Board this year will need to be completely done over as we need a fresh look for the names posted. So in order to get this done in time for the trek I will need to start working on it soon as the month of July is extremely busy for me with family commitments, Fair week and the other club events, plus a much needed vacation for Keith & I both, so I would appreciate it so very much if you could respond to the email I will be sending out next week with the list of names that was on the memory board last year, to whiter you would like the same names this year or if you would like any changes or new names added. I don't necessarily need your money right now but do need to know what names you want for the Memory Board.

This year I will be also putting the name of the person who is making the donation for each name, unless you would prefer not to.

For those new members who have not participated in the trek before, we hold his Trek each year to raise funds to support our local Hospice Care. All funds raised are split between **Hospice of Aroostook and The Aroostook House of Comfort**. Two local agencies that are committed to end of life care.

We have a memory board that has all the names of those we wish to remember and for each name we collect a \$25 donation. This memory board is mounted on an antique farm truck owned by member Richard Rand and it is the led vichele in our trek. Please help us to support these very worthy Hospice Care Providers. You will be helping a family right her locally with the many struggles they face with end of life care.

This is a fun day for our club members and also our way of supporting a very worthy cause.

Fort Kent Pull

We are pleased to be able to have an antique tractor pull in Fort Kent his year on **Saturday, August 13th at 10am**. There is a new location this year for the pull. It is an area between Market Street and Fish River. John Bouchard is heading up the pull and I'm sure he will have some sort of sign or tractor by the road for a landmark for you to find the location. If you have any problem finding the location please either call John for directions at: 279-1832 or Cheryl at: 227-0749

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Our August meeting will be **on August 14th at the Museum on the Fair grounds**. Meeting starts at 2pm.

We have Tractor Train Rides scheduled in Washburn on **August 20th**, not sure of times yet but will need volunteers to help out. If you live in Washburn and are a member of our club please try to volunteer to help, even an hour would be helpful. Please let me know ahead of time if you can help and when as I need to know how many are committed to be there. We will need tractor drivers as well as help with the caboose and keeping things organized with the kids.

Our Annual Washburn Fest Antique Tractor Pull will be on August 21st at 11am.

Location: Road leading into the snow mobile club house.

August 27th Will be our pull at the Fair Grounds for the Crown of Maine Balloon Festival. Pull starts at 1pm We will also be giving Tractor Train Rides as well. There will be more discussion on this event at the August Meeting.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Russell Bugbee (member) who passed away on June 20th. Russell was best known for his years of operating the (Blue Ox) as they called his pulling sled at many Modified Pulls thru out the State and Canada. For the past two years he has headed up a Tractor Rodeo at the Northern Maine Fair which our club members have had a lot of fun being a part of and participating in as well. He will be missed. In keeping with our club remembering those members who have passed away, Russell's name will be added to the Memory Board on our pulling sled.



Our Congratulations to Members Paul & Judy Boulier on their recent wedding celebration held on June 25th in the back lawn of their new home in Fort Fairfield.

We wish you much happiness!

