

# Hot Calls

Volume 4, Issue 4

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July/August 2017



## Hector Fair

By: Mike Hicks

Announcing the Valois, Logan, & Hector Annual Fireman's Fair July 27, 28 & 29.

A highlight of the three-day fair is the annual parade featuring a variety of area interests. We would be very honored to have you participate in our parade this year on Friday July 28th. The parade will start at 7:00 PM with lineup in the area of the Dandy Mini Mart starting at 6:00 PM.

If you can join us this year we ask that you complete and return the bottom of this form by July 15th. If your organization requires payment to participate in the parade please call 607-227-5318 or email mhicks4918@gamil.com and leave your name, number and the amount of your fee. We will contact you to confirm your participation and fee.

### Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast	2nd Sunday of every month
Hector Fair	July 27-29
Tyrone Gun Raffle Tickets on Sale Now! \$20 Donation.	September 16 2-6pm
Mecklenburg Sportsman Raffle. Tickets On Sale Now. \$10 Donation.	October 15

## History

On May 13, 1958 the Odessa meeting of the Schuyler County Fire Fighters Association, then Watkins Glen Fire Chief stated that any fire department responding to a drowning to take it easy going to the scene. Especially if there is any time lapse as there is no emergency. We can only imagine that apparently Watkins had such a call and some companies responded code three.

Did you know that it was at one time legal and encouraged that emergency vehicles returning from an alarm should use red lights. No sirens just lights. Not sure what the logic was for that.



# Firefighter Profile: Tom Dykes

By: Rick Churches

**T**om Dykes married his wife Vera Verity on August 23, 1969. They have two children, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Son Gary became a firefighter in Tyrone then moved to the Rochester area. He did not continue in the fire service but Tom's granddaughter has and joined Gates-Chili as an explorer. She is now Chief of the explorer unit.

Tom joined the Tyrone Fire Company in 1973. His grandfather, Harold DeCamp, Sr. was a charter member of the company. Tom's Uncle Leon DeCamp also had a big influence on him joining. Tom was working on his grandfather's farm for his Uncle Leon when he joined. He thinks his interest came from him. There have been five generations that serve or have served in the Tyrone Fire Company: Harold DeCamp, Sr., Leon DeCamp, Tom Dykes, Gary Dykes, and Sam Dykes. Leon played a huge roll in the five generations being members.

Tom became Assistant Chief in 1981. He served as a line officer until 1999. In that time he served as Chief three times. He was asked what was most memorable for him. Tom said, "Fatal fires are the toughest to deal with as they are for all of us. There was a bad fire on DeCamp Road in which five children were lost." This was very difficult for him and the department. You could see it in Tom's face as he told me the story that it still bothers him

today. The good side of the job is the people he met along the way. The biggest accomplishment was the new fire station in which he was chairman. This was a drastic change from Tyrone's humble beginning in the very small station.

The company carnival was the main fund raiser for many years and Tom was chairman for most of the events. It was very labor intensive and ultimately cost one of the firefighters and Tom's best friend (Tom Tobin) his life as he was stricken by a heart attack during the carnival. This was a LODD.

Tom was raised on a farm and worked on a farm most of his life. Hard work was a way of life for him and he is most happy doing that kind of work. As farming became tough occupation Tom was forced to find work that paid a little better. He got a job with International Salt/Crestwood and stayed there 10 years till he retired.

He has enjoyed working on truck committees. Early days for Tyrone were hard. Now they are blessed with a sound financial base. There has always been good cooperation between



chiefs and past chiefs. They continue to be active and do as much as they can to help the current officers.

I can't tell you the exact time I met Tom but he and I have been friends for a very long time. He is one of the nicest guys you could meet. We live on opposite sides of the county but I count him as one of the best friends I have. You won't find a harder worker for the organization. He is the typical lunch box firefighter. He does his job, does not complain, and is always there when you need him. Tom's dedication to the fire service is second to his family which he is very proud. His wife, Vera, has shared him as she knows his love for the job. For that we thank her. When you see Tom thank him for his service to the company and the community. Oh yes and thank Vera too.

