

# The Tractor Times

## July 2023



**Please Note:**

The number of Club meetings for 2023 has been reduced due to the cancelled bridge crossing. Please watch the Web site for coming dates.

**SPECIAL PICNIC MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**JULY 15th, 2023 AT 2pm.**

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**—and MUCH MORE**

*“Restoring the past for the Future”*

# President's Letter

Hello fellow GLATC members!!

Is it really June already? School is about out for the summer, and the local events are set to kick in, which means busy time for us!!

A preliminary look at the events for this year: Greatest 4th in the North parade in Lake City and the Fife Lake July 4th parade, both on July 4th with Lake City being in the AM and Fife Lake in the PM, Buckley Old Engine Show (Aug 17-20), Kingsley Heritage Parade (date TBD, usually in August), Manton Labor Day Parade, and Samel's Farm in October. There will be more information on all these events and more forthcoming. Stay tuned to the newsletter, the club website, and the club Facebook page for updates. \*\*Please note- the 2023 Mackinac Bridge Crossing in September has been cancelled this year by the bridge authority due to construction.\*\*

We are also operating on an altered club meeting schedule. There is NO MEETING in June, the next meeting will be Saturday, July 15th at 2 PM, which will be our summer picnic meeting. Please see article later in the newsletter for this. There will also be meetings in August and September.

I want to take a moment to give everyone a quick update on fellow members Greg Hansmeier (our club historian and events manager) and Jean Springberg (our club newsletter lady and my special mom!) Greg and Jean have both had health related issues that have kept them from performing their club roles. I am very happy to report that both of them are home now and on the mend! Greg tells me he will be resuming some of his duties to bring you event details and dates. It will likely be awhile before Jean is able to jump back into the newsletter, but she is doing much better and very much appreciates all the thoughts and prayers from all of you! Please continue to

keep both Greg and Jean in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to get better and better.

Sandy Boals is our interim newsletter lady, and I want to extend my thanks again to Sandy for picking up the job and running with it!

Finally, I would like to talk a bit about the member meeting we had in May. This meeting turned out to be a really special one for me for multiple reasons. It was our first meeting of the year, which it is always good to see everyone again after the long, cold days of winter are finally over. We had several members come to the meeting whom we have not seen in quite awhile. We had a special guest - Jerry Brown - he signed up with our club and he and his wife Marlena are now members. Welcome!! We had a few moments of silence for the members who have recently passed away- Al Szpek, Jack Robbins, and Dave Snyder.

We had great food as always—thank you to all the wonderful cooks!! There was a lot of interesting tractor related chit chat, which is always fun to have. All of this made for a truly special meeting, but there was another surprise in store...



Sandy Boals and the Club Board of Directors presented me with a beautiful Appreciation Award Plaque!! I was very honored to accept the award, which left me totally speechless! (Sandy—you are sneaky! LOL!) I just want to say thank you to all of you out there—my fellow members!! You guys are the reason I do this—you are all special to me and I consider you all to be my extended tractor family!! I am always honored to serve as your Membership Director and your Club President, and I will continue to do the best that I can for all of you!! I also want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to our Board of Directors—we have a wonderful team and I honestly couldn't do this without all of them!

I hope to see you all at the July picnic meeting!!

Mike Polega  
President  
Great Lakes Antique Tractor Club

# Membership Corner



**Hello out there to all of our GLATC members!!**

Summer is upon us, and we are gearing up for all the local events our members love to participate in! If you know someone that has the interest in antique tractors and would like to join us as we participate in these events, please let me know via email or phone. You can also refer them to our club website where they can download and print off an application form.

Our website is: [www.greatlakesantiquetractorclub.org](http://www.greatlakesantiquetractorclub.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!

I would like to officially welcome new members **Jerry and Marlena Brown** from Fife Lake! Thank you for joining us and we hope you enjoy all of our club activities!!

Our next membership meeting is on Saturday, July 15th at 2PM. This will be our summer picnic event, where the club will provide the burgers and hotdogs. Please bring a dish to pass for this special potluck picnic event!! See you all there!



