

# THE OLDE FIRE BELL



SUMMER/FALL 2013

GULFCOASTSPAAMFAA.ORG

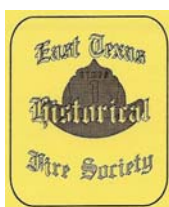
SINCE 1975

**The East Texas Historical Fire Society** held its 28th Annual Muster on Friday—Saturday, October 25—26, 2013. In attendance were 15 members and family from the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA.

The muster events on that Saturday were held at the beautiful Brookshire Grocery Company's Lake Palestine camp ground, approximately 17 miles south of Tyler. Activities on Friday and Saturday nights included clinics and a lot of fire fellowship. Saturday's muster included fire apparatus displays, drafting, judging, and a swap meet. A catered hot lunch was served at the Lake's grounds to registrants of the event.

This was Kim and Cindy Stellhorn's first trip to Tyler. "While the turnout was low on Friday evening at the warehouse, I did enjoy seeing the apparatus and the fellowship with the folks there. The Gulf Coast Chapter had the largest turnout Saturday for the muster. I es-

pecially enjoyed the trip downtown to see the antique cars and fire trucks in storage. Seeing the Rutherford CF Mack was great and since that time I have been able to locate and send the owner, Earle Crim, a collection of pictures while it served in Pennsylvania."



Chuck Buschardt and Karen Witt trailered the 1926 American LaFrance, ex-Pittsburg PA, from Houston and hands-down won longest distance. The truck supplied a 2" line to nearby deck gun and the 1962 ALF ladder truck, originally from Shreveport, LA. The ladder truck was driven from Shreveport the evening earlier. The ALF along with a group photo are shown below. And yes, the now muster-famous multi-family birdhouses is still standing!

On a lighter scale, member Terry Parker brought his recently restored hand pump (see page 8 for photos). "Although everyone at the Tyler muster was (continued on page 5)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPFRONT	2
CHAPTER MINUTES	2
TOOL BOX	3
HFM FIRE FEST	4
TYLER MUSTER	5
HARRISBURG ROADTRIP	6
LEE HOWL HAND PUMP	8
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	9
PHOTO ARCHIVE	10

## CALENDAR

- Future meeting dates: Monday at 7 PM on January 20, February 17, and March 17 at Prosperity Bank on Bellaire Blvd.
- SPAAMFAA Winter National Convention and Muster, Charleston, SC, February 5—8, 2014
- Friendswood Christmas Parade, December 14
- Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Christmas luncheon, December 14, Perry's Restaurant in Friendswood



## UPFRONT

Well, time just seemed to pass so quickly this summer, that getting two editions of *The Olde Fire Bell* just didn't seem possible. So here's a combined Summer—Fall edition. We apologize for the delay in issuing this edition of *The Olde Fire Bell*. We promise to be better!

We highlight both memorials and reunions in this edition, and the people that make them happen. Members attended the memorial services for Charlie Womack's mom, Eula Mae Womack. Eula passed away on September 12 at the

age of 93. Also, Former SPAAMFAA president Herold Berthly also lost his companion of 42 years, Rose Fraley. Rose passed away unexpectedly on November 21, at her residence in Morgantown WV. Our deepest condolences to both families.

We feature Houston Fire Museum's Fire Fest, East Texas Historical Fire Society's Annual Muster, The Stellhorn's roadtrip to Pennsylvania, and a restoration on a smaller scale.

We welcome Gary Walding and Mike Bodak as our Chapter's newest members.

On behalf of the entire Texas Gulf Coast Chapter, *The Olde Fire Bell* wishes you the very best.

Well... after many consecutive years of participation, we didn't get to participate in the Thanksgiving Day Parade. Not because we didn't want to..... No classic fire trucks... "glad Engine 8 made it last year," says Kim Stellhorn. See next page for details. There's always St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Spring.

*The Olde Fire Bell* salutes the dedication and commitment of its members.

## CHAPTER MEETING SUMMARIES

**July:** Bill Hanna mentioned he is rewiring his recently acquired Pirsch. Steve Dalpe recently received several photos from Fred Ayers in PA of a comparable ALF 500 Series engine compartment for his restoration. Karen Witt and Chuck Buschardt will be attending the SPAAMFAA Summer National.

**August:** There were 14 people in attendance including two visitors, Jackie Hansen and Gary Walding, new member. Joe Brantley made a presentation of old Galveston fire videos. Tom McDonald gave a short explanation of local and national club dues for the visitors. After adjournment, visitor Jackie Hansen announced a benefit event to support the construction of memorials at Houston Fire Stations 51 and 68

in memory of the four fallen firefighters from May 31. Event flyers were distributed to meeting attendees.

