

2 May, 2016

Now hear this.....are **YOU** ready for another Convoy? If you are, then the MVPA has got a convoy for you!

We are proud to introduce the 2017 MVPA Route 66 Highway Convoy, from Chicago, IL to Santa Monica, CA. This Cross-Country Convoy - the Rt 66 '17 Convoy - retraces the original 1926 route when the Bureau of Public Roads launched the nation's first Federal highway system.

My wife Janine and I have enjoyed the last three convoys driving our 1964 Dodge M43 Ambulance. On TMC'09 we joined the convoy in Fallon, Nevada and drove on the Lincoln Highway to San Francisco, CA. We drove the entire AC'12 and the Alcan was an amazing trip to the Arctic Circle. On BH'15 I was part of the convoy core team working closely with Terry Shelswell, MVPA Convoy Projects Leader and Convoy Commander.

Following BH'15 Terry asked me to step up as Convoy Commander for Rt 66 '17 to allow Terry and Muriel time to enjoy driving "in" the convoy and time for Terry to devote planning for TMC'19 convoy.

This Convoy has the opportunity to be every bit as great as the last three Convoys. We will experience an amazing part of this great country, stop in a few and pass through many more small and heavily populated areas (at 35 mph!), giving our MV hobby, local Affiliates and the MVPA great exposure to the General Public. For those on TMC'09, AC'12 and BH'15- you know what I mean!

The following are the key points of this Convoy:

- This is an official MVPA sanctioned event. All teams will be required to demonstrate that they have suitable auto insurance on their MVs and any support vehicles – covering all vehicles and personnel while we are on the road. MVPA Affiliate insurance will cover MVs during all of our static events and MV shows along the route.
- "First Gear" is set for Saturday, 16 September, 2017 @ 0700 hrs at a pre-stage location, likely a little south of Chicago, IL. We'll end up in Santa Monica on 15 October. This date range was selected to avoid the extreme summertime heat of the mid west. We will encourage all participants to arrive at the pre-stage location 3 – 4 days in advance (as we did for TMC'09, AC'12 and BH'15 for final registration and MV technical inspection, etc. We are planning for the MV column to travel into downtown Chicago and conduct our official launch ceremony.
- Our planned Convoy max speed will be 35 mph. As we know – this is a GREAT way to really see the

countryside. A “lesson learned” from TMC’09 is to reduce our planned speed for those days where we travel through several small towns or big cities, thus reducing the planned distance for those days.

- The list of daily overnight stopping points are as follows:

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| 16 September – depart Chicago, IL | 1 October – Santa Fe, NM |
| 16 September – Pontiac, IL | 2 October – Rest day in Santa Fe |
| 17 September – Springfield, IL | 3 October – Albuquerque, NM |
| 18 September – Rest day in Springfield | 4 October – Gallup, AZ |
| 19 September – St Louis, MO | 5 October – Winslow, AZ |
| 20 September – St Robert, MO | 6 October – Williams, AZ |
| 21 September – Branson, MO | 7 October – Rest day in Williams |
| 22 September – Rest day in Branson | 8 October – Rest day in Williams |
| 23 September – Rest day in Branson | 9 October – Kingman, AZ |
| 24 September – Miami, OK | 10 October – Needles, CA |
| 25 September – Sapulpa, OK | 11 October – Barstow, CA |
| 26 September – El Reno, OK | 12 October – Rest day in Barstow |
| 27 September – Rest day in El Reno | 13 October – Irwindale, CA |
| 28 September – Shamrock, OK | 14 October – Santa Monica, CA |
| 29 September – Amarillo, TX | 15 October – disband in San Pedro |
| 30 September – Tucumcari, NM | |

This is a 29-day Convoy, plus a few days before launch and a day or so after to disband in Santa Monica. The distance from Chicago to Santa Monica is approximately 2,500 miles. A very high-level map is shown below.



