

The SOUTHERN OUTPOST

First Florida Chapter ★ Military Vehicle Preservation Association



Third Quarter 2021

Established in 1976, the non-profit MVPA is dedicated to providing an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport. The First Florida Chapter is an IRS 501(C)3 tax-exempt educational organization.



Old Glory shines as “Heroes of the Past” were honored at the 10th Annual MacDill Chief’s Group golf tournament in April (story on p6).

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dave Thomas

As the President of the First Florida Chapter, I am very proud of all that our members have done during 2021. We are busy displaying vehicles at events, supporting the community, making new friends and having fun doing so in a safe manner.

The Chapter is continuing to grow by adding new members and retaining long-time friends. This would not be happening if it were not for all of the efforts by each of you to make this happen. So, "thank you" to each and every one of you.

The beginning summer is here and the 4th of July is only a few days away. Please take a few minutes to reflect on what this day means for all of us and continue to pray for our troops.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Stan Kinmonth

Nominations for the positions of Chapter Vice President and Chapter Treasurer are being accepted until **September 17, 2021**. These positions are a two-year term in length in accordance with the chapter bylaws. Any chapter member in good standing may either nominate someone or self-nominate. If you are nominating someone for a position, please ensure that they are willing to serve.

There is a nomination form available via the Chapter website at <https://flmvpa.org/chapter-leadership/>. Nominations can be sent via mail or email. Once all nominations are received, ballots will be distributed for voting.

The members currently occupying these positions are shown as "Incumbent".

Vice-President:

Dan Simmons - Incumbent

Nominee: _____

Treasurer:

Bridget Leirvik - Incumbent

Nominee: _____

Mail to:

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advantage of better functionality in promoting the chapter. The old page has been retired.

The new page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/firstfloridachapterMVPA>

The Chapter Facebook page has recently been updated to a business plan so we can take

The page is up-to-date on events and recaps are posted within days of occurring.

FROM THE EDITOR

by Matt Sharkey

In planning for this edition of the newsletter back in April, I was afraid that it would be lacking in content as vaccines were still being rolled out and large gatherings were still not recommended, but as time continued on, more and more events started happening and the stories of what the Chapter was doing flowed in. Members from all Regions, have been very active in supporting the



community and continuing to honor our motto, “History in Motion.”

I do appreciate everyone who has started to write stories, send pictures and answer questions to help fill these pages. These are *your* stories of what *you* are doing to be shared with everyone.

Have a restoration you’ve completed (or are close to finishing)? Let us know. Willing to be a Member Spotlight? Drop me an email. Take a sweet picture of a military vehicle? Send it in! While we can’t guarantee we’ll publish every item (my wife Kelly and I are a team), we’ll sure do our best.

FLORIDA FOREST FESTIVAL, PERRY

Friday, October 22

1730 Welcome dinner at airport

Bonus Activities

Several first-ever club/community activities are being developed including educational talks and vehicle displays for JROTC cadets, students in public, private, and home schools, and veterans living in health care facilities.

Saturday, October 23

0930 66th Annual King Tree Parade

1000 Convoy to Forest Capital Park

1030 MVPA public vehicle display

1200 MVPA member lunch

1300 Enjoy festival activities until...

Two great hotels in Perry with special MVPA rates.

“Military vehicle room block” rates good at both hotels Thurs – Sat, Oct 21–23. Cancellation policy for both: No charge if cancellation made 24 hours in advance.

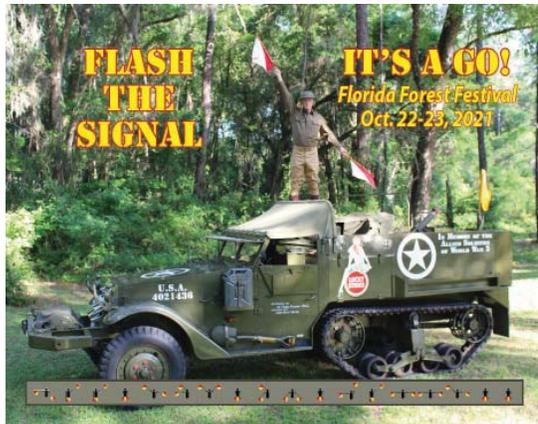
Holiday Inn Express — \$115.99 per night plus tax. Call 850-584-3200.

Call as early as possible, but no later than Oct 8 for this rate.

Hampton Inn — \$96 per night plus tax. Call 850-223-3000. Ask for “military vehicle room block” or mention confirmation #53530547.

Make reservations as early as possible.

Contact Dan Simmons 850-584-8147 with questions.



I look forward to seeing some of you at the upcoming Chapter meeting on July 17, 2021.

WANTED

Send us your stories & pictures!

