



The Sentinel

Summer 2025

Fall Meeting:

The Summer General Membership scheduled for June 14, at the Summer Show was canceled. The next meeting will be at the *American Legion Post 63*, 8047 Ortonville Rd., Clarkston, MI, on **October 4, 2025**. The next *Sentinel* will be published in November 2025.



The Summer Show @ Clarkston

As mentioned above, the MVCCMI Summer General Meeting scheduled to take place during the Summer Show at the Legion Post 63 in Clarkston, MI, was canceled due to a lack of a quorum. The show however, went on as planned over the June 13-15 weekend.

Fourteen members were joined by two guests-members to produce ten vehicles over the course of the show, which enjoyed great weather, and no rain. There was a nice variety of vehicles on display, this year featuring all post-war trucks. Shelswell brought his M37CDN, M38A1, and M816 Wrecker. Reuter displayed his M38, and Nutting drove his M934 "motel-room". Lentz & Seabolt both brought their M37s, while Puwal

Military Vehicle Collectors Club of Michigan

The MVCCMI is a non-profit educational organization created to promote the preservation of antique military vehicles. The group meets at least four times a year at various locations.

Officer / Trustee Contact Info: (Effective Winter 2025)

T. Shelswell	(586) 212-9523	Terry.Shelswell@gmail.com
Curt Kitter	(810) 765-3107	ckitter2@att.net
Bill Nutting	(586) 634-7993	foneman14@yahoo.com
David Pawlowski	(248) 210-6103	DPawlowski06@gmail.com
Remi Seabolt	(248) 830-1340	riseabolt@aol.com
Steve Koenig	(586) 876-0786	bsam1967@att.net
Matt Hobig	(586) 665-0614	hobigusn@yahoo.com

Club Dues

All members: \$30 yearly - \$5 Discount for MVPA Members

Meeting Place: Locations vary.

Sentinel & Website Editor : Rick Forys rf@r-jweb.com

Web Site: **WWW.MVCCMI.ORG**



There was a nice variety of vehicles at the Summer Show.

showed his handy M247A4 Mule and an interesting prototype vehicle called "KIDD".

The club was also supported by a contingent of "Rosies" on Saturday. The event featured both a morning and afternoon vehicle tour of the Clarkston area on Saturday, which was well received by participants and the viewing public.

Be sure to renew your MVPA membership. If you don't belong, join up today!





The Summer Show was held at Legion Post 63 in Clarkston.



This year's show featured all post-war trucks



Sean Borton from Davison, MI was driving by in his 2001 M1097A2, and stopped in, becoming a Guest Member. Welcome!
Below: The Denski's & Nutting on the afternoon ride.



2025 Events

Here is a brief rundown of the events we have left for 2025. More will be added as the details become clear. (POCs in parentheses.)

- **Good Old Days, Richmond, Sept. 7 -** (Kitter)
- **MV Show & Tribute to First Responders - Sept. 12-14** *Mueller's Orchard, Linden, MI* (Lentz)
- **Indiana Rustbusters Annual Show, Sept. 19-21** - *Jay Co. Fairgrnds Portland, IN* (Lusty)
- **Autumn Gen Member Mtg. - Oct 4 -** *American Legion Post 63 - Clarkston MI* "Solo Cup" Auction (Shelswell)
- **MVCCMI Fall Colors Tour - Oct 11 - East side** (Nutting)
- **Veteran's Day Event - Nov. 8** *Stahls Museum - Chesterfield Twp* (Seabolt)
- **Detroit Veteran's Day Parade - Nov. 9 -** *Detroit* (Shelswell)
- **Veteran's Day Event - Nov. 11** *Mission BBQ - Northville Twp, MI* (L Roberts)
- **Veteran's Day Event - Nov. 11** *Mission BBQ - Troy, MI* (Benton)
- **Veteran's Day Event - Nov. 11** *Mission BBQ - Sterling Hgts, MI* (Reuter)
- **Oxford/Lake Orion Parades - December 6** (Seabolt)
- **Rochester Parade - December 7** (Tweedie)

FOR SALE



2018 Middlebury
24' enclosed trailer

Bill Thatcher

wrt1@comcast.net - 248-991-4399



Ford Piquette Plant Tour



Members Tour Historic Ford Plant

By Rick Forys

On April 19th of this year, the Military Vehicle Collectors Club of Michigan, (MVCCMI) organized a group tour of the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant. This historic Detroit factory has the distinction of being the first to be built and owned by the Ford Motor Company. Constructed of brick and timber, it opened for business in late 1904. What's more, it happened to be the birthplace of the Model T, and early automobile models B, C, F, K, N, R, and S were also built there.

