

20 years of the Ron Keddie Memorial Chautauqua County Weekend *By Larry Barter*

Twenty years have passed since Ron Keddie and Dick Pollaro started the Chautauqua County Fire Chiefs' Ron Keddie Memorial County Weekend at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls. These two State Fire Instructors got together and discussed the idea of conducting the weekend for the fire departments in our county. They needed a sponsoring organization. Dick was president of the County Chiefs' Association at the time so they approached the Association and asked them to sponsor this event. The Fire Chiefs' Association agreed. The next step was to pick a weekend. The State Academy set aside four weekends a year and the only one available was the 9, 10, and 11 of September.



Once the dates were chosen, they worked at setting the classes to be provided. Five courses were selected and applications were sent out. A need to track the monies coming in for the weekend was identified by the County Chiefs. First Vice President Julius Leone asked John Sullivan and Larry Barter if they could assist with the finances for the weekend. These men were the Treasurer and Secretary of the Fredonia Fire Department, which was under Julius' command.

continued page 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

2	20 years of the Ron Keddie Memorial Chautauqua County Weekend <i>continued from front cover</i>	9-11	Later in Life Joiners
3	TECC Workshop Pilots in Chautauqua County	11	Ellery Center Fire Department
4	Response Team to Dunkirk City Water Treatment Plant	12-13	The Big Dip
	Notes From The Jump Kit	14 -15	NYS OFPC Policy Statement
5	Snowmobile Jan. 2015 Accident Drill	15	From the Editor
6	Blast from the Past	16	A Real Hero
	Tanker Accident in Falconer		Annoucent
7-8	Community Emergency Response Team	17	Fast Team
8	School Bus Accident	18-19	New Equipment in the County
		19	Do you Remember

20 years of the Ron Keddie Memorial Chautauqua County Weekend con't

The committee was organized, the applications returned, and the county was able to run the five classes with less than the full complement. However, it was the start and everyone involved was very optimistic for the future.

Over the years the classes consisted of live fire training, command and management, leadership, Hazardous Materials, tech rescue, legal concerns, train the trainer, fire prevention, and EMS. The committee's goal was to offer a variety of classes with hopes of bringing a broad cross section of interests to the academy from across the county. Some classes were even offered for the very first time in New York State during our County Weekend.

The first few years were unorganized with respect to the Saturday night activities. The attendees were left to their own devices for entertainment. The group from Fredonia decided they would check out the local Moose Club during the early years since one of the group was a member and could get the group into the Club. The club at that time was on a side street just down from the Academy. It was an auspicious time as the members from Fredonia talked about their experiences. As time went on more and more of the attendees were ending up at the Moose, and it was discussed by the committee to rent the room for Saturday night. The Moose readily agreed when they looked at their financials and found a sharp spike in revenue when Chautauqua County came to town. Both groups look forward to this weekend each year.

With Ron's and Dick's foresight, the determination of Ron, the support of the County Chiefs' Association, and the willingness of the members of the County Fire Departments to give up a weekend in September, the Ron Keddie Chautauqua County Weekend has developed into the longest running event at the Academy. The instructors only have to be told it is our weekend and they are ready to give their time to teach us.

Let us continue to do Ron proud and make this, our twentieth weekend, the best weekend ever.



TECC *Workshop* Pilots in Chautauqua County

By Dan Imfeld

On January 24th and 25th, the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) and the National Center for Security Preparedness (NCSP) delivered two one day Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) Workshops at the Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services to two blended classes of Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement professionals. The team from the SPTC/NCSP trained 89 students in skills that could potentially save lives in the response to an incident involving ADB (Aggressive Deadly Behavior), including Active Shooter Events.



This workshop was unique, with EMS and LE students training together throughout each day. Students discussed timely topics including Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and rescue task force, and engaged in skill lanes to practice techniques introduced in the classroom. The class culminated in students responding to several scenario-based activities, including some featuring indirect threat to direct threat situations.

Dr. Brain Walters, the county Medical Director and SPTC/NCSP instructor, was optimistic about the impact of this training for his community. "Everyone who attended the training was very appreciative of the opportunity, and enjoyed it. Dr. Walters said. "With an ever present threat of terrorist attacks and active shooter situations, it might not always be tactical medics who are the first to arrive on scene, making it crucial for all EMTs and medics to learn these TECC principles."

The training was well received.

The SPTC/NCSP will again conduct a class during the Chautauqua County Weekend at the State Fire Academy and have agreed to return to Chautauqua County in 2016 to present another TECC Workshop.



Law enforcement and EMS students taking part in scenario-based activities, including some featuring indirect threat to direct threat situations.

