**Spring Dinner Snapshots**

*Photos by Sheryl Drost*

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**Station Gossip**

- Wow are we fighting fires - there’s twelve fires in this issue! Chief says we only had 77 fires last fiscal year and we haven’t been under 100 fires for a long time.
- A couple funny came out of the last fire: Micah Stay, I lost my lid, and I think we all heard, “It’s my birthday!”
- Seems Gina was having a black cat day on Wednesday.
- Ron sure seems to have a glow about him lately!
- Jerry McCormick is doing very well after his back surgery and can’t wait to get back to firefighting.
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to Trustee Jerry Ocker in the loss of his father.

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Does retired Chaplain Jim Cole have the Chief’s new wheels?

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Harlem-Roscoe Fire

PO Box 450

Roscoe, IL 61073

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**THE FIREHOUSE SCENE**

*Is a monthly publication of the
Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District*

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May 2010

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost

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**Fire Destroys Home**

*See page 3*

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Photo by Sheryl Drost

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Harlem-Roscoe Fire

PO Box 450

Roscoe, IL 61073
Loves Park VFW Firefighter of the Year Award

By Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

On Sunday, April 17, our 2010 recruit class graduated. We now have 10 new probationary firefighters. They all have made a commitment to continue the tradition of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District. They have joined an elite group of very dedicated individuals. We welcome them, and look forward to their contribution to the district. They will all continue with their education to complete the State Fire Marshal’s Firefighter II curriculum. I would also like to thank all of the instructors for their time spent teaching these individuals.

Congratulations to Firefighter Randy Lovelace. Randy was this year’s recipient of the VFW award. I would like to thank the VFW for continuing their support of this program. It was an enjoyable evening for us all in attendance.

As you can see throughout this newsletter, we have had a few structure fires. This is unfortunate for those affected; however, no one was injured in any of them. All the firefighters and officers on the scenes did an exceptional job. Please remember to check your smoke detectors for proper operation.

I would be remiss if I didn’t remember the moms of our district. I don’t think we thank you enough for all you endure, but more importantly for all the love you share.

By Helen Stein Rice

A Mother’s love is something that no one can explain. It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain. It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may. For nothing can destroy it or take that love away… It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking. And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking… It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns. And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems…

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY

May is the month that we recognize and celebrate those in EMS (Emergency Medical Services). It is the commitment and dedication of all the personnel that serve Harlem-Roscoe:


EMT - J: Mike Huffman


The Jack family previously made a donation for extrication tools in memory of the family patriarch, Ed Jack. Above Chief Shoevlin presents the family a memory plaque that has pictures of the donation and what the donation purchased.

Congratulations to Administrative Assistant Colleen Bloyer’s daughter Ramona and her husband Drew on the birth of their second child, Evan Thomas Brown. Evan was born on April 11, missing grandma’s birthday by one day! He measured in at 7lbs. 8oz. and 19.5” long. Big brother Caden (22 months) is adjusting to his new little brother very well and just loves to hug and kiss him. Congrats again, Stef and Drew; he is adorable!

In Memory . . .

Field Burn

Drill night training for March 30 was a controlled field burn between Roscoe Middle School on Elevator Rd. and Burr Oak Rd.
Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters were ousted from the beds at 3:22 am on May 3 when the tones went off for a house fire on Stamford Lane. Fire trucks from all three stations were on the road within minutes.

The rear of the two-story home was fully involved with fire when units arrived. (See picture on front page.) Firefighters initiated an aggressive attack and the fire was knocked down quickly. The aerial Quint ladder truck was used to extinguish the attic area of the 2-story home. The fire gutted both floors and the roof was burned away. Overhaul would take a couple hours to get to all the hot spots. Fire investigators believe the fire started at the outside electric meter. The smoke detectors were hard-wired (without a battery back-up) and failed to sound when the electricity went out. Rockton Fire also assisted on the scene with their rescue truck to fill air bottles.

The homeowner says he was awakened by the smell of smoke and found that fire was outside the rear of his home. He said the flames were already above his 2nd-story bathroom window. He quickly woke his wife and daughter and they went outside. The wife was given oxygen on the scene, but was not transported. Two pet cats would be lost in the fire. One cat had been rescued and given oxygen on the scene, but died the next day. The home was completely destroyed.

The hose line on the Quint aerial truck made quick work of putting out the fire in the attic area. The fire was through the roof when units arrived.

Firefighters Adam Cox, Micah Anderson, and Randy Lovelace can easily be seen doing inside overhaul because the fire had burned the outside wall away.

EMT Tom Lake and Paramedic Ramona Baldon-Lake use the pet oxygen mask to help the cat Lt. Klaman rescued from the fire. Sadly the cat died the next day.

