

GAMTRA WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025

Well boys and girls, that was another quick trip around the sun. Another year is almost in the books. And we're all another year older, and hopefully wiser. Ain't it funny how time slips away? Time to enjoy some sitting by the fire and do that self-maintenance you've been putting off. Don't forget to spend some time with the old timers in your life. We've lost some really good folks in the past year. If you've got a friend that's in their 80's or 90's and their mind is still clear, you've literally got a library at your disposal, take advantage of it! When they're gone you lose that option. As always have fun and BE SAFE!

Got word that long time member Ronnie (Butch) Bynum of Alexis passed away on November 4 at the VA hospital in Salisbury, NC. We'll certainly miss him.

Couldn't find any local shows but here's a few parade dates.

Dec 2: Belmont. Dec 4: Cramerton. Dec 6: Lowell, Kings Mountain and Mt Holly. Dec 7: Gastonia. Dec 10: Stanley. Dec 13: Ranlo and Cherryville. Dec 14: Dallas.

The McAdenville lights are on from Dec 1-26.

And of course the legendary Cat Square Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 13 at 1pm. For those that have never been, this is one of the best parades in NC. It's only loosely organized, for the most part it's 'go to the end of the line and get in.' They do put the horses and mules at the back so everyone doesn't have to walk through the horse and mule stuff, other than that it's mostly a free-for-all. If you go, go early as parking is haphazard with an unbelievable amount of traffic on two lane country roads not designed for it. Plan on being in traffic till dark if you go, but it's worth it!

Another interesting tradition for anyone not familiar is the Cherryville New Years Shooters. They start at midnight on New Years Day & travel the whole community shooting big guns & scaring off boogers and evil spirits. It obviously works as no boogers or evil spirits have ever been seen in the area. Always some interesting characters in that group too. Check 'em out if you've never been. There's actually 2 separate groups of them and they both have Facebook pages you can follow that lists their itinerary, or go to Cherryville on New Year's morning & listen for the noise!

Our next meeting and Christmas get-together will be Thursday, December 4th at Jackson's cafeteria in Gastonia at 6:00. Come on & join us. Also, be reminded this is a 2 month newsletter. Our January meeting will be at the Citizens Resource Center in Dallas on January 8 at 6:00.

We've added quite a few to the email and snail mail list. Welcome to the fold! If you have anything you'd like published in the newsletter, need to change an address or just need a shoulder to cry on give me (Reggie) a call @ [704-263-2980](tel:704-263-2980). Keep trying till you get me. Also, if you know of any good 'off the beaten path' junk stores or flea markets or anything else that might be enjoyed by our group let me know & I'll spread it around. One more thing, y'all help me out with any upcoming engine & tractor shows, swap meets or other gatherings of interest you know about.

I'm completely fed up with Yahoo email. It will no longer let me create groups of my email contacts, which means I have to type every single name of the over 200 contacts I have for this newsletter and do it in 3 different emails because they won't allow more than 100 emails to be sent at one time. I'm in the process of setting up a Gmail account, which I hope to have fully completed by the next newsletter, which will be around the end of January, since this is a 2 month newsletter. Remember to check your spam folder then if you don't see the GAMTRA Newsletter at that time.

Marriage tip of the day from Dr Stone. She may not remember the exact Christmas you gave her a necklace or earrings, but she will definitely remember the Christmas you gave her a mop or vacuum cleaner!

Here's hoping everyone has a great Christmas and holiday season! Chill out, take plenty of naps, drink plenty of coffee, slow down, be nice to the checkout girls and waitresses, check on your elderly friends and neighbors and dance and sing like no one's watching!

Reggie