

Hot Calls

Volume 8, Issue 2

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

March/April 2021



Mecklenburg Officers

The new Mecklenburg Officers for 2021 are:

Brian Gunning, Chief

Carl Taber, 1st. Assistant Chief

Matt Ward, 2nd Assistant Chief

Albert Foote, 3rd Assistant Chief



Mecklenburg held a members-only annual banquet due to COVID-19.

Trivia Question

“When were fog nozzles first invented?”

Email answers to Rick at rickshirlc27@gmail.com

Our last trivia question:

Question: “What fire department in Schuyler County had the first breathing apparatus? ”

Answer: Watkins Glen. The first breathing apparatus were oxygen packs not air.

Firefighter Profile: Kent and Trevor Thurston

It is not unusual to have a father and son in the same department. That's how a lot of us got interested in the fire service: through family ties. What is unusual is father and son as Chief and Assistant Chief.

Kent and his son Trevor are part of a family affair. Kent felt he needed to do something for the community when his father became ill and the department responded and rendered aid. He was so moved over that that he joined Beaver Dams and has worked himself up through the ranks of chief after 17 years on the job. Trevor started as a Junior Firefighter and became an active firefighter. He is currently attending college for Business and is working at Wegmans. He was recently elected as 3rd Assistant Chief and that's why you hear Car 11 and 11-3 responding together. Kent's wife, Rachel, who is the Company's President, and their youngest son, Colby, are also in the department. This makes life a lot more pleasant for those long hours away from home when working at the fire station. Rachel is also going to college for her job at Head Start.



Over the years, Kent has been most amazed by the progress the Company has made. The station, which is huge, is big enough to conduct practical drills right inside if they want to. They can have their banquet inside and without taking the trucks out. If you have not seen their station, you need to stop by. They have all updated apparatus and recently purchased a utility pickup for miscellaneous work. The other aspect of the job is the safety aspect. How the fire service has moved where safety first and always is at the top of the list. Asked what is the most memorable thing and his answer is the responsibility as Fire Chief, it's tremendous.

He along with his board have been able to maintain a list of new members (43) at the current time with a few new prospects. Trevor wants to get into the family business (Thurston Memorials). This keeps the prospect of a day time force active.

Kent's first call was a serious trauma call. After that he was not too sure he made the right choice. But the call had a good outcome and he realized how important the job is to do. So if you see Kent and Trevor or any of the Thurston Engine Company, thank them for their service.

Burdett: Fatal House Fire

An early morning structure fire in Burdett took the lives of two occupants. The fire on Lake Avenue (SR-79) was on a very cold Monday morning. The house fire was totally involved when reported to 911. The Burdett fire station is only a short distance from the fire. BFD did a great job saving the two exposures and knocking down the fire. There was nothing that could be done to attempt a rescue of the two occupants. Second alarm was activated bringing Hector and Watkins Glen to



East Exposure.

the scene and Montour Falls covering. With hydrants available, water was not an issue. The only problem was keeping lines and trucks from freezing. Schuyler Ambulance stood by and Emergency Management assisted Chief Kelly at the scene. Having been to a lot of these types of calls, I think Burdett did an amazing job, doing all the right things under very difficult conditions. Great job. Certainly not the result we would have liked but no other choices could have been made. Investigation and follow up was done by the State Police and NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control.



West Exposure.



Burdett, cont.



Car 4 talks with State Police.



Burdett Engine protecting the West Exposure.

ATTENTION!

Burdett Dinner Dance



Burdett Volunteer Fire Department

April 5 at 11:31 AM · 🌐

ATTENTION ALL DINNER DANCE TICKET HOLDERS!!

Due to the uncertainty of gathering limits and social distancing guidelines and because we want to have the best time possible at our dinner dance, we have decided to postpone the event until OCTOBER 16TH. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but the committee is determined to provide our ticket holders the meal, music, raffles and fun that you deserve for supporting our department. All ticket holders will be contacted and provided with an updated ticket with the new date to be used for entry on 10/16/21. We thank you for your understanding and look forward to gathering safely with you!

Hector Fair



The Hector Fair is in Hector, New York.

