



INDIANA HARVESTER
NEWSLETTER
Since 1993
*International Harvester Collectors
of Indiana Chapter #7*



President's Update

IHC Chapter 7

Spring 2026

As I write this, we are under a thunderstorm warning and were under a tornado watch earlier today. Luckily, we only have a few limbs down. We have had over 8 inches of rain in the last 10 days here in the Edwardsport area. But we were extremely dry before that, so I guess we should be glad we are getting caught up. It was almost 70 today but the low tonight is 23 with only a high of 46 tomorrow, then a low of 16 Tuesday night. Seems old man winter doesn't want to give up but this old man is more than ready to return to the 60s and some bright sunshine.

Chapter 7 had a great first quarter meeting on February 8 at the MCL cafeteria on the south side of Indianapolis. We had a great turnout with many members, spouses and guests present and as always, we enjoyed a great MCL buffet selection. The minutes are enclosed in this newsletter, so you can read about the business part of our meeting and the two scholarships your Chapter awarded. I'm always impressed with the scholarship winners, and I applaud those in our Chapter 7 that started this project many years ago. There is no better place to invest time and treasure than in our youth.

I want to make sure that if there is any way possible, I encourage you to attend our next meeting on SATURDAY April 11th at 2 P.M. to tour Jack Cook's tractor, truck and car collection. Jack's home, farm headquarters and multiple tractor sheds are located at: 11155 N Hall Rd. Clayton, Indiana. Your GPS should take you right to his place. I turned south on Interstate I-70 towards Monrovia until I got to Indiana State Road 42 and turned west. Go about 3+ miles and you will see Hall Road on the north and a small sign that says "Cook Road" it is a dead-end county blacktop road and Jack's house is at the end of the lane with an old JD D there, so you will know you are in the right place.

I can't brag about this collection enough; I truly think it is one of the best in the Midwest. What is so special, Jack has restored and painted almost everything he has collected. You will tour multiple barns and see tractors from every brand and model produced. He has sold 40 of his tractors recently, but that only made a small dent in his collection. He asked if we had any buyers in our group, as he said almost everything is for sale at the right price. He is a true gentleman, and I know you will enjoy visiting with him and his wife.

Since everything is inside, we will have the meeting rain or shine. To allow everyone time to get there at 2 P.M. we decided to skip our normal meal, but we will have drinks available for everyone. I've been to a lot of museums and toured a lot of collections, but I can assure you this is one you will want to see.

Joyce and I are headed to the IH National Winter Convention in Clemmons, North Carolina this week. I'll have a full report in our next newsletter.

Don Villwock

Chapter 7 President

Second Quarter Meeting

Location: Jack Cook's House: 11155 N Hall Rd Clayton, IN 46118

Date & Time: Saturday, April 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Meal: There will be NO meal during the meeting. Drinks will be provided.

Jacks Cook's collection is one of the very best tractor, truck and car collections in the Midwest.

Membership Update

We currently have 149 members.

Please welcome our new members:

Charlie Beaver of Morgantown, IN and Jeremy Bright of Martinsville, IN. We also welcome back returning member Jack Robbins of Frankfort, IN. Our condolences go out to the family of long time Chapter 7 member Thomas Graves of Muncie who passed away on December 8 of last year.

Don't forget that membership renewal is due in July. You can renew your membership now and it will be good until July 2027. You can also renew for more than one year if you would like.

Neil Rissler, Membership Secretary

Attention Members

1. We always need help at our shows working the Chapter Table. It is easy and an opportunity to meet new people. Please contact Mark or Dawn Dieckmann at markndawn@etczone.com if you can help out.
2. We are always in need of articles of your projects that you are willing to share with all of us. Please submit articles and pictures that we can use in future newsletters to Tom Smith at toms.pam@comcast.net.

International Harvester Collectors Chapter 7

First Quarter Meeting

The first quarter meeting was held at the MCL Cafeteria at 36350 S. East Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. With 40 members and guests in attendance. President Don Villwock called the meeting to order and had the member and guests do introductions. This was followed by the reading of the minutes of the fourth quarter 2025 meeting by Secretary Pat Schlegel. Those in attendance approved the minutes as read.

Mark Dieckman was under the weather and unable to attend the meeting, so there was not a treasurer's report to present. However, Mark did update Don with the account balances for the chapter bank account and the chapter table account.

Scholarship Committee

Randy Barrett recognized two scholarship recipients. These two young men will have their scholarship checks sent to them because of Mark Dieckman's illness. The scholarship recipients were Tyler Deutsch and Jonah Rissler.

