



THE RURAL HITCH

JULY 2007

A publication of
Lakes Region
Mutual Fire Aid
Association

Serving:

Alexandria
Alton
Andover
Ashland
Barnstead
Belmont
Bridgewater
Bristol
Campton/Thornton
Center Harbor
Danbury
Dorchester
East Andover
Ellsworth
Franklin
Gilford
Gilmanton
Groton
Hebron

Hill
Holderness
Laconia
Meredith
Meredith EMS
Moultonborough
New Durham
New Hampton
Plymouth
Rumney
Sanbornton
Sandwich
Tilton/Northfield
Warren
Waterville Valley
Warren-Wentworth
EMS
Wentworth
Strafford



62 Communications Drive
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246
603.528.9111
www.lrmfa.org

Misty Harbor Condo Fire



June 28, 2007 at Misty Harbor Condominiums, 118 Weirs Road, Gilford, NH. The fire was originally reported by the alarm company at 22:26 and went to a second alarm at 22:36. The building was three-stories with a wood frame and truss roof. This building was part of a condo complex and contained an attached pool and office area. Initial units found heavy fire showing and progressing into the attic space on floor 3 of the Alpha and Charlie division of end units. The fire was contained to the two units originally on fire.

Photo Alan McRae

Safety: Where Am I?

By Kevin LaChapelle, Captain, A shift, Franklin Fire Department

This is part one of a three-part article.

Throughout life I have often asked myself, *where am I?* The first time I asked this question, I was on the wrestling mat in high school. Unfortunately, by the time I figured out where I was, I was somewhere in that big circle, on my back squirming like a fish, counting ceiling tiles — a place I wished didn't exist. It didn't take many matches like that to know every square inch of the mat. Once I figured out where I was on the mat, I found it easier to get busy and get the job done.

This is so true in many aspects of being a firefighter. You could ask yourself where am I in the building? Or, where am I in my career?

On my son's first day of Kindergarten at the Union Sanborn School, I saw this posted on the bulletin board near the front office:

SCHOOL RULES: 1. BE SAFE. 2. BE KIND. 3. DO YOUR JOB!

Since that day, I have often thought, "Wow. What an easy philosophy to follow as a company officer."

And I can attest: it seems to be working so far.

How cool is that? The kids have the same vision as many progressive fire departments. Well kinda'.

1. SAFETY. 2. PROFESSIONALISM. 3. CUSTOMER SERVICE

Part one of this three-part article will be about **safety**. Part 2 will be about **professionalism** and Part 3 will be about **customer service**.

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From the Chief...

By Chief Douglas M. Aiken

Welcome to the second issue of **The Rural Hitch**. We certainly had great feedback on the first issue and I am happy to see members of the Association contributing to this issue. Captain LaChapelle from Franklin begins a three-part article on three key aspects of firefighting and Deputy Chief Beland from Gilford reports on the RIT training program developed by the LRMFA Training and Education Committee. We have added a feature for new employees, promotions, and retirements so please let us know what is happening in your department and include a photo if you have one. This is your publication and we want you to be a part of it.

The LRMFA Field Operations trailer is now stored at the Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Park Street station in Northfield. Our thanks to Chief Carrier for his hospitality and support. Through donations from member departments, area businesses, and funding from the Association we have been able to continue to equip the trailer with the items necessary to support a wide variety of support functions. Departments may request the trailer at any time by calling the Communications Center.

We have three projects in the works that will enhance our communications infrastructure. First, we will be updating our communications console control system. The new system will have more capacity for tone alerting which will allow us to eliminate tone combinations that sometimes alert more than just the responding department. This equipment will also allow us to see unit identifiers that will be programmed into mobiles and portables in the system. A second project will replace thirteen base stations and repeaters with new heavy duty radios and, third, we will build a new transmitter site in Campton.

