

Motor Pool Messenger

NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER INC.

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTOR'S CLUB

Volume 9 Number 4

April 1981

Editors: Harry & Marilyn Rimmer

From the Driver's Seat: Well it's time for the Chapter President to switch "hats" and put on my salesman's cap for this month's article. And what I'm selling is chapter and inter-chapter activities. Everyone who has been to a meeting recently has seen an N.J.C. film (by Oliver Kenen Productions) of parades, trail rides, or rallies. Comments are always heard from the background on how beautiful a restoration was done on this or that vehicle, or laughter at how much fun the people are having going over hills or through mud holes and streams.

Well, wouldn't it have been nice to be there? You could have, and you can in the upcoming months. Just a glance at the Calendar of Events will show ten different activities that will be presented in the next six months. The South Jersey picnic is a great family event with trails and camping and a huge Sunday picnic, the G.P.A. Rally in the Mountains is much the same in the beautiful country of Pennsylvania, and the local parades are always a thrill to be in. But, let's concentrate on just one event, the East Coast Rally.

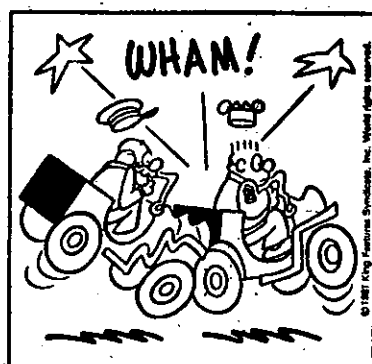
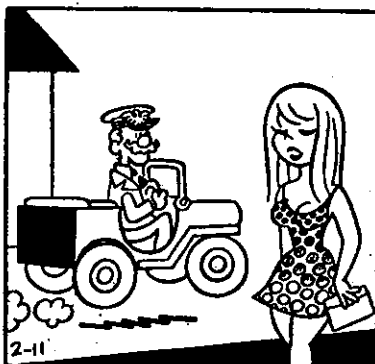
The East Coast Rally has it all, and then some. There are two nights of tent, trailer, or mobile home camping on the edges of the Middletown, Delaware Airpark. A barbeque chicken dinner will be served up by the local volunteer fire department. A huge flea market with all those unusual and hard to find parts and accessories. A fantastic display of military vehicles which has, at times, been larger and better than those shown at the same year's National meet. A trail ride and sometimes two. Films at night and of course, the great camaraderie of all the M.V.C.C. members from near and far.

This year it is expected that there will be substantial contingents from not only the hosting chapters, the W.A.C., N.J.C., S.J.C. & G.P.A., but from the First Carolinas Chapter, the Connecticut Chapter and the New England Chapter. All of these people and their vehicles that you only read or hear about and see on films will be there.

So you say you don't have a vehicle to bring and you can't trail ride? No Problem! There's always a little more room in the back of John Vetter's M35 or someone's Dodge or Jeep. Too far to drive? You might come to the May meeting and ask around if anyone will give you a ride. You can only come one day? Saturday is best, but Sunday is fun, too. And many people only drive down for one day and you could ride with them. Two dollars too much to pay? Why not bring down an old, used air cleaner and sell it at the flea market. You might even show a profit.

What more can we do? And still many of you will be content to read about it in MPM or watch the films at the monthly meetings. As the co-editor of MPM has often said: We buy you books and buy you books and all you do is eat the covers. Read the book this time! Come to the 1981 East Coast Rally. After all, you can always eat the covers later.

BEETLE BAILEY



Calendar of Events

April 24-26	South Jersey Picnic	Lebanon State Forest
May 11	N.J.C. Meeting	Florham Park 8:00 P.M.
May 15-17	East Coast Rally	Middletown, Delaware
May 24	East Brunswick Parade	1:00 P.M.
May 25	West Caldwell Parade	9:30 A.M.
May 25	Cedar Grove Parade	12:00 Noon
June 19-21	Connecticut Chapter Rally	
July 10-12	Berkshire Rally	Dalton, Mass.
July 17-19	MVCC 6th. International Convention	MacCarther, Calif.
Aug. 7- 9	N.E.C. Oakham Rally	Oakham, Mass.
Sept. 18-20	G.P.A. Rally in the Mountains	Mountoursville, Pa.
Oct. - ?	Long Island Trail Ride	Long Island, N.Y.

Notes From All Over

Come to the May 11th. N.J.C. Meeting at the Bonanza Steak House in Florham Park at 8:15 P.M. During the meeting convoys to the East Coast Rally will be planned and arrangements for rides will be made. Also, plans for the Memorial Day Weekend parades will be discussed. Plan ahead to attend this meeting and these events.

