



THE RURAL HITCH

SECOND QUARTER 2009

**A publication of
Lakes Region
Mutual Fire Aid
Association**

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62 Communications Drive
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Easter Sunday Fire Destroys 45 Cottages in Alton Bay Christian Conference Center

April 12, 2009 was a bright and sunny day, with a chilly 25–30 mile per hour wind blowing onshore from Alton Bay. At 1640, the call everyone had dreaded came in: White smoke was reported in the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center.

This tightly-packed group of buildings has been the summer home to numerous families for many years. The cottages were built extremely close together, with eaves overlapping in some cases. Almost all had at least one propane tank next to it and many could only be accessed by walking in. The site was steep and rough. It was a recipe for disaster.

The Alton Fire Department has always known this was a difficult site and through the years had conducted drills in the area in preparation for a major fire. The property had been the scene of a huge blaze on August 23, 1945. At that time, the cottages were occupied as it was the height of the summer season. This year's blaze happened before anyone had opened up their camp for the summer, so at least there weren't people in the homes.

Because of the high winds and dry conditions, the fire quickly spread from the west end of the site toward the east, threatening several businesses in Alton Bay along Route 11. By the time the fire was out, 45 buildings had been destroyed with 12 more damaged.

ABCCC FIRE — CONT. ON PAGE 8

SEND YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS TO debbiek@lrmfa.org

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

If you have an idea for an article or would like to send an article about something of general interest, please feel free to do so. Articles will be published as space allows. Photos are also welcome.

PRODUCTS OFFERED BY BERGERON PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



Aeromax Toys:	Junior firefighter suits for children
American Firewear:	Gloves, hoods, gear bags, jumpsuits
Bergeron Protective Clothing:	Pick-up and repair of turnout gear
Boston Leather:	Radio straps and holders
Bouton:	Eye protection
Cairns Protector Clothing:	Turnout gear
Dicke:	Portable sign packages and traffic control items
Ergodyne:	Gear bags
Eye Safety Systems (ESS):	Specialty goggles and safety glasses
Firefly Signs:	Helmet crescents, misc. stickers and labels
Fox River:	Double wool mittens
Game Sportswear:	Work shirts
Gateway:	Safety glasses
Gemtor:	Harnesses and accessories
Gerber:	Non-"FR" EMS coats and pants
Globe Fire Suits:	Turnout gear
Globe Footgear:	Leather structural firefighting boots, EMS/station boots
Globe Lifeline EMS:	NFPA approved EMS coats and pants
H.L. Bouton:	Goggles and safety glasses
Hero's Pride:	Emblems and patches
Horace Small:	Station wear
ISG:	Thermal imaging cameras
Koehler:	Flashlights and lighting accessories
Leathersmith:	Leather radio holders
MSA:	Cairns leather, traditional and modern helmets, fronts and accessories
Lab Safety Supply:	Heat-resistant mittens
Occunomix:	Reflective outerwear including vest, jackets, pants and gloves
Pacific Reflex Signs:	Helmet crescents, front stickers, license plates, etc.
Paul Conway:	Helmet fronts
PGI:	Wildland shirts, coats and pants
Pro-tech:	Structural firefighting gloves
Rescue Systems Inc.:	Rope, harnesses, misc. rescue items
R-Heroes:	Job shirts and embroidery
Shane Williams:	Rubber helmet straps for wedges, etc.
Shelby Gloves:	Structural, forestry and extrication gloves
Stanfields:	Firefighting hoods
Stearns:	Personal floatation devices, ice rescue suits, etc.
Streamlight:	Flashlights and lighting accessories
Topp's:	Station wear
Thorogood Footwear:	Structural rubber boots and station boots/shoes
Union Springs Pharmaceuticals:	MyClyns spray for First Responders
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From The Chief...

Chief Douglas M. Aiken

Our newest transmitter site went on the air in June. Through a cooperative agreement with the Waterville Estates Village District LRMFA now has a base station located at the WEVD water tank on Pegwood Hill in Campton. This site will be replacing our Mt. Tecumseh transmitter site.

This project was completed with the assistance of Chief Dave Tobine of Campton-Thornton and Chief Chris Hodges of Waterville Valley, who assisted LRMFA staff throughout the project. Both were on hand for the installation of the new equipment and 23L1 was pressed into service as the antennas were installed. 🚒



THE RURAL HITCH

is published quarterly by
Lakes Region
Mutual Fire Aid Association

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Email all submissions to:
debbiek@lrmfa.org



Featured department...

