



The Trumpet

A Membership Publication of the Southwestern New Hampshire District
Fire Mutual Aid System, Serving New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts



From the Coordinator's Desk

by Paul Szoc, MAC1

Where has the summer gone! It does not seem possible but we are entering the last quarter of 2003. We still have many projects that we will be completing before the end of the year in order to improve our system. I would like to personally thank everyone who assisted throughout the year on these projects.

As most of you know by now the Board of Directors voted to purchase and install a Digitize System 3505 alarm system. The system is so advanced and flexible, that it accepts signals from virtually any alarm-input device. We hope to have the system installed and personnel trained within sixty days. Revenue collected from the alarm system will be used to reduce the budget and assessments for members.

All Communication Specialists are participating in a new project in order to keep members information updated. Each employee is assigned towns to work with in order to update street indexes, alarm assignments, inventories, town information, maps and other vital information. So far the results and feedback both from members and employees has been excellent. All the updated information is being installed into our new CAD (computer-aided dispatch) system. Phil Tirrell has been assigned as administrator of the system and, along with the staff, has been doing an excellent job on this great addition to our Communication Center. A special "Thanks" to NH E-911 for providing the system and assistance to us at no cost. We are also working with VT E-911 to determine if we can download some of their information into the system.

Dale and Lenny have been busy in the radio shop on projects for both customers and the system. Several communities have received grants for new radios and have purchased them from the radio shop. The radio shop's new location at 350 Marlboro Street is working out well and provides the shop with more room. Some of the projects Dale and Lenny are working on or completed are: installing a new site in Fitzwilliam;

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Retiring Fire Chief Lauded and Applauded for Devoted Service to Neighbors and Community



Londonderry, Vermont, firefighters and emergency personnel were waiting for Jesse Pomeroy, left, to walk through the door of the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad building Thursday night, April 24, surprising him with a send-off fitting someone who has devoted as much time as he has to the protection of his neighbors.

Pomeroy recently retired as chief of the Phoenix Fire Company, which serves the north village of the Town of Londonderry. The hardworking dairy farmer held the fire chief position for 14 years, and has been a Phoenix member since 1978. The new chief of the Phoenix Fire Company, Jim Ameden, right, presented Pomeroy with a large plaque thanking him for his over 20 years of service, while the room full of peers clapped and cheered.

Pomeroy has since moved to the neighboring town of Weston, approximately six miles away, and has stayed on as a captain in the Phoenix Fire Company.

Reprinted with permission from The Message. Photo by Wes Johnson.

Help Needed

We are writing this letter to let members of our Mutual Aid system know about a need for assistance that has befallen one of our former employees. Please share this information with your members and your department's association.

Robert Cunningham III (Rob) is a former member of the Fitzwilliam and Meadowood Fire Departments as well as a former employee of both Mutual Aid and Diluzio Ambulance Service. He is currently working for the New York City Fire Department. Rob is undergoing treatment for cancer and, at this time, all of his disability benefits have been used up. Needless to say, this is creating a financial hardship for him, as he is not able to go back to work due to the effects of his treatments.

The Fire Mutual Aid Dispatchers' Association along with the Keene Professional Firefighters' Association is organizing a fund drive to assist Rob. Both groups have given \$250.00 to get this fund started. We hope that your department or association would be willing to donate a similar amount or whatever you are able to give to help Rob.


Please make checks payable to:

"The Robert Cunningham Fund"

and send them to:

Fire Mutual Aid Dispatchers'
Association
PO Box 31
Keene, NH 03431

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the dispatch center at 603-352-1291.



TROY FIREFIGHTERS


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RADIO NEWS

INTEROPERABILITY & DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

What does it mean to you?

Interoperability is a buzz word that has flashed into our lives since 9-11. Interoperability is the means whereby your public safety agency has the ability to communicate with other public safety agencies within a wide geographic area during a major event. What was learned on that tragic day in New York is that communications between public safety agencies in that area was virtually impossible in many instances. This was true not only between fire, police and EMS agencies, but also between mutual aid units of the same type of agency. There are several public safety frequency bands, numerous operating frequencies in the same band and several different modes of operation to contend with.

We are much better off in this area as far as being able to communicate between local agencies of all types. Up to this point, most of our public safety agencies have pretty much operated in the same band of frequencies and with the same mode of operation. If you check most of the area public safety radios you will find operating frequencies for other area public safety agencies programmed into most of them. There are notable exceptions. A few fire companies in our own mutual aid system and all fire companies in the old Tri-State Mutual Aid System to our south still operate on low-band. In Vermont, most police agencies operate in the UHF band.

Unfortunately, in the near future at least, interoperability may become more difficult in this area instead of easier. Like it or not, the technology around us is rapidly changing towards a digital world. The rapid development of computers, which operate solely in a digital mode of ones and zeros, has deeply affected our lives. It is almost impossible to buy any electronic gadget these days that does not have some sort of computer in it. The new digital radios communicate by first changing your voice into a digital signal of ones and zeros and then transmitting this digital signal over the air. Our existing analog radio equipment generally operates by varying either the frequency or the amplitude of the signal in proportion to our voice.

This explosion in digital technology will mean that the communication formats between all our radio, television, cell phones and even our public safety communication equipment will all eventually become digital! Our cellular

telephones are virtually all digital right now. Our television signals will be all digital by 2006. And the FCC has just put the wheels in motion to require all public safety radios to convert to either narrow-band analog mode or to a digital mode of communications over the next few years.

