

# Hot Calls

Volume 3, Issue 3

Written by: Rick Churches Send news to: rickshirlc27@gmail.com

May/June 2016



## History

January 9, 1958

An organizational meeting was held at the Montour Falls firehouse for the Schuyler County Fireman's (now Firefighters) Association. Temporary President George Beardsley (Watkins Glen) presided over the committee of the bylaws. Joe Saptura read them as drawn up by the committee.



1st. Vice President - Robert Rosette of Monterey.

2nd Vice President - Charles Messig of Burdett

Secretary/ Treasurer - Douglas Clark of Montour Falls

Publicity - Sid Blank of Beaver Dams

It was decided to meet in the winter months. Harlow Bailey (County Coordinator) said the group should be incorporated. William Ellison offered to do the necessary legal work at no charge.

Frank Crowley was elected as an honorary member to the new association.

Legislative Committee – Larry Decker (Montour Falls) and Jack Irish. (Watkins Glen)

### Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast      2nd Sunday of every month

Tyrone Spring Fling.      June 4  
Tickets are \$20      2pm-6pm  
donation each

## Firefighter Profile: Lorie Oliver

**L**orie has been a member of the Beaver Dams Fire Company for 27 years. In that time she has been president of the company in 2004 and is an EMT/Firefighter. Her father was a fire instructor and member of Beaver Dams. She would go with him to calls and became interested. She joined as soon as she could.

Lorie has six children. John and Karen belong to Beaver Dams, Jeremy and Jason belong to Crary Hose Company in Westfield, Pa.

Lorie has been an EMT for 24 years. She is currently the president of the Schuyler County Firefighters Association. This is the last year of a two year term. She was employed by Padua Sand and Gravel.

The most memorable event was the Kitchen Fire. This was a large apartment



building a few houses north of the fire station. The biggest change is the training that everyone has to have. Even people who work in the hospital (Karen) have to be trained as an EMT to work in the field and find it different to work on calls.

I write this article for two reasons. One she has served her community well for 27 years and still raised children and managed a family. The other is that Lorie has battled cancer for 20 years. Through that time

she has still responded to calls and been active in the fire company. We attended a benefit for her today, May 15, to help to cover costs of going to Rochester to receive the treatment she needs. She is a strong person and will come through this next step. When you see Lorie tell her thanks for her service and say a prayer for her.

# Firefighter I Graduation



The Schuyler County Office of Emergency Management recently had a graduation ceremony for 16 graduates of the Spring 2016 Firefighter 1 training program on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016 at the B.C. Cate Elementary School. The training program was offered by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services through the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The graduates of this program represent eight local volunteer fire companies from Schuyler and Tompkins counties.

Deputy County Fire Coordinator Brian Gardner, New York State Fire Instructor John Jelliff and New York State Fire Instructor Jake Burns joined the department's Fire Chiefs in conferring the diplomas to the graduates.

The Spring 2016 graduates include:

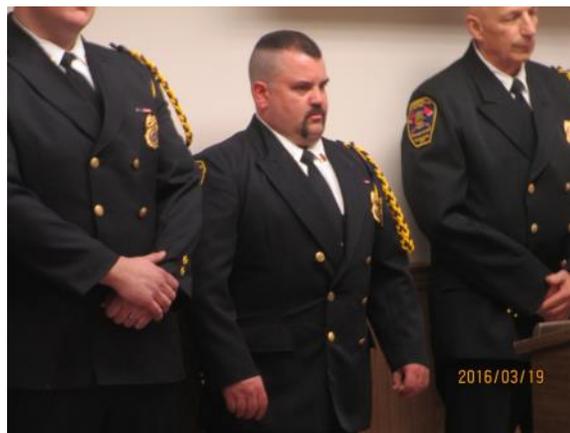
Ray Bally - Cayuga Heights Fire Department  
 Michael Barlett - Valois, Logan, Hector Fire Company  
 Breeana Bentley - Odessa Fire Department  
 William (Pierce) Chapin - Cayuga Heights Fire Department  
 Robert Fausel - Valois Logan Hector Fire Company  
 Dasia Herrmann - Odessa Fire Department  
 Chase Richtmyre - Burdett Fire Department  
 Taylor Rounds - Odessa Fire Department  
 Rick Roper - Odessa Fire Department  
 Logan Rumsey - Watkins Glen Fire Department  
 Jason Smith - Watkins Glen Fire Department  
 Molly Taber - Mecklenburg Fire Company  
 Lucas VanDee - Enfield Fire Company  
 Anthony Whitaker - Trumansburg Fire Department  
 Matthew Whitaker - Trumansburg Fire Department  
 Mitchell Wright - Trumansburg Fire Department

