

Pekin looks to reclaim world record for spoon ensemble at 2013 festival

Written by George Browning

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Plans continue to come together for the 183rd Pekin Fourth of July Celebration, which will not only include carnival rides, but another attempt at breaking the world record for largest spoon ensemble.

Pekin broke the old record at the 2011 festival, but was outdone by a group from Japan at Pearl Harbor.

The news that his record was broke did not make organizer Steve "Spoonman" Tankersly very happy.

His plans are to bring the world record back to Pekin.

A number of other events were discussed concerning this year's Pekin Fourth of July celebration at the Pekin Community Betterment Organization's regular meeting Feb. 21.

The group went over old business, which included the festival dates of July 3-6. They also announced that the contract with Derby City Amusement is signed.

Anita Temple, Andy Newlon and Gary Nale were guests on WSLM on Feb. 12, discussing the annual celebration.

The first item discussed under new business is the cleaning the green off the playground equipment in the park when the weather warms this spring.

A number of people said they would help once the clean-up was organized.

Paula Ratts will be in charge of the Pekin Float that will be in the Washington County Fair Parade. She is also working on a theme for this year's Fourth Parade.

Work on the program book is underway as far as schedules and ads. Temple will look for people to help with this beginning in March.

Plans for the June 8 Safari Bike Ride are in the works. Contracts have been sent to Eastern High School.

The menu will need to be decided in March and all other work will proceed as it did last year.

Cheryl Yates is working on a flyer for the event.

Kenny and Darlene Hall is working on the plans for the 5K walk/run, which will be July 6 at 8 a.m.

The motorcycle ride will also be part of the events again this year. The ride will be June 15 beginning at 1 with roundup back at the park for food.

The PCBO is still looking for a band to play on July 3.

The group also announced the tentative schedule for July 4 – the parade will begin at 10 a.m. and events at the park will start at 12:30 p.m.

There will be the normal opening and flag events.

The prince and princess contest will be at 1 p.m.; Dollars for Scholars will take the stage at 2 and the queen contest gets underway at 2:30 p.m.

The attempt to break the world spoon record will be at 3:30 p.m.

The band Gills Grove will take the stage at 4:30 and WSLM will host Karaoke from 6 to 9 p.m.

On July 5, the feature on stage will be Pekin Idol, which continues to grow every year.

July 6 will be Praise Day in Pekin Park with area praise bands performing from 1 to 4 with a larger touring Christian band set to take the stage from 4-5 p.m.

Lick Creek Band will play from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. that night.

The flea market and rides will be open for all festival events as will the food vendors and the Borden Lions' Club Fish Fry.

The PCBO is always looking for fresh ideas and more importantly new volunteers. Those

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wishing to get involved can do so as their schedule allows.

The next meeting will be March 21, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the park shelter house.