Also see the DHSES Training Calendar for the latest information on training deliveries in 2015 conducted at the SPTC in Oriskany.

Dunkirk City Fire Department, Alstar Ambulance and the Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team

*responded to the Dunkirk City Water Treatment Plant
Thursday January 29th around 8 a.m. for a chlorine leak*

By Dan Imfeld

Precautions were taken for a chlorine leak at the Dunkirk City Water Treatment Plant Thursday morning. Emergency personnel from Dunkirk City Fire Department, Alstar and the Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to the call just before 8 a.m.

Two contractors working on a renovation project at the plant were exposed to the chlorine gas and transported to Brooks Hospital and the plant was briefly taken off line.

The incident occurred as the online tank became empty and the system switched to a full one ton cylinder.

The latest leak was a bit more significant than the last three.

There was previous leak that occurred on January 6th and there were two leaks on June 30, 2014.

The Hazmat team investigation and found a leaky chlorine gas valve. The valve was replaced during the four-and-a-half hour operation and the plant placed back online.



Hazmat team members prepare to make entry during Chlorine leak at the Dunkirk Water Plant.

NOTES FROM THE JUMP KIT

Steve Cobb - EMS Coordinator



As we hope for this long, cold winter to finally become history a few updates and reminders.

EMTs/AEMTs/Paramedics - don't forget your yearly PPAs update and credentialization of skills. These are due by the end of June 2015.

If not complete there is a strong possibility of being taken off-line by your Medical Director.

STEMS and AL-Star Training Center are offering several dates and locations for skills update. Check the STEMS site for these dates as they have just been listed on their monthly newsletter.

The EMS Review committee is currently reviewing RFPs responses and hopefully the study will be started

in the very near future. This review of EMS manpower issues, training and retention, and how best the county can provide EMTs on calls came from a request from both the Fire Advisory Board and the EMS Council. The Committee is requesting that EMS Officers and Chiefs give as much input as possible when they are interviewed.

Nice article in the local papers of the Lakewood call and all agencies working together. This is how we do it.

When the spring melt finally arrives (soon I hope) be aware of possible flooding and fast moving water. This could be a real threat this year so please be careful out there if you are involved in any water rescues.



Snowmobile Jan. 2015 *ACCIDENT DRILL*



The day after Mother Nature freshened the snow base by depositing approximately a foot of new snow, the Maple Springs Fire Company and the Ellery Sno-Crusiers teamed to provide a snowmobile accident drill. The intent of the drill was to assess ATV performance during an off-road heavy snow situation. Participating were Ashville, Dewittville, Hartfield, Maple Springs and Battalion 4. Ellery Sno-Cruisers provided snowmobiles and accident victims. Some patients were trapped under snowmobiles and one was found dangling unresponsively from a tree. Maple Springs' Lucas CPR Device was field tested. A critique was held afterwards during lunch at the Maple Springs fire hall.

Wheel propelled ATVs were utilized by Ashville and Hartfield while a track propelled UTV was utilized by Maple Springs. All units were capable of transporting a patient on a stokes stretcher. Wheeled units moved well and faster than the track unit go on the compacted trail. The track unit maneuvered well on and off the trail while wheeled units were not effective off the trail in the deep snow conditions. At the critique it was agreed that such off-road incidents should be responded to by multiple ATVs. Personnel and equipment will need to be transported to the scene beyond simply transporting an EMT in and a patient out. Often lighting and tools will be required in addition to fire police, scene stabilization, extrication and patient handling personnel. Trails should be closed off at end points so that snowmobilers cannot occupy the scene that will be needed for operations and the trails that will be needed for transports. EMS personnel agreed that immediate transport from the scene to the ambulance should occur with field care principally being care that addresses immediate life saving actions and holding back general care until the patient is in the ambulance when clothing can be removed during environmentally controlled conditions.

Everyone agreed that the drill was a worthwhile undertaking and a follow-up drill will likely be held next winter.

Douglas Conroe
Chief, Maple Springs Fire Company

Blast from the Past!



This is a Niagara Mohawk Power School picture from a few days ago. If you can identify all the members in this picture send me the list of names. **The first one to do so wins a Tim Horton's gift card. Email me at griffith@chautcofire.org** . The first correct answer by time received of e-mail wins.

Special thanks to Gene Archer from Busti Fire Department for this picture, he also gave me the list of names so I do have the correct answer key. I will add that to the next issue along with the winner.

Thanks again Gene!

