

Hot Calls

Volume 3, Issue 1

January/February 2016



County Firefighters Meeting

The County Fire Fighters Association meeting held in Beaver Dams was well attended. Representatives from State D.O.T. were there to give an overview of the Transportation Incident Management course that they provide. The



course would be a good OSHA credit for those who attended the meeting as scene safety was covered!

Keep the Wreath Blue

The "Keep the Wreath Blue" fire prevention program concluded on Thursday, January 31. Since its start on November 27, only two structure fires occurred. This is down from last year which had 5. In addition, emergency responders responded to 311 incidents during that time.



Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast	2nd Sunday of every month
Burdett's 20-Week Club/ Dinner Dance Tickets. \$100ea (Dinner for two)	On-going thru April 25

Firefighter Profile: Richard “ Dick” Bannister

Dick joined the Montour Falls Fire department in 1960. That gives him 55 years of “active” service to the community. He and his wife Norma (Rennells) have been married for 57 years. They have five children; three girls and two boys. His son, Tom, was the only one to follow him in the fire service.

During most all of his career he has been a driver for the department. This provided a valuable service to the department because he was usually available quickly day and night. He worked for the Village as a water and sewer maintenance man and truck operator for seven years. He then went to work for Shepard Niles Crane and Hoist for

34 years. Both the Village and Shepard’s would let him respond to fires during the day. He lived Henry Street, just a couple blocks from the station, which kept him very close to respond on calls. He was available 24/7.

Not only was he active in the Fire Department but he was also a patrolman for the village Police Department for seven years. He became Chief of Police for 4 years before the department was dissolved.

When asked what has been the biggest change he has seen, he said the safety of the fire apparatus. Dick said, “We used to ride anywhere on the truck and now all fire fighters are inside enclosed cabs. The tailboard was full of firefighters putting their coats on with one hand on the rail. Even had guys on the hose bed.” Rick Churches knows that for a fact as he was one of those firefighters riding on top with Dick one cold December day going to a working fire on Meads Hill Road. Rick even borrowed a pair of gloves from him so he could run the hose line. Dick drove the old 1937 “Quad” to the Lakemont Academy fire east of Dundee, N.Y. Harold “Hoot” Just rode with him in an open cab, with no heat, in January. His hands were frozen to the steering wheel. He said they pumped all night long.



The biggest fire he remembers was Smith’s IGA on Main Street. That night he helped fill air bottles all night.

Dick became a Foreman (Captain) for a while but never wanted to go any further. Dick was one of a few people who could drive the tractor-trailer tanker that Montour used to have. He was qualified on all the apparatus.

In recent years, Dick suffered a stroke that set him back for a while. He has recovered but no longer drives to emergencies.

This article is written to show that fire departments could not survive without firefighters like Dick. He is a typical lunch box firefighter who comes and does a job that is desperately needed and asks nothing in return. Most of the profiles we have highlighted are people who have gone on and made a name and a career in managing fire departments, both volunteer and paid. If we did not have dedicated firefighters like Dick there would not be any articles to write. Dick still responds to alarms and helps where he can. When you see Dick, shake his hand and thank him for his service.

“All I do is drive the truck”

Schuyler County Deputies Association

The Schuyler County Deputies Association has donated 37 smoke alarms to the County Fire Prevention Committee this year and will continue to do so in future years. The smoke alarms are given out to local fire departments and members who are teaching in the schools. The alarms are for those who either can't afford or don't have smoke alarms. They are available to all companies and this generous resource should be used. Pictured, Kirk Smith, who spearheaded the effort, shakes hands with Donnie Dalrymple who accepted the donation on behalf of the Learn Not To Burn program.



Seneca Santa

On Christmas Eve morning, Schuyler County firefighters helped deliver Seneca Santa packages to 148 needy families in the county. That's 324 children, of which 144 were girls and 180 were boys, who enjoyed a happy Christmas thanks to the generosity of the Seneca Santa program and all the individuals, businesses and volunteers who donated time, money and gifts to make it another successful year.

