

July 2008

# HIT & MISS

Journal of the Western Antique Power Associates

## DON HUNTER'S OPEN HOUSE

### Unveiling The Project

by Rob Skinner

Let me preface this article by stating that it is not a "real" article. A proper article would include technical details, a personal profile, construction techniques and specific challenges. Here will just be some pretty pictures and a few vague details. Perhaps at a later date we can provide a "proper article."

On June 14, Don Hunter opened his shop to WAPA members and other guests for a steam up of his new tractor. Yes, "new" tractor.

Don is a collector of tractors, particularly Holt tractors, made in

Stockton, California. Many of you have had the opportunity to see Don's Holt 75 in action in SoCal. If you have, then you are surely aware of the impeccable quality of Don's workmanship.

There was one particular model of Holt that Don truly

admired. It was a steamer, with tracks in the rear and one wheel out front, similar in configuration to his 75. The problem, however, was that out of the six of these tractors built, none remained.

For most of us, that would be the end of it. But for Don, he had a picture of an original and a whole lot of motivation.

obtained from the archives at Caterpillar, Don made patterns, castings, fabricated parts, and probably a whole lot of things that wouldn't occur to someone who hasn't tackled a job of this magnitude.

After many years of hard work, the result is what you see in these accompanying pictures.



Even though Don had to learn everything about this tractor on his own, it would seem that he now knows even more about the tractor than the original Holt employees. After all, the designer

Don was able to find an old, beat up crankshaft from an original tractor. From that, he began to scale the picture, determining dimensions, and figuring out how the tractors were put together.

After studying pictures and poring through literature

knows about the layout, the shop foreman knows about manufacturing challenges, the foundryman knows about the castings, and the machinists know about tolerances for specific parts. Don had to figure out all these things.



The tractor is a jaw-dropping creation. Words cannot do justice to the aroma of hot steam, the whisper of the engine idling along, the bark when under load, and the vibration of the ground as it rumbles by on the asphalt.



After the steam-up, Don gave demonstrations of boring techniques and how to

straighten metal on a press by limiting the bend and backing up the work.

## Brentwood Science Magnet School Science Fair

By Larry Evans

Sunday, June 1, 2008 found a small group of WAPA folks on the campus of the Brentwood Science Magnet School supporting their annual Science Fair.

This is a fund raising event sponsored by their parent support committee and is always a good experience for all involved.

They showed their appreciation of our participation by keeping us well supplied with coffee, muffins and bagels during the setup time and a handful of tickets to use at the various

international food booths at lunch time.

The weather was clear and the temperature quite comfortable.

WAPA was represented by Joe Siddons with his International LA belted up to an American Well Works centrifugal water pump, Dave Ruhland with an International LB running a Stewart sheep shearing rig, Jim Davis with his recently acquired Fuller & Johnson Farm Pump engine with pump and myself with a United air cooled 1 3/4 HP engine that ran most of the day.

Even though only four of us were able to attend we had a nice varied display that drew a lot of attention from the large crowd.



# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD JUNE 13, 2008

**Board members present:** Tom Millett, Bob Smith, Joe Siddons, Jack Johnson and Leroy Overstreet, Wayne Mabb and Bob Swan.

**Board members excused:** Kelly Garcia and Craig Maxwell.

**Members present:** George Noble and Gus Lukrofka.

**Visitor:** John Lundstrom.

**Meeting called to order** at 7:00 p.m. by President Wayne Mabb.

**Flag salute** led by Bob Smith.

**Special Presentation:** President Wayne Mabb introduced John Lundstrom, President of the Glendora Historical Society. John presented WAPA with a very nice "Certificate of Appreciation" for the work that members have done at the Rubel Castle in bringing life to the two Western engines. The certificate will be placed in the WAPA library.

## REPORTS:

**President:** Wayne Mabb reminded everyone about the demonstration start up of the Holt Steam Tractor at Don Hunter's place on Saturday, June 14th.