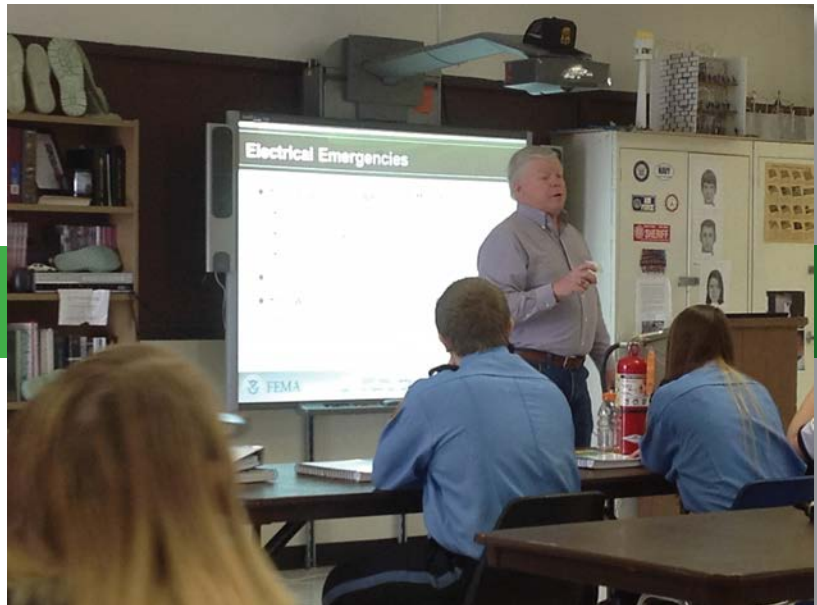
Tanker Accident in Falconer



A tanker carrying hot asphalt struck a car and rolled over on Peck Settlement Rd on January 26th. The call went out to Falconer Fire around 1 am for a tanker rollover with injuries. The drivers from both the truck and car involved were transported to WCA Hospital.

The tanker lost about 150 gallons of diesel fuel and spilled a small amount of asphalt along the roadside. Falconer was on scene approximately 14 hours and

was assisted by Kiantone Fire, the Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team, the County Fire Coordinators and the County Fire Police Response Team.



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees.

Doug McCullor from Fluvanna Fire Department instructs a CERT Class for the Criminal Justice Program students at BOCES Ashville.

The training program that LAFD initiated makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster. It also increases their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the importance of preparing citizens. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.

Mission

The mission of CERT is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

continued on next page

Chautauqua County

The Chautauqua County Community Emergency Response Team has evolved from a grass roots effort to improve community-wide collaboration in disaster preparedness and response. Beginning in 2003 as a Community Emergency Response Team trained and supported by the local American Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Actively supported by the Chautauqua County government and its agencies, volunteer organizations, and private citizens, the Chautauqua County CERT has trained responders in several local communities. It has participated in many disasters and training events in Chautauqua County – from the Silver Creek floods to the airport and Coast Guard drills.

The Chautauqua County CERT team meets at 6pm the third Tuesday of the month at the Chautauqua County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Mayville, NY.

School Bus Accident *By Ed Faulkner*

January 29, 2015 was a snowy, cold wintry day with 8 inches of heavy wet snow accumulating quickly mid-afternoon on all Clymer roads. At 15:29 all Clymer Fire equipment was dispatched for school bus in ditch: unknown injuries. A-331 along with E-331 and R-332 were in route at 15:31 and followed shortly by E-333. When C-331 arrived on scene at 15:35 it was reported that the 66 passenger full size bus had overturned after hitting a culvert in the ditch and had come to rest on its left side with the rear of the bus suspended a few feet off the ground. This was more than just a bus in the ditch! When an EMT at 15:35 entered the bus from the rear emergency door, the 21 students ranging from 5 to 17 years and driver were assessed and evaluated prior to extrication. Positioning the back of C-331 (a pick-up truck) to the back of the overturned bus helped facilitate the removal of occupants from the bus to the tailgate of C-331 to the waiting return bus which was within a few feet.

Every student on entering the return bus was listed with full name and date of birth and evaluated by an EMT. Six of the 21 students were found to have contusion and/or swelling and after informing the school officials on the scene, these six students were transported to Corry Memorial Hospital for further evaluation. At 15:57 Stanley Hose from Sherman was dispatched for mutual aid to transport 3 of the 6 students to Corry.

The remaining 15 students along with 2 Clymer EMTs were bused back to the school for transfer of care and evaluation by the school nurse. After arrival at the school further evaluation of a student resulted in transport to Corry Hospital by Panama ambulance. The school personnel were extremely orderly when we arrived back at the school which instilled a sense of calmness to the kids and parents which were segregated from the students until clearance from the nurse. The entire incident evolved efficiently and orderly despite the weather conditions, the frightened and crying students, and difficulty in moving of these students.

