



MOTOR POOL MESSENGER

The Military Transport Association
Of North Jersey

August 2014 Website: WWW.MTAOFNJ.ORG Editor: David Steinert



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ON THE COVER- MTA President Randy Emr's awesome 5-ton at the July MTA Meeting at Lyon's Veteran's Hospital.

MTA Challenge Coins: Tom McHugh brought some of the new MTA Challenge Coins to distribute to some of the resident veterans who attended and enjoyed the car show immensely.

MTA 2014 Officers and Staff

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THE NEXT MTA MEETING WILL BE HELD AT SVEN AND HELGA JOHNSON'S PICNIC ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH IN GREEN TOWNSHIP, NJ at 12:00PM...SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS.

Newsletter: David Steinert thanked those who contributed to last month's newsletter, **Harold Ratzburg** for his Collector's Corner article and **Gary Schultz** for taking last month's meeting minutes. (*Editor's Note: Rumor has it, our regular Recording Secretary, Vinny Schwartz was away in Nashville negotiating a record contract*)

Parades and Events: Peter Schindo reported that almost all the contracted Memorial Day Parades were well attended by the MTA members and their vehicles and that almost all of the contracts were fulfilled.

He especially noted that the Randolph parade on Saturday, July 5th was a great success with the club presenting 14 military vehicles. After the parade, attending members were treated to lunch at the Black River Barn restaurant. It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all!

Military Transport Association

Meeting Minutes for Saturday, July 12th 2014

The meeting was held at the North Jersey Vintage Triumph Car Show at Lyons Veterans Hospital in Lyons, NJ. President **Randy Emr** promptly called the meeting to order at 1300 Hours, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a *Moment of Silence*. The meeting was attended by a good contingent of members, some who also brought their military vehicles to support the car show.

The minutes from last month's meeting as they appeared in the last monthly newsletter were approved.

The Treasury Report as presented:

Military Transport Association, Inc.

Summary of Funds Activity

For the Month Ending June 30, 2014

	Swap Meet	Operating
Beginning balance from last month	\$ 53,712.33	\$ 2,425.85
Income		1,933.92
Expenditures		(1,566.70)
Closing balance	\$ 53,712.33	\$ 2,793.07



Railroad Operating Battalion John Sobotka reported that there was nothing new to report other than that the MTA is being asked by the local Marines to help in other aspects in supporting the *Toys for Tots* campaign this year. John is looking for a lot more help from the MTA membership this year and will give more details in future meetings.

New Business: After talking to the executive members of the North Jersey Vintage Triumph Club, Randy presented a motion to the attending MTA members that we make this car show at Lyon's Veterans Hospital an MTA annual event and that the club monetarily and promotionally co-sponsors the show with the North Jersey Vintage Triumph Club. The vote was unanimous by the attending membership.

(Editor's Note: This event defines what the MTA represents. Those members that attended the show thoroughly enjoyed the comradery and the experiences shared by the resident veterans who were physically able to attend the show. I personally hope that this event will grow with the continued support of the membership).

Pat Dolan talked about the annual Lead East event at the Parsippany Hilton on August 27th thru August 31st. Pat is hoping the MTA will be more involved this year with both supporting the Toys for Tots campaign and being a presence there with a large contingent of military vehicles. More details will be shared at the meeting at Sven's in August...stay tuned!

Dave Steinert asked the membership for approval and support in revisiting the MTA "Adoptees" program. Dave has made connections with a Pastor he knows through his church, who is currently serving with the USAF in Afghanistan. His name is Pastor Jim Buchman and he is commander of a Chapel on a base in Afghanistan.

Pastor Buchman emailed Dave that he would welcome any donations of care packages from the MTA and he suggests that if the packages could be sent directly to him, he would see that the needs of the soldiers that he serves would be distributed properly from the MTA's donation.

The attending membership approved the motion and Dave said he would start with personally sending a few care packages at first to see how they are received and then proceed from there on what kind of help he would need from club members based on the success and feedback from Pastor Buchman...stay tuned!

For the Good of the Club-The meeting concluded with MTA President Randy Emr and VP **Dennis Vecchiarelli**, presenting, on behalf the MTA, a donation check of \$500 to

Vinny Schwartz towards the *New Jersey Mission of Honor* for the Cremations of American Veterans.

