

THE OLDE FIRE BELL



FALL 2012

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

SINCE 1975

HFM FIRE FEST

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members were present at this year's annual FIRE FEST, held Saturday, October 20, from 10 AM to 5 PM at the Houston Fire Departments' Val Janhke Training Facility, 8030 Braniff, just south of Hobby Airport. Fire Fest is an annual fun, free family event, hosted jointly by the Houston Fire Museum and the Houston Fire Department - Val Jahnke Training Facility (VJTF). Proceeds and sponsorship of Fire Fest benefit the Fire Museum's outreach and education programming, as well as VJTF and its programs to train firefighters.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about fire departments in the Houston area, and raise awareness among children and their parents of fire and life safety. The event's net proceeds go toward providing the educational programs of the Houston Fire Museum, Inc., a 501-c-3 non-profit



educational organization that manages the museum facility at 2403 Milam, www.houstonfiremuseum.org. This year, the festival had its own web site with plenty of details about the event: <http://www.houstonfirefest.com>.

Attendance planning started weeks in advance. The 1948 American LaFrance Lincoln Station was grounded due to major water-pump packing leak, but thanks to Jim McGee's dedication and Chuck Buschardt's ample spare parts inventory, it was able to make the event. The 1931 Ahrens Fox had sat idle for many months and needed a little run time. It was able to make it to the line-up by 9 AM under its own power; an appearance by a Fox is a pretty rare event. Out-of-town regulars, Clinton Johnson and Bill (cont. on page 4)

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CALENDAR

- Future meeting dates: Monday at 7 PM on January 21, February 18, and March 18 at the Community National Bank on Bellaire Blvd.
- SPAAMFAA Winter National Convention and Muster, Jacksonville FL, February 13—16, 2013
- 54th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 16, 2013



UPFRONT

This edition of *The Olde Fire Bell* highlights the events in October through December. The dog days of summer are past us and more pleasant weather marks this period. Time for getting those trucks out.

The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter participated in the usual events: Fire Fest, Thanksgiving Day Parade, Friendswood Christmas Parade. *The Olde Fire Bell* salutes the dedication and commitment of its members for their hard work.

The Olde Fire Bell pays tribute to the West Webster NY firefighters who responded to their last alarm on Christmas Eve. We will never forget!

Michael Chiapperini & Tomasz Kaczówka



December 24, 2012

We welcomed several new and/or returning members at the November Meeting: Bill Baldy, Katherine Peters, Bob Tessier and Bob Robertson. We wish them the very best.

Congratulations to Chuck Buschardt and Karen Witt who were recently engaged during the East Texas Historical Fire Society (Tyler) Muster

The Olde Fire Bell thanks Chapter members for submitting material for this Fall newsletter!

CHAPTER MEETING SUMMARIES

The following is a summary of the Fall 2012 monthly meetings:

October: Vice-president Ken Paradowski presided over the meeting due to Clinton Johnson's absence. Secretary Steve Dalpe reported that the Summer 2012 Newsletter was completed and emailed to members with active addresses. The New Member Committee reported that Bill Baldy had submitted an application for membership. Jim McGee handed out SPAAMFAA National Applications; he also had a copy of the 2012 Conference Muster Manual for viewing. Tom McDonald described Fire Fest events. Antique trucks will line up at 9:00 AM for 10:00 AM parade. Jim McGee provided details of Tyler Muster. Chuck was planning to trailer the 1926

American LaFrance to the muster. A vote was taken to hold the annual Christmas "dinner" at Perry's in Friendswood, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, before the Friendswood Christmas Parade. The alternative was December 22nd at the Monument Inn. The group was encouraged to contact their legislator for more information about pending legislation dictating 15% ethanol in motor fuel.

November: There was standing room only at the Houston Fire Museum for the final monthly meeting of the year. The Community Resource Credit Union Bellaire Room was unavailable for the evening. The New Member Committee reported that Katherine Peters of the Houston Fire Museum had joined the Club and would be taking the 1937 Chevrolet to the

Thanksgiving Parade. Additional new members included Bob Robertson and Bob Tessier. The Group received a nice tour of the facilities. Five members confirmed they would be bringing trucks to the Friendswood Christmas Parade. Kathy Wilcox handed out applications for the parade. There was discussion about the meeting times and line-up location for the Thanksgiving Day Parade. The staging and passage are different this year. SPAAMFAA would be entry #6. Chuck Buschardt and Karen Witt announced their engagement. Dues will remain \$20 for 2013. Nominations for officers should be sent to Clinton for the January 2013 meeting.

December: No meeting due to holiday. See you all in January!

