

THE OLDE FIRE BELL



SPRING 2012

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

SINCE 1975

MOONSHINE HILL ANNUAL PUMPNIC

The Ninth Annual Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department Muster and Apparatus Expo was held on April 7th on Belleau Woods Road, at Pond Park next to Brine Pit #6 in sparkling downtown Moonshine Hill. This year brought record turnout of SPAAMFAA members, family, trucks, participants, and onlookers (maybe it was the *FREE* admission that attracted them!) to witness antique fire fighting apparatus at their finest. Awards were presented for the Longest Distance, Oldest Apparatus, Best Ladder, and Best Pumper. All the kids had a great time; they squirted water with the reel line and put on bunker gear, including Tim Treadway's grandson, above. Bill Wilcox was especially great with the younger attendees; he educated them with the history of fire helmets and water extinguishers. A catered lunch was held on the grounds once everyone was thoroughly dehydrated and all the rigs were exercised.

Once again, Mack's



MOONSHINE HILL INVOLUNTARY FIRE DEPT.

ANNOUNCING

NINTH ANNUAL PUMPNIC AND FIRE APPARATUS EXPO

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2012, 11:00 AM TO WHENEVER WE RUN OUT OF GAS. THE LOCATION IS WOODS POND PARK ON BELLEAU WOODS RD. 1 1/2 MILES NORTH OF FM 1960 (see attached station 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.

It's that time of year again. The birds are heading north, leaves returning, alligators are sunning, snakes come out of hibernation, and the elite of the fire service are returning to Sparkling Downtown Moonshine Hill for the thrills and spills of the annual SPAAMFAA 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 fighting 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 pushing rigs out of the mud). Admission is *"FREE"*. The crew on Moonshine Hill is going all-out 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.

Awards will be presented for:

1. Longest Distance Traveled
2. Oldest Apparatus
3. Best All Around Engine
4. Best All Around Ladder Truck

Activities:

1. Pump Testing class
2. Pumping demos

For more information contact: Chas Johnson at 281.802.8702 or cjohnson@cityofmoonsville.net

outnumbered all other manufacturers. Award winners included Kim and Cindy Stellhorn for longest distance traveled (Sante Fe to Humble and almost not back!) in their 1975 Mack; Chuck Buschardt for oldest truck, 1926 American LaFrance; Tim Treadway best ladder for bringing his 1950 Mack Quint; Bill Lofton for achieving first water at 11:03 in his Ford/American Barton (followed closely in second place by Chuck Buschardt at 11:11 AM in his 1926 LaFrance); and Clinton Johnson for best pumper with his 1948, ex-Bellaire Mack. Many thanks to the judges Ken Paradowski, Eddie Kosar, and Jim McGee.

The Olde Fire Bell thanks everyone that participated. We are happy to report that everyone arrived and returned safely with no missing nuts and bolts. Hope to see you all in 2013! See Page 8 for more photos.

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CALENDAR

- Future meeting dates: Monday at 7 PM on July 16, August 20, and September 17 at the Community National Bank on Bellaire Blvd.
- SPAAMFAA National Convention and Muster, Frankenmuth, MI, July 25—28, 2012
- 1940 Air Terminal Museum Car Show, July 21st, 11 AM—3 PM

UPFRONT

2012 keeps on rolling! *The Olde Fire Bell* is pleased to capture Texas Gulf Coast Chapter's Spring events and other items of general interest.

Interest at events has been really fantastic! Record numbers of participants have turned out at events like the Moonshine Hill Pumpnic, Aldine Station dedication, and at the monthly meetings. We may have to find a larger conference room. Keep up the spirit.

SPAAMFAA has lost a number of

greats during the quarter. Marshall Sanford was an inspiration for all emergency responders and volunteers; his passing will be truly missed. John Dorgan, or Sirenman, will leave a void in the hearts of all warning device enthusiasts. And closer to home, Norm Zaffater of Shreveport LA, co-founder of Signal 51, was personally known by many Gulf Coast members.

Chuck Buschardt and Karen Witt will be the sole TGCC participants at the Summer National. We wish them safe travels.

A special recognition to Aldine Fire Department for their dedication ceremony of Station No. 31 in the honor of the late Marla Buschardt. Great job by all the organizers.

Way to go, Scott Rollins.... Another wonder edition of Engine! ~Engine! We thank you!

