

# Hot Calls

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## Burdett Gets New A.E.D.

This past June the Burdett community lost an inspirational matriarch, Ruth Given. Ruth served many roles in our community, including Fire Commissioner and member of the Village Board. It is due to her constant leadership and support of the fire department that we were able to purchase our first AED (automatic external defibrillator). This AED is currently

located on our small rescue truck, BR1.

When Ruth passed, her family generously asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations would be made to our department in her honor. It has been our goal to purchase a second AED to keep on our engine, BE4, in the event that it was needed in an emergency involving one of our members. It is our honor to apply all the donations

received in Ruth's memory towards this second AED. We have also recently received a grant to assist in purchasing this unit.

On September 6, 2014, the second AED was put in service! We would like to thank everyone that sent donations to the Burdett Fire Company in memory of our beloved Ruth. She was well respected in our community and is truly missed.

### Calendar:

Burdett's 20-Week Club (Dinner Dance)      On-going through April

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## EMS Hints

Send your ideas and shortcuts that save time and are safe, that make our job as EMS providers easier and more efficient.

In Odessa, we, like everyone else, get a lot of lifting assistance calls. Usually we have several persons respond but it still can

be dangerous for both the providers and the patient just to pick them up. Usually they are on the floor sitting, supine or prone, and can't move much on their own. Lately we have been taking a backboard in and placing them on the board. Then we can get several firefighters to lift at

once making it easier on us all. It isn't always convenient to use it but, as we know, sometimes they are in a very small place. It works and has been very successful for us. What's your hint?

## Firefighter Profile: Joe Matwiejow

**J**oe first joined Tyrone Fire Company in 1957 after helping his father lay the blocks in what is now the old firehouse in Tyrone. It now is a local business. He was active and, in about four years, he became chief of the Tyrone Fire Department. He served from 1961 to 1962. The amazing thing is it is not unusual for someone to be Chief twice in one department ( especially Tyrone). But Joe moved to Watkins and became chief there and served from 1981 to 1982.

Joe married wife Betty and they had five children. Three girls and two boys. They moved from Tyrone to Watkins because he built a new house on Wedgewood Road. They have been there ever since.

The biggest change is the paper work that is required now. I asked him what his biggest call was and he said it was the barn fire Tyrone had the same time as Cotton-Hanlon burned in Odessa! Most of the county was at Tyrone's fire when lightning hit the Cotton-Hanlon Store in

Odessa!

Joe was a first aid instructor and worked with Jack Irish and Lee Bartlett from Watkins. He also worked at Penn Yann Boats for 28 years. He served as the local fire warden in both areas.

He has been a dedicated member of the Schuyler County Firefighters Assoc. When you see " Joe" tell him thanks for his contribution to the fire and EMS service in Schuyler County.



# Firematics Day Follow Up

**F**irematics Day was a success! We had just under 60 firefighters that attended the annual Schuyler County Firematics day. The first hour was registration and show and tell. A lot of networking occurred also.



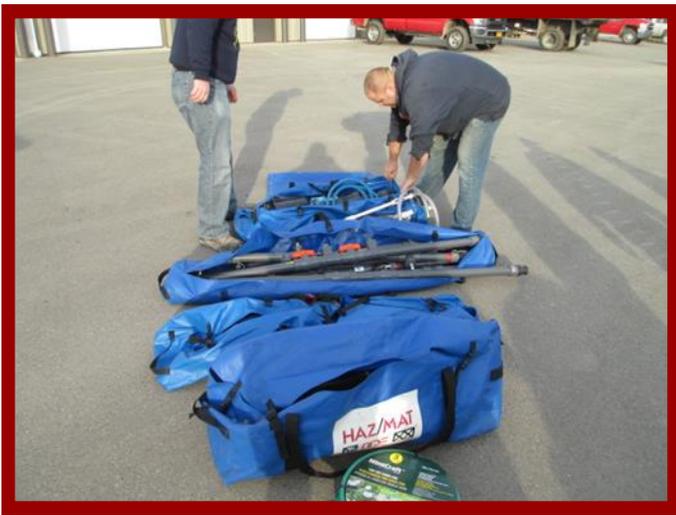
A big thank you goes out to Watkins Glen and Beaver Dams for bringing equipment for the crowd to look at.

Mecklenburg also brought their new tanker over.

