

2023



THE PATRON FIRE FIGHTER



BEMUS POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE CO., INC.

www.bemuspointfire.com

Greetings to Our Patron Firefighters,

This past year has been a very active year for the Bemus Pint Volunteer Fire Department. We are very proud of the diligence and teamwork of our people. This is something you can be proud of also. Again, this year, we ask you for your financial support as an essential part of our team. We could not do it without your help.

We are always looking for new members. **THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT!** You could be a firefighter, emergency medical technician, fire police or in the administrative section. Remember, it could be your family member or your neighbor that needs help. Stop down to the fire station any Monday and talk to a member to find out how you can help your community.

Again, we want to thank you for your support. We could not be a top-notch Fire Department without your financial help. When you hear our sirens, you can know that you are riding with us in spirit.

At Your Service,

Randy Apperson
Chief

Theodore Farnham
President



Administration

Ted Farnham - President
Rick Shick - Vice President
Mike Krott - Treasurer
Debra Carlson - Financial Secretary
Val Rea - Recording Secretary

Line Officers

Alex Miller - Captain
Jon Stahley - Fire Police Capt.
Ann Brodell - Lieutenant
Kyle Rakeiecki - Lieutenant
Brad Crist - Station Safety Officer
Ann Brodell - EMT, EMS Officer
Tom Rea - Scene Safety

Chief Officers

Randy Apperson - Chief
Randy Edwards - 1st Asst.
Jeremy Crist - 2nd Asst.
Nick Carlson - 3rd Asst.

Memberships

Active Memberships

Abraszek Hank	Gustafson Dave (GUS)
Allenson Christopher	Hayes Steve
Allenson Lisa	Holm Kurt
Anderson Mitchell	Johnston John
Apperson Randy	Kelemen Scott
Braund David	Krott Mike
Brodell Ann	Miller Alex
Carlson Debra	Molnar Jeffrey
Carlson Dennis	Parker Louise
Carlson Nick	Parker Tobin
Crist Bradly	Paul Sandy
Crist Jeremy	Phillips Steven
Crist Kerry	Rakiecki Kyle
Dahlberg Bryan	Rea Thomas
Edwards Randy	Rea Valerie
Farnham Riley	Scroxton Jon
Farnham Ted	Shephard Jim
Graham David	Shick Chuck
Goold Robert	Shick Rick
Gowan Jackson	Stahley Jon

Mutual Aid Members

Brodell James	Hallberg Jan
Brodell Andrew	Holder Chuck
Swanson Barry	

Response Calls for 2022

146 - Medical
19 - Fire
19 - MVA
37 - False Alarms



FOR A TOTAL OF....
221 CALLS

**Recruits always
welcome to join!
Contact one of our
firefighters or go to our
website:
bemuspointfire.com**



Firefighter of the Year

Riley Farnham was honored at the 2022 BPVFD annual banquet held last September at The Lawson Center. We did a Profile in Service and Courage article on her in our 2022 Patron Firefighter newspaper. Since that time, she has progressed in her career and is now a certified paramedic. Riley is currently an ICU patient care technician at UPMC Chautauqua in Jamestown.

Pictured is Riley with her proud parents Mary and Ted Farnham.



Red Flags of the Fallen

The Town of Ellery Cemetery located on Center St., in Bemus Point is absolutely beautiful. The Town of Ellery employees do an excellent job in maintaining it. It is a real treasure for the area. Every Memorial Day, American flags are placed on the Veteran graves and the red flags are placed on the Firefighter graves. The best time to walk through the Cemetery is on a sunny day with a slight wind blowing. It is a quiet solemn walk that gives you peace and reflection, which is missing in our daily lives. All you can hear are the flags snapping in the wind. Currently there are 117 Fallen Firefighter red flags in the cemetery.

