

Hot Calls

Volume 6, Issue 2

Written by: Rick Churches Send news to: rickshirc27@gmail.com

March/April 2019



Ice/Cold Water Rescue Training

Ice Rescue training was well attended, resulting in several new Ice Rescue Techs. Photo credit goes to Jim Pinkard.



Calendar:

Mecklenburg
Breakfast April 21
(every 3rd Sun,
October thru
May) 7:30-11am

Burdett's
20-Week Club/
Dinner Dance On-going thru
Tickets. \$100ea April 27
(Dinner for
two)

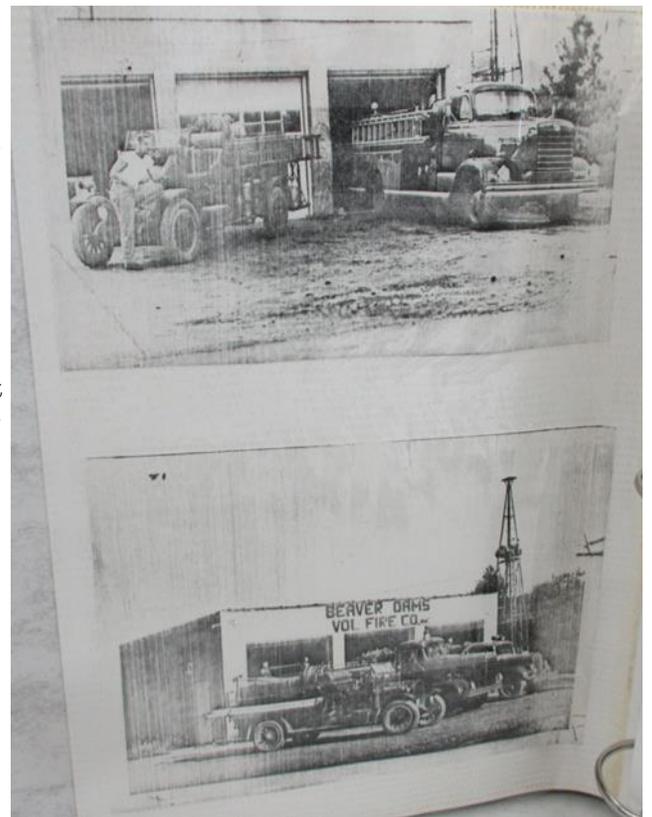


Firefighter Profile: Paul Blank

Paul is a charter member of the Beaver Dams Volunteer Fire Company. He is 85 years young and is going strong. He is one of eleven children. Brothers Sid, Keith and Charles all were members of the fire company. The company was finally formed after the Blank home burned to the ground. The family and community were sure that if they had a fire company that they could have saved the home. Two previous attempts to form the company failed in 1939 and 1947. In April of 1951, the fire company finally was formed. The first firehouse was in the family barn where the house once stood. The first apparatus was a used pumper and because it did not carry much water a 1000 gallon converted full truck supplemented the force. The first fire was two miles from the station. They were able to save a house after the garage caught fire. From that point on they had all kinds of support. The current lot was purchased and the first station was built. Paul said they came from very humble beginnings - as most of us did. He remembers working long hours on the building. It was completed in 1952 and they no longer had to worry about cold nights as the building had heating installed. They were able to purchase a new four wheel pumper from American Fire Apparatus in June of 1958. They have done nothing but move forward since then. There has always been strong support for the fire company. In 1958, forty out of fifty members had taken state fire training from Art "Foggy" Churches. Paul said that one day (daytimes were the worst because of manpower shortages) they were called for a house fire in Catlin. Paul and Rolland Callahan were the only two to respond with the new truck and 500 gallons of water. They arrived to find a house with heavy smoke showing. They left the house buttoned up and took the high pressure booster line and placed it in a hole that had burned through the wall where the fire started. It was near the chimney. They steamed the fire and knocked the fire down and saved the house. They attributed the save to the training that Foggy had given them, and to the new truck.

Paul was recognized at their annual banquet. He still lives a short distance from the fire station. He has children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He feels that the early members not only started a fire company but they instilled a sense of pride and ability to be proud of the work the fire company does. He could not believe the changes that had been made to the fire company. If only the original members could see that they started they would be amazed.

When you see Paul thank him for the vision he and the members had and still have till this day.



