

# *67 Years of Steam-O-Rama* **The Early American Steam Engine And Old Equipment Society** *Newsletter*

Volume 36 Number 2

Executive Meetings- 7:00 P.M.

August 6    September 3    October 1  
November 5    December 3

General Meetings-7:00 P.M.

August 13    September 10    October 8  
November 12    December 10

Work sessions every Monday and selected dates listed below.

Important dates: Steam-O-Rama: October 3 to 6; Election of Officers- November 12; Christmas Party- December 10 following meeting. A list of dates and jobs for posting on your calendar is at the end of the newsletter.

## **RECENT EVENTS-**

**2024 Spring Fling Weekend** – Our Spring weekend was an abbreviated version of years gone by. There was the flower auction on Friday evening, but no small items or outside auction on Saturday as it was before. We still had a nice showing of garden tractors and gas engines. Fun tractor pulls, Garden tractor pulls and the Tuff Truck exhibition on Sunday. The weather mostly cooperated and the show was well attended.

2025 plans are under way and will include only the flower auction on Friday night, if possible. The antique tractor pull will take place at the track again next year on Friday evening. Saturday will have fun and sanctioned garden tractor pulls all day. The Engine, Garden Tractor and Antique Tractor Shows will be all weekend as will the yard sale/flea market. The Spring Fling Committee is working on the show plans and will be meeting to finalize some of those plans on September 3 at 6 PM. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to attend the meeting or contact Chuck Asper, Jason Bull or Russ Hoffman.

More information with the final plan will be in the January newsletter.

## **CURRENT EVENTS**

**Public Sales-** At this time there we just completed the sale for Blaine Rentzel's business items in Emigsville. Blaine says he is retiring. We have one scheduled auction for Mrs. Leber on East Prospect Road on September 28. No others are scheduled at this time.

**Work Parties** - have been held every Monday during the summer weeks as we prepare the buildings and grounds for the fall event. Most Mondays Paul Fake, Russ Hoffman, Leroy Sterner, , Dale Waltmyer, Tom Vinup, and Jerry Campbell have been working at the showgrounds. They have been working on general maintenance, weed control and mowing, and museum work. Starting after Labor Day, each Monday we will be cleaning out, sweeping up, and preparing for our event. Please let us know if you can lend a hand

## **UPCOMING EVENTS-**

**2024 Steam-O-Rama** – Our 2024 Show will feature Tractors, Garden Tractors and Equipment considered to be Lesser Known Classics/ Oddballs and Misfits. These pieces will be exhibited and demonstrated in the feature building and around the grounds. We will also have showcases available for small items, toys and literature. These items can be brought to the grounds show week and registered at that time.

Kitchen prep will be similar to other years. As usual, much work has yet to be done. We have scheduled several work days in the weeks before the show to take up the slack and create a less hectic pace during show week. We will be making apple butter and cooking off bones for pan haus in the cookshack Chicken corn, ham bean and

beef vegetable soups also take place there. We also have many, many sausage and hamburger patties to make from donated pigs and a cow which we have had butchered and frozen. There will be additional inside and outside jobs available each day. All of the workdays could be different jobs, but the dates will stay the same. Inside we will be finishing any kitchen cleaning chores. We will be washing jars for the all the apple butter, all kitchen cleanup will be completed. We will be working on outside table and bench cleaning and some placement. We will be putting the stage area in order, cleaning the tray holders and picnic tables, cleaning and arranging the kitchen etc. We will be finished each day by about 1:00 and lunch will be available for everyone. Any **Food Donations** to the meals are always gratefully accepted.. There are always jobs to be done, and doing a couple of half days before show week makes things a lot easier as we get closer to show time. Please consider offering help at any on all of the dates on the schedule. Many of the jobs are sit down jobs so you can keep that in mind.

