



The Double Cubs as they are being painted and assembled in Ray's shop in Forestdale in March of 2006.



The Double Cubs decked out in American Flags for the presentation of the National Anthem at the Bush, LA show in May.

Ray Best's "Double Trouble" Cubs

Chapter #23 Vice-President Ray Best is known for not being satisfied with ordinary tractor restorations. And his latest project is a good example of his curiosity. He got the idea for his Double Cubs from a Triple Farmall "A" built by a member of the IHC Louisiana chapter.

Unlike the triple "A," which requires two operators to drive it, Ray's Cubs only need one driver and operate off a single accelerator and a single clutch. With the double Cubs, Ray has the option of running either engine alone or both of them together. All that is required to use both is for them to be in the same gear.

One of the most clever aspects of this project is the spliced axles that Ray fabricated. Both axle pieces were measured precisely and welded up and ground smooth to make one nice straight axle. Then he ground pencil-point-like splines on each end to mesh into the two transmissions.

Ray started work on the Double Cubs in October of 2005 and finished in April of 2006. After reassembly, paint, and decals, Ray thought he had a finished project. But when he tried to drive it for the first time, the combo-tractors would not move!

After a phone call to the Louisiana chapter member who had built the Triple "A's", he learned that one side of his rear-end system had to be locked up for the tractors to move, and this involved welding up the spider gears.

The only problems he has had with this rig has been loading it onto a tall trailer. He uses the right side engine because it has the most power and the welded up spider gears make it want to move sideways on a trailer with tall ramps. Ray believes that welding up the left side may solve this problem,

but he wants to be sure that will not create new problems before taking that step.

In the short time that Ray has displayed the Double Cubs at shows in 2006, he has gotten lots of attention. He was asked to join the Triple "A" at the LA state show in May to bring the U.S. flags into the pulling arena there for the playing of the national anthem.

When he took the project to the Red Power Roundup in Mansfield, Ohio in June, he said that visitors to the show were all over the tractors and one fellow even crawled under it and took pictures looking up on his back. After all his hard work, Ray took a lot of pleasure in the fact that people at the show just couldn't get over two Cubs put together side by side.



Ray driving the Double Cubs at the 2006 Red Power Roundup at Marion, Ohio in June.

This story about Ray Best originally appeared in our Summer 2006 newsletter.
See next page for additional photo.



Ray Best with his "Double Cubs" at the Weaver show in 2006.



Ray presents a door prize at the Jean's on the River show.