



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IDAHO MILITARY VEHICLE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

December 2016

The President's Corner

During Veterans Day last month I was privileged to attend the "Rock of Honor" event at Julius Kleiner park in Meridian. We parked my WW2 Jeep nearby as the Mayor praised the unveiling of this new and magnificent memorial. In attendance were WW2, Korean War, Vietnam vets, and many others. It was a moving experience to be part of.

Bruce led the US Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" parade again this year. Bruce gets the privilege of being personally invited to this and I admire that he takes the time to attend as it's for a very good cause.

Five members and 4 vehicles attended the "Military and First Responders Appreciation Day" at Grace Bible Church. That was a very special event. The American Legion provided a rifle salute and the Patriot Riders stood proud for the unveiling of a new flag pole with the stars and stripes and POW/MIA flag. The Idaho Military Museum fired 3 shots from their



Sneak photo. A cannon salute was part of the Military Appreciation Day event NOV 12th. Look for the story next month.

CLUB MEETINGS: 1st Tues of the Month. Social hour 6, meeting at 7.

The December Holiday Party is at the Best Western In Caldwell, Exit 29 off of I-84. It starts at 6:30!

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pack howitzer. Breakfast and Lunch was provided, and dozens of people came by to talk to us.

In addition to all of those events, we had six vehicles at the Golden Corral Military Appreciation Event in Nampa. Anyone care to give us a write up for next month's newsletter? Several members also celebrated Veteran's Day at Gary's Automotive. I'd say as an organization we packed a lot into this month!

There really aren't any planned events on the calendar until spring except the holiday party. **I want everyone and their families to come to the club holiday celebration in December. Bring a dish and sign up with Don, Bob, or Karen so we can plan accordingly.**

-Ron



It was in the news.

-Department of Corrections:

Gift exchange for the December Holiday Party is 10\$, not 20\$ as previously stated. Also the website (briefly) said the party was in November. Well it's in December obviously.

-We will soon celebrate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Quotes worth quoting

"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing; the last of the human freedoms- to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

-Dr. Viktor Frankl, holocaust survivor

No minutes for you!

No secretary means no minutes. However elections will be in JANUARY 2017. Please come and be prepared to volunteer, and vote. Please consider running for any office. WE NEED YOU.



Calendar of Events:

December: this is the end of 2016 holiday party.

January Meeting 2017: (club elections) Covey Café, 5017 Highway 20/26 in Caldwell.

February Meeting 2017: (discuss the Fruitland Show) Bruce Gates' business: 604 N 36th street Nampa

March Meeting 2017: location not determined. Any volunteers?

-DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY, TUESDAY DEC 6TH AT BEST WESTERN, 908 SPECHT AVENUE, CALDWELL

No meeting. This is our annual dinner event. The party will take place at the Best Western Hotel in Caldwell. Take exit 29 off I-84 and you are there. Dress casual. Social starts at 6:00, we start serving at 6:30. Bring a gift worth no more than 10\$ as we will do the secret Santa exchange again this year. If you are bringing little kids, bring their gift so they don't feel left out. The meal is POTLUCK. At the meeting there is a sign up so let us know what you will bring. POC for the party is Don W, Bob S, and Alex G.

Spy photo: what do you do when you can't get the front motor mount on your 41 Dodge WC engine? Take the front of the motor apart of course! GRRRR! Well at least winter means plenty of time for projects in the garage!



What is the future of the Military Vehicle Hobby? Will there ever be another cheap jeep?

by Ron Powell

Have you ever wondered what the next generation of military vehicle owners will be driving in 20 years? We are always encouraging young people to join the hobby, but there is an investment in buying, maintaining, restoring, or even just finding room to store that military vehicle (MV). Today's MVs are getting prohibitively expensive. Of today's modern vehicles, what will the next generation of enthusiasts be able to afford?

In the last 7 decades our military has been a source of cheap, plentiful vehicles. MV owners can still find vehicles for only a few thousand dollars. From the cheap Jeep to the CUCV to the deuce and half, buy-in for this hobby has been manageable for most of us. Today the military is phasing out the aging HMMWV, but these are in the \$20,000 and above range. That is because the HMMWV was considerably more advanced (and expensive) than anything that had come before it. If trends continue, the price of MVs will continue to skyrocket.

The Army approved its TWV (Tactical Wheeled Vehicle) strategy in 2014, and they will implement this strategic initiative over the coming decades. The strategy has four categories: MRAP, Heavy, Medium, and Light. We are familiar with the MRAP. It was rushed into service to fill a role the HMMWV was never intended for, and that is route clearing, close combat, and what is called "Essential Warfighting Capability". The MRAP cost our taxpayers between 330-900,000 dollars! The govt. will utilize them through their "service life", but they are not part of the long term strategy because of their shortcomings. Some are already being released from active service.

The heavy category includes line haul trucks. Examples include 18 wheelers and the HEMMT. The typical enthusiast isn't looking for these! The medium category includes the FMTV, or Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles. These workhorses are intended to replace the aging fleet of 2.5 and 5 ton trucks.

Finally, there is the light category. It includes the current HMMWV and its replacement, the JLTV, or Joint Light Tactical Vehicle. It is much larger and costs much more (\$300,000 in base form, before customization). The addition of communication and weapons systems can easily add six figures to this price. Will they ever be "cheap enough" for the general public to own?