# Odessa Banquet

Odessa's banquet was held at Fountianbleu Inn. There were no changes in officers but two new officer positions were added this year. Captain and Lieutenant as line officers was added.



- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Chief                 | Mike Tomassi    |
| 1st Chief             | John Jelliff    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chief | Adam Maknke     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Chief | Steve Siptrott  |
| DFC                   | Rick Churches   |
| Rescue Lt.            | Charlene Mahnke |
| Capt.                 | Keith Pierce    |
| Lt.                   | Jason June      |
| Fire Police Cpt.      | Bill Bulkey     |
| Fire Police Lt.       | Paul LaRow      |



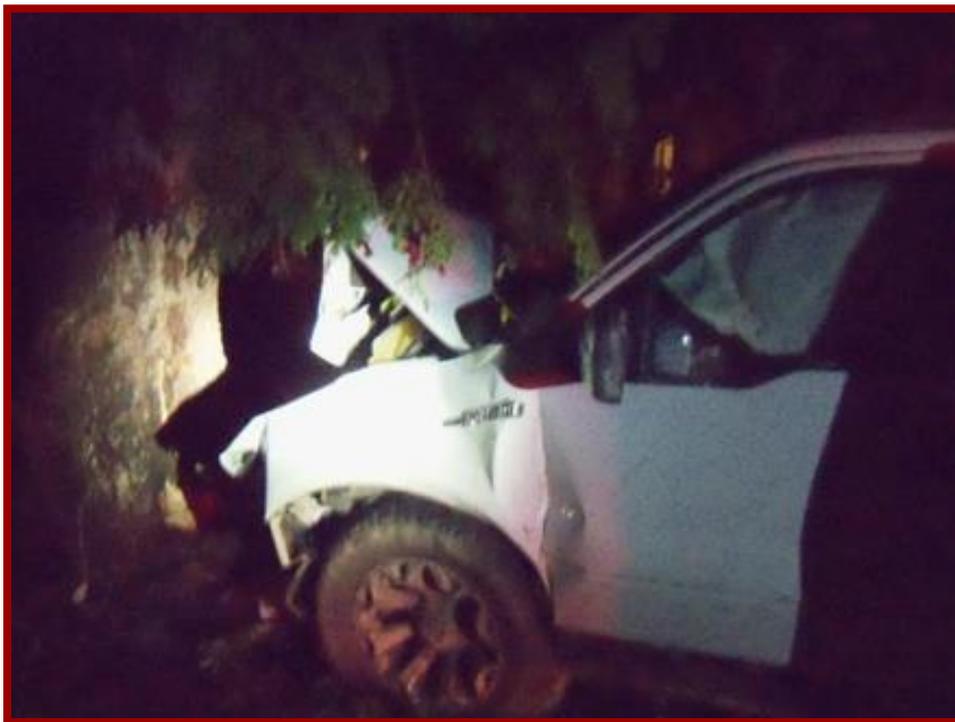
*Rick Churches, Shirley Churches, Rich Brown, Danny Eberhardt, Received an award for saving the life of a man who fell through the ice on Cayuta Lake this past winter.*



*Bernie MacDugall received the Ridge Runner Award*

## Odessa: MVA

**E**arly morning call for Odessa Rescue and Schuyler Ambulance. Two occupants of a pickup versus tree in Odessa village brought serious injuries. Both occupants were self-extricated when first rescuers arrived. Both were unresponsive and had to be flown to RPH Trauma Center. Erway Ambulance also assisted in patient care.



A second call back to the accident scene was needed for our favorite wrecker person, as he fell over a tree stump and broke his ankle.

## Odessa: Trailer Fire

**A** trailer fire off State Route 13 in Cayuta brought Odessa, Newfield, Montour Falls, and Community Fire departments out early one evening. A quick transitional attack made quick work of the room and contents fire.

