

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

June 2008

CHIEF'S CORNER

-Fire Chief, Taylor Robertson

Welcome to the June 2008 edition of the Siren.

Thanks for all your patience with the new station and our recent move. The planned completion date is July 21. **We have scheduled the dedication of the new building for August 2, 2008.** Please mark your calendars! We would love to have a large turnout of career and volunteer staff to host the event. I would like to provide refreshments, tours, and possibly fire truck rides for the kids.

We are in the process of ordering the dedication plaque. This plaque will be similar to the one recently placed at the dedication of Station 704. Thanks to all of you for your patience and hard work as we complete the station. As we finish moving and settle into a more regular routine, we will once again focus on ensuring that all work is completed at all four fire stations.

I am also very excited about our four new students who will be joining us shortly. My compliments to Chief Karjala for his comprehensive and quality work to bring these new members of the department on board.

With the help of our partners all over NW Deschutes and Jefferson County, Chief Enoch has begun the greater Sisters emergency operations planning process. My thanks to him as well for leading this very important process which will provide our community with a quality document for use in times of major emergencies.

Julie Spor is scheduled to return to work on June 16. I would like to say a big thank you to Cassidy Joy. Her smile and positive attitude will certainly be missed. Be sure to stop by to see her before she leaves. We wish Cassidy the best in whatever she takes on in the future.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

-President, Jeff Liming

On behalf of our Association I would like to pass along many thanks to John Gerke, John Pagano, Angie Ward, Rita Hodge and Jan Liming for their efforts in reviewing and awarding our Association's Jim Gentry memorial High School scholarships last month. The committee received thirty applications for each of the five, seven hundred fifty dollar awards. After a long review process the recipients were chosen and formally awarded the scholarships at the high school scholarship ceremony on May 28. I would also like to thank all of our Association members for your support with our fund raising efforts to provide these scholarships! In addition to these student awards our Association has also purchased CPR pocket masks for all, a new AED for Station 701 and gym equipment for the new fire station. The CPR masks will be handed out at our June Association meeting. I would like to thank Jeremy Ast and Ryan Karjala for helping with these purchases.

The Association has voted to purchase a new speaker system for the wide screen television at our new station and to also purchase a new BBQ for our trailer. If you have a BBQ event this summer that demands something larger than your home grill please reserve the BBQ trailer at 701 for your use.

A signup sheet for the upcoming Sisters Rodeo and parade is posted in Station 701. If you are able to crew our Rodeo ambulance please let us know, and please take a moment to review your parade day schedule as we need parade drivers. Contact me with any event questions you might have. My phone number is 410 - 7494.

We will be voting for new Association Board members in June. Please attend the meeting if at all possible and also let me know if you would like to add your name to our ballot.

Thanks very much for your continued support of the Sisters - Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association!

CHIEF'S CORNER CONTINUED

I am very proud of every one of you and the contributions you make to our community. In this busy environment with so much change and increasing work and response requirements, you have all stepped up without complaint.

As always, my office door is open and I look forward to seeing you. Thanks for your commitment to the fire district.

Chief Robertson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Angie Ward, June 1st

Kirk Metzger, June 1st

Derek Ralls, June 12th

Jeff Liming, June 22nd

Ben Bruegeman, June 30th

TRAINING

-Chief Karjala

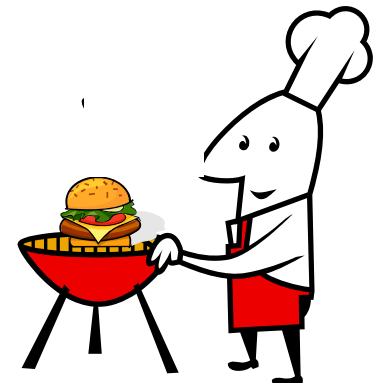
Training for the month of June will include commercial fires, mobile attack/progressive hoselays, ropes/knots/hoisting and ob-stetrics. With the weather getting warmer and dryer you will notice we are transitioning to outdoor training, this will continue until fall.

