

# Hot Calls

Volume 3, Issue 2

March/April 2016



## Newsletter Update

The newsletter is going on its third year. We enjoy putting this together for the whole county to stay informed on who and what is new in the county, plus what everyone else is doing. That being said, it is still a struggle to get news and pictures for the departments and ambulance in the county. With the electronic age now and smart phones, you can e-mail pictures and articles or facts on what it is about. We would be able to produce this newsletter more frequently if we could get the information. If you have someone that you would want to put in the firefighter profile, we would be glad to come and get their story. Because Odessa is in here a lot is because they are convenient to get information. Even at that, I sometimes have to request information as we are not always around. It does not have to be a big call, just activity your company is doing. Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

### Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast	2nd Sunday of every month
Montour Falls Chicken BBQ	April 16 11am
Burdett's 20-Week Club/ Dinner Dance Tickets. \$100ea (Dinner for two)	On-going thru April 30
Watkins Glen Casino Night. Cash Donation at Door.	May 7 7pm-12am
Tyrone Spring Fling. Tickets are \$20 donation each	June 4 2pm-6pm

## History

### *County Association meeting in Watkins Glen February 8, 1979*

Coordinator Ernie Thurston asked the county to write letters to the legislature to support the hiring of an additional dispatcher for the control center. Now it is required that a minimum of two dispatchers be on duty at all times. This is required to be a certified PSAP (public safety answering point).



## Firefighter Profile: Pete Coats

**P**ete Coats comes from a firefighting family like a lot of us did. He would go with his Dad (Warren) and help with anything that he could do because they were shorthanded. His parents owned the corner store and, at that time, fires were reported over fire phones throughout the district. Pete would go across the street and activate the siren to sound the alarm. The alarm was located on a pole. Both Pete's parents, his grandfather and grandmother were involved in the fire company. His dad was a charter member and his grandfather joined after the company was formed. This was unusual as it normally was the other way around. His mother and grandmother were members of the Auxiliary. Pete joined the fire company officially when he became 18 years old. He went away to college but remained on the active rolls.

Pete's family includes his wife Liz (Lawrence) of 32 years, and their children Shane and Lauren. Shane followed his father into the fire service and is now a paramedic in Greensboro, N.C. He serves with a fire company there also. Shane is the fourth generation to enter into the emergency service. Pete's father and grandfather were very active in the county firefighter association.

The biggest change



Pete has experienced is the change from firefighting to EMS work. That is most of their calls now. Also the amount of training that is required now even though there always was a lot of training done. The other thing is how techniques have gone full circle. Fight fires from the outside to fighting interior to fighting outside.

He has served over 35 years as a line officer and 45 years as an EMT. He was recognized for his many years of service as a line officer along with Al Foote, Jr. with an engraved shotgun. Recently outgoing chief Dick Robertson recognized Pete for his constant dedication to the company.

His biggest fire was the Cotton-Hanlon fire in Odessa. He was not a member then

but was helping on the scene.

In 1946 Mecklenburg started from a very small station with one used piece of apparatus to the present location and five new up to date apparatus. He remembers they had an old Studebaker tanker with a pump taken from the company's first truck, a used "REO". When they shut the hose line down it would stall the truck. Over the years the company would sometimes build their own trucks but not anymore as it is all modern apparatus.

Pete is part of a family grown fire company, that provides a much needed service for the rural community. When you see Pete thank him for his dedication and long service to the community for 48 years.

MONTOUR FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

# CHICKEN BBQ

APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> @ 11AM

DINNERS \$9.00, ½ CHICKEN \$5.00

DRIVE THRU SERVICE AVAILABLE ON LEE STREET

CALL 535-7265 FOR **FREE** DELIVERY SERVICE



## Mecklenburg Banquet

**M**ecklenburg Fire Company held their Installation of Officers on January 9, 2016. Dick Robinson went out as Fire Chief from his second tour. Nathan Mayo has taken over as Chief. Sean Taber 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, Brian Gunning 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant, and Al Foote 3<sup>rd</sup>. They celebrated 70 years of service And were

able to honor Kermit Leonard who is the only remaining charter member at 99 years old. The Frances Furcha Responder of the Year award went to Wayne Loper.



*Nate Mayo, Chief*

## Monterey Installs Officers

**T**he Monterey Fire Company held its annual banquet on Saturday, March 12. They recognized many members for their work and dedication throughout the year. They also honored people from the community that support the fire company. Monterey provides an invaluable service to the community they serve. Throughout the year their call numbers are not as high as some but each one represents someone that, if it were not for the members there, would wait long response times for assistance. They are a very dedicated group and struggle at times like we all do to



*Left to right-Jim Pinkard 2nd-Andy Bennett 1st-Ed Lewis-Chief*

maintain members to keep things going. My hat is off to them as they make it work and have a very active Junior program to recruit

new members. They have had some very difficult calls this year and handled them very well. Great job Monterey!

## Hector Banquet

The fire company celebrated 65 years of service.

