

Northwest Tractor Pulling Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 17th, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Thanks to **Stuck's Diner**, 350 S. Main St., Banks, Oregon for hosting the 2007 **NWTPA** annual club meeting.

Attendance: Bonnie and Fran Atteberry, Don Cawrse, Tom Clough, Ken Crocker, Dave Hackney, Jennifer and Troy Hageman, Larry Hageman, Bill Hesse, Tom Hill, Jon Kari, Steve Kenitz, Liam KenWood, Ken Larvik, Butch McCray, Bob McGrotty, Brandon, Brooks and Fred Pfister, Donna and John Pfister, Patrick Roe, Rich Samson, Joe and Heidi Shaver, Peggy and Walt Shaver, Tucker Thomas, Clinton Torrey, Jim Turner, Allan Vanderzanden and Andrea Woodward. (This including 13 new families represented, and a total of 33 people, up from 22 last year! It was great to see such a large turnout!)

Five new members joined our **NWTPA** today! Welcome to Clinton Torrey, Butch McCray, Dave Hackney, Candise Hill and Patrick Roe.

*If anyone knows **Tucker Thomas**, have him contact us. We didn't get contact information for him, so can't send on the minutes. Thanks.*

Membership Information: Since our inception, we've handed out 83 stock certificates to members. Of those, 52 are still active (paid their dues in 2006 and/or this year). Our decision at the 2005 meeting to cut our joining fee from \$70 to \$15 has helped us considerably. In 2004 we only had 19 active families (those who paid their annual dues). But by the end of 2005 we had 33 active members, and by the end of 2006 we had 47 active members! In previous years we'd had 3 or 4 new families join per year, but hit all time highs with 16 new memberships in 2005 and 20 new memberships in 2006!

President Welcome: Steve Kenitz welcomed everyone and reviewed the past year. We had a great turnout at our first Dierickx Farm Pull in Banks last June (major thanks to Tim Dierickx and his family), did well our first year running the Polk County Fair Pull in Rickreall in August (huge gratitude to Jeff Dunton for his hard work and coordination abilities), but had low turnout at our annual Columbia County Fair Pull in St. Helen's in July, probably due to the 110 degree day. As usual, we helped with the garden tractor pull portion of the Banks Barbecue in August, and made \$175 for our efforts.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Andrea Woodward reported that we ended the 2006 calendar year with approximately \$423 less than we started. We begin 2007 with \$1,466.55. A Balance Sheet Summary Report follows. We took in more than we ever have before in 2006, but rising costs (insurance, sled, advertising, mailings, tax prep) are crushing us. That, combined with less income from the Columbia County Fair (63 total hooks, down from 109 in 2005, and 96 in 2004), left us with majorly negative cash flow for the first time.

FINANCIAL DISCUSSION:

Without making any changes, our club will become defunct for financial reasons, within about two years. Because of this, Andrea and Steve brainstormed a variety of ways to raise money or reduce club costs. During the meeting each was discussed, and several more ideas rose from other members:

-Tax Preparation?: Professional Tax Preparation cost us \$240 in 2006 (we only owed \$11 between state and federal taxes). We asked if anyone could do this for us, but no one stepped forward. If you can do taxes, contact us! It would be a huge savings and help to our club.

-Share Insurance Costs?: We paid \$1,736 for insurance in 2006. It costs the same amount if we hold two pulls or fifty. Right now each separate club pays this amount to pull each year. We would like to share the cost with other clubs, buying one policy instead of many. Walt Shaver shared that OTPA is not interested in sharing this cost in 2007. Bob McGrotty said he'd talk to the 59er's club to see if they were willing, but doubted their interest. Steve thinks a club in Central Washington might be interested. He will contact Mark Valentine to negotiate and try to make this happen.

We asked if Allan Vanderzanden would be willing to carry a policy that would cover all of his pulls, with each club paying him a portion of the total cost. At this time he cannot take this on. Tom Clough, who plans to retire from his full time job in a few years, might be willing to take on this project at that time. So if we can survive for a few more years, this may be the best long term solution for ever-rising insurance costs.

-Raise Hook Fees?: We have never raised hook fees before. In 2006 (and before), we charged \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members per hook. Dividing our total insurance cost by the total number of hooks we had in 2006, insurance cost approximately \$10 per hook. Little is left over for sled rental, advertising, mailings, etc.

We voted to raise all hook fees by \$5 starting this summer. It was close, but the vote passed. Now members will pay \$15 per hook, and non-members will pay \$20. If we'd charged these amounts in 2006, we would have made \$1,025 more, though some families might have paid for fewer hooks, so we cannot rely on this level of increase in 2007.

Find Sponsorship?: Andrea designed a sponsorship packet that any and every member could use to ask local businesses to help with our pulls. No one specifically volunteered to seek sponsorship, but there was a general consensus that it would be a good idea. Packets are available to anyone willing to help with this project. It would only take a few donations, in exchange for advertising at our pulls and/or on our website, to take care of our financial woes. Consider restaurants, parts shops, service stations, stores, etc. Think about which businesses can benefit from our advertising. Please contact Andrea if you can help.

