

ARIZONA FLYWHEELERS
P.O. BOX 2012
COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326



August Edition

August 2025

President letter

As I announced in June I wouldn't continue to be president after November. So far no one has stepped up and agreed to assume the president's duties. At the August meeting we discussed what to do next. We decided that if no one has agreed to assume the duties by the September 3rd meeting, we will discuss any options up to disbanding the club at year's end. Anyone interested in joining in the discussion please attend the meeting.

We will have the 41st annual show on Oct 24 & 25, 2025.

If the club is shut down, it of course will affect the Pine show and any other events where we have to issue a certificate of insurance.

The Pine show was a good show as usual. We attended Corn Fest in Camp Verde and we had a good cross section of tractors and engines.

The Watson Lake show was good with a good display of engines, tractors, and other items of interest.

See you in October.

Gary Covert, President

I was recently reading an article about some old Barn find and one man asked about the old tires found on this Studebaker farm truck In an old barn. That lead me to several articles about old tire companies including the Gillette Safety Tire Company, of Michigan, and the origins of Goodyear Rubber Company, so I have added some of those articles in this newsletter. Many farmers did not switch to Rubber air tires until the late 1940's

Jack Castimore, editor.

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President Gary Covert
928 -301- 0649

Vice Pres. Steve Rench
928- 300 -0855

Treasurer Ginny Rench
928-300-4899

Secretary Barry Adico
928-301-6444

Meeting Schedule

September 3, 2025

November 5, 2025

December 3, 2025

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Slide Rock

Oct. 18

Cottonwood
Show Oct 24 &
25, 2025

2025



Cornfest, Camp Verde, Az.



Arizona Flywheeler members participating in this event .

Upcoming Events:

Slide Rock event, Sedona, AZ Oct. 18

Arizona Flywheelers,

Cottonwood Show Oct 24 & 25

Cornville—Oak Creek School event, Nov. 8

Arizona Flywheelers: Camp Verde Cornfest



Here is a restored tractor used on golf courses during the 1940's, can you identify it ?? Send your comments to Jack Castimore for our next edition



June 4th Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7 AM by President Covert.

Minutes were read and approved.

The finance report was given with balance of \$6838.72

Jack Castimore had sent a recent newsletter.

Leo and Jim Radley's names were discussed as members sick.

Cornfest an upcoming event was talked about by Dennis Wickerly.

Other upcoming events such as Beat the Heat, Watson Lake, Slide Rock and our own Cottonwood were announced.

There were two thank you letters for our buckle donations.

Gary Covert announced he will resign as President in November.

Phil Hess donated \$100 to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 AM

Some Humor.

Waitress: I see y9ur glass is empty, Would you like another ?

Customer: Why would I want another Empty glass?

After arguing With a man that said I was in His seat, he finally said "OK YOU fly the plane"

It was another hot day, so I took off all my clothes and opened every window . . .

I feel so much better, although the other people on the bus don't seem so pleased.

Watson Lake attended by our members..



August 6, 2025 Meeting

Prior to the meeting being called, Slide Rock was discussed. Meeting called to order at 7:05 by President Covert.. Minutes were read and approved. There was no finance report as Steve Rench is in the hospital.

Cornfest was a good show. Beat the Heat was canceled. Watson Lake also a good show.

As yet nobody has volunteered to be president. It was further announced that if nobody volunteers to be president, the club may have to disband.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 AM

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

For Sale –

ENGINES, and Stuff for sale ?

Place your items here.



Photo of Gillette Tire on an old Studebaker.

Meeting July 2, 2025

July 2 Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7 AM by President Covert.

Minutes were read and approved.

No finance report was given as there was no activity

Leo Vrieskoop's funeralla will be in Williams, 10 AM at Roman Catholic Church on July 7.

Jim Radley is reportedly better.

Cornfest will be July 19 in Camp Verde as various other show were announced.

We received donations for the upcoming silent auction.

Phil Hess again donated \$100.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 AM

AM Barry A. , Secretary.

Gary's conversation June 4 2025

Dear Members

I have decided due to my age, 87 in November and my wife's health,

I will not run again for President of The Arizona Flywheelers in the November election.

I have been a member for 19 years and either vice president or president for 15 years.