After detailed physical examination at Corry Memorial Hospital, all seven students were released to parents and returned to their homes. All equipment was back at the hall and off the air at 17:00 due to the dedication and professionalism of all responders. Special thanks to Sherman and Panama for their always gracious aid.



Later In Life Joiners By Jon Stahley

We usually envision younger people joining the Fire and Medical Services, and usually target our recruiting to an age group of 18 to 35. There is an interesting trend developing in some fire departments lately. Older folks are now joining. This group of folks brings with them some unique benefits because they are at a different stage in life; empty-nesters, retired or semi-retired, financially stable, have more time, want to remain active, do something interesting and exciting, offer their specific skill sets from their careers, don't have a personal agenda, like to train and learn. They just want to be quietly helpful. Sounds like a fire department manager's dream, doesn't it? Last issue we presented the Milks family from Busti VFD. In this issue we will feature various people from the Bemus Point VFD.

The Johnston's – Most everyone in the area is familiar with the Lenhart Hotel in Bemus. It is one of the last grand old hotels on Chautauqua Lake. Built in 1880 by the Lenhart family, it burned to the ground in 1890 (the only fire apparatus around was in Jamestown and they responded). It was rebuilt. There was another less destructive roof fire in 1940. It is currently owned and operated by fourth generation family members John Lenhart Johnston III, with his wife Debbie and John's sister Barbara Jane Johnston or better known to all as, "Bebe". Their father John Lenhart Johnston II was a past member of Bemus Fire Dept. and has since answered his last alarm. BeBe contributes in fundraising and breakfast menus. Please keep this quiet with the kids, but she also has been the Easter Bunny and Santa's Helper. Brother John and Debbie lived in the Pittsburgh area for many years where John owned his own CPA firm and Debbie taught school for twenty five years. As the Johnston parents got older John and Debbie would spend more time at the Hotel in the summer helping Bebe. They have twin daughters and two grandchildren. Debbie enjoys helping with the cooking and fundraising. She is soon to start her training for fire police. John enjoys being a vehicle driver and the scene work.



Jeff Molnar – His first exposure or "tug", as he calls it, to the volunteer fire service was as a boy with the Medina FD and later as a Capt. and President of Ridgeway VFD. Jeff moved to the Captiva, Florida area where he was a volunteer. He then became a police officer in Sanibel Island which ended his volunteering. He then started and developed a very successful electrical contracting business.



In 2000 Jeff and wife Barbara opened the Bemus Bay Coffee Café across the street from the fire station. Every time there was an alarm the "tug" would pull at him. He joined at the invitation of then Fire Chief Ted Farnham. Jeff's definition of "The Tug" -is that internal pull that becomes part of the DNA of anyone who has ever spent time in public service. I have been fortunate throughout my adult life to, in one form or another, serve the citizens of my community most often at their worst time.

There is no greater gift than to be there unconditionally when our friends, neighbors or perfect strangers need us." This expresses well the heart of all of these people in this article.

Louise and Toby Parker – his couple joined after they saw the actions of their son, BPVFD Asst. Fire Chief Randy Edwards. Louise is a Residence Manager for the Resource Center for the past thirty years and Toby is an over the road truck driver for thirty years also. Both are HAM radio operators and members of RACES. The Parkers have four children and two grandchildren with another soon to arrive. Louise is in the Fire Police and a member of the County FPA. She is also the Company Treasurer and enjoys working on all the events.



Mike Krott – Mike retired from National Grid as the Fleet Maintenance Manager after thirty- four years. Along with scene support and Fire Police, he is also the Company President. His past work career experience is a natural fit for the President's position. Mike and his wife Mary Lou have two children and two grandchildren. He felt that after his retirement he wanted to serve the community and enjoy the camaraderie of the Fire Department. It is obvious that President Krott and Chief Hayes work very closely together.



The members feel they are welcomed and are important to Mike and Steve. Additionally, the ladies all commented they don't feel any division between the sexes.

Steve Hayes – Steve is the Fire Chief and enjoys taking a lot of training. He has a BA in Accounting and MBA in Marketing. He is a Business Control Manager for Bank of America going on twenty three years now. He was an EMT while attending St. Bonaventure. Interestingly, Steve's family is from Brooklyn. This is a story of a proud Irish American family, with his



continued next page

Later In Life Joiners con't

grandfather and father serving in NYPD and three cousins in FDNY. All are now retired. I think there is a proud father of his son, and a son that is proud of his father. Chief Hayes is 3rd. VP of the County FCA. He loves his people, enjoys networking with the Village and Town of Ellery Boards and other agencies. He takes it as an honor and a privilege to be their Fire Chief. His goal is to make the weekly Tuesday night training the highlight of their week and that they would look forward to attending.

