



ROLL CALL

3rd Quarter 2014 Issue No. 3

www.galenafd.com

The history of our
Beloved department
- the guardians of
Galena, IL.

HIGHLIGHTS

CHIEFS CORNER

It has been a year and a half since I became Galena Fire Chief, and in that very short period the Galena Fire department has seen some great things happening.

Continued on Page 2

CURRENT EVENTS

The Galena Fire Department Community Expo was a great success.

Continued on Page 3

ALARMS & TRAINING

Nothing major to report for alarms this quarter. We had a house to train in with a lot of good training this quarter.

Continued on Page 6

MOMENTS in HISTORY

Mike Doyle, Galena Fire Corp member has been working diligently at preserving our history.

Continued on Page 10



Proud group of Officers



Neptune Co. 2

Moments in History...

Visit our website for more historical pictures

Hello to all,

It has been 18 months since I had the honor of becoming your Fire Chief. In that relatively short period of time the Galena Fire Department has seen some great things happening and the department has been moving forward at a rapid, but manageable pace. With a focus on establishing a firm organizational structure and addressing several needs consistent with today's fire service, the Recruitment and Retention Committee has been working diligently on multiple projects with a substantial completion rate. Everything we do as an organization relates in some way to retaining qualified members, a priority of mine, and I want to thank the members of that committee for their hard work and dedication.

FF. Bill Bingham is spearheading the ISO rating project with several GFD members assisting. With the help of city department managers, particularly the water department (water supply) and members of the Jo-Daviess County Sheriff's Office (emergency communications), this project is coming together for the March 2015 site visit. Brother and Sister Firefighters, we hope to lower (improve) the ISO rating in our city (currently '5'). Our rural ISO rating is currently a '9'. Thank you to all on the ISO Committee for their hard work thus far and over the next months.

If you have not taken the opportunity to visit our new training facility in Industrial Park, I highly recommend you check it out. This is a major undertaking that will serve as a tremendous asset to the GFD and to the Galena community for many years. I want to welcome a new group of volunteers - The Galena Fire Corps. We are proud to have you associated with GFD and look forward to the many opportunities that will allow you to assist us in many areas, including, but not limited to, public relations, web design, social media, and emergency support. I thank all of you who have

signed on to serve your community through Fire Corps.

Since our last newsletter we have added two new members to our ranks - FF David Oldenburg (Oly) who returns to the department to join his son Matt, and Rick Torres, who became a full time member October 6th. We have three probationary members at this time Richard Schatzabel, Angel Salinas and Jeff Williams and we wish each of them congratulations and good luck throughout the probationary year. That said, our recruitment effort is on-going. If you know of anyone wishing to become member of this fine organization please put them in contact with us - We are always looking for new dedicated members. This responsibility falls on each and every member of the department.



Chief Randy Beadle

Thank You
Stay Safe
Chief Beadle

***TRAIN LIKE YOUR
LIFE DEPENDS ON IT
BECAUSE
SOMEDAY IT MAY!***

The Galena Fire Department 1st Annual Community Expo

The community was invited out to enjoy some great food, drinks, games, prizes and learn a little about fire safety in there home. The Galena Police Department, the Galena Ambulance Service, along with the Jo Daviess County Sheriffs Department were also on hand to give educational demonstrations on health and safety. The

Expo was also a great time for us to introduce our new Fire Corp. It was a great success and we plan making it an annual event.



We had a 50/50 drawing and a silent auction featuring items from local vendors.



AJ Soat and the Fire Corp cooking hot dogs and brauts

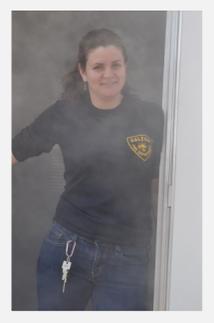


Auto extrication demonstration amazed many onlookers.

Brandon Kieffer and Aaron Abt helping the kids with the knock down burn house.



