

THE OLDE FIRE BELL

SUMMER 2012

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

SINCE 1975

HARRISBURG MUSTER



On Saturday, July 14, the Pump Primers held their 37th annual Pump Primers Show & Muster from 10AM – 4 PM in Harrisburg's Riverfront Park. Texas Gulf Coast Chapter's very own Kim and Cindy Stellhorn were participants.

The Stellhorn's drove all the way to PA, favoring their smaller family vehicle instead of their Mack, not only to participate in the muster events but to collect information on the history of their ex-Harrisburg truck. They documented their trip, featured here in *The Olde Fire Bell*:

Our road trip began Tuesday July 10th stopping in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, our first night and Kingsport, Tennessee our second. We arrived in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on Thursday afternoon. We traveled to Hershey to tour the chocolate factory and on the way back to the motel ended up on the "Hill" neighborhood. We found the "Allision" Station and also the Mt. Pleasant Station 8 by accident. Station 8 is where our 1975 CF Mack served. The "Allision" is an



early 1900 fire station purchased by Jason Lloyd after setting vacant for some 30 years. Those of you who remember what old Station 7 looked like when America 76 Hose Company got it; well, Station 7 was a masterpiece compared to "The Allision."

Harrisburg has some great places to eat. On a couple occasions, we had dinner at the Firehouse Restaurant "Hope No. 2," another old city fire station closed down years ago. Harrisburg had to abandon several old fire stations in the 70's because they were deemed unsafe.



Friday, July 13th was a full day beginning at "Reilly No. 10" city fire museum, touring and meeting with Dave Houseal, city historian and author of three books on the history of Harrisburg Fire Department. Wow—a great 3 ½ hours of history. Dave is a walking archive of information.

Next, we headed to the "Allision" to meet a Facebook acquaintance Jason Lloyd and get a tour and history lesson of the Allision. DC Gary Neff, past owner of the Mack (cont. pg 6)

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CALENDAR

- Future meeting dates: Monday at 7 PM on October 15 and November 19 at the Community National Bank on Belaire Blvd. No meeting in December.
- SPAAMFAA Winter National Convention and Muster, Jacksonville FL, February 13—16, 2013

UPFRONT

The dog days of summer usually mark one of the slowest periods of the year, for obvious reasons; however, the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter had one of its best quarters in many regards. *The Olde Fire Bell* salutes the dedication and commitment of its members.

During the early morning hours of Sept. 11, 2001, nineteen hijackers took control of four commercial airliners destined for national landmarks, two being the World Trade Center. That day, 343



NYC FD firefighters and paramedics would lose their lives in one of the greatest feats of bravery ever witnessed. Eleven years have since passed, and *The Olde Fire Bell* pays tribute to their sacrifice. We will never forget!

Closer to home, this newsletter also honors long-time fireman Art Hewitt of League City. Many of the Chapter members knew Art personally. A true legend!

Once again, we are happy to report that Chapter membership has increased: new members for the quarter include Bill Baldy, John Blumentritt, and Joe Brantley. We welcome each and wish them many years of enjoyment as members of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.

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

CHAPTER MEETING SUMMARIES

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

July: President Clinton Johnson will soon be placing the donated items on eBay or Facebook (The Fire Hall Flea Market) as a means of securing funds for the club. Secretary Steve Dalpe reported the Spring 2012 Newsletter was distributed via email to Chapter Members. He had been contacted via the website of a potential new member, residing in New Orleans area. Steve also provided update of Texas Fire Museum activities. Clinton mentioned he has been contacted by a retired machinist in case anyone needs some machining.

August: Fourteen members and two guests were present. Karen Witt reported on Frankenmouth trip. Kim and

Cindy Stellhorn went to Harrisburg muster and reported on the details. Clinton Johnson reported on Chapter participation in the 1941 Air Terminal event at the Hobby Air Museum. Chuck Buschardt reported on Dave Miller's 70th birthday celebration. October is shaping up to be a busy month: Deer Park Parade, Oct. 6th; Lake Houston Car Show, Oct. 14th; HFD Fire Fest at the Val Jahnke Training Academy, Oct. 20; Tyler and Wings Over Houston, Oct. 27th. Scott Mellott explained sales of his HFD pictorial history book. Mark Turvey gave a presentation about demonstrations of 12,000 GPM water flow at Industrial Fire Training School at A&M (August minutes courtesy Ken Paradowski).