Our parades on Memorial Day Weekend need vehicles and drivers. Any reasonably clean olive drab military vehicle will be warmly welcomed. Because the M.V.C.C. is an equal opportunity organization, drivers need not be olive drab. Please contact Harold Ratzburg at (201) 887-2574 or come to the May 11th. Chapter Meeting if you plan to attend. Come out and support your chapter!

Our treasurer reports that only about half of the members of the N.J.C. have paid their 1981 dues. Those of you who haven't paid yet please open your wallets as well as your hearts to the club. The editors really hate doing tacky things like printing a list of unpaid members or noting "Last Copy Until Renewed" on the next six issues. So, please help us bring our books up to date. Send your \$10.00 check made out to North Jersey Chapter, Inc. to Marc Ziegler, 79 Jacksonville Road, Towaco, N.J. 07082. Do it today!

Classified Ads

For Sale:

- M37 Original condition. Running \$1950.
- M37 Original condition. Needs engine, and misc. parts. \$750.
Contact Edward Watzka, Waterside Apt. #12A, Port Ewen,
New York 12466 (914) 339-4896 or (914) 336-8665.
- WC51 Rebuilt Engine and Transmission with Military Heater.
New Tires on Combat Rims. 8 ft. snow plow bolted on.
Contact Yosef Lipson (212) 998-1576.
- Parts: MB Combat Rims, \$20 ea.; M151 Wheel Rims, \$15 ea.;
- M38 Hardtop Kit, take-off, \$175. Contact Yosef Lipson,
(212) 998-1576.

M.V.C.C. VEHICLE JUDGING FORM (SHORT FORM)

VEHICLE: MODEL _____ MAKE _____ YEAR _____
 OWNER _____ MVCC # _____ CLASS _____

RUNNING TEST

ENGINE: Ease of starting, Noise, Exhaust Leaks, Wipers, Gauge operation. 5 pts. _____

ELECTRICAL: Service lights, Blackout lights, Stop lights, Dash lights, Horn. 5 pts. _____

CONTROLS: Clutch and brake free play, Steering free play, Parking brake adjustment, Choke and throttle cables. 5 pts. _____

ENGINE COMPARTMENT

ENGINE: Including Carburetor, Fuel pump, Air cleaner, Generator and regulator, and Distributor. 5 pts. _____

CONNECTIONS: Including Radiator and cap, Hoses, Belts, and Wiring. 5 pts. _____

SHEET METAL: Including Inner fenders, Inside of hood, Stenciled lettering and decals. 5 pts. _____

CHASSIS

AXLES: Including Tires, Wheels, Axles, Brake lines, Leak. 5 pts. _____

DRIVE TRAIN: Including Drive shafts, Transmissions and transfer case, Leaks. 5 pts. _____

SUSPENSION: Including Frame, Springs, Shocks, Underbody, Paint or undercoating. 5 pts. _____

EXTERIOR

PAINT: Color, Application, Condition. 5 pts. _____

FRONT BODY: Including Front bumper, Lifting shackles, Grill, Hood, Fenders. 5 pts. _____

REAR BODY: Including Cargo box, Fenders, Tailgate, Rear bumper, Lifting shackles. 5 pts. _____

CAB OR CANVAS: Including Windshield, Top, Side panels, Doors. 5 pts. _____

BODY MARKINGS: Correct markings, Size, Color, Placement, Type. 5 pts. _____

INTERIOR

DASH PANEL: Including Steering wheel and column, Dash, Instruments, Data plates, Decals, Markings. 5 pts. _____

SEATS: Including Seats, Upholstry. 5 pts. _____

CAB AREA: Including Floorboards, Firewall, Wiring. 5 pts. _____

CARGO AREA: Including Floor, Rear seats, Canvas straps. 5 pts. _____

ACCESSORIES

STANDARD: Including Pioneer tools, Fire extinguisher, Jack, Crank. 5 pts. _____

OPTIONAL: Including Heaters, Fording kits, Radio, Manuals, Driver uniform, Others. 5 pts. _____