The meeting concluded at 1355 hours.



COLLECTOR'S

ORNER

SO, YOU COLLECT AIRPLANES? HOW ABOUT A B-29?

By Harold Ratzburg

While on my Snowbird stay in Florida this past year, I had the opportunity to visit a showing of "Fifi" the only *flying* B-29 left in the world today, 69 years after the combat of WWII. About 4000 B-29s were produced for that conflict. What follows is my story of "Fifi", and how she was 'collected' and my impressions of her.

COLLECTING THE PLANE-For years, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), formally known as "the Confederate Air Force", was looking for a B-29 to add to its fleet of Vintage aircraft. In 1971, a CAF pilot in the National Guard happened to fly over a group of what might be B-29s on the California desert near China Lake, at a US Navy weapons center. The aircraft had been used for gunnery practice and missal targets but had been parked there for the past 17 years, and you know what heat, sand, and vandals can do to a parked aircraft over that period of years.



"The underside of Fifi near the tail skid. Note the number of rivets used on only this small portion of the plane."

After much negotiation, paperwork, and searching for the best survivor of the group, the CAF became the owner of its very own B-29. The man who headed the search was a WWII veteran and businessman, who named the plane after his wife "FIFI".

A CAF maintenance team arrived at China Lake in March 1971, and in only nine weeks, with the help of more CAF volunteers, they restored all the systems and replaced fuel, oil and hydraulic hoses. The process involved cannibalizing parts from other B-29s in the junk yard, installing instruments, having new window bubbles made and restoring controls to working order.

After repeated testing of all systems, "Fifi" was ready to fly. The CAF obtained a permit to make a single ferry flight of 1,250 mile to bring the big bird back to its Headquarters in Harlingen, Texas. Then, three years of fundraising and hard

work began. Late in 1974, the work was completed and "Fifi" joined the ranks of CAF planes to continue the mandate of the CAF-"to preserve the memories and teach the lessons of mankind's greatest war".



MVPA member Dale Aylward with his restored WW II Jeep and a B-17 Flying Fortress Restored engine pulled behind his jeep on a trailer

The plane participated in many air shows for the next six years until a decision was made (after an air show when the plane had an engine failure-you just can't have that, you know) to replace the original engines with more reliable power plants. Three million dollars and three years later, the plane was back flying to air shows and displays around the country.

VISITING "FIFI"-That big bird is an awesome thing to visit. Sure, there are many more bigger and faster planes in the air, but to see the 69 year old plane flying in, low and slow, was impressive, especially when you think back as to how 4000 of these planes helped to change the course of WWII by their assault on the Islands of Japan.

When "Fifi" got on the ground, the public had the opportunity to walk around underneath and actually climb around through the interior. What impressed me the most is the size of the plane, and on closer inspection, the number of rivets it takes to hold the old plane together. (Check one of the photos for this story to see what I mean.)

It impressed me so much that when I got home to a computer, I figured that, just maybe, *Google* would know such an important fact about WWII planes. It turns out that *Google* does know how many rivets are in the Eifel Tower in Paris, (2,000,000) or in the George Washington Bridge in New York, (800,000), but it has no clue on how many rivets are in a B-29.

I considered that for a while and then came up with my own number of rivets in a B-29. After considerable thought and concentration, I arrived at the conclusion that there are a 'whole lot' of rivets holding the B-29 together. So there you have it folks, mark it on your calendar.

If you wanted to visit the interior of the plane, there was a very, very long line to sweat out before you even got into the plane, and I decided not to do it. What the hell, at 85 I am not that agile anymore and I would just slow the line down even more.

If you would like a close up look at "Fifi" sometime, she will appear at various airshows around the country in the future. Operation of the plane is not cheap, in that it costs about \$1,000,000 a year, what with paid mechanics, insurance, overhead hanger rentals and all that, plus, the plane burns 400 gallons of gas per hour in flight.

