

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THIS MONTH IN PLYMOUTH CALIFORNIA**

**THE**

**WEST COAST**

Participation is Key!

**MILITARY VEHICLE**

**COLLECTOR**

**NEWSLETTER**



**CALIFORNIA**



September Meet  
Plymouth California, Spirit of  
45 San Jose,  
Monterey Con-  
voy, MVCC  
members have  
spoken

**EDITOR: JOHNNY VERISSIMO**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

**VOL. 2026**



Spirit of 45 at History Park in San Jose California, photo by Johnny

**"Spirit of 45" San Jose**

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# MVCC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Chris Thomas, MVCC President**  
(559)-871-6507  
moparacer@sbcglobal.net

If you're a **member** and want to see the **Newsletter in COLOR** you can do so on the **MVCCNEWS.NET website**. Simply log in with your password and view ALL MVCC newsletters in **full color**.

Hello MVCC!

Summer is over and the kids are back in school and pre-covid normal is returning to most things.

This is the last newsletter before the fall meet at Camp Plymouth, the general membership meeting is going to cover many topics so you may want to make the trip just to have your voice heard on the future of the club, the Spring Meet, Fall Meet, MVPA and a host of other topics. I'll say now that change is something we all dislike but is required now and then.

I've been busy with a few events in August, Spirit of '45 in San Jose was a true blast to the past with everyone going all out to make you feel you really are in 1945. Thanks to all the club members who show up with almost a dozen vehicles. I hauled Johnny's Command Car so Ginger Jeep stayed home but next year we'll take a load over on the semi-trailer.

Next up was the Monterey Convoy during Car Week in Monterey. We had a great drive from Pacific Grove to Fort Ord, then a return trip back to MVCC VP Charles Tope's military vehicle collection and lunch. Monterey is packed with supercars and tons of car people during car week. It's a good feeling when someone in \$200,000 + Bugatti gives you a thumbs up in your MV!

Keep'em Rolling

Chris



*Blues Brothers or OD Brothers, Monterey, CA.*

*Chris Thomas truck & trailer, my WC25 in Monterey*



## MVCC STAFF/OFFICERS



**Johnny Verissimo, Editor, Secretary, Quartermaster, Co Treasurer (209)918-0488**  
istanbull@sbcglobal.net



**Christina Verissimo, Treasurer**  
(209) 918-0388  
crstna\_vrsmo@yahoo.com



# MVCC Secretary/ Editor Johnny Verissimo

**Gooooood Mooooorning MVCC members!**

**What's happening in the MVCC?** The Fall Meet! The MVCC Fall Meet is this month in Plymouth California, just 55 miles from Sacramento not far from HWY 99. AND the So Cal Rally put on by the SCMVCC in Southern California.

**IMPORTANT NOTE!** The **MVCC General Membership Meeting** is on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 12 NOON at the open air theater near the pond in middle of Camp 49er RV Park. If you have any questions concerns or comments this is a great way to speak to the board in person. If you would prefer to talk to a board member in private you may do so anytime as that is what they are here for. Myself, your club secretary/editor, I'm around via my email, cell phone or at Camp Plymouth anytime. If you don't know who your representative is for the area you live in just ask myself and I'll introduce you. If you can't get a hold of your Rep then get a hold of myself, Johnny...

The MVCC Board Meeting will be at 10AM Friday morning before the General Membership Meeting. The board meeting is strictly for the board members only.

**Quartermaster/Club Booth:** Don Gomes (Quartermaster,VP) Christina Verissimo (Treasurer) and myself Johnny Verissimo will be at the Fall meet on Friday. We will have the club trailer at the fairgrounds for any needs you might have including Tshirt/merchandise sales.

**Vendors/Sellers-**I wanted to make a comment about vendors and sellers that come to the MVCC meets. I wanted to say THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone that brings stuff to sell at our events. I don't know if the event would be the same without you guys. When you see a vender or a seller remember the hard work it took them to get there. As a seller you got to load up, haul it over, unload, display, load up, haul it home and unload. Every sell/vender I've ever talked to loves what they do and I wanted to let them know we love what you do too. If you're a vendor /seller and are planning on being at one of our events please let me know what your site number is and I'll get it in the newsletter.

Thank you to everyone that took the time to send in your MVCC poll. Thank you. I'll post the results in October newsletter.

**Not sure if everyone has heard the news but I'll remind you:** There will be a *World War 2 Jeep Showcase* and a *Military Dodge Showcase* at the 2023 MVCC April Spring Meet. POC is Johnny Verissimo(me). If you have a WW2 Jeep in any condition we want you there with your jeep. If you have a military Dodge we want you there! There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place award in both showcases. Voters will be the attendees of the event. Please bring them in any condition and have fun! The showcase isn't really about the awards as it is about bringing your Jeep or Dodge to be displayed at the showcase. Believe it or not there are still tons of people restoring GPW/MB's/Dodges and the showcase gives them a chance to see the vehicles in person and maybe help them with their own vehicles. When you bring your MV to a showcase its like a public service to other MV's. So if you have one of the vehicles in the showcases please consider bringing them to the event and displaying them for everyone to see and help us put on an excellent event for you.

**Advertising:** Apparently advertising is important to most MVCC members so the MVCC has laid down the work/ date for the MVCC April 2023 Spring Meet. Enclosed in this newsletter you will see an ad for the MVCC Spring Meet 2023. This is the earliest the MVCC has ever advertised the MVCC April Event in attempts to give everyone a chance to plan 2023 in advance. Advertising early will help folks plan out their 2023 calendar and let people know we have already started planning our main event. Advertising will make most folks happy and keep people informed both inside and outside our bubble (our community of military vehicle owners and history buffs.)

We took part in two military vehicle events this past week. One was the Spirit of 45 in San Jose and the other was "The Monterey Convoy" in of course Monterey and included Pacific Grove and Fort Ord. Article in this newsletter. I recommend these two events strongly. I know Christina, Chris Thomas and I will be doing these two events again in 2023 that's for sure.

See ya'll in a couple of weeks.

Any questions, concerns or comments hit me up... ohnny Verissimo



Christina and myself at Spirit of 45 in San Jose

# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL(-ISH) MEETING (AND SWAP EVENT)



"... AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, REQUISITION A SMALLER RADIO!"

## COLLECTOR'S GROUP

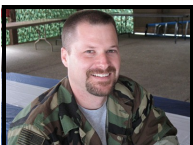
### GENERAL INFORMATION FY2022

- **WHEN: OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup>**
- **WHERE: CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO**
- **ACTIVITIES: SEMINARS, PANCAKE BREAKFAST, RADIO OPS, SWAP MEET, CAMP SLO MUSEUM, WALKING HISTORY TOUR OF CAMP SLO, T-SHIRTS, SILENT AUCTION, STORIES (LIES AND MORE LIES), MILITARY VEHICLE CARAVAN**
- **PLAN OF THE DAY: (STAY TUNED)**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**BILLETING ON BASE (CAMPGROUND OR ROOM):** (805) 594-6500, <https://calguard.ca.gov/cslo/>

**RSVP, MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT** – Craig Vonilten [N6CAV], [ic897d@gmail.com](mailto:ic897d@gmail.com)



Webmaster: Sean Nichols - etnoise400@hotmail.com

www.mvccnews.net (775)-424-3813

Hello MVCC'ers!

I hope this finds all of you in good health and great spirits while getting ready for the Camp Plymouth Fall Meet! I know your Board has been working hard behind the scenes to put together another fantastic MVCC club meet.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of vacation time, and the cost of EVERYTHING, Nik and I will not be able to attend this year. So, I expect all of you to buy something extra from the vendors to help pick up my slack. □

As far as upcoming opportunities to bring out the MVs here in Northern Nevada, our local group will be participating in the Labor Day Parade in Virginia City, a car show or two, the Nevada Day Parade in October supporting Nevada Honor Flight, and then back to Virginia City for the annual Veteran's Day Parade in November.