The tour covered not only the incredible building, but also a collection of over fifty classic vehicles of the period. Personally, it was hard to decide which was more interesting. The building itself was amazing, showing original colors, hues, textures and patina that would be nearly impossible to duplicate. It even featured almost three-hundred windows, hand rebuilt by our own Art Pope and his team. Another very interesting area was the reconstruction of Henry's office, just as it appeared in period photos.

The fifty plus collection of vehicles on display was not only remarkable, but also looked perfect sitting in the old factory setting. Our tour guide Greg Dabkowski, who was terrific, led us through all the vehicles, starting of course with Henry's first, the 1896 Quadricycle, and continuing on through the early models, up to and including the Model T.

Traveling up a floor, we found ourselves in a room full of vehicles from Ford's competition, circa 1908-1918.

Continued ->



Built in 1904, the Piquette Ave. Plant was Ford's first factory, and was the birthplace of the Model T.



The museum features a reproduction of Henry's first automobile, the 1896 Quadricycle.



The brands ranged from Dodge, Cadillac, and Studebaker to lesser known names like Brush, Regal, and Hupmobile. There were also a couple of Detroit Electric cars from 1916 & 18 to round things out. All the while, our tour guide Greg continued to expound information and antidotes, including that Henry had his wife dive a Detroit Electric, because they were reliable, and didn't break down.

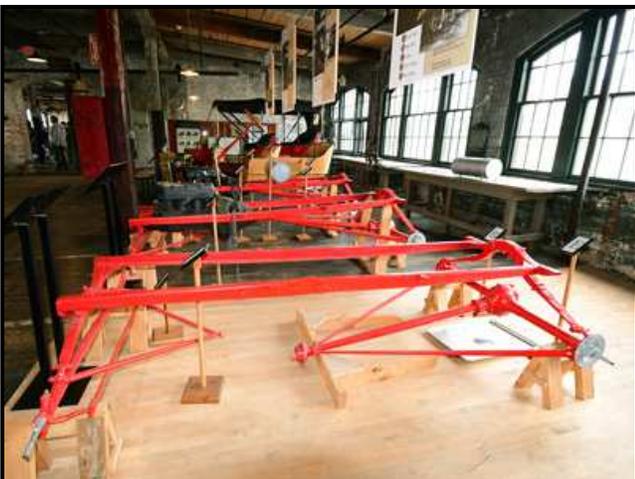
We then moved to a room displaying Ford's offering from the same time period, plus the following years, ending with a 1931 Model A Roadster. These cars were used to demonstrate the comparability of Ford's models, and what effect other brand's designs or features had (or didn't) on Ford's products. There was also a small "production area", where they displayed the steps to build a Model T, using real, full scale parts.



Our tour guide Greg was terrific, leading us through all the cars.



Henry Ford's office as it appeared in an early 1900s photograph..



A Model T production area shows the steps to make the vehicle.



Greg show members how the Model T pedal gears work.



All Ford 1909 Model T Touring cars were made at Piquette.



1926 Model T Custom Speedster "Faultless Ford".



The 1903 Model A Tonneau was the first car produced by Ford.



Ford 1924 Model TT Stake Truck - as seen in the Thanksgiving Parade.



1920 Model T Flower Truck in a striking original livery.

However, it was very hard to miss the bright and shiny "race customs" on exhibit, period-done on Model T chassis dating 1920-26.

