



## Mud, Sweat and Gears

The Official Newsletter of the KILROY Chapter  
Military Vehicle Preservation Association

February 2010



This month's meeting was hosted by Mike Yeager at his home outside Sellersburg, IN. There were eight members present and dues were collected for the upcoming year. Dues must be paid by the April meeting or you will be dropped from the rolls. If you have not paid yet, be sure to bring yours dues in for the March Meeting.

Mike had a great finger food layout for the meeting, but I suspect his wife had a hand in the selection! No one went away not stuffed with fruit and veggie snacks. Mike had a covered pool table with used and NOS stuff that came out of a lot of materials he picked up in Florida. Some radio parts were noted as well as Willys parts still sealed in boxes and other parts. Give Mike a call to see what he has left.

We honored our flag with the Pledge of Allegiance and Mike talked to us about his church's outreach program to give Fort Knox trainees a touch of home and a home cooked meal when they are on pass away from the post. We welcomed a new member, Joe Cecil, from Cecilia, KY. He has obtained an M-151A2 that he is working on. Joe is a professional artist by trade and told us about a rare 1952 VW with a sliding canvas roof that he owned. Anyone knowing the location of an M-151A2 fuel tank, Joe has need of one. He can be contacted at 270-862-2671. We also had Gary Hisel, from the Evansville MVPA Chapter that put on last year's MVPA Convention.

Charlie Ricketts brought up, for discussion, the possibility of having some uniform options when we parade or display our vehicles as a chapter. Several options were discussed, mainly about t-shirts or polo type shirts for event wear. OD, Forest Green and Khaki were some colors mentioned. Any outer wear would have the KILROY patch as well as a same color hat. Mixing of colors among members was also discussed, but the primary effort is for public awareness as to who we are and what we represent. We will discuss again in March. In the meantime, you can send any comments or suggestions to Bill Scott or me. We also still wish the best to Tom Woodburn and hope to see him at our next meeting. We closed out the meeting by visiting Mike's garage complex where he is currently working on an M-37. Lots of parts laying around, but we all kept our hands in our pockets! Be sure to keep tabs on our website for updates:

(<http://www.kilroymvpa.com>). Also MVPA at: <http://www.mvpa.org/>

## **Upcoming Events:**

Bill was notified that we will not be in the Pegasus Parade. Apparently there are a lot of requests and cuts have to be made. We think we should try and tie in our vehicles with a veterans group to enhance our resume for next year

Armed Forces Day. 15 May

4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Pekin, In. Pekin is known for having the nation's longest running consecutive Fourth of July Celebration. Celebrating 180 years in 2010.

MVPA Convention, Topeka, KS. 7-10 July

Sellersburg Celebrates, 28 August

Kentucky Motor Speedway, Sparta, KY. 4 September

Heritage Air Show. 10-12 September, Lanesville, IN

Harvest Homecoming Parade, Sellersburg, IN. 2 October

Boy Scouts 100th year anniversary at Tom Sawyer State Park, KY. 15-17 October

Our next meeting will be hosted by me on 18 March at the Golden China Buffet at 6:30 pm in Radcliff. They have a great buffet that will satisfy everyone and we will have a separate area for our meeting. For those with a GPS unit, it is located at 597 West Lincoln Trail Blvd.

**Directions:** From Louisville and Indiana, take I-65 South to the Gene Snyder Freeway and head West. Exit at the Fort Knox/Radcliff Ramp and turn left (South) on US 31W (Dixie Highway). You will pass through the town of West Point and cross over the Salt River where it empties into the Ohio. You can occasionally see barge traffic as you pass by. From there you will go about two miles and start up a steep hill to the town of Muldraugh. There is an M-60 tank on a pedestal mount just before you start up the hill. If you wish to stop, there is a large pull over space for just that purpose. You will pass through Muldraugh (it has a brief part in Goldfinger) and pass by Fort Knox and The US Bullion Depository on your left. From there go to the fourth traffic light (do not count the flashing light at the Patton Museum entrance) and turn right onto West Lincoln Trail Blvd. Golden China Buffet will be on you right, set back from the road, in about ¼ mile.