The CAF raises funds by offering rides in the plane at the air shows. The best seat in the house, is the bombardiers seat in the nose cone for a 20 minute ride, will set you back only \$1,995.00 (Yes, you read that right, that is just five bucks short of two thousand dollars!). Lesser positions, such as a gunner's position or in the cockpit, are less. Reservations are required. They can be made at www.AirPowerTour.org on your computer. The site will also give you the schedule of showings at future Air Shows should you want to visit "Fifi" for a closer look and maybe count the number of rivets for me.

MVPA PARTICIPANT AT THE AIR SHOW-I met a fellow "Jeep Nut", like myself, driving a WWII restored jeep, also on display at the air show. He was DALE AYLWARD, (MVPA # 6131) of 4640 East Lake Cr. Sarasota, FL. 34232. He was towing, on a specially built trailer, a restored engine for a WWII, B-17, Flying Fortress, which certainly shows his varied interest in WWII Military History. His Jeep, originally from Sarafan, in New York State, was decked out in all the nice WWII combat gear that a lot of us appreciate on a WWII vehicle.



A WW II truck drivers "lucky charm", a part of a hand grenade attached to the shifting lever. Beats a Rabbits Foot every time, I believe

An interesting part of his jeep was the knob on the shifting lever. It consisted of a cut down hand grenade shell that was threaded to screw on the shift lever. Dale told me that he got the idea from his uncle, who was a truck driver in WWII.

His uncle told him how the drivers, who had to drive whichever vehicle was assigned to them, would create their own "lucky knob" that they could move around to which ever vehicle they were driving, as kind of like a lucky rabbits foot to get them through the war alive. It must have worked for Dale's uncle, who used part of a grenade as his lucky knob, so Dale mounted one on his jeep in honor of his Uncle's Service.

All in all, the day spent with "Fifi" and Dale was a very satisfying one.



Another Collectors Corner----- USMC uniform story

Submitted By Harold Ratzburg

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE CONTAINS PROFANITY!

In early July 2014 I got a phone call in response to my weekly newspaper ad from a cheerful, self-assured local woman who said she was downsizing and wished to sell her father's WW2 "FMF Marine Corps uniform." She had kept the uniform for years but knew little else about it. I told her I was an old Marine and would be interested. I made an appointment to stop by to have a look at the outfit and make her an offer.

Ruby greeted my wife and I at the front door and had the uniform (jacket, trousers, belts, tie and garrison cap) laid out on the back of her couch. The wife of a medical doctor, she was a very sweet, soft-spoken small woman of about 60 and lived in an immaculate home-with-a-view with two golden retrievers. The uniform was a fine little-worn example of a World War II USMC enlisted winter service uniform with a *Fleet Marine Force Pacific Separate Engineers Battalion* shoulder patch, the original Marine Corps devices, and ribbon bars that nicely told quite a bit of her Marine father's story.



The identity has purposely been made unrecognizable

I told Ruby I'd be glad to buy the uniform and we struck a deal. As I always do, I told her sincerely that I'd like to know more about her father and his service, so she went to another room and came back with a file folder of papers and photos. She did not have a copy of his Marine Corps Discharge, but did have a small hand-written note book and a wonderful 9-page typewritten narrative of his war-time service from the day he enlisted in February 1944 through his adventures in China after the Japanese surrendered. She volunteered to let me copy or photograph anything I liked.

Ruby was clearly appreciative of people as interested in her father's service as we were, so I decided to ask for more and wondered out loud if it was possible she still had her dad's dog tags somewhere. She reached into the back of the file of papers and pulled out a her-ringbone twill Marine garrison cap and said, "I think they are right here in the cunt cap - as he always called it." We ended up with real respect for Ruby, the hard-to-find HBT garrison cap and an excellent photo of the dog tags! Most old Leathernecks, some of their wives, and as it turned out, a few of their daughters still refer to the Marine Corps garrison cap by its familiar (if rude) barracks name!

The bottom line: as we drove away we both spoke of what a lovely woman Ruby was and how pleasant she had been. How refreshing it was to meet an intelligent woman, who felt no need for the disingenuousness of modern feminist social and political correctness in her reference to the garrison cap at the right. And not the slightest embarrassment in front of knowledgeable strangers in referring to it by its appropriate historical name as she had learned it!



