



ARMY SERVICE FORCES

Training Center



AMPHIBIAN

Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla.

SPECIAL EDITION

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association

January-February 2016

2016 CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON DAYS IS REVERTING BACK TO BEING HELD ON THE SECOND WEEKEND IN MARCH 10, 11 AND 12



After reviewing, and receiving input from visitors, participants and local population, it was decided to return the event to its original date of the second weekend in March. Last year's addition of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association (MVPA) attending the event gave a positive boost to the military history for which the event has always been known. There have been dramatic improvements to the downtown area of Carrabelle which include the addition of new businesses catering to arts, culture, and history of the area.

The welcome return of the vendors selling military souvenirs will also add to the uniqueness of the event. We welcome all persons, organizations and groups to become a part of our salute to our veterans. There will be a dinner dance, a hospitality meal for veterans and guests sponsored by Post 82 American Legion and a welcome on Thursday at the Museum featuring finger food, coffee and refreshments free to all.

Please contact Greg Kristofferson at (850) 320-8201 or Mike Horvath at (850) 251-3928 for further information. Also, visit our facebook page for periodic updates concerning the Camp Gordon Johnston Days, 2016 progress.

You can now contribute to our Endowment through the Community Foundation of North Florida. Go to our the web page and click on: ***Findlearngive.org***



Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum exhibit at Wakulla Springs Lodge on Veterans Day

The CGJ Museum brought an assortment of artifacts to the park, in remembrance of Veterans Day. During WWII soldiers from Camp Gordon Johnston utilized the springs and its surrounding area in training.

Water survival, Jungle training, scuba diving, and a litany of highly specialized training were taught at the Lodge.



Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Jake Hines talks with Mike Horvath, CGJ Museum volunteer, about what kind of training soldiers went through at Wakulla Springs. Approximately 70 park visitors and hotel guest stopped by the exhibits. Many were surprised that soldiers trained there.

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum represented in the Tallahassee 2015 Veterans Day Parade.

The recently refurbished DUKW, signature artifact of the Museum, was the most unique of all the WWII restored vehicles in the parade. Watchers lined both sides of Monroe street on this day to honor all veterans past and present.

The DUKW (Duck) was refurbished by the Grimes brothers of Tallahassee, members of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association, 1st Florida Division Chapter. Established in 1976, the non-profit MVPA is dedicated to providing an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport. Most recently they have become involved with Camp Gordon Johnston Days events



Reproduction Beach Obstacles placed at Museum

The museum wishes to thank the Monumental Fabrication of America, located in Port St Joe, Florida for replicating the Beach Obstructions. They are now in place at the Higgins Boat display. These three sided impediments were reproduced to the scale of the Higgins boat. During the beach landings at Normandy these, and other obstacles, were placed all along beaches to delay or disable landing craft and the movement of tanks and vehicles from coming onto the beaches. When moved to the new Museum site, they will be placed in a more realistic setting.



**Become a Member of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association Today!
Your \$20.00 Annual Dues Donation goes a long way to help!**

Military Vehicle Preservation affiliate Veteran's Day News

Special from MVPA member Kevin Vislocky



On November 11, 2015, members participated in the Tallahassee Veteran's Day Parade.

It was an absolutely beautiful day and the parade was well attended with several thousand cheering viewers.

Wesley Marsh led our group with his ever faithful M274 Mule. Bob Durham brought his 1943 MB Jeep along with "Rosie the Riveter". John Booth brought his 1944 M6 Bomb Truck. Lee Booth drove John's M151 Jeep. Bill Grimes brought his M151 Jeep. Dan Simmon's brought his newly restored Dodge M37. Bob Grimes drove the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum WWII DUKW which had recently undergone some restoration work by Bill and Bob Grimes. Russell Deese brought his M1078 truck. Kevin Vislocky brought his AMG Humvee with a M1101 trailer. Accompanying the Humvee was Cub Scout Pack 79. Pack 79 was able to also have their picture taken in front of the Humvee with Leon County Sheriff Mike Wood.

After the parade, everyone gathered up at the Golden Corral Restaurant for a fine lunch. The parade was a fitting tribute to our military veterans.

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Special from MVPA member Kevin Vislocky

On October 24, 2015, members participated in the “Lowe’s Salutes Veterans” event in Moultrie, Georgia.

The event sponsored by Lowe’s, the City of Moultrie and Colquitt County recognized and helped celebrate those “that have fought, continue to fight and will fight for our country’s freedom and to honor veterans of all wars for their patriotism and willingness to serve in the military and sacrifice for our country.”

The event was well attended by members of the public and had several business and community partners participating. Several veterans were recognized including a 91 year old WWII veteran Randall Lairsey. Speakers included Moultrie Mayor Bill McIntosh and retired US Army Major Larry Shaw. The Moultrie Police Department Honor Guard presented the colors. The event included complimentary food, gifts and community oriented information.