From the South, get on 31W (Dixie Highway) at Elizabethtown and drive North. West Lincoln Trail Blvd will be the next traffic light where you will turn left after you pass by the Walgreens Pharmacy store on the left. My cell number is 270-312-8665 if you need help. See you next month. Kevin.

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### **Army ending purchase of Humvees from Mishawaka plant.**

The U.S. Army could soon be ending its nearly decades-long tradition of buying new Humvees that are made in Mishawaka. The Army says it wants to take delivery of the final shipment of 2,620 new Humvees next month and then the Army has no more spending plans that include purchasing new Humvees. However, the military spending plan that would curtail the purchase of new Humvees in 2011 still has to win the approval of Congress. That is what local officials are pinning their hopes on.



AM General spokeswoman, Celeste Ross, says that the company is going to continue to work with the Army and with Congress to do whatever can be done to have a vehicle for future production. "Everyone is working hard on this," Ross said. All branches of the military have Humvees Ross stressed. The Army's spending plan would only impact future Army purchases. However, the Army represents the majority of Humvee purchases. AM General just learned of the Army's plan Monday when the spending plan was released. Although the Army wants to take delivery of its final shipment of Humvees next month, Ross says AM General has contracts for the Humvee through October of 2010. UAW spokesman, Don Taber, is also holding out hope. "There's room for things to change and move. We're trying to get a handle on what will be the impact for the membership," Taber said. "There's the possibility for other international orders," Taber added. Lt. Col. Jimmie Cummings, a U.S. Army Public Affairs spokesman, says, "The Humvee has been one of the workhorses of the U.S. Army." Cummings says, "The Army's

decision to stop procuring Humvees for Army-only needs was not made lightly. But right now, what we'll do this year is make the final buy of Humvees and next year, plans are not to purchase any more Humvees." "The Humvee doesn't provide desired levels of protection for our soldiers," Cummings added. Cummings says vehicles like the MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protective) are what are needed on the ground in Afghanistan. "On the modern battlefield, soldier protection is our number one concern," said Cummings. News of the Army's spending plans comes on the heels of a tough month for Humvee workers in Mishawaka. 204 have been laid off since early January, according to Taber. Approximately 46 more will be laid off soon. Ross says those layoffs were in response to production forecasts from 6 to 7 months ago. The layoffs were not in anticipation of this recent announcement by the Army to cut new Humvee purchases from its budget next year. Ross stresses that in spite of all of this, the Humvee product line currently remains operational. The Army's 2011 spending plan does call for \$989 million to be spent on maintenance, parts, and service for the existing fleet of Humvees. UAW Local 5 President, Scott Vande Putte, says he hopes that any Humvee workers laid off could be absorbed on the H2 side of the business. However, on Monday GM announced that its plan to sell the non-military Hummer brand to a Chinese company has been delayed by a month. GM and Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery Corp. are extending the deadline to complete the transaction until Feb. 28, pending final approval by the Chinese government. The deal has cleared the U.S. regulatory hurdles. However, Vande Putte says right now "Everything is a question." Congressman Joe Donnelly got the news about the Army's decision to pull the plug on new Humvee purchases after having just returned from a trip to visit the troops in Afghanistan. Upon learning the news he said, "I am very disappointed with the Army's decision to not request additional new Humvees after this year. The president's budget request is just the starting point in the budget process, serving only as a recommendation to Congress. Humvees have served the military well for 25 years and I will forcefully make the case that they have a role to play in the years to come. I will be working in the coming weeks with AM General, the Pentagon, and my colleagues in Congress to make sure that the Army, our National Guard, and all our men and women in uniform have the right balance of vehicles they need to carry out their missions at home and abroad." The Congress will have to act on the Army's budget request before October when the new fiscal year begins. (WSBT-TV, 2 February 2010)



# Who Will Protect Them? YOU... AND THE MVPA

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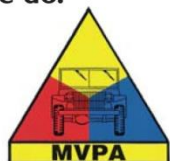
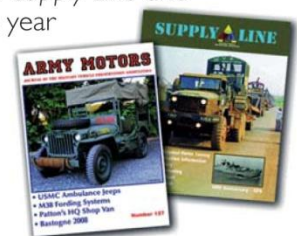
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