The FCC is trying to double and eventually quadruple the number of radio channels in the same radio spectrum as there is now. They are doing this by requiring all radio users (us) to use only half or even one quarter of the radio spectrum space of their radio transmissions. This is being done in phases. Right now our radio channels are considered 25 KHz. in width. In phase one, we will be required to reduce our spacing to 12.5 KHz. In phase two, we will have to reduce our signal bandwidth to 6.25 KHz. This will create four radio channels in the same spectrum space as one radio channel does today.

The phase one requirement can be met today by a large portion of our existing radio equipment by simply reprogramming the radios to phase one narrowband analog mode. The FCC has required radio manufactures to build radio equipment to meet the phase one analog narrowband standards for several years now. Your radio equipment is probably all set for phase one conversion if you have purchased it in the last three to five years.

The new digital P25 format radios also meet phase one bandwidth standards in digital and analog modes. The problem is that digital and analog modes of operation are totally incompatible with each other. It is highly unlikely that our mutual aid system will change to a digital format in phase one. There are thousands of two-way radios and pagers in our system. To convert our mutual aid system over to a completely digital communication format, we would have to completely throw away almost every piece of our existing radio equipment and buy new digital radios! This is just not practical.

The problem is that some grants that are now available to provide improved interoperability in communications requires that you purchase P25 format radios whether you need them or not. These P25 radios can be programmed to

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INTEROPERABILITY

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work just fine in analog phase one narrowband mode, but the cost is several times more than analog-only radios. These radios are also apt to be larger and more bulky than their analog-only counterparts. If you apply for grant money, go ahead and get the P25 radios. It will just cost a whole lot more money for the same number of radios. If you are buying radios with your own money, just buy the regular analog radios you have been buying all along. They should work fine in our mutual aid system until the FCC requires us to go to phase two bandwidths.

Paging is the one area where there may be some major problems in converting to the narrowband format. Every Minitor pager in our system, new or old, is designed for wideband operation only. If these pagers are used in a narrowband environment, the received audio will be at a much lower level and they may not activate properly. There is a possibility that some sort of conversion could be done, but at this time that fix remains to be seen.

The exact timetable in which our system will be forced to convert to phase one narrowband is not known at this time, but it will probably have to happen within the next five years. The FCC will stop issuing new wideband licenses by October of this year. They are banning the manufacture of all wideband radio equipment by 2005. These two factors alone will probably determine the time frame of when we have to convert our system. It will be a huge undertaking on our part (radio repair technicians) to convert every radio and pager in the mutual aid system nearly all at one time to narrowband analog, but it will have to be done somehow.

And just so you do not run out of things to worry about, when the FCC forces all radio users to convert to phase two narrowband channeling, every radio in the entire mutual aid system (including the P25 radios) will have to be replaced with a new radio! There is not a single radio on the market today that can operate under the phase two bandwidth standards. The FCC is now considering forcing radio manufacturers to start making radios that can operate under phase two narrowband parameters, but they have not done so at this time. It is almost certain the phase-two radios will all operate in digital mode as such narrowband characteristics are very difficult to achieve in analog mode.

The timetable for phase two narrowband conversion is not known. The FCC is a ruthless bunch and they do not seem to care what monetary effects their decisions have on public safety or anyone else for that matter. You can bet they will try to impose phase two as soon as it is technically feasible, probably in the next 10 to 15 years. The era of buying a radio and having it operate for up to 30 years is gone. It is my advice to you to keep buying the regular analog radios unless you are forced to buy the P25 digital radios by grant money. Just remember that any radio you purchase or have today will be totally obsolete in the next 10 to 15 years! So you might just as well save money and buy the less expensive analog units for today's use.

From the Coordinator's Desk

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maintaining and improving all our radio sites; replacing and improving antennas at sites; installing KCF-415 at Stratton Mountain; and looking at other possible sites. If you have any questions for Dale or Lenny please call the shop at 352-8635 (there is also a fax on this number) or e-mail: radiorepair@firemutualaid.com.

As most of you are aware and due to circumstances beyond our control the County of Cheshire funded the Cheshire County Sheriff's Office funds to establish a second dispatch center for police dispatching for police agencies in Cheshire County. The Board of Directors and I have been working very hard on revising a new assessment formula. We spent a lot of time researching and discussing different ways to fund our budget and assess our members. We contacted several other communication centers to see how they are doing it and what improvements they have made recently. The ultimate goal is to provide the best service possible to our members at the lowest cost possible.

Please "Welcome" our newest members: Lyndeborough Fire Department, Amherst Fire Department and Royalston, Massachusetts Fire Department, who all were elected Associate Members at the last Board of Directors Meeting. We will also be working with the Wilton-Lyndeborough-Temple Ambulance to assist them with their communications.

The Staff, Board of Directors and I are looking forward to working with all members to continue to provide the best professional and courteous service possible.

Remember! It is important we all work as a team to plan and improve our system for the future.

STRATTON FOUNDATION APPRECIATED FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING

The Weston Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the Stratton Foundation for the \$1,000 grant toward the purchase of our thermal imaging camera. The Foundation's generosity has brought us to over 60% of our goal for this very expensive piece of equipment. Our sincere thanks go out to the members of the Stratton Foundation for all that they do.

Brian Lundberg, Chief, WVFD



FITZWILLIAM, N.H.

