

Next Meeting:
8 February 2024
1800 Hours
MVCSC Compound
Columbia, SC

MVCSC Officers and Board Members

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Under the Hood

E-Newsletter of the MVCSC
Web Site: themvsc.com



President's Corner



David Cartledge

The New Year is upon us! I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday! The days are getting longer and the weather has been tolerable so far, and hopefully will be improving as we

begin our new ventures in 2024...

We have three major events on the near horizon: the Battle of Aiken 23-25 February and the St. Patrick's Day Festival on 16 March. We will also support the SC Arms Collectors Gun & Knife Show in March as well.

We are revisiting the Battle of Aiken this year in lieu of the American Heritage Festival. The Aiken event is under new management and has a history of excellent attendance.

The St. Patrick's Day event is our major fund raiser each year, allowing us to keep member dues low and pay for repair/restoration equipment and improvements to the Compound. The SC Gun

Show also provides financial resources in return for our services. We need maximum participation at each of these opportunities!

We enjoyed a warm holiday dinner with our MVCSC families on 13 December, and several members drove vehicles to represent the club at multiple holiday parades in the Midlands.

We welcomed several new members last year who bring passion and skills to our mission. I want to thank all the members of the MVCSC for a great 2023... it is your participation and hard work that keeps the club moving. Let's drive on in 2024 and ... Keep 'em rollin'!

Dave



Members may participate in these events by contacting any Board member or attending the monthly club meetings!

A Revolutionary Reflection on 2023

Like most MVPA affiliates, MVCSC members enjoyed a busy 2023. Appearances at parades, festivals, veterans' events, and weekly maintenance projects kept all hands busy. However, there was a singular privilege we were given in 2023 that especially impacted us as veterans and as civilians, all of us HMV enthusiasts.

When asked to reflect on this special opportunity, Vietnam veteran Larry Robb didn't hesitate: "It was the greatest event of my 78 years". Larry had driven one of seven MMMWVs bearing the remains of 13 Revolutionary War soldiers recovered from shallow graves on the battlefield near Camden in the fall of 2022.

SC Battleground Preservation Trust organized and led efforts to provide these earliest American veterans, plus one British Highlander, the honor and respect they deserved. It was a monumental effort involving local, state, and federal officials, the US military, the British government, Revolutionary War re-enactors, and horse-drawn caisson units from the southeast and mid-Atlantic. Through our Charleston friends Steve Riggs and Archie Willis, MVCSC was asked to provide transport for the remains to multiple public and ceremonial venues and to operate a portable kitchen that would serve participants camping on site.

MVCSC members provided seven HMMWVs for this honor. John Peck and Jeffrey Ray led the effort to prepare each vehicle mechanically and visually for such an important public role. Each HMMWV was equipped with a rear platform built by members Tony and Landon Saxton that secured and elevated the coffins so they could be seen during transit. The coffins were hand-made by local artisans in a manner matching the colonial period.

MVCSC president David Cartledge led the HMMWV detail, which began the morning of 20 April 2023 with the careful loading of the flag-draped coffins from the Richland County Coroner's Office. Escorted by cruisers and motorcycles of the SC State Patrol, the detail conveyed the remains of these heroes to 12 elementary, middle, and high schools in the Midlands. Entire student bodies met the passing convoy with salutes, American flags, and quiet respect. The HMMWV unit then paused on reverent display at the SC Statehouse for a press conference led by the Battleground Trust. The detail then proceeded to Fort Jackson, where soldiers lined the route at attention prior to an impressive artillery salute. After driving 200 miles, this first day concluded at Camden's Revolutionary War Park. There the coffins were met by an honor guard who placed the coffins in the famous Kershaw-Cornwallis House for 36 hours of repose and visitation by the public.

Throughout the next three days prior to final battlefield honors, MVCSC's MKT team, led by Mike Michaelski, were hard at work. The club also provided a water buffalo for the caisson unit horses and a generator to power a shower trailer.

Alec Vardas, a member of the MKT detail, was impressed by "seeing people from all over the country come together to celebrate the lives of these veterans." When asked about significant moments, David Cartledge replied that his first moment was when "I was able to actually put hands on several of the coffins as we loaded them onto the HMMWVs...



... To know I was in the presence of true American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for my liberty was very moving.”

Over 20 MVCSC members participated in this once in a lifetime opportunity, and all others assisted with vehicle and equipment preparations. Conveying these first American patriots to final places of recognition and repose with historic military vehicles was an unqualified privilege that closed the circle between our contemporary military and its resources to the earliest days of our republic. Larry Robb was reminded of Lincoln’s words during his Gettysburg address, “... that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain...” So we reflect that we may not forget.

Reflection by Lee Porter with photos from Brian Davis



Affiliations

MVCSC is incorporated in South Carolina as a nonprofit organization, and is recognized as tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax exempt to the degree allowed by law. MVCSC is an affiliate member of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, an international organization providing technical support and historical research for local efforts in vehicle restoration and public education.



UNDER THE HOOD is the official publication of the Military Vehicle Collectors of South Carolina and is a regular email publication meant as a service to the members of MVCSC and other interested persons and organizations. The views expressed herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect positions of MVCSC. All MVCSC members are invited to submit articles, pictures, and first hand accounts for publication on subjects that are relevant to military history and historic military vehicle preservation. The Board of Directors and the editor reserve the right to edit for length and content that is appropriate to the organization's mission and requirements as a 501(c)(3) incorporated in the State of South Carolina.



Friends Who Will be Missed

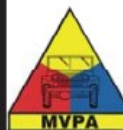
Best wishes to Board member Tony Saxton, wife Nicole, daughter Delaney and son Landon who moved to the Midwest last fall. Tony was a major contributor to the growth and level of event participation by MVCSC.



Who Will Protect Them? YOU... AND THE MVPVA

You've done the hard work to preserve your historic military vehicle.

Now, support the organization that works hard to preserve your continued access to vehicles and parts. **Join today and keep history in motion!**



**MILITARY VEHICLE
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**
HISTORY IN MOTION

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