Officers from right to left: Mike Hicks, Steve Williams, Tavis McKeon, Ben Huey, Donnie Dalrymple, Max Freeman



## Watkins Glen Rope Team Part of Mine

Watkins Glen Fire Department was called mutual aid to Lansing Fire Department for a mine rescue of 17 trapped miners at the Cargill Salt mine in Lansing, N.Y. They worked with the Ithaca and Trumansburg Fire Companies establishing a plan for extricating the miners from a stuck elevator. This was thought to be done at one person at a time. Command was set up in an office on premise and they worked along with Cargill employees (who also are trained in this type of rescue). Ithaca Lt. Scott Eaton, who also belongs to Hector Fire Co. was in charge of the rope sector. All reports said it was a great operation, well organized. All miners were successfully rescued and operation was concluded after about ten hours on duty. We are, as a county, very proud of Watkins and their rope team! Great job!!!



**Burdett Fire Department  
20 Week Club**

**Date: April 30, 2016**

**Weekly Drawings Will Be Applied**

**To Ticket Until Paid In Full**

**Must Be 21 Years Of Age**

**Location: Community Center**

**Watkins Glen, NY**

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner**

**7:00 - 8:00 Drawings, Two \$1000.00 & Five \$100.00**

**8:00 to 12:00 Dance**

**Ticket Includes: Dinner for Two, Dance  
& Beverages For Evening (Beer, Wine, Punch, So-  
da)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION - BFD**

**DRAWINGS START DEC 6, 2016**

**\$5.00 PER WEEK - TOTAL \$100**

**ALL DRAWING RESULTS POSTED ON WEBSITE**

**@ [WWW.BURDETTFIRE.ORG](http://WWW.BURDETTFIRE.ORG)**

**See any Burdett Firefighter for Tickets**

# Montour Falls to Horseheads

A major fire occurred in Chemung County on January 31, 2016. The fire, a large warehouse in Elmira Heights, required almost all of the resources from Chemung County. It is very unusual for us to go into

Chemung for this type of duty. Not only was Montour covering Horseheads but I would imagine most of the Northern end of the county. The March County Firefighters Association meeting was held in Odessa

and we had Bud Baldwin of Chemung County talk on the operations of this fire.



# Route 13 Crash

A car vs. tractor trailer accident on a snowy Tuesday morning fatally injured the driver of a small car. The car went under the trailers of a tandem tractor trailer that went out of control due to the bad weather conditions. Odessa Fire Rescue and Schuyler Ambulance performed a “rapid extrication” and were able to get the patient to Robert Packer Hospital under 35 minutes. He passed away later. The road was shut down for several hours as power lines and poles were down as well as a extensive investigation was conducted.



## Odessa crash results in DWI charge

**A** Nissan Murano vehicle traveling on Cotton Hanlon Road in Odessa went out of control as it neared Route 224, struck a guardrail and hit a tree at about 5:45 p.m. Saturday, deploying the vehicle's air bags. The female driver and her female passenger were uninjured and crawled out of the car themselves. The driver, said a local rescue official, was subsequently charged by an investigating officer with driving while intoxicated. Both women, the official said, were from out of the area and unfamiliar with Odessa roads.



*Rescue personnel at the scene of the crash.*

Story and  
Picture by  
Odessa File

## CO Alarm Saves Lives

**H**ow many times do you hear “XYZ Fire respond to 1234 Turnpike road for CO alarm”. Most turn out to be a bad alarm or low batteries. But one recent night Odessa responded to a CO call and followed department procedure to enter the structure with SCBA personnel

and a gas monitor to in fact find heavy levels of CO in the building. This just shows we should never assume that it is a false alarm. The officers on scene truly felt this could have turned out bad had the alarm been not been taken serious by both the owner and the fire department.



# CASINO NIGHT

## THE WATKINS GLEN FIRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS CASINO NIGHT

Saturday May 7th, 2016 From 7pm to 12am

Watkins Glen Fire Station. 201N Perry St. Watkins Glen NY

### Admission: Any Cash Donation at the Door



**Games Include:**

- Blackjack
- Bingo
- Beat the Dealer
- Money Wheels
- Over-Under 7
- Pull Tabs

**Sportsman Raffle:**

- 23 Firearms
- Duck Call Raffle
- Deck "O" Cards
- Gun Giveaway
- (2) Crossbows

**Raffles, Prizes, Food & Drink**

- \$500.00 Cash Giveaway
- 50/50 Raffle
- Tons of Door Prizes
- Free Adult Beverages
- Hot Dogs, Hamburgers
- Sausages, Salads
- Ham and Turkey Raffles

Sportsman Raffle Rules .....

**Sportsman Raffle Tickets on Sale Now, Only 1,000 Sold. Contact WGFD at 607-535-7700 or send us a message on Facebook to Get Your Tickets.**

**Come Support the Watkins Glen Fire Company and Help Us Help You!!**

## Grass Fire Scorches Field Outside Odessa

A grass fire one Tuesday afternoon blackened two-and-a-half acres of field alongside Fitzpatrick Hill Road outside Odessa. Firefighters from Odessa responded, with mutual aid from Montour Falls and Millport. The flames, accompanied by heavy smoke, were put out in about a half-hour. Officials said the blaze started when the property owner was burning papers, and the flames got away from him. Nobody was injured.