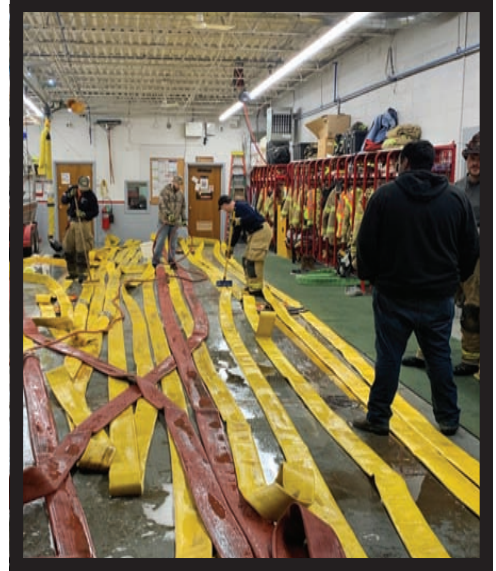
Thank you to David Braund, Steve Hayes and Dennis Carlson for being faithful to attend to that important detail every year and to our Fire Department history.



Fire Hose

There are two important components in the science of firefighting that have remained essential throughout the decades. They are the universal extinguishing agent water and the hose used to transport it. Of course, the water hasn't changed over the years with the exception that chemical additives can be added to aid in more efficient extinguishment and penetration into the fuel source such as wood. Foam can also be inducted into a stream pattern to provide a blanket that provides a barrier between the fuel and the oxygen in the air.

However, hose technology has changed for the better. Many years ago the hose was made out of a single layer of cotton or other fabric materials that leaked water, were not strong and deteriorated. Fast forward to 2023 and it's a different story. The inside of the hose is a rubber-type component along with a strong fabric covering. Then there is a third layer of fabric or rubber compound that adds to the pressure strength and protects the rest of the hose from cuts, abrasions and harmful chemicals. The coupling connections are now a light weight alloy instead of the old heavy brass fittings.



Bemus carries four different dimensions of hose sizes that are measured by the diameter on the two engines.

- 4 inch.....2,300 ft. (strictly for water supply)
- 2 1/2 inch.....1,500 ft. (supply and attack)
- 1 1/2 inch.....1,500 ft. (attack)
- 1 inch.....(clean up and decon)

All total we carry over 1.1 miles of hose! The hoses are in different colors to aid in task designation to eliminate confusion when a fire scene starts to look like a huge bowl of spaghetti. Actually the color agent helps to protect the hose also.

Pictured below, are firefighters washing and reloading hose after an incident. And yes, once a year we take it ALL off and test it!



The Last Alarm

Matt Issacson & Jim Steber

*We grieve, we cry,
we say good-bye
But forever shall you
live in our hearts....*

Fire Chief Randy Apperson



Our current fire chief, Randy Apperson, is well qualified for this demanding job. He joined the volunteer fire service in 1984 in Palm Coast, Florida. In 1985 their town was consumed by a massive fire storm that destroyed over 130 homes over the course of 3 days. It was one his scariest times as a firefighter. It was 3 days of non-stop dangerous firefighting efforts dealing with extreme heat and exhaustion.

Randy joined BPVFD in 1998 and has been Fire Chief since 2020. He is a big proponent of teamwork and delegation of duties to competent members. Per Randy, "It's a rewarding position especially when you are surrounded with dedicated, well-trained women and men in our agency. Everyone has a role to play in the Volunteer Fire Service". That's his mantra.

Randy has been married for 32 years to his wife, Julie. They have four children and two grandchildren. He is Director of Sales and Marketing for Finzer Roller Inc. for 23 years. Much of his time is spent traveling in the US and overseas. He oversees a sales group of 25 people as well as 4 manufacturing locations. It's obvious that his business management skills are used in his firefighting career. We are fortunate to have him at the helm.

The Business Side of Us

We thought it may be interesting to our readers to know how we are structured from a business management perspective. There are actually two organizations within our operation.

Village-The Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Department functions under the Village Board as our commissioners. The Fire Chiefs report to and are technically under the Village Board/Commissioners in the chain of command. The Village Board/Commissioners are responsible for the Village fire taxation, fire station, vehicles, insurance and budgeting, etc. The Village also provides a fire district outside the boundaries of the Village proper. They contract with the Town of Ellery Board for a revenue for emergency services to be provided by the Fire Department to that area outside the Village. These funds from the Township go towards the Fire Department operating budget. The Fire Chiefs attend meetings and planning sessions with the Village Board.