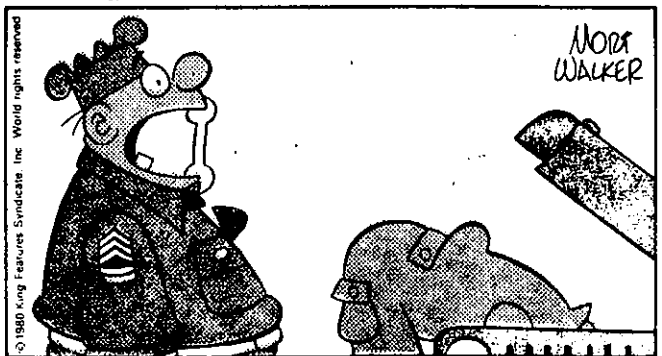
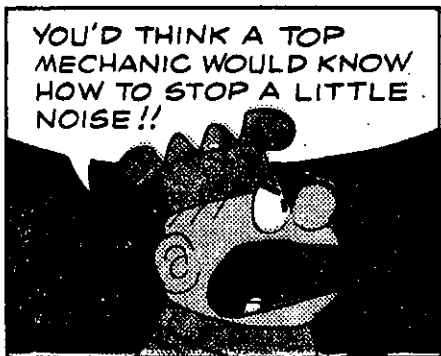
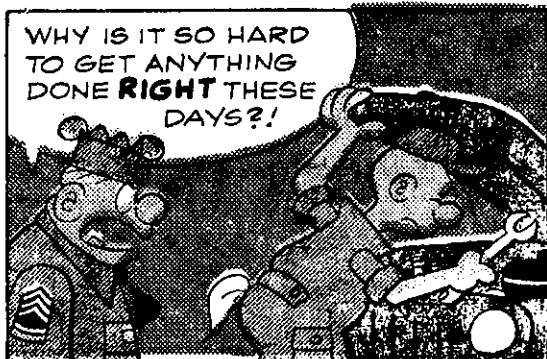
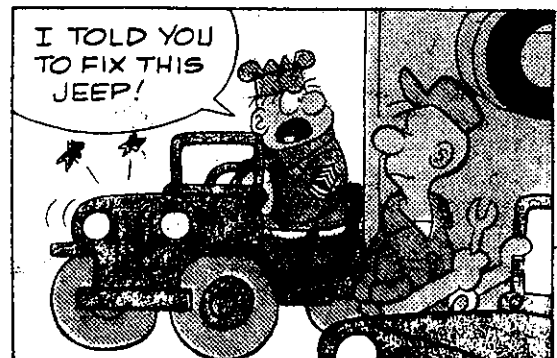
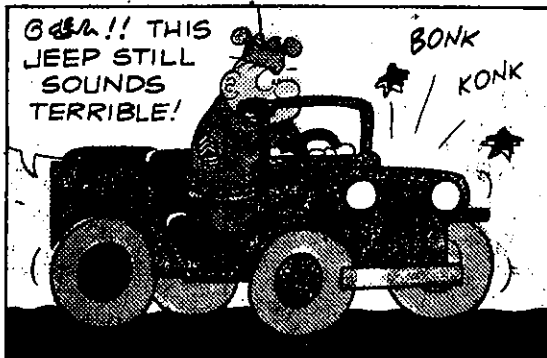
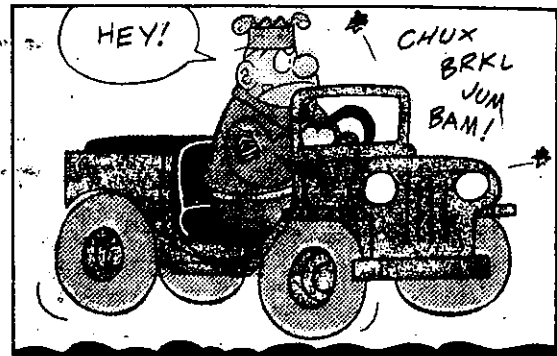
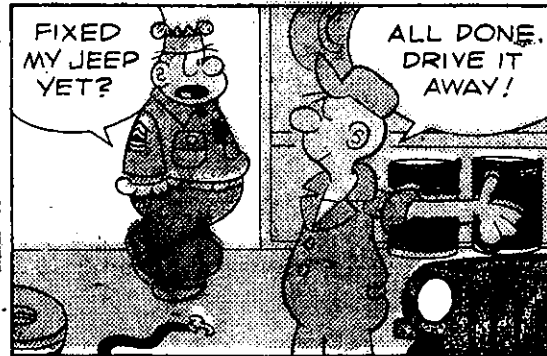
TOTAL 100 pts. _____

CHECK OVER YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE MAY 16

JUDGING CRITERIA

- 5 pts. All original parts in good-excellent condition. Painted items and sheet metal in good-excellent condition.
- 4 pts. All original in fair condition or some minor unoriginal parts in good condition. Painted items and sheet metal have some scratches.
- 3 pts. Some unoriginal parts or very poor original. Some dents in sheet metal or poorly painted or scratched parts.
- 2 pts. Completely unoriginal in good condition. Badly dented sheet metal or badly painted parts.
- 1 pt. Much unoriginal in poor condition. Badly dented and badly painted sheet metal.
- 0 pts. All unoriginal in poor condition or missing. Incorrect sheet metal, unpainted and painted incorrectly.

