

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

May 2008

CHIEF'S CORNER

-Fire Chief, Taylor Robertson

Welcome to the May 2008 edition of the Siren.

As you know, we are now moved into our new home at station 701. It has been quite a journey...moving is never fun and the fact that we have been in the old station since 1979 is evidence of the amount of work and "stuff" we processed in order to make the move. I want to sincerely thank everyone who made the move possible, and particularly Chief Enoch, Captain Brown, and Firemedic Crawford for their planning and foresight. A big thank-you to the volunteers who gave their time to help with the move.

I am happy to announce that the Association will have an office upstairs in the new building. Finally, we will have a place for the association's records and a place to do business. As soon as we can clear the temporary storage items out of the room, we will make it ready for occupancy. Of course, there is still plenty of work to do to finish the punch list for the new building, even as the old building (phase 2) is being demolished and readied for a major remodel.

The budget committee reviewed and recommended approval of the 2008-09 department budget. Thanks to all of the budget committee members and the Board of Directors for their assistance. This budget reflects a conservative but comprehensive look at our operations and will ensure completion of the building project and maintenance of current programs. Based on the economic forecast, it was decided not to hire an additional Firemedic this fiscal year. The volunteer budget and the LOSAP (volunteer retirement program) were increased as well.

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

Chief Robertson

ASSOCIATION NEWS

-President, Jeff Liming

The two year terms for the Association Board of Directors will end on June 31st and the new Board will begin their two year term on July 1st. Board positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary are open and I encourage interested Association members to contact me to review the duties and leadership opportunities for each position.

We are putting some of the funds from our letter campaign to use! Captain Ast has ordered CPR masks for all our CPR certified District members and has also ordered a District approved AED for installation in our new Station 701. Costs for the masks are a bit lower than anticipated and that of the AED unit is somewhat higher with the mounting case and hardware included. Taken together the Association's financial outlay is right on target. Funding for three years of anticipated high school scholarships has also been allotted by our treasurer per the Association's recent scholarship vote.

Please keep our Association's upcoming Sisters Rodeo ambulance staffing in mind for the second weekend in June. We have committed to providing BLS ambulance staffing for Association compensation at four Rodeo performances (Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday afternoon) and for Thursday's all day qualifying round. Crews will include EMT-B, Intermediate or Paramedic as leads along with certified drivers and firefighters. Family and friends will not be able to join us on the ambulance and must enter the Rodeo as regular paying customers. This is always a great event and especially exciting for our crews as we watch the action from the "buckin' chutes." Please sign up to crew this Association fund raising ambulance at Station 701!

ASSOCIATION NEWS CONTINUED

Don't forget the Rodeo Parade on Rodeo Saturday! We registered with the Parade Committee to have five or six pieces of apparatus in the Parade and they need drivers and riders! If you would like to drive an apparatus in the event and have your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews included please let me know and I will include you! Be sure to wear your Department uniform and polish those boots! Cowboy hats are optional!

Many thanks to Chaplain John Gerke for his leadership in supporting the recent Oregon Fire Chief's dinner at Eagle Crest Resort. John and his crew did a wonderful job with cooking, serving and cleanup at the event! Thanks, and especially for the three hundred dollar donation to our Association!

Finally, congratulations to Tonya and Ben Bruegeman on their April 26th wedding! Warmest wishes to them both as they honeymoon in Costa Rica.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Captain Wheeler

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who helped with Team Teaching last month. The kids enjoyed themselves and as always enjoyed seeing Smokey the Bear. I had the opportunity to help with Redmond's Team Teaching, and after one of the classes, one of the kids gave Smokey a box of matches he found out on the playground. It's nice to see the prevention message at work.

The summer events calendar is filling up quickly with various events in Sisters. If you are interested in helping with the prevention tent, handing out brochures, doing blood pressure checks, etc. please contact me at 701.

