In October, Ariens held their Supplier Award Meeting. This year, a portion of the meeting was held at Lambeau Field, the home of the Green Bay Packers. As a Packers fan, Ogura sales representative, Louie Bernabei thought it was a great location, however, as a Bears fan, Mike Garvey, Ogura sales manager, was not as impressed.

At the meeting, Ogura was given the Supplier Performance Award which is based upon Ariens’ rigorous standards for pricing, quality and delivery. This makes four years in a row that Ogura has been given this award by Ariens.

In October, Ogura participated in the GIE Outdoor Power Equipment Expo held in Louisville, KY. Present at the Ogura booth were some OIC support personnel, product engineering and sales representatives. The show was an excellent way to get an introduction to the overall outdoor power equipment market. Once again, all of the large producers of outdoor power equipment exhibited at the show. This year’s show set a new record in attendance. Show attendance was up on all three days with Thursday being by far, the busiest day.

To support Ogura’s supercharger efforts, Bobby Cleveland and Chuck Miller had their racing mower and mini-puller on display at the outside booth. Every time Chuck or Bobby fired up the supercharged engines, people came from all over the show to see the units run. Bobby and Chuck answered many questions on both lawnmower racing and competitive pulling and even a couple of autographs were signed.

Both Bobby and Chuck plan on participating in lawnmower racing again for 2016 and Chuck says he can’t wait to get back up on the 1st place podium.

In October, Ogura participated in the business matching fair. 154 companies participated and there were an additional 1,700 business attendees. The object was for businesses to find and have conversations with potential suppliers. Ogura exhibited its products and held mini seminars on Ogura’s capabilities. The booth was visited by many people from many different companies and it was a great chance to discuss many new business opportunities face to face. The show was not open to the general public.
Hi, my name is Brian Mather and I joined Ogura in November. I am very excited to be here working with a great group of people for a company with a strong history and a bright future.

I have previous clutch and brake experience from prior employment with Deltran and Electroid. For those two companies, I spent most of my time developing OEM accounts on the East Coast of USA and Eastern Canada.

I graduated from Drexel with an engineering degree and I started my career in 1999 with SKF, a bearing company. I spent five of those years living in Chicago working with industrial OEMs in the Midwest. The work was rewarding but so was the adventure, including games at Wrigley Field.

Most recently, I was working with Rexnord and a division called Falk Renew. I was a gearbox specialist working with power plants, steel mills, paper mills, etc. in the Northeastern part of the USA. I frequently put on a hard hat and got my boots dirty while troubleshooting to keep large industrial users up and running in a consultative sales role.

I am originally from Philadelphia and I currently live in Wildwood, NJ with my fiancé, Lauren. We enjoy boating, kayaking, outdoor activities and sports. I also like to go fishing, but am first to admit I don’t catch many fish. I go fishing while others seem to go “catching”, but I really don’t mind at all.

Last quarter, the 52nd Kiryu Yagi festival was held. As in past years, Ogura provided a float for the festival complete with Ogura employees singing, dancing, and playing instruments. Although the weather was very warm this year, the festival was not interrupted by thunderstorms like it was last year. Many different events were held during the festival such as the kids’ parade, textile marketplace, dance competition and the giant ball rolling competition. Many people got into the spirit dressing in the traditional summer attire called Yukata. As they had in the past few years, Ogura invited Maiko and Geisha women from Kyoto to be the guests on its float. This year, there was the new element of a singing contest added. The contest was China vs. Japan. Despite the inaugural event, it became popular very quickly. At the end of the contest, Ogura’s yagibushi band got a standing ovation from the crowd for their passionate performance.

Last month, Ogura released two new product flyers. The first is the Torque/Tension Control product flyer which concentrates on the permanent magnet, hysteresis and magnetic particle clutches and brakes Ogura produces. These products are used to prevent paper jams in printers and also provide tension control for a variety of wire and film applications. Products are also used to limit an applied torque such as a pharmaceutical capping machine.

