THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER OF SPAAMFAA

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FIRE BELL

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SEVENTH ANNUAL MOONSHINE HILL IFD PUMPNIC AND FIRE APPARATUS EXPO

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010, 11:00 AM TO WHENEVER WE RUN OUT OF GAS. AT BEAUTIFUL WOODS POND PARK ON BELLEAU WOODS RD. 1 1/2 MILES NORTH OF FM 1960 (see attached visitors guide for directions)

It's that time of year again. The birds begin chirping, leaves return, snakes come out of hibernation, and the elite of the fire service return to Sparkling Downtown Moonshine Hill for the thrills and spills of the annual Pumpnic This years event is expected to be a real twist off, with overflow crowds. Be there to view demonstrations of the latest cutting edge fire fightin technology, so often associated with this occasion. Come one, come all. Drive Drag, or Haul your rig if you got one. Just bring yourself and a picnic lunch if you don't. (We always need extra help rollin hose or pushin rigs out of the mud). Admission is "FREE". The crew on Moonshine Hill is going allout this year (we even have porta-potties) and are working feverishly to reduce that nasty alligator infestation. Bring your chairs, bug spray, umbrella and whatever you drink.

The International Fire Buff Associates' Region 5 Annual Meeting was held in Houston the weekend of March 26-28, 2010. The group, numbering about 25, attended the local SPAAMFAA chapter's annual "Pumpnic," held lakeside on March 27, just a few miles east of sparkling downtown Humble, Texas.

IFBA members attending were from Shreveport, Bossier City, and Ruston, Louisiana as well as from all across the Dallas "Metroplex" area.

From Milwaukee, Wisconsin, IFBA Executive Vice President Bill Mokros and his wife Vickie



Texas cuisine offered in the area. As a spe-

shop fire on Highway 59 near Tidwell as they returned from Humble into the big city.

Above: IFBA members Harvey Carter and Jerry Hope watch the action of the antique fire apparatus at Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA March 27th "Pumpnic" in Humble, Texas.

Left: IFBA and Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Members mix and mingle as the events at the Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department progress.

enjoyed some of the finest cial, yet unplanned, treat, the fire buffs got to take in the action at a one-alarm bridal

were in town for the occasion.

Paul Schaetzle, the IFBA

Treasurer from Jersey City,

All had a wonderful time

New Jersey attended as well.

watching the old rigs in action

during the "Pumpnic." After

an hour or two on site, the

IFBA attendees adjourned for

lunch at SPAAMFAA mem-

bers Harvey and Mary Trigg's

"Humble Inn" where they

SCENES FROM 10 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP 11 APPLICATION HALL OF FLAME 12 CALENDAR East Texas Historical Fire Society's 25th Annual Fire Muster, October 22-23, 2010 February 23-26, 2011. Sponsored by as Historical The Texas

Upfront

The Olde Fire Bell would like to recognize the founders of America 76 Hose Company and the celebration of their 35th Anniversary. Here's to many more!

Congratulations to Herold Berthy, Jr., for being elected SPAAMFAA President, replacing Keith Franz. We wish Harold the very best in his two-year tenure, and look forward to meeting him in the coming months. One of his goals is to boost membership. SPAAMFAA membership is dwindling. Consider inviting a friend to one of our Chapter's meetings.

We sadly report the following. The Mother of Kathy Wilcox, Irene Henry, passed away on Sunday, March 28. Following a Mass, the family flew to Iowa for burial in her home town and next to her husband. Our sympathies to the Wilcox's.

Molly Wageman had surgery this period, and Charlie Womack requests your ongoing prayers for her continued health and healing.

The Chapter once again extended its generosity, this time to financially support Ken Soderbeck's Hand In Hand Restoration Shop's reconstruction. A most tragic event considering the priceless artifacts that were present at the time of the fire. Many SPAAMFAA personnel have rallied around the Soderbeck's to show what a wonderful and caring club SPAAMFAA is. You can

read more about the event and the subsequent clean-up efforts on the SPAAMFAA National Website.

The National's Musters are now behind us and we look forward to many fun, local events; a fall Pumpnic, Houston Fire Fest, a weekend in Tyler to help celebrate their 25th Annual Muster, and Thanksgiving Parade.

Preview photos from the Denver National are shown on Page 10. We'll have more about the National and the Chapter's participation in the Summer Newsletter. Mark you calendar for the next National, sponsored by the Texas Fire Museum in Dallas, February 2011.

