



THE RURAL HITCH

FIRST QUARTER 2010

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

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Alton	Holderness
Andover	Laconia
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Belmont	New Durham
Bridgewater	New Hampton
Bristol	Northfield
Campton	Plymouth
Center Harbor	Rumney
Danbury	Sanbornton
Dorchester	Sandwich
East Andover	Strafford
Ellsworth	Thornton
Franklin	Tilton
Gilford	Warren
Gilmanton	Waterville Valley
Groton	Wentworth
Hebron	



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

Laconia Firefighters Honor US Soldiers Overseas

Every Friday Laconia firefighters arrive at work wearing red shirts emblazoned with a yellow ribbon. They've been doing this for quite awhile and are hoping the trend will catch on at other area departments. The reason? The shirts are worn to honor our soldiers who are fighting overseas. 



Firefighters at the Weirs Station, left to right:
FF Dave Monasky, Lt. Tim Woods, and FF Kyle Joseph.



Firefighters at Central Station show solidarity with US Soldiers fighting overseas. Standing, left to right: FF Steve Hanser and Deputy Chief Shawn Riley. Seated, left to right: Fire Secretary Trish Valovanie, FF Ray Eaton, Lt. Chad Vaillancourt, FF Chris Beaudoin, and FF Deb Black.

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.



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NINE-1-ONE
Battalion Chief Jacket \$299

Message From The Owners:

In this issue of the Rural Hitch we are featuring popular jacket choices. Whether you are looking for Hi-Vis, night time reflectivity, department identification, protection from the elements, or protective EMS garments, we have a choice in your category. While the favorites are displayed here, please note that we have many choices that may be specific to your needs that may not be shown. Feel free to contact us for questions, or to have a representative stop by your department with samples.

Happy Spring!
Rich Hillsgrave & Dawn Farnham

1024 Suncook Valley Hwy, Unit 5-D, Epsom, NH 03234

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Chief Dave Riel

New Hampton

Wentworth

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EMS Update

Shawn Riley, EMS Deputy Chief, Laconia Fire Dept./LRGHealthcare

Welcome to spring! The Lakes Region EMS Destination Protocol is up and running. We are not the first to have a Destination Protocol in the state but we are the first to have achieved it on a Regional basis. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the development and implementation of this program. Your efforts are going to drastically improve the outcomes for heart attack patients in the Franklin and Lakes Region catchment area.

Since February 1, we have had several successful Destination Protocol Activations. I would like to thank all the folks at Tilton-Northfield, Center Harbor, Stewart's Ambulance and Belmont Fire for their outstanding work. Also, if you or someone in your department does do a STEMI, please give me a call. I am trying to track our successes.

May is fast approaching and that means the annual LRGHealthcare Banquet and awards ceremony. We have sent out nomination forms to all the area chiefs and heads of service. If you know anyone or any group who should be recognized, please feel free to contact me and I will help you fill out the appropriate paperwork. The award categories are:

- EMS Provider of the Year — Franklin
- Paul Racicot Award for Excellence
- EMS Service of the Year Award
- EMS Provider of the Year — Lakes Side
- Unit Citation Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

Also, LRGHealthcare has recently sent out a survey to all heads of service. We are currently evaluating the needs of area EMS services and are looking at ways of collaborating efforts. This is a very important effort — please take the time to respond. 

THE RURAL HITCH

is published quarterly by
Lakes Region
Mutual Fire Aid Association

Chief

Douglas M. Aiken

Editor

Debbie Kardaseski

Email all submissions to:
debbiek@lrmfa.org



Featured department...

Laconia Fire Department

13 — Laconia Fire Department

Fire Chief: Kenneth Erickson
Address: 848 North Main Street
Laconia, NH 03246
lfdchief@metrocast.net

Office Hours: 8-4:30, Monday– Friday

Officers: Dep. Chief Operations
Deborah Pendergast
Dep. Chief Fire Prevention Charles Roffo
Dep. Chief EMS Shawn Riley
Capt. Bill Drew
Capt. Robert Landry
Lt. Kirk Beattie
Lt. David French
Lt. Michael Shastany
Lt. Chris Shipp
Lt. Chad Vaillancourt
Lt. Timothy Woods

Apparatus: 4 Engines
2 Ladders
3 Ambulances
1 Forestry
1 Gator
3 Boats
1 Mobile Air Compressor
1 Dive Truck
2 Equipment Trailers
6 Staff Vehicles, including 1 Mobile Command Vehicle