The second flyer was introduced at the GIE Expo in October. The soft start control helps to reduce the shock load of clutch engagement which has been shown to greatly extend belt life and give a smoother feel to the machine operator.
Searching for a document among 1000s of important paper files stored in boxes on warehouse shelves is a thing of the past. The Falcon™ scanner by OPEX Corporation allows companies to reduce their costs of storage space and minimize the time and effort to search for and retrieve documents by efficiently and economically digitizing those important records. Falcon is designed to attack the most difficult and daunting workflow challenges with the least amount of document prep possible making it the only universal document scanning workstation on the market.

Falcon can scan almost any document regardless of size, condition, or thickness: from business cards and manilla folders to onion skin paper and overnight envelopes. Since Falcon allows the operator to combine document prep and scanning in one step, it reduces the overall cost of the entire scanning process. Many labor components are eliminated by the unique capabilities of Falcon’s four versatile feeder options. Falcon scans up to 220 images per minute at 300 dpi.

To prevent double feeds, or having two sheets of paper run through the scanner simultaneously, the Falcon uses two OPL slip clutches from Ogura. The rollers that pull the paper through have the main drive roller and an opposing rubber roller running in the opposite direction. The OPL is mounted in the second rubber roller. For single sheets fed into the scanner, the main roller simply pulls it through. However, when scanning stacks of paper, the friction of the rubber roller is greater than the friction between the top two sheets of paper, resulting in a separation of the pages. The second sheet is held by the OPL until the first page has passed by and is scanned.

The slip function of the OPL clutches operates magnetically. There are a series of permanent magnets attached to the plastic rotor in the OPL. The shell of the OPL is steel. Between the steel shell and the magnets there is magnetic particle powder. The magnetic particle powder follows the lines of flux from the magnet to the steel shell. This causes a magnetic drag between the input and output of the clutch.

The OPL’s are sealed so they cannot contaminate the machine; but also, paper dust can’t get into the OPL and cause a problem with slip torque. The OPLs do not require any outside power to operate, nor do they require any adjustments like mechanical slip clutches. These units have extremely long life.

Falcon scanners use a series of Ogura MIC-3.5T clutches. These clutches drive the paper advance rollers. These are on/off type clutches that only engage when the system logic says they need to be engaged. Clutch engagement is controlled by the length of the document going through the scanner.

Ogura manufactures the MIC-3.5T high volume micro clutches for the business machine industry. These clutches are primarily used in office automation machinery that handles paper (copiers, printers, fax machines). The MIC-T clutch consists of a powered 24v coil, rotor armature, and output hub. These clutches use a multi-pole design that increases the torque for a given size coil. This multi-pole design reduces the weight, length and cost when compared to other clutch models.

Thanks to the five Ogura clutches used by OPEX, the Falcon keeps documents flowing smoothly through their universal document scanning workstation, helping businesses worldwide digitize their documents in the most effective, secure and economical way possible.

For more information, visit www.opex.com
LAWNMOWER RACING CHAMPIONSHIP RAINED OUT

Concord, NC

This year, the 2015 Sta-Bil Lawnmower Racing National Championship was to be held at the Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, North Carolina. The track crew had every contingency covered except for the monsoon that consumed Charlotte that weekend. Unfortunately, there was no letup in the weather and after days of continuous rain, there was no way the mowers could safely race. Chuck Miller said this was his first time in 23 years that the nationals could not be run.

Going in to the race, Chuck Miller was in 2nd place and was hoping that a victory in Charlotte would propel him once again to the 1st place podium. Unfortunately, Chuck never got the opportunity and therefore, even though he was tied in the series points with Rex Crouch, the tiebreakers gave the first place points to Rex.

Bobby Cleveland raced in the new high performance FXT class this year. As with Chuck, Bobby never got an opportunity to compete in the final race, but did finish overall in 10th place out of 46 racers.

Both Chuck and Bobby raced in the All American Mower Race this year in Stevenson, Alabama. This is an independent race, a who’s who in lawnmower racing. Mother nature almost had her say again, wiping out practice and qualifying, but the race was able to go on. Out of the 16 racers in the BP class, Chuck worked his way into 3rd place, but unfortunately, did not finish due to motor issues.

For 2016, Chuck has the Winter Championship Pull coming up in Ohio in January. He will once again be racing the Ogura BP machine next summer and has every intention of once again, standing on the 1st place podium. Bobby is also looking forward to continuing his racing career in 2016.