Poor Farmer's RV

www.poorfarmerrys.com

Volume 14 Issue 7



By Mike Till

Fall Tractor Show & Flea Market September 18th – 21st

The Fall Tractor Show and Flea Market started over fifty years ago in the early 70's. The first Tractor Show plaque I was able to hunt down was from 1974. The '74 plaque isn't even metal. It's made of some kind of heavy-duty cardboard. Maybe it's asbestos, because it looks much better than I do at fifty.

Camping for this show is all but full. We may have one or two sites left to reserve. Flea Market only sites will be available on Monday, September 15^{th} , these sites are first-come, first-served. However, we are trying something new this show. Flea spots that are open the entirety of the show hours will have the opportunity to lock in their flea market spot for next Spring. The hours for the flea market are below.

The cost for setting up a flea spot is \$50 for the weekend. We will not be doing a \$10 refund for vendors who stay till 2pm, instead, we will give them the opportunity to reserve their spot for next year. If you are a vendor and bringing a golf cart, there will be a \$5/day fee for having the golf cart on the property and proof of insurance must be presented. The tractor club will be pulling "Out of the field" tractors on Friday night at 6pm and the main tractor pull will start on Saturday at noon. There will be a tractor parade on Saturday at 7pm. The food vendors will be open all weekend, offering Tony's Subs, Chuck's Foods, Ullery's Ice Cream, and The Tin Roof. The Poor Farmer's Blacksmith Shop will also be open during the show. Denny Shoenleben will be there to answer questions, take orders or even show you some of the fundamentals of blacksmithing.

Cost to get into the event is \$1/person at the gate. Gate money will go to the ALL-SAR's Search and Rescue Dog Team. Come out for the deals, grab some food, and stay for the pulls.





Flea Market Hours:

Monday, September 15th - Flea Market spots available 8:30am.

Thursday, September 18th -----2pm - 7pm

Friday, September 19th ----- 10am - 7pm

Saturday, September 20th ----- 8am - 7pm

Sunday, September 21st ----- 10am - 2pm

Sites of the Months

Not often does Site of the Month get a full page; but when you've been slacking on writing a Chatter, it happens. We started Site of the Month to encourage people to spruce up their campsites. Granted, many of you needed only the motivation of having a beautiful campsite to enjoy and relax at. This issue, we focus on two sites that have never needed any outside influence to create manicured campsites that radiate calm and serenity.

I give you the August Site of the Month; Geno Tackett and Deb Allender at site #437. May I also present the September Site of the Month to Dave and Sherry Harshbarger at site #430. These two sites are a great example of what you can do when the mindset is relaxation or bust. It took hard work to transform these sites from a simple gravel pad into a premier Poor Farmer's campsite. Thanks to everyone who takes pride in their campsite and helps to make Poor Farmer's such a beautiful and relaxing place to camp. Each of you shall be rewarded accordingly.



Geno Tackett & Deb Allender

August Site of the Month

Geno and Deb have a gorgeous campsite, well decorated with flowers and shrubbery. They have neatly enclosed the front of their fifth wheel with a nice-looking fence and accented that with a wagon wheel bench, which came in handy for a Poor Farmer's Poker Run one year.

They reward their large shade tree with a lovely garden at its base and have room to entertain on their well-built platform. The welcoming feel is proven through the number of visitors they host.

Dave & Sherry Harshbarger

September Site of the Month

Talk about a home-away-from-home! Dave and Sherry are obvious lovers of the farm style décor. Their site is embellished with hints of country life, like a wooden tractor planter, a wagon wheel fence flanked by two well dressed bovine, and numerous other cute farm animals scattered about.

Dave and Sherry's site is always well maintained, manicured and beautiful. Their site is topped off with two country rocking chairs where they can relax and enjoy a blue sky, green field, or just each other.



What Changed?

Let me start by saying "Thank you!" to those who have missed The Chatter recently. With all the changes that we are focused on, I have not been able to get a newsletter done. Honestly, the changes that we made were not exactly the direction we wanted to go and caused some good people to lose their jobs. Needless to say, I was not in the mood to write anything witty or even interesting. In the end, however, we need to keep moving forward, even after what felt like a big step backwards.

In August, we decided to close the service and parts departments at Poor Farmer's. This decision was not made overnight. For years, we have been struggling to offer competitive pricing on RV parts and new sales units. We were dealing with larger entities like Amazon and eBay offering pricing on parts that were lower than our "wholesale" pricing through our distributors. Customers would come into the parts store to find an RV part, our staff would take the time to find the information on the part, and many times, the customer would take that information, Google it, find it, and order it directly to avoid our mark-up.

Regarding new RV sales, we were experiencing the same thing, but on a larger scale. The last time I ordered new Chaparrals was November of 2019. Those units were finally delivered in February of 2022 and at a much larger cost than when I initially ordered them. The first price I found on an identical unit from a competitor was thousands of dollars less than what we paid for them. It was at that time I realized why so many small businesses closed during Covid.

One major factor that kept us going for the past 3-4 years was, of course, our employees. When you hire a person in a small business, you develop a closer relationship with them than that of a company with hundreds of employees. There were 13 of us that worked side by side every day. With that small of a group, you get to know one another very well, and you end up loving those people as friends more than co-workers. The last thing you want to do is let any of those people go. In the end, the decision was based on one simple factor... dollars and cents. With the changing market, we could not sustain the losses we were experiencing. In which case we had to make the decision to downsize.

