

# Hot Calls

Volume 2, Issue 1

January/February 2015



## Calendar:

Burdett's 20-Week Club (Dinner Dance)	On-going through April 25
Watkins Glen Sportsman Raffle & Casino Night Tickets	On-going through May 2
Hector Pancake Breakfast	2nd Sunday of every month

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## Coordinators Attend Conference

Schuyler County Coordinators attended the fall conference of State Fire Administrators November 20 and 21. It is also held every spring in April. The first session, with Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), covered updates on everything from new or changed state classes to fire reporting recognition. OFPC also reported on the transporting of crude oil by rail through the state. Information on what to expect and what to do in case of a

derailment and fire.

Next, the FBI spoke on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). It was very eye opening as most of them were made from material that is sold at local stores.

The third session was a presentation from Essex County on three separate tour bus crashes. The program really was around EMS and how they managed the wrecks in a remote area of the county. Each incident was unique, but lessons learned enhanced

the response to the next one.

The last session was a discussion on Fire Behavior tests by UL labs. The 2 hour talk really supported "Transitional Attack on Fires". Also covered was testing on the turnout gear we wear and what to expect from long exposure of heat.

This conference serves to keep coordinators apprised of issues and trends to allow them to better support the fire and EMS services.

## Correction

In our last issue (November/December), it was incorrectly written that Joe Matwiejow had worked for

Penn Yan Boats when he in fact worked for Penn Yan Builders.



# Firefighter Profile: Shirley Churches

By: Rick Churches

This issue I thought I would highlight my partner in the fire service and in life. Shirley is a Schuyler County girl who moved from Watkins Glen to Montour Falls in the fifth grade. She and I became friends then and got more serious as time went on. She was never interested in the fire and EMS service. She put up with my obsession with it all through high school and after we got married in 1967. She raised our son and managed our home for 20 years (and still does). At the age of 41, as our son left home, she took the theory that if she as ever going to see me she would have to join the fire department. Women were not common then but one other woman had paved the way ahead of her and she joined Odessa. She took the first responder class and her first call was a full arrest. She felt if she could handle that she could handle anything. Eventually we both became EMT's and joined Schuyler Ambulance. Working with Tom Golden she became a little more



comfortable taking calls alone. Working for Schuyler County Emergency Management allowed her to answer calls during the day. In one year Shirley answered more than 400 "403" calls (back up or crew needed) plus pulled regular duty on Thursday nights. Shirley managed the county fire prevention program for several years. She held the title of Deputy Emergency Coordinator for 15 years and was Coordinator for a short time when Bill Randolph retired. She will have her 25 years in with Odessa Fire and Rescue this year. Having two serious health

issues in the last 10 years has slowed her a little but she still can beat me to the car in the middle of the night. She will do anything asked but sometimes needs a little help. If you hear a woman's voice at Odessa's command post it most likely is her. I'm glad that she decided to become a volunteer and am very proud of what she has accomplished since her first call. It show that people can be of service even if they are in their 40's. When you see her let her know we (and I) are very proud of her service to the community.

# Tyrone Banquet

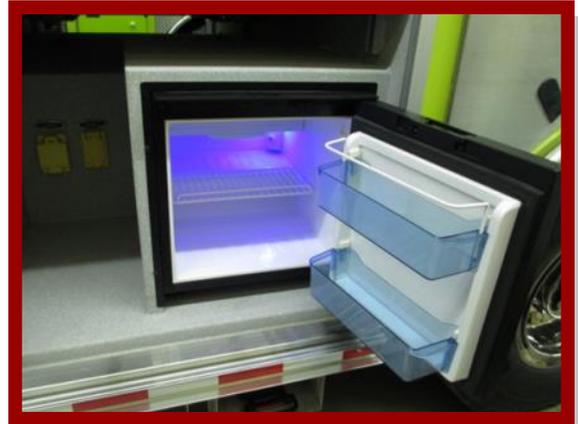


*Deputy Coordinator Rick Churches swears in Matt Maloney for another term as Chief of the Tyrone Fire Company*



*The line officers in the Tyrone Fire Company did not change this year. The annual banquet was held November 15, 2014.*

# Tyrone's New Rescue Truck



# Montour Falls FD: Cook Mansion Fire

## Fire strikes historic building in Montour Falls

**F**ire of undetermined origin that started in the attic of the historic Cook Mansion -- also known as the Barton House and recently a Bed & Breakfast -- drew firefighters from around the area and left extensive damage Sunday night. The home was built in the 1870s by Elbert Cook, the brother of the man sometimes referred to as the Father of Schuyler County, Charles Cook. The Barton family owned it through most of the 20th century. The building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, has had four owners since then. Several people were present at the time of the blaze, but nobody was reported injured.

