



FULLY INVOLVED

Volume 2, Issue 1

WINTER 2010

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FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

As most of you know, each month company officers write a brief narrative concerning one or more of their more interesting runs and/or activities during the previous month. We call these narratives "Points of Interest" or "Monthly Activity Reports." I read through each report and then forward a few to the City Manager's office to be included in the Monthly Council Update. As I read through these documents I am impressed with how the AFD has such a positive impact on so many people...every month. There are almost always one or two stories of how a fire companies' medical intervention resulted in a "save." There are usually accounts of activities in which a fire company or an individual went above and beyond expectations to provide special attention or care to someone. And, even without Gary Mims' regular comic submittals, I must admit some of your stories are downright

funny! I need to write a book some day with the "best of" from these monthly accounts of your job activities....it could be a best seller. In addition to reading the monthly Points of Interest, I get phone calls, letters and personal visits from individuals telling me how much they appreciate your work and how you made a difference in their lives. All of these serve as a reminder of how much your daily activity and attitudes impact so many people. I hope each of you realize how much you are appreciated and respected by this community. "Compassionate Service" has been a legacy in our department since its beginning and you are the ones who will keep this reputation intact. I appreciate all you do each and every day. I hope each of you has a great 2010 and that our department will continue to find ways to serve the citizens of this community beyond their expectations.

KEN DOZIER
FIRE CHIEF

We want AFD families to stay in touch with us and with each other by letting us hear from you. Send your stories, pictures, and questions to us at:
abifire@abilenetx.com
(325) 676-6676

Guest Contributors

- CAPT Jim Moore
- CAPT Russell Pope
- CAPT Mica Calfee
- Irving Fire Department
- Linda Smith
- FF Scott Riggins
- AC Alan Plumlee
- LT Craig Foreman
- FF Jess Madison
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A Quarterly Publication

MILESTONES

Retirement...Firefighter Ikey V. Garrett served the citizens of Abilene for over thirty-two years. During his tenure, Ikey acquired EMT-P, Hazmat Technician, and Master Firefighter certifications. Ikey received an informal C-Shift "Send-Off" at Station 5 on his last shift, January 11, 2010. Mr. Fix-It will be missed and we wish him a long and happy retirement.



Station #5 "Send Off"

FFs Frank Tucher, Gaylon Rodriguez,
Larry Jones, Scott Riggins,
NEW RETIREE Ikey Garrett,
David Phillips, LT Baker Bryant,
CAPT Robin Talley

AFD Remembers...AFD Mechanic Hillery T. Collinsworth, 87 who passed away December 24, 2009. Hillery served as an AFD Mechanic from 1974-84. Survivors include six children, many grandchildren, relatives and friends.

DSHS Certification...EMT-Intermediate Chris Tucher

Service Awards. . .

5-YR – FFs Aaron Barr, Rob Fehr, Jessy Horton, Will McBride, Gaylon Rodriguez, Justin Tiemann, & Gregg Valentine (11/30/04)

FFs Brandon Brown, Robert Boylson, Robert Pope & Derrick Sowell (03/08/05)

10-YR – FFs Jim Campbell, Scott Douglas, Hondo Henderson, Bryan Proctor & Jeff Triano, LTs Michael Pence, Kevin Johnson & Randy Scalf (12/7/99)

15-YR – EVT Stephen Hughes (01/10/95)

25-YR – EVT David Williams (11/27/84)

Save the Date...
2nd Annual AFD Awards Ceremony
February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the
Abilene Civic Center.

2009 AFD CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY



The Abilene Fire Department recently completed the 2009 Citizens Fire Academy which began in 1996. Fire Chief Ken Dozier liked the program and wanted it reinstated after seven years of being dormant. He felt no other program provided citizens with an inside look at the workings of their fire department better than the Citizens Fire Academy.

