

September 2008

# HIT & MISS

Journal of the Western Antique Power Associates

## ROCK ISLAND PLOW COMPANY

### Part 2: LeRoy's Engine

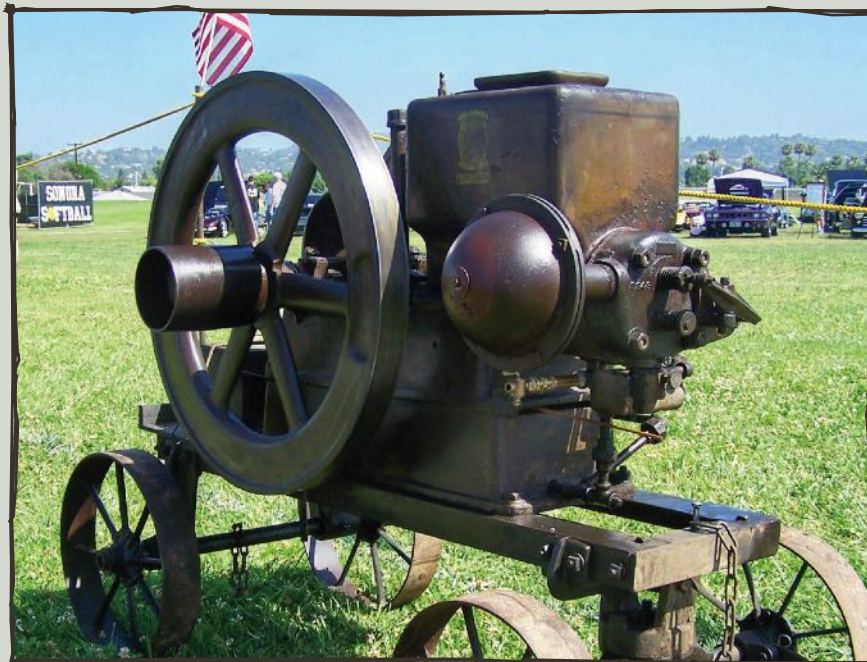
By Bob Smith

LeRoy has had his eye on this engine every time Larry Madole hosted a parts exchange at his yard in Chino. Finally they both came to an agreement on price and Larry sold the engine to LeRoy with one stipulation: the engine must never be painted. LeRoy agreed to the terms and took the engine home to begin the restoration process.

He began by removing the buildup of grease, oil, and dirt. He scraped, brushed, and wiped for two weeks until all of the barn fresh dirt was removed. He had to remove the head to thoroughly clean the dirt and rust from around the cylinder in the water hopper.

LeRoy could now see that there were no parts missing and everything appeared to be original. Now it was time to inspect the parts for signs of breakage or wear.

He started with the crankshaft. The crankshaft was in good shape and there was no sign of wear on the main bearings. The flywheels were straight with no wobble. The



piston was free but LeRoy discovered that the connecting rod had a slight bow which caused the piston to bind on the compression stroke. He took the connecting rod to a machine shop where they created a jig and straightened it with a press as close to straight as possible.

The piston and connecting rod were reinstalled without changing bearings or rings.