May 2023

50-50 / Raffle Prizes

**First Drawing** - Jerry Russell won an American flag (donated by Ted Boals)

**Second Drawing** - Doris Baese won her choice of a Club T-Shirt

**Third Drawing** - Ted Boals won \$20.00 cash

\$28.00 was added to the Club coffers (including a \$2.00 donation by Keith Stewart)

Thank you Justin Polega for selling the raffle tickets, and Shannon Polega for separating the tickets to put in the barrel. Don't miss the July Club meeting with more prizes! You need a ticket to win!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Boals, Treasurer and Prize Coordinator







**BACKGROUND:** With the 320 being the "baby" of John Deere's "20 series" two-cylinder lineup, there had to be a step above it, or several. This was the model 420, which was introduced in 1955 for the 1956 (the very beginning of John Deere's 20 series tractor lineup) model-year, before the rest of the 20 series.

This tractor was a replacement for the model 40, which was the 420's predecessor. Overall, the 420 boasted about a 20% increase in horsepower over the model 40 but used the same block with a fuel-efficient two-cylinder engine. The bore on the 40's engine was 4 inches but the 420's was enlarged to 4 1/4 inches. The 420s also were equipped with a new style cylinder head to allow for more compression, as well as a new style carburetor.

The increased compression ratio caused an overabundance of heat to build up causing the engines to overheat. John Deere helped solve this issue by putting a water-pump in the thermo-siphon cooling system.

The first 420s to come off of the assembly line were not sporting the green and yellow hood you see on most of them today, which were dubbed as "Phase 1 tractors." They were fitted with an all green hood with yellow stickers, much like the 40 was. This changed in the summer of 1956 when John Deere started painting the center portions of the hood yellow.

## Justin's Diecast Corner

ISSUE # 22:

### The John Deere Model 420 Utility Tractor

In 1957, a new engine was constructed for the 420 that didn't use the same block as the 40, which was dubbed as "Phase II Tractors." The block was cast with the mounting for the water pump so that the machining step could be eliminated during the production process. This is also the same year the new John Deere 5-Speed transmission became available featuring some heavier drive components. In 1958, the dipstick on the engine was moved to the right side and was turned into a combination oil fill/dipstick.

1958 was also the year the "Slant-Steer" option was offered. All 420s up to 1958 had a steering wheel/column directly facing the driver, whereas in 1958, the steering wheel was moved upward a few degrees to make it more comfortable to operate. These tractors are now often referred to as "Phase III" tractors. The 30 series of tractors began in 1959 and adopted this steering wheel as the standard wheel to be equipped on tractors.

**PRODUCTION:** There were a total of 46,450 420 tractors built from 1956-1958. There were so many variants of the tractor that the 420 was actually dubbed as the "420 Fleet." Serial numbers on the tractors could be from any one variant with the first one being a utility tractor, and the next being a crawler. The first serial number ever used on a 420 in 1956 was "80001." The last one in 1958 was "127782." The 420 would have set you back \$2,300 back in 1958. This is almost pocket-change in today's money.

— Continued on next page

**VARIANTS:** The following list will be with the variant and it's production numbers. 420 W: 11,197. 420T: 4,932. 420U: 4,932. 420S: 3,908. 420H 610. 420V: 86. 420W= row-crop utility. 420T- tricycle front end. 420C= crawler. 420U= Utility. 420S= Standard. 420I= Special Utility. All of the 420 tractors were manufactured at the Dubuque Assembly Plant in Dubuque, Iowa.

**SPECS:** ENGINE(S): 1.9L two-cylinder gasoline, all fuel, or LP gas were offered. Fuel Tank-10.9 gallons, or 20 gallons on an LP gas model. The specs for the gasoline engine are as follows: Bore/Stroke: 4.25/4 in. Displacement: 113 cubic in. Air Cleaner: oil bath. Compression: 7:1. Rated RPM: 1850. Firing Order: 1-2. Coolant- 11 qts. Weight of tractor: 3,250 lbs. Front tire size: 5.00-15.