The student testing process that we completed last month went great! We have selected four individuals that I believe will fit into our organization very well. Nathan Arguien and Evan Jarvis will start working as temporary employees early this summer. Laura Thost and Cody Meredith will start approximately the first week in September. They come to us with a great deal of training including their EMT Basic, so the transition should be quick and easy. I am excited to have these four individuals as students; I believe they will represent our department with integrity and dedication. I want to thank all of the staff that assisted with the evaluation process.

I also want to recognize two individuals that have completed their EMT Basic course at COCC this last month. Gail Butler and Andrew Mustola both passed the written and practical portions of the class. Congratulations to both Gail and Andrew.

As a reminder we have a fifth Monday Party on June 30th.

As always my door is open and I look forward to seeing you!



EQUIPMENT NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

You have to love this winter and spring: 90 degrees one day and snow on the pass the next. Last night (5/22), it snowed on Black Butte and the Pass while we battled a brush fire in the middle of the night. It just goes to show you what a few miles and some elevation can do. I bring this up to remind you that driving conditions can change rapidly in just a few miles even this late in the year. Do not let complacency set in and stay alert.

This time of year is also the time of mass migration of all sorts of animals, especially deer. Elk also change their daily movements and will be crossing the roads more frequently. Keep a sharp eye out for animals crossing the roads. Hitting one will certainly not make your day. Interestingly, we had a black bear which was hit and killed near the Suttle Lake corner this last week. You never know what may be coming out of the woods.

I have replaced the tank fill valve on 720 again and will replace 730's also. This will stop the leaking of tank water when sitting in the station. Please watch your pump temperatures and remember to move water through the pump when not moving water through the nozzles. If you overheat the water it scores the nylon balls and seats in the valves which causes them to leak.

724 has had the tank to pump valve repair kit installed and it no longer leaks, I have ordered a rebuild kit for the for bumper loads valves to stop the filling of hose under pressure.

Remember that soon the temperatures will increase and hot weather will prevail. This means that the engineer will have to watch the engine temperature and use the auxiliary cooling to help keep the engine from overheating.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Captain Wheeler

Over the last two months I have visited over 20 1st grade classrooms around Central Oregon. A big thanks to Retired Chief Don Rowe who went to over 40 classrooms. We have been teaching kids about matches and lighter safety. It is amazing to see the results over the last 10 years of this program. Central Oregon's juvenile fire setter statistics show that per capita, we have fewer fires than the rest of the state.

The school has asked us to come back this year with the engines and tenders to spray the kids on the last day of school. I would also like to have Sparky the fire dog there this year. If you are interested in helping please call me. We are also being asked to participate in other fair related activities during the summer. As I learn more about the dates and times, I will be asking for help. This will be a good chance for the public to ask questions and for us to say thank you for the new fire station. Have a good month of June.

CHAPLAIN CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

What would June be without celebrations for grads and dads, rodeos, picnics, backyard BBQ's, and family reunions?!

Think of all the reasons for which people come together and share good food, laughter, fond memories or fun and games. Growing up in a large extended Italian family, our motto was "any excuse for a party". What this really meant was – we love getting together, so let's think up a reason!

If you've never hosted a theme party, maybe this is your year to be bold and creative and invite your neighbors to a block party or your family for a Hawaiian luau. Summer offers a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, make new friends or gratefully gather for family time. Whatever you choose to do, be brave and add a little flair of something new!

-Chaplain Gerke

This time of the year makes me want to do things like spring cleaning in my yard, and many of us, me included, start making lists of "to do's". It occurs to me, however, that maybe I should be making a list of "to be's" as well. Albert Einstein said, "Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value." To me, that means that each of us should not focus on defining ourselves by what we do, but by who we are. The fact that we are firefighters or medics, administrators or managers does say some very positive things about us, but it doesn't define who we are as individuals. I want to be someone who is defined by having such characteristics as being joyful, peaceful, loving, kind, good, thankful, faithful, gentle and self-controlled. Just as I look around my yard to see what needs cleaning up and improving, I look at these traits and try to see what needs cleaning up and improving in me to be what I want to be. I know I can't get there on my own, however, and I know I need help from a higher authority, and I suspect that I'm no different from you in that regard. Remember, you are always in my thoughts, not only for you safety and well-being, but for that which you really need.

