

JUNE is DODGE COMMAND CAR MONTH in the MVCC NEWSLETTER!

THE

WEST COAST

Chris Toadman Huges on the move!



**MILITARY VEHICLE
COLLECTOR**

NEWSLETTER



Fall Meet in
September 2022
Pearl Harbor
trip. Dodge
Showcase in
2023. MB/GPW
showcase 2023.
Pacific Grove.
122mm....

CALIFORNIA



EDITOR: JOHNNY VERISSIMO

JUNE 2022

VOL. 2023

Eric Reed standing next to his Dodge WC56 (L-R) in Plymouth, California—photo by Johnny Verissimo



Eric Reed's Dodge 3/4 Ton Radio Reconnaissance WC56 Command Car

Visit our website: www.mvccnews.net & www.facebook.com/MVCCAMPPLYMOUTH

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**.

No report submitted

Good Morning MVCC members!

Hope everyone's got their military vehicles ready for Eagle Field's Fly In Dinner and Dance. This is an all day event. There is a free BBQ dinner on Friday night to MVCC members who bring their military vehicles for the event. There is camping and vendors are welcome to display for free.

May 21st was the Chowchilla Armed Forces Day Parade. MVCC members Tony Issak, David Simon, Don Gomes, Johnny Verissimo and myself participated with our military vehicles.

Parade: I had Tony Issak tow my 1976 122 mm Russian Artillery piece in the parade. Its one of 4 in private hands in the United States. Mine was brought over from the Iraq War. I had the Ukrainian Flag on it while in the parade and on display at the Chowchilla Fairgrounds during the fair.

Regards, Chris...



1976 Russian 122mm Artillery Gun



Chris Thomas Russian Artillery at Chowchilla



L-R, Tony Issak, Johnny, Don Gomes, David Simon and Chris Thomas

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MVCC Secretary/ Editor Johnny Verissimo

What's up in the MVCC?

We just had a successful meet in Camp Plymouth so we have that to be very thankful for. If you weren't able to make it this year we hope to see you next year which would be the 3rd week of April 2023 making it the 16th to the 22nd. Hope to see you there.

In this newsletter you will find the registration form for the MVCC September Fall Meet which is the 11th to the 17th in Camp Plymouth (Plymouth, California). This is the smaller meet but has been well attended in the last few years.

Also in this newsletter Chris Toadman Hughes gives us a tour of the USS Alabama Battleship with its 16 inch guns and aircraft.

In my world we had the Eagle Field AAF work day at Eagle Field in Dos Palos on May 14th. Once a month we have a work day at the Barracks, there is an open invitation to anyone who wants to help. If your into World War 2 history and have gotten the bug to restore and preserved WW 2 history then EF AAF might be a place for you. For more information on Eagle Field AAF call Chris Thomas.

I'll be taking my Command Car to the Armed Forces Day/Chowchilla Fair Parade on Saturday the 21st which will have passed by the time this is read. Then we have the Memorial for Mark Bombini at Eagle Field on the 28th (my birthday). Then on June 3rd and 4th we have the Eagle Field Dinner Dance and Fly In. Again, if your into WW2 History then the fly in is something you should really consider. I want to say at the last event we had 30 military vehicles show up plus the war birds.

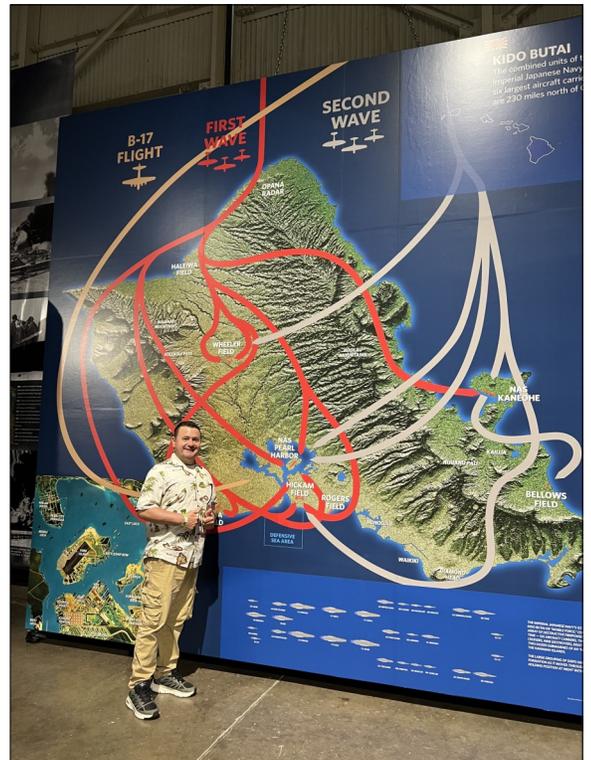
I had an idea for a themed newsletter and decided to go with "June is Command Car Month." So I located some friends with command cars and asked them to do a write up on their vehicles that they restored. A big thank you to Eric Reed, Pete Woodward, Tim Coolbaugh and John Duckett for their articles and photos on their command cars.

July! The official month of taking your military vehicle in a parade. One of the coolest by products of owning a military vehicle is parade attendance. The 2nd by product of buying, restoring and owning a military vehicle is its your 401K but you get to play with it. I've been in the hobby since 1989 and have never seen the price of military vehicles, especially WW2 vehicles drop. WW2 vehicles are kinda Wall Street Bottoming Out proof. I find that military vehicles are a really good investment.

Are military vehicles a good investment, HECK YEAH. Depending on the make, model and year it's a good investment. Unlike Wall Street military vehicles are something you can actually touch, hold, and if your me you hug.

SHOWCASE 2023: There will be a Dodge Showcase at the 2023 April Meet! Get the Dodges ready!

A LONG TIME COMING. At the age of 52 I finally made it to Pearl Harbor! It was a life changing experience that's for sure. Oahu is a must for all WW2 history buffs. Christina and I had the best 11 days while visiting all the museums. **Couldn't recommend it enough!!!** Article in this newsletter.