Chapter Meeting Minutes

BY CHERYL MCGEE

The following is a summary of the Spring May event to the calendar. monthly meetings:

April: April's 8 attendees discussed the wonderful time everyone had at the St. Patrick's Day Parade the month earlier; five trucks were in attendance. The upcoming Moonshine Hill IFD Pumpnic in Humble was verified and several details finalized. Chuck Buschardt mentioned the America '76 Hose Company was celebrating 35 years this year. Six members from the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter mentioned they will be attending the Summer SPAAMFAA National. The group discussed the possibility of adding a

May: Jim and Cheryl McGee described the events at the Club's first appearance at the Aeros and Autos Show at Ellington Filed on May 8th. An invitation was extended to participate in Wings Over monthly meeting. Houston. Chuck Buschardt traveled to Winchester VA to participate in the annual fire truck parade during the Apple Blossom Festival. Jim mentioned the area Car Club has resumed meeting on Saturday evenings in front of the Home Depot in upcoming Houston Fire Fest in Octo-Kemah. The Fire Museum will be having ber, as well as a possibility of a new its Annual Meeting for members on May event. Mark Turvey reported on the 20th. Seven members are expected to financials of the March LODD Benefit.

participate in the Denver Summer National. The Wilcox's are planning a pre-National event in Pagosa Springs

June: Nine members partook in June's Chuck Buschardt provided an update of Ken Soderbeck's shop's restoration. Eric Bergman and Zach Buschardt provided summary of SPAAMFAA Denver National. group discussed 4th July events, the

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:

Bill Lofton Angela Rayne Eric Bergman Tom McDonald Please send information to the webmaster at GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG, or send to editor at the address on the newsletter back page

CHAPTER BRIEFS

New Arrival

On June 11, member Bill Lofton took delivery of his new 1951 Ford F7 formerly River Oaks, Texas, nearby Dallas. Quotes Bill - "We made it home safely at 6 PM. Now its time to get to work and get it done, getting it muster ready. A lot of hours of work ahead of us." 76c



Olde Fire Bell wishes Bill much success with the restoration and look forward to seeing this pair at future events. We can't wait to have a featured newsletter article, too.

HELPING "HAND-IN-HAND"

As most are aware, on the morning of April 14, Ken Soderbeck's "Hand-in-Hand" Fire Apparatus Restoration Shop in



Jackson Michigan was heavily damaged by fire. Many TGCC Members have been to the shop to personally see Ken's work. The good news is two steam fire engines and a hand-drawn hose reel located in the basement workshop suffered only minor

damage. The bad news is much of Ken's rare fire service memorabilia, his extensive reference library, graphics shop, and business records were lost. To assure the continuation of Ken's work, a fund has been established at Jackson's Citizens Bank. The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter donated \$500 dollars to help Ken and Aggie get back on their feet.

1964 ALF AERIAL FOR SALE

Harvey Trigg and Clinton Johnson are selling their 1964 ALF 75 Foot Aerial Ladder. This truck was formerly in service in Bryan TX. This is a mechanically sound truck that was totally refurbished in the mid 1980's. The wiring is good and all the lights work except 1 broken spotlight on the rear. It is registered as an antique and licensed in the State of Texas. It has a 671T Detroit and Allison Automatic transmission with a highway geared rear end. It will cruise at 65 mph. Tires on front have good tread but are showing weather cracking; they are 7 years old. Rear tires look 75%, one was replaced 2 years ago. The truck is located in Humble TX, 1 mile east of Bush Air-



port. Fly in and drive it home! For more information about the vehicle and contents, please call 281-802-8702 cell or 281-446-4928 office.

Dallas Bound

Once again, Steve Dalpe traveled to Dallas to work on his 1941 American LaFrance with the Texas Fire Museum crew. This trip featured disassembly of the windshield and shipment for re-



build, bead blasting numerous attachments and brackets for priming, rebuilding pressure gauges, and polishing the aluminum front grill components. He plans to return in September to complete more cosmetic work.

APPLE BLOSSOMS

Chuck Buschardt and several members of the Aldine Fire Department attended the 83rd Annual Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival in the beautiful City of Winchester, Virginia. The team paraded their new Pierce truck that will serve the Aldine Fire



Department starting this summer. Approximately 300 other trucks were in attendance at the Firemen's Parade, the largest display of fire fighting equipment in the nation.

PAGOSA SPRINGS



Bill and Kathy Wilcox sponsored a pre-Denver National mini muster in Pagosa

Springs CO. A large contingency of TGCC members enjoyed a guided tour of four Pagosa fire stations as well as sunset at a Forest Service Lookout Tower. There was a complementary caravan guide across Wolf Creek Pass through South Fork to historic Creede, CO. The brave rafted the San Juan River. Proceeds from this mini-muster went to SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.