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:

Mark Turvey Clinton Johnson Ken Paradowski
Kim Stellhorn Jim McGee Karen Witt

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

TOOL BOX

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Can you name both Texas Gulf Coast Chapter couples who got engaged during a Tyler muster? In October 2006 during East Texas Historical Fire Society's 21st Annual Muster, Greg Hayes proposed to Tara Wagoner

during the Program and Trophy Presentation. They were married the following March. Well, six years later, Cupid strikes again! Chuck Buschardt proposed to Karen Witt on Friday evening, October 27th, in the apparatus room of new Tyler Fire Station 5. See additional photo on page 6. We offer our congratulations to the newly engaged. A March 2013 wedding is planned. There must be something romantic about Tyler musters!

CHAPTER MEETING AT HFM

Monday, November 19th, was the Chapter's final monthly SPAAM-FAA meeting for the year. This month's meeting was held at the HOUSTON FIRE MUSEUM on 2403 Milam Street. The Community National Bank was using



the regular meeting room for training in both November and December. In addition to usual business, this month's agenda featured our very own private tour of the Museum. The group got to see the latest donation to the HFM, a 1937 Chevrolet pumper, donated by Brady Carruth in honor of his father,

Buddy Carruth. In addition to the 1937 Chevrolet pumper, there was a 1895 Ahrens Fox horse-drawn steamer, and a 19th century hand powered pumper. Members also wandered out back to see the 1938 REO fire truck. The meeting was a big hit with all attendees. A couple new members showed up, including Bob Robertson who bought Clinton Johnson's aerial ladder. Afterward, everyone partook in dinner at nearby restaurant. Photos by Mark Turvey



VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION

Just an FYI about a local fire truck transport resource. One of Humble's PD officers and fellow antique vehicle enthusiast recently retired and bought a 26-foot roll back gooseneck trailer. He is extremely familiar with antique trucks and heavy equipment and can transport fire trucks. He can move a pumper, running or not, no problem; and will pretty much go anywhere in the country. His info is below if you want to check him out on price when you need something moved. He's probably going to be reasonably priced. Walt Evans—281-773-5171, or 281-689-1147, waltevans@nctv.com, Splendor, TX. Submitted by Clinton Johnson.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Santa Fe VFD has been presenting fire prevention programs since about 1968, and member Kim Stellhorn has been participating since 1972 when he first joined the department. Arcadia First Baptist Church daycare and school located in Santa



Fe is one of approximately 6—8 daycare centers where fire prevention is taught through local VFD. We also present the fire prevention program at the pre-school through 5th grade at the public school. Here, Kim is shown with his grandkids Gideon, Silas, and Cephas at the Arcadia First Baptist Church. Lucky kids to have a Grandpa with a fire truck!

KINGWOOD FALL CAR SHOW



SPAAMFAA Members took part in the annual Kingwood Fall Car Show held on Sunday, October 28th, in Kingwood Town Center. This was the first time members attended the event, and everyone had a great time. Chuck Buschardt brought his 1926 ALF, Tim

Treadway his '52 Mack aerial, Clinton Johnson his 1948 45S Mack, Bill Lofton his newly acquired '70 ALF, as well as Robert Polinski and Eric Bergman. Tim's son's pet "Wonder Dog" was also there. The car show is held in a wooded park area and the setting is beautiful. There were about 100 cars and trucks of all types present. If you are a motorhead, it was the place to be. Hope to see more SPAAMFAA trucks present in the next Kingwood event.

HFM FIRE FEST (CONTINUED)

BY STEVE DALPE



Lofton, were present with vehicles: Clinton brought his 1948 Mack pumper and 1971 CJ Jeep in tow. Bill brought his newly-acquired 1970 American LaFrance, ex-Sawyer OK.

The weather was great and the day went well. However, Fire Fest 2012 had a few hiccups. Jim McGee drove the '31 Ahrens-Fox to the parade line-up where he was put up front as the oldest vehicle. At the start of the parade the Fox balked and would not stay running. Clinton came to the rescue with his Mack and a tow strap and we lead the parade. Throughout the day, our Chapter's exhibit had a running demonstration on how to clean out a vehicle fuel system from the ravages of really old gasoline mixed with new blend gasoline. In our case, the two formed a nice black goo that plugged up everything it came in contact with. In the photos above, Clinton is cleaning out the fuel line and replacing another fuel filter. Thanks to all who helped, the Ahrens Fox made it back to the Braniff shop under its own power.

To control entry, the vehicles were roped off. There was one entry point that visitors were told they were welcome to look and take pictures, but not to climb on the trucks because they were old. It worked well. Those looking to be rowdy left quickly, while those truly interested stayed and took pictures.

The Olde Fire Bell thanks all of the participants and sponsors for supporting this event. It would not have been possible without the great number of volunteers.