The August 16th Picnic at Sven's

*"Time sure flies when you're having fun! ...I can't believe it's August already and once again it's time for Sven Johnson's Annual Red Ball Express/MTA picnic. This year the picnic will be on **Saturday, August 16th***

For the last few years, this picnic has become the highlight of the summer for many members of these two military vehicle clubs. Because of the close proximity of the two MV clubs, many are active members of both organizations. Club members plan their vacations and mark their calendars to make sure they are available to attend this event. Members are encouraged to bring family, friends and military vehicles to the picnic.

There are many aspects that make this event so unique from other club activities. **Sven Johnson** and his family host the picnic on their 160-acre tree farm in Green Township, New Jersey. The property has a variety of different terrains that provides a perfect opportunity for military vehicle enthusiasts to test their equipment at various stages of difficulty. For club members who want to take it easy on their antique vehicles there are acres of level fields that offer a nice off road but gentle ride that is easy on both the vehicle and passengers. For the more aggressive members

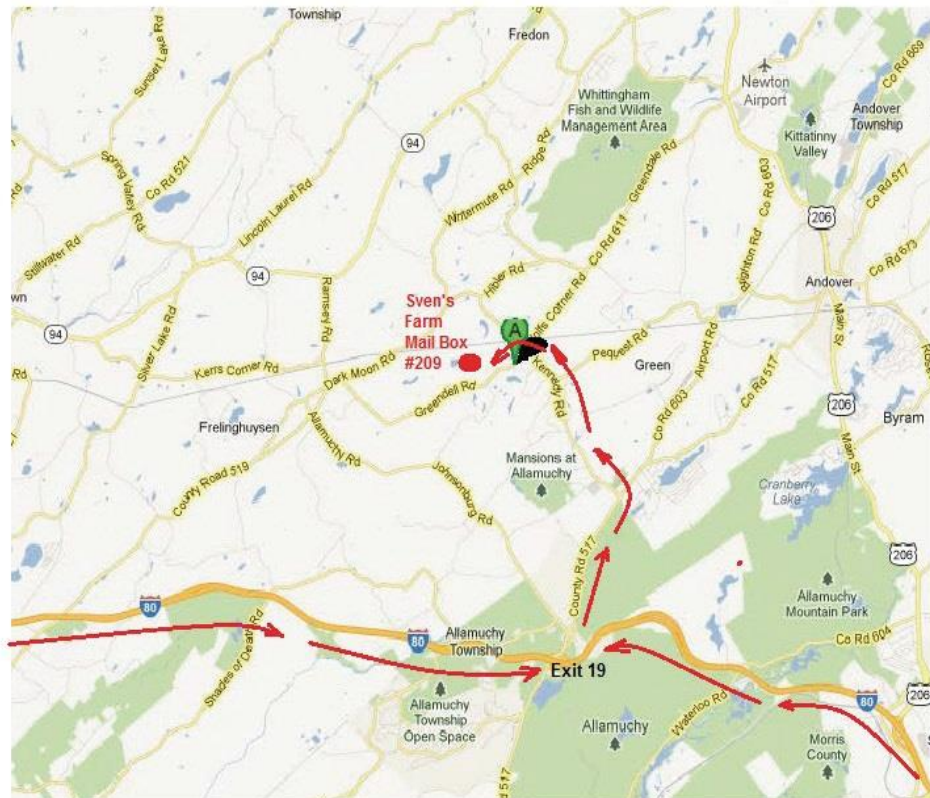
who want to test their equipment on more strenuous terrain, there are old logging trails that lead into the wooded sections of the property. Some of these trails have become overgrown over the years and will not allow some of the larger vehicles an access without major scratches and damage to fenders and protruding equipment. On some of the trails you must transverse large rocks and fallen trees. These trails are a great test for the military jeep of any era. What's especially nice about this event is even club members without military vehicles can always hitch a ride with a member that does and still have a great time. Attendees to the event can have an opportunity to ride in a historic military vehicle in an environment it was designed for.