March 24 at 3:31 PM · 🌐

🚒 Passing on the message from the VLH Fire Company that the Hector Fair will be cancelled again this summer. The unknown restrictions from the pandemic prompted the need for this cautious approach and discussions are already underway for other fundraising efforts. And we can all keep the hope alive for a 2022 comeback of our beloved town fair. Thank you to the fine men and women of the Fire Company for always keeping us safe! 🚒 🚒

Watkins Glen Casino Night



Department of Fire Rescue, Watkins Glen NY

April 6 at 5:41 PM · 🌐

The Watkins Glen Fire Company is sad to announce that once again due to COVID-19 regulations and not be able to do events with 100% capacity we will canceling our annual casino night once again. This is very unfortunate as this event is our only fundraiser we do for the general public and is our biggest fundraiser. The committee will be meeting soon to pick a date to do the gun raffle drawing. This again will be done FACEBOOK LIVE. We would like to thank everybody for there continued support and if you have not yet got a gun raffle ticket and need please reach out to any member or myself.

Thank you

See a WGFD member for gun raffle tickets.

Burdett: House Fire

A quick moving fire in an apartment building on Lake Avenue brought out second alarm companies. The fire originated in an outside stairwell and quickly spread to the upstairs, trapping occupants. Some actually had to jump from the second floor to safety. Initial report of the fire came from a Hector firefighter who lives close by. Burdett fire station is just up the road and they had a quick response. This fire was less than 700' from the fire Burdett had in January. Good work by all involved. Hector and Watkins Glen assisted Burdett while Odessa covered.



Quick knockdown by Burdett.



Fire extended into the attic and roof and made for



Beaver Dams: House Fire

On 3/23/21 at about 12:30pm, Beaver Dams was toned out for a working structure fire on Cooley Road. The 2nd alarm was transmitted and a good stop was made. Companies were assembling for a meeting in Montour Falls when the call went out. The response was quick.

Beaver Dams arrived to a house with smoke coming from the roof vent. Stretching a line to the basement door, they entered and made an aggressive attack to the area of origin and moving upstairs to a room that was fully involved at the top of the stairs. They were able to make a quick hit to knock the fire down and moved into extensive overhaul. Mutual Aid called for Montour Falls and Watkins Glen to the scene. Mecklenburg responded with a tanker due to being at a function in Montour Falls with Beaver Dams and other county units. Tompkins Corners provided a fill site and North Corning handled standby coverage. The Red Cross was notified to assist the family. Also assisting was: the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office, the Schuyler County Fire Coordinator and the Fire Investigation unit.



Watkins Glen: Pole Barn Fire

Late evening on a snowy and cold Monday, February 15th, Watkins Glen was toned out for a pole barn fire on County Line Road. First arriving units found an attached pole barn fully involved extending into the house. Second alarm was sounded with an additional third alarm for manpower and tankers. According to firefighters a good stop on the house was made. The barn and contents were lost. A long overhaul was in front of firefighters. Water was hauled from two locations in the village. A good job was done by all.

Montour Falls: House Fire

At 2319 on March 23, Montour Falls was toned out for a working structure fire at 4239 Cotton Hanlon Road. Their 2nd alarm was transmitted, bringing Watkins Glen, Odessa, Burdett, Beaver Dams, EMO, Schuyler Ambulance and Schuyler Sheriff. The fire extended into the attic and required a lot of interior work. One firefighter was transported to a hospital for an injury. The family of six was assisted by Red Cross. Good work by all companies involved. Water supply was established from a village hydrant and tankers shuttled water up the hill.



Fire originated near this door



Smoky fire after initial knock down.



Fire extended into attic space



5 " supply line up a long driveway



GT- 20 supplied the 5" line



Tyrone: House Fire

On Saturday, March 6, Tyrone was toned for a structure fire on County Road 21. Initially called in as a chimney fire, it was upgraded to a working fire with flames through the roof. Second alarm was transmitted and Tyrone, Watkins Glen, and Dundee responded. A third alarm was sounded and Wayne, Monterey and Dundee were activated. A great stop was made with very aggressive interior crews. The third alarm was canceled. Emergency Management assisted at the scene, along with Schuyler County Sheriff and the State Police. Damage was limited to the roof and area of origin. A great job by all.



Two lines, one interior, one exterior.



