



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



President's Update

IHC Chapter 7

Summer 2026

Seems I write these words in every article: "How time is flying by." It's July 1st as I write this article, it's 95 degrees outside with high humidity. How did we get here so quickly? It seems many of us were just together at Jack Cook's farm on April 11th touring his 400+ tractor collection for our 2nd quarter meeting.

If you missed the meeting at Mr. Cook's, you missed seeing one of the biggest and best tractor collections in the country. Although they weren't all red, he had a tractor of almost any make, model and color made in the U.S. and many that he imported from around the world. What is amazing is that Jack restored most of them himself, to showroom condition.

At the meeting, a few of our members reported their attendance in March at the National Winter IH Convention. It was in Clemmons, North Carolina, near Winston-Salem, and they gave a report on the event. Joyce and I attended and were impressed with the meeting, exhibits, and tours. Our Indiana native, Max Armstrong, was the keynote speaker. As you know, North Carolina is a big tobacco state. Cubs, As, Bs, and IH 140s were everywhere. We drove through northern NC where the recent flooding took place. Houses were washed off the mountains, and many homes and buildings in the valleys were swept away. One member from North Carolina gave a report on the devastation and said that 9 people were still missing. Mark your calendar for next year's IH Winter Convention. It will be March 18-20 in Shipshewana, Indiana, with Chapter 33 hosting.

Joyce and I just got back from the RED Power Roundup in Huron, South Dakota. The official count was 567 tractors, 214 IH trucks and Scouts, 143 Cadets, and 114 IH implements. We saw many of our Chapter 7 members there, including Mark and Dawn Dieckman who manned our Chapter 7 table out there for much of the show. I can't thank them enough for their dedication to working at our Chapter table that funds our scholarships. Luckily, Red Power will be closer in Centreville, Michigan next June 17, 18, and 19, 2027.

I know many of you have been attending and even displaying your collections at various shows across the state. It's good to get out and see old friends and reminisce about our red equipment and days gone by. We have a big 4th of July parade coming up nearby and we are taking the 560 and our IH barge wagon to celebrate our 250th Celebration. I imagine a lot of our members will have red tractors with flags flying on them out this week for our country's big celebration.

Our 3rd quarter Chapter 7 meeting and State IH show will be at the Portland Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Show. The show runs from August 26th – 29th. Our meeting will be on Saturday, August 29th at 1 pm. Chapter 7 will be joined by Chapter 33 from Northern Indiana. We are hoping for over 400 red tractors and equipment to be on display. For those that will be there on Friday night, Chapter 33 has invited us to a cookout at 6 pm. Please let me (812-881-8034) or Neil Risssler (812-878-7942) know if you will be attending. They need a head count for the caterer. If Neil or I don't answer, please leave a message telling us your name and the number that will be attending. I wish you all a safe and healthy summer. I hope to see you all in Portland.

Don Villwock

Chapter 7 President

Third Quarter Meeting

Location: State Show in Portland, Indiana

Date & Time: Saturday, August 29th at 1:00 p.m.

Meal: There will be a meal hosted by Chapter 33 on Friday, August 28th at 6 p.m., the night before the club meeting. If you are attending this meal, you are asked to bring a dessert. Also, let Don Villwock or Neil Rissler know if you plan to attend!

New Facebook Page!

Please follow the new Facebook page to get updates about future events!

The new name is International Harvester Collectors of Indiana Chapter 7.

Membership Update

We currently have 156 members. 65 current members have not yet renewed for 2027, and their membership will become inactive if not renewed by September. I will be sending a postcard reminder in the near future for all who have not been renewed.

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

Second Quarter Meeting

Members of Chapter 7 gathered at the farm of Jack Cook near Clayton, IN on April 11, 2026, at 2 pm and started the afternoon with refreshments. The business meeting was called to order at 2:30 by President Don Villwock. At that time Don introduced our host Jack Cook who briefly told us about his vast collection of tractors. Some of which are not at all common to us here in the United States because they had been imported from other parts of the world.

The minutes of the first quarter meeting were then read by Secretary Pat Schlegel. The minutes were approved as read by the membership in attendance. Treasurer Mark Dickman was not in attendance and sent Don the account balances for both the club bank account and the chapter table account to report to the membership.

A membership report was given by Neil Rissler. Neil reported that the club currently has 147 members. Neil also reminded those in attendance that membership renewal was due in July. Chapter 7 dues are \$10, with the national dues of \$20 for a total of \$30.

Old Business:

A report was given at this time of the Winter Convention by some of the members that attended the convention.

