



Raleigh Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 3

Summer 2012

Bringing the Steamer to Life



On Saturday, June 16, the Raleigh Fire Department's 1905 American LaFrance Metropolitan steam engine performed its first public demonstration in decades.

Hundreds of spectators along South Street applauded as smoke billowed, the whistle sounded, and water was pumped to a nearby nozzle.

The demonstration was the culmination of several months of work by a group of firefighters led by Capt. Mike Ezzell (E14C).

He was impressed last summer by a demonstration of Charlotte's steamer at the Raleigh Fire Expo. Then he learned that Charlotte's 1902 engine "Old Sue" was the same make and model as Raleigh's. *continued on page 2*

One Hundred Years and More



Brothers Division Chief Garry Spain (left) and Battalion Chief Barry Spain (right) marched in the parade that opened the all-day centennial celebration in downtown Raleigh on Saturday, June 16. Thousands attended the event, which included an apparatus muster, firefighter games, the Kidde Kid's Zone, and birthday cake from the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association.



One hundred years ago, Fire Chief Sherwood Brockwell placed in service a career fire department with 15 members, two fire stations, and two hose companies. Today, Fire Chief John McGrath leads 575 members and 27 fire stations with 28 engines, eight ladders, three rescues, and four Battalion Chiefs.

The next major event is a Fireman's Ball at the Raleigh Convention Center on Saturday, November 17. This is a private event for current and retired personnel. Tickets and more information will be posted soon to www.RFD100.com. ■

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Capt. Ezzell began talking with others about getting Raleigh's steamer into shape for the department's 100th anniversary in 2012. He enlisted the help of Lt. Patrick Murphy (E20A), Capt. Gary Amato (E28A), and Asst. Chief of Services Bert Richards.

They gathered a variety of experts to assist them, beginning with local steam engine enthusiasts Barrett Richard and Robert Blanchard, to help get the steamer's Fox boiler into shape.

Capt. Amato, who helps maintain the department's fleet of antiques, drew upon his experience with old apparatus as well as the knowledge gained from his years of friendship with the late Bob Biggs.

"He was the last person to fire the steamer, while on military leave in the early Eighties," notes Amato.

In March, Capt. Ezzell and others traveled to Charlotte and received a demonstration of "Old Sue" from Engineer Jeff Dixon and Battalion Chief Shane Nantz.

In the weeks that followed, they tested the 1905 steamer's pump using compressed air, repacked the valves and handles, and had a hole in the boiler spot-welded.

Their hard work paid off on Friday, June 8, when the old engine passed its state inspection and was successfully fired and pumped at Station 28.



Assisted by Charlotte firefighters and the "A" platoon station crew, the steamer was set up on the rear apron. A drop tank was borrowed from New Hope Fire Department and filled by Engine 28.

State inspectors passed the boiler after a hydrostatic pressure test that morning. Following lunch at the fire station, the steamer crew began firing the boiler.

Newspaper served as kindling for the wood chips, which helped ignite the coal chunks. As the fire grew hotter, the pressure began building.

Once 50 PSI was reached, the pump was engaged and a deluge gun sprayed the station's north lawn. But

a little more work was required.

In early June, the steamer's permanent trailer mounting was removed, and the trailer modified with a winch and ramps at the fire department maintenance shop.

The steamer's wooden wheels were also soaked, to restore the wood. "We left them overnight in the drop tank," says Ezzell. "They gained 100 pounds each."



On Saturday, June 16, the steamer led a parade of antique fire apparatus through downtown Raleigh. It was again horse-drawn, with mares provided through a donation by fire department photographer Lee Wilson.

The steamer doesn't have a name, yet. Chief Richards would like to call her something. He's still looking through her history to find something appropriate.

The History

The 1905 steamer served the volunteer L.A. Mahler Steamer Company until the career fire department was formed in 1912. It was relegated to special-call status, for situations such as the *News & Observer* building fire on November 6, 1915.

When the city water system failed and hydrant-supplied hose streams went slack, Fire Chief Sherwood Brockwell ordered the steamer to one of the old underground cisterns, which were still maintained for emergencies.

Pulled by motor apparatus, the 1905 steamer was a reserve unit by the 1930s. It served as an auxiliary fire pump at the State Fairgrounds by the late 1940s.

That's when local fire buff Bob Biggs-- later a retired Air Force Colonel who restored Raleigh's 1926 American LaFrance pumper-- learned of its pending disposal. He borrowed a pair of horses from one of the colleges and brought the old engine home.