Fire Free Weekend in Bend was successful again this year with a new record of 300 loads brought in. I will need some help on May 3rd and 4th for Fire Free Weekend at the Fryrear transfer station. There will be a need for help at the dump to unload and keep track of how much is dropped off. Anyone who can help will be greatly appreciated. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Please contact me if you are available. You do not have to be there all weekend, but we do need enough people to break it into shifts.

I was coming back from Portland the other day during one of the snow storms and noticed something unusual. There were at least 5 cars on the side of the road that were stuck because of the conditions. Not one of them had a blanket, food or water in their car. One of the most important things we and all of the fire departments in our country can do is help our citizens stay prepared for any conditions. If we can help keep them from calling for a minor issue, we can concentrate on the major ones.

Have a fire safe and prepared month.

CHAPLAIN CHAT

-Chaplain Gerke

Two things today. First, it was my great pleasure and joy to perform the wedding ceremony for Ben and Tonya Bruegeman on the 26th of April. May they have a lifetime of a growing and loving relationship!!!

Secondly, just a few words about wisdom. Would Tiger Woods be one of the names you would think of if someone asked you who is the best golfer around today? Do you think Tiger believes he knows just about all there is to know about how to play golf? If so, why would he have a coach? Who is popularly thought of as one of the wisest men who ever lived? Solomon. Just take a look at some of the things Solomon had to say about wisdom: "The beginning of wisdom is: acquire wisdom". In other words, it is the wise person who knows when he/she doesn't know, and so seeks counsel from someone who does know! Wisdom is not something we are born with, because it comes with experience. We have to work at gaining wisdom. Much of what Solomon wrote concerns how the wise seek the counsel of others. He instructed his own son to "not lean on your own understanding...Do not be wise in your own eyes." Conversely, he wrote: "Fools despise wisdom and instruction." Even though Solomon was one of the richest men in history, he said that wisdom is better than silver, gold and jewels. So, don't be afraid to ask, hear the truth, and don't discount the source. Just be prepared to know truth when you hear it. Thanks for taking the time to read this, and remember my thoughts are always with you.

-Chaplain Hayes

MAY

May the sun shine warmly upon your face.
 May grace bestow peace upon your every day.
 May you be gifted with a gentleness of spirit.
 May your journey be long and pleasurable.
 May health and happiness be your companions.
 May joy find its way to you repeatedly.
 May you trust the grand plan for your life.
 May your friends be many.
 May gratitude spill from you at the end of each day.
 May you find rainbows during stormy times.
 May faith be your firm foundation.
 May you know love in all its forms.



MAY 11TH

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

EQUIPMENT

-Captain Lovegren

772 is back in service, the alternator arrived and was installed by Myrmo's. The crossover to the new alternator took about 4 hours due to the fact that the new alternator did not have the same electrical wiring or mounting as the old one. The new alternator however puts out more amperage at low speeds. This means that at idle it still puts out at a good rate.

With the snow still falling almost every night on the pass, I am not going to remove the ambulance studded tires for a few weeks. It is amazing how long winter is hanging on this year. At home so far in April, I have had only 3 days without fresh snow falling (17 out of 20 days and still counting).

749 and 732 are stored at the training grounds near the sewer treatment plant. They are not ready for service yet as the temperatures at night will still freeze the water in the trucks and break valves and pumps. Perhaps next month things will warm up enough at night that we can get them ready for service, and move them into the yard here at 701. We will have to see how far along the builders get in the next month.

The automotive tools are being stored in the SCBA room in the new section of the station. This room is located at the back SW corner of the new bays. You are welcome to use the tools but please return them to the proper place in the tool box and help keep things organized. With the move and no real place for storage for many things, leaving them out or not returned properly, makes finding things nearly impossible. Your help in this is greatly appreciated.

FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

First of all, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to those of you that were able to give your precious time to assist in the move to our new home. We couldn't have done it nearly as quickly or smoothly without your help! As we work on getting set-up, we greatly appreciate your patience while we "get the hang" of our new systems.

After much anticipation, the new structural turnout and EMS gear sets have arrived. A majority of the gear was distributed during the regular drill scheduled for the evening of April 28th. If you were not able to attend the drill, please stop by the station when I'm on-duty and I'll issue your gear. To all of you that have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of your gear, I greatly appreciate your patience.