Q1 | Covers Oct, Nov, Dec
submission deadline Dec 15

Q2 | Covers Jan, Feb, Mar
submission deadline Mar 15

Q3 | Covers Apr, May, June
submission deadline June 15

Q4 | Covers July, Aug, Sept
submission deadline Sept 15

For events occurring in the last few days of a quarter: Please submit a description of event by the deadline as a placeholder so it can be added at the last minute.

FLMVPA.news@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 10, 10a–4p

Museum Tour, Camp Gordon
Johnston WWII Museum,
Carrabelle, FL

Military vehicle owners are welcome to bring their vehicles, but bringing a military vehicle is not an expectation of the organizers of the Carrabelle get-together.

Anyone with questions should contact Regional Coordinator Russell Deese: russell@russellsmv.com or Dan Simmons: aldan1@fairpoint.net

July 17, Noon

Chapter Business Meeting,
Zephyrhills Military Museum,
(39444 South Ave, Zephyrhills,
FL 33542)

Lunch will be provided (after a headcount is done to ensure enough food for all).

This is a business meeting but all chapter members are invited to attend and participate. It is encouraged that all Regional Coordinators attend.

HALL OF FAME

Our first quarter 2021 newsletter cover story featured member



Tim Slawson's "All-World Virtual Military Vehicle Show" award-winning jeep. That award has netted him a spot in the first class to be inducted into the Military Vehicles Magazine "Military Vehicle Hall of Fame." The virtual museum promises to hold and keep the records of vehicles chosen by public vote at each of the Magazine's online Virtual All-World Military Vehicle Shows.

MVM will preserve the record of each inductee including the vehicle's serial number, who restored it, and who owned the vehicle when inducted.



Entries are now being accepted for the 2021 competition. Members are encouraged to submit their vehicles, in one of these categories: ¼-ton Wheeled Vehicles (Jeeps); ½-to ¾-ton Wheeled Vehicles; 1-to 2-ton Wheeled Vehicles 2-1/2 and larger Wheeled Vehicles; Armor and/or Tracked Vehicles; and Other.

Note: Winning relies on popular votes, rather than critical evaluation of the "accuracy" or quality of a restoration. Award winners are chosen by popular vote. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/21MVHoF> to enter. And be sure to post your entry to our Facebook page, so fellow members can support one another.

Central-West



MINI MILSIM 3

MilSims, or Military Simulations, are live-acted simulations of armed military combat situations conducted by civilians using Airsoft (plastic BB-propelled) guns. The mock battles are often reenactments of famous battles with an emphasis on realism, or can be an "imaginary battle." It's considered an extreme sport and organizers seek to provide participants with historical-period equipment being used. Organizers state that their goal is to "to create a game that blends high speed action with the more slow realistic grinds of siege warfare."

Wasteland Ops, an Airsoft sports venue, reached out to Chapter President Dave Thomas to provide a static display of vehicles to add to the realism of the game's atmosphere. Not only was this a unique way to display the vehicles, but it provided a way to recruit new members.

Having military vehicles at the event was "awesome and cool" according to one player who highlighted the realistic addition to the weekend-long event. In addition to Dave's Halftrack, Lindsay Orr brought his Humvee out to the playing field.



by Kelly Green; photos by Matt Sharkey



pictured l to r: Lindsey Orr, Dave Thomas, Matt Sharkey, and Daniel Sharkey

STAR SPANGLED STATIC DISPLAY

by Kelly Green

In April the Suncoast Region helped host the 10th Annual MacDill Chief's Group Golf Tournament presented by Grow Financial at MacDill Air Force Base's Palm Golf Course. The theme of the event was "Heroes of the Past."

The Suncoast Region provided vehicles which were part of a dramatic static display from 8a-2p, highlighted by a gigantic American flag provided by Stepp's Towing and Heavy Transport.

Funds raised from the event will assist the Junior Enlisted with programs not covered by DOD funds.

Thanks to the sponsors, supporters, advertisers and participants, they surpassed their goal of \$40,000.

The vehicles on display belong to members Dee Long, Doug Suzukovich and Luther Carrier.



Photo Credit: [unreadable]



Every May in the US we recognize National Military Month, honoring and remembering military personnel both current and past. To observe this, the Lake Mary Museum presented a “Salute to the US Military” on May 15 and 16.

Coordinators reached out to Florida MVPA for a display of vehicles, and members from across the state participated. Also sup-

porting the event, was First Florida Chapter Member Joe Cifrian, who coordinated a display of plastic military models with the Orlando Chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society.

The staff at the Lake Mary Museum later sent along a message to Chapter President Dave Thomas and the other attendees:

“Very special THANKS to our community partners. It couldn’t be possible without all of you!”