# Watkins Glen: Flash Flooding

**F**looding in the south end of the Village of Watkins Glen brought out eight fire departments from two counties. Damage was concentrated from Pizza Hut south on State Route 14, 414 North to County Road 31, and County Road 17. There was some damage to two residences and a couple of businesses. NYS DOT was involved also. It was a major operation to reroute traffic and to fill sandbags for protecting property and diverting water. One medical and one fire alarm was also answered in the middle of the incident. Command was operated at the Watkins Glen Fire Station. Chief Scaptura was the incident commander and was assisted at command by the Tyrone Fire Chief and Emergency Management. Tons of questions were directed to Charlie and he had an answer for them all. This was a great job by everyone.



*Command operation*



*Crews take a much deserved break for water and food.*

# Beaver Dams Training

The Beaver Dams training covered fire spread and reading smoke. Through the simulation they witnessed the

stages of fire, changes in smoke and the reactions of each when oxygen was introduced. During the demonstration they were

able to create conditions ideal for an impressive smoke explosion.



# Monterey Training

A recent training between Monterey, Beaver Dams and Tyrone was the first of some scheduled trainings. The three departments are working together to enhance response in this area of the county. Wednesday night was a

show and tell of our equipment and capabilities, also a chance for the members from each department get to know each other and see the others equipment.

Approximately 35 firefighters attended.

Often the officers know

each other from meetings and events, but the members do not have the same familiarity with the other departments. The next joint training is scheduled for June to do some pump training.



## **MECKLENBURG VOL. FIRE CO. 2017 SPORTSMAN DRAWING**



**11 Chances to win  
Choice of prize or money**

**Tickets available at Fire Company functions,  
from members, or by calling 607-280-4419**

**Donation: \$10**

**Early Bird Prize drawing, for tickets already sold,  
May 21, 2017, 10:30 am at the Breakfast.**

**Winner will be entered in October Drawing**

**Drawing for remaining ten prizes  
October 15, 2017, 10:30am at the Breakfast.**

**Need Not Be Present to Win**



## 170 Years of Service



**Ray Miller**

Dundee

**Joe Matwiejow**

Watkins Glen, Tyrone

**Ron Tormey**

Tyrone

*This picture was taken at the  
Watkins Glen Banquet.*

## Emergency Council Meeting in Hector

**T**he County Firefighters Association has voted to continue meetings four times a year. The main focus is to maintain the county firefighters fire prevention program. The meeting schedule is:

Tyrone - September  
Beaver Dams—November,  
Hector - January  
Watkins - March

The meetings will primarily be for business, but if the

host company wants to sponsor a program they can.

Watkins Glen has put a new fly car in service. Also their rescue boat has to have the motor replaced.

The cell tower at Schuyler ambulance station is complete and the radio equipment at the county building will be relocated there.

There was an extensive discussion on ambulance service in the county. Everyone has issues

with manpower and the ambulances in the county are no different. If you have an interest in serving on an ambulance contact Emergency Management 535-8200 or Schuyler Ambulance 535-7273. Drivers are needed and only need to have CPR and First Aid. We could help a little which would help a lot.

# Simulation offers prom message to students: Don't drink and drive, don't text and drive



WATKINS GLEN, May 12 -- A two-car crash brought on by drinking and the distraction of texting. Law enforcement, a fire department with Jaws of Life extraction equipment, and a helicopter to carry injured to the hospital. And bodies: two covered corpses.

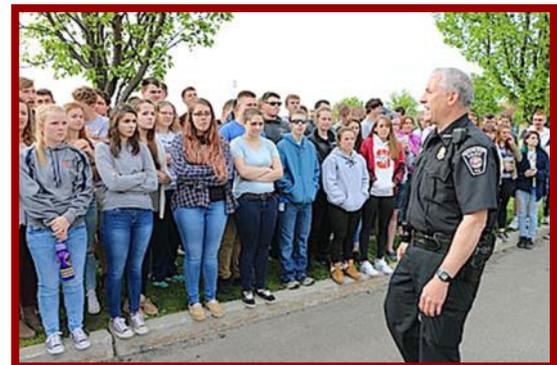
Watching all of this -- a simulation Friday morning overseen by the Watkins Glen High School chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) -- were the school's junior and senior classes, standing as a group on the south end of the parking lot at the rear of the WGHS complex off 12th Street.

