**Golf Car Report**

**Manufacturers brace for Calif. emissions ruling**

BY HAL PHILLIPS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Later this month, the Air Resources Board (ARB) of California — the state agency dealing with atmospheric regulation — will issue its recommendation on when and how gas-powered golf cars will be eliminated from America’s most emissions-conscious state.

Golf car manufacturers are preparing for the worst.

Industry estimates place the number of gas-powered golf cars in California at approximately 14,000. Eventually, state mandate — in some form or another — will force the switch to an entirely electric-powered golf car fleet.

The National Golf Car Manufacturers Association (NGCMA) — which estimates the cost of this switch-over, for an individual golf course operator, to be $300,000 to $1 million — argues that gas and electric cars cannot be stored together, meaning a new cart storage facility must be built during the transition to electric.

The best indication of how harshly gas-powered carts will be treated may lie in the regulation of lawn and garden machines. For instance: All lawn and garden engines (riding mowers) produced after Dec. 31, 1993, will be required to comply with stringent exhaust emission standards relating to hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Further, no new lawn and garden engines will be allowed to replace pre-1995 models after Dec. 31, 1998.

In ARB binges these are considered “first-tier” regulations — and the NGCMA would like nothing better than to be considered for first-tier status. However, the ARB-recommended regulations may well be more harsh than those assigned to lawn and garden equipment.

“The fact is, there are no rules — so there is no timetable regarding the elimination of gas-powered golf cars,” said Jerry Martin, a spokesman for the ARB. “The staff is now preparing its recommendations. The staff report is due out in late October.”

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Emissions ruling in California
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utilize the same engines as golf cars, except that golf cars emit fewer pollutants over a comparable time period because they do not idle.

According to their position paper, the golf car manufacturers were under the impression their request would be granted. The NGCA then spent "in excess of $3,000,000 to research and develop gas-powered golf cars that would meet reduced emission standards, well aware that zero emissions standards were the ultimate ARB staff objective.

"However," the paper continues, "ARB recanted those assurances in August 1992 and now proposes, by Jan. 1, 1995, all golf cars...must be electrically powered."

Martin and the ARB take issue with this representation. "Manufacturers normally resist control put on them by this agency," he said. "And those regulated for the first time react most vociferously."

"In 1990, when the lawn and garden regulations were instituted, golf cars were included in that category. The golf car industry then asked not to be grouped in that category...The golf car manufacturers said, 'We think we're recreational vehicles,' and they were removed from the lawn and garden category. At that time, there wasn't an imminent recreational vehicle restriction.

"Now, three years later, they want first tier standing because recreational vehicles will be regulated—and there have been changes in the lawn and garden regulations."

Martin said he believes the ARB decision is still up in the air.

"The board can be persuaded and can change its mind," he said. "The removal [of golf cars] from the grouping in 1990 is a prime example."

Club Car offering
Continued from page 31
Car will look to reduce its debt and fuel growth and expansion. Further, Club Car will offer its stock through the newer NASDAQ system, while NGC has chosen to go through the New York Stock Exchange.

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Jacques named VP at Ransomes
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Marv Jacques has been promoted to the vice president of engineering and technology at Ransomes America Corp.

Jacques previously served as director of engineering and technology. In his new position, he will assume responsibilities for product management and testing, including planning and defining projects for Cushman, Ryan and Ransomes brands.

Jacques will remain involved in each of the company's three business groups: Turf, professional lawn care, and industrial/commercial.

Ransomes America has also announced the appointment of Pat Milke to the position of marketing coordinator. Milke will assist in the development of print and audio/visual materials for advertising and dealer training. He will also work with each of the company's three divisions, and his responsibilities will include the preparation and shipment of equipment for display at trade shows.

John Deere 400 Series product named 'The Agricultural Engineering 50'
RALEIGH, N.C. — Agricultural Engineering magazine has named the John Deere 400 Series heavy-duty lawn and garden tractors to "The Agricultural Engineering 50" outstanding innovation in product or systems technology — 1992.

The company was recognized by a panel of national engineering experts.

The panel selected developments that embody application of new technology or the innovative application of older technology.

"This honor was earned by a top-flight design team," said Don Henderson, general manager of the John Deere Engineering Group in Horicon, Wis.

"The 400 Series tractors include 50 new or enhanced features that outperform and outlast the 10-year-old line they replace."

The AE 50 recognition program is conducted each year by Agricultural Engineering to emphasize the important role of new products and systems in transferring technology to the marketplace for application in a wide spectrum of uses.

Henderson said the team leadership included Roger Heil, project engineer; Bill Cameron, senior engineer; and Dave Larson, division engineer.

They used many advanced computer-aided design techniques, such as 3D imaging to eliminate making prototypes in early stages of design and laser digitizers that allow modifications in later stages.

They incorporated engineering thermoplastic compounds to replace steel because they are resilient and more easily replaced. They reduced the number of parts in the new model line-up from 1,250 to just 600.

Tempest relocates; hires Hone as plant manager
FRESNO, Calif. — Tempest Controlled Airstreams, the manufacturer of power blowers for the fire service, has announced the relocation of its headquarters and manufacturing operation to a larger, more modern facility here in Fresno.

Note the new address and phone numbers: Tempest Controlled Airstreams, 4645 N. Bendel Ave., Fresno, CA 93722; 1-800-346-2143 or 209-277-7577; Fax: 209-277-7579.

Tempest has also announced the appointment of Ralph Hone as plant and production manager. Hone comes to Tempest with an extensive background in plant production, staffing, scheduling and supervision. He has worked in the manufacturing area for 11 years with Smithers-Oasis.

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