Rear tire Size: 9-24.  
Transmission (phase 1) 4 forward speeds and 1 reverse speed. (Phase 2) 5 forward speeds and 1 reverse speed. Steering- manual standard with power steering offered as an option. Horsepower(tested by [www.tractordata.com](http://www.tractordata.com)) Drawbar: 26.15 hp. Belt: 28.31 hp.

**MODEL FEATURES:** The picture shown in this article is of ERTL's 50th Anniversary Dubuque collector's set, which I picked up earlier this summer. I will be showing this set at the meeting because last month's edition was on the 320, and this month's is on the 420.



Both models in this set feature working steering, highly detailed engine and operator's compartments, moving 3-point hitches, headlights, and a mostly-diecast construction. The only plastic pieces on these models are handles and 3-point arms, and the mufflers.

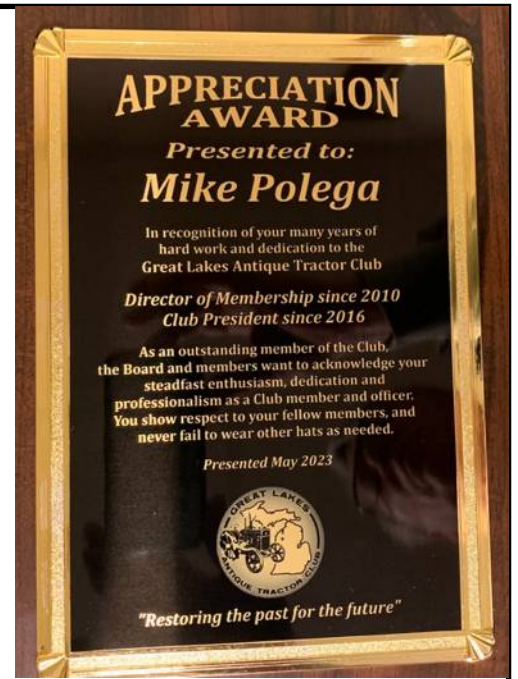
These models cost a little bit more than the average person would pay, costing around \$60. I have seen them go way higher in price, however.

**SOURCES:** "John Deere 420 Tractor Price, Specs, Review, Features." *Commercial Vehicles | World All Commercial Vehicle Information*, 16 Sept. 2021, <https://commercialvehicleinfo.com/john-deere-420-tractors-price-specification-review/>.

"The John Deere 420 Came in 8 Different Variations." <http://petcaretips.net/john-deere-420.html>. "The 420 ." *The Model 40 - The John Deere Model 420 Tractors and Crawlers*, [http://www.johndeere40.com/model\\_420.html](http://www.johndeere40.com/model_420.html). Easterlund, Peter. "John Deere 420." *TractorData.com John Deere 420 Tractor Information*, <http://www.tractordata.com/farm-tractors/000/0/4/46-john-deere-420.html>. Also, my general knowledge.



Our Club President always manages to recognize members with special award plaques for outstanding service and commitment to the Club. The Club directors and officers decided it was time to recognize Mike Polega for his “outstanding service and commitment” for the many hats he wears as needed. At the May meeting he was presented with his own recognition plaque.



### **Summer 2023 Planned Events — by Greg Hansmeier**

First, as several of you know, I spent 9 weeks in in-patient physical therapy. I will save you the bits and pieces of it. As a result it was not possible for me to get out and about and shake out the sites we intend to visit this year. With the help of Mike and Steve, I will attempt to provide as much information as possible. That said, please understand that some of this will be redux from last year.

### **LAKE CITY "GREATEST FOURTH IN THE NORTH" PARADE TUESDAY, JULY 04, 2023 10:00 AM**

Deploy again at Lake City High School, 251 East Russell, Lake City MI 49651. We have again received permission to use the far north parking lot at the High School. They again ask that we use the grass strip on the east side of the lot to park the trailers and drop the ramps. If for some reason it is necessary to deploy from the paved portion, please use wood to preclude putting divits in the pavement.

