



# Thunderbolt Dispatch



JUNE 2007

## The President Speaks . . .

Hi All,



Missed **EVERYONE** at the Freedom Festival! What happened? I had my deuce down there. The Indy chapter was represented, and the Museum of 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare was there, also had some German re-enactors show up.

Look, I know we don't all have vehicles, but you can show up without one. I felt rather lonely being the only one there to represent the new chapter. I realize that this is the first for this chapter and things are happening fast, so I want to let you know that the Shriners Fest happens again next year. Also, I am pretty sure that the Freedom Festival will happen again next year. Maybe next year we can have some more people show up. I spent the whole weekend there and had a blast. All I ask is that you make an appearance. You don't have to stay all weekend or all day, at least stop by and say hi. Thanx to Mark Pennington, we had 5 slots in the parade for vehicles.

Now for the fun part, Saturday and Sunday thanx to Bob and Henry. I ran around in Vietnam era bdu's, and also got to pack an M-60 around (man it was heavy). Saturday we went to the parade and we received a standing ovation from the crowd when we rolled past. That was worth it in it's self. Saturday night Ricochet a band that was playing on stage wanted troops to be present when they sang the National Anthem, yep you got it we went on stage. We even found a current duty soldier to help us get our act together and go up with us. I wish I could remember his name. We had a blast.

Sunday we tried to do a battle reenactment with the Amtrak against the Germans but the Coast Guard called it off because the Antrak stirred up to much junk from

the bottom. The re-enactors wanted to shoot someone and have them fall off of the Amtrak and into the river, guess who was elected. Boy it sure was cold when I got out of the water. We marched up the riverfront with the German soldiers, when we made it to the Vietnam Memorial we stopped for pictures. A lot of people wanted pictures. When we finished up doing pictures, we were captured by a lady in a golf cart and packed all around the festival to meet almost everyone from the Bud-Light Lounge to the Pits.

We can choose to have fun with this if we want to, or we can choose to not have fun. I opt for the first one. As I said in the first meeting, let's get the official stuff out of the way so we can do the fun stuff. If you get upset with this column, you can e-mail me or call me. I will fill everyone in on everything that happened at the Freedom Festival at the next meeting.

I hope everyone had a **HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**

Thanx  
Lance Coffman  
President River City Thunderbolt MVCC  
IN MVPA Assistant Convention Chairman 2009  
Evansville, IN  
M35A2 w/w  
M105A2  
M197A1  
M52 gasser

## Chit Chat Line

### This month with our Secretary Mark Phillips

I remember back to the days of my youth during employment with a large mining company. This was the time when I first was exposed to surplus military equipment. To see these old workhorses in action in some of the roughest work conditions hooked me for life. Later while working as a field geologist in Tennessee, I was part of a drilling operation which included a 1953 Studebaker M-35 gasser.

I spent considerable time sitting in the cab of this truck working on notes. With the flat windshields that opened up, it was the coolest spot around. The ability of this truck to get into difficult locations was amazing. Many times everything else would need to be placed on locations with the help of a dozer but the deuce and a half would drive right in.



Later exposure to 1947-1968 Dodge Power Wagons further fueled my addiction to vintage four wheel drive vehicles. When a 1951 Dodge M37 became available in the village of Griffin, IN, I jumped at the

chance to purchase it. I remember the excitement waiting for the truck to arrive and the fun of exploring every part and piece of equipment. The truck had been sitting outside for a while and needed a fair amount of work including exhaust manifolds, canvas, fuel tank, brakes, wiring harnesses, batteries and glass. While it is in much better condition now, it is still a work in progress. Many years later it is still a work in progress. I purchased the truck from an elderly former member of the village council. I could tell that "Gene" would have fixed up and redone this truck if he had been younger. It was great that Gene continued to visit and keep up with the progress on the truck. Unfortunately Gene passed away before I could give him a ride in the truck. I am currently working on a 1958 Dodge Power Wagon Townwagon project which I try to make progress on between a busy job as an environmental project manager/geologist, keeping a 15 year old son in line and keeping up on a 90 year old house on the west side of Evansville.

