



TETA Group Educational Seminar Hosted by the Russo Power Equipment Company

With 35 members in attendance, the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TETA) March meeting was held at Russo's in Schiller Park. On behalf of TETA, thank you to Mr. Frank Russo for hosting us. I wish also to thank Tom Wahdier for arranging for all of the speakers.

The topics covered included power generator maintenance and troubleshooting, updates on the 3cylinder diesel engine produced by Briggs and Stratton, Redmax hand-held 2cycle power equipment, and many others.

Tom Zieman and associates from Midwest Engines Warehouse covered portable and stationary generators. Two test products were fired up for live demonstrations in trouble shooting and adjustments. One tip I thought I'd share with you is on checking engine rpms. The engine rpms on any generator should be at 3600 for full output to be reached. Power tools are also very sensitive to their required working voltage. Another quick tip: the horse power to wattage ratio is 2:1, meaning that if the job requires 4000 watts, the generator must have an 8hp rating at 3600 rpms.

Andy Kuczmar, Head of Education and Product Research and Development for the Red Max Company, graciously spent the afternoon session talking about the 2cycle theories that have evolved into today's hand-held power equipment. There is a lot more to consider than price and volume when purchasing multiple units such as line trimmers and backpack blowers. Andy covered today's demands on 2stroke engines as only he can.

Simple things, such as 2stroke lubricants that we all use everyday, are not so simple. It's not just oil in that little bottle. Approximately 30% of the container of 2 stroke mix is actual oil. The rest is the additive package designed by the manufacturer for their engines. Another strongly suggested tip was to use at least 89 octane unleaded fuel. High temperatures are the factors that demand more out of the fuel's additives. The lower octane gas does not have the additive package, even though the operator's manual may suggest using 87 octane. I always enjoy an educational session when Andy visits our group. Thank you Andy.

Throughout the day we were treated with hospitality and friendship by the Russo family and staff. As we were taken on a full tour of the entire facility by Frank Russo, we were encouraged to make comments to or ask questions of their sales and service staff along the way.

We were treated to a live demonstration of chainsaw wood carving, including a free raffle of one of the sculptures.

We look forward to more visits to Russo Power Equipment Company, in more ways than one. **-OC**

