



## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE IDAHO MILITARY VEHICLE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

October 2019

### From the Top

The weather is getting cool but don't put those Military Vehicles away yet. There are more events on the calendar. First I would like to thank those that showed up at the Childrens' Museum in Meridian on September 7<sup>th</sup> for a first time show. I would also like to thank those that showed up at the Veteran's Appreciation Day at the VA in Boise on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> we have several events going on. Chrome at the home is at the VA home at 4<sup>th</sup> and Fort Sts. This is a motorcycle show and auction put on by POW-MIA to raise money for the Veteran's Home Christmas party. The same day we have Touch a Truck at BSU in the parking lot in front of the stadium and we have the Cloverdale Car Craze at Cloverdale cemetery. All of them are good events so decide which one you want to go to.

For October we have two events scheduled;

**IMVPA MEETINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of the Month. Social hour 6, meeting at 7.**  
We meet at Gates Towing.

#### Officers:

**President: Bruce Gates**

**Vice President: Bob**

**Schoonderwoerd**

**Treasurer: position is open**

**Quartermaster: position is open**

**Secretary: position is open**

**Social Media Director: Benjamin Sterling**

**Website, Newsletter Editor: Ron Powell**

#### Spotted!

**Don is restoring this beautiful GPW which even without a tub now runs and drives!**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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October 19 the Nampa VFW has an event in Lakeview Park at 16<sup>th</sup> and Garrity Blvd. from 10 AM to 2PM. On October 26<sup>th</sup> is Harvest Festival from 1PM to 4PM at 310 S. 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. Caldwell.

I'll send out an email to the club membership before each event to remind you.

-Bruce Gates  
President, IMVPA

## His glass is half empty...

Is it that tearful goodbye time for my trusty pickup that I've owned since new for 19 years? It won't pass emissions, so my registration was revoked. This truck has never broken down, was used for leisure and fun, with only 102,000 miles on the clock. But thanks to our county emissions laws, this thing can't be driven anymore.

It has cracks in the exhaust manifold which means the computer won't read the Catalytic converter and the check engine light is on. Garry's Automotive (who I think are closely related to the Gambino crime family) quoted \$4700 to fix the O2 sensors, cats, and exhaust manifold. Gee I wonder what these crooks charge for an oil change.

Boy was I upset! I mean depending on how much gas is in it, that's about \$4692 more than it's worth!

On the drive home I imagined that this was the last time I would be behind the wheel of my baby, the truck I've loved all these years. My eyes were starting to sting (damn allergies) and I wondered if this truck would have parted out, or abandoned in a field someplace. So I

rolled down the windows and turned up the country music one last time. The Mavericks came on, and this song, like many country songs, seemed to be about me and this old truck. The lyrics went like this. "Wasn't I good to you? Didn't I show it? And if I ever hurt you, I didn't know it. If you think I don't care, then you're mistaken. My love was always there, but now my heart's breakin, Oh baby! oh what a crying shame! to let it all slip away, to call it yesterday! Oh baby! my life would be so blue, my heart would break in two, oh what a crying shame!"

I started to wonder how many WW2 Jeep owners made this drive like I'm doing now, taking their trusty war dog out to pasture, simply because it was too rusty, broke down, or cost too much to repair. I imagined that they parked it outside, under the rainy sky, and shut off the engine for the last time. That old Willys MB grill probably stared back at them, like Old Yeller, thinking that they were going hunting one more time, not realizing that this was the last time. How many owners shed tears of sorrow on that cold and rainy day?

So I went home and looked up a you tube video and this guy had the same issue with his truck. He fixed it in 6 hours for a couple hundred bucks. Didn't even break off an exhaust manifold stud in the block. Happiness! Glorious angels of joy! Maybe my baby can be saved! I guess they didn't have you tube back in the day. ❖

**Wanted: your newsletter articles, photos, and editorials. Send them in now!**

# My 'First Jeep' by John Downs

Some time in March of 2017 I was perusing Craigslist in search of a wheelchair for my wife. Low and behold I found something with four wheels and needed to be pushed! The ad said it was a WWII Jeep and it was only \$1000. Color me intrigued. After looking at the photos I determined, with my limited Jeep knowledge, that something was off. It was actually a 1952 M38A1, not quite WWII but it was cheap enough for me! So I cautiously approached my sleeping wife to convince her we needed it. You could guess the response I received at 7am on a Saturday, anger disbelief and a requirement of a Dutch Brothers blended chai. Amazingly I managed to talk her into the Jeep!!!!

