



# FAIR HAVEN FIRE COMPANY No. 1 *Newsletter*

Volume 4, Issue 2 August, 2002

FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT  
Bernard Dupree

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF  
John Feeny

FIRST AID CAPTAIN  
Bill Acker

FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN  
Lew Davidson

SCUBA TEAM CAPTAIN  
Stewart Watson

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
Dale Connor

### *RED BANK STUDENT STEVEN DEPONTI WINS SECOND FHFD VOLUNTEERISM AWARD*

Last year the Fair Haven Fire Company instituted a one-thousand dollar scholarship for volunteerism for high school Seniors who are Fair Haven residents or family members of the Fair Haven Fire Company, whether Fair Haven residents or not.

Following in the tradition set by last year's winner Shannon Conner, this year's winner Steven DePonti scored well in all of the criteria used to evaluate candidates:

- Academic accomplishments
- Fire Department involvement
- Community involvement
- School involvement.

Steven plans to pursue automotive studies at Brookdale Community College, where he has been accepted for the Fall Term. "The Fire Company felt last year's scholarship was a great success and voted to continue the practice," said Gary Verwilt, Scholarship Committee Chairman. "Even though the amount is a small token of the educational fees required these days, we feel the recognition is well deserved."

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

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*The Annual  
Firemen's Fair Will  
Take Place  
August 23 -31*

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*Volunteers are needed  
to work at the Fair.  
This is a great chance  
to meet your neighbors  
and contribute to a  
worthy cause.*

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**To Sign Up for a  
Single Night or the  
Entire Event,  
Contact  
Joe Perrotto  
(732) 741-0798**

## **TWO NEW ADDITIONS TO FHFD APPARATUS ENHANCE RESCUES AT LAND OR SEA**

July saw the arrival and introduction into service of two major new pieces of apparatus—a new Air / Rescue Unit and a Marine Rescue Unit.

The Air / Rescue Unit was purchased by the Borough of Fair Haven and fills a critical need during fires, motor vehicle accidents and other rescue situations. The truck was custom designed and fabricated by PL Custom Body & Equipment Company in Manasquan, based upon specifications developed by the Fair Haven Fire Company's New Truck Committee and approved by Borough Council.

### **SEE PHOTOS INSIDE**

The Unit, identified as Fair Haven Unit 1385, has two basic missions: (1) to support rescue operations by carrying a multitude of rescue tools, including extrication tools ("jaws of life"), cribbing, high-intensity lighting and other rescue apparatus, and (2) to support operations at the scene of a fire by providing a very large capacity of compressed and purified air to re-supply self-contained breathing apparatus ("Scott tanks") used by firefighters.

"The folks at PL were extremely

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*Continued from p. 1—“New Additions”*

cooperative in working with us to meet our specifications and making any changes whenever required,” stated Jack Mulvihill, New Truck Committee Chairman.

Also complementing the Fire Department’s rescue operations is the delivery to the Fair Haven First Aid Squad of a pre-owned boat that the Squad has converted into a Marine Rescue Unit, identified as Fair Haven Unit 1359. The boat, a 20-foot Maritime Skiff, was owned and donated to the Squad by a local Fair Haven resident and replaces the 30-year old unit that was destroyed during a storm last year.

Unit 1359 will serve the boating community of Fair Haven and surrounding towns that border the local waterways, serving as a surface rescue and marine EMS unit. It will also support the Fire Company’s dive team during recovery operations.

The Fair Haven Yacht Works has donated dry-dock storage for the Unit. “We are extremely pleased with the stable and secure platform this boat provides us,” says Wade Davis, Co-Chairman of the Boat Committee. “This was a cooperative effort by our Committee, a local resident, and a local business.”

The boat has already seen action: it responded to two medical emergencies during Red Bank’s Fourth of July fireworks display on the Navesink River.

## Is it the Fire Department or Fire Company?

Feedback from readers of the *Newsletter* and — for that matter — from some of our members, indicates some confusion about what we call ourselves. Are we “the Fire Department,” the “Fire Company,” or what? And how about those other organizations — the First Aid, the Fire Police, the Auxiliary, etc. etc.? How do they fit into all of this? While this issue might not be as significant as the current state of affairs on Wall Street, we felt some degree of clarification on this matter might make your day go a little better. So here we go:

The Fair Haven Fire Department is a part of the Borough of Fair Haven, just like the Borough Police Department. The Fire Department leadership consists of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and the First and Second Assistant Chiefs. The Chief positions, which are voluntary, are sworn in by the Mayor at the annual re-organization meeting every January. Since the Borough purchases the firefighting apparatus (trucks), the equipment carries the “Fair Haven Fire Department” nomenclature and the Monmouth County unit designation (e.g., Unit 1373). In addition to these voluntary positions, the Borough also employs a Fire Code Inspector.