September: Clinton Johnson opened the

meeting at 7:10 PM with fourteen members present. The group welcomed two new members, Bill Baldy and John Blumentritt. Bill is a 33-year veteran of HFD, and owns a 1975 American LaFrance. (See next page for more information about John.) Karen Witt mentioned she started a "Gulf Coast SPAAMFAA" Facebook page and encouraged everyone to join. A motion was made to provide fuel assistance to those bringing trucks to Tyler. There was a discussion about pending legislation dictating 15% ethanol in motor fuel. Everyone was asked to think about ideas for the Christmas party. Tom McDonald has not heard from Community National Bank about the need to seek alternative meeting arrangements.

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 Terry Parker

Kim & Cindy Stellhorn Chuck Buschardt

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

TOOL BOX

VIRAL DOG RESCUE



A most amazing rescue in Temuco, Chili. When the house of Omar Torres caught fire, its owner was rescued and rushed to the hospital for inhalation and burns. However, before being transported, he managed to tell firemen that he owned a dog that gave birth just ten days ago. The firemen consider but paused as the home was fully engulfed. Everyone thought there was no hope, but amazingly the mother dog came out, walking through the flame and the intense heat with one puppy in her mouth. She walked up to the truck and laid the puppy on the top step. She returned into the inferno home three more times, not apparently aware that she might not make it out alive with each trip. One by one the mother rescued her four young pups. Only when she was ensured all her pups were safe did the mother collapse from exhaustion by her puppies. Sadly, one puppy did not survive its many burn wounds.

Photo Credit: J. Monsalves

CHAPTER PHOTO

Approximately once each year, the group dons its chapter attire and demonstrates its best behavior to allow adequate time to create yet another image that will become an important piece of Club history. This photograph was taken by Nancy Turvey at the August 2012 monthly meeting. Scott Mellott (third from left) is honored guest promoting his recent book.



WELCOME JOHN BLUMENTRITT

The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter welcomes its newest member, John Blumentritt, of Schertz, Texas. John owns a 1929 American LaFrance Registration G330. According to research John has done with Ken Soderbeck, it was delivered new to Luling, Texas in 1929, where John subsequently found reference to this delivery in their fire department history and two associated newspaper articles. The truck also served at Medina Lake VFD. Medina Lake has a black-and-white photo of it hanging in their old fire station. John's family bought the truck in the 1970s and drove it in-and-around San Angelo for fun. The truck has been stored in San Angelo, and John plans to relocate it to Schertz right after he completes the restoration of a 1930 Model "A". We welcome John to the Chapter.



9/11 HONOR



TREE REMOVAL—TEXAS STYLE

Member Mark Turvey appears to have found an alternative use for his 1976 C Series Ford/FMC — A little yard work. He writes on his Facebook Page: "Nothing like 18,000 pounds of inertia and a pair of good, heavy duty 3/8" proof coil chains to remove a couple of tree stumps! Having a fire truck around is good for a number of things!!!"



4TH JULY PARADES

BY CLINTON JOHNSON & MARK TURVEY



Humble's very own Moonshine Hill Involuntary Fire Department took part in the Kingwood 4th of July Parade. The 1948 Simms Engine 501, and the 1964 American LaFrance aerial Ladder 1 transported the local Citizens Emergency Response Teams and the Community Response Task Force in the annual Kingwood 4th of July Parade. The Kingwood Civic Club sponsors the event every year as a kickoff to a full day of patriotic celebrations. This parade is by far the largest in the area with over 220 entries. The parade usually last a little over an hour with literally thousands of spectators. This is pretty good considering it was more than a little warm and the humidity was 95%. The fire trucks led the parade with Hous-

ton's Ladder 102 in the lead. Everyone had a good time and our local disaster volunteer groups got to show off a little.

Further south in Friendswood, Mark & Nancy Turvey and a generous helping of family members were entrant #65 in their 1975 Ford/FMC, directly behind a group of Friendswood fire trucks. Friendswood starts off the Fourth with a giant parade through town, from FM 2351 to Stevenson Park. Activities for all ages continue in the park through the afternoon, and as the sun begins to set the crowds adjourn to Centennial Park (off FM 518 toward League City) for spectacular fireworks. Friendswood photos of Turvey's truck photos courtesy of Scott Brinly.