The tour finalized in a hall of Ford commercial trucks, and conversions, and even a Fordson Tractor. The commercial vehicles included a very clean 1920 Model T Flower Delivery Truck, 1921 Model T Fire Truck, and a 1924 Model TT Stake Truck, (AKA the Absopure Truck). The conversions were also very interesting, displaying a 1925 Model T Pulford Tractor Conversion, a 1921 Model T four-wheel drive converted panel truck, plus a 1925 "Snow Machine" with dual rear axles, turning four tires with tracks connecting them.

There were sooo many things to see and learn at this fantastically interesting place, that it would be impossible to mention them all. However, I do want to add that convenient, secure, free parking is located directly across the street from the plant. We ended up with 17 members & family participating, and all agreed it was very worth-while trip. Overall, I would have to say this was a remarkable experience, and is highly recommended.



1908 Model K 6-40 Roadster

The expensive car Henry didn't want to make.



Pine Ridge Villa USO Party!

The MVCCMI brightens the day for residents.

- By Rick Forys

On Saturday, the thirty-first of May, the MVCCMI traveling road show assembled at the Pine Ridge Villas assisted living complex in Shelby Twp. to produce a USO - Veteran themed event for the residents. The show featured a ceremony kicked off with a 21-gun salute, followed by speakers from the military, Shelby Twp, the Women’s Army Corps Veterans Association, plus our own Chris Scalise who offered a prayer.

This very successful event was organized, produced, and directed by my candidate for member of the year, Jim Reuter. Jim also put on an incredible militaria display that filled half a room with everything from guns to toiletries.



Ben Lapinski deployed a sentinel to guard the gate.



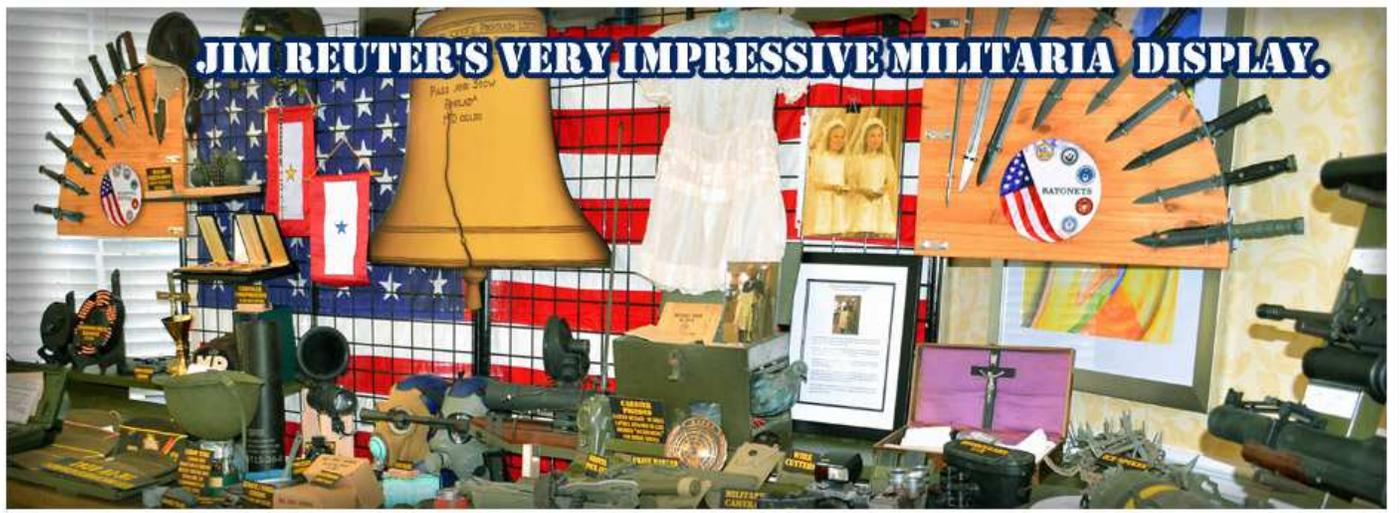
Chief Master Sergeant, Timothy M. Huhtasaari from Selfridge Air Base addresses the crowd.



