

A Visit To The Minnesota Inventor's Congress

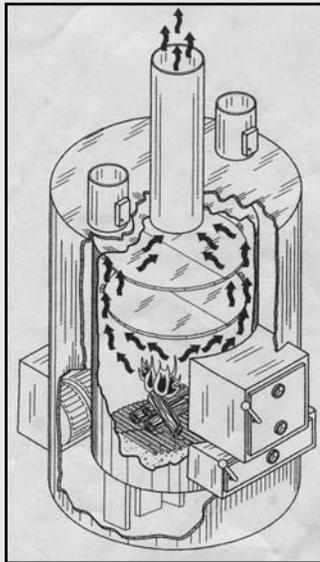
The Minnesota Inventor's Congress, held every June in Redwood Falls, Minn., is the world's oldest show for inventors. First held in 1958, hundreds of successful products have been launched at the show. Manufacturer reps from around the world show up every year to look for new ideas. Here are a few of the prototype ideas and new products that caught Senior Editor Bill Gerger's eye this year.

Amazing Circular Stove Burns Hotter!

"It heats far more efficiently than a conventional box-shaped wood furnace," says inventor Andrew Murray about his new cylindrical wood-burning furnace. Key to success of the patent pending Dakota Stove is a set of baffles at the center of the stove that forces air to pass through the gap between the baffles and the outside of the stove, creating a better transfer of heat.

"The round shape of the stove doesn't allow any heat to be wasted," says Murray. "It operates on the principle that heat travels evenly in waves, like ripples on water. It's the reason why engine pistons and cylinders are round, as well as pressure hoses, hydraulic cylinders, water heaters, water pipes, and so on. You can't heat up a square shape evenly, because the distance from the fire to the sides of the stove is less than the distance from the fire to the corners. So, the sides of a square stove will always be hotter than the corners. With my round stove, there are no corners to get cold and take heat away from your home."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andrew Murray, 11698 395th Ave., Columbia, S. Dak. 57433 (ph 877 800-8891 or 605 396-2431).



Ramp "Lifts" ATV Into Pickup Box

A first-of-its-kind hydraulic ramp lifts ATV's, garden tractors and other utility vehicles into the bed of a pickup. It hooks up to any full-size pickup using metal brackets below the pickup's rear bumper. A remote-controlled winch provides the lifting power. The ramp can also be used as a portable work bench or

a drive-on service ramp. Inventor Lawrence Rogge says it eliminates the safety risks associated with drive-up ramps.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lawrence Rogge (ph 507 872-5922 or 507 530-1431; useelift@hotmail.com).



Driveshaft Jack Adapter

A new driveshaft "jack stand" for semi trucks makes it easier, safer and faster to remove a driveshaft. It can also be used to repair power divider seals, U-joints, and driveshaft center

bearings. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alberto at ph 651 395-1073 or 651 224-0487; semidrivshaftjace@hotmail.com).

Interlocking Socket Storage System

If you've got sockets scattered throughout your toolbox, or if standard and metric sockets often get mixed together, Wayne Kruchten thinks you'll like his new Socket Block organizer that lets you easily store sockets in the order you want them in your tool cabinet. It consists of connectable, individual blocks made from high grade molded material. The blocks lock on all 4 sides and fit all standard, metric and deep-well sockets. The blocks are colored red for standard and green for metric. Embossed light-reflective lettering is used to identify each socket.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Kruchten, P.O. Box 157, Clearwater, Minn. 55320 (ph 320 558-6754; kruchwd@frontier.net).



Grave Saver

Walk through any cemetery and you'll see grave markers sinking into the ground. Inventor John Markas says his Grave Saver cradle is designed to keep markers from sinking or becoming overgrown with grass. It's made from a UV resistant material that will withstand cold and hot climates as well as being driven over with a lawn mower. To install, dig around the grave marker to remove it from the hole. Then insert the Grave Saver into the hole and place the grave marker into the Grave Saver. Fill in any gaps with sand.



Available in 3 sizes to fit most common grave marker sizes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, JM Monument, 16 President Ave., Buhl, Minn. 55713 (ph 218 929-2662; www.jmonument.com).



Off-Road Wheelchair

"Helping the disabled to be enabled".

That's the idea behind this new off-road wheelchair that mounts on 6 1/2-in. wide rubber tracks. Inventor Tim Swenson says his "Action Trackchair" lets you go places where conventional wheelchairs won't go. It operates on two 12-volt wheelchair batteries and a 24-volt DC motor, which provides a range of up to 10 miles.

The unit has a joystick control and a zero-



turn radius. The seat can be tilted 20 degrees each way. Options include headlights, a gun scabbard, and a carrier that mounts on back of a pickup. A wide variety of colors are available, including camouflage.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Action Mfg., 1103 Canoga Park Drive, Marshall, Minn. 56258 (ph 507 829-5940 or 507 532-9649; actiontrackchair.com or tim@actiontrackchair.com).



are about 1 in. thick, which is just right for carving.

Sells for \$11.99 plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dakota Products, LLC, 2101 Lovett Ave., Bismarck, N. Dak. 58504 (ph 701 202-7203; www.getcarvingquicker.com).

The Pumpkin Gutter

Gutting a pumpkin with a knife or spoon can be a messy, time-consuming task. That's what prompted a North Dakota inventor to create this new Pumpkin Gutter that lets you easily remove the seeds and strings before carving a pumpkin. It consists of an "egg beater" blade on a metal shaft that inserts into the chuck on any electric or cordless drill. You lightly go over the interior surface of the pumpkin to loosen the seeds and strings, occasionally turning off the drill to remove them. Then keep scraping the pumpkin's walls until they

Furnace Filter Monitor

You won't have to guess when to change furnace filters with this new device that measures the pressure differential across filters, automatically letting you know when the filter needs to be changed. Once a filter is plugged, an audio chirp goes off once per

minute and a light comes on. Maximizes filter life and ensures your furnace will never again have to force air through a plugged filter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ekern Enterprises, Inc., 103 North Wind St., Flandreau, S. Dak. 57028 (ph 605 573-2880).