The Olde Fire Bell thanks Chapter members for submitting material for this Spring Edition. This Newsletter is made possible by your valuable contributions!

CHAPTER MEETING SUMMARIES

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

March: Motion was made to order tee shirts with the new club logo. Clinton Johnson reported on the preparations for the April 7th Pumpnic in Humble. Teresa reported that Mo's BBQ will be catering the event for \$10 per person. Motion was made to develop a 2 x 8 foot banner for display at chapter activities.

April: Steve Dalpe reported the Winter newsletter had been posted to the website and sent to each member via email. Terry Parker circulated several three-ring binders of patent material of various fire equipment. Chuck Buschardt mentioned he had contacted the new owner of the Braniff Shop and has made provisions for staying, if necessary. Chuck also men-

tioned Marshall Sanford, past SPAAMFAA president, passed away on April 15th while fighting a brush fire.

May: Club tee shirts were distributed. Several members are inquiring about storage space for club vehicles. Clinton Johnson submitted the new officers and members' truck lists to National. A number of members expressed interest in participating in the Texas State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association convention. Clinton and Chuck will be taking part in a function at the Old Station 6 on Washington with the 1926 American LaFrance. Kim and Cindy Stellhorn will be participating in the Harrisburg Pump Primers Club July 13 - 14 muster. Members were reminded about the LODD Memorial Ride in Hitchcock on June 23rd. Clinton reminded

members to complete applications for both Friendswood and Kingwood Independence Day Parades; Nassau Bay does not require one.

June: Clinton Johnson presided over the meeting of 13 attendees. Clinton reminded everyone that tee shirts are available, and more will be ordered (in the medium size). There was discussion about participation in upcoming events, include Hitchcock LODD, Wings Over Houston, and Tyler (the latter two are on the same weekend). Tom McDonald corrected the date for the Fire Fest, October 20th only. Eric Lundstrum has some old minutes that he will give to Clinton. He's also making an introduction video for the website. He offered to host a future meeting at his office.

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 Chuck Buschardt

Clinton Johnson Ken Paradowski

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

TOOL BOX

IN MEMORIAM

George Marshall Sanford, age 67, succumbed to unknown medical causes on Sunday, April 15, 2012, at approximately 1831 hours while responding to a fire call in town. First Lieutenant Sanford had been a member of the Redding Fire & EMS Company No. 1 for over 50 years. He was a 40 year volunteer for the Danbury Hospital Emergency Room; a member and past president of the Bethel Fire Department; member of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association; Fairfield County Fire Chiefs; Connecticut Firemen Historical Society Inc.; Connecticut Fire Police Association; Southern Connecticut Antique Fire Apparatus Collectors (SCAFAC); Connecticut Cellar Savers; Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus; Battleship Missouri Memorial, Honolulu HI; Hall of Flame, Phoenix, AZ; International Fire Buffs Association



John Dorgan, a.k.a., "Sirenman", of Tucson, AZ, passed away on May 13. John helped many in SPAAMFAA with identification and repair of vintage warning devices. He was THE recognized SPAAMFAA standard for sirens. His son, Joe, will continue John's legacy of quality beacon and siren restoration.



Dr. Norman Anthony Zaffater, Sr., age 79, of Shreveport, Louisiana, passed away early Sunday, April 1, 2012. He had a passion for restoring antique fire trucks and other apparatus and is fondly remembered by the neighborhood children for fun fire truck rides. He was co-founder and president of Signal 51 Group and was an honorary Fire Chief of the Caddo Fire District 5 and the Shreveport Fire Department. He served as vice president of the International Fire Buff Association. He was a member of the Louisiana Firemen's Association and was also web master for both the Signal 51 Group and Caddo Fire District 5. He was treasurer of the Shreveport Firefighters museum for over 40 years.

NEW LOGO



Jason Barnett, self-employed artist specializing in vintage aviation and custom artwork, recently completed an updated version of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter's logo. It has been featured on new Club tee shirts as well as banner to be displayed at all future events.

WORLD TRADE CENTER

Member Tom McDonald submitted the following photo of lower Manhattan's new skyline, now that the new World Trade Center is nearly framed.



