



# THE PATRON FIRE FIGHTER



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## BEMUS POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT., INC.

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ALBURTUS STREET, BEMUS POINT, NEW YORK 14712

**Dennis Carlson**  
*Fire Chief*



**Bruce Johnson**  
*President*

*The volunteer firefighter is truly the last remaining vestige of our American heritage. The spirit of helping our fellow citizens that Ben Franklin had in the beginning of our nation is still very much alive today in your volunteer fire station. Sure, the equipment has changed, but not the people. The volunteer fire service is truly an American experience that is a great source of pride for many people.*

*But what if nobody came? What if there was a fire or a medical emergency, and nothing happened in response to your call for help? It's a scary thought isn't it? Yet, in many parts of our nation, there are not enough volunteers to handle the situation. People are not volunteering in America like they used to. We don't know all the reasons, but it is a fact. Sociologists say it is a trend for numerous reasons I won't get into now. We have developed a few theories of our own.*

*If you are thinking about joining a good service organization to do your bit for America, please consider us.*

**Fire Chief, Bemus Point Fire Department**

**Dennis Carlson**

## Membership List:

William Briggs  
Robert Carlson  
Sharron Caloren  
Dennis Carlson - *Fire Chief*  
Herbert Crandall  
Marion Crandall  
Brian Carnes  
William Crandall - *Past Chief*  
Douglas Crist  
Bryan Dahlberg - *Past Chief*  
Jim Farnham  
Ted Farnham  
Rick Farnham  
Ken Gausman  
David Graham  
Jeffrey Graham  
David Gustafson  
Kurt Holm  
Bruce Johnson - *President*  
Kathleen Johnson  
Kurt Johnson  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Vernon Johnson

Bruce Lovejoy  
Robert Magnuson  
Barry Oste  
Brenda Phillips  
Jeffrey Present  
Brian Raines  
Hilary Rambacher  
Raymond Roberts - *Past Chief*  
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, as grissley a sight as it may be, are the Chief Officers of the Bemus Point Fire Department.*

**From Left to Right:**

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

*These People are responsible for the Administrative Financial aspects of the Fire Department Management.*



**From Left to Right:**

President Bruce Johnson, Rec. Secretary Sharron Caloren,  
Financial Sec. Trudy Thompson, Treasurer Jeff Present,  
Vice President Ken Gausman

## LINE OFFICERS



*These Individuals are responsible for implementation on the scene of the general orders given by the fire chief. They manage teams of fire fighters/rescue workers during the incident process, also responsible for apparatus & equipment.*

**From Left to Right:**

Jeff Present - *Captain*, Jim Farnham - *Lieutenant*  
Dave Gustafson - *Captain*, Sharron Caloren,  
Ken Gausman - *Lieutenant*

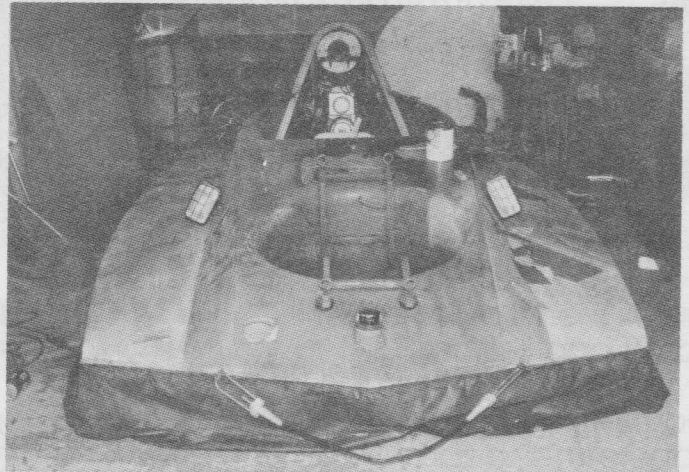
## DONATIONS COME IN ALL FORMS

A couple of months ago, a Mr. Dennis Rogers of St. Marys, Pa. contacted Bruce Johnson. He explained that he enjoys coming up here to the area, and especially he likes to fish. Mr. Rogers knew that our Fire Department is very involved in water rescue. He also knew that sometimes during the year, the ice on Chautauqua Lake is very dangerous. So, Mr. Rogers

donated a hovercraft (complete with trailer) to us.