Deb Carlson —Deb's first priority was to get her two children off on their own before she could join an organization. She now has one grandchild. Once this responsible mom got that completed she joined BPVFD. Deb has been in the Customer Service Dept. at Cummins Engine for thirty- seven years. She is in the Fire Police and a member of the County FPA. She is also the Financial Secretary. Debbie comes from a volunteer fire service background as her father, Don Carlson, served as the Fire Chief of Fluvanna VFD.



Sheri Winne – Sheri began to see what the Volunteer Fire and Medical Service was like when she met and married her husband. Mike has been in the fire and medical service for thirty- five years serving as Asst. Fire Chief and professionally with WCA Services among many other responsibilities. Sheri has always been in the medical field. In Southern California she was a forensic phlebotomist before coming to this area. She is now going on her twenty- first year as a program analyst in the Health Records Information System Dept. at WCA. Sheri is an EMT and assists in some instruction. She is also the Company Recording Secretary. Sheri and Mike have five children and three grandchildren.

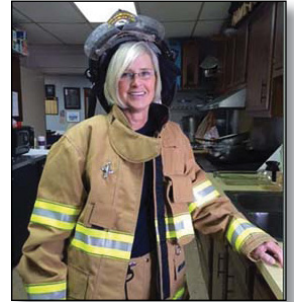


Lynda Howard and Dan Glassman – This husband and wife team were also freed up once family and careers changed. Lynda is a retired Maple Grove HS chemistry teacher of thirty- five years and got involved once she saw her husband Dan's activities in BPVFD. Lynda is in the Fire Police and County FPA.



She enjoys the other community outreach events like the breakfasts. Dan says he probably will never retire, but was able to join because with the advent of the computer age and better communications he is now able to work from their home rather than traveling all over the world to his clients. He is in sales and development for the technology in court and language transcription systems. Dan jumped right in also with a lot of training in all aspect of Firefighting and is an EMT. He recently got his CDL just for the fun of it. Dan's father was a missionary linguist. Dan was born in Pakistan and graduated from high school in Kabul, Afghanistan. This is where he acquired his interest in cultures and languages. Lynda and Dan have five children and three grandchildren.

Ann Brodell – Ann and her husband Dr. James Brodell have had a secondary residence on the Lake since 1995. Previously she was a court stenographer for twelve years and then stopped to raise her family. She now manages Dr. Jim's practice of Orthopedic Surgery in Warren, Ohio, but they actually live in Chagrin Falls (hang on this gets even more interesting). They have two sons that both attend Colgate University majoring in pre-med for molecular biology. Jimmie is a senior and brother Andy is a sophomore. Colgate has a competitive system in cooperation with Hamilton FD to take a few good students to be Vol. Firefighters and EMT's. Both guys made it and run alarms while at school. Then Jimmie joined BPVFD first, followed by Andy. Ann's first real experience with the volunteer fire service is when the family would sit down for dinner at the Lake house and Jimmie's pager would go off, and out the door he would go. Then it doubled with Andy when he joined. Jimmie kept asking her to join, but she never thought a fire department would be interested in her. Ann thought it was so great what the BPVFD volunteers did, including her sons, she realized she might as well join them. She said it was all so very foreign to her, but now she absolutely loves it. She took the EVOC course and especially likes driving the ambulance and washing the vehicles (yes, you read that correctly). Ann said she is so very impressed with the close-knit people of BPVFD and cherishes the moments when she can watch her two sons in action. It has made for a special relationship between a mother and her sons.



Dave and Marie Lewis – David is a retired certified life insurance underwriter and owned his own agency. Marie is retired from the banking services. Dave joined BPVFD and soon after Marie joined. He is past President of the Company and always had a special interest in fundraising. He was instrumental in the annual Patron Firefighter newsletter and the Boot Drive.



continued next page

Later In Life Joiners con't

Dave is in the Fire Police and has always been very active in the County FPA and is a Past President. Marie is a past Secretary and Treasurer for the Department and likes working the breakfasts and helping with other events. The Lewis' winter in Cedar Key, Florida. Dave is an officer in the Citizens On Patrol, which is authorized by the State and under the direction of the Levy County Sheriff Dept. The duties are similar to the NYS Fire Police. Dave actually has a Crown Vic cruiser assigned to him that he keeps at this house. assigned to him that he keeps at this house.