I am really excited about the future of the River City Thunderbolt and am looking forward to great things this chapter can accomplish. I would like to see this chapter become the best in the U.S.

## Crossed Fingers

Everyone keep your fingers crossed. Anna and Kenny Adams, Lois and Robert Jornlin will be

traveling overseas at the end of the month for the decision of the Holland guys for the World Water Week after our 2009 Convention. We wish them safe traveling and good news when they return home.

## Where are We?

**We are still holding on at 18% of our goal** for the 2009 Convention We have sent out several more packets for money requests this week. We are running into the problem of businesses saying we are looking for the money to early. They want us to call them back the first of 2008. We have to be able to commit to National we have this money for the Fairgrounds for them to feel comfortable in our going forward. If you know of a company or an individual who is civic minded and may want to sponsor some of the funds needed for the 2009 Convention, please let Garry know. We still have time but need to get the money in hand.



## Event Calendar

**July 13, 14, 15 – Indiana MVPA Rally  
Anderson IN**

**July 19 - River City Thunderbolt  
Meeting – Cook out at Burdette Park.**

**September 26 – 30 LST Week –  
Evansville, IN**

**COOK OUT**

Our next meeting will take place at Burdette Park. We are going to have a cook out of hamburgers and hot dogs. A grill will be provided for you to cook on but bring your own food to cook. Enter Burdette Park at the main entrance and take the first road to the right. We should be in the open field and the end of the road. Please bring your vehicles so we can all inspect and admire your work. If it is raining please call Lance or myself for a possible alternate meeting site. The meeting will start at 7:00pm but feel free to come earlier to begin the cookout and fellowship with one another.



**Figure 1 Garry and John tax each others minds over the 2009 Convention.**

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to the **LST 325** for allowing us to use the ship for our meeting on June 21. It was great to have a meeting site with so much history. We hope to be able to come back again and maybe see what Jonathan has to tell us about the military vehicles he has been in contact with. Again thanks Captain Jorlin for the use of the ship.

Thank you to Garry for the purchase of the American flag to be used at our meetings. The flag was hoisted on the LST 325 and used for the Pledge of Allegiance at our chapter meeting on Thursday June 21.

**AFFILIATION GRANTED**

I am happy to announce the chapter has passed all requirements and we are now affiliated with the MVPA. This occurred during the convention in Little Rock at the Wednesday night Board meeting. Lance and Garry had sent papers to Headquarters asking for us to become an affiliated chapter. During the board meeting it was brought to the board for a vote. The board was surprised and well pleased that the chapter had been formed so quickly. The affiliation vote was placed on the floor and the motion carried unanimously with the contingency that enough MVPA national members (10) were on the chapter membership roster and so we are official.

## For your Information

### MILITARY VEHICLES LICENSE PLATES

What follows is a law concerning the registration of military vehicles,

SECTION 16. IC 9-7-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO Chapter 15. Military Vehicle Registration

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "bureau" refers to the bureau of motor vehicles.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "military vehicle" means a vehicle that

- (1) Was originally manufactured for military use;
- (2) is motorized or nonmotorized, including a motorcycle, a motor scooter, and a trailer;
- (3) is at least twenty-five (25) years old; and
- (4) is privately owned.

Sec. 4 The owner of a military vehicle may register the military vehicle under this chapter instead of registering for a plate issued for:

- (1) a vehicle under IC 9-1-4; or
- (2) an antique motor vehicle under IC 9-7-6-1

Sec. 5. If an owner of a military vehicle registers the vehicle under this chapter, the registration of the military vehicle is for the life of the military vehicle.

Sec. 6. If an owner of a military vehicle registers the vehicle under this chapter a registration plate is not issued. However, the commissioner shall authorize as a registration number the use of the military vehicle identification number stenciled on the military vehicle in white or yellow letters and numbers in accordance with all pertinent military regulations.

Sec. 7. The commissioner shall adopt a registration form and certificate of registration to implement this chapter.

