Minutes of the Meeting

The September meeting of the Alaska Territorial Cavalry Motorized took place on Wednesday, September 21st. Those who attended were Mark and Sue Strumsky, Dick Stevenson, Dave Proehl, John C. Goodman, Ken Blaylock, Craig Kisely, and Fred Sharper. Even though we only had eight members at the meeting, we still had a quorum.

Dick Stevenson, the ATCM president, called the meeting to order at 7pm. We had no visitors or new members present. There were no awards, but we did recognized and thank Craig Kisely and his wife for hosting the club picnic at his house on Saturday, September 3rd. Craig said that he really enjoyed having us there.

Fred Sharper told us that his wife Jan had passed away last week. She had attended some of our functions and also helped out at the Fur Rondy Military Truck show. She will be missed.

Dick asked if everyone had received the August newsletter, which they had. The member voted and approved the minutes of the August meeting. Dick then asked for any new correspondence. I told him

Editor’s Spot

The club picnic was held last month at Craig Kisely’s house in Palmer. It was a lot of fun and we got quite a bit accomplished with regard to selling off some of the club’s excess items, and working on the club Jeep.

The ATCM is currently in the middle of our election cycle. We held the first round on nominations for the club officers and board members at the September meeting. Further nominations can also be made at the October and November meetings. Ballots will be printed in the November newsletter and are due by the beginning of the ATCM meeting on December 18th. The results will be in the January 2023 newsletter. Terms of office are for two years. Because of COVID 19, the current officers and board members had agreed in 2021 to serve for a third year. Some of them may need a break.

Mark Strumsky
ATC (M) Newsletter editor
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mcstrumsky@gmail.com
that we had received a letter from Jeanne Ostnes, the 
President of the Women’s Auxiliary at Jack Henry 
American Legion Post 1. Their 100th anniversary will 
be on **July 2nd, 2023**. She’d like the ATCM to come 
and display some vehicles. I’ll put that information 
in the schedule of events on page eight. If we decide 
to participate, we could Park our vehicles inside their 
fence at the post and then drive them to the parade 
staging area on the 4th of July.

Dick asked for the club finance report. The ATCM 
Finance Officer, Craig Kisely, provided us with a 
written report, and then gave a verbal one. Craig said 
that he’s going to change the format of the monthly 
report to make it easier to understand. The only bills 
this month were for some food purchased for the 
club picnic, the club newsletter bill from the printer, 
and some fuel and a transfer pump for the club half 
track.

We moved on to the membership report. Sue 
Strumsky told us there was no change. That means 
we’ve recruited no new members in the last month. 
Sue did mention that she gave some of the members 
a packet that included membership applications. She 
was hoping that it would lead to an increase in club 
membership.

Our gaming officer was not present, so we did not 
get a report. We are still trying to find an outlet to 
play our pull tabs.

Dick asked about the club’s half track. John 
Goodman said that the new frame and cover had 
been installed to keep out the rain and snow. He also 
bought some fuel and a transfer pump to gas it up. 
But his real concern at this time is the club’s WC51. 
It’s stored outside on JBER. The bows over the bed 
have collapsed because of the snow load from last 
winter, and it’s full of water. It needs new bows or 
some other form of support, a new canvas, new tires, 
and a paint job.

We moved on to events. There are no events on the 
schedule for the rest of this year. We hope to have a 
Military Truck Show at Anchorage/Chrysler/Dodge 
during Fur Rondy in February 2023. I’ve agreed to 
contact Chuck Talsky and see if that can happen.

There was no further old or new business, so we 
moved on to the first round of nominations for the 
new ATCM officers and members of the board of 
directors. The following is a list of the members that 
were nominated…

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**Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dick Stevenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>John Goodman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sue Strumsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mark Strumsky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Board Members**

- Craig Kisely
- John Matthis
- Paul Williams
- Ken Blaylock
- Peter Hewko
- Melissa Cherry

The split the pot this month was $35, and Sue won 
$17.50. The next meeting will be on October 19th. 
The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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**The ATCM Club Picnic, Surplus Sale, and Work Party**

On Saturday, September 3rd, the club picnic was 
held at Craig Kisely’s house in Palmer. There was a lot of good food, surplus club gear to be sold off, and some work to be done on the club Jeep. We had ten club members and two dogs that attend. It would have been nice if a few more members came. Even so, we sold about half of the surplus items, at really good prices. There are still a lot of items left that we would like to sell.
Dick Stevenson crawled under the club Jeep to work on the tail pipe but fell asleep. Craig found him the next morning, fed him breakfast, and sent him home.
Melissa was a great help and dived right in. Here she’s reconnecting the flux capacitor to the warp drive.

Tamara and Sally mostly supervised, and some of the guys definitely needed supervision.

P-115

One of the artifacts I came across at the Alaska Veterans Museum is a nice leather photo album with photos from WW2. Fortunately the owner also wrote on the back of many of the photos, which is helpful. I scanned some of the photos, did some research, and wrote the following article.