Myself in Hanger 37 at Ford Island



A beautiful dive bomber on display in hanger 37

My 1943 WC56 3/4 Ton Command Car by Eric Reed

As a young child I had seen all the War movies and played with my plastic army toys. Somewhere along my childhood I decided I wanted a Dodge Command car. I thought the command car was really cool looking. As I grew up, I found the command car I had seen in the movies was the WC56 version. I have now, and have owned many other Dodge military vehicles, starting out with M37's and a WC1, which kept me pacified until I could obtain a WC56. I was always on the search for an affordable WC56, as I had a family to support. One day I was driving on Hwy. 395 and saw several command cars parked in Boron at a shop building. They were WC56's, I was jazzed, a fellow Military Vehicle collector being only 30 minutes from me. But every time I would drive to Boron, no one was at the building, I was bummed.

In 2006 I attended Tower Park in my 1962 Dodge M37b1. Keith Courtney and myself had driven it up there from Barstow, being 318 powered we could do that 7 hour drive at speed, I had huge 44" tires on it. This truck not looking very traditional, but it did attract people to come up to us when we pulled into Tower. One of the interested persons was Mr. Dennis Darr from Boron. After meeting Dennis, I told him of the numerous attempts to meet him and I was interested in one of his WC56 command cars. I visited Dennis after the Show and through a lengthy time we came upon a deal for his "parts" WC56. It was in very abused condition, but it was an affordable to me, a 1943 WC56.



After I brought it home I was on the search for parts and was searching the internet for command car pictures to see what way I was going with my command car. After seeing all the pictures and learned about finding one "un-cut" being a rare find. I decided to restore it back to factory. One crazy thing about my command car was it had a goofy white steering wheel welded on it, it looked like a wheel off a school bus? So one day I was on the net looking at command car pictures and found an article with a Universal Studios backlot shot and there was a command car pictured with the very same white Bus steering wheel! Wow, it is my command car. Well, I eagerly started searching the internet movie data base more and more to find shows and movies my command car had been in. I have found several and I am presently getting more pictures of my command car in shows and movies with its signature white steering wheel being the confirmation. One crazy thing I would like to add, when I was a kid our family went to Universal Studios as a large group with other family members, all the parents went on to watch "Jesus Christ Super Star" and us kids got to do the rides and tour the backlot. I'm pretty sure I saw my command car there and had wished I could have had it then. This is too funny and almost surreal. In my research of other Backlot pictures I found companion vehicles, such as Halftracks and 2 1/2 tons that were in the same paint schemes as my command car. Dennis Darr had one of the "Raid on Rommel" halftracks. Upon stripping down the command car for body work I had found it to have many layers of colors and many holes drilled in it I had to fill. Apparently It had been made into a German staff car once. I have seen it as a still prop vehicle in a 1970 version of "Hogan's Hero's" and in the 1971 movie "Raid on Rommel" before it was made into a German prop vehicle it must had been running. The grill had been removed sometime back and it was driven in



the backlot. I'm pretty sure I saw my command car there and had wished I could have had it then. This is too funny and almost surreal. In my research of other Backlot pictures I found companion vehicles, such as Halftracks and 2 1/2 tons that were in the same paint schemes as my command car. Dennis Darr had one of the "Raid on Rommel" halftracks. Upon stripping down the command car for body work I had found it to have many layers of colors and many holes drilled in it I had to fill. Apparently It had been made into a German staff car once. I have seen it as a still prop vehicle in a 1970 version of "Hogan's Hero's" and in the 1971 movie "Raid on Rommel" before it was made into a German prop vehicle it must had been running. The grill had been removed sometime back and it was driven in



complete condition and used in the 1962 movie "Escape from Zahrain" it had some goofy top on it and again used in the 1967 show "Garrisons Gorillas" with the top removed. Then back to being used as a bent up still prop vehicle in 1991 with no grill in "Childs Play", and the last time in 1996 in the TV Show series "Sliders". In Sliders they really finished it off with flipping it over onto its topside. I continually search for more Shows and Movies my command car was used in. John Tedesco and I often speak of remembering the Universal Studios backlot, John knows many of the vehicles that were there once and the movies they were used in. I will continue to build my history book and add more pictures of its movie history. I really enjoy bringing it to the Shows and Plymouth. I will continue to support MVCC with my command car being ever present. I hope everyone enjoy's this short story, being there is more to this, but it would turn into a book (lol).

I want to thank Johnny Verissimo for asking about my command car and wanting to share its history with all of you.

Eric Reed~
Barstow, California



This battered yet restorable Dodge 3/4 ton Command Car sits on the back lot of Universal Studios in Hollywood California. The photo was taken from the tour tram. Just visible to the left of the photo is the nose of a half-track.



Eric Reeds WCS6 in Pelamanna, photo by Johnny



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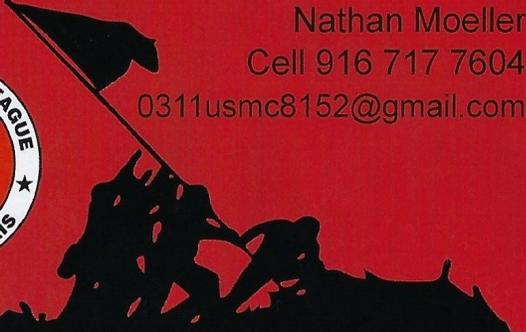
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Andy Shyers (East Bay VP) Divisions 510, 925, 341

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Hi MV'ers,

Not too much to report since Plymouth. The M37 is going to be laid up for a while, but, on a positive note, the students and I get to do some automotive forensic investigating! So far they think it's pretty cool and I'm getting slightly depressed as our tests are pointing to an involved fix. The kids seem to find this funny. Sometimes I love my students! Events I'm aware of in the area are below. If you know of others, please contact me so I can get the word out.

Roberts Regional Recreational Area, May 21st, Noon

I spotted this in the paper today and it's right in my backyard. WWII veterans of the US Army Company E, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team gather at Roberts Regional Recreational Area for a memorial service. This service is held by members of E Company on Armed Forces Day as it has been for over 30 years. This unit was a segregated Japanese American unit that was awarded more medals, man for man, than any other unit in American History.

Parking: Enter Roberts Park and drive to the second parking lot to park. Follow signs and music to the service in the woods. The service is about 1/2 hour long. Might be nice to see some MV's in attendance.

