



WILMAR FIRE
DEPARTMENT INC.
3825 Bodega Avenue
Petaluma, CA 94952

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PETALUMA, CA.
PERMIT #92



50th ANNIVERSARY
FREE PANCAKE
BREAKFAST/OPEN
HOUSE
SATURDAY
MAY 14
at the FIRE STATION
From 8:00 a.m. to
11:00 a.m.

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WILMAR

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARCH 2016

VOLUME MMXVI

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ISSUE 1

Chief's Report

The Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department's dedicated volunteers have proudly served our community with integrity and professionalism in 2015. Wilmar personnel, along with our Cal Fire partners, responded to over 335 emergency calls. Of the 335 incidents, 185 emergency calls were in the Wilmar Community with medical emergencies continuing to be the largest percentage of our emergency response at 59%. Firefighters also responded to traffic accidents, structure fires, rescues, public assists, hazardous conditions and wildland fires in and out of the Wilmar community.

We work closely with our neighboring fire departments Two Rock, Lakeville, San Antonio, Petaluma, and Rancho Adobe. 2015 was a devastating fire season for some counties in Northern California. Wilmar Fire personnel and equipment responded on a local Engine Strike Team to Napa, Solano, Nevada, Lake and Humboldt Counties. Wilmar Fire personnel and equipment also covered CAL FIRE stations in Sonoma County when the State resources were on draw down status. Personnel and equipment were committed for over 8 weeks from July through September. Wilmar community was fortunate to only have one small wildland fire last summer.

In September of 1965 a fire started on Monte Vista in the overnight hours and spread quickly, fanned by 50 to 70 mph dry north winds. The fire burned into Marin county consuming close to 3,000 acres and several out buildings. Community members met at Agius Grocery soon after the fire and decided the community needed fire protection. That was the start of organizing what would become

the Wilmar Fire Department. Some of those organizers and their families still live in the community. These 16 could be considered Wilmar's Founders, Herold Mahoney, Roy Hyatt, John Nadale, Ed Lewitter, Al Nissen, Ray Ronsheimer, Frank & Jim Agius, Bill Gonsalves, Jr., Bob Mickelson, Jim McDowell, Al Kuck, Stanley Anderson, Oscar Miller, Lee Petersen, Roy Casperson.

Today the Wilmar Fire Department has not forgotten the commitment, professionalism and values that this community established 50 years ago. Our Volunteers strive to provide the best level of service and protection for our community and where called upon. Training is a high priority for our agency and we continue to be a leader of training and professionalism for the volunteer fire service in Sonoma County.

We continue to work hard at keeping costs for service down, but at the same time providing for the highest level of service possible. In 1966 Wilmar purchased its first fire engine, a 1948 Dodge for \$500. Fast forward 50 years, Wilmar is purchasing a new engine that should be delivered in August and the cost is just over \$500,000 and the equipment on it is valued at close to \$200,000. Fifty years ago the fire service responded primarily to fires. Our role is much different today with more demands for all incidents types and keeping up with the technology and equipment to provide quality service. We would like to thank all of you that have contributed to our organization. Your contributions and ongoing support ensure that we are provided with the tools and equipment we need to serve you as your fire department. I thank you for your support in 2015 and I look forward to working with our community in 2016.

... Mike Mickelson, Fire Chief

Director's Dialogue

Hard to believe, but Wilmar Fire Department is officially a half century old!! The folks here at Wilmar are excited to be celebrating the historic 50th anniversary of protecting life and property in the Wilmar Community! We've come a very long way since running that very first call back in 1966, and the members of this community have much to be proud of. After a huge wind swept fire travelled through this area consuming over 3,000 acres in 1965, the residents banded together with one thought in mind. Fulfill the immediate need of a local fire department. Then they set out to make it happen. Fast forward to 2016.

*We enjoy a fully equipped fire station, complete with a fleet of dependable fire suppression apparatus.

*Our department roster normally includes a group of between 25 to 30 dedicated and well trained firefighters.

*A Fire Explorer program that began 16 years ago, gives local high schoolers a hands-on experience to the fire service with many of them going on to join the ranks of our volunteer firefighters.

*Agreements with our neighboring fire departments, supplying mutual aid, training and support to each other whenever called upon.

*As a 100% Volunteer Organization, we are very proud to have over 60 individuals made up from our Firefighters, Explorers, Board Members, Support Staff and Auxiliary Members who donate their time & talents to make sure Wilmar remains a strong and sustainable organization!!

On behalf of the Wilmar Community, the Board of Directors would like to thank

Wilmar Auxiliary

ATTN: AUXILIARY MEMBERS.....

T-Shirts will be available through Jane Singleton (cell: 484-0283). We would like you to wear them to the Pancake Breakfast. Also you are invited to help the firefighters with their "Fire Station Spring Cleaning Day" on May 7th from 9 am to 12 pm.



