



The Sentinel

Summer 2017

Autumn Meeting:

Saturday, October 7, 2017: The Autumn General Membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Noon at the Michigan Military & Technical Historical Museum, 16600 Stephens, Eastpointe. The next *Sentinel* will be published in October 2017.

Summer Meeting

With regrets, the summer meeting scheduled for Saturday, 26 August 2017, at the residence of member Dave Percell in Chelsea, MI has been **canceled**. Dave and Mary very graciously offered their home for this meeting but unfortunately the time of year has proven problematic, with many members out of town or otherwise committed. The summer meeting has been difficult for several years now, to the point that the board is considering altering the yearly meeting schedule to move the summer meeting to a more convenient timeframe. Member thoughts are welcome.

The 2017 Findlay Show

By Rick Forsys

Despite numerous showers, the 30th annual Findlay Military Show soldiered on to see a good turnout of trucks, vendors, and people. I was told there were more vendors than ever, and after talking with a number of them, most were relatively happy, especially if they happened to be under cover. There was no shortage of trucks either. It didn't seem that the vehicle owners were that put off by the weather, and there were even a good number of "first time" vehicles. The rain certainly had an effect on the show, but it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of attendees. For the most part, everyone was there to have a good time, and weren't going to let the rain ruin things.

Military Vehicle Collectors Club of Michigan

The MVCCMI is a non-profit educational organization created to promote the preservation of antique military vehicles. The group meets at least four times a year at various locations.

Officer / Trustee Contact Info: (Effective Winter 2017)

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Club Dues

All members: \$20 yearly

Meeting Place:

Locations vary.

Web Site:

WWW.MVCCMI.ORG



Bill Nutting's M37

As it happened, Friday was off-and-on rain for most of the day. It wasn't constant rain and there were dry times but it was damp and chilly. Saturday saw some morning rain, but then things cleared up and stayed nice until shortly after 3PM, when dark skies and a heavy downpour came through the area. It only rained for forty minutes or so, but that was enough to send most of the public home for the day. The regulars, however, just moved under cover and shopped, or just hung out. After the storm passed it turned into a pretty nice evening, with numerous gatherings scattered around the fairgrounds.



Above -Tom Price fires the vehicle-mounted device.

Of course, there were still all of the normal Findlay show attractions and events, including the OMP club meeting, Huey 369 flights, Marlboro Volunteers displays, and the thriving reenactment camp. But there was a new and very popular addition to the schedule. At 3PM, Saturday, the grandstand was full to watch a flamethrower demonstration performed by Charlie Hobson from PA. He and Tom Price actually demonstrated both hand held and vehicle-mounted devices. To say it was impressive would be an understatement. I later heard that they could feel the heat over in the vendor area! Luckily the demo was able to finish just before the storm started. However, the same cannot be said about the annual pass-in-review. By the time the storm had passed, the public had left and show organizers didn't see the point of getting owners to move their trucks.

