

U.S.A. PLOWING ORGANIZATION

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WEB SITE FOR USAPO: <http://usapo.org>

I want to thank everyone for being so patient with me getting the newsletter out. There are so many things to report; the 2022 USAPO National, the minutes from the USAPO Board of Director's and the General Membership meetings, the World Plowing report, as well as, upcoming USAPO newsletter content.

USAPO National Plowing Competition in Greenwald, MN August 18-20, 2022

The 2022 USAPO National meet was held August 18-20 in Greenwald, MN on Nietfeld's farm. Standard classes were offered for the USAPO National, namely, Antique, Open, Small Plow, and Reversible for Senior and Junior participation. This year there was also a Vintage Small Plow Class that was run with the Small Plow Class. Curiously, there were no Junior competitors this year. I find this a bit troubling because the Juniors are the future of this sport.

The match was organized by the Minnesota State Plowing Association with special thanks to Joe Loehr and family, Mike Chouanard, Mike Penas, Dan and Jan Nietfeld, plus many others in the club too numerous to mention.

I got a practice plot completed on the 18th but when it rained overnight, I had memories of a previous National in MN. Conditions were kind of muddy the next day. However, the parking area was probably the most hazardous place to get stuck which resulted in most people parking on the road. Additionally, the Minnesota organizers were well prepared and had a backup plan. The competition plowing was held on some alfalfa stubble, just up the road from the planned field. Even though there was rain coming down on farms all around us, there was not much rain on our field, just a bit of a drizzle.

Great food was available at the plow site provided by the SJSA School, Conrad and Sandy Gruber plus others helped man the food table. The Plowperson's banquet was at the Greenwald Pub on

Thursday August 18. The pub is clearly one of my favorite places to eat and I made every effort to eat there whenever I could.

From my point of view the 2022 National Match was very well organized with very good plowing conditions. The alfalfa soil conditions were excellent for the competition.

The top placings of the results are listed below.

National Open

1st Chad Adelmund IA (215pts)
2nd Ron Kremer OH (201pts)
3rd Jeff Slyder OH (191pts)

National Antique

1st Dick Opdahl MN (200pts)
2nd Lyle Grimm IA (194pts)
3rd Nick Olinger IA (192pts)

National Small Plow

1st Jeremy Nietfeld MN (252+261=513pts)
2nd Joel Wagner CT (241+257=498pts)
3rd Ray Elsberry IA (237+227=464pts)

Vintage National Small Plow

1st John Gaard SD (246+251=497)
2nd Mike Penas MN (246+231=477)
3rd Jack Olson SD (208+214=422)

National Reversible

1st Dale Dircksen OH (248+248=496pts)
2nd Kevin Albrecht SD (250+246=496pts)

Competition notes – Ron Kremer was also second in 2021 in IA with the exact same score! Also, Mike Rhoades was 4th in Small Plow, only 6pts off the 3rd place score. Dale and Kevin tied in points so it went down to general work, general appearance, and straightness numbers. Dale pulled ahead by only a 3% difference in the tie breaker scores. The tightest race ever!

2022 Spirit Award goes to Jan Nietfeld

Jan was a key ingredient to making things happen this year and was a go-to person when I needed copies made at the last minute; thank you Nietfeld Farms.

2021 Sportsmanship Award goes to Dan Nietfeld

A special thanks to Dan for allowing us to play on his farm. Dan has been a good friend of USAPO by hosting a number of Nationals on his property. Congratulations Dan.

USAPO Directors Meeting Minutes August 17, 2022

A USAPO board of directors meeting was held in Greenwald MN. Called to order by Pres. John Gaard at 8:05pm Central time on August 17th, 2022. Directors present were: John Gaard-SD, Robert Miller-PA, Joel Wagner-CT, Michael Fitz-IA, Mike Penas-MN, Don Klehm-IL, Michael Rhoades-OH, and Conrad Gruber-USAPO.

Previous Minutes - Previous meeting minutes from August 12th, 2021 were reviewed. There was discussion of the new Vintage Small Plow class as to equipment requirements. It was decided that

the equipment requirements were the same as the Open Class including 2 or 3 furrow plows with original frame and moldboards. Essentially Open Class equipment plowing to Small Plow plot rules and judging. It was also clarified that the Small Plow Class winner would represent the USAPO at the next year's world ploughing match. Don Klehm moved to approve the minutes, Mike Penas seconded. Passed.

Financial Report - The financial report from the last director's meeting of August 11th, 2021 till the present was read.