ALDINE DEDICATION

Soon, Aldine Fire will be hosting a dedication ceremony for their new fire station and two new vehicles. One vehicle will be dedicated to Marla Buschardt; the second to long-time supporters Clyde and Emma Turrentine. You can learn more about this event and the Aldine Fire Department on their Facebook Page



www.facebook.com/aldinefire. Aldine Fire Department is located at 1009 Aldine Bender Road, Houston 77032.

MOONSHINE HILL IFD PUMPNIC

BY TOM MCDONALD AND STEVE DALPE



It just gets better and better each year! Keeping with Humble cordiality, the Seventh Annual Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department's Pumpnic was a water-flowing success. Everyone arrived safely, thoroughly enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie, and left with an uplifted spirit. This year in addition to the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter's attendees, the International Fire Buffs Region

5 joined the group for the pumping exhibition and display.

Not only the weather cooperated - mechanically, there was no need to send out a rescue party before or after the event for any broken down vehicles. Trucks present included Tim Tredway's 1926 ALF Type 65, 400 GPM ex Shrewsbury Massachusetts Registration 5575; 1948 Peter Pirsch Ladder Serial 1818; Clinton Johnson's 1962 ALF 75-foot aerial; Tim Treadway's 1950 Mack Quint Model 85, 65 foot Maxim ladder, 750 GPM Hale pump, 100 gallon booster tank, ex Buchanan, MI; Clinton Johnson's 1948 Mack 500 GPM pump, 200 gal. tank, Hale pump, ex-Bellaire TX; Harvey Trigg's 1962 ALF 900 Series open cab pumper, ex Seguin; Tom Morrison's 1930 ALF Metropolitan, ex-Omaha Nebraska. Regulars to the event, Tom and Ronnell Morrison own a five-truck assemblage known as The Humble Vintage Fire Department. Their collection includes 1935 Chevy Howe, 1948 Seagrave pumper, 1910 ALF Type 10, and 1937 ALF Scout Type 400. You can see Tom and Ronnell's trucks at the future Humble Vintage Fire Department



being constructed in historical downtown Humble.

Congratulations to Tim and his '26 ALF for achieving first water.

This year there was no need to practice exhaust manifold cooking; we actually had one of them fancy propane grills to cook hamburgers and hot dogs. Kathy, Cheryl, and Teresa did a fantastic job organizing all the refreshments. Poison ivy outbreak in the you-know-where was avoid thanks to the on-



site porta-potties!

Bill Wilcox took time to explain to a wide-eyed visiting youth the operation of the 1926 ALF. The youth had the time of his life and never expected such a treat when he happened to be passing through on his bike with his family.

Many thanks to all the members that made the event possible, especially Clinton and Teresa Johnson for being generous hosts. To all SPAAMFFA members present including Charlie Womack, Cheryl and Jim McGee, Bill Lofton, Ken Paradowski, Eddie Kosar, Steve Dalpe, Eric Bergman, Eric Lunstrum, Robert Polanski, Eric Bergman, Bill and Kathy Wilcox, and a host of friends and neighbors. To the truck czars Tim Treadway and Clinton Johnson for supplying an ample spray of water. To Tom McDonald for including the Pumpnic in the IFBA agenda. Finally, a special thanks to everyone that lifted, lugged, carried, toted, or otherwise dragged something. Your efforts were appreciated!

If you missed the event, you can see the video prepared by Eric Lundstrum on the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Website.

Photos: <u>Top Left</u>: Tim Treadway throttles engine RPM to obtain desired flow from his 1926 American LaFrance. <u>Right</u>: Bill Lofton looks on as Clinton Johnson explains the operation of Tom Morrison's 1930 American LaFrance. <u>Left</u>: Tim Treadway's Mack Ladder quint during pumping exercises.

MOONSHINE HILL IFD PUMPNIC













1. Clinton Johnson (left), Tom Morrison, and Bill Wilcox discuss the day's events. 2. Fire Buffs and TGCC Members review apparatus action. 3. A young, aspiring fireman helps Bill Wilcox safely tie down the hard suction hoses to the 1926 American LaFrance. Static display included Pirsch ladder and American LaFrance aerial vehicles. 5. Eric Bergman and Ken Paradowski carefully raise the Mack quint ladder. 6. Chapter member and professional videoographer Eric Lundstrum captures the day's events on camera.

Welcome Angela and Roger

BY ANGELA RAYNE

The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAM-FAA proudly welcomes its newest family members, Angela and Roger Rayne. Transplants from Denver, Angela and Roger now call Houston Home. "Thanks to everyone at SPAAMFAA for such a warm new member welcome. For those of you that I have not met, I would like to introduce myself, Angela Rayne and my husband, Roger Rayne. The photo with the white Seagrave Century Series

was taken of us at the Denver Firefighters Museum."

