

# RUMORS & RUST

## The Newsletter of the Western Michigan Old Engine Club : APRIL 2019

### CLUB EVENTS SCHEDULE: APRIL

7– Monthly meeting, 4pm, Optimist Building  
 15– Newsletter deadline  
 27 – Garden tractor dead-boat pull, 10am  
 27 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull, 1pm  
 28 – Antique tractor pull, 10am

### OFFICERS FOR 2019

President – Ed McCumber– 231-845-6771  
 Vice President – Fred Silvis– 231-757-2514  
 Secretary – Diane Swider - 231-845-0286  
 Treasurer – Sharon McCumber-231-898-3518

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

Carl Wiegand (1 years)  
 Tom Alway ( 2 years)  
 Mike Peters- (3 year)  
 Show Chairman - Bruce Patterson  
 Education Day Chairman –  
 Mari Olmstead  
 Grounds Chairman – Doug Rollenhagen & Ed  
 McCumber  
 Doug Rollenhagen - Advertising  
 Ray Edel- acquisitions committee chairman  
 Tom McCumber / Aubrey Quick-safety directors

December 9,2018

West Michigan Old Engine Club Monthly Meeting Minutes

Ed McCumber - President

Doug Rollenhagen – Vice President

Sharon McCumber – Treasurer

Diane Swider – Secretary

President Ed McCumber asked Bruce Patterson to give the blessing over the food. After the meal the meeting was called to order, the pledge of allegiance was recited.

The minutes were read by Diane Swider. A motion was made by Lowell Baker to accept the minutes as read. 2nd by Karen Rogner, Motion carried.

Sharon McCumber reviewed the monthly income and expenses on the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Estelle Stickney to accept the report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom McCumber, motion carried.

Ed McCumber reported that The West Michigan Old Engine Club was named volunteer of the year by White Pine Village. The Plaque received will be on display in the pavilion in the glass case outside of the kitchen.

Sharon reported that Doug Rollenhagen, Dick Alway and Ed McCumber had collectively donated over \$800 towards the storage/fire building.

Bruce Patterson reported the annual show went well.

Doug Rollenhagen – Grounds.

1<sup>st</sup> work bee will be April 10<sup>th</sup> weather permitting.

Every piece of machinery was running this at the show which has not happened in quite a while. He thanked everyone that helped make that happen.

The fire department and storage building are pretty much done they just need some finishing touches.

Doug Rollenhagen made a motion to name the fire department The Alway Fire Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Silvis, motion carried.

In April Doug would like to hand out a survey on what we want to do with the kitchen.

The plan is to salvage some of the items from the junk pile in the spring.

Any donations of items should go through Ray Edel, Mike Peters or Dick Alway.

Please don't just drop stuff off at the grounds.

The gate locks have been changed. See Doug about keys if you need one.

Tom Alway reported that the website is still up and running.

Ed reported the Mike Peters 3-year term is up in December. Ed appointed Mike for another 3-year term as a director.

The next meeting will be April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 4 pm at the Optimist hall.

Lunch committee is Patterson, Cooper and Hayes.

Donations were taken to give the Optimist for the use of the hall.

## Service awards

10 years to: Joe and Marilyn Joes, Wayne and Ann Voss, Dennis and Penny Gutschke, Bill and Beth Baxter, Kyle and Rebekah Jacobson, and Dick and Judy Husted.

30 years to Mike Peters.

40 years to Lane and Rosemary Cooper and Dick and Carol Alway.

The trophies were given out for garden tractors and antique tractors.

A reminder that we have information on the website about Friends of the old engine club.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Hardenburgh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Silvis.

Submitted by Diane Swider

### **Note from Ed McCumber**

Greetings to all. I hope that all had a great holiday season and a good winter. Its time to start preparing for another busy year. Included in this newsletter is a project list for 2019. The list is long and will need lots of people to help get it completed. If you see a project that you can help on or take on yourself please let our grounds chairman know. Our grounds chairman for this year is Doug Rollenhagen and his number is 269-209-1538. Also if any projects are started that require club funds that money needs to be approved before they are started. All projects on the grounds go through the grounds chairman no exceptions. I look forward to seeing everyone at our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Scottville Optimist hall 4:00P.

The garden tractor pullers are looking for a garden tractor to be used as a push back tractor for the transfer sled, preferably a hydrostat. If you have one that you would be willing to donate contact Max Gable 231-690-9150

The club is also in need of Cedar logs to use in the shingle mill.

