

1992

THE PATRON FIRE FIGHTER



BEMUS POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT., INC.

ALBURTUS STREET, BEMUS POINT, NEW YORK 14712

Dennis Carlson
Fire Chief



Bruce Johnson
President

Dear Patron,

The past year has been a very active one for the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department. Our pattern of the past several years of finding ourselves responding to an ever increasing number of alarms has continued. We have also undertaken several important and ambitious projects, many of which you will read about in this issue of the Patron Fire Fighter.

As always, our primary challenges are financial and recruitment of members. As you read this issue and learn more about some of the things that we do, please consider if you might not like to be a part of it. After all, as one of our former chiefs put it, "If your neighbor's house caught fire, wouldn't you want to do more than stand and watch?"

The entire membership of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department appreciates the generous support that the community has shown us in the past. As our numbers have decreased, we have tried to compensate by supplying our members with the best and safest equipment that we can afford. Residents can be assured that each and every dollar that they donate to this cause is used to make our community a better and safer place to live.

Please accept an invitation to visit the fire hall at any time. We will be pleased to show you the equipment and improvements to our building that you have helped to make possible, and to show you more about what we do.

Thank you again for your past support. If you have any questions, or would like any more information about the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire department, please feel free to contact me or any member at any time.

Dennis G. Carlson
Fire Chief

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.



Pictured From Left to Right:

Chief - Denny Carlson
3rd Asst. - Ted Farnham
2nd Asst. - Pete Samuelson
1st Ast. - Bill Crandall

LINE OFFICERS

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



Pictured From Left to Right:

Kurt Johnson - Lt.
Dave Gustafson - Capt.
Carl Steenburn - Lt.
Ken Gausman - Lt.
Jeff Present - Capt.
(Absent) Sharon Caloren - Lt.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

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

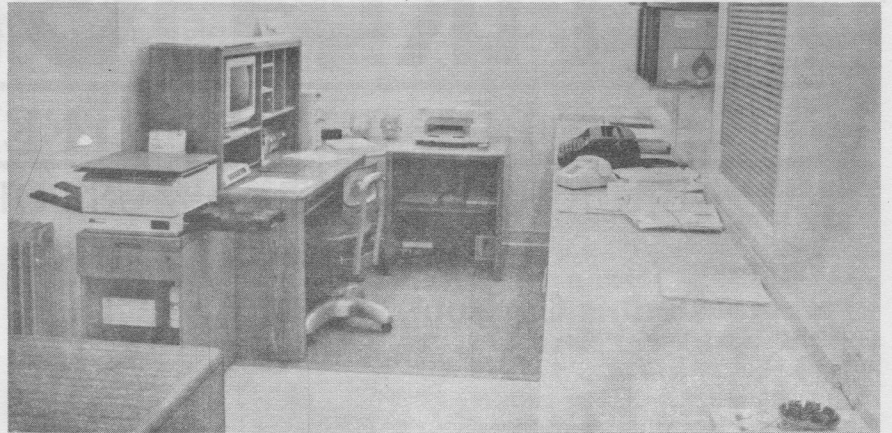


Pictured From Left to Right:

Bruce Johnson - Pres.
Sandy Morrison - Rec. Sec
Trudy Thompson - Financial Sec.
Jeff Present - Treas.
Ken Gausman - Vice Pres.

NEW FIRE STATION ADDITION

We recently completed a 16'x33' addition onto the rear of the existing fire station. This much needed expansion of room consists of two storage rooms and an administrative office. There is a lot of record keeping involved in running a fire department any more. Bemus Point now has a computer with a fire department management software system for managing our finance, personnel, training and other administrative functions. This area can also be used as a conference room for meetings



Craig Lawergren Contracting
Dan Raynor
Norm Skillman
Mike Steffen contracting
Jim Turney Sanitary Service

Donations to the fire department come in many varied forms. It is very heartening for the firefighters of the Bemus Point Fire Department to know that people like the above listed are conscience of our work and will lend us a helping hand when we need it.

We want you the patron firefighter to understand that the

In June, 1991 we retired the 1970 panel van used as our miscellaneous vehicle. 2 1/2 Years of planning and design resulted in the delivery of our new heavy Rescue Vehicle. Built by Pierce Fire Apparatus, the custom built body is mounted on an International Chassis and powered by a Cummins L-10 diesel engine.

Our objective was to design a multi-purpose vehicle which would meet our needs over the next 20+ years. In addition to hauling a wide range of heavy rescue equipment, "R-442" serves



and allows the various officers to file all the necessary information that they use.

The majority of the work was done by the Bemus Point firefighters themselves. We would like to extend a special word of thanks to the following people for their donations, time and expertise.

