



Travis Dockter of Linton is the owner and operator of the Raging Inferno. The jet-powered fire truck is ready for shows.

Travis Dockter's Raging Inferno blows smoke and a whole lot more to the delight of crowds

By Terri Lang

Smoke, big bangs, flames, more noise and heat... what is it? A wild jet-powered fire truck that does an awesome jet fire, meltdown and smoke show—the Raging Inferno!

With its Westinghouse J-34 engine from a U.S. Navy Banshee fighter plane, the Raging Inferno produces about 6,500 pounds of thrust and about 13,000 HP at 12,000 RPM.

Travis Dockter, owner of the Raging Inferno, said the truck was built around a 1981 American LaFrance Century series truck. All of the original fire-fighting equipment on the fire truck was removed.

The Raging Inferno can melt down anything that is put behind it and Dockter said it is the only jet powered fire truck in the world that he is aware of.

“Another one is currently

being built, but this is the only one that I know of,” Dockter said.

One has to wonder who, why and how would someone purchase a jet powered fire truck?

“It is awesome!” Dockter said. “The first time I saw it, I loved the show and so did my family.”

They all first watched the Raging Inferno's exhibition at the monster truck show in Mandan.

“We got real close up to the truck and the show and when the Raging Inferno shot off, my little boy got scared, ran to the grandstand and climbed over the people sitting in the grandstand,” he said.

In the summer of 2012, their family again attended an event at the race track in Aberdeen, S.D.

Dockter was again im-



With the Raging Inferno, Amerie Meidinger and Travis Dockter are looking forward to their adventures with their son, Kaden 6, and daughter, Brellie 5.

pressed with the show, and during the show, he emailed a photo of it to his friend and co-worker, Nolan Anderson

“I remember Nolan said, ‘buy it,’” Dockter said. “We were just joking around, I thought.”

After the show, Dockter searched the Internet for the Inferno's website and found out the Raging Inferno was for sale.

Dockter made a phone call the next day to get the information on it, and after

discussing it with the family, the deal was made.

When friends (Rich Smith family) of Dockter made a trip to Las Vegas, Nev., he booked a flight also and from there, they drove to Victorville, Calif., to finish the sale.

In November of 2013, Royal Farms Transport of Wishek had to make a trip to California with a load, and Dockter asked if they could pick up the Raging Inferno and haul it back to the Dockter shop in Linton.

Travis works with his dad, Ray, at Dockter's Welding. They have put in at least 300 hours of work into the Raging Inferno at the shop.

“It is ready for a show, but we are still working on it and practicing with it,” Dockter said. “There is a learning curve time.”

And the community of Linton learned a little about Dockter's learning curve on Fri., June 6.

At approximately 9 p.m., the sirens sounded, and Dockter, a firefighter, thought he would have to leave the site in front of the lot near his shop.

“I thought to myself, ‘oh no, now I have to leave the scene,’” he said.

Then it dawned on him... the fire that was called in was on his scene—the Raging Inferno in action.

“I just wanted to work on it as I knew I needed to make some adjustments on the valves, so I fired it up,” Dockter said.

He said he felt so bad about the disturbance it caused and knows he won't do that again in town anytime soon.

“I don't like to make trouble, and I thought I was going to get arrested,” he said. “I am sure my kids thought ‘there goes daddy!’”

A fellow firefighter and friend of Dockter, Wayne Ehley, had been helping him that evening and with several of the practices they have done at the Linton Airport.

Mike Gunia, Bruce Orluck and Ralph Lawler have also assisted Dockter in working with the truck's engine, and Dockter is grateful to them for their knowledge and help.

Dockter said he and his family are looking forward to their adventures with the Raging Inferno.

“I like to go places, and so does my family,” Dockter said. “We hope our shows go good, and we can look forward to the trips as our family vacations.”

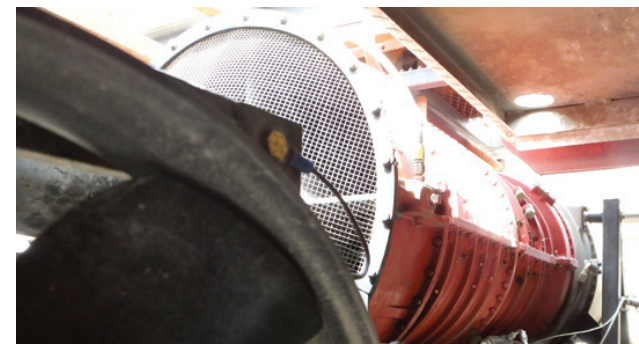
Dockter said people can watch a video of the Raging Inferno at www.raginginfernojet.com. To book a show, contact Travis Dockter at (701) 321-1226.



Travis Dockter said kids and adults can take a ride on the Raging Inferno for \$5 each. Ten to 12 people can ride at a time.



Between the front seats in the Raging Inferno, are the panel and controls that maneuver the Inferno's actions.



The Raging Inferno is powered with a Westinghouse J-34 engine from a U.S. Navy Banshee fighter plane.



Spectators can enjoy an awesome jet fire, meltdown and smoke show—the wild jet powered fire truck—the Raging Inferno!