### **For Sale**

For sale: 1965 Cub Cadet 100 pulling tractor. Currently has a Kohler 12hp engine, will come with the original Kohler 10hp engine that came from the factory. Cut tires, weight box, aluminum clutch. \$1,250.00 OBO contact Ed McCumber 231-239-4026

### **Sympathy**

Hegedus, Andrew J. III Montague Andrew J. "Andy" Hegedus III, 56, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, February 23, 2019. He was born January 20, 1963 to Andrew and Nancy (Stein) Hegedus II in Muskegon and was a life resident of West Michigan. Andy worked at Howmet for the last 35 years. His hobby was restoring antique farm engines and he was a member of the W. Michigan Old Engine club in Scottville for 35 years. He was life and board member of the VFW Post 3256 Auxiliary in Montague, belonged to the Fox Lake Gun Club and was an avid duck hunter. Andy could repair and build almost anything that was metal, and he loved his antique 1925 Ford Model TT truck. He was an Eagle Scout and a graduate of the 100 plus year old White Lake Yacht Club Sailing School. Survivors include his father, Andrew Hegedus II; his brother: Steven Deborah (Eischer) Hegedus; nieces: Lauren and Madison; exchange student siblings: Anya and Ralf; and numerous extended family. He was preceded in death by his mother: Nancy Jo (Stein) Hegedus, in 2016. In accordance with his wishes, there will be no services. You may visit the family's online guestbook at [www.sytsemaf.com](http://www.sytsemaf.com). Contributions in Andy's memory may be made to the Montague VFW Post 3256. Arrangements by The Sytsema Chapel, 737 Apple Ave., (231) 726-5210.

Cards may be addressed to Andy Hegedus, II at 7226 Hancock Road Montague, MI 49437

## Projects for WMOEC grounds in 2019

- 1.reverse kahlenburg building g doors
1. Redcoat main section of sawmill roof
2. Add shelves in store
3. Rebuild loading docks
4. Rework Buzz Rig controls (safety)
5. Enclose machine shop engine
6. Clean up beyond gas pump
7. Take scrap to Padnos
8. Plexiglass around announcer booth on track
9. Rebuild lower announcer booth closure
10. Install 2 doors announcer booth
11. Rehang doors scale house
12. Make steam barn windmill operational
13. Paint picnic tables
14. Finish rebuild on Teds stump grinder
15. Electrical fire Dept.
16. Electrical record room
17. Finish trim o fire Dept and record room
18. Grade all roadways
19. Repair radiator and hood JD tractor
20. Repair shifter on fork lift
21. Remove items behind steam barn and fill woodchuck damage
22. Clean mouse droppings in grainery
23. Install mats under implements on grounds
24. Rebuild 2 wagons
25. Repair hit and miss engines in grainery
26. Change oil and lube all rolling stock
27. Change oil and lube all stationary machines as needed
28. Clean belt drums sawmill
29. Replace slipping belts sawmill
30. Finish electrical upgrade east transformer

These are some of the projects we have identified to do in 2019. We will be working on Wednesday as usual and can schedule other times if anyone would like to help. Contact Doug Rollenhagen for more information.



## WMOEC BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY LIST APRIL 2019

LARRY & BABETTE	BAKER	APR
MARSHA	BRATSCHI	APR
DAVE	BRATSCHI	APR
DUANE & LESLIE	COOPER	APR
DOUG	DAMKOEHLER	APR
RAY	EDEL	APR
CHUCK	EISENLOHR	APR
JAKE	FISCHER	APR
JEFF	GULLIVER	APR
RAY	HALL, JR.	APR
KEN	HANSEN	APR
ANDY II	HEGEDUS	APR
JOE & MARILYN	JOAS	APR
MIKE	KESON	APR
BOB & BETTY	KRAN, JR.	APR
LEO	MAJESKI	APR
BYRON	MILLER	APR
KEN & SUE	PURDY	APR
LARRY	ROGNER	APR
SHARON	RUBA	APR
BILL & TERRI	STAKENAS	APR
SCOTT & MEGAN	TERBEEK	APR
PEACHES	THROCKMORTON	APR
WAYNE	VAHS	APR

### NEWSLETTER NOTE:

Newsletter: We have offered up an email for the newsletter instead of getting it mailed or seeing it on the web-site. This will save the club on postage and supplies and time for making it. We have had about 12 people change to the email form. Thank you club members to help save money for the club. If you want to change, please email [sharonmccumber@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonmccumber@yahoo.com) to make this happen.

