

MOTOR POOL MESSENGER

the official monthly newsletter of the **MILITARY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION**
visit us online at www.MTAofNJ.org

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Editor: David Steinert



*Merry
Christmas*

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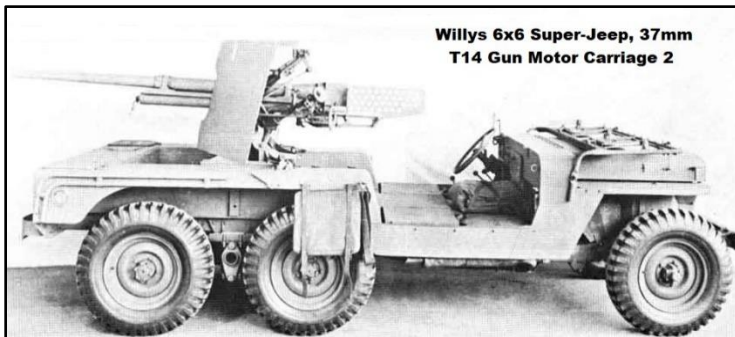
ON THE COVER...



U.S. Soldiers test out the Willys "MT-TUG" aka the "Super Jeep."

As the success and further development of the jeep continued during WWII, the concept of extending the jeep's luggage space was considered. The simplest, and most frequently used method was the addition of a rear baggage rack. In exceptional cases, units would actually stretch both body and frame of a jeep, to give it more passenger and luggage space, but for this usage, a Dodge WC model was available in many cases.

Nevertheless, building stretched, 6x6 jeeps with $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton cross-country payload, was explored with much interest. As early as July 1941, after the unsuccessful testing with the T2 and T2E1 with 37mm antitank guns mounted on Bantam jeeps, the U.S. Quartermaster Corps (QMC) thought to lengthen $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton jeeps into 6WD for specialized roles, including the 37mm gun. Willys was contracted that month for both a T13 and a T14 Gun Motor Carriage, based on the Willys MA – one firing forward, and one rearwards, like the earlier Bantams. In reality, two models of rearward firing T14 were built, based on Willys MBs, one slat grille in late 1941, and one or more stamped grilles, by January 1942. Although the Willys T14 was actually found to be the best of several 37mm tank destroyers tested by the U.S. Army, by that time the M6 Gun Motor Carriage (based on the Dodge $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton) had been standardized for the Tank destroyer battalions.



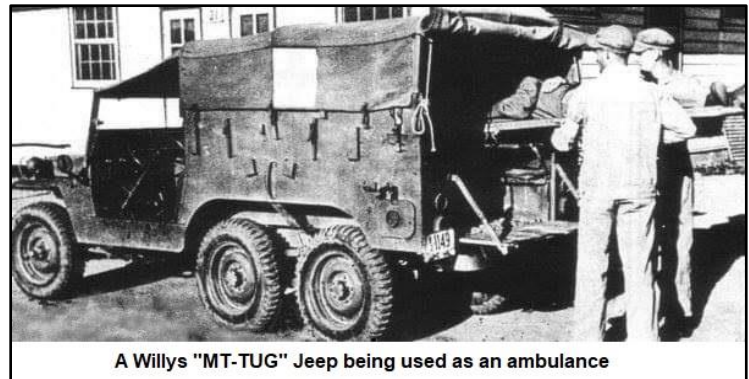
However, the QMC and Willys kept developing the $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton 6x6, in various versions, as the "Super-Jeep". By March 1942, the T14 GMC was revised as a cargo / prime mover, named Willys 'MT-TUG', that could compete in some roles with the $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton Dodges.

The Army quietly tested these in various configurations, up to a 1-ton rated version, as a light,

multi-purpose tractor truck, cargo, or personnel carrier. For the United States Army Air Force (USAAF), several MT-TUG units were built with a fifth-wheel coupling on the cargo floor, for various Fruehauf trailers, and loaded with sandbags on the cargo bed, even as aircraft tugs. The Marine Corps also wanted a beefier truck, using standard jeep components, with a higher fixed side body structure, as a personnel or mortar squad carrier, or an 'MT-CA' field ambulance.



