

THE EXPRESS



1992 25 Years 2017



THANKS JOHN! LONG TIME MEMBER JOHN
SMAGACH MANS GILBERT TICKET BOOTH

SUMMER - FALL 2017

REDBALL MILITARY TRANSPORT CLUB

Dedicated To The Restoration Of Military Vehicles

President Jim Siglin jrsiglin@hotmail.com
Vice President/Secretary Ron Gardner ron@pequestind.com
Treasurer Mark Genowitz mgenowitz@gmail.com
Sergeant at Arms Bob Rubino milspec@ptd.net
Events Coordinator Jim Gilmore jgilmore@ptd.net

Members at Large

George Caron Dennis Riva
Sven Johnson William Schollenberger

Webmaster

Lisa Russo redballwebmaster@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors

Roger & Christine de Socarras tinear@epix.net

JOIN REDBALL or PAY 2018 DUES

Send Check to Treasurer

Mark Genowitz
20 Joanna Way
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

908-859-4397 Home
908-619-7291 Cell
mgenowitz@gmail.com



New Members \$25.00 first year, Renewal \$20.00/year
Membership runs from January 1 thru December 31.
There is no prorating when joining or on renewals.

Military Vehicle Preservation Association History In Motion			
<small>Since 1976 the Military Vehicle Preservation Association's mission is to provide an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation, public education and display of historic military transport.</small>			
<small>All membership types include Six issues of Supply Line and Four issues of Army Motors annually.</small>			
U.S.A. MEMBERSHIPS	MEMBERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE U.S.A.	OUTREACH SPONSORSHIP	ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS
<input type="checkbox"/> Second Class Postage - \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Economy Air - \$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/> To Organization or School	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S.A. Business - \$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> First Class Postage - \$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> International Economy Air - \$70.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Second Class Postage - \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Business - \$70.00
			<input type="checkbox"/> International Business - \$80.00
MVPA Recruiting Member _____ Membership Number: _____			
Name of Applicant _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ Zip _____			
Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____			
16 Digit Credit Card # _____			
Exp. date ____/____/____ Signature _____			
<small>Complete this application and mail with a check or money order (on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds) to the address below.</small>			
MVPA • PO Box 520378 • Independence, MO 64052			
Phone: (800) 365-5798 • E-mail: hq@mvpa.org • Fax: (816) 833-5115			



"Now Hear This....."

Jim Siglin

As we near the end of our 25th anniversary year, let's pause to think about how fortunate REDBALL has been as a Club and how lucky we are to be a "family" of members. REDBALL members look out for each other, help each other, volunteer when we need help with our Club events, etc. This commitment is grounded in our love for the Club and what "preservation" of military vehicles means to us and so many people, in and out of the hobby.

We are thankful for a great year and for all who have contributed to our success and longevity, a long list indeed.

Special thanks to our past Vice-President/Webmaster Dick Almquist.

Dick recently relocated to a retiree living facility closer to his son near Reading, PA so continuing to serve as a Club officer was not practical.

Dick stepped up to the challenge of creating a Club website and steadily advanced us into the new age of internet. We all wish Dick and family well as they settle in their new surroundings.

Member Lisa Russo has assumed webmaster role, and we look to Lisa now to continue growing our website and its functionality. Thank you Lisa for volunteering.

Some changes ahead in 2018 to our Club events schedule:

REDBALL Winter Show, March 3, 2018, moves to Mount Bethel Fire Hall, Mount Bethel, PA.

Great new location, easy to get there, lots of room.

REDBALL Fall Rally at Gilbert, PA.,
Dates Have Changed. New Dates are
Friday/Saturday - September 21 and 22, 2018.

(Continued on Page 3)

In closing, thanks to all members for your participation in the Club. We carry on in 2018. Your devotion certainly means another 25 successful years of preserving military transport. Your pride in sharing the history and importance of these vehicles with the public continues to “fuel” REDBALL’s success!!!

WW II Weekend Jacobsburg, PA

By Roberta Housel

After the rain stopped, Jim Conway and I went up to the World War II Living History Weekend held by the Jacobsburg Historical Society, 402 Henry Road, Nazareth, Pa. The day turned out sunny with a nice breeze. It was a nice encampment, with music and a tour of the 'Henry' house and gunsmith shop.

Final Jim Thorpe Winter Swap Meet

By Jim Siglin

After many years, this was the last Annual Winter Swap Meet to be held by Redball in Jim Thorpe. Starting March 3, 2018, the Winter Swap Meet will be held at the Mt. Bethel Volunteer Fire Co., Mt. Bethel, PA. This new location will provide more space, better parking, and will be in closer proximity to more lodging.