Fire Trucks #135 and # 172



Jennifer Soat and Tyler Smith working the Smoke House

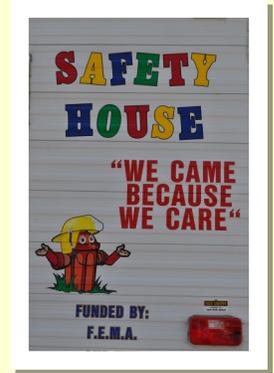




Rick Torres doing some fun face painting.



Sparky was there helping everyone have a great time!



Residential sprinkler demonstration



Fire Extinguisher Demo

Knights Of The Inferno M C



In July we were the host to the Knights of the Inferno Motorcycle Club. The club is a nation wide organization comprised of firefighters, EMS and military personnel. The Illinois chapters were sponsoring the weekend and they chose Galena for there

event. I think there were between 60 and 70 members present. We served them a nice dinner, they hung around and toured the station and purchased some T-Shirts. They also gave us a nice donation for the meal.

CONGRATULATIONS

Brandon Kieffer and Jeff Williams were able to show of there skills in the annual Gratiot Fireman's Labor Day Challenge.

They took 1st place in the Skills Challenge



Congratulations to Bill Luning and Rick Torres for successfully completing there 1 year probation, and passing there tests. They are the newest regular members of the Galena Fire Department.

July – Sept 2014

Year to Date: 124 Alarms

Current Membership: 41



This summer the new recruits were participating in the new Basic Certification class. This class replaces the previous FFII certification. The class is separated into



modules just like the FFII, but there are a few more subjects added. So far they are through 2 of the 3 modules. Tyler Smith, Bill Luning, Rick Torres, Richard Schatzabel, and Angel Salinas, along with a member from East Dubuque Fire Dept. are participating in the class.

At last, and a long time in coming, The Galena Fire Department is finally getting a well needed, and well deserved training center.

The ground breaking was in June, all of the earth moving and the road and hydrant construction. Sept 2 they started the construction of the tower/burn building. It is moving right along now. Next quarter



news letter will have additional information on the training center.

Alarms this quarter. There were no major alarms to report. Numerous red box alarms (13), 5 vehicle accidents, a few of them were motorcycles. A search for a missing child fortunately resulted in finding her relatively quickly. We had 1 structure fire that turned out to be a storage trailer in a quarry.

Our RIT team was called for mutual aid with Menominee Dunleath for a structure fire.

Of the 13 red box alarms 5 of them were burnt food on either the stove or in the oven. Makes you think though, that they could be more when the alarms are called in as smoke in the building.

We thought we had a structure fire at the Westwick foundry, but it was turned in by some people walking by on the bike path and saw the fire from the foundry operation inside.

This quarter, GFD responded to:

- 1 Structure/Trailer Fire
- 1 Rekindle of Trailer Fire
- 2 Search for missing person
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Power Line Arching
- 6 Vehicle Accidents
- 13 Red Box Alarms
- 1 CO Alarm
- 1 Assist EMS
- 2 Smell of Smoke
- 2 Mutual Aid Calls
- 1 Disabled Boat
- 1 Tree Fire
- 1 Possible Structure Fire





Drills and Training this Quarter

We spent a lot of time out at a house that we acquired this summer. The house is out on miner Rd. It is actually in Scales Mound District but it was offered to us to use for training. When ever we get a house to use we take full advantage for extensive training. We can practice everything from ventilation on the roof to search and rescue inside along with some live fire evolutions. You cannot beat drilling with the real thing, and of course the main thing that we stress, is safety. All drills are in accordance with the latest NFPA standards, and adhere to our own SOG's.



