

# PROVING GROUND

WHERE NEW IDEAS ARE TESTED

AN INDEPENDENT MULTI-CHAPTER REVIEW OF MVCC POLICIES AND EVENTS

Associate Editors : Oliver Kenen & Harry Rimmer

Number 3

## REPRESENTING



**Motor Pool  
Messenger**

NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER INC.

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTOR'S CLUB



SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTORS CLUB

**OPERATION &  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
MAINTENANCE**



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTORS CLUB



**THE GPA TIMES**



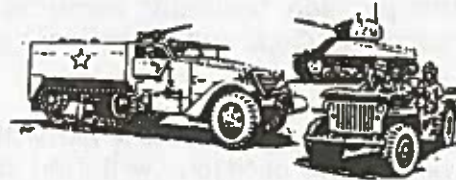
**O. D. NEWS**

a publication of the

Washington Area Chapter

of the

Military Vehicle Collectors Club



**CHARLIE COMPANY NEWS**

Greater New York Military Vehicle Society, Inc.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It has become clear, through feedback from the membership to the first issue of Proving Ground, that there are many members who are unsure of the purpose of Proving Ground and what it advocates. Listed below is the simple statement of the purpose of the Proving Ground organization of chapters.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROVING GROUND ORGANIZATION IS TO INSURE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE MVCC.

We advocate a return to the founding principles of the MVCC which (1) allow for direct chapter representation on the Board of Directors and (2) require full financial disclosure of the use of Club monies, including a full outside financial audit annually.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS : This issue of Proving Ground is designed to be an information issue to give the readers some idea of what direction the Proving Ground organization is taking. Presently the Proving Ground organization of chapters is working toward obtaining the restoration of several very basic membership rights. This is being done within the framework of the present MVCC By-Laws by gathering signatures on petitions requiring that the questions asked on those petitions be put to the entire membership for a vote. Under the current By-Laws, when a petition containing the signatures of 5% or more of the total membership of the Club is presented to the Board of Directors, the question must be published in a major Club publication asking for a vote of the total membership. The majority of members responding by vote will decide the issue.

The first petition calls for the restoration of the membership's right to ratify all By-Law amendments. As we have stated in previous issues, this is one of the most important controls that the membership can have on the destiny of the Club. This petition requires that all By-Law amendments be published in Army Motors for membership review including an explanation of why the change is necessary. The members are then asked to vote on the change much in the same manner as they will be asked to vote on these petitions. Also, as in the procedure with these petitions, the majority of the members responding will decide whether or not to approve the specific By-Law amendment.

The second petition calls for a full certified audit to be performed on the Club's finances annually, with the results of the audit to be published in Army Motors for membership review. The certified audit is specified because it will provide more than just a test of accuracy of the Club's books, etc., it should also express an unbiased opinion of the reasonableness of the decisions, regarding finances, of the Club's officers. Also included in the second petition is a requirement that the proposed budget for any given year be published in advance to allow for comment by members. This would also give the Board of Directors, who must vote to approve the budget, time to look over the proposed budget before voting. The budget has traditionally been presented to the Board members at the meeting at which they were to vote on it.

The two petitions are presented on the following pages for member review. Should a chapter wish to have their members add the signatures of its members to those already being collected, they may reproduce the petitions freely. The original petitions are of legal paper size and have been reduced to fit in PG. Any copier which can enlarge a copy from letter to legal size will yield a copy of the petition basically identical to the original. Signatures must be from National members in good standing, and should include their city and state of residence, and their MVCC number.

Hopefully, the membership of the Club will be in concurrence with our present actions, and the issues identified in the petitions will find favor in the members eyes. In any case, putting these issues to a vote of the total membership is the only way that the interests of all the members will be served.

#### NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In a memo to all the recipients of the Newsletter Exchange Program dated October 1985, Secretary/Treasurer J.E. Herrick stated that because the National office had lost some of its clerical help, the Newsletter Exchange Program would be discontinued effective December 1st, 1985, unless an individual or a chapter could be found to take over the program.