The 2-story home was completely gutted and destroyed by the fire.
Firefighters responded to a report of a chimney fire on Greglynn St. on April 16. The fire started around the fireplace chimney and had spread into the outside wall and the attic above the family room when fire units arrived. Firefighters made an aggressive attack on getting to and extinguishing the fire, both in the outside wall and above the inside family room ceiling, saving the rest of the home from fire! The residents had been using their fireplace and the fire started around the fireplace chimney. Animals can easily find their way into the area between the chimney pipe and those decorative fake metal chimneys to make their nests - especially under the chimney cap.

A farmer on Pleasant Valley Rd., northeast of Roscoe, lost a hay barn to fire after winds sent burning embers from a nearby brush pile into the barn on April 17. The barn collapsed to the ground as units arrived. The farmer wanted to let it burn, but County officers said the fire was to be put out - that the farmer could only burn brush grown on the property.

Let’s meet the new firefighters…

**Bill Rahn** and his wife Margie have been married for two years. He has two children Brian (16) and Amanda (14) and one stepdaughter, Jessica (16). He works as an armed security guard for the Byron Nuclear Plant. Bill previously served 22 years on Hanover Park Fire. His father and brother also serve on Hanover Park Fire. Bill served in the Marine Corps and Army Reserves. His hobbies are yard work, cleaning his vehicle, and spending time with his family. Bill will be running out of Station #1.

**Clay Hendershot** and his wife Tileena have been married for nine years. They have three children, Trevor (7), Aidan (6), and Nadia (6). Clay is a Curotto Can Operator for Marengo Disposal. Clay has an aunt that serves on Rockford Fire. His hobbies are playing corn hole or bag games. He will be running out of Station #2.

**Danielle Baumgartner** is single. She works for Marco’s taking orders, making food, or deliveries. She starts Rock Valley College in June for General Education. She has a second cousin that serves on Genoa-Kingston Fire. Her hobbies are horses, dirt bikes, and being outside. She will be running out of Station #1.

**Eric Wilkins** and his wife Jennifer have been married for six years. They have one son Joshua (3) and they have one due in November. Eric is a charter jet pilot for Travel Management & Company. He has a B.S. in Economics from the University of IL. Eric’s hobbies are hand gun shooting and sport aviation. Eric will be running out of Station #1.

**Dustin Swick** is single. He is in the Fire Service Program at Rock Valley College. He also has served four years in the USMC stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA.

**John Bunger** and his wife Jackie have been married for 15 years. They have three children, Trevor (11), Ryan (8), and Madison (6). He works as an assembly worker for Chrysler. John follows his grandpa into the fire service. His hobbies are jeeps and shooting. He will be running out of Station #3.

**Micah Anderson** is single. He is CEO of MASC Technologies. He is engaged to Tiffany. He previously served on Rockton Fire for four years. His grandpa was a fireman for South Beloit Fire for many years. His hobby is firefighting. He will be running out of Station #1.

**Mike Helland** is single. He is the Dining Services Lead at Wesley Willows Nursing Home. He is attending Rock Valley College for Criminal Justice. He is also currently enlisted in the Army National Guard as a Military Police Officer. His hobbies are golfing and mountain biking. He will be running out of Station #2.

**Robert Rosales** is single. He works at Walmart in the Bakery department. His hobbies are biking, reading, and games of all kinds. Robert will be running out of Station #3.

**Sean Laurent** is engaged and will be getting married this September and will gain two step children, Tyler (15) and Lexie (8). Sean works at RCS Management Corp where he delivers O2 bottles to nursing homes. Sean has previously served on both Cherry Valley Fire and Loves Park Fire for 1 ½ years each. His hobby is working on his motorcycle. Sean will be running out of Station #1.

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Blocked Chimney Pipe Blamed for Smoke
Photo by Sheryl Drost

Smoke backed up into a home from a wood burning stove on Pleasant Valley on March 24. Firefighters emptied the burning ashes from the stove before checking the chimney pipe for blockage.

Field Fires Continue
Photos by Sheryl Drost

Spring time burning continues to get away from homeowners. Please follow all burning rules and ordinances and use common sense when burning. For the sake of your property and your neighbors, do not burn on windy days!

Garage Fire Damages Home
Photos by Sheryl Drost & Charlotte Alms

Residents on Manchester Rd. decided to burn an old garage they had knocked down on April 20. They weren’t prepared though, for the heat of the burn to cause damage to their new addition on their home. So, the fire department was called and firefighters cooled down the home and knocked the fire down.

Cigarettes Blamed for Fire
Photo by Sheryl Drost

A resident on Deer Park Ln. called for help when his fire got out of the tree line. Above, firefighters Eric Wainright and Zak Prielipp help contain this fire.