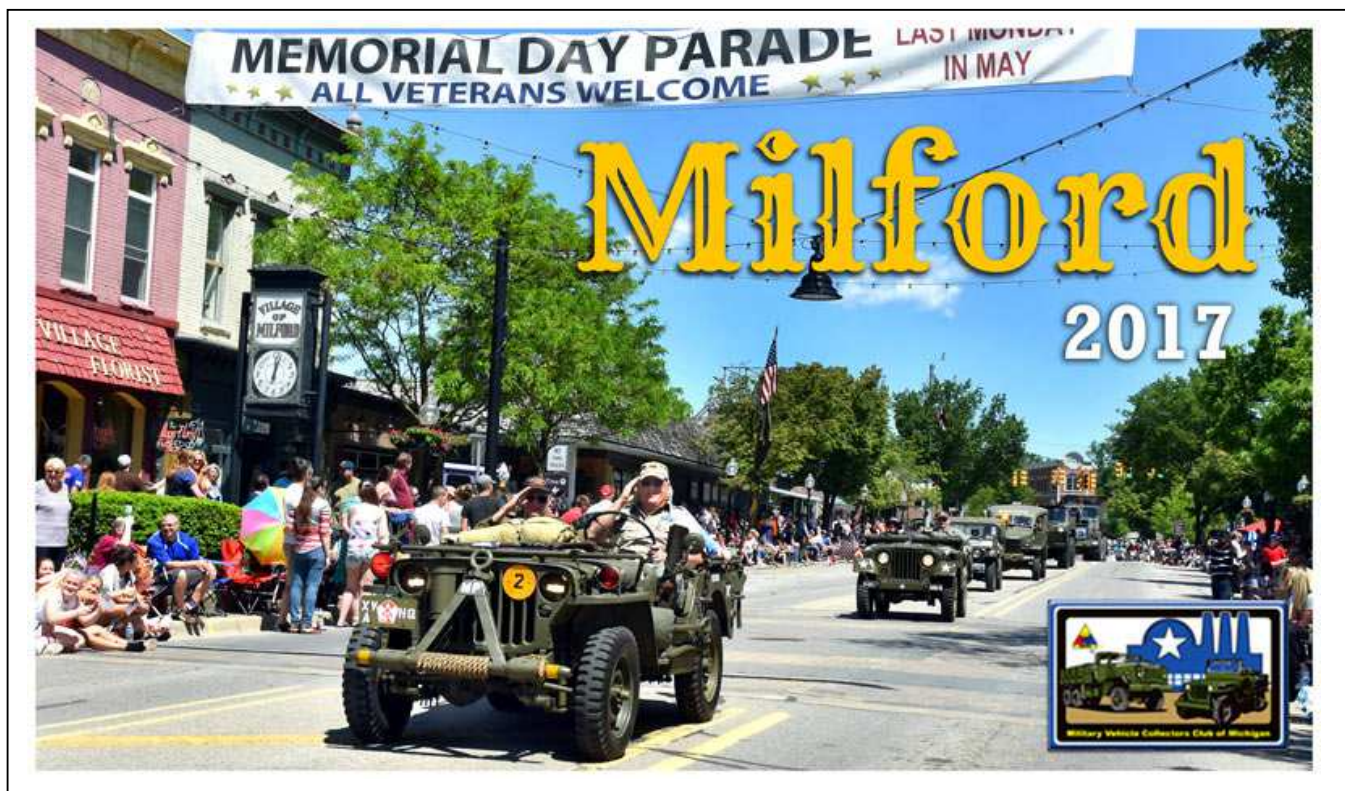
MVCCMI turnout for the Ohio show was good. Chuck Chapman, Terry Pitts, Bill Thatcher, and Ken Kline manned their normal vendor position on the east side of the outside vendor row, while Steve Koenig, Bill & Jan Nutting, Mike Brink, Chris Scalise and others returned to their now typical spot on the west end of the same row. Several members also brought vehicles. Bill & Jan drove the 5-ton down, towing Bill's M37 and Jan's M151A2 for display, and Christos Gryparis also brought two vehicles, his HMMWV and Alvis Saracen, while Ken Kline brought his Pinzgauer.



Ken Kline brought his 1977 Steyr-Puch Pinzgauer 712K



Christos Gryparis displayed his '58 Alvis Saracen Mk 6



2017 Milford Memorial Day Parade

By Rick Forys

Members were met with moderate temperatures and beautiful sunny skies for the 2017 Milford Memorial Day Parade held on May 29th. As always, the club policy of supporting your local parade was encouraged, but this year we returned to the idea of picking one parade for the rest of the members to attend. This is the first time we have done this since 2012, and as the Milford Parade is long established, well organized, and consistently attracts large crowds, it was natural for us to return. This parade has actually been held for over 100 years, and Joe Salvia and American Legion Post 216 were very pleased to have us come back, and once again allowed us to static display on Main Street for 40 minutes just before the parade start.



