

# IMVPA NEWS

*Newsletter of the Idaho Military Vehicle Preservation Association*

2014-2

## **MVP of the Month**

This month's MVP (Military Vehicle Personality) is Bob Meredith.



Bob began working as a telephone installer in 1964 for the Bell System. In 1967 he moved to Idaho and began working as a system technician before being assigned to the 2036th communication squadron at Mountain Home AFB.

He was there 21 years before retiring in 1994 with 30 years of service. Next, he went to work for Ada County maintaining its phone system and the Public Safety Building 911 system, retiring a second time after 12 years.

After moving to Idaho in the early 1960s, Bob joined a mountain rescue team and was a member of that group for 35 years, performing many different kinds of rescues in Idaho and surrounding states. He's been an avid mountain climber for 58 years, with three climbs above 20,000, one of those in South America.

Military vehicles have been an interest since he was 9 years old kid and saw an M-37 only to discover later that it was a WC and that M-37s didn't exist yet! But he owns one now—a beautifully restored 1953 that he purchased in 2008 as restored himself with great attention to detail. Bob says, "It's been a fun and sometimes frustrating experience. I've won several awards, but the one I'm most proud of is the Gold Award for the Motor Pool class at the 2013 National MVPA show in Portland."

Bob and his wife Kris are active members of IMVP who participate in most club events.

### **Cloverdale Funeral Home Has Two Patriotic Events Scheduled**

Bruce Gates and Barry McCahill met recently with Terry Shotkowski, managing partner at Cloverdale Funeral Home to discuss two patriotic events the funeral home will host this year that will be supported by the IMVPA and other local veteran groups.

The traditional Memorial Day event on May 26 will again feature the professional singing trio—*Victory Belles*, and IMVPA member vehicles on display. The *Belles* perform at patriotic events all around the country. They dress in WW2 outfits and sing all the classic favorites from then, along with music from the Vietnam conflict era. *This is a not-to-be-missed, free concert that was standing room only last year.* Spread the word to your family and friends and they'll thank you afterward for letting them know so they can attend.

September 18-21 the funeral home will host the 80% Viet Nam Wall. IMVPA will be assisting this event, helping to escort the Wall when it arrives, and displaying vehicles. This will be a high profile, yet solemn activity in the Treasure Valley that's sure to get a lot of media and public attention.

Both events will be discussed at the next Club meeting.

### **Newsletter Needs Your Input**

At the last club meeting, one member said, "I haven't been getting the newsletter," so we want to clarify that you don't "get" the newsletter delivered to you—you have to access it on our club website, [www.idaho mvpa.org](http://www.idaho mvpa.org).

The reason for this distribution arrangement is that because the newsletter typically includes many photos contributed by different people and with differences in quality, the resulting "file" is too large to transmit by e-mail except by someone with a very large Internet server. Your humble editor uses iCloud and it rejects files this big.

Additionally, some members would have difficulty receiving such a file even if sent, as their systems would reject something of that size. And, some members don't have e-mail.

If you send me photos, please make sure they are in jpeg format. If photo problems persist we may have to just post all photos to our website and restrict the newsletter to narrative.

We set up a mechanism where the newsletter is placed on an online system called Dropbox that accepts files of all sizes independent of a server, and then our computer support person transfers the file from Dropbox to the IMVPA website. Once that occurs, I notify Alex Gordon who, in turn, sends a notification that the newsletter is available at the website. Previous issues also are available.

We are striving to improve the newsletter and add more and better content. But that's dependent on YOU to help by making contributions. Got some old parts sitting around? Let me know so we can post it for sale. Have a suggestion for a club activity or something to make your participation more interesting, or know where there's a vehicle for sale, let me know!

Starting with the last issue we're featuring a member profile each issue. If you would like to be featured, send me a brief write up about you and a photo!

## **Great WW2 Story**

This story is confirmed in Elmer Bendiner's book, *The Fall of Fortresses*.

Sometimes, it's not really just luck. Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks. "Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but also 11 had been found in the gas tanks - 11 unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought. Even after 45 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer. Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling."

Translated, the note read: "This is all we can do for you now....." "Using Jewish slave labor is never a good idea."

## Free Book...maybe!

Ron Powell submitted this item for the good or the order: I was visiting with my new post commander Mr. Kenny (American Legion Post 113). He asked me to check on this for him.

He said if any of our club members are American Legion Post 113 members and Korean War vets, they can receive a new hard bound book about Korea and the conflict as a gift from the Korean Govt. The quantities are limited and they must be Post 113 members.

