

The 2018 Tri State Gas Engine and Tractor Show, Portland, IN David Walker

The 2018 show in Portland IN, as always, had its unique happenings. I have been going for over 30 years and have never been disappointed, though some years have been better than others. This year's beginning was no different. I normally get up at four in the morning to head out to Portland for about 7 hours of driving and pulling my camper in order to arrive around lunch time. We had everything packed the night before. I had checked everything on the camper and unplugged it until the next morning, at which time the lights on the camper did not work when I plugged it in. The Expedition console said "default left tail light, trailer module disabled". After looking through the car manual, looking online and a drive to the dealer and getting the car checked out and the module reset and a loose ground wire in the trailer coupling reattached, I finally departed at 11 am and got to Portland around 6 PM. As I have always said, expect the unexpected when going to Portland.

This all turned out to not be so bad because Portland was getting 5 inches of rain that day. So, when I arrived and looked in the field, all I saw were muddy rivers and waves of mud between all the people trying to sell their wares. Most of them had set up the day before, but they were still surrounded by mud. As it turned out the weather was very nice the next 3 days and most of the mud, except for a few large low spots, was negotiable with rubber boots. I did have to give Cindy a hard time for getting a golf cart stuck in the field and having to be pulled out. My daughter, Celinda and her fiancée had to take off their shoes, wade in the mud and try to push. None of them had boots. It was a muddy mess we had to clean up. They decided the cart was better used outside the fairgrounds rather than in the field this year! Celinda found a really nice antique bookcase and table out there. Of course, they all find fun items in the multitude of antiques and crafts at the show. Cindy and I were up before dawn every morning to enjoy the hot breakfast one of the organizations serves. Not to mention the ears of fresh corn!

The Sparkplug shed is on high ground and was dry and a good place to hang out and look at different plugs. Gene Isenga had found some unusual plugs named Sun Power and gave them to club members

My collecting interest is plugs with unusual bottoms or electrode configurations. I have over a 100 different plugs with odd electrodes.



It is getting much harder for me to find new, different electrodes. I was able to get one from Mike Healy this year. It is a 3/4 pipe thread, take apart with no name on it and 3 copper colored electrodes that make an upside down U to a copper ground that is cut into the base. We guess that it was for a model T oil burner.



I also picked up a new plug from Wal-Mart advertised as Diamondfire. These different electrode configurations have always been a marketing feature by the manufacturers. We all know that fire will go to the closest ground, regardless of how it is made or how it looks.



So my time at Portland was rewarded and worth all the effort. And before you know it, the partying is over, it is Friday and time for the SPCOA club meeting and auction. The auction was a great hit with several good plugs. The only one I wanted went a little too rich for me. But it was a good year at Portland. We have a new SPCOA Facebook Group, [“Spark Plug Collectors of America \(Club Sanctioned\)”](#) and also a members only trading and selling group, [“Spark Plug Collectors of America Trading Post \(Members Only\)”](#). Check them OUT. We also have a new president, James Lawrence. He could sure use everyone’s support. See everyone next year!