Contributions for the next issue are due September 1st! Contact Debbie Kardaseski, our editor, at debbiek@lrmfa.org or you can reach her by phone on Fridays at 528.9111. 🚒

THE RURAL HITCH

is published quarterly by
Lakes Region
Mutual Fire Aid Association

Chief

Douglas M. Aiken

Deputy Chief

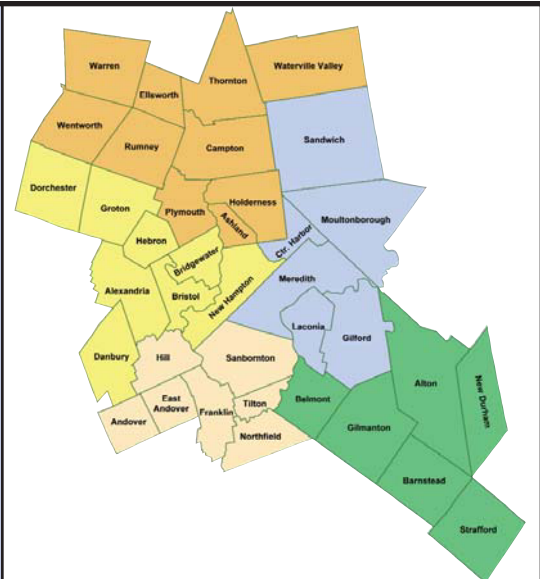
Kenneth G. (K.G.) Lockwood

Editor

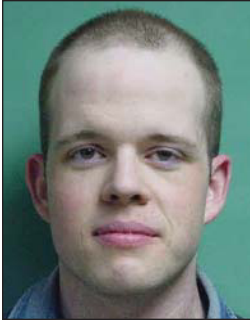
Debbie Kardaseski

Email all submissions to:

debbiek@lrmfa.org



New Employees, Promotions, Retirements...



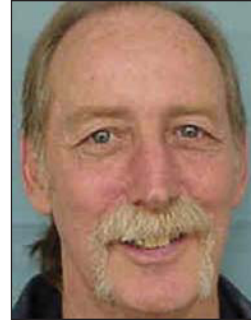
**FF/EMT Colin Shea
Barnstead
New.**



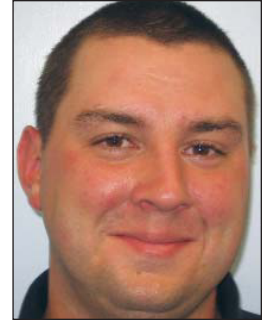
**Capt. Alan Carignan
Franklin
Retired: 3.17.07**



**FF/EMT Jonathan Glines
Franklin
New. Former call
member.**



**FF/EMT-I John Moyer
Franklin
Retired: 2.28.07**



**FF/EMT Steven Petsche
Franklin
New.**



**Retired: Lieutenant Dennis Thompson
Gilford
Hired: 5.12.80. Retired: 4.28.07.
27 years of service.**

Dennis began his love of the fire service at a very young age. With his father as Fire Chief, Dennis spent a lot of time at the fire station. When he was old enough, Dennis joined the Call Company until appointment as Career Firefighter/EMT in May 1980. On June 1, 1984, Dennis was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Thompson was very active in the Lakes Region Fire School during its busiest years.

Both Lt. Thompson and Lt. Poole take over 60 years of combined knowledge and experience with them. Their humor, wit, knowledge, and experience will be missed. We wish them the best of luck in the future.



**Retired: Lt. Dave Poole
Gilford
Hired: 3.19.87. Retired: 5.26.07
20 years of service.**

Dave began his fire service career at the New Boston, NH Fire Department. Moving to the Lakes Region, Dave became a Call Company member. On March 19, 1987, Dave gave up a prospering electrical company to become a career firefighter. He has worn many hats throughout his career serving as a Firefighter/EMT(B), Fire Inspector, and Building Inspector. Dave will continue on at Gilford Fire-Rescue as Rope Rescue Specialist. Additionally, Dave continues to serve as a Senior Instructor at the NH Fire Academy and is well known throughout LRMFA and beyond for his expertise in the field of technical rescue.



**Promoted: FF Nick Mercuri
Gilford
Promoted to Lieutenant to succeed
Lt. Poole on Group 4.**

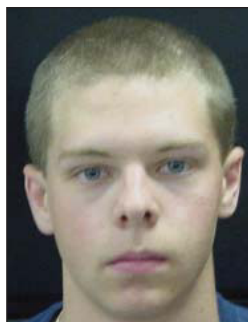
Nick has been with the Gilford Fire-Rescue Department for 7 years. Many of you know Nick from his time at LRGH as an ER Nurse as well as Director of Emergency Medical Services. Lt. Mercuri holds a BA in Nursing, is an EMT-P, Registered Nurse, NHFA Certified Company Officer, and has been active serving with Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health.