I hope all of you can get your vehicles out this Fall in your local area to support veterans and share the history of your vehicles with the public.

Keep 'em Rolling,

Sean



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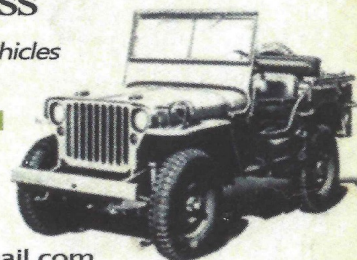
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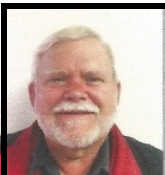
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### Mother Lode Detachment 1080

Nathan Moeller  
Cell 916 717 7604

0311usmc8152@gmail.com



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Dave Porter (Northern Region VP) Divisions 530 & 916, 279

dnporter56@comcast.net (530)-677-5115

Not much news to report on the vehicle front. With Camp Plymouth coming up, I'm turning the writing this month over to my wife to talk about some interesting places near our venue where you can drive and show off your vehicles. If you have questions about places in the area, feel free to message Nancy at 530-391-5650 or leave a note for Nancy or I at Cabin 10 Wed-Sat at the 49'er.

Of course, people love to see the vehicles at the Pokerville Market across the street from the 49'er. And, I know several of you have been seen at Marlene and Glen's Diner at the roundabout intersection of Hwy. 49 and Shenandoah Road. Here are a few other driving destinations to keep the fluids in your vehicle moving and so people can enjoy seeing our running history.

Thursday afternoon from 4 to 7 pm, there will be a Farmers Market on Main Street. It's at McGee Park on Main Street - between Hwy 49 and Empire St. Food, wine, fresh produce, baked goods, etc. will be available. It's a small-town country market.

We don't recommend drinking and driving but you may want to stop into Amador Brewing Company. Address is 9659 Main Street (at the Hwy 49/ Main Street roundabout take the direction that says Shenandoah Road). They're open for to-go purchases Monday - Thursday afternoons. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the taproom's open and a local caterer has food to eat onsite. Friday 1-8 pm, Saturday 11:30-7 pm, Sunday 11:30-6 pm. If no parking right at the brewery, there's a big lot across the street.

If you see a wine that's labeled "Shenandoah Valley", that means it's from the Plymouth region of Amador County. Did you know there are over 40 wineries throughout Amador

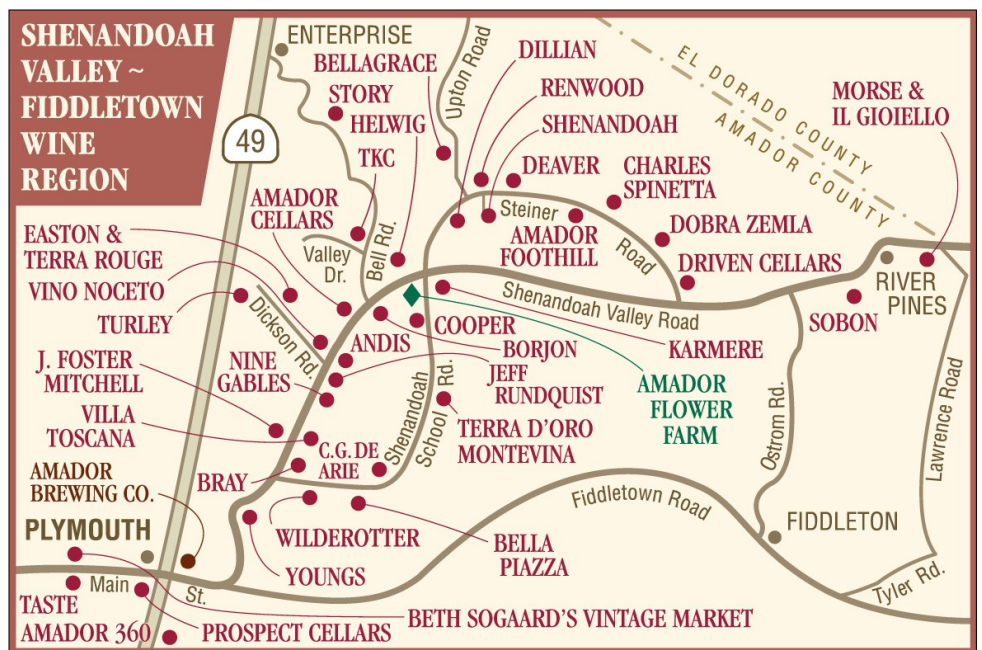
County, many winning gold and silver awards? Most wineries are open Thursday - Sunday afternoons. Some request that people call ahead if they want to eat at the wineries but all are very welcoming of those who want to stop in to enjoy the view and possibly taste. There are wine maps online and often in the office at the 49'er. We'll see if we can get some maps and have them on the porch of Cabin 10 from Wednesday afternoon onward.

Some wineries of note: Shenandoah - oldest winery in the county and a spot with amazing views. Karmere - wonderful views, sparkling wine as well as the standard wines, and some pretty fun plant sculptures. Helwig Winery - also great views; no concert that weekend in the amphitheatre. Driven Winery - a place we've visited on poker rallies and seen the old vehicles is now open for tasting only on Saturday and Sunday from 11 - 5. (How about a visit through the countryside to Driven on Saturday after the general meeting?)

Like bluegrass and other fiddle music? On Saturday, Sept. 17, the annual Fiddle Jam in Fiddletown will be the big happening in the area. You can enjoy the music from 11 am - 5 pm. The music is free. There will be beer, wine and country bbq as well as tours of the historic buildings there. The Celtic Candy store may be open for treats, too. Parking is limited. Their website suggests carpooling and says parking is about a block away. We've been to Fiddletown in past poker rallies - a quaint place with loads of history.

Amador City can be a fun place to wander around, look for antiques and have some lunch.

Volcano is a little farther out. This historic gold mining area is the home of Black Chasm Cavern and Chaw'se Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park. If you didn't go to Black Chasm with us last year, you might want to take a drive and explore the area this year. Let us know about your sightseeing adventures in Amador County.





Scott Rohrs, (North. Bay VP) West Divisions 707, 415, 628

415-259-8177 recon3rdid@yahoo.com

Hello North Bay West and beyond,

Greeting from the 6 Rivers National Forest. As I write this, I am assigned to the Lightning Complex out of Willow Creek, Ca.