Fire Company-The second organizational part is the Bemus Point Volunteer Fire Company. This is separate from the Village. The goal is to support and supplement the needs of the Fire Department. We cannot survive on taxation money alone. It is the intent of the Fire Company to help keep taxes down by fundraising. The Fire Company has a Board of Directors and President elected by the membership. It functions under a not-for-profit business model with finance officers and committees. This is where the boot drives, chicken barbeques, fund drive annual newspaper and other creative fundraising enters the picture. Over the years a lot of equipment, supplies and even an ambulance have been purchased. We also apply for any grants available. The BOD works closely with the Fire Chiefs to assist with their needs. The Fire Company meets monthly.

This is a very efficient system that was instituted back in 1920 and later when the Village was being founded. As you can see it takes a lot of work and communication. It has served us well.

NYS Insurance Money-There is one unique revenue source that we receive from New York State that has been in effect for a long time. It's a bit complicated. The State assesses a fee to insurance companies that conduct business within the State, but are not corporately based in NYS. Every fire department in our state then receives yearly some revenue based on a formula with the size and real property within that fire district. The funds are solely intended for the esprit a core and reward with more social things. We use this money for our annual banquet, hats and jackets etc. It is not to be used for regular operations.

“Life in the Bemus Point FD in the 1920’s”

Last year we included original copies of the BPVFD/BP Village Board minutes from their beginning. Back by popular demand, we have included the next few pages for your entertainment. They surely wrote differently back then. Some of the reports are comical. They had no concept of political correctness.

BEMUS POINT

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August 24, 1920

A motorboat owned by Fred E. Palmer caught fire from back firing in the carburetor this evening at about 6 o'clock and in a short time was a total loss.

The boat had just been overhauled by Dav. Lawson, he had taken it out for a test run. It caught fire out in the bay, but was run to shore near Dav. Lawson's dock under its own power. An alarm of fire was turned in and the firemen responded but were unable to check the flames in time to save the boat. It burned to the waters edge..

(This was the first fire call the new Bemus Point Fire Company had ever had. The boat was beyond saving when they arrived, but at least they tried. Clark Lord who drove the new truck started laying hose from the stand pipe, at the foot of Liberty Street, to the burn-boat, instead of the other way around,, and of course the hose was backward.. But we probably couldn't have got water at the stand pipe anyway, for it never did work. It was good for a laugh at our expense.d

September 1, 1920

The first annual carnival and dance of the village fire department was held here Friday and was a success in every way about \$350. being realized. This will be used toward fitting up a club room and purchasing necessary equipment for the firemen..

The field and water sports were held under the direction of Professor H.S. Anderson. A "water battle" was held at 7:30 P.M., Bemus Point against Browntown. Each side was provided with a large hose. The result was a tie. Several black eyes were inflicted by the force of the streams which the contestants played on each other.

The affair wound up with a dance at the Casino..

Continued on next page

Thank You!



Thank you Deputy County Fire Coordinator Anthony "Skip" Cavallaro on your many years of dedication.

You were a good friend of BPVFD and were well respected.

"Life in the Bemus Point FD in the 1920's"

BEMUS POINT

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January 8, 1921

Fire was discovered at about 4:00 o'clock this morning at the home of Alvah Drayton on the Jamestown road just outside the village. Mr. Drayton discovered the fire, which started in a fireplace in the basement, and tried to telephone the Bemus Point Fire Department. Failing to get telephone assistance he sent to the village and within a short time the Bemus Point engine arrived and soon the fire was out.

This was the first time the new fire engine had been tried on a real fire and it worked well. The fire burned through the basement partitions to the first floor doing considerable damage, and but for the assistance of the Bemus Point engine and crew, the house would probably have burned to the ground.

January 15, 1921

A meeting of the Bemus Point Fire Department was held Tuesday evening. A petition was prepared to be presented to the Village Board requesting that a more effective fire alarm be installed at once. The present alarm which is not very effective is the bell on the Methodist Church.

January 25, 1921

The village firemen made a quick run tonight at about 8:30 o'clock, to the house on the Colburn Farm, about two miles below Bemus Point. After they arrived at the place it was found that only the chimney was burning out. No part of the house caught fire and no damage was done.

February 5, 1921

At a meeting of the Civic Club held Tuesday the proposition that the club take over the management of the public playground was favorably voted upon. The Civic Club will pay a rental of \$500. a year to the Columbian Inn Corp., and will again engage Professor H.S. Anderson of Yale University to take charge of the playground for the summer season.