I have enjoyed these years and have made a lot of good friends which I will continue to cherish.

Hopefully someone will step forward so we can continue this great club.

If you are interested please contact me to discuss.

We can't wait until November to decide the future of the club.

I hope to be part of the club and still able to go to other events for a few more years,
Thank You, Gary Covert, President

Newsletter editor -Contact: jack Castimore at jcastimore@hotmail.com

Interesting Articles; August 2025 History from the Past:

Goodyear Metallic Rubber Shoe Company & Downtown Naugatuck (c. 1890)

By 1892, there were many rubber manufacturing companies in Naugatuck, Connecticut, as well as elsewhere in Connecticut. Nine companies consolidated their operations in Naugatuck to become the United States Rubber Company. One of the nine, Goodyear's India Rubber Glove Mfg. Co. (named Litchfield Rubber Co until 1847) – which manufactured rubber gloves for telegraph linemen – was the only company in which Charles Goodyear, inventor of the rubber vulcanization process, is known to have owned stock.

From 1892 to 1913, the rubber footwear divisions of U.S. Rubber manufactured their products under 30 different brand names, including the Wales-Goodyear Shoe Co. The company consolidated these footwear brands under one name, Keds, in 1916, and were mass-marketed as the first flexible rubber-sole with canvas-top "sneakers" in 1917.

U.S. Rubber Headquarters constructed at 1790 Broadway in 1912

In an effort to increase its share of the automobile tire market in 1931, U.S. Rubber Company bought a substantial portion of the Gillette Safety Tire Company. The company was founded in 1916 by Raymond B. Gillette and its primary manufacturing plant was located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The Gillette plant held large contracts with the General Motors Corporation and with the addition of U.S. Rubber products, became one of the world's largest suppliers of original equipment tires. U.S. Rubber produced tires under the Gillette, Ward, Atlas, U.S. Rubber and U.S. Royal brands.

In 1940, U.S. Rubber purchased the remainder of the Gillette Safety Tire Company, and began to expand and modernize the Eau Claire factory, greatly increasing production. During World War II, U.S. Rubber factories were devoted to production of war goods, and produced military truck and airplane tires, as well as the canvas-top, rubber-soled Jungle boot for soldiers and marines serving in tropical and jungle environments.^[6] U.S. Rubber ranked 37th among United States corporations in the value of wartime production contracts.^[7]

In 1942, the United States government restricted the sale of scarce rubber products for civilian use and production at the plant dwindled. The company sold the Eau Claire plant to the government, which then converted it for the manufacture of small caliber ammunition and re-named it the Eau Claire Ordnance plant.^[6]

By December 31, 1943, the need for tires outweighed the need for ammunition. U.S. Rubber repurchased the plant from the government for more than US\$1 million, and converted it back to synthetic rubber tire production. The company began an expansion and modernization program at the plant that lasted through 1951. When it ended, the Eau Claire plant was the fifth largest tire facility in the United States. The company again expanded the plant in 1965 to produce tires for construction machinery, and for many years it was the largest private employer in Eau Claire and the second largest in neighboring Chippewa Falls before it was closed in 1991.

In late 1943, U.S. Rubber engineer **Dr. Louis Marick** developed a propeller de-icing system in which a rubber boot was fitted onto the leading edge of a propeller. The boot contained wires that conducted electricity to heat the edge and break-up ice.

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**Important :
Dues help fund the club
activities and your donation
is appreciated.**

Membership dues are payable

Membership dues are payable, **Dues are 25.00 dollars per year.**

Badges are \$13.00 or \$15.00 each, Hats are \$12.00 and Tee shirts are \$ 12.00.

Polo shirts are \$22.,& \$24 for 2xl.

Order from **Arizona Flywheelers, P.O.Box 2012, Cottonwood, AZ 86326**

Make checks payable to Arizona Flywheelers. Thank you

Please visit our website - www.arizonaflywheelers.com

Gillete Tire Company /History

The forerunner of Uniroyal Inc.'s Eau Claire plant was the Gillette Safety Tire Company, founded in Eau Claire in 1916 by Raymond B. Gillette of Michigan, an inventor of a safety shoe for tires. S.P. Woodard of the Car Spring Rubber Company served as the company's first president; Gillette, first vice president and general manager. The plant engineer was R.W. Hutchens. Approximately 250 people were employed at the plant which produced 200 rubber tires and 200 inner tubes per day.