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

Laconia Fire Department has a long and somewhat convoluted history. The town of Laconia didn't come into existence until 1855, with the town becoming a city in



Chief Kenneth Erickson
Laconia Fire Department

1893. Prior to that time it was known as Meredith Bridge. Lakeport was called Lake Village. The area originally was part of Meredith and Gilmanton, then later part of Gilford. Through all its various forms, it had some method of fire fighting, which was a good thing as various parts of the area burned to the ground on a fairly regular basis. Most of the buildings were built of wood and spaced closely together. One of the biggest fires in the state was in 1846 when most of Meredith Bridge (the area now called Downtown) burned. In 1860, the same area burned again! And it 1900, the area burned yet again!

Current Chief Kenneth Erickson has written an extensive history of the city's fire department. It is interesting reading and goes into much more detail than space allows here. The history tells of numerous large fires, where entire blocks of buildings were destroyed by fire. Lakeport was, for the most part, demolished by fire in 1903. Fighting the fire was difficult due to dry and windy conditions and eventually the fire extinguished itself when it ran out of things to burn.

Laconia Fire Department began as the Laconia Fire Precinct. It was

formed by a vote of the State Legislature in June 1875. Within the Laconia Fire Precinct there were several sub-precincts which would later be absorbed and become known as the Laconia Fire Department. The first official Fire Chief was George Sanders; his actual title was Chief Engineer. It appears the first full time firefighters were hired for \$10 per week in 1907. It isn't known if that was \$10 each or \$10 to be split between the two!

GROWTH IN MANPOWER — AND IN CALLS!

Through the years the department has grown into a professional, highly-trained and well-equipped fire department. Call volume has increased to a level of over 3,000 calls per year, including fire calls, EMS, motor vehicle accidents and service calls. There are now three stations in service: Central, Lakeport and the Weirs. In addition to the Chief, there are three Deputies, two Captains, six Lieutenants and 24 firefighters, along with 10 call firefighters.

The Department is faced with protecting 18 buildings over three



Laconia Central Station

stories in the downtown area alone as well as thousands of 2 or 3 story buildings, numerous tenements and garden-style apartment complexes. Additionally, many homes are seasonal which brings accessibility issues into play during the winter.

Laconia has one of the highest number of rental units in the state, ranking second or third. It is the 15th largest by population but the

9th busiest fire department in New Hampshire. 40% of its population are renters. It has the workload level of a city of 20,000 or 30,000 people but an actual population of 17,000.

Its responsibilities have expanded to include educating the public on health issues, including the H1N1 virus. There is a large immigrant population which adds

language as another hurdle when responding to calls. Fifteen percent of ambulance transports are due to assaults. Laconia is a small city with big city problems.

TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING

How does the Department respond to these challenges? Chief Erickson stresses constant training and an aggressive response to an incident. The ladder, an engine and an ambulance respond to any alarm activation. This puts ample equipment on the road and at an incident and saves precious time when an alarm activation escalates to a full-blown fire. The Chief stated, "Besides going to calls, the most important thing a department can do is train." The police respond to calls where people threaten people, but when anything else threatens people, be it water in the basement or fire in the attic, folks call the fire department. And training allows the Laconia Fire Department to be



Lakeport Station

ready to respond. As the Chief said, "We fix things for people."

CHIEF ERICKSON

Chief Kenneth Erickson began his career as a call firefighter in North Attleboro, MA in 1978. Like many chiefs, he grew up in a family of firefighters. His father retired as a Captain from the North Attleboro Department after 34 years. The last few years his Dad was with the department, Erickson was the Deputy Chief, something Chief Erickson said presented a few awkward moments! When Erickson became the Deputy Chief in North Attleboro, he was the youngest deputy chief in civil service history.

After leaving North Attleboro, he spent six years as the chief in Walpole, MA and then two years as chief in Duxbury, MA. In December of 2001, he moved to New Hampshire and became the Laconia Chief.



Weirs Station

His future plans for the department include modernizing their fleet of apparatus and renovating and adding on to the Central Station, which is very cramped at this time. Two lots adjoining the station have been purchased for this purpose but budget constraints have pushed off the actual building until

some time in the future. His goal is to have twelve firefighters on each shift, giving the city solid coverage for emergencies.

He is proud of the department and speaks highly of the professionalism and hard work its members put forth on a daily basis. 