Raise Attendance?: The more hooks per pull, the more money we bring in. We advertise each pull in the *Capital Press*, under Tractors, but not everyone (especially truck drivers) looks there. Discussion was broad, with the consensus that the cheapest,

most effective venues were word of mouth and putting up fliers. Having a functional website will also help a lot. As members, you can help by letting friends and neighbors know about the pulls, putting up fliers, and directing people to the website. We particularly noted that truck pullers are out of the loop, and need to be found and invited. There are very few truck pulls in Oregon, so potential pullers will be likely to join us if they know we exist.

Pass out Fliers?: A club member suggested that we plaster local businesses with fliers about the pulls. The more people who attend our pulls, the more we'll make in hook fees. To save on mailing costs, we can download the fliers from our website, make copies on our own, and take on the responsibility of passing them out. Several members at this meeting were willing to take this on. As long as people are putting up fliers, taking along sponsorship information can't hurt! Also, if you would like fliers but don't have computer access, just call Andrea and she'll mail you some.

Raise Dues?: Members currently pay \$15 a year. We voted to raise this annual amount to \$30, effective immediately. The vote was almost unanimous. Based on the number of paying members in 2006, we will bring in approximately an additional \$700 by raising the fees.

Hold Two Day Pulls?: If we hold a two day pull instead of a one day pull, the cost of the sleds for the second day is half price. Mailings won't cost any extra, and we can't think of any other higher costs associated with holding two day pulls. Additionally, more people might come a longer distance if it's for a two day pull. So we've decided to pursue this possibility. After the annual meeting, Tim Dierickx green lit changing his June Banks pull into a two day event. In 2008 we may be able to pull two days at the Polk County Fair, if we can show enough interest this year during our one day event.

Add Additional Pulls?: We would like to add additional dates to our calendar. If you have a private location and would like to host us, or know of a public fairgrounds contact, please look into setting something up. Any of us look into things and represent us in the initial stages of negotiation. We would particularly like to have a pull in the "off" season, preferably in a covered location. As Tim Dierickx demonstrated last summer, holding a pull on your personal property is possible! A few members said they'd consider hosting. If you weren't at the meeting, that doesn't mean you can't consider it, too! Contact Steve if you are interested and he can talk to you about it.

In Conclusion: Raising hook fees and annual dues should see us through our financial difficulties for now. If we can also schedule additional and/or two day pulls, share insurance fees, and/or get some sponsorship, we'll be on our way to financial security. All it will take is a little work from each of us.

RULES:

Most of our rules are working pretty well, but there are some additions and clarifications needed.

Truck Rules and Classes: We have mediocre standing rules, but now that we have many members who are primarily truck owners, these need to be rewritten to work for us. Joe Shaver volunteered to head and the following truck owners volunteered to be on a truck committee: Dave Hackney, Jon Kari, Patrick Roe, Troy and Larry Hageman, Rich Samson, Wayne Arnold and Ken Crocker.

Modified Full Size Tractor Rules: We've always had full size modified's, but without any rules written down. Bob McGrotty volunteered to head and the following volunteered to be on the committee: Ken Crocker, Steve Kenitz, Ken Larvik and Jim Turner.

Thanks so much for volunteering for these committees. We need the rules to be decided by May 15th, 2007, so that we can distribute them before the first June pull. Let us know if you want to join a committee. All are welcome.

Modified Garden Class: A new class called the Modified Outlaw Class will follow the same rules as the modified garden class, except that the engine can be of any sort, up to 1,200 c.c.'s.

Safety Discussion: Last year we decided to use Wrist Bands to make sure everyone not in the stands signed an insurance waiver. Throughout the summer, several members made sure that all people on the field had signed them. Steve got Bud Light to donate free wrist bands, via his restaurant's bartender. This process seemed low impact but very effective. This summer please help us by reminding your friends and family to sign waivers and get wrist bands. Thanks!

Election of Officers: Steve and Andrea would really like to not be in charge anymore! In several years of elections, no one has stepped forward to take over. It's high time for change. In a final attempt to get someone else to step up, we've had to take the outrageous step of saying that if no one volunteers by the end of the 2007 pulling year, that we will move to dissolve the club. We don't want to see *NWTPA* go away, we just want a break! Please, someone, volunteer! We need a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Andrea and Steve are more than willing to train/support/help new officers!

No one volunteered at the meeting, so we delayed the vote. We asked that every member present bear joint responsibility in finding replacements by year's end. Donna Pfister suggested that everyone do some soul searching and that we attempt to elect new officers during the June Dierickx Farm pull. This was agreed to. Andrea suggested that we could change the rules so that no member could hold a leadership role for more than two consecutive years, which would keep future leaders from finding themselves stuck in a similar situation.

Bob McGrotty is willing to remain as Vice President for another year. Yea Bob!