This year’s show was well attended by vendors and spectators. Most everyone was able to find that needed treasure for their Military Vehicle.



Carl Rustine & Mark Genowitz



The two Misses Kline gave a great demonstration about the English 'Women's Land Army'



Rev. John Uhler from Tatamy Pa. provided the Chaplain's tent.



Captain D. Smith representing the Canadian Army, He's the one with the Red hat.



C. Angello and L Swales were set up under a tent showing how to knit socks with period machines.



Paul Smith came with Cathy Dans in his 1951 Jeep.



Music was provided by the Nazareth Area Community Band.

(Continued on Page 4)



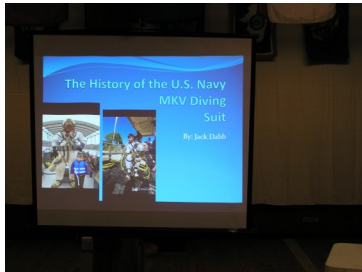
A Weasel, Halftrack with a quad mount, and a Cushman Scooter were some of the display vehicles.



One of the Misses Klein



U.S. Navy MKV Diving Suit



At the Redball June 14th monthly meeting, one of our youngest members, 11 year old Jack Dabb, gave a presentation on the MKV Diving Suit. In addition to a detailed explanation as to how the suit worked and was used, Jack had on display the diving helmet, shoes and weight belt. Jack gave a very knowledgeable presentation and impressed all members in attendance.

July 4 Parade Washington, New Jersey

By Bob Rubino



Sven Johnson's Half Track



Sven's 105 Howitzer



Sven's WC63



Sven's Ward LaFrance



Sven's Ambulance



Sven's CCKW



Carl Rustin's Jeep



Eric Kosalko's CCKW



Bob Rubino's CCKW



Ron Gardner's M35

And Then There were Two (the back stories of Ford GP's # 8853 and # 9455)

By John Headley Jr

As many of we MV collectors know our Government sent proposals to Bantam, Ford and Willys for prototype "Jeeps" in 1941. Only a few prototypes were created, but all three manufacturers went on to build Pre-production models. The Ford rendition was called the "GP". Built only in 1941 these vehicles were distributed in great numbers to China for General Clair Chennault's "Flying Tigers" and to Russia, Australia and other allied countries. Few were left remaining in the states for testing. Two of these vehicles are now fully restored and remain "living" in my shop.

Let's look at their story and how both were saved from oblivion so we can more fully appreciate the tools of our victory in World War II.

Serial # 8853

I actually learned to drive in this GP way back when I was about 8 years old! It originally came from the extensive Aeroflex collection in Andover NJ. Back in the early 1960's. Purchased by a local plumber, then on to the owner of Milton Garage, the local Mountaineer Rod and Gun Club then on to my Dad's brother. When I became interested in MV's, I convinced him to let me rebuild it. That was about 30 years ago so you can imagine its condition after sitting outside in North Jersey weather for about 45-50 years. The floor was overlain with aluminum sheet and the engine was worn out. Many parts were missing. In those days before the Internet, locating parts was by telephone, publications and word-of-mouth only. The restoration began in 1980 and in about 1987 my 5 year old daughter Joanna and I took it for its first road test. As you can see in the photo I have designated it with Flying Tigers 2nd Squadron insignia, the "Panda Bears". Vintage photos show these vehicles were assigned to that group of volunteers.

Serial # 9455

This GP has a longer "backstory". I found out about this "Jeep" from a friend about 20 years ago. It was located in Roanoke, Virginia. We hooked up to the trailer and off we went. Upon arrival the lady owner said it was covered up behind the garage. Her late husband bought it many many years ago and never worked on it. Covered with about 5 layers of tarps, roofing, and plywood paneling, I started digging. Low and behold not just any jeep, but another GP. We made a deal and off we went to Milton, NJ. Again, this example was missing many parts. It was quickly sold to Dick Ivory (formerly Military Vehicles Magazine publisher), since I was very busy at the time and he wanted another project. He collected needed parts for a number of years and sadly passed away before the restoration was really started. Don Swanson (Red Ball member) took over the project and he recently completed a full restoration, a multi-year project. Last week I brought it back "home" and as you can see Eric Kosalko has produced the nomenclature, related artwork and it is designated as the "Flying Tigers" 3rd Squadron, "Hells Angels" unit.

