

THE OLDE FIRE BELL



FALL 2009

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

SINCE 1975

HOUSTON "FIRE FEST" BRINGS ANTIQUE RIGS OUT

On October 10, 2009, SPAAMFAA's Texas Gulf Coast Chapter (TGCC) returned to an annual event which it has missed in recent years - the annual Houston "Fire Fest." The festival is an annual fun, family event sponsored by the Houston Fire Department and the non-profit Houston Fire Museum, Inc. (HFMI), a 501c-3 non-profit organization, with proceeds benefiting the museum's outreach and education programming.



In recent years, the date of the festival conflicted with a long-standing commitment the Houston group had with the East Texas Historical Fire Society Tyler TX chapter of SPAAMFAA and its annual October muster. This year, it did not! So, Houston chapter members drove several antique fire trucks from the Braniff Street warehouse, 3 blocks down street, and surrounding communities to attend the festival at the HFD's Jahnke Training Facility (JTF) on 8030 Braniff.

"The festival's date got moved several years ago from the closing Saturday of National Fire Prevention Week," said HFMI president Tom McDonald, also a Texas Gulf Coast chapter member. "We moved it back to that date this year, not only to bring the purpose of the event back in focus - to highlight fire safety to children and their parents - but, to give our SPAAMFAA friends

the opportunity to rejoin the event on a date workable for them."

"Fire Fest" was originally called the "Houston Fire Muster," and was held on the streets and vacant lots surrounding the Houston Fire Museum at 2403 Milam downtown. The event, held annually since the early 1980s, outgrew that area as space became limited due to a rebirth of real estate development around the museum. So, several years ago, the event was moved to the JTF to take advantage of more (continued on page 4)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Future meeting dates: Monday at 7 PM: January 18, February 15, and March 15 at the Community National Bank on Bellaire Blvd.
- SPAAMFAA Winter National Tampa FL February 17 - 20, 2010. Sponsored by the Greater Tampa Metro Chapter
- St. Patrick's Day Parade March 13, 2009 (tentative)
- Humble Pumpnic March 27, 2009
- SPAAMFAA Summer National, Denver CO June 16 - 19, 2010. Sponsored by the Mile High Hook & Ladder

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Olde Fire Bell wishes everyone a happy holiday season.



The Olde Fire Bell would like to thank Mark and Nancy Turvey for being wonderful hosts for the 1st Annual League City Crystal Lake Pumpnic held on November 7th. We hope the interest will increase to make it an annual and major muster site for the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. Crystal Lake turned out to be a wonderful drafting site. The Chapter also wishes to thank the residents of Crystal Lake for allowing the use of this beautiful location. See Page 9 for

more details. The Turvey's also are recognized for organizing the Thanksgiving Day Parade details.

More photos of Fire Fest and other featured events can be found on the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter website WWW.GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG. While there, take a look at past newsletter, members' trucks, and recent news.

Congratulations to Andre' Pellerin and Greg Barilleaux on the purchase of their 1959 ALF Series 700 750 GPM open-cab pumper. It needs a transmission, and they're looking for anyone that might be able to help with a spare one!

Another thanks is due - TGCC extends

its sincere appreciation to the members of East Texas Historical Fire Society for their hospitality and continued friendship. You did a great job and we look forward toward to your 25th. Record numbers turned out from Houston. Thanks also to Tim Treadway for volunteering not one but two for the Tyler trip.

The latest issue of Silver Trumpet showed several TGCC members renewed or joined the SPAAMFAA National: Kevin and Mercedes Clarke, Raleigh Johnson Jr, and Raleigh Johnson III. Thanks very much for being part of National.

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES IN SUMMARY

BY CHERYL MCGEE

The following is a summary of the Fall monthly meetings:

October: Nine members were present to discuss participation in Mark and Nancy Turvey's League City Pumpnic at Crystal Lake on November 7th. Jim McGee announced to the group that the York/Lincoln 1948 ALF 700 Series won People's Choice Award at Deer Park. It also shared oldest entry with Clinton Johnson's 1948 Mack (see article on Page 3). Feedback was given to Tom McDonald on the Fire Fest activities. The Group discussed the details about traveling to Tyler for The East Texas Historical Fire

Society's Annual Muster. Tim Tread was planning to take both his Mack Aerial-scope and Pumper. The annual Christmas Dinner will be joint event with the Houston Fire Buffs, on Dec. 11th at Bonnies Beef and Seafood on I-45 at 7 PM.

November: Eight members were present. Bill Lofton, a long-time friend of Chuck Buschardt, joined the club. Steve Dalpe mentioned Fire Fest photos were added to the website, and more would be added during Thanksgiving holiday. Mark Turvey provided copies of the Thanksgiving route as well as line-up and start times. Chuck mentioned he plans to go to

both Nationals next year. Bill and Kathy Wilcox offered their accommodations for anyone interested in going to Denver Summer National. Local and National dues is coming due and everyone is encouraged to get theirs in timely. Greg Barilleaux mentioned he and Andre' Pellerin had acquired two new trucks.

December: There was no meeting due to Holiday. The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter and Houston Fire Buffs enjoyed beef and seafood at Bonnies on December 11th. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Olde Fire Bell

The Olde Fire Bell is the official quarterly publication of SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, issued in March, June, September, and December.

The mission of the newsletter is to highlight SPAAMFAA National initiatives, to spotlight events of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, to foster a spirit of friendliness and of cooperation among its members, and to increase involvement in the preservation, restoration, and operation of equipment in fire service

Acknowledgements

The Olde Fire Bell is continuously seeking input from members and guests for future editions. The editor wishes to recognize the following contributors for making this issue possible:

Clinton Johnson Mark Turvey
Bill Wilcox Tom McDonald

Please send information to the webmaster at GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG, or send to editor at the address on the newsletter back page

GULF COAST CHAPTER VOTED PEOPLE'S CHOICE

BY STEVE DALPE

Deer Park commenced Fire Prevention Week with their annual Fire Prevention Parade on October 3rd, 2009. Despite overcast skies, the parade and pre-parade expositions attracted about 30 trucks from local fire departments, industrial complexes, and antique buffs in the Deer Park High School South Campus Stadium. Attendees from the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter included Ken Paradowski, Mark & Nancy Turvey and grandson Zachary, Jim & Cheryl McGee and Daisy Lee, Steve Dalpe, Ed Hawthorne, Mike Bose, and Clinton Johnson. Bill Wilcox was spotted along the parade sidelines, presumably trying to get free candy thrown from the vehicles. Nice try, Bill!

With so many departments represented, it was inevitable that a run would be called during the ceremonies. Pasadena had to respond to a vehicle rollover, but they were able to make it back in time due to an accident on the very parade route - 13th and Center Streets - that delayed the festivities by about 30 minutes.

Photos: Top right: Cheryl & Jim McGee and Clinton Johnson pose with Rusty Rodgers, DP Fire Marshal, to receive oldest truck award. Jim & Cheryl drove the open-cab 1948 ALF 700 Series ex-York Fire Department; Clinton brought his 1948 L Model Mack formerly Bel-laire all the way from Humble (longest distance, too?). Jim & Cheryl were also honored with People's Choice Award. States Jim: "A good throw down antique apparatus, matching shirts, and a dog with a bunker coat were a winning combination." **Center right:** Mark Turvey (left) shares stories with fire service members Brandon Buchanan (center) and Mark Mampise. Brandon is a member of LaPorte VFD and Mark is District Chief for LPVFD and is a paid Fire Captain at Peerland Fire Department. **Bottom right:** Jim completes the finishing touches to ensure 1948 ALF is pristine for the crowds. **Bottom:** Overview of the assembled vehicles. Industrial participants included Vopak, Chevron Phillips, Albemarle, Lubrizol, Shell, and Intercontinental Terminals. Fire departments represented included Galena Park, Jersey Village, Deer Park, LaPorte, Pasadena, Nassau Bay, and Webster. Manufactures represented included E-One, National Foam, Pierce, Sutphen, American LaFrance, Ferrara, and KME/FMC.



HOUSTON FIRE FEST (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

BY TOM McDONALD

space on grounds designed for firefighting demonstrations. The name of the event was also changed to "Fire Fest" to appeal to a wider citizen audience unfamiliar with the term "muster."

Today, Houston's "Fire Fest" attracts several thousand visitors annually. Visitor parking has moved off JTF grounds to a vacant lot a mile away, with customers shuttled to and from the event grounds by buses. As such, customers typically spend several hours at "Fire Fest" affording them time to view numerous firefighting demonstrations by the HFD - including the Red Thunder firefighting team made up of the best of Houston Fire Departments' Engine and Ladder Companies that specialize in high intensity firefighting environments; as well as demonstrations by the TGC Chapter's members on fire trucks used by earlier generations of firefighters.



MACK AERIALSCOPE ARRIVES IN TEXAS

BY CLINTON JOHNSON

Tim Treadway is now the proud owner of what might be the only Mack Aerialscope in Texas. I thought I'd submit an article for the newsletter to capture the relocation event (editor's note - Clinton, thanks for doing so!)

Tim and I flew up to Madison, New Jersey on August 27, 2009 to pick up his 1981 Mack Aerialscope. This is the same department that Tim bought his 1981 Mack CF Pumper couple months earlier. Madison is a quaint old New England-ish town just a stones throw from New York City. Everyone we met was super nice but they thought I talked a little funny. Tim fit right in, being a transplanted Yankee and all. Amazingly, it felt like it was winter there; we got off the plane, and it was 65 degrees at 11:00 AM, just like December in Texas. I looked for Santa Claus but I guess he wasn't around.

We got a tour of their new fire station. It was a gem about the size of a football field. Their fire hall and meeting room is underground in a hole they call basement, whatever that is. Can't say I had been in one of them before, so I was a little skeptical. It didn't have any snakes or water in it, so that was pretty good. Seeing this, I knew I wasn't in Texas any more.

Their new station is part of a new Emergency Services Facility

shared with the police department. The Fire Fighters said this was the only bad part about the new facility. Guess things are the same everywhere.

While Tim had to hurry back to attend other business and flew home, I drove the truck to its new home in Humble. The Madison Fire Fighters were worried about the cab of the Mack being too hot on such a long trip. I really couldn't figure how, it being winter and all, but I appreciated their concern.

Flat tires seem to follow me around everywhere I go lately, and sure enough it happened again on this trip. Luckily, it was the only significant problem we experienced. The four and one-half day trip was an adventure. We burned 277 gallons of gas over the 1,800 mile trip (6.5 mpg—not bad!). Top speed was 51 mile per hours thanks to that thing they call a governor.

Anyway, it was a good trip and now Tim has his Aerialscope to bring to the Pumpnic, Tyler, and where ever else his heart desires. We think it's the only one in Texas, so it will be attractive at events. Below are couple pictures of the truck before leaving Madison - Tim looking it over before departing. Another in Humble in front of Trigg's Catering, and one in action (taken at the East Texas Historical Fire Society Muster).



MACK ATTACK AT 24TH TYLER MUSTER

BY STEVE DALPE



Warm skies and plenty-o-water greeted the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter at the 24th Annual Muster of the East Texas Historical Fire Society in beautiful Tyler, on October 23 - 25, 2009.

A contingency drove their personal vehicles separately and managed to get the Tyler on Friday evening in time to partake in casual conversation at the Central Station South.. For the truck-ies and escorts making the 220-mile journey in the pair of Treadway's 1981 Macks, it was 50 MPH for nearly 5 hours (with an

anticipated gas stop!). Tim didn't waste any time getting his newest addition into muster condition. We arrived slightly after sundown, just enough time to park the vehicles and meet everyone for a group dinner. Great job driving by Tim, Clinton Johnson, and Bill Wilcox.

Saturday was down to business with Tim's two Mack's, his CF Pumper supplying a stream to the Aerialscope. Due to the level of Lake Palestine, drafting was very quite easy. One other truck shared the water hole, Jerry Hope's 1970 ALF Series 900, accompanied by Tony Jimenez. Making its debut at Tyler was Don Reynolds' 1928 ALF Tillered Aerial Type 17 Reg. 6431, ex-Austin. Don had

the fortune of being able to re-unite the tractor and trailer by luck of chance.

Awards were given to Tim Treadway - Best of Show, Furthest Distance. Oldest went to Don Reynolds' ALF tractor. President's Choice went to Matt Barbee's 1968 Mack CF.