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First Alarm Structure Fire in Moultonborough

By Chief David Bengtson, Moultonborough

March 20, first arriving units at 285 Long Point Road in Moultonborough found a single-story ranch with approximately 1/3 involvement on the A-D-C sides, with a venting propane tank and a wild land fire with exposures. 5E4, the first arriving unit, deployed a master stream and stretched a 1-3/4" line. Neighbors reported the possibility of a female still in the building. 15E1 arrived on scene, after laying in a 4" line from the beach 1,000 ft. away. Moultonborough and Center Harbor personnel entered the building to perform a primary search but were evacuated due to rapidly deteriorating conditions and flashover. With the arrival of crews from Meredith and Holderness, the fire was brought under control and confirmation was made by Moultonborough Police that the female was not in the structure at the time of the fire. No injuries were reported. 



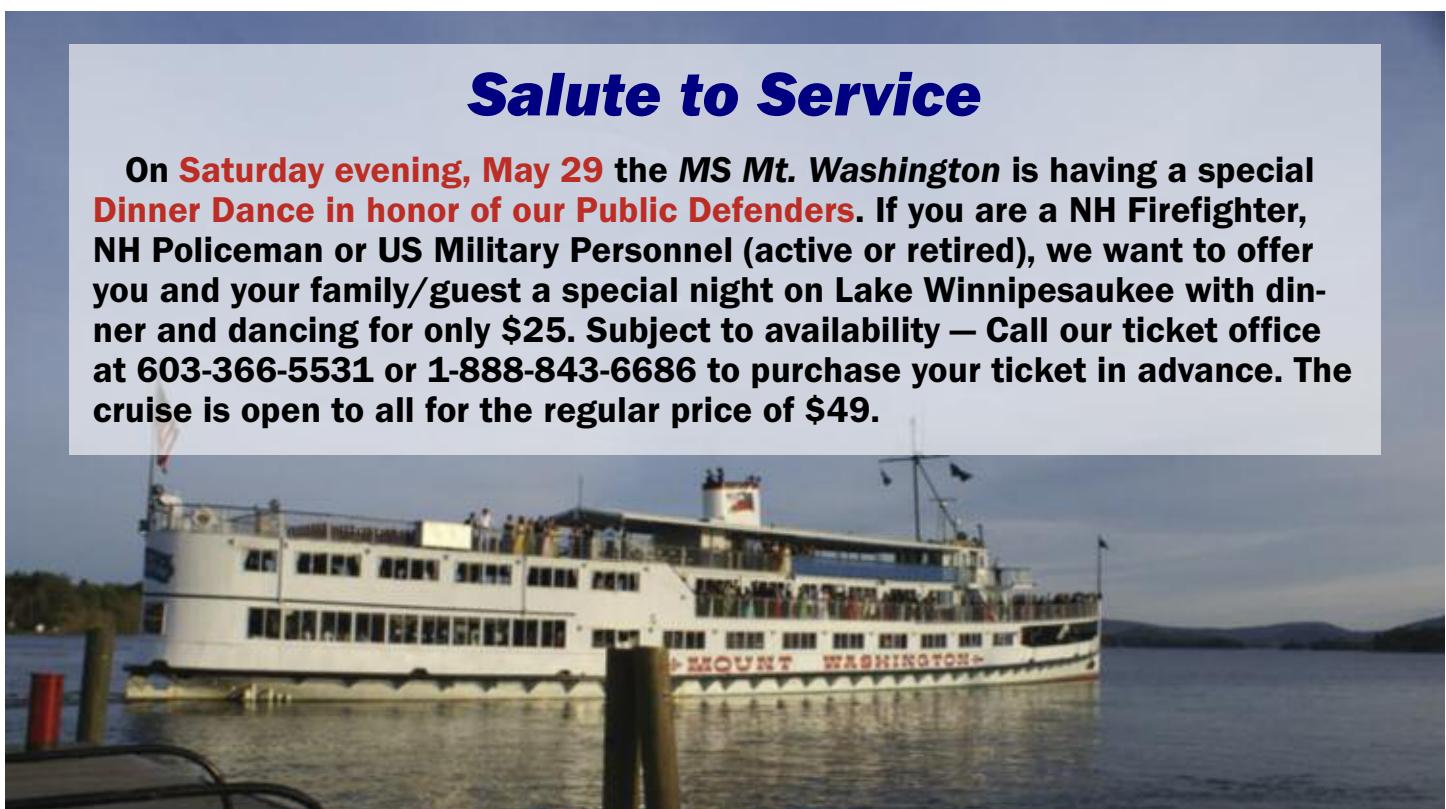
Above: PHOTO BY KIRSTEN EMERSON/JAMIE TUTTLE, STEWART'S AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Below: PHOTO BY NEIL GEIER