Now looking for another so it can be adorned with the 1st Squadron, "Flying Tigers", American Volunteer Groups, "Adam and Eve" unit.

Got one?

The goal of this hobby is to guarantee that we Americans will never forget the sacrifices of our previous generations to protect and preserve our people and the people from around the world for which we have so generously helped save from oblivion.



Gilbert Show September 15-16 2017

Most of the hard work is completed before the show starts. Thanks to Redball volunteers, the grounds were marked, tents erected and all the details were completed prior to opening for vendors on Thursday. By the time we arrived mid-morning, the swap meet spaces were well on the way to being filled and several display vehicles were on the grounds. All throughout the day there was a steady stream of vendors arriving. This year there was the threat of showers with a period of rain late Thursday afternoon. Friday and Saturday were dry. Well over 300 vendor spaces were filled with military items including vehicle parts, canvas items, storage containers, tools, tech manuals, uniforms, insignias and just about anything else that was of interest to the Military Vehicle hobby were on display.

With over 900 spectator admissions and near 100 display vehicles, this was a very busy show.



Our registration tent manned by Jim Gilmore and Mark Genowitz with a rotating staff of other Redball members was the hub of activity. In addition to checking in vendors and directing them to their spaces, this was the information booth and also the place to purchase Redball shirts, hats, 25th anniversary mugs and several other items.



Early view of Swap Meet as vendors move in to set up



Some early morning shoppers



Redball Member John Lloyd and passenger cruise the Swap Meet



Lots of interesting “stuff” on this table



Redball Member Carl Rustine tours fairgrounds on his scooter. He drove his original Jeep to the Show.



Two large, hand-built, all metal R/C Tanks on display. Running demonstrations were given. Each tank weighs over 100 lbs.

Display Vehicles

A walk in the display field was a mini tour of Military Vehicle history. Items on display ran from Military bicycles to large trucks. The following awards were presented.

Best M Series	Ron Sandt 1973 Sabre
Best WWII Restoration	Joe Ferraro M29C Weasel
Best of Show	Charlie Shoppel M29C Weasel
Judges Choice	Charlie Shoppel M-7 Allis Chalmers Snow Tractor

The following photos are an overview of some of the display vehicles. We thank everyone who brought a Military vehicle to our show.



(Continued on Page 8)

Display Vehicles Continued from Page 7



We met Charlie and Stanley Shoppel as we were admiring their 1944 M7 Allis Chalmers Snow Tractor. It was found in Canada and 291 were made. The tractor is powered by a Jeep engine and transmission. In the photo below, notice the skis on the front that were attached to the front wheel for use on the snow. The tractor was used to pull troops on skis over snow. Charlie and Stanley also brought M29 and M29C Weasels, a XM 501 Hawk Missile Carrier, a 1944 GPW and a Humvee.



Being an antique car collector, the WWII Staff Cars have always interested me. Ernie Baals brought his 1941 Plymouth Staff Car. The car was originally a civilian passenger car. Ernie found a collector who had several contract staff cars that were in terrible rusty condition. At an auction, he did manage to get all the correct contract parts to convert his 1941 Plymouth to a contract staff car.



Our next stop was at a medium sized tracked vehicle. Perched on the top was a young boy, Conner Sandt. As we looked at the vehicle, I asked him if he could tell me about it. He told us that it was a British Sabre and that it was not a "Tank" but a light track communication vehicle. It had a 30mm gun and was powered by a Jaguar engine and could run at 55 mph with a top speed of 70 mph. The Sabre carried a crew of three. It was gasoline powered and had plenty of storage space. This Sabre was built in 1973 and was refitted in 1995. Attached to the Sabre's side was a canvas shelter that was issued with the vehicle to house the three man crew. Ron Sandt, Conner's Dad, imported the Sabre from England and they had it for about three weeks. Since they were still learning about the Sabre, it was amazing that Conner was so knowledgeable. I asked if he had driven it yet, and he said no but I don't think that it will be long before he does.



Another display we found interesting were Military Bicycles brought by Scott Coslett. He had a 1942 Schwinn Cycle Truck that was the type used in the Berwick plant where the Stuart Tank was made. He said his wife's Grandfather was an electrician in the plant and rode one when he worked there. Also on display were other Military bikes including a Huffman Dayton and a Wesfield Columbia model. The Cycle Truck is in the back of the photo with the large basket on the front. The grey bike in the foreground was for the Navy. This proves that you do not need a tractor trailer to move your Military Vehicles.



When Do We Eat?

The old saying is that an Army travels on its stomach. This brings up the question, how do we prepare the meals.