New Business:

Don reported that Mark Dieckmann has indicated that he would like to step down from being Treasurer. So that position will be open for election at our 3rd quarter meeting in Portland. A nominating committee will be soon formed and anyone who is interested in the treasurer position or a directors slot please let Don know. Mark and Dawn Dieckmann also conveyed to Don they would like to pass on the Chapter 7 Table responsibilities as they have been doing it for a number of years. Anyone who is interested please visit with Mark and Dawn. President Villwock encouraged anyone who would like to be more involved to please let him or the directors know of your interest.

Don expressed the desire for a club plow day if anyone would be willing to host one, please inform Don or one of the directors so details can be worked out.

Don informed the membership that he had checked upon the possibility of using the IH logo on canes. He was told that it was easier to ask forgiveness than asking for permission. He was informed that there were people larger than our chapter that were in trouble because of the logo registration. So, the feeling Don got was to go ahead with making it available on the canes.

Don reminded the membership that the third quarter meeting would be held at 1 pm Saturday August 29, 2026, at the Tri-State Show, Portland, IN. Director elections will be held during that meeting.

Neil Michel presented the club with a neon club sign for display at club events.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned to view the Cook tractor collection.

Pat Schlegel
Secretary

Member's Spotlight

Trouble Comes in Three

By: *Pat Schlegel*

My guess is that it was sometime around nineteen fifty-five or nineteen fifty-six. There was field work to be done, so grandpa climbed on his Super H, pulled out on the on-off button and stepped down on the starter. The tractor groaned twice then nothing but a dead battery. {that's one}

I know enough of my family mindset that I can almost figure out where things went from here. Grandpa climbed off the tractor and grabbed the crank. Even though it didn't show grandpa was slightly disgusted. That battery found a fine time to go dead, when there was work to be done.

Now grandpa knew full well how to crank start a tractor. He was more than happy to make the transition from horse farming to tractor farming when tractors started to become practical on local farms. Grandpa knew to crank with an upwards clockwise stroke. But he wasn't quite thinking as he should, and when the tractor didn't take off with the up stroke, he followed through with the crank on the down stroke. He knew better, but his mind wasn't on the work at hand. The motor kicked back and on the down stroke of the crank; the crank ratchet was still bound to the crankshaft. This dangerous situation can lead to injury, In grandpa's case, a broken collarbone. {that's two}

In order to align the broken bone, grandpa had an upper body cast with his arm set out at shoulder height and his forearm forward. Sure can't do much bound up in that manner. The family made sure that the cows were milked, and that grandma had the help needed to take care of the chickens. Grandpa stayed cooped up in the house as long as he could stand, and I figure grandma had her hands full keeping him there as he started feeling better. The day finally came when grandpa couldn't stand being cooped up in the house anymore. He still couldn't milk, but he could do tractor work. You could steer the Super H with one finger with the Char-Lynn power steering that he had installed previously. So, despite any protest grandma might have given, grandpa headed out the back door and to the barn. He climbed on the tractor, fired it up and headed out the drive. Ralph or Don would help him hitch up once he got to the field. Cruising down the road he met a county deputy out on patrol of the county. When the deputy saw the tractor coming from the opposite direction with the operator one arm sticking out in a fixed pose like that of a scarecrow, it bothered him. After the tractor passed him, he turned his patrol car around in the road and stopped grandpa. The deputy had a terrible time justifying his stopping grandpa. Grandpa hadn't really broken any traffic laws. But at the same time the officer just couldn't quite let it go. So, he gave grandpa a ticket for not having a rear-view mirror on the tractor. {that's three}

Makes sense, grandpa couldn't turn around and look behind with that cast. If you were ever loading hay with grandpa operating the tractor on the bailer, you knew grandpa didn't look around very often at all. But the man had a sixth sense as to when he needed to give a look over his shoulder.

But back to the situation at hand. I can almost imagine once again grandpa getting to the field, disgusted about the ticket. He no doubt shared with anyone within the listening range that a county deputy just gave him a ticket for not having a rear-view mirror on a tractor. And whoever was there to hitch him up got additional

responsibilities. I can almost hear, tomorrow you go to town and get a mirror and get it mounted. And that's what they did. Now that old mirror is practically useless. Practically, if you sit just so, with your left leg just so you can almost see behind you with that mirror. But it's a very blurry view with all the vibration of the motor. But it makes for a good story when people ask about it.



Red Power Roundup 2026 Pictures



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International Harvester Collectors

Indiana Chapter #7

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IHC Chapter 7 Events

Chapter 33 Cookout

Friday, August 28th

6 p.m. in Portland, Indiana

Third Quarter Meeting

Saturday, August 29th

At 1:00 p.m. in Portland, Indiana

2026 Chapter 7 State Show

Portland, Indiana

August 26-29, 2026

Future Events

2027 Winter Convention

Shipshewana, Indiana

March 18-20, 2027

2027 RPRU

Centreville, Michigan

June 17-19, 2027

2027 Chapter 7 State Show

Brookeville, Indiana

September 23-26, 2027