



First Florida Chapter

Military Vehicle Preservation Association

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 Southern Outpost

The Quarterly Newsletter of the First Florida Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association

Summer 2022

MEETING NOTICE

The first Quarterly meeting since July 2021 was held on June 25 2022 at the Road To Victory Military Museum in Stuart, FL

The Board is Requesting suggestions for a Fall meeting venue in the Suncoast Region
Target date: Sept. 24

2022 Dues are DUE.

Thanks to those that paid.

Even if renewing, please use the current application form sent with this newsletter and send it to the Secretary, so the Roster can remain current.

Note: Regions are delineated and Coordinator contact information provided on the 2-page form accompanying this newsletter

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FFC-MVPA Board Members

President (interim): Frank Coppola 908-391-8809
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Vice President: Eric Leirvik 904-687-8767
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Treasurer: Bridget Leirvik 904-813-1187
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Secretary: Stan Kinmonth 904-276-1418
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At-Large (interim): Alvin Hughes 321-747-6525
alvinhughes@bellsouth.net

FFC-MVPA Officers

Webmaster: Erik Wiborg
Facebook Administrator: Doug Suzukovich
Newsletter: (interim) Stan Kinmonth
Regional Coordinators:
Panhandle - Russell Deese
Northern—Joseph Lorentzson
Central-West—Dave Thomas
Spacecoast—(interim) Doug Suzukovich
Suncoast—Doug Suzukovich
Eastern—Ray Giasullo
Southeast—Fred Perkins

Vice President's Report

2nd QTR President Letter

As acting President for the First Florida Chapter, I am happy to announce the selection of two interim board members. Mr. Frank Coppola and Mr. Alvin Hughes. During the past 6 months, the board has been addressing the vacancies within the club, getting an interactive website established and working on finalizing the clubs By-laws.

Looking ahead, we are going to focus on the most important section of the FFC, Area Coordinators. Hands down, the Area Coordinators make this club what is and what it's going to be. We have some more work to do, but many hands make light work. Your continued participation is appreciated and if anyone is interested in coming on board in any capacity, please let us know.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support during the past 6 months. The 4th of July is upon us and I want you to enjoy time with family and friends and remember what has made this country great.

Eric L. Leirvik
VP FFC MVPA

Post Script:

The following three pages include my letter to membership emailed June 30, 2022 and the Bio for Mr. Frank Coppola, Interim President, and Mr. Alvin Hughes, interim At-Large Board member



**FIRST FLORIDA CHAPTER
OF THE
MILITARY VEHICLE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**



Dear FFC Members,

On June 25, 2022 we conducted our 2nd Quarter meeting at the Road to Victory Military Museum, Stuart Florida. The meeting lasted an hour and we were very successful in what we accomplished. The minutes for the meeting have been finalized and sent out to membership.

Recognizing the need to restore the Board to five members and prior to the meeting, the Board has quietly asked around for members that would be willing to take on the two vacant positions. We honed in on two highly qualified members who were willing to consider the positions.

After the meeting the board spoke with Alvin Hughes and asked if he would accept the position of Interim At-Large on the Board for the FFC. Alvin had a few questions of what the job entailed. After a brief discussion he graciously accepted the position. Alvin's resume is attached.

After talking with Alvin, the Board spoke with Frank Coppolla and asked if he would accept the position of Interim President on the Board for the FFC. Frank had some questions as well, and after a brief discussion graciously accepted the position. Frank's resume is attached.

After reading each new Board member's resume, one cannot help but see these two members are solid people with a shared common desire to assist the FFC in getting to a better place. Each has a passion to serve and give back to a community that has given to them and their successes. They both truly embrace the mission and vision of the FFC and desire that each member be able to belong to a professionally run organization.

I am sure there are some questions as to why these positions were filled without an election. Per the current and proposed By-Laws, the Board/President has the ability to fill vacant positions on a temporary basis for the remainder of the term as well make appointments for special purposes until that need is finished. Both Frank and Alvin know that if they wish to continue in either of these positions, they must go through the voting process in December where the President, Secretary and the At-Large will be voted on by current members in good standing.

We must not forget that we are a volunteer run and supported organization. We are all busy and time is very precious and that all contributions of time made to the FFC are greatly appreciated. The board's desire to serve the members has not changed so I ask you to please welcome Frank and Alvin to the board and give them your support. They have agreed to help steer the FFC into a more professional organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric L. Leirvik
VP FFC MVPA

The FIRST FLORIDA CHAPTER of the MILITARY VEHICLE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (FFC-MVPA)
The FFC-MVPA is an IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt organization, qualified to receive tax deductible contributions under IRC Section 170,
as well as other gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522.
The FFC-MVPA is recognized as a Not-For Profit organization by the State of Florida and has received a Florida Sales Tax Exemption Certificate



FRANK R. COPPOLA, III — FFC MVPA — INTERIM PRESIDENT



The FFC MVPA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Frank R. Coppola, III of West Palm Beach FL and the Eastern Region as FFC MVPA Interim President.