It's not what you do but who you are that's most important.

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

Everyone is doing well with their radio transmissions: good job! With the upcoming wildland season, take some time to refresh on the use of the portable and mobile radios. We usually use our main dispatch channel for all our calls, but working with surrounding agencies we will be migrating through other zones and channels to maintain communications. As always, if you have questions, feel free to ask one of the station captains or career staff to assist you. On the larger incidents, our radio communications are a vital part of our safety so we need to be proficient with our equipment.

We are still moving forward with the application for an additional repeater on Santiam Pass. The latest hurdle appears to be getting information to the agencies on the West side of the pass that may be affected by the use of the proposed repeater. Chief Robertson and I will be traveling to a chief's meeting the first week of June to present our proposal and answer any questions they may have. We hope to obtain letters of concurrence from each of these agencies, including the Santiam 911 Dispatch. We understand that our FCC application will need these letters to assure acceptance of our project. All in all, it still looks like a positive response will be received. The process has been lengthy, but crossing all our t's and dotting the i's in advance will eliminate the chances of an FCC denial.

FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

Over the years, there have been many advances in PPE to help protect us from pathogens; yet exposures continue to occur. While it's impossible to prevent all exposures, there have been very few advances to protect the responder after an exposure. This has changed with a new chemical that is now available. MyClyns is a non-alcohol, first response protection that you can spray directly on your face and into your eyes, ears, mouth and nose. Independent lab tests show a 99.99% reduction in HIV-1, Hepatitis C, MRSA and many other pathogens. The key for efficiency of this chemical is to use it as immediately after the exposure as possible. The chemical will not prevent the need for our post-exposure SOP's, but it will add another piece of PPE to help protect our personnel from bloodborne exposures. I have purchased the product and have placed it in-service in the ambulance jump-kits for use. The product is contained in a white dispenser that is similar to a "magic marker" in appearance. To use, simply remove the cap and spray into the target area.

The pocket masks that were ordered for the association using the funds allocated from the fundraising drive have arrived and will be distributed soon. Make sure to pick one/some up for your POV's. The AED that will be purchased with Association funds should arrive around the first or second week of June and will be installed in our new front lobby when one of our A-shift craftsmen is able to fit it into his schedule.

I will also be purchasing a new type of defibrillator pad this month to replace some that are expiring. This new pad has a CPR feedback device to help responders maintain adequate CPR compression and rate. The pads will be used on AED's and manual defibrillators alike.

New flashlights have arrived and will be distributed to firefighters that engage in interior structural firefighting. The new "Survivor" flashlights are attached to the turnout coat, rather than the helmet. As such, those that receive the flashlight will also be returning their old helmet flashlight with bracket. The new flashlights are brighter than the helmet mounted model, and the removal of the helmet light will reduce the hazards of getting tangled in dangling wires, etc. that were experienced with the helmet flashlight.

With all that I have mentioned this month, please look for a demonstration of these items in the upcoming drills. If you are unable to attend an upcoming drill, please stop by and ask one of the on-duty crew for a demonstration.

Happy Father's Day to all of you dads!



FIRE FITNESS

- Firemedic Storton

People say that losing weight is no walk in the park. When I hear that I think, yeah, that's the problem. ~ Chris Adams

Now that summer is almost here and the weather is going to get better... someday, maybe a walk in the park is what we all really need. Since winter seemed so long I want to remind everyone that there are trails in them there hills. By no means am I an expert on the local wilderness, but I can share some of my favorite trails as well as point you to experts such as Jay Crawford and Kirk Metzger. As with any hike, bring plenty of supplies including extra food and water. Some of my favorites are:

Metolius River Trail: Easy but long. I give it 4 out of 5 stars on the WOW factor.

Black Butte: Moderately difficult but short. I give it 5 stars for the view. Bonus points if you go at night during a full moon.

Tam McArthur Rim: Moderate hike. Plan on half day to enjoy it. I give this 5 stars.