They are doing their 10K, 5K, and 2K Fun Run again this year. The portion most involved during the run is Broadway which is also the assembly area for the parade. The street runs along the north side of the county park. The events start from 7:30 - 7:50 and so there will still be activity at the time parade assembly occurs. The streets will be closed at or about 9:30 AM. They are asking that all units be in the line up position by 9:00 AM.

#### **Line up begins at 8:30**

Coming from the north on M-66, turn left (east) at the traffic light to eastbound M-55/Houghton Lake Road. Immediately east of Lake City High School, turn right (south) from M-55/Houghton Lake Road to Houghton Lake **Street**. Pull into the parking lot just south of M-55 and deploy the tractors from there.

I will check us in at the parade table and find out our parade assignment. As in previous years we have asked to be assigned to the first third of the parade.

**LAKE CITY "GREATEST FOURTH IN THE NORTH" PARADE — continued**

After getting ready, it is likely the best way to the start to go west on M-55 to the traffic light. Continue west from the intersection on what becomes Park Street. Proceed to the curve on to Perry Avenue. Cross over Fisher Street (a stop sign intersection) and proceed to Broadway. Once we figure out where we are assigned we will know whether to turn east or west.

The parade begins at 10:00 AM, goes through Lake City and ends at/near Russell Street/Houghton Street (Lake City High School. **Theoretically**, parade units are deemed to have the right of way on Russell Street. At this time I have no information regarding detours or road construction sites in the area.

**FIFE LAKE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 04, 2023 2:00 PM**

When leaving Lake City High School and heading for Fife Lake, pull out on NB Houghton Street to -55 /Houghton Lake Road. Turn right (east) and go .2 mile east to NB Decker Road. There is a nice red barn on the property at the northeast corner. Take Decker Road .9 mile to Sanborn Road. Turn Left (west) on Sanborn Road and go .4 mile to M-66/Morley Road. Turn right (north) on M-66/Morley Road and proceed 15.7 miles to Ingersoll Road. Turn left on Ingersoll Road and proceed 7.8 miles to the stop sign at Coster SW.

Turn right (NW -- up stream) and 1.0 mile into the downtown area. Just in case Great Lakes Central Railroad has not yet repaired the crossing, please cross carefully. After the tracks, bear left on State Street. Continue to Fife Lake Road (maybe street) (museum corner). Turn right and proceed to the parking lot of **FOREST AREA CREDIT UNION** at the intersection of Fife Lake Road and U.S. 131.

The street address is **638 Boyd Street, Fife Lake 49633**. Please make sure that the drive up area, ATM and night/holiday depository are not blocked. If you are deploying from the pavement, please use wood under the ramps.

Proceed back to downtown Fife Lake to the intersection. Turn right (west) and proceed to Pierce Road. I believe that it runs along the north side of the elementary school. It is the same road that was used last year to form the parade. Care and caution due to the use of golf carts and ATV's. **Line up begins at 1:00.**

**PIONEER POWER ANTIQUE TRACTOR GAS ENGINE CLUB**  
**PIONEER POWER OF WEST BRANCH**  
**30TH ANNUAL SHOW JULY 20 - 23, 2023**  
**302 WEST M-55/TAWAS ROAD WEST BRANCH MI 48661**

The grounds are located 5 miles east of West Branch between South Campbell Road and M-33. Admission is \$5.00. Under 12 free. They are open 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Saturday is Kids Day. Featuring tractors, antique cars threshing demonstration, sawmill and hit & miss engines. A shingle mill will be in operation. There is spectator camping available for \$10.00 a night.



**36th ANNUAL WALLOON LAKE TRACTOR, ENGINE, CRAFT SHOW**  
**NORTHERN MICHIGAN ANTIQUE FLYWHEELERS CLUB**  
**00145 U.S. 131 BOYNE FALLS MI 49712**  
**JULY 27, 28, 29, 30, 2023 OPEN 7:00 AM**

The grounds are 2.7 miles north of Boyne Falls, 4 miles south of Walloon Lake, and 13 miles south of Petosky. It is just north of Boyne Mountain Ski area. There is a tractor mounted on the post of the south visitors entrance. There is a threshing machine at the north side of the grounds. Campers are asked to use the north entrance. No pets, bicycles, nor alcoholic beverages are allowed. The gates open at 7:00 AM. An all-you-can-eat breakfast begins at that time. There is a Parade of Power each day in the early afternoon.