Frank is a graduate of Gettysburg College with a degree in Business Management. His early career from 1996 – 2004 included work on Wall Street as a Commodities and Equities Trader. In 2004, he formed a residential construction company named Coppola Brothers LLC, later incorporated in 2005, which was named for his two sons, Mitchell and Joseph, both of whom are Eagle Scouts.

Coppola Brothers LLC originally specialized in residential and historic renovations and construction management and now includes commercial construction projects as well. The company's area of operations include Florida, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Vermont. Notwithstanding his company's many awards, Frank is a certified Florida Certified Master Builder (FCMB), which indicates a proven track record of building expertise, business stability, integrity and exceptional customer service.

Frank has a great deal of leadership experience outside of work life, currently serving as:

- 1.) 2022 Metropolitan Builders and Contractors Association of New Jersey - President;
- 2.) Gold Coast Builders Association in Florida – Second Vice President;
- 3.) Florida Home Builders Association PAC – Vice-Chair.

He also has served the Boy Scouts of America as:

- 1.) Committee Chair;
- 2.) Eagle Scout Advancement Coordinator;
- 3.) Washington Crossing Council Property Committee.

Additionally, Frank was recently nominated to serve on the Palm Beach County Building Code Advisory Board, election pending.

Frank has a strong interest in military vehicle preservation. He owns a M-Series 5 Ton truck which is a Coppola Brothers work horse and he participates in events with the FFC MVPA Eastern Region.



His long experience as founder and owner of his own successful

business and as the Chairperson of the Metropolitan Builders & Contractors Association of NJ and as FHBA PAC Vice-Chair made Frank a desirable individual to serve as Acting President of the FFC MVPA. We are honored to have him act in that capacity until the upcoming FFC MVPA Elections in December 2022 where the Office of President will be filled for the 2022 – 2024 term.

Our warmest FFC MVPA welcome to Interim President Frank R. Coppola, III.



ALVIN C. HUGHES FFC MVPA INTERIM DIRECTOR AT LARGE



The FFC MVPA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Alvin C. Hughes as the Interim FFC MVPA Director at Large.

Mr. Hughes has contributed a lifetime of dedicated service to our country in a US Navy career that spans over two decades. His work in the "Silent Service" of US nuclear submarines began with instruction at the Basic Enlisted Submarine School in Groton CT. Assigned to USS SPADEFISH (SSN-668), a Sturgeon-class fast attack workhorse of the submarine fleet, Alvin was on hand for deployments to Grenada and An ICEX deployment to the North Pole.

Alvin's professional development on the way to becoming a strategic weapons expert included a position as an instructor of the Strategic Weapons Systems (SWS) "A" School at the Naval Guided Missile School at Dam Neck, VA. At the Norfolk VA Submarine Training Facility (SUBTRAFAC), he served as an Attack Center Instructor/Supervisor. While awaiting the completion of the fast attack USS OKLAHOMA CITY (SSN-723), Alvin served onboard USS HONOLULU (SSN-718) in her relocation from Norfolk to Pearl Harbor. Caribbean Sea exercises on USS MINNEAPOLIS SAINT PAUL (SSN-708) in 1987, led to a deployment on the newly launched USS OKLAHOMA (SSN-723) and participation in OPERATION DESERT STORM. Following a promotion to Chief Petty Officer served on the Staff of Commander Submarine Squadron Eight as Squadron Fire Controlman. In 1998, Alvin graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from Excelsior College. In 1999, Alvin was commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer and assigned to the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) at Cape Canaveral, FL. By 2002, Alvin was the Nuclear Weapons Accountability Officer at Kings Bay, GA where he served for three years before returning to Port Canaveral as Port Scheduling Officer and attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4). Over his decades of service, Alvin was awarded the Navy Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (3 awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal (7 awards).



Following his USN career, Alvin served as Trident Research LLC's Operations Manager supervising and conducting Flight Test support of the USN Trident II D5 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) program, overseeing 22 (+) SLBM from USN Ohio-class and UK Vanguard-class submarines until his retirement in 2018.



Alvin's service to the First Florida Chapter of the MVPA includes many years as the Space Coast Regional Events Coordinator, orchestrating Space Coast veterans' events, car shows, holiday parades, and military events. His abilities to turn basket case military vehicles can be seen in his ground up restorations of a 1942 Willys MB found by his brother-in-law in a Kentucky tobacco barn and a 1945 Ford GPW found on a NC farm.

Given his lifetime commitment of service and his dedication to the FFC MVPA specifically, the FFC MVPA Board of Directors warmly welcomes Alvin C. Hughes to the Board as Interim Director at Large.

Minutes From June 2022 Membership Meeting

First Florida Chapter – MVPA

Minutes – 2nd Quarter General Membership meeting

Date: 25 June, 2022

Location: Road To Victory Military Museum, Stuart, FL

The Zoom meeting was started at 12:59pm.

The meeting was called to order at 13:00 by Chapter President (Acting) Eric Leirvik.

There were 14 members present and 7 members on the Zoom call in attendance.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The meeting followed the agenda forwarded to membership the evening of Wednesday, 22 June.

President:

The meeting began with President (acting) Eric Leirvik thanked Ray Giasullo of the museum for hosting the meeting AND providing lunch. He went on to state this was our first attempt to conduct a meeting with Zoom attendees, and to expect some issues (which there were). With Secretary Stan Kinmonth, the items listed on the agenda were to be presented.

Treasurer:

The agenda order was changed by having the Treasurer's report next. Treasurer Bridget Leirvik had a breakdown of income and expenses for anyone who wanted to review it (no one did). She also addressed that the new web page has an on-line store to purchase merchandise and on-line membership and renewal capabilities. The store will also accept payment for the M1 Carbine raffle tickets.

Rally:

The first item, presented by Stan Kinmonth, regarded upcoming events. The 2023 Winter Rally will be the weekend of 25 and 26 February, with set-up day the 24th. The Florida Forrest Festival in Perry, usually supported by the chapter, is having a field trip day the Friday before the parade, expecting 1000 school children to attend for an educational experience. We may attempt such an event in February and adjust set-up accordingly – just an idea at this point. Also, Eric and Stan, along with two representatives of WW2Armor, met with Dan Simmons of Perry, Fl. The idea of incorporating a FFC type event with the annual festival in Perry has been around for some time. The meeting was to show the WW2Armor reps what the Perry site had to offer. WW2Armor will conduct a recon by participating in the 2022 festival parade with one piece of wheeled equipment.

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Club Insurance:

Secretary Stan Kinmonth, who obtained the event insurance for the February 2021 Rally (with a referral to an agent recommended by WW@Armor), which was again utilized for the Fall 2021 event in Zephyrhills, was able to locate another, less costly source for the March 2022 Rally. Both policies have similar restrictions which have been discussed before (aviation a separate event - not part of ours, vehicles not driving around, not giving rides, tightened security re. weapons and ammo, etc.)

It was further clarified that the liability policy protects the FFC-MVPA, not any individual member, and it is only in force for events sponsored by the FFC-MVPA. Since the club is now paying for coverage, along with a certificate of coverage going to the co-insured (city, venue owner, etc.) will be given a list of the members and approved guests attending / participating in the event.

Finally, as stated above, these policies come with restrictions. Those planning and working any FFC-MVPA event must be familiar with and adhere to those restrictions. Continued insurability is at risk. The loss would effectively prohibit any future events, as more and more venues, municipalities, etc. require such coverage

Bylaws:

A 12th Bylaw revision began in 2021, but halted in favor of counteracting the shenanigans some created within the election process, followed by the resignation of Dave Thomas as president. The current 11th version, a collection of patches, contains conflicts and outdated definitions. Shortly after returning to discussions about the bylaws, Stan Kinmonth learned, from two separate sources, of the Small Business Development Council (SBDC), a free service for small businesses AND 501(C)3 organizations. Eric and Stan have thus far had two conferences with SBDC representatives. Perhaps the most important thing we learned is the IRS requires 501(C)3 organizations to have a formal "Conflict of Interest Policy" – we haven't had one, but we now have an example and will have our own soon. All officers will be required to sign a statement that they have read, understand, and will comply with the policy requirements. A Policies and Procedures manual was strongly recommended; with the bylaws written a bit loose and referring to that manual for the details. Other recommendations were: term limits, vetting candidates, 5 board members (odd number), clarify officer roles – what each can do themselves (duties) and what needs approval of the Board. Finally, we were referred to other organizations for ideas.

The Board will begin a new draft, along with draft Policy and Procedures Manual, the Conflict of Interest Policy, and the Compliance statement. When all are completed, they will be reviewed by the SBDC, then by an attorney. If any revisions are needed, they will be made. It will then be signed by appropriate Board officers, making it the new current Bylaws, and disseminated to members in good standing.

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Within the Bylaws discussion is the recognition of the need for a President and a 5th Board member. The recommendation to somehow vet candidates is being discussed. Suggestions for the 5th Board member are being discussed.

Member Bob Neely brought up two points: The idea of the club sponsoring scholarships as one means of maintaining the not-for-profit and 501(C)3 status. A Charitable trust may be required if we do so, to check with Florida's requirements. The other point was to see if an antitrust policy is required.