The 1905 steamer is the second steam engine to serve the city. The first was delivered in 1870 and was operated by the Rescue Steam Fire Engine Company. It's housed with other antique fire apparatus at Fire Station 28 at 3500 Forestville Road.

Learn more about the history of Raleigh's steam engines at www.raleighfiremuseum.org/steamer. ■

Asst. Chief Rusty Styons Retires

On June 6, Asst. Chief of Operations W. Rusty Styons retired with 30.2 years of service. He joined the fire department in March 1982. At that time, he was working delivering furniture and attending classes at North Carolina State University.



He reported for duty alongside such fellow retirees as Shirley Boone, Bill Dillard, Mike Kimbrell, Lynne Lewis, Pat Pickard, Shelton Price, Chester Sampson, and Randall Wright.

During their recruit academy, the Keeter Training Center classroom building was completed. Also that year, the first haz-mat training started and the last two Mack pumpers were delivered.

Chief Styons was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1986, to Captain in 1990, to Battalion Chief in 1994, and to Division Chief in 1999.

Appointed as Asst. Chief and Fire Marshal in 2008, he succeeded his wife, Asst. Chief Tommie Ann Styons, who retired that year.

Chief Styons was moved to Operations last year.



Among his major incident memories is the Watson's fire of 1984, when the south Raleigh structure burned a second time. "We kept going and going and going deeper into this warehouse. It was hotter than you would believe. We fought fire all day that day."

What lessons does he share to upcoming leaders? "Be kind. Looking back on my career, the ones that helped me the most were the firefighters and officers who had a good time doing their job. It wasn't the hard cases."

And what perspective would he share of his many years as a chief officer? "When you're [at a fire and] outside looking in, you're scared to death. Because you love your firefighters, and you don't want them to

get hurt."

His plans after retirement? Selling his farm in Harnett County and doing some traveling. "I might do a few adventures in my life," Chief Styons says, "like hiking in the mountains." ❖

OFFICE SPACE EXPANSION, CHANGES

On Tuesday, May 8, command staff and other personnel moved into new offices on the second floor of the Dillon Building on West Martin Street.

The 1,600 square-foot space was formerly occupied by the city's IT Planning Division. It was renovated this spring, with new walls and new connecting doors to the existing fire department office space.

The Asst. Chief of Training joins the other Assistant Fire Chiefs from Operations, Services, and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The Division Chief's office has been relocated, with their sleeping quarters retained at Station 8. The IT Services Manager and the Payroll Specialist have both been moved from Station 1. ❖

FIRE INVESTIGATORS MOVE



On June 1, the fire investigation team was relocated from Station 9 to Station 1. The personnel of Engine 9 and Engine 1 were exchanged. Car 20 staff and vehicles were moved to Station 1, and to new office space provided in the nearby Dillon Building.

Sleeping quarters have been provided for the Fire Investigators in the former office of the IT Services Manager at Station 1. Additional office space for the investigation team has been provided at Station 1, in the former office of the Payroll Specialist.

The evidence locker has been re-created in the old alarm house behind Station 1. Built in 1942, the alarm house is the fire department's oldest structure.

The office space at Station 9 has been retained for future department needs. ■

Promotions & Appointments

June 2

Asst. Chief J. Danny Poole to Asst. Chief of Operations
Div. Chief Bradley R. Harvey to Asst. Chief of Training
Bat. Chief Kendall T. Hocutt to Division Chief

Capt. Michael T. Hayes to Battalion Chief
Capt. Franklin C. Hobson to Battalion Chief
Capt. James H. Hill to Deputy Fire Marshal

Lt. Lee C. Allred to Captain
Lt. Roy T. McGee to Captain
Lt. Phillip S. Morgan to Captain

Senior FF Michael R. Gerke to Lieutenant
Senior FF Robert J. Harper to Lieutenant
Senior FF C. Bryan Kirk to Lieutenant
Senior FF Jeffrey M. Silver to Lieutenant

May 5

Bat. Chief A.C. Rich to Safety Officer
Lt. Brandon K. Hopkins to Captain
Senior FF Grant R. Hall to Lieutenant

April 21

Promoted to First Class Firefighter, firefighters:

Timothy Ballard	Charles Langston
Christopher Benvenuto	Josue Olmeda
Christopher Campbell	Aaron Parker
Richard Capps	Jennifer Patterson
Herman Ellis	Danny Reyes
Christopher Ferrell	Thomas Richards
Kevin Godwin	William Smith
Ian Griffin	Miguel Tamayo
Jason Hall	Nicholas Thompson
Donnell Hunter	Roman Venegas
Clara Irurita	Scotty Weaver
Erika Johnson	Matthew Williams
Kelly Lamotta	

Services News

A four-bay apparatus storage building is under construction at the Support Services Center on New Bern Avenue for reserve units and apparatus awaiting repair. The building will be ready to occupy in August.

The shop staff provided assistance to the Raleigh Fire Museum in May and June, doing mechanical work on Old Engine 1 and rebuilding the trailer for the old steam engine. Their help was greatly appreciated. ❖

More Retirements

Bat. Chief L. Alan Walters retired June 1 with 31.2 years of service.



Lt. Wilbert Dunn retired June 1 with 25.7 years of service.



Safety Officer Capt. Sammy McIntyre retired May 1 with 22.2 years of service.



Recruit Academy Update

Recruit Academy 37 graduates on Friday, July 13, at Meymandi Concert Hall at the Progress Energy Center in downtown Raleigh. They'll have completed a 28-week program and receive state certifications of Firefighter I and II, and Emergency Medical Technician.

In addition to classes and exercises conducted at the Keeter Training Center, they received instruction at the Wake County Fire Training Center and at Gaston College in Dallas, NC. At the college, the recruits and instructors participated in three days of intense live fire training in June.

Other Training News

The Raleigh Fire Department has been renewed as an EMS educational institution through 2016. This gives it the same status as community colleges, and allows the department to teach their own EMT programs, both in the recruit academy and as continuing education.

Education and Credentialing Specialist Tara Lester is leaving her part-time position in the Training Division. Tara, a paramedic with Wake County EMS, has been serving in this role since 2008. People interested in the position should contact Capt. Brian Sherrill. A job description will be available, with an application and interview process to follow. ■

Budget Adopted

Highlights of the adopted City of Raleigh budget for FY13 included replacement of three engines and one ladder, reinstatement of uniform replacement funding, and increase of callback overtime funding.

All authorized positions also have been fully funded, which will eliminate delays in recruiting, selecting, and training the next recruit academy.

Funding for facilities projects includes backflow preventers, lead paint and asbestos remediation, HVAC and electrical system replacements, roof repairs, and the continued installation of back-up generators.

Four fire station projects have also received funding. Station 12 replacement (\$1.5M for FY13 and \$3.7M for FY14), Station 14 replacement (\$2.4M for FY13, \$1.6M for FY14 and \$3M for FY15), and land acquisition for Station 3 replacement and Station 30 (\$5M).

The budget also includes increases in merit pay and salary increases or performance bonuses for all full-time regular employees hired on or before September 1, 2011, who meet performance criteria. ❖

Foam Trailer Delivered



The Raleigh Fire Department took delivery of a foam trailer in June. It is equipped with a 500-1000 GPM monitor and two 275-gallon portable tanks (or totes).

Each carries alcohol-resistant Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) concentrate, which is designed for class B (flammable liquid) fires. The foam is proportioned between one and three percent.

The trailer and the foam is an additional layer of protection for the many hazardous materials that are transported by road and rail through the city.

The trailer carries 550 gallons of foam concentrate. There are plans to store another three 275-gallon totes at the Keeter Training Center, where the trailer will be housed.

It will be towed by either training center vehicles during day hours, or by the mini-pumper from Station 3.

The trailer has a monitor that can be set for 500, 750, or 1000 GPM. The estimated reach of the monitor is 100 to 150 feet.

It's supplied by two five-inch intakes. It can also supply a pair of 2 ½-inch hand lines. It also has a transfer pump, to connect to other totes or foam concentrate supplies.

Designed to be set up and left unmanned, the trailer is a fire department asset, and can be requested as mutual aid equipment through the usual channels.

All personnel in the department will receive instruction on operating the trailer during their next Special Operations class. ❖

Fire Marshal Office News

Senior Firefighter Alan T. Holleman has been reassigned to the Office of the Fire Marshal, effective June 11. He'll perform the duties of a Deputy Fire Marshal and has the specific task of ensuring repairs on private fire hydrant systems.

Holleman was injured on duty as a member of Engine 2 on August 19, 2011, when a car struck him at the scene of a vehicle fire on Interstate 40 at Hammond Road. He sustained knee, leg, and foot injuries, and is unable to return to work as a firefighter.