Telling our employees that we were closing portions of the business and that their positions were being eliminated was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do, not just here at Poor Farmer's, but within the scale of my fifty-year life, and I spent twelve weeks in Marine Corps Bootcamp. We would like to thank Justin, Britney, Ashley, Micah, Dave, Kelsey, and Sierra for being here for us. As a team, you were all doing what you could to keep this place going. I appreciated your ideas for improvement, the way you took care of our customers, and the way you took care of us. I am grateful that you have remained our friends through it all and we wish you the best of luck in the future.

With all that being said, I would like to clarify what is going on with our Service, Parts and Sales departments. Let's start with service. **Welcome Ultimate RVs**. Justin and Micah were understandably upset with our decision to close the service department, but it didn't take them long to formulate a plan of action. That plan was Ultimate RVs. Justin Dickensheets has been in the RV service industry for 15+ years and decided it was his time to stop working for the man. So, he and Micah proposed a deal to lease the service center from Poor Farmer's under their new business name, Ultimate RVs.

Ultimate RVs is the only service company permitted to work in the campground. If you require work to your camper that is to be done on Poor Farmer's property, it must be done through Ultimate RVs. Again, there are no other service companies allowed to do business at Poor Farmer's (Rule #19). I am confident that Ultimate RVs will conduct business in the same way that Poor Farmer's Service department did, with integrity and attention to detail. We wish Justin and Micah the best of luck in their new venture.

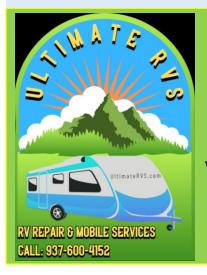
Our parts department is still open; however, we will be liquidating our service parts and only stocking RV accessories and common RV parts. All special-order service parts will be handled through Ultimate RVs. So, if you need a light bulb, a portable dump tank, or other accessories, we have you covered. If you are working on a water heater and need a control board, you will have to go through Ultimate RVs. You will still be able to sign up for dumps, pay your bills, and have your questions and concerns addressed in the parts store.

Finally, for our sales department, we will no longer be stocking new RVs. Our sales lot will consist of used and consigned units for the foreseeable future. The units on our lot are thoroughly inspected to assure that everything works and that the units are properly sealed. Upon a sale, we walk through the unit with the new customer to insure them that everything works and to make sure they know how to work it. We want the customer to feel confident when they take their RV out for the first time. If you have a camper, in good condition, that you are interested in selling, talk to Mike or Amy about our consignment program.

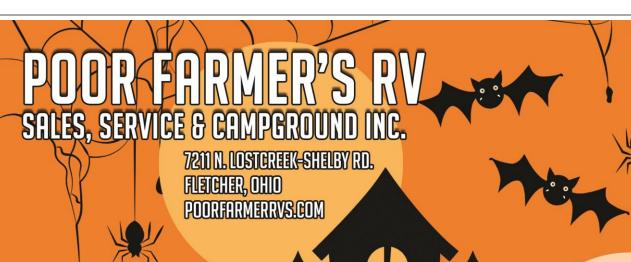
Through all these changes, Poor Farmer's goal has not changed. We wish to provide our campers the best camping experience possible. These changes will allow us to focus more on the campground, regarding activities, amenities, and upgrades. We appreciate all the support that has been given to us by our campers. We welcome your prayers and positive feedback on the matter.

Stay tuned to the Chatter during the off-season for more information on how you can contribute to the campground. We will be setting up an open forum for campers to bring new ideas for campground events and activities. In the Chatter we will also announce any changes to rules, rates and the schedule, so it is a good tool to keep up to date on the goings on at Poor Farmer's.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We hope that these changes don't inconvenience anyone and you are able to stay with us again in 2026. I would like to end this letter with a bit of good news... the Seasonal Rate for 2026 will not be increased from the 2025 Seasonal Rate. We hope you all have a wonderful finish to the 2025 season and are able to make it out for one or both of our Halloween Weekends. Thank you and God Bless.



Stop in during the Tractor Show weekend and speak with Justin and Micah. They will be hosting a free drawing for prizes, like a free winterization and more. If you have work that needs done on your RV, they can schedule it that day.





Reserve your campspot at poorfarmerrys.com





Decorate your campsite for a chance to win a Poor Farmer's Gift Certificate!

HARR

Haunted Shelter OCT. 10+11 / 17+18 / 8-11PM

\$10 admission

@ 5p.m.

Win prizes for various categories including: funniest, scariest, best pet, golf cart and more.







Dingbats - Food Edition

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Fun & Games!

Easy Dingbats

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GUESS THE YEAR!

- Harlem Globetrotters play their 1st game in Hinckley, Illinois
- Babe Ruth becomes the highest-paid player in MLB history when he signs 3-year, \$70,000 per season contract with the New York Yankees
- At 7:40 AM, Charles Lindbergh takes off from New York to cross the Atlantic for Paris aboard the Spirit of St. Louis in the first solo nonstop transatlantic flight
- Henry Ford announces that he is ending production of the Model T Ford
- 1st Ryder Cup Golf, Worcester CC: US beats Great Britain, 9½-2½; Walter Hagen first American captain; Ted Ray first GB skipper
- Yankees slugger Babe Ruth smacks his MLB record 60th home run off Tom Zachary in 8th inning of New York's 4-2 win over Washington Senators at Yankee Stadium
- 1st snowmobile patent granted to Carl Eliason (Sayner, Wisconsin)
- "Grand Ole Opry" first named as such during Barn Dance radio broadcast, in Nashville, Tennessee

Answer: 1927