

The *Olde Fire Bell*

Fall 2014

Quarterly Newsletter of The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA



Mary Austin Wins 'Best Christmas Theme' in Hitchcock Parade



Tool Box - Miscellaneous Happenings Around the Chapter

Page 2



Award-Winning Participation at Local Christmas Parades

Page 3



Mixing Wings and Water for a Grand Time

Page 5



Michigan Roadtrip Provides Spare Lycoming Engine Parts

Page 6



MHIVFD Station III Reaches Completion

Page 7

JOIN
US
ON
LINE



www.gulfcoastspaamfaa.org



www.facebook.com/texasgulfcoastspaamfaa



www.youtube.com keywords = texas gulf coast chapter SPAAMFAA



A letter from the Chapter President



It's 7 pm on December 31st. I am sitting at the computer drinking a Jack and Coke listening to Willie Nelson at Billy Bob's on the TV and patiently awaiting midnight and the New Year.

If 2015 is nearly as good to me as 2014, I will be truly blessed. Personally, 2014 pretty much ran in greased grooves, train wrecks were kept to a minimum, and I managed to muddle through still drawing breath and grinning. I hope everyone in our group can say the same. If not, I hope they can next year. I believe the club had a good year. We took part in more events, gained more members, and have more things scheduled than any time in the last 7 or 8 years. The biggest positive I see is that everyone seems to be having fun and enjoying the hobby. I know I am. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be making venue reservations for the 2016 Convention and start working toward that goal. Let's hit the ground running in 2015 and have another great year.

Well wishes to Newsletter Editor and Webmaster Steve Dalpe. Steve is making preparations to depart this summer to work overseas for an extended period. I am confident we will get him back, but it may be a while. Steve has been a tremendous asset and his departure leaves an opening that we need to fill quickly with the upcoming National in Houston.

As always, keep it up and above all enjoy doing it!

Your President, Clinton Johnson

Upfront Newsline

Welcome to the final 2014 edition of *The Olde Fire Bell*. 2014 is now in the history books! In this edition, we report on Chapter activities that occurred in the relatively cooler fall period, including Wings Over Houston and Christmas parades. Member Steve Dalpe made cross-country trip to Michigan for a Lycoming engine for his 1941 ALF. And many truck-decorating Christmas events took place.

Our president, Clinton Johnson, didn't waste any time after retirement augmenting Moonshine Hill IFD's station count. The new station has room for two vehicles and is featured in this newsletter. It'll certainly be an assembly point for many future activities.

With his degree behind him, Jim McGee has more time for fun stuff! In fact, he has accepted the Director position at the Houston Fire Museum. We wish Jim best wishes in his new job. How synergistic with SPAAMFAA.

Our sympathies to the family of Captain Dwight "B.B" Bazile, 46D, who passed away Saturday February 21st at Memorial Hermann Hospital. Captain Bazile collapsed on the scene of a fire.

Chapter Meeting Summary

September: There was discussion of the Thanksgiving Day parade and the lack of response to our efforts to get back into the parade. Clinton led a discussion on the Wings over Houston Airshow; we have our spot in the event. A planning meeting will be held on Saturday, October 27th. in Humble to discuss the 2016 Winter Meeting. The weekend of Feb. 20th 2016 was suggested by Jim McGee to hold a muster at Clear Lake Park as part of the Winter Meeting.

October: Clinton drove his truck in the Highlands Jamboree Parade with the Highlands FD Deer Park Fire Truck Parade; our club was represented by three trucks in the parade. Joe Brantley displayed his truck at a church event in the Santa Fe area honoring firefighters. Several members attended the Atascasita Car Show. Discussion was held of the upcoming 2016 SPAAMFAA Winter Meeting hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter. Planning meetings, potential dates, and preferred hotels were discussed. We will further investigate promotional opportunities such as Fertitta and Kemah Boardwalk, fire boats, FD with antique trucks, logistics for moving apparatus and other suggestions.

November: Tom McDonald will get with hotels for the 2016 Winter Meeting. Clinton Johnson and Bill Wilcox brought up several ideas for recruiting new members. The Tyler Muster was well attended by Texas Gulf Coast members. We had an extensive display of apparatus and equipment at the Wings over Houston. Jason took Chuck Buschardt's New York Mack to the Veteran's Day Parade and had an interesting ride with the Vets. Cheryl McGee created a quilt to raffle off in support of the 2016 Winter Meeting. She brought in proceeds of \$147 for the club treasury. Discussion was held about several upcoming Christmas parades.





Tool Box Topics

New Central/South Region Trustee



My term as the Central Region-South Trustee ended after the winter board meeting in Baltimore, March 11-14, 2015. I have elected not to run again. At the meeting, Justin Birchfield of Indiana was elected your new trustee. It has been my pleasure and honor to represent your

chapters on the board for the past 7 years. I will continue, however, to serve the society as the National Convention/Muster Co-ordinator. I look forward to continued interaction at future musters.