Admissions: Adults \$7.00; Seniors on Thursday \$5.00; under 12 free. Primitive camping is \$25.00. The buffet probably will be between \$7.00 and \$9.00

The areas of emphasis this year are unstyled tractors and washing machines. It may be prudent to attend to see the washing machine exhibits--- before the EPA and the Justice Department move in to seize these climate damaging machines. O.K., so my sarcasm has not been dented in the least by my time parked.

**44th ANNUAL KALAMAZOO VALLEY ANTIQUE ENGINE & MACHINERY SHOW**  
**GILMORE CAR MUSEUM**  
**6865 HICKORY ROAD @ M-43**  
**HICKORY CORNERS MI 49060**  
**JULY 28, 29, 2023 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

The campus is located at the intersection of Hickory Road and M-43. It is north of Richland in Barry County. Admission is now \$20.00 for adults and seniors; \$12.00 for youth 11 - 17; children 10 and under are free. A consecutive two day pass is \$30.00. There are two dining locations. The Blue Moon Diner is open on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Heritage Cafe is open from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The menu selections and prices may be found on the Gilmore Car Museum web site.

**ELK RAPIDS HARBOR DAYS PARADE**  
**AUGUST 02 - AUGUST 05, 2023**  
**GRANDE PARADE SATURDAY AUGUST 5TH at NOON**

The decision was made not to file for participation in this event this year. That obviously does not preclude a road trip just for the fun of being a spectator.

**More Coming Events for fun:**

**KALKASKA COUNTY FAIR** August 2 — 5, 2023

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN FAIR** August 6 — 12, 2023

**ANTRIM COUNTY FAIR** August 10 — 12, 2023

**NORTHERN DISTRICT FAIR WEXFORD COUNTY** August 14 — 19, 2023

**Buckley Old Engine Show** August 17 — 20, 2023

**Kingsley Heritage Day Parade** Saturday August 26, 2023 Line up at 10:00 AM. Parade begins at 11:00 AM



**Membership Picnic  
July 15, 2023 — 2 P.M.**



The Club will furnish Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and condiments.

Please bring a dish to pass if you're able. Bring a chair to sit outside, we'll be inside of course if the weather is "iffy."



We'll have iced tea and light lemonade too!

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**Don't monkey around —  
get your tickets for the 50-50/prize drawing!**



**You never know what  
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have for the raffle!**



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

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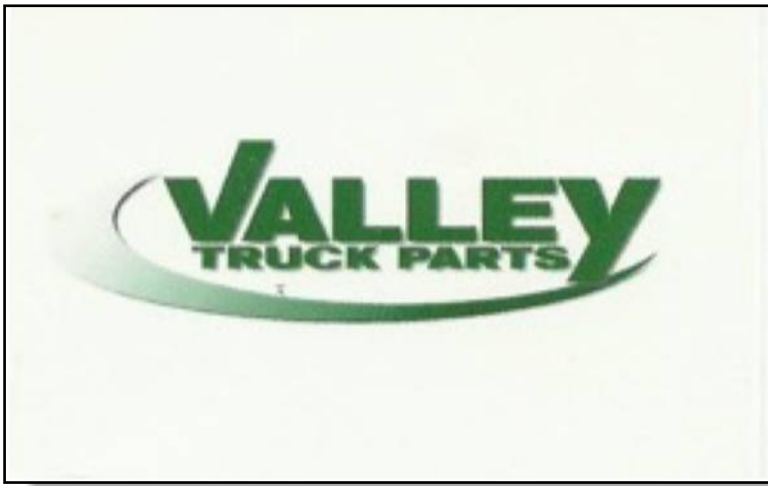
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