**Promoted: Frank Latosek
Gilford**

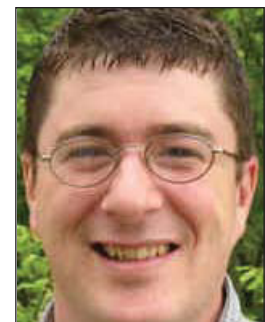
**Promoted to Lieutenant to succeed
Lt. Thompson on Group 3.**

Lt. Latosek, aka FFF, has been with the Gilford Fire-Rescue Department for 20 years. He also has prior service as a Call Firefighter at Laconia Fire Department. Lt. Latosek holds a BA in Education, is an EMT-I, NHFA Certified Company Officer, as well as a Charter Member of the Belknap County Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Team.



**New: April 2007. Nicholas Proulx
Gilford**

Nick started his career in Gilford much like Lt. Thompson. Nick was a fixture at the firehouse and training drills, observing, taking pictures, and whatever anyone would let him do. At the age of 14, Nick joined the Gilford Fire-Rescue Explorer Post, progressing to the rank of Chief. At 18, Nick joined the Call Company, completed FFII Certification, EMT-I, C2F2, and CPAT. Nick realized his lifelong dream of becoming a career firefighter for the Town of Gilford in April 2007.



**New: May 2007. Mike Thevenin
Gilford**

Mike started his career approximately 1-1/2 years ago with the Ashland Fire Department. As an employee of Plymouth State University, Mike also became a member of Plymouth FD. Deciding he wanted to become a Career Firefighter, Mike fast-tracked his training, achieving certification as FFII, EMT-I, and CPAT. Mike will be attending the C2F2 program at the NH Fire Academy. Mike spent time in Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina working on animal rescue/shelter teams.

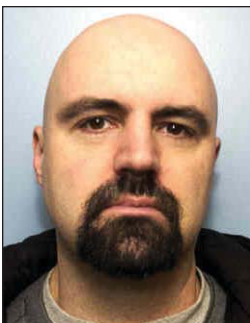
New Employees, Promotions, Retirements...



Dispatcher Kevin Nugent
LRMFA
Promoted to
Lieutenant



Lt. Jay Watkins
LRMFA
Moving on



David French
Laconia
Promoted to Lieutenant.
Replaces Lt. Ober at
Platoon 2, Weirs.



Lt. Steve Ober
Laconia
Retired: 5.31.07
after 29 years with
department.



FF/EMT-I Tim Joubert
Tilton-Northfield
New.

SEND YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS TO

debbiek@lrmfa.org.

Please send information and photos of new employees, promotions, retirements, and general personnel news.

Featured department...

Ashland Fire Department



Ashland Fire Department celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1994 and its current chief, Tom Stewart, has been involved for more than 25 of those years!

A BRIEF HISTORY

The department began offering emergency medical services in the early 80s, although Plymouth Fire Department continues to provide ambulance coverage as it has for the past 30 years. In 1998, 2-Ambulance-1 was added as a back-up and handles approximately 20 patient transports per year when Plymouth is not available or as needed in mutual aid.

In 1976, the seven-bay, two-story brick building replaced the overcrowded and outdated two-bay wooden building. As the town grew, more and larger apparatus was needed, leading to the purchase of the department's first aerial in 1992. This aerial was a 1981 100' Seagrave that had seen action in New York City. It was replaced in 2005 with a 2004 75' Smeal quint. Ashland has always been able to "tap into the local work force" for its primary daytime responders. However, in the early 90's one of the town's largest employers, L.W. Packard Wollen Mill, closed forcing of our "day-time" personnel to seek employment out of town. Day-time response continues to be more and more difficult — often there are no personnel available to respond.

Currently, we have five members who work in the fire service full-time in various areas. Since 1990, we have had nine of our members move onto full-time fire service positions. It has been a benefit to Ashland to have these members also working full-time. We take advantage of their training, exposure, and experiences.

CURRENT APPARATUS

Ashland Fire Department currently has **Engine 1**: 1987 Mack/Ranger capable of pumping 1,500 gpm from its 1,000 gallon tank. The engine also carries 1,000' of 4" hose, two 1-3/4" pre-connects, 500 gpm portable pump, two SCBA, and seats two. Engine 1 is designated mainly for water supply and is our mutual aid engine; however it could function as first-due when needed.

Engine 2 is a 1994 Smeal/Spartan with a 1,500 gpm pump, 1,000 gallon tank, 1,000' of 4" hose, three 1-3/4" pre-connects, five SCBA, one RIT pack, a four-gas meter, thermal imaging camera, a removable "deck gun," two portable Honda Generator/light units, and seats six.

