

Title Suggestions Needed!

Volume 1, Issue 1

January/February/March 2014



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About This Newsletter

The following newsletter is being established with the hope that it will keep the county fire and EMS service better informed as to what is happening next door. It seems to us that the interaction between organizations has fallen off dramatically. It is important to realize that your organization is not the only one in the county. We have on occasions the need to work together. When that need arises it is important to

know who your neighbor is and what they can do for you. We would like to have news of new equipment, training, fires, emergencies that have special circumstances, new members, dates of importance, fund raisers and departed members. New ideas are also welcome. We will produce this quarterly. This is being done with the cooperation of the Emergency Management Office. 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 607-594-2189 or e-mail rickshirlc27@gmail.com. We are excited about this and hope you will participate in the news. Let's make this something we will all look forward to reading.

~ Rick and Shirley Churches

History: County Firefighters' Association

Taken from the original Constitution and Bylaws and the minutes of the first meeting held at Montour Falls on January 9, 1958: "The original Constitution and By-Laws were respectfully submitted

for approval and acceptance by a committee appointed by Mr. George Beardsley of Watkins Glen, Chairman of all committees appointed by the Schuyler County Fire Advisory Board. Adopted January 9, 1958 at the organizational meeting in Montour

Falls. The committee was Joseph Scaptura, Watkins Glen; Donald Arnold, Burdett; Richard Riley, Montour Falls; William Wickham, Hector; Coleman Rounds, Odessa. Officers elected at the organizational meeting were
(Continued on page 10)

2014 Meeting Dates

**subject to change*

SIREN TEST

1st Wednesday, 7pm

FIRE INVESTIGATORS

As needed.

FIRE POLICE

2nd Thursdays, 7pm, except June, July, August.

January 9	- Montour Falls FD
February 13	- Watkins Glen FD
March 13	- Odessa FD
April 10	- Burdett FD
May 8	- Hector FD
September 11	- Mecklenburg FD
October 9	- Tyrone FD
November 13	- Monterey FD
December 11	- Beaver Dams FD

COUNTY ASSOCIATION

2nd Thursdays at 7:30pm, except June, July, August.

January 9	- Montour Falls FD
February 13	- Watkins Glen FD
March 13	- Odessa FD
April 10	- Burdett FD
May 8	- Hector FD
September 11	- Mecklenburg FD
October 9	- Tyrone FD
November 13	- Monterey FD
December 11	- Beaver Dams FD

EMERGENCY SERVICES

3rd Thursday, bi-monthly at EMO.

February 20
April 17
June 19
August 21
October 16
December 18

Firefighter Profile: Don Riley

Donald Banfield Riley

Born December 3, 1930 in Montour Falls, NY, the son of Douglass D. and Bernice Stoddard Riley. Two brothers Jack and Dick (deceased). Married Beverly Flatt on June 6, 1953 resulting in 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

Employment

Market Basket Store in Montour Falls; Corning Glass Works, Corning, NY; Bausch & Lomb, Rochester, NY; Stromberg Carlson, Rochester, NY; Block Operator Pennsylvania Railroad; Co-owner/operator Williams Sweet Shop in Odessa, NY; Shepard Niles Crane & Hoist, Montour Falls, NY; retired from Cornell University in 1996 after 35 years employment as Administrative Manager with the Real Estate Dept.

Scouting

5 years as Cubmaster Odessa Cub Scout Pack 50; 6 years on Seneca Drums District Commissioners Staff including 2 years as District Commissioner.

American Legion

Member of Cole-Hansenburger-Deland Post 676 Since 1955. Served as Vice-Commander and Commander.

Fire Service

Odessa Fire Department. 38 years of active service. Served as Secretary-Treasurer,

Assistant Chief, Chief, and Secretary Emeritus member since 1993. Served on committee appointed to lead in planning for a new fire house.

Schuyler County Firemen's Association

organized in 1958. Joined as a charter member and now have 55 years continuous membership. Served as Secretary-Treasurer since 1971. Member of LNTB committee since its inception. Participated in most of the 56 Firematic Days that have been sponsored by the association.

