

# **NEWSLETTER**

*Early Day Tractor & Iron, Inc., Hesperia, CA 92345 - [www.EarlyDayTractorIron.org](http://www.EarlyDayTractorIron.org)*

February 2019 – Volume 06, Issue 02

## **President's Message**

Gary Provansal

Well everyone has been complaining that we have been experiencing climate change and warming, we are experiencing a drought.....guess we asked for it and we now have the cold weather, rain, and snow. What fun now we can complain there is too much water and it's too cold. I know it has been too cold to work in the shop or at least it is giving me an excuse. But... there is always a but with excuses...it won't be long till I must have some things running!!!

Guess we all should get busy for the coming season, it will be here before we know it. Unlike the TV commercial by a major bank, I won't ask you what is in your wallet, but I will ask you what's in your tank? I don't think that, as one gasoline manufacturer used to say, put a "tiger in your tank" is what is in there!!! What is really in there??? sludge, water, dust and dirt. How does that happen??? We have run our engines in very dusty locations so there is the dust and dirt. Our "new" gas has alcohol in it to lower some of the emissions and unfortunately gives us less fuel mileage, but it does other things. The new fuels with alcohol in it does not age well. Alcohol seeks water and it condenses it into the fuel from the air vent, the water goes to the bottom of the tank where our fuel picks it up, so it gets into the fuel system, carburetors, etc. forming rust and the Alcohol dissolves our rubber fuel lines causing even more contamination. Alcohol also eats the metal of the old carburetors so what ran fine in October won't run well if at all in May. What should we do?

The first thing you should do is buy some fuel stabilizer, sold at the auto parts store and treat all your fuel. The new fuel contaminates faster due to moisture and its corrosive to some of our fuel systems eating pot metal and other parts of the carburetor, the stabilizer helps on both counts. We need to keep an eye on our fuel tanks to see if they are rusting and pumping rust into the carburetors. Install fuel filters where you can to prevent this. If your tank is going bad with rust, there is a tank sealer available on eBay that you can coat the inside of the tank to prevent this. You will need to clean the tank before coating the tank, I use BBs in the tank with solvent and shake the heck out of it to dislodge the

rust prior to treating the tank. Remember to treat the fuel in your fuel cans that you bring the gas home in, the same thing is going on in there.

**PLEASE READ THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING!**

There is a lot of important information there. The dues are due by the next meeting in March; the amount has been INCREASED by 27 dollars to cover EDGETA. With the increase and our additional insurance. I know it is a big jump, but for the price of a tank of gas we can relax a little regarding our potential liabilities while we are out there having fun for another year. Your Board is working very hard to make sure we are well covered, and all the loop holes are covered. There will be more follow up discussed at the next meeting. Thank you for all you do and making our time together fun for all of us.

Yours in-service,

Gary Provansal

\*\*\*\*\*

***"Before anything else,  
preparation is the key to success."  
- Mark Twain***

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Vice President's Message**

Grant Gemel

I am going to try to enjoy the next couple of months off, but we have had an unusually cold and wet winter. Which is slowing down all my ambitious plans to paint and upgrade my equipment. However, I still plan to make equipment repairs and encourage everyone to do the same in a safe manner. So, when our event season starts, we will all be ready.

I appreciate all the support of the membership and look forward to a great year!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Grant Gemel

## Meeting Minutes

### Board members present:

Gary Provansal, Paul Dunn, Etta Dunn, Grant Gemel.

**Absent:** L.T. Burks, Barbara Gemel.

**Call to Order:** Gary Provansal

**Flag Salute:** Led by Lance Wilson

**Gary Provansal:** Gary welcomed everyone and wished a happy anniversary to Roger and Nikki Kendel. Gary said that we are all looking forward to a great year and any suggestions are not only welcome but encouraged.

**Grant Gemel:** Told everyone to enjoy the time off this winter. Suggesting that everyone repair their equipment and be ready for our busy schedule later in the season. Our sincere condolences to Bob Cushman for the loss of his wife due to a long fight with cancer in January.

**Treasurers Report:** Etta said that our total balance this month is \$2,816.23 with no outstanding debts.

**Safety:** Gary asked what the speed limit is while towing a trailer? 55mph is the correct answer, even if the trailer is not loaded! What lane should you be in? The right answer is the right lane, you do have the right to pass in the second to the right lane, but you need to remember the speed limit is 55 even if you are passing someone.

Thank you, folks for taking safety personally and seriously. Remember if you have any safety concerns, please contact L.T. Burks, myself or any board member.

