

The final group of competition vehicles are the trucks. Super charged Two wheel drive wheel standers, Four Wheel Drive clay grapplers and the Super Semis comprise a diverse group of vehicles that many people can relate to from their daily drive. These competition rides vary in size shape and horsepower and are crowd pleasers wherever they travel.

The sport of pulling can trace its roots back to the early part of the 20th century when folks got together to have draft horse pulls. As agriculture expanded with the advent of the gasoline and diesel engine being the norm, the challenge was oftentimes laid down between neighboring farmers: Who had the strongest tractor in the township; in the county; in the state; and in America? The concept has remained the same but the technology has surpassed all expectations. A factor often overlooked is the financial obligation teams earmark toward their competition vehicles and towing rigs. The commitment of competitors is juggled between business, family, finances and time to work on their machines. It is truly inspiring when one evaluates the level of dedication and passion these men and woman have for their chosen sport. It is a collaborative effort of friends and family to make things happen.

Two other main ingredients to pulling are the weight transfer machine or sled as they are called, and the track. Starting out in the early days, sleds were simple deadweight pulling. Another early type was the step-on sled in which people were positioned along the track and would "step onto" the sled as it came by. In these early years, vehicles had to maintain a speed limit as part of the rules. That is a far cry from what takes place now, with the top Modified vehicles turning massive rear tires in excess of 120 mile per hour as they speed down the track pulling thousands and thousands of pounds until the dirt flies and the momentum screeches to a halt.

Today's sleds are a marvel of engineering technology, with sophisticated gearing systems that move up to 65,000 pounds of weight to stop the powerful Unlimited category of the modified division and the Super Semis.

The track varies from location to location depending on the predominant soil type and how the grounds are maintained year round. Reading the track is an art and can take competitors years to master. It is the variable than can make or break any competitor at any time. A track can change conditions in ten minutes or ten feet.

What began back in NTPA's infancy has grown into a major motorsport, with some 1000+ members who compete on four different levels of pulling throughout the U.S. and Canada: State, Regional, Grand, and Super National. Pulling has



crossed the Atlantic, and is now a major sport in more than ten countries throughout Europe and Australia.

The seven locations have been set and will be the backdrop for the 26 original epi.s with host Army Armstrong. These locations include Wilmington, Ohio; Tomah, Wisconsin; Chapel Hill, Tennessee; Saluda, South Carolina; Bowling Green, Ohio; Fort Recovery, Ohio; and Sandwich, Illinois.

In each show, there will be a spotlight on a division competing. Each of the twelve NTPA Grand National divisions will be shown at least once including a featured competitor each week. Also, there will be a focus on the local event promoter or sponsor in each epi. as well as a spec/tech spotlight in the half-hour timeframe. The "NTPA Championship Pulling Series" will have variety for the whole family as each epi. showcases some of the best the sport has to offer.

"It should be a fast paced, high energy program that will entertain and inform the viewers of the "NTPA Championship Pulling Series", said Gregg Randall, NTPA Office GM and director of the series. "We look forward to the great challenge at hand to bring a new look to the sport of pulling and build the interest and fan base from this great opportunity. I know that AP Productions and Army Armstrong and very excited at bringing a quality effort to pulling fans and new viewers. I believe that this team of seasoned professionals will deliver a show that we will all be proud of."

As always, be sure to watch the pages of THE PULLER magazine for more information on the RFD-TV series schedule or log onto www.ntpapull.com.

Contact Information

National Tractor Puller Association
 6155-B Huntley Road
 Columbus, OH 43229
 Phone: (614) 436-1761
www.ntpapull.com

Premiers each Saturday on **RFD-TV**