In my opinion, this event exemplifies what our hobby is all about. It offers an opportunity for those outside of our hobby to experience something that cannot be experienced at a parade, static display or military vehicle show. It gives us within the hobby an opportunity to share a day with the

tangibles that are so close to our hearts...family, friends and our military vehicles. The MTA sincerely thanks **Sven and Helga Johnson** for this opportunity. Like the commercial says...*Priceless!*



Brian Bancale and his WWII M8 Armored Car negotiate a hill



DIRECTIONS: From the north, east and south, take Route I-80 West towards Delaware Water Gap. Take Exit 19 onto Route 517 towards Andover. After a few miles turn left onto Route 611 (Kennedy Road). Follow Route 611 a few miles to Greendell. At Greendell, make a left onto Hamilton Road. Sven Johnson's is a mile or so on the right. There will be signs to follow. If you are coming from the west, also take Exit 19 on Route I-80

CLASSIFIEDS

To add or remove listings from the Classifieds, please email Dave Steinert at dsteinert@optonline.net or call 973-347-9091.

For Sale-1987 HMMWV M998 Outstanding HMMWV from 1999 auction. 11,298 miles. Always garaged. Meticulously maintained. New two-man and 4-man tops. Many extras, grill guard, all manuals. No dents. No corrosion. NJ title. Drive it home. \$31,500. Pics: daveahl.jalbum.net. David Ahl, 973-285-0716. swapmeetdave@aol.com (5/14)

For Sale-M925A1 cargo truck, low mileage and hours. Starts right up. everything works including winch. Good tires. \$8000.00- OBO. If interested contact John Dorsch (John Dorsch Electric) 908-689-8300. (6/14)

For Sale-M35A2, a great running w/camo paint Deuce. Has heater Jatotka fuel 7 oil filters, straight tailgate, new vinyl cab soft top. Has air shift front axle. Asking \$5500 or best offer. Call Vinny, cell:973-476-9544, home:973-635-2404. (10/13)

For Sale-A brand new, in box vinyl thee color 5-ton cargo cover for \$450, call Randy @ 973 219 4499. (9/13)

For Sale- M38 parts- I have 2 windshields in good condition, 1- with good glass \$150, 1- with cracked glass \$100. Pair of original fenders, take off, good condition, easy repairs, \$50 for the pair. Tool box lid, good condition \$20. I also have a grill and air cleaner but I believe they are from a CJ3A. Call Mark Burghardt at 973-906-1069 or email for pics: markkb@optonline.net (8/13)

For Sale-Assortment of M-35 and M-135/211 parts. Please email your requests to aitucophc@comcast.net

For Sale- 1959 M-100 trailer with a clean N.J. title, no rust, with extra set of wheels. Someone cut a small door into the back panel that doesn't take away from it. Otherwise in nice cond. that looks good. It comes with two military generators (years unknown) also a bow and both brackets for a M-38 jeep canvas top in it. \$700. for all, located in central N.J. Call Phil Galvano 732-539-4919

For Sale- Parting out a M37, have both body & engine parts. I also have MB, GPW and CJ Jeep parts, plus some wheels for a CJ. Call Tom Weaver at (973)-627-9448.

For Sale- Mil Spec primers and paints, OD and Camo. WWII Jeep frames, front, rears, transmissions, PTOs, GI grease and oils. Call Paul Wadeson at (607)-637-2275.

For Sale-2-1/2 ton Vietnam era troop seats, multi fuel, bows & winch. Runs great, needs a little cab work, \$3500. Ben Hale Trailer - 1 ton with bows, lightly rusted, \$300. 1968 M725 Ambulance - very nice shape - everything is there. Rear gas heater, fresh paint, European tires, \$3,500. M37 parts, complete truck, part out with winch. Halftrack parts - call for your needs hood, doors, radiators, rims, winch, lights, cab parts, armor, electrical etc. Call Dave @917-567-6419, NY

For Sale- 1952 M37 for parts, no engine, 1951 M37 in mint shape, heat, winch, troop seats, 1968 M725 Jeep ambulance in great shape, 1-ton trailer with bows, 2.5-ton w/winch, multi-fuel, troop seats, runs great, needs sheet metal work. I'm looking for halftrack parts, T16 carrier parts, 105 MM Howitzer. I will buy train wrecks for cash.!! , or trade call me Dave at 1-917-567-6419.