Gilmanton Fire Department



Chief Kenneth K.G. Lockwood
Gilmanton Fire Department

09 — Gilmanton Fire Department

Fire Chief: K.G. Lockwood
Address: 1824 NH Route 140
Gilmanton Iron Works,
NH 03837
603-364-2500
firechief@gilmantonnh.org

Office Hours: **Iron Works Station:**
7-7, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday
Corners Station: 7-7
Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

Officers: Asst. Chief Joe Hemphill
Capt. Brian Boyajyan
Capt. Dana Middleton
Lt. Frank McClary
Lt. Joe Cotton
Lt. James Beaudoin
Lt. Randy Perkins
Lt. Mark Sawyer

Shift Coverage: 7 days a week, 7 to 7

Apparatus: 4 Engines
2 Ambulances
2 Forestry Vehicles
1 Rescue Boat
1 Staff Vehicle

HISTORY

Gilmanton Fire Department has an interesting history, as does the town itself. It was a Gilmanton native, Nehemiah Bean, who developed the first steam self-propelled fire engine for Amoskeag Locomotive Works in Manchester. The first unit was sold to Boston Fire Department in 1872 after its capabilities were ably demonstrated at the devastating Boston fire that year.

In 1930, the Gilmanton Hill Improvement Association was incorporated to "...advance the interests of the inhabitants of the town of Gilmanton...by establishing and maintaining a fire department with the equipment, a place of special meeting and other...improvements within said town." A 1933 roster of the fire company shows 20 officers and members who were eligible for benefits in the NH State Firemen's Association.

Several years later, on April 2, 1935, the Gilmanton Hills Improvement Association signed a note for \$800 to buy a parcel of land to build a new fire station in Gilmanton Iron Works. That sum was paid by A.L. Perry, A.F. Chase, M.S. Bennett, Roy C. Edgerly, Cora F. Young, Alma S. Lathrop, Florence C. Bordeaux, Edwin F. Nelson and James Lowery — truly a neighborhood effort. The next day this same group signed a note for \$800 for a new pumper! This was paid in full by Oct. 8, 1937.

In 1939, the name of the department was changed to Gilmanton Hills Fire Department.

During the 1930s and 40s, there were two fire departments in town: The Gilmanton Hills Fire Department and the Peaked Hill Fire Department. The Peaked Hill station was located at Gilmanton Corners and is still in use today. It is now the Gilmanton Corners Station. This station was unique in that the upstairs was used as a school house for many years.

In 1962, the Gilmanton Hills Fire Department underwent another name change — it was now the Gilmanton Iron Works Fire Department. The site of the current Iron Works station originally was home to the Iron Works School, which was turned over to the fire department for demolition in the early 70s. Groundbreaking for the new station was held on June 5, 1972, with Chief Ralph G. Forsyth turning over the first shovelful of ground. "Shares of Confidence" were sold to residents to help fund the project, with shares costing \$10 each. On July 8, 1973, the new station was dedicated and remains in use today.

Not long after the dedication of the Iron Works Station, Peaked Hill Fire Department changed its name to Gilmanton Corners Fire Department. This department continued offering service out of the same station/school house.

On December 5, 1988, the Gilmanton Iron Works and Gilmanton Corners fire departments merged by a unanimous vote of both department's members. At the

time, Norm Skantze was the Chief and Deputy Chiefs were Carl Morehead and Joe Hempel III. Chief Skantze was the first fulltime chief in the newly-formed Gilmanston Fire Department, with Carl Morehead being the first fulltime deputy chief.

Since that time the department has remained in the same buildings with upgrades to both the buildings and apparatus. Yearly runs have increased from 305 in 1996 to 511 in 2008.

TODAY

Gilmanston Fire Department currently has 27 active members plus nine officers. There are four fulltime people and, as of April, there were three students. Usually the department has six students, but three have graduated and moved on.