Andrew Tucker had two canes that had been laser stamped for the membership to examine. Andrew discussed the possibilities of what the club might want to have lasered on the canes for sale at the chapter table. With some discussion Andrew will be looking further into this project.

Old Business

Morgan County Antique Machinery Association had expressed interest in hosting the Chapter 7 state show for 2028 at the fourth quarter 2025 meeting. At that time the offer was tabled for the first quarter meeting. The motion was made to go to Morgan County for the 2028 state Show. The motion was seconded and the vote was to go to Morgan County in 2028.

Don reminded everyone that the 2026 State Show is at Tri-State Antique Gas Engine And Tractor Show in Portland, Indiana. Both Chapter 7 and 33 will be at the show, so the plan is to fill the fairgrounds with red.

Membership

Neil informed those present that the club currently has 146 members. Neil also took a moment to discuss the Newsletter and the meeting callout reminders.

New Business

Brian Pierce informed the club that chapter 32 would be making a bid at the club meeting at this year's Red Power Roundup. He hoped that anyone from Chapter 7 that might be going to this year's national show would support their efforts.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

February 8 Directors Meeting

Neil informed the directors that he had researched changing hosts for the chapter website. He said that there were cheaper hosts out there than GoDaddy. But as far as reliability you get what you pay for and made the recommendation to leave it where it was.

Andrew and the directors had further discussion about the canes and what might be printed on them and questions about the expense. Andrew will be pursuing this further. Don discussed possibilities for the second quarter meeting. Don will be contacting Jack Cook about the possibility of visiting his multi flavored collection and having our second quarter meeting at his place near Monrovia, Indiana.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned

Pat Schlegel
Secretary

Scholarship Winners



Tyler Deutsch attends Purdue University majoring in Agriculture Mechanics and Farm Management. His Secondary Education includes Indiana Agriculture and technology. Tyler is from Greenfield, IN.

Jonah Rissler attends the University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH) and is studying Diesel Mechanics. His Secondary Education includes Indiana Agriculture and Technology. Jonah is from Brazil, IN.



Member's Spotlight

Free But Not Cheap

By: Pat Schlegel

Carpet farming in the late fifties and early sixties I had a fairly decent line of red equipment to work with. It included my older sister's plastic M, my 350 and eventually a 560 fast hitch. The grownups of the family had a lineup of equipment that would have been typical for the period. Grandpa a 53 Super H {that I still have} Uncle Don had the M, Uncle Shortie had the H and dad had a 300. So, I barely knew there were other flavors of farm equipment available. My exposure to those came about at the state fair.

Now when we would visit my mom's family at Aroma, Indiana in Northern Hamilton County. Just to the south of them on the opposite side of the road was an old hog farmer. Eb was the picture of what you envisioned as a hog farmer from ten years prior. Bib overalls that had been laundered so many times that the indigo blue was washed out of them. A week's growth of whiskers on his face and possibly a bit of tobacco stain down the corner of his mouth to his chin. And wire frame glasses. Now Eb was a good neighbor to my grandpa Beeson and often visited with him. And it wasn't uncommon to see go to the north on what most likely was Farmall Regular pulling a trailer to get at the Aroma Feed and Grain. A couple years later the Regular died of old age and was replaced by a F-20. Now I must be honest, I thoroughly enjoyed growing when the horse power race was on. And every few years the manufacturers brought out a new line of machines that outperformed the previous one. But there was something in those bare bones relics that Eb drove by at a snail's pace that made a lasting impression.

Years passed, the kids were growing and I could no longer suppress an acute case of Tractor Bug. My wife one day found out I made a deal with a cousin of hers for his 1944-H. Years later I bought a 300 off of Matt Thieme because he didn't plan to keep it and it reminded me of dad's. So, then another one of Diana's cousins got a case Tractor Bug and bought a 1936 F-20. He called me a few days later and asked if I had time to run over to his place near Tipton to see if it would pull start. I did and it did. After we got it going, I told him he had better not ever think about selling that tractor. When he asked me why, I told him that I would have to buy it and then we both would be in hot water with Diana. For that reason. He asked Diana for permission before he gave it to me for my 68th birthday.

