

November 16 – Auction Day

Woke up at 5:30 am and had some coffee and quick bite. Got the gates open at 6am, and a few people started showing up just before sunrise at 7:15am. Mother nature shed a few tears and a little rain fell for about 30 minutes. But that resulted in a wonderful rainbow, that turned into a double rainbow. Starting at the anchor sign, and ending just over one of the Yellow Jackets.



The temperature quickly started rising as we hit 84 degrees for the day. The auctioneer started on time at 9am with a few smaller non-catalog items. After about 45 minutes, we moved to the outboard motors and things went pretty fast. Probably averaging about 30 seconds to no more than 1 minute per motor.

We had a little problem with the Sheriff and people parking on both sides of the highway, instead of the parking areas we had at the two adjacent properties. But, after talking with the Sheriff for about 30 minutes and showing him some of the more interesting items, he seemed to enjoy the old motors and stuck around for a while watching things sell.



At 1pm the auctioneer stopped with the cataloged motors inside one of the buildings, and moved to the boats. The boats took a little more time, but were completed in less than an hour. Some great bargains were had on the boats and people were on cell phones calling their buddies about boats they might be interested in. Several boats were purchased after those calls and people had to load up their trailers and head to Wichita Falls to pick up their absentee purchases.

The cataloged motor selling resumed and then went into the items laid out in groups, such as the gas tanks, control cables, steering wheels, parts motors, etc. I missed a lot of this, as my best friend from high school showed up, and we talked for several hours.

When I found my way back to the selling, it was starting to get dark and the big light was on. They did not go much longer as people were trying to pack up their goodies. I helped a few people pack things using my motor mover to pick up some of the heavy motors.



We had an incident out in the back where it was dark. I was helping a gentlemen from Colorado load some big motors. He went around his trailer to the other side, and in the dark did not see that his ramps were down. He tripped and fell, and seemed pretty shook up. I got him some water, but he said he would be OK. He then drove to the front to pick up another big motor, and that is when he told me he felt his wrist was broken. He said he would be OK, after I got his motor loaded and he headed out into the night. Hope he made it home OK, and maybe it was just a severe sprain.

The last person left out around 8pm, and it took me about 45 minutes to get the buildings closed up and the gates locked. Finally a chance to get a bite to eat, so I had a big bowl of chili my wife had made, then off to bed.

November 17 – Sunday

I got the gates opened around 7am Sunday morning. Funny thing happened when a guy drove up and asked if he could look around. I asked if he needed to pick up his stuff, but he said he was here for the auction. He got a little upset when I told it was yesterday and everything was already sold. I could not keep from laughing when he tried to tear out spinning ties in his Ford Focus.

People started arriving about 7:45 and quickly started loading up their trailers. I helped Larry and Jody from California load those 11 big motors they bought in the big shop, and it pretty much filled their flatbed trailer. They also got the little red and white Brydon Boy boat, and I know Jody wanted that yellow Water Ventures to turn into a spa.

A few people bought a lot of motors. I talked to several that bought more than 30 motors. I spotted this guy pulling out from the main shops back door, with what looked like about 50 motors with lower units pointed up, on a flatbed trailer.



Kevin got his big finned boat with the three port holes, and a couple of Tee Nee trailers. He ended up with a bigger haul than expected, so I had to get the torch and cut off a fender and some of the trailer frame to keep his tires from rubbing. He ended up leaving a couple of motors that he had no space for his trip back to Illinois

Allan got one of his Yellow Jackets and loaded down his trailer for the drive back to Richmond in South Texas. Talked to Allan quite a bit about the 60th anniversary trip from Dennison to New Orleans in 2016. I think he has talked me into going. He said he would let me Captain a boat for a while. Sounds like a good time with some great people.

A guy from Dallas came with a U-Haul trailer to pick up his Century Palomino that his buddy had bought for him on Saturday. It was obvious his was a big Century collector as he was wearing a Century shirt and belt, and some Sperry Topsiders.

The backup auctioneer, Billy, was the last guy to leave on Sunday, He bought a Texas Maid Oprey, and we had to do a little work to get a tire changed out and the bead seated to hold air long enough for his short 30 minute drive home. I got to lock the gates around 6:30, and tried to watch Sunday night football, but fell asleep.

November 18 – Monday

The first guy in was Gene from Missouri, with a huge trailer. He wasn't at the sale, but a Larry had bought a boat and motor for him, and Gene was also picking up the Sportsman "Sled Boat" for another person who was not at the sale. In the process of loading these two boats and a big 4 cylinder Merc, he mentioned that he should have come and was looking for an old boat for his wife to use as a planter for flowers. He was in luck, as I had let Kevin leave a Lone Star Constellation, and that is exactly what Gene wanted. I told him it was free, and we got it loaded up.



A few local guys were loading up a few boats and a lot of gas tanks. An older gentleman from Ft. Worth had been working almost all day to try and get some old tires mounted on some wheels to pull one of his Feather Carft boats home, but he had a lot of problems. Finally at 6pm, we gave up on trying to get the final tire to hold air, and he left without his boat, and I locked the gates to make the 2 hour drive back home.



November 23 – Saturday

After a few days at my real job, I finally had recovered from the auction and got some sleep. ON the drive Friday night, from the DFW area to Wichita Falls, the roads slowly got worse, and about 40 miles out, started seeing ice. I had to chip ice off the gate locks, and then all around the door on my travel trailer to get into it for the night. I was planning to go into town to stay in the house, but was afraid I would not be able to make it back out if more ice fell on the roads. So I got the heat turned on in the trailer, and in about an hour, finally had the temp to 58, from the starting point of 32.



I stayed inside Saturday morning until about 9am, just drinking coffee and watching the cars go down the highway. I walked through the back to see what boats were left, and some were packed and ready to go, but covered in ice. After getting the gates opened, I moved one of Allan's Yellow Jackets up to the front and inside the big building. The pipe on the tongue of the trailer was loose, so I put a few welds on it to make sure it was safe to pull.

Allan and Antony arrived around 11am, and we started working on loading his remaining stuff. Still ice on everything, but the temp had improved to about 37.

We got the one Yellow Jacket flipped over and loaded on top of the other, and then Allan strapped it down. Loading them onto his flatbed went pretty smooth. After loading all those cables



and controls, and a few motors and gas tanks, I think they pulled out around 1:30pm.

Just one other local guy came to pick up his Feather Craft, and a Grumman canoe. I think we still have four boats that need to be picked up, and maybe 4 or 5 motors. Hopefully they will be here tomorrow, because I am planning relax for the holidays, since I worked last years through Thanksgiving and part of Christmas preparing things for auction.

Everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. I guess many of you already had a Merry boat and motor Christmas.

Terry

