

Hot Calls

Volume 1, Issue 2

April/May/June 2014

Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast	2nd Sunday of every month
Odessa Banquet	April 12
Burdett Easter Breakfast	April 20
Burdett Dinner Dance	April 26
WG Sportsman Raffle	May 3
Montour Falls Carnival	June 5-7
Hector Fair	July 24 - July 26

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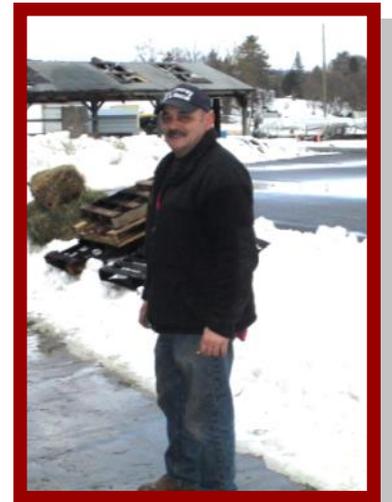
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The name for the newsletter "Hot Calls" partially came from Odessa fire chief Mike Tomassi. He suggested "Hot News" but keeping with including all agencies' "Hot Call" which will include both Fire and EMS. Thanks Chief!

Award for Monterey Chief

Chief Ed Lewis was recognized for his successful efforts to increase the membership and the morale of the Monterey Fire Company. The company has been through a very difficult time in the last year and through Ed's

leadership they are thriving and have over 50 active members. Congratulations for the award he received from Congressman Reed. This was a good boost for Ed and the fire company.



Smoke Alarm Program

The county Firefighters Association sponsors a free smoke alarm program. The alarms are given to known residents in the county that can't afford to place a smoke alarm in their home. Usually this contact comes from the Learn Not To

Burn Program in the schools. We provide an alarm and ask the local fire department to make contact to ensure the alarm gets to the residence and installed. Contact can also come from having a call at the home and seeing there are no alarms in the

residence. NYS code says each residence has to have at least one smoke and one carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in the residence. We are not providing CO alarms at this time. However, the importance of CO detectors is taught in the schools.

Firefighter Profile: Jason Kelly

After 27 years as an Officer with the Burdett Fire Department, Jason Kelly has retired his duties as Chief for the last 19 years. When asked, about his longevity as chief, Jason gives full credit to the support of his family. Wife Pam, children Amy, Emily, Josh, Jessie, Joel and three grandchildren, Amiah, Liniah and Alayna.

Jason joined the fire department in 1980 as the youngest of four brothers, all who served in the Burdett Fire Department - Gary, Dave, and Neal. Gary and Neal both served as chief of the department, as well. Jason was appointed under Dale Walter as a foreman (Captain). He had ambitions to be chief and serve longer than Gary who was chief for four years. He exceeded his goal.

Most impressive moment: The purchase of an AED. They worked hard to get one and a short time after the unit was in service, they were able to revive a patient from cardiac arrest!



Mayor Walter; Jason Kelly, outgoing chief; Bruce Pastrick, in-coming chief

Biggest disappointment: Failure to build a new fire station. Even though this project is ongoing, he would have liked to see it done by now.

Best accomplishment: The replacement of all department apparatus since 1998. Their engine, tanker, heavy rescue, medic rescue and brush truck all have been replaced. That in itself is a huge improvement for the department and the community. Upgrades to 5" and 1 ¼" and 2" hose to name a few other improvements.

When asked if he ever

went on vacation his answer was, "Yes, but not very far."

He worked for Silverline Construction for 20 years and has been employed by Schuyler County for the last 15 years. We will miss car 12 but Jason says the department is in good hands with Bruce Pastrick. He is not going anywhere as he was appointed Deputy Fire Coordinator for Schuyler County in 1996 under Bill Randolph. So when you hear Car 6 responding, you know Jason is still on the job.



Burdett Banquet

The Burdett Fire Department banquet was held January 25, 2014. The night was highlighted

with the retirement of Jason Kelly after 19 years as chief.

New officers:

C12 Bruce Pastrick
 12-1 Robin Lokken
 12-2 Ryan Barr
 12-3 Lenny Orr
 12-4 Daryl White
 12-5 Steve Crout
 12-6 Shannon Kellogg
 12-7 Andy Kelly
 12-8 Nate Barr



Hector Banquet



Car 18 Brandon Karius
 Car 18-1 Mike Hicks
 Car 18-2 John Horrocks
 Car 18-3 Benjamin Huey
 Car 18-4 Donnie Dalrymple



Dave Beckhorn (sitting) was honored for 50 years of service.