### SOMETHING'S TO KNOW:

If you have items that you would like posted on the club's website or Face book page such as club event photos, items for sale, club announcements, etc, please email them to

[oldengineclub@gmail.com](mailto:oldengineclub@gmail.com).

The club would all so like for someone to take photos to be put on the web page and face book pages , so we can have some new pictures to update the site with.

### APPRECIATION NOTE:

“The Western Michigan Old Engine Club would like to thank the businesses and individuals who provided sponsorship to us for 2019. Your support is greatly appreciated.”

**PLEASE remember to patronize our advertisers!!**

### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

W.M.O.E.C. dues for 2019 are \$20.00. Please Mail dues to: WMOEC 5443 S. Custer Rd. Custer Mi. 49405

You may also pay in person at the club meetings. If your 2019 dues are not paid by show time your membership and newsletters will stop.

Mike DeRooy – Newsletter Editor –  
269-673-5988 [mderooy@yahoo.com](mailto:mderooy@yahoo.com)

# Western Michigan Old Engine Club 2019 Calendar

## March

15 – Newsletter deadline

## April

7– Monthly meeting, 4pm, Optimist Building

15– Newsletter deadline

27 – Garden tractor dead-boat pull, 10am

27 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull, 1pm

28 – Antique tractor pull, 10am

## May

5– Monthly meeting, 4pm, Optimist Building  
15– Newsletter deadline

18 – Garden tractor dead-boat pull, 10am

18 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull, 1pm

23 – Spring Swap Meet setup day

24 – Spring Swap Meet

25 – Spring Swap Meet

25 – Antique tractor pull, 10am

## June

2 – Monthly meeting, 7pm, Show Grounds

15– Newsletter deadline

15– Antique tractor pull, 10am

29 – Garden tractor dead-boat pull, 10am

29 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull, 1pm

## July

7– Monthly meeting, 7pm, Show Grounds

13– Antique tractor pull, 10am

15– Newsletter deadline

20 – Garden tractor dead-boat pull, 10am

20 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull, 1pm

28– Monthly meeting (for August), 7pm,  
Show Grounds

## August

1– 45<sup>th</sup> Annual show, 9am to 6pm

2– 45<sup>th</sup> Annual show, 9am to 6pm

3– 45<sup>th</sup> Annual show, 9am to 6pm

4– 45<sup>th</sup> Annual show, 9am to 2pm

4– Antique tractor pull, 10am

8 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull @

Western Michigan Fair Grounds, 7pm

24 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull @

Oceana County Fair Grounds, 12noon

25– Monthly meeting (for September)  
and potluck dinner, 5pm, Show Grounds

## September

7 – Antique tractor pull, 10am

14 – Garden tractor dead-boat pull, 10am

14 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull,

1pm 15– Newsletter deadline

18– Education Day

## October

5 – Garden tractor dead-boat pull, 10am

5 – Garden tractor transfer sled pull, 1pm

6– Monthly meeting and election of officers,

4pm, Optimist building

12 – Antique tractor pull, 10am

## November

3– Monthly meeting 4pm, Optimist building

15– Newsletter deadline

## December

8– Monthly meeting & Christmas party,

2pm, Optimist building

NOTE: All tractor pulls take place at the WMOEC  
show grounds unless otherwise indicated

All dates and times are subject to change. Check  
the website for the current schedule

## Mason County's John Deere dealerships

People who know the Alway, know that they are pretty loyal to John Deere. Dick Alway, and grandfather, Tom Alway, started a John Deere dealership in 1966 in Amber Township, which Dick owned until the late '80s. In addition, Dick has restored and owns over 30 antique John Deere tractors.

While doing some research at the Mason County Historical Society's research library, Rob came across an article in the March 22, 1972 edition of the Mason County Press weekly newspaper: "1972 Marks Half Century" (of John Deere dealerships in Mason County).

Before we go on, I do recognize that there certainly are other tractor brands and that Mason County certainly has had its share of a variety of great tractor dealerships. But, given that today is John Deere's birthday (Feb. 7, 1804 – May 17, 1886), I thought we would just concentrate on the green today.

