



MVPA Route 66 2017 Convoy

By Dan McCluskey
Convoy Commander

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

With the successes of recent Cross-Country Convoys, the 2009 TMC'09 Convoy (retracing the first US Army Transcontinental Motor Convoy in 1919, from Washington, DC to San Francisco, CA), the 2012 AC'12 Convoy (celebrating the 70th anniversary of the construction of the Alaska Highway, from Dawson Creek, BC to Delta Junction, AK and back to Dawson Creek again) and the 2015 Bankhead Highway Convoy (retracing the second US Army Transcontinental Motor Convoy in 1920), from Washington, DC to San Diego, CA under our belts, your MVPA Cross-Country Convoys team is preparing to launch the next major Convoy.

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 Rt66'17 to allow Terry and Muriel time to enjoy driving "in" the convoy and time for Terry to devote planning for TMC'19 convoy.

We are proud to introduce the 2017 MVPA Route 66 Convoy, from Chicago, IL to Santa Monica, CA. This Convoy - the Rt66'17 Convoy - retraces the original 1926 route when the Bureau of Public Roads launched the nation's first Federal highway system.

"World War II caused a marked decline in civilian and tourist traffic, but it stimulated new business along U.S. 66, when it acted as a military transport corridor moving troops and supplies from one military reservation to

another. Motels saw an increase in occupancy, as families of servicemen stationed at military bases stayed for long stretches. But more significantly, Route 66 facilitated perhaps the single greatest wartime mobilization, as thousands of jobseekers headed to California, Oregon and Washington to work in defense plants".

This is an official MVPA sanctioned event and the route begins in Chicago, Illinois and travels through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and into California to Santa Monica.

Key Points of this 2,300 mile Convoy:

- ★ "FIRST GEAR" is Saturday, 16 September, 2017 near Chicago, IL, with staging a few days before.
- ★ Registration is open to all current MVPA members and all eras of HMMVs.
- ★ Convoy will be limited to 80 'full-distance' HMMV teams plus 20 'regional section' HMMV teams for each of the regional sections.
- ★ 'Full distance' fee = \$300 / HMMV team.
- ★ 'Regional section' fee is \$150 / HMMV team.
- ★ As with previous convoys, the following shall apply;
 - Convoy maximum speed is 35 mph.
 - A rest day is planned after each 3 – 4 days of driving. There will be 6 rest-day periods.
 - MVPA Affiliate Groups near the route are encouraged to help the Rt 66' Convoy HMMVs create a great static display at our lunch, overnight and rest-day stops, with extra HMMVs to be on display during the day at these stops.
 - No weapons (real or otherwise) will be allowed on Convoy vehicles.

