



KANSAS TRACTOR CLUB

Issue No. 51 Summer 2025

KTC Annual Spring Tractor Drive

Thanks to **Chuck Henry** sales in Solomon for allowing the KTC to park trailers and tractors at your location on the east side of Solomon to begin this years spring Tractor Drive. And special thanks to **Lily Pad** for the loan of the porta potty on wheels.

The weather was better than expected. Mostly clear blue skies with a few clouds to mix that kept the temperature in the mid 70's at mid day.

Everyone who was going to drive showed up early and were ready well before the nine o'clock morning unloading time. Pete White made a quick check of the some of the sand roads to make sure they were good for the drive.

Donuts were donated to the club to get everyone started with a little sugar rush to which they could wash down with hot coffee.



Will Miller, winner of this years Kansas Tractor Club Scholarship, with his family arrived early and a short

presentation to present him with his check. *(Full story on pg 4).*

The drive began promptly at 9:30. Janice Janssen drove her pickup and kindly pull the porta potty at the end of the tractor line. There were at least 3 more vehicles including a Chevy Van, all who wanted to be a part of the drive even if not driving a tractor.

Pete White, who with the help of Pete Martin mapped the drive, took the lead with his giant American Flag, proudly displayed in front of his tractor and headed west out of Chuck Henry's place, until he reach the first turn onto a dirt—sand road heading west to the cemetery. Besides Dan Helm forgetting to turn his gas on, the morning drive was without incident.

It was originally planned to stop at Gail



Rooda place to see his collection of antiques, but he was having some health issues and we bypassed stopping at his place.

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Kansas Tractor Drive

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We stopped on the bridge that crossed over I-70 for a few minutes.



Gave everyone a chance to wave at the traffic and listen to the Semi truck and car horns as they pass under the bridge We continue on the drive pausing for a mid morning break before reaching Abilene and lunch in Eisenhower park. A few of us climb the stairs to stand behind the largest belt buckle in the world.

With lunch completed and stories told, Pete White had all drivers start their tractors for the trip back to Solomon. We had some trouble with Dan Helm's Ford, driven by Terry Urban stalling out several times, but it did complete the round trip. Shortly after the return trip started, Janice received a call from Gail Rooda. He was feeling pretty good and wanted everyone



to stop by to look at his antique tractors and cars. *(Story on pg 3)*. Pete shorten the route slightly to allow more time at Gail's place.

Before turning into Chuck Henry's place Pete led us down Solomon Main Street just to let Solomon know we were there. Then back on old 40 and back to our starting point. It was a great year for a great drive. Thanks to everyone who drove and those that followed.

2025 Member List

This is a list of current members. When you have finished reading this newsletter, please pass it on to a neighbor/friend so that may learn more about club and our activities. If we are missing someone from this list that is a member, please email Dan Helm at dhelm537@gmail.com.

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|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Leon Ball</u> | <u>Belleville</u> | <u>Bill Henry</u> | <u>Solomon</u> |
| <u>Don Benninga</u> | <u>Manhattan</u> | <u>Chuck Henry</u> | <u>Solomon</u> |
| <u>Richard Bowman</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Alan James</u> | <u>McPherson</u> |
| <u>John Carson</u> | <u>Bennington</u> | <u>David Kratzer</u> | <u>Geneseo</u> |
| <u>Dan Helm</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Roger & Patricia</u> | |
| <u>Ken Wasserman</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Landauer</u> | <u>Salina</u> |
| <u>Wally Wolfe</u> | <u>Abilene</u> | <u>Raymond Bilson</u> | <u>Smolan</u> |
| <u>Doug Degraff</u> | <u>Concordia</u> | <u>Ridge Johnson</u> | <u>Smolan</u> |
| <u>Ed Ball</u> | <u>Belleville</u> | <u>Jerry May</u> | <u>Salina</u> |
| <u>Evan Helm</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Ron Plymell</u> | <u>Assaria</u> |
| <u>Gary Boldenow</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Galen Nelson</u> | <u>Wichita</u> |
| <u>Gary Wisbey</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>James Patry</u> | <u>Salina</u> |
| <u>Dennis Stolzenburg</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Terry Urban</u> | <u>Salina</u> |
| <u>Janice Janssen</u> | <u>New Cambria</u> | <u>Leroy Quade</u> | <u>Salina</u> |
| <u>David Carson</u> | <u>Bennington</u> | <u>Jim Sekavec</u> | <u>Hoisington</u> |
| <u>Larry Sorenson</u> | <u>Hope</u> | <u>Robert Knitter</u> | <u>Clay Center</u> |
| <u>Paul McAfee</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Ed & Carol Viar</u> | <u>Salina</u> |
| <u>Peter Martin</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Galen Nelson</u> | <u>Wichita</u> |
| <u>Pete White</u> | <u>Salina</u> | <u>Verle Amthauer</u> | <u>Junction City</u> |



April 14, 2025 the Kansas Tractor Club board of directors met and reviewed several scholarship applications. A vote was taken and Will Miller was unanimously voted as this years recipient. Will comes from from Lyons Kansas and plans to attend Kansas State university this fall.

Will and his family made the hour and half drive to Solomon for the award ceremony and check presentation. Will and his parents hung out with the club members, had donuts and coffee. Everyone had a chance to get to know the family.