During the last weekend before the show, September 28 and 29, there are also jobs available to be done and if your weekdays are full and you can stop by during Saturday and Sunday and someone can give you a job. Lunch is available to anyone working on show preparation.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 30, October 1 and 2, we will be doing much kitchen preparation, and we will be cooking for the show and for workers meals on all three days. These are three days of work preparing the food for the show. Jobs on these days include chopping onions, eggs, and potatoes; wrapping brownies, cookies and Rice Krispie treats. Work areas are prepared and stocked. We need all the help we can get- **Many Hands Make Light Work!!!!** If we don't have additional volunteers to cover this work the kitchen can not operate. As said before we have a lot of members and if they expect Steam-O-Rama to go on, they need to show up to help. Many of the jobs do not necessitate dealing with customers and serving food, although we also need help in those areas. It isn't possible to plea loud enough in a printed newsletter. I know that because I have been trying to do it for 30 years. But hear this plea **WE NEED HELP ALL THE DAYS OF STEAM-O-RAMA AND PREP DAYS BEFORE AND CLEAN-UP AFTER. PLEASE ! PLEASE ! PLEASE ! CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS FOR ANY PART OF IT.** Masks can be worn, but not required, and because of the jobs being done, handwashing is constant.

Outside jobs will be going on at all times. The work day runs from about 8:00 A M to dark with people coming and going as available. Benches and tables need to be placed around the grounds. Mowing and trimming and general cleanup and maintenance will be going on all week. Fencing needs to be placed, signs put in the areas where needed and flea market preparation will be completed. Lunch and Supper are provided throughout the week for all workers and any **food donations** to those meals will be gratefully accepted. If you can't stay all day, an hour or two is welcome and very useful.

Steam-O-Rama starts October 3 and the usual plea for help goes out to everyone. Also, a plea for 4 days of good weather. With the above schedule, hopefully we won't be exhausted before we even get started. There are jobs for everyone at all times. Sit down, stand up, walk around, stay in one place- anything you can do will be appreciated. As the week goes on, we constantly adapt to the weather conditions, the crowd, the events of the time period and the help available. We have the kitchen and cookshack operating constantly during the four days, Registration is open and busy constantly. The woodshop and museum are open and working. **Please** lend a hand wherever possible to help make this another successful show. If you want to work on a specific job you can check with Sue Knaub to see when that work is scheduled. There is a general schedule at the end of the newsletter. **Please hang it up and check the days you can help.**

**Steam-O-Rama Admission-** for 2024 is \$5.00 per person and parking is free. Admission is free to you if you received this newsletter because your membership has been paid up to 2024 show week. You should have a membership card with a large 2023 or 2024 or LIFE stamped on it to present at the gate as you enter. **2023** will get you in and you will need to renew your membership for 2024 at registration. A **SINGLE** membership provides free admission for the person listed on the card **ONLY**. It does not provide free admission for the rest of the occupants of the car. They will be charged admission to the show. It also provides a badge for that named member **ONLY**. Please don't ask for additional badges, they are also used for admission and only paid members get a badge and free admission.

**Plaques-** are issued to all exhibitors for taking the time and effort to bring tractors, engines, literature, feature items, anything for exhibit at Steam-O-Rama. You are not required to be a member to exhibit at the show, but it will be suggested to you at registration. If you take out a membership you are covered by our insurance, you will receive newsletters covering events throughout the year and you will be helping to pay expenses. One plaque will be issued for each registered name, not every item exhibited. You can exhibit under as many names as you wish so long as you fill out the paperwork. 400 plaques have been ordered this year, and they will be distributed as long as they last. If you wait until Sunday to bring an item, there may not be any more plaques left, and that is the chance you will take in waiting. We do not have a minimum exhibit time requirement as some shows do, so you can come for just one day or two and still get your plaque. We hope this is fair to everyone involved.

**Golf carts, ATV's Garden Tractors, etc.-** We'll say it again. The day is coming when you will need to show proof of insurance to operate these items on the grounds of Steam-O-Rama. Our insurers tell us that it is not a requirement at this time, but registration of these items is a requirement at Steam-O-Rama. If you plan to operate a golf cart, ATV, Garden Tractor or other mode of transportation at Steam-O-Rama, it must be registered, you must have your registration card displayed and the driver must be the person who registered the vehicle. This is still free to everyone. Please keep reading for some restrictions on vehicle operation. We continue to accept the occasional ATV's for use at the show but discourage their use unless absolutely necessary. Remember speed limit on the grounds is 5MPH at all times except emergency personnel.