"We welcome Angela to the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter," comments Club President Jim McGee.



Angela has the distinction of being the new Director of The Houston Fire Museum located on 2403 Milam Street. "I was hired from the Denver Firefighters Museum to serve as the new Executive Director of the Houston Fire Museum in August. made the move to Houston in September 2009 after most of the humidity had gone!

"I have big plans for the Houston Fire Museum that

include re-installing over 4,000 square feet of exhibit space in the old firehouse. The plan is to create the firehouse interior as it would have looked when it was built in the 1920s and 1930s, utilizing the bays to display the apparatus, truck and engine companies, and all the tools that firemen used in a timeline. Upstairs, I plan on setting up the locker and dorm room as it would have looked, complete with card games, dinner on the table and bunkers by the bed. Come down for a tour, I would love to



She has plans to work closely and cooperatively with the Gulf Texas Coast Chapter SPAAMFAA. In May, several members attended Aeros and Autos show at Ellington Field with

their fire trucks.

took some educational pieces and we had fun telling the story of fire trucks and firefighters. I would like to see more interaction between the two organizations just like this and I am looking for



opportunities for us to work together."

Oh, we don't have a fire truck yet, but the photo below is of my red truck. Kind of looks like a chief's vehicle doesn't it?" **About The Houston Fire Museum:** The HOUSTON Fire Museum was originally Fire Station No. 7, the first fire station built by the Houston Fire Department after it went fully paid in 1895. The two-story fire station was built in

1898 at 2403 Milam and McIlhenny and was of Romanesque



style. It was opened in 1899 as the first paid fire station for the City of Houston. The two bays housed Steamer 7 and Hose Wagon No. 7, each of which was pulled by two horses. Stalls of the horses were against the outside walls be-

side the apparatus. In 1926, the area for the men was made into a center stall for a chemical engine, and a door cut into the front wall for the new apparatus. Two battalion chiefs (a newly-made rank) were assigned to ride the chemical engine. The station remained active until a new Fire Station No. 7 was built in 1969. Preservation of old Fire Station No. 7 as a fire museum began in 1980. The station had been proclaimed a fire museum by city council in 1977, but little was done to preserve the building. Fire Chief V. E. Rogers pushed the project off center and assigned Captain Calvin Mendel to oversee the renovation project. Today, the Houston Fire Museum has been completely renovated and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As activities at the Fire Museum outgrew the old fire station at the turn of the century, the Board of Trustees decided to build a new Fire Museum a block away on Main Street and Hadley. The old mu-

will still seum remain as part of the Fire Museum, and the old museum be renovated to look as it did in 1899 when it was built, together with an old steamer and hose wagon.



SCENES FROM GALVESTON MARDI GRAS

BY BILL LOFTON













HOUSTON AEROS AND AUTOS

On May 8th, Ellington Airport in South East Houston was the scene of HPP Corporation's 2010 Annual Aeros & Autos Show. Participants and visitors were able to enjoy the best land and air transportation venues.

Making their debut at the 2010 event were the Houston Fire Museum and the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter SPAAMFAA. Participation



at the event was the work of Angela Rayne, Executive Director of the Houston Fire Museum. She has plans to sponsor a spirit of cooperation between the two organizations. "In May, several members attended the Aeros and Autos show at Elling-

ton Field with I took some eduand we had fun of fire trucks and would like to see



their fire trucks. cational pieces telling the story firefighting. I more interaction

between the two organizations just like this and I am looking for opportunities for us to work together."

From the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, Jim and Cheryl McGee, Chuck Buschardt, and Ken Paradowski were present. Angela's husband, Roger, was also present for the events. A photo taken by Ken Paradwoski is shown below. At the end of the event, the Groups were given an invitation to the Wings Over Houston Show later this year.

The event had plenty of family fun, food, and entertainment. Besides the fire engines, there were displays be US Military, Houston Police Department, The U.S. Coast Guard, and NASA. The registration fee included a free 4 x 6 photo of your vehicle with a military aircraft. There were aircraft and helicopter rides by Lone Star Flight Museum , Commemorative Air Force, and Paradigm Helicopters. Prizes included give-a-ways for area restaurants, for free rounds of golf at area courses, and to Houston Raceway Park. Hope to see you all there next year!



July 4th at Nassau Bay

After nearly a week of steady precipitation from Hurricane Alex, the Gulf's first storm, the skies opened to brilliant sunshine for the 4th of July events on the Gulf Coast Bay Area. This year, several members participated in The Nassau Bay is parade, coordinated by Jim McGee. The open registration for walkers, bikers, floats, and vehicles began at 4:00 p.m. in the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church south parking. Mayor Don Matter and City Council members dutifully judged the entries. The parade began at 5 PM.

