

The SOUTHERN OUTPOST

First Florida Chapter ★ Military Vehicle Preservation Association



First 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.



We salute Tim Slawson, and his award-winning jeep that's teaching the next generation to honor our military history and honors the Air Force presence in South Florida. Story on page 8.

IN THIS ISSUE

Cover Story	8
From the Editor	3
President's Report	2
Restoration Corner	9
Rifle Raffle	3
Winter Rally	10, 11

Central West

Civilian/Military Timeline 13

Northern

Veterans Day Parade 2

Southeast

Veterans Day Parade 7

Space Coast

Christmas Parade 13

Suncoast

Largo Parade 4

Pearl Harbor 12

Veteran's Birthday Drive-By.... 5

Von Kessinger's Express..... 6

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dave Thomas



I would like to thank Cliff Moffit and the staff at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History for hosting the 4th Quarter meeting of the FFC MVPA. If you have not visited, you really need to make time. This is a great museum!

Thanks, also, to Mission BBQ and Papa Johns for supplying a great lunch, and for supporting our community.

To all of the members who attended the event, thank you. It was very nice and we had a few WWII veterans attend, too. These are very special people and they deserve our respect. They are truly part of the greatest generation and they are why we can live free in this great country. The meeting went well. Please see the minutes for the complete topics that were discussed.

The staff is working very hard on the Winter Rally, February 19–21 in Green Cove Springs. Please contact Frank Cashman if you are available to volunteer.

Now for some National news. The National MVPA, because of some legal issues, has canceled the insurance liability policy that we used to put on our events. This cancelation was not because of anything that the FFC MVPA has done. We are currently looking to become self-insured. We will get this done before the rally.

Please everyone be safe and protect yourself from COVID-19.

Please pray for our troops.



Northern Region



Bob Self/Florida Times-Union

The annual Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2020 honored those who have served in our country's military. Participants included active duty personnel, veterans organizations and support groups, including, proudly, ours.

Photo above: Mayor Lenny Curry driven by member Kevin Melamed.
Bottom l to r: Chris Railing and family; Members are highlighted on CBS 47.



WW2 SNIPER RIFLE

RAFFLE DRAWING

More than 1 million M1903A3 type rifles were produced by Remington during World War II, with the M1903A4 being one of the rarest production M1903s.



Support FFC MVPA by making a \$10 donation, and receive a raffle ticket. The Grand Prize is a 1903 A4 Springfield Sniper Remington Clone. Winning ticket will be drawn at February Winter Rally. Winner need not be present to win. FFL transfer to winner required.

FROM THE EDITOR

by Matt Sharkey

Welcome to the new *Southern Outpost* newsletter!

In early December, Dave Thomas, Chapter President, asked if I would be willing to take on the newsletter. I told him that I (we!) would be happy to (with Kelly, my wife, and son, Daniel, assisting). I have previously done newsletters, and currently create company-wide training manuals and narratives on various technology announcements. My wife was a both a magazine Associate Editor and art direction assistant, and is a social media consultant. My son is a budding photographer and will help us digitally capture events.

The plan for our newsletter:

- Publish a newsletter on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October
- Cover news of events/activities/achievements since the last issue (with an occasional “Throwback” spread)
- Give advance information of

major events/activities and needs that are take place during the next 90 days

- Add spotlight interviews of members and leadership of the FL MVPA Chapter
- Highlight efforts of Chapter members in their local community
- Provide news of partners of the FL MVPA Chapter
- Provide spots for members of the FL MVPA Chapter to advertise
- Disseminate information of chapter governance with a push to move such to the website

- Provide links towards membership application on the website
- Create *Restoration Corner*, spotlighting a different member’s restoration each issue.

To make this plan happen, the newsletter team will be reaching out to members for information at events, via phone, video call, email or in person. At the Winter Rally, we will be conducting interviews, gathering information and taking lots of pictures.

We are well on the way towards making this plan a reality. Reach out to me or Kelly if you want to be featured in the newsletter, have stories, have article ideas, etc.



L to R: Kelly Green, Matt Sharkey, Daniel Sharkey

Suncoast Region

Largo's Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Parade 2020 truly had a small town feel to it and helped bring holiday cheer to the local community. Socially distanced groups dotted the parade route, and all in

on the back of one of Largo Fire Department's pumpers. There were no massive floats, but trailers and vehicles were decorated. Families with strollers, and other walkers dictated the pace.

