

The **Olde Fire Bell**

Winter 2014

Quarterly Newsletter of The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA



Humble Pumpnic Suits
Breux Bridge Just
Fine!



Record Turnout at 2014
Humble Pumpnic at New
Water-Front Location

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St. Patrick's Day Parade
Would Make Anyone
Green With Envy

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It's Rodeo Time Once
Again for Lucky
Downtown Participants

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Member Terry Parker's
1925 Obenchain-Boyer
Chemical Unit

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"AA" New Fire Engine in
the Club... We Welcome
Engine 28

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A letter from the Chapter President



O u r Newsletter Editor, Steve Dalpe, has asked me to start a new column in the newsletter called the "Presidents Chair."

Steve does a fantastic job with the newsletter, I therefore am following his request and hope my writing abilities are up to the task. This is the first 2014 newsletter of what is already turning out to be a really good year for the club.

The membership has been growing, we have great turnouts for the meetings, and several more rigs have shown up in members collections. The number of events where we are represented and the turnout has been great. We had great representation at the Winter Convention and have committed to sponsoring the 2016 Winter Convention.

Like everyone else in SPAAMFAA, I joined the group because of a hobby, passion, and obsession with classic fire equipment. There's not that many of us that share this, and I truly enjoy my fellow enthusiast. I am excited about what is happening with the Chapter.

Keep it up and above all enjoy doing it.

Clinton Johnson

Upfront Newsline

Welcome to the first 2014 edition of *The Olde Fire Bell*. Greetings to all. We had a great turnout at the December Christmas luncheon. In addition to celebrating the holidays, we congratulated Clinton Johnson on his retirement as Fire Marshall of Humble. We wish Clinton may more years of enjoyment at Moonshine Hill IVFD.

We welcome new member Glen Mears of Katy. Glen owns a 1953 ALF 700 pumper ex-Carbondale IL. Great to have you as a member and look forward to seeing you at future events.

Amidst all the excitement of the quarter, there has been much sadness. From National perspective, we lost Alex Black and George Valrance; locally, friends including retired Fire Chief V.E. Rogers and Jerald Ricks (photo); Clinton Johnson's



mom passed away, as well as Kathryn Peter's son. Charlie Womack experienced a stroke. Please keep him and all these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Lots of big events coming up, including numerous 4th July parades, and the Summer National. Keep those rigs ready!

Chapter Meeting Summary

January: 20 members kicked off the new year with discussion about attendance at the Houston Rodeo Parade on March 1st, and St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15th. Forms were distributed to those interested. The annual Humble Pumpnic date was set for March 29th. Elections were deferred to the next meeting due to several absences. There was discussion about hosting future National winter conference.

February: Karen Buschardt and Kathy Wilcox gave reports from the SPAAMFAA National Winter Meeting. Officers were re-elected with the exception of Jim McGee replacing Steve Dalpe as Secretary. Clinton Johnson reminded the group the 11th Annual Pumpnic would be at new location, about 3/4 mile further down Belleau Woods Road.

March: The motion to host the 2016 Winter Meeting passed. Joe Brantley discussed upcoming Galveston County children event at the Rodeo. Several members will be participating at upcoming Atascocita Car Show. There was discussion about the National Muster in Columbus OH this summer. Motions were approved to purchase some business cards and two more SPAAMFAA banners.





11th Annual Humble Pumpnic

By Clinton Johnson

Expanded Location at Thieleman River Park a Great Success



I am happy to report another successful Moonshine Hill Pumpnic. This year's event was held on the shores of the sparkling San Jacinto River at the Belleau Woods Marina in bustling Moonshine Hill Texas. We would like to thank the Belleau Woods Homeowners Association for allowing us to use their beautiful facility at no cost. This was the first year at the Marina and it worked out wonderfully. We had pretty much outgrown Pond Park and as the event seems to get bigger each year the new location will allow for growth.

This year we had nine apparatus,



one law enforcement/rescue boat, and approximately 100 attendees. There was also a pretty good flea market thanks to Gregory Barrilleaux. The noon meal was great as usual coming from former member Harvey Trigg.

There were no major break downs, no snake bites, the weather was great, and everyone had a good time. Awards for best ladder truck went to Tim Treadway for his 1952 Mack, best equipped pumper to Bill Loftin for his 1972 ALF engine, best pumper to Terry Parker for his turn of the century British Hand pumper,



11th Annual Humble Pumpnick

Continued

and longest distance traveled to Gregory Barrilleaux from Breaux Bridge, La.

I would like to thank everyone for the award for putting the event together. I really enjoy sponsoring the pumpnick but the real work is done by everyone who works year round to keep the apparatus, equipment and organization going that make every event possible. Thanks to everyone who attended and especially to those that brought equipment to display or operate. I can't wait till next year.