For Sale- I have just received some of the adjustable legs for the rear of the M-101, 3/4-ton trailers. These are new in the box (NOS), CARC

color, \$40 each plus shipping. I'm in Zip 21071 (Maryland). E-mail at glengar@verizon.net, if interested. Tim Clark.

For Sale: Looking for a military vehicle? From projects to ground-up Restorations and everything in between!

Check out:

WWW.USMILITARYVEHICLES.COM

Wanted: Early MB parts- I am looking for a pair of MB, 8 leaf front leaf springs, windshield frame, rear seat, small mouth gas tank, solid disk wheels. Call Mark Burghardt at 973-906-1069 or email: markkb@optonline.net. (8/13)

Parts Wanted: All For Early M-38. Lower Crankshaft Pulley, The Smaller One, W/O Winch; Lifting Bracket; Oil Filter Bracket; Generator Support Bracket; Oil PSI Switch & Bracket; An Early Bell Housing With Part Number WO 81628 OR WO 81629; Windshield & Frame. Robert 201-226-9289.

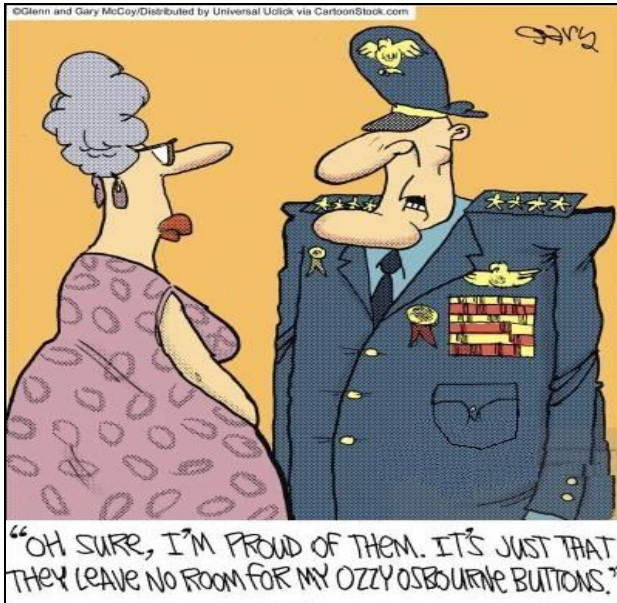
Wanted -This is military vehicle related request, because I want to put my Mil Shelter on it and set it up with all my truck tools. So, I can have it mobile in my shop area. I am looking for a 2-axle landscape or equipment trailer 12ft to 14 ft long. Used and rough shape is what I am looking for. Better shape ok if the price is right, Doesn't need to have ramps, rust ok :, 973 219 4499 or randy@aol.com

Wanted-For M725 drivers compartment pull out style heater control cables, knobs are marked "heat, defrost and fresh air". Marc Ziegler (973) 263-1923.



**Military Transport Association
Of North Jersey**
P.O. Box 393
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

The next MTA monthly meeting
will be held on **Saturday, August 16th,**
at 12:00AM at Sven Johnson's Picnic



MILITARY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION INC.
A Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association

The Military Transport Association is dedicated to the education and preservation of historic to present military vehicles. Members enjoy restoring, displaying, and operating military vehicles of all types, from bicycles to tanks!

You do not have to own a military vehicle to be part of this exciting and active hobby, just a desire to do your part in helping keep our military history alive. All you need to join is a member in good standing to sign this form, fill out the rest and you are ready to start enjoying all the MTA has to offer!

If you are not already sponsored by a member in good standing, please check out our website and you are welcome to come to a meeting introduce yourself and start enjoying all we have to offer!

You may mail this form to the address below signed by a member in good standing.

Member in Good Standing _____

Membership # _____

Are you a member of MVPA Yes No

Membership # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

Military vehicle(s) owned _____

Mail completed application with _____ annual dues to:

Check one Single Family

\$20 \$25

Military Transport Association Inc.

PO Box 393

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www.mtaofnj.org

*Contributions, gifts or membership dues made or paid to the Military Transport Association Inc. are non-refundable or transferable and are "not" deductible as charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.