We continue to try to expand membership in the Wilmar Auxiliary. These members are called upon to help out at the BBQ, send out newsletters and help with other fire department projects and activities throughout the year. If you haven't yet become a member of the Auxiliary please contact Pat McLaughlin at pmclaughlin18@comcast.net.



Kids Games
Fire Engine Rides

2 Raffles

Silent Auction

Win a
Trip for 2 to
Hawaii

Fun for the
whole family

Can't Stay?
Take Your
Meal "To Go"

Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department

Announces it's

50th Annual
Chicken BBQ Fundraiser
Sunday, July 24th
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the Holy Ghost Hall
(Corner of Bodega & Eucalyptus
Aves.)

Dinner Includes:
BBQ'd Chicken
Salad, Chili, Rolls and Milk

No Host Bar:
Beer on Tap, Wine, Soda and Bottled
Water

Adults -- \$14 ~ Kids -- 12 & under \$9

WILMAR
FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

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each of the five gentlemen (shown in the picture to the right) who have unselfishly given their time and talents to lead our department as Fire Chief for the past 50 years! Please note that Mike Mickelson took over from his dad Bob, becoming our 2nd Chief, and is again currently serving his second term as Chief!

We cordially invite you to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Wilmar Fire by attending a Free Wilmar Community Pancake Breakfast / Open House on Saturday, May 14th, from 8 am to 11 am. We are hosting the event at the fire station and will include:

- Station Tours
- Fire Safety House for the kids!

We will have a short meeting to satisfy our by-laws of conducting an annual meeting in order to elect a Board Member.

Please join us on May 14th, as we honor former Wilmar Fire Chief, Mark Heine, with this year's Community Recognition Award! We encourage you to bring the whole family out for a great breakfast and celebration! ...Bob Green, Board President

Wilmar Explorers....

2016 looks to be a great year for the Wilmar Explorer Post 9400! We have six candidates currently in the process to be joining the ranks of the Explorers. Our current Explorers include Will Coons, TJ Green and Jacob Bell. 2015 was also a very exciting year for the Explorer Post. In April we were able to send three Explorers to the annual Explorer Academy held in Fremont. During this week long training the Explorers learned valuable lessons and were provided top of the line training in the fire service field.

Also in 2015, three of our Explorers were promoted to the ranks of Volunteer Firefighter. Those individuals include Bailey Maack, Kyle Fairbanks, and Garrett Petersen. We know that they will be great additions to the department with all the education and skills they learned while part of the

Explorers. While we were able to keep some of our Explorers here within the department, others chose to further their education and attend four year universities. Dillon Plumbtree and Garret Petersen are both currently attending the Butte College Fire Academy.

In December we hosted the annual Christmas Toys for Tots Drive. During the Drive we collected over two truckloads of toys for needy children in our surrounding community. We would like to thank all of the members of the public for coming out to donate to this very worthy cause! Anyone wanting more information on possibly becoming a Wilmar Fire Explorer should visit our web site at: www.Wilmarfire.com. and click on the Explorers tab.

From all of us in Explorer Post 9400, we would like to wish you a safe year, and hope to see you all at our departments 50th Anniversary Community Pancake Breakfast!

2016 Community Recognition Award

Wilmar Fire Board of Directors is very pleased to announce our selection for the 2016 Community Recognition Award. This year's honor goes to former Wilmar Fire Chief, Mark Heine!! Mark applied for our Chief's job in October of 2009 while Wilmar Board Member, Al Mello was serving as our Interim Chief. Mark and Al worked together at the Novato Fire Protection District before Al retired. Mark is still working for NFPD, where he advanced all the way up through the ranks until he was promoted to their Fire Chief position in June 2013. After his promotion he continued on as the Wilmar Chief for several months juggling both jobs, but had to step down after serving our community for a total 4 years. He remains on our roster as a member of our "Support" staff, and is assigned to oversee our department's web site.

As our Chief, Mark brought a wealth of knowledge, inspiration and experience to Wilmar Fire. Our Volunteer Firefighters particularly enjoyed all of his personal support, his style of leadership and the professionalism that he brought to our organization. Mark's first exposure to the fire service occurred when he signed on as a Volunteer Firefighter for the Marinwood Fire Department down in Marin County. That experience is what inspired him to pursue a full time career. We are very grateful for Mark's continued dedication to our department!

Please join us when we present this year's Community Recognition Award to Chief Mark Heine at our free Wilmar Community Pancake Breakfast/Open House on Saturday, May 14th at the fire station!



Wilmar's Fire Chief's over the past 50 Years: from left to right: Bob Mickelson, Mike Mickelson, Don Reid, Al Mello and Mark Heine



2016 Spring Fire Facts

Did you know.....

•Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department is an "all-risk" department. This means that our Firefighters are all trained to the same level as a career firefighter, and can respond on all the same types of calls that a typical paid department does.

•Wilmar has a "sleepover shift" program for our Volunteer Firefighters who live outside of our district. Those firefighters can choose to work either a day shift or sleep over shift once a week at the station. This program not only improves our response time to a call, but is responsible for getting many necessary projects completed around the station.

•In our "pre-station" days, fire trucks were commonly stored in the garage of our first Chief, Bob Mickelson. When a call came in, his young sons, including current Fire Chief Mike Mickelson, would grab hand held stop signs to assist with traffic control to help get the rigs safely on the road.

•One of our original founders, Herold Mahoney, was very generous in helping our department out when it was needed. As funds ran short in completing the living quarter's area of the new fire station, Herold came through again with a big check! Another local contributor, Walt Sorensen, also assisted with helping to provide the finishing touches! After the work was complete, a Grand Opening was held for the community.

•Although it was a project that took over 10 years to complete, Wilmar Fire worked closely with Wilson School in assisting them with their quest to connect to Petaluma City water after experiencing numerous problems with the quality of the water in their well.

July 24th, 2016 will mark the 50th Wilmar Fire BBQ Fundraiser which is held at the Holy Ghost Hall. Although our first and longtime Head BBQ Chef, Bill DeMartin turned over his duties to the King brothers a few years ago, he still sits next to the pit each year in order to oversee quality control of the best chicken served in Sonoma County!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Firefighter Profile



Bailey Maack

Bailey is a Petaluma native who attended Wilson, Petaluma Junior High and Petaluma High Schools. Since his family home is very close to the Cal Fire station, his exposure to the firefighter community started early in life as he enjoyed spending time at their facility and interacting with the firefighters. His

relationship with Wilmar Fire became official when at the age of fifteen he joined the Wilmar Explorers and at age eighteen he transitioned to a Wilmar firefighter. While an Explorer he attended the week long Fire Explorer Academy which was held in Healdsburg that year. After graduating from PHS in June of 2015, Bailey enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College where he is pursuing an AA degree in Fire Technology. He is taking a full academic load of 16 units in addition to his volunteering at Wilmar and working 3.5 hours per day at a local business He is also enrolled in the Volunteer Academy where he is taught skills associated with fighting structure fires, providing medical assistance and fighting wild fires.

Bailey plans on being a career fire fighter and he has taken steps to prepare himself for this vocation. He enjoys working with his hands and took auto shop all four years at PHS. This experience allowed him to get his part-time job at Five Corner Automotive which he started while still at PHS. He is also very active in dirt sprint car racing as a mechanic both here in Petaluma and at other tracks in California and out-of-state.

Bailey is a very hard working and enthusiastic young man who has already demonstrated his ability to work with others and be a part of a team. Wilmar and the community are fortunate to have him on the roster as a volunteer.



Celebrate our 50th Anniversary of Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department

Free Wilmar Community Pancake Breakfast / Open House Saturday, May 14th from 8 am to 11 am. at the Firehouse

Station tours! Fire safety trailer for the kids!



Bob Green	President
	Vice
Jim Eckhoff	President
Al Mello	Treasurer
Lisa Gravesen	Secretary
	Board Member
Jane Singleton	
Rich Casarotti	CSA #40
Joe West	CSA #40

WILMAR ROSTER

Below is a list of all the personnel who volunteer their time to serve the Wilmar community:

Mike Mickelson	Chief
Kelly Bradley	Assistant Chief
Brian Mickelson	Captain
Justin Fox	Captain
Urban Anderson	Firefighter
Hannah Barnett-Powell	Firefighter
Marco Barros	Firefighter
Patrick Bradley	Firefighter
Jesse Cole	Firefighter
Eric Haggard	Firefighter
Ryan Hamilton	Firefighter
Joshua Hartlieb	Firefighter
Andrew Ihlenfeldt	Firefighter
Kyle Marshall	Firefighter
Kevin Nielsen	Firefighter
Lauren Powers	Firefighter
Shane Redmond	Firefighter
Tyler Selna	Firefighter
Tony Tescallo	Firefighter
RECRUITS	
Kyle Fairbanks	Recruit
Bailey Maack	Recruit
Kevin McNamara	Recruit
Mitch Neve	Recruit
John O'Brien	Recruit
Naomi Singleton	Recruit
EXPLORERS	
Jacob Bell	Explorer
Will Coons	Explorer
TJ Green	Explorer
SUPPORT STAFF	
Devon Gambonini	Engineer
Mark Heine	Web Site
Mark Horn	Captain Support
Pat McLaughlin	Auxillary
Debby McLaughlin	Newsletter
Julie Mello	Marketing Support
Don Reid	Facebook Support
David Tuttle	Firefighter Support
Garret Petersen	Recruit
Carol Brandt	Office Support