

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. 3 NO. 2

FINGER LAKES REGION OF NEW YORK

APRIL 2015



Bill Sigel, MVPA-FLC member, adjusts the valves on Dick Senges' 1944 Ford GPW jeep. Note the winter upgrades: black split welt rivets, brass dip stick tag, GPW terminal strip, all felt grommets, GPW horn bracket and oil cleaner bracket with felt grommet. Planned additions include: Krackle painted voltage regulator cover with custom *Auto-lite* plate and lead seal, intake manifold with PCV and tubing and cap, oil pressure hose, *Oaks* late 1942 air cleaner and a new exhaust manifold.

FLC News You Can Use

Classified Ads – For Sale & Wanted Items

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association

MVPA – Finger Lakes Chapter Application Form

News from the FLC President – *Jerry McDonald*

Upcoming MVPA – Finger Lakes Chapter Events

Feature Articles/Images

Veteran of the Month
John Howard Senges

MVPA - FLC Breakfast

THE JEEP CHRONICALES – Part I

Adding a Three Star Red Rank Plate

News from the MVPA - Finger Lakes Chapter President

Welcome to Spring?

It seems more like we're in the Arctic than the Finger Lakes. Summer may be on a Tuesday afternoon this year. The good news is we are close to being able to get our vehicles out again. All three of mine ran well on the one day we had sun this month.

The bad news is most of us have let our National MVPA dues lapse. It doesn't need to be warm to send your dues in – Get off the stick and get it done. We could lose our National affiliation if our officers are not National members. The magazine alone is worth the fee.

Now to fun stuff. I have been copying you on the events for which I have been registering in case you'd like to participate with your vehicle. Please include Richard or the rest of us in what you are doing. I know none of us just park these things. The Finger Lakes Affiliate is too spread out to expect we'll all come to everything, but we can participate in small groups in many places. I already have seven parades and other events scheduled for my trucks.

Carol Christian and I are working on a three day / two night bivouac (camp out with picnic) sometime in July-August (the snow should melt by then) in the Watkins Glenn – Odessa area. We'll have some trail rides, military skills training, and a general good time. For the wooses among us, there are motels and B&Bs close by. More to come later.

Summary – get your National dues in and your vehicles running; it's going to be a busy Summer.

Gerald McDonald

President – Gerald McDonald
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gmcDonald@stny.rr.com



Finger Lakes Chapter Website

www.mvpafingerlakes.com

Veteran of the Month

Honoring John Howard Senges

John Howard Senges, uncle of Richard Alan Senges and brother of Major Donald Charles Senges (Richard's father), died December 7, 1947, exactly six years after the Pearl Harbor attack, at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital at age 28.

Howard, as we knew him, enlisted in the Army in July 1941 and served 21 months in the European Theater with the Ninth Air Force.

He graduated from Olney High School in 1937, Germantown Academy in 1938 and from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1946.

Howard is buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.



*Thank You for
Your Service*

THE JEEP CHRONICLES

Restoring a July 5, 1944 Ford GPW jeep

by Richard Senges Part I

Disclaimer

The following series of articles on the restoration of a 1944 GPW are the personal experiences of Richard A. Senges, GPW jeep owner since 2013 and in no way portend to offer any expert advice to the new or experienced WWII jeep owner. It should be noted that some publications, websites, and forums contain wrong and conflicting information.

Rules and Reality

Rule 1 - It is who you know that counts.

Rule 2 - see Rule # 1.

J E E P = Just Expect Every Problem

Just Empty Every Pocket



Special Thanks

First a special thanks to my wife Marsha for putting up with all my jeep talk and for acting as the Recovery Vehicle on several occasions. Also a very special thanks and appreciation to Bill Sigel who has put in many hours of labor and offered much advice on the restoration process. And to Matt Kovacic who helped with various jeep projects and Roger his friend who sourced the jeep.



