



The Smoke Ring News

THE PIONEER ENGINEERS CLUB OF INDIANA, INC. NEWSLETTER
March, 2018



Greetings from the Pioneer Engineers Club!

We hope that all have weathered the winter in fine fashion and that the season has offered all the opportunity to make those additions to your equipment that you have been talking about and planning for! Among our members, I know of at least one new building put up to shelter more tractors and a new set of water tanks built for a Russell steam engine. Those toys must have a roof! ... And as for the new tanks, well, it's nice to not leave a dribbling trail everywhere you go on the show grounds! We look forward to seeing the turn out this summer with all the changes and new additions to the historical treasures we care for.

First things first! You can't enjoy the reunion without a good place to stay. The Club wishes to thank each and every one who has renewed their camping site. We take great care to provide a clean and friendly place for families to camp, and the funds that come in from this endeavor help to pay the huge electric bill, and improve the grounds. Nearly everyone chose to renew their sites, and the Club will retain the very few that were left. Thanks also go to BJ and Tasha Bischoff for their efforts in handling the renewals this year, as well as coordinating all the camping every year. It's not an easy job!

Every year at our reunion, we consistently bring in 35 to 40 steam engines. That's a lot of old iron rolling around and that's a lot of black smoke! In proportion, it takes an enormous amount of wood to keep these bad boys rolling all weekend. The last two, to three years running we have run out of wood before the end of the reunion. Soooo! We would gladly accept any donations in the form of logs for firewood! Which brings us to then next piece of news...

Spring is just around the corner and that means our yearly Spring Social and work day is fast approaching! Book your calendars for March 31st and plan to join us for a day of catching up with friends and help us wake Caldwell Pioneer Acres from winter's sleep. We plan to tackle several projects that day including cutting and stacking firewood and continuing work on the new office building/souvenir shop. There is always plenty of clean up to do around the grounds as well, so bring some gloves, chain saws, and wood splitters. Please remember, if you would like your steam engine hauled, you need to participate in a work day to be considered. If you can't make it for the workday, we hope to see you for the dinner at noon. Bring a healthy appetite and a dish to share! Meat and drinks will be provided by the Club.

By way of announcement, we want to applaud Mindy Spalding for the years that she has run our souvenir shop. If you have come away from the reunion with a button, hat, or t-

shirt, you have probably met Mindy and you know what an outstanding representation of the club she is! She spends hours in the souvenir stand as well as thinking of, sometimes designing, and ordering all the merchandise in the shop. We are grateful for the outstanding job she has done; however, she is going to leave big shoes to fill! Mindy will not be leaving us this year, but she would like to retire after the 2019 Reunion. If there is anyone interested in taking on this responsibility, please contact any club official. Mindy is always looking for volunteers to help, so you could spend some time with her and see if this is a job for you.

We also need volunteers to help out in the office during the reunion. Our Secretary would like to have some time to run her steam engine, so we appreciate all of you who are willing to volunteer. Please call or text Elisabeth at 812-584-3077 and we will work out a convenient time for you to help out.

In closing, we thank each and every member of PEC for your contribution. The staff often gets recognized for their efforts, but if the truth be told, there wouldn't be any shows without all of you who bring your toys, or the many that just walk through the gate to enjoy the displays. We look forward to another great year and an awesome reunion!

Important Dates to Remember

March 31, 2018 – Spring Social and work day
June 3, 2018 – Membership meeting and work day
July 28 & 29, 2018 – Clean up weekend
August 2-5, 2018 – Annual Reunion
November 3, 2018 – Election meeting and work day

Return Service Requested

Pioneer Engineers Club
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