Before I was "volun-told" to come up here, I was with member Ernie Ongaro and our Norwegian buddies attempting to tackle the Rubicon Trail with their modified M38's and a tribute MB. Let me back up, last year at this time, Ernie had told me about his Rubicon Trail trip he took with his newly trail modified M38. I was jazzed about the idea of taking a very lightly modified M38 across the trail. I told him to count me in for next years trip. Fast forward, Ernie had been prompting me about my progress on the Jeep. I had plans of swapping engine, lifting the jeep with shackles, and locking the front differential. Well as the date approached, I had none of that done! So. .... I said well, I really want to do this and I defaulted to my 1977 CJ-7 to join the convoy with another vintage jeep. I loaded the jeep and took off from napa. Jeep ran great up to Truckee where Ernie has a vacation home. They had already been on the trail for two days vetting the jeeps for the true test! The jeeps did well and were ready for the next two-day adventure. I arrived in the evening and after "show and tell" and a few drinks we were in the sack and ready for the next day's adventure. We had a beautiful morning drive around the lake and over Echo Summit, down Hwy 50 to Icehouse Rd. We arrive at Loon Lake and the trail head. They unloaded the jeeps and we all aired down the tires. The night before they all assured me that my jeep should make it. Dave Aro said that I would come home with some dented panels though! I was ok with a bit of battle damage, but I didn't want to beat my trail jeep across the Rubicon if I didn't have to. The other thought in my mind was breaking something while in the trail and not being able to get it out! I had been wanting to do this trail for over 25 years (since high school) and now the test was about to begin. With 15PSI in each tire we started out. As we entered the trail it was just as I had envisioned from all the pictures and videos that I had seen. Pure granite rock creeping up and over the smaller boulders. As we approached the first rough section about a 1/4 mile in, the M38's and the tribute jeeps went right through, no problem. I was up next, I started in and the straight section was fine. The first turn to the left I made I was on the frame. So, I backed up and we stacked a few rocks and I mashed it and got high centered on my crossmember. At that point I had to assess whether to proceed with this beating. I already was holding up the convoy and at that point I made the decision to "tap out"! As if on cue, Dave Aro says "well that is the reason they call this first section the Gate Keeper, because it does get any easier than this"! I had to bid farewell to my buddies and "lick my wounds" and head for the barn. I have been telling everyone that the "Gate Keeper" said come back when you get taller! I will be back with my M38 next time and ready complete the challenge.

Stay tuned sports fans! Keep you powder dry,

Scott Rohrs



Photo 3 Scott's CJ7 "getting his ticket pulled" on the first section of the Rubicon Trail. The Gate Keeper says NO!

Photo 1 & 2 Ernie and the Norwegians unloading at the Rubicon Trail Head.



### MVCC WAGON MISTRESS JOANN LESSER

[mveccampmistress@yahoo.com](mailto:mveccampmistress@yahoo.com)

*No report submitted*



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*No report submitted*



Andy Shyers (East Bay VP ) Divisions 510, 925, 341

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*No report submitted*



Don Gomes, (Central Valley VP) MVCC Quartermaster, Divisions 209,559,661,760, 442

(209)765-1273 [caddymanwestside@yahoo.com](mailto:caddymanwestside@yahoo.com)

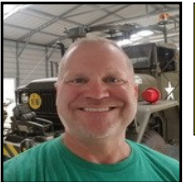
*No report submitted*



Charles Tope (Central Coast VP ) (408)857-5218

Divisions 831, 805, 820 ,408 South. [ctope@employnet.com](mailto:ctope@employnet.com)

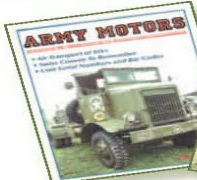
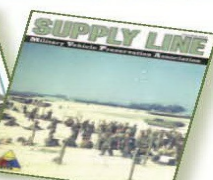
*No report submitted*




Mike Fedyk, (North Bay VP East, Divisions), 707, 415, 628 916-809-2969

[bigmike405@hotmail.com](mailto:bigmike405@hotmail.com)

*No report submitted*



### Military Vehicle Preservation Association

History In Motion

*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.*

**All membership types include all MVPA Periodicals**

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Complete this application and mail with a check or money order (on a U.S. bank in U.S. funds) to the address below.

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Phone: (800) 365-5798 E-mail: [hq@mvpa.org](mailto:hq@mvpa.org) Fax: (816) 833-5115





**MVCC Sept 11 to Sept 18 Camp Plymouth Registration**  
**FALL MEET**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

MVCC Member – Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes member # \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

49er RV Resort, 18265 HWY 49 Plymouth, Ca. 95669 (209)245-6981

**4 night minimum stay Sept 14 to 17th** at 49er RV Resort– No tents at 49er RV Resort

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check Out Date \_\_\_\_\_ **Payment in full paid to Camp 49er by 8/10/2022**

Assigned Site # / # of Nights /	Description of Site, Pick one	/ Per Night /	Total
	RV Standard(abt \$57.-\$63.)- _____ RV Premium (abt \$65.-\$73.) _____ Studio Cabin (\$abt \$30.-\$160.) _____  Waterfront (abt \$30.-\$160.) _____  1 -2 Bed Cabin (abt \$190.-\$235) _____	<b>Confirm rate when making deposits</b>	<b>Confirm rate when making deposits</b>

**Amador County Fairgrounds, 18621 Sherwood St. Plymouth, Ca. 95669**

No minimum stay for **dry sites**, no RV's, 1 vehicle & 1 tent per site, 4 night stay for water/electric sites Sept 14 to Sept 17 2021

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check Out Date \_\_\_\_\_ **Payment in full to MVCC**

Assigned Site # / # of Nights /	Description of site, Pick one	/ Per Night /	Total
	(\$35) Dry Tent – Military _____ Civilian _____ (\$35) Dry Car – Pickup Camper _____ Utility Trailer _____  (\$45) Water/Electric – Tent ___ Military ___ Civilian ___ (4 night stay for Water/Electric) No RV's		

**No refunds after September 5<sup>th</sup> 2022** Com-

ments:

**Fairgrounds camping payment should be made to** Military Vehicle Collectors of California, 2714 Peartree Lane, San Jose, Ca. 95121 C/O JoAnn Lesser .

For more information: [mvcccampmistress@yahoo.com](mailto:mvcccampmistress@yahoo.com)

All vehicles operating on public roads must be currently registered/ have insurance coverage.

*In consideration of the acceptance of the right to participate, participant and spectators, by execution of this entry form, release and discharge the producers of any and all known or unknown damages, injuries and or losses. **No live firearms displayed or sold, no live ammunition displayed or sold.***

Please Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

***For MVCC office use only:***

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**September 11 thru Saturday September 17, 2022: MVCC Fall Meet in Plymouth California.** As usual 4 night minimum stay beginning Wednesday. More info in this newsletter.

**September 28 to 2nd October 2022 –SCMVCC is having their fall meet.** So Cal Rally. Lytle Creek, Bonita Ranch Camp-ground. 900 S. Fork Rd. Lytle Creek, California. Richard Johnson (619)993-5284. [www.scmvcc.com](http://www.scmvcc.com) more info in flyer in this letter

**October 6 to 8, 2022 –**West Coast Military Radio Collectors Group 25th Annual Meeting and Swap Meet. At Camp San Luis Obispo. For more information contact Craig Vonilten (N6CAV) [ic897@gmail.com](mailto:ic897@gmail.com) or check their flyer in this newsletter

**November 6, 2022 - Tri-Valley Veterans Day parade.** Its theme is "Military Medic's and Corpsmen". POC Andy Shyers 510-832-4322 [mvcc510925@gmail.com](mailto:mvcc510925@gmail.com)

**November 11<sup>th</sup> 2022** -Porterville Veterans' Day Parade sponsored by the Porterville American Legion. Line-up is at 8AM, parade starts at 10AM. If interested contact Richard Rietkerk at [richardrietkerk1@yahoo.com](mailto:richardrietkerk1@yahoo.com) or 559-737-1388.

**November 11<sup>th</sup> 2022** -Lemoore Veterans' Day Night Parade sponsored by the Lemoore American Legion. Line-up is at 4PM, parade starts at 6PM. If interested, contact Corey Firman at [firmanc@hotmail.com](mailto:firmanc@hotmail.com) or 253-267-2456.

**November 11th 2022** –Verterans Day Parade, Downtown Gustine, CA. Meet at my house 9AM, parade starts at 11AM, after parade we drive to San Joaquin Valley Nation Cemetery to pay our respects. POC Johnny Verissimo (209)918-0488. [istanbull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:istanbull@sbcglobal.net)

**April 19 to 22 2023 - The MVCC April Spring Meet in Plymouth, California!** Showcases, vender, sellers, buyers, military vehicles, parts, military memorabilia, Look for ad in this newsletter. Also get more info on the [www.mvccnews.net](http://www.mvccnews.net) Chris Thomas (559)871-6507. This is the biggest military vehicle meet on the West coast. All are welcome!