Red Oak Victory, Sundays 10-4

They're up and running! It's a great tour! <https://redoakvictory.us/>

Danville July 4th Parade

Since 1975 the parade has been organized and conducted by the Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley. The parade lasts about 2 hours. We will be supporting American Legion Mt. Diablo Post 246. It's a fun parade and we typically transport. For more info see the link below: <http://www.srvkiwanis.org/parade>

Staging: Assemble at 0800, Monday the 4th of July

We will assemble at **Area M** in the San Ramon Valley High School South parking lot [the same area as in recent years]. It is easiest to turn on to Del Amigo Rd from Danville Blvd/Hartz Ave, then Left on Verona Ave, then Left on Love Lane, then Left into the parking lot.

Parade Details: Parade steps off at **0900**.

Hope to see you out and about with your MV's this summer! Andy~



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No report submitted



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No report submitted



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

Divisions 831, 805, 820 ,408 South. ctope@employnet.com

No report submitted



Kurt Lesser, (South Bay VP) Divisions 408,669,650

408-238-8277 papakb@yahoo.com

No report submitted



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

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



Here's the story of another jeep in the collection, and another project waiting for attention. This one came from Gardnerville, Nevada a few years ago. I heard about it and went to see it, and like most jeeps I go see, it followed me home. It's a 1944 MB. I didn't need another jeep project, but this one had a Studebaker 170 flathead 6 engine sitting in the engine bay. For \$1000 bucks, I figured this one was worth buying just for the engine, which is the same engine that's in the M29 Weasel. Everyone needs a spare Weasel engine, right? The nice part is the frame on the MB is uncut, unlike other conversions. The front cross member and motor mounts are intact since the 170 pretty much bolts in, in place of the original 134. That makes it much easier to re-install an original flathead 4 cylinder engine when the time comes. Even an original radiator will bolt right in. How nice is that? One thing about being from Nevada, this jeep must have sat outside for a long time because it's full of Nevada sand. But it's mostly rust free and ready for restoration sometime soon.

Dave



Webmaster: Sean Nichols - etnoise400@hotmail.com

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

Hello MVCC'ers,

I hope you're all having a great Summer and getting that OD iron out in front of the public, and just going out for fun. As you read this, Memorial Day will have passed. I hope you participated in a local event honoring those who sacrificed everything for our freedom. We plan on participating in the Virginia City Memorial Day Parade, and we have tentatively planned to participate in a Veteran's coffee put on by Honor Flight Nevada.

Looking on to July, don't forget to participate in an Independence Day event near you. Our local group will likely be participating in the Virginia City Independence Day Parade, and Nikole and I have been invited to show our HMMWV at a local car show in association with the National Auto Museum in Reno. I'll try and snap some photos and post them here next month.

I am furiously working on getting my non-MV project up, running, and drivable for Hot August Nights in Reno. Once that's ready for cruising, I need to get back to diagnosing my fan clutch issue on my HMMWV. With what diesel costs these days, I can no longer afford to run the truck with the cooling fan on all the time. It's always something, isn't it?

That's all I have on my plate at the moment. I hope you get your MVs out, enjoy them, and share them and their stories with others.

Take care and keep 'em rolling! -Sean



MVCC WAGON MISTRESS JOANN LESSER

mvcccampmistress@yahoo.com

CAMP PLYMOUTH SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH 17, 2022

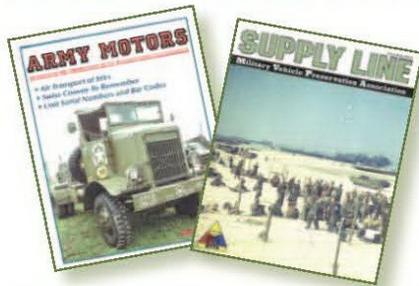
It's time to start getting ready for September 2022 Camp Plymouth! If you are new to the MVCC or need a refresher on how to register keep right on reading.

Official Info - Dates: 9-11 through 9-17 Sunday. 9-18 is a departure day
49'er RV Resort deposit must be made by 8-10-2022
Fairgrounds payment must be received by 9-05-2022

Camp Plymouth early birds at both the RV Resort and the Fairgrounds start arriving Sunday, September 11 through Tuesday, September 13. There is a 4 night minimum stay at the 49'er beginning Wednesday, September 14 through Saturday, September 17, 2022. . At his time, all cabins have been spoken for however, I do keep a wait list. The 49'er RV Resort is for RV's only, there is a NO tent policy in force there. If you are interested in tenting we have the Amador County Fairgrounds right next door to the RV Resort.

It is important that all that attending fill out and return to me, either by mail or e-mail the registration form. The form will give me your most up to date contact information as well as your days of arrival and departure. Please read the registration form carefully as things may have changed from last year.

If you have questions, I can be reached by phone 408 440 6068 or e-mail mvcccampmistress@yahoo.com



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.

MVPA PO Box 520378 Independence, MO 64052

Phone: (800) 365-5798 E-mail: 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) _____ | Confirm rate when making deposits | Confirm rate when making deposits |

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 5th 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

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



June 3 & 4th 2022: Eagle Field Dinner Dance and Fly In/Military Vehicle Event. POC is Chris Thomas (559)871-6507 Friday night there will be a free BBQ to everyone that brings a military vehicle and to members of the MVCC. Saturday all day will be explore Eagle Field, Food vendors, MV games. Parade, Big Band, Dinner etc etc This is the 80th Anniversary of EF!!!

July 1, 2022: Naval Air Station Lemoore's 60th Anniversary Celebration. Event will be hosted at NAS Lemoore's Chief and Officer Club and will celebrate Lemoore's AAF roots during WWII and NAS Lemoore's founding in the 60s. Vehicles and displays are welcome. More info to follow. Please contact Corey Firman at firmanc@hotmail.com or 253-267-2456 if interested."

July 4th 2022: Gustine 4th of July Parade. POC is Don Gomes. (209)765-1273. Meet at 850 Elm Ave at 9AM.