The town spreads across 65 square miles and is full of dead-end, narrow, dirt or Class VI roads. It can take as long as twenty minutes to travel from either station to some parts of town. Residents are remarkably understanding about the time it may take for a response and the fire department is constantly working to create plans whereby these response times can be cut down. Adding to the issues with roads is the fact that many former seasonal camps are now year-round residences, many of which are on narrow dirt roads that wind in around the numerous lakes in town. All of this adds a challenging



Gilmanston Fire Department – Corners Station

dimension to emergency response within Gilmanston.

The Gilmanston Corners Station is manned Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The other four days the Iron Works Station is manned. On the surface this may seem somewhat arbitrary but statistics bear out the reasoning. By staffing both stations on busy days it is hoped to cut down response time to the busiest areas.

RECENT MAJOR EVENT

On Monday, April 13, the statistics were once again proven correct. The Corners Station was being staffed when a call came in for a motor vehicle accident on Route 106 in the town of Gilmanston, near the A.E. Mitchel gravel pit. Upon arriving at the scene, the Chief

found three vehicles involved: two vehicles had hit head-on and a motorcycle carrying two people was unable to avoid the ensuing accident. In the end, nine patients were treated. Injuries were serious and eventually, four people were med-flighted to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, two from the scene and two from area hospitals.

This incident showed the value of mutual aid and of knowing the capabilities of and equipment in surrounding towns. Before the day was over, five towns had responded with ambulances, EMTs, EMT-Is and paramedics. There were no fatalities.

Chief Lockwood says incidents like these are handled well because “we train together, we work together,” referring to mutual aid training sessions. This accident came one day after Gilmanston was involved in the 14-alarm fire in Alton at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center — another example of mutual aid at its best and biggest.

LONG FAMILY HISTORY IN FIREFIGHTING

Chief KG Lockwood has twenty-nine years in the fire service. Both his father and his grandfather were fire chiefs in the Tilton-Northfield Fire Department, where KG began



Gilmanston Fire Department – Iron Works Station

GILMANSTON – CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Employee Spotlight...

Douglas M. Aiken



Douglas M. Aiken became Chief Coordinator of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid in April 1997. He grew up in a “fire family” in Manchester, NH where his father was initially a call fire fighter and eventually became a career Battalion Chief. He spent much of his early years in the city firehouses and “helping out” at numerous fire scenes.

After college, where he obtained a degree in engineering, Doug went into broadcasting, working for two large regional broadcasting companies. He was one of four engineers at RKO General in Boston that built the studios of Channel 7, WRKO radio and WROR-FM. He also designed and built the first automated FM stereo radio station in NH – WZID in Manchester. Eventually he started A&H Productions, providing sound and lighting services for stage shows working with many celebrities including Duke Ellington, BB King, Ella Fitzgerald, Victor Borge, James Taylor, Carly Simon, Livingston Taylor and traveled with Ronald Reagan during two presidential campaigns. Through these years, he continued to be

interested in the fire service and on August 2, 1974, he joined the Manchester Fire Department. After several years in the Fire Alarm Division, he became the Deputy Emergency Management Director for the city which included the oversight of the department’s EMS paramedic program. Later, he was promoted to Chief of Communications. After 21 years with the fire department, he moved to LRMFA to become Chief Coordinator.

When he began his new career, the communications center was still in the basement of the Belknap County Courthouse. One of his first assignments was to find a new home for the system and in 2000 LRMFA moved to its current state-of-the-art facility. Other changes over the last twelve years included a move to a high band radio system, bringing staffing levels up to national standards and, most recently, a system-wide wireless public fire alarm reporting system.

His future vision includes a broadband network to support communications including high speed data, improved personnel safety on the fireground and a variety of enhanced applications that will transform how we provide services to the citizens of the Lakes Region. In addition to his years in the fire service, Chief Aiken spent many years in the NH Air National Guard, retiring as a full Colonel in October 2007. He spoke with a recruiter in 1966 at what was then known as Grenier Field in Manchester. When he joined in the Spring of 1967, the Air National Guard had moved to Pease AFB,

CHIEF AIKEN — CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

GILMANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

service in March 1980. While working at TNFD, he spent ten years with the New Hampshire Forest Fire service. In December 1999 he went to work for Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. In July 2008, he left LRMFA to begin serving as Fire Chief in the town of Gilmanton.

KG enjoys working in Gilmanton, saying it reminds him of the Tilton-Northfield area he grew up in before it grew to its current size. He likes the small town rural atmosphere.

