

Hot Calls

Volume 4, Issue 2

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March/April 2017



Fire Association Annual Meeting

The Schuyler County Firefighters Association had its annual meeting in Montour Falls on January 12, 2017.

George Lewis became President.
Mark Wood Vice President
Curt Connelly Treasurer
Karen Little Secretary
Shirley Churches Historian.



During the meeting a discussion occurred regarding the very existence of the association. As you can see the attendance has dropped off dramatically and most feel the interest in going around to all the stations in the county has gone away. There will be a need to give input to the association on your opinion of whether or not we should look for an alternative for the association. Stay informed as we determine the fate of this county group. The March meeting in Odessa will be one to attend as we may decide on the association's future.

Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast 2nd Sunday of every month

Burdett's 20-Week Club/ Dinner Dance Tickets. \$100ea (Dinner for two) On-going thru April 29

When Was It?

Found in the history of Schuyler County: a storm of hurricane proportions ripped through Watkins Glen and the East side of the county. Newspaper reports of farm buildings being destroyed in Hector on the Dan Murphy Farm. The buildings landed on the Hazlitt property. Trees down in Burdett sent firefighters to rescue four small boys from a house with a tree on it. Many homes in Watkins were also damaged by the storm. Live wires were down all over the area. The Wickham farm also lost a storage shed. We think February 16, 1967?



Mecklenburg Banquet

The Mecklenburg Fire Company had their annual banquet on January 7th, 2017. There was only one change in the line officers. Wade Whittaker assumed the 2nd Assistant Chief slot.

Two interesting facts: 1) Until the fire at the Bergen Farms this year Mecklenburg had not had a structure fire in eight years. 2) They also answered thirty three mutual aid fire calls. That gave them plenty of firefighting experience.

Officers are:

Chief	Nathan Mayo
1st Assistant	Sean Taber
2nd Assistant	Wade Whittaker
3rd Assistant	Al Foote
Rescue Captain	Misha Foote



Burdett Banquet

All officers stayed the same this year in Burdett. The big project for the coming year is the construction of the new station. Several members were recognized for years of service and Keith Caslin was top responder.



Eric Lokken 60 Years; Pete Biever 55 years; Dale Jaynes 45 years

Beaver Dams Banquet

Beaver Dams held their annual banquet at their station on February 11th. The big news was the number of new members they have recruited this year: 15. That is almost unheard of this day and age. They had an alarm while we were there and all the members could not go because there was no room on the trucks!

The following are the line officers for this year:

Safety Officer	Brandon Howell
Rescue Captain	Karen Little
2nd Lt.	Kristi Sullivan
1st. Lt., Capt.	Christy Ohls,
3rd Asst.	John Rider Jr.
2nd Asst.	Alex Sullivan
1st Asst.	Kent Thurston
Chief	Kirk Smith

Most department hours went to Rachel Thurston.



Officers are sworn in by Bill Kennedy



Junie Kennedy, Ken Clark Sr. Ken Clark Jr. Have over 40 Years with Beaver Dams.

Off Road Rescue for Tyrone and Mecklenburg

Both Tyrone and Mecklenburg have been called to off road rescues that involved someone

cutting trees down for firewood. Both calls required patients to be sent to the trauma center in Sayre.

Difficult times getting to and removing patients were handled well by both departments.

MVC in Mecklenburg

One car MVC in Mecklenburg required the service of a helicopter as two young men hit a tree on the Williamee Road in the Town of Hector. Two Schuyler Ambulances also assisted Mecklenburg in the operation. One patient was flown to Robert Packer Hospital and the second to Cayuga Medical just before the banquet in Mecklenburg.



Two Structure Fires in Odessa

Two structure fires on the 5th of January sent Odessa out on a cold evening. The first on the four corners of Catherine. The home owner noticed a fire in the bathroom. After calling 911 they threw a pail of water at the fire and closed the door and left. When first Odessa officers arrived the fire was out and the only thing to do was to check for extension and remove smoke from the building. It did do

significant damage to the bathroom but due to the quick thinking of the owner the fire was stopped in its tracks.