In June 2009, representatives from the city, county, businesses, news, colleges, and high schools were among some of the groups that were asked to submit names. In August, seventeen members were selected from the



pool to participate in classes that ran from September through October for eight weeks. There was a lot of class time where AFD members gave presentations about a particular aspect of their job. On most days there were hands-on applications where the members got out of the classroom and got to experience first hand how to use our equipment. Members got to ride the ladder bucket, cruise in an engine, observe an air bag deploy, use a fire attack hose, search and rescue at old Station 1, and even learned to package themselves up to rappel. On the final class day, Certificates of Successful Completion of the 2009 Citizens Fire Academy were presented to each individual.

Saturday, October 24, was the day everyone had worked hard for. Scheduled activities included extinguishing a live fire in our new burn building, rappelling from six stories, search and rescue in full gear in a smoked up tower floor, and vehicle extrication. Everyone probably had their favorites, depending on whether they enjoyed destruction, danger or

excitement. Chief Dozier served up picnic favorites of hamburgers, chips, and all the fixings and then it was time to go back to the fun.

After the Play Day was over, photos taken from each day's activities were compiled onto a CD and delivered to each CFA member. Also presented to them was a framed class photo, that now resides in the #1 station classroom with pictures of prior academies.



Fire Chief Ken Dozier, Division Chief Joey Kincaid and I would like to thank all of the fire department members that made a presentation at the Academy. We would also like to thank those that assisted outside of the classroom including the Play Day. Without your help, this would not have been possible.

Letting people know about your job is easy when you love what you do.

The members of the 2009 Citizens Fire Academy are: Donalyn Alexander, Diana Bailey, Teresa Borcik, Lesa Hart Crosswhite, Courtnee Hembree, Winona Henry, Raymon Ince, Diana Kemper, Kris Kowatch, Robert Laird, Rita Monterrosa, Maria Oliver, Shane Price, Joe Spano Jr., Aaron Vannoy, David Vela, and Kelly Wright.

Over time, the members started developing a relationship with each other that I am sure will last a long time. On a regular basis, we were thanked by these people for providing this opportunity. They expressed their enjoyment and appreciation. We would like to thank the CFA members for their positive attitude and willingness to try something new. Hopefully they will always feel a special connection to their fire department. After all, they are part of our organization now.

I just wanted to express my "Gratitude of Thanks" to everyone who took time out for the Abilene Citizens Fire Academy. The wealth of information I have received has been invaluable. I am very appreciative of your time and efforts. I have always had a sincere respect for those in public service to our community & our country and the more educated I am about the different professions of those who serve it furthers enforces my upmost gratitude, respect and honor that I hold for each of them, to whom the words "Thank You" could never seem quite enough for their selfless service in keeping our community safe, protected and a better place to live. Thanks for all you do, for sharing why you do what you do, the why behind the what and for making a difference.

Furthermore I want to express my thanks to Chief Dozier for sharing his fear of heights story with me as I struggle with this myself. Many thanks to Weldon Wilkerson and the fireman who was operating the ladder truck who gave me full assurance we would not get stuck up in the air. Ha-ha. I made it a point to ask before going up.

Thanks again, having a great time learning and I am blessed to be a part of this class.

*Best Regards,
Diana Kemper*

**CAPT JIM MOORE
L5/C SHIFT**

T'OTHER SIDE OF THE GREAT DIVIDE

40 yards up the hill the Colorado black bear sat looking us over. I do not know what he had in mind but with a bear tag in my pocket and a rifle handy, my fifteen year desire to have a bear skin rug was within reach. Just on *t'other side of the great divide* at about 9000 feet elevation in southwestern Colorado is some of the best elk hunting country in the world. I have been fortunate enough to feed my family off elk meat from this area for the last 15 years. I have lost track of all the folks that have been a part of our camp over the years and have also taken elk from this area.

When I was 32 my wife's uncle Curt planted the seed for me to want to go elk hunting. All the guys from that side of the family were planning to go, but my father-in-law and I were the only men who actually made the trip and hunted. My mother-in-law and my parents were the original members of the support crew. There has not been a season that the five of us have not returned to the high country and many others have joined us over the years. Sammy Hightower and his parents started going about 12 years ago and, for better or worse, are family now. His mom calls me son #2 but I may be closing in on being son #1.