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Vehicular collection commands attention

By JOAN BABBAGE

Old military Jeeps, tanks, bicycles and trucks never die: They just become collectors' items.

The Military Vehicle Collectors Club (MVCC), formed in 1976, is dedicated to preserving, restoring and showing mechanized war memorabilia.

The club has more than 3,000 members around the world and is growing rapidly.

E.S. (Ted) Bromage of Florham Park, a founder of the national club and a founder and former president of its North Jersey Chapter, said the advantages of collecting vintage military vehicles are that they are still easy to find, inexpensive and provide family recreation.

"For example, I use my Jeep to haul wood, and also for family camping trips in Maine. The vehicle is so rugged that I can take it anywhere," he said.

Bromage, a senior marketing representative for Armstrong World Industries Inc., Saddle Brook, said he had been interested in military vehicles since he was a child.

"I saw a World War II Jeep in 1942 and decided I wanted one," he said, adding he finally realized that dream in 1970 when he bought his first Jeep.

"I paid \$550 for the 30-year-old Jeep and spent more than a year fixing it up, then sold it for \$2,500," he said.

Bromage said he became hooked on military vehicles after that initial restoration. He noted his collection now includes a 1941 Willys Jeep, a 1944 paratrooper scooter, two bicycles, two trailers and a rare aqua cheetah, an experimental amphibian vehicle.

"The U.S. Army only made 13 aqua cheetahs, so I was lucky to find this," he said, as he pointed out the boat-shaped vehicle stored in a shed on his property.

Bromage said he had talked his neighbor, Peter Berendsen, into collecting military vehicles rather than antique cars.

Berendsen, an assistant professor of microscopic anatomy at the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, said he had no regrets.

"I have a Jeep and a command car which I have had fun restoring," he commented.

Berendsen said he was particularly proud of the command car, which had been designed for a field general.

"This is a rare vehicle, and among its special features are a pull-out table for maps," he explained.

E. S. Bromage of Florham Park, a founder of the national Military Vehicle Collectors Club and North Jersey Chapter president, displays his 1944 Cushman Airborne Scooter

Both Bromage and Berendsen agreed there is one military vehicle they will never own.

"We don't want a tank. Most of the members who own them are bachelors. A tank just doesn't lend itself to family fun," Bromage said.

He noted that MVCC members sponsor local meets, assist in local parades and hold an annual convention that features displays, judging, parts swapping and social events.

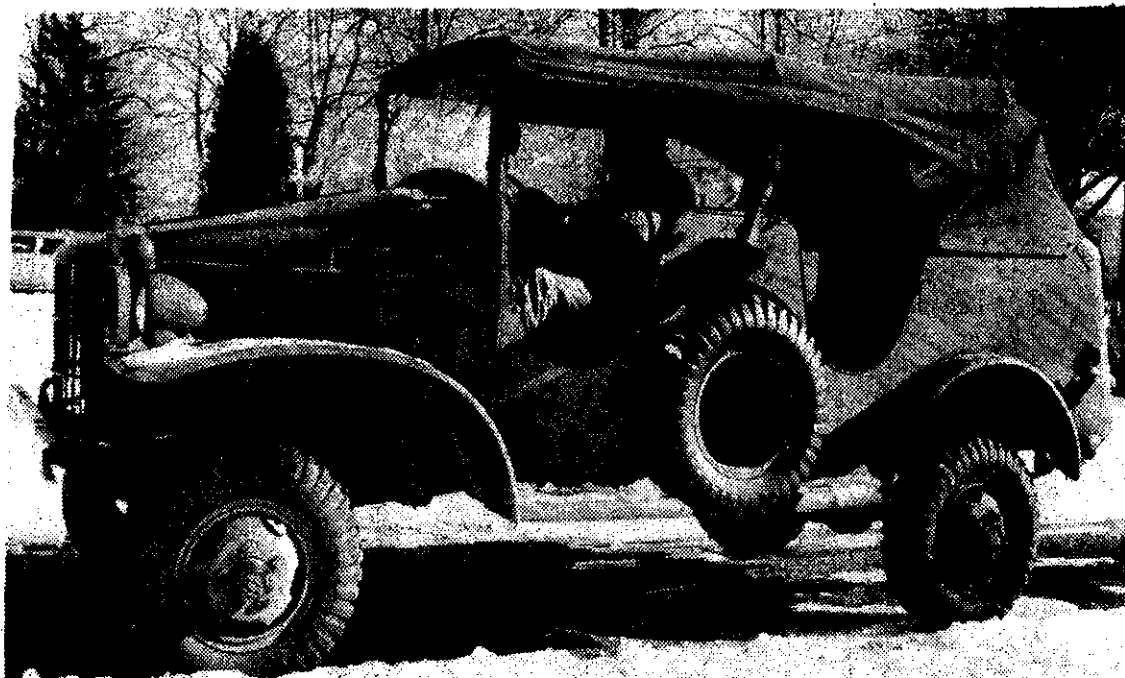
"Most of us have learned how to restore the vehicles by doing, and we help each other," he said.