THE FUTURE

When asked what his plans were for the future, he said his number one priority is a new station at the

Corners. The current station is old and its size limits what can be stationed there. Over the years, Route 140 has been paved and built up enough that the angle coming out the doors puts further height restrictions on what can be garaged in the building.

Once that priority is realized, the next priorities include upgrading equipment: A new engine and two new ambulances to replace the aging ambulances currently in place.

Chief Lockwood says Gilmanton residents are very supportive of their fire department. The department does a lot of work within the community, including a strong pres-

ence during EMS week and Fire Prevention week. GFD works with the children in the community, educating them in fire safety. They also work with other town agencies, making themselves available and visible to the folks in town.

MEETINGS

The department meets the first Monday of the month at the Iron Works station. The second Monday is spent doing fire training; the third Tuesday is EMS training; and the fourth Monday is the officers’ meeting. If you are interested in becoming part of the fire department, plan on attending a meeting or stop by the station for more information. 🚒

Vacant Factory Hit By Arson in Franklin

Franklin experienced a three-alarm fire on Wednesday, April 22 in a vacant building that was the former Hudson Door Company on Range Road. The single-story building had several additions over time and covered a large area. It was supposed to be empty, but there were odds and ends of accumulated “stuff” inside.

The fire was reported around 1000 by a neighbor across the street. The building had no power running to it and part of the roof had caved in last winter. Because it was in such a state of disrepair, firefighters stayed outside, pouring water on the blaze from all sides and overhead. Firefighters monitored nearby homes in case sparks blew in their direction.

Water was supplied by hydrants and Chance Pond, about 1,500 feet away. A local fire pond had not been maintained because the building had been vacant for so long.

By the time the fire was out, the following departments had offered assistance, either at the scene or covering local stations: Franklin, Hill, Gilford, Andover, East Andover, Bristol, Tilton-Northfield, Sanbornton,



Laconia, Gilmanton, New Hampton, Alexandria, Bridgewater, Meredith EMS, Belmont, Boscawen, Concord, Salisbury and Loudon. It was later determined the fire was arson. 🚒

CHIEF AIKEN — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

in Portsmouth. He was an aircraft electrician for many years. He later transferred to ground communications, where he stayed until 1982 when he went off to officer's candidate training. He later moved to State Headquarters in Concord serving in several assignments including military support to civil authorities. After forty years in the military, he retired in 2007.

In addition to his military involvement and his many years in the fire service, Chief Aiken is active in numerous national organizations, all of which enhance his responsibilities at Lakes Region by providing access to the latest information and technologies. Chief Aiken is the first and only chairman of the NH Enhanced 9-1-1 Commission, serving on the initial study committee. In 1992, he was appointed by Gov. Judd Gregg to the NH 9-1-1 Commission as the representative of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs. He is the vice chair of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council and a founding member of the National Advisory Committee of the Congressional Fire Service Institute. He is a chair of the International Municipal Signal Association and the International Association of Fire Chief's communications committees. In addition, he serves on the Executive Committee of the SAFECOM Program, under the Department of Homeland Security. Chief Aiken is a past chair and current member of NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code as well as a member of the technical committee of NFPA 1221, the national standard for Emergency Services Communications. He holds degrees in electronic engineering and management and is a graduate of the USAF Air War College.

Chief Aiken is an avid skier and member of the Ski Patrol at Gunstock Mountain. He and Judy, his wife of 35 years, live in Moultonborough. His son Corey is a major in the Air Force and an instructor pilot flying the C-5 Galaxy. Daughter Brooke is a paraprofessional in the Manchester school system and is currently working toward her master's degree in Education. 🚒



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ABCCC FIRE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It was the worst fire the region had ever seen and over 62 fire departments and numerous ambulance services, Communications Center personnel, utility companies, the Salvation Army, York County, ME canteen, several oil companies, Lakes Region Fire Apparatus, the NH Fire Marshall's office, and several police departments had become involved.

Water supply was Lake Winnepesaukee — an abundance of water that had to be pumped out of the lake, across Rt. 11 and then along to numerous firefighters on the site. The fire scene ended up divided in half by dozens of hose lines snaking across the road. Help coming in to the scene from all over the state had to be routed to either the west end or the east end well before they arrived because there was no crossing the scene once they got there.