Bill Davis
Central Region/South

Winter 2016 National in Houston



**Preserving
America's
Firefighting
History**

Join Us!

Gulf Coast SPAAMFAA.ORG

The upcoming 2016 SPAAMFAA Winter Meeting will be hosted by our chapter, The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. Planning meetings, preferred dates, discussions about preferred hotels are all on-going. We are also investigating promotional opportunities such as Kemah Boardwalk, fire boats, participation of antique trucks, logistics for moving apparatus, and other suggestions. We're going to need everyone's assistance to make this a big hit. We have pretty high benchmark set by some recent Nationals, but we've been down this path. We have a lot of experience at doing this!

Veterans Parade by Jason Barnett



I was busy driving Chuck Buschardt's Mack in the Veteran's Day Parade. The streets of Downtown Houston were pretty packed despite the temperature dropping from about 75 to about 50 degrees in a matter of minutes with some pretty nasty winds. After the parade ended, somehow I got myself lost and ended up taking the Veterans riding in the back of the truck for a pretty wild ride as we hit the high traffic and high speed streets of Houston. They said the bonus parade route I took was a lot more exciting than the parade route everyone else went down. Those folks were holding on for dear life back there, but they were laughing so hard, I don't think they minded the perilous, windy and cold ride after the parade. I think they were a little worried that I had stolen the truck. What the heck, drive it like you stole it!





Christmas Ceremonies

By Sonya and Joe Brantley

Sonya and Joe Brantley were just as surprised and delighted as anyone would be when they got the news:

"On behalf of the Santa Fe (Texas) Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and Santa's Kingdom, I would like to "thank you" for participating in the 2014 Christmas Parade. I'm told we have one of the largest parades in Galveston County and I know we have the best and prettiest floats. Our Judge's said it was a hard decision this year but, the category winners are as follows:

Lone Vehicle - Joseph Brantley

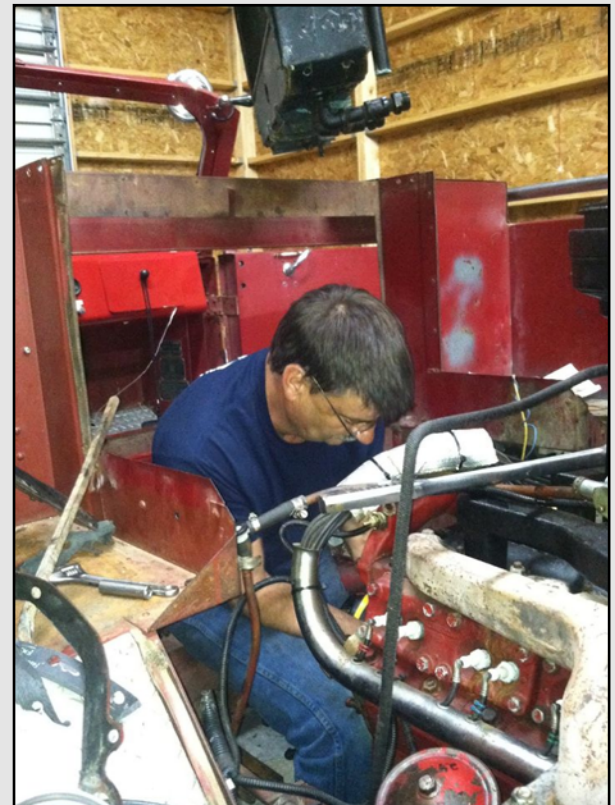
You can pick up your trophy at the Chamber office, Monday-Thursday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm or, if you'll give me a call, I will be more than happy to hand deliver to your group.

Thank you, again, for making the Christmas Parade a fun and exciting event. We are already looking forward to next year :)

Gina Bouvier, President
Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, Inc."

Michael Early (in the engine compartment, right photo) and I worked on repairing the 1951 American LaFrance 700 until 3 AM the Friday morning before the parade to complete repairs. My family had already dressed up the engine with lights. We entered the engine in the annual Santa Fe Christmas Parade as a family event. All had a super time. Sonya and I, our kids, grand kids, and great grand kids rode the engine. Everyone threw candy to the citizens who lined the parade route. We even won a trophy!

The picture (above right) was taken by a Galveston Daily news reporter there for the parade. The kid in the picture is Avery Heater, one of my great grand kids.





Christmas Ceremonies



And the Christmas awards kept coming for the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. Kim and Cindy Stellhorn entered their 1975 CF Mack in the Hitchcock Parade. Posted by Kim on their Facebook account: "Just got a call...Mary Austin Volunteer Hose Company Engine 8 received the "Best Christmas Theme" trophy from the Hitchcock Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade... I do have to say it did look pretty good."

You can read more about their ex-Harrisburg Mack on Facebook, Mary Austin Volunteer Hose Company.