This year we were able to muster five club vehicles and three more guest vehicles, and three other members attended without vehicles. Leading our section was David Pawlowski and his three daughters in Navy garb carrying the club banner (*Left*). The first vehicle was Chuck Chapman and Rich Pilon in Chuck's 1944 Ford GPW, followed by Tim and Joan Juhl in their 1952 Willys M38A1. Next came Mike Brink with his 1962 M151 who delighted the crowd by playing tag with the parade banner with his antenna (*Above*). Jim Turza in his 1941 Dodge



WC27 half-ton ambulance rolled not far behind, with Dave and Mary Percell in the dominating M985 HEMMT (*Above*) wrapping up the member vehicles. Local Grant Charlick, who brought three vehicles, a 1980 M920 w/ trailer, (*Above right*) 1984 M925 w/work body, and a 1983 M929 tipper, also joined us for the parade.



Besides the ground vehicles, visitors were also treated to fly-overs by a number of aircraft. This included a flight of four WWII T-6 trainers who made several passes with smoke, and another flight of three civilian planes that did the same. Shortly after, a Stearman biplane made a couple of high passes, but departed quickly when a couple of A-10 Warthogs from the Michigan Air National Guard's Red Devils, (*Above*) arrived out of nowhere and made a single hot pass. To finish the ad-hoc airshow, the Yankee's B-25 Mitchell bomber arrived circling the town and came down low enough for some good pictures.

After the parade, we returned to the rendezvous area and caught lunch at a local eatery, before disbanding to enjoy the rest of the holiday.

2017 Events Outline

By Bill Thatcher

For planning purposes, here is a brief list of the events that we have planned thus far. Each event will have at least one point of contact (POC – most will have two) who will liaison with the host(s) and assist with planning and communications.

- **Huron Pointe Sportsman's Assn. Aug 27** www.huronpointe.org
- **Oakland County International Airport Open House Aug 27** www.oakgov.com/aviation/ocia
- **Thunder Over Michigan, Sept 1-4 at historic Willow Run Airport.** Yankee Air Museum's annual event with the Blue Angels, vintage military aircraft, military vehicles, the Battle of Belleville and reenactors along with encampments. This year has an extra day due to Labor Day. www.yankeeairmuseum.org/airshow (Scheel/McConnell)
- **MVPA Route 66 Sept 16 – Oct 15** www.mvpa.org (Shelswell)
- **MIMVPA annual event, Oscoda, MI, August - (Date TBD.)**
- **Autumn Meeting Oct 7** at the MIMTHS museum, 16600 Stephens, Eastpointe, MI. (Forys)
- **Candy Buy Back, St. Clair Shores November 5.** Dr. Wainess' office. Part of Operation Gratitude. (Kitter)
- **Lake Orion lighted parade Dec 2**
- **Rochester Christmas Parade, December 3** (Nattrass)

***Be sure to renew your MVPA membership.
If you don't belong, join up today!***



Motor Muster 2017



Motor Muster 2017

By Rick Forys

Many things could be said about this year's Motor Muster, but the short story is that a relatively typical number of members brought their military vehicles out to the Henry Ford over the Father's Day holiday weekend, and everyone there had a good time. In reality, the only thing that kept us from matching or exceeding our normal numbers was the MVPA National Convention, coming the following week. It was understandably too hard for some to do both.

The weather was the weather. It was hot and it rained a few times which was bad, but that cooled things down a bit, so it was good. The park once again provided facilities and this year also added a hand wash station, and once again MVCCMI engineers provided the camouflage. The public turnout was great, at least in our zone. It appeared that our camp was the busiest area of the entire show, and this fact was later confirmed to us by our museum staff contact.

After all was said and done, our display was still very impressive. It almost seemed to be the most balanced show yet, with the only real light spot being 151 Mutts. This year, we also debuted our new vehicle category marker signs that the club had made by member Tom Coogan. The signs denote time frames, like WWII Vehicles, Korean War Vehicles, and Vietnam Era Vehicles, along with some meant for keeping the public out of vehicles. The signs were fantastic and even came with their own cases! For his efforts above and beyond, Tom was awarded a free one year membership. We also implemented some of our new sandbags, much to the joy of Terry and Ken. They really looked pretty good, too! As for the public voting, Dave and Mary Percell's HEMMT took third, Chuck Graham's M2A1 halftrack got second place, and Ed & Sue's Cadillac was the first place winner.