DEER PARK FIRE PREVENTION PARADE

BY STEVE DALPE



The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department commenced Fire Prevention Week with its annual parade on Saturday, October 6th, with a theme "Have 2 Ways Out!" Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members were present to support the festivities. The parade started at 10 AM. from P Street, next to the Deer Park High School South Campus Stadium parking lot, and ended at the Deer Park High School North Campus. Registration started at 8:30 AM; it was absolutely free, and there was a full lunch at the finish!

Chuck Buschardt and Karen Witt (top left) unveiled their new arrival, a 1978 Mack CF, 1000 GPM, 500 tank, diesel automatic, last served Oceanic H&L on Staten Island. It was in service on 9/11 on Staten Island and was used in many funerals to carry the bodies of our fallen brothers to their final resting places. The pumper is in remarkable condition considering it served 34 yrs in New York City! It won the Best Apparatus 1951—1980. Top right, Cynthia King is sporting her yellow rubber-ducky necklace, stretching her arms to toss candy to lucky parade watchers. Cheryl and Jim McGee took the 1948 Lincoln, and once again it won the oldest vehicle award, pre-1950 category. Daisy Mae is shown sporting her black bunker gear. Clinton and Teresa once again made the trek from Humble in their 1948 Mack. Mark and Nancy Turvey brought their 1976 Ford/FMC.

Parade participants had the chance to compete for the top spot in one of numerous categories. These categories included: oldest apparatus prior to 1950, best apparatus from 1951 to 1980, best apparatus from 1981 to 2000, best apparatus from 2001 to present, best municipal apparatus, best industrial apparatus, best municipal aerial, best industrial aerial, best rescue truck, best hazmat truck, best ambulance, best booster truck, best command vehicle, best command van or vehicle, most unique, and Emergency Responders Choice. Many thanks to Buddy Rice and the Deer Park Fire Marshal's Office and Fire Dept. for sponsoring the event. See you all next year!

TYLER MUSTER

BY CLINTON JOHNSON AND JIM MCGEE

The 27th Annual Muster of the East Texas Historical Fire Society was held October 26-27, 2012 in Tyler, Texas. Eleven Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Members attended the Muster. Chuck Buschardt hauled his 1925, 75 series ALF engine to the Muster. Activities on Friday and Saturday nights included clinics, and a lot of fire fellowship. A featured event of Friday night, October 26th, was a hamburger and hot dog supper at Tyler's new Fire Station 5, which opened about two weeks prior. Festivities on Saturday, October 27th, were centered at Lake Palestine, approximately 17 miles south of Tyler, and included fire apparatus displays, drafting, judging, and a swap meet. A catered all-you-can-eat lunch was served to registrants at the lake.

Highlights of the event were the Friday night Hamburger and Hot Dog supper where we got to tour Tyler's new Station 5. Station 5 is a great facility, and if Tyler ever decides to incorporate Blimp operations it should have room to house it there. It is a beautiful station and plenty roomy. The fellowship at the dinner was great.

Chuck surprised everyone, especially his girlfriend Karen Witt, when he romantically got down



Texas Gulf Coast Chapter members adorn this 1926 American LaFrance, trailered 200 miles to the Tyler Muster. The East Texas Historical Fire Society puts on a fabulous event every October; beautiful weather, abundant water supply, and a great visit. This rig originally served the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. Note the special overhead accommodations made for the fire service carrier pigeons.

L to R, top row: Bill Wilcox, Terry Parker, Kathy Wilcox, Teresa and Clinton Johnson, Karen Witt, Chuck Buschardt. Bottom row: Jim & Cheryl McGee, John & Barbara Fuston, Tara, Greg, & Dillon Hayes

on one knee and proposed to her. After a short pause for effect, Karen said "yes." Everyone was happy over the couples new status but are still giving Chuck a hard time wanting to know how many fire trucks he sold to buy the ring. Chuck and Karen are planning for a March wedding.

Saturday, everyone met at Lake Palestine for the muster and to see some of the local apparatus and to pump some water. Chuck brought his 1926 ALF 75 with help from Clinton Johnson. They loaded everything necessary to pump water from the lake, including hard suction, and hauled it all the way from Houston. Only thing was they are both measurement challenged and brought 5 inch suction instead of 4-1/2 inch which fits the pump on the '26. Sadly the '26 never did get to pump, but it still looked good next to the lake.

Paris FD's shop-built engine was there, running and looking as good as ever, as well as a 1927 ALF tractor from one of Austin Fire Department's old tillered ladder trucks.

TYLER MUSTER (CONTINUED)



Lake Palestine Volunteer Fire Department brought their ALF Engine and took the opportunity to pose it with Chuck's '26.