The Willys MT models had the same $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton rating as the new 1942 Dodge WC series, but weighed only 3,100 lb., with a 300 miles range, and a top speed of 55 miles per hour. Willys pointed out that every 6x6 'Super Jeep' would save 2,000 lb. of steel for their construction, as well as 40% in fuel usage, compared to the Dodge trucks. Moreover, it comprised 65% unaltered standard jeep components, and many of the other parts were also just modified standard jeep parts. By January 1943, the Willys MT-TUG was further evaluated by the Army Transport



Command at Camp Gordon Johnston, FL. It was positively reviewed there for its effortless operation in deep sand. Although the Willys $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton's performance was even called 'exemplary' by some, the U.S. Army nevertheless abandoned the Willys MT in favor of the already produced $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, because the Willys was 'surplus to requirements'.



Rick Wark, Curator of New Jersey Military Technology Museum is presented with the "Best of Show" for the museum's 1943 Willys MT-TUG Jeep display. The museum has one of the last surviving examples of the Willys "Super Jeep" and the MTA thanks Rick for bring it to our 2022 MTA Show.

Fifteen 6x6 Willys MT(-Tug)s alone were built as "Truck, ¾-ton, 6x6, Tractor", under Ordnance production contract W-303-ORD-4623, production order T6620, and even a maintenance supplement for the "6x6 Willys MB-Tug" was printed with a 1943 TM10-1513 technical manual. Including test units, a total of 24 units are believed to have been built, with six known survivors.



ATTENTION MEMBERS!

THE NEXT MTA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st 2022... MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN LEGION IN THE MEETING ROOM IN BASEMENT

Food at 6:00PM...Meeting starts at 7:00PM

MTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2022 at the American Legion Hall in Whippany, NJ

Submitted by Jean Swanick

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm with the flag salute followed by a moment of silence.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting as published in last month's newsletter was made by **Pat Dolan** and seconded by **Ken Gardner**.

President's Message: Thank you to everyone who helped out wherever and whenever they could at, and/or for the event. The weather was certainly with us. We will start planning for the April show next month. Our new show chairperson will be **Jim Mescher**.

Treasurer's Report: by Al Mellini is as follows:

As of October 31st

Beginning balance	\$ 40,252.01
Income	\$ 15,935.92
Expenditures	\$ 7,517.89
Closing balance	\$ 48,670.04

Al reported that these numbers include the swap meet and revenue of club member's vehicles in movies. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by **Jack McDevitt** and seconded by **Nick Kapote**. A huge *Thank You* to **Jack McDevitt** for his tireless efforts in connecting the club with the motion picture industry. Due to this, the club brought in \$5,280 for 2022 from motion pictures/TV events.

Membership: At the show we had four new members and a previous member join the club for 2023. Dues for 2023 are due and payable starting tonight:

ATTENTION MTA MEMBERS

MTA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE EXPECTED BY JANUARY 31, 2023. THE MTA WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DUE DILIGENCE IN YOUR PROMPT PAYMENT__TO FACILITATE THIS EFFORT, THE MTA HAS PROVIDED A SELF-ADDRESS POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER. MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS OF THE CLUB IN ITS ABILITY TO PROVIDE ITS MEMBERS WITH A NEWSLETTER, PICNICS, AND DONATIONS TO VETERAN AND FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS. YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL INDICATE IF YOUR 2023 DUES ARE PAID. (MTA LIFE MEMBERS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE MTA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL POLICY, BUT ANY DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED).

Newsletter: Thank you to **Bill McKelvey** for his article on the Lions Hospital Veterans train ride in Ringoes last month. Articles are always appreciated from members on any era of military vehicle history.

Swap Meet: This year's show is in the books! Thank you's and a round of applause to the many club members who were named tonight for their efforts including **Joe Mastrosimone**, **Ken and Patrick Gardner**, **Bill Murphy**, **Tim and Jean Swanick**, **Anita Roberts**, **Dennis Vecchiarelli**, **Jim Mescher**, **Al Mellini**, **Gary Schultz**, **Jeff Bennett**, **Fred and Sue Schlesinger** and **Joe Travelli** to name "a few".

One of the main points of discussion this year was advertising and how to improve it. Interestingly, a poll was taken as attendees purchased their tickets regarding how they heard about the event. It was found, that 42% of people heard about the event through Facebook or online sources, 32% said truck signage/banners that were placed at strategic locations and 26% said through other sources i.e. publications, friend, etc. Thank you to **Carolyn Hoffman** for her work on the additional advertising.

We did have a lower number of attendance and large military vehicles for display this year than in the past, however

there were also other military related events happening that weekend in CT, KY, OH and PA. The high cost of fuel may have affected the large vehicle attendance. After some discussion, the club unanimously voted to change the start hour to 9 am from the previous 8 am both days in order to give both vendors and swap meet volunteers some extra time for set up.