The second was two hours later on Route 228 north of Odessa. First officer on the scene reported smoke showing with fire around the chimney. A second alarm was transmitted and Mecklenburg, Montour Falls, and Burdett responded with Newfield covering. A quick

transitional attack was done with a quick interior follow-up kept the fire to the area of origin (the chimney). They even saved the family pet (a cat). It was a good job by all.

MVC in Monterey on January 17

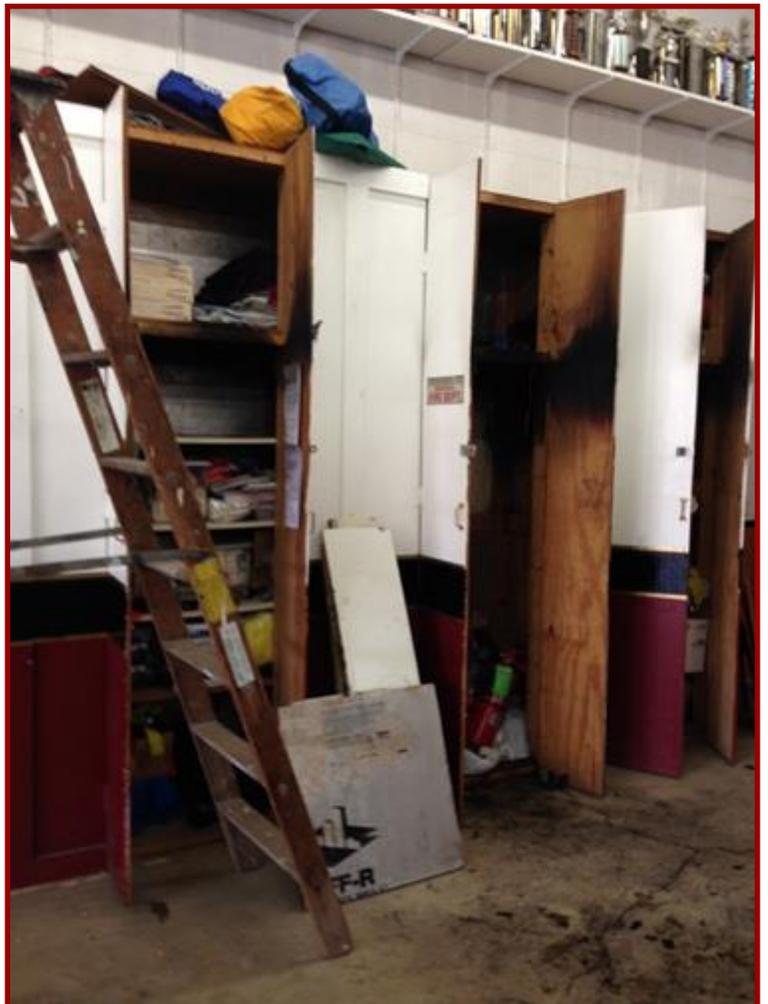
The Monterey Rescue and Schuyler Ambulance were called to a one car roll over with entrapment!

Beaver Dams was called for mutual aid to assist in the extrication. Two ambulances (one from AMR Corning)

handled the patient transfers.

Fire Strikes OFD Station

On January 13th (Friday the 13th) the Friday morning coffee group was wrapping up its weekly meeting when one of the members wanted to wash his car. Smoke was soon discovered in the truck bay coming from a series of wood cabinets along the east wall. These contain storage for a variety of items for the department. Trying to determine the cause soon changed to a fight or flight situation. 911 was called to transmit an alarm and soon changed to transmitting a second! As smoke filled the station, members moved trucks outside and made a quick attempt at knocking down the fire with hose used to wash trucks. Flames were visible at this time and the last two trucks could not be moved. Our second alarm partners (lots of them) soon arrived and assisted in the overhaul and final extinguishment. The initial hit with the hose did its job in knocking down the fire but extensive damage to the closets and contents remained. Never say never as far as having an emergency at your own station. The only reason we are still in the station is that we were there! There is no doubt that we would have lost most if not all of our equipment. A tremendous thanks for all who responded and those who have offered any assistance.



