



THE PATRON FIRE FIGHTER



BEMUS POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT., INC.

ALBURTUS STREET, BEMUS POINT, NEW YORK 14712

Dennis Carlson
Fire Chief



Bruce Johnson
President

Since last year's Patron Fire Fighter, it has been another busy year for the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department. Our Calls continue to increase, as well as the demands placed upon us for training and improvement of equipment. Our water rescue capabilities have improved since your last newsletter, and we have a new heavy rescue vehicle that recently went into service.

I feel proud of the accomplishments of the Bemus Point Fire Department this past year, and am looking forward to the future. None of this would be possible without you, the Patron Firefighter, your moral, as well as financial support, is the key to our success. You'll never know how much we appreciate this. Please remember us this year for a donation within the next couple of weeks. Remember your money goes directly to vital equipment that is used for all of our safety and our community.

Thank You,

Fire Chief, Bemus Point Fire Dept.
Dennis Carlson

Membership List:

William Briggs
 Sharron Caloren
 Dennis Carlson - *Fire Chief*
 Herbert Crandall
 Marion Crandall
 William Crandall - *Past Chief*
 Douglas Crist
 Bryan Dahlberg - *Past Chief*
 Jim Farnham
 Ted Farnham
 Rick Farnham
 Ken Gausman
 David Graham
 Jeffrey Graham
 David Gustafson
 Richard Harding
 Kurt Holm
 Bruce Johnson - *President*
 Kathleen Johnson
 Kurt Johnson
 Elizabeth Crossley
 Scott Kelemen
 John Krieger

Bruce Lovejoy
 Robert Magnuson
 Barry Oste
 Terri Oste
 Brenda Phillips
 Jeffrey Present
 Brian Raines
 Hilary Rambacher
 Raymond Roberts - *Past Chief*
 Chris Rodgers
 Peter Samuelson
 Mark Schlemmer
 James Shephard - *Past Chief*
 Jim Shepardson, Sr. - *Past Chief*
 Jim Shepardson, Jr.
 Jon Stahley - *Past Chief*
 Robert Stahley - *Past Chief*
 Carl Steenburn
 Keith Swanson
 Ronald Thompson
 Trudy Thompson
 Janet Trussell
 Mike Winnie
 William Woodfield

CHIEF OFFICERS



Pictured here, are the Fire Chief's. These are the guys that call the shots. The Ultimate responsibility of any call or function of the Fire Department rests on their shoulders

From Left to Right:
Fire Chief - Dennis Carlson
3rd Asst. - Ted Farnham

2nd Asst. - Pete Samuelson
1st Asst. Bill Crandall

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

The Overall Administration, Finances and fund raising responsibilities rests with these individuals.



From Left to Right:
President Bruce Johnson,
Financial Sec. Trudy Thompson,

Rec. Secretary Sharron Caloren,
Treasurer Jeff Present,
Vice President Ken Gausman

LINE OFFICERS



These people are responsible for implementation on the scene of the general orders given by the fire chiefs. They manage teams of fire fighters/rescue Personnel during an incident.

From Left to Right:
 Jeff Present - *Captain,*
 Ken Gausman - *Lieutenant,*
 Carl Steenburn - *Lieutenant*

Dave Gustafson - *Captain*
 (Absent) Sharron Caloren - *Lieutenant*

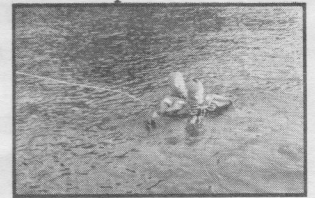
COLD WATER RESCUE

You will recall that last year you read an article concerning a recently donated Hovercraft vehicle, to the Bemus Point Fire Department by Mr. Dennis Rogers of St. Marys, Pa. The Hovercraft has been completely refitted and updated for our needs. It now gives us a new dimension to providing a service, especially in cold water situations. Over the years, Bemus Point Fire Department has had to perform many cold water rescue operations. Our Hovercraft will now be available to respond over unsafe ice, riding on its cushion of air.

The rescuer dons the suit upon arrival at the rescue scene and can float in the cold water without endangering the rescuer to an excess amount of cold temperatures. The firefighters have been training in cold water suits this winter and will continue to do so during the summer months. Cold water / Ice rescue operations takes teamwork and a high degree of training. Our objective of course, is to provide the very best in rescue equipment on an instantaneous basis. The Hovercraft will be garaged in the Fire Station, on a trailer ready for immediate response.