The route snaked through a couple of neighborhoods, to give more people a way to enjoy it. Participants and attendees definitely had a good time. Thanks, All!

Participating vehicles: 1. Luther Carrier, M38 Hard Top restoration 2. Gary Dow, M151A2 3. Douglas Suzukovich M151A2 4. Ed Manesse GPW 5. Tim Woodruff, M1045A1

Photos © Dave Cutright Photography
(727) 712-7887



Suncoast Region



To help celebrate the 100th Birthday of World War II veteran Vince Forbes, Suncoast Region members participated in a drive-by parade event in Brandon.

Vince Forbes Served 1942-1945
Second Class Petty Officer, Carpenters Mate (E-5),
Navy Seabee
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 15 (NMCB 15)
San Francisco | Port Hueneme Naval Base |
New Hebrides Island | Russell islands (Solomon
Islands) | Okinawa
Married for Evelyn for 74 years (and counting).



Suncoast Region

VON KESSINGER'S EXPRESS

On November 7-8, 2020 the Florida Rail Museum held their annual "Von Kessinger's Express," event in Parrish, FL. Spectators participate in a fictional battle of WW2. Set in France, June, 1944, the mock engagement finds Allied troops are quickly approaching General von Kessinger's camp. As the story is told, "If your papers are in order, you will be permitted to escape with the General on board his train that will be racing across the French countryside as French Resistance, U.S. and British give chase."

A great number of re-enactors support this event including Florida MVPA Chapter Members and their period-era vehicles.

Members that participated include Joseph Gibson, Brian Beauvais, WC 62 (#1), Chris Heesch (#4) and Dale Aywllard, 44 GPW (#3). National Chapter member, Tayor Briggs (#2), was also in attendance.



Additional unnumbered photos courtesy of event participant.



Southeast Region

VETERANS DAY PARADE

SE Southeast Region members participated in the 41st Annual Veterans Day Parade in Miami Lakes, the longest running Veteran's Day Parade in all of Miami-Dade County. This patriotic tribute honored our active duty and retired military members for their dedication and service to our country. Fred Perkins, Region Coordinator, helped in having chapter members in honoring our veterans.



Photo credit: Jessica Ferralls



ONLINE ACCOLADES

With so many events being curtailed due to the pandemic, a great many venues moved toward online interactions. One of these events caught the eye of Tim Slawson, a member from Miami, and he entered his jeep.

The contest was named the “All-World Virtual Military Vehicle Show” and was hosted by *Military Vehicle Magazine*. Enthusiasts and collectors from around the world entered more than 100 vehicles. After all of the votes were tallied, his jeep was selected as the winner of the ¼ jeep category.

HISTORY

Tim bought his M38A1 jeep from someone in Montgomery, Alabama and his trip to pick it up included getting stuck in the red clay, with a jackknifed trailer on someone else’s property, with no cell service! It took a few hours to get through all of the that, then the jeep was in Tim’s possession, with the plan to get the title changed to his name.

Tim wanted to restore it a period-era scheme as a tribute to his father’s service in the United States Air Force. Tim’s father, C.E. Slawson, was an airman assigned to the 19th Combat Defense Squadron at

point. So, between the desire to honor his father’s service and the jeep’s history, painting the jeep in the 1950’s Air Force blue made sense.

The desire to get the jeep original was very importance to Tim. Many of the parts are original to include the engine, which needed attention to get it in running shape. The body needed very little work.

Tim uses the jeep as to also teach and honor the Air Force presence in South Florida. He can be seen at many events in which veterans tell him that he “nailed it” with the paint scheme and other details.

Congratulations, Tim, on being recognized by your hard work and attention to detail. What a great way to honor your father’s service.



Home-
stead Air Force Base
in the early '60s. One
of Airman Slawson
duties was a security
canine officer.

After some working
his way through the
layers of paint, Tim
discovered that the
jeep did serve with
the USAF at some

RESTORATION CORNER

Featuring
DOUGLAS SUZUKOVICH
Suncoast Region Member

Make: AM General
Model: M151A2 4x4 1/4-ton Tactical Truck
Year: 1973
Purchased: November, 2018
Restoration Completed: January, 2019

Where it started



It's been a restoration on the go. Once I got it running, I fixed the brakes, carburetor, fuel pump, batteries, ball joints and fuel tank. Then I started on the body.