Acknowledgements

Recovery Vehicle: Marsha Senges

Chief Mechanic: Bill Siegel

Mechanic: Matt Kovacic

Helpers: Marsha Senges, Chuck Senges, Pat Murphy

GPW Advisors: Rich Carine, Tom Wolboldt, Tom Kirn and Bill Kish

MB Advisors: Carol Christian and Michael Giunta

Welder: Doug Ryon

Hardware: Mike at Victor Coal and Lumber

Gunsmiths: Bill Sigel and Frank Vallone



Major Suppliers

Peter DeBella Parts – Peter DeBella

Ron Fitzpatrick Jeep Parts – Ron Fitzpatrick

Army Jeep Parts – George Baxter

Beachwood Canvas – Dan Janquitto

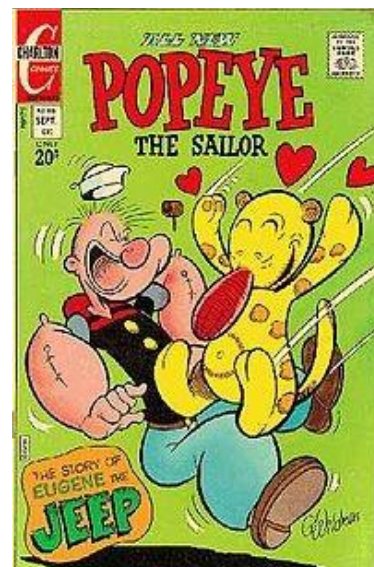
D & L Bensinger - Daryl Bensinger

Jeep Draw – Jon Rogers

Universal Vintage Tire

Rapco Parts and Paint

Others – www.MVPAfingerlakes.org Links Page



Major Information Sources

WWII Jeep Guide , Ren Bernier

G503

www.1944GPW.com

All - American Wonder, Volume I, II, and III, Ray Cowdery

Judging Standard and Restoration Guide ¼-Ton 4x4 Ford GPW 1942-1945, MVPA

Jeep Draw, Jon Rogers

ORD 9 SNL G- 503; TM 9-803, TM-9-1803A, TM 9-1803B

The Military Jeep Model MB – GPW, Lawrence Nabholtz

The Long Olive Drab Line – WWII Jeeps Manual, Palo Batisti

Brian's Military Jeeps of WWII

Portrayal Press

Military Vehicles magazine

MVPA – *Supply Line* and *Army Motors* magazines



Organizations Joined

Greater PA Military Vehicle Historical Society (GPA)

MVPA

MVPA Finger Lakes Chapter

NY-PENN Military Vehicles Collector Club

Ohio Motor Pool

Redball Military Transport Club

AACA

AACA – GVACS

AACA – WD



How I Specified and Sourced the jeep

Back in 2012 when interested in possibly purchasing a WWII jeep, I first purchased Ren Bernier's book "*WWII Jeep Guide*" – a primer on purchasing, owning and enjoying WWII jeeps. Read this book several times and highlighted many passages.

Next step was to join several MV type organizations – see list above "Organizations Joined".

Then to subscribe to several magazines – *Supply Line* and *Army Motors* of the MVPA and also *Military Vehicles* magazine. And to purchase several books on WWII jeeps and to attend the Redball Rally and Sale in PA several times.

And at the same time helped start a local chapter of the MVPA – the Finger Lakes Chapter of which I am the Editor of the FLC newsletter in which this article appears.

Meanwhile a specification was written for the jeep desired and the search went on for 11 months. Then I gave up the search. Why? No current WWII jeep owner I contacted had documentation or knew details regarding what they were selling, such as serial number, casing number, history of restoration, receipts, etc. Or did not want to share.

Then one day Matt Kovacic informed me that his friend Roger saw an ad for a WWII GPW which included significant documentation including all receipts during restoration from 2009 through 2013. To make the story short, I purchased the jeep, a "restored" July 5, 1944 Ford GPW. The last owner had spent significant money on parts and four years on restoration and had the title. The price was negotiated (he lost money) and the jeep was purchased and transported to Victor, NY, June 27, 2013.

The thing I liked the most was that all receipts were kept and filed by vendor, so one could determine what was done, when and by whom. Major work had been completed including an engine overhaul by a known supplier in PA. Also some spare parts, old parts, new parts and some manuals were included.

Since the purchase of the jeep, the owner has keep a *Chronological Journal* of all "Restoration" work completed (2013 through 2015) and all receipts for materials and parts filed by supplier by date. Remember: **J E E P**

The next article in the series will cover select "Restoration" projects with images and text.

MVPA – FLC Breakfast

March 26, 2015, Papa Jack's, Victor, NY



Left to Right: Howard Sabin, Dick Senges, Pat Murphy and Bob Brody.
Tom Perry, not shown, attended the March 26, 2015 breakfast.

Adding a Three Star Rank Plate to a 1944 Ford GPW jeep

by Richard Senges

Red Rank Plate with three silver stars (Lieutenant General) made by the author from an original vintage NY State 1944 (a 1942 plate over stamped with 44) license plate similar to General MacArthur's rank plate (4 stars) of WWII. It is mounted on the front bumper of Dick Senges' 1944 Ford GPW using fabricated brackets painted OD similar to General Mark Clark's jeep of WWII.

Note: Some WWII rank plates were plain red metal plates and some were actual vintage license plates adapted to rank plate use (see *below*). Stars varied from nickel plated metal to white paint.



Example of General MacArthur's red rank plate with four stars. Note that it was a real license plate with 1 USA on the plate.