The two cars utilized were donated for the exercise by Southern Tier Auto of Monterey, which delivered the vehicles and was removing them afterward -- after rescue personnel had carved them up to remove the "injured" and "dead" from the vehicles. Those roles were filled by WGHS students, complete with makeup applied that morning.

Nearby, the driver of one of the cars -- actually senior Katherine Taylor, the project's makeup artist and, with fellow student Sara Morrissette, credited as key SADD members involved in the event's planning -- was being given a breathalyzer test and "arrested" by village patrolman Jesse Wilson. Taylor was handcuffed and placed in a patrol car after "failing" the test.

The Guthrie Air helicopter donated its time and its equipment, too, and participated in the exercise, wheeling an "injured" passenger on a stretcher, moving the student from one of the vehicles over to the chopper parked on the open lawn nearby.

Watching all of this were the students, to whom School Resource Officer David Waite



explained various aspects of the event as it proceeded. He had organized the law enforcement and emergency services aspect of the simulation, and praised Guthrie Air for donating its expertise and equipment, which under normal circumstances costs thousands of dollars.

"And they're coming back next week for Career Day," he said, marveling at the generosity.

Waite summarized the scene to the students as the simulation neared its end.

"The weather today is good," he said. "But what if it was bad? Everything you see here would slow down, making matters even worse.

"I hope you guys plant this memory in your minds for tomorrow night (prom night at Logan Ridge) and for the rest of your lives."

SADD also conducted a Grim Reaper Day this week in the school, whereby a student dressed in black and with a face painted to resemble a skeleton, would enter a classroom every half hour or so and tap a student on the shoulder. That student would leave, don a black robe, be made up to look dead-white, and return to class in complete silence -- signifying his or her loss to classmates through accident and death.

Said one SADD representative: "We hope that all of this impresses them at least in the short term, for this weekend."

Added a member of the Guthrie Air crew to the kids:

"This is a simulation, but we see this kind of thing" -- and she waved toward the wrecked cars and two "bodies" covered on the ground, their feet sticking out -- "all the time in our work. It's real."

### Photos in text: Article and pictures by Odessa File

**Top:** WGHS senior Katherine Taylor, in charge of the simulation's makeup, is given a breathalyzer test by Patrolman Jesse Wilson before being "arrested." She was handcuffed and then placed in a police car until the end of the simulation.

**Second:** School Resource Officer David Waite addresses the students.

**Third:** Rescuers work to extract an "injured" student from one of the cars.

**Fourth:** A "body" -- a participating student -- is covered, simulating a fatality.



Story and  
Pictures by  
Odessa File

*The two cars used. The scenario was that both drinking and texting were involved, with one driver distracted by texting as the two vehicles collided at an intersection.*

# Arrival Report – What do we have?

By: Gail Foote

*Gail is a Past Chief of Hector Fire Company. He is currently Captain with Alachua County Fire Department*

**A**ny tactics and strategy class or discussion always includes the importance of size-up and a 360 walk-around to determine the lay of the land, building make up, utilities, hazards, fire location, and other factors to use in an initial arriver's decisions on how and where to make an attack on a fire or begin to handle an incident. A complete walk-around of a structure fire is significant and should be mandatory practice. However, there is another exercise to consider with as much importance and one that can help to lay the groundwork for other units.

An Arrival Report (or Windshield Size-Up) should be the first thing done by the first arriving unit with radio communications. This will provide others responding with information about what they may need to narrow down their thinking and focus on specifics. The first arriving unit should include more than just, "I'm on

scene". Relaying basic visual information allows other responders to anticipate what they may be coming into. If a chief officer is not on scene yet he or she may consider additional resources based on the arrival report.