Good luck this fall at Kansas State Will.



Board of Director member, Austin Anders, attended the Gypsum Pie Festival. The weather was not the best for this day long event on Memorial Day weekend. There were limited Cars and tractors. The rain was much needed and despite putting a damper on the event, everyone enjoyed the rain and cool weather for the day. Thanks to Austin for attending this years event.

Calendar Listings

Although the club will not sponsor many events as we have in the past, we still would like to add your events to the Kansas Tractor Club web sit for others to review. If you have an event that you would like to list, please send your information to Dan Helm dhelm537@gmail.com or 330 S. 9th Street Salina, KS 67401. Check the calendar often as we are adding events throughout the year.

Board of Directors Notes 4/14/2025

The Kansas Tractor Club board of directors met on the 14th of April . The meeting was moved from Tim Pestingers place to Pete Martin farm.

Pete was gracious not only to have the meeting at the same place where we had Lucnch two years ago on the annual tractor drive, but he supplied snacks for the meeting.

Several items were on the agenda for this meeting.

Finalize details for the Tractor Drive

1. Finalize Tractor Drive. Pete Marting was going to lead all tractors for the drive. We scheduled to leave at 9:30 with a short stop at Gail Rodda’s farm. Lunch in Abilene with a stop at the giant belt buckle. Dan Helm will contact Lily Pad sepic service for porta potty on wheels. Janice will check with Dickerson county sheriff to see if we need an escort. In addition Janice was able to get a story about the drive in an area wide messenger paper.
2. Vote on Scholarship winner. We had three scholarships to review. Discussions for each application and a vote taken

on the application from Will Miller of Lyons Kansas.

3. Plans for additional Shows for summer and late fall. We discussed a fall tractor drive in October and attending the Tri Rivers Fair Parade in August, which on a Thursday evening.
4. When to have our 3 Board meeting. The next Board meeting will be in August. No date has been set. This will be the official 3 board of directors meeting for the year.

At the time of this newsletter our Tescott Bank Account has \$4390.11. The check to Will Miller (Scholarship) for \$1000 has not bee cashed at this time. We will have some minor expenditures for newsletter printing and mailing, and fee for the Tri Rivers Fair Parade. Please check the Web site for other events in our area. If you would like to add a show from your area, please email Dhelm537@gmail.com

Board of Directors attending. Janice Janssen, Pete White, Terry Urban, Robert Kittner,



Gail Rodda's Farm

About a mile or so east of Solomon, down a lengthy driveway, tucked in behind trees and a few hills, you will find Gail Rodda's farm. The home where he was born, the one he grew up in and the one he currently lives for all of his ninety years are all here, still standing and on the same property.



The grass was nicely mowed and with the recent rains, was a beautiful John Deere green. Gail worked most of his life in Abilene as a machinist. When he was home, he researched and restored old tractors and really old cars.

Gail, just a few days earlier had been hospitalized. He returned home the day before



the tractor drive. His wife asked us to reschedule the visit to a point in time to where Gail could get around a little better. But Gail had none of that. The day of the drive, a call was made to Janice Jennsen telling her to stop by the farm and he would give everyone a tour.

So we did.

He had several John Deere, letter series tractors that were fully restored in one shed. He had pulled out a John Deere B as a starting point of the show. Four more JD were in the shed with a lone International Farmall. Gail was on



point with stories about each tractor. From there we toured the barn, which had plenty of equipment that had just about outlived their farm life. There was a loft so we ventured up to view what was stored overhead. Everything was well preserved just as the grounds of the homestead.

Gail Rodda's Farm *continue*

An old planter set just outside the exit door of the barn next to a tree. It has been there so long it became part of the tree or the tree became a part of the planter.



Up towards his current living quarters, was yet another shed with an old Ford Model A setting outside. It appears it was ready for a Saturday trip into Abilene for dry goods and animal feed. Walking along towards the Model A, I could hear turkeys behind his house making all kinds of noise. Gail had a feeder just outside the back door in the yard to feed deer and any



other wild animal that would care to venture for the free food. Today it was the

turkeys, maybe five or six. Some were nervous and stayed just inside the trees, while a couple of Thanksgiving birds, not bashful, were getting their fill of the free grub.

Back to the cars inside the shed. They too were Model A's, and a later model car that I didn't get a good picture. All



of these antiques were purchased new by his grandparents and parents over the years. Gail took the time and restored them completely right down to the gas-lit headlights that he had to send off to have them professionally restored and working. Yet in another shed he had several more tractors that he plans on tinkering with when he gets to feeling better.

We spent the better part of 3 hours at Gail's farm and Gail spent the entire time answering questions and telling stories about each one of the restorations he did.

Kansas Tractor Club Newsletter

Kansas Tractor Club

330 S. 9th

Salina, KS 67401

To:



Organization

List of Officers

President

Dan Helm

Vice President

Dan Helm

Secretary/Treasurer

Interim—Janice Jannsen

Board of Directors

Terry Urban—Austin Anders

Robert Kittner—Janice Jannsen

Peter Martin—David Carson

Raymond Bilson

Be sure to check out

kansastractorclub.com regularly for
upcoming events.

Next newsletter publication will be
mailed **October, 2025**

If you would like to submit a story and/
or pictures for the KTC newsletter,
please send it to dhelm537@gmail.com