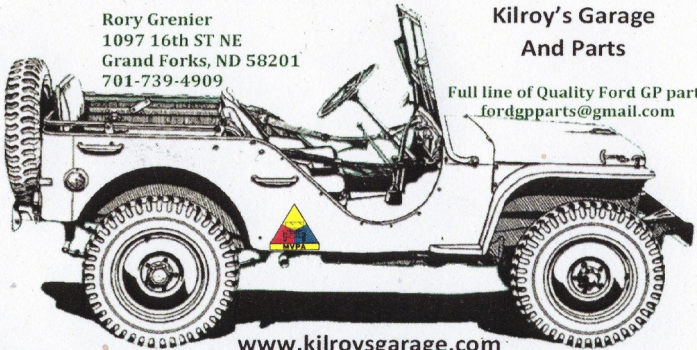
Prices for running a business card is \$70 a year. That gets you a business card in 12 monthly newsletters that reaches 500 Military Vehicle Collectors of California Members. Contact our newsletter MVCC Secretary for more information and prices. You can also do a 1/4th page, 1/2 page or full page ad. You can reach the MVCC Secretary at [istanbull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:istanbull@sbcglobal.net)

If you have any questions or have information regarding a meet or activity in your area, contact your regional vice president or any of the officers to let them know. Be sure to visit our website for any last minute activities or changes to activities/events. Please submit information regarding upcoming activities to the newsletter editor at least two months before the scheduled event. All articles must be submitted to the newsletter editor by the 14th of each month. MVCC News Editor Johnny Verissimo, (209) 918-0488 [istanbull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:istanbull@sbcglobal.net) or [www.mvccnews.net](http://www.mvccnews.net)

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**Larry Pirack, President & Curator**

[AlamedaNavalAirMuseum.Org](http://AlamedaNavalAirMuseum.Org)

## PRELIMINARY Fall Daily Briefing (As of 1 Aug 2022)

**Camp Plymouth – 14 Sept to 17 Sept 2022**

**Covid Guidelines per current Amador County requirements**

**ALL WEEK – Swap Meet is open!** Please check at RV sites and cabins at the 49'er RV Resort AND throughout the Tent Sector at the Fairgrounds next door for an amazing selection of items. Vendors **MUST** be in rented campsites, cabins or official tent spaces.

### Wednesday, Sept 14

Swap Meet Happening!!

### Thursday, Sept 15

Swap Meet Continues!!

**1400 – WOMEN OF THE MVCC GATHERING (Onsite).** Shaded Patio near the 49'er café. (Check back of café first to see if we're there since it tends to stay shady there.) Due to Covid concerns, we won't be sharing food as has been done in the past. But come to visit - bring your own beverage.

**1600-1900 - PLYMOUTH FARMERS MARKET,** Food, Wine, Fruits, Vegetables, Baked goods. Main Street in Plymouth.  
**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

### Friday, Sept 16

Swap Meet Continues!!

**0930 to 1430 – WOMEN'S LUNCH AND SHOPPING EXPEDITION TO HISTORIC PLACERVILLE.** Leave @ 9:30 am from the front entrance of the 49'er. We will be heading to brunch at Sweetie Pie's in Placerville, then have time for some boutique and antique shopping. Nancy P will be presenting a talk for the Sierra Renaissance Society about Gold Rush family stories and genealogy tips at 1:00 PM (1300) at the Lion's Hall on Missouri Flat Road. If anyone wants to attend this free presentation, they are welcome. POC – Nancy Porter (530-391-5650)

**1000 -- MVCC BOARD MEETING –** Ampitheater (west side of the 49'er – between the inner and outer camping circles) Bring your own chair (BYOC). Rec Hall if rain. **Board members only meeting**

**1200-1500 – MVCC HEADQUARTERS & SUPPLY TRAILER OPEN - Tent Sector.** Contact Don Gomes or Johnny Verissimo if you want to help with set-up and staffing.

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

**1200 - General Membership Meeting - Ampitheater. Bring your own chairs. Meeting is for all MVCC members**

### Saturday, Sept 17

Swap Meet Continues!! Time for those last-minute finds!

By Nancy Porter



*US Navy, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, WW2*

## Restaurant Possibilities near Camp Plymouth

If you don't want to eat all your meals at camp, there are several possibilities for food nearby. Here are some of the places you might want to check out.

**Deli at the 49'er.** Check on the door at the 49'er location for dates and times. Breakfast sandwiches, lunch items, ice cream, coffee, local beer and wine, and more.

### **Deli at Pokerville Market**

18170 State Highway 49, Plymouth - across the street from the 49'er and ¼ mile to the south. Hours should be 8 am to 8 pm every day except Sunday. Sunday hours are 9 am to 7 pm. A great place for Sandwiches, Pizza, Desserts, etc. and a wide variety of local beer and wine.

### **Marlene & Glen's**

18726 State Highway 49, Plymouth - At the Roundabout at Hwy 49 and Shenandoah Road. Open for Breakfast and Lunch – 7 am to 2:30 pm on Wed - Sun.

### **Amador Vintage Market**

9414 Main Street, Plymouth. Run by local caterer Beth Sogaard so excellent food. (It's the place with the red outdoor umbrellas on Main Street). Open Fri – Sun, Noon to 5 pm.

### **Donut Street Café**

17830 State Highway 49, Plymouth. (Just south of Pokerville Market)  
Breakfast Sandwiches, Bagels, Donuts and Coffee. Open daily – 5 am to 2 pm

### **Colina de Oro**

Mexican Food. 17810 State Highway 49, Plymouth. (Near the Shenandoah Inn)  
Open daily – 11 am to 8:30 most nights, but till 9 pm on Friday and Saturday

### **Taste**

This Zagat-rated restaurant and wine bar is a place for special occasions. Pricey.  
9402 Main Street, Plymouth. Hours are Fri – Sun 4:30-9 pm, Mon and Thurs 5-9 pm.  
Reservations recommended.

**These places are outside Plymouth but reasonably close for a drive and meal:**

**Sutter Creek: Cavana's Pub & Grub** on Main Street for Tues-Sat, 11 am – 8 pm. Shorter hours Sunday and closed on Monday. (MVCC women have been there for lunch). Also **Gold Dust Pizza** at 20 Eureka Street (near Main Street). Open daily 11 am – 8 pm.

**Amador City: Restaurant at the Imperial Hotel.** This landmark hotel dates back to 1879 and is open for brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am-2 pm. Dinner is served Tues - Sun starting at 5 pm.

**El Dorado: Poor Red's** historic roadhouse is at the intersection of Hwy 49 and Pleasant Valley Rd, fifteen miles north of Camp Plymouth. Famous for their Golden Cadillac drinks, they specialize in steaks, ribs, chicken and burgers. Open Wed, Thurs and Sun 11 am to 9 pm. Friday and Saturday hours are 11 am to 10 pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

**28<sup>TH</sup> - 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**SEP OCT**

**SCMVCC**

**SO CAL RALLY**  
**2022**



**LYTLE CREEK**

**BONITA RANCH CAMPGROUND**

900 S Fork Rd. Lytle Creek, CA 92358

**FRIDAY**

- BBQ Lunch
- Dinner

**SATURDAY**

- Membership Meeting @ 10am
- Jeep Run
- BBQ Dinner

\*Coffee & Pastries Each Mornings

For Camping Reservations

Contact Richard Johnson

**619.993.5284**



[www.scmvcc.com](http://www.scmvcc.com)

## M15 Half Track at Eagle Field by Johnny Verissimo

The M15 half-track, officially designated M15 Combination Gun Motor Carriage, was a self-propelled anti-aircraft gun on a half-track chassis used by the United States Army during World War II. It was equipped with one M1 automatic 37 millimeter gun and two water-cooled .50 caliber M2 Browning heavy machine guns. ([Wikipedia](#))

So I was at Eagle Field in Dos Palos the other day when I spotted what looked to be a WW2 half track that was missing the rear body. As I got closer I was like “NO WAY!” I started looking around and found that it was not missing much because this is a M15 half track that mounts a 37mm AA gun and only the gun and gun carriage is missing!!! I was like “WOW!”