Mecklenburg Banquet

Mecklenburg's annual banquet was held on Saturday January 11, 2014. The following line officers were installed for the coming year:

- C-13 Dick Robinson
- C-13-1 Brian Gunning
- C-13-2 Nate Mayo
- C-13-3 Sean Taber
- C-13-7 Steve Taber
- C-13-9 Elery Rumsey

Pete Coats and Al Foote, Jr. were given engraved firearms for their 25 years of continuous

service as line officers of the fire company.



Montour Falls Banquet

Saturday, March 15's banquet started with a fire call at the Falls Home! (see page 7)

- C15- Jeff Confer
- C15-1 Ray Smith
- C15-2 Bill Thomas
- C15-3 Jake Burns
- C15-4 Joel Husted
- C15-5 Andrew Yessman
- C15-8 Jason Overhiser
- C15-9 Jim Kuttner



Jason Overhiser, Firefighter of the Year

SCVAA Changes Leaders

Schuyler Ambulance has some changes as of last month's elections. The following changes occurred:

President
Stew Potter

Vice President
Matt Huston

Secretary
Chris Ellison
(vacant as of 4/9/14)

Supervisor
Steve Copp, Jr.

Recently Schuyler Ambulance had its elections and the above were elected as officers of the organization. Schuyler also has changed supervisors and Steve Copp, Jr. has been hired to take over the position on April 2, 2014. "Junior", as he is known around the station, has been a full-time paramedic for Schuyler Ambulance for many years. He knows the county well and has worked with all of our rescue squads. We wish him well. The fire service and rescue



SCVAA Supervisor Steve Copp, Jr.

squads should continue to help Steve keep Schuyler Ambulance serving Schuyler County.

Currently the active volunteer staff is less than ten. Most of the personnel are paid. This does not mean that they are not actively recruiting volunteers. You can be a driver with CPR and nationally recognized first aid. You must be 21 to drive, but only 18 to be an EMT and work in the back with patients. I do believe we need to keep Schuyler Ambulance as it is and

hopefully not have to have it turn over to another agency to provide emergency transport service. You would have to give 12 hours of duty per month to stay active. Once you become an EMT or higher, Schuyler Ambulance has a continuing education program to re-certify. You would not have to take a test every three years. If you are interested in finding out more call 607-535-7273. Let's work to keep SCVAA volunteer and join up.



County Firefighter Association

February's meeting had to be canceled because of bad weather.

The March meeting was held in Odessa and the program was on solar panels and firefighting.

FIREMATICS DAY

The Odessa Fire Department will be hosting Firematics Day on September 13 with the highlight of the program being put on by Scott Eaton.

"The fire service is seeing some of the best fire behavior research ever conducted. Underwriter laboratories and NIST have been working hard in the last several years studying fire behavior and the affect our tactics have on it. They have built houses and done test burns looking at the affects of horizontal and vertical ventilation. They have looked at basement fires to find safer tactics for suppression. Currently they are studying positive pressure ventilation.

This research should

be changing the way we think about fire. It has debunked some long beliefs like "pushing fire." It has demonstrated that ventilation does more harm than good if it is done before we are flowing water on the fire. That "opening things up" does not get rid of heat or smoke. It does the opposite. It provides fresh air for the fire and creates flow paths to spread the fire. The research shows us flowing water from the outside may be the best way to soften the fire. It cools the inside temperatures and darkens the fire giving us time to get inside. It also will aid in keeping tenable spaces tenable.

I was fortunate enough about 4 years ago to spend a week with Prince William County, Virginia Fire Department. I worked with them doing their Train the Trainer program with John Taylor, author of Smoke Burns. They hired John to develop a program to teach fire behavior and change their tactics after they had a fire fighter fatality. After spending the

week and trying to digest all of the knowledge I had received from John I worked on how I was going to present this information to the Ithaca Fire Department. As my program was coming together I found out about the research UL and NIST was doing. The research was proving what I had just learned from John. The fire behavior was the same as I had just experience at Prince William County's burn buildings. I have and still am reviewing all the research. I have put a program together that summarizes my experience in Prince William County and the latest research. I will be delivering this presentation at Schuyler County Firematics Day. I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to a good discussion."

Scott Eaton
Lieutenant at Ithaca Fire Department
Member at Hector Fire Company

County Firefighter Association

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President

Robin Lokken

Vice President

Lori Rider

Secretary-Treasurer

Don Riley

Historian

Shirley Churches

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS JOIN COUNTY FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION

At the January meeting of the Schuyler County Firefighters Association, it was voted on unanimously to allow junior firefighters into the organization.

