

THE OLDE



FIRE BELL

FALL 2010

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

SINCE 1975

HOUSTON FIRE MUSEUM FIRE FEST



On Saturday, October 9, 2010, The Houston Fire Department (HFD) and the Houston Fire Museum (HFM), Inc. co-sponsored the annual Fire Fest at the Val Jahnke Training Facility on the south side of Hobby Airport. Under cloudless skies with temperatures rising into the upper 80's, thousands of Houstonians combed the grounds of the academy, watched live fire and rescue demonstrations, viewed antique trucks on display, and quenched their appetite with plenty of food and drink.

The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA was on hand with several apparatus from its members' collections. In fact, these rigs led the event with a parade that started at 10 AM. The SPAAMFAA chapter's storage warehouse is only three blocks down the street from the academy.



The 2010 Fire Fest is the 25th annual event of its kind. The Houston Fire Museum, Inc. started the event in the mid-1980s and called it a "Muster" in reference to 19th century volunteer firefighter gatherings. The Muster was held in the streets around the museum near downtown, but as that area redeveloped over the years congestion proved to be a problem. So, the museum staff moved the festival to the fire academy several years ago, and it also received a name change to entice more citizen participation. Proceeds and sponsorship of Fire Fest benefit the Fire Museum's outreach and education programming. The Fire Museum is a 501c-3 education non-profit.

The free, family-oriented event pro-



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPFRONT	2
CHAPTER MEETINGS	2
BRIEFLY	3
HOUSTON FIRE FEST	4
OPEN HOUSE	5
ETHFS MUSTER	6
THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE	8
FRIENDSWOOD CHRISTMAS	10
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	11
HALL OF FLAME	12

CALENDAR

- **Future meeting dates:** Monday at 7 PM on January 17, February 21, and March 21 at the Community National Bank on Bellaire Blvd.
- **SPAAMFAA Winter National, Dallas TX, February 23-26, 2011.** Sponsored by The North Texas Historical Fire Society and The Texas Fire Museum in Dallas
- **Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department annual Muster, Humble, Saturday, March 26, 2011**

UPFRONT

The Olde Fire Bell wishes everyone a Happy New Year. 2011 - the beginning of a new decade and new acquaintances! Let's all go out there and work on recruiting new members.

This Fall Newsletter covers several important year-end events, including Houston Fire Museum's Annual Fire Fest, the East Texas Historical Fire Society's muster, and Houston's Thanksgiving Parade. Unlike most parts of the Country that hunker down for the winter, these months really are quite busy.

The Olde Fire Bell wishes to recognize the East Texas Historical Fire Society for offering a new award at their annual mus-

ter in Tyler, Texas. The Marla Award will be offered to outstanding volunteers in recognition for their contributions to preserve fire service history.

Get your trucks warmed up and maintained for another action-packed Moonshine Hill invitational in great Humble Texas, on March 26th. Teresa and Clinton Johnson do a wonderful job managing all the details to make the event one of the best of the year. You really can't afford to miss it. Last year the IFBA Region 5 were in attendance.

As always, *The Olde Fire Bell* thanks contributing members that make this newsletter possible.

MOONSHINE HILL INVOLUTIONARY FIRE DEPT.

ANNOUNCING

EIGHTH ANNUAL PUMPNIC AND FIRE APPARATUS EXPO

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011, 11:00 AM TO WHENEVER WE RUN OUT OF GAS. THE LOCATION: EL WOODS POND PARK ON BELLEAU WOODS RD, 1 1/2 MILES NORTH OF FM 1900 (an attached poster guide for directions)

Featuring the latest in fire apparatus technology from the lesser known rural portions of the Great State of Texas and/or other unique portions of the greater USA.