**NO ONE UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE** is allowed to operate equipment of any kind without adult supervision. If a parent is not present with a young driver, a responsible adult needs to be prepared to show parental permission for operating that item. The posted **SPEED LIMIT** is **5 MPH**. If an area is congested with pedestrians, or if unsafe conditions are present because of weather or some other reason, these vehicles may be stopped from operating for a period of time or restricted from entering certain areas, especially food areas and parade routes. When you bring the vehicles onto the showgrounds for your use, you agree to operate them under the rules. We really do not want to deny anyone the privilege of operating a small wheeled vehicle during the show, but circumstances can sometimes demand that traffic be stopped. There have been very few problems in the past few years since we have been registering and checking speed, underage drivers and conditions, but one or two people can ruin it for everyone. All drivers need to know that the area through the food court is restricted from vehicles and drivers need to park and walk through/ around the area. There are just too many people both big and small to allow motorized vehicles of any kind to enter. This does not include scooters and motorized wheel chairs in use by the handicapped, but does include all golf carts, and tractors of any size. Please try to operate your vehicle as safely and responsibly as possible, or you risk the possibility of being escorted from the showgrounds.

**Flea Market- Rich and Trudy Reichard are retiring!** They have been doing the flea market registration and placement for at least 20 years and want to step down. They are more than willing to help train anyone who will consider taking things over. They have all the work done with contracts and, placement. Please, think about taking on this job. It can be one person, a couple or a small group. Our flea market has been an integral part of Steam-O-Rama and we need to keep it going. You can talk to Rich and Trudy directly or talk to any member of the Board to find out details. We have a new, permanent flea market office just behind the barn. We do have one new person working on the flea market, but we need at least one or two more. If you are a flea marketer please keep these changes in mind when you arrive. And again, we desperately need someone to take over the flea market placement. Let any board member know if you might be interested.

**Construction Equipment Area-**In 2017 we added a new area for the demonstration of antique construction equipment. This area includes a new people mover stop to get interested people to the site just north of the sawmill. This year the former "Howard County (MD) Antique Farm Machinery Club", under the direction of John May, has relocated their equipment and operation to our show grounds. You will notice several very large and a few not quite so large pieces of industrial equipment being operated behind the sawmill. They have been meeting the second Saturday of the odd months to prepare the area and equipment for demonstration. They have refurbished a small outbuilding for their use and someone will be available to answer any and all questions, or fake answers! Be sure to check it out.

**Steam-O-Rama Daily Schedule** –As in previous years we will be printing gate brochures to be handed out to all vehicles entering through the gate. Events are listed to the best of our ability to schedule them during the 4 days. We have found that the availability of volunteers, weather conditions, and available equipment can affect scheduling. The demonstrations will be listed and the possible time period will be suggested.

**Antique Car Display**- will be moved to the front of the show on the lot recently purchased and cleaned and mowed for our use. This will be a sign to attract more cars to display and attract attention near the road. The area will no longer need to be roped off from the rest of the grounds and will give better access to the grounds from the camping area. We thank the committee for the hard work needed to prepare the lot for our use..

**Museum**- Have you visited the Steam-O-Rama Museum yet? Add it to your list of must see items. Located in our Tobacco Shed, and on the main barn floor, the museum houses many items donated to the society over the years and stored to wait for a place to be displayed. Many of the items have been skillfully restored by society members who stepped forward when we asked for volunteers to work on some society owned equipment. Since those first few items pictured in the newsletter they have worked on many items for display. We have acquired additional items to complete some displays and continue to search for some elusive pieces to complete some areas. Each year we try to feature a specific area with members welcome to bring items from their collections for display. This year we will be featuring the farm dairy with never-before-seen items on display. Leroy Sterner has designed and produced a display sign picturing museum items and cards are available to hand out showing contact information for the museum. This will be displayed at events large and small to help create interest in our museum. Admission will be free with donations being accepted. We are always interested in obtaining additional items for display. Any director can provide information. There is an information card available for outside groups to tour the museum. Please ask at registration for a copy. We have outgrown the original museum building and several large items are displayed on the top floor of the barn. Don't miss it. Under the barn in the former auction room there will be a display honoring Bob Rentzel and his Old Tyme Days show formerly held on Blaine Rentzel's farm. Much memorabilia from the show, pictures, plaques and badges, and some personal items will be displayed. These items were donated by his wife Marie to the society. Additionally under the barn will be The Steam-O-Rama Yrd Sale. Many items from the grounds no longer needed so they are for sale CHEAP> Be sure to stop in and see if there is anything you can use. We will be using the honor system to take donations for the items. Most items will be \$.25.

