



# The Tiiger's Eye



Utility Industry News and Views

Published by Tiiger Inc. Manufacturers of Utility  
& Pole Pulling Equipment... Created by Linemen for Linemen  
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Welcome to the *September 2011* edition of *The Tiiger's Eye*...

A unique newsletter designed to keep Linesman and Operations Managers abreast of what's happening in the Utility field. We will cover topics ranging from safety, equipment and gear, operations, government regulations to human-interest stories. We'll also of course keep you informed about Tiiger. If you have a story to tell whether it's personal, product oriented or simply tips you want to share please call us at 615.758.6046



Look Out NASCAR....

Linemen Challenge for top spectator sport

Cedarburg, Wisconsin, Cedarburg Light & Water Utility, linemen challenge NASCAR for the top spot in motor vehicle racing. Yes, it's true. They are members of the Badger State Mower Racing Association, which is part of the national organization, American Racing Mower Association. The program is designed to provide quality family entertainment and a safe, competitive atmosphere for the drivers.

The motors all must be a lawn mower origin, however several classifications make it a real challenge for each driver and the team.

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### Look Out NASCAR...

The classifications range from using stock factory motors of less than 15 horsepower to highly modified motors which produce well over 30 horsepower.

In a recent interview with two of the key drives, Karsten Huse, Electric Superintendent and Tom Barelmann both from Cedarburg Light & Water Utility, they shared that Karsten was the Midwest point champion in the sportsman class in 2010. The most popular engines are Briggs and Stratton with a few additional popular brands in the mix. The enter cost is fairly low, however many of the top drivers, like Karsten have spent close to \$1,000.00 for the modifications to take a 12 horsepower motor and increasing it to 30 horsepower. They further share that depending on track conditions and proper gearing, top speeds can reach 60 MPH, which really reduces your time required for that weekend grass cutting task.

The current classifications start with a "Stock Kids & Adults"; this basically is a factory stock lawn mower, following with eight additional classifications allowing for extremely creative modifications of the motor, wheelbase, and front and rear wheels. This is the aspect of the sport which truly allows for drivers and teams to challenge each other in the field as to who can create the highest performance and still play by the rules.

Thanks to Karsten Huse for supplying us the story information.



Team Name – Kirchhayn Mower Sports Club



- Group photo:
- Linda Barelmann
- Jim Barelmann
- Tom Barelmann
- Jeff Barelmann
- Bob Barelmann
- Jeff Willy
- Dan Barelmann
- Karsten Huse



## Workers show off skills in Lineman's Rodeo

by LADD BRUBAKER

WEST VALLEY CITY — It was pretty much like any other rodeo: American flags; strong, bronzed competitors clad in hats and boots; numbered tags pinned to shirts; ropes and leather gear; and giant inflatables to keep the kids happy. But there were no horses, no bulls, no saddles and no clowns. Just boom trucks, power poles, lineman tools and insulators. The hats are white hard hats; the boots, linemen's.

Basking under a blue sky and warm temps Saturday, it was the 20th annual Utah Lineman's Rodeo, held by Rocky Mountain Power Co. and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 57.

Working power linemen compete in several events — egg climbs, speed climbs, hurtman rescues and others, at a specially built rodeo ground that's part of the West Valley substation.

Rodeo organizer Justin Halloran said it gives power workers a chance to hone their skills, take pride in their work and enjoy the common bond of those who every day go 35 feet off terra firma to face off against 7,200- volt power lines.

Developing their skills is vital, Halloran said.

"You don't get a second chance to be electrocuted by a high voltage line."  
-Justin Halloran

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### Workers show off skills in Lineman's...

Competitors are both timed and scored. They get two-point deductions for a mistake such as dropping a tool; those with the highest scores and fastest times win.

"You gotta be fast, but you gotta be controlled," he said.

Linemen from throughout Utah took part in the rodeo, along with special traveling teams that came from Arizona, Oregon and Colorado.

In the high line event, linemen scramble up a pole, climb across an orange metal "baker board" and into a metal trolley, or "spacer buggy," which rolls across two parallel power lines on pulley wheels.

