

1993

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 Firefighter,

This past year has been very successful and rewarding. The diligence and teamwork of our people is something I am very proud of and so should you be. Your financial support is an essential part of our team. Without it we simply can't do as good of a job for you. Last year you again gave generously and we deeply appreciate it.

Your money is spent every year on items that are critical to our operation. Bemus Point Fire Department has always been innovative and on the cutting edge of technology. You'll read later in this publication about our medical telemetry system in our advanced life support rescue unit and our recently purchased air boat. Plus we upgraded and expanded our radio system.

So what's in the future you may ask? We have begun plans to replace our advanced life support rescue vehicle in the next few years. Over seventy percent of our alarms are medical related. We will be upgrading some of our medical equipment also.

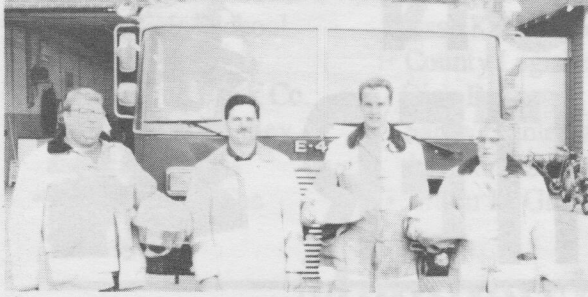
As always any of you have a standing invitation to stop in at the Fire Station and let us show you around. If there should be anybody reading this that is interested in possibly joining, all you have to do is contact me and I will be more than happy to explain our mission and show you our operation.

Thank you again for your patronage.

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 2nd Asst. - Peter Samuelson
3rd Asst. - Ted Farnham 1st Asst. - 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:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| FRONT ROW: | SECOND ROW: |
| Dave Gustafson | Dan Burns |
| Ricky Farnham | Dave Graham |
| Ed Farris | Ken Gausman |
| Mike Winnie | Scott Kelemen |
| | Brian Raines |

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

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

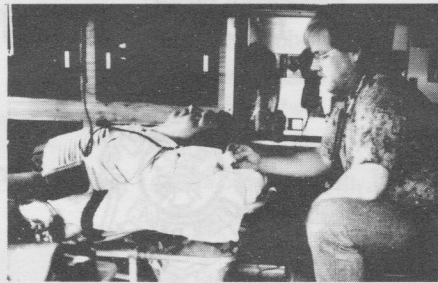


PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

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

MODERN COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM SAVES LIVES

From the moment a call is first placed to the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department, a modern communication system goes to work, ensuring that appropriate assistance is dispatched in a prompt and efficient manner. Many folks are surprised to learn that all calls to the Bemus Point emergency number are automatically transferred to Mayville, where a highly trained professional answers the call. Then a decision is made as to what course of action to take to best respond to the emergency situation.



The next step is the activation of our paging system, whereby fire department members are alerted to the nature and location of the call. This has probably been one of the greatest advancements in the volunteer system. It allows for the possibility of a volunteer going directly to the scene of an emergency, rather than having to report to the fire hall to determine the location. Imagine how critical moments could be lost in a scenario where a heart attack occurs just up the street from the home of a volunteer trained in CPR, who then must go to the fire hall to learn the location, as all he has heard is the fire whistle blowing. Thankfully, a situation such as that is now a thing of the past.

Another great communication advancement has been the ability of the Emergency Medical Technicians staffing our ambulance to communicate directly with the hospital emergency room. Not only does voice communication allow for instruction by emergency room physicians as to proper treatment in critical cases, but we also have the ability to transmit vital data about the patient. A victim who has shown indications of heart irregularities can have our cardiac monitor connected, which will both show vital information on a screen and provide a permanent printed record of the patient's cardiac activity. Much like a modern Fax machine, this equipment also is able to transmit through radio signals the same information directly to the doctor in the emergency room. This enables him to make decisions regarding the treatment or medication to be administered while the patient is being transported to the hospital. In many instances, the early intervention that the system has allowed us to provide has truly been life saving.

All of the members of the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department feel fortunate that we have been able to acquire a communication system such as this, and are pleased that we can in turn provide this service to our community. It has been your past support of our fund raising efforts that have made this equipment possible. We appreciate your past support, and pledge that every dollar raised will be returned to our community in this manner.