Phil Erickson—Phil is currently on the Fire Police Team. He has also been in various positions on the fire company administration side. Before retirement Phil was in the furniture manufacturing industry as a manufacturer's sales representative. Phil's comment was, "It just makes sense, that we older people can do a lot of these jobs so the younger more physical people can focus on the heavy work". Phil and his wife Sue have five grandchildren.



Jay Mease, center, personally donated four pet oxygen masks to four local fire departments. Accepting the gifts from left to right are Barry Swanson, asst. chief at Maple Springs; Mike Myers, Chief at Stockton; Jay Mease; Todd Swartz, asst. chief at Ellery Center; and Mike Perkins, asst. chief at Sinclairville.

departments have them on hand." The Fluvanna, Gerry, and Bemus Point fire departments are already equipped with pet oxygen masks. The pet oxygen masks are from Wag'N O2 Fur Life®, LLC, of Herndon, Virginia. Wag'N O2 Fur Life is an educational and public safety company dedicated to providing pet oxygen masks to first responders across North America to help them save animal lives following structural fires. Their tag line is, "Because the Pet's Life They Save May be Your Own." Each Wag'N O2 Fur Life® Kit comes with three oxygen masks - 1 small, 1 medium and 1 large to fit any size pet. **To learn more about Wag'N O2 Fur Life, just visit www.petoxygenmasks.org.**

Jay Mease, fire chief of the Ellery Center Fire Department, personally donated four pet oxygen masks to the Ellery Center, Stockton, Maple Springs, and Sinclairville Fire Departments. The presentation was made during the February meeting of the Chautauqua County Chief's Association, held at Ellery Center's Station 1.

Stated Chief Mease, I have a love for all animals; and having two dogs and two cats, I know how much they mean to me, so it was important for me to make sure our local fire

ELLERY CENTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

BIG DIP 2015

On February 28, 2015 we held our Big Dip on Cassadaga Lake. Our classroom session started at 8:30 am and our training on the lake started at 9:30 am. We had members from 15 area Fire Departments and members of the County Dive Team and our coordinator staff. It was a cold sunny February morning the temperature was well below zero when we suited up to start training. We had over 80 people at the drill and we had 50 people take place in the training sessions on the lake. We went back to the basics this year for the training and I feel everyone learned something new this year. We had members from age 16 to 76 participate in the training on the ice. The drill wrapped up around noon with a lunch at the Cassadaga Fire Hall. I want to thank the Cassadaga Fire Department for hosting the drill and for providing lunch. We are looking for a host for next years Big Dip, contact your battalion coordinator if you are interested in hosting the drill.

**3rd Battalion Fire Coordinator
Mike Gleason**





BIG DIP 2015

NYS OFPC Policy Statement

Training Authorization Letter

By Bill Johnston

The Training Authorization Letter is instituted to ensure that the student firefighter, fire chief/department and the state fire instructor know that an individual has the authorization to attend the training course or courses delivered by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control and has obtained the necessary medical clearances to participate in strenuous firefighter training activities. In addition, 16 and 17 year old firefighters must obtain approval from a parent or legal guardian prior to attending and participating in any and all training courses delivered by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

A letter signed by a chief officer of the student's agency shall be submitted prior to participation in the following training programs delivered by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control:

- Firefighter I
- Firefighter II
- Intermediate Firefighter
- Firefighter Survival
- Firefighter Assist and Search (FAST)
- Truck Company Operations
- Mask Confidence
- Confined Space Rescue
- Passenger Train Emergency Rescue Procedures
- Hazardous Materials Technician/Specialist
- Any new or future training courses requiring the use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) or Supplied Air Respirators (SAR'S) in accordance with 29CFR1910.134

Ten OFPC Courses

As you can see above OFPC has provided clear guidance on who needs, who signs and why they will sign and submit a Training Authorization Letter. There are ten (10) training programs that absolutely require this documentation or the student will not be permitted to participate.

There are two blocks with YES / NO answers. The ten (10) courses listed in the OFPC section above must be answered YES in order for the student to participate in those.

Those two statements are as follows:

- The firefighter listed below has medical clearance to use Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, (SCBA), in accordance with 29 C.F.R. part 1910. 134.
- The firefighter listed below is authorized to use SCBA and participate in interior /exterior firefighting evolutions

In order to answer these questions the Chief must have documentation indicating whether medical clearance has been given for the student to wear SCBA and if the student is physically able to perform hard strenuous physical exertion. This means the student has had a physical satisfying 29 C.F.R. part 1910. 134.

The physical must be done, the questions cannot be marked as yes and yes just because there is no time or the student looks healthy. Failure to have the physical can result in serious unintended consequences.

To begin with the student may have a physical defect that could be aggravated wearing SCBA or doing strenuous work. The defect maybe of such that doing the work could result in their death.