Chuck Buschardt brought his trusty 1976 Mack CF and loaded the TGCC'ers on board. Zach Buschardt, Eric Lundstrum, Karen Witt, Eric Bergman, Steve Dalpe, and Jim McGee were present. The parade meandered through the Nassau Bay local streets highlighted with American Flags, and finally into Lake Nassau Park for some great apple pie taste testing and other family entertainment. Later that evening at 9 PM, fireworks filled the Nassau Bay skies. The event was produced by *We Care Events* under the leadership of long-time Clear Lake resident Jim Stoa.





REIFFTON MACK RETURNS TO EXETER TOWNSHIP

HOUSTON

After 28 years under the watchful ownership of Chuck and Marla Buschardt, the Reiffton Mack - as it was affectionately known by Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Members - has returned home to Exeter Township in Pennsylvania. The voyage made much fanfare in Exeter, with a feature in the local newspaper, Reading Eagle. The Exeter Township Fire Department, formerly the Reiffton and Stonersville companies, purchased the Mack fire truck for \$3,500 - a bargain, the same price the Reiffton Company sold it to Chuck and Marla in 1983. But it's not about the money, as Chuck would attest.

This is the second of Chuck and Marla's Macks that have returned North recently, making sure that the vehicles are placed in a lasting, loving environment. In the Winter 2008 Newsletter, we featured 1950 Memphis Mack, Engine Company No 42, that went to Larry Newsome, and avid collector of Memphis apparatus. Chuck owned that vehicle since 1976, a Houstonian for over 30 years.

The Reiffton Mack was officially the property of Marla. "We loved the truck. It was the pride of our Lone Star Fire Museum. We'd take it on vacations and musters, equally. We were regulars at events." After keeping the truck in Pennsylvania and then Massachusetts for the first several years, they decided to take it on a "family vacation" and drive it to their home in Houston. "We were slow to get home, going through national parks and other sights along the route. The equipment container behind the seat made a great place for the kids. We were enjoying every minute of our family time together."

In 2009, Marla died of a stroke and the truck possessed too many memories for Chuck to keep it in the collection. "It needed to go back home to Reiffton."



Chuck Buschardt stands beside the Reiffton Fire Company 1951 Mack as it sits on the Landoll prepared for shipment to Exeter Township.

EXETER TOWNSHIP

From Reading Eagle by Jessica Bakeman. 610-371-5000 or jbakeman@readingeagle.com. Originally published May 29, 2010.

In 1968, Terry Francis was a paid driver on the Reiffton Fire Company's 1951 Mack. Although the truck was 17 years old, it lived up to the reputation of a well-built vehicle. He would drive the Mack for another 20 years, and have fond memories of the various conflagrations. The first recollection he would have after seeing the Mack for the first time was the Antietam Valley Recreation Center's ballroom that was torched by a Molotov cocktail in August 1968. Francis drafted water out of Carsonia Lake to fill hoses of the vehicles on the scene. It was just one memory that came pouring into Francis' mind when he saw that same Mack truck again for the first time in 27 years. "I can't believe it's back. I drove that truck for 20-some years," he said. "I never thought I'd see this [its return]."

Donations from firefighters bought the truck for the same amount Reiffton Fire Company received when it sold the Mack in 1983. The Exeter Township Fire Department, formerly the Reiffton and Stonersville companies, purchased the antique firetruck from Cuck Buschardt, a collector in Texas for the same price - \$3,500 - for which Reiffton sold it in 1983. "It's not about the money. It's all about seeing the truck go back to where it came from. We are firefighters, and we always remain proud of the vehicles we have historically operated," commented Chuck.

Chief Robert Jordan was happy to see it return. "There's a lot of emotion and pride in getting this vehicle back," Jordan said. The truck will remain in Berks County, to be displayed at parades and other events. Best Wishes from the TGCC!



Retired Reiffton and Exeter Township fire chief Terry Francis smiles as he takes his familiar position behind the wheel of the 1951 Mack fire truck that served for 37 years.

Scenes from Summer Denver National

PHOTOS JIM MCGEE & ERIC BERGMAN



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

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cers of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of **SPAAMFAA PO Box 697** Bellaire, TX 77402



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

TGCC HALL OF FLAME: 1926 AMERICAN LAFRANCE



Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Member Tim Treadway owns this 1926 American La-France Type 65 formerly from Shrewsbury Massachusetts, Registration 5575. It has 400 GPM pump