AIRBOAT FOR ICE RESCUE

In April of this year the Department purchased an airboat for ice rescue purposes. This airboat, specially designed for the Northern States, is a version of a Florida Swamp Boat in looks. However, this is where the similarity stops. The craft is 18' long and has an 8' beam. It is constructed of heavy gauge aluminum welded and reinforced throughout. Attached to the

hull's bottom is a layer of 3/8" polymer bolted through the hull. This polymer gives the hull tremendous strength that allows it to travel easily over water, on to the ice and back onto the water, thus allowing us to save a victim that has fallen through the ice. It is powered by a Chevrolet automobile engine with an airplane propeller.

(Continued to page 4.)

TRIVIA QUESTION

Do you know how many chief officers have well served their office since 1920 when the first Chief was elected?

See page 4 For Answer

PROFILES OF VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

Starting with this year's issue we will be featuring "Profiles of a Volunteer" which will give you some insight into our members. It is our hope that this may motivate some of you reading about our people to join our team. Our people are not different than you. We surely do not enjoy some of the things we encounter. We have the same feelings and fears as anybody else. Did you know that half of all firefighters don't like heights? We all at one time or another have cried or had a few sleepless nights from especially tough calls, but we stay focused on our mission. Your feeling of accomplishment and pride in our work far outweighs the bad times every day. **If you are thinking about being part of the last true vestige of the American Spirit and serving your country through the Volunteer Fire Service, please just contact any of us.**

Name: Scott M. Kelemen
 Age: 25
 Education: B.S. Business Administration
 Family: Single
 Occupation: Mortgage Consultant, Spectrum Home Mortgage Corp.
 Hobbies: Golf, Softball, Volleyball, More Golf
 Rank: Lieutenant Engine 441, Village Fire Warden
 Training: NYS Essentials of Fire fighting
 Incident Command System
 OSHA Fire Fighter Safety



Why do you serve? "I want to be a asset to my community. Without volunteers, who would the citizens turn to in a small community in time of need."

What do you like about the Fire Service? "I have a good feeling of accomplishment when helping out someone in need. I also enjoy the camaraderie between myself and my fellow volunteers."

What do you find is the hardest thing for you? "Sometimes there is a lack of respect that is received from some people and yet they know that some day they will desperately need us. It's like a mocking of our serious commitment. Also, dealing with calls when it is friends or family members involved in difficult times."

Name: Jeffrey B. Present
 Age: 46
 Education: Allegheny College, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science
 Family: Wife - Sharon, 2 Daughters - Julie and Leanne, Son - Patrick
 Occupation: Licensed Funeral Director; Partner - Powers Funeral Home and Southern Tier Crematory
 Hobbies: Now in 10th year of a 5 year renovation plan of my house
 Rank: Current - Company Treasurer, Former: Captain of Rescue Squad and E-441
 Training: NYS Essentials of Fire Fighting
 Emergency Medical Technician with Defibrillation Qualification
 Incident command System

Why do you serve? I feel that everyone has the obligation to give something back to his or her community, and that this is the way that I can best do it. Although being a part of a fire de-



partment or emergency medical squad would not be for everyone, it is very satisfying for me. I take a lot of kidding from others who see a comical conflict between my "civilian" profession and my involvement as an emergency medical technician, but I do feel that my professional background and training have given me the ability to deal with emergency situations in a calm and reasoned way, and with what I hope is kindness and compassion. To be able to do this for my friends and neighbors in the community that I love is very rewarding.

What do you like about fire service? What I like best is the close friendships and camaraderie that exists in our fire department. For me, it is a great feeling to know that there is a group of people here upon whom I can always count for help of any kind. Our organization has many members from many different walks of life, and it is really great that we can all come together with the common goal of making Bemus Point a better and safer place to live.

What do you find is the hardest thing for you? As treasurer, trying to keep the chief to stay within our budget. As an EMT, I know that we are often dealing with people at some of the worst times of their lives. When we can help them, the feeling is great, but often the odds have been too heavily stacked against us, and the stress of these situations can be difficult to deal with. Also, it is hard for me to find ways to attract and keep new members. I feel that membership in a volunteer fire department is not only a great way to serve one's community, but also can be a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and education. Getting this message out can be difficult, so I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join us.

Name: Sandra A. Morrison
 Age: 38
 Education: College Credits
 Family: 1 Daughter, Bethanie - age 12
 Occupation: Bookkeeper, Secretary, Town of Ellery
 Hobbies: Reading
 Rank: Recording Secretary
 Training: NYS Essentials
 Certified Medical First Responder



Why do you serve? "I like doing something worthwhile for my community that also makes me feel good about myself. I also am proud to carry on the family tradition in the volunteer fire service like my father."