Salute to Service

On Saturday evening, May 29 the MS Mt. Washington is having a special Dinner Dance in honor of our Public Defenders. If you are a NH Firefighter, NH Policeman or US Military Personnel (active or retired), we want to offer you and your family/guest a special night on Lake Winnipesaukee with dinner and dancing for only \$25. Subject to availability — Call our ticket office at 603-366-5531 or 1-888-843-6686 to purchase your ticket in advance. The cruise is open to all for the regular price of \$49.



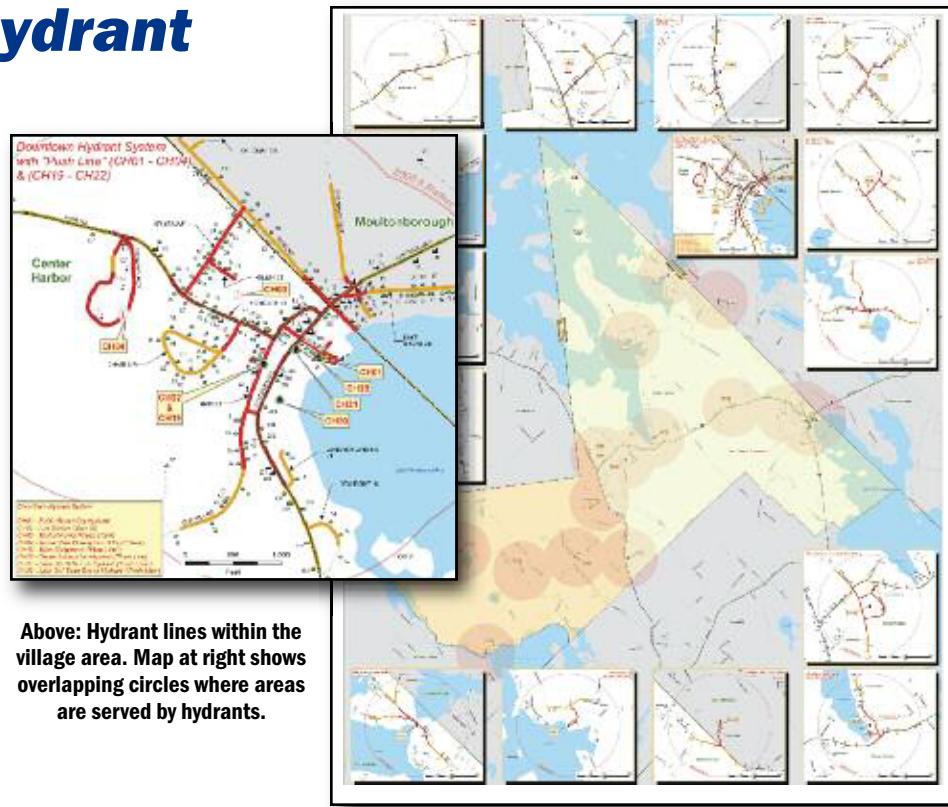
Center Harbor Hydrant System Nearing Completion

After nearly two years in the works, Center Harbor Fire Chief John Schlemmer is pleased to report the water supply plan developed with the assistance of the New Hampshire Rural Fire Protection Initiative, supported by the North Country Rural Development Council is nearing completion.

Most of the 22 water supply sources designated by the plan have hydrants installed, with only five or six left to complete. The main hydrant system covers the village area and begins at the MS Mt. Washington dock with an 8" dry hydrant extending to a depth of over 20 feet of water in the bay. An engine would hook onto this hydrant and pump via two 4" lines into a nearby hydrant, which would then push water to the five hydrants located in the village. The system, composed of 8" lines except for a 12" pipe under Rt. 25, is set up to supply water to a 2,000' radius from each hydrant. The first 1,000' would come from hose laid by a first due engine, the second 1,000' would be attached by the second engine and thus 2,000' around the hydrant would be supplied with 1,150 gpm. The system was based on 1,000' lengths of hose as most apparatus carry that much.

In addition to the hydrants, there is a 40,000 gallon cistern available at Senter's market.

The resulting coverage will lead to a reduction in insurance costs for homeowners and businesses in the village area. Eventually, when the system is finished, the entire town could see a reduction in insurance premiums.