Outdoor Light Causes Fire
Photo by Sheryl Drost

A resident on Wild Deer Trail was building a deck in his back yard on April 23 when he smelled smoke. He then noticed that smoke was coming from an exterior wall light. He grabbed the garden hose and called for the fire department. Firefighters cut into the wall and pulled insulation to get to all the fire extension.

Antique Car Catches Fire
Photo by Sheryl Drost

Roscoe resident Lynn Pond is grateful his wife came home when she did on April 5. It seems his wife opened the garage door and found it full of smoke. She could see it was coming from one of their antique cars. A neighbor out working in his yard came to the rescue and they pushed the car out of the garage. They also had most of fire out when fire units arrived.

Neighbor Saves Home!
Photo by Sheryl Drost

A resident on Springwood Ct. is grateful that her neighbor Loretta went looking for the smoke she kept smelling while out in her yard on April 29. Loretta had gone in search of the cause of the smell and found the rear wall of the home on fire. She knocked the fire down with water from a nearby garden hose and then banged on the door to awaken the sleeping resident.

Firefighter Dan Gunderson begins to overhaul the burned area in search of any fire extension.

Firefighter Eric Wainright and Lt. Tom Aaker look on as firefighter John Barth finishes putting the fire out in the engine compartment of the car.

Truck Destroyed by Fire
Photo by Sheryl Drost

Firefighter Christian Bush extinguishes burning insulation that firefighters Josh Hof and Paul Stanphill had pulled out of the wall while they were overhauling the burned area around where the outside light was.

Chief Shoevlin checks in with engineers Jeff Morris and Mickey Rykowski on the water supply.

Firefighters Randy Lovelace and Dustin Smock spray water as firefighter Joe Koeninger uses a pole to turn over the burning debris from the fire.

April 15, wind caused embers from a burn pile out into a field on Manchester Rd. above. Lt. Tom Aaker drives the grass rig as firefighter Eric Wainright uses a broom.

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Celebrating National EMS Week: May 16 - May 22, 2010
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Firefighters overhaul the fire area in search of any fire extension.

Truck Destroyed by Fire: Photo by Sheryl Drost
Firefighters Dan Gunderson and Scott Jensen begin the attack on a burning small pickup on Hwy 251 north of Prairie Hill Rd. on May 6.

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EMT Tom Lake and Paramedic Ramona Baldon-Lake use the pet oxygen mask to help the cat Lt. Klaman rescued from the fire. Sadly the cat died the next day.

Lt. Doug Wolfe attacks the fire on the second floor.

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Loves Park VFW Firefighter of the Year Award

Loves Park VFW Post 9759 hosted their annual Firefighter of the Year Awards on April 17. The post honors one firefighter from Harlem-Roscoe Fire, North Park Fire and Loves Park Fire each year from names each department submitted. The 2010 recipient from Harlem-Roscoe is Randy Lovelace. Congrats Randy!

Congratulations to Administrative Assistant Colleen Bloyer’s daughter Ramona Baldoni-Lake and her husband Drew on the birth of their second child, Caden (22 months) is adjusting to his new little brother very well and just loves to hug and kiss him. Congrats again, Stef and Drew, he is adorable!

May is the month that we recognize and celebrate those in EMS (Emergency Medical Services). It is the commitment and dedication of all the personnel that, in my opinion, make us second to none. Be proud of yourself, and of one another, for going above and beyond the call of duty. Our communities deserve the best, and all of you have seen that they receive it! Thank you to the following EMS personnel that serve Harlem-Roscoe:

- EMT - I: Mike Huffman

The Jack family previously made a donation for extrication tools in memory of the family patriarch, Ed Jack. Above Chief Shoevlin presents the family a memory plaque that has pictures of the donation and what the donation purchased.

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EMT - II: Tom Aaker, Ryan Alms, Adam Arnold, Tim Bergeesen, Jeff Brandenburg, Adam Cox, John Donovan, Adam Eich, Chris Fan, Josh Hoffland, Rudi Huggard, Scott Jensen, Gina Kaiser, Ron Klaman, Brian Knox, Joe Koeninge, Tom Lake, Randy Lovelace, Rob Lukowski, Jeff Morris, Maurice Radke, Mark Schafman, Eric Schweitzer, Mike Sherbon, Don Shoevlin, Steve Shoevlin, Mark Soppe, Brandon Tietz, Greg Wernick, and Christi Wilson.

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  - Jerry McCormick is doing very well after his back surgery and can’t wait to get back to firefighting.
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to Trustee Jerry Ocker in the loss of his father.

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**Postage**

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Fire Destroys Home
See page 3

Photo by Sheryl Drost