After negotiating with the owner I managed to save \$100 and then pay for a tow to get her to our place in Paradise, California, yes the town that is no more. According to my wife I was "as excited as a school girl at Disney Land". We initially put her in the garage but after finding black widows crawling around I decided VERY quickly that the Jeep would be just fine outside. For the next year and a half I tore into her, finding out where the rust is. What is missing. Where do I find parts? All the normal questions. Slowly but surely I was collecting what was needed to get her going again.

## **Queue the destruction. November 8th, 2018. Paradise, California.**

As many may recall from the news, a massive and highly destructive fire roared through Paradise, CA destroying 18,000 structures and killing many dozens. My wife and I escaped with her cats and half a truck load. This fire moved fast and hot. Vehicles weren't just torched, they were melted, houses became concrete slabs, and massive Ponderosa Pine trees became toothpicks. The destruction reminds me of the photos of Nagasaki or the fire bombing of Dresden. It's the closest to a post apocalyptic wasteland that I have ever seen.

We have since relocated to Nampa, ID and are starting over. I joined the local MVPA and I love it. When the evacuation order was lifted I went back to Paradise to sift through the rubble. It might interest you to know that the only things I found that were recognizable were USGI items such as ammo cans, mess kits and blades. Yes I lost 99% of my collection, roughly \$80,000 worth at full value (I love yard sales). More importantly, when I went back I had one goal. Come hell or high water my Jeep was coming home. I didn't have a plan. I had a flat bed trailer and a come along, a few pieces of wood and determination.

Luckily while talking to my old neighbor, Jonny, a backhoe was driving up the road. He was a PG&E worker from San Diego doing clean up. I waved him down and asked "you wouldn't happen to be PG&E?" He froze. What you need to understand right now is that the workers were getting death threats from some people that lost everything. I don't like the company but I don't hate the grunts. Remember my neighbor Jonny? He is PG&E, my brother is, my soon to be sister in law is. How could I hate them? After calming the guy down and assuring him that I hold no grudge, I asked a favor.

He ditched his supervisor and came back with his back hoe. And with a little help we managed to get some straps under my Jeep and lift her up and out of the trailer she had been on and placed her onto the one I brought. He saved my dad and I a ton of labor... he had his choice of snacks that I had brought. If I had had beer, he would have had that too. Thanks to the kind heart of a PG&E worker my Jeep is now in my back yard. Some day I will get her cleaned up. Running? I doubt it but maybe. At the very least I will paint her and make her a memorial to those that were lost. She will be my Phoenix.

My first steps in her rebirth will be to find some cheap leaf springs, wheels and tires. From there I can actually wheel her around the yard as and eventually into the garage. Right now with the leaf springs melted she is sitting on her frame in the dirt. If anyone has a lead on inexpensive parts or they wish to donate towards her restoration you can contact me through the Idaho MVPA. Thank you for taking the time to read my story.

John R Downs  
Formerly of Paradise, California



# Veteran's Appreciation Day 2019 - by Bruce Gates

On Saturday September 14 we had a great show at the VA Parade Ground in Boise. Will Barmes brought his M35, Stacy Mowrie brought his 5 ton and trailer, Bruce Gates had his M37, Joe and Jesse Perry had their M37, Dick and Sylvia Marker brought a Jeep, Mike Pierce brought his Jeep and Al and Bonnie Mizner brought their Jeep. The National Guard brought a Blackhawk helicopter and the VA fed us hamburgers and hot dogs. It was a fun day for all.



## **Support my Climb!** by Benjamin Sterling

I recently accepted the challenge of participating in the 29th annual LLS Firefighter Stairclimb benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). This event is the world's largest on-air stair climb competition, that is exclusive to firefighters. Every participant, including myself, has committed to raising funds for LLS to help fund and find a cure for blood cancers. 100% of all proceeds raised benefit LLS and will contribute to the \$20+ million raised since the event's inception in 1991.