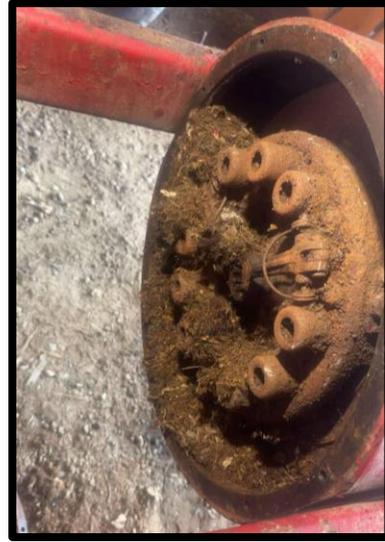
Now this brings us to the focal point of the story. I try to get down to visit Marty and Matt Thime at least once a month. And it was more than likely July of 2024 that Marty told Matt that they needed to take me over to Matt's house so I could see my next project. Over at Matt's we walked to one of the outbuildings and Marty said it's there buried in the back. Just say the word and it's yours. Back in the back sat a 39 F-20. I blinked; It's

39!! Marty said yep, rears are junk the motor ran a couple years ago but appears to be stuck now. I don't think it would take much to free it up. Say the word and it's yours. And when we get it dug out of the back, we will bring it over.



Now what would you say? So, about a month later they brought the 39 to my house. Let me make it quite clear. Marty and Matt let me know everything they know about the tractor mechanically from when they got it and got it going. So, I was well aware that this most likely would end up being a project that I might not be able to do entirely on my own. In the next week I had my son Justin help me limp it into the barn. I filled the cylinders with penetrating oil and loaded weight on the crank. I helped a local farmer with the harvest, so it sat. After harvest my sisters and I sold the ground we had from our parents and dissolved our corporation. With the money in the bank, I told Diana I was determined to get the 39 running.

In early December I made a trip to Michigan to buy a decent mismatched set of 36" rears for the 39. Shortly after that I noticed several posts on the Facebook page for the Farmall F series by a young man by the name of Ben Fansler near Marion. The post led me to believe that Ben could probably bring the 39 back to life, if he was willing to work on it. So, I made contact with him. A few days later we talked on the phone, and about a week later he found time to come look at it. A couple weeks later he found the time to come and get it to take back to Marion. He started disassembly of the engine almost immediately and felt that if it had been stuck it was not stuck bad. But you still could not turn the engine over. A look at the clutch inspection opening explained everything. Over time mice had gotten in the bell housing and built a Holiday Inn in between the back of the block and the fly wheel and packed it tight. The whole bell housing was full of their fuzz. Once Benn got all the fuzz out the engine turned over. The clutch and pressure plate were scrap.



As far as the engine. The pistons are 5,000 altitude. The #3 cylinder was pitted badly and the manifold was busted and had already been repaired once. So, we were looking at a pressure plate and clutch, a full set of rings for the pistons, and gaskets. Ben had a decent used sleeve to replace the one in the #3 position. The fan shroud and the splash pan were missing. It was obvious that at some time the tractor had an accident because it has on it a 1935 front bolster. But the serial numbers on the engine and frame rail say that it was most likely built in the final week of F series production. We started ordering parts from Duayne Hansford, and I ended up making at least three trips to Rustic Red Acres. The head went to Mudhole Machine Shop where Charlie Craft and Morris True took work. There it got cleaned up, planed, and 4 new intake valves. With all the parts Ben started reassembly and everything and everything was going back well until he filled the radiator with water and found a hole. He was able to solder this one shut, but the next fill one showed up in an inside tube. We would have put a brand new core in. But Duayne was having trouble with a supplier at the time so Ben got some complete radiators from a friend who said, I hope you find a good one and you can scrap the rest. So we got lucky on the first one. Ben belted up to one of his tractors to turn the 39 over the first few times and make the initial startup. But after that it will start up on the first crank with the mag set. I will not share with you what the bills for everything came to. This wasn't cheap and way more than what the tractor would be worth on the market. But that doesn't matter. I wanted it to breathe fire once again.

Folks, a tuned up 1066 with a turboed 414 wearing an oversized straight pipe with the turbo spooling is music to my ears. But there is something alluring about the growl of a 221 cu in Farmall F-20. And now that the 39 is purring like a tamed tiger. The 36 could use some freshening up. It probably could use a set of rings, and the head done through. That means new gaskets as well. I wonder how busy Ben is????



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IHC Chapter 7

Second Quarter Meeting

Saturday, April 11th

At 2:00

Location: Jack Cook's House

11155 N Hall Rd

Clayton, IN 46118

Upcoming National Events

2026 RPRU

Huron, South Dakota

June 25-27, 2026

202 RPRU

Centreville, Michigan