Sec. 8. The registration fee is for a military vehicle under this chapter is twelve dollars (\$12). The commissioner shall collect this fee in addition to any excise tax imposed under IC 6-6-5.

Sec. 9. The commissioner shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter.

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The editor contacted the BMV, along with the information from Dan Ciolek, and there are a few changes and clarifications we should be aware of:

1. **A plate will be issued at the time of registration. The plate will be kept in the vehicle with the registration along with the copy of the new code** (as printed in newsletter) in case of problems with any law enforcement officials not conversant with the new code.
2. The plate **MUST** be on the vehicle if operated out-of state as they do not recognize the Indiana Law.
3. The original military vehicle I.D. number must be applied per military regulations on the vehicle. This is a yearly plate along with applicable taxes etc., but the registration number (military) is permanent.
4. The plate fee is \$12.00 yearly.
5. Questions may be directed to Bobbi Canada, IBMV State Office Bldg., Indianapolis, IN 46204 Room 409 317-232-2863.

(mvpa) SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON IN LAW CONCERNING MILITARY VEHICLES

## MEMO

TO: ALL LICENSE BRANCHES  
CC: Joel Silverman, Irene Lange, Jean Spears  
From: Jane Morrical  
Date: April 19, 2005  
Re: Military Registration/Registration Fee Waiver

As you are aware, owners of antique military vehicles may display their military registration numbers on their vehicle instead of a license plate. In order to collect the County Taxes and insure that these owners and vehicles are on our registration database, we require the owners to register the vehicles with an antique plate. A hand-typed registration with the military registration number is also issued when the vehicle is initially registered.

It has come to our attention that these owners are NOT required to pay the \$20.75 antique registration fee.

If you have a customer with an antique military vehicle, you will continue to register the vehicle with an Antique plate. If the transaction is run on BOSS, you will charge the customer the appropriate County Taxes (\$12.00 excise and applicable Surtax) and fee waiver the \$20.75 registration fee. If the transaction is run on STARS, you will "Waive Specific Fee" while you are processing the transaction.

Please continue to communicate to the owner that displaying the antique plate while traveling out of state is recommended.

Mike Barnhart  
Legislative Liaison-Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles  
Indiana Government Center North, Room N440  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-233-1218

This is the official memo that was sent to all BMV Branches. Keep in mind that the vehicles have to be over 25 years old to qualify for an antique plate. Mike McComas is working with Senator Drazda to get the antique plate qualifications for military vehicles. If you have already paid for your plate this year print this out and take it to your local BMV for a refund of the \$20.75 plate fee, if you have a military vehicle 25 years old or older. If you have any questions, call Mike McComas, myself or Mike Barnhart.

Chris Paul

*This was submitted to me by William Junker. He asked that I include this in July's newsletter. Thank you Bill for enlightening us on something many of us may not know.*



Wow! What a whirl wind is all I can say.

Garry and I along with our 2 grand-daughters Tydah and Danielle were on our way to Little Rock Arkansas. We awoke at 4:00 on Wednesday morning with the excitement of children at Christmas time. The suitcases were packed, the truck was packed to capacity and we were on our way to our first National Convention. Of course this being our first one we had no idea what to expect so we were running on adrenaline all the way.

We arrived in Little Rock around 1:00 that afternoon. I caused Garry to miss one turn but we found ourselves without much trouble and found ourselves in the middle of downtown Little Rock. There were signs hung with MVPA and arrows showing which way to go. That was a big help because there was a BUNCH of traffic and it helped to know we were going the right way. We stopped at the hotel first to check in and of course our room wasn't ready which is why they say 3:00 check in. We went on down to the convention site and this is where it all began.

What a flurry of activity going on. There were people, vehicles and merchandise everywhere. At first Garry and I just stood and watched the music in motion to see what was actually going on. You could tell these people were veterans at this convention thing. There were all types of set ups to show their wears and ways to display their vehicles. It was great to just watch vendors and vehicles owners get ready.