Starting Balance from last meeting on 8/11/2021	\$14358.19
Income:	
Dues collected	\$2550.00
2021 National Entry Fees	\$1100.00
Pin Sales Thanks Bob Miller)	\$6.00
Donations to USAPO	\$182.00
<u>Uncashed National Award Checks</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
	\$18296.19
Expenditures:	
Newsletter Costs	-\$916.83
2021 National Trophies	-\$875.00
Additional Trophy Engraving Cost	-\$12.76
Bank Checks	-\$33.85
Insurance for 2 years	-\$1070.00
<u>USAPO Container Storage</u>	<u>-\$264.72</u>
	-\$3173.16
Net Bank Balance	\$15123.03

Don Klehm moved to accept. Mike Fitz seconded. Passed.

Old Business:

Scoring Special Committee Report – Landowners have brought to our attention that dead furrows are not of good quality in some instances. There is concern that the points awarded for the finish were undervalued and that more points should be associated with the finish (dead) furrow. It was argued that if more points were awarded for the finish the final furrow quality would improve. WPO awards 25pts from a total of 130, Ontario awards 40pts from a total of 200, and USAPO awards 40pts from a total of 170. It was recommended by the USAPO board that the value of the finish points be left alone. However, IA will add 20pts to their score sheets.

The breakdown time correction, the unplowed ground definition, and wheel tracks definition will be addressed at a later date.

New Business:

It was moved by Joel Wagner to allow landowners to plow as a guest at the USPO National Plow Matches. Don Klehm seconded. Passed.

State Reports –

SD – John Gaard. No report.

OH – Mike Rhoades. OH State match on August 6 had 33 contestants at another great state match.

CT – Joel Wagner. No report.

PA – Bob Miller. PA States in May had a decent turnout. The 2023 National likely to be held the week before Labor Day.

MN – Mike Penas. MN State Match tomorrow. Thanks for coming and thanks to Nietfelds for use of land and preparations.

IL – Don Klehm. No report.

IA – Mike Fitz. 2022 IA State match Labor Day weekend.

WPO Report – Conrad Gruber. 2022 World Ploughing in Ireland is scheduled for Sept 22-23.

Currently there is no country designated for the 2023 WPO match. There was WPO talk of holding the world matches every other year like they do in the Olympics. Stay tuned.

Adjourn –

Mike Rhoades moved to adjourn. Mike Fitz seconded. Passed.

Adjourned at 9:16pm.

USAPO Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes August 18, 2022

Meeting called to order at 8:08pm by President John Gaard.

President's comments:

Thanks to the MN Plowing Association for organizing the 2022 USAPO National Plowing Match.

Minutes of last General Membership meeting discussed.

Don Klehm moved to approve. Mike Penas seconded. Passed.

Treasurer's report was discussed (see the Director's Financial Report). Don Klehm moved to accept. Mike Penas seconded. Passed.

Directors Reports:

PA – Bob Miller. National in 2023 September 1st and 2nd (Fri/Sat) in conjunction with the Steam Show at Williams Grove.

SD – John Gaard. SD plowing at Prairie Village next week.

IA - Mike Fitz. IA Meet will be near Marshalltown.

OH – Mike Rhoades. 30+ plowpersons competed in the OH State Championship on August 6th.

IL – Don Klehm. Special thanks to the Nietfeld family and Stearn County plowpersons.

CT – Joel Wagner. No report.

MN – Mike Penas. Thanks for coming.

WPO Report – Conrad Gruber. Possibly Estonia in 2024 for WPO Ploughing. WPO will vote to host WPO Ploughing Match every other year. Feedback?

New Business:

Floor open to discussion –

There was a plan to get the USAPO National back to Vernon Center MN this year to celebrate 50 years since the WPO World Match was held there. Unfortunately, Vernon Center was overwhelmed with the idea and alternate sites were investigated. Thankfully, our dear friends at Nietfeld Farms agreed to hold the 2022 MN and USAPO National matches on their farm in Greenwald.

Note to all – Henry Gruber is looking for plowing competition materials to be included in a new commemorative book on plowing in the US. Please text, email or call me and I'll get you in touch with Henry.

Mike Penas noted that the Nietfelds were hosting a supper at the Nietfeld Farm Friday night.

Don Klehm moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mike Penas. Passed
Adjourned 8:32pm.

World Ploughing Organization Ploughing Competition in Portlaoise Ireland September 18-21, 2022

Hailey Gruber and Kevin Albrecht were our plowpersons for the 2022 WPO World Ploughing in Ireland this year. Gene Gruber was the coach and Joel Wagner was the USAPO judge (my first time). When Peg and I got to Ireland, Kevin and the Grubers were already there for prepractice plowing. Our team worked quite closely with the Canadian team including rooming at a rented farm house and practicing.