Falsifying a Document

Signing off without having the physical done would be considered falsifying a State document. This form is an official document and by making a false statement the Chief signing it could be subject to criminal charges. Depending on the nature of statement the State this could view it as either a felony or misdemeanor. Either way it's not good for the individual involved. The easiest way is to make sure the physical is done and the student meets the criteria.

Additional Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services Requirement

In addition to those programs the Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services requires the Training Authorization Letter be filled out and submitted when attending any course offered in the county. The purpose of the OES requirement is to ensure the student is authorized to attend the course and that in the unfortunate event an injury is sustained during the course or during travel to and from the student would be protected by Workers Compensation Insurance for any injuries sustained.

When completing the Authorization Letter for courses outside the ten (10) just mark the yes and no blocks as appropriate to the clearance of the individual.

Lastly

To help with these Authorizations, Chiefs need to maintain a current list of all members' medical clearance. This list should be maintained and updated on a regular basis as department physicals are completed or new members are brought on board.

The Training Authorization Letter is there for the protection of the student, Chief, Department, Instructor and State.

From the Editor:

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of "The Responder". The articles and pictures reflect the activities of the fire service in Chautauqua County.

It is a pleasure to announce that working with me now from Falconer Printing is Lisa Short. The Falconer Printing staff does all the layout work for "The Responder" and I am looking forward to working with Lisa in the future.

The success of this publication starts with you, the people involved with all parts of the fire service. Send me your articles and pictures and I will try to get them into an edition of "The Responder". If you have an event and are not sure how to get it into an article give me a call or drop me an e-mail. We will work together to make it happen.

I am already starting to put together the next the issue and need your articles and your pictures. There is a lot to be proud of in Chautauqua County, send it to me to be shared. This is your publication, thank you in advance for making it happen.

John Griffith, Editor

A Real Hero!



A real hero Dennis Bottomley proudly holds the plaque he was given in recognition of his actions after a staff member at his home had a medical emergency. Teresa Johnson, a Direct Support Professional at TRC's home on Falconer Street in Jamestown, said that during a time while she was the only staff in the home on the night of February 8, she became ill and collapsed. At the time, she had been talking via telephone with Lisa Bongiorno, Applied Behavioral Science Specialist. Sensing that something was wrong with Teresa, Lisa had Teresa hand the phone to Dennis. Lisa gave Dennis a set of instructions, and he sprang into action, phoning 911; assisting the other residents in getting to their rooms; and even shoveling a path through the snow for the paramedics. To honor Dennis for his efforts, the Falconer Street home recently held a dinner for Dennis. As part of the celebration, Dennis was given a plaque that read, **"A special thank you to Dennis Bottomley from the Johnson Family." Pictured with Dennis are Teresa; her husband, Rick, who made the plaque; and their son, Ronny.**

ANNOUNCEMENT *By Chet Harvey*



BRIAN A. ACHTERBERG

The Jamestown Fire Department has announced the retirement of one of its veteran employees and the promotion of another to Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Michael A. Garvey retired on February 13, 2015 after 25 years of service to the city. He was hired in 1989 and promoted to Lieutenant in 2006.

Brian A. Achterberg was promoted to Lieutenant effective February 21. He has been with the department since 2000.



MICHAEL A. GARVEY

FAST Team: Should I or Shouldn't I

Over the years there have been a lot of discussions, debates and technical articles written about the requirements for a FAST team. This by far will not be one of the technical articles about the FAST team requirements at an incident. It is intended to be a no non-sense look at the reason behind and use of a Fast Team.

Despite not being a technical article we still need to look at the regulations set forth by OSHA. The newest version of the OSHA respiratory protection program, which establishes the two in two out rule, became effective in April of 1998. This is the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.134. In the entire regulation there is only one short statement that sets forth the two in two out rule. The statement is at least two employees are located outside the IDLH atmosphere. The intent was to be proactive for the firefighter safety who are working in an IDLH atmosphere and would need rescue assistance.

From this one sentence statement contained in pages of regulation has sprung the concept of Rapid Intervention Crews (RIC), Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST). Once again there have been many discussions and debates on which is better, which one do we need to use or why do we need one at all.

Let's look at some industry accepted definitions of each of these. A RIC is comprised of two firefighters at the onset of an incident. A RIT is comprised of 4 members and is put in place as the incident grows larger from the initial onset. Lastly there is the FAST team. This is made of more than 4 members and may be utilized at an incident with multiple companies working in an IDLH along with multiple entry points. Regardless which term is used to describe the team, they all work under the same premise of providing for firefighter safety and rescue if needed. These crews should be comprised of individuals proficient in basic firefighting operations and specific firefighter rescue techniques. For the rest of the article the FAST Team term will be used.