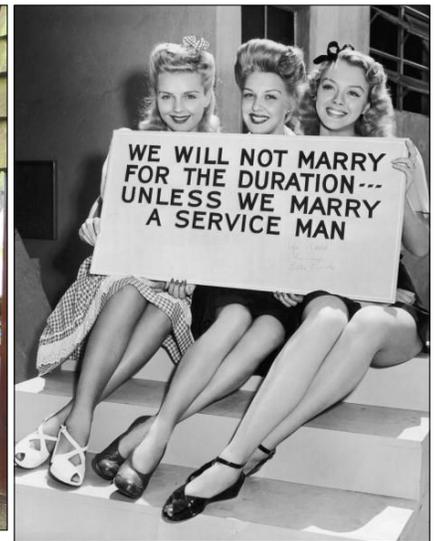
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July 4th Parade: Morgan Hill. Kurt Lesser POC 408) 440-6067 papakb@yahoo.com

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.



Phil Tracy's 1/2 Ton Command Car



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 or www.mvccnews.net**

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Dinner Dance Fly-In • June 4th & 5th, 2022

18 piece Live Big Band, Dancing,
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or call 925-383-3916 • E-mail: michelle.knobbe@sbcglobal.net
Find Eagle Field Dinner Dance and Fly In on Facebook 



Dinner dance Fly-In **Saturday, June 4th & 5th, 2022** **Tickets available after March 1st**

Saturday June 4th

2:00 PM Aircraft Arrivals Begin
3:00 PM Bar opens for water, sodas and drinks
5:00 PM People arrive for pre-dinner activities
and Collectibles Silent Auction Opens for Bids
5:30 PM Military Vehicle Parade
6:30 to 7:00 PM Dinner Begins
8:00 PM Music Begins
9:00 PM Coffee and Donut Break
11:00 PM Hangar Doors Close

Sunday June 5th

8:00 – 10:00 AM Pancake Breakfast
11:00 AM Aircraft Depart

Prices

\$75 Steak Dinner
\$65 Half a Chicken Dinner
\$50 Veggie Lasagna Dinner
\$15 Sunday's Pancake Breakfast

Los Banos Hotels (21 miles north): Travelodge (209) 710-0593
Maple Inn (209) 827-4600, Economy Inn (209) 826-0682
Red Roof Inn (209) 826-9690, Sun Star Inn (209) 826-3805
La Quinta (209) 827-4677, Best Western (209) 827-0954
Los Banos Motel (209) 826-2700 Hotel on I-5 South (17 miles):
Apricot Inn (559) 659-1444.

Saturday dinner includes: mashed potatoes, special green beans, a salad, a dinner roll and a wonderful chocolate éclair for dessert. Donuts and coffee are served at approximately 9:30 PM.

Buy tickets @ www.eaglefield.net • or call 925-383-3916
E-mail: michelle.knobbe@sbcglobal.net

Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Eagle Field

Eagle Field AAF base was opened in 1942 specifically to train pilots for World War II. From April 1942 to the winter of 1944 about five thousand pilots were trained in Ryan PT-22 and Boeing Stearman PT-17 aircraft. Purchased in 1980 by Joe Davis, Eagle Field is a link back to a very important and pivotal time in America's history. Having been saved, hopefully in the years to come it will be fully restored. We need your support.

This, our 33rd Warbird Fly-In and Dinner Dance promises to be a very entertaining historical event. Past aircraft have included PT-17 and PT-22 trainers, B-25 and PV-2 bombers, P-40, P-51, Corsair, Bearcat and Wildcat fighters, an ME-108, L-Birds and even a veteran C-53 transport that dropped paratroopers on D-Day.

In the past, military vehicles have included Jeeps, Half-Tracks, Weasels, Command Cars, Tanks, Cleatracks, APCs, Cargo Trucks, Weapons Carriers, Staff Cars and Artillery/Anti-Aircraft pieces.

Many will dress in World War II period attire. Espana's of Los Banos will cater our Saturday night dinner and you will sit at a beautifully decorated table. Knight Sounds, a classy 1940's big band from Modesto, will provide live big band music. There is always an exciting swing dance contest. Our veterans will be given special recognition.

Military Vehicles Only: Arrive Friday/Saturday (For MV info contact: Don Gomes at 209 765-1273). Vehicle folks can camp out through Sunday. Showers will be available. There will be a BBQ and camp fire on Friday night. Saturday activities include: A filming for YouTube, and a military parade at 5:30. Bring period military clothing for the video. Breakfast and lunch will be available at the cantina on Saturday.

Pilots: The Eagle Field identifier is CL01. Use a RIGHT HAND PATTERN and announce arrival on 122.9. A shuttle for PILOTS ONLY goes to both the La Quinta (209) 827-4677 and Best Western (209) 827-0954 in Los Banos. One afternoon shuttle at 2:45, returning at 5:45, and one every hour 9:00 until 11:00PM, returning on Sunday AM.

U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Memorial Park by Chris “toadman” Hughes

In 2020 and 2021, my dad and I were able to take a couple of trips back east to visit various military museums and monuments. For this year’s trip, we changed things up a bit as my daughter was due to graduate from the University of Alabama at the beginning of May and Alabama has several military museums along with numerous monuments and memorials. Due to time constraints, we settled on one major museum, the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

Located in Mobile, about an hour west of Pensacola, FL and nearly four hours south of Birmingham, the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Memorial Museum is a large park with numerous aircraft, military vehicles, a submarine, and of course, the battleship U.S.S. Alabama(BB-60). The U.S.S. Alabama was the last of the South Dakota-class battleships to be commissioned during World War Two. Serving most of its time the Pacific, she earned nine Battle Stars. After the war, like so many other ships, she was decommissioned and put into storage. In the early 1960’s she was saved from being scrapped and became a memorial and museum in January 1965.

The Alabama is one of the most complete World War Two battleships on display, being approximately 80% complete. During our visit, we noticed that almost all of the 20mm and 40mm anti-aircraft guns were in-place along with all of the 5” guns. Most of the radar antennas and many of the gun directors are still present as well. Inside, the ship, modifications have been made to make it compatible for civilian visitors including the removal of many “knee knockers” in the passageways that are open.

