

Northwest Tractor Pulling Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 21st, 2004

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bonnie Atteberry, Fran Atteberry, John Ireland, Steve Kenitz, Jim Lamp, Don and Melissa Moore, Mike and Eva Moore, Joe Shaver, Walt Shaver, Jim Stetson, Larry Strohl, Jim Turner, Allan Vanderzanden, Dan Walker, and Andrea Woodward.

Two new members joined our NWTTPA today! Welcome to Dan Walker and Larry Strohl.

Old Business: No one had old business to discuss.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Andrea Woodward reported that we ended the 2003 calendar year with approximately \$300 more than we started. We begin 2004 with \$1,795.20. In general, we lose money at the June Banks pull, make money at the July Columbia County Fair, and make money at the August Banks Barbecue Pull (at which we get the hook money from the garden tractor hooks, and don't have to help pay for sleds or insurance).

Our biggest concern is that insurance costs increased considerably in 2003 over 2002. We have been unable to find an insurer to give us coverage for less than \$500 a pull, whereas in 2002 it was about \$360 per pull.

Although we had 39 member families by the end of 2003, only 16 families paid their 2003 dues of \$15.

President Report: Steve Kenitz offered a general welcome and began the specifics of the rest of the agenda.

Safety and Pull Organizing Committee Review: Dan Walker volunteered to join the continuing members (Steve Kenitz, Bob McGrotty, Don Moore, Mike Moore) of the Safety and Pull Organizing Committee. No specifics were discussed during this period, but both safety and future pulls are discussed separately later in these minutes.

Proposal of Stock Altered Class Rules: To begin the discussion of possible rules, Steve Kenitz contacted Bob Grenzow, who shared the Lynden, WA group's Farm Stock Classes rules.

Name: Discussion of calling this class the Stock Altered Class, Over 5 mph Class, or Super Farm Class. We voted to call this the **Super Farm Class**.

Weight Classes: The Lynden, WA group has 5, 7, 9, and 12 thousand lb. Classes. We decided to wait until there are more tractors turning up before assigning class weights. For 2004 we will let everyone who shows up pull, and will discuss classes again at the next annual meeting.

Vintage: The Lynden, WA group allows tractors made before 1978. We decided to allow any vintage to pull in our Super Farm Class.

Engine: We decided that the engine must be the same make as the tractor, with the same number of cylinders as issued from the factory.

Engine Mounting: We voted NOT to specify how engines will be mounted.

RPM Limit: We voted NOT to limit rpm's at this time.

Turbo: We voted to allow not more than one turbo, model 3LM or T04.

Injection of Other Fluids: We voted to NOT allow any extra injection of alcohol, nitrous or water.

Exhaust and Intake Manifolds: We voted to allow custom exhaust and intake manifolds.

Fuels: We voted to allow Propane, Gas, Diesel and Alcohol fuels.

Speed Limits: We voted to have no specified pull speed limit, although the off track speed limit will be 5 mph, as is true for all other tractors and trucks.

Tire Size: We voted to have no tire size limits. We voted to not allow dual tires.

Safety Equipment:

Wheelie Bars: We voted to require Wheelie Bars.

Side Shields on Engine: We voted to require side shields, not less than 1/8" thick. They must cover from the bottom of the block up to the head.

Clutch Protection: We voted to require clutch protection, of any reasonable configuration.

Kill Switch: We voted to recommend, but not require that Super Farm Classes tractors have a Kill Switch.

Helmets: We voted to recommend, but not require that drivers wear helmets.

We decided to revisit these rules at future meetings, as more tractors are built for Super Farm Classes.

Proposed Stock Pickup Truck Rules: Michael Moore has the prevailing rules that are used in Oregon, but didn't bring them to the meeting. Instead of starting from scratch, the group voted to use these rules for 2004, and revisit them at the next meeting. The Moore's later sent these rules to Steve Kenitz to include in this mailing.

We discussed how many trucks to allow to pull at an event. We voted to allow the first 25 trucks that arrive, and to not allow more than 1 hook per truck.

Andrea Woodward raised the question of allowing Truck Pullers to become full NWTPA members. This idea was voted down at this time.

Proposed Changes to Super modified Garden Tractor Classes Rules: We held a discussion about our current Super modified Garden Tractor Classes Rules, and voted on several changes.

Weight Limit: We voted to raise the weight limit from 1,500 to 2,000 lbs.

Tire Size: We voted to not change the required tire size (it still cannot exceed 31"x15"x15").

Tractor Size: We voted to relax size rules, deciding that a limit of 8 feet may be too restrictive. As more are built, we can revisit this issue. For 2004, we will allow any garden tractor of any size to pull.

Engine Size: We voted to still limit to 4 cylinders, but increased maximum size from 2.8 liters up to 200 cubic inches.

Chain Shielding: We voted to change the chain shielding from 3/16" to 12 gauge.

Discussion of Co-Sponsoring a Pull with the 59ers: Joe Shaver, who also belongs to the 59ers, described their proposal to us. Since both clubs are small and looking to draw more pullers and spectators, they would like to put on a pull that would invite everyone from both mailing lists, and include the classes that both clubs encompass. If rules of either club would unduly limit the ability of the other club to pull, these rules will be suspended for this joint pull. All costs and income would be equally split between the two clubs. We voted to conditionally agree to their proposal. Joe Shaver and Steve Kenitz volunteered to pursue this idea with the 59ers. Then a meeting will be set between the NWTFA Pull Organizing Committee and representatives of the 59ers. The pull will potentially be held at Canby this summer.

Discussion of 2004 Pull Schedule:

At this time we have three pulls scheduled:

Sunday, June 13th, Sunset Park, Banks. 1 p.m. starting time.

(Steve Kenitz and Bob McGrotty will make sure this date works).

Sunday, July 25th, Columbia County Fairgrounds, St. Helens. Noon starting time.

Saturday, August 21st, Sunset Park, Banks Barbecue. 2 p.m. starting time.

We discussed our interest in adding additional pulls to our schedule. Larry Strohl volunteered to look for a site in southwest Washington. Jim Stetson volunteered to look for a site in the Canby/Molalla area. Fran Atterberry will forward to Andrea Woodward information leading to a possible pull in Lincoln County, and Steve Kenitz will follow up.

Grants Pass would like to have a pull, but we have several concerns, including:

The increased cost of going so far,

Would current members be willing to go so far,

Would there be enough local people show up to make it worthwhile,

Would there be local sponsorship to make this financially viable.

Steve Kenitz will continue to research this location for a possible future pull.

We discussed the need to find sponsors, backers, and advertisers to help us pay for pulls. We voted to make a Sponsorship Committee. Melissa and Eva Moore volunteered to be on this committee. John Ireland already pursues sponsorship for the Banks pulls, and volunteered to continue to do this.

Election of Officers: Bob McGrotty was voted to be Vice President for 2004. This is a new position for the club. Duties will be determined.

Steve Kenitz was voted to remain as President.

Andrea Woodward was voted to remain as Secretary/Treasurer.