The man responsible for putting together this great event, Jim Reuter with Shelby Twp. Supervisor Rick Stathakis.



Chaplin Chris Scalies offers a prayer.



JIM REUTER'S VERY IMPRESSIVE MILITARIA DISPLAY.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA 154 HONOR GUARD.



JIM TWEEDIE'S 1983 M998 HUMVEE.



STEVE KOENIG ARMS HIS 1966 M151A1.

-PHOTO J. REUTER.



ANDY PEITSCH WITH HIS 1942 FORD GPW.



ED & SUE P'S 1941 CADILLAC STAFF CAR.



JEFF PUWAL MOVES HIS 1968 M274A4 MULE.



BILL NUTTING'S 1983 M934 MOTEL ROOM.

To say that Jim Reuter's display was impressive is understated at best. Photos just couldn't capture it all. Jim said he's been collecting for over forty years, and displayed over two-hundred items at the show. What's more, this was only

part of a much larger collection, which earned him First Place Educational from the Ohio Gun Collectors Association. Jim also arranged for the Honor Guard from Vietnam Veterans of America 154 to join us for the event.



REMI SEABOLT'S SUPER CLEAN 1953 DODGE M37.



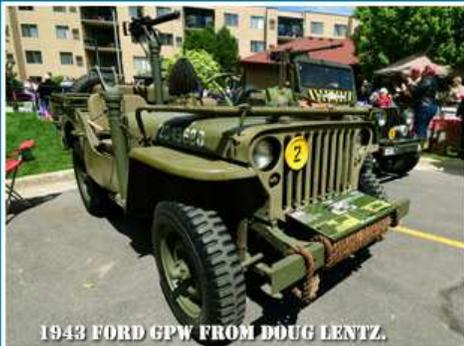
DAVE MCCONNELL'S 1971 AM GENERAL M35A2.



JIM TWEEDIE'S OTHER 1983 M998 HUMVEE.



THE THREE AMIGOS - STEVE KOENIG, BILL NUTTING, JIM TWEEDIE. - PHOTO J. REUTER



1943 FORD GPW FROM DOUG LENTZ.



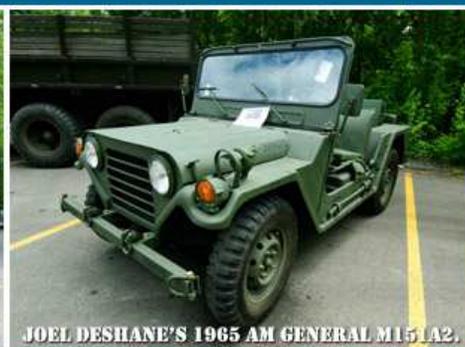
CHRIS SCALISE BROUGHT HIS M151A2 MUTT.



JIM REUTER ALSO SHOWED HIS 1951 M38.



M1078 LMTV 2.5-TON OWNED BY JIM TWEEDIE.



JOEL DESHANE'S 1965 AM GENERAL M151A2.



1952 WILLYS M38A1 - TERRY SHEISWELL.

The USO party seemed to be very popular with all the members in attendance, and everyone appeared to enjoy the experience. Many residents were veterans, or were married to veterans, so this was very well received and supported by them too.

In closing, a big thanks goes out to Jim Reuter and his Amigos, who moved... a lot of things, to make this show happen. I understand this facility is interested in having us back again, and others have also made inquiries. Maybe this is something to discuss for the future.

MORE FROM THE CLARKSTON SUMMER SHOW



JEFF PUWAL DISPLAYED HIS "KIDD" PROTOTYPE.



DOUG LENTZ BROUGHT HIS 1952 DODGE M37.

Military Vehicle Preservation Association

Established in 1976 to preserve Historic Military Vehicles



Joining the ranks of the MVPA allows you to enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded people, to give new life to an "Old Soldier" or just enjoy the historic significance of vintage military ground transport.



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MILITARY VEHICLE
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MVPA Members receive all MVPA Periodicals!



P.O. Box 520378 * Independence, MO 64052 - (800) 365-5798 * (816) 833-MVPA * hq@mvpa.org