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**International Harvester Collectors • Chapter #23**  
**ALABAMA**  
**Fall 2011**

Another Memorable Show Season for Chapter #23



Joe Criswell, (left above) #357 from Snead accepts a trophy for bringing the oldest tractor to the Boaz show. (Right) Sherman Roberts leads the Chapter meeting at Piney Chapel near Athens in August. It was good to be back at the old show site.



This group of Chapter #23 members got together for dinner at Davy Crockett State Park while they were in Lawrenceburg, TN for the big annual show in August.



Gerald Keeton, member #1 (right) gets a ride on a Farmall at Piney Chapel while letting a friend take the wheel.

International Harvester Collectors  
Chapter #23  
2907 Virginia Road  
Birmingham, AL 35223



# President’s Toolbox

by Sherman Roberts

I have been asked more than once in recent days, “How did Chapter 23 get started.” I will relate the story to the membership. Back in September of 1997, Jane and I were invited to a meeting of the Southland Flywheelers by their President, Lewis Wright.

This meeting and meal was held at the fellowship hall of the Cotaco Methodist Church in Somerville, AL. Jimmy, Wynell and Gerald Keeton of Harvest AL were also at the meeting.

We talked about the Red Power Round Up that had been held in Lebanon, TN in 1996. Jimmy Keeton said that he was a member of Tennessee Chapter 9, the state chapter that had hosted the Round Up that year. I told Jimmy and Gerald that I had tried with no success to find others in Alabama who had an interest in collecting International Harvester products.

Gerald stated that he would check for a list of current members in Alabama from the National IH Collectors club. We decided that night to explore the possibility of forming a Chapter in Alabama.

We all stayed in touch during the next month as we continued to pursue this goal of a chapter in Alabama. Jimmy found out what was required to form a chapter: bylaws, members, etc.

Alabama National members were contacted and we met for the first time at the Athens Rescue Squad building on October 20, 1997. We agreed that I would preside over the meeting. Wynnell Keeton volunteered to be our first treasurer. We found that there was enough interest during the next two meetings at Athens.

Clay Nordan, who was already a national member, came on board during this time as our secretary. Roy Edwards from the Tennessee Chapter came to a meeting to help us organize. We petitioned the National club for a chapter. Our Chapter 23, with only 10 members, was chartered in March of 1998.

Point Mallard in Decatur was our first state show in May 1998. We thank Bob and Beth Evans for putting all the Farmalls together at Point Mallard that year.

So this is how Chapter 23 got its start and the rest is history.



Roy Edwards of TN Chapter #9 at the Eagleville, TN show in August with his IH parts for sale. Roy was a helpful advisor to Chapter #23 in 1997-98 as we were getting started.

We had a great meeting and show at Piney Chapel this past August. The weather was not as hot as it had been recently and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. We thank Marvin Putman, Billy Ferguson, David Hargrove, and Allen DeMent for their efforts in keeping this show going. Piney Chapel has been a staple show on the schedule every August as we have grown as a Chapter.

We were saddened to hear about the death of Billy Sparks, member #51, shortly after the meeting at Piney Chapel. To honor his memory, the chapter has made a memorial gift to the IH Archives at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

We are looking forward to our next Chapter 23 meeting at the Morgan County Fairgrounds. Larry Lemmond has all kinds of events planned and crops planted for this show. This will be a chance to see how crops are gathered and used at this show. Please make plans to attend this last meeting for Chapter 23 for 2011.

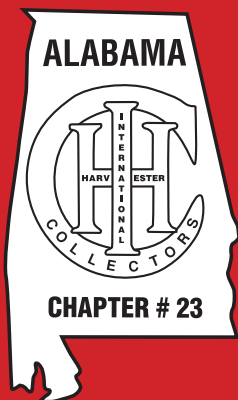
Our next State Show will be May 18, 19, 2012, at Elmore, Alabama. May 18 will be a setup day. Directions to the show are to take Exit 181 on I-65 at Prattville and go east to Elmore. We are looking forward to this show and hope you are too.