Another example of an original red rank plate showing three stars. This plate is a plain metal plate with painted white stars.



An original 1944 New York State license plate purchase from *Tag Dr.* on the Internet. This plate is slightly larger and heavier than the license plates of today. Note the second “4” was stamped over a “2”. In 1942 NYS made two plates as usual. Because of the steel shortage, only one plate was mailed out. In 1943 a small horizontal strip was used.

But in 1944 the unused second plate was over stamped with a 4 over the 2, the colors reversed (black over yellow) and the plate mailed out.



Three holes were drilled in the plate where the three stars would later be bolted to the plate.

The 1944 NYS license plate was wire brushed and is ready for the primer coat of paint.



The wire brushed license plate was cleaned with lacquer thinner and painted with red primer paint.



The real 1944 NYS license plate painted red.



The image on the right shows an architectural star as received from the supplier. It is cast iron and very dark. The three stars were wire brushed ground and buffed to make them appear more like the nickel plated original stars. I was unable to procure original looking beveled cast aluminum nickel plated stars of 2 - 2.5", so use the stars.



Three re-finished architectural stars along with brass bolts, star washers and nuts. The stars were wire brushed, ground, buffed and clear lacquered. The brass NBW was painted Ford engine high temp gray to match the stars.



The completed red rank plate with three stars but no bracket or canvas cover.



The next step was to make a bracket to hold the red rank plate to the jeep's bumper. A model of the bracket was first made using corrugated cardboard to make sure all would fit correctly. Note the brackets were evenly spaced. Later this was changed to use two of the existing holes in the license plate and utilize the two existing bumper bolts – see *last image*.



A piece of aluminum was purchased from the local Victor, NY hardware store and formed into the desired bracket by the author.

The bracket design was changed somewhat from the original design to allow the bracket to clear the rope on the bumper.



The image on the right shows the back of the red rank plate and how the brackets were attached to the existing bumper bolts. The *F* marked original bolts were used by just removing one thin washer and substituting the bracket.

The star NBWs on the plate are brass and the bracket NBW are SS. The brackets are off set to minimize the number of holes in the plate. The plate aligns perfectly with the end of the bumper. One bracket had to be ground slightly to accommodate the center star bolt.



A canvas cover was desired to meet the practice of covering the plate or removing the plate when the General was not in the jeep.

One of the guys in the MVPA – GPA volunteered to make me a canvas cover. The cover fit perfectly and has two leather reinforced holes in the rear into which I attached an OD nylon cord securing the cover to the gusset.



Front of the three star red rank plate attached to the July 5, 1944 Ford GPW jeep.

Now I just need a General !



FLC NEWS YOU CAN USE

**To view the
MVPA - Finger Lakes Chapter's**

Newsletters

Officers

Vehicle Images

2015 Events Calendar

Classified Ads

Links

Go to:

www.MVPAfingerlakes.org

UPCOMING
MVPA - FINGER LAKES CHAPTER
2015 EVENTS

April 10-12	West Point, KY – Machine Gun Shoot at Knob Creek
April 30	MVPA – Finger Lakes Chapter Breakfast, Victor Papa Jack’s, 9am
May 2	Barto, PA – Jake’s Military Rally and Flea Market
May 2	Bloomfield, NY – AWA Spring Meet
May 9	Caton, NY – Caton Community Days Event
May 14 - 16	Aberdeen, MD - East Coast Military Vehicle Rally & Flea Market
May 17	Armed Forces Day events
May 25	Marion, NY – Memorial Day Parade
May 25 - 30	Local - Memorial Day Parades
May 26 - 27	Cruise nights start – Macedon, Canandaigua, Pittsford
May 30	Waterloo, NY – Memorial Day Parade
May 2015	Sampson State Park, NY – Military Event
June 5 - 7	Reading, PA – Mid Atlantic Air Museum’s WWII Weekend
June 6	Rochester, NY – Air Show
June 6 - 7	Hemlock, NY - E.S.A.C.A. Gun Show
June 12	Butler, PA – Bantam’s 75th Birthday Bash
June 13	Montour Falls, NY – Fire Department Parade
June 13	Geneva, NY - 7th District American Legion Convention Meeting
June 19-20	Titusville, PA – 3rd Annual Ruhr Pocket 1945 Train/Convoy Battle