Military

APPRECIATION MONTH







On April 6-7, 2021 the Suncoast Region provided a static display for the EAA B-17 Aluminum Overcast Tour at Lakeland Linder International Airport. The event showcased the restored B-17G, WWII's most iconic air image. This event pays tribute to the men and women who built and served on the heavy bombers in the 1940s. Participating vehicles include a Dodge M37 and a GP M38.



photos by Jim Chamberlin

Space Coast Region

The 16th annual Cocoa Village Memorial Day ceremonies were presided over by Mayor Michael Blake. Distinguished veterans (Christine Tate, RN, USAF Veteran; Donn Weaver, US Army Veteran; and Steve Griffin, US Army Veteran, USMA 1978) gave speeches and told stories of the fallen from WWII to present day operations. They stressed the importance of the freedoms we as Americans enjoy, and owe to those who gave the last full measure in defense of our liberties and freedoms. Regional Coordinator Alvin Hughes led Chapter members through the parade route and they displayed a 1942 Willys MB, a 1945 GPW and a M151.



Over 200,000 aviation (and military history!) enthusiasts attended the SUN 'n FUN expo at Lakeland Linder International Airport in April. Organizers asked the Florida MVPA to display vehicles for 3 days during the show, one of the largest airshows in the US. Members from the Suncoast, Central-West, Eastern, and Space Coast Regions participated, along with a vehicle from the Georgia MVPA Chapter.



large photo and 2 inset photos by Matt Sharkey

photo Courtesy SUN 'n FUN

Panhandle Region

by Dan Simmons



Among the hundreds of fantastic jeeps at the Florida Jeep Jam in Panama City Beach May 12-16 were a half-dozen military jeeps spanning WWII to post-Vietnam. The “real jeeps” were honored guests of the event organizers and were given a premium display area exposed to all the foot traffic.

Participants in the obstacle course

and off-road excursions report the military jeeps gave a good account of themselves against newer, bigger, and faster brethren.

Public interest in the originals was off-the-chart and many photographs were taken of the machine gun-bearing quarter-ton 4x4s.

Military vehicle owners at the Jeep Jam included (in group photo from left): Bill Register, Bill Lamb, Skip Fowler, Joel Miller, Everett Cole,

Bob Stopka, Dan Simmons, and Russell Deese. Not shown in photo: Howard Crowe, Steve Belcher, and Bob Grimes.



Southeast Region

The Town of Davie in South Florida and the Scoutmasters Camporee Committee held their annual Memorial Day parade and Chapter members, including Regional Coordinator Fred Perkins, participated in the event. The parade route ran from the Fire Administration building and ended at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds with attendees numbering in the thousands.



Three Northern Region Events

by Stan Kinmonth

1 Member Warren Chard organized a 3-day display at the Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine May 29–31. Chard, also a member of the American Military Historical Society, along with member Lee Bledsoe and members of the society, presented military displays covering WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam in the museum’s large banquet room. Florida MVPA members Eric Leirvik, Mark Hooper, Butch Hines, Tom Philyah, Alexander Watkins, and Stan Kinmonth provided a static vehicle display in the parking lot along US Highway 1. Among the almost 500 visitors was US Representative John Rutherford.

2 The second event was a vehicle display and cannon firing during the Green Cove Springs RiverFest Memorial Day celebration at Spring Park, organized by member Charles Fails. The event took place from 10a to 9p on Monday in Spring Park.



photo by Stan Kinmonth



photo courtesy eTownJax Community



photo by Stan Kinmonth



photo courtesy Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine



photo by Alexander Watkins



photo by Stan Kinmonth



photo by Alexander Watkins



photo courtesy Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine

As arranged, Charles fired his T124 76mm Anti Tank Gun at 11:30 and 1:30. He also had his M151, M1028, M35A2, and M332 Ammo Trailer on display. Randy Downing’s M-37 and Stan Kinmonth’s GPW completed the display. Among the thousands of people enjoying the festivities in the park were US Representative Kat Cammack and several city and county officials.

3 E-Town, a new development in southeast Jacksonville, celebrated Memorial Day with corn hole, mini golf, live music and a small display organized by Frank Cashman.

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 Military Vehicle Appraiser
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 fax: (229) 377-1528
 russell@russellsmv.com



Suncoast Region

D-DAY

The Zephyrhill Museum of Military History held one of the largest D-Day remembrances in Florida on June 5th, with the goal of educating people on the role Zephyrhills played during the Normandy invasion. Zephyrhills Airport served as a training base for the 10th Fighter Squadron, which flew in P-47s. These pilots provided ground support for the troops that went ashore during the invasion.

The First Florida Chapter was invited to participate in this event and members from the Suncoast, Central-West and Southeast Regions were in attendance with an array of vehicles. Chapter President Dave Thomas was pleased to see that members brought both American and German vehicles to this event.



Veteran Ed Eisele turned 101 in May, and the local community came out in droves to wish him a happy birthday, including Northern Region members.



The centennial (plus 1!) parade weaved through Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing

Home's drive in St. Augustine, delighting the birthday "boy" and others at the skilled nursing facility.