The Texas Gulf Coast



Chapter SPAA MFAA



St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Clinton Johnson, Photos by Jim McGee

Great Attendance at St. Patrick's Day Houston Downtown Parade



The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter took part in a big way in the Downtown Houston Saint Patrick's Day Parade held on Saturday March 15. This years parade honored first responders. Captain William Dowling, who was severely injured in a 4 alarm motel fire on May 31, 2013, served as Grand Marshal. Chuck and Karen Buschardt's 1926 ALF, Bill and Cindy Loftin's 72 ALF, Clinton and Teresa Johnson's 48 Mack, Bob and 64 ALF, Derek and Tammie Reichle's 39 Maxim, Kathryn Peters with the Houston Fire Museums 37 Chevy/Simms all attended with groups of friends, club members, and relatives riding in spite of forecasted rain. Luckily the worst of the weather held off until the parade was almost over. Everyone was able to take shelter under the Hwy 59 elevated

during the worst of the downpour.

The parade has a 47 year history and the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter is the longest continuous participant in the parade. Chuck Buschardt told me the group's first year to participate was 1976 and that the NFPA convention was going on in Houston at the same time. Chuck advised that Howie McClellan, President of the International Association of Fire Fighters, was Grand Marshal and the parade was run by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Howie was a Boston Fire Fighter at the time. Chuck said the parade was as much fun then as it is now. This is always a great parade, loads of fun, and the parade sponsors treat us like royalty. A little rain didn't change that!





Houston Rodeo Parade

Photos by Jim McGee

Hoof-Beats and Hose-Beds at Houston Livestock & Rodeo Parade



The Texas Gulf Coast



Chapter SPAA MFAA



1925 Obenchain-Boyer Chemical

By Terry Parker

1925 Ford TT Chemical new addition to the club!

In April, member Terry Parker of Friendswood, Texas took delivery of a 1925 Obenchain-Boyer chemical fire truck built on a Ford Model TT chassis. It serviced Xenia, Illinois volunteer fire department until 1950.

At some point, it was acquired by Ray Collins of Mt. Carmel, Illinois who kept it for about 30 years.

In 1999, it was purchased by Robert "Bob" Heisterman of Austin, Texas (shown below with spouse) who restored it completely with the exception of functioning chemical tanks. Part of his restoration included adding a distributor, starter switch, and ladder brackets. Because of Bob's hard work the TT is in excellent condition today.

On April 12, on a spectacular Spring day, we took



some pictures in front of Friendswood Station 4. Bill and Kathy Wilcox were there with their 1942 Mack. The photos with three apparatus include Friendswood's 2010 Spartan from Station 4. The arrangement shows interesting perspective - how much bigger can modern apparatus get?

Bill and Kathy were having pictures taken for Scott Mellott's second HFD photo book.

Kathy's rode shotgun back to my house which was the highlight of her day.

Many thanks to Tom McDonald for the photos of the 3 trucks.



"AA" New Fire Engine in the Club!

By John Blumentritt



John and Darlene Blumentritt from Schertz, Texas, who own a 1929 American La France, added another apparatus to their collection. John, who is the president of the San Antonio-based Alamo A's, fittingly acquired a 1928 Ford Model "AA" Fire Engine.

"Engine 28" is from Winsted, Connecticut.

John along with Ford Model "A" restoration expert, Jay Percy, tore the truck apart and began work last summer. "It barely ran, the running boards and back step were beyond rough, it leaked oil like an early oilrig, and the tires had disintegrated. Other than that, plus several other things, it was fine" John said.

The beautiful machine slowly came back to life.



It's first Texas debut was during International Model "A" Ford Day hosted by a San Antonio Ford dealership on September 28th. The next showing was an October 19th car show in Selma, Texas. It was then filmed, on October 29th, for the show "American Detours" in New Braunfels, Texas. A Veteran's Day parade in Universal City, Texas, followed by a Vietnam Veteran's car show and fundraising event in San Antonio, rounded out November. Finally, John and Darlene's fire engine was displayed inside the San Antonio Airport Hilton Hotel during the December 2013 Model "A" Ford Club of America (MAFCA) national awards banquet.

Application for Membership

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire
Apparatus in America
(SPAAMFAA)

Please mail this application with \$20 dues made payable to:
Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA
PO Box 697
Bellaire, TX 77402

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

Street or Box No.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Work: _____ Other: _____

How did you hear about us? Web Page ____ Friend ____ Publication ____ Muster ____ Newsletter ____

Other (please specify) _____

Interests: Collecting Fire Equipment ____ Photography ____ Attending Musters ____ Parades ____

Restoration Activities ____ Helmets/Patches ____ Other (please specify) _____

Fire Department or SPAAMFAA Affiliation: _____

If you own a piece of firefighting apparatus that is at least 25 years old, please provide the following information. Attach a separate sheet if multiple vehicles. Ownership of apparatus is not required to join the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

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

Mfg. Model: _____ Mfg. Serial #: _____

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

Previous Owner and History of Rig: _____

Membership in the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter is open to all upon application to the Board of Directors and payment of annual dues. Join today and share in the preservation and appreciation of fire fighting and antique fire apparatus.

All new members are encouraged to join National SPAAMFAA Chapter. National SPAAMFAA provides additional resources for restoration and insurance for all sponsored events. National membership is mandatory for Officers of the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter.



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



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

1951 | American LaFrance owned by Joe Brantley



Delivered January 1951. 750 GPM pump with a 12 cylinder
gas engine, series G, 491 CUID, ex-Plainview