There are three separate, self-guided tours of the ship available, including going into one of the engine rooms. We choose to stay in the upper decks and outside. Many compartments and rooms such as the Flag Plot and the Captain’s Cabin are viewable through clear plexiglass. One of the 5” gun turrets is open for visitors to go inside for a look.



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Donna Reed in Oahu, Hawaii, 1940's

Joining the Alabama at the museum is the U.S.S. Drum(SS-228), a Gato-class submarine. The Drum is oldest surviving American submarine on public display. She is displayed on land and is open to walk through. The exterior guns are still mounted with visitors being able to sit on the forward 5"/25 gun mount. Most of the interior is open with only a few compartments such as the "head" and forward/aft torpedo tubes screen off. The interior appears to be nearly complete and gives visitors a very good appreciation what American submarine crews had to deal with while serving on these boats.

Next to the Drum is the aircraft pavilion. Displayed inside the pavilion are approximately a dozen aircraft including an OS2U Kingfisher observation aircraft(as would be found on the Alabama), an RF-8 Crusader, and a F/A-18 Hornet. There are also several military vehicles and a Vietnam-era PBR patrol boat. Outside of the pavilion are additional aircraft including a SR-71, B-52D, and F-15A Eagle.

Other displays at the park include several tanks such as a M4 Sherman, M26 Pershing, and a Chinese-built Type 69II main battle tank that was captured from Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. Several pieces of ordnance are display with the vehicles such as a 155mm "Long Tom" gun and a pair of 5"/38 naval gun mounts. The large park where these pieces are displayed include shaded picnic areas and large grass fields, making them perfect for family outings.

The U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Memorial Park is open seven days a week, 0800-1700. Admission to the park is \$5.00 per carload. This gives visitors access to all of the displays outside of the fence, including aircraft, military vehicles, and picnic areas. General admission ticket prices vary based on age and veteran status. They also offer a AAA discount. General admission includes access to the Alabama, Drum, and aircraft pavilion. For more information, visit their website, www.ussalabama.com.

1. USS Alabama: The U.S.S. Alabama seen from the port side, forward.
2. Port Side: Five turrets, each armed with two 5"/38 guns are mounted on each side of the Alabama. Seen here are the port side turrets.
3. 16-inch: The main armament of the Alabama consisted of nine, 16"/45 guns mounted in three turrets, three guns per turret. Seen here is the aft 16" turret.
4. 20mm: By the end of World War Two, the Alabama carried more than forty, 20mm anti-aircraft guns such as the ones seen here.
5. Skyraider: This AD-4NA Skyraider is one of approximately a dozen aircraft that are on display in the aircraft pavilion.
6. Outdoor aircraft displays include from left to right: F-14A Tomcat; F-15A Eagle; F-16A Fighting Falcon; YF-17 Cobra; and F-105B(?) Thunderchief. In the background is a B-52D.
7. M60A1: This M60A1 is one of several tanks on display at the park. It has been recently repainted.



Photo #4



Photo #5



Photo #7



Photo #6

Photos on pages 12 & 13 by
Chris Toadman Hughes~

My WC25 ½ Ton Radio Reconnaissance Command Car by Pete Woodward

The command car project probably started about fifteen years ago. I had several trucks one after the other always finding one better than the one I had. I ran across an add for the WC-25 that I now have up in Idaho. It was a nice looking vehicle , 90% restored according to the seller. New tires, top in a box, repo top boos, new seat covers, fresh paint and it ran. Unfortunately the paint was a strange color, the seat covers were a poor fit. When I commented on the 2X4 s holding up the floor he said "well nobody can see that". From all the previous vehicles that had passed through my hands I had most of the hard to get parts to make this vehicle right. So with many reservations I bought the vehicle and we loaded it into a Ryder box van and I drove it home.

The restoration took me several years but it was a vehicle worth restoring and a real challenge. The distributor on the radio command vehicles are shielded and very few people have even seen the shield. I was lucky to find that Tim Coolbaugh's dad had the shield and invited me up to his house in Nevada to make drawings. The big challenge was then to make the shield. I wish I had taken a picture of the distributor with shield, shielded wires, spark plug cans and coil can before installation.

My build date is Dec 2 1941 on my build card from Chrysler Corp.

Pete Woodward,
San Anselmo,
California

*Pete Woodward's
Dodge WC25
Command Car in
Petaluma, Ca—
photo by Johnny*



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



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 4 inch Patch
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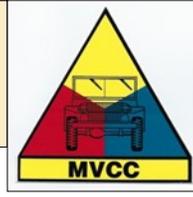
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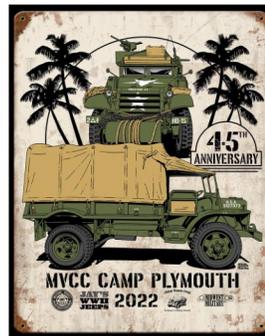
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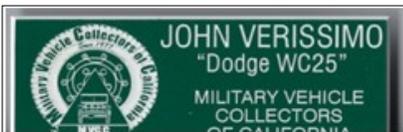
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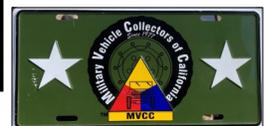


2022 Camp
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 Metal Sign.
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Custom
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MVCC License Plate \$15



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
 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

WANTED: Looking for M116 flatbed trailer with 10KW or larger functional generator. Please email Brian at gmund-meister2@gmail.com or 530-368-6991

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

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 (714) 299-4593 (cell)

Wanted: M37 Radiator, Contact Andy (510) 832-4322, mvcc510925@gmail.com



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SWAP MEET—Saturday May 7th - Alameda Naval Air Museum Swap Meet and Car Show. 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Early Vendor set up 3:00 p.m. Friday. Vendor spaces 20x20 \$40.00, Cars for sale \$30.00, Free Entry Buyers, Free Parking. Car Show. All Military Vehicles welcome special placement. Free Peet's Coffee and Donuts till they run out. Food truck, D.J. Music Man from the "Push Rods." Contact: Larry Pirack (510-522-6440) (backtothe40s@gmail.com)

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 Johnnv.Verissimo@sbccglobal.net**

Visit our website: www.mvccnews.net & 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.