Departments from Montour Falls, Odessa, Watkins Glen, Burdett, Tyrone, Horseheads, Horseheads Town and Country, Elmira Heights, Dundee.

Firefighters made an aggressive interior attack but the construction of the old building denied them direct access to the fire. A aerial master stream and hand lines were used to knock the fire down so access could be found.

This is the second fire this building has gone through. It burned in the early 1970's also. That too was a good stop.

**Story  
and  
Pictures  
by  
Odessa  
File**



*Flames shoot through the roof of the Cook Mansion, also known as the Barton House. It has recently been a Bed & Breakfast.*



*Firefighters attacked the blaze with water from ground-based and Aerial master streams.*

## Burdett FD: Smok'n Bones Fire

Around 12:15 on Sunday 11/16/2014 Burdett Fire was toned out for a structure fire at Smok'n Bones Restaurant. They were just finishing their weekly work bee and were just leaving the station. The engine (E-4) was pulled across the street and they were able to see that it was a grease fire in the kitchen. They quickly hit the fire with two dry chemical extinguishers. This extinguished the fire quickly. They were also notified of an disabled occupant on the second floor.

They were able to get him down safely at the same time. This all occurred before any mutual aid had time to get to their stations. Sometimes we are meant to be in certain places at certain times. Great job to the BFD. This fire would have taken the whole block had they not been right there. Most likely a life would have been lost.



*Firefighters prepare to leave the scene after putting out the fire. At Smok'n Bones Restaurant.*

**Picture by  
Odessa File**

## Mecklenburg FD: MVA

This MVA that Mecklenburg had was located on State Route 228 near Havens Road. The truck went over a guard rail and into the creek. The driver walked away with minor injuries. If he had a passenger it would have been a more tragic accident.



*Photos by Al Foote, Jr.*

# Odessa FD: Fire Races Through Rt. 228 Trailer

Investigators determined that a 3 a.m. fire on Dec. 4 at a trailer home at 2426 Rte. 228 outside Odessa was caused by a woodstove positioned too close to a wall in the nearby garage. The blaze swept quickly from there to and through the home. The property, owned by Tom Morgan, was rented to a man present at the time of the blaze, but who got out safely. The home, a total loss, was insured.

Firefighters from Odessa, Montour Falls, Mecklenburg and Burdett responded, with Millport on standby..



*The frame at left was part of the garage, where officials say the blaze started before jumping to the trailer home (right).*



Story and Picture  
by  
Odessa File



*Firefighters from Odessa, Montour Falls, Mecklenburg and Burdett were at the scene of the blaze.*

## Odessa FD: Wagner Hardwood Fire

The afternoon call was made when workers felt the wood chip storage pile was getting a lot hotter than normal. Not sure how much product was in the bin. It took several hours before the pile was removed from the bin. This is located next to the saw mill building. Mutual aid was received from Newfield and Montour Falls. 1500 feet of five inch hose was laid to the dry hydrant by Newfield. Montour provided an additional tanker. There was no damage to the structure and the product was salvaged.



*Photos by  
Charlene  
Herrmann*

## Firefighter II Graduates



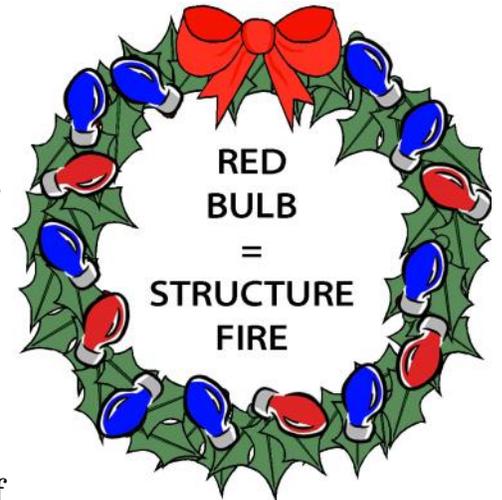
The above firefighters completed the Firefighter II class, a grueling several weeks on advanced firefighting techniques. We are very glad to have this added resource to our firefighting force in the county. Thanks to all.

# Keep the Wreath Blue

This season there were five structure fire incidents. One destroyed one mobile home/garage; a house with damage contained to the kitchen; two chimney fires, where damage was contained to the chimneys; and one small garage fire that received significant damage. Through the quick, efficient, and dedicated efforts of the county's volunteer fire departments, all of the incidents were quickly contained. Estimates of the

losses due to damage are \$47,000 total, however the value of the properties was \$313,700 which means Schuyler County firefighters saved \$266,700 in property! It is important there were no injuries to firefighters but one civilian was treated for smoke and burns.