FITZWILLIAM FIRE DEPARTMENT took delivery on a new pumper on May 2, 2003. It is a 2003 Pierce Contender with a 1250-gal. pump, 1000-gal. water tank, 30-gal. Class A foam tank, 5000-watt generator and a 6-person air conditioned cab. The truck was put in service on May 8 as 10M3. The old 10M3, a 1968 Mack, has been retired.



NEWBROOK FIRE & RESCUE (VT)

NEWBROOK FIRE & RESCUE took delivery on March 1, 2003, of a 2003 Ford F550 extended cab rescue truck (23R1), built by V-Tech of Williamstown, VT. This truck has a 10' poly body with roll-up doors. It carries a Honda 5000-watt generator and a Ramsey 8000-lb. electric winch with the capacity of mounting it in both the front and rear. The rear compartment has two 250' electric powered reels of heavy-duty extension cords, and two removable tripod scene lights. The old Rescue was sold to the Marlboro, VT, Fire Department. NewBrook was pleased to keep it "in the family."

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NEW DELIVERIES

GREENWOOD DELIVERS 1ST NEW HORTON AMBULANCE!

By Deputy Chief Patricia Lovering,
Antrim Ambulance EMS

Effective in October 2002 Greenwood became the Horton Ambulance dealer for the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Since that time Greenwood has sold new Hortons to Brimfield, Billerica, and Agawam, Massachusetts, and to United Ambulance Service of Maine—among others. Coupled with recent AEV (American Emergency Vehicles) ambulance deliveries to Stow and Concord, Massachusetts, and Boston Med Flight, Greenwood has truly become your one-stop source for all your emergency vehicle needs—from E-One pumpers, tankers, aerials, brush trucks and rescues, to ambulances from both AEV and Horton, Greenwood can meet all your emergency vehicle needs.

Greenwood is very proud to have just delivered its first new Horton to Antrim (New Hampshire) Fire and Rescue.



Congratulations to the Antrim Fire and Rescue squad on their recent purchase.

Antrim has purchased a 2002 Horton Type III Ford E-450 ambulance. The new ambulance has "on spot" chains, a Smith IV warmer for ALS calls and many compartments to utilize. The Horton also has many new features, including seamless flooring, LED lights on all compartments/doors (so doors are lit up if open), as well as many new electronic features. We are very proud of our new ambulance.

TROY RESIDENT WINS \$5,000 ATV IN MEADOWOOD COUNTY AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT SWIFT WATER RESCUE TEAM RAFFLE

Submitted by Mark Donovan

TROY, NH—May 31, 2003—William Haase of Troy, NH, won the Meadowood County Area Fire Department Swift Water Rescue Team Raffle's grand prize, a 2003 five-speed Artic Cat all terrain vehicle (ATV), at a drawing held Saturday at Troy Artic Cat on Rt. 12. Assisting with the drawing were department members Lt. Dean Ferranti of Marlborough, Ted Aldrich of Richmond, and Amber Leclaire of Keene.

Immediately following the drawing, Troy Artic Cat owner Joe Sabolevski, Sr., who had sponsored the ATV for the raffle, placed a call to the Haases, to which the reply was, "Is this some kind of a joke?" Assured that it was not, in short order Bill arrived at Troy Artic Cat to admire his prize. "This is unbelievable," he commented, "I was quick to buy a raffle ticket because the Meadowood Dive Team is such a worthy cause, but I never thought that I would win. I like four-wheeling, but I've always had to borrow someone else's ATV. Now I'm all set to do it on my own. I've never won anything before in my life!"



Left to right: Joseph Sabolevski, Sr., William Haase and Ted Aldrich.

In recognizing Troy Artic Cat, Lieutenant Ferranti said, "We are so grateful to Joe and Troy Artic Cat. We are totally self-supporting, with no tax revenue, and to see a local merchant make such a significant contribution to our cause is very, very rewarding. He appreciates that, day or night, when there is an emergency water or ice rescue or recovery to be made, that Meadowood's volunteer team will respond, providing resources that are just not available to our local New Hampshire, Massachusetts and even Vermont neighbors. We are indebted to Troy Artic Cat and others who have, and continue, to support us." Proceeds from the raffle will be used to purchase additional specialized equipment.

Noted Ted Aldrich, "We all carry pagers and are available at a moment's notice. While our boat and rescue are based in Fitzwilliam, our members are widespread throughout the three state area, and they respond directly to the scene. Like someone having a heart attack, time is of the essence. But, for potential drowning victims, Mother

Nature has provided what we call a 'window of opportunity'... known as the 'Mammalian Diving Reflex'. Quite simply, it means that once submerged the human body can all but shut itself down, yet still be revived after more than an hour. With all the bodies of water that make this area such a great place to live, that is truly among the primary reasons for our mission."

Winner of the second prize, a full-face ATV helmet, also provided by Troy Artic Cat, was Jeff Duffy of Winchendon, MA. David Putney of Royalston, NH took home the third prize, a woman's breathable sporting Jacket, donated by Summers' Backcountry Outfitters of Keene.

Originally founded in 1982, the Connecticut Valley Underwater Rescue Team transferred its assets to the Meadowood County Area Fire Department in 1995, and the Meadowood Underwater Rescue Team came into being at that time. The unit is comprised of a dozen members who are certified as public safety divers, recognized by the National Professional Association of Diving Instructors, as well as the Technical Divers Institute. This past spring, 20 members of the dive team and fire department completed a 24-hour course to become certified swift water rescue technicians.

