

Concours d'Elegance

Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the MVPA

Mission: Dedicated to providing a local organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport.



VOL. 1 NO. 2

CANANDAIGUA, NY

JUNE 2013



Nelson and Pat Thorpe's 1952 Willys M38. Purchased in July, 2007, restored from 2011-2012. This vehicle won an AACA Senior Award in Carlisle, PA on June 1, 2013.

Book Review - LA JEEP – Dans Tous Ses Etats

NORMANDY 60TH ANNIVERSARY BY JIM HUTTON

Veteran of the Month – Major Geoffrey S. Milligan

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – WATERLOO, NY - MAY 30, 2013

My “Army Brat” World War II Willys MB Jeep by Carol Christian

Classified Ads – For Sale, Services and Wanted

News from the FLC President

Next Meeting - July 21, 2013 - Corning, NY

Our first meeting was held at the American Legion, Canandaigua, NY, on May 4th, 2013, at 7PM. We had 11 people attending from as far away as Corning and Ontario, New York. Thanks for making the drive.

Our scheduled speaker, Roy Wildermuth, cancelled his talk due to a family illness. He called on Sunday to say that his mother did pass away. Our warmest condolences go out to him and his family. Roy has offered the AWA as a venue for a future meeting and agreed to give us a private tour focusing on MV Radios.

I think we can all agree our first meeting was a qualified success, as we settled several important issues. We established our general Meeting Agenda as follows:

First half hour as the Meet and Greet Swap Meet. People can socialize and sell or swap parts and goods, starting when people arrive and going until 30 minutes of our meeting time has elapsed. The next 20 minutes, not to exceed a half hour, will be a short presentation by a scheduled speaker. Our short and to the point business meeting will start at the beginning of the second hour.

We agreed that our newsletter will be published electronically on our website. We will be giving out tickets for a door prize each meeting and conducting a 50/50 raffle. We voted on the logo design - the one which contains the 98th Division Indian Head. We established the membership fee of \$20.00, for now, subject to change later as our needs determine. The annual dues will be the same renewed every June. To clarify this, if you join in January, your renewal is still due in June. No pro-rating.

Our membership demographics indicate two clusters of members: one in the South centered around Corning, NY area and the other in the North centered around Canandaigua, NY area. Additional members in other locations could alter this.

The vote was split on whether to have the meetings at the same place all of the time or to move them around. Most seem to favor a public venue, rather than to host meetings at members' homes. We also seem to be split on whether to have the meetings on a weeknight (Thursday is best) or on a Sunday afternoon.

Most were in agreement that we should not schedule the meetings for the first week of the month and that we should meet only in the warmer season, April through October. However the FLC Newsletter will continue year round. *It was agreed we will try a Sunday afternoon meeting in July.*

As an afterthought, we would like to extend an invitation to everyone, on Thursday evenings each week during the summer months, to attend the Wegman's "drive in car show" in Canandaigua where we can park together and have an informal social gathering. This informal event starts around 5PM and goes to dusk. Naturally this will be most appealing to our members who live nearby. Perhaps someone can investigate a FLC - South location and coordinate the same type of event there.

Several members are looking for Military Vehicles and other MV related items and several others are interested in selling their MVs, etc. So please put your wants and for-sale items into words and forward it to our Newsletter editor. Part of the reason for the club is to exchange this type information. Personal classifieds for members are free. Commercial ads will be fee based.

Also, send images of your MV to Dick Senges, the Newsletter Editor, for posting on the FLC website – OCRR@frontiernet.net

We have everything we need to complete the application for national MVPA affiliation except for a Vice President. If anyone is willing to step up and commit to this position, we promise to assist in all ways possible. Please contact Gib Buckbee (585) 747-1515. gibbuckbee@GMail.com

President - Gib Buckbee
177Chapin Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
gibbuckbee@gmail.com



Finger Lakes Chapter Website
www.fingerlakesmvpa.com

Next Meeting
Finger Lakes Chapter
July 2013



What: July Meeting of the Finger Lakes Chapter of the MVPA

When: July 21, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Where: Corning American Legion, 8 River Road, Corning, NY 14830

Phone: 607- 654-7735

Contact: Gerald McDonald gmcdonald@stny.rr.com

Details: No charge.

Large meeting room – seats 30, with large screen TV.

May be a BBQ – *will advise.* *Cash bar.*

Speaker – Bob Kosty on *Military Firearms.*

Bring your military swap and sale items.

Business Meeting: Membership, Event Participation and Meeting Locations.

Veteran of the Month

**Honoring Geoffrey S. Milligan
Captain, New York Army National Guard, Retired
Major, New York Guard**

Geoffrey S. Milligan served in the New York Army National Guard for 22 years, enlisting as a Private First Class in Company D, 2/174th INF, 42nd Infantry Division in May, 1989 and serving until his retirement in July, 2011.

In 2000, CPL Milligan was selected to attend OCS at the Empire State Military Academy. He graduated as the distinguished academic graduate for his class in July, 2001.

As a member of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2LT Milligan served at the World Trade Center as the PM perimeter security OIC, leading a joint group of New York Army and Air National Guardsmen, as well as members of the New York Naval Militia. He was at the West Avenue checkpoint when a major FDNY protest march burst through that checkpoint barrier on 3 Nov, 2001.

In 2002, 2LT Milligan was selected as the Support Platoon Leader for the 1/108th INF, 27th Brigade. He served as the Assistant S-4 for the state emergency Operations Center for ten weeks during this time, as well as participating in three surge missions to NYC. In 2003, 1LT Milligan moved to the 2/108th INF as a volunteer augmentee for the battalion's deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In Iraq, he was convoy commander for over 1,500 combat logistical patrols. He served as the 2/108th's Support Platoon Leader until March, 2005.