**September:** The Spring Newsletter had been emailed. Gary Walding mentioned he is restoring an early-century American LaFrance. Ken Paradowski shared details about recent benefit for the four Houston Fire Fighters who died in the May Southwest Inn Motel fire. Jason Banett was recognized for World Trade Center 343 mural on Chuck Buschardt's Oceanic Mack. Kim Stellhorn presented Steve Dalpe with a framed photo of his (Steve's) 1941 ALF Scout.

**October:** New member Mike Bodak submitted a membership application at the meeting. New member Gary Walding

took home two awards at the Deer Park Parade. Clinton Johnson attempted to contact the Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade committee for details about participation in this year's event. Bill and Kathy Wilcox hosted Steve and Lu Ann Hansen (publishers for The Visiting Fireman) while in Pagosa Springs, CO.

**November:** Clinton Johnson announced that we would not be participating in the Thanksgiving Day Parade. The annual Christmas luncheon details were finalized. Upcoming Christmas parades were discussed. Steve Dalpe requested photographs for submission to SPAAMFAA National Engine~Engine Muster edition. Kim Stellhorn provided dates of Christmas Parades in the Santa Fe area.

*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:

Clinton Johnson Terry Parker Kim Stellhorn

Tom McDonald Bill Lofton Jim McGee

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

## TOOL BOX

### IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME ....



.... To decorate a fire truck, of course! Kim and Cindy Stellhorn are getting a jump on decorating their fire truck for the Friendswood Parade, to be held on December 14th, following the Chapter's Christmas Luncheon at Perry's. This year, the theme is "white Christmas" with entrants featuring only white lights. Engine 8, ex-Harrisburg PA, has been a regular at many events this year. Rumor has it that Engine 8 can also be seen the evening before during the Sante Fe Christmas Parade.

### 343 MEMORIAL

Artist member Jason Barnett was inspired to memorialize the World Trade Center 9-11 event. What better approach than to paint the flag-raising ceremony after the collapse of the buildings. Jason set out to paint above the wheel well on Chuck Buschardt's Mack from Oceanic, Long Island NY, a replicate of that famous moment. Within a couple of hours, the masterpiece was unfolded. You can see it at nearly any of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter events that feature this vehicle.



### NO THANKSGIVING PARADE IN 2013

"Dear Mr. Johnson: As you may have heard, the previous producers of this event chose to abandon it. With the Mayor's guidance, the Thanksgiving Day Parade was resurrected. Unfortunately, the new producers of the parade had to start from scratch with regards to floats, balloons, and parade entries, as well as a new parade route and theme. Even the name of the parade has been changed from the Holiday Parade back to the Thanksgiving Day Parade. The producers did not get a list of previous parade participants and all of the assets were sold. Unfortunately, the parade has been filled and we are not taking any more parade entries. If you would like to be considered for 2014, I would request that you contact me in early August and I will make sure you receive information on the parade. I will put your information on my calendar also, so don't be surprised if I contact you first." Mayors office. We'll definitely be there next year. You can bet on that!

### BIRTHDAY PARTIES



Moonshine Hill Engine 1 1948 Mack 45S was the star ride at several birthday parties held at the Antique Fire House in Humble. The Antique Fire House is the creation of Tom and Ronnell Morrison. See [antiquefirehouse@msn.com](mailto:antiquefirehouse@msn.com) for more details. In addition to numerous adventures for the kids and party rooms, inside the Fire House includes a 1914 ALF, 1933 ALF, 1935 Chevrolet/Howe, and 1935 ALF Suburbanite.

### ATASCOCITA CAR SHOW

The Atascocita Car Show is a spontaneous event held each Saturday night between 6 - 9 PM in the Schlotsky's Parking Lot on FM 1960. Between 50 and 100 classic cars of all makes, shapes, and sizes show up weekly. Here, a participant poses on the tail board of Clinton Johnson's 1948 GMC Simms. Moonshine Hill Ladder 1 and Highlands 501 are shown on standby until one of the Rat Rods explodes. A lot of the guys from Moonshine Hill attend if the community battery is charged enough to start something.



### CROSBY VFD REUNION



Each year, the Crosby FD holds a volunteer member reunion for all present and former Volunteer Fire Fighters. The star attraction of this year's event was Highlands Engine 501. Crosby and Highlands neighbor each other and mutual-aid respond to nearly all structure fires. Many of the retired volunteers worked off this rig that was in service until 1985. Former Crosby Fire Chief Clinton Johnson, a member of the Gulf Coast Chapter, now owns Engine 501.