A certified nonprofit, the unit is totally self-supporting, with no dedicated tax base. The dive team—with its rescue boat based at Meadowood County Area Fire Department's Fitzwilliam, NH facility—is on call for immediate response to anywhere within a ninety-minute drive distance. Since its incorporation, the unit has responded to a variety of water and ice rescue incidents in New Hampshire, southern Vermont and northern Massachusetts.

Founded in 1953, Fitzwilliam, NH-based Meadowood County Area Fire Department (MCAFD) will celebrate its fifty-year anniversary in September. In addition to its Swift Water Rescue Team, MCAFD provides a variety of other firefighting resources not available to the more than twenty-five area towns it supports, including an 85' firefighting tower ladder; a heavy-duty rescue vehicle equipped with the area's largest air cascade unit (capable of filling firefighters' breathing tanks directly on the fire scene); and a large fire tanker, equipped with over 1,000 feet of large diameter hose.

Throughout its fifty-year history, MCAFD developed and pioneered rural area firefighting innovations that are now standard practice throughout the country. Many of these, as well as other leading-edge technologies, are taught at MCAFD's fire training school, recognized early on by the state of New Hampshire as a primary state-wide firefighting training facility. Recently certified as an IRS-recognized nonprofit institution, MCAFD prides itself on continuing today as an entirely volunteer organization.

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION IS STRONG IN TRAINING HELD IN SOUTH LONDONDERRY, VT

By Chief George Lang

On July 12, 2003, the firefighters participating in the Fire Fighter I class held at the South Londonderry fire house completed their training.

The course consists of 133 hours of classroom and practical training that gives the students a wealth of knowledge. The firefighters go back to their respective towns with new understandings of what their jobs as firefighters are and what is required to perform those jobs as safely as possible.

The Fire Fighter I class held at the South Londonderry fire house was one of only eight classes given throughout the state last year, paid for by the Vermont Fire Service Training Council. Nineteen classes were requested this year, but due to a lack of funds only eight are eligible to be funded.

As fire chief of Champion Fire Company #5, the host department for the Fire Fighter I class, I congratulate the



students from the towns of Londonderry, Weston, Mount Holly, Peru, Winhall, Jamaica, East Dorset, Dorset, West Dover and East Dover for their dedication to learn and complete the training.

It was a pleasure to host the Fire Fighter I class and I congratulate you all for your dedication and service to your communities.



THE WRATH OF NATURE

Severe storms on August 6th and 10th caused extensive damage in Westmoreland, Surry, Gilsum, Chesterfield, and the Walpole, New Hampshire area. Over \$6 million in damage has been attributed to Westmoreland alone. Route 12 was closed in Westmoreland for several days. Towns are working with federal and state officials to obtain disaster assistance.





Spotlight

on
**Champion Fire Company #5,
South Londonderry, VT**

By Chief George Lang, 121C1

On May 3, 2003, Champion Fire Company #5 celebrated a century of service to the Town of Londonderry. In the early 1880s the bucket brigade was not working very well and the people felt there had to be a better way to fight fires. So a group of people in the village



of South Londonderry purchased our 1861 Hunneman hand pumper and formed an organized fire department. On May 3, 1903 the company was formed, and shortly thereafter recognized by the State of Vermont as an incorporated organization devoted to the preservation of life and property in the Town of Londonderry, Vermont.

Our 1861 Hunneman hand pumper was the only pumper in service from the

late 1880s to the early 1930s in the Town of Londonderry. Our "Tub" is still owned by the Champion Fire Company #5 and is still seen annually in the 4th of July parade.

In the early 1930s, Champion Fire Company #5 purchased a 1928 Cadillac four-door sedan which was used as our first motorized fire apparatus. The members installed a front-mounted pump on the Cadillac, mounted a ladder on its roof and loaded hose, nozzles, axes and other hand tools of the time in the back seat area of the auto and proceeded to fight fires. This unit remained in service until 1939 when the department purchased a 1939 Chevrolet cab and chassis. Members of other organizations constructed a rear body for the new pumper. A water tank was installed on the truck, a pump was mounted on the front, and members began fighting fires with their new pumper. The ability to carry water on the apparatus was a real advantage.

From 1939 to 1953 this apparatus worked very well for our organization—but times change and equipment needs to be upgraded. So in 1953 the membership purchased the 1953 Chevrolet truck we now own, then removed the pump and body from the 1939 Chevrolet and installed them on the '53 cab and chassis. This gave the organization a brand new recycled fire apparatus. Talk about



recycling. Champion Fire Company #5 has to rate high on the list for getting the most usage out of its equipment.

In 1969 the members realized they needed to carry more water to the fire, so they purchased a 1969 GMC cab and chassis, installed a used 1000-gallon oil tank on the truck, mounted a 750-gpm pump on the front and created our first pumper/tanker. Talk about creativity. On a shoestring budget, this unit was put into service for less than \$8,000.

In 1976, with help from the Town of Londonderry, we purchased our first store-bought Class A pumper/tanker. The chassis is a 1976 International 2100. It has a front-mounted, 1000-gpm pump, and a 750-gallon water tank. This was the first motorized unit purchased by the department that was delivered ready to work—quite a novelty in our department. In 2002, we refurbished the body and made necessary repairs to its fire pump to prolong its time in service. We hope to use this pumper for many years to come.