1940 AIR MUSEUM

BY STEVE DALPE & MARK TURVEY

If you fancy the combination of rotary-wing aviation and antique fire engines, this was definitely your mega assembly. On July 21st, The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFA members were in attendance at the high-flying event of the year—the 2012 Wings and Wheels Show, sponsored by the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, located adjacent to William P. Hobby Airport. The Terminal and Hangar are operated and being restored by the Houston Aeronautical Heritage Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Clinton Johnson displayed not only his 1948 Mack ex-Bellaire but his 1971 CJ jeep as well; Bill Lofton piloted the American LaFrance West University 1972 Pioneer Series; Mark Turvey flew the American Flag proudly on his 1976 Ford/FMC. A captain's effort was made by Jim McGee, Ken Paradowski, and Steve Dalpe to bring another vehicle—1948 American LaFrance 700 Series—but a water pump leak prevented its attendance.

mail Hangar.

Thanks to all that participated the museum raised over \$98,000 to help to keep the museum functioning and continue the restoration efforts. Congratulations to the winner of the 1958 Cessna 172, Michael R. Little of Omaha, Nebraska. You can read more about the Museum and the next Wings and Wheels on <http://1940airterminal.org/>. Hope to see you at the 2013 Wings and Wheels event.



HARRISBURG

BY KIM & CINDY STELLHORN



met us at the Allision and took us first to Mt Pleasant where our Mack served and then on to Station 1 and 2 to look at "Hot Shot" pictures of the Mack that are posted on the walls of the stations. While shift change was being made, I

was able to get additional history from another Facebook acquaintance "Skull," and also take the volunteer's Mack CF out for pictures.

After a full day on station tours we were just able to get back to the motel to get ready for the muster kickoff at the fire museum and then take the fire truck run downtown 2nd street with the Emerald Society drum and pipe Corp. We rode on Jason's open cab Mack tiller, which originally served at the "Allision" in the 50's and 60's

Saturday began with rain and we passed up riding the tiller in



the parade and opted to take parade pictures and start looking at all the swap and shop tables being setup for the muster.



The parade began a few miles to west of the river at the Harrisburg Fair Barn and weaves it way through the city streets in full color with lights, sirens and bells. The trucks are split off at the river entrance so those that will draft

will move down next to the river and the static apparatus will be setup in the park area. Harrisburg has a great location for static and drafting.

We took a whole bunch of pictures to share with the Chapter. The Muster featured a procession of antique fire vehicles, followed by pumping exercises. There were a lot of nice apparatus on display. The PP do a great job restoring and maintaining their fire trucks. And there were opportunities to swap and shop and pick up miscellaneous equipment to go on our CF.



LEAGUE CITY'S ART HEWITT



League City recently lost one of its finest and longest standing volunteers fire department members: Arthur Hewitt served as a volunteer firefighter in League City for 61 years. He passed away on July 10th at his daughter's home in Woodburn.

Arthur began working as a volunteer firefighter in 1950. During his service, he served as captain, treasurer, and assistant chief. He also performed maintenance on the department's fire trucks. He was voted Outstanding Firefighter in 1969, 1984, 1985, and 1990. League City's Fire Station 1 was named in his honor in 2000. At the age of 85, he decided to stop fighting fires but continued to perform safety training younger vol-



League City lowered Texas flags to half the announcement

With so many years was no shortage of Those who knew Art called him an inspiration and a legend within the community. Several members in the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter knew Arthur personally, and none more than Mark and Nancy Turvey: "Art Hewitt was one of the proudest volunteers I have ever met. He defined the role & set a standard that few will ever come close to equaling!" And Charlie Womack - "Rest in Peace, Art. May God bless you and may He bless and comfort your family and friends."

The League City Fire Department provided full firefighter honors for his funeral.

If you search Youtube using key words Arthur Hewitt, there's a short memorial video in his honor. The City of League City also has a tribute section to him on their home page.

Photo credit: City of League City

PARKER'S M37

BY TERRY PARKER

"The Adventure begins" - Friendswood arrival date Thursday, August 30th ... anyone that has undertaken a restoration project knows exactly what Terry Parker is saying!

Terry recently took possession of a 1954 Dodge M-37 with a Barton-American UA50 front-mount pump (500 GPM). It was a military surplus vehicle - the engine compartment is still olive drab! - that a small volunteer fire department in Sherry, Wisconsin bought and converted into a brush truck. They had a member who had a body shop and they added the pump to it. One of their members said the pump was installed between 1975-1980. It apparently had a military delivery date of January 22, 1954.