February 17, 1921

The Village Board has voted to buy a Double Head 3 H. P. Single Phase 25 cycle 220 volt Sterling Fire Siren at a price of \$565.

"Life in the Bemus Point FD in the 1920's"

BEMUS POINT

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March 2, 1921

A false alarm of fire caused the village fire department considerable annoyance about 10:00 o'clock Friday night.

The miscreant called Lester J. Skillman by telephone and asked him to ring an alarm for Ward No. 1. The Methodist Church bell is used for fire alarm purposes and Mr. Skillman who lives across the street from the church, immediately rang the bell.

The large hotels are located in this ward and people came from all directions fearing a large fire. When convinced that the alarm was false, the telephone operator was asked which line the call came in on and stated that it was No. 1 line. She called each subscriber on that line and questioned them. All stated that they knew nothing of the affair. Two of the telephones on that line are located in Barrett's Grocery and Johnson's Garage (this garage operated by Delbert Johnson was located in the building now housing Lord's Hardware in 1957). Both of these places being closed. Upon investigation tracks were found in the snow about the garage building, which led to the belief that someone entered the place and used the telephone to call Mr. Skillman.

If the guilty party is discovered the joke may prove to be anything but enjoyable.

March 11, 1921

At the regular meeting of the Bemus Point Fire Dept., it was voted to buy a truck as an auxiliary to the regular fire truck. The present truck is not large enough to carry sufficient hose and the men necessary in case of a large fire and it was thought best to buy the second truck at once.

(This truck was a small Ford truck that had been used by Skillman's Grocery for several years as a delivery truck. We paid \$200. for it. A hose box was built on it for 500 foot of hose.)

March 15, 1921

The village election resulted as follows, President, Reuben A. Scofield; Trustee, James Culver.

Propositions for raising \$300., to advertise the village as a summer resort and \$50., for the public library were both voted down.

A.C. Riss has been appointed Street Commissioner at a salary of 50¢ per hour.

April 5, 1921

Clarence Hansen has been granted permission to move his house through the streets of the village.

(This house the former residence of Israel Haskin stood on the lot now occupied by the Fireman's Club House on Main Street. It was moved to its present location on Maple Avenue. ☺)

"Life in the Bemus Point FD in the 1920's"

BEMUS POINT

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July 15,, 1921

The new and very attractive place is the "Hare & Hound Inn" built during the past winter in handsome old English style and but recently opened to the public. A tea room is conducted in connection with the place and is a new and highly appreciated addition to the comfort of the guests..

July 28,, 1921

Business is booming here, hotels and cottages are filled with guests, the Columbian Inn reporting all rooms occupied and many reservations for the coming weeks. The Hotel Lenhart and the Browning are also very busy and the Hotel Johnstone, which is a rooming house only, reports a large patronage..

The bathing beach is perhaps the busiest place during the day and the tennis courts and golf course are scenes of activity. Dances are held every evening, two evenings at the Casino, two at the Columbian Inn and several evenings a week at the "Hare & Hound"..

August 5, 1921

Fire, which except for the promptness of the village patrolman, Glenn Norton, and the watchman at the Columbian Inn, Fred Fuller, might have resulted seriously, was discovered in the office of the Columbian Inn at 2:30 this morning..

The night patrolman making his regular rounds saw the blaze in the hotel office and finding the front door locked and no one about started for the fire alarm station and turned in an alarm calling out the village fire department. In the meantime Mr. Fuller, who was at the top of the hotel building on his tour of inspection, smelled smoke and started for the ground floor sounding the alarm system and arousing the guests, who came from all directions, some in their night clothes, by way of the fire escapes and some by the stairways. All were greatly excited, women becoming hysterical..

The fire was quickly located in a waste basket back of the hotel desk. The flames burned quiet high and scorched the woodwork around the desk but were quickly extinguished..

August 26,, 1921

The second annual carnival of the village Fire Department held Tuesday was a success in every way, the weather being ideal and each feature of the program proving to be the best of its kind. The firemen realized a substantial sum from the affair..

The field and water sports attracted large crowds. At 7:30 a fire alarm was given and the firemen made a quick run to the place where a large fire had been built, extinguishing the blaze in short order. This was followed by a water battle which was very amusing. The carnival wound up with an all night dance at the Casino..