Below are photos from the windshield frame and wiper motor install and removal of the snorkel as I was turning it into an Army MUTT.

How it's going



In 2018 I installed the windshield frame and wiper motor. The process involved more swearing. What a pain in the (expletive). I had to remove the fording intake before I battled removing the rust rotten old one. At least then I had a working set of windshield wipers and it became driveable.



WINTER RALLY

It has been a little over a year, chronologically speaking, since our last Winter Rally in Mount Dora. While the calendar shows 2020 lasted 366 days, it felt like more than a thousand to most of us. Despite the trials and tribulations, we choose to look forward in hope to 2021, including optimism that we'll have a well-attended, community safe rally February 19–21 hosted at the Military Museum of North Florida in Green Cove Springs, will be a BANG.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Members and non-members will

display vehicles. Awards Categories are: "Top 10 vehicles," "President's Pick," "Best of Show," "Best Display." In the market-place area, ven-



dors will be on hand selling all types of parts, uniform accessories, memorabilia, books, and more.

WW2 Armor's battle re-enactment will depict the "Road to Berlin," featuring re-enactors from across the state.



velopment office for their support.

If you are interested in supporting the activity, contact Frank Cashman.

WINTER RALLY SCHEDULE

Thursday

1200 Vendor setup opens

Friday

0800 Display Vehicles may arrive; Vendors continue to arrive/set-up

Dusk WW2 Armor will conduct a fire demonstration

Saturday

0800 Open to the public

0900 Helicopter rides* start

1030 Vehicle judging

1300 Battle reenactment start with parachute jump

Dusk WW2 Armor will conduct a fire demonstration

Sunday

0800 Open to the public

0900 Helicopter rides* start

1300 Battle reenactment start with parachute jump

Afternoon

Vendors pack up; event concludes

***Helicopter Rides:** Army Aviation Heritage Foundation has set up pre-sales for the UH-1 helicopter rides. Go to ArmyAV.org/presales/ to purchase your ride now. *Sales offset the cost of transportation to Green Cove.*

NOW HEAR THIS!
February 19 – 21, 2021, Green Cove Springs, FL

TANK DESTROYERS
ARTILLERY
INFANTRY
TANKS

'RACE FOR BERLIN'
Come Join WW2 Armor at the 1st FFC MVPA Winter Rally in Green Cove Springs, FL!
Military Vehicle Displays – Helicopter Rides – Weapons Demonstrations –
WWII Battle Reenactments – Allied & Axis Camps – Tank Maneuvers
Military Museum of North Florida, 1 Bunker Ave., Green Cove Springs 32043
For more information visit us at
www.ww2armor.org or facebook.com/ww2armor

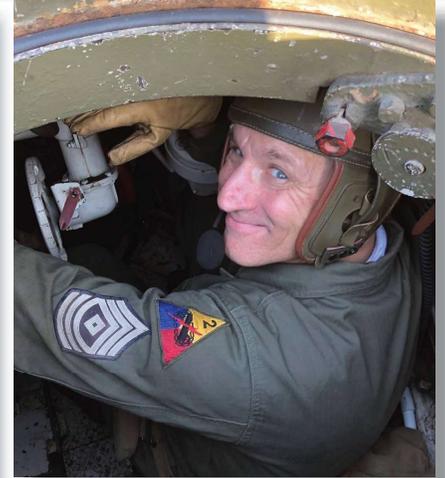


At the 2020 Rally, T-Shirts were shot into the crowd. Lucky winners included this FL couple.

Onsite food will be available for purchase from a Mission BBQ food truck, other food trucks, and maybe an ice cream truck.

The Saturday evening meal will be available to purchase (food provided by Mission BBQ).

Special thanks to the Clay County Tourism & Film De-



ATTENTION

HISTORIANS AND REENACTORS

Join WW2 Armor for two action packed WW2 battles — one on Saturday, and another on Sunday! Also there will be WW2 Living History Displays.

New to this event:

Florida MVPA will be taking requests to provide blank ammunition to reenactors for the battles on Saturday and Sunday. It will be issued out upon check-in. Reenactors are expected to request only what they will use for two 30-minute battles.

Florida MVPA reserves the right to deny requests or limit quantity.

The cutoff date for ammo request is January 15.