With only 2,332 built from 1942 to 1944 its rare and kinda cool.

So after admiring it for a while I took some photos and here they are. I have to say she looked very good and pretty complete for someone of her age. I was impressed.

Johnny



To the right: M-15A1 Combination Gun Motor Carriage, Fort Lewis Military Museum, Fort Lewis, Washington, USA

Photos by Johnny Verissimo

# Military Vehicle Collectors of California Merchandise 2022



Front

Back



## 2022 MVCC Camp Plymouth

T-shirt. This year we chose A  
WW2 Theme, Olive Drab T-shirts  
Size: S,M,L,XL - \$22 each  
Size: XXL, XXXL - \$25 each

## Zip Up Hoodie Sweaters, Limited Edition, ONLY 20 MADE!

Sizes: S,M, L, XL - \$65 each (Sold out)  
Sizes: XXL, XXXL - \$70 each (Sold out)  
(Olive Drab Color)  
Limited Quantities, Call Don Gomes for pre-orders  
(209)765-1273

**Everything will be for sale at Camp Plymouth 2022! Come by and check out the MVCC HQ Store for more**



45th Anniversary  
4 inch Patch  
\$8.00 each



40th Anniversary  
MVCC Patch 4  
inch  
\$4 each



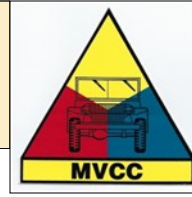
25th Anniversary  
MVCC 4 inch  
patch  
\$3 each



MVCC Patch  
3 1/2 inch  
\$4 each



MVCC  
Magnate  
3 inch  
\$4 each



MVCC  
Sticker  
3 inch  
\$2 each



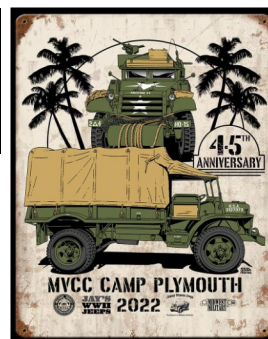
MVCC  
Sticker  
2 inch  
\$1 each



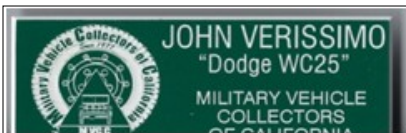
MVCC Antenna  
Flag  
Custom Made!  
\$30 each



MVCC  
Hats!  
\$20  
each!



2022 Camp  
Plymouth Artwork  
Metal Sign.  
11.5 X 14.5 size  
\$25 each



Custom  
MVCC  
Name  
Badge  
\$10 each

MVCC License Plate \$15



**How to purchase:** You can email or call your order in to **Don Gomes(209)765-1273**. He will let you know if its in stock and give you a shipping quote. **How to pay:** Check or Money order. The club is working on getting a paypal account but its not ready yet. **Shipping:** Average shipping is \$6.99 but if it's a really small order it can be less or if it's a large order it might be more, out of country is more. **Ships from Gustine, Ca.** Email at [istanbull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:istanbull@sbcglobal.net) Any questions please ask! WE also have a few previous years event tshirts and other stuff like coffee mugs etc. **Mail payment to MVCC**, Christina Verissimo, 850 Elm Ave, Gustine, Ca. 95322

# CLASSIFIEDS PAGE 1

**FOR SALE** - COMPLETE and WORKING radio for Jeep. Transceiver BC 659, 5 spare tubes, telescoping antenna, handset, ear-phones type 49456, battery BA-41, alignment tool, Spare front plate, manual. Power supply PE 117, including cable and case with 7 crystals (2) Battery boxes CS-79-N (no batteries) Anti-shock mounting FT-250-A plus legs. Jeep-mounted antenna (6 piece antenna in bag, antenna base, mounting bracket to Jeep). Junction box and under seat tube for connecting power supply to Jeep battery, interference suppressor (no cover) \$ 1,400. George Cooper, [gcooper@berkeley.edu](mailto:gcooper@berkeley.edu)

**For Sale:** GPW Engine, Serial Number 144723, no manifolds. GPW block and parts, Serial Number 18971. CJ-2A complete frame with front and rear differentials with 15" Jeep wheels. Contact Alvin Rentsch (707)972-8726

**Wanted:** M151A2 manuals, Brad Carrott **Wanted:** RT-524 and RT-442 Radio's set. **For Sale:** Small Siren 24volt for a military Jeep.\$450.00 **For Sale:** M151A2 NOS steering wheel. \$170.00 Contact Brad Carrott (831)345-0372

**For Sale**—M-37 Dodge, 1953, for sale. Santa Cruz, area. \$5800. Call 831-588-3866

**WANTED TO BUY:** M-8 OR M-20 Running Condition, Wife said new kitchen before I get a tank! Now that the kitchen is finally done, am seeking to get that tank! Please contact [Steve.Kummerfeldt@woodplc.com](mailto:Steve.Kummerfeldt@woodplc.com) (714) 299-4593 (cell)

**Wanted :** shock mount for my PE-55 and my BC223 radio. I have been missing these for years and would love to finally find them. Johnny Verissimo (209)918-0488 [istanbull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:istanbull@sbcglobal.net)

**For Sale** -1968 M35A2, 465 Hercules Turbo Multifuel winch Hard Cab., Contact Gill (775) 826-1719.



Online Assistance · [g503.com/forums](http://g503.com/forums)

Plug Gap .030"  
Points Gap .020"  
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**Classified Ads** are free for military vehicle related items and kit for MVCC members. Your ad will run for three issues. Your editor will only except ads in writing. Please submit ads by the 15th of the month. The MVCC is not responsible for omission's or incorrect wording and or spelling. The MVCC reserves the right to edit ad copy for space. **Please email stuff for sale to Johnny Verissimo, [istanbull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:istanbull@sbcglobal.net)**

Visit our website: [www.mvccnews.net](http://www.mvccnews.net) & [www.facebook.com/MVCCCAMPLYMOUTH](http://www.facebook.com/MVCCCAMPLYMOUTH) 16



## CLASSIFIEDS PAGE 2

**FOR SALE:** 1941 WC-3 1/2 TON 4X4 DODGE OPEN CAB, Engine turns, carb missing, all original parts  
Restorable or parts vehicle \$1500 OBO more pictures available

call Leroy 510-714-3594, located in Fremont Ca.



### GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM

*"Preserving the Peace through the Lessons of the Past"*

62-510 Chiriaco Road, Chiriaco Summit CA 92201

[info@generalpattonmuseum.com](mailto:info@generalpattonmuseum.com)

Open 930 am - 430 pm Daily

[www.GeneralPattonMuseum.com](http://www.GeneralPattonMuseum.com)

### Puget Sound Military Vehicle Collectors Club

533 E. Fairhaven Ave  
Burlington, WA 98233

Chris Brown, President,  
(253)952-4732

[www.psmvcc.com](http://www.psmvcc.com)

WC-51 US Navy accounting No. 222 from the war in the Pacific  
Weapons Carrier-ordinance dept. Engine turns over but distributor missing, all original parts  
More pictures available, \$1800 or best offer

Located in Fremont Ca.  
Call Leroy 510-714-3594



**For Sale:** M151A1 which has been stored in a garage and is licensed in the state of California. It was last driven about three years ago and everything was in excellent condition. Uncut. There is no rust. Completely original.  
Asking \$15,000. Call Don Thomas at 310-418-9344. Vehicle is located in St. Helena, California (Napa Valley).