The majority of the cottages had propane tanks next to them and the sound of exploding tanks could be heard off and on throughout the



fire. In some cases, “mushroom” clouds appeared when the larger tanks blew up.

In spite of the huge number of people in the area, only seven were treated for minor injuries.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined, and it may never be known. It had been thought the power was off in all cottages but it was later determined that many had motion sensors in place because there had been break-ins the previous year.

This fire was (hopefully) a once-in-a-lifetime event. It taxed the resources of the region and was a learning experience for all involved. The discussion at the critique held on April 22 pointed out areas where things went well — and not so well. Overall, it was a herculean effort by many, many people. On April 20, the crew on duty at Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid received a Unit Citation specifically for their work during this event. 🚒

Accident Declared “Mass Casualty” Incident

The day after the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center fire, a motor vehicle accident on Route 106 in Gilmanton, near the A.E. Mitchell gravel pit, was declared a “mass casualty” incident by Gilmanton Fire Chief K.G. Lockwood due to the number of patients.

The accident involved a car, a minivan and a motorcycle. Nine patients were treated, with four critically injured. Two were air-lifted to area hospitals from the scene by the DHART helicopter and Boston MedFlight, a third was transported from Lakes Region General Hospital by Boston MedFlight and a fourth was later air-lifted from an area hospital.

Route 106 was closed for several hours. Police and fire departments



PHOTO BY CHIEF JEFF BURR, LOUDON FIRE DEPT.

from Gilmanton, Belmont and Laco-
nia responded, as well as fire de-
partments from Gilford, Loudon and
Tilton-Northfield. The Belknap

County Sheriff's department and
the NH State Police were also on
scene. 🚒

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LRMFA Training Division Hosts “Got Big Water – Moving Large Volumes of Water Without Hydrants”

The weekend of May 17 and 18, the LRMFA Training Division, in conjunction with Got Big Water: Water Supply Training, facilitated a two-day Rural Water Supply seminar hosted by Chief Brad Ober and the Ashland Fire Department.

Day one began with Instructor Mark Davis explaining the knowledge needed to determine water delivery rates for different types of structures. The instruction then moved into how to design and set up a water supply delivery system to support the needed delivery flow rate.

On day two, participants assembled and all of the theory learned in the classroom was put into practice in a water supply drill. The objective was to begin supplying low-volume flows and then continually increase flow while putting in place a water supply system to support the increased flow. At the high point of the drill, a flow of over 1000 gpm was delivered utilizing the Rural Hitch and three Fold-A-Tanks at the off-load site. This was managed by Deputy Chief Shawn Mulcahy of Barnstead Fire-Rescue. Additionally, the sustained flow was supported by three tanker fill sites of varying distances from the “emergency scene.”



A complete report with all relevant data is being completed by Got Big Water and will be forward to the LRMFA Training Division. The Division will then distribute this report to all participating departments.

The Training Division would like to thank all members participating in this seminar. A special thanks goes to Chief Ober and the officers and members of the Ashland Fire Department for their support in making this training seminar possible. 🚒



New Employees, Promotions, Retirements...



Chief Brad Ober
Ashland Fire Dept.
New Chief



Chief Loren Pierce
Strafford Fire Dept.
Retired



Chief Paul Stover
Strafford Fire Dept.
New Chief



Chief Jeff Ames
Wentworth Fire Dept.
New Chief



Chief Brad Smith
Franklin Fire Dept.
New Chief

Meredith Celebrates New Station

After many years in the works, Meredith Fire Department officially celebrated its newly-renovated station on May 30 with a hose uncoupling rather than a ribbon cutting.

The station now offers state-of-the-art facilities including ventilated storage for gear, expanded office space and larger bays for apparatus. It also includes an exhibit area housing an antique fire truck (shown below), which visitors will see when they enter the building.

The addition on the building blends well with the original station and is something the residents of Meredith should be proud of. 🚒



Ask EMS AI

By EMS Deputy Chief Shawn Riley, Laconia Fire Dept.

You may submit your EMS questions to EMS AI at: Laconia Fire, 848 N. Main St., Laconia, NH 03246, Att. EMS AI or email: LFDmedical@metrocast.net (put "Ask EMS AI" in the subject line).

Don't forget my monthly Educational Breakfast.

