

He Rides In Style On Oliver Golf Cart

Why would someone cut the front off a perfectly good tractor and put it on a golf cart? That's what George Weyhrich wondered as he watched his son-in-law, daughter and grandkids drive toward him on Father's Day.

Though it looked like an Oliver tractor front, Weyhrich learned that son-in-law Gary Berchtold, a machinist, had built it from scratch with precision CNC machining.

"He's never seen an Oliver tractor in his life," Weyhrich says. "He had a toy and a picture, and he went from there."

The tractor mechanic said he and his wife enjoy going to farm shows, but after years of being on his feet at work all day, it was getting difficult to walk around. He purchased a used golf cart to take to shows.

Weyhrich's wife, Millie, asked Berchtold if he could add some Oliver features to the cart, similar to the Oliver 88 Weyhrich's father owned. Berchtold took it much farther.

"I hand-wrote all the CNC programs, based off a toy tractor and scaled it by

eye," Berchtold says. The most challenging part was the hood, which he cut out of an old aluminum highway sign. Because it had been painted, it was difficult to weld.

"He even made the exhaust pipe," Weyhrich says proudly. "The umbrella says Papa's LIL 88." He and Millie take it to farm shows and drive in parades.

"It takes a long time to get through a show because every 20 ft. or so we have to stop and get our picture taken," Weyhrich laughs.

The 9 hp Kawasaki gas engine goes a long way on a couple of gallons of gas, and the cart travels at speeds up to 22 mph. There's lockable storage space under the hood for a cooler, jackets and other items. The back folds down so the cart can be used to haul tools for yard work.

As a businessman, mayor and road commissioner of San Jose, Ill. (pop. 670), Weyhrich has plenty of opportunities to ride his Oliver golf cart at events. This year he plans to commute the nine blocks to his shop every day.



Oliver golf cart was made by cutting the front off an Oliver tractor and attaching it to a golf cart. Owner George Weyhrich and his wife enjoy driving it at farm shows.

Last fall his village passed an ordinance allowing licensed, insured ATV's and motorized carts on city streets.

Besides being handy, the Oliver cart brings back good memories.

"When my Dad retired and sold out, I wasn't able to get the old Oliver Super 88 at the sale and have regretted it ever since," Weyhrich says. Papa's LIL 88 lessens that regret.

"I'm glad he's proud of it," Berchtold says. He has the plans he used for his CNC Haas machine and is willing to talk to anyone interested in a similar project. Contact him by email or through his website, www.digenterprises.net.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Weyhrich, 119 Payne St., San Jose, Ill. 62682 (ph 309 247-3502; gary.digent@verizon.net).

Heavy-Duty "4-Pt." Fast Hitch

When Jim Colsch wanted to mount a garden blade on the back of his Model 60 Deere, he could have bought an after market 3-pt. hitch. However, he has found that the center link interferes with hydraulics on the older 2-cylinders. So, he built his own quad link hitch, fashioning it after a Deere 801 Fast Hitch he once owned.

"I made the hitch extra heavy-duty," says Colsch. "I've hung enough weight on it to lift the front end of the tractor off the ground with no problems."

Quad link lift arms on the older Deere tractors were originally powered by heavy-duty cast iron arms attached to the cultivator lifts on either side of the platform. To make his Fast Hitch extra heavy-duty, Colsch fabricated L-shaped brackets from 1/2-in. thick, 4-in. angle iron and reinforced the lighter-duty cultivator lift arms that came with his 60.

He mounted the horizontal leg of each bracket to the drawbar assembly. Pins mounted at the forward end of the horizontal leg receive the hitch arms when the hitch is assembled. The vertical leg of the L forms the support and housing for the top links.

Colsch reinforced the cultivator lift arms with 3/4-in. by 1 1/2-in. steel, creating a near solid bar. He also shortened them from 14 in. to 12 in. to slow the action slightly. Adjustable down links drop from the cultivator arms to provide lift for the lower arms of the quad hitch.

"To attach the top links, I drilled three sets of holes staggered at an

angle at the top of the vertical legs of the brackets," explains Colsch. "By moving the link pin from one set to another, it moves the top link forward or back and slightly up or down. It can give a blade a little extra pitch if the top links are already extended as far as they will go."

Top and down links, as well as pins and ball ends, were purchased at Tractor Supply Co. The arms themselves are used Category II Ford tractor arms.

Of course once Colsch had reproduced the quad link hitch, he had to modify his 3-pt. blade. To do so, he welded a 3/8-in. plate where the center link on a 3-pt. would have connected. A 7/8-in. bolt extends through and is welded to the plate.

He turned an octagon shaft on a lathe to form pins at either end for the upper link arms to engage. He also drilled a hole at its center large enough to slide over the bolt.

"A double nut and washer hold the shaft in place," explains Colsch. "But the shaft can swivel as needed."

He explains that an adapter for 3-pt. implements came with the original Deere Fast Hitch. "I planned this out, and it's as close to the factory quad link as I could get," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Colsch, 22092 County 19, Spring Grove, Minn. 55974 (ph 507 498-3738).

He uses the hitch to mount a 3-pt. garden blade, which he modified to fit the hitch.



Jim Colsch built this heavy duty quad link hitch on back of his Deere 60 tractor.



Fittings Adapt Pipe For Many Uses

We were paging through the giant Gempler's Catalog the other day and spotted a product that makes it easy to turn pipe into fencing, feeders or almost any other structure. Kee Klamp® galvanized pipe fittings come in 16 styles and in three sizes for 1, 1 1/4 and 1 1/2-in. pipe. You'll find angles going in every direction you can think of, from single socket T's and elbows to swivel sockets and adjustable side outlet T's. You se-

cure the fittings to the pipes by tightening inset screws with an Allen wrench.

"The fittings are unique because they allow users to create whatever they need," says Scott Mueller, product manager. "Customers make railings, safety barriers, fencing, racks, greenhouses, structural frame work and more."

The fittings range in price from \$6.35 to \$21.50 each, with discounts for ordering 10 or more of each size or style.



Kee Klamp galvanized fittings make it easy to build with pipe.

Gempler's sells safety supplies, clothing, tools and parts for people in agriculture, horticulture and grounds maintenance.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,

Gempler's, P.O. Box 44993, Madison, Wis. 53744 (ph 608 662-3301; www.gemplers.com).