# CLASSIFIEDS PAGE 3

**For Sale:** Tent: GP Med. 16' X 32' Canvas and wood poles. Great tent for events/ hunting camp/ family camp outs/ reenacting/ and Plymouth Swap Meets. Good serviceable condition. \$500 - Scott Rohrs 415-259-8177

**For Sale:** Flat head 6 cyl. Willys truck motor is a complete take out motor was running when pulled, has carb/ manifolds/ generator black oil in the case. \$800 - Scott Rohrs 415-259-8177



**For Sale** ½ ton WWII Dodge truck parts

- New wood floorboards and dash map board \$60.00
- Transfer case \$100.00
- Transmission \$ 100.00
- Transmission with PTO \$150.00
- PTO \$50.00
- Rims \$20.00
- Complete re-built MU winch. has been sand blasted and primed. \$1000.00
- (2) Command car safety strap body eye
- New MU shift fork \$200.00
- Rims \$30.00 ea.

203-4674 motor that has been re-built with transmission \$800.00

An auger for Chevy K44. Includes 4 different bits \$400.00 or best offer

Radio box CH-74A fits Jeeps, Dodge and ½ tracks \$50.00

WWII ben hur One ton trailer complete metal bracket set for wood sides \$230.00

**CONTACT GREG LAMPMAN CELL (805) 550-5838 OR E-MAIL [glampman@calpoly.edu](mailto:glampman@calpoly.edu)**

**¾ ton Dodge truck parts**

- 2 speed transfer case for WC 62 and 63 \$300.00.
- MU2 winch with cable guide \$800.00
- M37 complete front axle \$200.00.
- M37 complete rear axle \$ 200.00
- WWII ben hur One ton trailer complete metal bracket set for wood sides \$230.00

**For Sale:** WW2 37mm Anti Aircraft Gun Carriage for sale. Located in Los Banos California. Contact Jess Soriano (209)769-4058



**Articles! Articles! Articles!** from your neck of the woods. If you have something you would like to see in the newsletter just email it to me and I'll see about getting it in the newsletter, If you're a member in any state and have something you think is interesting please email it to me: Johnny [istanbull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:istanbull@sbcglobal.net) :) If you want more info on the MVCC check out the web page and we are on facebook in two areas, look us up.

## CLASSIFIEDS PAGE 4

WWII Ben Hur Trailer      \$1500.00  
1 ton cargo trailer G-518. VG-Fine condition.  
All metal body is straight, primered.  
Lunette ring hitch. Metal landing wheel. 7.50 x 20 wheels (3).  
Spare tire mount.  
Data plate: Ben Hur Mfg, Model 41-120, Delivered May 1943.  
Located in Foresthill, CA, 95631  
Walter (530) 957 4290



**For Sale:** 1943 Ford GTB Burma Jeep Cargo Truck with Winch and Hydraulic Dump Bed, which runs off the PTO for the Winch. Correct Original motor. Not running, but Engine turns over as normal. Last ran in 2017. \$3500 OBO Matt (408) 398-0036 [msira36@aol.com](mailto:msira36@aol.com)



**For Sale:** 1942 Dodge WC-51 Weapons Carrier. Early Model w/Small Fuel Filler.  
I bought it from the original owner in 2011, who bought it as Surplus in the early 1950's, used it on his farm, and stored it in his shop when not in use. Very clean, complete and straight original truck. Unrestored. Engine has a Rebuild tag from the 1970's, with very few miles since.  
Runs, but has not been driven since 2015. It will need some attention to drive, including Brakes, Carburetor & Fuel system. Comes with 7 Combat wheels, 5 good tires, 5 new tubes. Parts included, but not installed: NOS Windshield frame, Restored Fuel Tank, Rebuilt Carburetor, Rebuilt Original Fuel Pump. Calif Titled.  
\$8500 OBO Matt (408) 398-0036 [msira36@aol.com](mailto:msira36@aol.com)



*It is not too early to plan for the  
Largest Annual Historic Military Vehicle Event in the West!*

# **CAMP PLYMOUTH SPRING 2023 SWAP MEET & MILITARY VEHICLE DISPLAY**

*April 19-22\*, 2023 ✪ Plymouth, California*



jeep showcase April 2019

**JOIN US AT THE 49ER VILLAGE RV RESORT AND ADJACENT AMADOR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN THE SCENIC, HISTORIC, CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH COUNTRY!**

**NO MV registration, all welcome, any condition**

swap meet for professionals & amateurs. **NO seller fee**  
but sellers must rent a campsite or cabin

**FREE admission and parking**

Friday featuring a **WW2 JEEP SHOWCASE**

Friday featuring a **DODGE SHOWCASE**

**Military Vehicle Excursion**

**Women's Lunch Excursion**

Visit historic Old West towns, many local wineries,  
and other California tourist destinations!

**\* Tuesday is a set up day, Sunday a pull-out day**



28 Dodges at a past showcase

RV and travel trailer camping, cabins, vendor / display space at  
49er Village. Group discount block of sites

Inexpensive tent or truck camping, vendor / display space at the Tent  
Sector at adjacent Amador County Fairgrounds. Bring shade  
Visitor parking and MV commuter display area

Facilities at 49er Village include pool, spa, clubhouse, restrooms,  
showers, laundry, store, café

Space rental, hotel info, and RV/travel trailer rental suggestions on  
the MVCC website. Campsite coordinator is Jo-Ann at  
MVCCCampmistress@yahoo.com or 408-238-8277

Closest major airport is Sacramento International.

**AND join us for the FALL  
2022 Camp Plymouth  
9/14-17/2022  
See website for details**

## **VEHICLES, PARTS, MILITARIA**

### **BUY, SELL, SHOW, DRIVE**

49er Village RV Resort, 18265 Hwy 49, and Amador County  
Fairgrounds, 18343 Empire Street, Plymouth, California 95669

**WWW.MVCCNEWS.NET**



# The Monterey Convoy by Johnny Verissimo

Just this week we took my 1941 Dodge WC25 Command Car to San Jose for the Spirit of 45 event and had a blast. It took us just over 1.5 hours to get there via Pacheco Pass on 152 then 101. That is what we call a near by event and well worth it. That was August 18th. Then on Thursday the 18th of August we took the Command Car (Pearl) to Pacific Grove for the "Monterey Convoy" and again had a blast! Took us just under 2 hours via Pacheco Pass 152 and 101 then the coast. Again, this event is considered a near by event. Between military related museums, town events, city events, VFW events, MVCC events, parades, 4th of July, Veterans Day and working on your MV etc you might be booked for the year with your MV.

So let me tell you about the **Monterey Convoy**, which is an awesome event in a coastal town that during this week is filled with 1 to 3 Million Dollar Bugatti, Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes, McLaren, Lamborghini etc etc etc all over the place because its car week in Monterey. I just watched a 2014 Bugatti sell for \$3,000,000.00 on Mecum Auction in Monterey. I never saw so many insanely expensive cars in my life and I was driving my 1941 Dodge WC25 Radio Command Car, lol, and it was AWESOME, I loved it. While driving around we were photographed as if we were celebrities everywhere we went. I never had so many cell phones pointed at me while driving.