It is equipped with specialized cold water rescue equipment. Obviously cold water presents a unique hazard to the victim, as well as the rescuers. We recently purchased what is commonly known as "Gumby Suits." These suits are actually state of the art exposure protection in capsulated



Of course, our fire rescue boat is always in commission, and has proven to be a vital part of our water rescue operation over the years. Bemus Point Fire Department is the hub of the lake activity, and we feel it is important for us to continue to provide the best in service, as much as financially possible.

Boy Scout / Explorer Post Sponsorship

The Bemus Point Fire Department recently had the honor of becoming the sponsor for the local Boy Scout Troop and Explorer Post headed by Chuck Begert. Most everybody in the area knows what a great job Chuck does with these kids in his programs. We were very happy to accommodate such a good organization. Of course, our intentions may be somewhat selfish also in the fact that some year we may gain some good fire fighters from these Scouts and Explorers. The Explorer

Post recently completed a New York State Search and Rescue Course taught by the Local Environmental Conservation Officer, Tom Koss. Working out of Norm Skillman's Camp, the students were trained in advanced search and rescue techniques and are certified now to be on a state response team should they be needed by the emergency services for a search and rescue operation. We hope to develop more programs in the future with these fine young people.

WE NEED YOU ... DO YOU NEED US?

In the case of a fire, accident, natural disaster, or medical emergency, the answer to the above question is obvious, and everyone in our community can be assured that the members of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department will be there when needed. However, please consider from another perspective the question of whether you need us. In past issues of this publication, we have included articles containing a pitch for becoming a member of our organization. We have stressed the importance of maintaining a volunteer fire department, the value that it provides for our community, and the increasing difficulty that we and every other organization like ours face in recruiting new members. While a desire to serve for the common good of our community is certainly an admirable reason to consider joining us, why not examine whether you need us, and consider doing it for yourself?

Does it sound like a contradiction of terms to suggest that donating time and effort in voluntary service to one's community can

be done for oneself? Perhaps. But consider ... While the feelings of satisfaction that can be had from assisting your friends and neighbors in a time of need are obvious, you may never have thought about the fun and enjoyment that can be had from being a member of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department. Our organization is one that builds strong friendships among its members, and by its very nature results in a real feeling of belonging. This has probably been very evident to you if you have ever seen our department in action. The fact is, aside from knowing that you are making a valuable contribution, being a member of the Fire Department is enjoyable.

The men and women who are members of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department come from all walks of life. We have members who are life long residents of the area, and others who have lived here but a few months. Age is no barrier to membership, as our active roll includes members ranging from late teens to late sixties, and everything in between. If

asked their reasons for joining, the answers that they would provide would probably be varied. But if asked their reasons for remaining a member, most would list near the top the friendship and enjoyment that they receive from their involvement.

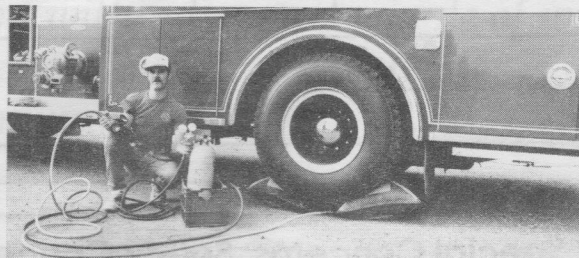
Many folks say that they would like to join the fire department, but are afraid to make the commitment because of time constraints, what they perceive to be the less pleasant aspects, or some personal phobias that they may have. Actually, there is a place and genuine need for everyone, regardless of his or her time limitations, and no member of our department is ever asked to do anything or perform any task that they may feel uncomfortable with. This includes involvement at trauma scenes, ladder or roof work, or interior attack. Again, there is a need for everyone, whether your interests may be medical, fire fighting, mechanical, administrative, or just a desire to be involved and help out wherever you can.

Not too many years ago, a person who had lived in the area for a

number of years, and who had reached a mature age, joined the fire department for the first time. He explained that he had wanted to join for a long time, but that no one had ever asked him. He now regrets that he waited so long to take the initiative to join. If this has happened to you, we apologize, but don't be shy! We want you, and we need you!

