

Hot Calls

Volume 8, Issue 3

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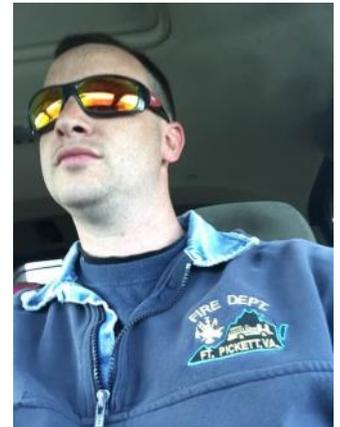
May/June 2021



Ryan Bailey

Ryan is our new Deputy Emergency Services Coordinator, part of a shared position with Yates County. He introduces himself below.

“I have been a part of the volunteer fire service since I was 16. I began my EMS career at 18 with my volunteer fire dept in Virginia. I am currently EMS Captain for Himrod Fire Dept. I have held various management positions in EMS, most recently at AMR in Corning as Operations Supervisor. In Yates County my primary job as a Coordinator is working on the EMS System of the county, and facilitating trainings for EMS providers. I have been working on the Schuyler County Fire Prevention program to be delivered in the schools for the past 2 months. It is now set up to be delivered by teachers or volunteers, depending on future school regulations.”



Trivia Question

“What time of day is it the most hazardous time to drive fire apparatus? ”

Email answers to Rick at rickshirlc27@gmail.com

Our last trivia question:

Question: “When were fog nozzles first invented?”

Answer: The first patent on a “fog nozzle” was in 1863. In 1930 Elkhart Brass introduced a nozzle from German design. In WW2 the Navy used fog and straight stream nozzles aboard ships.

Firefighter Profile: Tony Specchio

Today we had the privilege to sit down and interview Tony Specchio for this issue's profile. We spent two hours with him and could have spent all day! He joined the Watkins Glen Fire Department in February 1955. At that time there were two companies in Watkins Glen: Hook and Ladder, and Norman Steamer Hose. Little Joe Scaptura said he would like to sponsor Tony in the Hook and Ladder. Back then, you did not pick the company you wanted, they would come and ask you. A lot happened that year as he also married Annabelle Braden the same year.

He and Annabelle had seven children: Nancy, Jimmy, Jeanne, Susanne, Becky, Kathy, and Alan. They have eleven grandsons and two great-grandchildren. He worked at Central Asphalt for 19 years, before working for Tompkins County for 15 years. He finished employment with the Village of Watkins Glen as Superintendent for 6 years. He served in the U.S. Army for two years (1953-1954). In that time his unit (Indianhead Division) was picked to be part of the Atomic Bomb test project. Little was known about these tests as they were top secret. His unit was to be stationed around the blast site to see the effect of the radiation. To this day he still has effects of this duty. Most, if not all, of his fellow soldiers did not survive the ordeal on the long term. Along with this duty he also served in Korea during the Korean War.

Tony served as Fire Chief from 1969 to 1970. When asked what his most memorable call was, he said that when he was Fire Chief there was an explosion of a fuel barge that came down Seneca Lake during the dark of night. It had fueled up a large tank that was located at the bottom of Burdett Hill. Three workers were killed and a long tour of duty for Watkins Glen occurred. They had recently purchased a "Surplus Duck" boat that was pressed into service on this incident. The use of high expansion foam was used to suppress the fire. Another memorable call was the fire at Polly-O Dairy. Plastics used in packaging caused problems in extinguishment.



Tony, cont...

The biggest change Tony has seen over the years is the training, and the time spent getting that training. He was very instrumental in bringing the NYS Fire Academy to Montour Falls. He also served as Fire Commissioner for Watkins.

The first equipment he remembers was a "Squad" type vehicle carrying the equipment needed. The first real pumper was purchased in 1952 from American La France. It was the most updated apparatus in the area at the time. A lot of the members at the time lived and worked locally and when the whistle blew, Central Asphalt, D.T. Franzese, Little Joe, Leo Martine, and George Beardsley (from Beardsley Auto Parts), Jack Irish, Ray Granston, Hi Granston and Tony were able to respond to the alarm.

Tony was recognized for his military service by New York State and is in the State's Military Hall of Fame. There are only 300 plus members of that group. His license plate on his car shows that. He is very proud of that.

Tony is an Emeritus Member, stopped fighting fires a while ago but is still around to do support duty for the department. We need to hear what happened long ago so we can really appreciate what we have today. His duty to his country and the continued support for his country and the American Legion are still very strong. His love for the fire service and the Watkins Glen Fire Department is unwavering. We need to document the history before we are not able to know what went on before us.

When you see Tony thank him for his service to the community and the country. Oh, and take time to listen to his story It's worth your time!