Learn more about Why We Climb at [www.firefighterstairclimb.org](http://www.firefighterstairclimb.org)

I am asking you to help by supporting my fundraising efforts with a donation. Your tax-deductible gift will make help bring us a step closer to a world without blood cancers. You can make a donation online via my Personal Fundraising Page below, and will receive an automated emailed receipt for your records:

[https://www.llswa.org/site/TR/LLSWA/llswaFF?px=1940392&pg=personal&fr\\_id=1640](https://www.llswa.org/site/TR/LLSWA/llswaFF?px=1940392&pg=personal&fr_id=1640)

If you prefer, you can also send your gift via check, made out to LLS and sent to the address below:

**Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Attn: LLS Firefighter Stairclimb  
5601 6th Ave South, Suite 182, Seattle, WA 98108**

Any amount, great or small, helps in the fight. I greatly appreciate your support and will keep you posted on my progress.

**(Editor's note, thank you President Gates for your donation!)**

## **MEETING MINUTES.** by Benjamin Sterling

The regular meeting of the Idaho Military Vehicle Preservation Association was called to order at 1900hrs on September 3rd, 2019 at the Gates Towing in Nampa by President Bruce Gates. There were 15 members present.

Treasurer's Report: 2,048.67 in the Bank.

Upcoming Events:

Sept 7th 1000 hrs. Children's museum in Meridian on Progress street, Sept 14th Vets appreciation fair at the VA, Sept 28th 0900hrs. Chrome at the home at the Idaho State Vets home. Sept 28th 0900hrs. Touch a Truck at the BSU stadium, and Sept 28th 0900hrs. at Cloverdale Cem. Cloverdale Car Craze.

Past Events: No Past events to report on. New Business:

Voted to distribute Social roster to all members.

Christmas party Again! Dec 13th Caldwell Vets Hall POC Bob and Karen

Agenda for Next Meeting: Non stated.

Meeting was adjourned at 1938hrs by Bruce Gates. The next general meeting will be at 1900hrs on Oct 2nd, 2019 at Gates Towing in Nampa.

## YOUR FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

**Wanted:** M101A2/A3 trailer. Contact Ben at [hondatoys@gmail.com](mailto:hondatoys@gmail.com)

**Wanted:** Civil defense items, contact John Downs at [johnrdowns@yahoo.com](mailto:johnrdowns@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:** misc MB bolt on parts, 5 new NDT Firestone tires 7-15 size \$100 each, and a very complete 1950s ¼ ton military trailer unrestored. Contact Wayne at [waynehanners@msn.com](mailto:waynehanners@msn.com)

**Wanted:** black out light for Harley Davidson motorcycle. Contact [nickwilson4@aol.com](mailto:nickwilson4@aol.com)

**Wanted:** tail lights and black out lights for 1943 GPW. Contact Michael at [michaelsantinik@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsantinik@gmail.com)

**Having trouble titling your HMMWV in your state?** We may be able to help !! Please e-mail as much information about your problem as possible and let us know if you will participate in a Class Action lawsuit (not required) if so e mail [hmmwvowner@gmail.com](mailto:hmmwvowner@gmail.com) ❖

## Idaho Military Vehicle Preservation Association Membership Application

-Since 1993, an Idaho Organization has been dedicated to the preservation of old and historic military vehicles. The IMVPA encourages the acquisition, preservation, restoration, and the public education of historic military vehicles. The Idaho club encourages and supports museums, as well as national and community events.

### Membership Fees - \$20.00 per year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this membership application to :

Bruce Gates

PO Box 592

Nampa, Idaho 83653

**Ownership of a military vehicle is not a requirement for**

**membership!** Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Please call (208) 890-2249 for more information.

# Are you a member of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, or MVPA!

Why join? You get access to thousands of members worldwide for information, vehicles, parts, resources and a community of shared enthusiasm; Premium publications – *ARMY MOTORS* and *SUPPLY LINE*, the best in the hobby from the **only** international historic military vehicle association; An organization that supports pro-HMV legislation to protect your access to vehicles, parts and vehicle usage; Doing your part to support vehicle and archival preservation and research; Preferred pre-registration status and vehicle judging access for the annual convention; Reduced ad rates in *SUPPLY LINE*; Access to the members only website section and directory; A vote and voice in the operation and direction of the MVPA

Go to [MVPA.org](http://MVPA.org), or

**Join by Mail:** Don't want to join through our online store? Go to [mvpa.org](http://mvpa.org) to print a membership form. Mail the form with a check or money order to: MVPA PO Box 520378 Independence, MO 64052 USA