Should you have any equipment needs during our transition, please let me know.

Happy Mother's Day to all of you mothers in our ranks!

FIRE FITNESS

-Firemedic Storton

“Pain is temporary. It may last a minute, or an hour, or a day, or a year, but eventually it will subside and something else will take its place. If I quit, however, it lasts forever.”

Lance Armstrong: Cancer survivor and Tour De France Champion 7 times straight

Functional Fitness

One aspect of training that has really gained awareness over the past decade is that of adding function to one's workouts. The days of isolated exercised so one can look good are over (Unless you live in L.A. Trust me on this one!). Functional fitness is the difference between having calf muscles worthy of a California politician and not rolling one's ankle on a pine cone during a wild fire. Give it a try and let me know what you think. Here's how to add the function to your fitness: Let's take triceps extensions for example. Isolating those muscles requires one to lock his elbows at his sides and simply pull the weighted cable down. To add function, try turning around and pull the cable forward over your head. You've now engaged your core muscles. Come talk to me on A shift for more ideas that will get your entire body strong.

New fitness room

The good news is we are moved in and we finally have a workout room. The bad news is that there is currently nothing in it. Thanks to the Association and having set some money aside including an additional \$10,000 in next year's budget, we hope to start putting some equipment in there soon. BUT, if you're thinking what I'm thinking, I agree with you! “So What”! There are plenty of things we can be doing right now without equipment including core calisthenics and stretching. So? How about it?

Fitness Challenge

First of all I want to congratulate Stuart Honeyman and Scott Michalek on completing their fitness challenge. On March 15th, they completed the John Craig Memorial Cross County ski event, which was approximately 24 miles... in fresh snow. Thank you for getting this challenge rolling. I've also heard from several other department members who've accepted my fitness challenge. I still want to hear from more of you, including staff, volunteers and administration. Theoretically the weather will get better soon and will afford the perfect opportunity for you to get out and get going. Remember, fitness is a part of our job and our responsibility. Let me know how I can help. Ready. Set. Go!

Happy Birthday

Robert McLean	5th	Jan Liming	20th
Chuck Newport	11th	Sana Hayes	22nd
Chan Cathcart	15th	Ryan Karjala	24th

FACILITIES INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

To everyone who helped move supplies and items last month...a huge thank you! Even though we are operating out of the new administration offices and living quarters, there is much organizing still going on. Everything is running smoothly and business as usual is actually happening. We are still in the learning curve with new equipment such as the phone system, but even an old dog like me is catching on. The one thing that continues to make me smile is trying to find someone in the new part of the building. Sometimes we find ourselves chasing each other up the stairs and down the poles before we connect. I guess it can be considered part of our physical training and conditioning. All in all, the new offices and quarters are great. The contractor is cleaning things up and working on the punch list each day and we are becoming more finished as time goes by. Not too much longer and the new part will be complete.

The new fire poles are a great addition to the new station. I think everyone is pleased to have them as an option for getting to the ground floor. Remember to have the training on how we want you to go descend the poles before jumping on. They are 4 inches in diameter and a little different than most people may be used to. Any of the on duty crew can give you the instruction, and then try it out a few times. Be sure and control your descent and clear the pole before the next person jumps on. We don't want any injuries or accidents that may cause loss of response or limit the use of this traditional equipment in the new fire station. Enjoy!

Thank you in advance for your continued patience with the inconveniences we are still experiencing. Not too much longer and everything will have its own place and organization will be finalized.