In a letter dated November 4, 1985, and received by the National Office on November 5, 1985, the Proving Ground staff offered to take over the Newsletter Exchange Program, and Associate Editor Harry Rimmer volunteered to be personally responsible for the continuation of the program. It is understood that others volunteered their services as well.

A letter was sent to Jim Herrick on December 6, 1985 requesting the name of the organization or individual who would become responsible for the Newsletter Exchange Program. To date no reply has been received.

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTORS CLUB

Petition pursuant to Section 12.4 of the By-Laws of the Military Vehicle Collectors Club, we, the undersigned members and voters of the MVCC respectfully demand that the following proposed change in the by-law be submitted to the general membership of the MVCC for the approval or rejection, and, each of the undersigned says that he has read, understood, and signed this petition.

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTORS CLUB:

Pursuant to Section 12.4 of the amended by-laws of the Military Vehicle Collectors Club, the undersigned, constituting 5% of the total membership in goodstanding of said Club hereby directs the Board of Directors to submit to the general membership, pursuant to the provisions of Section 12.4, for voting the following changes to the by-laws as amended:

BY-LAWS:

- 1. The members of the Military Vehicle Collectors Club shall have the power to adopt, amend and repeal the by-laws of the Military Vehicle Collectors Club. The power conferred upon the members hereby shall be exercised by a majority vote of all the members of the Club in good standing who have voted in accordance with the voting procedure set forth below after notice as provided herein to the members for the purpose of adopting, amending or repealing the by-laws of the Club.

Notice of any proposed change in the by-laws shall be published in the Club's Army Motors publication along side the existing by-laws, if any, so that the proposed change may be readily understood by the members.

- a. Voting Procedure - Members in good standing shall exercise their vote by delivering the ballot, either in person or by mail, at any regular or special meeting duly convened after notice as provided above to the members for the purpose of adopting, amending or repealing the by-laws of the Club. The member's ballot for voting on any proposed change in the by-laws shall be contained in the same edition of the Club's Army Motors publication that the proposed change in the by-laws appears.
- b. The regular or special meeting convened to tally the votes of the members shall be held not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days from the date of the publication in Army Motors. All votes must be received as of the date of the regular or special meeting. The ballots shall be mailed to a Certified Public Accountant to be determined by the Board of Directors for tallying and publication.
- c. The Board of Directors of the Club, or any other body, shall not have the authority to adopt, amend, or repeal any by-laws.

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<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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ANNUAL AUDIT:

- 1. A certified audit be conducted yearly and the report of that audit shall be published in a future issue of Army Motors but in no event in an issue more than three months hence.

ANNUAL BUDGET:

- 2. The proposed budget for the appropriate fiscal year is to be published in an issue of Army Motors no less than three months prior to the date the proposed budget becomes operative.

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<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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## OUR PROBLEMS ARE NOT UNIQUE

Reproduced below is a copy of a letter sent to National Rifle Association members from a group of individual NRA members who were concerned about the management of their "club". We reproduce it here, not to ask for additional support for their cause, but rather to illustrate that the present problems of the MVCC are not unique. Compare the events described below with things that have happened, and are happening in the MVCC.



### **NRA Members for a Better NRA**

P. O. Box 565  
Ridgewood, NJ 07451

#### **FELLOW NRA MEMBERS:**

In 1975, this organization was formed to revive or remove unresponsive NRA leadership, strengthen and expand the Institute for Legislative Action and regain the membership's right to participate in NRA affairs. Illegal stonewalling by NRA management forced the matter into the Federal Courts which ruled that, "directors and officers cannot manipulate the affairs of an organization with intent of securing control. Directors cannot utilize The American Rifleman to perpetuate themselves in office; and, must deal fairly and honestly with the membership as it is the duty of the NRA to take all necessary steps to insure fair elections." Net result... removal of some officers, some policy changes and a stronger and more active ILA.