Bemus Point Hardware
Bill Briggs - Chautauqua Brick
John Hanson Contracting
Jessie Kelderhouse

money used for the addition came from the annual fund drive, the casino night money, and some taxation money. Your money goes directly into benefitting you with emergency services in projects and equipment such as this. As Americans, we spend a lot of money on donations and taxations that does not directly benefit us or our community. It is important for you to understand that the taxation and donation money given to Bemus Point Fire Department is used directly for you and your families.

as a command post, communication center, manpower transport vehicle, Haz Mat vehicle, and portable lighting center.

R-442 is equipped with a 20 kilowatt generator which powers numerous stationary / portable lights, 8 air masks with 12 spare air cylinders, an 8000 lb. winch, trailer hitch for moving our rescue boat and hovercraft, extensive extrication equipment, a communications center, roof observation platform, as well as a tremendous amount of smaller equipment.

Through our various fund raisers the Fire Department has contributed \$20,000 towards the overall purchase price of \$159,391.00. We have also purchased a wide variety of miscellaneous equipment needed to put the vehicle into service. It's an impressive vehicle. Stop in for a look - we'll be proud to show you around.

Increased Calls + Regulations x Costs = NEED Personnel Shortage

The appeal of living in a rural area such as Bemus Point is great for many reasons, and the reasons why we like it here are many and varied. One of the benefits, at least from our point of view, is the security that comes from knowing that we have a corps of volunteers who are ready to assist their friends and neighbors at any time in the event of an emergency. We could extoll at great length the virtues of a volunteer fire department and the dedication of its membership. However, based on the past success of our fund raising efforts, and the support that the community has always given us, we already know that our efforts are appreciated.

As you have read in past issues of this publication, probably the two greatest issues to confront the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department, as well as most other volunteer organizations such as ours, are recruitment of members, and complying with the various governmental regulations. In order to make sure that our mission is always accomplished, we need more help! This is true not only because of our increased costs and regulations, but also because for the past several years, we have answered an ever increasing number of alarms. All of this takes its toll on both our members and on our equipment.

Perhaps at this time we should contemplate what our situation might be here in Bemus Point if our volunteer fire department ceased to exist because of a lack of personnel. As most people know, although we stand ready to respond to any emer-

gency, whether it is fire, weather related, or accident, the majority of our calls involve our ambulance being called to the scene of a personel injury or illness. Bemus Point has been fortunate in having the availability of Advanced Life Support capability, meaning that we have both the equipment and trained people to enable us to provide a much higher level of care in critical situations, as opposed to what is available under Basic Life Support, which is all that many ambulance services are able to provide. If the time were to come that because of lack of personnel or any other factor we are no longer able to provide this service, in all probability area residents would have to await the arrival of an ambulance from Jamestown. In the case of a life or death situation, the time factor can be very critical. Also, when a paid service is involved, the patient can expect to be billed for the service, with current charges for service to our area ranging from a minimum of \$100.00, up to \$500.00, depending on the type of treatment that is provided. (More on this later.)

We mentioned governmental regulations ... Many folks can remember the time (prior to 1971), when ambulance services were not regulated, were poorly equipped, and did little more than pick up a victim and rush him to the hospital for treatment. In fact, in many communities, the ambulance did double as a hearse! Studies showed that many victims had their conditions aggravated, or even lost their lives because of lack of early treatment while en route to the hospital

From this realization the Emergency Medical Technician program was started, whereby people have been trained to deal with medical emergencies on an immediate basis. While this advanced training has saved countless lives, it has also resulted in increased regulation, both of ambulances and of the people who staff them. Currently, to become qualified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B) for basic life support, an individual has to undergo 120 hours of class room instruction, plus 20 hours of clinical instruction. To qualify to perform advanced life support, (EMT-A) an Additional 120 hours of classes and 80 hours of clinical instruction is required. Certification is good for only 3 years, after which the EMT must undergo the training all over again. At this time, the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department has 5 members with the EMT-B rating and 2 with EMT-A. All of these people have taken the training on their own time, and without any compensation. Like all members of the department, they give of their time to respond to calls with their only pay being the satisfaction of being able to assist their neighbors in time of need. Unfortunately, there are times when members cannot respond to every call because of work requirements, family commitments, or being out of the area. When these situations arise, it has always been our practice to call on our neighboring fire departments for additional help, just as they have called on us when faced with a similar situation. However, the

manpower problem has become just as acute for other departments, and there are times when they are also unable to supply the needed personnel. On a few occasions, it has become necessary for us to rely on the services of the WCA hospital based ambulance service to fill the void. This service can range from the recently inaugurated "Fly Car", where an EMT meets and boards the fire department ambulance on the way to hospital and starts treatment, to an ambulance actually responding to the scene of an incident. As we have previously noted, when this takes place, the patient will receive a bill from WCA for the treatment rendered. While we regret the necessity for this action, we are sure that all would agree that this is in the best interest of all concerned in a life or death situation where seconds can really count. We feel fortunate that this service has become available to us in times of critical need.