At this time of year again, the hills begin changing, leaves turn, and the sun is shining, and the side of the fire service return to Sparkling Devonian Moonshine Hill for the thrills and spills of the summer Pumpnic. This years event is expected to be a real head off with over 1000 people. There to view demonstrations of the latest cutting edge fire fighting technology, to enjoy associated with this occasion. Come see, come off, Drive, Drive, or Head your way if you got one. And bring yourself and a picnic lunch if you like. (We always need extra help with the house or garden tips out of the mud). Admission is **"FREE"**. The view on Moonshine Hill is going all out this year (we even have porta potties) and are working tirelessly to make that early afternoon celebration, bring your chairs, bring your, whatever, and whatever you think. We'll be providing for:

- Longest Distance Traveled
- Oldest Apparatus
- Best All Around Engine
- Best All Around Ladder Truck

Activities:

- Pump Truck Race
- Fire Engine Parade

The Olde Fire Bell is a quarterly publication of the SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. It is published in March, June, September, and December. It is a free publication and is available to all members of the chapter. For more information, contact the webmaster at 281.361.4702 or email: webmaster@txgulfcoastspaamfaa.org

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

BY STEVE DALPE

The following is a summary of the Fall monthly meetings:

October: Ten members were present to discuss and prepare for the upcoming fall events. Clinton is planning to bring a truck to East Texas Historical Fire Society's Tyler muster. There was lots of discussion about the Fire Fest, what went well, and how to improve things for next year. The annual Christmas Party was confirmed: Spaghetti Warehouse on December 18th. Mark Turvey will be coordinating the Thanksgiving Day Parade details. The group welcomed Dillan Thomas Hayes, newborn son of Greg

Hayes.

November: Fourteen members were present at the last monthly meeting for 2010. Dues for 2011 was set at \$20, either single or family, and is due in January. Attendees summarized events at the East Texas Historical Fire Society (Tyler) Muster. Mark and Nancy Turvey discussed the HEB Holiday Parade details. They had 5 official blue passes for vehicles. The trucks need to be at Texas & Hamilton at 7:30 AM the day of the parade. There will be Friendswood Lighted Parade; anyone interested should stage at 5 PM at Station 4 on Woodlawn. The Annual Christmas

Party will be at the Spaghetti Warehouse at 6:30 PM. It will follow the Open House at the Houston Fire Museum that starts at 4 PM that same day. Bill Wilcox detailed a brochure from the FASNY American Museum of Firefighters in Hudson NY. Mark Turvey announced a benefit for a family that lost three children in a fire. Ken Paradowski said that nominations for officers would be taken at the next meeting. (Minutes captured by T. McDonald)

December: No meeting due to the holidays.

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 public 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:

Tom McDonald Mark Turvey
Jim McGee Clinton Johnson

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

BRIEFLY

2011 SPAAMFAA NATIONALS



The Texas Fire Museum of Dallas, 2600 Chalk Hill Road, will host the 2011 SPAAMFAA National Winter Conference and Muster, February 23 - 26th. In addition to several Dallas area tours, the Museum members will sponsor restoration seminars. See their website for more information and registration packet. Sign up early as many events have limited occupancy. And it's not too late to think about the SPAAMFAA National Summer Convention and Muster in Syracuse, August 3 - 6, hosted by Central NY Chapter.

WANTED: 1941 ALF PHOTO

Attention anyone in the reading audience: Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Member Steve Dalpe is seeking photos of American LaFrance Registration L-1468 to assist with the gold lettering of the truck. Requests have been made to Pennsylvania fire buffs and ex-Middletown Fire Department members. The truck served both Middletown and Oberlin Gardens, PA. The late Dave Buskey was the previous owner. Steve Dalpe can be contacted via email on back cover if you have any info.



DEDICATION

Member Mark Tur-December 25th Face-member two fellowished in a fire in Chi-all sitting home in a families this holiday, grieving the loss of their loved ones. If you all would take a minute to recognize those who risk their lives every day."



vey dedicated his book status to re-brothers who per-cago. "When we are warm home with our their families will be

CAJUN FIRE MUSEUM

From the Facebook Photo Album of the Cajun Fire Museum: a beautifully restored 1938 Ford American LaFrance for sale in Mississippi completely restored and running. The museum is located in Breau Bridge, LA. Check out their Facebook page for more details



CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter convened for their annual Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 18th at the Spaghetti Warehouse on Commerce Street. Prior to the evening's dinner, the Group partook in festivities at the Houston Fire Museum, and made their way through downtown via 1948 American LaFrance Series 700 open cab. Every wonder how many people you can fit onto a fire truck? The group braved the 45°F chilly evening in the name of the hobby. A merry time was had by all! After the group enjoyed dining on the 5 special entrees that have made Spaghetti Warehouse a great place to dine, they journeyed back to the Houston Fire Museum in the ALF.