In 10 years we've come full circle. Once again, NRA management has become more interested in self-perpetuation than the interests and rights of the membership, removing and/or attempting to silence outspoken critics while allowing the ILA to become ineffectual through compromise. Using the pages of The Rifleman to promote their candidates while refusing the same opportunity to opponents, the NRA ignores the court's specific instructions for fair treatment. Going even further, they continue to violate the NRA's New York Charter by refusing to account for monies spent, access to the voting members to candidates for the Board of Directors and to allow communication between members. The Board is obviously puppet-like, made so by telegraphed instructions from NRA headquarters not to respond to any of our questions even though the by-laws state the Board is in charge of "the affairs and property of the Association."

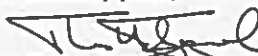
Now with the orchestrated changes rammed through at the April 85 Annual Meeting by less than 1/10th of 1% of the membership, we are back to square 1. With the defeat of Neal Knox, the NRA is now in the control of people who realize that the NRA is big business and that means big money. So important was this election that the NRA staff was flown to Seattle at members' expense where they blatantly campaigned for the hand-picked incumbent, Arnett. Unfair is not the word for these actions. The fact remains that they now have the power to do as they please unless they are put on notice that the membership will not tolerate any high-handed, membership-be-damned attitude.

Thomas Jefferson said, "Any organization even though not conspiratorial, is open to excess and abuse." In this belief and as ombudsman for the NRA membership, this organization is fighting to monitor and stop these abuses. Realizing they cannot stand the scrutiny called for in the New York law, the NRA -- again using members' monies -- is pressing for punitive damages in the courts in an attempt to crush the last vestige of opposition that can prove embarrassing. If this organization is ground into oblivion, present NRA management will have a free hand with no one to stop them, for this organization is the one last deterrent to runaway management.

Since the general membership is excluded from serving on critical committees - By Law, Election, Finance, Legal Action, Nominating and Ethics - it is essential that our representative attend all Committee and Board meetings in order to report what is going on behind the scenes of your NRA so you can make your desires known. We also intend to monitor the ILA's activity on Capitol Hill to insure that we are not inadvertently sold out.

Costs to stop the disregard of members' rights have been heavy and we need help if we are to stop further decay in the NRA. We ask that you join us in the second revitalization of the NRA to keep the NRA strong with but one goal... fighting gun control. To defray the cost of the programs we've outlined, we are establishing dues at \$10 per year but, obviously, more monies are needed to continue our efforts. If you are able to contribute more, it will be appreciated. Please send your name, address and NRA number (the label from your Rifleman would make it easy) and your contribution/dues as soon as possible -- either way, we'll acknowledge with a membership card. Help send the message to NRA headquarters that the membership is watching.

Cordially yours,

  
Thomas V. Fitzgerald  
Trustee

## IS THE MVCC SUFFERING BECAUSE OF AMATUER MANAGEMENT ?

I have watched with some interest the efforts of Proving Ground over the past several months. I sense dismay over the aberration of MVCC management from the original goals of the Club. This Club has grown, from its inception, by the sweat and occasional tears of its volunteers. In the December 1984 issue of Supply Line, Jim Herrick ably praised past volunteers and encouraged new ones. In his Financial Report in the Fall 1985 issue of Army Motors Secretary/Treasurer J.E. Herrick noted "As the Club has gone over the past eleven years, we have seen a marked increase in both the complexity of the organization and the intensity of interest in many subjects.". Let me express my concern over these complexities and express my interest in several of them. Much of the success and growth of the MVCC, and many of today's problems can be attributed to the unstinting volunteer effort Jim Herrick has exerted. Having been in office for almost ten years he has become the de facto "manager" of the MVCC, feeding to a succession of MVCC Presidents and members of the Board of Directors the information he determined they needed to accomplish Club objectives. Most of today's sage Policy statements are his creation. I guess the Financial Report got me thinking and finally prompted my sitting down at the typewriter.