We are proud to report Clinton did not experience a tire failure on this trip. Instead, one of his shoes failed; we could deal with that one!

TGCC wishes to thank the members of East Texas Historical Fire Society for their hospitality, continued friendship, and for organizing a great muster. We look forward toward to your 25th in 2010.



Photos: Top left - Chuck Buschardt, Tim Treadway, and David Crim assembled at ex-Madison Mack Aerialscope cab. Top center - Madison Mack Aerialscope arranged for shutter bugs. Top right - David Schlottach and Earle Crim presenting awards under the canopy of Lake Palestine's campgrounds. Bottom left - The Lake's high levels made drafting quite easy for Jerry Hope's 1970 ALF 900 Series and Tim Treadway's 1981 Mack CF pumper. Bottom right - Proud Tyler participants Charlie Womack and Molly Wageman. Opposite page: Attendees at Tyler Muster from Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, picture taken in front of Tim Treadway's award-winning 1981 Mack Aerialscope. Back Row (L to R) Clinton Johnson, Jim McGee, Bill Wilcox, Charlie Womack, John Fuston, Steve Dalpe, Tim Treadway. Front Row (L to R) Teresa Johnson, Cheryl McGee, Kathy Wilcox, Molly Wageman, Barbara Fuston, Chuck Buschardt, and Eric Bergman. Not shown are Greg and Tara Hayes.



CALLING ALL SPAAMFAA MEMBERS

**SPAAMFAA 2010 WINTER NATIONAL MEETING AND CONVENTION
SPONSORED BY THE DALMINGO SOCIETY
THE GREATER TAMPA METRO CHAPTER OF SPAAMFAA
TAMPA, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 17 - 20, 2010**



**WWW.DALMINIGOSOCIETY.ORG
CONVENTION CHAIRPERSON - GREG KAPRAL
813-731-7384 or KAP33@HOTMAIL.COM**

CRYSTAL LAKE PUMPNIC

BY BILL WILCOX

On November 7th, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members, family, friends, and local firefighters assembled for the 1st Annual League City Pumpnic located on the beautiful shores of Crystal Lake at 2600 Butler Road. Formerly a public ski lake but now privately owned, Crystal Lake served as an excellent location for a day of camaraderie, conversation, and just plain old-fashioned fun with antique fire apparatus.

The pumping started a little late, but it worked out great! The old "Water Wizard" Clint Johnson and his '48 Mack got things flowing. He also provide an opportunity for TGCC Marine Division to swing into action thanks to his off-shore excursion.

After the drafting & pumping, we moved to the adjacent "Turvey Acres" a great spot for fire activities, picnic, also a giant screen for watching fire movies, Powerpoints, etc. Participants were invited to a pot-luck luncheon hosted by the Turvey's. Some of the League City fire fighters brought spectacular pictures of the Wings Over Houston, 25th Anniversary Airshow last weekend (several of them are on the Pyro/EOD team -they take

a brush truck and a 4 wheeler to provide a quick attack on the grass fires ignited by the pyrotechnics). There is no better spot for photography, you are in the action.....maybe a little dangerous, though for us amateurs.

After the airshow highlights, there was discussion about some of the explosives, how the strafing, bomb, and Tora-Tora runs are laid out, what non-electrical caps look like and how they work. A candid and interesting look inside the exciting airshow pyro! We were told that this was the largest air show in the 25 year history of Wings Over Houston!

The event closed with colorful awards and an interesting fire prevention and carbon monoxide/smoke detector class taught by our host, Chief Mark Turvey!

The Chapter hopes this will become an annual event! Crystal Lake turned out to be a great drafting site! Nancy and Mark are wonderful friends, apparatus owners, firebuffs and gracious hosts! The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter also wishes to thank the residents of Crystal Lake for allowing us to use this beautiful location.