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

I encouraged everyone to check the response information posted at each station last month, and then I was not able to get it entered and posted! I apologize for that. This month looks to be less hectic and my time will be more easily managed. We are just under two calls per day for April of this year, which keeps our average for the year over 2.5 calls per day. Thankfully it was fairly quiet during the move into the station. Now that the warmer weather is here (maybe), we are starting into the wildland fire season. Each year we hear predictions of both extremes, a bad or light season. We can always count on some fires and needs for response, so make sure you are ready and your issued equipment is in top shape. If you find any deficiencies in your wildland gear, contact Captain Ast for repair or replacement. Remember to have some patience as the storage solutions have us spread a little thin and in several places right now. Even though the emphasis is on the wildland equipment, be sure your structural equipment is ready to go. Remember to take that gear along (in your gear bag) as you respond to brush fires. You never know what else you may be protecting as the incident unfolds!

SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

When you visit the station, you have probably noticed the lack of areas we are able to store items and work in. Although there is an SCBA room on the south end of the bays, it is now being used for storage of multiple items we need to access to continue our daily work. Any repairs to the SCBA equipment will be completed, but may be delayed as I try to locate repair parts and tools. The good news is the compressor is still connected and working in its old location and can be used when we need to fill bottles. During the work hours of the construction crews, we may need to coordinate/communicate with them and do our best not to interfere with their job. Woodburn Construction is working with us to keep our emergency equipment and supporting tools on line and available at all times. They understand the necessity of our responses and will accommodate us to assure continued emergency services can be provided. If the SCBA compressor needs to be used make sure the minimum personnel are utilized to reduce interference with the construction workers. As a heads-up, it will be our responsibility to move the SCBA compressor to its new location when the contractor is ready. Any help you could provide moving this heavy piece of equipment will be greatly appreciated!

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

We are still working on getting the repeater permitted and installed on the top of Santiam Pass. Once again, the focus centered on the construction and move in to the new station. I will be following up on this important communications piece very soon and hope to have good news concerning the placement of the repeater. This month we will have a radio installed in the new Watch Room for communications with dispatch and emergency scenes, very similar to what we had in the old Captain's office. We were expecting to have a speaker system installed throughout the new administration and living quarters for call notification but it was unfortunately changed in the specifications. We are waiting to see what the architect designs before proceeding with the notification system. I have contacted other suppliers to see what can be done if we need to pursue that type of option. Once we have it installed, all primary rooms and dorm rooms will hear calls toned out with subsequent transmissions to keep abreast of ongoing emergency responses.

Thanks to everyone on their continued improvement in radio transmissions. Your call etiquette is good and the length of transmission is short which keeps communications concise and frequencies open for all who need them. Please remember to "pre-call" dispatch or who you are trying to reach and wait for a response before transmitting your information. This will allow for all the information to be received. I realize it can seem like "forever" sometimes before you are acknowledged, but if this rule is followed no transmission of information will be jeopardized.

TRAINING

-Chief Karjala

We have some excellent training coming up during the month of May. Scheduled drills include engine company standard #2, dumpster fires, elevator safety and pediatric trauma. Also scheduled on May 3rd/4th and 17th/18th is a pumper operator class instructed by Chief Jim Wheelan to be held at station 701. In addition, on May 31st and June 1st. Firefighter Bruegeman is instructing an advanced extrication class with representatives from Holmatro Rescue Tools.

The Oregon Volunteer Firefighter Association's annual conference is June 18-21 in Keizer. If you are interested in attending the conference please fill out a request for training and get it in to me as soon as possible so I can get you registered. If you would like further information please go to the OVFA website at www.OVFA.org. It is that time again when we need to register for COWS (Central Oregon Wildfire School). If you are interested in attending COWS on June 27th and 28th please come see me. As always, there are many other classes that are being offered statewide on a regular basis that are available as well.

We conducted our annual resident student testing process on April 23rd for four new fire science students. The test included a written exam, physical abilities and an oral interview. I am currently conducting a thorough background on the top 4 candidates and will announce the selection soon. I want to thank Captains Dave Wellington and Steve Ward, as well as Bill Hayes, Andrew Mustola and C-shift for all the time spent helping with the testing process.

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

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY!

CINCO DE MAYO

MOTHER'S DAY

ARMED FORCES DAY

VICTORIA DAY (CANADA)

MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED)

MAY 5TH

MAY 11TH

MAY 17TH

MAY 19TH

MAY 26TH