The first John Deere dealership in Mason County was owned by Thomas D. Smith of Scottville in 1922. T.D. Smith operated a hardware store in what is now the building that occupies the Scottville Area Senior Center, 140 S. Main St. According to local historian George C. Wilson, the building had a front portico which allowed vehicles to pull in. Next door, to the south, Smith operated a Ford dealership at 142 S. Main St. That Ford dealership later became Smith and Widmark, then just Widmark. More recently, the building has been Cox's Sales & Service and will soon become Ray Scholtens Plumbing. Smith

Deere & Co.'s first tractor was the Waterloo Boy, which it purchased from the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company of Waterloo, Iowa in 1918. The Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company was the first company to manufacture and sell gasoline powered farm tractors. The company was created by John Froelich in 1893 and was originally named the Waterloo Gasoline Traction Engine Company. Froelich invented the first practical gasoline-powered tractor, and the new company was given the opportunity to manufacture and sell the tractor Froelich designed.

That first tractor was not successful commercially, and of the four tractors built by the company only two were purchased, and were later returned to the company by unsatisfied customers. In 1895, the company was sold to John W. Miller and renamed the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company. Miller decided to stop producing tractors and instead focus on building plain gasoline engines. The company began to again manufacture tractors in 1911, but did not sell them until 1913 when 20 Waterloo Boy tractors were produced. In 1914, the company launched the Model R Waterloo Boy and sold over 8,000 before the line was discontinued in 1923. In 1916, the company introduced the Model N. Ironically, the model R and Model N both burned kerosene instead of gasoline.

In 1918, Deere & Company of Moline, Ill., which had only made farm equipment, purchased the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company for \$2.1 million and continued to sell tractors under the Waterloo Boy name until 1923 when the John Deere Model D was introduced. The Model D was manufactured until 1953.

When Smith Hardware began its franchise in 1922, John Deere only sold farm implements. According to the MCP article, Beecher Kaye of Custer Township was the first Mason County farmer in Mason County to purchase a John Deere Model D from Smith Hardware. In the 1972 article, the Kaye farm had been recently sold to James Chase.

"Joe Selner, Riverton, August Ohse, Custer, and C.K. Hansen in Amber each purchased a new John Deere Model GP (general purpose) from Smith Hardware," the article stated.

In 1930, the John Deere dealership was transferred to a new partnership, Olsen and Smedberg. Hjalmer Smedberg, one of the partners, had been a farmer in Amber Township. The dealership was located on Main Street in Custer. Olsen and Smedberg sold their first John Deere tractor to Clarence Rinebolt of Riverton Township.

Olsen left the dealership in 1935 and it became known as H. Smedberg & Son. Smedberg was assisted by his son, Leonard, and son-in-law Art Hemmer. They built a new store on US 10 west of Custer.

In 1966, the franchise was transferred to my grandfather, Tom, and my father, Dick, who operated the dealership, Alway's Implement Company, at our family's poultry farm and hatchery located on Johnson Road between Amber and Stiles roads in Amber Township. My grandfather and my grandmother, Helen, had operated the farm since 1936. My dad had been discharged from the Air Force in 1965 and returned home to help his parents run the farm. For those familiar with the dealership, the original office and shop were located adjacent to the hatchery building. In 1968, the showroom and shop were moved the easterly 186-foot long building which once housed hundreds of chickens.

In the mid-80s, Deere & Co. started expanding its lawn and garden franchises while cutting down on the agricultural franchises. The effort created a saturation in the lawn and garden market and large regional agricultural dealerships. Since closing down the dealership, Dick continued to tractor and equipment operate a repair business, which is now owned by my brother (his son), Rick. The majority of the tractors serviced at Alway's Service Center are still John Deere, and many were purchased at the dealership.

*A brief biography of John Deere, according to Wikipedia. Deere was born on Feb. 7, 1804 in Rutland, Vt. At the age of 17 he began his blacksmith apprenticeship. Eventually, he and his wife, Demarius (Lamb), made their way to Grand Detour, Ill. Deere discovered that cast iron plows were not working in the hard prairie soil. He came to the conclusion that a plow made of highly polished steel and a correctly shaped moldboard would be better able to handle the soil on the prairie.*

*He developed the first successful cast-steel plow in 1837. By 1841, he was manufacturing 75 to 100 plows a year. In 1848, he moved the operation to Moline, Ill. where the company has based ever since. A member of the Deere family remained chairman of the company's board of directors until the 1980s.*