As a past Board member, responsible for recruiting, I remember why I resigned - lack of time to do the job correctly and well, a feeling that my continued efforts weren't in the best long run interests of the Club. I've talked to several successful businessmen and professionals who are members of the the MVCC and asked why they weren't more willing to volunteer their talent to manage the Club. The answer always seems to be the same - I joined the MVCC as a fun hobby to escape the profit and loss pressures of business. Personally, I can't abide griping about the way a club is run unless I think I can offer a superior alternative, and that alternative shouldn't include my body!

I propose that the President and the Board of Directors consider Professional Management. Below are several items indicating that, with a budget of over \$105,000.00 we are past the stage for dedicated amatuer management.

ITEM : Efficient administration. Even with numerous errors, it sometimes takes months to have (a) a check cashed and returned, or (b) a reply gotten to a question asked. Indeed, as of August 13, 1985, the Secretary of State of the State of Colorado certified that we were more than three months in arrears in filing our 1985 Corporate Report and were "not in good standing and delinquent...." - and the Club's state of incorporation was moved west to Colorado for the Treasurer's convenience!

ITEM : Interest income. In fiscal 1984-85 we had less than \$200.00 interest income, and that's with a cash flow that would indicate an average bank balance each month in excess of \$8000.00! Even a 5 1/2 % checking account would yield \$440.00 and if the approximately \$20,000.00 in cash reported on the Club's 1984-85 Balance Sheet were all put in interest bearing accounts, even at the same low rates, that's another \$1100.00! Why is our money spread all over? Is this professional?

ITEM : Computer. Several years ago we were committed to the lease/purchase of a large, allegedly obsolescent computer, a committment that has to date encumbered the Club in excess of \$20,000. This was done without the apparent benefit of a selection committee, done by mail with 19 days allowed for Board members to react (including two-way transit), and was done less than two months before the full Board was to convene at an International Convention. It has been suggested that this unit is large enough to run several small companies. Today, for less than \$5000.00 (what we spend each year) we could own an IBM PCXT which reputedly could do it all, be relatively portable, and require virtually no space!

ITEM : A \$3600.00 budget for telephone. This is over a dollar for every U.S. member! Shame on me but I've had several phone calls from the Secretary/Treasurer that have lasted over an hour each. Recently I've heard of one Board member who received a call that lasted over three hours! Without considering the stewardship of member's dues, couldn't this have been done by mail? What other organization would conduct this much business without records?

JUST ASKING

Did you know that MVCC Treasurer/Secretary Jim Herrick recommended that Sondra McCoy be appointed Business Manager of the MVCC?

Did you know that MVCC Treasurer/Secretary Jim Herrick recommended that Sondra McCoy be awarded a free lifetime membership in the MVCC?

Did you know that MVCC Treasurer/Secretary Jim Herrick recommended that Sondra McCoy be appointed to the Board of Directors.

Did you know that all of the above were approved by the Board of Directors at the International Convention in Wichita in July 1985?

Did you know that Sondra McCoy is also a paid employee of the MVCC?

Did you know that the MVCC By-Laws of 1984 state "The Board of Directors may waive dues for certain individuals and organizations if it judges this to be in the Club interests. Such waiver may be either permanent or for a specified period, and does not require membership approval to be effective."?

Do you know how many individuals have been so blessed?

Did you know that the MVCC By-Laws of 1984 state that the Board of Directors can vote to increase the number of Directors without limit?

Didn't you think you had a direct voice in this matter?

Did you know that the National MVCC takes in over \$ 100,000.00 per year? Have you ever seen printed any details as to where it comes from and where it goes?

Do you know how many club members are paid salaries or are reimbursed for personal expenses?

Do you know that there has never been a full and comprehensive audit of the MVCC books by an outside auditor?

Did you know that the "Accountants Review Report" that was done on the Club's 1984/1985 finances states in part that "...All information included in the statements is the representation of Club management" and is "substantially less in scope than an examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards"?

Wouldn't it be desirable to limit the terms of all officers of the MVCC so that we could get a fresh look at things periodically?

Wouldn't it be desirable to limit individuals to holding only one elected office?

Would the limiting of time in office prevent any one individual from gaining dictatorial powers?

I am just asking.