- We are limiting the MV roster to **80 full distance MV teams plus 20 MV teams per “regional section”**. An “MV team” is considered to include the MV, the driver and a (highly recommended) co-driver (really, it’s a must with all the twists and turns in this route!) and crew. Additionally, an MV team includes an optional non-MV support vehicle, with its driver and crew. Note - Every MV team must include an MV that is to be in the column. No registrations will be accepted from teams without an MV (say, just an RV). The MV driver / owner must be a current MVPA member, while MVPA membership for the rest of the crew is optional.
- These **80 full distance MV teams** are divided (by me) into 2 groups:
 - Group 1 – 60 MV team registrations are open to all current MVPA members.
 - Group 2 – 20 MV team registrations will be held by me ... to be assigned to the Convoy Core team members, all march unit leaders and tail gunners as they are identified (these teams still have to register and pay, of course!).
 - ... there’s no difference between Group 1 and 2 for you when registering – I will sort it out on my end.
- Additionally, we acknowledge that not everyone can join for the entire Convoy. With that said, we will encourage MV teams to join for a portion of the Convoy route ... but as another “lesson learned” from TMC’09, we will not accept having MV teams simply dropping in along the route. This was confusing for the new team joining as well as for the rest of the Convoy – and unsafe for all of us – including the General Public. Thus, we will only accept teams joining at rest day stops. Finally, to allow the maximum number of MVPA members to experience a portion of the Convoy, we will accept 20 MV team registrations per “regional section”. This means that you can register for any one of the following regional sections:
 - Regional Section 1 – Chicago to Branson, MO (561 miles)
 - Regional Section 2 – Branson to El Reno, OK (389 miles)
 - Regional Section 3 – El Reno to Santa Fe, NM (515 miles)
 - Regional Section 4 – Santa Fe to Williams, AZ (416 miles)
 - Regional Section 5 – Williams to Santa Monica, CA (526 miles)
- If your team wishes to join for more than 1 regional section, then you must register for the full distance.
- An MV team can leave the Convoy anywhere along the route (just let us know).
- The fee for a full distance MV team registration is \$300.00. The fee for a regional section MV team registration is \$150.00. Neither fee is refundable or transferable.

- To register, please send HQ an email at hq@mvpa.org, or call 1-800-365-5798. HQ will forward your request to me. I will reply to you with an application. You complete it and send it to me with the \$. From there, and as with TMC'09, AC'12 and BH'15, you will receive regular comms as we prepare for First Gear in Chicago.
- As with the TMC'09, AC'12 and BH'15 Convoys, no weapons (real or otherwise) will be allowed on Convoy vehicles. This Convoy is about retracing the original 1926 route when the Bureau of Public Roads launched the nation's first Federal highway system.
- Your MV and support vehicle (if your team has one) is to be in great working order and will be subjected to a detailed tech inspection prior to joining the Convoy. Put 500 – 1,000 miles on your MV before First Gear to make sure all is well with it (... and ten 50 mile runs are not nearly as good as five 100 mile runs!).
- From our experience with the three previous Cross-Country Convoys, and generally following the US Army guidelines, our "order of march" is likely to be as follows: Local Law Enforcement; Local Guide; Command March Unit; Motorcycles & Sedans; 5 ton & over; 2½ ton; 1½ ton; 5/4 ton; ¾ ton; ½ ton; ¼ ton; MV Recovery Team and lastly the Convoy Trail Chief and his MV. In addition to the main MV column ...
 - The Advance Party MVs will depart approximately 15 minutes before the main column – to act as our guide as the main column arrives at each stopping point.
 - The **Support Vehicles** will depart approximately 30 minutes before the main column – allowing them time to arrive and set up at the daily stops nicely in advance of the main column. We look forward to our support vehicle teams playing an even more important role for Rt 66 '17 than in previous Convoys.
- We know that not everyone who wants to join this Convoy will be able to do so. We encourage all members that are along the Convoy route to begin planning to join the Convoy at our lunch and overnight stops – and especially on our rest days. We ~~invite~~ **want** you to bring out your MVs (drive or trailer them) and show 'em off! We will be contacting all MVPA Affiliates along the route to enlist your help at our stopping points.
- For those of us that participated on either of the TMC'09, AC'12 or BH'15 Convoys, I have given you this notice about 2 weeks prior to the next SL delivery, as advance notice.
- If you would like to help, let me know.

The data that is included in this introduction note is slightly different from what will appear in the SL article – but this info is the most recent. Furthermore, I can assure you that we'll have a few more changes as we refine the route and schedule.

So, I'll finish this article as I started it ... are **YOU** ready for another Convoy? There's only about 500 days until "First Gear" (sorry Lamar, we can't leave tomorrow.☺).

For those coming to the Convention in Pleasanton, California, Janine, the Rt 66 '17 team and I look forward to seeing you and answering your questions. Visit us at our tables and join us for a couple of seminars.

Take care and keep 'em rolling!

Dan McCluskey MVPA # 25709
Rt 66 '17 Convoy Commanding Officer



BH'15 (taking a well-deserved break along the Bankhead Highway)



BH'15 ("Racked and Stacked")