Ashton Furney, 15, of the Odessa Fire Department, who attended the meeting,

was voted in as the first of a new generation of members! Ashton is a sophomore at Odessa-Montour and an active junior member with Odessa. We welcome him and all others who wish to join.



Ashton Furney

Keep the Wreath Blue

Keep the Wreath Blue ended with only three red bulbs for the holiday season. One serious house fire in Montour Falls and

two fires that were good stops by Watkins Glen and Hector Fire Departments.



State Firefighter I Class

Sixteen students recently completed the Firefighter I class. They had their final live burn on April 5. Graduation was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

Congratulations!



Picture courtesy of Peggy Tomassi



Saving Money

PUMPER TANKERS

Two trucks in one can save communities money, by having a single truck that can perform two functions.



Montour Falls



Mecklenburg

New Emergency Alert System



Schuyler County is deploying a new emergency communications platform that will allow public safety agencies to send high precision, location-based emergency alerts to the people in the community. The system uses location-based services of today's smart phone and tablets to send multimedia alerts and messages to users based on their location and categories of information they opt to receive.

Ping4alerts emergency communications system allows us to control the alert area down to the foot. We can set an alert to the boundary of a town, road, building, or any other area, making sure people are only getting the information about events that may affect them.

Did you know that

mobile device users now spend more time on their devices than they do in front of the television? Or that analysts predict 2.5 billion smartphones will be sold by 2015? The world has changed. You can no longer rely on traditional media — TV, radio, and even home phones to reach people with urgent information. People are on the move like never before. Fortunately, they're taking their smart mobile devices with them.

It is easy to get started: the free app can be downloaded from Google Play Apple App Store

After downloading the free app and accepting its terms and conditions, the receiver need only turn on their mobile device's location services to receive safety alerts anywhere in the world. When the end-

user's mobile device enters or exits a geofence, the device instantly receives any relevant push notifications. This powerful mobile communications platform works without any personal information from end users. Just download, set your preferences and you're ready to go!

- 100% anonymity
- Free NOAA Feeds
- Social media sharing
- Location based search tool

Schuyler County will continue to use NY-ALERT as well for emergency notifications and urge that the public utilize both systems to stay up with developing situations. NY-ALERT is also free but you need to register at www.nyalert.gov

WGFD: Motorcycle Accident, Trapped Hiker

Watkins Glen took the first motorcycle accident of the year on one of the first nice days of the month of March. The crash took place at the intersection of State Route 414 and County Road 16. A helicopter was called and the patient was sent to Robert Packer Hospital.

The next night Watkins was again victim of the nice weather as a hiker in the Watkins Glen State Gorge became trapped in a remote location where he should not have been. WGFD tech rescue was

called and did a fantastic job rescuing the trapped hiker. This occurred around 4:30 PM and as the possibility of dark approached, Chief

Dominick Smith called for assistance from Burdett, Montour Falls, Beaver Dams and Odessa for extra manpower and lighting equipment. The operation was a success and



Command Post at State Park. (Photo by OdessaFile.com)

took about three and one half hours before all were back in service. This was a very safe and well conducted rescue operation. Nice job done by all!

MFFD: Small Fire Extinguished at Falls Home

Fire departments from Montour Falls, Watkins Glen, Odessa, Beaver Dams and Burdett were called out in response to an automatic alarm sounded at the Falls Home in Montour Falls at 5:53 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Investigators said that when they arrived, firefighters were directed to the basement, where they found a small blaze in a garbage can, started by a discarded cigarette. They doused it, and residents who had been evacuated from the assisted living facility

quickly re-entered the building. The call was handled well as the facility has from 90 to 100 residents. It would have been a major operation had the building had to be evacuated.

Residents in the area of the smoke were moved beyond fire doors pending the initial size up being done. Odessa



Photo by OdessaFile.com

was already standing by for Montour's banquet and were on the scene in a few minutes. Good job by all.

Long Distance Mutual Aid

A block fire in downtown Ovid on March 18 brought out seven of the nine county fire departments to respond to this fire. Car-3 logged over 55 miles total from his house. Ovid village water supply was depleted in the first 45 minutes of the fire. The county was mainly responsible for a tanker operation on the south end of the fire. Hector was the supply engine for two ladder trucks operating ladder pipes on the fire. Tankers drove to Willard and Five Points Prison for water. Mecklenburg and Hector tankers operated on the north side. Over 45 tankers were in the two shuttles and some traveled over an hour to get to the fire. There was over 100 firefighters on the fire ground. Montour Falls crew did a trench

cut on the fourth building in line to help stop fire travel. Mecklenburg and Burdett helped operate a deluge set in the rear of the building. County Car-1 and Car-3 stayed at the command post and helped coordinate Schuyler County units using “f-2” which was not used by anyone else at the fire. This was a defensive operation by the time our units arrived on the scene. See this site for further pictures of the fire.

www.fingerlakesdailynews.com/news/

**Photos from
Star-Gazette**



Five inch hose had to be moved for access for apparatus.