Water supply established on Tower Hill Rd



Fire burned through the roof and up wall. Notice cylinders in the corner!



Car One operates JE- 40

Windstorm

Windstorm knocks out power for hours

Friday's sustained windstorm knocked out power for 239 of the 300 NYSEG customers in Odessa, 687 of the 790 customers in the Town of Catharine, and 925 of the 2,735 customers in the Town of Hector. The outage lasted almost three hours in Odessa, ending at 3:38 p.m. A total of 2,250 NYSEG customers out of the company's 9,635 in Schuyler County lost power.



Article
by
Odessa
File



Mecklenburg worked one of the many calls for trees and lines down throughout the county. *(photo to left)*

Montour Falls and Odessa worked a brush fire on County Road 14 caused by a line down. Most all companies were out with the same problems.

The Basic Firefighter Tool, Part II

By: Gail Foote, a voice from the past

It has been a while since my last article, which noted two types of firefighting nozzle: fog and smooth bore. First up was the fog nozzle, with its overall protection, greater steam production and heat absorbing ability. There are many different fog nozzles from a number of manufacturers. Fog nozzles are available to produce certain gpm volumes at various nozzle pressures. A flow volume can be fixed, manually adjusted, or regulated by engine pressure. Also, fog nozzles have the ability to produce a pattern from a straight stream to a wide cone. A fog nozzle can be inefficient without an understanding of the specific details of how to use it.

The smooth bore (SB) on the other hand appears to be quite simple. Point and shoot. No ring to turn or disk to adjust for volume. No hood to rotate with clumsy gloves for a desired stream pattern. It provides a solid stream of water with penetrating force to reach the seat of a fire. Aimed at the ceiling the stream will break up into smaller droplets for better heat absorption without a corresponding thermal inversion as may be seen with a fog nozzle. Water-to-steam expansion remains the same as previously reported, but it may not be as fast as a fog nozzle will produce.

GPM for a SB nozzle is determined by the nozzle pressure (NP). NP for a SB nozzle is 50 psi for

Firefighter Tool, cont.

a hand line, (notably 350 gpm or less), and 80 psi for a master stream device, (over 350 GPM). This can seem to make it very easy for the pump operator having to consider just one NP. However, the 50 psi NP is a maximum recommendation. The only rule that dictates less NP is the effectiveness of the resulting stream. 50 psi NP may not be necessary for the later stages of overhaul, nor for initial attack even.

I cannot be forgiven if I were to forego more math, but it will help to demonstrate the point of utilizing a lower NP. (This is why Algebra was important in school). GPM from a SB nozzle is determined by the formula $29.7 d^2 \sqrt{P}$; whereas d = diameter of the opening and P = nozzle pressure. Let's consider a 1" nozzle. 1" diameter squared equals 1; times 29.7 equals same; times the square root of the pressure 50 (7.07) and it all equals 210 gpm. Substituting a NP of 40 and 30 indicates gpm of 188 and 163, respectively. Calculations can be made for 15/16" or 7/8" nozzles as well.

While the formulae can indicate adequate gpm being produced, the effectiveness of a stream at a lower nozzle pressure should be evaluated in a controlled training session for each size SB nozzle used. The results can then be pre-set for preconnect pump pressures to account for needed flows. (This requires more math with hose size and length, friction loss, NP, and gpm all included together).

The formula can be simplified by rounding the 29.7 to 30, and the 7.07 to 7. For master stream applications the sq root of 80 is 8.94. This can be rounded to 9. Whether rounding or using actual numbers these two figures can be multiplied ahead of time and used as a "constant" for calculations with different size nozzle openings.

So, the simple nozzle is not so simple. There are a number of variables and dynamics to consider with the choice and use of any type of nozzle. Having a realization of the effects of the stream produced by a certain nozzle can make the difference in a favorable or undesirable outcome. Those at the nozzle should be familiar with the expected results of steam conversion and thermal inversion. The benefits and limitations of a particular nozzle should be well known also.

Understanding friction loss is important even if pre-set pressures are used at the pump panel. Pump operators should have an awareness of the nozzle on each line, the required or desired NP, and hose size and length to determine friction loss and provide the correct engine pressure for the desired gpm. You never know when a line may be extended, or a different nozzle applied.