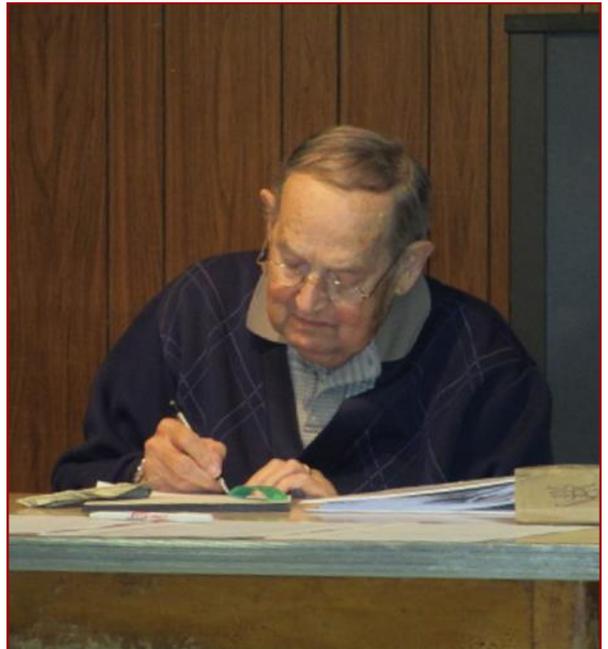
Central New York Firemen's Association.

Member since 1958, Life Member since 1977. Elected as Official Starter from 1966 to 1977. Served 16 years on the Tournament Rules Committee including 11 years as Chairman. Served 4 years on the Legislative Committee including 2 as Chairman.

Served several years as a member of the Schuyler County Fire Advisory Board including some years as Secretary.

Past Member:

Firemen's Association State of New York
New York State Association of



Fire Chiefs
Tri-County Volunteers
Firemen's Association
New York-Pennsylvania
Firemen's Association
Hose Team Captains
Association of Central New York
Madison County Volunteer
Firemen's Association

Other:

23 years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Schuyler County Firemen's Bowling League
2 years military service with the U.S. Army during Korean Conflict.
Member of the Mechanics Club, Montour Falls.
Volunteer at Schuyler County Historical Museum since June 2003.
Secretary Schuyler County Historical Society Board of Trustees, April 2006 to September 2010.

County Firefighters' Association

Why was this organization formed? This goes back to when the fire service as a county was just getting started. The original Association was a tri-county organization consisting of the three counties of Schuyler, Tompkins and Seneca. They would meet a different county and share ideas, training and any information that would benefit all who were interested. Somewhere along the way each county broke off and formed their own separate group.

The association formed with ten departments for many years. Then Wayne Fire

Company moved their station to Steuben County and we were down to nine. Schuyler Ambulance wanted to join and we got back to 10 in the county.

There is a meeting once a month and it is at a different station each month. The purpose for moving around is so all can see what the other companies have and meet some of the members. There is a program at each meeting along with a dinner that follows the meeting.

You ask the question, "Why should I go and what does it do for me?". It is an opportunity to get involved

with other companies and find out what is going on in the county and the state. There are several ongoing projects that they do. Fire Prevention in the schools and the county is the most important; supporting the fire service in the county, another.

Like anything else, the attendance has dropped off over the years and we need the interest of all to maintain the organization. Looking for ideas to peak the interest of all is welcomed. It lasts about an hour and a half every second Thursday of each month January thru May. (*See schedule on page 2*)

Mutual Aid

Whenever possible, I like to begin one of my columns by quoting what I believe to be an absolute. It has been my experience that this is a pretty good way to stimulate debate, because someone will always take exception to my statement; and we then can go on to have an educated discourse (or a heck of a fine fight.) So here we go.

It is my contention that every fire department will at one time or another need some form of mutual aid. No one is so big that they can handle every thing that the fire gods will throw at their community. My research tells me that Boston is part of an area-wide mutual aid network. Detroit has brought out of town companies in to

assist them at various times. Even the New York City Fire Department has had occasion to call for outside assistance. As I write this the pagers are going off for a structure fire on Odessa Hill - another need for mutual aid. See

[Firehouse.com : Mutual Aid: a guide to operational success](#)

Rural Fire Numbers

The current fire numbering system came about through NYSEG's need to have a numbering system for their customers. The then County Fire Coordinator (Harlow Bailey) adapted the system for

our rural numbering. Every 35 feet there is a new number. This includes both sides of the road. One side is even numbers and the other odd. The numbers start with 0 in the south west corner of the

county.