## HFM FIRE FEST

BY STEVE DALPE

The annual Houston Fire Museum FIRE FEST was held at the HFD Training Academy, 8030 Braniff, between Telephone Rd and Monroe Rd, on Saturday, October 19, between 9:30 AM and 5 PM. Fire Fest is an annual 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. Admission to the event is free

HFD Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums kicked off the events with a 10 AM parade with the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter trucks in the front. Three trucks present, 1978 Oceanic NYC Mack CF driven by Ken Paradowski, 1948 GMC/Simms formerly Highlands FD driven by Clinton Johnson, and 1970 ALF ex Newington CT, ex Sayer OK driven by Bill Lofton. Other TGCC participants include Harry Darr, Steve Dalpe, Bill Lofton, Arden Ogle, Jim & Cheryl McGee, Cynthia King, Terry Parker, Bill Wilcox, Tom McDonald, Chuck Buschardt, and Karen Witt.

The evening before, Houston area's best firefighter cook-off teams competed to win best in Ribs, Chicken, Brisket, Beans, and Dessert! The cook-off was sanctioned by the Texas Gulf Coast BBQ Cookers Association.

There will be numerous fire demonstrations throughout the day, like diesel tank fire, bus fire with extrication, tanker truck fire, ladder truck aerial competition, and house fire demonstration. The Safety Skills Zone will include the following: flashover demonstration, ventilation demonstration, extinguisher demonstration, and thermal imaging camera demonstration.

Thanks everyone for attending. A great time was had by all and hope to see you all again in 2014!

**Houston Fire Fest**  
**October 19, 2013**  
**10:00am - 5:00pm**

free admission

**HFD Val Jahnke**  
**Training Facility**  
**8030 Braniff**  
**Houston, TX 77061**

Live Fire and  
 Rescue Demonstrations

Firefighters

Kid's Zone

Antique Fire Cars  
 & Fire Trucks

Vendors, Food & Fun

Firefighter's BBQ Cookoff





## TYLER MUSTER (CONT)

PHOTOS BY JIM MCGEE

interested in it and most wanted to try it out, the average handling time never exceeded two minutes. Just long enough to peak people's interest and get a photo shot," adds Terry. The weather was magnificent, with plenty of water to easily draft off the dock. Every one had a great time.

And by the way, we understand there were no marriage proposals this year. The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter still leads other Chapters with 2 engagements. Book early for the 29th muster to get the best rates!





## HARRISBURG ROAD TRIP

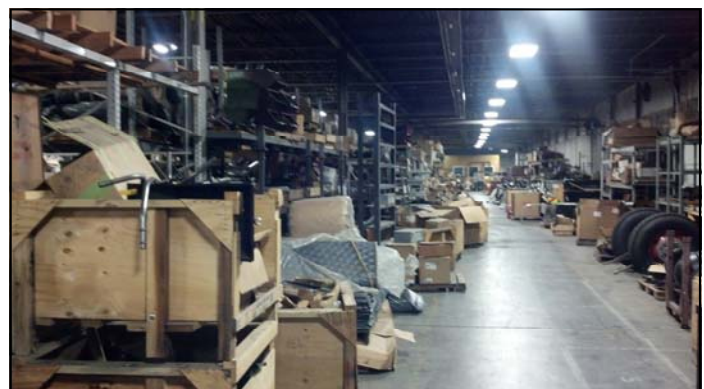
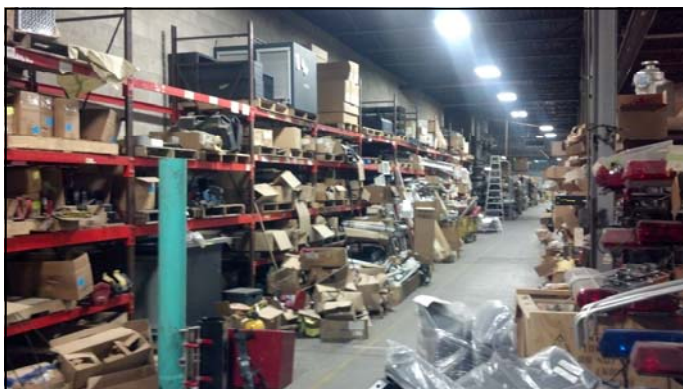
BY KIM STELLHORN

Jumping ahead a week to the Pump Primer muster on July 12 -13th... as I shot pictures of the 100+ fire trucks arriving and seeing 3 of the fire trucks I had missed out buying in 2011, I realized that if I had bought one of those and not the Harrisburg CF with all its history, I would not be visiting in Harrisburg and becoming friends with so many people in area. The rest of this story would not exist.