Ladder 1 is a 2004 Smeal/Spartan 75' quint, with pre-piped water way capable of flowing 1,250 gpm, a 1,500 gpm pump, 400 gallons of water, 1,000' of 4" hose, three 1-3/4" pre-connects, Hurst extrication equipment, cribbing, ropes rescue equipment, five SCBA, 7,500w generator, fixed spot lights, ventilation saws, and seats six.

Ambulance 1 is a 1998 International Road Rescue and is fully licensed for patient transport.

Utility 1 is a 2005 Chevy Suburban 2500 which is used mostly for personnel transport. It responds with E1 on mutual aid with an additional 4-5 personnel. An equipment "pull out" tray is being installed in the cargo area which will carry four SCBA, medical equipment, and various hand tools. This vehicle is also

used to pull the department's boat and forestry trailer.

Boat 1 is a 12' Quick Silver w/15hp Mercury motor.

Forestry 1 is a 19?? Jeep Willies 4x4 used for off-road fire access. It can carry up to four personnel with back-pack pumps.

The **Forestry Trailer** is a military surplus trailer used to carry forestry hand tools, a portable pump, and hose.

OFFICERS

There are eighteen active members in the department. Thomas B. Stewart is the current Chief. He grew up in Ashland and began with the department as one of the original EMTs, helping to establish the RFAST squad. The joke is he's been an EMT for so long, his license number is in the single digits! He worked his way up through the department, holding the rank of Lieutenant and Deputy Chief, becoming the Chief in 2004. He and his wife recently moved to Bridgewater.

Officers include: Deputy Chiefs Charlie Fouts and Brad Ober; Captains Jeff Uhlman, Steve Heath, and Steve Vachon; and Lieutenants Tim Joubert, Shawn Magoon, and Chuck Fletcher.

THE FUTURE

The department feels it has been lucky in that there have been no major fires in recent history. This does not mean they haven't been busy! The department handled 381 in calls in 2006 and is on track to break 400 this year.

Ashland taxpayers are supportive of the department, feeling that fire and ambulance service is just as important as police service. Members of the fire department would like to see a full-time chief's position, which would give the volunteers a break. Most small-town volunteer departments rely heavily on the same people and, over time, these people get burned out.

However, the position of full-time chief has not passed at the last two town meetings. It will come up for discussion and vote again at the 2008 meeting. Hopefully it will pass this time.

Additionally, an Ambulance Committee has been established by the Board of Selectmen to study the various options for ambulance coverage. The town currently has a contract with Plymouth Fire Department for 24/7 ambulance coverage.

MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Regularly scheduled meetings include:

First and third Tuesday of Month: Fire department training, and **Second Tuesday:** EMS Training. Pump and driver training will also be held soon.

On August 25, the Ashland Firefighters Association is sponsoring a golf tournament at the Waukegan Golf Course.

If you'd like any more information on these events or on joining the department, please contact the station at 968-7772. 🚒

Upcoming Training...

The Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Training and Education Committee will be providing three classes this Fall. The classes will be an 8-hour seminar on **Fire Behavior Flashovers and Backdrafts**, a 24-hour class on **Haz-Mat Operations**, and a 16-hour class on **Haz-Mat Decontamination**.

More information will follow on these training opportunities. Anyone interested, please contact Deputy Chief K.G. Lockwood at 524-9111.

From the Past...

The History of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid

Compiled by Debbie Kardaseski, LRMFA

THE 1970s

The Association held its first meeting of 1970 at the Ashland Fire Station. The balance on hand was \$2,421.26. It was decided to purchase three Quonset huts for the training grounds at a cost of \$200.00 each. They were located near Hartford, CT and would have to be taken apart and moved. This project was undertaken April 14, 1970 at a final cost of \$730.00, which included rooms, supplies, truck, tolls, food, gas, etc. Once the buildings were moved to Lily Pond, a committee was appointed to rebuild them. In October 1970, it was reported the committee had gone deer hunting but they promised to have the foundations installed by winter! However, things didn't go as planned as proven by a note in the May, 1971 minutes, where the committee promises (yet again!) to have foundations in by June. The secretary states, "Sounds like the committee is finally done fooling around and going to get the buildings set up."

The fire school continued to be a major undertaking each year, having grown from a one-day affair to two days. The committee was enlarged and more time was needed each year to plan, staff, and "sell" the school to various departments in the area. As early as June, it was decided the committee had to be further enlarged because the fire school was so well attended.

Work on the site continued through the 70s, with various buildings being erected, drainage dug, and equipment added. Insurance began to be an issue — both insuring the firefighters training and the bystanders. In 1973, a policy for



Piper Hill Road fire, Center Harbor, March 29, 1973.

\$100,000 personnel and \$10,000 property damage cost \$25.00!

Late in 1970, conversations were continuing regarding a central dispatch center. Laconia would be building a new fire station but the location still had not been announced. Studies had been done about equipping a new dispatch center and it was estimated the cost for the first year would be around \$74,000. This figure included new equipment. The number was later reduced to around \$50,000 because the center would not operate for a full twelve months during its first year. The Dispatch System was given approval in March, 1971 to locate in the Belknap County Court House basement. In April, 1971, Clifton "Kip"

Hawkins of Holderness became the Coordinator.

Bomb scares became a concern in the early 70s and a great deal of discussion and training was centered around the problem.

In March, 1971, changes were made to the Bylaws, specifically Articles IV and V. That same month, both Bristol and Plymouth resigned from the Association. Later in that same year, Hill resigned from the Association.

The May, 1971 minutes mention, for the first time, the motorcycles that would be around during the weekend of June 11 and the extra manpower that would be needed. Safety precautions were increased each year as problems with motor-

HISTORY — CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

cycle weekend escalated. Fire departments were warned to keep tools (potential weapons) locked up and to stay with charged hoses. Firefighters were asked to respond to an incident on the apparatus — not in their personal vehicles.

Also, for the first time, the number 524-1545 appeared in the phone directory and on fire stickers that arrived in June of 1971. That number is still in use today and is one of five emergency lines coming into the Communications Center.

The “new” Dispatch Center, located at the Court House, went into operation on Monday, September 20, 1971, with an Open House being held on October 9th and 10th. Insurance rate classifications hinged on the center having a standby generator, which was not in the current county budget. A motion was made and passed that Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid advance the money for the generator. Assurances were made that the cost would be reimbursed by the county when their next budget cycle went through. Once the generator was installed, insurance rates throughout the area were adjusted and continued to be adjusted through the years as the system modernized and expanded. Interdepartment train-

ings began to be held regularly in order to keep insurance rates down.

Barnstead Parade joined the Association in November 1971. Franklin waffled on membership in early 1972, with the City Council voting to leave but then deciding to discuss the issue again the next month. Eventually, Franklin Fire Dept. left the Association. Hill rejoined the Association in March 1972. Waterville Valley joined in October 1972. New Durham joined in March 1974. Center Barnstead joined on December 1, 1976. Bridgewater became the 21st town to become a member on March 29, 1979.

In April 1972, the Association voted to raise the fire school registration fee to \$5.00 per man, effective May 1973. Meadowood Fire School (in Fitzwilliam) had raised their fees and still managed to have 1,200 men at a recent training.

During the early 70s, the cascade system of filling air tanks was introduced. A committee called the “Hot Air Committee” kept departments up-to-date on procedures. It was reported the Hot Air Committee didn’t particularly like their name, but it stuck and appeared throughout the minutes for the next year or so!

HISTORY — CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Winnisquam House fire, Route 3/Laconia Road, early Summer 1972.



An interesting note: The program at the June 27, 1974 meeting was presented by Niels Nielson, Jr. Nielson was a construction superintendent who took part in the annual inspections and repair trips to New Hampshire's "Old Man of the Mountains." The title of his talk: "How Long Will the Old Man Last?" We now know the answer to that question.

In September 1974, Association President Thompson reported that the Federal government would not turn the fire school buildings and property over to the Association, even though the Association had invested a great deal of time and money in the project. The government did say the Association could continue to use the site as needed. At this point, it was suggested that no new facilities be erected until a long-range plan was put in place. A ten-man committee was appointed to study the school's past operation and make plans for the future.

May 29, 1975 was earmarked as "Austin Barlow Night." Barlow, secretary/treasurer for twenty-one years, had retired and his service was celebrated with a plaque, dinner, singing, and the gift of a two-week trip anywhere in the world for him and his wife! The trip would be paid for by the Association, up to \$1,500 and could be taken any time within the next year.

Throughout 1974 and into 1975, major renovations were done on the Dispatch Center at the Belknap County Courthouse. Fire dispatch services were combined with the Sheriff's Department dispatch, resulting in some unanticipated problems needing resolution. Com-

puters were installed and a great deal of time and effort was needed to input the detailed information necessary for operation.

Late in the 70s, much-needed repairs were undertaken on the radio building on Belknap. As usual, work was done on a volunteer basis. A new roof was installed and the walls strengthened to handle winter snow loads.

The June 30, 1977 meeting was held in Meredith. It was the 263rd meeting of the Association. It was reported the fire school was a great success and, on motion, the Fire School Committee was given permission to expend the profits from the fire school on projects for the fire school.

However, the sad state of the Fire Dispatch budget was also a topic of discussion. There was worry about running out of money before running out of year. Discussion ensued and it was generally agreed that corners would be cut where possible but all were tired of running a "hand-to-mouth" operation.

Early in 1978 contracts were signed and licenses applied for, for the radio link on Mt. Tecumseh. It was hoped everything would be installed within three months. The Forest Service was interested in joining in the effort and offered solar power if they could partner with the Association.

Throughout the 70s, David Huot was the secretary/treasurer. His minutes were frequently quite amusing and made the job of amassing this history much less tedious. One set of minutes, September 28, 1978, were

HISTORY — CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

**View of the
Communications
Center,
Belknap County Court
House, 1971.**



LRMFA Training and Education Committee...

Firefighter Safety & Survival/Rapid Intervention Teams

By Deputy Chief John Beland, Gilford Fire-Rescue

BARNSTEAD — LRMFA Training & Education Committee recently conducted the NH Fire Academy Firefighter Safety & Survival/ Rapid Intervention Teams Training Program. The Barnstead and Farmington Fire Departments hosted the class. Members from Barnstead, New Durham, New Hampton, and Farmington Fire Departments participated.

The 24 hour certificate program included the USFA/NFA “Calling The May-Day: Hands On Training.” This program focuses on empowering firefighters to recognize situations that would necessitate calling a may-day, and then to have the courage to make the may-day call. The classroom had the students reviewing “close calls” and case studies relative to may-day situations. At the conclusion of the classroom session students were placed in no-visibility, realistic situations that required them to put to practice concepts learned in the classroom.

Additionally students spent much time studying the causes of firefighters becoming trapped during emergency operations, as well as skills to avoid getting into those situations. Recognizing that not all these situations are 100% avoidable, students learned the skills necessary to self-extricate themselves from a variety of situations. In an acquired structure, in limited visibility, students were challenged both mentally and physically to complete several different firefighter rescues (RIT Operations) using the skills learned in practical stations. Another important aspect of this training is the need for students to develop an incident management (ICS) system to deal with the situation at hand and to work as a team if there is any hope to save a firefighter who is in trouble.

If you would like information on scheduling this program or other programs offered contact Deputy Chief Lockwood at the LRMFA Communications Center or Deputy Chief John Beland at Gilford Fire-Rescue 527-4758. 🚒



May-Day, May-Day — Firefighter down.



Firefighter self-rescue.



Escape via ground ladder.



Escape via emergency rope slide.

HISTORY — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

particularly amusing as they offered a running commentary on a water leak from a standpipe in the New Hampton Fire Station. At one point, the secretary offered his apologies for the sketchy minutes but he was “finding it difficult to keep his pad, pencil, and head above water all at the same time.” After the evening’s business meeting and program, all partook of an “excellent lunch

served by the New Hampton Fire Department in a section of the building which had been sandbagged.”

The Association Bylaws were again revised in early 1979. In April, 1979, David Huot, who had been general counsel and secretary/treasurer of the Association, announced he could no longer continue as counsel as he had been appointed to be Justice of the Laconia District Court. 🚒

vice. The common question in all three segments is:
Where am I?

As I mentioned earlier, we must keep our brains working.

SAFETY — WHERE AM I?

Let's get one thing straight: **you are your own safety officer!** You do your part and we will do ours. You are ultimately responsible for your safe return to your family. When we arrive at a building fire, do we have a command structure in place that affords us to be safe? I would hope so! We have great Incident Command models that teach us the address side is "Division A" and "Division 1" is where we enter the building at ground level — on Division A. Are we always on the same page when it comes to communication? Not always. That is what kills a few firefighters every year: "bad communication!" What can we do to minimize bad communication? We can make sure we all know where we are, starting from before we enter the maze filled with smoke.