Above: Hydrant lines within the village area. Map at right shows overlapping circles where areas are served by hydrants.

If you look at a map of the 2,000' radius circles from each hydrant, or proposed hydrant, within Center Harbor, the bulk of the town is covered, with many circles slightly overlapping. Mapping for this project was supplied by the NH Bureau of Emergency Communications 9-1-1 mapping office.

Chief Schlemmer is enthusiastic about nearing the end of the project. He gives NCRDC high marks for their assistance. Eventually, the Chief would like to see Center Harbor and Moultonborough tied together by the hydrant system. 

Below, left: Closeup of "push" hydrant where the hydrant system in the village begins. Below, at right is the dry hydrant that reaches out into Lake Winnipesaukee. The push hydrant is seen in the back of the photo, near the telephone pole.



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First Quarter Statistics...

From Jan. 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010

Incidents Dispatched:	January 2010	1,633
	February 2010	1,748
	March 2010	1,627
	Total	5,008

Resources Available:

Engines	93	Tankers	10
Ladders	11	Rescues	22
Forestry	36	Ambulances	39
Utilities	17	Fire Boats	25
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 118,757 residents (2008 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 \$21.7 billion dollars of property (2008 Valuation).
- Has an operating budget of \$967,216.84 (2009 budget).
- Has 10 full-time and 8 part-time employees.
- Dispatched 19,837 incidents during 2009 (54.35 calls per day).
- Dispatched 21,508 incidents during 2008 (58.92 calls per day).
- Dispatched 21,591 incidents during 2007 (59.15 calls per day).

LRMFA HEADQUARTERS, LACONIA, NH



PHOTO COURTESY BILL HEMMEL. LAKESREGIONAERIALS.COM ©2009

New Equipment...



Center Harbor. ATV

2005 ATV. Also has wheels. ATV and trailer were donated by the Center Harbor Fire Association.



Hebron. 37 Forestry 2

2008 Fuso FG140 4X4. Skid Unit made by National Firefighter Corp. 300 gallons water. Foam Pro 1600. Some rescue equipment onboard.

New Employees, Promotions, Retirements...



Chief Dee Ford
Hill Fire Dept.
Promotion

**SEND YOUR
DEPARTMENT
NEWS TO:**

debbiek@ lrmfa.org

**Please send information
and photos of new
apparatus, employees,
promotions, retirements,
personnel news and
information of general
interest to the System.**



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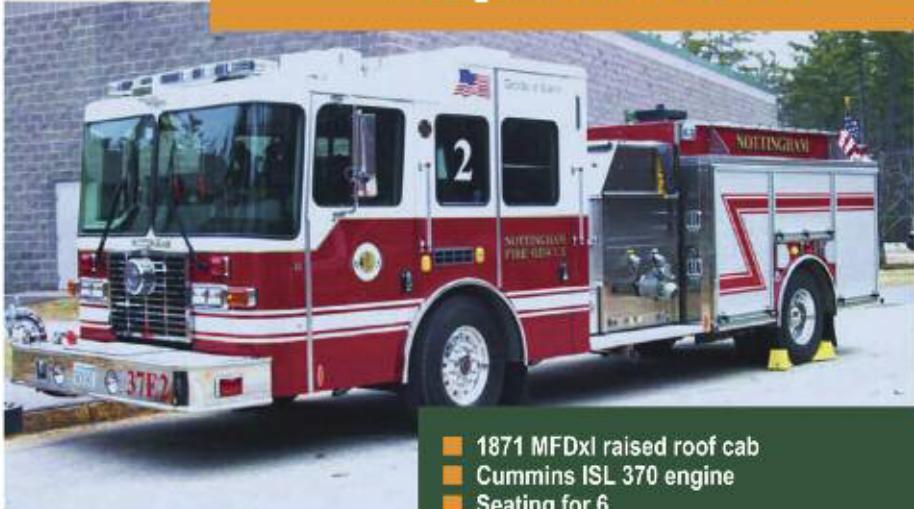
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Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association
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Laconia, NH 03246

Association Meetings

May 20, 2010

July 22, 2010

September 21, 2010

November 18, 2010

**Check www.LRMFA.org
for locations.**

Training Opportunities

- **Weds., May 5.** ALS Breakfast — Continuing Ed for EMS Providers and Nursing. 9:30–11:30 a.m. Laconia.
- **Weds., June 2.** ALS Breakfast — Continuing Ed for EMS Providers and Nursing. 9:30–11:30 a.m. Sanbornton.
- **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.