MEETING NEWS

The Community National Bank in Bellaire where most SPAAMFAA meetings have been hosted for years, has been sold to Prosperity Bank, a local banking company with 58 branches in the Houston area. The deal will not finalize until the end of 2012 and regulators also have to give their approval, but this is likely to be a mere formality given the size and nature of the deal. Reportedly, Community agreed to sell to Prosperity because of its appreciation of community-oriented banking. Hopefully, that translates to allowing social groups to continue to meet after-hours in the "Board" room at the bank, but it is simply too early to tell how Prosperity will approach that issue. So, for now, just be aware that our meeting place MAY be subject to change in early 2013. Thanks Tom McDonald for the information!

HUMBLE ANTIQUE FIRE HOUSE



Do you have children who want to be fire fighters? Or need a fire truck for a family event, little league party, or a parade float? How about a special visit by Santa Claus at Christmas time on a fire truck? Then you need to contact the Antique Fire House in Humble. They host a wide array of fire-related events to make for a very memorable event. They are conveniently located in downtown Humble and can be contacted via their website, or on Facebook. Reserve your party event now.



A&M MACK

Submitted by Mark Turvey



On Wednesday, February 29th 2012, a 1932 Mack fire engine was put on display in the lobby of the Henry D. Smith building at the Brayton Fire Training Field in College Station, Texas. This was one of the first apparatus used at the

Texas fire training school. The recent restoration, which included new paint, was completed by the Texas Prison System in Huntsville.

The engine was originally housed at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University) Fire Department, where it was used for local response as well as for training firefighters from across the state. The first Municipal Fire Training School was held in College Station in 1930, and directed by H.R. Brayton.



TEXAS FIRST RESPONDERS

Submitted by Clinton Johnson



SPAAMFAA Texas Gulf Coast Members were on hand at the 2012 annual Texas Association of First Responders Barbeque Cookoff at the Sam Houston Racepark. The Conference started Saturday, June 9th, and ran for 5 days.

Texas Association of First Responders was founded in 2007; it created to benefit law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel injured in the line of duty.



Texas Association of First Responders' mission is to honor those who serve our communities and ensure the safety and well being of our citizens.

The Texas Association of First Responders Charity Wild Game Cook-off is an annual event that consists of cook teams from various law enforcement and fire fighter agencies. Proceeds of the event benefit Texas Association of First Responders charitable activities. Since inception, TAFR has issued over \$64,000 to assist injured First Responders.

You can read more about the organization at <http://tafr.org/index.html>.



OLD STATION 6 PHOTO OPS

BY CLINTON JOHNSON

Photo credits: Axiom and Restoring Fire Station 6



It was an antique fire truck 911 call!

Tom Hair, CEO of Axiom contacted me and asked if I knew of any vintage American LaFrance fire apparatus from the teens or twenties that could be used in a March 27 photo shoot to spotlight the opening of their new headquarters, meticulously-restored Old Houston Fire Station 6 on Washington Avenue. They also needed it the following week—not much lead time!

A week earlier, Axiom had located a 1929 Chevy fire truck for sale in Katy, but it fell short of their needs. Axiom had also arranged a 1924 ALF but due to mechanical problems it had to cancel last minute. Now things were getting desperate—all the planning and logistics for the opening ceremonies were now in jeopardy; the focal point of their event was broken down. When I told him that there were four of these trucks in The

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAAF—FAA and three were in Humble, I thought the logistics guy for Axiom was going to cry. This was evidently a big deal. I advised him I thought we could pull it off but I would have to call him back the next day.



I first called Tim Treadway who told me we could use his truck but it was blocked in by his Mack Aerialscope that could not move as the hydraulic pump was off the transmission. I next contacted Tom Morrison; his '30 model ALF would have been great but it had a flat. His '14 ALF was also available, but it was blocked in by the '30 model, and his 1935 Howe had the cooling fan and radiator hoses off. I promptly went to Tom's and helped him remove the 24 inch wheel so we could repair the tube and get it going again. Unfortunately, when we pulled the wheel the rim was rusted nearly in two so it was now un-repairable in the time frame necessary. I am now getting a little desperate and thinking "that's what you get for bragging about knowing where four impossible-to-get fire trucks are located."

What to do next? It's now one day before the photo shoot.

One more opportunity—Lone Star Fire Museum's 1926 ex-Pittsburgh American LaFrance. When I called Chuck Buschardt, he said come and get it. Just like that, done. Thank goodness. Later, I met a flatbed truck sent by Axiom at the Museum, and we transported the Pittsburg ALF to Washington Avenue for the event.