There was a meeting board meeting at 3:00 so Garry and I thought we had better attend this. It was for vendors. We figured it was something about setting up or what you need to know or something like that. We being green wanted to know everything about everything. We attended and quickly left as it was more or less a discussion on some policies the board was to vote on Saturday morning.

We took brochures about the upcoming 2009 event along with site brochures the *City of Evansville* gave us, *Marriott* brochures, *4-H Fairground* brochures and *LST 325* brochures. We had one side of our table set up for the 2009 Convention. We were also sponsoring the LST 325 and took merchandise to sell for them. I was a bit disappointed we didn't sell more things for the ship but we did what we could do.

The girls and I manned the booth while Garry walked around to vendors, vehicle owners, really whoever had a hand that could and would take our brochure. When they stopped by our booth I would ask them if they had our information and if not start with the 2009 brochures, then the tour guide, the 4-H guide, I would ask them if they would be staying in a motel and if yes give them the Marriott brochure and then invite them to visit the LST. I can't tell you how many positive comments we received. People kept saying you're in 2009 and you have all this information already. We will be there.

The general questions were asked, will there be a charge to park (in Little Rock \$10.00 a day), which airlines flies in, questions about the fairgrounds. People were just shocked when we were able to answer the questions just off the bat. If all the people who said they were going to be there are there, we will be in good shape.

We attended the BBQ/auction on Friday night and the Banquet on Saturday night. Along with the food being served we ate up the ideas and thoughts from other folks who are there from year to year and found out their likes and dislikes.

We learned quite a few things during our stay. We learned some things we hope to improve on and some things we hadn't thought of. This is one reason we attended the convention. So we can learn from other conventions so that when 2009 gets here we will have a fantastic event.

We left tired, very tired but our brains were full of ideas and thoughts. Our 8 year old grand-daughters were even throwing in suggestions of things to do. Of

course they want Gunney at our convention because they thought he was pretty cool. They made a friend for life through him I think. But really isn't this what it's all about making friends through this convention and then going and visiting them every year in a different surrounding. Our job is to make their surrounding as nice and appealing as possible. As I said in the last newsletter "if we build it, they will come."

We will be attending the *Indiana Chapter Rally* July 13 and hope to pick up ideas and suggestions from them and come home with even more ideas.

This is it for the third edition in our letter. I hope to get help from all of you as the newsletter grows. I want to know about each and every one of you, by the time I get finished I may even know what you eat for breakfast. I think MVPA members become a family and the only way families survive is to know about each other so don't be surprised if your phone rings and I say tag you're it for the next "Chat Session".

**I wish you a good week.**



**Figure 2** This is our table at the convention. As you can see our brochures were lined up in a row ready to hand out. Our daughter-in-law designed the sign.



**Figure 3** Danielle, Gunney & Tydah at Convention in Little Rock.



**Figure 4** Wonder what the joke was about?



**Figure 5 This is how Kenny & Anna spent their 4th of July in Ohio. The TV screen in the LCVP is footage of the LST.**



**IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT WE CREATE AND SHARE A VEHICLE EXPERT LIST. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE LISTED AS AN EXPERT PLEASE SEND US MODEL NUMBER AND YOUR NAME AND WE'LL COMPILE A LIST.**

Minutes: June 21st 2007 Meeting of the River City Thunderbolt MVCC

Location: Evansville, IN LST on deck

Garry opens

Garry and Pete raise a flag on rear of LST time of flag raising 7:15

This flag is now the chapter flag

Pledge of allegiance

Roll Call

Lance arrives and everyone gathers on deck

Bylaws are passed out

Lance takes floor

Lance motions to accept minutes from last meeting, Bill Junker seconds, Accepting minutes voted on and all voted to accept.

Some discussion on banking issues, Chapter bank account has been set up at the Bank of Evansville with Rich Litov and Mark Phillips as signatories

Bylaws presented to membership with some changes. Discussion of changes include dues structure, invoices to be send out or attached to newsletter, possibly email invoice as option.

Bylaw discussion continues: Some discussion on newsletter by email to save postage. Decided that anyone who wants newsletter by email just let the newsletter editor know.