Firefighters also handed out 9 smoke detectors to families in need, thanks to donations from the Schuyler County Deputies Association. *(see article above)*



New Radio System

We continue to move forward with the new radio system. The Sheriff's part of the system was switched on December 1 and things have been working well. On the Fire system, grid testing has been completed, and the first cache of

equipment has been distributed to the fire departments. Pagers are being programmed and expected to be delivered the last two weeks of January. The fire departments are doing some testing and are having the equipment installed. We have a



goal of moving to the new system by February 1.

County Fire Coordinators Attend Conference at NYS Fire Academy

Four Schuyler County Fire Coordinators attended the Regional Fire Administrators Conference November 19 and 20 in Montour Falls. Topics covered included: Traffic Management

Training, National Fallen Firefighter Training Initiatives, State Fire Mobilization Awareness training overview, Crude Oil Task Force Initiatives, and the Hazmat Accreditation Program

Update. This was a two day conference.

Fire Prevention Week

Watkins Glen held an open house on Wednesday of Fire Prevention Week, which ran from October 4-10. They had several displays along with a mobile trailer that was used to teach children how to exit a smoke filled room properly. This is the one time we can save a life before the fire starts. Good job.



Recruitment - looking for volunteers



Crawl under smoke

Fire Prevention Week Cont...

Fire Prevention is not only for the one week in October. The Learn Not To Burn (LNTB) program is held from November to May in all Schuyler County schools.

Watkins Glen holds Fire Extinguisher training several times a year. They work with local schools and businesses to provide instruction on fire extinguisher use and how to fight small fires.



Above: Jason Hudson conducts classes for the fire extinguisher training. The other Fire Prevention effort done by the county firefighters association has started as the first part of November "Learn not to Burn" in the Schuyler County Schools! Odessa and Bradford were also taught, no pictures provided.



Above: Montour Falls at B.C.Cate School



Above: Watkins Glen and Hector at Watkins Elementary

Odessa: Oversized Load Causes Havoc

Three oversized containers headed for Louisiana caused headaches for the OFD and law enforcement as they took wires and poles down on State Route 228 for about three miles. They were ticketed and held overnight for the right permits.



Tyrone Truck Accident

Tyrone Fire Department responded to a Tractor Trailer crash on State Route 226 near Altay. The truck left the road and hit a massive tree knocking away over half of the tree trunk sending a piece into a home. Tyrone Ambulance and Schuyler ALS treated and transported the driver who was able to escape without life threatening injuries. The Fire Department worked to contain a large fuel spill and provided traffic control. Assisting at the scene was Schuyler Sheriff, NYSEG, who brought in a contractor to remove the trees before they fell on their lines or into the house, NYSDOT assisted with the tree



removal. T&R towing was called to remove the truck and do the cleanup. The Fire department was on scene for six hours.



Burdett: Structure Fire

For some reason Burdett has been plagued with garage fires in the last year. This one being on County Road.5.



Thermal Imaging work to look for hot spots.



5" hose supplied the fire.

Montour Falls: Structure Fire



We are getting better at staging in the county.



A really good chimney fire gave firefighters a workout. There was no reported extension but a lot of smoke on arrival. Second alarm was activated but soon released as good size-up revealed fire was contained to the chimney.



New Ladder "5" gets its first job.



Banquet: Tyrone

It is always a proud moment when a father and son share being together in the fire department. But is very special when both serve as chief of the department. Ron Tormey (dad) and Nate Tormey (son) shared that moment Saturday night, November 14, at Tyrone's annual installation banquet. Nate became the new chief to lead the fire company for the coming year. Ron served as chief also.



Assistant Chiefs:

Bill Kennedy, Jr.

Bill Meehan

Matt Maloney

Naomi DeCamp was awarded the Dorothy Huey Memorial Award from the Tyrone Auxiliary for her work with the fire company. Tyrone also celebrated 37 years of service for the Learn Not To Burn program.