Members also gathered at Friendswood's Station 4 on December 13th to decorate trucks in preparation for the Friendswood parade later that evening. Long-distance winners, Clinton and Teresa Johnson, drove all the way from Humble in their Bellaire Mack to participate. Many thanks to hosts Kathy and Bill Wilcox.





Wings and Water

By Jason Barnett

[Editor note: This posting was made by Jason prior to the event. It is kept in its original format for next year's planning]

Once again, Texas Gulf Coast members will be participating in the annual Wings Over Houston Air Show. Setup will be between Friday, October 31 after 1 PM and 7:30 AM on Saturday. I plan on driving one of my trucks there on Friday at 1 pm and staying till we get semi set up. I will drive my second truck there on Saturday morning leaving Humble at 5:45 AM if anyone wants to convoy. We must enter at the south entrance to Ellington Via Brantly Avenue only. You must have a Participant Pass to get in. We were only allowed 15 passes each day. When you arrive with a truck or setup equipment on Friday give me a call and I will meet you at the gate with a ramp pass so you can enter the airport. If you are not going to arrive by 4 pm on Friday give me a call so I can make arrangements to get you a pass. SECURITY WILL BE TIGHT because of the danger posed with moving aircraft and ramp equipment. This is a high security area so don't make any off handed joking comments about having bombs or guns, they will take them seriously and likely ruin your day. IF YOU ARE BRINGING A TRUCK PLEASE GET WITH ME (phone or email) SO WE MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR PASSES. I strongly recommend you bring an Ice chest with drinks and/or food, they are available on site but expensive and you have to fight crowds.





Michigan Roadtrip

By Stephen Dalpe

September 25th, Thursday morning, started like most weekdays: up around 5:30 AM and out the door by 6:15 headed north on I-146. But that's where the similarities ended. Thanks to a tip from Chuck Buschardt who noted a rare Lycoming engine for sale in the latest SPAAMFAA Silver Trump, the next couple days would traverse 9 States. The engine would provide much needed and spare parts for the 1941 ALF currently under restoration. Hopefully, all those regular oil changes on my vehicle and scheduled maintenance would pay off with a breakdown-free adventure.

Day 1. Thursday. Depart Clear Lake at 6:25 AM. By 8:25 AM in Louisiana, 12:30 PM in Mississippi, 5:45 PM in Tennessee. 6:10 PM Arkansas, 7:30 PM in Missouri, 9:15 PM in Illinois. Stop at 10:30 PM in Marion IL after nearly 880 miles. A good first day!

Day 2. Friday. 7 AM start. 12:15 PM Chicago. 12:45 PM Indiana. 2:45 PM Michigan. 6:45 PM arrive at Standish MI at the home of Don and Grace Spresney. Tow truck arrived to load the engine. Quick bite to eat courtesy Don and Grace, and then back on the road at 9 PM. Stop at Battlecreek MI at 1 AM for the evening.

Day 3. Saturday 7 AM on the road again. 9:45 AM Illinois. 3 PM Saint Louis Jefferson Memorial Archway. 8:45 PM Oklahoma. 11 PM arrive in downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma. Another 850 mile day!

Day 4. Sunday. Rest. Staying in Tulsa with family until Monday morning.

Day 5. Monday. 7 AM depart Tulsa. Noon



arrive in Dallas to drop off the engine. Leave Dallas at 3:30 and arrive home in Clear Lake at 7 PM. Round trip complete, odometer now reading 3,146 miles more than Thursday.

Overall, could not have asked for better trip. With the exception of frequent road construction, the whole adventure was very memorable.



Moonshine Hill Station III

By Clinton Johnson

After months of sweat equity, Moonshine Hill IFD drove the final nail in its new Station at 701 4th St. in Humble. It was nice to get it enclosed before winter sets in (winter, in Texas, really!). It will house 2 Engines and a hand drawn chemical cart, not to mention plenty of wall space for wall hangings. We are planning an official opening sometime later in the year. Meantime, if you want to come by a check it out, let us know. We're there most of the time, and you don't have to twist my arm to show you my toys. Isn't retirement GREAT!!



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: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Work: _____ Other: _____

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/Patches ____ 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 a separate sheet if multiple vehicles. Ownership of apparatus is not required to join the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Year: _____ Make: _____ Type (pumper, aerial, etc.): _____

Mfg. Model: _____ Mfg. Serial #: _____

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

Previous Owner and History of Rig: _____

Membership in the 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 encouraged to join 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.

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of
SPAAMFAA
P.O. Box 697
Bellaire, TX 77402



President - Clinton Johnson
Vice President - Ken
Paradowski
Treasurer - Tom McDonald
Secretary - Jim McGee
Newsletter & Website - Steve
Dalpe

1975

American LaFrance Century Owned by Bill Baldy



1975 American
LaFrance ex-San
Diego Fire
Department.
Detroit 671 E
engine, manual 5
speed
transmission,
1500 GPM, 1000
gallon tank