In 1995, with help from the Town of Londonderry, we purchased our four-door Freightliner pumper/tanker. This 1995 pumper/tanker has a 1250-gpm pump and carries 1000 gallons of water. This unit replaced our 1969 GMC



pumper/tanker. With the retirement of our 1969 GMC as a pumper/tanker we began to look at other ways to utilize this cab and chassis. We always have more tools to carry than we have space for, so we purchased a rescue truck from the Village of Bellows Falls and remounted the body on our 1969 chassis. We now operate this unit as a multi-purpose command post, air-supply unit, and excess tool carrier. It also is a warm place to get into on those subzero days since the back body is heated and has seating for six. Another success story for recycling, this is the second time around for this unit and it works very well for us.



In 2002, we purchased much needed forestry equipment with the help of the Thrifty Attic. The Indian pumps we put on our backs to combat grass and forest fires, the rakes, shovels, brooms, axes and chain saws are necessary to combat fires on the surface, but when the fires go underground and get into the root systems of the trees, it takes specialized equipment to do the job. So, with the Thrifty Attic grant monies, we purchased a four-stage, high-pressure forestry pump, one-and-a-half-inch forestry hose, three-quarter-inch forestry hose, fittings, adapters, and three mop-up kits to put nine men to work dealing with the problems we have extinguishing fires. This equipment allows us to attack the fires deep under the surface in the root systems of the forests. Our department is the only organization in this area with this specialized equipment. The State of Vermont does have some forestry equipment, but it can take hours, or days, for them to respond if the equipment is being used elsewhere. Remember, if it is dry in Londonderry, it is a good bet that it is dry everywhere we respond to for mutual aid.

In 1976, when we replaced our 1953 Chevrolet pumper with our new International pumper/tanker, we converted our Chevy to a vehicle to be used to combat fires in the forests, grass, etc., and we carried what equipment we had to deal with these fires. This unit is now 50 years old. Replacement parts are hard to find, the water tank no longer holds water, and we feel this unit should be retired. For the past two years our department has applied for a grant through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, but we have not been successful in our endeavors. So our current project/goal is to replace our 1953 Chevy

forestry unit with a new four-wheel-drive F550 Ford diesel with an automatic transmission and an all-aluminum flat-bed body on the rear. This unit will carry 400 gallons of water and have a 12-gallon Class A foam cell in the water tank. This unit will be equipped with a portable pump mounted on the flat-bed body with a foam educator mounted on the floor of the body. We will install at least one booster reel with one-inch hose to facilitate quick response with limited water usage for these fires. We will install compartments as needed to utilize space and need requirements. The cost of this project will be approximately \$70,000. We have some funds set aside in our equipment replacement fund, but we are still way short of our financial need to make this project a reality.

With our equipment replacement fund and whatever financial help we can get from our friends and neighbors, we hope to make this project a reality in the very near future. This is a specialized unit we are trying to place into service and we will be called to respond by many of our mutual-aid departments if they are having forest/grass fires. This unit could also serve our department as a motor-vehicle accident response unit and would be a great asset in the winter to get up those rough vertical driveways on snowy nights when our main pumpers could not make it.

As fire chief, I am hopeful we can take this project from the drawing board and put it into service for our town and mutual aid area. Anyone wishing to help us make this a reality may send a donation to Champion Fire Company #5, PO Box 5, South Londonderry, VT 05155, Attn: Forestry Truck Fund.

We would like to thank all of our friends and neighbors for their past and present support. It is you who have given us the financial and moral support to keep us going 24/7, 365 days a year—for a hundred years!



On April 9, 2003, Everett West, a 50-year member of Champion Fire Company #5, passed away. Everett was Champion's president for the last twenty years and will be missed by his department and community.

New fire chief in Wilmington

By Dawn Nieters

WILMINGTON- There's a new chief in town, fire chief that is. Troy Johnson, formerly of St. Mary's Fire Department in southeast Georgia, has taken the helm of the Wilmington Fire Department, to fill the position vacated by the resignation of long-time chief Brian Johnson.

"They won't even have to change the name on the door," the new chief joked, of the surname he shares with his predecessor.

Johnson, 34, was hired after a lengthy search process by the town. An Internet search led him to Wilmington, where he said both the hiring process and reception have been excellent.

"A step forward is always good," Johnson said of the move. "I saw that the position was open and happened to send my resume up this way. And now here I am."

Johnson said the interview process was "very professional and well thought out," and that the department as it currently exists "seems to be a fairly good operation."

After a tenure with the Brunswick, GA Fire Department, Johnson and his deputy chief moved to St. Mary's to help with a re-building process there, when the department switched from a county operation to a municipal one. That department combined paid personnel and volunteers, much like Wilmington's, but on a much larger scale. The department included 11 paid personnel operating out of two stations, covering an approximately 16-mile territory and a population of approximately 17,000 full-time residents, in addition to personnel stationed on the nearby naval base.

"Where I came from is a little more city-oriented," Johnson concedes. "There were all kinds of high-rises, different considerations. The operations here are definitely going to have to be thought out differently from there."

Johnson says he plans to shadow the current officers to "kind of monitor what they're doing on the fire scenes and how they're operating." He says he's not sure at this stage whether there will be any changes either for safety reasons or in terms of general operation.

