

# MOTOR POOL MESSENGER

## Military Transport Association of North Jersey

April 1999

Peter B. Berendsen, Editor, 152 Rockwood Rd., Florham Park, NJ 07932, 973-966-1862

### Minutes:

Minutes of the March 8, 1999 meeting of the Military Transport Association of North Jersey.

At 8:10 p.m. President John Sobotka called the meeting to order. Nineteen members were present including John Sobotka, Frank Nasto, John Headley, Len Amberger, Don Covart, Bob Foley, Al Burghardt, Joe Botto, Dan Lacey, Frank Eichenlaub Jr., Frank Eichenlaub III, Al Axelrad, John Boyle, Jack White, Tom Fisher, Peter Berendsen, Dave Smith, Brian Bancale, and yours truly, Dave Ahl.

Mr. Sobotka waived a reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and asked for corrections or which there were none so the minutes stood as published in the newsletter.

As treasurer Rick Frei was absent, there was no treasurer's report.

Mr. Sobotka again congratulated the sign committee (Jack White and Don Covart) for a job well done on the large club sign and they got another well-deserved round of applause. It's so hard to realize that the sign is actually done that we'll probably be asking for the sign committee report for the next several years.

No one had remembered to get any information on the cost of embroidered patches, so Mr. Sobotka asked that members try to gather some information before the next meeting. There was also no further information available about magnetic signs.

Al Axelrad reeled off a list of about a dozen parades to which we are either committed or to which he expects we will be asked to participate. The season starts off with two parades on Memorial Day and comes to a close with a display in Hawthorne in October. Dust off those vehicles!

Mr. Axelrad also noted that the 4H Club was looking for display vehicles for an event at Chubb Park on Route 24 in Chester on July 30 to August 1. The could potentially be a good place to sign up new members.

[Secretary's note: There are neighborhood car and truck shows nearly every weekend from late April to October that I've found are fun to attend and good places to sign up members. If you plan to go to any of these shows, get some club info sheets and membership applications and hand them out to interested people. There are three shows the weekend of May 15-16: a 4x4 show in Stewartsville, a general car & truck show in South Plainfield, and the huge Garden State Nationals at the shore. Of course, May 15 is our not-to-be-missed trip to the West Orange Armory, an interesting place because that's where vehicles are scrapped, so that would limit show going to Sunday, the 16th.]

Mr. Sobotka again raised the idea of the club sponsoring a rally/flea market, possibly in Year 2000, and he suggested establishing a committee to check out feasibility. Unfortunately, a simultaneous private meeting was being held at the other end of the table about khakis, sources, US Cavalry, etc. and it was difficult for some of us in the center to follow either one. However, the minute Mr. Sobotka asked for volunteers, the other meeting ceased and a chorus of reasons that we shouldn't even

consider doing a rally were offered. The idea was so soundly poo poed that it never even got to the feasibility committee stage.

This item of business dispatched, the private meeting resumed with a discussion of a "guy in Poaterson who has fatigues and steel pots." And so on.

Mr. Sobotka asked Mr. Berendsen about the roster of members included with the March newsletter. Mr. Berendsen explained that the 74 members on the roster were those who had paid their dues. All those who owed dues got an SASE with their newsletter in January. If they did not pay, they got a note in February. If they then didn't pay, there were dropped. Mr. Nasto felt that a greater effort should be made to retain existing members, specifically a phone call. Mr. Berendsen countered with the argument that we are the only chapter to send people a SASE and that should be enough. Mr. Ahl said that based on his 25 years in magazine publishing, a significant number of people don't respond until the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> renewal notice. There seemed to be some sentiment that we should call ex-members who had not re-upped. Vice president Brian Bancale volunteered to make these calls.

Congratulations were offered to Mr. Covart for his new M35A2 duece-and-a-half, which he had brought to the meeting. Mention was made that he and Mr. Sobotka would be bringing their vehicles to Dover High School on March 13 to help create some atmosphere for a performance of South Pacific, [which they did]. Mention was also made of the Mystery Express at the Madison Hotel on March 20. [After being canceled and then reinstated with a smaller force and no reimbursement, Mr. Ahl with his M151A2 and Mr. Sobotka with his M37 played nasty Fredonian MPs who checked the credentials and generally gave the mystery dinner guests a hard time as they tried to board a train at Convent Station which would take them out of this repressive country. Ha! Little did they know that they would find a corpse on the train and after getting almost to the border (Newark), they would be forced to return and once again face the wrath of the disagreeable duo of Sobotka and Ahl.]

Stories were then told about the Dockers slacks very soggy promotional event the week before, which resulted in much laughter and general pandemonium. A somewhat more complete and coherent account of the event, complete with photos, can be found in the May/June issue of *Military Vehicles*. [I might also mention that color photos of this event along with many past events are in the club photo album. If you have any duplicate photos of club events, please bring them to a meeting and put them in the album.]