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

WC-51 US Navy accounting No. 222 from the war in the Pacific
Weapons Carrier-ordnance 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

¾ ton Dodge truck parts

2 speed transfer case for WC 62 and 63 \$300.00
M37 complete front axle \$200.00
M37 complete rear axle \$ 200.00
MU2 winch with cable guide \$800.00

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

Wanted: Restorable Halftrack, My son and I are looking for a restorable halftrack. Preferable an M3, any condition considered as long as it is priced right. He is starting college as a mechanical engineering student, so, he needs to keep busy and out of trouble. John Souza, souzaj3@yahoo.com, 559-313-4480

For Sale - 7 Michelin 396/85R20 XZL Used tires for sale. They are in good condition. \$100.00 each. - John Gillich jtgillich@gmail.com - 775-848-0966



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 :)

If you want more info on the MVCC check out the web page and we are on facebook in two areas, look us up.



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

bigmike405@hotmail.com

Hi MVCC Members,

I enjoyed seeing many of you at Camp Plymouth. The weather was great as was the company. I also enjoyed tooling around in my newly acquired 1966 Cushman "Lobster". I was not in the market for a Cushman but a few Saturday's ago, I was surfing Facebook Marketplace and this Cushman popped up. It happened to be very close to home so I decided to go check it out. The owner, who recently passed away, was a collector of many things including Cushman vehicles. He had many styles; from two wheelers to three and four wheelers. The grandson helping with the sale of the vehicles told me this Cushman Lobster was his Grandpa's favorite. Apparently they were only produced in 1966 and less than 500 were produced.

Upon inspection, I could see it was almost 100% complete and original. It had not run for many years but was kept out of the weather. The tires, besides being weather checked, still held air. The engine turned over by hand and had compression. After contemplating a bit, I ended up striking a deal and bought it. I started with the carburetor. Boy was it full of green muck!

I soaked it in carburetor cleaner overnight, cleaned the jets and the needle valve and hand-made a gasket for the fuel bowl. It took a few attempts to get the fuel to flow past the needle valve. The needle valve kept sticking inside the housing. Eventually I got it working as expected. Next, I tackled the fuel pump. The pump was still intact but the diaphragms were stuck together with bad gas. I carefully peeled each layer away from the other using plenty of carburetor cleaner and a gentle touch. I got all the layers separated and tested it by running the motor with a drill and socket on the flywheel. After a few minutes, it started pumping fuel to the carburetor. Next, I tackled the fuel separator that comes off the bottom of the tank. This was packed closed with dried gasoline. I had to use a series of small diameter drill bits and spun them by hand thru the dried gasoline being careful not to drill the body. After much effort, I was able to salvage this as well. I also hand-made a gasket for the fuel bulb.

I replaced the fuel lines and added an in-line fuel filter. I changed the oil in the engine and cleaned the sparkplug. I washed and dried out the fuel tank, replaced the battery and was ready to try and start it. I turned over the engine with the key switch and was super excited that it started within seconds and ran perfectly. YEEHAA. Now it was time to fix the brakes. Both wheel cylinders and the master cylinder were frozen and gunked up. I took them apart, which took a bit of convincing since the internal pistons were frozen. I got everything apart. The master and wheel cylinders were rough but just needed seals and honing.

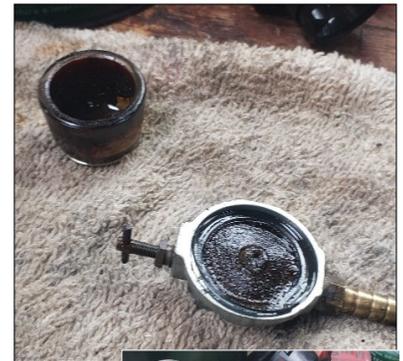
I got lucky and the local NAPA store found seals that worked for the wheel cylinders. Put everything back together, added some DOT 5 brake fluid and BINGO! I had brakes again. What a fun quick project that I was able to bring to Camp Plymouth. It was also fun using the HEMTT crane to load and unload the Cushman.

Upcoming events that I am aware of:

Fiesta Days Parade in Vacaville on Saturday May 28th. POC Mike Fedyk

As always, please share with me upcoming events as well as any projects you are working on so I can post them in our newsletter.

Big Mike..~



Photos by Mike Fedyk

My 1941 Dodge WC16 ½ Ton Radio Reconnaissance Command Car by Tim Coolbaugh

This truck came to me and my dad in 2000 from the Ponderosa Ranch (of the Bonanza TV show) in Incline Village, Lake Tahoe, via the Tony Harrah collection. Tony was going to restore it, but decided to buy my dad's already restored (MVPA 1st place winner) WC-6 instead. It was pretty solid, complete and unmolested, it even still had the radio suppression wiring and ignition components that are so hard to find. Our plan was to build a runner, not a restoration, so we could enjoy it camping, off roading, etc. This meant we were free to add a Braden MU winch (we sourced from a WC-4), changed from generator to alternator, modern battery and coil, dual tail lights, 2 speed transfer case, locking hubs. My dad passed in 2008, so it was up to me to finish the project. I picked up the 218 flathead at the machine shop where my dad had dropped it off, and proceeded to assemble my first Dodge motor, with no help other than the manual. The real push to get it at least driving was for the 2011 Dodge showcase at Tower Park, where we had about 13 command cars. I have since steadily added things like paint, tires, reflectors, top, doors, radio antenna insulator, etc every year. It is marked for the 10th Mountain Div., 110th Signal Co., which was in Italy in 1945. The idea to use it for fun has been fulfilled many times, it has gone on several Sierra Nevada camping and exploration trips, some as high as 11,000 feet elevation with no issues. I just dust her off, touch up the scratches, hose out the spilled beer and muddy dog prints, and she's ready to go again.

Tim Coolbauh
South Lake Tahoe, CA
1941 Dodge WC-16 Radio Reconnaissance
SN 8692217
Date built: Oct. 6 1941



Photos by Tim Coolbaugh of his Dodge WC16 Radio Reconnaissance Command Car



My 1941 Dodge WC16 1/2 ton Radio Command Car by John Duckett

I restored this truck. Restored with all original radio suppression equipment as it came from the factory. DOD 10-10-1941

Years ago I was traveling to the MVCC event at Tower Park and came upon someone towing a half-ton Dodge WC Command Car. Wow! I always have been into the Art Deco design, and I thought the rear-end of that Command Car was based on that art and really a beautiful thing. I remember thinking that it would be highly unlikely I would ever find or own one of these great looking vehicles.