Though hailing from a much larger department, Johnson said the number of fire calls will actually compare pretty closely between Wilmington and St. Mary's. He estimated there were approximately 1300 calls per year with his old department, but noted that a large portion of those calls were medical, because the department also had a first responder program. Since medical calls in Wilmington are handled by Deerfield Valley Rescue, the balance of calls should match pretty closely with the number of fires and accidents in Wilmington.

There will be other considerations for Johnson as he takes the helm of the department, particularly in terms of



specific issues given the rural nature of the area. Johnson said he has "a lot of homework" to do, brushing up on local ordinances, state statutes, as well as topography and weather conditions.

He will also be responsible for a few other hats, including town health officer, communications coordinator and emergency management coordinator. "It's going to keep me busy, that's for sure," he noted.

Johnson said he's looking forward to the professional challenges ahead, and to meeting the members of the community. Having been actively involved in youth programs in previous positions, Johnson said he's also looking forward to meeting the department's junior firefighters, and perhaps recruiting a few more to fill out the ranks.

Personally, Johnson said he's excited about the change, as is his fiancée, a police officer with the St. Mary's department who is formerly of Springfield, VT.

As for the snow, Johnson has seen plenty, despite hailing most recently from Georgia. Much of his childhood was spent in Seattle, WA and Denver, CO, so he'll be back out on skis for the first time in quite a while beginning this winter. "There's not much downhill skiing in Georgia," he laughed. "Sonia (Alexander) asked me if there was any reason they couldn't hire me. I said I didn't have snowshoes yet."

The town is planning an openhouse to introduce the community to several recent new hires, including members of the police department, and Johnson.

Reprinted with permission from the Deerfield Valley News.

WILMINGTON F.D. IMPROVES FIREFIGHTER SAFETY THROUGH SUCCESSFUL GRANT-WRITING

By Chief Troy Johnson

The Wilmington Fire Department is pleased to announce that our request to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program has been awarded. The grant will allow us



to purchase new personal protective equipment for our firefighters, a thermal imaging camera, and a firefighter accountability system. The purchase of new protective equipment includes new firefighters' pants, coats, helmets and boots. All of these items will allow us to improve the safety of our firefighters. The accountability system will allow us to maintain

an exact count of personnel on an emergency scene by keeping track of who is there, where they are, what they are doing, as well as what emergency equipment is involved. This system will be especially useful on large-scale or multi-agency incidents. The accountability system will not only improve the safety of members of Wilmington Fire Department, but surrounding emergency services as well. A thermal imaging camera will be purchased to aid in

fire suppression, rescue and hazardous materials incidents. This new equipment will also benefit surrounding agencies as well as Wilmington Fire and Police Departments.

This year's award assisted Wilmington Fire Department with a total of \$54,536 for firefighter operations and safety. In 2002, the Wilmington Fire Department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant of \$55,515 to aid in the purchase of new communications equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

2003 Award: Fire Act Grant

1. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
2. Thermal imaging camera
3. Firefighter accountability system

2003 Award: Homeland Security

1. Multi-band mobile radio
2. Res-Q-Jack system
3. Thermal imaging camera

2002 Award: Fire Act Grant

1. Six portable radios, 35 pagers
2. One base station radio
3. One 100-watt mobile radio
4. Seventeen voice emitters for SCBA masks
5. Eight self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)

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NEXT ISSUE

JANUARY, 2004

THANKS! to all who contributed to this issue of *The Trumpet*. To those of you still thinking about sending something—all we need are some notes and your name and phone number. Just supply us with the basic information—we'll be happy to write and/or edit your articles. Of course, we delightfully accept full articles if you're so inclined. Don't forget the pictures or other artwork. They really brighten up the stories.

NOTE! Please, clearly print people's/manufacturers' names and other unique details so we don't misread your handwriting. Thanks.

Here are some ideas for items/articles/photos to submit for publication:

- Historical stories/photos
- Successful and unusual rescues
- Spectacular or difficult fires/accidents
- Training
- Outstanding personnel
- Fund-raising events
- New equipment and/or facilities
- Reports from conventions, etc.
- Police articles, promotions, pictures, etc.
- Equipment/tools, etc. to sell or swap
- Anything of interest to the EMS/fire/police/rescue community.

We are also looking for people interested in writing regular feature columns. Please volunteer! Or just call and tell us what you'd like to see.

DEADLINE

FOR JANUARY ISSUE
December 15, 2003

**THANKS TO ALL THOSE
WHO HAVE SENT ARTICLES!**

Please SEND ARTICLES & PHOTOS* to:
Sue Newell / Delta Graphics
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or call 603-239-6104, or fax 603-239-6215,
or email to [new address deltagraphics@webryders.net](mailto:newaddress@deltagraphics@webryders.net)

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS—PLEASE READ:

Please paste emailed articles into the body of the mail to avoid software compatibility problems. Please send photos in .jpg format at highest camera resolution. Thanks!

*All photos will be treated with utmost care and returned in original condition. If you have photos of historical value, we will gladly arrange for hand-to-hand transfers.

MOVING UP & MOVING ON

Promotions, Appointments, Retirements, etc.