Waiting to make entry for a live fire drill



View from inside during a search and rescue drill



Live Fire Training

We were able to utilize the house for a Rapid Intervention Team "RIT" training session. RIT is a vital part of any type of emergency incident. RIT involves skills that we don't normally use, so training for it is essential. The RIT team are the people that will go in anytime there is a mayday called and there is a down firefighter. There were members from Scales Mound, Elizabeth, and Lena fire departments, as well as our own, that were involved in the drill.



CONDOLENCES



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Retired GFD member Elmo W. Welp, 86 of Galena, IL. Elmo passed away Saturday, August 16, 2014. He was a member of the Galena Fire Department for over 30 years. His years of service were June 11, 1956 and retired October 13, 1986

with the highest rank of Captain. Our thoughts and prayers are with



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of GFD family member Bob Stocks father, Paul J. Stocks, 91 of Galena, IL passed away Sunday, August 17, 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Stocks family.



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of a GFD family member, Helen Wearmouth of Galena, IL passed away Saturday, July 12, 2014. Helen was the mother of social member Dick Wearmouth. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Wearmouth



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of GFD member Robert J. "Skey" Komiskey 65 of Galena, IL. Skey passed away Sunday May 11, 2014. He was a member of the Galena Fire Department for over 32 years. He originally joined the

department on April 23, 1973 and retired August 8, 1994 with the highest rank of Captain. Skey then

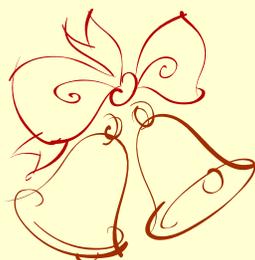
rejoined the department on Aug 28, 2003. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Komiskey family.

A memorial fund was set up in the name of Robert J. Komiskey. With the fund the Galena Fire Department purchased a bell in Skey's name.



Memorial Bell

CONGRATULATIONS



We congratulate Kelsey Beadle daughter of Fire Chief Randy Beadle and Cindy announces her engagement to Greg Hart. The wedding will be held October 10th of 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS



Welcome to the world Aerio Oliver Abt, 6lb 12oz., born 10/04/14. Congratulations Fire Fighter Aaron & Caprina Abt on the birth of your son.



Welcome to the world Emmeline Mae Lincoln, 8lb 9oz., born 10/02/14. Congratulations Fire Fighter Todd & Jessica Lincoln on the birth of your daughter.

We recently had the pleasure of speaking with Fire Corps President Fallon Oldenburg. Fallon gave a statement for how she began the journey of researching the national organization of Fire Corps and the subsequent implementation within the Galena Fire Department.



“Approximately a year or two ago we had several structure fires in the bitter cold winter months. Many of those fires were at night, and I was concerned that the

firefighters would need something to help them warm up and give them some energy to keep working. Right when I heard the call, I would contact local restaurants, asking if they would be willing to donate coffee, hot cocoa, and food on short notice. Graciously - they all said yes. So, I would load up the hot drinks and food into my car, and head to the fire scene.

After a couple of times doing that, Matt (Oldenburg) had mentioned to me something about Fire Corps. I had no idea what it was, so I did some research and was eventually approached by the Recruitment and Retention Committee of the Galena Fire Department to see if I would be interested in heading up this new organization. I was excited and honored that they asked, and I agreed to take this on!

As with most new organizations, there is a lot of planning and changing in the development process. We wouldn't have been able to do this without the support of the entire Fire Department, patience of the Fire Corps members, and gracious donations from the community. With the help of Chief Randy Beadle, Asst. Chief Bob Conley, Chief (Ret) Bill Bingham, and the Galena Fire Department Liaison, Chris Garza, we have been able to create some guidelines and establish a structured hierarchy, similar to those what the Fire Department uses.

I am so grateful for everyone's support and look forward to more community outreach events, programs and new recruits!”