For details and a complete 2015event listgo to

www.MVPAfingerlakes.org *Events Calendar*

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

Oaks oil bath air cleaner – “Decal Model” -
early 1942 – for WWII jeep

Tag, brass, one inch, with hole

Winch, *Warn* 18,000 #

Rubber bushing for WWII jeep – cross-over
tube to air horn

Manual for 8 x 8 truck

Spade grips for .50 Cal. MG

Reinforcing plates (2) for under-the-hood
grease gun – WWII jeep

Military canvas bag

NIB fuel gauge for WWII jeep

NIB strainer for WWII jeep

NIB 16” combat wheel for WWII jeep

NOS military jeep GE headlight

M24 Travel bar for 1919A4

NIB Ratcheting tie downs

Terminal strips for WWII jeep

Wanted

Post WWII project jeep

WWII AN-7 spark plugs

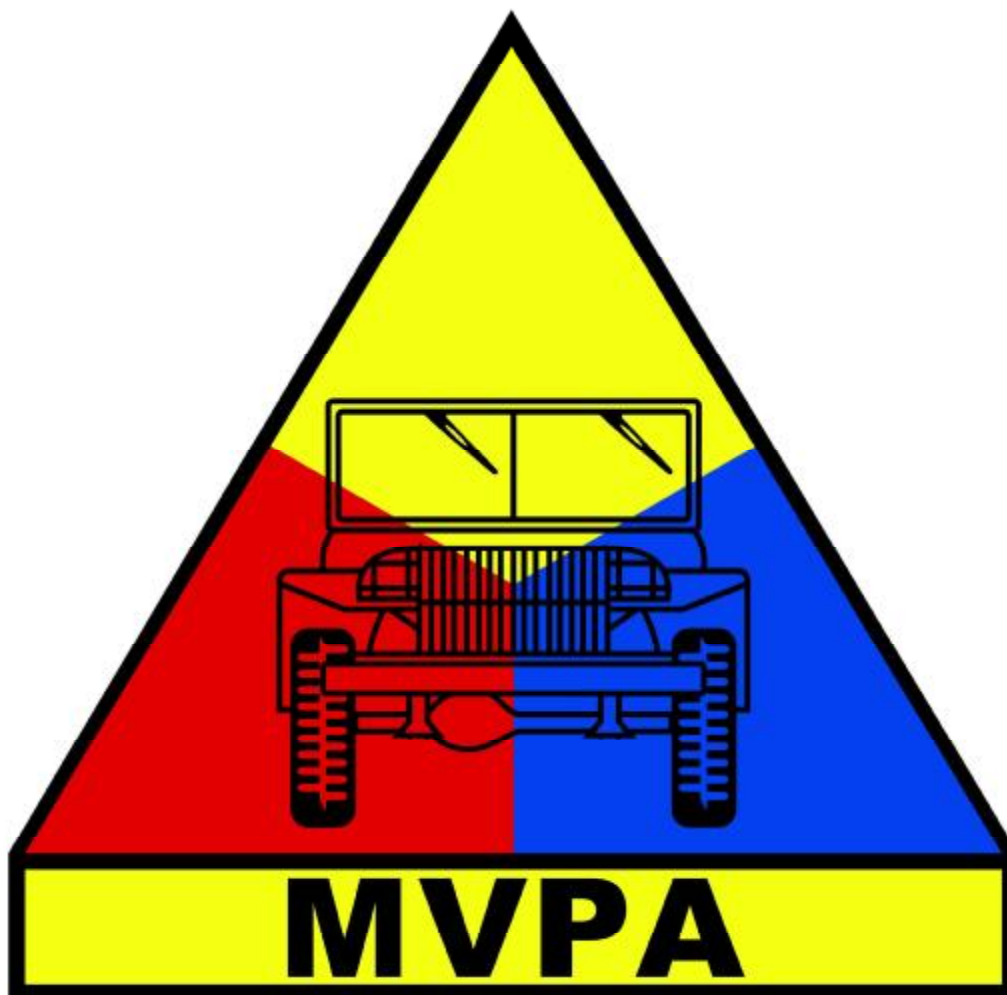
WWII tire pressure gauge

Six volt siren for MB jeep – WWII

Jerry can, five gallon, dated 1944

For details, images and prices, go to:

www.MVPAfingerlakes.org



Join the

Military Vehicle Preservation Association

Go to: www.MVPA.org

FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

MILITARY VEHICLE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

www.mvpafingerlakes.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND ANNUAL RENEWAL



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: Home _____ Cell _____

EMAIL: _____

MVPA (National) Membership Number: _____

WEBSITE: _____

Do you mind if we share the above information with other chapter members? _____

« Please note that FLC-MVPA will not post your information on the Web. »

VEHICLES AND/OR INTEREST

Dues: \$20.00 per year, 1 June thru 31 May. Checks are payable to "Finger Lakes Chapter MVPA"

You do not need to own a military vehicle, be a veteran, or belong to the national MVPA to join the FLC.

Please send this form, with dues, to: Carol L. Christian, 73 Carpenter Rd., Elmira NY 14903

To join the National MVPA, go to: www.mvpa.org