APPOINTMENTS

- Firefighter Rusty Sage, Brattleboro Fire Dept.
- Chief Robert Stomski, Jamaica Fire Dept.
- Chief Brian Lundberg, Weston Fire Dept.
- Chief Troy Johnson, Wilmington Fire Dept.
- Chief Jim Ameden, Phoenix Fire Co., Londonderry

PROMOTIONS

- Chief John A. Manning, Marlborough, NH, Fire Dept.
- Dep. Chief Steve Thomas, Marlborough, NH, Fire Dept.
- Capt. Mike Laffond, Marlborough, NH, Fire Dept.
- 1st Lt. Jim Bleau, Marlborough, NH, Fire Dept.

RETIREMENTS

- Chief Wayne Crowell, Marlborough, NH, Fire Dept.
- Deputy Chief Ed Wilson, Marlborough, NH, Fire Dept.
- Chief Carl Russell, Marlborough, NH, Fire Dept.
- Chief Bradley Payne, Keene Fire Dept.
- Deputy Chief Steven Goldsmith, Keene Fire Dept.
- Firefighter Michael Driscoll, Keene Fire Dept.
- Firefighter Wayne Spofford, Keene Fire Dept.
- Chief Jesse Pomeroy, Phoenix Fire Co., Londonderry

RESIGNATIONS

- Firefighter Lisa Barry, Brattleboro Fire Dept.
- Chief David Nunnikoven, Weston Fire Dept.
- Chief Stewart Barker, Jamaica Fire Dept.
- Chief William Naugle, Peterborough Fire Dept.
- Chief Lee Dunham, Swanzey Fire Dept.
- Chief Richard LaPoint, Winchester Fire Dept.



*On August 6th and 10th severe storms caused extensive damage and flooding in Cheshire County, New Hampshire.
See page 7 for more photos and details.*

NEW & USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT FREE

- Motorola low-band radios (Micor FM) and an assortment of speakers, microphones, wires and cables
- Older style Scott Air Pak equipment as follows:
 - 11 harnesses with regulators
 - 11 old-style masks
 - 3 good used plastic carrying cases
 - 1 good used plastic case with metal edging
 - 1 good used composition case with metal edging
 - 2 complete old-style Scott Paks App. No. TC 13F4G
 - 1 good spare old-style tank, 2216PSI

Contact: All this equipment can be seen any Sunday after radio check at the NewBrook Fire Department station, Newfane, VT, or call 802-365-7590.

SCBA—Scott 2.2 Frames with Mask & PASS \$150 ea.

Flow tested, records available. \$150 each or best offer.

Contact: Wilmington Fire Department 802-464-8022 (leave message), or e-mail wilmfire@together.net.

5" JAFRIB HOSE (NEW) \$200 ea.

40'-45' each, 11 yellow, 3 red, Storz couplings with bronze locks.

Contact: Winchester Fire Protection, LLP at 603-239-9998.

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- 2.2 Scott backpack Frames
- 10 Ligeguard 2 pass devices and spare parts
- 5 Super Pass sevices

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Proper dress and ID required at the door. Fire department members are encouraged to wear Class A uniform.



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A Face to Fit The Voice

by Lenny Goodnow

I was born in Keene and grew up in Swanzey. I have always been interested in electronics. I started by building little training kits. I also used to love dissecting almost anything electronic. Many old TVs and radios gave their life to aid in my knowledge.

I was in the second graduating class that completed the entire six year journey through what was then the new Monadnock Regional High School. In high school, I was active in audio-visual club and did lighting for many of the school and Lion's Club plays.

After high school, I then attended two years at Keene State College and earned an Associate of Science degree in industrial electronics. While in college I was a charter member of the campus radio station. A group of us got some money from the student council to start a campus-wide low power AM transmitter network. I later helped write the paperwork for the application for what is now the FM station WKNH. I was also its engineer and advisor for a time.

Also while in college, I was a member of a small group that started a retail stereo shop in Keene. That shop still exists but I am no longer associated with it.

After graduation from college, I helped install a new closed circuit audio/video tape library system at KSC whereby audio and video programs could be accessed from many locations on campus. I became its technician after its installation and worked at KSC for several years. Part of my job was to record and edit many audio and video programs that were used on the system.

I also grew interested in what was then the infancy of home computers. I took several computer courses at the college. I then built up one of the first home type computers. It had to be totally built from a kit, which was in the form of a box of parts, and built into a working computer. It wasn't very powerful by today's standards running only a simple basic language, but I could keep track of several mailing lists on it.

I also became interested in Amateur Radio. I studied with a group at Keene High School to get my first license. I became heavily involved with Amateur Radio and helped build up radio equipment in kits that gave me great training for other radio work. While trying to advance my Amateur Radio license I also earned an advanced commercial license which allowed me to work on commercial radio equipment.

Along about this time, Chief Callahan from Mutual Aid was interested in starting a radio shop through Mutual Aid to save its members some money on radio repair. A mutual friend recommended me for the job and I became the first MAR-1. That was really an

interesting experience. I mostly ran around with a tube caddy fixing tube type radios for the first few years. Talk about old equipment! Things got more solid state as the years progressed.

In the late 1980's, I thought the grass was greener elsewhere and went to work as a field service engineer with the company that was working on the communications emergency plan for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. My job was to oversee vender work and to help with some of the engineering work on the project. One project was to work on equipment for the 11 broadcast stations in the area for a new Emergency Broadcast System configuration. I also helped work on fixing some problems with some radio equipment that controlled the 140 siren units around the plant. The work was exciting and interesting but three days on the road each week and working 50 to 60 hours per week made for a quick burn out of the job.