A great way to practice this is when you enter a building on routine runs or even during training, ask the question out loud: **where am I?** Where is my closest exit? This is easy enough if you're in a single-family ranch. What about the New Hampshire Veterans Home

or the Snowy Owl Inn? When you find yourself deep in the bowels of these buildings, you had better make damn sure that if you had to make a MAYDAY call, you can describe *exactly* where you are. If and when you are ever in an emergency situation at a real incident, you will deal with it in a much calmer and in a more methodical fashion if you practice answering the question "Where am I?" on a daily basis. And, like we learned in pre-school, always have two ways out, which may mean over a ground ladder from Division 2. This is when you hope the firefighters on the outside are doing their job!

If you think this is far-fetched or way above you, read the NIOSH report for the Worcester Cold Storage Fire. On December 3, 1999, two very-well-seasoned Worcester firefighters entered a building from the roof and could not describe *exactly* where they were. They had been in this building numerous other times for various reasons. They stayed in communication with the IC until they ran out of air. They never did give an exact location. Does this sound like anything that could happen to us?

Searching for firefighters who are making a MAYDAY call is chaotic enough. Help us take the search part out of the equation and tell us *exactly* where you are!

Folks: fire does not care who we are, young or old, full-time or call. Stay on your toes and bring your "A" game to every incident you respond to!

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Employee Spotlight...

Matt Desrochers



Matt Desrochers joined LRMFA in December 2006. He was working as an oil burner technician when Deputy K.G. Lockwood mentioned the opening for a Dispatcher at the Communications Center. He immediately applied for the job and has been here since.

He enjoys his work at Lakes Region, although he wishes the Communications Center had windows in it! The four-days-on/four-days-off schedule gives him more time to spend with his wife of 18 months, Sabrina.

Matt is currently a member of the Hill Fire-Rescue Department. He first became interested in the fire service when he was a child and his father was the Hill Fire Chief. After four years at Franklin High School, Matt joined the Marine Corps where he was trained as a firefighter. During his four years in the Marines, he traveled extensively, including trips to Australia, Japan, and Thailand, places he hopes to return to someday.

Second Quarter Statistics...

From April 1, 2007–June 30, 2007

Incidents Dispatched:	April 2007	2,127
	May 2007	1,873
	June 2007	1,841
	Total Second Quarter	5,841
	YTD Total	10,736

Resources Available:

Engines	102	Tankers	15
Ladders	9	Rescues	21
Forestry	32	Ambulances	38
Utilities	5	Fire Boats	14
Towers	3		



Statistics:

- 🚒 Began operations in September of 1971. Moved operations to our current facility in June of 2000.
- 🚒 Dispatches Fire and Medical Emergencies for 36 communities and 37 Fire and EMS Agencies.
- 🚒 Serves a population of 117,518 residents (2006 Estimate).
- 🚒 Is spread over 5 NH Counties, covering a geographical area of 1,494 square miles (16% of the area of the State of NH — 1.5 times the size of the state of Rhode Island).
- 🚒 Protects over \$20.4 billion dollars of property (2006 Valuation).
- 🚒 Has an operating budget of \$906,978 (2007 budget).
- 🚒 Has 10 full-time and 8 part-time employees.
- 🚒 Dispatched 21,295 incidents during 2006 (58.34 calls per day).
- 🚒 Dispatched 21,441 incidents during 2005 (58.7 calls per day).
- 🚒 20,001 incidents during 2004 (54.7 calls per day).

RECORD DAY!

On April 16, 2007, during the Spring Nor'easter, a record number of calls was dispatched: 491! The old record, set on February 10, 2005, was 240.

Around the System...

Please send us your fire, mva or training photos for this section of **THE RURAL HITCH**



MVA.
I-93. Ashland.



Mayday and Firefighter Down Training.
Ashland and Bristol joint training exercise.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR PHOTOS! PLEASE INCLUDE BRIEF DESCRIPTION, DATE, AND PLACE OF PHOTO. EMAIL TO DEBBIEK@LRMFA.ORG

Association Meeting Schedule

**JULY 26 @ 1900 @
DANBURY**

**SEPTEMBER 27 @ 1900 @
CENTER HARBOR, STATION 1**

**NOVEMBER 29 @ 1900 @
SANBORNTON CENTRAL STATION**

Photo of Owl St., Campton Fire, May 4, 2007.

Around the System...

Please send us your fire, mva or training photos for this section of **THE RURAL HITCH**



**HazMat Drill. April 11, 2007.
Plymouth State College, Holderness.**



**Mutual Aid Training Burn. April 14, 2007.
Farmington.**



**House Fire. April 30, 2007.
Hill.**



**MVA. May 3, 2007.
Barnstead.**



**House Fire. May 4, 2007.
Owl Street, Campton. Went to second alarm.**



**Brush Fire. May 4, 2007.
Alton.**

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New Equipment...



