



WILMAR

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

JULY 2012

VOLUME XXXII

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ISSUE 2

Chief's Report

The firefighters and support staff of the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department continue to take great pride in serving our community. We currently have over 40 firefighters and support staff who respond to more than 350 emergency calls each year. Medical emergencies account for 60% of our emergency responses while fires, traffic accidents, and other hazardous incidents account for the remainder.

Our primary mission is to serve the Wilmar community. However, our firefighters respond to emergencies in Petaluma, Two Rock, Penngrove, Lakeville, and San Antonio under an aggressive mutual aid program. The mutual aid system ensures that you receive a rapid response to your emergency call for assistance.

As a result of the recent strong winds and warm temperatures, fire season quickly snuck up on us. We are already responding to vegetation fires in the Wilmar and surrounding communities. Indications are that this fire season will be a challenging one for us. We need your partnership in keeping our community safe from wildfire. Please visit our website to learn valuable information regarding establishing a defensible space around your property.

We are honored to have your support. Your

donations and attendance at our fundraisers, along with the diligence and hard work of our firefighters, has resulted in our ability to operate within a balanced budget while continuing to provide you with the high level of service that you deserve. Finally, please visit us at our website and Facebook page to keep in touch with what we're doing to serve you.

Directors' Dialogue

Summer is almost here which means the annual Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department chicken BBQ and fundraiser is right around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, July 22nd and plan to spend the day with us at the Holy Ghost Hall enjoying delicious BBQ chicken and ice-cold beverages, and maybe even winning a few great raffle and silent auction prizes! This is also an opportunity for you to support the Wilmar Volunteer Firefighters and Explorers. The profits from this event go a long way to provide our crews with tools and equipment they need to perform their job, so be sure to come by for some food and fun and support your volunteers at the same time.

We can always use community members to help out with the BBQ, as well as with other events and activities during the year. Whether it's selling dinner

tickets at the BBQ, donating or soliciting raffle prizes, or assisting with office tasks or computer entry, we are always happy to have your help. If you are able to give a little of your time, just log onto our website at Wilmarfire.com and click on the "contact us" box to let us know you'd like to help. The website is also a great way to keep up to date on Wilmar Fire Department activities, as well as make donations directly to the department.

Thank you to all the Wilmar Community members who attended the annual dinner meeting in March. We were pleased to see so many friends and neighbors in attendance, and the stew and polenta dinner cooked and served by our Firefighters and Explorers was a big hit. The real highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Wilmar Community Member of the year award to Leo Ladner. Leo served on the Board of Directors and was instrumental during the construction of the fire station, and he continues to step up and lend a hand whenever help is needed. Thank you for all your service and dedication over the years Leo. Also at the dinner meeting, Al Mello was re-elected to another five-year term on the Board of Directors. Al has done a terrific job as treasurer and we're fortunate to have him for another term.

Our volunteer firefighters continue to do a tremendous job responding

ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ SUNDAY

JULY 22

at the Holy Ghost Hall
Bodega Ave. at
Eucalyptus
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Adults \$12.00
Children age 12
and under \$7

Fun for the whole family!
2 Raffles
Kid's Games
Fire Engine Rides
Silent Auction
Can't stay?....
Take your meal
"to go"!

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3825 Bodega Avenue
Petaluma, CA 94952

to emergency calls, keeping up on all the required and necessary training, and maintaining our fire station, fire engines, and all of the life saving equipment needed to do the job. Chief Mark Heine and Assistant Chief Mike Mickelson work tirelessly to ensure that our Department continues to set the standard as one of the most respected volunteer fire departments in the County.

We can never say "thank you" enough to the Volunteers who make this department such a great organization. Anytime you have the chance, be sure to thank them for dedicating so much time and energy to make our community a safer place to live.

Explorer Update

Last year we added Cameron Murrin, Sean Parrott and Ian Toll to our Explorer roster. In the first part of 2012, we focused our training on getting five Explorers (James Hall, Zach Cipriano, Dylan Parks, Tanner Berncich and Cameron Murrin) ready for a week-long training at the Annual California Fire Explorers Academy. This year the Academy was based in the city of Sonoma as well as various sites around Sonoma and Marin Counties. Four of these Explorers were high school seniors and will be leaving us in the fall for college. Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors for a job well done, and may you take this experience and use it to your best advantage!

Our training schedule currently includes wildland fire fighting, along with a variety of other training topics that will assist our Explorers in preparing for a career in the fire service if they so choose. With our graduating seniors opening up spots on our roster, we will soon begin the recruiting process for additional students ages 15 1/2 to 20 years old

who are interested in becoming Wilmar Explorers!

For more information on our program, please look us up on our web page @ www.wilmarfire.com and click on the "Explorers Post" tab. Have a safe summer!!

Firefighter Profile



Pat Bradley

Pat Bradley grew up and now lives in Rohnert Park. He became an Explorer with Wilmar in May of 2008 at the age of 15 1/2 while still attending Technology High School in Rohnert Park (a magnet school for math, science and technology). By the time he was 16, he was cleared to respond on calls. In 2009 he attended the annual week long Explorer Academy held in Marin County that year, and was also able to attend again in Oxnard in 2011. Since then he has moved up the ranks to become a volunteer firefighter with Wilmar.

Pat's goal is to become a full time firefighter with a city such as Santa Rosa or Sacramento. His father is a Battalion Chief with the Tiburon Fire Department and thus Pat has been around firehouse stations his entire life. He says that he has wanted to be a firefighter ever since he can remember.

Pat graduated from high school in June of 2010 but has been also taking courses at SRJC since 2008 when he started taking fire science classes and is presently still attending SRJC in pursuit of an associate's degree in Fire Technology. He received his EMT certificate in 2010 and more recently graduated from the

WILMAR ROSTER

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

Mark Heine	Chief
Mike Mickelson	Assistant Chief

Captains

Justin Fox	Brian Mickelson
Garrett Green	

Engineers

Devon Ayers	Chris Bonilla
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Firefighters

Hannah Barnett-Powell	Kyle Kidder
Kenderic Braal	Carlos Lopez
Patrick Bradley	Jonathan Lucchesi
Jesse Cole	Mathew Moulyn
Scott Gratto-Bachman	Daniel Powell
Eric Haggard	Kevin Powell
Ryan Hamilton	Shane Redmond
Steve Heine	Tyler Selna
Andrew Ihlenfeldt	David Tuttle
Jimmy Jensen	

SUPPORT STAFF:

Mark Horn	Captain-Support
Kelly Bradley	Explorer Lead Advisor
Pat McLaughlin	Auxiliary Coordinator
Debby McLaughlin	Newsletter
Jane Singleton	Administrative Asst.
Don Reid	Projects

BOARD MEMBERS:

Jim Eckhoff	President
Bob Green	Vice President
Al Mello	Treasurer
Cheryl Brown	Secretary
Lisa Gravensen	Board Member
Rich Casarotti	CSA40 Board Member
Joe West	CSA40 Board Member

EXPLORER ROSTER

Tanner Berncich	Cameron Murrin
Zach Cipriano	Dylan Parks
James Hall	Sean Parratt
Jacob Ilmorini	Ian Toll

Firefighter 1 academy. He plans on transferring to a four year university after receiving his associate's degree.

For enjoyment, he likes to ride quads and take his truck up to Cow Mountain on the weekends. He has also recently started playing ice hockey in Santa Rosa at Snoopy's Home Ice and would like to join an ice hockey league as time allows. He also likes to hike and swim as much as he can during the summer and make trips to the coast.

Pat has enjoyed his time at Wilmar and is very positive about the Department, the officers and the level of training he has received.