The 50-50 took in \$32, half of which went to the holder of ticket #280, Mr. Frank Eichenlaub, after which ticket #303 belonging to Mr. Len Amberger was drawn for a sheet of holographic MV stickers.

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. after which several WWII vehicle videos were shown.

—respectfully submitted, Dave Ahl, Secretary

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**Officers for 1999:**

President ..... John Sobotka, 37 Mountain Trail, Hopatcong, NJ 97843, 973-398-3692  
Vice President ..... Brian Bancale, 56 Newton Ave., Sussex, NJ 07461, 973-875-6985  
Secretary ..... Dave Ahl, 12 Indian Head Road, Morristown, NJ 07960, 973-285-0716  
Treasurer ..... Rick Frei, P.O. Box 628, Blairstown, NJ 07825, 908-362-5045

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**Member Services:**

Landscaping, Retaining Walls, Brickwork, Patios, Walks ... Don Covart, Fox Hollow Landscaping, 973-263-8106, 335-4367  
Tree Services ..... John Boyle, Boyle Tree Services, 908-964-9358  
Welding, Sheet Metal Work, Machine Work ..... Brian Bancale, Brian's Custom Fabricating & Repair, 973-209-0454  
Used Cars & Trucks—Buy or Sell ..... Dan Lacey, Empire Auto Sales, 800-94EMPIRE, 201-440-3323  
Home Improvement ..... Jerry Miller, Avemco Remodeling Group, 973-398-7749

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**Calendar:**

Monday, April 12 ... MTA Monthly Meeting, Gionna's Restaurant, RX Plaza, Rt. 10, East Hanover (7:00 dinner, 8:00 meeting)  
Fri-Sun, April 16-18 ..... Spring Englishtown, Swap meet, custom & antique show. Raceway Park. Info: 732-446-7800  
Sunday, April 18 ..... GPA Spring MV Rally & Flea Market, Jake's Flea Market, Rt 100, Bally, PA. Info: Jim 215-757-7640  
Thurs-Sun, April 22-25 ..... Spring Carlisle, Carlisle Fairgrounds, PA. Info: 717-243-7855  
Fri-Sun, April 30-May 2 ..... Hershey in the Spring, Old airstrip across from Hershey Park, Rt 39, PA. Info: 717-867-4810  
Sunday, May 2 ..... Spring NJ AACA Show, Automatic Switch Co., Hanover Rd., Florham Park. Info: Anne, 732-388-3029  
Saturday, May 8 ..... COMVEC MV Display & Militaria Flea Market, National Guard Armory  
Corner of Stanley & E. Main Streets, New Britain, CT. Info: Gary 860-347-7881  
Monday, May 10 ... MTA Monthly Meeting, Gionna's Restaurant, RX Plaza, Rt. 10, East Hanover (7:00 dinner, 8:00 meeting)  
Saturday, May 15 ..... MTA Tour of West Orange Armory (time & directions to follow)  
Thurs-Sat, May 20-22 ..... 26<sup>th</sup> East Coast MV Rally (Flea market, test course, tours, Jeep balancing, MV judging, parade)  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, exit 85 on I-95, APG, MD. Info: Tom 410-272-7074  
Friday-Sunday, June 4-6 ... WWII Commemorative Weekend (Aircraft, MVs, re-enactors, vendors, chicken dinner, 40's dance)  
Air Museum, Reading Airport, off Route 183, Reading, PA. Info: 610-372-7333  
Monday, June 14 ... MTA Monthly Meeting, Gionna's Restaurant, RX Plaza, Rt. 10, East Hanover (7:00 dinner, 8:00 meeting)

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**For Sale:**

1951 Dodge M37 Pick-up, military painted, some rust. Rebuilt motor, 900-16 Michelin radials, spare and two extra tires included. 30,000 BTU Hotwater heater, fender mounted with defroster and arctic grill blanket and 7' Meyers angle plow. Master cylinder, wheel cylinders and brake hoses, silicone fluid, all replaced eight yeras ago. Bed bows and end curtains included. Also included extra brake linings and two new brake drums, new wiring harness, extra transmission and transfer case. Many other extras included. \$2,500. Call Peter Simonson at home 973-770-9496 or work 973-267-2757.

M-35A2 - Cargo and shop vans, also 1960 Unimogs (1 whole, 1 parts) \$2,500. Call Jude Meehan 732-528-5422.

M-series vehicle two pin jumper sockets, \$25 each. Write to John Heckert, 247 Senator Dr., Millersburg, PA 17061.

For Trade: P. 08 Replica Luger. Trade for similar .45 Cal. replica. Len Amberger 201-385-6258.