The somewhat more involved story tells that the park's efforts to downsize the show this year were very successful, with total show numbers



about half of each of the previous five years' shows. Many visitors expressed a great deal of concern over the new direction of the HF, and it seems that somebody was listening. After the show, many of you who registered may have received an email from the museum seemingly expressing some remorse about some of the changes.

As of this time, plans for next year are still uncertain. We have read the emails but the changes that affected us were not addressed. Needless to say that on-site camping is our primary issue, but we will not know anything more until face to face meetings happen later in the year. Stay tuned. *More pictures to come in future Sentinels*



Above Left –Ken, Terry, and Dan McCluskey hump sand bags on the Ho-Chi-Ken trail. Dan & Sandy were our special guests this year, coming in from CA. Above – Ed & Sue's '42 Cadillac took first place. Below – Bill's M38 and Jeff's CJ2A. Note Korea sign.





Above - Jan's award winning M151A2, and Christos's M998

The Cleveland Tank Show- aka
2017 42nd Annual MVPA International Convention
 By Rick Forsys

For years now, the MVPA has considered and tried different ideas to get more public to come to our national gatherings. Besides furthering the mission of promoting our hobby and increasing our grass root numbers, putting on a convention is not cheap, and the public gate, along with sponsors are effective ways to offset the cost. This issue becomes more important as not all recent conventions have paid for themselves, taxing the resources of the organization.

Lately, an idea has floated among the MVPA directors that part of the issue may be what we called the show. Consider, what sounds more interesting, going to someone's convention, or a tank show? With that in mind the 2017 MVPA National Convention became the **World of Tanks Cleveland Tank Plant Homecoming Military Show & Swap Meet**. Members still saw it as our convention, but to the public it was marketed as a military show. Not to mention that the IX was an active factory for many years, and part of the local draw was the opportunity to see this regional

landmark where many of their neighbors and family members worked.

I am very happy to say that all the planning and hard work by our Ohio Motorpool hosts paid off, producing possibly one of the best shows ever. At over 300 military vehicles or displays, it topped the number set at Tobyhanna in 1998 (288), and public turnout was also very good. It was reported that paid admission was just under 14,000, and we passed the financial break-even point at 3PM Friday, making everything after that profit. The vendor area was strong too, (406 tables) with most all of the big names on-site ready for business.

MVCCMI club and vehicle turnout was good, and two members came home with big trophies. In the Motorpool class Ken Kline took a "Veteran" award (98-100% score) with his 1977 Steyr-Puch Pinzgauer 712K, and Jan Nutting stormed the Restored class, grabbing a "Master" award (98-100% score) with her 1971 M151A2 Mutt. Also on display were Bill Nutting's M37 and M934 5-ton, Steve Koenig's M151A2 and cook trailer, Eric Richardson's Ford GP, Chris Scalise's Mutt, and a trio of vehicles from Christos Gryparis; a '58 Avis

Saracen, '75 Mowag Roland, and '86 M998 HMMWV. Terry Shelswell's '52 M38A1 was also on station outside at the toy hauler.

Members also populated the vendor stalls. Chuck Chapman, Ken Kline and Ed Stachurski manned the fort in November section, and Steve Koenig, Mike Brink, and Chris Scalise had tables over in Charlie section, while Chuck Graham and Co. were over on the other side of the vendor area. The biggest MVCCMI event however was when Mike Brink with Chris Scalise assumed command of the colors section for the opening ceremony. Chris led, while "Top" drove the bus from the rear as they marched halfway around the hall and up to the main stage to present colors. Top was back in form!

Anyway you look at it, this was a great show. Plenty of trucks, lots of people, numerous vendors, and more than enough space - all you could ask for. The trip back and forth to the host hotel was short and basically all freeway, and nightly gatherings at the hotel bar were crowded and very lively. As always it was good to see old friends and make new ones. This convention was big fun and I think my favorite so far. My second favorite was the Louisville show and guess what? We go back there next year!



Above – Mike Brink & Chris Scalise take charge of the Colors squad. Below – Steve's M151A2 & Bill's M37.



Terry's M38A1



Chris's M151A2