Eisele joined the Army in 1943 and was a rifleman, 2nd Platoon, Easy Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division during World War II. On June 12, 1944 his unit landed in Normandy, France as part of Operationi Overlord. They helped liberate Paris and went on to reach Germany from Belgium. On September 17th Eisele was seriously wounded, and spent the next



year recovering from his injuries to the point that he eventually gained partial movement on his right side.

Florida MVPA was proud to honor this veteran in his milestone celebration!

Uniform picture courtesy Eisele family.



Inset shots courtesy St Johns County Sheriff's Office.





CJ2A axle set
(front & rear)
\$350
Contact Brett Sanders
brettsanders1384@gmail.com
904-472-3013



Wanted to buy: M1919
Contact Brett with leads/offers

Eastern Region

The Veterans Council of Martin County, Matin County, The City of Stuart, The Road to Victory Military Museum and JayAre Systems sponsored Stuart's 2021 Memorial Day Remembrance Parade. Eastern Region member Milo Valencic participated as part of the Road to Victory Military Museum contingent of 3 jeeps and a tram of Veterans.

His passenger was Mr. Ken Tolve of the Sailfish District Troop 840 BSA. He is one of the Religious emblem coordinators for the Gulf Stream Council. Valencic's Jeep is a 1942 Ford GPW.



*photo courtesy
Martin County Sheriff's Office*

Military Vehicle Preservation Association

46th Annual International Convention
August 12-14, 2021
South Bend, Indiana

Sponsored by
50th ANNIVERSARY
AM General

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of AM General,
& 160 years of military vehicle production in South Bend!

RESTORATION CORNER Featuring **JEFF LAKASZCYCK**
Spacecoast Region Member

Make: Mack
Model: M123A1C 10-Ton Tank Transporter
Year: 1968
Purchased: 2019
Restoration Completion: June 2021

Where it started



Jeff Lakaszcyck of the Spacecoast Region recently completed his restoration on a 1968 Mack M123A1C 10-Ton

Tank Transporter. This vehicle was bought via a Facebook ad in September 2019 in New Hampshire. This vehicle was last owned by the New Hampshire Forestry Service, after its previous service with the US Army. The Forestry Service modified the chassis by adding a sand dispersing bucket, a roll cage and hard top. The truck was well maintained with minimum rust. Those interested in a more detailed play-by-play of his work should visit <https://tinyurl.com/1968Mack> and read that, and subsequent posts.

How it's going



Northern Region at Jacksonville Int'l Auto Show

by Stan Kinmonth

The Jacksonville International Auto Show features the newest models from Auto manufacturers from around the world. American brands, as well as European and Asian brands, including exotics, are typically included.



In prior years, The FFC-MVPA had been invited, along with local Corvette and Mustang clubs, to participate in the event with a one-day display on the grounds adjacent to the Prime Osborn Convention center in downtown Jacksonville.

The coronavirus pandemic caused the 2021 event to be postponed from February to May, and with fewer manufacturers represented. So, for 2021, the show promoters, Paragon Group of Needham, MA, invited a local classic car museum and the First Florida Chapter to set up a display inside the convention center for all three days of the event. Paragon requested seven vehicles, two vehicles each representing WWII, the Korean War,

and the Vietnam War. Additionally, a 1941 manufactured slat grill MB was provided to the Fiat-Chrysler exhibit (2021 being the 80th year of the Jeep).

The Northern Region responded with a 1945 GPW (WWII) owned by Alexander Watkins; a 1943 WC52 (WWII), an M38 (Korea), and an M151A1 (Vietnam) all owned by Charles Fails; an M38A1 (Korea) owned by Lee Bledsoe, and a M274 Mule (Vietnam) owned by Warren Chard; and the 1941 MB Slat Grill (WWII – with 2021 Jeep display) owned by Eric Leirvik. Other members and friends helping throughout the three-day event included Stan & Lily Kinmonth, Debra Dunning, Bridget Leirvik, and Joseph Lorentzson. Members Dan Giannini & Marti Kendall, Butch Hines, Tom Philyaw, and Alex



allowed us to sell shirts we had in inventory.

Being a more integral part of the whole event allowed us greater opportunities to explain the history of the vehicles and the historic events they took part in that shaped the world. The vehicles were a favorite of veterans of all ages, allowing them to describe in some way their experiences to their families.



When asked what he thought of our display, Lowell Briggs of Paragon Group said “People really liked it... it came

Sprunt spent time manning the display. All present agreed that we had many more spectators per day than we had when we were located outside. The promoters also

up on a radio interview I did... and the Willys with the Jeeps (display of 2021 Jeeps by FCA - Fiat Chrysler Automobiles) was a great idea. Thank you for everything!”



Florida MVPA Regions



Florida MVPA