Terry outlines his restoration plans: "It runs but needs a tune-up, which I will start with first. Then the muffler needs replacing and at least one tire is showing age cracks. The fire department mailed the title and it arrived today, so I should have no problem getting tags tomorrow, as well as insurance. Once the tags are on and the tune-up completed, I'll start on the pump. The body work will come last and I'm not sure how I want to arrange the bed. They had a large (probably 200-250



gallon) water tank in the rear, and I may not replace it, just run the pump off a hydrant or draft. The speedometer works so I'm assuming the 43,052 miles are original. The beacon light on top works as well as the headlights and tail lights. My wife said the cheerleader on the hood needs to go as well as the "Swamp Fox" lettering. I agree but it will be there awhile due to other priorities."

SPAAMFAA NATIONAL

PHOTO CREDIT KATRINA FALK



The 2012 SPAAMFAA National Convention, hosted by the Great Lakes International Antique Fire Apparatus Association, was held July 25-28, in Frankenmuth, Michigan. An estimated 160 apparatus were on display at the muster including a group of 14 Ahrens Fox engines and one Ahrens Fox tractor drawn aerial. Below, this 1907 Waterous horse drawn engine, 330 GPM, was the oldest operating apparatus



The Ahrens Fox apparatus assemblage was one of the largest since the Ahrens Fox Day at the Fire Museum of Maryland on May 21st, 2011. Above, 1916 Model M-4 Reg 825 of Madison, Indiana Fire Department. Below, the much acclaimed Detroit Fire Department Engine 31 Seagrave sedan pumper sporting the beautiful sweetheart grill. Below left, 1925 American LaFrance ex-Richmond.



SPAAMFAA NATIONAL

PHOTO CREDIT KATRINA FALK



Left, a beautiful 1949 Chevrolet pickup from Franklin Fire Department #2. Below, 1937 Seagrave 66E Serial No. 88020, 750 GPM, Delivered to the Good Will Fire Company of Carlisle Pennsylvania on November 11th, 1937. Originally painted Old Ivory over Red. Sold in 1967 to the Good Will Fire Company No 1 of West Fairview Pa. Middle left, Bethpage 700 Series Canopy ALF was present.



Right, beautiful and original Mack Tillered Aerial from Lapeer FD, next to updated yellow truck. In 1923, Ahrens Fox introduced 65, 75, and 85' foot tractor-drawn aerial trucks, equipped with Dahill pneumatic compressed-air hoists, which provided quicker & smoother operation of a ladder apparatus than the earlier spring styles. Below, a beautiful 1947 black and red L Model Mack.



FDNY TRUCK ARRIVES

BY CHUCK BUSCHARDT



What could possibly be more appropriate than the arrival of FDNY truck in September to commemorate 9/11! Chuck Buschardt is proud to announce the delivery of his 1978 Mack CF, 1000 GPM, 500 tank, diesel automatic. It last served Oceanic Hook & Ladder on Staten Island, one of only a couple of volunteer fire departments still allowed to operate in the City of NY. It was the first of an order of 40 in 1978. It arrived in 1979 and was assigned to fire academy chauffeur



school. I have conflicting stories of its service history. 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.

There have been very few changes to the rig since new. Changes include re-painting and new light bar when assigned to Oceanic by FDNY. The pumper is in remarkable condition considering it served 34 years in New York City.

I will write a more detailed history when I can get more accurate documentation on the rig. My intent is to keep it original and make it a mobile tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice on 9-11-01. Hopefully, we will procure a piece of the towers to complete our memorial. I purchased FDNY MP-7801 one week after it went out of service. Members of Reiff-ton Fire Company, Redding, PA, picked it up for me and stored it until I could have it shipped to Houston. I purchased it approximately 6 months ago.

Top left photo: credit Mike Stallings

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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

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



President - Clinton Johnson
Vice President - Ken Paradowski
Treasurer - Tom McDonald
Secretary - Steve Dalpe

Newsletter Editor: Steve Dalpe
17011 Chapel Park Court
Houston TX 77059-3111
Phone: 281-486-4474
E-mail: sdalpe@hotmail.com

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

TGCC HALL OF FLAME: TERRY PARKER'S 1954 DODGE



Terry Parker recently purchased this 1954 Dodge M37 with Barton-American front-mount pumper; a former military surplus vehicle turned into brush fire rig by small FD in Wisconsin