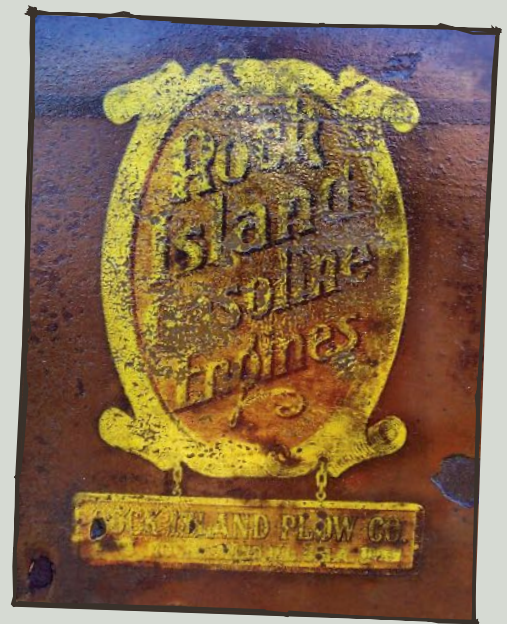
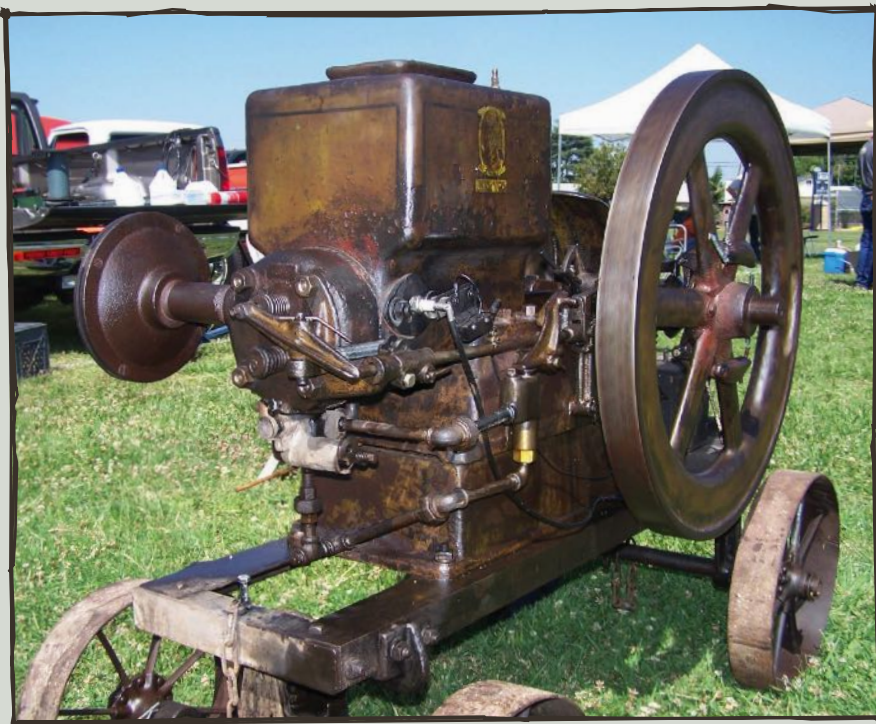
The speed control lever that rides on a cone shaped cylinder on the crankshaft was badly worn. LeRoy took his mig welder and built up the worn area with weld and ground it into shape with his Dremel grinder.

The pushrod guide at the head end was also badly worn so out came the welder again to build up the worn area and cleaned up with the hand grinder. This is a good example of what you can do without

a machine shop.

While LeRoy had the head off he discovered that it had been broken on the side from freeze damage and repaired. He said the repair job was very good.





The fuel system was cleaned and reassembled with minor repairs. The fuel pump was in need of a new plunger so Tom Millett came through with a "G" Job.

After LeRoy finished reassembling the Rock Island, he discovered that the Wizard

magneto was missing the magnets. In order to get the engine running, he rigged up a spark plug with battery and coil as a temporary fix. The engine fired on the third pull of the flywheels. This was the first time this engine has run in probably 50 years.

LeRoy says he had been looking for an engine like this one for several years. It's just big enough to easily take to shows but not too big that it would be difficult to load and unload. Come out to one of our shows and see this beautiful engine.

## CLASSIC YACHT SHOW IN MARINA DEL REY

On July 27, 2008, WAPA members joined the Classic Yacht Association for their 32nd Anniversary of the Old Fashioned Day in the Park. It is held annually at Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey. The day started out with a little overcast, but soon the sun was shining down upon us. The afternoon was the typical patchy clouds with a cool ocean breeze.

New members Jerry Burak and Craig Mathews spent most of the day at the display looking around and learning about this event. They want to come back next year with equipment. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Text by Ken Evans  
Pictures by Larry Evans





# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AUGUST 8, 2008

## Board members

**present:** Wayne Mabb, Bob Swan, Jack Johnson, Craig Maxwell, Bob Smith, and Joe Siddons.

## Board members

**excused:** Tom Millett, Kelley Garcia, and Leroy Overstreet

**WAPA members present:** Jim Davis, John Hampton, Dan Kato, Slat's Seeley, and George Noble.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Wayne Mabb.

Flag salute led by Bob Smith.

Show Director Bob Smith took the minutes in the absence of Secretary Tom Millett.

## Reports:

**President:** Wayne Mabb announced that the 1st Lutheran School in Monrovia would like WAPA back this year on Sept 26 for a hands on display from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00. Motion to sanction by Bob Smith, second by Jack Johnson.