### Unfinished Business:

We will continue to monitor EDGETA'S plan to provide participant insurance to the membership in the upcoming year. We will not make any changes in our policy coverage until such time as we have an opportunity to evaluate the coverage that will be provided by EDGETA to assure our members proper protection.

**By-law amendments:** Discussion on membership fee due to insurance cost. Change By-Laws to reflect membership costs beginning in 2019 to be raised by 22 dollars all categories. This is to pay for the new insurance. NOTE: We (your board) will place a hold on the By-Law changes until we review the EDGETA policy.

EDGETA has published the letter concerning their plans to provide insurance to our membership covering fellow members against each other as well as participants not participating as a member but participating in the same event such as a parade. We will provide a copy of the letter in our newsletter. This will NOT result in any changes regarding our insurance at this time. When the new EDGETA policy becomes available, we will consider our options.

### New Business:

A discussion was held regarding our new dues for 2019. The new dues will be \$57.00 this will cover EDGE&TA's insurance and our private insurance. Grant motioned to accept the new dues a vote was taken and approved.

Gary suggested we change our club's name so that EDGE&TA will cover our acts and omissions insurance. Etta Dunn will contact the state of California to change our name to Early Day Tractor and Iron branch # 242. A special thank you to Etta for all you do.

### New Business:

Now that we have our website repaired and will be able to post our insurance and newsletter once again. Many thanks to Paul Dunn for all the hard work getting the system back up.

**Lawsuit:** Early Day Tractor and Iron as well as our past president have been served with a lawsuit in a cross complaint from the Harrison Vs Gemel Case. We have about another 60 days to respond to the suit. Our Insurance company Chubb has sent the claim to the underwriters for a determination of coverage by our acts and omissions policy to defend us and Paul. We may in the end have to seek separate representation as we may have to file against EDGETA and Mid-Continent group insurance. More to follow as this all unfolds. I have been in communication with Chubb and await their decision.

**Update:** We have a decision from Chubb on our claim in regards our acts and omissions policy with Chubb, they have denied our claim based upon us being a non-profit organization in addition to be a paying member of EDGETA. We are an EDGETA member and have paid the insurance in good faith to cover our membership with insurance, we have abided by the rules of EDGETA, and even secured a separate proof of insurance for the event issued by their insurance agent. More to follow about our potential actions in filing suit against EDGETA.

## Membership:

Time to start the call for payment of our dues. Dues are due in March to EDGE&TA. We will contact EDGE&TA for a copy of the insurance policy for our review. Dues will be \$57.00 for a single and \$104.00 for a couple. This increase can be contributed to having the necessary insurance coverage.

## Events: Gary

No events scheduled until spring, this is the time to fire up the heater in your shop and fix all the stuff that is broken, create something new, restore a prize that you have found.

One of our first events for 2019 will be the San Bernardino County Fair at the County Fairgrounds in Victorville. The dates are yet to be announced but it will be in May, sounds like a long way off but time flies and it will be here before you know it. The Fair is a long run (10 Days) so try to plan to be there for at least a few days so that we can give a break to those who hold down the fort most of the time. Put the middle of May on your calendars and plan to give us a hand or two.

Gary mentioned the Branch 30 annual swap meet will be on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Show and tell: / Presentations:

Lance Wilson shared two grinders one was chain driven and the other was gear driven. Special thanks to Lance for sharing his treasures.

Opportunity drawing was won by Bob Cushman.

Next scheduled club meeting will be Wednesday March 6, 2019.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM by Gary.

Barbara Gemel, Secretary

Barbara Gemel, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

## Treasurers Report

Etta Dunn

**Current Balance:** As of 2/4/2019 = \$2,796.23.

**Cash on Hand:** Meeting Proceeds = \$25.00.

**Total Treasury:** \$2,821.23



## Think About It

*Horsepower is how fast  
you hit the wall.*

*Torque is how far you take  
the wall with you.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*“Winners can tell you where they are going,  
what they plan to do along the way, and who  
will be sharing the adventure with them.”*

*- Denis Watley, motivational speaker*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Inventors of the Spark Plug

By Mary Bellis

Internal-combustion engines need three things to run: spark, fuel, and compression. The spark comes from the spark plug. Spark plugs consist of a metal threaded shell, a porcelain insulator, and a central electrode, which may contain a resistor.

According to Britannica a spark plug or sparking plug is, "a device that fits into the cylinder head of an internal-combustion engine and carries two electrodes separated by an air gap, across which current from a high-tension ignition system discharges, to form a spark for igniting the fuel."