The Firefighter 1 class is offered once per year and was instructed by N.Y.S. Fire Instructors John Jelliff, Jake Burns, Robert DeDominick and Alan Gregory. The 104 hour training was held at the Odessa Fire Department with additional hands-on training taking place at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls and the Watkins Glen Fire Department. Classes were held two nights per week over a four month period.

## Montour Falls Banquet

The installation banquet for Montour Falls was held on March 19, 2016. Highlight of the evening was the recognition of James Kuttner for 50 years of service. Jim is pictured at the far right in the above photo.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Assist. Jake Burns
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeremy Edmister
- Capt. Joel Husted
- 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Andrew Yessman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brian Swartwood
- Fire Police Capt. James Kuttner
- Dep. Chief Jeff Confer.



*Left: Bill Thomas was sworn in for his second term as chief of Montour Falls.*

## Beaver Dams Officers Installed

- Kirk Smith Chief
- Kent Thurston 1st
- Alex Sullivan 2nd
- Charlie Stoddard 3rd
- Vern McLean Jr. Captain
- Kristi Sullivan 1st. Lt.
- Skip Barber 2nd. Lt.
- Karen Little Rescue Capt.
- Christy Ohls Safety Officer

## Watkins Glen Banquet

There has been a change of chiefs at Watkins Glen. Charlie Scaptura was installed as the new Watkins Glen Fire Chief Saturday night at the annual Fire Company banquet, which was held at the fire station. He succeeds Judson Smith. Charlie Smith 3rd is 1st Derick Bacon 2nd and Robert Gruver 3rd. Deputy Chiefs Dominick Smith, Robbie DeDominick Jason Hudson. Shawn Gilbert Captain, Safety Officer Judson Smith EMS Captain, Kristina Olevnik Lt. The banquet, dedicated to the memory of firefighters Denis Amisano, Bob Olevnik and Frank Desarno, featured dinner, the introduction of guests, and the



*New Watkins Glen Fire Chief Charlie Scaptura is congratulated by Village Mayor Sam Schimizzi after taking over as head of the fire department, succeeding Judson Smith, left.*

presentation of awards. The emcee was Tom Carson.

## Odessa: Meth House

### Police: meth house found near Odessa

Law enforcement officers, firefighters and ambulance personnel descended on the sleepy crossroads of Catharine Corners -- south of Odessa -- Wednesday afternoon as an alleged methamphetamine operation was dismantled in a house there. Two men were arrested in the case, which netted what Sheriff's Deputies said was a supply of meth production-related materials,



*Investigators suit up to enter the house near Catharine Corners.*



*Hazmat-suited law officers enter the house.*

carried out of the structure by hazmat-suited investigators.

**Story and  
Pictures by  
Odessa File**

## Odessa: Barn Fire

**6** cows die as fire levels barn along Rte. 13

A faulty electrical system in an ATV sparked a fire Tuesday night that destroyed a barn along Rte. 13 north of Alpine Junction, killing six cows housed in the structure. Firefighters from Odessa, Montour Falls, Mecklenburg, Newfield and Breesport raced to the scene to battle flames that started about 11:30 p.m. on farm property owned by Roger Staples at 6260 Rte. 13, Cayuta, about a half-mile north of Rt. 224. The ATV, fire officials said, had been in use during the day, but not running smoothly. The barn was fully involved by the time the first firefighters arrived, and they



*Remains of the barn as viewed from State Route 13.*

concentrated on keeping flames from a nearby trailer, farm equipment, another barn and a house. Embers started a fire in a field, but it was quickly doused.

Firefighters cleared the scene at about 3:45 a.m. Water supply as set up at Wagner Lumber Dry Hydrant. Over 16,000 was filled in a tanker shuttle.

