Smoky Mountain Military Vehicle Club
The Motor Pool (February 2026)

Greetings from our President

Hi Everybody,

This is your midwinter, 2026 newsletter from the Smoky Mountain Military Vehicle Club. I hope this finds everybody well and not suffering from broken pipes or frostbite. Great time to be working on vehicles and getting winter maintenance completed. Several topics in the newsletter, to and including: events coming up, newsletter, website, and direction of the club going forward. There are no events planned for the month of February unless anybody has a meeting suggestion or pop-up event.

Planning is going forward for the Walk in Their Boots event in September, 2026, as well as multiple convoy rides leading into the MVPA convention and the Lewis and Clark Convoy going from Mid-July to Mid-August. For those interested, I will be leading a drive starting in Mount Carmel and going through: Morristown, Jefferson City, Dandridge, Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, and over the mountain to Cherokee with return along the same route on April 7, rain date is April 15.

Another convoy will be going in May 4-8, starting in the Mount Carmel, Kingsport area and driving either up into Virginia or to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This will be a rain or shine event. The MVPA convention is in Fishersville, Virginia, June 19th through the 21st. I will be driving up along the Blue Ridge Parkway starting in the Mount Carmel and Kingsport area, attend the event from the 18th and return back on the 22nd. This will be the final shakedown drive for my M151 prior to the big Convoy in July.

Please see the Facebook page announcement for the MVPA convention. This is right in our backyard and is going to be different from previous conventions in that the fun factor is going to be emphasized. I understand they're planning both trail rides on dirt or gravel as well as perhaps scenic rides on the Parkway. Fishersville is a quiet, small town. Dining and shopping activities are available for the rest of the family.

The big MVPA Convoy from Bismarck, North Dakota, to Hammond, Oregon, will be leaving the Mount Carmel, Kingsport area on either the 21st or 22nd of July and likely not returning till late August. This Convoy is in four stages and should be a wonderful experience. If you are interested, but have time constraints, it is possible to do one leg or two legs. The whole route does not have to be driven in its entirety.

Going into September, Walk in Their Boots at Camp Davy Crockett in Whitesburg Tennessee will be going with set up starting on the seventh and the event is September 11,12, and 13th, with breakdown the 14th through 18th. Not to be remiss, there are several Fourth of July parades in the area. There is one going in Kingsport, as well as Knoxville and perhaps others available in Lenoir City and Morristown. We are looking for event organizers for Fourth of July parades, Labor Day, other parades, and Memorial Day parades. Please contact me at:

(423) 312-8546 if you're willing to lead the club up for one of the parades and be the event lead so we can distribute the information to the rest of the group.

Now, the biggie that nobody wants to discuss. The club has had the club president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor in their positions for multiple years. Officer election is both appropriate, timely, and necessary as we do not want the club to stagnant and fresh ideas are always welcomed. It is not a tremendous commitment to time, but I would like everybody in the club to have an opportunity to provide leading leadership, guidance, and direction.

Please come forward and let me know if you're willing to take a leadership role. Elections will be held either at a club meeting or by ballot online. With respect to the direction of the club, during the next six months; engagement and involvement is going to be critical. My sense is that social clubs in America now are more focused on events than meetings. If this is the direction that our club is headed in, I will adjust the webpage so that it reflects schedules and links with more emphasis on events. Also, with respect to meetings, most likely it will be best to incorporate them into other event gatherings as my sense is when people get out with their Military Vehicles, we can drive, meet, and eat all at the same gathering

Camp Davy Crockett will need vehicles and historians for the Spring and Summer Camp Season. Requirements will be posted when available.

Mark Ingram

Christmas Party

The Christmas party was held at the home of Janice and Tracy Franklin on December 4, 2025. We were fortunate to have great hosts and good weather!

Ron and Judy Ward, Vernia Tedford, Chris Stevens, Mark Ingram, Janice and Tracy Franklin

Vernia Tedford, Janice and Tracy Franklin

Judy Ward

Mark Ingram and Ron Ward

Colorful decorations with SMMVC items for sale

Events

Schedule for the year. Please let me know of additions you wish to make.

Date	Event	Event Coordinator	Location
April 4	Music in the Mountains		Pigeon Forge
April 7	Tour to Cherokee, NC	Mark Ingram	Mount Carmel
May 4-8	Tour to VA or NC	Mark Ingram	Mount Carmel
June	Secret City Festival		Oak Ridge, TN
July 4	July 4th Parade		Farragut

July 4	July 4th Parade		Lenoir City
August	Welcome Home Veterans Parade		Pigeon Forge
September 11-13	Walk in Their Boots	Joe Evans, Mark Ingram	Whitesburg
November 11	Veterans Day Parade	Chris Stevens	Knoxville