Q. Dear EMS AI, With all this "Swine Flu" stuff we were told to use N95 masks. What are these all about and when do we use them? Signed, "I feel like Darth Vader"

A. Dear "I feel like Darth Vader," The N95 Mask is technically a "respirator" and to be used properly, you should be fit tested and trained on donning your particular brand. There are different sizes and different manufacturers. We currently have a small stock pile of 3M 1870s "one size fits all." The N95 filters out 95% of the micro pathogens you are exposed to. This is for provider use only and should not be given to patients. It should be used any time you suspect the patient has an illness that maybe spread through "airborne transmission." The most common are Flu and TB. The masks are not that expensive and you should use them every time you have a gut feeling or your patient has a fever and cough. Even if it won't kill you, you don't want to get the flu or another infectious disease. The CDC recognizes a "6 foot circle of transmission" I like to call the "6 foot circle of Death." You should not come within 6 feet of a "suspect patient" without first donning your N95 Mask. This means you should do a 6½ foot assessment to determine if the patient has a fever and cough or other potential airborne illness. Don't forget to wash your hands!!!

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EMS Appreciation Dinner Held

In celebration of EMS Week 2009, LRGHealthcare held its annual EMS appreciation dinner at the Shalimar. This year, there were some changes in the awards categories. Information is available explaining the criteria and anyone may make a nomination. If you would like an information packet, please contact EMS Deputy Chief Shawn Riley at Laconia Fire Department: lfmedical@metrocast.net.

This year's awards recipients are:

EMS Provider of the Year for Franklin Regional Hospital: Bruce Goldthwaite, Franklin Fire

EMS Provider of the Year for LRGH: Matt Leavitt, Laconia Fire

Paul Racicot Award for Excellence: Todd Robinson from Stewart's Ambulance for commitment to EMS education

Paul Racicot Award for Excellence during a Cardiac Arrest: Chief John Schlemmer, Center Harbor Fire Department

Unit Citation: Three River's Water Extrication Team (WET Team) for action performed during the Ashland Floods

Unit Citation: Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid (LRMFA) for outstanding performance during the Alton Conflagration

Lifetime Achievement Award: Dick Grey of Belmont Fire was given this award for 59 years of service to EMS

EMS Service of Excellence: Twin Rivers Ambulance



Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid was awarded a Unit Citation for outstanding performance during the Alton conflagration. Present at the awards banquet were (left to right): Lt. Kevin Nugent, Matt Desrochers, Lt. Bob Magoon and Lt. Rob Frame.

Dr. Paul Racicot presented awards to graduates of the two Lakes Region Paramedic Programs. In presenting these awards, he pointed out that the majority of the graduates stayed in the Lakes Region, with many progressing through the ranks to take on leadership roles. Most notable was Brad Smith, who just took the helm of Franklin Fire Department as Chief. The following people received awards: Scott Taylor, Steve Marsh, Kelly Marsh, Mike Goss, Richard Smith, Mike Balcom, Bob Homer, Ben LaRoche, Ben Burlingame, Gina Harris, Brad Smith, Randy Hinds, Bob Bousquet and Steve Fecteau. 🚒

Area Firefighters Raise \$53,000 to Fight Cancer

Area firefighters came together for a good cause on May 30 when they participated in the St. Baldrick's event at Gunstock Mountain in Gilford, raising over \$53,000 to fight childhood cancer and fund research, treatment and fellowships. Gilford Firefighters were the top fundraising team in the LRMFA system, raising \$720. They were beaten for top honors by the Dover Fire Department, which raised \$1,305.

Austin Cote, age 9 months and Christopher Hobbs, age 3, were guests of honor at the event. Both of these youngsters are battling brain tumors.

For more information about this event, or to donate, please go to www.stbaldricks.org or contact John Beland at 455-8915. Plan now to join in next year's fun. The event is held at the end of May each year. 🚒



(Left to right): Firefighters Mark Fullerton, Chuck Campbell, John Beland, Frank Latosek and Jason Bryant not only shaved their hair but also lost their mustaches in a bidding war!



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Services



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Gilford Holds Third Annual Awards Ceremony

On April 17, 2009 the Gilford Fire-Rescue Department held its third annual Awards Ceremony. Each year the department holds this ceremony to recognize those members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. It is also a time when new members are officially sworn in and recognition and appreciation shown to the family members, significant others and friends who offer support.