Contact Mr. Kenny at Post 113 to receive the book.

## 2014 Show Calendar

The Club's spring and summer event schedule is beginning to build and promises to be as busy as ever. So far, here are the events scheduled—so mark you calendars now!

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Tower Park Show, Lodi, CA	April 20-26	
Meridian Speedway Veterans Event	May 17 (time TBD)	
IMVPA Annual Show	June 4-7	
Memorial Day at Kohler Lawn Cemetery Bruce Gates will be speaking. Depart Gates Automotive at 8:30 a.m.	May 26 / 10-11 a.m.	Arrive by 9:30 a.m.
Memorial Day at Cloverdale Funeral Home Featuring the <i>Victory Belles</i> singing group	May 26 / 3-4 p.m.	Arrive by 2:30 p.m.
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parades Middleton	Details TBD	
Payette	Details TBD	
Boise	Details TBD	
Star	Details TBD	
Caldwell	10 a.m. (staging at 9 a.m.)	
Northwest Motorfest	July 12-13	
High Desert Harley-Davidson	Sept. 13 / 11-4 p.m.	Arrive by 10:30 a.m.
Cost of Freedom Tribute at Cloverdale Featuring the traveling Vietnam Wall	Sept 18-21	

## Some Links Worthy of Your Time...

We all get lots of e-mail but the nice thing about forwarded "links" is that you can "take 'em or leave 'em." The ones below may be of interest and are forwarded in that spirit:

Check out this F-15 aerial dogfight video shot by pilots!

<http://www.businessinsider.com/this-f-15-aerial-dogfighting-video-was-shot-entirely-by-pilots-2012-9>

How safe is your garage from intrusion?

Most of us keep our military vehicles, gun safes and valuable tools in our garages. But as these videos show, your garage door is easy to breach. But there's an easy security fix.

How to get in a garage...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDw8DOblGB8>

How to prevent it...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSO\\_HTBHLFI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSO_HTBHLFI)

The Army's Treasure Room—check this out!

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/bennyjohnson/inside-the-armys-spectacular-hidden-treasure-room>

Guns from the USS Arizona and Missouri

[http://www.youtube.com/embed/0dFIZX\\_RXuU](http://www.youtube.com/embed/0dFIZX_RXuU)

Ever wonder how vehicles were fueled during WW2?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv9IBqPVuoE&feature=uploademail>

Motorized Army in 1940...

[http://fleetmaster.smugmug.com/Military/Trucks-on-the-move/27505668\\_jSXwfL#!i=2314670889&k=SNwKkwZ](http://fleetmaster.smugmug.com/Military/Trucks-on-the-move/27505668_jSXwfL#!i=2314670889&k=SNwKkwZ)

## 2013 IMVPA Officers

Bruce Gates	President	(208) 890-2249 / <a href="mailto:bruce@gatesassoc.net">bruce@gatesassoc.net</a>
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IDAHO MILITARY VEHICLE ASSOC. ANNUAL

# VINTAGE MILITARY SHOW

JUNE 4-7, 2014



IDAHO MILITARY TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM Grounds

Fruitland, Idaho

ADMISSION FREE

Open to the public Fri & Sat

Honoring All U.S. Services



**Vintage Vehicles** – See Real WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm Jeeps, Big 6X6 Trucks, Tanks, Half Tracks and many more up close.

**Raffle**– Military items 1:30 Saturday

**Swap Meet** – Vehicles, Dealers selling military vehicle parts, tools, uniforms, field equipment, manuals, clothing, camping equipment. Bring your own to sell – spaces available.

**Transportation Museum** open free to the public

**Desert Trail Rides** – Daily trail rides

**Military Displays**

**Vintage Vehicles on Display**

**Demonstrations**

**Car Crushing** Friday & Sat 1 PM

## MUSEUM Displays



Vehicles, parts, uniforms, equipment, tools

Open 9am to 5pm  
Dealer/Vendor Spaces:  
\$40.00, 20' X 25'  
(S30 if Pre-Registered by June 1)  
Dealer setup Wed &  
Thur  
Open to Public Fri &  
Sat



Exhibits of equipment, uniforms, photos, more!

## Stuff to Buy

Location: Take Interstate 84 to ID/OR Border. Take Idaho Hwy 95/Exit 3 North ¼ mile. Motel list available on web. Dry Camping on site.

V2.0

For More Info & Reservations Contact: Wayne Butterfield  
1327 N. Autumn Wind Drive Nampa, Id 83687 (208) 461-9202  
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