Nozzles are an intriguing asset in the firefighting arsenal. I hope I have conveyed the importance of understanding this vital tool.

Stay Safe: Gail is a past chief of the Hector Fire Company and makes regular visits to Hector from Florida. He is on their "I Am Responding" Board and makes calls when he is home.

A personal biography update: I retired from Alachua County Fire Rescue in June 2020 after 26 years. In July I took on a manager position for a Recruitment and Retention SAFER Grant with

Burn Ban in Effect March 16 - April 14

Taken directly from the DEC website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html>

Open Burning in New York Help Prevent Pollution and Wildfires

Open burning of household trash releases dangerous compounds including arsenic, carbon monoxide, benzene, styrene, formaldehyde, lead, hydrogen cyanide and dioxin, among others. Open burning is also the single greatest cause of wildfires in New York.

Report all poachers and polluters by calling the DEC hotline at 1-844-DEC-ECOs (1-844-332-3267).

Watch a PSA on open burning and check out other clips on DEC's YouTube Channel.

Open Burning Prohibitions

Open burning is prohibited in New York, with several exceptions:

- Campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter are allowed.
- Small cooking fires are allowed.
- Fires cannot be left unattended and must be fully extinguished.
- Only charcoal or clean, untreated or unpainted wood can be burned.
- Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires are allowed.

In towns with a total population less than 20,000, you may burn tree limbs with attached leaves. The limbs must be less than 6 inches in diameter and 8 feet in length (also referred to as brush). However, this is not allowed from March 16 through May 14 due to the increased risk of wildfires.

The practice of burning large piles of brush collected from local residents at town or county transfer sites is prohibited. The individual landowners in small towns may burn their brush on site as discussed above. Downed limbs and branches generated at a transfer site are also allowed to be burned on site with the same restrictions

See Section 215.3 (link leaves DEC's website) for a full list of exceptions.

Please note: While most firewood must be untreated, some firewood is heat treated (kiln dried) to control invasive insect species if it is to be transported over 50 miles. Heat treated firewood is not intended to be prohibited. However, the burning of chemically treated wood such as pressure-treated lumber and plywood is prohibited.



Burn Ban, cont.

Do Not Burn Household Trash

- Burning trash is prohibited statewide in all cases. Our existing incinerator rule already prohibits burning household trash in wood stoves, fireplaces, and outdoor wood boilers.

DEC recommends that you [recycle](#) all appropriate materials (such as newspaper, paper, glass and plastic) and [compost](#) your organic kitchen and garden waste.

Burning leaves also is banned in New York State. We encourage you to [compost leaves](#).

- Disposal of flags or religious items in a small-sized fire is allowed if it is not otherwise prohibited by law or regulation.

Controlling Invasive Species

Open burning to control invasive plant or insect species is allowed. Case-by-case DEC approval is required.

Agricultural Uses

- Organic agricultural wastes may be burned on-site where they are grown or generated, including brush and wood produced by clearing fields and other activities.
- Fires must be located on contiguous agricultural land larger than 5 acres, and the materials capable of being fully burned within 24 hours.
- The burning of pesticides, plastics or other non-organic material is prohibited.
- The use of liquid petroleum fueled smudge pots to prevent frost damage to crops is allowed.
- Burning tires and other wastes for smudge is prohibited.
- Individual open fires to control plant and animal disease outbreaks are allowed as approved on a case-by-case by DEC, upon the request by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.

Prescribed burns - the burning of forest land to achieve a vegetative or wildlife management goal - can be performed but only in accordance with DEC regulations. Check with your [regional DEC office](#).

Municipal Uses

With some restrictions, fire training burning activities are allowed in accordance with guidance from NYS Dept. of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The Fire Services Bureau may be reached at 518-474-6746.

Towns, villages, cities, and counties can pass ordinances that are stricter than the open fires regulations. You should check with local authorities to find out if local law requires a permit or prohibits open fires.

Explosives, or other dangerous contraband, may be burned on an emergency basis only by police or other public safety organizations.

**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



Jim Drake
Odessa

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

No classes scheduled at this time.

Learn more here:
<http://www.schuylercounty.us/564/Fire-EMT-Training>

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