Group 4 Unit Citation for actions at the fatal boating accident June 15, 2008, Diamond Island, Lake Winnepesaukee. Left to right: Chief Hayes, Lt. Mercuri, FF Mooney, FF Blanchette, FF Proulx and FF Bonan.

The awards presented this year were:

Company Citation — Group 4: Lt. Nick Mercuri, Firefighter/EMT-I Scott Mooney, Firefighter/Medic Brian Blanchette, Firefighter/EMT-I Nick Proulx and Firefighter/EMT Jeremy Bonan. This award was presented for actions taken under extreme weather conditions and darkness while responding to a boating accident off Diamond Island on Lake Winnepesaukee. The responding crew found a partially submerged boat with two seriously injured occupants and one fatality.

Certificates of Recognition were also presented to the following people for the lifesaving care that was provided to the victims of the boat accident after being transported to shore by the crew on 8 Boat 1: Firefighter/EMT William Beaupre, EMT-I Scott Davis, EMT Sharon Davis and Paramedic Rae Mello-Andrews.

2009 Firefighter of the Year was presented to Firefighter/EMT-I Nicholas Proulx.

2009 EMS Provider of the Year was presented to Lieutenant/Paramedic Nick Mercuri.

2009 Fire Officer of the Year was presented to Deputy Chief John Beland.

Years of Service Pins were presented to: EMT-I Scott Davis — 5 years, EMT Sharon Davis — 5 years and Firefighter/EMT-I Heidi Beaulac — 5 years.

AWARDS – CONT. PAGE 16

Second Quarter Statistics...

From April 1, 2009–June 30, 2009

Incidents Dispatched:	April 2009	1,751
	May 2009	1,566
	June 2009	1,680
	Total	4,997

Resources Available:

Engines	102	Tankers	15
Ladders	9	Rescues	21
Forestry	32	Ambulances	38
Utilities	5	Fire Boats	14
Towers	4		

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 21,508 incidents during 2008 (58.92 calls per day).
- Dispatched 21,591 incidents during 2007 (59.15 calls per day).
- Dispatched 21,295 incidents during 2006 (58.34 calls per day).

LRMFA HEADQUARTERS, LACONIA, NH



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Association Meetings

July 23, 2009 — Meredith

Sept. 24, 2009 — Hebron

Nov. 19, 2009 • Jan. 28, 2010

Check www.LRMFA.org for locations.

AWARDS — CONT. FROM PAGE 14

All of the recognition awards with the exception of the years of service are based on nominations made by other members of the department. The Awards Committee reviews each nomination to determine the validity and to then approve or deny the award.

This year, many past members of the department also attended and *Deputy Chief (retired) Richard Ballou* was presented a plaque recognizing his years of service. 🚒

Training Opportunities

Weds., Sept. 2. ALS Breakfast — Continuing Ed for EMS Providers and Nursing. 9:30–11:30 a.m. Tilton-Northfield.

For information, contact Shawn Riley at 524-6881 or Bruce Goldthwaite at 934-2205.

FIREFIGHTER II — Hosted by the LRMFA Training Division

September 10–November 19, 2009. Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30–10:30 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Belmont Fire Dept. / Winnisquam Station. \$410/members of NH Municipal Depts. \$1,690/Non-members. (Tuition cost pending approval.) For more information, contact Deputy Chief John Beland at 455-8915 or jbeland@gilfordnh.org

Weds., Oct. 7. ALS Breakfast — Continuing Ed for EMS Providers and Nursing. 9:30–11:30 a.m. Laconia.

For information, contact Shawn Riley at 524-6881 or Bruce Goldthwaite at 934-2205.

Trauma Grand Rounds. First Thursday of each month. Noon–1 p.m. at LRGH, Conf. Room 1B and FRH, Board Room.

Lunch provided. For information, contact Shawn Riley at 524-6881.

Fall 2009. Beginning Sept. 22. LRGHealthcare Paramedic RTP.

Taylor Community, Woodside Room, 435 Union Ave., Laconia.

Six-day course. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Cost for LRGH area services: \$200. Outside LRGH area: \$450. Cost covers breakfast, lunch, coffee and books. Includes ACLS, PALS and PHTLS re-cert. To sign up, contact Shawn Riley at 524-6881.

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association
62 Communications Drive
Laconia, NH 03246