He is thankful for the 15 years in the Operations Division, and appreciates the opportunity to finish his career with the Raleigh Fire Department in the OFM. ❖

Hydrant Project Update

Engine, ladder, and rescue companies checked all hydrants earlier this year, as part of a program with Public Utilities. Over a 40-day period, they found and checked 16,768 public and 2,617 private hydrants. Previously, only about 10,000 public hydrants had been recorded.

Though obstructions were found at 1,463 public hydrants, such as signs or trees, only 130 hydrants were out of service.

Work has started to add 4,676 new hydrants to the city's electronic mapping system, which can be accessed in fire stations and select fire apparatus and vehicles. New map books are also being created for the fire department. ■

SCENES FROM THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ON JUNE 16



The day opened with a parade down Hillsborough Street and then Fayetteville Street. Drum Major Lt. Jason Lane is shown above leading the Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums.



Old Engine 1 made its first public appearance at the parade. The 1961 American LaFrance pumper was purchased by the Raleigh Fire Museum with firefighter donations. Lt. Jan Chamblee is behind the wheel.



Most of the participating apparatus were then displayed along Salisbury and South streets. Live pumping demonstrations were conducted, including the firing of Raleigh's 1905 steamer (see Page 1).



Teams of firefighters competed in a series of four games: Quick Dress, Bucket Brigade, Command and Control, and Connect and Flow (shown above with Louisburg Team 2).



Numerous activities for children and families included the Kidde Kid's Zone, the Home Depot Kid's Clinic, and water squirting using Indian pumps, shown above.



Many retirees attended the event, including one in costume! Retired Battalion Chief Paul Johnson dressed as a 19th Century fire company foreman. He's shown demonstrating a speaking trumpet.

See more photos and watch video footage at www.RFD100.com

Photo Gallery



Lightning started three working fires during a period of severe storms on Wednesday, July 4. Engine 27 was first on scene on Oakshyre Way, shown above.



On Saturday, June 30, the second annual Raleigh's Finest 5K run at Station 6 honored Raleigh firefighters who have died during their time of service. Recruit Academy 37, shown above, also participated.



City Councilman Thomas Crowder handles a hose stream during Fire Operations 101, an educational program held at the Keeter Training Center on June 9 for city officials and members of the media. The day-long event was sponsored by the Raleigh Professional Fire Fighters Association.



The Sixth Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament raised \$8,000 on June 11 at Bentwinds Country Club in Fuquay-Varina.



During April and May, all Operations Division personnel completed an Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVO) class, which included practical exams with engine company apparatus at the city transit depot on Poole Road. Aerial apparatus practice is scheduled for later this summer.



Crews battled a brush fire off Electronics Drive on May 20. Engine 11 was first on scene, originally dispatched as a smoke investigation.

See more photos at www.raleighfirenews.org

Raleigh Fire Department
310 West Martin Street, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27602

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SOUTH ATLANTIC FIRE RESCUE EXPO
RALEIGH CONVENTION CENTER
AUGUST 8-11

RECRUIT ACADEMY 37 GRADUATION
MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL, PROGRESS ENERGY CENTER
JULY 13, 7:00 P.M.

RALEIGH FIRE MUSEUM
105 KEETER CENTER DRIVE
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

MONTHLY RETIREE BREAKFAST

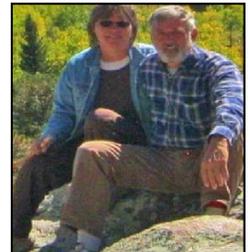
PAM'S RESTAURANT, 5111 WESTERN BOULEVARD, 7:30 A.M.
SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (C.A. LLOYD ORGANIZER)
FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (G. M. DAVIS ORGANIZER)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR PERSONNEL, RETIREES, AND CITIZENS. THE EDITOR IS HISTORIAN MIKE LEGEROS. BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT www.raleighfirenews.org. TO LEARN ABOUT THE RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT, VISIT www.raleigh-nc.org/fire.

Where Are They Now?

Retired District Chief **Donald Sykes** and wife Karen are living full time in their RV and traveling around the country. They spend most of their time in the west visiting national parks, national forests, and wilderness areas.



Two granddaughters and other family in the Raleigh area continue to lure them back for visits.



Retired Capt. **C. A. Lloyd** and Hilda live in Rolesville, four miles from the Mitchell's Mill area where he was born. Since retiring, he has organized and located over 22,000 of his USN Armed Guard shipmates on a web site at www.armed-guard.com. ■