Quartermaster-The HQ table sold a variety of club merchandise at the swap meet. Inventory is currently low at this time on several items so this will be revisited in the new year.

New Business-JIM MESCHER WILL BE HOSTING THE FIRST 2023 SWAP MEET PLANNING MEETING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT 6PM BEFORE THE REGULAR MTA MONTHLY MEETING. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT ON A SHOW COMMITTEE. THE REGULAR CLUB MEETING WILL BE THE SAME NIGHT AT 7PM.

Good of the Club-John Sobotka mentioned that **Carolyn Hoffman** is still working on the *Toys for Tots* train run details for December.



SEE PAGE 5 FOR TRAIN SCHEDULE

See **Bill McKelvey** if interested regarding an upcoming MRE conference in New Providence.

Old Business- Art Swain reminded the group that the Clifton Veterans Day parade is Sunday, November 6th if you are able to participate. This parade is well-established and boasts a good attendance. Hot dogs at the Hot Grill afterwards.

Pat Dolan reminded everyone of the toy drive holiday parade for St. Joseph's Children's Hospital on November 26th at 6 pm. The event start location is 515 Union Blvd. in Totowa.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 was made by **Ken Gardner** and seconded by **Ben Cave**. Next meeting December 1st.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Swanick, Secretary



The Wyckoff Family YMCA Proudly Presents

**THE 10TH ANNUAL
SALUTE TO OUR
VETERANS**

"A Tribute of Remembrance"

November 1, 2022



MTA Members and Veterans Jim Mescher and Andy Salzano remove their feed bags from the Wyckoff YMCA's "Salute to Our Veterans" luncheon to pose with future members of the MTA





2022 Train Schedule | www.OperationToyTrain.org

Saturday, December 3, 2022 Dover & Rockaway River Railroad	City	Location	Address	Arrive	Depart
	Rockaway, NJ	E. Main Street Grade Crossing	26 E. Main St.	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
	Dover, NJ	Dover Town Hall	37 N. Sussex St.	10:00 AM	10:50 AM
	Flanders, NJ	Flanders Fire Company #1	27 Main St.	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
	Ledgewood, NJ	Mattress Firm	310 Route 10 West	2:30 PM	3:15 PM
	Succasunna, NJ	Kuiken Brothers	33 Route 10 East	4:15 PM	6:00 PM

Sunday, December 4, 2022 Dover & Delaware River Railroad	City	Location	Address	Arrive	Depart
	Port Murray, NJ	Port Murray Post Office	218 Main St.	11:10 AM	11:40 AM
	Washington, NJ	Washington Borough Park & Pool	150 Broad Street	12:00 PM	12:30 PM
	Stewartville, NJ	Warren Street Grade Crossing	425 Warren St.	1:25 PM	1:50 PM
	Phillipsburg, NJ	Phillipsburg Union (PU) Tower	84 Brainard St.	2:15 PM	3:00 PM

Saturday, December 10, 2022 New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway	City	Location	Address	Arrive	Depart
	Rochelle Park, NJ	CVS Pharmacy	150 Rochelle Ave.	9:00 AM	9:40 AM
	Hawthorne, NJ	Warburton Ave. Grade Crossing	207 Warburton Ave.	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
	Midland Park, NJ	Hot Dog Caboose	211 Greenwood Ave.	10:40 AM	11:10 AM
	Wyckoff, NJ	Wyckoff PTO Economy Shop	399 Main St.	11:15 AM	11:55 AM
	Oakland, NJ	Enterprise Rent-a-Car	393 Route 202	12:10 PM	1:00 PM
	Pompton Lakes, NJ	Station 1 Books & Vinyl Shop	1 Station Plz.	1:15 PM	1:50 PM
	Butler, NJ	Butler Museum	221 Main St.	2:05 PM	2:30 PM
	Sparta, NJ	Sparta Train Station	30 Station Rd.	4:00 PM	4:20 PM
	Vernon, NJ	Veterans' Memorial Park	50 Vernon Crossing Rd.	4:50 PM	5:30 PM

Sunday, December 11, 2022 Middletown & New Jersey Railroad	City	Location	Address	Arrive	Depart
	Warwick, NY	Kuiken Brothers	33 South St.	9:45 AM	10:20 AM
	Sugar Loaf, NY	Anne Marie's Country Deli	1398 Kings Hwy.	10:35 AM	11:10 AM
	Montgomery, NY	Montgomery "Lumber Lot"	46 Railroad Ave.	12:45 PM	1:55 PM
	Campbell Hall, NY	Hamptonburgh Caboose Museum	3 Erie St.	2:20 PM	3:30 PM
	Middletown, NY	Middletown Train Station	301 N. Galleria Dr.	4:05 PM	4:30 PM
	Port Jervis, NY	PJ Transportation History Center	86 Pike St.	5:35 PM	6:20 PM

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 25, 2022

Schedule is subject to change. Check www.operationtoytrain.org/schedule for most recent version.