JAPAN



Member Steve Dalpe took this photo of Isuzu Fire Engine while traveling on business in Japan. "The language is a little outside my vocabulary to provide any more details about the truck. Sorry."

NASSAU BAY LIGHTS

The 1948 American LaFrance ex-York PA Lincoln Station was a busy fire engine this holiday season. The truck was "guest" vehicle at Nassau Bay's Volunteer Fire Department's Christmas Party. After the party, it treated all the good children - and a couple of adults - to free rides around Nassau Bay to view the neighborhood Christmas lights. Many thanks to member Jim McGee for spreading holiday cheer on behalf of the SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.



HOUSTON FIRE FEST (CONTINUED)

BY TOM McDONALD



Photographs: 1. Ken Paradowski putting the finishing touches on the 1958 B Model Mack prior to the parade. 2. Clinton Johnson sitting on his 1948 Mack pumper with his 1971 CJ 5, 4-wheel drive Jeep in tow. 3. Jim McGee parades the 1926 American LaFrance Type 21 with Roy Matiya and Roy' grandson. 4. Aerial shot of antique truck assemblage. 5. 1972 American LaFrance Pioneer ex-West University with driver Bill Lofton. 6. One of the many families gathering at the antiques for memorable event photo. **Opposite Page:** 7. Chuck Buschardt's 1976 Mack CF making a temporary viewing platform during live demonstrations. 8. Cook-off contestants awaiting judges' ruling on ribs, brisket, chicken, beans, and desert categories.

HOUSTON FIRE FEST (CONTINUED)

moted awareness about fire safety and fire prevention with life-like scenarios, including diesel tank fire demonstration, bus fire extrication, propane tanker truck fire demonstration, and house fire rescue. The event coincided with the close of National Fire Prevention week. Other activities included an apparatus show and demonstrations, giant Kid's Zone, aerial rides, Texas' Largest Firefighter Cook Off, antique car display, local foods, and music all day long. Sheila Jackson Lee was on hand to kick off the days events.



Winners in the fire truck categories include the following vehicles: Best In-Service Truck Engine 29 Old Galveston Road FFA/Hale; Best antique apparatus 1958 Mack B-95; Judges' Favorite 1955 American LaFrance Ladder Truck 3.

The Olde Fire Bell wishes to thank the following members for their support in making the antique portion possible: Jim McGee, Ken Paradowski, Eric Bergman, Chuck and Zach Buschardt, Bill Lofton, Cynthia King, Steve Dalpe, Tim Treadway, Clinton Johnson, Dave Porter, Eddie Kosar, and Angela and Roger Rayne.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



Be on the lookout for a ghostly illuminated fire engine, believed to be of the 40's era, decked with white lights. It's been seen haunting the Houston Fire Museum and other downtown locations this Christmas season. If apprehended, hop on board for a holiday grand time!



On Saturday, December 18th, the Houston Fire Museum held its annual Open House, with cookies, hot apple cider, and plenty of holiday videos. The fire-house tree was decorated with old-fashioned hand-made ornaments by the participants.



And of course, what would a holiday season party be without Santa. He made his appearance for the young and young at heart during the event. In a spirit of generosity, participants brought new gifts for the Operation Stocking Stuffer outreach program for needy children.

Following the event, SPAAMFAA members and guests loaded the illuminated "Lincoln" and headed to the Spaghetti Warehouse, for what would be an invigorating ride.



Many thanks to the Jim and Cheryl McGee, and Bill and Kathy Wilcox, Bill Lofton and Cindy King, Clinton and Teresa Johnson, and Angela and Roger Rayne for making this a most memorable event.