Photos: Top left - Bill Wilcox applies a little elbow grease to restore the chrome luster to the spotlight on his '42 Mack. Top right - Clinton Johnson's '48 Mack (front) supplying water to Wilcox's '42 Mack (middle) and Turvey's '76 Ford/FMC. Left - organizer Mark Turvey maneuvers a gated Y for hose connections. Right - Clinton Johnson successfully achieves prime that would eventually be the only pumping engine during the event. Clinton swept the awards category by receiving Greatest Distance, Oldest Pumping Truck, "Saving the Day," Highest Pumping Capacity, and Display of Marine Skills. Bill Wilcox received Cleanest Truck.



THANKSGIVING PARADE

BY STEVE DALPE

November 26th, Houston's Thanksgiving Day Parade, also known as the H-E-B Holiday Parade, celebrated its 60 anniversary this year, and Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members were there to partake in the festivities. Each year, around 3,000 participants prepare a show for nearly 400,000 parade-goers and another 2 million viewers via live broadcasts on KHOU-TV and syndication in Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and other local regions. Thanks to the great weather, this year's attendance was on par with previous.

Like previous parades, the TGCC trucks were at the front of the parade, Entrant #6. The parade started at 8:30 AM with line up one hour earlier at Minute Maid Park. The route included Texas Ave, down Fannin, east on Dallas, and north on La Branch, ending near George R. Brown Convention Center. David and Lynn White faithfully brought their 1977 ALF 100' tillered ladder from College Station the previous evening and stayed at Station 8. Lynn braved the cold and did the tillering in the midst of Friday evening traffic. No small endeavor! David is publisher of Industrial Fire World Magazine. Jim McGee brought 1948 ALF 700 Series open cab from the Braniff warehouse.



Mark and Nancy Turvey brought loaner "Plymouth Rock Fire Department" International Fire Fox. The Turvey's were not able to bring their own truck due to a fuel leak. Clinton and Teresa Johnson brought their 1964 ALF 75' ladder, and Chuck Buschardt came in his 1976 Mack CF 1500 GPM. Noted Mark Turvey: "I am especially thankful to all the men & women serving in our armed forces to provide the blanket of freedom that we

enjoy & so often taken for granted. We had a great time at the parade in downtown Houston this morning!"

Top photo: David White drives his 1977 ALF tillered ladder down the parade route as Lynn walks the tail end sideways to demonstrate the truck's mobility. Center: Lynn White dressed warmly in the aerial position. The previous evening, Lynn and David navigated Houston traffic to be in line by 7:30 AM. Bottom: The parade route heavily lined with on-lookers, to see the start of the parade that consisted of the antique fire trucks behind the Color Guard, Mounted Sheriffs, and Mayor Bill White.



Application for Membership

TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire
Apparatus in America
(SPAAMFAA)

Please mail this application with \$20 dues made payable to:

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA

PO Box 697

Bellaire TX 77402

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

Street or Box No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Nine Digit Zip: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Business: _____ Pager: _____

How did you hear about us? Web page _____ Friend _____ Publication _____ Muster _____ Newsletter _____

Other (please specify) _____

Interests: Collecting Fire Equipment _____ Photography _____ Attending Musters _____ Parades _____

Restoration Activities _____ Helmets/Gear _____ Other (please specify) _____

Fire Department or SPAAMFAA Affiliation: _____

If you own a piece of firefighting apparatus that is at least 25 years old, please provide the following information. Attach separate sheet if multiple vehicles. Ownership of apparatus is not required to join Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Year: _____ Make: _____ Type: (Pumper, Aerial, etc.) _____

Mfg. Model: _____ Mfg. Serial #: _____

Pump Make: _____ Pump Size GPM: _____ Tank Size: _____

Previous Owner and History of Rig: _____

Membership in Texas Gulf Coast Chapter is open to all upon application to the Board of Directors and payment of annual dues. Join today and share in the preservation and appreciation of fire fighting and antique fire apparatus.

All new members are also encouraged to join the National SPAAMFAA Chapter. National SPAAMFAA provides additional resources for restoration and insurance for all sponsored events. National Membership is mandatory for Officers of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

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*To stimulate and cultivate interest in the restoration, preservation,
and operation of antique fire apparatus*

TGCC HALL OF FLAME: 1972 AMERICAN LAFRANCE



Raymond Pellerin of Breaux Bridge LA proudly operates this 1972 American LaFrance 100' ladder truck. Registration No. 141-2959. It has diesel engine with automatic transmission.