**People Mover**- The Society People Mover is for getting people around the showgrounds and back to their cars. While ours is not a terribly large showgrounds, the elderly and handicapped need help in moving from one area to another, and the people mover is handicap accessible. All others need to remember that walking is an excellent exercise and the people who need help most will be transported first. All people riding the people mover need to stay seated at all times until it comes to a complete stop. Children should not be riding without a parent or guardian present and will not be allowed to ride more than one full round. It is not an amusement ride for children's entertainment through the weekend. There will be clearly marked trolley stops around the area where you can wait for the People Mover to arrive. **NO JUMPING ON AND OFF BETWEEN STOPS!** As usual the society needs help to run the people mover. One person is needed to drive the tractor and a second person needs to be on the wagon at all times to help people who need it. If you are willing to donate some time, please let Charlie I. or Sue know so she can add your name to the list.

**Kiddie Barrell Train, Carousel and Train**-are all accessible for the junior tractor enthusiast. The charge for carousel rides is \$1.00 per person. The barrell train is by donation and everybody gets to have a bouncing good time. Joe Gummel is in charge of setting up, running, and tearing down the carousel. **HE NEEDS HELP DESPERATELY.** This is not a one man show. Please let Joe know if you can lend a hand with this project.

**Tractor Ride around the Community**- The Tractor Ride will be held Saturday this year instead of Sunday. This will free up people wanting to participate in the Sunday morning fun tractor pull to participate in that. You must sign up in registration ahead of time to drive to ride the route

**Pulls**-Will be held as usual at the track. Antique tractor pulls begin on Friday with weigh in at 3, pulls starting at 5. Hook fee is \$15 per hook. Garden tractor pulls start Saturday morning with a fun pull open to anyone and a \$5 hook fee. Horse pulling starts at noon and is usually over by 2. Competitive Garden Tractor Pulling begins around 3 with 2 complete sessions, A \$15 hook fee will be charged. Purses will be paid.

**Worker's Lunch and Dinner-** We will repeat the effort to feed our workers during Steam-O-Rama again this year. Each day lunch will be served from 12 to 1 and dinner from 5 to 6. There will be a serve yourself buffet set up inside the double doors in the newer part of the kitchen. This will not be an open menu, but may include menu items on certain days. Hot and cold drinks will also be available at the same location. If workers wish to eat from the menu they can go through the line and add their choices to their food tab and pay ½ price the same as before. This is meant to ease the confusion at the kitchen door near the cash register and to give all workers an opportunity to schedule time to eat. This is also an extra job for kitchen workers and we are looking for someone who might be willing to coordinate this effort. If you really don't want to serve the public, but would consider helping feed the workers, let Sue know and we'll fill you in on details. To all those workers out there, wear your "WORKER / VOLUNTEER" ribbons proudly and check in for details. Each worker is expected to sign in and if not recognized, questions may be asked. Food donations for the workers meals, especially desserts will be gratefully accepted and can be dropped off at the kitchen any time during the week.

**Web sight-** The address is [www.steamoramapa.com](http://www.steamoramapa.com). It is currently under construction and will have a brand new look. Work on that is progressing slowly so if you have specific questions or need forms, Call Sue Knaub or the Showgrounds to make your requests. We are always looking for pictures from past shows, still or video that could be used at the website in the future. The website, again, is steamoramapa.com, all small letters. In addition to forms for membership and flea market vendors, pullers can now download rules for both tractor and pickup pulling, and access the pulling schedule as soon as it is set. Don't forget the pa, if you don't use that you will get some other group in Arkansas. Happy surfing. We are updating and reworking our web sight as quickly as possible. Any interesting pictures and videos are needed. Tim Beyer is helping with this effort and Double Dog Communications will be helping also. After this is finished we will be able to change content and details at will. Please let us know if you can contribute.