**Vice President:** Bob Swan had nothing new to report.

**Secretary:** In the absence of Tom Millett, Wayne Mabb would like to hold the approval of the last board meeting minutes of July 11 until the next board meeting. No objections.

**Treasurer:** Absent

**Membership:** Jack Johnson reported that we currently have 131 active members.

**Library:** Craig Maxwell had nothing new to report.

**Shows:** Bob Smith announced the upcoming Chino Kiwanis Corn Feed Run in Chino on Aug 23. Bob Smith made a motion to sanction, second by Jack Johnson.

Bob Smith also made a motion to sanction the South Pasadena

Car Show on Sept 14, second by Jack Johnson.

A new show was announced with much discussion. The Aliso Viejo Founder's Day on Sept 27. Rob Skinner will chair this show. Jack Johnson made a motion to sanction this show, Bob Swan seconded.

A motion was made by Bob Smith to sanction the Neff Park show in La Mirada on Oct 4, second by Bob Swan.

**Safety:** Joe Siddons had nothing new to report.

**Old Business:** Craig Maxwell had nothing new to report on the museum land at Prado Park.

**New Business:** Wayne Mabb announced the Fun Day would be on August 16 at the Glendora Centennial Park. Jack Johnson was asked if he could buy the door prizes and he accepted. Without a Fun Day chairman, Wayne Mabb was going to ask John DeLazzaro to chair the event.

**Adjournment:** 7:45 p.m.



Left:  
Cheesecake Factory in Freeport, Illinois

Middle:  
Steam Shovel in Baraboo, Wisconsin

Right:  
Traction engine in Baraboo, Wisconsin

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 12, Friday**

**7:00 p.m.**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

The WAPA Board of Directors meeting is held at Heritage Park in Santa Fe Springs. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have ideas on how WAPA can become a better club, or if you just want to come and join in the festivities, please join us.

Heritage Park Rd. is located just south of Telegraph Road just west of Norwalk Boulevard. The meeting is held in the train depot next to the steam locomotive.

**September 14, Sunday**

## **South Pasadena Car Show**

**By Ken Evans, Show Chairman**

Once again, WAPA has been asked to join South Pasadena and participate in the 4th Annual Cruz'n For Roses Car Show. It is a fund raising event for their Rose Parade Float and will be big like last year. We will have the same location on Mission Street at Fremont Ave.

Set-up begins at 7:30 a.m. and the show ends at 3 p.m. Parking will be nearby on the streets. Bring your own food and water and shade. There is

a Carrow's Restaurant across the street from our exhibit.

**How to get there:** From the 210 Freeway, east or west, exit on Fair Oaks South and go through Pasadena and over the hill and then over the Pasadena Freeway, past Mission and turn right on El Centro St. Go west to

Freemont and turn right, traveling north to Mission. We will be on your left on the south side of Mission at Freemont. Do not block the street during set-up.

Please call Ken Evans at 626-683-8372 and let him know if you are going to be there. Or send an email to kencevans@sbcglobal.net. We have plenty of room for a nice exhibit.

**September 27, Saturday**

## **Aliso Viejo Founders Day Fair**

**By Rob Skinner, Show Chairman**

The City of Aliso Viejo as invited WAPA to participate in their annual event at the Aliso Viejo Ranch. In addition to our equipment, there will be other historical displays, gold panning, a blacksmith, pony rides, live music, a rock climbing wall, food, a BMX show, and dancing.

The show runs from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. We can set up as early as 10:00 a.m. Water will be available close to our area. In addition to engines, hands-on displays would be welcomed.

From the San Diego Freeway (I-5), exit Alicia Parkway and go south 1.7 miles. Turn right on Moulton and go 0.7 miles. Turn left on Aliso Viejo Pkwy and go 0.4 miles. Turn left on Cedarbrook. It winds around and eventually becomes Park Ave. Across from the school, turn left into the entrance of the ranch.

If you plan to attend, please contact Rob at rskinner@rustyiron.com or 562-694-2301. Prior knowledge of attendance greatly helps in planning a successful event. If you can't decide until the last minute, please come anyway. The more, the merrier.

**October 4, Saturday**

## **Neff Park, La Mirada**

Mark your calendars. More info will be in next month's issue.



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

If you have any ideas for future issues, articles you would like to write, or anything else, please contact the editor.

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