

# EASY DIGGIN'

## Historical Construction Equipment Association – Sunshine State Chapter Newsletter

**SPRING 2007**

### President's Message:

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2007! For those that didn't attend the November meeting or were at the last couple Flywheeler shows, I got myself into this whole president job and am now scrambling to find the instruction manual. So please bear with me, as I'm hoping the learning curve isn't too steep! In any case, George has been giving me gentle hints and nudges in hopefully the correct direction.

Now, for some Chapter updates! We had our pre-November show clean-up day at the heavy equipment grounds in October and many thanks are in order for those that contributed their efforts in getting the equipment maintained and the grass mowed. Many well-deserved thanks to George Hintz, Steve Melton, Lew Donaldson, Danny Hughes, Ray Siebert and my lovely wife Kathy who not only mowed but grilled burgers and dogs for all who were there. The grounds came out looking great and we got a good amount of wrenching and BS'n in as well.

The November meeting was held again at Bill Eckhoff's Ford building, many thanks to Bill for his continued hospitality and support. We had a good crowd in attendance, with discussion covering another future ACMOC show and looking into additional space for the heavy equipment area with an eye to running demonstrations continuously during shows. Elections for new officers were also held during the meeting, please read the minutes included in this newsletter for details.

There's quite a bit more and my hope is to send out two additional newsletters this year with more photos and information regarding not only our Chapter happenings but items of related interest going on in the area. Our official website is still up and running at the following Internet address: [www.antiquecaterpillar.org/ssc](http://www.antiquecaterpillar.org/ssc). There is an online discussion forum which you can register for and use at no charge where you can post your questions, buy/sell/trade items and share information or post calendar events for other shows or meets. We've had it up for over a year now, and it hasn't seen much use. So take a wander over and kick the tires, hop in and take the site for a spin!

Please be sure to remit your annual Chapter membership dues as well, it's that time of year already! We were unable to get a replacement for our hard-working Treasurer as of yet, so send your \$10 same as last year:

Jimmy Johnson  
Chapter Treasurer  
20216 U.S. 301  
Dade City FL 33523

I'm looking forward to seeing more of you at the local shows and events!

Joe Black

**\*\*\* ATTENTION \*\*\***

Next Chapter meeting will be Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Bill Eckhoff's "Big Red Barn" at 7PM. Please be sure to bring chairs if you can. Thanks to Bill for his hospitality! ☺

**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENT \*\*\***

There is a "Play Day" at Joe & Kathy Black's place in Fort Meade on March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> so plan on bringing your big-toys to play in the dirt all day. We'll be grilling lunch for everyone and have drinks, but don't be shy on bringing your favorite beverages or munchies too. Some vintage equipment is on site, but the more the merrier so bring what you can! There's a lot of open space so a variety of activities are open, especially if the Lorain dragline gets put into action. The address is 513 Pool Branch Road, Fort Meade FL 33841. Below is a map of the area with the site outlined in the red box:



We have limited power and water on site, so primitive camping is welcome as well as campers/RV for those who wish to stay overnight for both days. Please contact Joe Black via email for details: [joe@antiquecaterpillar.org](mailto:joe@antiquecaterpillar.org).

**Meeting Minutes:**

**The Sunshine State Chapter  
of the  
Historical Construction Equipment Association**

*Minutes of the General Meeting, Friday, November 10, 2006*

**Officers attending meeting:**

**President George Hintz**

**Vice President Steve Melton**

**(Secretary/Treasurer Jimmy Johnson had an excused absence)**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.**

- **Treasurer's Report:** As of November 1, 2006, the Checking Account Balance was \$875.50.
- **The Minutes for the February, 2006 General Meeting** was not available for review and approval.
- **Thanks** went out to Bill Eckhoff for the use of his Ford Dealership for the meeting.
- **Thanks** went out to everyone who participated in the February, 2006, Caterpillar Show, especially Larry Burckhart for heading the event up and Chuck Kohler (and Julie and Jenny) for his excellent display.
- **Dues (\$10 for the State Chapter) for 2007** will be collected at the January and February Shows. Need to schedule members to man tent.
- **February Shows**
  - **2007** – Have a Continuous Run Show where something is in operation from 9:00 to 4:30, Thursday through Saturday. Steve Melton to schedule operators/equipment.
  - **2008** – Larry Burckhart to contact Jeff Huff to see if he would be interested in another Cat Show or if the HCEA would be interested in a Winter Show.
- **Jimmy Johnson** will ensure that Joe Black has the latest mailing list.
- **Larry Burckhart and Lew Donaldson** are to look at available FFW land to see if there is a plot available to supplement the present Heavy Equipment Showgrounds which is becoming crowded. Lew Donaldson to present proposal to FFW Board of Directors.
- **Officers for 2007/2008**
  - **President:** Joe Black
  - **Vice President:** Steve Melton
  - **Treasurer:** Jimmy Johnson (Interim -- Steve Melton to see if he accepts position.)
  - **Secretary:** Kathy Black
- **Joe Black** tentatively scheduled a Play Day at his property March 24-25, 2007.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM**

Respectively submitted,  
**George Hintz**  
**Acting Secretary**

***\*\*\* November 2006 Fall Fuel-up at Florida Flywheelers Pictures \*\*\****



Please e-mail [yellokat@antiquecaterpillar.net](mailto:yellokat@antiquecaterpillar.net) with your ads for sale, trade or wanted. We also want to make sure everyone's contact information is right, so if changes need to be made, please e-mail Kathy and we will make the changes as soon as possible! You can also mail submissions to: Kathy or Joe Black, P.O. Box 1066, Winter Haven, FL 33882. Feedback and suggestions about the newsletter and web site will be appreciated! If you don't see something that you think should be included, please let us know! Please remember, the newsletter and web site are for all of the members!

***\*\*\* February 2006 ACMOC at Florida Flywheelers Pictures \*\*\****



**The ACMOC show in February featured a large and varied selection of vintage Caterpillar machinery, including our very own Chuck Koehler's Holt gun tractor. Of course the typical overcast and rainy conditions of the February shows were in full swing, but there was certainly enough yellow to keep things bright!**

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**HCEA SSC Newsletter**  
**P.O.Box 1066**  
**Winter Haven FL 33882-1066**