Bob Denardo, Joe Matwiejow, and Bruce Beardsley have been doing the registration and 50/50 for years, along with Don Riley who passed away this year. Don would have been very pleased to see the turn out for the day. The class was very interesting and the instructors were great. The Odessa Fire Department was the host and provided coffee and doughnuts and lunch. Thanks to OFD.



# Decon Training in Watkins Glen



# Decon Training in Watkins Glen cont.

## HAZMAT SUPPORT FROM THE FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

The Schuyler County Emergency Management/Fire Coordinators Office provides hazmat support to all of the fire departments in the county. We are fortunate in Schuyler County as to not have large amounts of Hazardous Chemicals and incidents that require the response of specialized HazMat teams are extremely rare. The fire departments respond to HazMat incidents on a routine basis - mostly fuel spills or leaks which are handled by individual departments. Over the last few years the need for education and awareness has become more prevalent with the influx of the manufacturing of methamphetamine in our county. The office can support the fire departments by providing



training, Decon support and coordination of outside resources.

Schuyler County has a trailer that is totally designed to support mass decon of contaminated individuals. This unit is designed to be self-supporting with showers, generator, heaters, lights, suits for responders doing the decon, as well as cover-ups for those who get decon'd.

Should the need arise that we need to bring in a Level A Hazmat team, there are several within

the region that are available to respond mutual aid. Schuyler County is a member of the Central NY Hazmat Consortium which is made up of eight central NY counties. This consortium meets bi-monthly to foster the connections and truly build regional capabilities.

## Fire Prevention Week

Several fire departments held open houses and activities during the week of Fire Prevention.

In Odessa we advertised on our billboard in front of the station a different safety message every day one

for each side for the seven days of fire prevention week.

Fire Prevention in Schuyler County is not reserved just for one week a year, we are in the local schools each month teaching fire prevention from November to May.



## EMT Refresher

For anyone who has gone through the experience and the stress of taking an EMT class, you know this is a very hard process for most people. The EMT Original course calls for nine months of class, practical and clinical time plus you must pass a written and practical exam at the end of the nine months! All this to get up at three in the morning to help someone who is hurt or ill. Then, at the end of three years you have to do it all over again. The re-certification is not as long but is still stressful and very time consuming. Shirley and I have been doing EMS since 1978. That means we have re-

certified 12 times! There needs to be an easier process to re-certify for EMTs that are in active organizations. It is important to keep up on new changes and to keep your skills up. That is why we have department training and regional in-services to maintain the latest updates and to be proficient in our trade.

Odessa is looking into an on line re-cert program from Arnot Hospital and STREMS. SCVAA and Tyrone



do a continuing education program where they still have to cover core content but there is no test. At the end of three years they get a new card. Good luck to the new EMTs. I hope you have an easier time in the future re-certifying. This is our last time.

## What's Your "Tail"?

In 1994 we (the Churches) had three dogs. In the "wee" morning hours of Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> the dogs had already been out to the bathroom at 1 a.m. so they knew how cold it was outside - well below zero! At 4 a.m., Odessa had a call for a fire and the dogs wanted

nothing to do with going outside to stay in the cold weather! They knew when the pager went "beep, beep, beep" they would have to go outside to their pen where their dog houses awaited them. Usually all three would go to the back door, but this time only Cody

the newest dog, went to the door. Ginger, the oldest, tried to bite Shirley, and Sam, the two year old, hid from us. It's funny to tell the story, but at 4 a.m. when you are in a hurry to a call, it's not so funny.

So...What's your story of "How cold is it?"

# New Equipment



**Above:** Beaver Dams' New Pumper-Rescue. It was built by Four Guys Trucks and has a 1000 gallon booster tank, 1500 gpm Hale pump, Class "A" Foam system, and light tower. The truck is powered by a Cummins 450 hp engine. This is on a Spartan chassis. Stop by the station they would love to show it off. **Below:** Watkins Glen's new rescue boat.



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# Last Alarm



*Theodore Specchio*  
Watkins Glen Fire Department,  
Past Chief and  
49 Car 5 Emergency  
Management

## Upcoming Classes

- *Fire Police*
- *HazMat Ops Refresher*
- *Intelligence Liaison Officer*
- *Rescue Technician Basic*
- *Strategy and Tactics for the Initial Company Operations*
- *Water Supply*

**W**ant to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to

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**For more information, visit:**

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