Rich brings up newsletter timing issues, proposes quarterly newsletters after meetings.

Bylaws amended to schedule meetings as such: Third Thursday of the first month of the quarter at 7:00 pm.

Meeting location to be determined at the previous meeting. Next meeting will be July 19, 2007 and will be the first quarterly meeting. Additional meetings may be called if necessary. Additional meetings will also include a follow-up newsletter.

Ann opens discussion on newsletter editor salary; bylaws amended to not provide salary to newsletter editor but authorize the treasurer to cover newsletter expenses.

Lance Coffman	President
Eric Krosnes	Vice Pres
Rich Litov	Treasurer
Mark Phillips	Secretary
Tammy Hisel	Newsletter

Lance wants to thank Eddie for help at the Shiners Auto Show.

Rich suggests a 50 percent quorum for voting issues to prevent a couple of people from calling meetings and deciding issues. Some lively discussion on this issue. Bill Junker suggests that a smaller quorum might be better. Someone brings up that as the chapter gets more members it might be difficult to get the 50 percent quorum at meetings. Some additional discussion on absentee voting (email, phone etc) and how the ability to get absentee votes would help get the 50 percent quorum. It was decided to go with the 50 percent quorum for now and revisit this issue at a later date.

Garry brings motion to amend bylaws by removing highlighted sections as discussed.

Eric seconds

Vote on bylaws, bylaws accepted unanimously.

Garry passes out membership cards. Need to get all family members to make additional cards.

Rich discusses chapter account issues as related to earning interest. Account currently does not earn interest. If we get a chapter Tax ID number and provide it to the bank, we can then make interest. The chapter will be classified as a social club 501(c)7. Emily Phillips volunteers to look into this.

Eric leaves

Discussion of next meeting location, July 19th. Garry volunteers IBM conference room.

Lance brings up logo design, Garry states that the MVPA triangle not needed. Lance will working on logo.

Lance states that the chapter should move forward on the chapter show, some suggestions on timing but nothing decided.

Discussion on Freedom Fest – Call Lance for information on Vietnam reenactment at riverfront, will need notice to attend. Deadline for parade has passed.

Bill Junker brings up expert list for vehicles, Garry suggests local scale only. Chapter will list members as information sources for different vehicles.

Cushman Airdrop Scooter - Bill Junker

42-45 Jeep - Bill Junker

M-37 – Mark Phillips, Ann and Dale White

M-35 – Lance, Ann and Dale White

Bill Junker discussed the Indiana military vehicle registry law that Fred Robkey, Jim Osborne and Bill drafted and got passed through the Indiana Legislature. Bill outlines the law and how it provides reduced rates for registration and that the license plate does not have to be displayed on the vehicle (does have to be in vehicle). Bill provided copies of the law and BVM letter discussing the law to all members present. Bill also stated that military vehicle owners would likely need copies of the law and letters to show police if pulled over. The chapter will attach a letter to the next newsletter if feasible.

Discussion of next meeting location (July 19<sup>th</sup>). It was decided to hold at Burdett Park and have cookout. More information to be in newsletter.

Garry motions to adjourn

Pete seconds

Motion to adjourn voted and passed.

## **ATTENTION:**

**Chapter Dues are now due!!! If you have not paid yours please do so by the next meeting!!!!**



**Figure 6 Chapter flag being raised for the first time aboard the LST 325.**



**June 21 Chapter discussion of by-laws**



**June 21 Chapter meeting aboard LST 325.**

## Sign up form to join this Chapter

Mail to: Mark Phillips 3327 Cave Ave., Evansville, IN 47720

Make check or money order payable to: River City Thunderbolt MVCC \$10.00 individual \$12.00 family

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicles Owned: \_\_\_\_\_

## To Join MVPA National Association

Fill this form out and mail it to:  
MVPA HQ  
P.O. Box 520378, Independence, MO 64052-0378

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Include a \$35.00 payment for a single membership.

**Please give River City Thunderbolt MVCC credit for this recruitment.**