**Story below and  
Pictures by  
Odessa File**

## Beaver Dams: Meth Lab

**B**eaver Dams Fire handled a meth lab in late April and Odessa was also activated for another meth lab a short distance from the one pictured on the previous page.

With the number of meth labs on the rise, it would be important for all to review procedures for this type of call. A total of 17 people were arrested in the latest lab related case.



*Law officers and firefighters outside the alleged meth lab.*

# Beaver Dams: MVA

## MOTHER, 2 CHILDREN AIRLIFTED AFTER CAR CRASH

**T**hree people -- a woman from Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania and her two children -- were airlifted by helicopter to Rochester Friday morning after sustaining injuries when their car went out of control and struck a tree on Route 414 near Johnson Hollow Road in the Town of Dix. Schuyler County Sheriff's investigators said the accident occurred when Leeanne Eakin, 33, lost control of her northbound car, which left the road and struck a tree around 7:30 a.m. The accident was reported in a 911 call, sending Sheriff's Department personnel and firefighters from Beaver Dams, Watkins Glen and Montour Falls to the scene, along with Schuyler Ambulance and Rural Metro Ambulance.

Eakin and her two daughters, ages 9 and 11, were trapped in the car, but conscious and alert when rescuers got them out. A tree that the car had wrapped around had to be cut down. Three helicopters -- two from LifeNet and one from Mercy Flight -- landed in a zone at the Business Park up the



*Schuyler Sheriff's Investigator Craig Bianco photographs the scene after the three injured*

### Story and Pictures by Odessa File

road, and carried the injured to Strong Memorial Hospital. No immediate word on the victims' condition was available.

**B**eaver Dams did an excellent follow up on this incident. WETM TV out of Elmira did a piece about the incident and actually interviewed the family that was rescued. They were very grateful to all the first responders who helped. The



*Helicopter starts liftoff at Business Park.*

news piece also covered the training needed to perform such extrication work. Also Chief Smith emphasized the need for volunteers and the commitment it takes.

# Odessa: MVA

**Members of country singer Luke Bryan's stage crew were en route home**

ALPINE JUNCTION, April 10

A vehicle carrying three members of country singer Luke Bryan's stage crew veered off State Rt. 13 north of Alpine Junction about 8:30 a.m. Sunday, went airborne, hit a tree, and came to rest on its side in a watery ditch 150 feet from where it left the road.

The three men, each about 30 years of age, sustained undesignated injuries in the crash, which occurred just north of Smith Road and within sight of Alpine Junction a half-mile away. They were airlifted to hospitals in Syracuse and Sayre. Two of them were brothers.

One of the injured was outside the vehicle when rescue workers from the Odessa Fire Department arrived on the scene. The other two men were trapped inside, and were freed after a Jaws of Life cutter peeled back the roof.

Ambulances were on the scene from the Schuyler, Erway and Bangs ambulance services, which transported the men to the parking lot behind the Dandy store at Alpine Junction. There, three helicopters -- one from



*The crash vehicle, a Ford Freestar, is loaded onto a wrecker on Route 13.*

LifeNet and two from Mercy Flight Central -- were utilized to airlift them to the hospitals.

One of the brothers was taken to Packer Hospital in Sayre. The other brother and the third man were taken to Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. The decision to split destinations had nothing to do with injuries, said one fire official, but rather with a preference not to tax the Syracuse facility with all three emergencies. The men's names were not immediately available, and the severity of the injuries was not known. The men, officials said, had been working Saturday night at a Bryan concert at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. They were part of the crew helping to rig the lights. At the time of the accident they

were on the way home to West Virginia, one of the men told rescue workers. Bryan, currently on his Kill the Lights Tour 2016, is set to appear Tuesday night with other country stars for a Nashville-based All for the Hall benefit concert before resuming his tour in Toledo, Ohio on Thursday.

The vehicle, investigators said, was southbound on Rt. 13 when it left the road on the right and entered a ditch. From there it went airborne, clearing two driveways and striking a tree at the base of a roadside hill, coming to rest on its side, facing north and in standing water. The vehicle was a Ford Freestar minivan. A fire official said State Police were conducting an investigation of the accident, but they had no information late Sunday.