Bob Campbell - #103  
South Jersey Chapter



# MVCC PRESENTS

The First MVCC Trivia Tidbits and Prehistoric Potpourri Questionnaire

Please complete the following questionnaire and bring it to the GPA meeting Tuesday 13 August at the museum..

Don Silver and Tom McCabe will grade and critique the questionnaire under the "Old business" and "Convention report" sections of the meeting. It is rumored that the elusive but loveable Zero Davidson will make a guest appearance. We are also bidding for that dynamic personality from South Jersey, Dan Janguitto to handle door prizes.

All persons receiving a passing score will be awarded, absolutely free (from Galloway Morris) one jelly filled doughnut. The person judged to have the most right answers will be afforded the added enjoyment of eating their jelly doughnut.

Please select the answer that you feel is most correct. Write in answers are allowed. Neatness and originality will count.

1. Identify Frank Bricker. a. President of the Lawn Crest Parade Committee. b. President of the now defunct National Military Vehicle Collectors Association. c. President of these here United States.
2. What is the definition of "Miscellaneous Expenses"? a. The Museum soda fund. b. Legitimate expenses that are too small to define but on which records are kept for review and audit. c. A method of lining ones own pocket without the worry of the stockholders catching you.
3. What was the National Military Vehicle Collectors Association? a. A state club that grew to national size and fostered the collection and preservation of military vehicles. b. A national organization, chartered in California, but run like a local club. c. A one-man club, with an appointed board of directors chosen from local friends, that failed to follow its bylaws, show financial responsibility, and keep its members advised of changes and current events.
4. What ever became of that venerable organization? a. Came the revolution and the counter suit and it disappeared from view. b. It flew in ever decreasing circles until it disappeared from view. c. The individual members all put their dues into escrow and it disappeared from view.
5. When did you last see an annual financial report of the National MVCC published in ARMY MOTORS? a. 1983 b. 1981 c. Never
6. Who is the current editor of ARMY MOTORS? a. John Vetter. b. I dont know. c. What day is it?
7. Do you belong to any clubs or organizations (other than MVCC) that permit the following? a. One person holding two National elected offices at the same time. b. The treasurer to sit as Chairman of the committee conducting the audit if his books and records. c. Any elected or appointed officer to have an unlisted, unaudited and unrecorded telephone allowance.
8. Do you have a CURRENT set of National bylaws? a. yes b. no c. maybe
9. Do you know anyone who has a CURRENT set of National bylaws? a. Yes. b. No. c. Maybe



A Communist is someone who has given up all hope of becoming a Capitalist.... ed.

10. How are changes in the National bylaws effected? a. Proposed amendments are published in ARMY MOTORS and members vote by mail. b. Proposed amendments are published in ARMY MOTORS and SUPPLY LINE and members attending the annual meeting vote in person. c. Amendments are not published to the general membership, the members are not allowed to vote, and the Board of Directors alone takes care of these small and trivial administrative matters.
11. How many members of the National Board of Directors have been dismissed from their ELECTED seats in the current year? a. None b. Some c. Too Many.
12. How many new members have been APPOINTED to the National Board of Directors in the current year? a. None b. Some c. Too Many
13. Did you attend the last National Convention? a. Yes b. No. c. I'll never tell
14. If you did not attend, do you feel that you missed anything? a. Yes b. No c. Maybe
15. When did a sponsoring local MVCC chapter last make a profit on a National Convention? a. 1980 b. 1981 c. Both
16. What year did ARMY MOTORS last publish a financial report of a National Convention? a. 1980 b. 1981 c. Both
17. What year did ARMY MOTORS last publish a financial report of the National MVCC? a. 1984 b. 1947 c. Never
18. Can you think of any reason why a financial report would not be published? a. A loss was sustained. b. A profit was made. c. Someone has something to hide.
19. If the National MVCC does not furnish its financial data to the local chapters, should the local chapters be required to furnish their financial data to national? a. Yes. b. No. c. Tell them that they will get just what they give.
20. Will you be able to work on a committee at the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter "Rally in the Valley"? a. Yes b. No c. Coax Me.
21. Will you be available to attend the East Coast General Membership Meeting to be held at the "Fall Rally in the Valley, and meet all the other nice people that will be there? a. Yes b. No c. Coax Me
22. The most important item for discussion at this meeting should be. a. Procedures to RE-improve the National organization. b. Methods and approaches to be followed by local chapters. c. Proposed camouflage color scheme for GPAs museum.
23. Did you mail in your National Board of Directors ballot for the 1984 or the 1985 elections? a. Yes b. No. c. Do not remember receiving it.
24. Can you explain the "proxy" method of voting, as specified in the bylaws of the National MVCC? a. Yes b. No c. I must have missed that issue of ARMY MOTORS.
25. Who can you call to register your answers in the event that you cannot attend the General Membership Meeting, but still would like to get in your 2¢ worth. a. Don Silver (215)383-4664 b. Tom McCabe (215) 933-8164. c. All the above are correct.