Watkins Glen Works MVC Rollover

Watkins Glen was toned out for a rollover Saturday night. Three persons were injured in the crash. The vehicle was a pickup truck with a full passenger cab. Extrication was needed and was complicated due to the truck

being in a ditch. Rescue jacks and stabilization lines were used and doors cut to remove the patients. One was flown from the scene and another was transported to Schuyler Hospital then flown to a trauma center. Time from call to the completed

extrication was 22 minutes. Good job.

Cyanide Poisoning Follow up

After last month's article on cyanide gas poisoning I was contacted by Dominick Smith in regards to what is available and what Watkins Glen is doing to monitor and prevent exposure to firefighters. They have purchased hydrogen cyanide gas meters for each officer's position on their engines. The meter is worn from the time they get off the truck at structure fires and kept on till overhaul is complete. They have strict rules as to the use of SCBA until the meters indicate a safe environment. This (cyanide gas) has been traced to cardiac problems in firefighters! This is not new and should be a concern to all departments working fires in confined atmospheres,. Along with carbon monoxide and a lack

of oxygen at all fires, there needs to be a culture change on how we operate at overhaul. The link provided gives very good information on the effects of cyanide gas. This would make an excellent drill. Watkins would respond to anyone needing metering. Odessa has just recently purchased two for their two engines also. Four gas meters are also part of the equipment purchased by both departments for monitoring hazardous situations. Check out the



Above picture shows the meter for cyanide attached to the turnout coat.

attached links for more information.

[Drager HCNC0ebook.pdf](#)

[Hydrogen Cyanide in Fire Investigations 2](#)

Ice Rescue in Odessa

OFD Fire / Rescue was toned out for a person through the ice on Cayuta Lake on January 29. First Rescuers on the scene confirmed the call “as a person was about thirty feet from shore, still conscious.” The department has a pre-determined response for Engine, Rescue, and Special Operations trailer. Mutual Aid was requested from Mecklenburg and Enfield (who also has an Ice Rescue team). First rescuers on scene secured a boat on shore and attempted a throw line to the victim. Hypothermia had set in and he was unable to grasp the line. A Sheriff’s Deputy and three firefighters slid the boat out to the victim. With one rescuer in the boat they were able to grab the victim and slide him back to shore. The ice was breaking as the boat made it to the shoreline. EMS available began to strip the victim and provide medical care until Schuyler ALS arrived. A helicopter was requested but none would fly due to the weather. This forced the ambulance to go by ground. At last report the patient was still in critical condition. OFD and Mecklenburg (who routinely train with OFD) continued to search the water for further victims. The patient was riding a snowmobile when he went through. No other victims were found and the sled was recovered. This is the third ice incident in several years and so far all have turned out well. Good job by all who responded!

A follow up to this story on February 2nd. The victim has recovered and is now home.



Staging area for the search for further victims. The boat to the right was used to save the victim.



Notice snowmobile tracks to the right.



Search for victims conducted by OFD and Mecklenburg.

What's new in Monterey

A check with Chief Ed Lewis in Monterey shows they have been slowly updating their equipment. They have added additional skid pack on their brush vehicle, extrication equipment, and a generator for powering the station. They, like everyone else, struggle with manpower. This company is a long way from any immediate mutual aid and really rely on their neighbors for backup. We all look for better ideas to recruit and retain members. This is one of their biggest goals.



Skid unit



Station Generator



Power unit and tools

Banquet Dates

March 11
Monterey

May 13
Odessa

March 18
Montour Falls

November 11
Tyrone

April 22
Watkins Glen

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

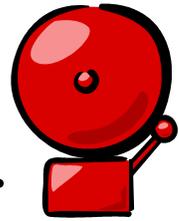
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Last Alarms



Philip Biever
Burdett

Sam Baldwin
Watkins Glen

Kenneth Gridley
Montour Falls

Skeet Seymour
Odessa

Upcoming Classes

- *Rescue Technician
Basic (May 10)*

Want to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us

For more information, visit:

www.schuylercounty.us
www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc
www.emstar.org

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and
Suggestions!**

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