Fallon Oldenburg

Fire Corp Members:

Fallon Oldenburg - President
 Ashley Sites - Vice President
 Hollie Werner - Secretary/Treasurer
 Aishah Abdul Aziz
 Ashley Cook
 Cindy Beadle
 Hillary Dickerson
 Jessi Warner
 Kimberly Thompson
 Lindsey D'Antonio
 Marcy Doyle
 Mary Smith
 Mike Doyle
 Rena Smith
 Samantha Jeffery
 A.J. Soat

September 24, 2014

Recruitment and Retention Committee:

The Galena Fire Department Recruitment and Retention Committee was established in mid-2012 with a primary mission of establishing community interest and recruitment opportunities for new GFD members. The primary emphasis focused on the retention of members once selected. For decades, the maximum number of members allowed stands at 63 although there is accounting of how that number was selected, or why it was selected. In 2012, the number of members were decreasing to the high 20's, subsequently increasing the concern for not having sufficient personnel to staff apparatus in the event of an emergency such as, a working fire. Major concern particularly were for the daytime hours given the number of people that work out of town. It was obvious that for whatever reason, there was no previous emphasis placed on an established recruitment program. Once established, it simply made sense to begin a parallel initiative that focused on maintaining qualified active members on the roll once recruited.

As these two initiatives, recruitment and retention evolved, there was a reasonable consensus that the tentacles of retention reached out to every aspect of the department. That is, essentially everything we do and every policy we put in place has a direct or indirect impact of the quality of the environment for our members. This knowledge, coupled with a relatively new concept of allowing all members to participate in the direction of the department, served as a catalyst to move in a direction of meaningful change, a feature that is both welcomed and resisted in organizations across the country. Moving in a steady but incremental fashion, progress was seen in some early 'quick victories' including, but certainly not limited to, over fifteen new members and the begin-

ning of initiatives such as a Recruit Orientation Program, a Recruit Mentorship Program, and a more legal sufficient physical ability standard for incoming recruits,

Couple this with a new Department Website and Newsletter, Standard Operating Guidelines, Policy and Procedure Manual including Rules and Regulations, Revised By-Laws new Probation Written test, Commendation Policy, new Dress Uniforms, a Member Assistance Program, and a process for inclusiveness and an open flow of communication, as well as total access to department guidelines. The R and R Committee, currently at 16 active members, is well on its way toward making substantial and sustainable progress as an organization. This sustainability will lead to establishing deep-rooted cultural changes and will remain with this organization for many years to come. While this is only a partial list of accomplishments, we will address many of these and other initiatives in future segments to be included in both our newsletter (*Roll Call*), as well as, our website.

-WLB



Galena, Illinois Fire Department History**Volume 1 Article 1****September 24, 2014**

Welcome Firefighters! This is the first of what hopes to be an entertaining and educational newsletter concerning the history of our Galena, Illinois Fire Department.

The first edition of this newsletter will focus on the very early stages of our Department. I have chosen a topic which will cover the beginning of the Department in 1830, and the development and some history of those companies.

A review of some early Galena newspapers and historical data from the Galena Public Library and at the present firehouse, found that the meeting to establish the first Galena Fire Department was in February of 1830. The meeting was held at Swan's Hotel on Bench Street, nearly opposite the Masonic Hall. After the meeting adjourned the men made their way down the Green Street hill.

The newspaper account of this meeting, "an association was formed with the best working material in the village, the members of which were expected to turn out at fires, and labor according to the direction of the President, Capt. H.H. Gear, who was also styled Chief Engineer of the body."

The article states: "Each member was provided with a bucket, and orders given to report to the scene of conflagration in obedience to a given signal, armed with the said apparatus, whenever the occasion demanded, on pain of dishonorable expulsion from the Society. "

They got their buckets just in time, because at the adjournment of the meeting, "the members were making their way through the darkness down the Green Street hill, and discovered that there was a fire at a drinking house kept by Major T.B. Farnsworth on the corner of Commerce and Green Street, where the Desoto Hotel is now located. The "boys" scampered to the scene of the action, mounted the roof, and cutting away a portion of the shingles and boards, discovered the position of the fire and extinguished it with a few well aimed buckets of water". The article states that Major Farnsworth was not at the drinking house when the fire broke out, and the firemen stayed and drank at the establishment. The Major came in the next morning and found "a group of sleeping inebriates and a large collection of bottles strewn about the floor". The article also states that the Major joined the Cataract Fire Company a few years later, and never failed to "set'em up" for the boys whenever they were called out to a fire.