1LT Milligan served in a variety of positions in the 1/108th and 427th BSB, including a tour at the CMTC in Hohenfels, Germany as the XO of Company C, 1/108th IN, until his selection as Commander of Company A (DISTRO), 427th BSB, in August, 2006. He remained in this position as the 27th Brigade was activated for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008. In Afghanistan, CPT Milligan again led joint forces: this time consisting of Army National Guardsmen from various states as well as US Navy and US Air Force personnel. Upon redeployment, he was assigned as the S-4 for the 427th BSB and remained in this position until his retirement from the New York Army National Guard.

Immediately following his retirement, CPT Milligan volunteered to accept a commission in the New York Guard, where he currently serves as the S-3 for the 21st Engineer BN. Geoff received many military awards and citations including the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Army Commendation Metal (One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster).



**Thank You
For Your Service**

A Poem for Our Times

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-
out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."



Waterloo, NY May 30, 2013

Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it originated after the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. It is a US National holiday celebrated the last Monday in May. However, the real date is May 30th, which is the date of the parade in Waterloo, NY.

The village of Waterloo, NY, was incorporated in 1824, and again in 1866, the same year it celebrated the first Memorial Day. Waterloo was designated as the official birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all US military veterans.



Military Vehicle Preservation Association member Walt Young drives his jeep in the Memorial Day Parade in Waterloo, NY, May 30, 2013. Walt is joined by two young men – his grandson Nash Ridley and his friend Erik Verdeham.

Notice the belt of .50s on the wire cutter on the front of the jeep and the trailer full of ammo boxes.

One of Walt’s goals in life was to restore an old jeep. He did it and more by honoring veterans in this year’s Memorial Day Parade.

Thanks Walt.



The USS Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



Tim Thornton's M38A1 jeep in the Memorial Day Parade in Waterloo, NY, 2013. An honored veteran sits in the passenger seat.

Note the Ma Duce .50 cal. and radio in the back of the jeep.

Thanks Tim.

Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, Normandy, France.

D DAY - NORMANDY - 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Text and Photos by Jim Hutton



Musée le Mur de l'Atlantique in Ouistreham, France. This museum was originally a German control tower overlooking the Orne River outlet and Sword Beach. It was captured by British troops early on D-Day, June 6, 1944. We saw re-enactors like this everywhere we went in Normandy during the 60th Anniversary of D-Day in 2004.



Arromanches, France, overlooking Gold Beach. The large objects on the beach and out in the channel are remnants of the British artificial harbor, Mulberry B.



Gold Beach in Arromanches. The large object on the beach and the four out in the channel are remnants of the British artificial harbor, Mulberry B.



Musée du Débarquement in Arromanches, France. There are four re-enactors in WWII U.S. Army uniforms standing next to their restored U.S. Army jeep. Although jeeps were the most common vehicle the re-enactors had, we also saw several two and one-half ton trucks, including one with tracks instead of rear wheels. You can see the English Channel in the background.



LA JEEP - Dans Tous Ses Etats
THE JEEP - In Every Possible Condition

Jean - Luc Couesme
Armel Joubert des Ouches
Ghislain Hardier

Publisher: Heimdal 2008

Read French? Not to worry as this book is in both French and English. Well that's almost English as translated by the French into English. It includes some funny words such as earth instead of ground, etc., but very readable.

This hard cover 8.5" x 12" book was a great read, 144 pages, with plenty of color photographs on fine high resolution paper which made the photos very high quality. It has four sections: (1) A Passion for Jeeps, (2) How to Restore Your Jeep, (3) How I Made My 6 x 6, and (4) Africa in a Jeep.

The Forward and the First Section are very short – two pages total - the usual stuff.

Section Two is the guts of the book, pages 7 through 83. This section shows in detail how to restore the engine, running chaise and body of a jeep. The color images are exceptional especially of the engine parts. Most of the section focused on the engine block and components.

Section Three is short, only a few pages describing how the group made their 6 x 6 jeep. Not much detail here though.

The most unusual section of this book (pages 92 – 144) is Section Four which describes a major jeep convoy over the African desert covering 2600 kilometers. It shows how the authors traveled over the desert and their varied adventures. Not something I would venture to do for sure! Great color photographs.

For those interested in the 6 x 6 model jeep, a good read for sure.

MY “ARMY BRAT” WILLYS MB JEEP

Text and Photos by Carol Christian



Above is a photo of my Jeep, the “Army Brat”, a 1942 Willys MB, which I acquired in 2010. The photo was taken at the 2011 Watkins Glen Italian-American Festival parade. The handsome young Marine with me is the son of a good friend.

The cosmetic restoration and some of the mechanical work had been done by a WWII veteran, from whom I bought it. I then put several thousand dollars more into mechanical work. It has provided me with a lot of fun going to parades, car shows, the Geneseo Air Show, and WWII reenactments in Odessa, NY, where I have been the driver for the Allied Commander for the last two years. I started going to the Odessa tactical events eight years ago and soon realized that I couldn't continue to keep up with the younger guys unless I had wheels, and began my search for a Jeep.

Classified Ads

For Sale

JEEP FOR SALE

1953 **WILLYS**

M38A1

Location: Chapin, NY

Route 21 near 488

Contact: Al Hinkley

(585)-396-9523

WANTED

WWII JEEP



1942 – 1945
Willys MB or Ford GPW

Excellent Restoration

WWII Serial
& Casting Numbers

Richard Senges, Victor, NY
(585) - 924 - 8379

OCRR@frontiernet.net