Historians and reenactors desiring to attend MUST go to the bit.ly link to see further

registration requirements, ammunition requests, and Code of Conduct. The MVPA Code of Conduct will be in effect for this and all MVPA-sponsored events. The MVPA reserves the right to exclude entry for anyone who has been previously banned from their events. All participants must be registered for this event.

Allied and Axis forces points of contacts can be obtained by visiting the Eventbrite link below. If you have any questions or need further assistance please do not hesitate to contact WW2 Armor through their Facebook page.

***Sign up at (case sensitive):
bit.ly/RaceToBerlin***

Suncoast Region

At the recent Pearl Harbor Commemoration Day at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, our members were in attendance to pay respect to the men and women that were at Pearl Harbor during the 1941 attack.

Attendees also paid honor to Wig Whigmore, who lived through the attack that day in Hawaii. Mr. Whitmore recently celebrated his

100th Birthday as well, and at the event was serenaded by a group-wide “Happy Birthday.”

The Suncoast Region hosted First Florida Chapters MVPA members from across the state, with 15 vehicles for display, ranging from WW2 to current conflicts. Vehicle owners include Chapter President Dave Thomas, Zephyrhills Museum of Military History President Cliff Moffett, Christian Isly, Jim

Chamberlain, Chis Heesch, Jeff Deran, Jerry Little, William Wood, Steven Mosher, Roland Grady, Peggy Keller, Verne Jenkinson and Ray Frank.

During the event, a Chapter leadership meeting was held. See articles by the Chapter President and Chapter Secretary for details.



Dave Walters Zephyrhills Free Press



Dave Walters Zephyrhills Free Press



Central West Region



On November 21, 2020, the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village in Dade City held “A Civilian & Military Timeline Event.” Members of the Central West Region along with

FL MVPA President David Thomas participated. The event included presentations both civilian and military from 1585 to 1945, including: Colonial Period, American Revolutionary War, Florida Seminole Wars, American Civil War, Spanish-American War, First World War, Second World War.



Space Coast Region



Photo by Cindy Bortle

On 5 December 2020, the Space Coast Region participated in the annual Mims Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Parade. Alvin Hughes, Region Coordinator, brought his 1942 Willy MB jeep and 1945 Ford GPW to drive in the parade.



Photo by Cindy Bortle

WINTER MEETING MINUTES

Topic: Winter General Membership meeting

Date: 5 December, 2020

Location: Zephyrhills Military History Museum, Zephyrhills, FL

The meeting was called to order at 1pm by Chapter President Dave Thomas.

There were approximately 16 members in attendance. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer by Dave Thomas.

Dave Thomas started the meeting stating the deferral of the President's report until the end of the meeting.

Vice President: The Forest Festival, including the parade, has been canceled for 2020 due to Covid concerns.

The members of the Panhandle Region took place in the Monticello Veterans Day parade, and gathered without vehicles for a dinner.

Election Results:

VP Dan Simmons handled the ballots since the VP position was not up in this election cycle. The ballots were counted and the incumbents (Thomas and Kinmonth) were reelected.

There was another candidate for Newsletter Editor. The day before the election, Matt Sharkey submitted an email reiterating his interest in the position. After the election results were tabulated, a discussion took place regarding the benefits of having more individuals involved in running the club, and based on the interest shown, approach the other candidate for Editor and discuss a transfer. The Secretary, who is also the Editor, will take the lead of that transfer.

Operations Manager:

The Fall Show and Swap Meet has been postponed until February 2021. For 2021, this event will replace the February event in Mt. Dora, FL. Related items are: Clay County has approved a \$3,500.00 grant for advertising.

- WOKV radio will carry ads and provide PSAs regarding the noise
- FL National Guard may be deployed; if so, we will reach out to USCG and/or Navy for helicopter static display or fly-by.
- Mission BBQ and other food vendors have been arranged.
- We purchased a 16' x 16' tent and

may borrow a 40' x 60' from the parachute club

Northern Region

- Northern region members took part in the City of Jacksonville Veteran's Day
- The Ponte Vedra Car Show included three FFC member Jeeps and members sold several Rifle Raffle tickets.
- A Christmas covered-dish party for Northern Region is scheduled for 12 December.

Secretary's Report:

As always, maintaining the Roster. Members are asked if they encounter a member who is not receiving emails from the club, to have that member reach out to the secretary. People move and email addresses change. Unless the club is notified, we won't know.