The next time your on a EMS call, Seneca Santa, or any other opportunity to contact the public. Make sure they have a visible 4" number in a good location. It could save their life!

Training Corner

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Chiefs meeting for September had a presentation by NYS DOT and New York State Police on “keeping traffic moving at emergencies.” They will come to organizations for the program. It lasts about three hours.



Photo at Burdett training shows how all park on incident side to allow road to stay

PORTA-PONDS

Some helpful hints can make life easier for all of us. How many times have you not had level ground for your porta-pond? Burdett fire came up with a solution at a recent training. This could add an additional 200-300 or more gallons of water stored on the fire ground.



UPCOMING CLASSES

Watch for the following class announcements:

- ⇒ Suspicious Activity Reporting (February)
- ⇒ CFR Original & Refresher (March)
- ⇒ EMT Refresher (this fall)



Tyrone Installation and Awards Banquet

Tyrone's new officers:

- C17 - Matt Maloney
- C17-1 - Nathan Tormey
- C17-2 - Bill Kennedy Jr.
- C17-3 - Bill Meehan
- C17-4 - Ron Tormey
- C17-5 - Bill Kennedy
- C17-6 - Jim Jamison
- C17-7 - Dave Molyno
- C17-8 - Tracy Lewis
- C17-9 - George Lewis

“We never know if this is the last banquet or the first of the season.”



Learn-Not-To-Burn

Learn-Not-To-Burn started in November.

All three school systems had exposure to firefighters in full turnout gear. December will cover holiday safety. Contact Emergency Management if you can give some time to this program.

In an Odessa third grade class we had the question asked, "What would happen if there are bad people at the fire who would hurt you?". This threw us for a loop! It was answered well by the Asst. Chief Mahnke. How times have changed.



"What would happen if there are bad people at the fire who would hurt you?"

Keep The Wreath Blue

This project was started, we think, 9 plus years ago. The County Firefighters Association has sponsored it. They purchased the original wreaths for each fire station, plus the lights and stands. It starts the day after Thanksgiving and stops on New Years Day. Every time there is a fire in a structure that requires fire department action a red bulb is added to the wreath. You would be surprised how much the public keeps track of this. It does make them think of fire prevention. The season ended with three red bulbs for 2013.



Saving Money

DIY GEAR RACKS

Monterey Fire Company built their own gear rack from the wood from the fire chief Ed Lewis's own mill!



Monterey's new gear rack

PUMPER TANKERS

Two trucks in one can save communities money plus having a truck that can perform two functions. There are others and we will show those next issue.



Monterey



Tyrone



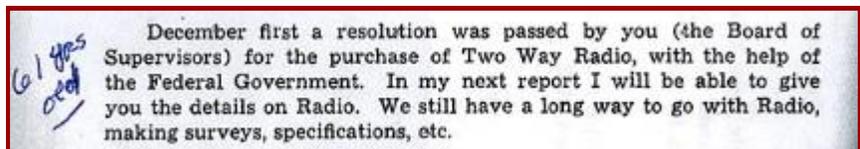
Burdett

Radio System Update

The new radio system is under motion with the organizational meeting taking place and a schedule of events that will lead to the final project that has been presented by the Emergency Management Office. We will continue to update the progress as it becomes available.

Speaking of the need for a new radio system, we had a failure of the F-1 frequency on October 25th. Emergency precautions were made and stations had at least one

person to receive calls that would be dispatched from Odessa's base. F-2 worked and normal operations could have been operated on that channel.



Taken from the 1952 Board of Supervisors minutes. This radio system is still in use today.

Calls

Long distance mutual aid by **ODESSA**



Odessa among fire units called to blaze

The Odessa Fire Department was among a dozen units called to the scene of a 7:30 a.m. blaze Monday at 356 Ithaca Road near the Village of Spencer. Flames and thick black smoke rose from Walter's Body Shop, which started burning after a car struck a utility pole, sending a live wire to the ground that sparked the fire. Nobody was at the business at the time. Odessa Fire Chief Mike Tomassi said the Body Shop and several related outbuildings were destroyed. A home nearby sustained heat and smoke damage. No injuries were reported.