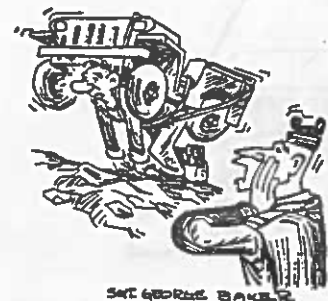
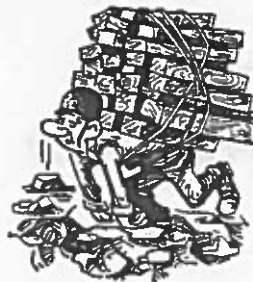
ITEM : Life Memberships. Shouldn't these funds be kept in a separate account with the interest only being contributed to the general assets of the Club as a separate line item in the Budget?

Other nagging questions bother me What are the assets of the Club and what are its liabilities? No Balance Sheet was published in Army Motors as a companion to the Profit and Loss Statement in the Financial Report. The Accountant's Review report is so much pap. We will pay a CPA \$1200.00 to check the figures provided by the Secretary/Treasurer in lieu of a full audit. Wouldn't anyone like to see where over \$100,000.00 goes each year? Its time for a full certified audit.

We are budgeted to spend over \$50,000.00 in 1985-86 for the amateur administration of the MVCC. For significantly less (estimates range from \$25-35,000.00) we could have a professional management organization more cost-effectively and efficiently administer the MVCC under the supervision of the President and the Board of Directors. Such management offers the benefit of paying for what you need, when you need it. No worries about employees, sick leave, vacations, and real estate. We would have reports on time, money accounted for and dispersed in a timely manner, and receive numerous other benefits. With professionals handling the day-in and day-out administration of the Club, perhaps our pool of potential future Officers and Board members would increase. The money conserved by professional management could provide the funds for the free and timely Membership Directory that was so important to us eleven years ago. Jim Herrick has done the most of anyone towards the many very positive things that have happened in those years. Perhaps he would relish the opportunity to trade the telephone and the checkbook for the greasegun and the toolbox.

- Ted Bromage - #117C  
North Jersey Chapter

### HABIT



SAC GEORGE BAKER

Has one man shouldered the entire burden too long ?

STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CERTIFICATE

I, NATALIE MEYER, Secretary of State of the State of Colorado hereby certify that according to the records of this office,

MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTORS CLUB  
(Colorado Nonprofit Corporation)

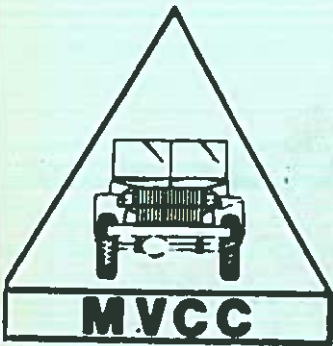
has not complied with the applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Colorado and on this date, is not in good standing and delinquent in filing the 1985 Corporate Report, since May 2, 1985.

DATED August 13, 1985



*Natalie Meyer*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

120 Summers Avenue  
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854



First Class