Back to the beginning of our trip. There were several items on our schedule to do; retrieve pictures from the Harrisburg stations of our fire truck in action, go through some files of pictures taken by a local photographer, and participate in some side trips.

After visiting one night at Harrisburg FD Station 6, The Paxton, our plans changed. Robert Sharpe set up a tour for us in Hanover at the fire museum, and after much planning and talking the next day we head to Schuylkill County Historical Fire Society in Shenandoah to visit a museum and building packed with 50-60 fire trucks. Then off to the KME fire truck factory to go through their scratch and dent warehouse. This place is literally a candy store for firefighters. They promised me they would ship anything I found; only thing, there was too much to ship!

On Friday, I was finally able to get to the firehouses and retrieve some pictures and got them copied. The fire-





## HARRISBURG ROAD TRIP (CONT)

BY KIM STELLHORN



fighters at 8's and 2's were great and helped me out. I still have to get to 1's on another trip. The 1st Station is the Royal #6...now home to the firefighter local. The 2nd is Squad 8...Mt Pleasant (our engine ran out of this station). The 3rd Station #1. The older picture is the Reily #10 which is the fire museum now.



Another unplanned roadtrip - we headed to Shenandoah ..with Jason seen in one of the famous Mary Austin Hose Company shirt and Robert Sharpe to the right lead the way to "The Lyric" diner and bar for lunch in Pa. coal country. This area of Pa. is like another decade, loaded with history going back to the revolutionary war. It amazes me coming from a fire department that only dates back to 1951.



I meet many more people during our trip that had already been Facebook friends or in some way contributed in the history of our CF Mack. We met Berry "the commissioner" Buskey, brother of Dave. We saw folks named Skull, Skillet and others. For members who have seen the pencil drawing of our CF, it was done by Terry Lanker. Terry called me Saturday during the muster, and we met up and had a good talk about the CF and other HFD history, as we were looking at all the apparatus along the river and park Terry filled me in about different apparatus on display.



We also visited a couple evenings Station 6—"The Paxton" - near our hotel.



We also visited with Jason Lloyd and Robert Sharpe at the Allison Hill Station Old #12 which Jason now owns. Check out Allison Hook & Ladder on Facebook.

Our trip to Hanover was not originally planned but our friends Robert Sharpe and Jason insisted and before we could say no Robert had setup a tour through a friend of a friend... it was well worth the road trip to Hanover.



We went to Lower Swatara for ride on original E-82. I met Justin through Facebook this year and sent me a FDLS tee shirt, and he invited me to take a ride in the rescue truck which is powered by a chassis from FDNY....Engine 82 which gained celebrity status after Dennis Smith's "Report from Engine Company 82." We also saw their station and saw their other Mack E-59 and tanker



## LEE HOWL HAND PUMPER

BY TERRY PARKER

Texas Gulf Coast member Terry Parker brought his recently-rebuilt hand pumper to its must debut during the 28th Annual Tyler muster (see Front page). The pump is a British-made Lee Howl manufactured between 1938 and 1952 as both a shipboard bing pump and/or a fire pump for civilian or military service. The 2—4 person pump has a single 4 1/4 inch diameter cylinder and pumps very easily.

I found it on eBay where someone had bought it from an estate sale of a firefighter. From the looks of it I was sure I could make some sort of hand pumper out of it. I looked at several pictures of smaller hand pumpers, and my dad and I just made one. This first one is a prototype that is currently riding on a metal frame with pneumatic tires. I hope to build a different base for it down the road. The tub is basically 2 ft by 4 ft by 16 inches deep.

The pump was painted red originally. When I cleaned it up and found it was solid brass (except for the part where the handles attach) I couldn't bring myself to paint it again.

Clinton Johnson had the following to add: "For a while with Jim and Bill operating the handles, it must have pumped nearly as much as Chuck Buschardt's ALF until it 'ran out of gas'. When Terry bought the pump, it looked more like a lump or tarnish than a pump. Only he would have recognized it for what it was. Nice thing—it gets better gas mileage than most of our other pumpers."





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](mailto:sdalpe@hotmail.com)

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

## TGCC HALL OF FLAME: STELLHORN 1975 MACK



Members Kim  
and Cindy Stell-  
horn operate  
this 1975 CF  
Mack, ex-  
Harrisburg, PA,  
shown here in  
2012 Houston  
Thanksgiving  
Day Parade