With still much confusion out there over the one sentence in the regulation it can be difficult for a Incident Commander (IC) at an incident to determine which is needed or if one is needed at all. To answer that the IC only needs to ask himself one question; do I have firefighters entering an IDLH atmosphere? If the answer is yes, then a FAST Team is required. To meet the regulation the IC only needs to appoint two

appropriately trained firefighters to serve as a FAST Team. However, training and experience has taught us that it can take 12 or more firefighters to rescue an injured or downed firefighter. The only exception to establishing a FAST Team prior to firefighters entering an IDLH atmosphere is if there are immediate life safety issues that need to be addressed and a FAST Team cannot be established prior to addressing those needs.

The decision to put a FAST Team in place should be an easy one but how does an IC accomplish establishing one. With the initial response the IC needs to assign two firefighters as the FAST team. I know the argument with this is it takes away from an initial interior attack. However the two firefighters assigned to the FAST Team, by regulation, can still assist with operations by pulling lines, throwing ladders or making hose connections. However they still need to remain available to assist the interior crews if rescue assistance is needed. When the operation expands arriving mutual aid companies can assume the role of the FAST team. To aid in this process pre-planning can be utilized and mutual aid companies added to the initial response to fill the FAST team role.

A well trained, equipped and motivated team can assist the IC in obtaining a positive outcome for firefighter safety. In addition to standing by to assist a downed or injured firefighter the team can perform other functions. Some of these include throwing additional ladders, securing utilities, widening points of entry and points of egress for the interior firefighters. The most important function of the FAST Team is rescuing a firefighter. If the situation arises an entire team of firefighters who are not physically exhausted from fire suppression activities, well equipped and specially trained are in place to locate and rescue the downed firefighter.

There have been many arguments over the years of why a FAST Team should not be established. There's not enough time, we don't have the manpower or one of my favorites is nobody is going to tell me what I have to do at a fire scene. The IC has many factors to consider in the early stages of the management of an incident. Establishing a FAST team should be a quick and easy decision. The safety and welfare of firefighters should always be first and foremost at any incident.

Captain Tom Summerville
Chautauqua County Technical Rescue Team

NEW EQUIPMENT IN THE COUNTY

By Leo Duliba



Bemus Point has placed a new Engine 442 in service. The 2014 Pierce Impel series pumper is rated with a 1250gpm pump and 1250 gallon tank. The new unit also is equipped with a 27' light tower.

The Frewsburg Fire District has also placed a new unit in service. Engine-341 is a 2014 International Workstar series chassis with a 4-Guys firebody. The combination pumper/rescue unit is rated with a 1500gpm pump and 1000 gallon tank. It will also act as Frewsburg's heavy rescue responder.



Frewsburg has also had their Engine-342 re-built by 4-Guys. The 1997 Pierce Saber series 1500gpm pump with 1000 gallon tank was not only restored but also sports a new paint job replacing the old white over red combination.

Celoron Hose Company has also done some extensive replacing of their apparatus fleet. Shown here is their new Ambulance-321. It is a 2014 International Transtar series type-3 ambulance. The body work is by Horton.



NEW EQUIPMENT IN THE COUNTY con't



Celoron's new M-323 is this 2014 Ford F550 series E.J. Metals water rescue unit. With the high volume of tourist activity on Chautauqua Lake during the summer months I am sure that this unique unit will much serve its purpose well.

Celoron has also had its M-321 hose wagon firebody remounted on a new 2014 Ford F550 chassis by Churchville Fire Equipment. The fire company chose not to have the older front mounted pump included in the change over. The new and improved unit carries 1500 feet of 4" LDH.



"Do You Remember?"

Many of the north county fire members can remember the old Fredonia station on Church street, but I'll bet no one can remember this Fredonia station. It's their first firehouse on Church Street. Built around 1850 it served just about everyone in the early village days from the school system to the village government, and yes the fire department. It stood where the current village hall stands today on the corner of Church and Temple streets facing the commons. Interesting enough it was called the "Academy".

THE RESPONDER Official Newspaper for the Chautauqua County, New York Fire Service

If you are interested in contributing articles or photos you can contact

John Griffith

Editor at 499-3113 or
email at Griffith@chautcofire.org.

To register go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TheResponderRegistration> or <http://www.chautcofire.org> home page and click on 'click here to register'.



NEWS
Flash

COMING SOON...

The first issues of the Responder are being prepared to post on our website - www.chautcofire.org.

You will be able to access them by going to the history section.