Basically, the report is what is seen on arrival and considered important for others to know. Certain factors need to be considered in an Arrival Report. After giving the unit ID, the next bit of information can be the most obvious: building information for a fire. A description of a building includes: Height (one story/ two story; single wide/double wide), Size (large/medium/ small is sufficient since we are not all square footage calculators), Use (residential/ commercial; health facility/ educational facility), Construction (wood frame/ masonry). A class on building construction is very helpful to aide in describing buildings. The next factor for reporting is Conditions, what is happening in relation to the nature of call. If a fire then what, where and approximate percentage involved should be relayed. This can be smoke showing, flames visible, nothing

showing. And keep in mind that "nothing showing" does not necessarily mean no fire. If occupants are observed in the area or in the act of evacuating that information should be relayed as well.

Reports can be incident-specific: building fire; two vehicle crash; one vehicle on its side; road blockage; fluids leaking; all occupants appear ambulatory; large tree in the road, etc. Whatever you see, that's what you say. Another important bit of information is confirmation of address or location if different from Dispatch information. Callers can sometimes get it wrong. If an officer is first on scene they should establish Command. If local SOG allows a FF to establish command then that should certainly be done.

A good training night is to practice giving Arrival Reports. Use pictures from fire magazines or videos on Youtube. Consider the following as a minimum when going through the process:

How big:                      Size  
How tall:                      Stories  
What is it made of: Wood;  
metal; concrete block  
(Masonry)

What is it:

Residential; Single-wide/Double-wide Mobile Home;

Commercial (gas station, restaurant, grocery, day care, etc.)

What you see:

Smoke/Fire/Nothing showing; Head-on/T-Bone/Rollover

Where you see it: Roof, eaves, inside. Front, rear. Alpha/Bravo/Charlie/Delta side/corners

How much:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 10%, 25%, 50%, fully involved

Other info:

Evacuation, exposures, hazards, cars, vacant, occupants  
Location and Command

Ex: "Unit X on scene, two story, wood frame residential, fire showing Alpha - Bravo corner, 25% involved, detached garage exposure, no vehicle, no people visible in the immediate area."

It is always nice to know what you are coming into and an adequate Arrival Report can be very beneficial to other responders.

- Stay Safe

UPDATE: Reference to the article about the Training Facility. The third level has been placed and all boxes painted. Stairs will be located at the grey doors in picture 2. The burn box is in picture 3, lower right.



# Fire Prevention Going Strong at 40 years

The Schuyler County Firefighters Association has sponsored the county fire prevention program for forty years this year. The last day of instruction was held in Odessa on June 8th. The program has been condensed a lot due to lack of manpower and the fact that the scheduling has become difficult in the schools. None the less, we feel that we are delivering a quality program and the message is still getting across to the kids. At this time, Donnie Dalrymple is the program coordinator and has been recognized nationally for his efforts in fire prevention. We are desperately looking for interested people who have time and are interested in teaching the established program we will teach you and help get you started. The teachers for the most part are very helpful and assist in the teaching process. We just honored one teacher who has been with the program for 33 years (Cory Smith) and is retiring this year from B.C Cate School and started teaching 4th grade at Hanlon in Odessa. We know fire deaths and injuries are dramatically down and the number of structure fires is reduced due to the program. One lady that we do banking with and has her own children go through the program still remembers the things she was taught from the program. The county fire assoc. has given up on monthly meetings but has not given up on the Fire Prevention Program. Way back in March of 1958 at county meeting then coordinator Harlow Bailey and Fire Chief Joe Sanders of Tyrone had a program sponsored by General Electric in Onondaga County on "Sparky's Fire Department" and wanted this promoted by the County Firefighters Association. The secretary was instructed to contact the fire company's representatives for more information. Unfortunately it took 12 fire deaths 30 years later to get the program on line.



**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

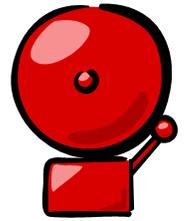
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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO](http://www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/SchuylerEMO](http://twitter.com/SchuylerEMO)



## Last Alarms



*None*

## Upcoming Classes

Tentatively planning for the following classes:

- *EMT Original & Refresher (September)*
- *Water Supply (August)*
- *Rope Rescue Operations (TBD)*

**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)  
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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)