Wanted: M151A2 fuel pump, other 151 parts. Call Dave Ahl at 973-285-0716.

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NOTICE! New Address for Lou and Karen Sliazis: 219 Sherwood Dr., Freehold, NJ 07728; Phone: 732-761-9317.

# The Military Vehicle Collectors Club of California Invites you to the 24th Annual



Military Vehicle  
Preservation Association's  
International Convention  
June 24-26, 1999

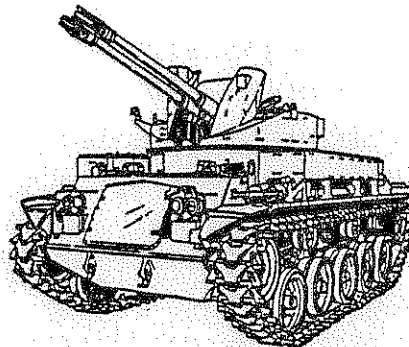
**Swap Meet tables are nearly sold out**  
**The Host Hotel is filling-up**  
**The registration deadline is June 7th**

**Make your reservations today or you may miss these special events,  
they are to be sure sell-outs!**

Start the Convention with:

## A Tank Museum Tour

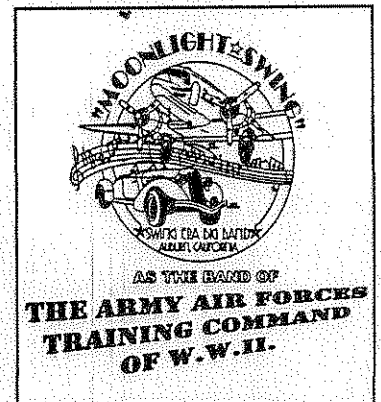
Jacque Littlefield, long time member of the MVPA will share his private collection with convention attendees. The museum is located on a hillside with a beautiful view of the San Francisco Bay and contains 75 pieces of armor, new and old, U.S. and foreign. This is a rare opportunity to see one of the finest collections of armor in the world, so bring your camera. Space is limited and filling up quickly, allow three hours for the tour, see Page 2 of the Registration Form.



End the Convention with:

## Moonlight Swing

Enjoy swing era music while savoring a London Broil Buffet Dinner, pool side, at the San Jose Hyatt Hotel. What a fabulous way to spend the final evening with your MV friends. Vehicle awards will be presented and then "Moonlight Swing", an 18 piece swing era big band, the vocal trio, "Sister Swing" and jitterbug dancers, "The Shiners" will present an unforgettable two hour show. See Page 1 of the Registration Form and don't forget to wear your 1940's attire.



**For Additional Information Call MVPA-HQ (800) 365-5798**

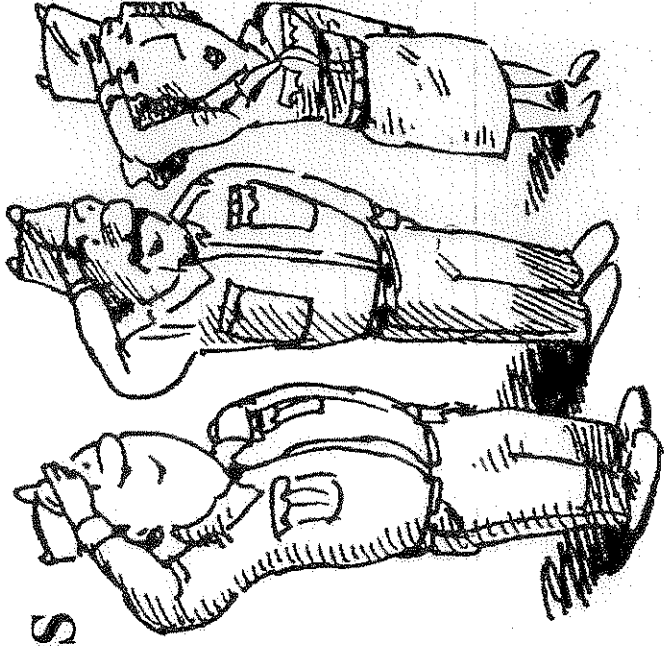
***FOLLOW US TO SAN JOSE!***  
**HELP US SUPPORT CALIFORNIA**  
**MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUMS**  
**JUNE 24 THROUGH JUNE 26, 1999**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**TULLY ROAD - SAN JOSE**

Hosted By: Military Vehicle Collectors of California

**LARGEST WEST COAST**  
**MILITARY VEHICLE**  
**DISPLAY AND SWAP**



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC JUNE 26, 1999 8 AM TO 3 PM  
DONATION \$ 5.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 AND SCOUTS IN UNIFORM FREE