Thank you Victoria Johnson Campbell for setting up the convoy and inviting everyone with a military vehicle to attend. There were croissants and coffee in the morning when we got there and goodie bags with military stuff in it. The convoy took off at 10AM. We went through Pacific Grove, Monterey, Fort Ord then over to Charles Topes place to have lunch which by the way thank you Charles for Lunch! While there Charles gave us a tour of his military vehicle collection that he is fast at work putting together.

One thing you will notice while driving your military vehicle in Monterey is that your temperature gauge will never pass 120, lol. It was a really beautiful day on the coast that's for sure.

We cruised across all of Monterey in convoy speeds of 40-45 mph. After the event Chris and I visited the antique mall near cannery row.

This event is open to everyone with military vehicles and is meant to be a thank you to all veterans! Chris Thomas and I will definitely be back to do the convoy next year! Victoria will get me information on the 2023 Monterey Convoy and I'll make sure I get it in the newsletter calendar early.



Cannery Row, Monterey, photo by Johnny



Charles Tope's place



The "Dunes" Ford Ord

# Report from the Best of the West Tractor (and Military Vehicle) Show by Corey Firman

During Memorial Day weekend, the Best of the West Tractor Show held in Santa Margarita Ranch is an excellent event. Not only is there the excitement of tractors (from the mid-1800s to modern), there is daily warbird flybys, steam train rides, heavy duty construction equipment, and military vehicles from Spanish American War to modern.

It's a great event which is open from Friday to Sunday, leaving Memorial Day open for local events. Friday is typically a school day, giving local schools a great opportunity for students to see everything in action. And I do mean everything in action. There are hourly parades through the area with all of the vehicles, there are working demonstrations of farming equipment, and all day, the construction equipment is running.

I personally have been attending this event since 2019, and it keeps growing with the military vehicle contingent. My first year, my son Caelan and I flew in the B-25 Executive Sweet. Also, warbirds from Estrella Museum are present to include their C-47.

The great thing about this event is that entry is free to display your vehicle, and tent camping is free as well. Also, there is an RV area which is \$50 for an entire week (dry camping). Blue commodes are in abundance, food vendors etc. And if that fair doesn't please, the Town of Santa Margarita has a few restaurants and stores available. And you are not very far from San Louis Obispo or Paso Robles. And since it is close to the coast, it's nice and cool during the day and night. Also, you can show up starting Tuesday, and leave on Monday. You don't have to be in a hurry, and I can say, I wasn't.

This year, I brought son Caelan, my friend Brian Coffman, and his son Jon to the event. We were able to bring my '43 MB, '42 U.S. Navy Chrysler Defense Fire Pump, and wall tent with the Navy display. Brian and I spent the weekend cooking and feeding our camp, and the boys spent most of the day roaming around. Best part, besides cooking and feeding the camp from the fire pump, was teaching Caelan and Jon how to drive the Patriot Missile truck and my MB. They both picked it up quickly, and in fact, we were able to let them drive without us in the vehicles.

*Continued on page 23 ~*



We have wide open space which there was no issue fitting all of our vehicles (with room to expand). I personally counted 20 military vehicles to include a Spanish American War horse drawn ambulance, two Packard WWI trucks, two armored WWI tractors, MBs and GPWs, Halftracks, a mule, M37s, M715s, Deuces, 5-Tons, and even a Patriot Missile truck.

Besides the vehicles, there were multiple displays from my U.S. Navy Seabee/Beachmaster setup, to a Vietnam HQ tent and a field hospital with an ambulance. Also, every day, there are Veterans who are guest speakers to discuss the importance of Memorial Day. What's nice as well, is that the ranch has many roads to drive on and to play with our vehicles.

If you get an opportunity to attend, I highly recommend it! I know my son has been asking to go back just to drive the missile truck.

Corey~

*WWI Vehicles on Display*



*Corey Caelum getting ready to drive*

*Estrella Museum Vehicles*



*Photos taken by Corey Firman at "The Best of the West Tractor Show"*

*Hospital Display*



## My M38A1 by Mike Wenrich

Mariposa, California

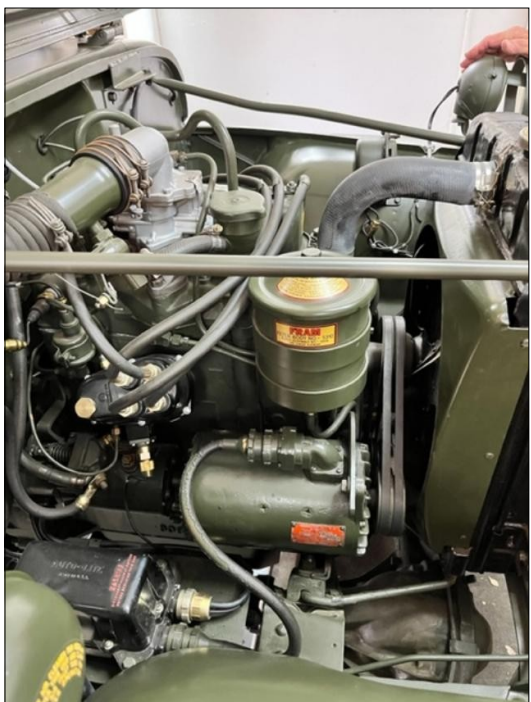
Late in 2009 a friend called my attention to a note posted at the local (at that time) Mariposa NAPA store about a military Jeep for sale. That was likely because I have a modified 1956 Willys Wagon that is well known in my area. Not looking for another project as I have enough of those to this day, I looked at the note describing a 1961 M38A1. Mostly original. Since I belonged to the now defunct West Coast Willys Club at that time I thought there might be something here to preserve or at least offer to someone wanting to build a mountain crawler.

I contacted the seller. The Jeep was described as belonging to his late father and that his father had purchased it locally from a farmer about three years prior. It needed work (of course) but he said they had run the engine and that the brakes did not work. Got the address and saw it parked under a tarp. The story was that the farmer used it on his 40 acre ranch and it looked like it. The rear tub was sunken in from carrying loads, probably cement as I found dried mixed cement in the nooks and crannies. But it might have been protected in a building most of its life prior to the last three years. Badly faded but looked very complete and no rust.

I had no prior experience with a Military Jeep but have lots of hands on with older vehicles. As the vehicle was examined it became apparent to me that this was a very otherwise unmolested example. Data plates were present and it was still 24 volt. The only things missing were the canvas top, underhood shovel, fender axe, gas can, spare tire and two of the four side mounting hold downs for the top. One of those proved to be very difficult to locate. They are different from the 1950's A1s. The top bows were there along with original seats that had been recovered in the front. There was a CA 1973 yellow inspection sticker on the passenger front windshield to show when it was approved to drive on our highways and was likely the year of separation from the military.

Mind you, I was still not interested in taking on this project but it did peak my interest. I tried to find someone, anyone, who would take this project on. The more I looked at it the more I realized this was a unique vehicle that was 95% there. Finally I caved in and purchased it for myself and thus began a four year restoration. So what is so unique you might ask? I'm going to relate what I know, or what I think I know from questioning others in our organization. And what I discovered on my own along the way. I hope you find this as interesting as I did.

The data plate lists a March 1961 USMC contract order. From what I've heard that was the beginning of a new run of M31A1's. None made after 1958 or before 1961. March is possibly the very beginning. Everything outside on this one had been painted over OD Green before separation but everything under the hood and the undercarriage were still Marine Corp Green. A few chips of OD had come off the wheels showing yellow paint underneath. Figured that was just a repaint maybe by the farmer but later, upon dismounting the truck tires, I found the wheels had been expertly painted on both sides but the rim inside was still USMC Green. Even though I got the engine to run the carb overflowed and the engine was filthy in and out. At first I was just going to rebuild the carb and do the brakes then reassess. But somewhere I took a dark turn and decided to better clean this unit up. Might as well just pull the engine/trans and do an engine inspection.