The hurtman rescue simulates the task of getting an injured co-worker down from a pole. Participants must buckle on a loaded tool belt, ascend the pole, disconnect a 200-pound dummy and lower it to the ground.

In the highly competitive speed climb, linemen climb up then down poles untethered. The fastest can make the trip in as little as six seconds.

The vertical race teaches linemen to move smoothly and quickly as they ascend poles.

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### Workers show off skills in Lineman's...

Event winners can go on to the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City that draws competitors from as far away as Great Britain.

Rodeo visitors — adults and kids alike — lined up to don harnesses and hook safety lanyards into the basket of a 140-foot "high reach." The free lift gave a sunny, 360 view of Salt Lake valley, the rodeo grounds far below, and a touch of vertigo.

Heavy equipment operator Jimmy Louder of West Jordan stood out from other power workers. Most days, he runs an excavation hoe, digging and repairing underground distribution lines. But on rodeo day, he is the announcer and has been for all 20 years. He strolls the grounds, a wireless mike in hand, his voice booming out now and then.

He is a large man, over 6-feet tall, and dressed—pants, shirt and cap—in the red, white and blue of the Stars and Stripes. One pant leg sports white stars on a blue field, the other, red and white stripes.

"It's patriotic," he says. "We're just proud to live in this great country."

Winners of the rodeo events qualify for this year's International Lineman's Rodeo in Saint Louis.

Story written by Ladd Brubaker with contributions from Keith McCord





## Amusing Trivia...A Politicians take on whisky

In 1952, Armon M. Sweat, Jr., a member of the Texas House of Representatives, was asked about his position on whiskey. What follows is his exact answer (taken from the Political Archives of Texas):

"If you mean whiskey, the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean that evil drink that topples Christian men and women from the pinnacles of righteous and gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, shame, despair, helplessness, and hopelessness, then, my friend, I am opposed to it with every fiber of my being.

However, if by whiskey you mean the lubricant of conversation, the philosophic juice, the elixir of life, the liquid that is consumed when good fellows get together; that puts a song in their hearts and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer; the stimulating sip that puts a little spring in the step of an elderly gentleman on a frosty morning; if you mean that drink that enables man to magnify his joy, and to forget life's great tragedies and heartbreaks and sorrow; if you mean that drink the sale of which pours into Texas treasuries untold millions of dollars each year; that provides tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitifully aged and infirm, to build the finest highways, hospitals, universities, and community colleges in this nation, then my friend, I am absolutely, unequivocally in favor of it.

This is my position, and as always, I refuse to compromise on matters of principle."



1889 Oil Painting by Erskine Nicol of an Irish or Scottish man pouring whisky into a flask. Whiskey is a distilled alcoholic beverage made from fermented grain mash. Different grains are used for different varieties, including barley, malted barley, rye, malted rye, wheat, and maize (corn). Whiskey is aged in wooden casks, made generally of white oak, except that in the US corn whiskey need not be aged.



## What's a Tiiger Cube?

The Tiiger Cube is a completely portable gasoline powered pump designed to compliment our ultra-light weight Pole Puller.

It's conveniently enclosed in a durable and ergonomically designed frame with oversized all terrain 10" wheels. The  $\frac{3}{4}$ " steel handle extends to 19". Other features include a 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon Hydraulic Fluid reservoir and a 4 way / 3 position manual valve with relief.

For more power and extra features you'll want to take a look at the Tiiger Cube II.

This "Power House" has a 13 HP commercial engine, an electronic start with battery, a piston hydraulic pump, and spin on return line filter. Additionally it has a 10 gl. hydraulic reservoir; a very convenient wire mesh tool tray and more.

Both come with Tiiger's built in reputation for reliability. For more information call 615-758-6046 or go to the brochures and video menu on our website.

In the next issue:

- The story behind the Wichita Lineman song, made famous by Glen Campbell
- An exciting new product from Tiiger
- MTEMC crews head south to assist with tornado damage.



The light weight portable Cube



The popular Tiiger Pole Puller



The ultra powerful Cube II