# Odessa: MVA cont...



*Left: The track of the takeoff point is in the foreground. The airborne vehicle ended up beyond the street sign in the background.*

*Right: A mirror rests uphill from the wreck.*



*The vehicle is pulled back to an upright position by a wrecker from Scotty's service.*

# Trumansburg Barn Fire

A structure fire on Stillwell road (Schuyler County) brought out Trumansburg Fire Department along with Enfield (both in Tompkins County) Mecklenburg and Hector from Schuyler. This newsletter also covers the departments that cover Schuyler County.



*Picture taken before Trumansburg arrived. Cause was believed to be a woodstove.*



*Transitional attack is done by T-burgs first pumper-tanker. A good knockdown was accomplished. (Photos by Keven Romer)*



**Story and Pictures by Odessa File**

*Water supply was provided by Mecklenburg and Enfield. Hector was diverted to stand-by in T-burg.*

**Tyrone Volunteer Fire Dept.**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> Annual**  
**Spring Fling Raffle**

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, 2pm to 6pm  
 At The Tyrone Fire House, 3600 SR 226 Tyrone, NY

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

Backyard Chicken BBQ for 25 People  
 You Invite Your Friends  
 We Will Bring the Food  
 Must Be Within 50 Miles of Fire House

Ticket \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIZE                      or                      CASH**

- 1. -----GRAND PRIZE DRAWING-----
- 2. Weber Grill 3 Burner Spirit-----\$350
- 3. 4- 2016 Tyrone Fire Dept. Gun Raffle Tickets-----\$80
- 4. Pelican Trailblazer Angler 10 Kayak----- \$350
- 5. Reel Rippin Musky Charter for Waneta Lake-----\$250
- 6. Lifetime NY'S Fishing License-----\$300
- 7. Sun Dolphin Scout14 Canoe-----\$400
- 8. 4- Darien Lake season Passes-----\$225
- 9. 5'x8' utility trailer-----\$590
- 10. 5400w Champion Generator-----\$300
- 11. Backyard Game set, Cornhole, Washers, Bocce Ball,--- \$200
- 12. GoPro Camera-----\$350
- 13. Camping Pkg, tent, chairs, stove, table, sleeping bag-----\$500
- 14. Water Tube, Kneeboard, And Lifejacket-----\$350
- 15. 4-2016 Nascar Sprint Cup at the Glen Tickets-----\$320
- 16. Patio Fire Pit and Outdoor Heater-----\$330
- 17. Yeti Cooler and Can Koozie-----\$350

**Earlybird Drawing Wed. May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Earlybird Two- \$300.00 Winners**

**Donation \$20.00 per person**

**Must Bring Ticket to Enter**

Also will have refreshments, door prizes,  
 50/50 raffle, and MORE

Need not be present to win prizes 1 thru 17  
 Or Earlybird Drawing

Any questions please contact: Joe Dombroski 607-292-6483  
 Or Bill Kennedy Jr 607-346-7831

**Please Print Clearly**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Ph # : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sold By \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket \_\_\_\_\_

# New Watkins Glen Tanker Put Into Service

WATKINS GLEN, April 9 --

**T**he Watkins Glen Fire Department put a new pumper tanker into service Saturday -- a truck (No. 31) purchased largely on the strength of a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The \$285,000 grant was obtained through an application prepared by Safety Captain and former Watkins Glen Chief Dominick Smith, with assistance from Vickers Consulting Services of Texas. The remaining \$50,000 was provided through the village budget. FEMA, it was explained, requires that at least 15% of the cost of a grant project is provided locally.

The tanker replaces one retired and sold three years ago. The new vehicle, with a basic weight of 23,000 pounds, carries 1800 gallons of water, which is another 14,000 pounds.



**STOP IN AT WATKINS AND  
CHECK IT OUT!**

**Story and  
Pictures by  
Odessa File**

# Tanker, cont...



# Burdett Training

**B**urdett Training  
What happens when a school bus flips on its side? Well Burdett took a drill night to find what's new on local school buses. Odessa-Montour Central School provided the training to show the newest versions of safety and hazards to be concerned with.