Remember to Practice Safety and Be Careful.

Toolbox closed.

*Sherman*

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## Directors

Doys Jones '11  
Preston Jones '11  
Larry Lemmond '11  
Randy Bodine '12  
Jimmy Kilgore '12  
Clay Nordan '12  
Charles Allen '13  
Conrad Bell '13  
Dwight Vanderford '13

## Advisors

Sherman Roberts  
Gary Couey

## Officers

Sherman Roberts  
President  
Ray Best  
Vice-President  
Clay Nordan  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor

“To promote collecting, and restoration, and to preserve, research, and complete the history of the International Harvester Company.”

## Minutes of AL Chapter #23 International Harvester Collectors Directors Meeting at Piney Chapel, near Athens, AL 11:00 a.m., August 6, 2011.

### 4 Directors present

Conrad Bell  
Randy Bodine  
Larry Lemmond  
Clay Nordan

### 2 Advisors present

Gary Couey  
Sherman Roberts

### 1 Visitor present

Lucy Davis

### 25 Members present

Gary Bell  
Ray Best  
Bobby Blankenship  
Brad Bodine  
Matt Bodine  
Robert Bodine  
Tom Brantley  
Larry Couey  
Tom Craft  
Kent Davis  
Bob Evans  
Billy Ferguson  
Willis Glover  
Ricky Gregory  
Rubin Haga  
Mary Haga  
Jimmy Hill  
Billy Kennedy  
Keith Manning  
Grady Morrow  
J.C. Prater  
Marvin Putman  
Brett Rissler  
Glenn Sanders  
Leonard Summerford

Article 3, Section 5 of the Bylaws of Alabama Chapter #23, International Harvester Collectors states that “five directors present shall constitute a quorum”. With only four directors present for this meeting, the officers and directors in attendance determined that an exception could be made for this meeting and the two advisors present, Sherman Roberts and Gary Couey, could substitute for the missing fifth director in order to make a quorum.

The meeting was called to order by president Sherman Roberts and he began the meeting with an invocation.

Following the invocation, Sherman offered some words of remembrance for recently deceased member L.S. Parker of Forestdale. Sherman also mentioned that director Charles Allen couldn’t be with us today due to back problems and that director Jimmy Kilgore was with his wife Flora, who was in the ICU following surgery. Sherman also asked that Billy Sparks and Harold Beck be remembered in our thoughts and prayers as they battled their own health problems.

Clay reported that the chapter bank account currently stands at \$3750 and we have 231 active members with some new members likely to join today.

Sherman then thanked everyone who pitched in to make the Hanceville show such a success. He said that 105 tractors were on display at the show.

Sherman then moved to his report on the Red Power Roundup. He said that it was a lot of fun for everyone who made the trip. He was disappointed

that no show books for the 2010 RPRU were available at this year’s show. He said that the national club made the decision to print only 750 books, so they were gone quickly. He is hopeful that he will be able to order more if they are reprinted. He said that they experienced three days of cold weather at the show, but the Minnesota chapter did a good job putting on this year’s show.

Sherman then reminded everyone that next year’s Chapter #23 state show will be held at Elmore on May 18 & 19.

Bids for the 2013 state show host are still open and can be submitted any time before our meeting on October 1, 2011. The Snead Case/IH show has already submitted a bid for the show and, while this meeting was in progress, Larry Lemmond offered a bid for the Morgan County Fairgrounds show as did Marvin Putman for the Piney Chapel show. So that gives us three bids so far for the 2013 show. With this many bids, an election to choose the host will be conducted as part of our dues collection mailing in November.

The next agenda item was a request to reimburse Sherman for additional expenses related to plaques for this year’s state show. There was a motion and second, and the motion passed to reimburse \$100.

Under our new policy of having the chapter cover the cost of caps and T-shirts that we have for sale, Sherman turned in to Randy Bodine 53 T-shirts that he previously had made and paid for with his own money. It was agreed that Sherman should be reimbursed \$6 per shirt.