Our teams made arrangements for practicing on sod and stubble (at the rented farm house). I learned quite quickly that GPS in the car is the only way to get around in Ireland. There are no straight roads or logic to the layout of byways. Kevin gave me easy directions to the sod practice the first day I was there; take a right, take a right, take a right and the farm is on the left. I drove all over for about an hour till I found a sign that said 'To Portlaoise'. I got Peg's phone with GPS at the hotel and drove to the field. It was a rainy misty day and I tried to help Kevin as much as I could. Ireland is stony ground – not rocks, but stones.

We spent a good time with Brian Davenport and Daryl Hostrawser, the Canadian plowmen for conventional and reversible, respectively. We had a wonderful time with the Canadian plowmen, the Canadian Coach/Judge Greg Timbers and Keith Davenport, a good friend and plowing judge from Ontario. After the prepractice week we all stayed at The Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise. I thought the practices went well. Hailey had her usual equipment from MN and Kevin had his tried-and-true reversible outfit from SD.

As a judge I didn't get to see much competition plowing by our USA plowpersons. I judged conventional stubble the first day and reversible sod the second. I understand that both of our plowpersons had some issues during competition. I recall Kevin got a stone stuck between the coulter and the share on his opening pass on the first day and had a hydraulic issue the second day on sod. From the opposite end of the plot I saw Hailey's tractor not moving the first day on stubble

near her finish pass and a team of people working on the tractor only to find out later a hydraulic fitting failed and squirted hot oil all over Hailey! I've included a scan of the overall placing of the results below.

I'm very proud of our USA plowpersons. They did very well at the world level and look forward to them representing USA in future WPO meets.

