

Hot Calls

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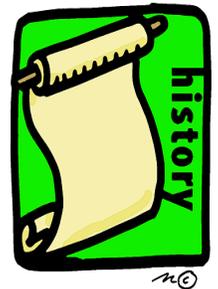
January/February 2018



History

December 13, 1979 County Association

President Floyd Goodrich brought up that because expenses of "firematics Day" cannot be self supporting with the present financing system, we should have some kind of fund raising to cover Association expenses. He asked that the membership come to the next meeting with some fund raising ideas.



Calendar:

<i>Mecklenburg Breakfast</i>	January 21 7:30-11am
<i>Montour Falls Casino Night</i>	January 27 7:00-10:30pm
<i>Mecklenburg Sportsman's Raffle</i>	Tickets coming Soon!
<i>Burdett's 20-Week Club/Dinner Dance Tickets. \$100ea (Dinner for two)</i>	On-going thru April 29

Firefighter Profile: Bernie Mac Dougall

Bernie joined the Odessa Fire Department in May of 1976. He joined because he lived next door to the fire station. There was a couple of calls and they were short of help so he became a member. He married wife, Kathy, on January 1, 1966. They have four children, daughters Penny and Danielle, sons Michael and Earl. He served in the U.S. Navy and pulled two tours of duty in Vietnam in the Sea Bees.

When he got out, he got a job at Westinghouse for six months and then went to work for New York Telephone as a lineman. There he retired after 37 years.

After two years in the fire department, he became a driver and has done that job till this day. He still is one of the first ones at the station on a call. This makes him a very valuable member. He also will do what ever he is



asked. He served as president for 23 years and is currently vice president. He served as unit commissioner for the Boy Scouts which the fire department sponsors.

Last year he received the "Ridge Runner Award" which is voted on by the members of the department.

One memorable call on a very cold night, there was a chimney fire on Upper Foothill Road. It was during an ice storm and the roads were very slippery. Bernie was able

to maneuver engine 27 uphill to the fire. It was a chimney fire with extension. He certainly helped us save the house.

Bernie continues to help the Odessa Fire Department each day. When you see Bernie tell him thanks for his service both in the fire department and the military.

Tyrone Has Installation Dinner

On November 11, 2017 Bill Kennedy got to swear in his son (on right) as the new chief of the Tyrone Fire Company.



Outgoing Chief of Tyrone Nate Tormey got to recognize his Dad, Ron (left), for 50 years of service to the company. It was a proud night for both fathers and sons.

Structure Fire In Burdett

Burdett Fire Department was called out to a structure fire on Carpenter Road just outside of the village on Saturday, November 11. On arrival of the first units, they found a fully involved log cabin home. Chief Jason Kelly called for the second alarm and also ordered a defensive operation. Water was supplied by the last hydrant in the village. Just over 1000 feet of 5" hose was laid to the scene. A second water supply was established on the east side of the fire by Watkins Glen. They were supplied by tankers from the second alarm. Good, safe job was done by all, though the structure was a total loss on arrival of first units. No cause has been determined as of yet.



Watkins Glen Fire

Watkins Glen responded to a fire at the Colonial Motel late one

evening. Reports over the air stated “smoke showing”. This was handled by Watkins. No

further information was available.

Odessa Structure Fire

Odessa Fire Department became the first red bulb on the “Wreath of Blue”. A reported structure fire on the Newtown Road brought out the second alarm companies on a very cold night. Located in the northern part of the district Odessa was assisted by Montour Falls, Mecklenburg and Burdett. Watkins Glen covered the empty Odessa

station. On arrival Chief Tomassi discovered a fire from a wood stove had extended into the wall. Quick interior attack kept the fire to area of origin. All companies were released shortly after arrival. Some overhaul kept some longer than others. Thanks to all for a quick response.



5” Hose

We have relied on tankers for so long that the use of 5” hose is not really on the radar. One company in the county is absolutely not afraid to “lay the line”. I have been to several fires in the Burdett fire district and have been amazed to see they use the 5” hose a lot! I think the issue is that it is too much work to lay the hose. We would rather run tankers instead of establishing a

water supply with a relay. The other thing is, we are knocking the fires down quicker as the attack lines are bigger and the method of attack is making a difference.

Kudos to Burdett!



Monterey Fire Company

Monterey Volunteer Fire Company has been no longer contracted by the Town of Orange for fire protection. Due to the lack of active members and the fact they have not been responding to alarms, they no longer are responsible for the Town of Orange fire protection. The territory once held by Monterey has been divided up between Beaver Dams, Bradford and Tyrone fire companies. This should be a concern for all departments who are on the borderline with the number of active firefighters responding to calls. If your department is high in senior members that are covering the bulk of alarms and there is no one on the bench warming up, we all could be in trouble in a few years or sooner.

It is not the daytime that is an issue. Numbers are down not only in our county but all over. I feel sad for the members of Monterey who have worked hard to keep the department going for many years. We need to see what the future has for volunteer fire companies. In some areas they have both paid and volunteer. In some areas they have gone paid. Some have paid-on-call. We spend many hours doing fund raisers, training and then expect the same people to answer alarms day and night. They also have jobs and families. It used to work but we only answered 50-75 calls and training demands were not that intense. Fund raisers were held



but not as often as it did not take much to run a department. What needs to change? I really don't know. I only can see a real problem brewing and some day, not that far away, there won't be anyone to answer the call. The Village of Van Etten just voted to dissolve. That may mean the loss of another volunteer fire company.

Coordinators Attend Conference

The county Emergency Management Office attended a Conference at the Fire Academy November 16th -17th. The topics covered were on recent changes in the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Also, the state now has drones available across the state for emergency situations.

Mutual aid for specialty teams was discussed and curriculum for new classes was covered. There is also "Blended Learning for Basic Firefighter Training.". This is a combination of online and practical work and online lecture with testing.

Fire Investigator's curriculum and certification changes were also a topic.

An overview of the training facility for "Homeland Security Statewide Preparedness Training Center".

Coordinator Bill Kennedy and Deputy Coordinators Brian Gardner, Rick Churches, and Dale Jaynes all attended.

Emergency Services Meeting

Departments that attended the Emergency Services Meeting on October 26 were Watkins Glen, Odessa, Montour Falls, Hector, Burdett, Mecklenburg and the Emergency Management Office.

Topics Covered: We had a guest from the county health department. She spoke on suicide prevention and gave out information on same. Also, she discussed the cancer screening program that is available in the county. Being in a high risk profession, we should take advantage of the program.

At the time of the meeting, Monterey was having serious service problems. They are trying to work out the possibilities of being able to provide protection in their area. At the time, Tyrone, Beaver Dams and Bradford were providing coverage. This should be a wake-up call for all.

Charlie Smith has assumed the position of chief of Watkins Glen.



Burdett announced the completion date of their new firehouse. If all goes well they should be in by September.

Watkins Assistant Chief Derek Bacon asked if there was interest in establishing a tanker taskforce. There was interest and he offered to follow up on it.

John Jelliff was picked to be the month's "Hero Award" by the T.V. station WENY. Congratulations to him. He spends a lot of time making sure we are all trained and have the safest operations possible.

Hector has a new Pumper-Tanker-Rescue in service. Stop by and take a look.

Mecklenburg installed a new siren but was having issues with getting activation from another county. EMO will work on this.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

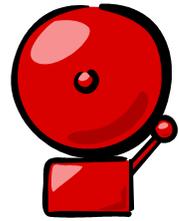
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Last Alarms



Joyce Tunnicliff
EMO

Lyman Savory
Beaver Dams

Kathy Swarthout
Beaver Dams, SCVAA

Upcoming Classes

Tentatively planning for the following classes:

- *Water Supply (Spring)*

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