RANDOM PHOTOS FROM THE MTA 2022 SWAP MEET...



MTA Members Fabian and Natoli Ledesma with "JP" Parrinello on "Guard Duty" at the front gate



MTA 2022 Officers and Key Committee Heads

President- John Sobotka

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Vice President- Gary Schultz

Tel: 973-207-8955 email: garyrschultz@gmail.com

Secretary- Jean Swanick

Tel: 973-647-0148 email: jswanick170@msn.com

Treasurer - Al Mellini

Tel: 973-723-2166 email: albert.mellini@gmail.com

Sergeant at Arms-Andrew Salzano

Tel: 973-831-0920

Membership Chairman- Dave Steinert

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Parade Coordinator- VACANT

Swap Meet Chairman- Gary Schultz

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Webmaster- Rudy Garbely

Tel: 973-800-9251 email: rgarbely@gmail.com

Quartermaster and MTA Archives Custodian
Gary Schultz

Tel: 973-207-8955 email: garyrschultz@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS

To add or remove listings from the Classifieds, please email Dave Steinert at dsteinert@mtaofnj.org or call 201-407-4035.

REAL MAGAZINES, not digital copies. Military Vehicles #1 to #176. \$500. Army Motors #2 to #156 + Supply Line (55 issues with articles) + TM (6 issues 1975-76), 216 in all, \$600. PS (preventive Maintenance Monthly) #12 to #658, a few missing, \$1,500. Offers accepted. Don't call, telephone is hard for me to use. Dave Ahl, swapmeetdave@aol.com. Can arrange pick-up or delivery.

For Sale: 1963 Dodge M43 B1 w/o winch in very good condition. Comes with a large amount of spare parts and accessories. If there is an interest, contact Michael Maglio at 973-697 9419.

For Sale- Military 500 Gallon Water Buffalo for sale; \$300 or BO. Call John Sobotka at (862)-266-6284.

For Sale - M725 \$3,800.00, Ammo trailer \$350, 1957 DAF 1-ton troop carrier. Rare, not many of these around \$6,000,

M109A3-shop van with benches and shelves. Good shape \$4,500. Call or text Jude Meehan 732-433-3359.

Parts for Sale- 230 CI M725 motor, ran when pulled, burns oil \$200, M725 litter racks-best offer, M725 Rear doors, some dents, no rust \$200 for the pair, M715 windshield frame, minor surface rust \$150, NOS in packing Southwind heater for M725 possible M-43 best offer, M37 windshield frame outer only \$75, M725-M715 rims with lock rings – make offer. Many more items available, too many to list. Call for more information. Call Matt Ziegler, cell 973-445-3890, email : Matrziegler@gmail.com



Military Transport Association

P.O. Box 391
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

**THE NEXT MTA MEETING WILL
BE HELD ON DECEMBER 1st
AT THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN
LEGION POST AT 7PM**



*...And Merry Christmas to All
Our MTA Members and their
Families!*



a chapter of the MVPA



The Military Transport Association is dedicated to the education and preservation of historic to present military vehicles. Members enjoy restoring, displaying, and operating military vehicles of all types, from bicycles to tanks.

But trucks and Jeeps aren't all we do! Join today and participate with us at our annual Toys for Tots train ride and toy drive, help at our annual Swap Meet at the Sussex County Fairgrounds, or attend our special events for veterans. Our lively, informative monthly meetings are held in Whippany, NJ.

You do not have to own a military vehicle to be part of this exciting and active hobby - you just need a desire to do your part in keeping our military history alive. All you need to join the MTA is to fill out the the form below, include your dues payment, and mail it to the address below. Alternately, you can give your form and dues to any MTA member you meet at any of our events.

Or, join online today at www.MTAofNJ.org!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ (cell preferred)

Email: _____

MTA Membership Level: Single (\$30) Family (\$35)

Are you a member of MVPA? Yes No

Military vehicles owned: _____

Return form with \$ ____ annual dues and \$ ____ donation to:

Military Transport Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 391
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

Contributions, gifts, or membership dues made or paid to the Military Transport Association, a 501(c)(4) organization, are non-refundable or transferable, and are NOT deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes.