

Firefighter Profile: Bill Ward

Bill joined Mecklenburg in 1967. He made 50 years last year. He is still active but has slowed down a little.

Bill married Linda Howell and they have two grown children Chris and Caminda. They both were in the fire service but have since left the service. He worked and retired from Ithaca Agway. Bill has held all the line officers positions several times. He has been chief three times and has been assistant chief for several years. He remembers commanding several large incidents one being a fatal fire on Newtown Road. The other most memorable was when a 8000 gallon gas tanker rolled over and split open on Rt. 228 near Perry City. They were on duty for over 24 hours.



He thinks what has changed the most is the station they have now compared to where they started. (*pictured above*)

The meeting room was downstairs and you could hear the floor settle when the trucks were backed in. They made him try to find things on the trucks with the lights out so he could do it when they were out at night. He still drives the trucks but that's all as he is 80.

He does the NYS Fire Reporting for the company but says it is getting too complicated to continue. When you see Bill tell him thank you for his service for the last 50 years.

Tyrone Banquet

On November 3, 2018 Tyrone Fire Company installed their officers for the coming year. The ceremony followed a great meal and good fellowship. The company answered 178 calls for the year. A moment of silence and the ringing of the bell for members Brenda Jamison and Edson Howell who passed away in the last year. Edson was the last living charter member and felt it would be “bad luck if he came to the fire house in his last years”. Harry Bailey and Tom Dykes received awards for 45 years of service.

The Leon Decamp award went to Bill Meehan. Firefighter of the Year went to Sommer Littell.



Radio Interoperability

Dispatcher Kirk Smith spent one whole day in the Chemung County Dispatch Center dispatching Schuyler County calls from their radios. This is the final leg of a system that can be operated from either county in the event of failures or large emergency's that overwhelm the centers. This connection provides an always-ready manned backup site for each county. This was tested and successfully used in when we had a scheduled outage for a replacement of our 911 server.



Dispatcher Smith at Schuyler.

Mecklenburg: House Fire

A house fire in the early morning hours of November 5 brought out nine companies from three counties to help extinguish the blaze! The fire, originating from an apparent overheated wood stove, spread to the second story of the older house.

Building construction and metal roofing made it a very difficult and long fight. I also must mention the lack of SCBA

interior firefighters to help with interior operations. An aerial ladder from T-burg assisted in reaching areas that firefighters could not get to. Water was trucked from a Mecklenburg pond dry hydrant. State Route 227 was closed for the fight. A double porta-pond system was established and provided an adequate water supply for the night. There was extensive fire damage to the second floor but some personal belongings, though wet, were recovered from first floor area.



Fire kept showing under the metal roof



Firefighters remove the metal roof



Double pond system



Trumansburg Aerial

Watkins Glen: House Fire

At 1:12 a.m. on a very cold Thanksgiving Day Watkins Glen was toned out for an unknown fire on Second Street in the village. On arrival, the village PD found a heavily involved structure fire with exposures. It was determined that no one was home at the time. Watkins soon sounded a second alarm and it was soon followed by a third. This brought Burdett, Montour Falls, Odessa, Tyrone and Dundee as the RIT. There was a special call for Beaver Dams and Mecklenburg covering the vacant stations. Watkins made an excellent knock on the fire and in doing so prevented the fire from extending into the exposures on the Bravo and Delta sides. This left a lot of overhaul to be done. Heavy damage to the fire building and serious damage to the exposures. Temperatures were in the single digits, but this did not affect the effort. Great job done by all!



Dundee "RIT" team



Five inch hose from Franklin Street



Aerials in place



County Car 1 and 19-1 at Command



Exposure Damage

Burdett: Barn Fire

On the afternoon of Tuesday November 28 Burdett was toned out for a structure fire on Dolphsburg Road. The 2nd alarm was sent automatically. This brought Watkins Glen, Odessa, Hector, Montour falls and Mecklenburg. An initial attack was made by first due companies but it was soon realized by Chief Jason Kelly that they were not going to stop the fire. There were no exposures and everything inside the barn was already involved. Attempts were made to access the structure from each side but safety became an issue and Chief Kelly decided to let the structure burn. Walls were already leaning out and the roof was coming down causing the building to collapse. Most of the contents were hay and some machinery. The hay would have been extremely labor intensive to extinguish fully and would have smoldered for a long time. A track hoe was brought in to open up the sides to let the structure to free burn. This was the correct decision as resources could not have been mustered enough to extinguish the fire. It was a good job and not one we as firefighters commonly do but in this case it was the right choice.

Hopefully we all are familiar with:

“Risk a lot to save a lot, risk a little to save a little, and risk nothing to save nothing”

(Brunacini, 1985)

Acceptability of Risk No building or property is worth the life of a firefighter. 1. All interior firefighting involves an inherent risk. 2. Some risk is acceptable, in a measured and controlled manner. 3. No level of risk is acceptable where there is no potential to save lives or savable property. 4. Firefighters shall not be committed to interior offensive firefighting operations in abandoned or derelict buildings.



Burdett Barn Fire on the arrival of BFD.



Heavy smoke hung to the ground hampering early efforts.



A good water supply was established with a two tank system. Filled at Burdett's station.



Firefighters attempt access from the side, but it became unsafe.



This occurred while responding to the above fire. The following is a statement from Watkins Glen Fire Chief Charlie Smith III

How the Watkins Glen Fire Truck Rolled Over

WATKINS GLEN, Nov. 28, 2018 – Watkins Glen Fire Chief Charlie Smith III has issued a statement regarding an accident Tuesday in which a Watkins fire truck ended up on its side alongside County Route 9 after its driver lost control of the vehicle on the way to a barn fire on the Dolphsburg Road.

The accident occurred about 100 yards from State Route 79 outside Burdett, with the truck on its right side on the right side of the roadway. Smith, who on Tuesday had declined comment on any aspect of the incident, said this on Wednesday:

“At approximately 16:36 p.m. the Watkins Glen Fire Department responded mutual aid to the Burdett Fire Department for a barn fire with flames through the roof on Dolphsburg Road. The request was for a tanker with manpower to the scene. The tanker responded and shortly thereafter additional manpower loaded onto the fire engine (KE-30) for response.

“The engine traveled State Route 79 and made a turn onto County Road 9. Due to diminished visibility caused by weather, the engine was unable to successfully navigate the road. As a result, the truck went into the ditch and tipped over onto its side. The operator of the engine at the time of the accident is a 35+ year veteran of the WGFD. There were four crew members inside the vehicle at the time of the accident. All crew members were assisted out of the vehicle by the Montour Falls Fire Department.

“The Schuyler County Ambulance crew assessed all occupants of the vehicle and were all determined to be unharmed and released. The truck was inspected by the New York State Police. The scene was investigated by the Schuyler County Sheriff’s Department. The truck was recovered by B&W towing. All other WGFD personnel responded to the fire and assisted with extinguishment.”



Photo in text: Law enforcement was on the scene, investigating the truck crash.

**Story and
Picture by
Odessa File**

A Basic Firefighter Tool

Of all the tools and equipment that firefighters have at their disposal, one of the most important is the nozzle. Sure, without a nozzle the fire would go out - eventually. But the building and possible exposures would be in ashes. The nozzle is needed to direct the stream of water that knocks out the fire. The nozzle helps determine the proper gallons per minute to absorb the heat of a fire. Nozzles can protect a crew from heat, or ventilate to remove heat. Sometimes it seems that we take the nozzle for granted; all we have to do is point, open the bail, and water comes out. But a basic knowledge of firefighting nozzles is important for firefighters, pump operators, and command personnel.

Could we think of the old bucket brigade buckets as a nozzle, since they distributed water onto a fire? In colonial America and into the 1800's, the smooth bore nozzle was popular and directed a definitive stream of water. In 1863 the first patent for a fog nozzle was awarded.

Nozzles are placed into two simple categories: fog (or combination) and smooth bore. This article is not an argument for one type over another, although certain positives and negatives may be discussed. The smooth bore nozzle produces a solid stream of water; a solid stream can penetrate more readily to the seat of a fire. The fog nozzle is designed with teeth to break up the stream into smaller droplets; smaller droplets convert quickly to steam therefore absorbing more heat.

Steam production has been the mainstay of fog nozzles for decades. And there is a basic physics reaction of water-to-steam that needs to be understood. (Math coming so please bear with me). We all learn in Fire Essentials that water "expands 1,700 times its volume when converted to steam" ... true: at 212 degrees F. But at 1,000 degrees F water expands 4,200 times its volume; that's 2½ times more! Is a room full of fire more likely to be nearer 1,000 degrees than 212 degrees?

Put in perspective, (this is not exact, but it does provide an illustration): One cubic foot of water heated to 212 degrees will fill a 1,700-cubic foot room, that's about a 15' x 15' x 8' room. At 1,000 degrees that one cubic foot of water will convert to enough steam to fill a 23' x 23' room. So, a fire greater than 212 degrees in a room smaller than 23' x 23' will produce more steam than the room can contain. And guess where the excess goes... out any opening, with the biggest usually the door you are crouched in.

Another fact to consider: a 150 gpm nozzle flows 2½ gallons per second. Since one cubic foot of water contains 7½ gallons, that is just a 3 second burst from that nozzle. (Nozzle flows between 125 and 200 gpm will need between a 4 and 2 second burst, respectively, to produce the 7½ gallons).

Most fog nozzles are designed to produce their gpm at a pressure of 100 psi at the nozzle, unless otherwise noted. Some only need 50 or 75 psi. This is important because anything less will result in less gpm, and greater pressure may not necessarily flow more volume. How do we know the designed pressure and flow? There are three types of fog nozzle flow designs: fixed gallonage, adjustable gallonage, and automatic.

Fixed gallonage nozzles will only produce the maximum flow at the designed pressure. The center disc between the teeth at the outlet will usually have a number stamped there and that is the flow in gpm. If there is only one number the nozzle pressure should be 100 psi. There may be two stamped numbers with the top one being the gpm and the bottom the nozzle pressure. (Picture 1, 2)

1



2



An adjustable gallonage nozzle allows the firefighter with the nozzle to change the flow volume by turning a ring just behind the pattern hood. 1½ inch nozzles generally allow a selection flow range of 45/60/95/125 gpm. A 2½ inch nozzle may flow 125/150/175/250 gpm.



This is a 1½ inch nozzle that adjusts between 60 and 95 gpm by turning a center disc. The disc has a spring. Turning and pushing the disc to stay in will produce the lower GPM. Turning the disc to spring out will open the aperture and produce the higher GPM. Some 2½ inch adjustable gallonage nozzles may flow two volume ranges in the area of 120 and 250 gpm. These adjustable gallonage nozzles usually require 100 psi at the nozzle.



The last type of nozzle is the automatic. An automatic nozzle is designed to produce a maximum flow at a certain nozzle pressure, just like the fixed gallonage. However, with a fixed nozzle, when there is a decrease in GPM there is also a decrease in nozzle pressure and stream quality. An automatic nozzle maintains stream quality and nozzle pressure even with a decrease in GPM. An automatic nozzle should have a chart that shows the GPM range at various engine and/or nozzle pressures. The flow range is usually noted on the nozzle as well.

There are pros and cons for each type of fog nozzle. A knowledge of the equipment in your department is vital to providing the safest results for hose crews.

Gail is a Past Chief of the Hector Fire Company. He is currently a Captain in the Alachua County Fl. Fire Department. He is still contributing to Schuyler County through his articles.

Coordinators Attend Conference

County Cars 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 attended the Regional Fire Administrators Conference on November 15 and 16. They received updates on OFPC Training and staff changes within the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

Cancer Bill regulations were explained and there were Swift Water Rescue School updates.

The Fire Academy is getting \$10M worth of updates including: new roofs, parking, safer driveways, and a new field operations building.

The OFPC is pre-positioning state equipment on large events, storms and other potential problems.

We learned that there is a Cyber Response team in place for counter-terrorism.

The Fire Investigator Division are put in their own group now due to work load.

16 Things You Can Do To Help a Volunteer Fire Company Succeed!

1. Attend meetings, trainings and fundraisers and arrive early and stay late.
2. At meetings when voting yes for something make sure you will be available to commit to helping. Otherwise vote no.
3. After meetings or the next day, say thank you to your directors and officers for their continued service. Remember they are not getting paid to be there either.
4. Take part in company business. Be pro-active instead of re-active.
5. Pay attention at meetings and trainings and ask lots of questions.
6. Show up for all types of calls even the "routine" ones.
7. Co-operate. TEAM players are always required.
8. Help when someone asks and offer help even when they don't.
9. Educate yourself not only in dept. business but in all aspects of business.
10. Accept an office position. Your ideas are important.
11. If appointed to a committee make it a priority and give it your best. DO something with it!
12. Give more than just what is minimally required.
13. Take pride in your commitment and your accomplishments.
14. Give others their moment to shine.
15. Acknowledge all those who support the dept. both financially and personally.
16. NEVER EVER GIVE UP!!!! If something is not working then find a new approach.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

106 Tenth Street, Unit 36
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Phone: 607-535-8200
E-mail: scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us

Web: www.schuylercounty.us
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO
Twitter: twitter.com/SchuylerEMO



Last Alarms



None

Upcoming Classes

We are hoping to offer the following classes this fall. Dates to be determined.

- *Ice Rescue (1/26, 1/27)*
- *Interior Firefighting Ops (Starting in February)*

Want to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us

For more information, visit:

www.schuylercounty.us
www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc
www.emstar.org

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