



The Smoke Ring News

THE PIONEER ENGINEERS CLUB OF INDIANA, INC. NEWSLETTER
March 2019



Greetings from the Pioneer Engineers Club! We hope this letter finds all of you in good health and good spirits as we look forward to spring just around the corner. Like many of you, we have been busy preparing for the upcoming seasons with anticipation of a great year and excitement for a wonderful reunion.

We are happy to report changes and improvements being made around the Caldwell Pioneer Acres! While the reunion lasts but a few days in August, we are so blessed to have many members who are aware that it takes work all year long to pull together such an amazing four days. Through the fall and winter we have continued to progress on many of our projects, as well as the necessary maintenance that comes with the grounds and buildings. The new wood working shop is looking wonderful and turning the winter weather with a roof and siding. Many thanks go to the crews who have donated many a weekend to keep this moving forward. At the same time, there has been a lot of progress made on the extension of Heritage Tool Works, which is home to the Niles vertical boring mill. The boring mill has been set in place, and work is progressing on its reassembly. Another exciting improvement is some trees that have been planted along the main drive in the steam field. A member was so kind to suggest and donate toward this and we all will be enjoying the benefits for years to come! Along with these projects, several maintenance needs have arisen which will be addressed this coming spring.

As our board of directors meets monthly, many ideas and options are discussed to keep our reunion moving in the right direction. As you know, our event continues to grow each year, and while this is something we love to see, it doesn't come without its difficulties and growing pains. We love to encourage our members to bring their equipment and we know it is truly a weekend that is a reunion of families and friends and we want to keep it that way. However, it is unfortunate that we only have so much room to spread out and the last few years this has caused a bit of a problem. We will be trying a new approach this year with limiting the time that areas can be roped off and asking that our members be courteous with space when putting up tents. Roping off your area will still be permitted, beginning at noon on Sunday. However, Thursday morning (beginning of the reunion), we will remove all ropes and stakes. We would also ask that when your equipment is moved in, that you would promptly take down any ropes or tape. It is a tripping hazard to everyone, and each year, someone has tripped and fallen. This is an unnecessary trip hazard. Also to keep in mind is that our large gathering of steam engines is central to our club. We love to see every kind of unique equipment that shows up each year, however, our steam engines are very large and must have the proper amount of space to move around.

We are happy to remind you of our upcoming events! Our membership meeting and workday is scheduled for March 30th. We will be having the pitch in dinner at noon with the club providing meat. Bring a dish to share and a healthy appetite! And as we all know, nothing ripens the appetite better than a good old fashioned work day with friends! Come on out and help us as we wake the grounds from its winter sleep. There will be lots to do, but of most importance will be the wood pile. Please bring your chain saw and wood splitter as we have lots of wood to cut and split. As a reminder to all our steam engine owners and operators, **WE**

NEED YOUR HELP! If you plan to use wood this year, we need you to participate to building up our supply. Every year we run out before the end of the reunion and it is imperative that we have fuel for these monsters. As always, the participation in work days help to determine which engines get hauled.

We are looking for a new design for a Club t-shirt, which will be sold in the souvenir stand. Please submit your ideas to pioneerengineersclub@gmail.com by June 1st. Please note, that we are not expecting a finished design, we just need ideas. We hope to vote on a winning design at the June membership meeting.

The reunion dates for this year are August 1 through the 4th. We look forward seeing you all at the membership meeting and anxiously await our reunion!

Dates to remember

March 30 – Work day and Spring Social

June 23 – Work day and Membership meeting

July 27 & 28, 2019 – Clean up weekend

August 1-4, 2019 – 71st Annual reunion

November 2nd - Work day & Membership Meeting/Election

Return Service Requested

Pioneer Engineers Club
PO Box 536
Rushville, IN 46173