Axiom employees, Fire Fighters from today's Station 6, and other dignitaries from Houston Fire Department and Administration took turns having photographs made with the truck. That afternoon, Axiom had the truck hauled to Humble so it would be there for the Pumpnic the following week. We got some really good photos, saw some old Houston Buddies we had not seen in a while, and generally had a good time. What was really nice was we actually got paid a little for it.



A second event in May, Axiom contacted us again and wanted the Pittsburg ALF for another event highlighting the Houston Fire Department and Old Station 6. Axiom took care of the trucking again and Chuck went with it. Every Fire Chief still alive was invited, as well as various City Dignitaries to this event. All of the Chiefs but one were able to attend, even the one that mistook Chuck's brother in a newspaper photo at a fire for Chuck, and promptly fired him for being out of district! Chuck told me he had a good time and saw a lot of his old Houston FD friends and acquaintances. That afternoon Pittsburg ALF was returned by Axiom to its temporary home at the Moonshine Hill IFD.

MARLA'S DREAM

BY STEVE DALPE

Aldine Station No. 31, 20440 Imperial Valley: "This station was part of her vision to serve the community and the fire service. Her 30 year tenure, her influence and knowledge saw this vision thru. We dedicate this station in her honor."



On Saturday, May 19th, The Aldine Fire Rescue and a packed house of supporters paid tribute to the late Marla Ann Watlington Buschardt by naming its newest station in her memory during a dedication ceremony. Family members on hand for the event were husband Chuck Buschardt; father Joe Watlington; stepmother Betty Douthitt-Watlington; daughter Allison Buschardt; daughter and son-in-law Sarah and John

Vonnivong; son, Zachary; and numerous aunts and uncles. Nearly two dozen members from the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA were present during the event.

Daughter of Joe and the late Judith Watlington of Palestine, Marla passed away on January 31, 2009, at the age of 52. In 1979, she married William "Chuck" Buschardt, a Houston Fire Department paramedic and third-generation firefighter. She, too, became interested in firefighting, fire trucks, and firefighting apparatus. For 10 years, she was a member of the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department, and for 15 years was active in Aldine Fire and Rescue. Marla was trained as a volunteer firefighter, medic, and daytime dispatcher. She held several positions of authority in both departments. She was a very active member in the local SPAAMFAA chapter.

An inseparable pair, she and her husband co-founded the Gulf Coast Fire Equipment Repair and the Lone Star Fire Museum, repairing, collecting, and restoring older and antique fire engines. Often, a new truck to the collection meant a vacation road show from some part of the country, typically the North East.

Chief Scott Turrentine was master of ceremonies for the event. His testimony about Station No. 31 becoming a reality: "She was very kind, sweet, and generous. This station was Marla's dream. To have all the amenities and equipment that we have today to help others was her vision. Unfortunately, Marla passed away before she was able to see it completed." Father Rafael of St. Leo's Catholic Church lead the invocation. Gerald Tackett, chief archi-

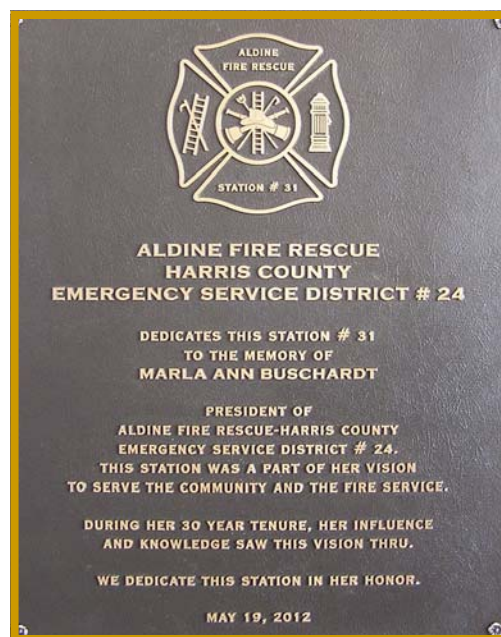


tect, recounted the endless hours of research Marla conducted to ensure the needs of the department were met.

Chief Turrentine and Assistant Chief Jackie Metcalfe unveiled the plaque that contained the dedication inscription. It hangs on the wall of the truck bay visible to all.

Chuck spoke of earlier days when it wasn't so good, and not very long ago: "We literally went begging for money on street corners and knocking on doors for donations." He gave credit to not only Marla but all the other people who were a part of today's dedication.