Bridgewater. 34E1

1,000 gallon tank with 1,500 GPM pump, 30 gallon foam tank, 1,000 feet of 4" supply line, 6-man cab, 6KW PTO generator, remote operated light tower, multiple pre-connected attack lines, and 1250 deck gun. Truck manufactured by HME-Silver Fox in Michigan and sold by Glenn Davis at Lakes Region Fire Apparatus.



Campton-Thornton.

1,500 gallon tank with 1,500 GPM pump, 6-man cab, 1,000' 4" hose, 1,200' 2-1/2" hose, and rescue tools.



Tilton-Northfield. 21E3

1,000 gallon tank with 1,500 GPM pump, EMS equipped, and 5-man cab. 2006 E-One.



Rumney.

2,000 gallon Tanker with 1,000 GPM pump and 1,000' 4" hose on board. 2006 E-One.



Tilton-Northfield. 21T1

2,500 gallon Tanker with 1,500 GPM pump. 2006 E-One.



Moultonborough. 15Car1

2007 Ford Expedition



Fire Apparatus Sales & Service since 1991

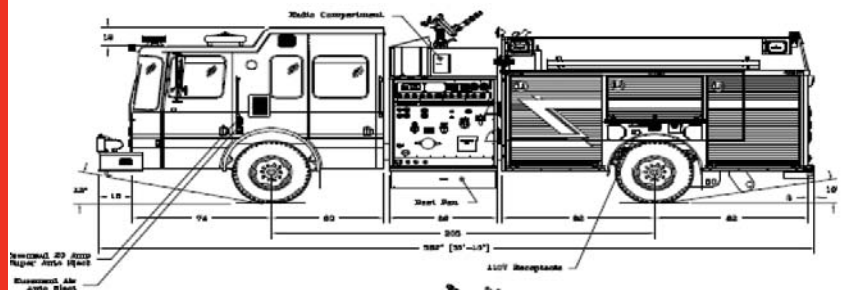
RECENT DELIVERY Bridgewater Fire Department



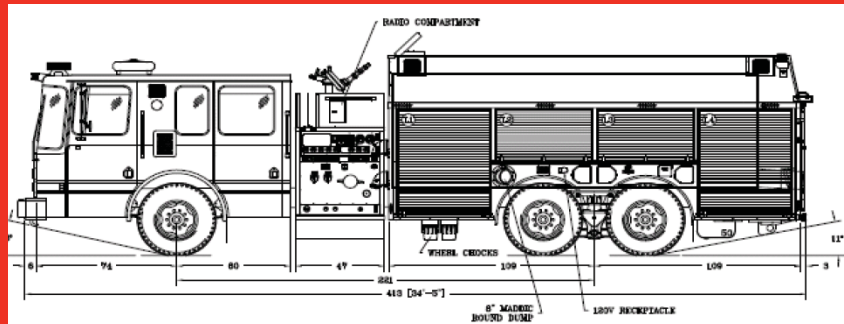
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Ship to: 688 Route 25
Phone: 603-323-7117
Fax: 603-323-7447
E-mail: info@lakesfire.com
www.lakesfire.com**

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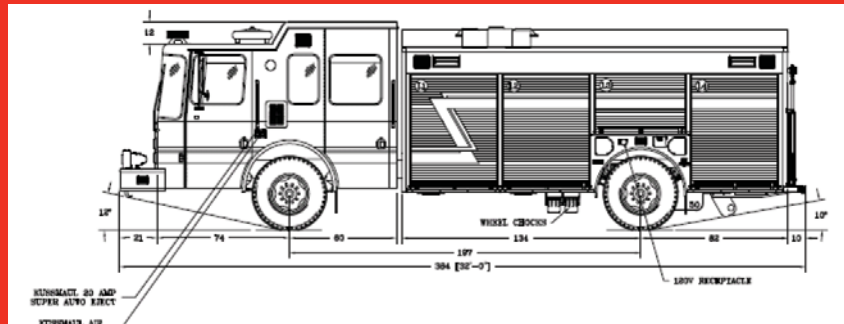
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▲ On Order: Moultonborough Fire CAFS Pumper



▲ On Order: Stafford Fire 3,000 Gallon Pumper Tanker



▲ On Order: Barnstead Fire Custom Heavy Rescue

Thank you to all of our LRMFA customers for your years of continued patronage!