We think there is a real need for such a unique piece of equipment. We're very excited about getting it ready for our use. President of the Fire Department, Bruce Johnson, is in charge of outfitting the unit for our needs. It should be ready for service this fall.

*Thank You Dennis!*



*This is a Before Picture! Next year we will be proud to show the after photo.*

## Questions and Answers About Joining Us

**Q: How Dangerous Is It?**

A: Not nearly as bad as it looks. Many times to the outsider, flames, noise, trauma, etc. look very intimidating and life threatening, when in fact the situation is being systematically neutralized with minimal exposure to our personnel.

One of these risk reduction factors is knowledge and training. Our people know how to judge a fire's behavior in a certain structure, and how to affect a safe extinguishment. There are certain do's and don'ts. We work in teams with specific tasks to perform. Everyone is constantly looking out for the other firefighter. Safety is the most important element in a coordinated fire attack.

Another reason for risk reduction is that you are provided with the very best in modern (indeed Space age) protective gear. Years ago we were expected to go into a hostile environment with little protection. A firefighter today, in our company, that is fighting a fire is wearing a specialized personal protective safety envelope that is valued in excess of \$2,000.

**We have never had a major injury in our department.**

**Q: How Can I be a firefighter, I'm scared to death of heights?**

A: So is half our membership. Many of us don't like ladder or roof work. The fact of the matter is that only 10-20% of the fire ground operation is off the ground floor.

*Cont'd. Next Page*

# THE 1990'S #1 PROBLEM - RECRUITMENT

The name Benjamin Franklin has been associated with numerous inventions and accomplishments. An industrious and civic minded person, Franklin has been credited with establishing the first volunteer fire company in his adopted home of Philadelphia. In 1736, the Union Fire Company was formed by him and 30 other civic-minded citizens joined in the common effort of combating fire and its destructive effects upon the growing city. It is worth noting that the fire service in its beginnings was to a great extent a volunteer effort. Somewhat similar to the state militias organized to provide for the common defense, communities organized fire companies to deal with the ravages of fire and to prevent unchecked conflagration. Volunteerism is in our roots as a nation. Today the vast majority of firefighters in this country still serve as volunteers.

## TRENDS AGAINST VOLUNTEERISM

The criteria for success of a volunteer fire department are the same ones that can also work against it. Demography is a key factor in the success or

failure of a fire department. As employment, economic conditions and social problems begin to erode the stability of a community, a reduction in the number of available firefighters almost surely follows. General changes in personal attitudes, as well as environmental forces, present a definite challenge to the volunteer fire service. Two factors seem relevant. First, there has been a growing need for persons to devote more time to their careers and work life to maintain or improve their present economic status. Two-wage earner families and multiple jobs are becoming a way of life for many Americans. Obviously this reduction in free time affects the pool of potential volunteer firefighters. Secondly, there has been a trend toward individualism and self-gratification. Although *Newsweek* magazine in its January 1988 cover story, "The 80's are over: Greed Goes out of Style," indicates that this trend may be reversing, the effect has been to work against the volunteer spirit even at a time when President Reagan was touting its value.

The economic pressures of modern society

are bearing down on the middle class. Experience indicates this is where the majority of our firefighting personnel come from. If society values the services provided by volunteers it must do those things that encourage rather than discourage voluntary participation in community service.

The financial resources needed to provide modern up-to-date fire and rescue services must be forthcoming from the municipalities served. Along with the increasing demand for service and the training necessary to provide it, the volunteer is now asked to spend more time in fund-raising activities. To allow them time to train and maintain proficiency, local government must take this burden from the firefighter. Fund-raising in the volunteer fire service has in the past been an integral part of the organizational culture. If the volunteer fire service is to continue to survive and flourish, municipalities must assign a high priority to this problem. The increased costs, and in some cases the reduced services, that would result from the demise of the volunteer system must be placed into perspective by the public.

## CONCLUSION

Volunteerism is indeed a part of the American Spirit. The willingness of people to serve for the common good is a part of our tradition. Those techniques which worked in the past must be continued. New ones must be developed to deal with the ever-changing way of life in our country.