In addition to the station dedication, Engine #31 was dedicated to Marla a couple months earlier. This and its sister truck were another \$1.5 M expenditure for area support. Two more acquisitions that Marla never got to see.



MARLA'S DREAM

BY STEVE DALPE



Above—a front view of the new station and apparatus. Upper left—the uncoupling ceremony officially opening Station 31 for business by Assistant Chief Jackie Metcalfe, Chief Scott Turrentine, Tom Gomez, President Bruce Hall, Chuck Buschardt, and Lee Spilman. Upper right—new Pierce with engraved-glass tribute to Marla Buschardt. Bottom left—Station 31 apparatus and facilities were open for all participants to view. Bottom right—from left to right Earl Summerlot, Jackie Metcalfe, Alton Muzyka, Henry Chavez, and Chuck Buschardt.



MHIVFD ANNUAL PUMPNIC

BY STEVE DALPE



Half the fun in getting to the Pumpnic is the preparation. Above, the 1926 stops at local gas station for a filler-up. Fortunately, there was a gas station between MHIVFC Station on and the Pumpnic site. Chuck Buschardt operates the nozzle with Jim McGee looking on. Right, Bill Wilcox secures running board equipment on his 1942 Mack in preparation for the ride from Moonshine Hill Station #1 to the Pumpnic. Macks once again dominated the scene, with 4 present from 1942—1976 time period.



Below, Bill and Kathy Wilcox's 1942 Mack proudly displayed the new Chapter banner with the updated logo. Jason Barnet submitted the winning design, featuring a 700 Series American La-France. See page 3 for a closer look. Traditional "longest distance" recipients, the Wilcox's were eclipsed by Kim and Cindy Stellhorn from Santa Fe. Left, Tim Treadway's 1950 Mack Quint displays the Texas flag high above the streams from the other trucks.



MHIFD ANNUAL PUMPNIC

BY STEVE DALPE



Below, Kim and Cindy Stellhorn recently acquired this beautiful 1975 CF Mack, Engine 8, ex Harrisburg PA, featured in the Winter 2012 Newsletter, making its Pumpnic debut. This truck is loaded! Left, there's little water-front property available! Bill Lofton's America/Barton Bumper Pumper efficiently utilizes the available real estate.



Above, co-organizer Clinton Johnson provides on-site instruction of Red Line operation to a local youth. There was a large gathering of community personnel this year—the word must be getting out! The Johnson's 1948 Mack is one of the moved traveled vehicles in the Club. Right, Bill Lofton is video taped by Eric Lundstrum (for the 5 o'clock news?) while making drafting adjustments. Note the reflection from that newly painted fender!



TEXAS FALLEN HEROES

BY KEN PARADOWSKI & CLINTON JOHNSON

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA Members took part in 3rd Annual Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Ride and Cook Off on June 23rd in Hitchcock, Texas. The Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Ride & Cook-Off is the official benefit fundraiser for the Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force. The purpose of the memorial ride is to bring a greater awareness to the Task Force and to raise funds to help support the departments and families who have suffered a line of duty injury or death.

The motorcycle ride began at Cypress VFD Station 11 in Cypress Fairbanks and ended at the Galveston County Fairgrounds where the Barbeque Cookoff began the night before. There was also a Fire Truck Muster

and Military Vehicle Display at the fairgrounds. Gulf Coast Chapter had two members trucks in attendance; Kim and Cindy Stellhorn brought their 1975 Mack Engine, and Clinton Johnson his 1948 Mack. Congratulations to the Stellhorn's for winning the best antique of the pre-1980 class. Club members Ken Paradoski, and Mark and Nancy Turvey were also in attendance. Apparatus from Lake Jackson FD, Santa Fe FD, League City FD, Amaco FD, and Dickinson FD were also there. In addition, Memorial Herman Life Flight, HFD Pipes and Drums put on a show, and for the kids there was a petting zoo and assorted games. Over 150 motorcycles took part in the ride. One of the Gulf Coast members, Mark Turvey, is also a member of the organizational team for the event.

The Texas Fallen Heroes group supports efforts to help the families of Emergency Service Workers killed or injured in the line of duty. Their Mission Statement is "Remembering the Survivors by Never Forgetting the Fallen"



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: LAKE JACKSON 1942 CHEVY



Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department owns this 1942 Chevy. It makes an annual appearance at the Texas Fallen Heroes LODD event in Hitchcock, Texas, as well as other events