- Rick and Shirley Churches

Watkins Glen Officers for 2021

Chief	Jason Hudson
1st Asst. Chief	Robbie Gruver
2nd Asst. Chief	Charlie Scaptura
3rd Asst. Chief	Tyler Moore
Deputy Chiefs	Dominick Smith Robbie DeDominick Judd Smith
Rescue Captain	Anthony Nieves

Beaver Dams: House Fire

On March 12 at about 0530 Beaver Dams Fire was toned out for a structure fire on Beaver Dams Moreland Road. 11-4 arrived soon after and found a well-involved 2 ½ story structure. The 2nd alarm as transmitted, followed soon after by a 3rd alarm. All occupants were evacuated prior to Beaver Dams' arrival. Water supply was eventually established at the Business Park by Watkins Glen. It was soon determined a defensive mode of attack was needed. The house had a large amount of hay in the attic used for insulation. Mutual aid came from Montour Falls, Watkins Glen, Burdett, and Monterey fire departments. Odessa was moved to Montour Falls station to cover all of the vacant stations from one location. It was a safe and a well-run operation from all aspects of the call. EMO and OFPC also assisted at the scene along with Schuyler Ambulance and Schuyler Sheriff. No heavy equipment could be acquired.



Defensive operations soon after arrival



Tankers were looped from Mill Hill to 414 to County Road 18, back to the fire



Engine 5 supplied the operation



Beaver Dams, cont.

Montour's Ladder 5 was pressed in-service due to the unstable structure.



Structure Fire, Town of Orange

On June 17th Bradford Fire Department was called out to a working structure fire on Randall Road. Additional units from Steuben County and Schuyler County responded. The building was an old hunting camp and was a total loss.

Bradford is just one of many out-of-county departments that helps protect parts of Schuyler County. Community, Dundee, Erin, Trumansburg, and Wayne all protect portions of Schuyler County as well.



Bradford Engine on scene.



Schuyler County Car 5 and Car 1.



Tankers forced to back down long drive.

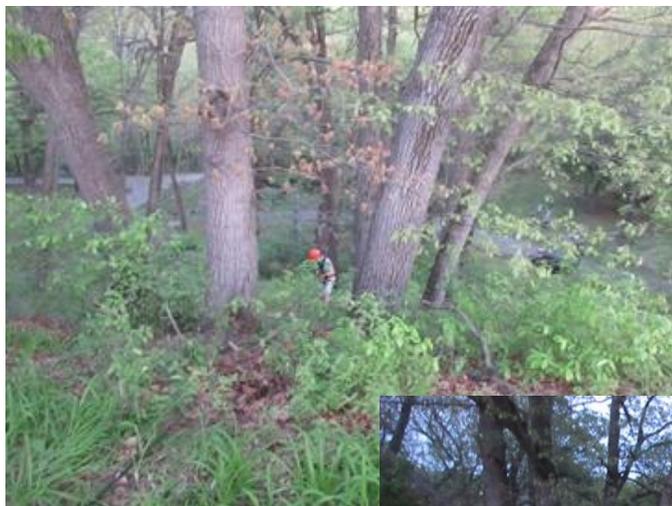
Ladder Trucks Don't Always Mean "BIG WATER"

Having two ladder trucks in the county provides us with the ability to reach fires safely and without moving any more water than we would use on an 1 ¼ line (150-200 gpm). A perfect example was the recent fire in Beaver Dams where the building was unsafe and using the aerial from Montour Falls made good sense.



County Technical Rescue Task Force

Training of the “Rope Rescue Task Force” group continues at the Pine Street access. Training was provided by Watkins Glen for Montour Falls and Odessa to be able to assist with this type of rescue. The training continues this month with actual work in the gorge. They covered putting the rigging together and actually repelled down steep terrain. Also lowering and raising stretchers.



Fire Departments Place Memorial Markers



Odessa



Montour Falls



Mecklenburg



Millport

Salvage

“Are we really saving property?”

“Did we really make a ‘good stop?’”



Bad



Good

As boring as the subject of salvage is, there is not a more important task short of fire extinguishment and rescue, which can be performed. The skill in which you perform this mundane task will have a direct impact on the quality of life of our fire victims. Hope is given by being able to save just a few items from a residence. It could be all of the household furniture, the family Bible or family pictures that can never be replaced. Good salvage work will enhance the image of the fire service more than just about any other task. It should be taken seriously and trained on a few times during the year. It is a reputation builder.

They will remember this day for the remainder of their lives. Will you have them remember the day that thousands of dollars of unnecessary damage was inflicted on their home without cause?

Or would you rather have a constituent who remembers a fire department that removed significant personal items, only damaged those items necessary, cleaned up its mess, closed up their house to cover the damage they had to perform and consistently worked with the family to address those items they felt were important, regardless of how much work it caused the on-scene crews?

This is the time that a customer will always remember how they were treated — good or bad! Treat their houses as if it was yours, and you will have a member of your district who will support you when you go to them to ask for their help on Election Day!

In closing, I cannot stress strongly enough that we have easily within our grasp the capability of maximizing our reputation among our customers.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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Last Alarms



None

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

No classes scheduled at this time.

Learn more here:
<http://www.schuylercounty.us/564/Fire-EMT-Training>

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

Send Us Your Photos, News, and Suggestions!

To send information, or if you want us to visit your station, contact the Emergency Management Office at 607-535-8200 or Rick and Shirley Churches at 607-594-2189 or rickshirlc27@gmail.com