I then left to start my own business working with public safety two-way radio for about 10 years. One of my first jobs was to completely rip out the old console in Mutual Aid's dispatch and install a new Motorola console. Being your own boss is rewarding. But along with the rewards go the headaches. Finally the low



profit margins due to Internet sales and skyrocketing health insurance cost did me in.

I started working part time again at Mutual Aid helping a badly overloaded Dale Paquin, the current MAR-1. I then was able to come back and work full time with Dale. Together, we have been able to clean up a number of nagging problems with the system. We have also been able to apply some good old fashion Yankee ingenuity to bring some badly needed improvements to the system.

Lately, I have been working in my spare time, on upgrading some old computer programs in dispatch that are written in obsolete software. I have also spent a lot of time working on helping Mutual Aid do planning to make major changes in its communication and dispatch location.

I have now have lived in Spofford for the last 18 years with my wife Carol along with our two cats. For leisure, we travel whenever we can. We have been able to see some wonderful country over the years.

FIRE Act Grants Aid Local Departments

By Bonnie Johnson

In 2001, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was established and funded by the federal government. Significant additional funding has been provided each year since then. The program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. Assistance is awarded for firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs, and fire prevention and safety programs.

A number of departments within our mutual aid system have already benefited from these grants to the tune of almost \$520,000 (as of September 4, 2003). Including the 10% funding that must come from local sources, this amounts to almost \$578,000 in new equipment! The following departments have received money to date:

· Alstead	\$ 76,502
· Bellows Falls	45,450
· Claremont	22,950
· Frankestown	14,775
· Gilsum	8,978
· Goshen	20,250
· Hinsdale	23,400
· Jamaica	24,705
· Marlborough	5,130
· Springfield	100,785
· Stratton Mountain	8,100
· West Dummerston	18,707
· Westminster	45,716
· Wilmington	104,500

These departments have used this money for a wide variety of purchases. Springfield was able to upgrade their communications system with new pagers, portables, mobiles, and a base station on high band. Wilmington also purchased new communications equipment and West Dummerston has upgraded their pagers. Alstead, Bellows Falls, Westminster, Hinsdale, Jamaica, West Dummerston, and Wilmington have bought new structural firefighting gear while Marlborough and West Dummerston got forestry protective clothing. New SCBAs are in place in Alstead and Westminster, while Wilmington upgraded their units with new straps, composite bottles, voice emitters, & integrated PASS systems. Alstead also updated their mobile cascade system & put a compressor in the station. Marlborough and Springfield purchased heavy-duty washing machines for turnout gear. Thermal imaging cameras were obtained by Claremont, Alstead, Gilsum, and Wilmington while Frankestown now has a multi-gas meter. Westminster provided Firefighter One training to its members. Other purchases include cold water suits, chemical suits with respirators, hose, nozzles, portable pumps, and accountability systems.

Obviously, this program has been very beneficial to our system with a lot of new equipment available to help everyone.

In the next issue, I will try to summarize what some of the Homeland Security grant money has done for us.



The Last Response



In Memoriam



Since the last issue, the following members have passed on. May they rest in peace.

HENRY BEAUDRY
Firefighter
Goshen Fire Department

WINSTON H. CRAY
Retired Chief
Chesterfield Fire Department
Past President
Southwestern New Hampshire
District Fire Mutual Aid

PAUL E. CROWELL, SR.
Retired Deputy Chief
Keene Fire Department

JOHN DOW
Firefighter
Temple Fire Department

ROBERT N. GUYETTE
Retired Chief
Keene Fire Department

CHARLES J. HANRAHAN
Honorary Firefighter
Swanzey Fire Department
Retired Director
Meadowood County Area Fire Department

HERMAN KINNEY
Retired Firefighter
Charlestown Fire Department

KEVIN KOSKI
Firefighter
Troy Fire Department

CHESTER PRIEST
Firefighter
Troy Fire Department

EVERETT WEST
Firefighter & Company President
Champion Fire Co. #5, Londonderry

Southwestern New Hampshire District Fire Mutual Aid System

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Listed below are the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Board of Directors as it is now constituted for 2002-2003. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are provided to afford member departments a "DIRECT LINK" with your System representatives.

Chief William Weston, President

Bellows Falls Fire Department
170 Rockingham Street • Bellows Falls, VT 05101
802-463-4343 (W)
bweston@sover.net

Chief John Manning, Treasurer

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PO Box 442 • Marlborough, NH 03455
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manning@webryders.net

Chief Richard Busick

Swanzey Police Department
PO Box 9 • Swanzey, NH 03446
603-352-2869 (W)
swanzeypd@prexar.com

Captain Robert Diluzio, Sr.

Keene Fire Department & DiLuzio Ambulance Service
49 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431
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bobd194@aol.com

Chief John A. Mulhall

West Dover Fire Department
PO Box 561 • West Dover, VT 05356
802-464-3333, x4390 (W) 802-348-7963 (H) •
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Representative Daniel J. Eaton

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Thomas Redin

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Chief Robert Johnson, Vice President

Hinsdale Fire Department
PO Box 13 • Hinsdale, NH 03451
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Retired Chief Stephen Black, Secretary

16 Summer Street • Peterborough, NH 03458
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sblack44@earthlink.net

Retired Chief Harry Boynton

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David Hannum

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Commissioner Roger Zerba

County of Cheshire
340 Pako Avenue • Keene, NH 03431
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~~~~~

**Chief Paul A. Szoc, Coordinator**

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