The Fair Haven Fire Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 is an organization that was incorporated June 1, 1904, to provide firefighting services for the Department. Members of the Company elect officers, including the Chiefs, who are selected to lead the Borough Fire Department. Over the years, the Company has added organizations that provide additional services, including the First Aid Corps, the Fire Police, the Scuba Team, the Auxiliary, etc. The Fire Company owns all of the property and buildings at the corner of River and Battin Road. All of the emergency service vehicles are owned by the Borough and housed at this location.

Since Fair Haven has never had but one fire company, the names “Fire Department” and “Fire Company” have become interchangeable. So, what you call us is up to you. Just rest assured that when you call us we’ll be at your service very promptly! Hope this little lesson in organizational structure helps you understand us a little better.

*First Aid Squad Captain Bill Acker demonstrates the stability of the new Marine Rescue Unit. The 1995 Maritime Skiff is very stable, with a 20-1/2 foot length and 7-1/2 foot beam. It is powered by a 90 HP Johnson outboard engine.*





*The Fire Company's New Air-Rescue Unit includes a lighting tower that provides 10-kilowatts of area lighting, has an enclosed cab for firefighters as well as the driver, and includes numerous compartments for rescue tools and other essential equipment.*

## **Spotlight on the Organizations — The Fair Haven Fire Police**

*The **Fair Haven Fire Police** are volunteers who are members of the Fire Company and who, after attending training sessions, have been certified by the State of New Jersey to perform the following duties:*

1. *Directing, monitoring and controlling the flow of traffic at fires, motor vehicle accidents and other emergencies. The goal is to permit all vehicles to quickly and safely exit the scene of the incident with a minimum of inconvenience.*
2. *Protecting Fire and First Aid personnel from vehicular traffic while they are operating at an emergency scene.*
3. *Assisting the Borough Police and Fire Department officials in the protection of the integrity of property and evidence at fire and accident scenes.*

*While most of these duties are carried out in Fair Haven, they sometimes take members out of town. On September 11, Fair Haven Fire Police responded to Atlantic Highlands and Highlands to assist those towns in dealing with the ferries that were arriving with evacuees from Manhattan.*

*Unlike other Fire Company organizations, the performance of Fire Police services often frustrates citizens, as traffic has to be detoured and detained. While the Fire Police are sensitive to these concerns, they ask citizens to be patient and understand that their actions are in the best interest of the protection of Fire Fighters and First Aid members.*

### **Fire Company Organizations are Actively Seeking New Members**

Contact James Butler, Sr. at (732) 741-3539 to discuss qualifications for becoming an active firefighter or a social member of the Department.

Contact William Acker at (732) 219-9754 or at email: wammy51@aol.com to discuss First Aid Corps membership.

Contact Tom Brounley at (732) 747-8572 to discuss Fire Police membership.

For additional information on the First Aid Corps, check out the web site at

<http://home.infinet.mindspring.com/~fhems>

Fair Haven Fire Company  
Fair Haven First Aid Squad  
River Road & Battin Road  
Fair Haven, NJ 07704

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## MEET US AT THE FAIR!

As mentioned on p.1 of the *Newsletter*, Fair time is almost here. For those of you who have lived in Fair Haven many years, you surely know that the Fair Haven Firemen's Fair is the Fire Company's main fund-raising activity and that it ranks as one of the largest fairs in New Jersey. Any of you with children have surely been pulled to the big event at the end of each August. And who among the "locals" doesn't know about the best clam dinner in the County?

However, if you're a newcomer, or even if you have lived here a long time, you may not have noticed a subtle but important change that has taken place in the way the Fair is organized and operated: it is no longer simply a matter for Fire Company members and their families. In recent years, the number of non-Fire Company volunteers working at the Fair from Fair Haven and surrounding communities has grown significantly. This trend is probably driven by two facts of our daily life: (1) Fire Company members increasingly work in commuting situations, making it difficult for them to dedicate every night to working at the Fair, and (2) neighbors in our community find it rewarding to pitch in and help out on such a worthy cause, even if they don't have an interest in formally joining the Fire Company.

Whatever the cause, the Fire Company wants and needs your help at this annual event. Join your friends and make some new ones at this fun ending to the summer's activities. Whether it's for a single night or the entire event, we need your help! If you're interested in working at the Fair, please call Joe Perrotto at (732) 741-0798. Hope we meet you at the Fair!