Now we really don't mean to sound alarmist. We do expect that the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department will be around to respond to any emergency for a long time to come, and will be able to provide the high quality service that area residents have come to expect without charge. But we do need help! We are not suggesting that making the sacrifices necessary to become an EMT is for everyone, but we do know that there are some out there who are up to the challenge. Even if it is not for you, we will find a job for

(Con't next page)

Special Thank you List!

Continued from page 3...

- Mayor Robert Stahley and the Bemus Point Village Officials
- Bemus Point Hardware
- Bemus Point School District
- Chautauqua Brick Co.
- Sheriff John Bentley and his Deputies
- Nate Dreyer - The Sail Loft
- Mike Steffen Contracting
- Doug Oste
- Thom and Cheryl Shagla The See-Zurh House
- Village DPW Director Norm Skillman and Jesse Keldershouse
- County Legislator Dick Babbage
- Sandy Stanley and the Penny Saver Staff
- Craig Lawergren
- Jim Turney
- Dan Raynor
- Arthur R. Gren
- Director of Civil Defense /Emergency Mgmt. 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 1991 - 1992

INDIVIDUALS

- William Thompson
- Mr. & Mrs. Jess Present
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson
- Elizabeth Proctor
- Arden Johnson
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson & Andy
- Dr. & Mrs. John O'Connor
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharp
- Dr. & Mrs. John Storaasli
- Mr. & Mrs. Falconer Jones
- Mr. & Mrs. C.P. Edel
- Mr. & Mrs. Allen Short
- Paul & Robert Samuelson
- Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Paddock
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hatch
- Mr. & Mrs. Ross Briggs
- W. Hans Bairwold M.D.
- Mr. & Mrs. Arlon Schick
- Walter L. Miller

BUSINESSES

- See Zurh House
- Casino
- Italian Fisherman
- Nesneb Inc.
- Galerie D'Accord
- Shore Acres Boat Yard
- Wendley's One Stop
- Chautauqua Brick Co., Inc.
- Surf Club

FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS



Harold Woodhead

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.

Increased Calls Personnel Shortage + Regulations X Cost NEED!

you to do! Becoming a member of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department is a great way to serve your community now, while at the same time helping to ensure that this service will remain available when it is needed. We hear many reasons why people feel that they can't become a member - the most common being that they just don't have the time to spare. Well, none of us do, but we realize that Bemus Point would not be as pleasant nor as safe a place to live if we didn't somehow find the time. But we can't do it alone! Please consider joining us. It doesn't matter how old you are, what sex you are, how much education you have, or what your job is. We will find a place for you.

As we said before, our greatest need is for more members, but if you can't join us for whatever reason, please remember that operating a service such as this takes money. Lots of it, for equipment, supplies, maintenance, fuel, insurance, utilities and training. We have taken the position that while we are short of people, this will not prevent us from providing those we do have with the best possible tools and safety equipment that we can afford. We know that the vast majority of our community residents support this philosophy, and we are grateful for the continued generous support that we receive each year during this, our major fund raising effort. So if you can't join ... please support us, because to do so is to help ensure that we will be here when needed by your neighbor, a friend, a member of your family, or by you.

Membership List:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| William Briggs | Doug Kapel |
| Sharron Caloren | Scott Kelemen |
| Dennis Carlson - <i>Fire Chief</i> | John Krieger |
| Breda Crandall | Robert Magnuson |
| Herbert Crandall | Sandy Morrison |
| Marion Crandall | Barry Oste |
| William Crandall - <i>Past Chief</i> | Terri Oste |
| Douglas Crist | Jeffrey Present |
| Liz Crossley | Brian Raines |
| Bryan Dahlberg - <i>Past Chief</i> | Hilary Rambacher |
| Phil Erickson | Raymond Roberts - <i>Past Chief</i> |
| Jim Farnham | Peter Samuelson |
| Ted Farnham | Mark Schlemmer |
| Rick Farnham | James Shephard - <i>Past Chief</i> |
| Ed Farris | Jim Shepardson, Sr. - <i>Past Chief</i> |
| John Frank | Jim Shepardson, Jr. |
| Ken Gausman | Jon Stahley - <i>Past Chief</i> |
| David Graham | Robert Stahley - <i>Past Chief</i> |
| David Gustafson | Carl Steenburn |
| Richard Harding | Keith Swanson |
| Jeff House | Ronald Thompson |
| Kurt Holm | Trudy Thompson |
| Bruce Johnson - <i>President</i> | Mike Winnie |
| Kathleen Johnson | William Woodfield |
| Kurt Johnson | |

Bemus Point
Volunteer Fire
Department
**GAMES OF
CHANCE
NIGHTS
FRIDAYS
8:00 P.M.**
May 22nd,
June 5th & 19th,
July 3rd, 17th
& 31st,
Aug. 14th, 21st
& 28th,
Sept. 11th