October 5th: **MONTOUR FALLS** responded to a report of a trailer with smoke in the rear bedroom. This was a close call as the wiring in the trailer shorted out and was smoldering. Odessa assisted with automatic mutual aid.

**BEHIND THE
FIRE LINES**

October 5th: **ODESSA** had a full arrest. Mutual aid from Montour Falls and Watkins Glen Assistant Chief Scaptura who was working around the corner from the call. Thanks chief.

November 6:

Wind-fueled fire guts home on Gano Road

Gusting winds contributed to the rapid spread of a fire Wednesday afternoon that gutted a double-wide home at 1725 Gano Road, above Montour Falls. The home, owned and occupied by Henry Caleb Black, was fully involved by the time firefighters arrived. They knocked the flames down quickly, but the building's interior was charred. "The wind got hold of it," said **MONTOUR FALLS** Fire Chief Jeff Confer, explaining how the flames raced through the house. The building wasn't insured, and the Red Cross was notified to help provide lodging for Mr. Black. The cause of the fire was yet to be determined, but one report said it may have been faulty pump wires.



The smoke was thick as firefighters doused the flames.



Firefighters work in the wreckage of the home. Three dogs were safely outside at the time of the fire, but two cats were reportedly missing.

Calls



Left: Gano Road Fire. Flames shoot out a window; and a firefighter hoses down the edge of the roof. Montour Falls, Watkins Glen, Millport, Burdett and Odessa fire departments



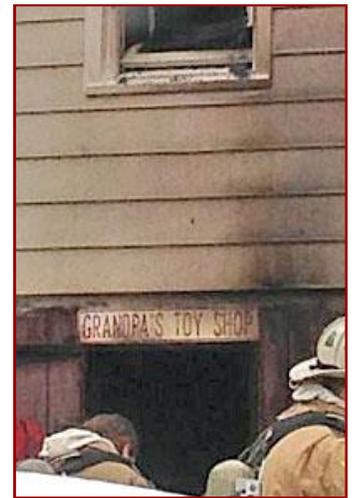
Smoke billows out of the Walter Weber home along Rt. 14.

December 27:

Fire guts home south of Montour Falls

Fire that started at midday Friday in the basement of a home owned by Walter Weber at the junction of Rt. 14 and Hanrahan Road south of Montour Falls gutted the structure. A teen-aged grandson staying with Weber awakened him from a nap after discovering the fire, and the pair exited the building and notified authorities on a cell phone. Firefighters from **MONTOUR FALLS, ODESSA, WATKINS GLEN**, Millport, Town & Country and Horseheads responded. The structure is insured.

Weber, 75, a retired Army Depot mechanic, was treated at a nearby home as a precaution, but appeared to be okay. He will be staying with a brother, Wayne Weber, who said the fire appeared to have started in some wood pieces in the basement used in the creation of various crafts -- although the cause wasn't immediately known. A number of those crafts -- primarily figurines of lighthouses -- were on the front lawn, where a sign noted that they were for sale.



Above left and middle: Firefighters remove charred furniture, and cut a hole in the roof. Above right: A sign marking the Weber workshop, where the fire started.

News articles and pictures courtesy of OdessaFile.com

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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Last Alarm



Don Scott from Odessa Fire Department passed away
October 28, 2013

Ernie Thurston from Watkins Glen Fire department passed away
November 14, 2013.

Department News

TYRONE has taken delivery on new Scott Air Packs. They are training on them and will have them in service soon.

History cont..

(Continued from page 1)

President, George Beardley of Watkins Glen; 1st Vice President, Robert Rosetti of Monterey; 2nd Vice President, Charles Messig of Burdett; Secretary/Treasurer, Doug Clark of Montour Falls; Publicity, Sidney Blank of Beaver Dams.

There were 63 paid members at the meeting from 9 departments and companies. 4 from Beaver Dams, 6 from Burdett, 3 from Mecklenburg, 1 from Monterey, 17 from Montour Falls, 12 from Odessa, 7 from Tyrone, 10 from Watkins Glen and 3 from Wayne."



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.