Jim Butler, who was a member of the Lowe’s event committee, brought four vehicles for display, an M35A2 truck, a WWII GPW jeep, an M38 Jeep and an M151 jeep. Jerry Sumner brought an M151 jeep with an extensive display of Vietnam era equipment and weapons. Eddie Tucker brought an AMG Humvee complete with a TOW missile setup. Kevin Vislocky brought an AMG Humvee with an M1101 trailer.

It was a well done event, a beautiful day, and a fitting tribute to our military veterans.



CAMP GORDON JOHNSTON SILENT AUCTION AND GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD ON NOVEMBER 13-14

The St. Joseph Bay Golf Club, along with the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum, hosted its Fifth Annual fund raising Silent Auction on Friday, 11-13-15, and Golf Tournament on Saturday, 11-14-15. hosted for the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII museum, located in Carrabelle, Florida. The museum is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage of the soldiers of World War II, especially those who trained at Camp Gordon Johnston. The camp opened in 1942 to prepare amphibious soldiers and their support groups. A quarter of a million men were trained at CGJ before it closed in April 1946.

On Friday, entertainment was provided by "Crossroads Band". Food and drink was provided by the St. Joseph Golf Club. The auction and the tournament raised needed funds for the museum, a not-for-profit corporation, and the golf club.

The tournament on Saturday was preceded by an "Honoring America's Veterans" ceremony. Dan Van Treese. Club President and Tony Minichiello, President of the Camp Gordon Johnston Association, were co-emcees. The invocation was delivered by Father Phil Fortin of the St Joseph Catholic Church, the Port St Joe High School NROTC presented the colors, Lt. Commander Martin Jarosz sang the National Anthem, and Major General Jim Simmons, US Army Retired, was the principal speaker.

The team of Jim Terry, Mat Terry, Zach Ferrell, and Boyd Bulger came in first place; Kenny Wood, Jim Simmons, George Rice, and Phil Langford came in second,; and, Guerry Magidson, Dan Van Treese, Gary Pridgen, and Paul Penn came in third. Almost all of the winning funds were donated back by all three teams.

Longest Drive for the men went to Phil Langford , Longest Drive for the ladies went to Penelope Evanoff, and Closest to The Hole went to Guerry Madigson.

The museum and the club would like to thank all the wonderful sponsors, staff, volunteers, and participants who made this annual event successful.

Submitted by Dan Van Trees



The Friday night event featured the "Crossroads Band" shown on left, top, and silent auction participants enjoying the music and food while awaiting the beginning of the auction.



Photo on the right is the "empty table" set for all our veterans who gave their all for our freedom. The tradition of the empty seat is to remind us that we owe so much to our veterans.



The Camp Gordon Johnston Association wishes to express our deepest condolences to the people of France and Russia over the recent tragic and horrific murders of their innocent citizen victims of terrorism. It is our fervent prayer that this element of murderous thugs can be eliminated and a peaceful solution reached for both the Middle East, Europe and the World. We also pray that people everywhere can live without the fear of violence because of their religious or political beliefs.

Two Schools visit CGJ Museum

The Museum takes great pride in teaching history to Franklin and surrounding area schools. We hope that all fourth grade students from the ABC School, who visited on November 24th, left with an appreciation for the enormous part Franklin County played in WWII.

The museum also had the pleasure of hosting the eleventh grade from Florida High out of Tallahassee last week, November 20th.

Both schools were shown a wide array of exhibits and four mockups (WWII Post Office, Field Hospital, Living Room and Barracks Room) Students gained a knowledge of silk maps, Army camouflage, samples of propaganda and war trophies.



Mrs. Moses' 4th Grade

Back Row: Joycelyn Escobar, Hannah Creamer, Peyton Blackburn, Bella Price, Taylor Pendleton, Hannah Grace Abel, C.J. Conway, Esteban Bernabe, Landrick Moore, Ja'Marcus Turrell, Dawson Fisher, Christian Wilson
Front Row: Kiana Weeks, Colton Topham, Natalie Gibbens, Nathaniel Bolinger, Andie Hutchins, Reagen Solomon, and Mrs. Traci Moses



Mrs. Martina's 4th Grade

Back Row: Cassandra Robertson, Jostyn Tipton, Chandler Sanders, Wil Luberto, Amontaye Austin, Maya Itzkovitz, Brayden McCall, Jayla White, Aubrie Thompson
Front Row: Austin White, Trinity Creamer, Reece Juno, Taylor Mallon, Weston Taranto, Logan Bentley, Jentzen Odom, Ms. Sarah Dahlke



And Finally.....

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association and
 WWII Museum wishes you a very
 Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and
 Prosperous New Year!