Burdett's New Quarters

Burdett was able to show off their new station on Saturday, January 26. Though not moved in, it was ready enough to show off to a full house at their annual banquet. They plan to officially move in this Saturday, March 16. Here are some pictures, but you have to see it in person to really appreciate the building and all its features.



The front line of 5 bays makes for easier response.



A very large truck bay allows for expansion. It also has a drive through bay



Large kitchen with a dish washer!



The huge community room hosted approximately 125 people this night and it was not crowded.

Burdett Banquet

As planned, their annual banquet was held in the new station. They responded to over 230 calls for the year. Jason Kelly was reelected as their chief. Ed Gates, Harry Goosen and Gene Lane were recognized for 50 years of service. Dale Jaynes received Responder of the Year.

- Jason Kelly - Chief
- Steve Crout - 1st Assistant Chief
- Keith Caslin - 2nd Assistant Chief
- Kurt Lodge - 3rd Assistant Chief
- Deputy Chiefs - Curt Connelly and Ryan Barr



Team of local leaders who help acquire loans and design of new station.



Harry Goosen , Chief Kelly , Ed Gates



Administrative officers.



Line officers sworn in by Bill Kennedy Fire Coordinator

Beaver Dams Banquet

Beaver Dams' installation banquet saw a new chief take over February 9. Kent Thurston was sworn in by Coordinator Kennedy after the retirement of Chief Kirk Smith. Kirk was honored for the work he had done as chief. Beaver Dams responded to 257 calls last year. Top responder went to Milt Allen.

The following line officers were also sworn in:

- 1st Asst. Ray Towner, III
- 2nd Asst. John Rider, Jr.
- 3rd Asst. Calvin Stedge
- Deputy Chief Kirk Smith
- Captain Vern McLean, Jr.
- 1st Lt. Corbin Smith
- 2nd Lt. Savoree Swarhout
- Safety Officer Mike Earl



Rachel Thurston pins the new Chief's badge on her husband.



Large Crowd on hand and they did not have to move trucks out!



Line officers for 2019

Mecklenburg Banquet

Mecklenburg's annual banquet was held January 12. The company responded to 139 calls, 25 of which were mutual aid. They had a very busy year. The company works very hard at fund raisers and their breakfasts that are held monthly during the winter. The Fran Furcha award went to Pete Coats with 128 calls. Dave Tarbox was recognized by the State of New York for 50 years of service. The Auxiliary gave the company 1500 dollars they earned during the year.

Chief - Nathan Mayo

1st Asst. - Brian Gunning

2nd Asst. - Wayde Whittaker

3rd Asst. - Albert Foote

Rescue Captain - Misha Foote



Dave Tarbox gets 50 year award from Becky Franklin Guild of FASNY.



Line officers sworn in by Coordinator Kennedy.



The new line officers sworn in for the new year by Coordinator Bill Kennedy.

Monterey: Trailer Fire

January 22 a fire started in a trailer residence on County Road 16 in Monterey. First calls were for smoke filling the residence. On arrival of Chief Mel Horton, smoke was showing. Soon mutual aid was called from Beaver Dams, Tyrone, Watkins Glen and East Campbell. The fire was kept in the rear section of the trailer with smoke and water throughout. The trailer had a roof built on top which made for a difficult fight. Temperatures were a little warmer than the subzero day before, though they still were only in the teens.



Water was taken from Maple Lane to the scene.



Watkins Glen Crew prepares to enter trailer



Heavy smoke comes from the trailer.



Car 1 does a 360



Positive pressure used for initial fire attack.

Hector: House Fire

Early in the morning on Friday, January 25, Hector was toned out for a structure fire on State Route 414 near the intersection of Peach Orchard Point. The initial dispatch had a fire in an upstairs bedroom. Chief Mike Hicks soon called for a 2nd alarm response. This brought out Burdett, Watkins Glen, Montour Falls, Lodi and Ovid along with Hector. Assistant Chief Williams arrived and reported a working fire and that all occupants were out. The first arriving engine stretched a 1 ¾" line up the stairs from the front and were able to get a knock on the fire. Ample manpower and equipment were on the way but soon Chief Hicks downgraded the alarm and staged all mutual aid with the exception of Burdett. Fire was contained to one bedroom with some smoke and very little water damage. Great job!



2nd alarm staged on 414.



Crews exit building, notice windows on upper left. Fire was ready to flash over.



House set back off the road



Overhaul operations.