After an East Texas gourmet lunch, David Schlottach with the East Texas Historical Fire Society presented trophies to all the award winners. Whenever someone from the Gulf Coast Chapter brings a rig, they typically win the longest distance traveled which Chuck accepted this year. The fel-

lowship continued till mid afternoon at the lake and then everyone traveled to an older warehouse near downtown Tyler where the East Texas group stored part of their collection. They share the warehouse with a local car dealer who buys, sales, and collects antique and classic cars, trucks, and tractors. The stored vehicles and equipment were beyond impressive. I am not sure of the number but it was only slightly less than 100 pieces and all of them were top notch. Some were awaiting restoration but most were in like new condition. It was hard to take it all in.

Later that night everyone gathered for Mexican Food then went to the East Texas's groups shop to see the progress made on their 1923 ALF Engine they have been restoring. The Engine was purchased in 1923 by the City of Tyler. The East Texas group has at least 10 of Tyler's apparatus ranging from a 1916 ALF engine to an articulating boom aerial built in the 1980's. Their members also have many other rigs from all over Texas and the rest of the Country. All and all the event was a great success and everyone had a great time. We are already working on plans to get there next year.



Two American LaFrance Classics: Lake Palestine East's 1984 "Century" that once served Dallas Fire Dept. and Chuck Buschardt's 1926 "Type 75" that once served Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire.

Photograph by David Schlottach

HEB THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

PHOTO BY STEVE DALPE



The 63rd Annual Holiday Parade presented by H-E-B was held on Thursday, November 22nd. Several trucks from the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA were present. Above, family members of Tanya White - this year's winner of the Houston Fire Museum Gala bid - enjoy fist-class comfort on the 1948 American LaFrance. Right, new member Bob Robertson hoists the American flag prior to the parade.



Above, new member Bob Robertson is shown raising the American flag prior to the parade. Bob just recently purchased the vehicle from Clinton Johnson. Left, Nancy Turvey and family enjoy the pre-parade festivities; the Turvey's 1976 Ford/FMC vehicle made prime time courtesy KHOU-TV Channel 11. Below left, Bill Lofton's 1970 American LaFrance is shown for the first time at a major parade.



HEB THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE (CONTINUED)



Top left: Katherine Peters of the Houston Fire Museum drives their 1937 Chevrolet, donated to the museum by Brady Carruth in honor of his father, Buddy Carruth. Left: Clinton and Teresa Johnson's 1948 Simms/GMC carries additional family and friends. This truck served in the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department where Teresa's Father, Buddy, served. Above: Chuck Buschardt's 1976 Mack CF appears to be totally engulfed by parade viewers.

Right: Kim and Cindy Stellhorn fly the American and the Texas flags while driving down Walker. Below: Recruiting is top priority at these events! Potential future members get to enjoy the thrill of being behind the wheel of an antique fire engine. Bottom right: This year's official Santa Claus and his Elves are sporting a new BMW; looks more like a Mini next to the Stellhorn's Engine 8 in the background.



CHRISTMAS IN FRIENDSWOOD

BY CHERYL MCGEE



On Saturday, December 8th, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter SPAAMFAA members gathered to celebrate another successful year during its annual Christmas luncheon. The group shared local cuisine at Perry & Sons

Market and Grill in Friendswood. About 30 members were present to order delicious entrees from Perry's menu. Several members parked their vehicles outside the restaurant, while others preferred nearby Friendswood Station 4. Congratulations to Cynthia King and Terry Parker for winning the door prizes.

The Luncheon was set up in conjunction with Friendswood Chamber of Commerce's 26th Annual Christmas Lighted Parade. Judging from the photographs, it could have been easily mistaken as a 4th July Parade due to the unseasonably



warm weather. The Group proceeded to Station 4 to finish decorating the five trucks that were present. Chuck Buschardt and Karen Witt trailered the '26 American LaFrance, the oldest participant. Newest entrant goes to Kim and Cindy Stellhorn. Everyone received a great tutorial from Cheryl McGee about best practices for hanging lights on fire trucks. As Cheryl reinforced: this is a lighted parade—all fire trucks must have Christmas lights.

At dusk, the vehicles made their way toward the staging area. The parade started at 6 PM and traveled down Friendswood Dr. to Stevenson Park. This year, there were more than 60 total entrants to participate in the parade theme "Jingle Bell Rock." Prizes were awarded for various categories.

For special interests, Bill Wilcox's Fire Museum was made available after lunch for visitors. Bill has a nice display of badges, lights, extinguishers, and other fire paraphernalia to bring the kid out in you. For those who missed the opportunity, he would be more than happy to show it some time when he's in town.



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: CHUCK BUSCHARDT'S 1978 MACK



Chuck Buschardt
owns this 1978
Mack CF 1000
GPM 500 Gal.
from Oceanic
H&L, Staten Is-
land, New York.
It was in service
on Staten Island
during 9/11