Training: Aerial Ladder

The two departments that have aerial ladder trucks sponsored a state-run ladder class for aerial operators. They were taught safety and operations involving aerial ladder apparatus. This was timed to be put on soon after the delivery of Montour Falls' new ladder truck. Watkins' ladder was also part of the class. The pictures below show the class and also Montour's new "Truck 5".



Testing skills for the operators.





Everyone got a chance to operate each truck.



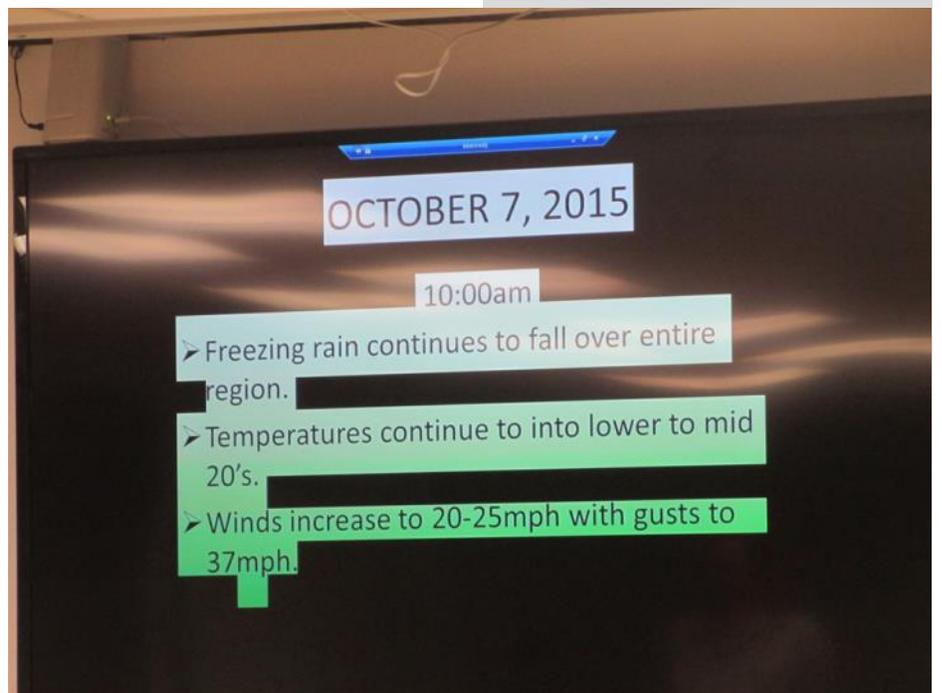
Different idea for tool storage.



When turning on the right turn signal the camera automatically shows that side of the truck.

Training: “Ice Storm Hits Schuyler and Surrounding Counties”

No, this really did not happen, it was an exercise to test the ability of the county to deal with such an emergency. For two days Schuyler County (and surrounding counties) maintained the emergency operations center in the basement of the jail building. All departments of county government were involved in dealing with prolonged effects of a paralyzing ice storm, working in shifts as they would on the real deal, passing information to the next person in charge. Resources were actually requested to the state level and other counties to the east of the storm. It was a good exercise and showed departments, that are not normally involved in emergencies, what they need to do to help in a large scale incident.



Training: Cold Water Rescue in Odessa

This was a drill but made good training even though there was no ice.



Training: Company Pump Operator Class

The shortage of class for Pump Operator classes for various reasons prompted the Odessa Fire Department to run an in-house class for three Saturdays in a row. They used the State Fire lesson plan as a guide and graduated five more operators in the end.



**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

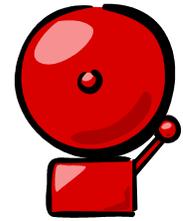
106 Tenth Street, Unit 36
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Phone: 607-535-8200
E-mail: scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us

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



Last Alarms



Don Rhoads
Monterey

Bill Mullaney
Monterey

Norm Saltsman
Hector

Ronald Good
Beaver Dams

Upcoming Classes

- *Firefighter I*
- *Strategy and Tactics for the Initial Company Operations*

Hoping for:

- *EMT Original*
- *EMT Refresher*

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