Demaris Lake: This gem is just east of Middle Sister and Hayden Glacier. This is generally an easy, but a long hike (approx 10 miles round trip). At Demaris Lake you can take a quick trip to the glacier or some falls, see lava tubes, and mountain springs so clean and clear you can drink from them. Plan on a whole day trip, or even better, stay the night. Let me know and I'd love to go with you.

How is your fitness challenge doing? Have you chosen your challenge and begun working toward it? Remember, these challenges should be relative to you. If you can walk 2 miles try running it or walking 4 miles, etc. Also, your challenge will be more enjoyable with a partner. Let me know what your challenge is and how you're doing. With summer comes a barrage of outdoor events in our local area, including run/walks for those of you who don't want to run anymore. Many of them also benefit good causes. Check out www.racecenter.com for upcoming events or let me know how I can help.

Coming this **June 22nd through the 28th** is **Fire/ EMS Health and Survival week**. I am planning some great events including fitness testing and lectures by health and fitness professionals that week. As of this writing, these events are not set in stone, but I am working with Captain Brown and Chief Karjala to get the word out to you when they are. I am excited about what is planned so far and I hope you will find some time to take part. Many of you have come in and asked me about various things such as working out at home and getting limber. This week is all about getting your questions answered by bona fide professionals in the fitness biz. As always, let me know how I can help.

Ready. Set. Hike!



FACILITIES INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

The construction project is moving along at a good pace, seemingly faster than the first part of the project. The framing is mostly completed on Phase 2 as this Siren is sent out, the roof is sealed and waiting for the roofing material, and the rough-in work of the other subs is well under way. The new community room is going to be a nice addition, feeling spacious and includes improved restrooms and kitchen that will also benefit the public's use. Another way we can serve the community we live in. I continue to hear positive remarks about the building and its appearance, including how quickly it is being finished. I think these comments reinforce the attitude our community has for the work we perform, and they are grateful and willing to support us. Let's keep that going in the future!

I hope everyone has had a chance to view the former christening of the original building. I am referring to the "tagging" on the north end, "The Taj Mahal" which was spray painted on the exterior wall during construction around 1979. I had heard the history of the original station and the vocal few that were not in favor of the project. Seeing that part of our history revealed with the remodel brought a smile to my face. There is an addition to the original graffiti that was added in fun by the framers after an explanation of the name; it now reads "The **"New"** Taj Mahal". As with any public project, there have been a few people who have expressed their objections to the new station. I would encourage you to listen respectfully to their opinions as they are certainly entitled to them. Remember, it was not 100 percent vote in favor, but it was a large majority that approved the bond to fund our project. A project that improves our service today and well into the future!

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

Another month that keeps up headed to our regular yearly increase in responses. It seemed at first that it would be an unusually slow month, but with the first major three day weekend of the tourist season and the efforts of C-Shift, we are keeping pace with the first part of the year. The reference to C-Shift is to point out May 19th when they responded to 13 calls for service. Quite the busy day for our fire district! Looking back over that day, there were a number of volunteers that came down to Station 701 to assist with the calls. Thank you for your commitment! You make it possible to continue our quick responses and with your standing-by at the station which assures we are prepared for the next alarm.

There are many functions we provide to the community, from call response to scholarships, to providing EMS skills and education for the schools. Each of these many services are "responses" to needs in the community and you are all filling those needs graciously and professionally. As Captain Liming would say, "...so many opportunities!"

Captain Brown

SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

During one of my recent shifts, I had the opportunity to observe one of the firemedics and a student drilling together donning the SCBA's. They were competing and it was amusing to watch all the tricks they employed to try and be the first one done. Not that they took any shortcuts or bypassed safety; each time they completed the evolution it was properly done. I believe this friendly competition is one way that makes us better in the use of our safety equipment, and in all aspects of our skills. It is a part of our desire to "be the best" in whatever we do. During drill time and in our individual practice and study, we should all strive to improve. This benefits our department and our community in many ways. I would encourage you to "challenge" each other with your skills and practice to develop the edge we all need to serve those who call us for help.

By the way, Firefighter George gave Firemedic Crawford quite a bit of competition during their practice. I certainly would not want to go up against either one of them anytime soon! Great job, guys!