Sherman then reminded everyone that next year’s Red Power Roundup will be held July 19-21 in Du Quoin, Illinois, which is much closer for us than these shows have been in recent years.

Sherman then went around the circle to let anyone speak up who wanted to promote a show or any other event. He also acknowledged the presence today of Kent and Lucy Davis who drove from Covington County.

Marvin Putman welcomed Chapter #23 to today’s show and explained that the show was no longer under the auspices of the local Volunteer Fire Department. A non-profit group called the Piney Chapel Antique Tractor & Engine Association, Inc. will be presenting this show in the future and he said that we can expect it to remain on these show grounds going forward. He welcomed us to have our meeting here each year and said they hope to be selected as a host for our state show again in the future.

Following the show announcements, Sherman said that he had talked to an official when he was at the Tannehill State Park show just west of Bessemer in July and they would very much like for us to schedule one of our meetings for that show. Sherman said that we might want to consider this as an option when we make our meeting schedule for next year but they need to get a waiver of the park entrance fee for tractor exhibitors before we make a committment.

As the meeting came to a close, Sherman reminded the chapter that he still plans to step down as president following the 2012 Red Power Roundup. Clay said that anyone who wants to either nominate a candidate for president or wants to express an interest in serving can contact him at any time. He said that we need to conduct our presidential election in time to have someone already in place so that we can have a smooth transition when Sherman leaves office.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Clay Nordan, Sec./Treas.*

## Financial Report

Net Assets, Aug. 2011 ..... 4294.82  
**Income**  
Dues Collected.....100.00  
Sale of T-shirts, etc. .... 250.00  
Subtotal.....350.00  
**Expenses**  
Newsletter ..... 519.16  
National Dues Paid ..... 60.00  
Reimburse S.R. for Plaques.....100.00  
Reimburse S.R. for T-Shirts ..... 318.00  
Billy Sparks Memorial..... 50.00  
Subtotal..... 1047.16  
Net Assets, Sept. 2011 ..... \$3597.66

### Current Balances

Regions Checking ..... 298.62  
Credit Union Checking..... 23.92  
Total Checking ..... 322.54  
Credit Union Savings ..... 3275.12  
Total Operating Bal..... \$3597.66

## NEXT MEETING

Morgan County Fairgrounds  
October 1 • 11:00 a.m.