M38A1 by Mike Wenrich



All of the underwater fording equipment was still on the engine but the wiring in general was shot. I bit the bullet and bought a new harness, correct connectors and number tags. Got acquainted with many of our parts suppliers and of course the body work came last. Found a replacement rear floor pan and welded that in. The original was beyond reshaping. While cleaning the engine I found a rebuild data plate affixed to the lower crankcase on the driver side. It was from Fort Ord, August 1966. I'm told the Navy had an engine rebuild facility on the base. The engine serial number dates it to 1955 so it looks as though this was a replacement. BTW, I have a neighbor who was employed at Fort Ord as a civilian fireman but for the Navy as well. On an Army base. Confused yet?

The engine was in good condition so I had a shop do a valve job, hone the cylinders, deep clean the engine, etc. I did the assembly and painted the engine in the original color and acquired new decals for the finishing touch. New clutch and bearing and the trans/transfer case was in good condition. Then came the finish work. Sanded the hood expecting to find USMC and numbers down low but found US NAVY and 94-40137 further up the hood. Same thing on the rear bumpers. Nothing on the front bumper. Also found bondo on the rear body under the OD and USMC Green. This Jeep either backed into something or someone rear ended it. Otherwise no damage and no evidence of USMC use. NADA. One little scratch on the skid plate. That got me wanting to know more.

On the dash and under the OD was a vertical yellow sticker with Four Wheel Drive info. I had that replicated and have not seen another one on another military Jeep.

In the years since, I learned that motor pool vehicles, located on an air base, would fit this profile. Very fine sand was found on the undercarriage when dismantling and I believe the A1 was stationed somewhere in CA, possibly on one of the US Navy or USMC air bases. Another unusual item are the armrests on the passenger seat. Neither myself nor anyone else has seen those on a military OR the civilian CJ5. So one can imagine some base commandant requiring HIS vehicle to have arm rests.

Pictures of air base vehicles usually show either all yellow vehicles or a checkerboard pattern of black and yellow. Like a Follow Me vehicle would have. But others have surfaced that show the dark body with yellow wheels. Fellow MVCC member Jeff Intemann spotted one of those taken in Viet Nam with airmen sitting in the back.

So for those who have seen this vehicle at our meets, you know I wound up doing a complete restoration and tried to replicate what it would have looked like rolling off the assembly line, minus the graphics. To pay homage to our USMC and Navy vets I attached air base decals to the bumpers and a POW-MIA sticker to the side. A couple other added items were an overseas bumpers kit I found at Surplus City. This bumper moves the lifting shackles to the outside for lifting and tie down when shipped overseas. I like the finished look it gives to the back of the vehicle. At one of our gatherings I found a motor pool jumper cable with receptacle connection for the vacant port on the passenger side. I reasoned that a motor pool vehicle would have that to jump start other 24 volt equipment. Besides that, it explains to observers why the body indentation is there.

With limited use over the years I found that the master cylinder fill cap with the air line open to atmosphere in the air filter canister is a problem, caused my new cylinders to rust/lock up at a meet. Sent those and the master cylinder out to White Post Restoration to have them sleeved with metal (stainless I believe) that will not rust. There are still some mysteries this Jeep is holding back but I have found enough information to feel reasonably secure in what I am writing.

Anyone with with corrective or additional information is asked to enlighten me. The next owner should know as much as possible as well. I have thoughts about possibly donating this one day to an air base museum that might be interested in a unique but drivable display. For myself, I just cannot take this very capable off road vehicle up into my mountains and trash it.

Mike Wenrich



M38A1 by Mike Wenrich



M38A1 by Mike Wenrich

# Spirit of 45 in San Jose

by Johnny Verissimo

Christina and I have done a lot of cool things this year military vehicle/military history related and the Spirit of 45 in San Jose on August 13 was one of the coolest events we have been to in years. Our compliments to Robert Corpus "Spirit of '45 Bay Area" Executive Director for putting on an outstanding event. For a lot of events its location location location and Spirit of 45 have the perfect location for a World War 2 era event. If you have never been to History Park in San Jose I recommend it, especially when the Spirit of 45 is going on.

Christina and I were very fortunate that Chris Thomas wanted to attend the event and he offered to haul our 1941 1/2 Ton Dodge WC25 Radio Command Car names "Pearl" to the event. Thank you Chris..!

**WW2 Veterans and Rosie the Riveters.** When Robert was at the microphone he asked if there were any WW2 veterans there? I think 4 of them stood up to which I think the hair on my arms stood up. Each veteran was introduced and the crowd applauded. I believe the average age was 99. Then Robert asked if there were any Rosie the Riveters in the crowd and I believe 3 stood up and again I was in awww. All 3 were introduced and the crowd applauded. The trip was worth is just to see members of that generation/era.

**Displays.** The location is considered to be a huge display in itself. There were also displays of 3 US Army tents complete with everything you could find inside them that you would have found in them back in the 1940's in theaters of war. Also found there was an awesome vintage looking tiki bar complete with bar tenders serving drinks.

**The vehicles.** There was a beautiful 1942 M3A1 Half Track, 1944 GPW and 1943 GMC CCKW 353 brought by MVCC member Tim Bowman of San Jose, a 1945GPW brought by MVCC member Ted Glogovac of San Jose, a 1/2 Dodge WC6 Command Car brought by MVCC member Phil Tracy , a 1941 Chevrolet 1/2 ton Stake Bed Truck brought by MVCC George Escobedo plus there were more military vehicles of which I didn't make it to take photos or meet them all. I think in all there were 5 or 6 WW2 jeeps and 1/4 ton trailers. Not to forget all the WW2 era cars that were there which really made the place look like you were downtown San Jose on a Saturday night in mid 1940's during the great war.



1942 M3A1 Half Track & 1943 GMC CCKW owned by Tim Bowman

1944 GPW owned by Tim Bowman, photos by Johnny

**The atmosphere.** The most people wearing period attire I've ever seen was at this event. Christina and I were really impressed at the level everyone put into their outfits. There was also a super cool and informative fashion show which consisted of reenactors dressed in WW2 era US Army, US Sailors and US Marines, US Army Air Corps Pilot, US Paratroopers, US Army Wasps, Australian Soldier in full gear, AND, women's fashion show of the clothing worn at the time.

Part of the atmosphere was the big band playing period music on the street under the light tower in front of the crowd gathered just to listen and dance to the music. This was a HUGE hit and drew the biggest crowd. Dancing to Glenn Miller under the moon light was a sight to see and hear. I was like WOW.

Another part was the parade. There was a parade down their main street. The parade consisted of military vehicles and groups that celebrated the era we were there to celebrate. I was blown away by the crowds on either side to watch the parade and I was impressed with the loud speaker playing radio messages from the era. The crowd was so supportive of everything that was going on and I loved it.

**The buildings.** The buildings on this location were the foundation for this event. It's like a step back in time for sure when you pull into the park. Its like a town in a town that has been well preserved. I'd call this place a great "movie" location. Its similar to stepping onto a movie lot in Hollywood.

**The location.** Its in middle of San Jose not too far from HWY 101. It took us about 1.5 hours to get there from Gustine, California which all things considered was very close to us. The location is a preserved town in the middle of a huge city. I've never been to History Park so I was pleasantly surprised this place existed.

I saw the MVCC's own Chris "Toadman" Hughes there doing what he does best taking photos and taking notes.

**Will we be back?** YES, yes we will! I hope that Chris, Christina and myself and maybe more of my friends will be back next year because its definitely a worthwhile event to support and just attend.... Johnny...



Da Bar at Spirit of 45, photos by Johnny





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