## Edmond Berger

Some historians have reported that Edmond Berger invented an early spark plug on February 2, 1839. However, Edmond Berger did not patent his invention. Spark plugs are used in [internal engines](#) and in 1839 these engines were in the early days of experimentation. Therefore, Edmond Berger's spark

plug if it did exist would have had to have been very experimental in nature as well or perhaps the date was a mistake.

## Jean Joseph Étienne Lenoir

This Belgian engineer developed the first commercially successful internal-combustion engine in 1858. He is credited for developing the spark ignition system, which is described in US Patent #345596.

## Oliver Lodge

Oliver Lodge invented the electric spark ignition (the Lodge Igniter) for the internal-combustion engine. Two of his sons developed his ideas and founded the Lodge Plug Company. Oliver Lodge is better known for his pioneering work in radio and was the first man to transmit a message by wireless.

## Albert Champion

During the early 1900s, France was the dominant manufacturer of spark plugs. Frenchman, Albert Champion was a bicycle and motorcycle racer who immigrated to the United States in 1889 to race. As a sideline, Champion manufactured and sold spark plugs to support himself. In 1904, Champion moved to Flint, Michigan where he started the Champion Ignition Company for the manufacturing of spark plugs. He later lost control of his company and in 1908 started the AC Spark Plug Company with backing from Buick Motor Co. AC presumably stood for Albert Champion.

His AC spark plugs were used in aviation, notably for the trans-Atlantic flights of Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart. They also were used in the Apollo rocket stages.

You may think the current-day Champion company that produces spark plugs was named after Albert Champion, but it was not. It was a completely different company that produced decorative tile in the 1920's. Spark plugs use ceramics as insulators, and Champion started producing spark plugs in their ceramic kilns. Demand grew so they switched completely to producing spark plugs in 1933. By this time, the AC Spark Plug Company had been bought by GM Corp. GM Corp was not allowed to continue using

the Champion name as the original investors in Champion Ignition Company set up Champion Spark Plug Company as competition.

Years later, United Delco and the AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors combined to become AC-Delco. In this way, the Champion name lives on in two different spark plug brands.

\*\*\*\*\*

***“Stay away from negative people.  
They have a problem for every solution.”  
- Albert Einstein***

\*\*\*\*\*

## Classified Advertising

This space is available for Early Day Tractor & Iron members free of charge. Submit your items, along with graphics to [pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org](mailto:pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org).



1941 Farmall M, factory wide front end, new tires and has a PTO and hydraulics. It had a valve job done just before I bought it and the engine runs great. Just needs a paint job and it will be ready for the parades. - \$2500

**Richard Pope** [epopr@me.com](mailto:epopr@me.com) – 760-240-3485

## You Could Advertise In This Space



**David Bradley** garden tractor and cultivator. It runs.  
Contact **Bill Karp** at 760-553-4267

Ads may be submitted each month, free of charge for members.  
All other ads will be posted for a donation to Early Day Tractor &  
Iron, Inc. Submit your ad, or renewal, before the 10th of each  
month to [pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org](mailto:pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org)

## Calendar of Planned Events

### EDGETA – Branch 242 – Board of Directors

*Early Day Tractor & Iron, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.*

**President** – Gary Provansal, 909.855.6152, [gprovansal@yahoo.com](mailto:gprovansal@yahoo.com)

**Vice President** – Grant Gemel, 760.985.7827, [GrantGemel@gmail.com](mailto:GrantGemel@gmail.com)

**Past President** – Paul Dunn, 760.956.6460, [pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org](mailto:pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org)

**Secretary** - Barbara Gemel, 760.954.9834, [barblee2@aol.com](mailto:barblee2@aol.com)

**Treasurer** – M.L. “Etta” Dunn, 760.947.1933 [etta@dunn-rite.com](mailto:etta@dunn-rite.com)

**Member-At-Large** – LT Burks, 760.887.6626, [ltburks6@gmail.com](mailto:ltburks6@gmail.com)

\*All officers and directors are known as Directors and they form the Board of Directors.

#### **SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS**

**Publisher & Editor** – Paul Dunn, 760.956.6460, [pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org](mailto:pdunn@EarlyDayTractorIron.org)

**Events** – LT Burks – 760.887.6626, [ltburks6@gmail.com](mailto:ltburks6@gmail.com) IH

**For the latest info visit our website at [www.EarlyDayTractorIron.org](http://www.EarlyDayTractorIron.org)**