EAST TEXAS HISTORICAL FIRE SOCIETY

BY STEVE DALPE

The East Texas Historical Fire Society, Tyler TX, held its 25th Annual Muster on the weekend of October 22, 2010, at the beautiful Brookshire Food Stores' Lake Palestine campgrounds. The weekend kicked off Friday evening with slide shows, videos, and fellowship at the Central Station South restoration facilities. Saturday was a full day at Lake Palestine for displays and drafting exercise. That evening there was group dinner, and for those interested, a viewing of Alex McComma's classic car collection at downtown Tyler. On Sunday morning, there was additional camaraderie at South Central Station, then a noon-time return trip to Houston.

Members from ETHFS, the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, the Texas Fire Museum, and Signal 51 Buff Group took part in the events. TGCC participants included Bill Lofton & Cindy King, Chuck Buschardt, Eric Bergman, Clinton & Teresa Johnson, Bill & Kathy Wilcox, Todd Simmermacher, Bear & Georgia Handwerk, Jim & Cheryl McGee, and Steve Dalpe.

Congratulations to Clinton Johnson for being awarded furthest truck (with a couple of broken fan belts to prove it!). Jerry Hope from Keithville LA received President's Choice with his 1971 ALF 1000 Series ex-Syossette NY. Don Reynolds once



again captured the Oldest Vehicle with his 1928 ALF Type 17 tractor ex-Austin Fire Department. Alex's McCommas' 1956 Seagrave pumper won best of Show. Keith Kelly received Special Recognition for his 1961 American LaFrance aerial ladder.

The ETHFS "Marla Award" was presented for the first time at the 25th Annual Muster. It was named for the late Marla Buschardt of Houston, an active participant of ETHFS Musters for many years. Lake Palestine East Volunteer Fire Department was the first recipient of this award. The award will be presented annually to an outstanding volunteer, as recognition for their contribution to excellence in service and their dedication in preserving fire service history. "In many ways, the musters resemble reunions, presenting the opportunity to again visit with close friends," noted David Crim.

To commemorate their 25th muster, the ETHFS minted a limited-edition, solid brass commemorative coin. They are wonderful collectors items and are still available for \$30 each by contacting the ETHFS at 903-595-1470 or 903-561-7293.



EAST TEXAS HISTORICAL FIRE SOCIETY (CONTINUED)



Photographs: (1) Master stream and flag from Texas Fire Museum member Keith Kelly's 1961 American LaFrance aerial ladder. (2) Cub scout pack enjoying the 1980 Mack CF, ex-New York City Fire Department Engine 84. (3) Bill Lofton showing unidentified youth the skill of operating the red line. (4) Jerry Hope at the panel of his 1971 American LaFrance. (5) Overview of trucks at Lake Palestine dock. (6) Clinton Johnson receiving "Furthest Distance" award from Earle Crim. (7) Alex McCommas' 1956 Seagrave Anniversary Edition. (8) The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter ladies enjoy sewing exercises. (9) Don Reynolds (center) and Gene Conway (right) discuss the history of Don's 1928 ALF tractor with unidentified third individual.

HOUSTON THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

BY M. TURVEY & T. McDONALD



Making its debut appearance at a Texas Gulf Coast SPAAMFAA event is Moonshine Hill's Highland's Fire Department Engine #501, above, owned by Clinton and Teresa Johnson. This 1948 Simms GMC 500 GPM combination engine sat in storage for several years until the Johnson's acquired the vehicle in 2010. Teresa's father, the late Francis "Rube" Conley, served as captain on this vehicle in 1950, making it almost a family heirloom. *The Olde Fire Bell* thanks the Johnson's for making Thanksgiving that much more special.

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members came out in numbers to participate in Houston's Thanksgiving Day Parade, also referred to as the H-E-B Holiday Parade, held on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 25th. An estimated 400,000 parade-goers lined the route, with another 2 million TV viewers in the Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio metropolitan areas, to witness this 61-year-old tradition.



The Parade commenced at 9:00 AM and traveled through Downtown Houston streets for nearly an hour. The weather was atypically warm and muggy for a Thanksgiving Day. The majestic photo (left) shows the three lead fire engines making their way "through" the Houston skyline. In addition to crowded streets, the lower tower balconies were lined with onlookers to get a real bird's eye view of the events. Hang on Cheryl McGee!