The album belonged to Brad L. Leaf. He was inducted into the US Army on December 8th 1943. He made PFC on March 16th 1944, and eventually was promoted to Sergeant. The Japanese occupation of Kiska and Attu lasted from 6 June 1942 through 28 July 1943, so combat in Alaska had ended by the time Brad arrived.

Brad served on US Army patrol boat P-115 in Alaska and California. The P-115 was 104 feet long and powered by two 300 HP Packard engines, which gave it a top speed of 30 knots. It was lightly armed with three machine guns and small arms. It carried no torpedoes or depth charges. Its function was to patrol Alaska waters and participate in search and rescues. There was also a period of Marshall Law in Alaska during the war and the crew played a law enforcement roll.

P-115 was stationed in Cordova, but also sailed to other places in the vicinity, including Sitka, Juneau, Wrangle, Seward, and Whittier. P-115 also took a long distance cruise to Kodiak Island, Sanak Island, which is 50 miles south of Cold Bay, Amchitka Island in the Bering Sea, and traveled over 700 miles up the Yukon River to Steven’s Village. It must have been risky to sail a vessel of that size in the Aleutians and Bering Sea. The trip up the Yukon must have presented its own kind of hazards.

US Army patrol boat P-115 in Cordova in 1943.
The album also has photos taken in California, including Balboa Island, Los Angeles and San Pedro in 1944. That means Brad and P-115 went to the west coast after his tour of duty in Alaska. Some of the photos show free time activities in Alaska that included skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, exploring and fishing. There are also photos of civilian vessels, such as fishing boats, tugs, and even some Army Air Force crash rescue boats.

There are models of the P-115 on display in the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum at Lake Hood and the Pioneer Air Museum in Fairbanks.

The most powerful weapon on P-115 was a water-cooled .50 caliber machine gun usually mounted on the bow, but sometimes on the stern.

This is a photo of P-115 in Wrangle Narrows on the way to Amchitka. It was powered by two 300 HP Packard engines and could make over 30 knots.

Brad Leaf is on the left. His friend Ernie is on the left. They are sitting on the dock in Cordova in front of a Dodge ambulance.

These are the six man crew of P-115. There appears to be two officers and four enlisted men.

The P-115 tied up to the dock in Cordova, Alaska.
The P-115 was armed with three machine guns, but carried no torpedoes or depth charges. Its function was to patrol coastal areas and search and rescue.

The P-115 and P-215 docked in Cordova. These army patrol boats were also armed with a Lewis .30 caliber light machine guns on each wing of the bridge.

Working in the engine room of P-115

Refueling P-115

This is a photo of a Liberty Ship that snapped in half in heavy Seas near Sanak Island, in the Aleutians, about 50 miles south of Cold Bay.
They caught these halibut in Cordova in 1943. The big one weighed 85 pounds. Brad is in the middle with his .45 colt drawn.

The crew actually had a pet baby eagle, which they found in False Pass.

The cake says Happy Birthday Seagull Baby. Brad is on the right.

I have no information on who this woman was or where this photo was taken, but she may have been an Army WAC in Cordova.

During their trip up the Yukon River the boat made a stop in Steven’s Village.

The P115 in dry dock undergoing repairs, probably somewhere in California.
Schedule of Events

The ATCM meets once a month at Pomodoro’s Greek and Italian Restaurant in Eagle River. The meeting is the third Wednesday of every month, beginning at 7pm. You should arrive by 6pm if you want to eat.

July 2nd, 2023: The Women’s Auxiliary of Jack Henry American Legion Post 1 will be celebrating their 100th anniversary. They would like the ATCM to display some vehicles. If we decide to participate, we could Park our vehicles inside their fence at the post and then drive them to the parade staging area on the 4th of July.

ADVERTISING

ATCM members can place advertisements in the newsletter at no charge. They will run for three months. Just send me an email with the details. Photos are encouraged.

On a final note, Fred Sharper’s wife Jan passed away last month. Jan has helped at the food booth during Fur Rondy and attended the ‘Big Band Bash’ at the Alaska Aviation Museum last year. She will be missed.

ATCM T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Contact Mark: 907-947-7700 or email me at mcstrumsky@gmail.com.

Sizes S-M-L $20.00 / 1X-2X $25.00
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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MILITARY VEHICLES
OR IF YOU ARE SIMPLY INTERESTED
IN THE MILITARY HISTORY OF ALASKA
YOU BELONG IN THE
ALASKA TERRITORIAL CAVALRY (MOTORIZED)

The Alaska Territorial Cavalry (Motorized) is a group of Alaskans
organized “to support activities and legislation helpful to the acquisition,
collection, possession, display, exhibition, preservation, and use of
military vehicles and accessories by responsible collectors, owners,
mechanics, and other interested persons”. The ATC(M) meets regularly and
has a newsletter in which members can exchange information relative to
the collection and use of military vehicles. Vehicle shows, and other
events are scheduled from time to time. Members are willing to share
their experiences with others in restoring military vehicles and sharing
common interest in military vehicles and Military Memorabilia.

Come join us!

{   } Count me in. Here is my first year dues of $20.00.
{   } Count me in. Here is my life membership dues of $200.00

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