A little added information to this type of call. The bus driver is the legal guardian of the children on the bus. He or She is the one to make decisions on how the kids are to be treated as if the parents were there. This is a ruling by the NYS Department of Health and NYS Board of Education. It also depends on the condition of the driver to make decisions. This can be found on the NYS Department of Health website.



## Odessa: Mother-Daughters Team

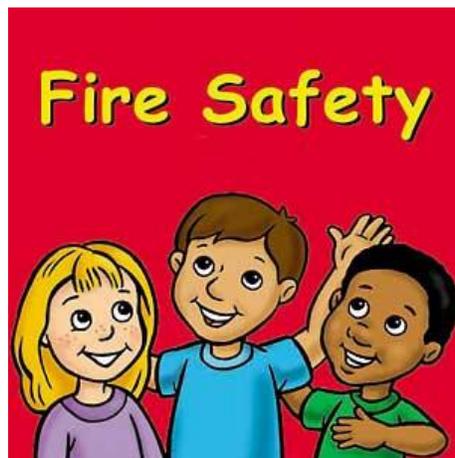
**W**hen I (Rick Churches) got into the fire department (1965) it was father-son teams that were recognized and the norm. Now (2016), at least in Odessa, it a mother-daughters team.



*Henna left, Mom Charlene center, Dasia right. All are interior firefighters and EMS*

# Learn Not To Burn Ends For the Year

At County Firefighters Association Meeting Don Dalrymple reported on the fire prevention program for the year. One of the main stumbling blocks had to do with the letter and homework we send home in February regarding the EDITH plans for each student to go over with their parents. The problem that has come up is people are pushing back on doing the homework because they are nervous about giving information out such as phone, address, and a blueprint of their home. We do understand this and feel it is a valid concern. The information never goes beyond the teacher and the instructors teaching the class. The fire prevention committee feels this part of the program is extremely important as we need to encourage families to go over what they would do in case of a fire. We all know how important it is to us that everyone is safe when we arrive. Included is a copy if the information requested. (see page17) Give Donnie some ideas on what we can do to continue to get the information needed, while keeping the public concerns upfront. Send suggestions to [rickshirle27@gmail.com](mailto:rickshirle27@gmail.com)



*Hector at LNTB Watkins*



*Schuyler Ambulance at LNTB Watkins*



*Watkins at LNTB*

## SCHUYLER COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Your House Number and Name of Road you live on \_\_\_\_\_

Town of \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Name of fire department that protects you \_\_\_\_\_

Number you would call to report an emergency \_\_\_\_\_

HOME EXIT DRILLS

A home escape plan is very important. All the people who live in your house should help with this assignment.

Follow these directions:

1. On the back of this sheet of paper, draw a floor plan of your house (a picture of what your house would look like from the air if the roof was taken off).
2. Show all the rooms, windows, doors and stairs.
3. Show where everyone sleeps.
4. With help, plan two (2) escape routes from each room and mark these on your plan.
5. Place a large "X" on the spot outside your house where everyone will meet if there is a fire.
6. Mark the route one person will take to the nearest fire alarm box or phone to notify the Fire Department.
7. Have the adults at home sign this statement.

My family has discussed this plan. We all know what to do in case a fire occurs at our house.

Signature (s) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Return this page with your plan on it to your teacher.
9. Once we review it, it will be returned to your teacher in May at our graduation ceremonies.
10. Thank you for all your cooperation in helping keep your family fire-safe.

"LEARN NOT TO BURN"

**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

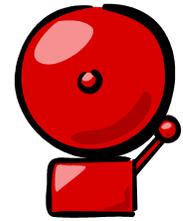
106 Tenth Street, Unit 36  
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Phone: 607-535-8200  
E-mail: [scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us](mailto:scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us)

Web: [www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO](http://www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/SchuylerEMO](http://twitter.com/SchuylerEMO)



## Last Alarms



***Cyndy Pinkard***  
*Monterey*

***Gene Gardiner***  
*Odessa Fire Dept.,  
Past Fire Coordinator*

***George Miller***  
*Beaver Dams*

## Upcoming Classes

*Coming in the Fall:*

- *EMT Original*
- *EMT Refresher*

**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)