Why does the military need the JLTV when they have the HMMWV that only costs \$70,000 (adjusted for inflation)? Adding armor and systems to a base model HMMWV easily pushes the price tag over \$200,000. It does not offer adequate protection against ballistic damage, or radiological and chemical threats. It offers poor crew survivability, which was one reason the MRAP was rushed into service. Of the 40 Army "systems" that require the HMMWV to be its prime mover, over half

require a waiver because weapons, towing, cargo or armor packages exceed the vehicles maximum rating! In short, the HMMWV is filling a direct combat role that it was never designed, envisioned, or intended for!

Ever wonder why modernization costs the taxpayers so much? Modern MVs are now survivable and safer, with options such as enhanced mobility, lateral stability, emergency braking, restraint systems, crash protection, and fire suppression systems. "Victory Architecture" means occupants maintain connectivity to battlefield systems such as radios, command and control systems, and computers. Increases in reliability and fuel efficiency are intended to ease the burden on battlefield logistics.

With inadequate budgets, and expensive vehicles, why doesn't the Army bring back the 1980s CUCV program? The fact is that program was considered a disaster. The Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle was simply a repurposed commercial vehicle (Chevy and Dodge) with only minor enhancements. It proved too fragile and unreliable for off road use. Fiscally it was a failure as well, given its short lifespan and high maintenance costs. One of the formulas our government uses to determine value is not just based on purchase price. The HMMWV that replaced the CUCV has a much longer "End of Life", so it lasts decades longer and is far more reliable.

What does the near term hold then? By the year 2022 the military is due to divest all of its remaining CUCVs, aging M35 series trucks, and M809 and M939 series 5 tons. Many HMMWVs and FMTVs will remain because Congress has not approved a budget that can pay for this (expensive) modernization. So you can expect the military to sell its HMMWV fleet only incrementally.

So what does all this mean for the future of our hobby then? If future wheeled vehicles exceed hundreds of thousands of dollars, then will only the wealthiest owners be able to someday get them? Well there is also a 5th category of MV, and it's not mentioned in the 2014 TWV Strategic Plan. It's called the unarmored category. This includes the use of UTVs. Some variants are already in use by all branches of the service. They are not intended for tactical use, but they offer a great price for taxpayers. Will the side by side UTV replace the "cheap jeep" someday?

At left: FMTV is the replacement for the current 2 ½ ton and 5 ton truck fleet. Center is the new JLTV, which is the HMMWV replacement. At right: the LTATV, or lightweight tactical all terrain vehicle, already in use by Special Forces and other agencies. Is this the new "cheap jeep"?



The USMC Toys for Tots

by Bruce Gates

Every year in a combined effort the POW MIA club kicks off the Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive with a nice ride and parade through the streets of Meridian, Boise and Garden City. This year the event started at High Dessert Harley Davidson with the Marine Corps color guard, a fly over of a pair of A10's, the National Anthem and a Pledge of Allegiance.

A color guard on motorcycles starts the parade with my M37 following and carrying Santa Claus and the Master of Ceremonies, Gary Sullivan. All the rest of approximately 200 motorcycles fall in behind the M37. The parade ended at Quinn's Lounge on Vista in Boise.



Editors note: this is primarily a motorcycle event and Bruce's M37 was the only military vehicle invited. This is why it wasn't tracked as a club event.



The National WW2 Museum Tour. By Ben Sterling

I spent the end of October in New Orleans and was fortunate enough to visit the National World War Two museum. As a history buff, this was a must see location along with all the other sites to see in New Orleans. I dragged my girlfriend along with me, she being someone who does not love history was engaged with the exhibits. The museum recently underwent a 300 million dollar renovation and it is awesome! We started off watching Beyond All Boundaries, a 45 minute 4D film narrated by Tom Hanks and include moving props like the nose section of a B-17 fuselage coming down from the ceiling and walls of a concentration camp coming up from the floor. This film explained the history and the great struggle that faced the world from 1939-1945 and made the rest of the exhibits easier to follow because you already knew the backstory. The US FREEDOM PAVILION: THE BOEING CENTER housed an amazing collection of aircraft, and vehicles. The Sherman tank with all the goodies attached to its hull, stole the show for me. There was enough space around each vehicle that you could get a true sense of its size and design without it being drowned out by the sensory overload effect of crowded wall to wall museum. As you look up, you see Army Air Force bombers and Navy planes suspended from the ceiling above you. You can walk the catwalks that go under and above the planes four stories above ground level. It's amazing to see aircraft with their landing gear folded up as they would look in flight, but just feet away. I wish I could have spent all four days of my vacation at the museum to take in everything that was there. But, after 4 short hours it was time to move on.



LOCAL CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Nick Wilson from England is looking for a headlight bracket for a GPA. If anyone knows of one, please get hold of Bruce Gates who will relay the information.

WANTED for Model CCKW 352 short wheel based version (SWV), M38A1 engine, and M151 MUTT. Also looking for 47-49 Kaiser Willys pickup for restoration. Also looking for 1945 CJ2A column shift jeep for restoration. Call Steve Bartkowski at 708-863-3090 or steve.bartkowski@bnsf.com.

WANTED M151 hardtop for the 91st Training Division M151 in California. This vehicle is on static display outside. Contact ron at rondoin_98@hotmail.com

Editors Note. We've been sharing newsletters (and classifieds) from other clubs, so the transcribing their ads here is redundant. Of course if you want them back, volunteer as an editor! We always need help.