Well, about five years later I saw an ad for a Dodge WC16 Radio Command Car for sale in in Mount Shasta, California which is only about 80 miles north of me. Made the call and set a preview date. I roll up and see it sitting there in a very rusty condition. I remember walking up to it. The front sheet metal was off, and the cowl was above me chest level. Okay, I just had to have it.



Long story short. Brought it home and completed a nut and bolt restoration over about a two year period. It was pretty rusted out, so had to replace the majority of the floor and a few other things. Lots of work, but well worth it to bring this Dodge WC16 back to life.

As I was restoring it, I started to learn about what the radio cars were all about. Therefore, I decided to restore it back to its original condition, radios and all. I had a lot of help along the way from others out there helping me to figure out what a 1941 era radio car was all about.



I ended up building my own radio cabinet to house the radios. Over time I found the original radios that were used in these trucks in 1941. The components include a transmitter, receiver, and a dyno motor that is hooked to the batteries and powers the radios. I learned that the radio trucks were some of the only 12 volt vehicles produced by Dodge back then. Most of the other military trucks, if not all, were 6 volt trucks.

I really enjoyed the restoration to get this Command Car back to the way it came from the factory with all the radio and radio suppression equipment. I found quite a few original components. However, I had to make a lot of the original equipment. That was the fun part. Finding out what I was missing and either finding it or making it. The research to bring this truck back to life really made this Dodge WC16 Radio Command Car restoration enjoyable.



John Duckett
Cottonwood, California
Dodge WC16 Radio Reconnaissance Command Car DOD 10-10-1941



My 1941 Dodge 1/2 Ton WC25 Radio Reconnaissance Car – Johnny Verissimo

One day, about 15 years ago, while on craigslist I spotted a 1/2 ton command car in a photo add. Looking back now and remembering the condition she was in I think to myself “what was I thinking.” I bought her without seeing her in person. She was located in Washington State and I was in Central California. You should have seen the look on the faces of my friends when she arrived at my house via transport, lol. She didn’t look pretty at all. The engine was frozen, and when I took the engine apart snow water came out, the water was as cold as ice I remember.

I was so happy when she arrived that day. I was the only one that saw what she was gonna look like when done. Us military vehicle guys have something called “faith” running through our veins. Its faith and caffeine that keeps us up MV’s guys going, plus a love for military vehicle history and US history AND the preservation of it all.

After a closer look at her running gear I knew I would need another 1/2 dodge to complete my command car. So I located, again on craigslist, another 1/2 ton dodge for sale. I got Don Gomes and Dieter Pertrch to go with me to Southern California to pick up the donor Dodge and bring it back to Gustine. The “donor” Dodge had a great running year and was the same year as Pearl.

After about a year and with the help of my friends we were able to put the two dodges together to complete the 1941 Dodge WC25 Command Car that has a DOD of 11-10-1941. The DOD is about a month before the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941

What was hard to find? The two Command Car gauges that only command cars have was very hard to find due to how rare they are! Also hard to find was the SCR 245-J radio system.

The radio has a dynamotor, a transmitter and receiver. One of them came from Normandy, France, one came from Italy and one from Belgium. About 15-20 years ago ebay and craigslist was the only way to find parts. Not everyone was online 20 years ago. Also if it weren’t for ebay I don’t know how I would have gotten as far as I did with Pearl.

Pearl, the name I gave my command car, is in tribute to Pearl Harbor and PTO. Since I was a little boy I was obsessed with Pearl Harbor and the Pacific Theater of Operations.

My Command Car is not fully restored yet, I need to finish the radio suppression system under the hood and put in a new wire harness but that will come within the next few years. So how do I feel about Pearl after all these years? I love her. She’s one of my favorite military vehicles I’ve ever owned. Command Cars have height, decent weight and can carry 6 men from the 1940’s or 4 men from the 2000’s. lol. Yes I’ve gained “pandemic” weight, ha! In all seriousness I do get tons of joy out of my WC 1/2 ton Command Car.

Johnny Verissimo
Gustine, California
DOD 11-10-1941

Eagle Field 2019



Photo from Craigslist



Work of Art

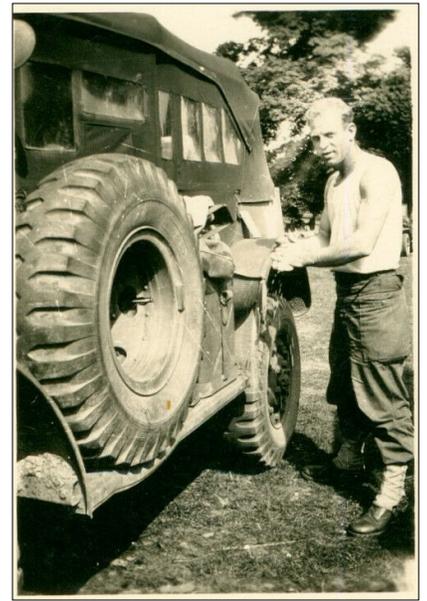


My happy place



Gustine 4th of July 2021

1/2 Ton Dodge Command Car, WW2



3/4 Ton Command Car, WW2



1/2 Ton Dodge Command Car, WW2



L-R, Tim, John, Pete & Johnny standing next to their Command Cars in Petaluma, California 2018

After Action Report by Jack Valenti

May 7th 2022

I guess I do kind of miss writing something up for the Newsletter, after doing it for so many years. So I thought I'll give you a little After Action Report on the "Pacific Grove Good Old Days Event".

Since I'm still "hassling" with my back problem and unable to get into the jeep to drive, I have promoted my gunner (and friend John Dick) to my new driver. With some assistance from my wife and John; they were able to "twist and turn" me into the "gunner seat".