An application to be included in the Florida State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP) was submitted in November. We have no word back yet.

President's Report:

The big news from the MVPA HQ is that the liability insurance program has been terminated. This is the program that allows us to provide liability coverage for events we participate in or sponsor, such as parades and our rallies.

The president reached out to HQ and the current provider. Another firm was recommended and will be contacted to determine if the FFC acting alone can purchase such a policy. During discussions, a question / suggestion about FFC partnering with other Chapters in the Southeast was introduced. That will be included in conversations with other potential providers. Hopefully HQ will pursue obtaining a replacement policy for all Chapters and this issue will go away, but until then we have to move forward if we want the February event.

Any new policy will require the following: It will only cover paid-up members and designated guests.

- Members and guests MUST have vehicle insurance on every vehicle, even if not tagged for road use (mule, halftrack, etc) or brought in by trailer.
- No live weapons to be left unsecured – AND NO loaded weapons on display – staff will check weapons.

(Are you beginning to understand why the policy was canceled?)

Contrary to rumor, we are still welcome at Renninger's, and fee may be eliminated.

The Volusia County Fairgrounds is also being looked at as a rally venue. The local government seems receptive; it has ample open land and air-conditioned buildings. There is a daily fee of \$3,000, but it could be negotiable.

There was discussion regarding doing three events per year; Green Cove Springs, Volusia County fairgrounds, and Renninger's. The board is willing but the regions will have to help with the efforts.

Treasurer's Report:

- The account balance just before the meeting was \$22,091.83
- There are outstanding invoices for: Purchase of the 1903-A4 Rifle, printing of the raffle tickets, and Rally ads in magazines. Dues are being received and deposited.
- Some members have begun to pay dues via PayPal.

New Business:

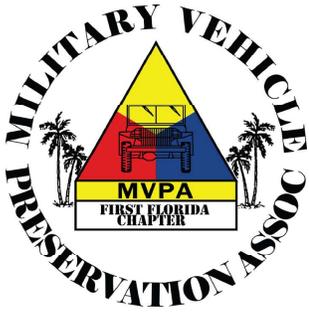
Rally Rifle Raffle

- This year's rifle is an M1903-A4 Sniper Rifle, similar to the one seen in "Saving Private Ryan."
- Two incentives are offered. \$100 to the SELLER of the winning ticket, and \$100 to the member that sells THE MOST tickets.
- The rifle has already been obtained (the detailed description, including photo and serial number was provided in the previous newsletter).
- A budget for the raffle, including the rifle, tickets, postage, incentives, etc. of \$2,626.49 was established. Last time, we netted approximately \$10,000.00 after expenses.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Stan A. Kinmonth FFC-MVPA Secretary 7 December, 2020





FIRST FLORIDA CHAPTER MVPA

Winter Rally and Swap Meet | 19, 20 & 21 Feb 2021



Featuring **WW2 ARMOR & ARMY AVIATION HERITAGE FOUNDATION**



2021 REGISTRATION FOR DISPLAYS AND VENDORS

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

VEHICLE DISPLAY REGISTRATION

Check one Non-Member Display (Not judged) Member Display

Year _____ Make _____ Model _____

Rally T-Shirts (Our thanks for a \$20 minimum donation.) # _____ Size: _____ Total \$ _____

Rally Award Sponsorship (\$50 each) # _____ Total: \$ _____

VENDOR REGISTRATION

Business Name _____

E-mail address _____

Outside Vendor Space, approx. 18' x 25' (\$35 ea.) # _____ Total \$ _____



**TICKETS FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING AWARD DINNER
WILL BE FOR SALE AT REGISTRATION UNTIL 1 PM SATURDAY.**

Please make all checks payable to: **First Florida Chapter MVPA**

Mr. Stan Kinmonth, Secretary
194 Malley Cove Lane
Fleming Island, FL 32003

Total Funds Enclosed: \$ _____

If you have any questions/assistance with your registration, please contact one of the following people:

Frank Cashman | Operations Manager | nb1337@comcast.net | (904) 219-7998

Stan Kinmonth | Rally Registrar | stantr6@comcast.net | (904) 276-1418

Dave Thomas | President | Halftrackdave@yahoo.com | (352) 817-1087

Florida Chapter MVPA Regions



Florida MVPA