On May 23, 1917, the company produced its first experimental tire. After one year the plant was expanded to a capacity of 500 tires and 500 tubes per day, and its name was changed to Gillette Tire Company. Gillette then purchased the Chippewa Valley Rubber Company, a manufacturer of rubber fabric, raincoats, and hospital sheeting also located in Eau Claire. The addition of a machine shop permitted the company to add to its line the manufacture of rubber manufacturing equipment, such as tire molds and tire building machines, other mechanical goods, and consumer items such as rubber heels, raincoats, horse collars, and picnic coolers. It quickly became the largest employer in the Eau Claire area.

During the early 1920s, the Gillette Tire Company experienced a period of financial difficulty and went into receivership. This led to its reorganization in 1925 as a Wisconsin company under new management. (Gillette was originally incorporated in the state of Delaware.) F.C. Herman of Springfield, Missouri became the new president and R.W. Hutchens, former plant engineer, became vice president and factory manager. Howard O. Hutchins, brother of R.W. Hutchens and a foreman in the Calendar Department, was placed in charge of bicycle tire manufacture. Edward Hutchens, their father, had been a member of the company's board of directors since 1918. Under this new management, production concentrated on automobile, truck, and bicycle tires, inner tubes, and rubber-making machinery. The manufacture of waterproof fabrics and mechanical goods was discontinued. In 1926, R.W. Hutchens succeeded Herman as president and general manager, and H.O. Hutchins acquired his brother's position as factory manager. Under Hutchens's leadership the Gillette company became one of the largest producers of bicycle tires in the country.

During the late 1920s, Gillette continued to increase its output, which peaked at 19,000 tires and 14,000 inner tubes daily, with 1,600 workers. The company also experimented with new manufacturing methods, such as water cure processing for inner tubes, and products, such as pneumatic tractor tires. Gillette made significant contributions to the rubber industry in these and other technical areas.

In 1931, United States Rubber Company purchased a substantial interest in Gillette as part of an effort to obtain a greater share of the automobile tire market. U.S. Rubber, formed in 1892 by Charles R. Flint, ranked third among the nation's "Big Four" rubber manufacturers. In 1930 U.S.

Rubber had signed a contract to supply 90 percent of the tires sold by Montgomery Ward under its own brand name and the Gillette factory was strategically placed to service Ward's needs in the Midwest. U.S. Rubber was also a major supplier of tires to automobile manufacturers. After 1931, it was said to be the world's largest supplier of original equipment tires by virtue of its contracts with the General Motors Corporation.

U.S. Rubber did not acquire controlling interest in Gillette until 1940. Even then, the plant retained the Gillette name and the "bear for wear trademark" for another decade, and continued to turn out Gillette brand products along with Ward, Atlas, and U.S. Rubber's brand, U.S. Royal. After the formal takeover, U.S. Rubber implemented a program to expand and modernize the Eau Claire factory. Employment was increased to 2,600 workers and tire production capacity restored to pre-depression levels of 9,000 to 11,000 units per day. Expansion was also motivated in part by the U.S. military's increasing demand for airplane and truck tires.

ARIZONA FLYWHEELERS
MEMBERSHIP AND BADGE APPLICATION
PO BOX 2012, COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326-2012

DATE _____

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE(_____) _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ RENEWAL

DUES: \$25.00 FAMILY

AMOUNT PAID: _____

BADGES: \$13.00 EACH (*CLIP OR PIN*) AMOUNT PAID: _____

\$15.50 EACH (MAGNET)

AMOUNT PAID: _____

Pins & badges will be mailed to you

TOTAL PAID: _____

CASH OR CHECK # _____

NAME(S) DESIRED ON BADGE:

(1) _____

(2) _____

MONTHLY BREAKFAST / BUSINESS MEETINGS

7 AM - FIRST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH AT THE VERDE VAL-
LEY FAIRGROUNDS IN COTTONWOOD

2-1-2023

Mail To: **ARIZONA FLYWHEELERS**
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