

AUTUMN IN NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey Military Motor Pool Fall Road Run

By Kevin M. Kearney, MVPA# 25690



On Sunday October 14th, 2012, members of the Central Jersey Military Motor Pool gathered for the Annual Fall Road Run. This year's run brought a unique variety of vehicles together. There were 11 vehicles that participated; a WC-62, an M-37, an M-38, an M-151A2, a CUCV pickup, an M3A1 Scout Car, three MB's, a GPW, and a Ford GPA.



CJMMP Vehicles gathered at the Amwell Diner before the ride.

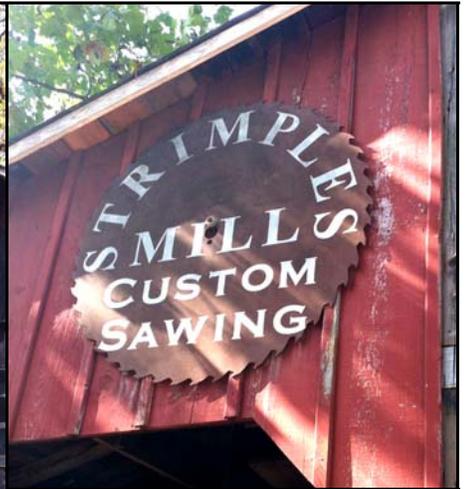
The day started out a bit cold, but forecasts predicted pleasant temperatures as the day progressed. One by one, members gathered at the Amwell Diner on Rt. 31 in Ringoes, NJ for breakfast and discussion of the forthcoming activities. At 9:45, a satiated group started off on its quest to explore rural NJ.



The column of vehicles passes through NJ's only remaining covered bridge

The route selected for the day's run was planned by CJMMP President Dave Peters, who lives in Stockton, NJ and is quite familiar with the area. The convoy was quite long as it wound down gravel roads and past many lush plentiful farms that once earned NJ the moniker "Garden State". The first unique feature of the ride was that we were able to run the convoy through the last remaining covered bridge in the state.

Our first stop was to the historic Strimples Mill, an 1880's sawmill, which, although worn a bit, was still in operation. The owner of the Mill, Dan Janiszewski, is one of Dave's friends and his family has owned and operated the mill for several generations. Dan was kind enough to



CJMMP Members gather at Historic Strimples Mill in Rosemont, NJ to watch a demonstration of the mill's sawing operation with its original 50-inch sawblade.

demonstrate the mill for us with its original 1880's 50-inch sawblade. He explained that even though the mill's equipment is now run by a V-8 engine, the waterway and water wheel are being restored so the mill will once again be powered by the natural forces of the river on which it is located.

Once the sawmill demonstration was over, several of the participants were given the opportunity to do a little off roading on the property, as there were some trails that led through a wooded area over some hilly, wooded terrain then down along the riverbank. It was quite fun.



The newly installed water wheel which will someday allow the mill to be powered by the river once again.

At this point, we thanked Dan, the mill owner, for his time and departed for an area along the Delaware to stop for lunch and a special treat provided by MVPA Vice President and CJMMP member David Welch. You see, Dave wanted to go boating.

After we arrived at the Bull's Island State Park boat launch area, David Welch and Rick Wark spent a few minutes prepping the GPA and looking for any items that needed to be attended to. Once they were satisfied, Dave eased the amphibian down the ramp and splashed into the Delaware! Once launched, David engaged the propeller and began cruising around the Delaware to the delight of the group! With a paparazzi of HMV owners snapping photos like crazy, the GPA performed a demonstration of its seaworthiness! If only George Washington had one of these in 1776!

As we lunched, David treated all of us to river rides in this rare amphibious vehicle! With the weather having warmed up, a cruise up and down the Delaware was a nice treat!



Allan Papp's 1941 M3A1 Scout Car leads the way through the woods! Allan put over 100 miles on it during this ride, the most he's ever put on it in on at one time!



LEFT: The view from the middle of the line as a group of vehicles take the off-road trails behind Strimples Mill. An M-151 and M3A1 Scout Car can be seen from Kevin Kearney's 43 Willys MB as they progressed down the trail.



Dave Welch's beautiful Ford GPA is heading down the ramp towards the Delaware River for its first swim of the day!



ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER: Dave Welch, Dave Peters and Karen Peters enjoying a little drive on, er..IN the Delaware.



Splashdown! Dave Welch and Rick Wark begin their entry into the Delaware River while riding in Dave's 1942 Ford GPA.

Afterwards, several members broke off to head back home, while the rest of the convoy headed across the Frenchtown Bridge to the final stop, Van Sant's Airport in Bucks County PA. Here, they watched some airplanes, including a Piper Cub, take off and land on the country airport's grass strip.

The entire ride went off without a hitch until the very end, when one member's vehicle ran out of gas on the way back to the Amwell Diner. This was not the owner's fault, but rather, due to a faulty sending unit providing false readings. It took a while to get a can of gas to him, but before too long, Dave and Karen Peters were able to retrieve a gas can, fuel it up and bring it back to the stranded driver. Considering the rural surroundings, that was no quick feat! The important thing is that everyone arrived home safely.

Thanks to all the CJMMP members and their guests who participated in the ride. They are; David Peters, Karen Peters, David Welch, Kevin Kearney, Russ Wagner, Richard Wark, Jason Wark, James Sabbagh, Allan Papp, Raymond Marino, Pete Woolsey, Pete Woolsey, Jr., Bill Peaslee, Greg Seaman, Tom DePiano, and Peggy DePiano. Because of you, this was the most fun trail ride to date. Special thanks to MVPA Vice President and CJMMP member David Welch for the GPA rides, and to Dan Janiszewski for the sawmill demonstration and for letting us off-road a bit on his property. For those MVPA Members interested in the Central Jersey Military Motor Pool, visit the club's website at: <http://www.cjmmmp.org>



LEFT: The long column of historic military vehicles winding its way along the back country roads of Hunterdon County must have been quite the sight on a beautiful Sunday morning in October. Richard Wark's WC-62, Greg Seaman's M-38, and Dave Welch's Ford GPA can clearly be seen immediately following the lead Jeep driven by Dave Peters.



RIGHT: Dave Welch's rare Amphibious Jeep, the Ford GPA, parked next to Kevin Kearney's and Russ Wagner's 1943 Willys MB's before the long road run.



LEFT: A WWII Stearman trainer based at Van Sant's Airport in Bucks County, PA. This was the final stop for the Road Ride.



RIGHT: A Piper Cub on the roll out after landing on the grass runway at Van Sant's. Unfortunately, due to winds, not too many aircraft were flying on what otherwise was a beautiful day.