Muskrats, Bullheads and Fire Water



The closest pressurized water fire hydrant system to the the BPVFD district is approximately six miles away. Much to the surprise of many people, every resident in our fire district has their own well. As you can imagine, this presents some formidable challenges when fighting fires.

Usually a fire engine crew in a pressurized water district only has to hook-up a hose to the fire hydrant and turn it on for water. Not so in our fire district. We must get very creative to find our water. The engine crew uses a hard suction hose with some kind of strainer on the end. Some have floating strainers also. This hard suction hose then is connected to the pump of the engine and water is drafted into the pump and out onto the fire. Our truck pumps have to be well maintained and have good seals so there are no air leaks in order to get the sucking effect.

So where do we get the water? On wheels is one way. One of our engines has 1,500 gals. and the other has 1,250 gals. Preplanned trucks from neighboring fire departments are dispatched at the same time which is called, “automatic mutual aid”. Upon arrival these tankers and engines can either hook directly into our engines or dump their load into our portable tanks. These portable tanks are like portable above ground swimming pools with folding framework. We can then place hard suction in them and draft that

water into the engine pump. Once the tanker dumps their water they quickly return to the designated fill source, fill up and return to the fire scene. This is called a, tanker shuttle”.

Other water sources are ponds, swimming pools, creeks and lakes. You may see fire hydrants in our district. These are actually called, “dry hydrants”. We have five in our district. Remember, we don’t have any pressurized water hydrants. A dry hydrant system is a very ingenious idea that started about fifteen years ago in the rural fire service. Heavy gauge plastic construction pipe runs from a hard suction fire hydrant at the street though a dug trench out into the lake or pond about one hundred feet. The end of the pipe in the water either angles slightly up off the bottom or goes into an underwater cistern type structure. The engine can then draft out of this pipe and send the water towards the fire through supply hoses.

The fire fighters often have to go into the water to maintain the system. Interestingly, whenever we are having trouble drafting water, an immediate check in the truck pump strainers is performed. Excess amounts of seaweed can be a problem. However, sometimes the culprits can be curious muskrats or bullhead fish. Pictured below is FF Chuck Holder holding an unfortunate muskrat, the furry culprit taken from inside the engine pump. FF Kerry Crist , Asst. Chief Randy Edwards and Asst. Chief Jeremy Crist did some maintenance on one of the dry hydrants in front of the condos on Lakeside Dr.



Three Generations of the Roberts Family Fire Service



Some of our members are second and third generation volunteers in BPVFD. Lisa Roberts and her son Chris are following in the footsteps of their father and grandfather Fire Chief Raymond Roberts. Ray was a good Chief. His nature was soft spoken, calm and very competent. He was well organized. He was a meat department manager for many years. He was credited for instituting some good organizational innovations in the BPVFD back then. You listened when Ray spoke because he always had worthwhile things to say.

The next generation to serve is his daughter, Lisa Roberts Allenson. Lisa originally joined in 1980 while in high school and played on our softball team. She attended Hilburt College with a paralegal degree. She then became very busy with her finance career and raising a family with her husband, Mike. She is the west regional manager of Community Bank and has been there 39 years. Lisa has now rejoined as an active member again. She has jumped right into helping with our Fire Company finance management along with fire police duties.



The third generation of the Roberts clan is grandson Christopher. He is a recent graduate of Hilburt College with a degree in criminal justice and is pursuing a career in law enforcement. There is nothing like youth in firefighting, as it is very physically demanding. Chris recently finished his first course in NYS Basics of Firefighting, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course and will be taking additional challenging training in the future.

Fire Chief Raymond Roberts would be well pleased with Lisa and Chris. BPVFD is pleased to have them also.

Chicken Bar-B-Que

This photo shows a protest organized by the chickens owned by our Captain Kyle Rakiiecki. They are protesting another great success of our Memorial Day weekend bar-b-que for 2023. We sold over 830 dinners! Thank you to all our patrons. Thank you and job well done by FF/Mayor Jeff Molnar and FF Mike Krott for organizing it. The money goes directly toward needed equipment. Please be on guard in the community for any radical chickens that may try to intimidate you because we are going to do it again next year and they ain't happy!





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