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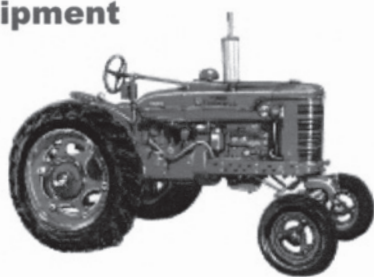
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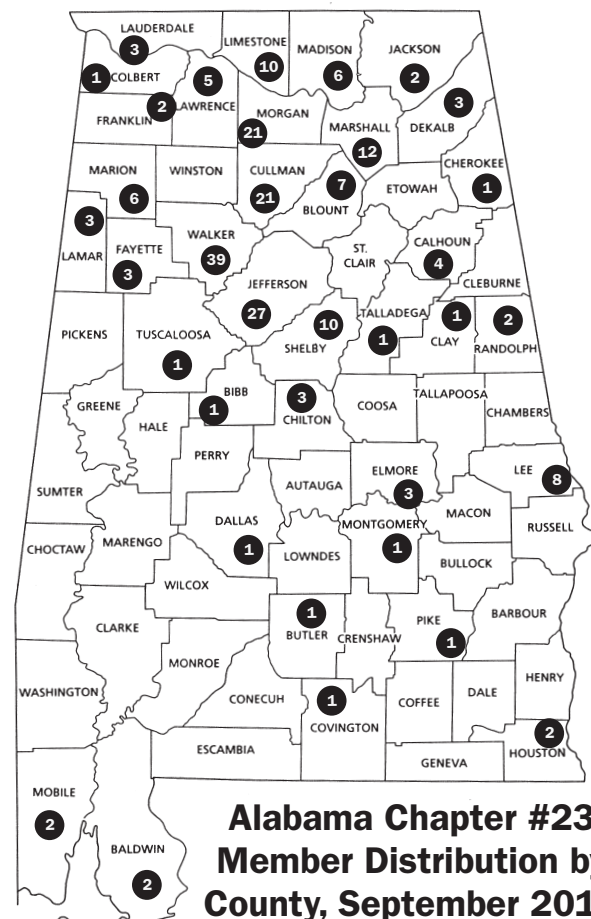
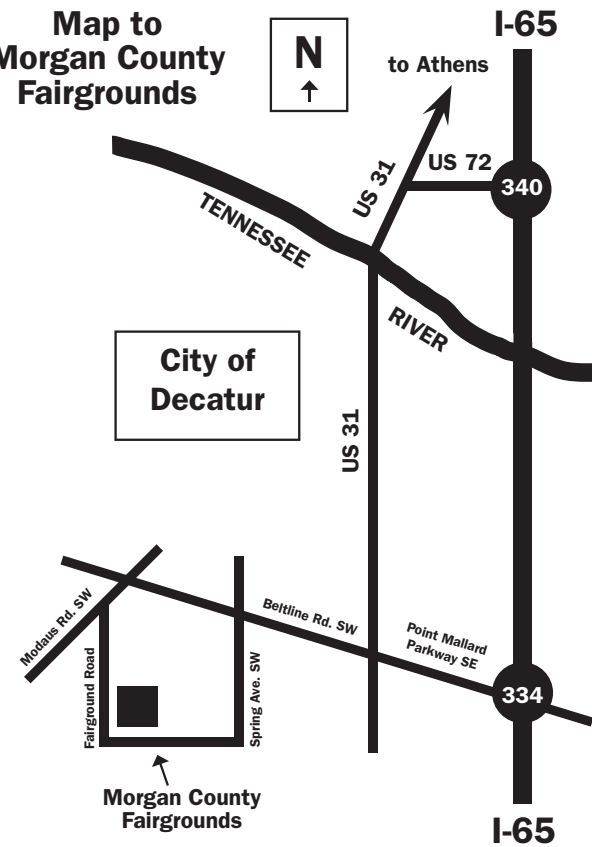
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## Map to Morgan County Fairgrounds



**Alabama Chapter #23  
Member Distribution by  
County, September 2011**



## Billy Sparks

"Old Man of the Woods"

1935 – 2011

Billy Carl Sparks was born in a small mill house in Huntsville Park on March 25, 1935. His parents were Carl and Bervie Sparks. He was an only child but had several relatives close to his age that were like brothers and sisters to him. Billy went to Joe Bradley school and completed the eighth grade. He spent time with the many friends he had in the neighborhood. He wanted to play football but his parents wouldn't let him – they said it was too dangerous. One of Billy's first jobs was working in the Merrimack Mill in

Huntsville. Later he worked at Montgomery Ward department store. Billy was also a fry cook for a cafe in downtown Huntsville. He became a very good cook, a skill that benefited his family and friends in years to come. He loved cooking Sunday morning breakfast for his family. He finally settled on being an electrician – a vocation that he continued all his professional life.

Billy helped put up many of the first TV towers around the Huntsville area. Most of the towers were on the top of mountains and Billy had to climb up to the top of the towers. He said he was so high in the sky that pilots in planes would wave to him as they passed.

While working in downtown Huntsville, Billy met a pretty redhead named Johnnie Ruth Jackson. After dating for a while, Billy and Johnnie eloped and were married on August 21, 1954. Billy and Johnnie had two children Terry, born in 1955, and Cathye, born in 1964.

In 1959 Billy and Johnnie built a house in Lacey's Spring, Alabama, where he lived the rest of his life.

One of Billy's best friends owned a restaurant and he taught Billy to barbecue. He became very good at it and passed his skill on to his son and then his grandsons. He and Johnnie hosted many barbecues with family and friends.