Wikipedia provides the following: Karl Rudolf Fissler of [Idar-Oberstein](#) invented a mobile field kitchen in 1892 that the Germans came to refer to as a *Gulaschkanone* (Goulash Cannon) because the chimney of the stove resembled [ordnance](#) pieces when disassembled and limbered for towing. As technology has advanced, larger trailers have evolved as horses were phased out in favor of motorized vehicles more capable of towing heavier loads. In WWII the [mobile canteen](#) was used as a morale booster in the United Kingdom, fitting in with the culture of the [tea break](#) and in particular as a result of the successful wartime experiment of the [tea lady](#) on productivity and morale. Larger mobile kitchens (now commonly called "flying kitchens" because of the greater speed with which they can be deployed) can service entire battalions of troops.



John Lloyd's MKT-85 Field Kitchen



MKT-85 Set Up with Foul Weather Walls



Center Aisle Cook's Work Station, Field Table With
5 Gal. Cambro Beverage Coffee Dispenser



Looking through Foul Weather Walls at Chow Line



1983 M925 Tow Vehicle with MKT-85 on the right



Dual 4" Griddle Setup with M-59 Field Ranges
and Prep Counter in background



Prep Counter with storage and power cabinet under-
neath. 30 cup/12 cup coffee perker and paper towel
dispenser ready for action.

John Lloyd's MKT-99, Unissued



Above are two photographs of John Lloyd's MKT-99, unissued, as it came from Penn Metal Fab in Ebensburg, PA.

Notice all the original cardboard spacers and plastic wrap. Wish we could find a Sherman in the same condition!

From the Editors

We would like to thank Dick Almquist for all the assistance he gave us when we resurrected the Redball newsletter. Dick answered all of our questions and posted each issue on Redball website. We will miss Dick and all the work he has done for the club.

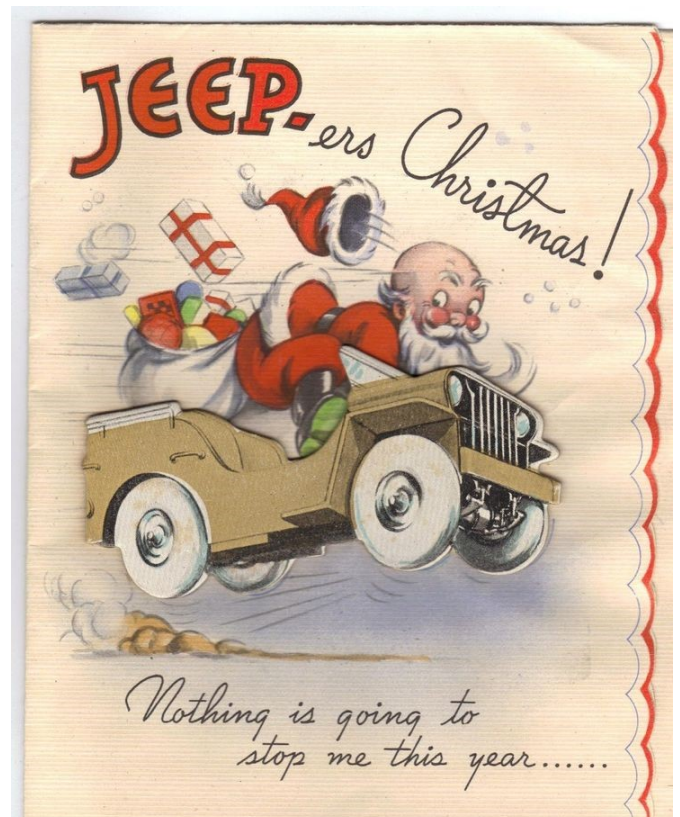
Welcome Lisa Russo as the new Webmaster. Check the web page at redballonline.org for exciting changes.

Jim Gilmore is one of our members we don't usually see unless you attend the Gilbert Show or the Winter Swap Meet. He is the behind the scenes guy who sets up both shows, does the vendor registrations and most of the transparent preparations before the shows begin.

Thanks Jim!

Thanks to all members who have contributed articles and activity reports. You may have noticed this is only the second issue of **THE EXPRESS** for 2017. Partially due to the lack of articles from members, we have decided to publish two issues each year. Each newsletter will probably have 12 pages instead of eight.

Roger & Christine de Socarras, Editors



Send any address changes or corrections to:
Ron Gardner, Secretary
PO Box 114
Oxford, NJ 07863

REDBALL MILITARY TRANSPORT