The first year I went I bought a bear tag. I figured I had driven a long way to hunt and might as well hunt everything. I killed a 5x5 bull and a Fork Horn mule deer but no bear. For years after that the results were the same. Tag an elk maybe a deer, but salt and pepper the bear tag. I just never was in the right place at the right time to shoot a bear. I was close several times and other people saw bears, it just never worked out for me. The emphasis was on the elk hunt but shooting a bear was always in the back of my mind. A couple of years ago I decided, due to bad acorn crops or short funds in the hunting bank roll, to not get a bear tag. One of those years I was tracking a wounded elk in the bottom of a canyon. I had lost the trail and just about run out of light when a couple of bears moved into the canyon with me. I could hear the bears walking in the brush and they got close enough I could hear them breathing as they walked up the hill. I never saw these bears but they were within 20 feet of me. I decided I had better stuff to do, somewhere else, so I climbed out whistling and talking the whole way.

In '08 we had a great morning, maybe the best ever. Sammy, my wife's cousin Brian, his hunting buddy Kelvin and I had gone to a favorite spot of ours where we had a great view of a canyon that had been very productive over the years. I shot a cow elk at about 450 yards and Sam shot a bull at 500. The elk were not close to each other, one was down canyon and one was up canyon, so we knew we were in for a long day getting them out of the canyon. We headed around on the roads to the other side while Brian and Kelvin spotted from where we had shot. This is a common tactic we use to keep the elk located and guide someone on the other side to them. While we were going on our way around, another elk walked out above the cow I had shot and Brian filled his tag - 3 elk down in less than 2 hours, all shot at over 400 yards.



BEAR CLAW!

the timber for a glimpse of the bear I heard something behind me. I slowly turn and ... there is Sam. My thinking is "you wait here and I'll go kill the bear." Sam is thinking, "hey this jerk took my gun and is leaving me unarmed and alone with a bear running loose in the woods." Made me laugh out loud hard enough I figured the bear was long gone. When we found Sam's 4x5, the bear had started to work on getting a mid morning snack. You could see claw marks in the hide around the bullet hole and the hair was cropped off in the same area. Sam asked if I thought the bear would come back and I assured him it would not as these were high country bears. Very reclusive and shy these bears skeddaddle when humans are around. We



Lt Sam Hightower w/ his elk.

Sam and I found Brian's elk and gutted her, then mine, and headed up canyon to the last place we had seen Sam's bull. The brush started to get really thick as we neared the area of Sam's bull. Kelvin signals us there is a bear near where we thought Sam's bull had gone down. I had a tag. I was in the right place. I had no gun! What! Yeah, well not the best plan, but it seemed like a good idea to leave my gun at the top and carry the pack while Sam carried his gun. My elk was dead and we were not sure about Sam's. I dropped the pack and asked Sam for his gun with the intention of sneaking up on this bear. The trail was soft and damp, the wind was in my favor and the bear was preoccupied. As I began to search

guted Sam's bull who had fallen in a bad position and try as we might we could not get him turned. By the time we finished the job we were both shoulder deep in our work. I don't know if you're keeping count, but that's three elk we gutted. You might say we were a little gamey. I looked up the hill to start picking a route out for the elk and saw a 250 pound carnivore sitting on his haunches, front feet on the ground in front of him, looking straight at me and Sam. My first thought was "I smell exactly like what he was just trying to eat." My second thought was "I wonder if Sam is going to fall for the ole let me see your gun deal again." Sam had not seen the bear yet so in my best sneaky hunting voice I hollered "there's that bear." Sam said "where?" I said "right there looking at us, where's the gun?" Sam said "over by the elk" and stepped over to get it. Sam handed me his 300 ultra mag and said "bubba shoot straight."



Hauling fresh elk & bear back to camp!

I told Sam "if he drops to his left I got him." Now, I am pretty sure the bear was really confused by the elky smelling Texans, the hollering and jumping around, and I am

pretty sure all the commotion and shooting earlier had him confused on what to do. He did the one wrong thing. He dropped over to my left and started to walk. The 180 grain nosler bullet hit him in the left shoulder. I immediately chambered another round as the bruin let out a bellow and jumped over a 2' tall stump in front of him. He turned and jumped back over the stump and then headed straight down the hill at me and Sam. I knew I had hit him hard and I thought I could hit him on the run. Just as I was going to shoot again he started rolling head over heels down the hill. The bear rolled to a stop just 15 feet away. I kept the cross hairs on him just in case he was not down for good and something started poking me in the back. Sam was trying to hand me more bullets to load in

the gun. The flood of adrenaline, tensing up for what could have gotten western real quick, and elation at having finally killed a bear, all flooded in at once. I really was not ready to take the cross hairs off the bear yet and I could not watch him and put the bullet in the clip. Also, for some reason my fingers and brain started not to cooperate so I handed the gun back to Sam and told him he was going to have to load it. The nosler bullet had done its job. The beautiful chocolate colored bear was down for good.

It was well after dark when we finished winching all four animals out. Snow was starting to fall promising a cold night, which was a blessing after the hot temperatures of the previous 3 days. The meat would chill out well that night. As we drove into camp, my mother and mom #2 came out of the cook tent with cameras in hand. Their jaws dropped when the tail gate came down and they saw the bear riding in the back on top of the elk.

I can't tell you what is the best part, hunting with Sam, having my family and friends there, the challenge of hunting in the rugged mountains or feeding my family from God's gracious bounty. But I can tell you every time I look at that beautiful bear skin rug it takes me back to a morning in Colorado just *t'other side of the great divide*.



Capt Russell Pope w/ The Bear

CAPT RUSSELL POPE,
L1/A SHIFT

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Where did the term 'Tapped Out' originate?

This term goes back to the days when fire departments commonly used fire alarm boxes. Once a fire was out the Battalion Chief or his driver would go back to the alarm box. He would use the telegraph key to send a signal that all companies at "Box 213" were clear because the fire was out. He would "tap out" this signal. The watch personnel in every station would note that this fire was "tapped out." In some cities the code for under control was "1-1" and the code for all companies clear was "6-6."



CAPT MICA CALFEE
IRVING FIRE DEPARTMENT
WWW.CAPTAINMICA.COM



LT John, Linda, & Brady Smith with Josh & Katie Hamilton

Recently Josh Hamilton (outfielder for the Texas Rangers) and Katie, his wife traveled to Abilene for a speaking engagement at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Banquet. Josh & Katie made a special stop while they were in Abilene. The following is a note from Linda Smith (Lt. John Smith's wife) recalling their visit with the Hamiltons. Thanks Linda for sharing this encouraging story with all of us.

We made a request through the FCA for Josh and Katie Hamilton to visit Brady (John and Linda's son) and they forwarded it to Josh's agent who approved it!

The Hamilton's stopped and visited us for about 30 minutes. Katie said it was a real blessing to meet Brady and invited us to a game this summer. She said they would get Brady down on the field to watch batting practice. He is so excited. We hope his health is good so we can go. We couldn't believe how nice they are!

They are very strong Christians and Josh continues to win his battle with addiction. He has an awesome story. They are the real deal! We think Brady was awe struck and didn't say much, but when everyone left he couldn't stop talking and was so excited he couldn't sleep that night. Josh signed a ball, card, picture, and Brady's t-shirt (he was wearing his Hamilton shirt). It was a blessing to see his face light up!

We made some wonderful memories!

LINDA SMITH



Brady & Josh

ANOTHER FAVORITE

Chief Dozier received a series of handwritten stories from one our retirees anonymously. We have appreciated and enjoyed these memories and this is the final story in this series.

I have many stories and memories, and I know many of you have your share of fire and firefighter stories. One of my favorites was Ben Dozier who was Lt on C-shift when I was firefighter many years ago. He was my Lieutenant until he made Captain and went to Station #2. Ben was a super individual and helped me to get on the Fire Department and encouraged me many times while we worked together. I never knew Ben not to make #1 on any promotional exam he took.

When our crew would visit other stations, there was always someone to 'pull the tape' trick or 'flick the lights' trick and it would always bring the same results. The man, or whoever was standing closet to Ben would take a hit. It was always funnier if an innocent bystander got hit. Even though the man might take a hard hit, he was laughing the whole time. Ben was another one of the super, super Abilene Firefighters remembered.

Then there was the time Greg Jones, Steve Taylor, and Craig Foreman, well I guess I'll leave you guessing about these three. And oh yeah, Gary Mims. P.S. Gary write in and tell these young guys about your "Back Draft Movie" at South 18th and Pecan. And, Ed Edmondson, another great guy. What a volleyball player/coach who could really get the most out of his teams, especially the rookies.

All these men and many more each have their own unique individual talents and abilities, and the common denominator they shared was their love for the Abilene Fire Department.

Here is a challenge to all you retired guys, write a story and send it in, sharing our common bonds and Abilene Fire Department history with the young guys.

Fire Report

Fire at Street No. Rose & So. 11th
 Date November 19, 1932 Time 3:21-3:31 PM
 Name of Owner _____
 Address of Owner _____
 Occupied by _____
 Cause of Fire? _____
 Place of Origin? False Alarm
IF ROOF STATE TYPE
 Confined to Place of Origin? _____
 Extended to Other floors? _____
 Extended to Adjoining Property? _____
 Extended Beyond Adjoining Property? _____
 How Was Fire Extinguished? _____
 Did Sprinklers _____

Ext. Fire	Held in check	Fail
-----------	---------------	------

 No. of Sprinkler Heads Open _____
 Were inside Stand-pipes available? _____
 No. of Hose Leads Used? _____
 If Cause Suspicious State Why. _____
 Building Occupied as A _____
 Class of Building _____
 Interior Finish _____
 32 Blocks

Someone got too hot and called Fire & Police, Ice company, Ambulance, and wrecker.

CONTRIBUTED BY
FF SCOTT RIGGINS, E5/C SHIFT

COME FLY WITH ME

I can remember back, as a young boy, my first encounter with model aviation. Now,

to clear what some of you are thinking, that time in my life was several years after the Wright Brothers flew their airplane, so yes there were airplanes during my younger years! Even though my first attempt as a pilot was not a successful venture, time has passed and today I spend most of my weekends and free time either in my living room (much to my wife's dislike) building airplanes or at the club field flying them. It was not until 1993 that I made another attempt at an aviation career. This time ended somewhat like the first. I read in the local



AC Alan Plumlee's collection

newspaper an ad listing all the equipment needed to get into radio control (RC) modeling. I made the purchase of an airplane and enlisted a friend who was quiet proficient in flying model RC to help me. We loaded the truck and headed for the local airport for some flying time. Here is where I learned another important lesson in RC flying. Make sure your airplane and radio equipment are air worthy. As the plane taxied down the runway all appeared OK, climb out was good, and then it happened-



AC Alan Plumlee & his planes

no control, I had lost control of the airplane. I stood watching as my airplane flew into the ground, no survivors, only pieces of balsa wood, an engine and radio receiver. Not willing to give up, my wife and kids bought me a new airplane and radio for Christmas. I also located a man who has spent most of his life enjoying model aviation. He helped me build my new plane and still today is a man who I go to for help and information. Even though my time spent in the hobby started out sort of rough, I do not regret any of it. Like most hobbies there is an expense to RC aviation. If someone were interested in RC Modeling it would take about \$500 to purchase equipment and an airplane designed for a beginner. From there it is nothing but up. I have recently purchased a quarter scale airplane and hope to enter my first scale contest this summer. I have my sights on a 1/3 scale with a 100 cc gasoline engine. I will have to move out of the living room and into the garage with that purchase. If anyone is interested in RC modeling feel free to get in touch. For those interested in taking in some flying there are usually pilots at Seabee Park on Saturdays and Sundays, if the weather permits.

AC ALAN PLUMLEE

A SIGHT TO BEHOLD

I don't really think I can give this scene justice, but allow me to relay the following story. The names have not been changed to protect the innocent.

On Wednesday, July 29, I was at my barn, which I have been working on for several months, when the weather changed and would not permit me to weld. Up to this point I have had a slab poured and installed electricity. Wednesday was a rainy wet day so I did not risk searing my eyes shut electing not to weld that day. I had begun, several days before, a workbench on the south wall of the barn. I know a workbench is, and should be, the most elementary of carpentry projects, so I didn't feel overwhelmed to undertake the task. To this point I had three 2x6's protruding from the wall. Using left over lumber from the construction of my barn (I hired this massive project into existence), I decided to put legs on the front of the 2x6's using warped 4x4's. Using a hand held circular saw and without too much fuss I completed this project. Next came the installing of a 2x6 to the front of the 2x6's protruding from the wall. This would give me a level surface to mount the plywood on. There was only one 2x6 long enough for this assemblage. It was twelve foot long and as warped a piece of lumber as I have ever seen. The crown was extreme to say the least. I attached the 2x6 to one of the end pieces coming from the wall and then to the other end. At this point it was time to attach it to the middle 2x6 protrusion. The deformed 2x6 was at least an inch too high for the middle board. The answer was brute strength to yield it into submission. Pressure was applied. With framing hammer in my left hand and a nail in my right I was ready to nail. Suddenly, there was an explosion of lumber. Splintered wood flew in all directions. When the dust cleared, I had torn the corners of the said 2x6 off of it, the nails which held the ends were still in the protruding pieces. No profanity was spoken, only laughter at myself. Assessing the situation, the only option was to turn the 2x6 over with the crown down, running to town for another piece of lumber was out of the question. This place is thirty-five miles from town and my pickup is not considered a fuel-efficient vehicle. Furthermore, I had been challenged by the rebellious lumber and was going to force it into submission.



At this point I feel my literary skills will limit my ability to draw an accurate picture. Nevertheless, I will proceed. I, once again, fastened the board at both ends, more securely this time. The

crown had relented not a fraction, only this time it is facing down. The following tools were now called for: a floor jack, fence stretcher and a lariat rope that will be useless after this operation. The fence stretcher was used to hold the end pieces in the right position on the floor and the floor jack was used to jack up the center of the board, to force it into submission. *It was a sight to behold* and all appeared to line up. The lumber was all attached at the appropriate points, using not only 16d nails but also lag bolts to ensure stability and long life.

Now the moment of truth, all tools used to force said lumber into submission were removed. As I proudly viewed my work, I observed that both end legs had come approximately one inch off the floor and the bench appeared to be smiling at me. I considered cutting an inch off the middle leg to allow all of them to make contact with the floor. Though this would solve an immediate problem it would not wipe the smile off. Finding no other solution, I disassembled the workbench electing to purchase additional lumber and attack said project on my next visit to the farm. I spent three hours coming to this conclusion.



LT CRAIG FOREMAN,
E4/A SHIFT

LOCAL 1044 NEWS

We enjoyed a great 2009 and are looking forward to a fantastic 2010. Almost 170 people enjoyed our Annual Association Banquet in January. Marty and Tammi Sanders did a great job organizing this event which included a great meal, a wonderful slide show highlighting this years community service activities, some great old school pictures of our new retirees and remembering those who passed away this past year. Marty and Tammi also provided a ton of great door prizes. Following our meal and slide show Zac Brown's wife Brittany introduced a new game called Left, Right, Center that Jackie Johnson won. We also held our version of the World Series of Poker Championship and the winnings were given to our brother, Kenny Stites, who is recovering from a heart attack.

The banquet was held at Joe Allen's who charge us \$20 per meal. If anybody has another suggestion or wants a change of venue let the E-board know and we can see how it compares.

As 2010 begins we thought we would include our Association structure in this issue of the newsletter so you can know how to get in touch with us.

Remember anyone wishing to help in any of these areas should contact a committee member and offer assistance. Assistance is always needed and appreciated!

Thanks again for all your involvement. You make a difference. Our hope and goal is to serve our members, our department and our community.

FF JESS MADISON
E2/C SHIFT

**Check out Firehouse Chef Episodes on the web at:
www.abilenefiredepartment.org**

AUXILARY NEWS

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe start to the New Year.

The Abilene Fire Department Calendars were a great success! A continued thanks to Lindsey



time and location have yet to be decided. We will send out invitations in early March. Watch for yours in the mail!

Last, but not least, we are still trying to recruit new members! We have new officers and lots of new and fun ideas. Our meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at Station #1 Classroom at 6:00 P.M. This months meeting will be February 9th.



<u>E-BOARD</u>	
President Kevin Johnson	325-6 69-1626
V.Pres. Marty Sanders	325-6 69-2792
Treasurer Ernie Locke	325-6 65-2053
Secretary Jess Madison	325-7 33-7588

Chaplain Chris Hale
325-2 80-5332

Historian
Heather Parish

Public Information Officer (PIO)
John Brunett
325-260-7556

TRUSTEES
A Shift Derek Ernst
B Shift Heather Parish
C Shift Tony Hay

SHIFT STEWARDS*
*Stewards are in place to answer questions any member might have and to relay information to and from the E-board and the membership.
A Shift Rob Fehr & Craig Martin
B Shift John Brunett & Jimmy Hall
C Shift Brandon Brown & Mike Miller

<u>COMMITTEES</u>	<u>Building Committee</u>
<u>PAC</u>	Marty Sanders
Rodney Goodman	Heather Parish
Eddie Harris	Jesse Horton
Ernie Locke	<u>Benevolence Committee</u>
Tony Hay	Ernie Locke
Scott Slack	John Brunett
	Mike Miller
	Chris Hale

Cotton for taking all of the photographs and a HUGE thanks to everyone who sat out in the cold to sell them! We have a few left that we are still trying to sell and will be selling them for \$5. Remember the majority of the proceeds will go to the Cancer Services Network and the money stays right here in the Big Country to help patients and families conquer the cost of fighting cancer. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar please contact an Auxiliary member for your copy.

Our next fundraiser will begin in March, courtesy of Toni Madison (wife of Jess Madison). We will be selling Scentsy products for a fundraiser so we can continue to support our firefighters and our Abilene community. Keep a close watch in March for the new catalog. They are a GREAT gift idea with Mother's Day right around the corner!

We are currently looking at March 27th for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The

**RACHAEL BARR
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

5-5-5 THE LAST ALARM

Lawrence J. "Larry" Kraus, was born in St. Louis, Missouri on Dec. 21, 1955. Larry graduated from West Anchorage High School in Anchorage, Alaska and West Texas State University with a bachelors' degree in education. He married Cara Sue Butchofsky in Canyon, Texas on May 22, 1978. They moved from Amarillo to Abilene in 1981. Larry was a member of the Abilene Professional Firefighters Association and the Wylie United Methodist Church.

Larry joined the Abilene Fire Department on March 16, 1982. On Oct. 9, 1984 he was promoted to the rank of Senior Firefighter.

Shortly after rookie school Larry was assigned to Station 2/A-Shift. On Sept. 5, 1982 he was working as a crewmember assigned to Booster 2 along with his officer, Capt. Bobby Sartor, and driver Sr. Firefighter James Tatum. At 17:16, as the crews were preparing for supper, an alarm came in for Booster 2 to respond to a grass fire in the 2300 block of Oak Street. On arrival the crew observed a small grass fire at the base of a utility pole. A WTU transformer had exploded covering the area around the pole with a considerable amount of oil starting the fire. Capt.

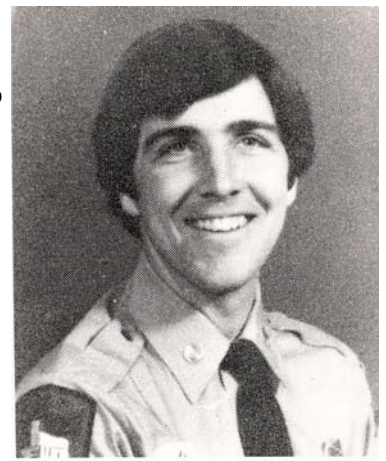
Sartor ordered Firefighter Kraus to pull the booster line and attack the fire. During this procedure Larry's bunker gear and the booster line managed to become coated in quite a bit of the oil. The crew quickly tapped out the fire and Larry set about cleaning his gear and the booster line. As they were rolling up the line the WTU representative arrived on the scene to assess the damage. During his assessment he informed Capt. Sartor that the oil contained polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Capt. Sartor notified District Chief Ewing Nelson, of the situation and the site was soon secured for clean up and decontamination.

Over the next several years Larry began experiencing an increasing amount of unexplained health problems. In September 1986 he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of malignant lymphoma. During the next two years Larry endured a variety of treatment including surgery and chemotherapy to no avail.

On Wednesday, September 28, 1988, Senior Firefighter Larry Kraus died at Hendrick Medical Center, at the age of 32. Autopsy and toxicology tests confirmed the presence of elevated levels of PCB isomers.

Services were at 2:00 pm, Friday, September 30th at the Wylie United Methodist Church with Rev. Lewis Holland officiating. Burial with full Fire Department honors was in Elmwood Memorial Park, directed by Elliot-Hamil Funeral Home.

Survivors included his wife, Cara Kraus of Abilene; a daughter, Amy Kraus of Abilene; his parents Edwin and Sue Kraus Sr., of Abilene; a twin sister Laura Schutze of Fort Collins CO., two other sisters, Mary Pragovich of Lockport Ill., and Margaret Brown of Abilene. He also had two brothers; Edwin Kraus Jr. and John Kraus, both of Abilene; and his grandparents Elsie Compas of St. Louis and Edwin Charles Kraus of Flippin, AR.



SR FIREFIGHTER
LAWRENCE "LARRY" JAMES KRAUS
DIED IN THE LINE-OF-DUTY
09.28.88

"Every firefighter performs an act of bravery once in his career. That is when he takes the oath of office. After that, everything else is in the line of duty. FDNY Battalion Chief Ray Downey died in the line of duty September 11, 2001.

AC JIM FRAZIER

FF RONALD TEAL, E8/A SHIFT

FROM THE TAILBOARD

Compassion is amazing. It is much more than empathy; compassion is unique because it drives us to move beyond a momentary feeling which can be lost. Compassion moves us to action; action to help others, action to relieve pain and suffering of others, action to simply be there for someone else. In the fire service we often think in action terms: quick response, rescue training, preparation, instinct & skill. These are accomplished in the attempt to relieve others pain, suffering, or damage (whether physical or emotional) in the midst of tragedy and crisis. Yet before the action is taken, compassion is present.

Compassion is a core tenant in the Christian faith. Throughout the New Testament compassion is present. Paul describes God as "the Father of all compassion," in I Cor. 1:3 Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount

says "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) powerfully demonstrates a Samaritan's compassion when he encounters a stranger who is helpless and in pain. Compassion moves the Samaritan into action to help and heal. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus lives and exemplifies a life filled with compassion and mercy. Ultimately, the New Testament story is one of God's compassion through the sacrifice of his Son for the world. The stories of Jesus' encounters with people show his compassion. Many times these encounters are with people who are held at the margins of society and are experiencing crisis or tragedy.

Most of us can identify a crucial or broken point in our life where we have been the recipient of compassion. Receiving compassion in a moment of crisis or defeat may have changed our lives and given us hope. In this profession you have chosen, the care and comfort you give friends and

strangers is compassion that offers hope to the hurting. In a powerfully compelling quote, Frederick Buechner offers these words, "Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too." Compassion at times is overwhelming for both the one who gives and for the one who receives.

I am thankful for your skill and courage as you meet the challenges of being a firefighter. I am even more thankful for the compassion which propels your action and service.

May the Lord guide your hands and protect your hearts as He fuels your desire to be compassionate as you serve our community.

"At the end of the day, love and compassion will win."

Terry Waite

CHRIS HALE
FIRE CHAPLAIN