In 1982 Billy went to Saudi Arabia to work as an electrician. He spent sixteen months helping to build the King Khalid International Airport. In going to and coming back from Saudi Arabia, he arranged to fly around the world. Billy co-owned two electrical contracting companies before he retired in 1997.

Billy was an avid hunter specializing in Redbone coon hounds. He was known as "the Old Man of the Woods." Having a very keen sense of direction, he could remember how to get to places he had only been to once. He passed on this skill to many young men. Billy was very active in his local United Kennel



Club branch, holding several offices over the years and judging dog shows for the club. He raised, trained, hunted and showed Redbone coon hounds. His hard work paid off when in 1991 and 1992 Billy had the world champion coon dog.

Billy didn't take retirement "sitting down." He got busy collecting and restoring antique tractors. He loved working on his tractors and spent many hours meticulously restoring them to mint condition. Billy loved getting his family involved with his hobby and it became a shared interest for three generations. In the last year, Billy's poor health took its toll and he couldn't work on his tractors and attend shows with his family and friends like he wanted to.

Following a long battle with heart disease, Billy passed away Thursday, August 11, 2011, at his home in Lacey's Spring. Billy left behind Johnnie, his wife of 57 years, his daughter Cathye Hendrix, three grandsons, one granddaughter and three great grandsons. Billy was preceded in death by his son Terry Sparks.

(This biography and tribute to Billy Sparks was written by his daughter, Cathye Hendrix.)

.....

Billy was member #51 of Chapter #23 and joined the club in 1999. He and good friend and fellow member, Rubin Haga (#54) restored tractors together and Rubin remembers Billy as having "more patience than anyone I have ever worked with. He would never quit until he got it exactly like he wanted it. Whatever he did, he was into it 100%." Rubin also said that Billy's grandson, David, did Billy's painting and that Billy was real proud of his involvement. Rubin also said that Billy was proud that his last champion coon dog was buried in the famous "Coon Dog Cemetery" in Red Bay, AL. Rubin concluded by saying that Billy was "a real good guy."



At the Hanceville show in 2000, Billy and Johnnie Sparks accept the "President's Trophy" for their Farmall H restoration from Dr. James C. Bailey, president of Wallace State Community College.



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• Attention Chapter #23 Members •

Vernon Culpepper, member #36 needs our help. He has become disabled this past year and needs to sell some of his IH collection to help cover his medical expenses. Please take a look at the list below and contact Vernon if you are interested in anything that he wishes to sell:

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## Sherman Roberts Makes Plans to Step Down as Chapter President

Sherman Roberts has announced that he will step down as president of Alabama Chapter #23, International Harvester Collectors after representing the club one final time at the 2012 Red Power Roundup in Illinois.

Sherman has been president of the chapter since its inception and charter by the national club in 1998. When his term ends next July, he will have completed 15 continuous years in the office. He indicated in 2010 that he was interested in relinquishing the position, but the directors at the time prevailed on him to remain in office for two more years in order to allow for a smooth transition.

President Sherman Roberts enjoys one of the perks of office as he stands with three beauties at the Nauvoo show in June. The two tractors are Sherman's outstanding Farmall 130's and the lovely lady is recently crowned Miss Alabama, Courtney Porter.

All Chapter #23 directors and members are grateful and appreciative of the job Sherman has done for the chapter over his multi-year term. He has labored long and hard to build up our chapter to its current 230+

membership and to make our shows and events well organized and fun to attend. To say that Sherman has gone the extra mile for Chapter #23 would be an understatement. Thanks, Sherman, for a great run as our first president.

*Due to our having only one president to date, Chapter #23 has not elected a new president since our beginnings in 1998. I am making the following proposal for nominating and electing Sherman's successor and ask that it be included on the agenda for our final meeting of 2011 at Morgan County Fairgrounds and put to the directors for discussion, amendment, and approval.*

*Clay Nordan  
Secretary/Treasurer*

### SOME FACTS:

♦ The bylaws of Chapter #23 stipulate that "officers shall be elected from the existing 9 Directors" and "They shall be elected by a vote of the 9 Directors."

♦ Three directors' terms will expire on December 31, 2011 and we are scheduled to elect three new directors to replace them at our final meeting of the year on October 1, 2011. Their terms will begin on January 1, 2012

♦ Since Sherman's resignation will be effective July 22, 2012, the directors eligible for the office (as specified in the bylaws) must come from the list of directors currently serving for the calendar year of 2012.

### PROPOSAL:

1. A nomination period for the office of president of Chapter #23 will begin on February 1, 2012 and end on March 31, 2012.

2. Nominations of current directors may be made by any Chapter #23 member, and directors may nominate themselves. Nominations should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer, Clay Nordan. Each nominee will be contacted to verify that they are willing to serve if elected.

3. If only one director is nominated by the time the nomination period ends, the single nominee will be declared the new president.

4. If more than one currently serving director is nominated, 9 secret ballots will be prepared showing each candidate. In the first week of April 2012, a single ballot will be mailed to each director for them to use to register their vote for president. The ballots must be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer by midnight, April 16, 2012 to be counted.

5. In the event of a tie, another ballot showing the candidates who received the most votes will be made and sent

to the directors for a run-off vote. These ballots must be returned by midnight, May 6, 2012 to be counted.

6. The winner will be announced in the newsletter that will be mailed just before the state show at Elmore and the winner will also be introduced at the meeting at Elmore. This will give the new president two months to become acclimated to his new office and confer with Sherman about the transition.

### Directors Eligible for Nomination

Randy Bodine

Jimmy Kilgore

\*Clay Nordan

(\*not a candidate - will remain Secretary/Treasurer)

Charles Allen

Conrad Bell

Dwight Vanderford

New Director 1  
(Will become eligible 1/1/12)

New Director 2  
(Will become eligible 1/1/12)

New Director 3  
(Will become eligible 1/1/12)

## 2011 Tractor Show Schedule

Winfield Mule Day.....Sept. 24  
Eva .....Sept. 24  
Bear Creek..... Oct. 1  
St. Florian (Old Brooks H.S.) ..... Oct. 1  
West Point Festival..... Oct. 1  
\* \*Morgan County Fairgrounds ..... Oct. 1

Jean's On the River..... Oct. 8  
Peinhardt ..... Oct. 22  
Dothan ..... Oct. 21, 22  
Falkville Festival..... Oct. 29  
Jasper Veterans Parade..... Nov. 5  
Orrville ..... Nov. 12





This photo shows the nice location and just how big the show at Eagleville, TN has become.



Farmalls on display at a show at Wetumpka this summer.



A nice line-up of Turbo's at Lawrenceburg, TN in August.



Grinding corn meal using Farmall belt power at Boaz.



A Type B, Erie Shovel operates at the Denton, NC show in July.



This happy Farmall fan celebrates after winning the 50/50 prize at the Boaz show.



A single-wheel Farmall M pulling a nice wagon at Wetumpka.



A pretty good showing of Bodines from all generations on display at the Boaz show.



An unusual view of one of the pulling tractors at Lawrenceburg.



Two of the many tractors brought to Lawrenceburg each year.





This group of Alabama and Louisiana tractor lovers made the trip to the Half Century of Progress Farm show at Rantoul, IL.



A striking parade photo from Rantoul, Illinois.



Ricky Gregory, #421, of Warrior at Piney Chapel.



Big and little IH placed next to each other at Piney Chapel.



Sherman Roberts made a few rounds in the field behind the wheel of this big International 4156 at the Rantoul show.



This impressive arrangement of Farmalls owned by Billy Ferguson, #47, was on display at the Piney Chapel show in August.



An International Utility tractor, spotted at Piney Chapel by Randy Bodine, is similar to the 300U that J.H. Taylor, #202, sold to Elvis Presley in the 1950's.



A new version of the Farmall tractor was on display at Piney Chapel. CASE/IH has re-introduced the brand in recent years.



These IH combines put on a corn harvesting demonstration at the Half Century of Progress show at Rantoul, Illinois in August.