

2016 EDGE&TA National Show at Wasilla and Palmer, Alaska

June 10-12, 2016, Tired Iron club members Clyde and Doris Brummett attended the EDGE&TA national meeting at Wasilla and Palmer, Alaska, which are cities north of Anchorage. Clyde was there to fulfill his duties as EDGE&TA director for the South Central Region. Along with the tractor and engine exhibits at the two towns, visitors were able to tour the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry at Wasilla and an annual celebration about fifteen miles away at Palmer. Perhaps most impressive of all was the beautiful Matanuska Valley and the surrounding mountains. In his own words and listed below is Clyde's account of their trip. Below that are a few photos representative of the many taken by Clyde and Doris:

"Our 14 1/2 hour trip to Alaska included a 5 1/2 hour layover in Dallas. We Arrived in Anchorage at 9:30 p.m. our time (6:30 Alaska time) . By the time we picked up our rental car, drove the 45 miles to Palmer and checked into our hotel, it was about 9:00 p.m. Alaska time and the sun was still shining bright. Sunset was about 11:45

We spent the next day visiting with the local EDGETA members and numerous other members from the lower US while the Alaska group set up for the show in Palmer. That evening (Friday evening) The National EDGETA Board met and conducted business for about three hours. Saturday morning a local civic club served an all you can eat breakfast for five dollars a person. Then we spent time looking at tractors, engines and vendor exhibits. About mid morning we made our way to a people mover lined up for the parade, which consisted of over 100 units. In addition to tractors, there were many floats representing colony days, the city of Palmer, local businesses and other organizations. The tractor show was in conjunction with an annual celebration of the U. S. Colonization of the Matanuska Valley in the mid 1930's.

Late Saturday evening, all the tractors and engines were loaded up to take them to Wasilla for the Sunday EDGETA show at the Wasilla Air and Transportation Museum. Saturday night we had the business meeting of all EDGETA members who attended the show, followed by a wonderful meal of salmon cooked three different ways and all the fixings.

Sunday started off with breakfast catered inside the Wasilla museum, and then a church service conducted by the president of the local EDGETA branch. He is the pastor of a rural Baptist church. There are too many items at the museum to tell about all. One item I will mention is a 1917 Holt Caterpillar which the EDGETA group started and let run for a while. It was found at an abandoned mine up in the mountains on what is now government property. The government would not permit them to drive it over the land, so they hired a large helicopter to fly it out. The tractor and engine show ended Sunday afternoon, but Doris and I were not ready to come home.

At our own expense, after the show, we stayed in the Palmer and Wasilla area and saw many sites. We drove to Glacier Park, Hatcher Pass, and to an old gold mine camp. We drove to Seward and took a six hour boat ride on the Gulf of Alaska where we saw, close up, whales and other sea life as well as a glacier also close up. Alaska is a beautiful place. We met many nice people and made new friends."



Friday Tractor



Downtown Exhibit



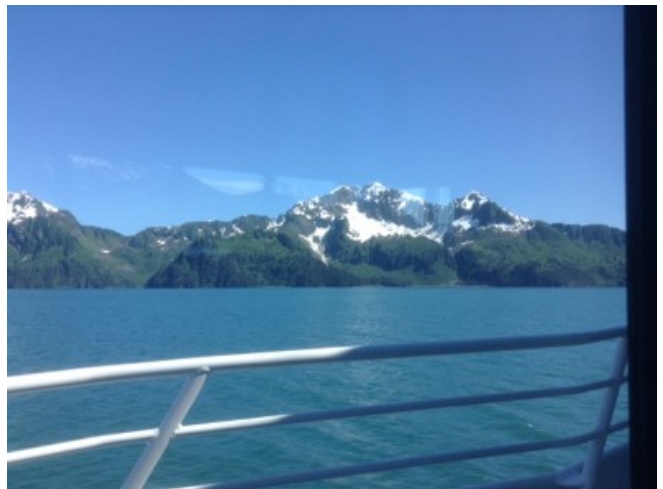
Classic Snowmobile



Speedex on Iron Wheels



Glacier Park



Boat Ride