And although we sent out emails for the locals to join us; we were the only MV in the parade. After the parade there was a "static display" of Military Vehicles in downtown Pacific Grove. And although you're new VP Charles Tope didn't have any vehicles in the parade, due to a previous commitment, he did manage to get his ever growing collection down town for the display.

On display:

1. Harley Davidson Motorcycle and sidecar
2. Military Jeep (that Charles restored)
3. Halftrack (M-3 I think)
4. Burma Jeep
5. Universal Carrier
6. My LRDG Jeep

As it was getting to be a long day for us "cripples" we pulled out about 2:30 PM as things were settling down by then.

Jack



"static display" of Military Vehicles in downtown Pacific Grove.



Photos by Jack Valenti in Pacific Grove, California

Burma Jeep

Debbie's Dodge 3/4 Ton WC56 Command Car by Michael Rinehart

As you can see I am putting in the engine. At this stage I had the brake lines in as well.

I did not put the goodies on until the engine was in. It would be just my luck to drop the engine.

Got the goodies on the engine in and got the fuel lines in and the gas tank as well. I have left off the Air cleaner for now less in the way with fitting the tub. Got the pedals in and have a completed rolling chassis.



Next is the Tub. And boy do I have my work cut out for me on this one. Everything from the floor to the frame is gone. So I am going to have to start on the frame with the supports, tack those in place and then put the cross members on and then the floor. Then remove the floor from the tub and remove the tacked together floor off the frame and get happy with Mig welder. Stock tip....Air Gas Welding supply. This leads me into my last idea. I am going to need an auto rotisserie. If there is anyone who knows of a good used one or one that I could rent, I would appreciate the lead.

michaelwrinehart@sbcglobal.net 925-963-1995. Thanks, Mike

While I was working on the chassis, I started in on the tank restoration as well.



Our trip to Pearl Harbor, Oahu by Johnny Verissimo

The MVCC event wasn't the only thing Christina and I did in April. I did finally make it to Pearl Harbor after 52 years of being on this planet. If I had a bucket list the one and only thing on there was to go to Pearl Harbor and see the USS Arizona to pay my respects.

My Daughters gave us a trip to Pearl Harbor as a gift for Christina's 50th Birthday and my 53rd, they knew how much I love WW2 History and US History so they sent Christina and myself to finally see the place I always talked about almost on a daily basis. Let me just say our trip to Oahu did NOT disappoint, this trip was the best 11 days of my life in a long time. Pearl Harbor moved me and reminded me why I do what I do and how I feel about it. Pearl Harbor and Oahu reinforced my belief in my hobby and my country. My daughters knowing me planned the whole trip to a T. We went to the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center, USS Missouri, USS Arizona Memorial, USS Bowfin, Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island, Schofield Barracks, Fort Derussy, Diamond Head, Polynesian Center, Waikiki Beach, Leonard's, drove around the whole Island, etc etc... There is no way I can recommend Pearl Harbor, Oahu enough. There are no words to really describe this trip to me. A huge massive thank you to our daughters.

I will post a few photos from our trip to Pearl Harbor. Because I was so focused on what I was seeing at the museums and displays I was not focused on taking photos so I was very grateful to Christina to for taking most of the photos on our trip. I'm also very fortunate that my wife(Christina) shares in my love for WW2 and US History.

The USS Missouri is only 500 yards from the USS Arizona so in just one small area you have the beginning of World Was 2 for the United States and the place where World War 2 surrender was signed ending World War 2 for the United States. Even though the surrender took place in Tokyo, the ship it was signed on overlooks the ship the where it all started, its intense when you look at it that way. You have to see both Battleships when your there.

Pacific Aviation Museum is a must, they have a Japanese Zero and a Douglas SBD Dauntless (Dive Bomber) and a Curtiss P-40E Warhawk (Fighter) and much more. Its all in historic Hanger 37 and Hanger 79 on Ford Island!

USS Bowfin Submarine at Pearl Harbor Visitors Center. This is an excellent example of a WW2 Submarine and highly recommended. She's well preserved and restored. You get to walk inside the submarine from rear to front (the whole length of the submarine.) So cool!

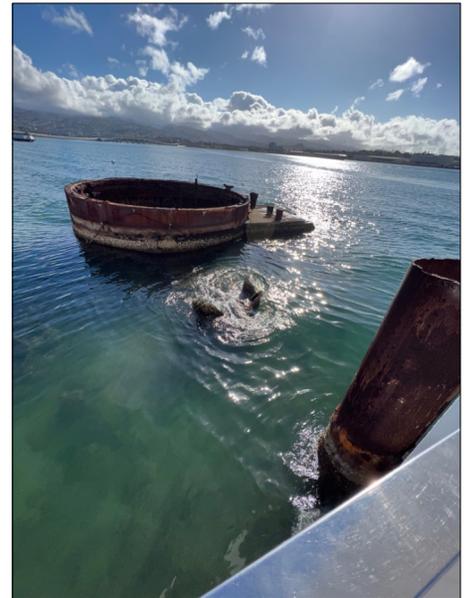
Pearl Harbor Visitor Center is a must, I could have been there all day reading everything their museums had to offer. The Submarine museum as well.

There is also **Diamond Head**, got to drive into the center of Diamond Head via a tunnel through the mountain. Fort Derussy Museum is huge but was closed for renovations.

I've seen so many photos from the 1940's World War 2 era of Oahu, Pearl Harbor and US Soldiers on R&R on **Waikiki Beach** so it was so cool to be on that same beach in that same spot while there.

We were soooo lucky that our plane flew into the Honolulu Airport over Hickam Field just beside Ford Island where we saw Battleship Row, the Red and White Tower of Ford Island, the hangers, the bay etc. That was an excellent start to our trip.

Thank you Kataryna & Maryan Verissimo



Above the USS Arizona standing on the Memorial



USS Missouri, Christina and myself onboard, Pearl Harbor



Myself on the USS Bowfin, photo by Christina

USS Arizona Memorial



Us in USS Bowfin Submarine



Pearl Harbor Visitor Center



Me at Pacific Aviation Museum Cafe



Japanese Zero at Pacific Aviation Museum

Tank at Schofield Barracks

1/2 Ton Dodge at Ford Island

Tower at Ford Island



Military Vehicle Collectors of California
*Dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation,
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