President Bush has spoken of a "Thousand Points of Light" to represent the spirit of volunteerism. We know that it still exists right here in Bemus Point, because we try to practice it everyday. Yes, we are idealistic when it comes to serving our community, but as we have tried to convey here, there is more to it than that. While there is certainly a lot of "give", the "take" that can be had in personal satisfaction, friendships gained, and simple enjoyment can more than make up for it. Yes, do it for your community, do it for your family, do it for your friends and neighbors, but for more than any of those, do it for yourself. We do want you, We do need you, so think about it ... don't you need us too?

RESCUE AIRBAGS



opening a car or parts of a structure in order to get at victims. However, nobody had what is called rescue airbags.

State of the art air chamber
These bags work on a unique

system that runs off the compressed air bottles that we use in our self-contained breathing apparatus, worn on our backs during hazardous environment situations or from a fire engine

The fire service throughout the world is constantly coming up with new and unique pieces of equipment to be used in fire / rescue work. Three years ago we bought a very unique piece of equipment that has come in very handy over the years. We work in cooperation with our surrounding fire departments, so as not to duplicate purchases of equipment. Our surrounding Fire Departments have what are called the jaws of life, which are the large rescue jaws that are capable of

air system. We simply hook up a hose and regulator system and inflate these bags. With a relatively low amount of compressed air, we can inflate these bags and lift something the weight of a fire truck very easily. Their application is very wide - we can move steering wheels, lift vehicles, and even patch leaking hazardous material tanks with them. Again, items such as these rescue bags were purchased with taxation/donation money from you, our Patron Firefighters.

Special Thank you List!

- Mayor Richard Babbage and the Bemus Point Village Officials
- Bemus Point Hardware
- Bemus Point School District
- Chautauqua Brick Company
- Sheriff John Bentley and his Deputies
- Nate Dreyer - The Sail Loft
- Doug Oste
- John Plumb
- Thom and Cheryl Shagla The See-Zurh House
- Village DPW Director Norm Skillman and Jesse Keldershouse
- County Legislator Bob Stanley
- Sandy Stanley and the Penny Saver Staff
- Arthur R. Gren
- Director of Civil Defense /Emergency Management Wanda Gustafson & her Staff
- Supervisor Arden Johnson and the Town of Ellery Officials
- Mike Kelley & his staff, Long Point State Park
- County Fire Co-ordinator Neil McNeight and his deputies

CHIEF'S CENTURY CLUB 1990 - 1991

INDIVIDUALS

- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson
- Mr. & Mrs. Ross Briggs
- Edward Eichmann
- The Late Mr. & Mrs. Richard Evans
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hatch
- Mr. & Mrs. Eber Hyde
- Arden E. Johnson
- Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Langbartel
- Raymond McKenna
- Walter L. Miller
- Dr. & Mrs. John O'Connor
- Roger Olson
- Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Paddock
- Mr. & Mrs. Jess Present
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharpe
- Mr. & Mrs. Arlon Shick
- Mr. & Mrs. Alan Short
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson and Andy

BUSINESSES

- Bemus Point Inn
- Casino
- CDH Enterprises
- Chautauqua Brick Co.
- Chautauqua Lake Apartments
- Hotel Lenhart
- Italian Fisherman
- Master Carvers of Jamestown
- Shore Acres Boat Yard
- Vikings Ingjald Lodge #100
- Wendley's One Stop
- Ye Hare 'N Hounds Inn

FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS



Richard O. Evans

Whenever, you see the black banner hung above our door - It is our way of honoring a fallen fire fighter. We will leave it up for one month, after the death of one of our colleagues.

GAMES OF CHANCE NIGHTS

Over the years we have offered the Games of Chance Nights during our summer months. These games are highly regulated by New York State, and all proceeds must go directly toward the purchase of related rescue / Fire service equipment.

Over the years, we have greatly enhanced our capabilities through the money raised by those who lost. But when you think about it, what a great way to lose your money. We tell people it's kind of like having a piece of the rock, only they can have a piece of the engine, a fender, a tire, a length of hose.

The bottom line is, that people have fun while the donations go to a good cause.

**If You Wish A Receipt For Tax Purposes,
Please Enclose Coupon & We Will Validate It For You.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ DONATION \$ _____

COMMENTS: _____

**NOTE: If You Have Any Special Concerns, Safety Concerns or Questions,
Please Indicate Them On This Form
& We Will Call You Concerning Your Comments.**