Montour cut a trench cut on the roof past the furthest ladder truck.



Tanker operation on the north end.



View from the command post.

Training Corner

HOSE LOADS AND HOW THEY ARE USED

Each fire department carries a compliment of attack lines that, for the most part, are pre-connected and of varying lengths. The difference lies in the way each fire department chooses to load the hose. The main goal should be to carry enough pre-connected line to reach most situations in your fire district. The second should be to make it as simple as possible to deploy the line. In this article is a cross section of the county and why each load works for each organization.

The hose loads have a specific way to be loaded and you need to check with your mutual aid companies to see if you can help re-load and how to do it.

The three main loads used in the county are: Minute Man Load, Triple Lay, Cleveland Lay.

MINUTE MAN:

Burdett, Montour Falls, Mecklenburg.

In talking to all three companies. This load works well for them and can be deployed by one firefighter. It gives 100' of line at the front door. The only drawback is it needs to be flaked out at the end. Lengths vary from 150' to 250' depending on the need. Also, size of lines vary from 1 3/4" to 2" diameter. Most with automatic fog nozzles but a few have gone back to solid bore nozzles. The 100 feet of hose is carried on the shoulder of the firefighter stretching the line.

TRIPLE LAY:

Odessa, Tyrone, Watkins Glen

This load is designed to have one firefighter pull the line. It can be fully deployed in 50' of the truck. Lengths vary from 150' to 200'. More could be added but it would require pulling the line further from the truck. This lay can be deployed from either side of

the truck where the minute man can only come off one side of the apparatus. The disadvantage is that there is enough hose but it is not all at the front door like the minute man.

FLAT LOAD OR STRAIGHT LAY:

Hector, Monterey, Beaver Dams

This load is a simple version where a specific amount of hose (1 1/2--2") has to be pulled to the location it is needed. Some are pre-connected and some not. They have to be hooked to the discharge.

CLEVELAND LAY:

Watkins Glen

This load is a version similar to the minute man but extremely more efficient. The best part is that it can be charged as soon as it is deployed where the minute man has to be fanned out. It is loaded as you see with the nozzle in the center of the load and kind of acts like a spring

(Continued on page 14)

Minute Man



Burdett

Triple Lay



Tyrone



Montour Falls



Watkins Glen

Flat Load or Straight Lay



Mecklenburg



Monterey

Training Corner

(Continued from page 12)

when charged. One person can deploy the nozzle. This works very well when going up stairs or down long hallways.

**Any questions on
this method of loads,
contact WGFD.**



Loading the hose is simple. Keeping the male end in the center just fold the needed amount (100') in a loop.



High rise loads:

Training Corner

FORCIBLE ENTRY TRAINING

Watkins Glen has purchased a new multi-force training door. This unit is made from very heavy steel (700 lbs.). It is a re-usable training device for firefighters to actually force entry into locked doors where you must use tools (set of irons) to make entry. Wood blocks are used to simulate the degree of strength to open the door. They have offered it to any department in the county to set up a time to use the device. This is pretty much a set device in WGFD and would require going to their station.



**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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Web: www.schuylercounty.us
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO
Twitter: twitter.com/SchuylerEMO



Last Alarm



Jack Swartz
Charter Member of Mecklenburg Fire
Company

Frank Olevnik
of Watkins Glen Fire Department

Bud Cilley
of Montour Falls Fire Department

George Brown
of Montour Falls Fire Department

Upcoming Classes

- *EMT Core Content Refresher - Starts 4/22/14*
- *HazMat Ops*
- *Scene Support*
- *Water Supply*

Tentative Classes:

- *Apparatus Operator Pumps*
- *EMT Original*
- *EMT Refresher*
- *EVOC*
- *Fire Behavior and Arson Awareness*
- *Firefighter I*
- *Firefighter II*
- *HazMat Incident Command*

Want to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us

For more information, visit:

www.schuylercounty.us
www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc
www.emstar.org

**Send Us Your
Photos, News,
and
Suggestions!**

To send information, or if you want us to visit your station, contact the Emergency Management Office at 607-535-8200 or Rick and Shirley Churches at 607-594-2189 or rickshirlc27@gmail.com