**Election of Officers-** will be held at the General Meeting, Tuesday, November 14. Nominations will be accepted by the Executive committee for any office and the three director positions held by Leroy Sterner, Paul Fake and Joe Gummel. until the Executive Meeting on November 5. Any member is eligible to hold an office and anyone interested can talk to a current member of the executive committee. If you think something should be done in a different manner than it currently is done, this is your chance to make a change. Election is Tuesday November 12

**Christmas Party** following the General Meeting, Tuesday, December 10. Bring a dozen cookies and a friend and have a good time. Hope to see you there.

**2025 Events-**The winter newsletter will feature details about several new events to be held at the Steam-O-Rama Showgrounds by outside organizations or individuals. Watch for information on these events.

**Adopt a Picnic Table-** Along with the Howard County Equipment, we inherited about 34 picnic tables in various stages of disrepair. We are looking for people to adopt a table and repair or replace the boards as needed, paint as needed and we will put a plaque on the table in your honor. We will pay for needed materials. Please let a board member know if you are interested or stop in at registration for info.

### **THANK YOU'S, SYMPATHY AND CONCERNS-**

We have several Life and other members for which we do not have deliverable addresses. Please check in with registration personnel if you know of someone who is a member but may not be receiving newsletters twice a year.

Our continued **Thanks** to all the helpers who turn out at public sales, events at the showgrounds and cleanup and construction crews. The jobs are many and varied, time consuming and sweat producing, and the pay isn't too great, but the rewards in friendship and camaraderie are worth every minute.

Our **Thanks** to Paul Fake, Leroy Sterner, Russ Hoffman, Rich Jackson, Tom Vinup, Chuck Sanders, Jerry Campbell, Dale Waltmyer and for the many hours of work on summer mowing and weed whacking and general cleanup and maintenance.

Our **Thanks** to all those who brought in canning jars for apple butter this fall. We will continue to accept pint jars and quarts on a limited basis. There will be only a few pints left over after we complete this year's apple butter, so we will need to keep looking for available pint jars..

Our **Thanks** to director Dave Peters for donating the 250 feet of rope and arranging the installation of that rope on the flagpole. Our old rope deteriorated badly and fell down. Our hope is to have the flag proudly waving for Steam-O-Rama.

**Our Concern**-to recently or currently hospitalized members Rich Reichard, Chuck Sanders, Rick Garner..

## **Fall 2024- Steam-O-Rama Work Schedule**

September 3, Tues.-Executive Meeting

September 4 Wed.- Hamburger Patties, Bones for Pan Haus Kitchen Work 8:00 A.M.-Lunch provided

September 9, Mon-Working at Showgrounds 8:30 AM

September 10, Tues.-General Meeting 7:00 P.M.

September 11, Wed.- Soup making 800 AM, Pattie making, any left over bones

September 14 and 15- Pow Wow held on the grounds by the former Muddy Run Group see pages for details

September 16 Monday- Work at Showgrounds

September 18, Wed-Apple Butter Making making starting @ 5:30 AM, additional Kitchen work as needed at 8:00, Sausage patties, Hamburger patties

September 18- Any jobs left to do, patties, Soup, Bones

September 23-Monday-Work at showgrounds

September 25-Wednesday- Apple Butter starting at 5:30 AM, additional Kitchen work at 8:00

September 28- Sale for Larry Leber estate, East Prospect Road

September 29 Sunday to October 2 Wednesday-Kitchen and Showgrounds preparation, lunch and dinner provided all days.

October 3 to 6-STEAM-O-RAMA

October 7, Mon.- General cleanup, Kitchen cleanup and storage- Lunch provided if there is anything left to eat,

October 1- Tues.- Executive Meeting after lunch

October 8, Tues- General Meeting 7:00 P.M.

October 18-20- County Line 4 Wheelers-at the track. Trailer will be open

October 23- Wednesday- Apples for Apple Butter 2025, -8:00 A.M. Kitchen, lunch provided and October 30 finish apples for 2025.

November 05, Tues-Executive Meeting- 7 :00 P.M.

November 12, Tues- General Meeting- 7:00 P.M. Election of Officers

December 3 Tues.-Executive Meeting 7:00 P.M.

December 10, Tues.- General Meeting- Christmas Party