Web Page:

The development of a new web page, started and then stopped over a year ago, has been revived and is up and running. Member Alexander Watkins (regretting inability to attend in person), asked Eric to describe the new page. Eric told all in attendance, at a computer or on a phone, to go **ffcmvpa.org** and look it over. Several did so as Eric explained the various pages and the current and upcoming capability. We reported that merchandise has already been purchased and a new member has joined and paid via that web page. Soon, it will have an interactive event calendar in calendar format, among other things. Ultimately, we would like each region to have its' own calendar. The Board has decided, once the web page is complete, to turn it over to a hosting service to maintain. Other clubs do this at an approximate cost of \$500/year. We will seek proposals before signing a contract.

Rally Fund Raiser – Rifle Raffle:

The sale of rifle raffle tickets has been a major fund raiser; off setting much of the cost associated with the rally. All members are requested to support the raffle

Stan Kinmonth reported the club purchased and received this week an M1 Carbine, barrel dated 5-44, manufactured by Inland Division of General Motors. The cosmoline was cleaned away, the wood was cleaned, paint marks and sticker residue removed, and minor dents were steamed out. It was then lightly (400 grit) sanded – there was no cartouche or other stampings in the wood, likely replaced somewhere along the line. It was then coated with Japan Dryer, wiped down, and oiled. Member Joseph Lorentzson visited while it was disassembled, saw the bore and commented how good the bore was.

Some members purchased tickets, other took some to sell. Tickets can be paid for via the web page – tickets will be mailed to the purchaser.

Other topics introduced at the meeting:

Bob Neely conveyed Fred Perkins' offer to host a quarterly meeting in the Southeast region.

Ray Giasullo proposed hosting an event at the nearby Stuart airport.

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Mentioned above, the new Bylaws will refer to a policies and procedures manual. That manual will address the Zoom operator's duties, how meetings are conducted, etc.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 p.m.
Minutes prepared and submitted by:

_____/S/_____/ 27 June 2021
Stan A. Kinmonth
FFC-MVPA Secretary

Accompanying this newsletter is a fillable pdf Application and Renewal form .

Please copy the form to your computer or tablet and use it when renewing, either by saving the completed form and emailing it or printing it and send it with payment via the US Postal system.

Associate Members

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Upcoming Events—Next Four Months

FFC-MVPA Sponsored—None

FFC-MVPA Endorsed

21 and 22 October, 2022—Florida Forrest Festival, Perry, FL. Static Displays Friday for School children followed by dinner. Parade Saturday morning followed by static display and lunch.

Hotels:

Holiday Inn Express, \$112.99 per night plus tax.
Phone 850-584-3200

Hampton Inn, room rate \$96.00 per night plus tax
Phone 850-223-3000.

Ask for “Military Vehicle Room Block”

POC: Dan Simmons 850-584-8147

July 23, 2022—Jacksonville Sharks Arena Football Game. Need 3 Jeeps for display at 5:30pm, Game is at 7:05pm. POC: Mark Hooper, 305-393-5474

July 27, 2022—Korean War Remembrance Day, Mission BBQ in Orange Park. 10:00am Static display. POC Joseph Lorentzson, 904-923-0341

August 8 and 23, 2022—Military Appreciation at the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp baseball game. Need 3 to 5 vehicles for 5:30pm display, game is at 7:05pm. POC: Mark Hooper, 305-393-5474

September 22, 2022—Military Appreciation at the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp baseball game. Need 3 to 5 vehicles for 5:30pm display, game is at 7:05pm. POC: Mark Hooper, 305-393-5474

—Continued —

**Upcoming Events—Next Four Months
Continued**

Other Events of Interest

Northern Region:

Every 2nd Saturday—Caffeine & Octane Cruise-In , 8:00-11:00am,
The Avenues Mall, Jacksonville POC: Stan Kinmonth 904-276-1418

Every 3rd Saturday—PDQ Cruise-In, PDQ Chicken, SR13 at
Racetrack Road, St. Johns County, FL

October 1, 2022—”Cruzin to the Creek” Car Show, by the First Coast
Car Council, benefiting Ronald McDonald House, Trout Creek Marina
and Memorial Park, SR 13, St. Johns County. \$25.00 registration.
POC: Stan & Lily Kinmonth 904-276-1418.

FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS
PLEASE REFER TO THE
OPS SCHEDULE

GOING FORWARD, PLEASE SUBMIT UPCOMING
EVENTS TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR
AT stantr6@comcast.net

ULTIMATELY, THEY WILL BE POSTED ON
THE CALENDAR PAGE OF THE NEW
WWW.FFCMVPA.ORG
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