Bromage said he looked for vintage Jeeps, trucks, and bikes all over the nation.

"Finding a military vehicle is like a treasure hunt, because you never know when or where you will find one," he said.

Bromage said anyone interested in joining the national club should write to the Military Vehicle Collectors Club, P. O. Box 33697, Thornton, Colo. 80233.

"It's fun for anyone who likes tinkering with things, and a hobby the family can share," Berendsen said.



(Right) A 1941 half-ton Dodge Command car, driven by Peter Berendsen another club member, is a prized collector's item

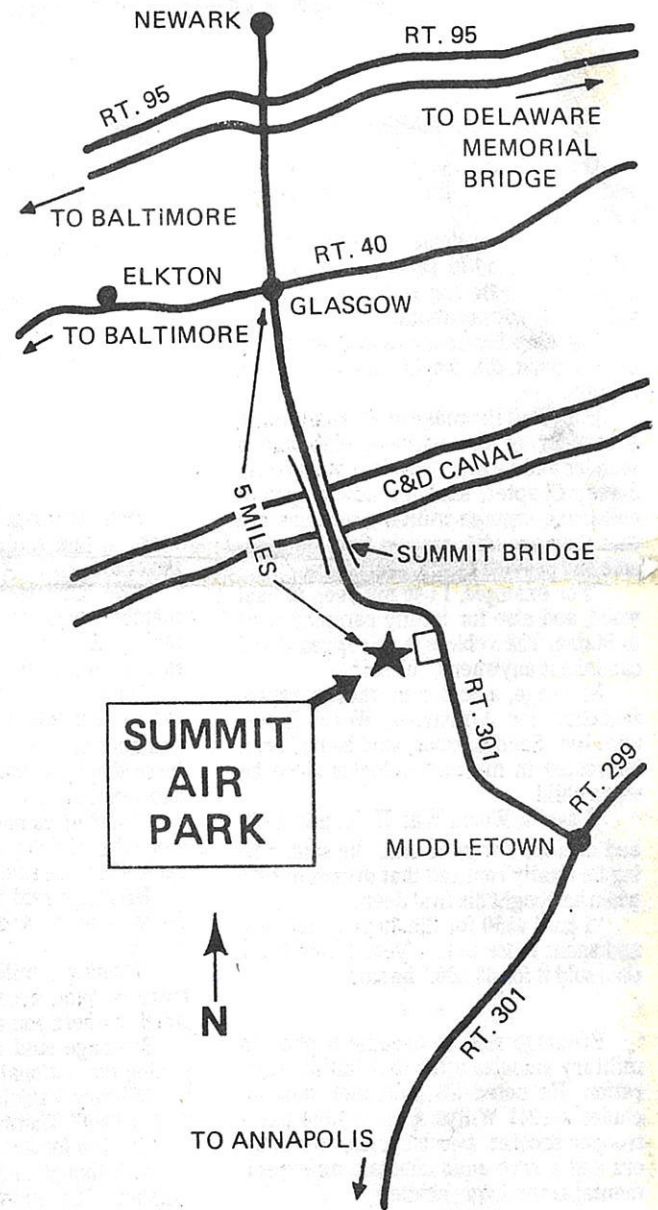
'81 EAST COAST RALLY

FRIDAY—SATURDAY—SUNDAY
MAY 15, 16, 17, 1981
AT SUMMIT AIR PARK
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE

120 Summers Avenue
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854



First Class



Gary Schultz
59 Maple Tree Lane
Sparta, N.J. 07871