Website: Dave Hackney volunteered to take on our website management! We've been longing for help for several years, and are very happy that Dave has stepped forward. Our soon to be fully functional website can be found at www.nwtpa.20w.com. Check it often for club information, scheduling, pull fliers, photos, rules, contact information, pull

results, tractors, trucks and parts to sell/buy, and links to other pulling websites. Hopefully we can find advertisers who will pay to be a part of our site (that's opposed to those annoying, unrelated pop-ups, which Dave has already managed to get rid of! If you have any questions, things to sell, or ideas, Dave can be reached at pulling@nwtpa.20m.com, or through the website.

Members Helping at Pulls: Joe Shaver spoke about how much help is needed at each pull to make everything run smoothly, and asked all members to step up and help the whole. Since Joe is always flagging, riding the sled, measuring distances, etc., his input is certainly pure! Tom Clough then said that he thought our club was the best of all those he runs sleds for, in that we try so hard to get along, help each other, and to make everyone feel welcome. General consensus was that we are proud of our club and what we do! We'd certainly like to continue in this vein.

Pull Schedule for 2007:

June

We'll be putting on a two day pull **June 9th and 10th** at **Tim Dierickx's farm** in **Banks**.

July

Since our meeting, the Columbia County Fair Board has backed out of letting us hold a pull in July during their fair. We held pulls there for many years and enjoyed the experience. Until 2006, we consistently had a higher number of hooks each year. Last year we had a poor turnout (probably due to the 110 degree day), plus the **CCF** has lost significant funding due to the end of timber replacement funding. Also, some locals are "becoming less and less interested in participating because they are competing against the big guys from out of town." **NWTPA** could have easily added extra classes to address this concern, but were not given the opportunity.

This is very disappointing news, especially because about 40 families from the St. Helens area have come to our pulls at least once, and 11 of those have become **NWTPA** members. Additionally, we've had about 60 other families attend from further afield, from Washington, Southern and Eastern Oregon, etc. Of these, 35 are **NWTPA** members.

The **CCF** is considering putting on their own pull in September, allowing no modified vehicles. They think they will have increased participation.

If you would like to let the **Columbia County Event Complex** know how you feel about this decision, and perhaps suggest that they invite us back in 2008, you could contact them at: (503)397-4231 or P.O. Box 74, 58892 Saulser Rd., St. Helens, OR 97051. Ronda Courtney is the Event Complex Manager. Or you might just want to tell them thanks for our past pulls.

On the up side, since we already have the date reserved with the sled operators, **Tim Dierickx** has agreed to step in and hold another pull on his property in **Banks** on **July 29th**. It's not a perfect solution. It will be further to come for St. Helens area

participants. But at least we will still have a pull in July. Contact Steve quickly if you have an alternative location or idea that would work better on this date.

August

We plan to take on the **Polk County Fair** again in **Rickreall**. The date is set for **August 12th**. We are trying hard to make sure that all of the advertising and information coming from the Fair welcomes all pullers, not only the antique tractors allowed through 2005, before we took over. As with all of our pulls, come if you have a truck or any safe garden, stock or modified tractor. We are hoping for a great turnout. If you live in the area and you could work on flier distribution, it would help us a lot!

As usual, **NWTPA** will be helping with the garden tractor portion of the **Banks Barbecue at Sunset Park** on **August 18th and 19th**. Trucks, full sized tractors, modifieds and many other vehicles are also welcome. It's just that we are only helping with the garden aspects of the pull.

The current schedule follows these minutes. Feel free to copy, post and share with friends. Any updates will be available on the website. We'll also mail updates to members with our June Dierickx results.

Submitted by:

Andrea Woodward, Secretary/Treasurer, and Steve Kenitz, President, **NWTPA**.
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**Northwest Tractor Pulling Association
2007 Tractor and Truck Pull Schedule**

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**Saturday and Sunday, June 9th and 10th
Dierickx Farm
Banks, OR**

Weigh in at 10, Pull at 1 p.m.

(From HW 26, take the Banks exit. Head South, towards Forest Grove. In about 1 mile, turn Right onto Dierickx Rd. Follow to the pull. Also, signs will show the way from Banks.)

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**Sunday, July 29th
Dierickx Farm
Banks, OR**

Weigh in at 9, Pull at noon

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**Sunday, August 12th
Polk County Fair
Rickreall, OR**

Weigh in at 9, Pull at noon

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**Saturday and Sunday, August 19th and 20th
Banks Barbecue
Sunset Park**

Weigh in at 10, Pull at 2 p.m.

(NWTPA only in charge of the Garden Tractors. Trucks and other Tractors will also be pulling Saturday and Sunday. Sunset Park Assoc. sets all hook fees.)

For the first 3 Pulls, Hook Fee is \$20, \$15 if you are a member. If you have any questions or input, or are interested in membership information, contact Steve Kenitz: (503)280-0602, sakenwood@aol.com, or 4324 NE 47th, Portland, OR 97218.

We hope to see you this summer!