This outstanding result is a direct reflection of the commitment volunteer firefighters have to providing the utmost service to their communities and to



the residents of the county who are practicing fire prevention in their homes.

# Seneca Santa

This year Schuyler County firefighters helped deliver packages to 151 Seneca Santa families, making Christmas a little brighter for 317 children!



# TyWaynePort: Mutual Aid Partnerships

By: Bill Kennedy

Many of us know our mutual aid partners through calls, county meetings, chief meetings and drills. In Tyrone we find that due to our location in the corner of the county we are often providing or using mutual aid from other counties. Wayne Fire Department use to be a Schuyler County fire department and we would see those firefighters very often at meetings and on drills and ambulance calls as Tyrone Ambulance covered that area. Wayne started their own ambulance service and built a new fire station in Steuben County, after which we did not have as much interaction with them except on fire calls. Three years ago we looked at how we could have a closer working relationship with them and others that we work with. What we came up with is a Fifth Wednesday “TyWaynePort” event. Tyrone, Wayne, and Hammondsport all train on Wednesday nights. Each have a monthly schedule for each night. What we realized is that we did not have a plan for months that had a fifth Wednesday, which is three or four months per year. In November of 2012 we held

our first “Tywayneport” event at the Tyrone Fire station. The first one was more of a social event so that the members from each department could get to know one another. It was a hit and we have made it a regular event on months with a fifth

Wednesday, rotating from department to department. After the first two more social nights we progressed to focusing on training along with the social aspect. Train first then socialize. We are now into our third year and have had some excellent trainings with our neighboring departments. Here is a short list of what we have done.

- Auto Extraction
- Firefighter Survival
- Water Rescue
- SCBA (maze work)
- Ice Rescue
- Hose Line Advancement and Control
- Cellar Fires



Many of these trainings have included members from other surrounding departments also. The night that we did Ice Rescue there were eight departments from three counties included in the training.

What started out as a way to get to know our neighbors better, has developed into a very well received and excellent training opportunity for our three departments.

**FASNY**  
Firemen's Association of  
the State of New York

# FASNY Training and Education

1-800-2FASNY2 • www.fasny.com

## *“YOU...Safety and Wellness = Survival”*

This informative 3 hour program is intended for Fire, EMS, Rescue, HazMat and First Response Service Personnel. Topics covered include:

- Firefighter - Life Safety Initiatives
- Personal Responsibility
- Firefighter Health and Wellness
- Situational Awareness
- Call to Action - “Tailboard Chats”

### OSHA INFORMATION:

This program provides OSHA Mandated Training in the following areas:

- General Hazard Recognition (30 minutes)
- Fire Station Safety (15 minutes)
- Response Safety (15 minutes)
- Fire Scene Safety (45 minutes)
- Protective Clothing (30 minutes)
- SCBA (15 minutes)
- Recent Developments in Fire Safety (30 minutes)

## Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Tyrone Volunteer Fire Company, Inc  
3600 State Route 226  
Tyrone, NY

Registration Opens at 6:30pm - course begins at 7pm

\* **Seating is limited to 100 attendees**

## Registration Information

Pre-registration Fees: \$20/FASNY members \$30/non-members

Onsite Fee: \$30/per attendee regardless of membership status

\*No shows and cancellations are non-refundable unless received 5 business days prior to the seminar

### How to Register:

Email - [training@fasny.com](mailto:training@fasny.com) OR [www.fasny.com](http://www.fasny.com) OR 1-800-2FASNY2

**Proudly presented by the Firemen's Association of the  
State of New York in conjunction with VFIS.**

**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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## Last Alarms



### Thinking of those lost in 2014.

*Don Scott (Odessa)*  
*Ernie Thurston (Watkins Glen)*  
*Jack Swartz (Mecklenburg)*  
*Frank Olevnik (Watkins Glen)*  
*Bud Cilley (Montour Falls)*  
*George Brown (Montour Falls)*  
*Don Riley (Odessa & Cty Assoc.)*  
*Roger Stocum (Tyrone)*  
*George "Bud" Confer (Montour Falls)*

## Upcoming Classes

- *Firefighter I (1/20)*
- *Rescue Technician Basic (2/3)*
- *HazMat Ops Refresher*
- *Intelligence Liaison Officer*
- *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

[jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us](mailto:jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us)

**For more information, visit:**

[www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us)  
[www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc](http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc)  
[www.emstar.org](http://www.emstar.org)

## Send Us Your Photos, News, and Suggestions!

**T**o 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](mailto:rickshirlc27@gmail.com)