Tom McDonald (left), David White (right), and unidentified third person awaits the start of the parade. David and his wife, Lynn, make their annual "pilgrimage" from College Station in their 1977 ALF tillered aerial ladder. Below is 1948 American LaFrance 700 Series awaiting start of the parade.



THANKSGIVING PARADE (CONTINUED)



The Southwest Pearland Little League All-Stars served as the Grand Marshals for the 2010 Parade. Mark Turvey had the honor of carrying this amazing team of 12 year olds just back from their run at the Little League World Series. They placed 4th in the tournament!



1948 American LaFrance Engine 9, ex-York Fire Department Lincoln Station parades half-dozen SPAAMFAA members and guests, ahead of the flashing red light on Chuck Buschardt's 1958 B Model Mack ex-Meadowmere Place New York

Cheryl McGee holds the tailboard position on the 1948 American LaFrance 700 Series as the team steers left onto Dallas, departing Fannin, approaching the Houston Pavilions. David and Lynn White are leading this photo in their 1977 tillered ALF, while Johnson's are left in their Simms/GMC. The photo was taken by Tom McDonald riding in Chuck Buschardt's 1958 B-95 model Mack.

Three generation of Turvey's heading home after a successful Thanksgiving Day Parade. All in all, it was a successful day as no one had any mechanical issues, everyone arrived safely. Holding the Grand Marshal's position, the Turvey's truck received a lot of attention during the parade. Did you see them on live TV coverage?



FRIENDSWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE

BY STEVE DALPE



Nothing summons the arrival of the winter holidays like a traditional community Christmas Parade. This season on the evening of Saturday, December 11, The City of Friendswood held its 24th Annual "Christmas Lighted" Parade. Apparent from the photographs, the weather was absolutely magnificent for both open and closed cab participants.

Like previous years, Gulf Coast members from the surrounding areas were present to celebrate at the event. Members gathered at Friendswood Station 4 off Woodlawn around 4 PM for the traditional truck light decorating. Afterward, the antiques made their way to First Baptist Church of Friendswood



for final line up around 5:30 PM. Special thanks goes to the Kathy, Bill & Renee Wilcox, Jim & Cheryl McGee, and Nancy & Mark Turvey and family. The station and

lineup are both a block south off 2351 and a block or two either side of main street (FM 518). The antique trucks were well received by all the viewers. Following the parade in a spirit of togetherness, the group dined at La Casita's Mexican Restaurant.

On a side note, Congratulations to Friendswood for celebrating 50 years of incorporation. According to archives, the Galveston County Commissioners Court accepted residents' incorporation petition on Nov. 1, 1960, establishing Friendswood as a general law city. Originally a Quaker settlement, by the late 1950s, the area's population had grown to about 1,000 as young



families moved from Houston. A group of business owners and residents in 1960 sought to incorporate Friendswood to prevent Texas City from annexing it. Today, Friendswood is a town of over 38,000 served by four fire stations. [City Data: Friendswood Website]



Photos. Top left - Bill Wilcox sporting his holiday-red Texas Gulf Coast Chapter shirt as he puts the finishing touches on his truck's lights. Bottom left - Mark and Nancy Turvey's 1976 Ford C Series/FMC attends its second parade in nearly as many weeks. Top right - Jim and Cheryl McGee hurriedly wrap the boot racks on the 1948 American LaFrance 700 Series with Christmas lights as the sun sets in the background. They took "first in line" award for being the most timely to the line-up at the staging area. Center right - Friendswood Station 4 Engine 22 prepares to participate in the event. Bottom right - Kathy and Bill Wilcox's 1942 Mack Type 45 decorated and ready for the lighted parade.

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: 1955 AMERICAN LAFRANCE LADDER



Member
Ken
Paradowski
operates this
1955 American LaFrance
85 ft Aerial
Ladder Truck
formerly of
Beaumont
Texas Fire
Department,
Reg. L-5322