Hector's new engines first real "job"

Mecklenburg: Garage Fire

Mecklenburg along with Trumansburg and Enfield were toned out for a working structure fire on Buck Hill Road South. On arrival smoke was showing from the attic area. An aggressive interior attack was started by Mecklenburg and Enfield. The initial effort appeared to have the fire knocked down. That soon changed. Firefighters were unable to advance on the East end of the fire because the floor was burned through. The building only had one window on the west side and no access from anywhere else around the building. This made a difficult and dangerous attack on the fire as there was no place for escape had something gone wrong! Trumansburg's aerial was brought up and they cut a hole in the west end of the attic. This allowed them to attack the remainder of the fire. Odessa, Newfield, and Watkins were also called but were soon canceled or not used. Burdett was on the initial alarm to standby but was moved up for manpower and to establish a tanker fill site at Mecklenburg pond. It was a long fight on a cold and snowy day. Good job by all!



Photos to Left:

*Top Left:
Notice burned spot in the center of roof.*

*Top Right:
Only window was on the back side.*

*Bottom Left:
Hole cut by T-burg for access.*



*Bottom Right:
Tompkins does not use porta-ponds*

Tyrone: Mutual Aid to Bradford

Tyrone responded full response to a working trailer fire in Bradford.



Photo above: Firefighters deconning the scene.

Monterey Moving Forward

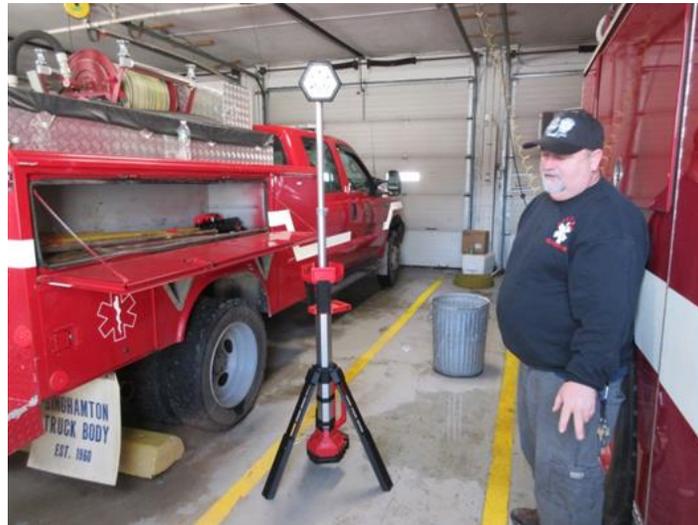
The Monterey Fire Company is moving forward after a year of getting reorganized. Last year at this time they were near the point of going under. With their territory being covered by Beaver Dams, Tyrone, and Bradford it gave them time to get their feet back on the ground so they could answer calls again. Under the direction of Chief Mel Horton they are training on a regular basis and have several people certified in EMS at different levels from basic first aid to EMT. The apparatus had never left the station and it was updated and ready to respond as of the first of 2019. They are working hard to gain the confidence of their district and their mutual aid companies. They have responded to several medical calls and structure fires, one of which was a working fire, since the beginning of the year. They are not afraid to ask for help and will also do what they can to help other companies. They know they have a lot of work ahead but are ready and willing to meet the challenge. They feel they can put 4-8 firefighters on a call any time. They are working on the basics and welcome any help.

Officers are:

- Mel Horton - Chief
- Jeremy Abby - 1st Asst.
- Keven Swarthout - 2nd Asst.
- David O'Dell - 3rd Asst.
- Russ Breon - Capt.
- Joe Clark - EMS Capt.



Ready to roll.



Mel demonstrates one of two new battery operated lighting. No generator needed and one person can set it up. Task force nozzles have also been added.



First Response medical unit.



Office area for fire reports, etc.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

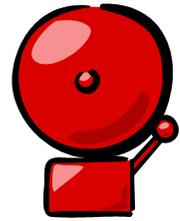
106 Tenth Street, Unit 36
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Phone: 607-535-8200
E-mail: scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us

Web: www.schuylercounty.us
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO
Twitter: twitter.com/SchuylerEMO



Last Alarms



*Jay Arcangeli
Burdett FD*

Upcoming Classes

We are hoping to offer the following classes this fall. Dates to be determined.

- *HazMat 1st Responders Ops (4/15)*
- *Fire Investigation for the Line Officer (5/22, 5/23)*

Want to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us

For more information, visit:

www.schuylercounty.us
www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc
www.emstar.org

**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