Volunteers will continue to provide the service demanded and expected by a cost-conscious citizenry. The community must realize, however, that it needs to make contributions in areas such as leadership and financial resources to enable the volunteer fire service to grow in an increasingly complex society and the effect it has on volunteerism. In some communities, future (CFEs) Chief Fire Executive may have to be career professionals. One thing is certain, the lessons learned and applied by volunteer professionals in the past will be the key to their success or failure. Commitment to excellence in the volunteer fire service has paid tremendous dividends in the past. In the future a continued commitment to it by the community as a group can bring about similar results.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT JOINING US (Cont'd.)

*Q: I don't think I would like seeing some of the unpleasant situations on alarms?*

*A:* None of us like it. We are not any tougher than anyone else in the community. There are times throughout the years when we cry just like any person would. But the good feeling of helping people, no matter what the situation, keeps us going. Yes, we see a lot of unpleasant things, but the saving of life and property far outweighs the rest. There is great satisfaction in the work we do.

*Q: I Just don't think I have the time?*

*A:* When it gets right down to it, none of us do, but we make time because of the importance of our mission. We aren't going to try and fool anybody. It is a substantial time commitment. However, all we ask is that you make an effort to participate and just do your bit. If everybody pitches in, it makes less work for all.

*Q: What exactly would be my responsibilities?*

*A:* We ask the Following:

(A.) Completion of New York State Essentials of Firemanship Course within two years of joining.

(B.) Making 25% of all functions, whether it be training, calls or administrative type activities.

(C.) All of our people eventually go on to take extensive training in areas they may have a special interest, such as medical, firematic, specialized rescue, or administration.

*Q: What about insurance?*

*A:* All Volunteer firefighters

are covered by the Volunteer Firefighters benefits Law. It is basically N.Y.S. Worker's Compensation, only with a few more benefits.

*Q: How do I Join?*

*A:* Contact any member of the department and they in turn will set you up with a general meeting with the Chief, who will explain various information to you. You will then serve a probationary six months. If you satisfactorily complete probation, you are then an active member.

# 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
- 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
- Doug Oste
- Dennis Rogers, St. Marys, PA
- Thom and Cheryl Shagla The See-Zurh House
- Village DPW Director Norm Skillman and Jesse Kelderhouse
- County Legislator Bob Stanley
- Sandy Stanley and the Penny Saver Staff

## CHIEF JIM SHEPHARD RETIRES

A Big thank you is deserved by our outgoing Fire Chief Jim Shephard. Jim served as an assistant Chief and then three years as the chief. Thanks Jim, a job well done.

**REMEMBER TO  
BUCKLE - UP  
TAKE IT FROM US  
SEAT BELTS WORK!!!**

**386-6005**

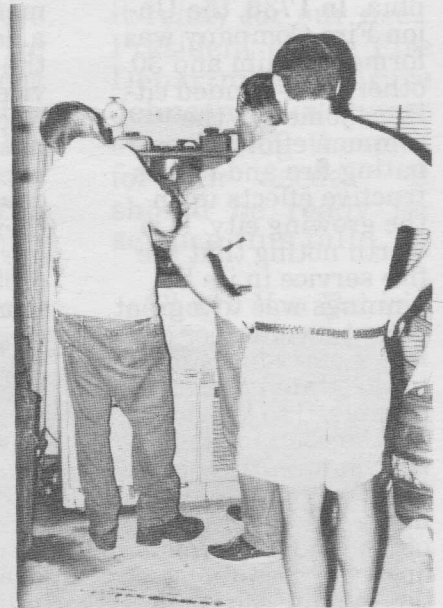
Is still our emergency telephone number. Don't dial 911. There is no way of telling where your call will go. You very likely would get an operator in Rochester or Syracuse that can't even pronounce Chautauqua County. All enhanced won't be in place for another two years, so please remember **386-6005** to call us. We are happy to report to you that things are progressing on this new county system.

### FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS



**RON HEAD  
JAY BOHALL**

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.



Please note the picture of Bill Crandall and Bruce Johnson working on a portable pump. Although Jim has been relegated to Peon Status again he hasn't lost his Fire Chief Stance.

**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.**