Overall results

67th World Ploughing Contest Ratheniska, Co. Laois IRELAND

21/09/2022 and 22/09/2022

Ploughman	Tractor	Plough	Country	Stubble			Grassland			Other Ded	Overall	
				plotno	points	place	plotno	points	place		O/Ded	points
Conventional												
Eamonn Tracey	Valtra	Kvemeland	REP IRELAND	10	208.0	1	9	170.0	1		378.0	1
Thomas Debes	Massey Ferguson	Kuhn	FRANCE	21	178.0	8	6	165.0	2		343.0	2
Evan Watkin	Case	Kvemeland	WALES	23	180.5	5	10	161.5	3		342.0	3
Andrew Gill	Ford 5030	Kvemeland	NTH IRELAND	3	187.5	2	2	151.5	6		339.0	4
Martin Lindberg Velling	Ford	Kvemeland	DENMARK	14	178.5	7	13	159.5	4		338.0	5
Halley Gruber	Case	Kvemeland	USA	7	178.5	6	20	158.0	5		336.5	6
Ashley Boyles	Massey Ferguson	Kvemeland	ENGLAND	9	182.5	4	5	144.5	8		327.0	7
Kjartan Trane Skadaem	Ford	Kvemeland	NORWAY	19	174.5	11	14	151.5	7		326.0	8
Stefan Steiner	Steyr	Kvemeland	AUSTRIA	1	183.0	3	7	139.5	9		322.5	9
Ian Woolley	John Deere	Kvemeland	NEW ZEALAND	24	176.5	10	4	139.5	10		316.0	10
Marrix Stockman	Ford	Kvemeland	BELGIUM	8	178.0	9	8	127.5	14		305.5	11
Thierry Bosserelle	Massey Ferguson	Kvemeland	FRANCE	2	164.5	14	18	133.5	11		298.0	12
Juha Rosendahl	Valmet 665	Kvemeland	FINLAND	25	170.0	12	25	124.0	15		294.0	13
Har Meuwissen	John Deere	Kvemeland	NETHERLANDS	11	169.0	13	17	112.0	18		281.0	14
Anton Filak	Landini	Kvemeland	SLOVENIA	15	153.0	17	3	127.5	13		280.5	15
Brian Davenport	John Deere	Kvemeland	CANADA	22	155.5	15	15	123.5	16		279.0	16
Gordon Rae	Ford	Kvemeland	SCOTLAND	6	155.0	16	24	96.0	22		251.0	17
Kaspar Jarvala	Fiat	Kvemeland	ESTONIA	18	138.0	19	19	111.5	19		249.5	18
Wayne Clayton	John Deere	Kvemeland	AUSTRALIA	16	137.0	20	16	112.0	17		249.0	19
Daniel Gladwell	Ford	Kvemeland	AUSTRALIA	4	139.5	18	26	106.5	29		246.0	20
Ad Builjs	Fendt	Kvemeland	NETHERLANDS	20	105.0	25	23	132.5	12		237.5	21
Fran-Andrej Jalušič	Massey Ferguson	Kvemeland	CROATIA	13	133.5	21	11	103.5	21		237.0	22
Lulzim Shehu	Massey Ferguson	Kvemeland	KOSOVO	17	114.5	23	22	86.5	24		201.0	23
Josef Malá	Ford 5610	Kvemeland	CZECH REP	26	108.5	24	1	90.0	23		198.5	24
Joshua Kiptim Kigen	Ford	Kvemeland	KENYA	12	116.5	22	12	77.0	25		193.5	25
Florian Hoops	Fendt	Kvemeland	GERMANY	5	56.0	26	21	8.5	26		64.5	26
Reversible												
John Whelan	New Holland	Kvemeland	REP IRELAND	31	188.0	1	41	212.0	1		400.0	1
David Wright	New Holland	Kvemeland	NTH IRELAND	41	178.0	2	43	191.5	3		369.5	2
Igor Pate	MF 382	Kvemeland	SLOVENIA	46	159.5	6	40	187.5	4		347.0	3
Leopold Aichberger	Lindner	Kvemeland	AUSTRIA	43	152.5	8	31	194.5	2		347.0	4
Marco Angst	Deutz	Kvemeland	SWITZERLAND	47	164.0	3	39	182.5	5		346.5	5
Jānis Vaitkevics	John Deere	Kvemeland	LATVIA	32	163.0	4	37	178.0	7		341.0	6
Kevin Albrecht	Massey Ferguson	Kvemeland	USA	42	152.0	9	36	179.0	6		331.0	7
Hugh Griffith	New Holland	Kvemeland	WALES	35	156.0	7	44	170.0	8		326.0	8
David Carnegie	New Holland	Kvemeland	SCOTLAND	40	162.0	5	34	163.0	11		325.0	9
Priit Puuorg	New Holland	Kvemeland	ESTONIA	38	139.5	14	45	168.0	9		307.5	10
Jesper Madsen	Ford	Kvemeland	DENMARK	33	140.0	13	30	163.5	10		303.5	11
Daryl Hostrawser	TBA	TBA	CANADA	30	151.5	10	42	149.5	14		301.0	12
Stefan Oechsle	Fendt	Kvemeland	GERMANY	29	142.5	12	33	152.5	12		295.0	13
Wouter Spoelders			BELGIUM	37	137.5	15	32	143.5	15		281.0	14
Bob Mehrtens	Ford	Kvemeland	NEW ZEALAND	34	143.5	11	29	129.5	17		273.0	15
Ueli Hagen	New Holland	Kvemeland	SWITZERLAND	48	119.5	18	38	150.5	13		270.0	16
Peter Alderslade	Valtra	Kvemeland	ENGLAND	45	128.5	17	35	136.5	16		265.0	17
Zrinko Miličić	New Holland TS115	Kvemeland	CROATIA	39	133.5	16	46	126.0	18		259.5	18
Markku Kivelpelto	Valtra	Kvemeland	FINLAND	28	107.0	19	28	99.0	20		208.0	19
Michal Kužiel	TBA	Kvemeland	CZECH REP	44	87.5	21	48	120.0	19	Unauth(-2)	205.5	20
Mark Kurul Rongoel	New Holland	Kvemeland	KENYA	36	96.0	20	47	68.5	21		164.5	21

As a special note, I have to give a tremendous amount of credit to Roger Neate for being the USA judge in many previous years. It is very hard work. I'm guessing I walked several miles, many on rough plowed ground, on each day. And sod judging was in the rain! I was on a 3-person team with Norway and Germany. They were repeat judges and taught me a lot about judging at the world level.

We gave out very few 9's and 10's. We rewarded great plowing but also gave out some very low scores when things went south for the plowmen. Just so you know, the judges do not contribute to the judging discussion for the plowpersons of the judge's country. As a final note, I would say the points awarded to high scorers were not necessarily 8's, 9's, or 10's but were generally above average scores on most of the aspects that were judged. You don't have to be the best in every aspect but do have to be good in every aspect.

Toward the end of our stay in Ireland, there was some talk of the 2023 WPO meet being in Latvia. We will need to stay tuned to Conrad Gruber as our USA WPO Board member.



USAPO Upcoming Newsletter Content

In an upcoming USAPO Newsletter I'll be sharing with you the history of USAPO as to how it was formed. As a hint, it involves a collaboration of Bernie Nietfeld and Werner Gruber when they were in their early years of plowing. Very interesting.

Additionally, I would like to encourage our members to send me plowing photos to include in upcoming newsletters. I'll send a separate note to those on the email list.

Joel Wagner, Sec-Treasurer

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See that I'm sending a membership form below for you all to use. If you see a red dot on your address, you are behind in your dues.

Make Check Payable to USAPO Dues \$30.00 for year(s)_____

Name_____

Street Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Home Phone_____ **Cell Phone**_____

Email_____

Discontinue membership (sign)_____