So begins the formation of the oldest fire department in the State of Illinois. The first Company was named the Cataract Fire Company. This Company was located at the Old # 1 Station on South Bench Street, which exists to this day. This station is reported to be the oldest fire station in the State of Illinois, and may possibly be the only fire station in the United States with one of the original piece of fire apparatus still in the station.

There are conflicting reports as to the beginning of the Fire Department. The "History of Jo Daviess County" book, published by the Stockton Historical Society, states that the first Company was the Galena Fire Association, and it was formed on November 8, 1836. However, at the next meeting, the name was changed to the "Cataract Engine Co. No 1.

The "History of Jo Daviess County" states that in February of 1837 the Neptune Fire Company # 2 was already in existence. In February of 1839 the Neptune Fire Company # 2 disbanded and handed over their accounts and books to the Cataract Company. It sounds as though the Cataract Company was not able to maintain the organization, and it disbanded in November of 1839. The association was reorganized on May 17, 1842. It is unknown what that association was called.

"On July 26, 1843, this company, most likely the Cataract Company, held a joint meeting with the Neptune and Mechanic's Fire Companies at which time, all companies disbanded. At this time, there were the Cataract, the Neptune and a Hook and Ladder Company; the latter was probably the Mechanics."

"On October 28, 1851, Liberty Fire Company No. 1 was organized and the constitution of the Old Neptune Company was adopted. The Neptune Fire Company No. 2 was soon after reorganized and the two companies purchased two first class engines, costing \$ 1,600 each from the Agnew Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In addition, they purchased 1,000 feet of double riveted leather hose from Adam Dialogue, also of Philadelphia. The engines arrived on January 5, 1855. "

Fire Company #3 was located on Meeker Street behind the original Courthouse, and had an entrance onto Meeker Street. It was razed in the early to mid-1970's. The tower from this station may still be in Galena, and a search will be made to discover its location.

Fire Company # 4 was located near the corner of Dodge and Hill Street in the Cemetery Park area. It was known as Relief Company # 4 and was organized in 1860 with a hook and ladder truck as well as a side brake engine for use on the hill.

Fire Company # 5 was located along Spring Street, reportedly on the north side of Spring Street, across from South Prospect Street and the Fulton Brewery.

There may have been one more station located on the East Side at the corner of Park Avenue and Bouthillier Streets. Further investigation will try to determine the validity of its existence.

Future articles will discuss: equipment that has been in service in the Galena Fire Department Companies; further information on the five (5) or six (6) companies that were located in Galena; some of the social events of the different companies and some of the larger fires we have had in Galena. Interviews will be held with senior members of the present retired and social members to discuss their recollections of the fire department.

This department has a long and great history. I am sure there are other topics that will arise, and if there are, I would be more than pleased to research them and see what can be discovered.

Photos will also be included as we find them. Matt Oldenburg has been doing some research and found a great picture of the Neptune Fire Company which was located on the north end of the Market House. It was found online at the Library of Congress website. There will be additional research, and if anybody has old pictures of fires, old members, previously used vehicles, or any other memorabilia, please let me know, and I will try to incorporate them into one of our newsletters. I can be contacted at mike@halgalena.com.

Thank you all for reading, and I look forward to hearing some feedback on the articles.

Mike Doyle

Galena Fire Corp.

Keeping You Posted.



Roll Call is a Galena Fire Department Publication that captures our history and informs our members — past, present and future



ROLL CALL

3rd Quarter 2014 Issue No. 3

Mail To: