

# Hot Calls

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## Status of the EM Office

By: Bill Kennedy, Coordinator

The EM/Fire Coordinator's office continues to move forward. The biggest news is the appointment of two volunteer deputy fire coordinators. Please welcome Car 5 Matt Maloney and Car 8 Dominick Smith. These two bring 60 years of vast, diverse experience in the fire service to the office. Dominick, past chief of Watkins Glen and current deputy chief, has been involved in emergency services both as a volunteer and in his career. He has worked around the country designing and implementing training classes in the field of auto extrication. Matt has 22 years as line officer with Tyrone, is a past chief serving 2 two-year terms and is currently 1st Assistant Chief. Matt also has 22 years in the Schuyler County Sheriff's office. Matt served 11 years as a Level 2 Fire investigator. He has been an instructor for both the fire service and law enforcement. Schuyler County fire service has an opportunity to take advantage of the wealth of real-world experience and knowledge that these two possess. They are willing to share their knowledge and experience assisting whenever needed.

### Calendar:

Burdett Rescheduled  
Dinner Dance to  
Oct 3

Tickets Available now! \$100 donation for two prime rib meals and entry into many cash and prize drawings!

Watkins Glen ~~May 2~~  
Sportsman Postponed,  
Raffle and TBD  
Casino Night

Tickets available now!

## Trivia Question

**“What is the approximate ignition temperature of wood?”**

Our last Trivia Question went unanswered.

**Question:** *“What was the name of the lady who manned the Sugar Hill Fire Tower from the late 50's until it was no longer used?”*

**Answer:** *Lorna Dewitt. She lived just south of the RBI outside of Montour Falls.*

## Firefighter Profile: Michael Hicks

**M**ike is working on his 20th year as Fire Chief for Valois-Logan-Hector Fire Company. Mike is married to Elaine and they have one son. They were married July 25, 1987. Little did they know that their anniversary would always fall on the week of the Hector Fair. From the Hornell/Canisteo area they moved to Valois in 1988. Then, of course, they soon knew the postmaster who was also Steve Williams' mom. Steve's brother Dan was involved in a diving accident and Mike and Elaine were part of a community project to



make the home accessible for Dan. During this time Steve encouraged Mike to join the fire company. He did and the following week he was voted in and the next Monday he signed up to the EMT class in Odessa. Initially he had no interest in firefighting. He was 25 at the time.

Elaine joined one year later. They became a husband and wife team. This makes life a lot easier when you are the fire chief and does help with longevity at the fire chief's job. He did work his way up through the ranks and also served as secretary for a while. He was elected chief in May of 2000. There was a short two year stint when he stepped down as chief and was first assistant for a while. He realized that most of the members had never worked with a different fire chief.

Asked what struck him the most about the job he said, "Don't confuse the job of chief with the job of firefighter. They are two different animals." During the time as chief they have replaced the entire fleet of vehicles and added numerous amounts of updated equipment.

The most memorable moment was the flood in August of 2018. The public support was the most impressive thing he has ever experienced as a fire fighter. Not only during the emergency but after in the purchasing of equipment such as an ATV vehicle to aid in operations along the lake and other areas in the district. They have been fortunate to be able to purchase and have updated equipment. They just recently updated and renovated the current fire station.

Hector always has had an ambulance and at one time they actually ran two ambulances. Not many people know that the ambulance is totally funded by donations and fund raising. They

are currently replacing the old ambulance with a new one. Delivery is being held up due to the pandemic. There was no mutual aid when they first started and now they run three or more times a week to other agencies.

A couple of summers ago they took their members to the traveling 911 memorial. The FDNY members showing the memorial are in high regard for the work of the volunteers. One statement from the FDNY crew that stuck with him was that we have it much harder in the small-town volunteer fire departments than they do. When asked to explain they stated that when we respond to an emergency we usually know the person or family involved where they usually have no connection to the people involved in their emergencies.

Mike works from home for ADP, (Automatic Data Processing). He implements Human Resources software for clients all over the USA. It's his real job to help people so being fire chief comes easy for him.

Things continue to go well in Hector. There is no 2020 fair so fund raising will take a different route for them. They continue to get a lot of support from the community. When you see Mike (and Elaine), thank them for the work they do!

## **EMT Recerts**

All NYS EMT's have been extended one year for their recertification because of the pandemic.

# Burdett: New Engine

**T**ruck is equipped with the following:

- 1800 Gallons of water
- 1000' 5-inch hose
- 200' 3-inch hose
- Battery operated power tools
- Standard Ladders
- Telescoping Scene Lights
- 4 Truck mounted Scene lights
- Two 1 3/4" hand lines, 150'
- One 2" hand line, 200'





## History: Annual Fire in Watkins Glen and Montour Falls

**A**n annual occurrence in the spring or fall in an area known as the “Bad Indian Swamp” between the two villages. It is also known as the Queen Catharine Marsh. One such fire March 26, 1983 started in Watkins Glen end and burned to Montour Falls that endangered the Rock Cabin Trailer park. Watkins got the first call, but the fire quickly spread. Fire Chief of Montour Falls, Rick Saunders, called additional aid from Odessa and Millport. As the fire approached the trailer park Montour hit it with a deluge set on their engine. This slowed the fire down greatly. This enabled firefighters to use hand lines and too extinguish the fire. Ever since I can remember this fire has burned one side of the canal or the other. It was very spectacular to see. As a rule it never caused much damage. People use to harvest the “flac” so they would set the east side on fire to burn off the old grass. The west side was always set by passing coal trains.

## Safety

**O**desa Fire Department responded on an early morning grass fire in a remote area. A good size up by the first responding officer found an electric transmission line was down and set the field on fire. Had this been at night it may have been a different story. It always pays to do a good size-up even on a grass fire.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

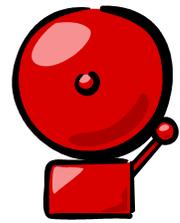
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## Last Alarms



**William “Beaver” Bulkley**  
*Odessa FD*

## Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

*Tentative Classes  
Dates to Be Determined:*

- *EMR (CFR)*
- *SCBA/Interior*
- *Apparatus Operator - Pump*
- *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:**

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**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)