*Left: Odessa Fire Chief Mike Tomassi on the scene. Bottom Right: A firefighter wades through thick smoke.*

**Story and  
Pictures by  
Odessa File**

## Woman Dies In One-Car Schuyler Crash

Monterey Fire Rescue with mutual aid from Beaver Dams Fire Rescue, Schuyler Ambulance, Rural Metro and Life Net Helicopter responded to a serious MVC February 28<sup>th</sup>. Esther I. Cooper, 81, of Lowman died Sunday morning in a 10:45 a.m. crash on County Route 16 in the Schuyler County Town of Orange. Sheriff's investigators said Cooper was a passenger in a northbound vehicle driven by

her husband, Vincent E. Cooper, 82, of Lowman, that crossed the southbound lane, left the road and struck a telephone pole. Vincent Cooper was airlifted from the scene to Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa., where he was listed in critical condition. Esther Cooper was taken to Schuyler Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The investigation is continuing.

**Article by  
Odessa File**

## State Fire Mobilization Class

**N**YS OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL conducted a class for all fire officers in Schuyler County at the recent Emergency Services Meeting at the Emergency Management meeting. This class is instruction on the procedures that have to be followed when the state mutual aid plan is activated. It includes the forms needed to make and receive equipment and manpower for large incidents that have used up all local resources. It was well attended and very informative.



## Chemical Suicide Class

**C**hemical Suicide is becoming a more common method of suicide that is very dangerous to first responders. Two classes were held in the county one in Hector the other in Tyrone. Both were very well attended. Office of Fire Prevention and Control conducted the classes. They were a very eye opening subject.



## New Rig at Schuyler Ambulance

**S**chuyler Ambulance has taken delivery of a new ambulance built by Medix Corp. It is a 2 wheel drive automatic transmission, gas powered. It will soon be on line replacing 219 which will be stationed at WGI. I am sure if rescue squads would like in-service on the new rig arrangement can be made by calling 535-7273 and talking to supervisor Patti Miller.



**Tyrone Volunteer Fire Dept.**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> Annual**  
**Spring Fling Raffle**

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, 2pm to 6pm  
 At The Tyrone Fire House, 3600 SR 226 Tyrone, NY

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

Backyard Chicken BBQ for 25 People  
 You Invite Your Friends  
 We Will Bring the Food  
 Must Be Within 50 Miles of Fire House

Ticket \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIZE                      or                      CASH**

- 1. -----GRAND PRIZE DRAWING-----
- 2. Weber Grill 3 Burner Spirit-----\$350
- 3. 4- 2016 Tyrone Fire Dept. Gun Raffle Tickets-----\$80
- 4. Pelican Trailblazer Angler 10 Kayak----- \$350
- 5. Reel Rippin Musky Charter for Waneta Lake-----\$250
- 6. Lifetime NY'S Fishing License-----\$300
- 7. Sun Dolphin Scout14 Canoe-----\$400
- 8. 4- Darien Lake season Passes-----\$225
- 9. 5'x8' utility trailer-----\$590
- 10. 5400w Champion Generator-----\$300
- 11. Backyard Game set, Cornhole, Washers, Bocce Ball,--- \$200
- 12. GoPro Camera-----\$350
- 13. Camping Pkg, tent, chairs, stove, table, sleeping bag-----\$500
- 14. Water Tube, Kneeboard, And Lifejacket-----\$350
- 15. 4-2016 Nascar Sprint Cup at the Glen Tickets-----\$320
- 16. Patio Fire Pit and Outdoor Heater-----\$330
- 17. Yeti Cooler and Can Koozie-----\$350

**Earlybird Drawing Wed. May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Earlybird Two- \$300.00 Winners**

**Donation \$20.00 per person**

**Must Bring Ticket to Enter**

Also will have refreshments, door prizes,  
 50/50 raffle, and MORE

Need not be present to win prizes 1 thru 17  
 Or Earlybird Drawing

Any questions please contact: Joe Dombroski 607-292-6483  
 Or Bill Kennedy Jr 607-346-7831

**Please Print Clearly**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Ph # : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sold By \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

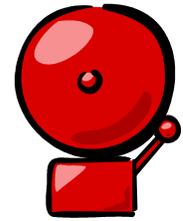
106 Tenth Street, Unit 36  
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Phone: 607-535-8200  
E-mail: [scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us](mailto:scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us)

Web: [www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO](http://www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/SchuylerEMO](http://twitter.com/SchuylerEMO)



## Last Alarms



*Elery Rumsey*  
*Mecklenburg*

*Ed Moore*  
*Beaver Dams*

*Dave Wickham*  
*Hector*

*George Bond, Sr.*  
*Hector*

*Bob Olevnik*  
*Watkins Glen*

## Upcoming Classes

- *Firefighter Survival (May)*

*Tentative for Fall:*

- *EMT Original*
- *EMT Refresher*

**W**ant to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to [jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us](mailto:jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us)

**For more information, visit:**

[www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us)  
[www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc](http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc)  
[www.emstar.org](http://www.emstar.org)

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

**T**o 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](mailto:rickshirlc27@gmail.com)