What do you like about the fire service? "I like the camaraderie with the other volunteers and the good feeling you have after a successful call. It also certainly keeps my life from becoming boring."

What do you find is the hardest thing for you? "Calls that don't turn out so well can be difficult to deal with sometimes. Being a shrimp, I sometimes have to pass on the more physical duties. It is also discouraging when the volunteers are sometimes treated with a lack of respect by the community they have chosen to serve."

Special Thank you List!

- 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
- Doug Oste
- Thom and Cheryl Shagla The See-Zurh House
- Village DPW Director Jesse Keldershouse
- County Legislator Dick Babbage
- Sandy Stanley and the Penny Saver Staff
- 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

1992 - 1993

INDIVIDUALS

- Don & Marilyn Haglund
- Anna Weborg & Eleanor Todd
- Roger Olson
- Bob & Linda Sharpe
- Mr. & Mrs. Falconer Jones
- Elizabeth Proctor
- Arden Johnson
- Dr. Edward & Claire Davis
- Donald & MajBritt Traynor
- Beverly Johnson
- Jess & Elaine Present
- Roy Benson
- Karen Walsh
- Robert L. Anderson
- Wallie Haines
- Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Paddock
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson & Andy
- Mr. & Mrs. Allen Short
- Dr. & Mrs. John O'Connor
- William Thompson
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Aube
- James & Judy Burns
- Mr. & Mrs. James Fiorenzo
- Judi Edgerton
- Paul & Robert Samuelson
- Michael Schallberg
- Peter & Joyce Hatch
- B.P. United Methodist Church
- Ralph & Anna Langebartel
- Donald H. Rice
- Ross & Dorothy Briggs
- Dr. & Mrs. Hans Baerwald
- Mr. & Mrs. Walter Miller

Membership List:

- William Briggs
- Daniel Burns
- Sharron Caloren
- Dennis Carlson - *Fire Chief*
- Brenda Crandall
- Herbert Crandall
- William Crandall - *Past Chief*
- Douglas Crist
- Liz Crossley
- Bryan Dahlberg - *Past Chief*
- Phil Erickson
- Ricky Farnham
- Ted Farnham
- Ed Farris
- John Frank
- Ken Gausman - *Vice Pres.*

- David Graham
- David Gustafson
- Janice Hallberg
- Kurt Holm
- Jeffrey House
- Bruce Johnson - *Pres.*
- Kathleen Johnson
- Kurt Johnson
- Scott Keleman
- Torrey Lambert
- Robert Magnuson
- Sandy Morrison - *Rec'd. Sec.*
- Barry Oste
- Douglas Oste
- Terri Oste
- Jeffrey Present - *Treas.*
- Brian Raines

- Hilary Rambacher
- Raymond Roberts - *Past Chief*
- Peter Samuelson
- Todd Samuelson
- Mark Schlemmer
- James Shephardson, Jr
- James Shephardson - *Past Chief*
- Mark Smith
- Jon Stahley - *Past Chief*
- Robert Stahley - *Past Chief*
- Carl Steenburn
- Keith Swanson
- Gertrude Thompson - *Fin. Sec.*
- Ronald Thompson
- Mike Winnie
- William Woodfield

BUSINESSES

- Chaut. Brick Co., Inc.
- Skillman & Wight
- Gallerie D'Accord
- Ye Hare n Hounds Inn
- Paul Stage
- Italian Fisherman Surf Club
- Turney's Sanitary Service
- See Zurh House
- The Casino
- Vikings Lodge
- Shore Acres Boat Yard
- Cousins Pizzeria
- Michael Rodgers & Assoc.
- Bemus Point Inn

AIRBOAT FOR ICE RESCUE CONTINUED



Over the years the department has been called upon for this type of a call several times. With this piece of apparatus we can

answer a call in minutes and not only have a better chance of saving a victim or victims, but not risk a rescuer's life.

TRIVIA ANSWER:

25 Chiefs have served their community well since 1920.

FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS



RALPH MILLER

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.

Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department
GAMES OF CHANCE
 FRIDAY'S 8:00 P.M.
 May 28th
 June 4th & 18th
 July 2nd, 16th & 30th
 August 13th & 27th
 September 3rd