**Vice President:** Bob Swan apologized that because of a last minute medical issue, he was not able to participate in the La Habra car show at Sonora High School.

**Secretary:** The minutes of the May 9, 2008 board meeting were approved with one correction. Under Show Reports, it should read that the Woodland show is

on June 20-21, and not May 20-21.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Kelley Garcia absent.

**Membership:** Jack Johnson stated he now has five delinquent members who have not paid dues this year. He made a motion to drop them. Leroy Overstreet seconded his motion. After discussion, the vote was unanimous to drop Dennis Silva, Steven Tuttle, Dick Welty, Bruce Marian and Bernie Sanchez as members.

**Purchasing:** Leroy Overstreet had nothing to report.

**Safety:** Joe Siddons cautioned everyone to be careful when using gasoline as a starting fluid. If not used properly, one can sustain a bit of hair singeing.

**Library:** Craig Maxwell absent.

**Shows:** Bob Smith moved to sanction the Marina Del Ray show on July 27. Jack Johnson seconded and vote to sanction was approved.

Bob Smith moved to sanction the Olinda Oil Museum show on July 4. Leroy Overstreet seconded and it was approved. That show is new and will be posted.

**BREAK:** 8:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

**Editor Report:** Rob Skinner absent.

**Prado Regional Park:** Nothing new to report. Tom and Craig still pursuing.

**Rubel Castle:** As soon as the show season slows down, we will be checking for interest in working on the clutch assembly of the 30HP engine pump. No date set.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** Tom Millett shared a newspaper article about WAPA member Phil Reed and his wife taking a 3000-mile tour with his Model T Ford.

**Adjournment:** 8:50 p.m.

**Tom Millett, Secretary**



Home School Show  
by Tom Denson

# Sonora High School Fifth Annual Charity Car Show

text by Rob Skinner  
photos by Tom Denson

The annual car show at Sonora High is an event to raise money for the school's Future Farmer of America program.

The FFA kids purchase cows, steers, pigs, sheep, and goats, and raise them to maturity. After the animals are raised, they are auctioned off at the county fair. The kids and their parents pay for the program themselves, and sometimes the auctions do not cover the costs involved in the raising of the animals. Our participation helps the kids to participate in the educational and character-building program.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 11, Friday**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

The WAPA Board of Directors meeting is held at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs. Heritage Park Rd. is off Telegraph Road just west of Norwalk Boulevard. The meeting is held in the train depot next to the steam locomotive.

**July 27, Sunday**  
**Classic Yacht Show**  
**Marina Del Rey**

It is time again for the Marina del Rey Show. On the fourth Sunday of July, WAPA supports the Classic Yacht Association's Old Fashioned Day in the Park by bringing our engines and equipment and joining various car clubs for a nice day at the seashore. The show is held at Burton

Chace Park, right at the docks on the western end by the Helmsman statue.

Time: Set-up begins at 7:30 a.m., vehicles out of the area by 8:30 a.m. The show ends sometime after 3 p.m.

Parking is not free. There is a public lot fairly nearby and two years ago it was \$5.00 for the day. NOTE: Do not park trailers in this lot. Use the boat launch ramp lot if you bring a trailer that needs to be parked away from the show area. The entrance is from Admiralty Way. It is recommended for this show to not bring equipment on a trailer, unless it is show equipment on a small trailer that is part of the display. Members with handicap parking can park in the small lot at the entrance to the park.

Burton Chace Park is at the end on Mindanao Way just west of Lincoln Blvd. in Marina del Rey. Go west on the Marina Freeway, from the 405 and turn left on Mindanao Way. Go to the end and at the turn around there is a

gate and there should be someone from the Yacht Club there to let you in.

For information, call Ken Evans at 626-683-8372.

The Hit & Miss is the monthly newsletter of the Western Antique Power Associates. It is sent to all members. Past issues are available online to all members at [www.wapa.us](http://www.wapa.us).

If you have an idea for an article you would like to write, a classified ad, or any thing else, contact the editor.

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