



WILMAR

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
VOLUME MMXI

MARCH 2011
ISSUE 1

Chief's REPORT

The forty-six dedicated members of the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department have completed serving this wonderful community with integrity and professionalism for another year. In 2010, our personnel, along with our Cal Fire partners, responded to 230 emergency calls. Medical emergencies continue to be the largest percentage of our emergency responses but our Firefighters also responded to traffic accidents, structure fires, rescues, and wildland fires in the Wilmar community.

We also responded to assist our neighboring fire departments including Two Rock, Bodega, Petaluma, and Rancho Adobe. Wilmar Fire personnel responded to the large wildland fire in Bodega this past summer. Our Volunteers worked at this fire for over 24 hours. We work closely with our neighboring fire departments to ensure you receive the highest level of service possible.

Our Volunteers continue to set the example of training and professionalism for the volunteer fire service in Sonoma County. Our Volunteer Firefighters

participate in weekly training and adhere to strict training and department participation requirements.

We continue to be challenged by a difficult economy. The costs for services that we need to serve you have risen. I would like to thank all of you that have contributed to our organization through your donations, attendance at our Annual BBQ in July, and through your participation in the SHARES Card Program. 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 2010 and wish you a safe and prosperous 2011.

Directors' DIALOGUE

A new year is upon us and the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department continues to grow and shine. Today's fire station and fleet of modern equipment are a far cry from our humble beginnings over forty years ago, but something that hasn't changed is the tireless efforts and the dedication of the Wilmar firefighters and community members

who have helped to make this organization the well-respected and professional fire department that it is today.

Fire Chief Mark Heine is now into his second year with Wilmar and his professionalism and enthusiasm have been a tremendous benefit to the department. Recently Chief Heine, along with other members of the department, have begun to formulate a strategic plan to help us envision where we will develop and grow over the course of the next decade. While the future holds many possibilities there are challenges as well, especially with the continuing budget crisis that affects our partners

**ANNUAL
DINNER MEETING
& ELECTION
FRIDAY
MARCH 18**
at the Holy Ghost Hall
— Bodega Ave. at
Eucalyptus

6:30 p.m.

Pasta Dinner
Pesto & Red Sauce
Salad & Garlic Bread
Coffee, Milk & Cold
Beverages
Dessert provided by
4H Club

Adults \$10.00
Children age 10
And under \$5

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WILMAR

FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

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3825 Bodega Avenue
Petaluma, CA 94952

Annual Dinner

MEETING &
ELECTION



FRIDAY

March

18th

6:30 p.m.

WILMAR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVING WEST PETALUMA

at the County and State level.

It was good to see all our friends and neighbors who joined us for the annual Chicken BBQ back in July. Last year we raised just shy of \$10,000 thanks to your support. This annual fundraiser is an important event for Wilmar VFD as all the proceeds are used to purchase equipment and supplies that directly support our volunteers and the department. The BBQ is also your chance to bring home some great Silent Auction and Raffle prizes. Congratulations to Diane Mickelson on winning a Hawaii vacation along with \$500 in spending money, and to Alberta Gonsalves on winning the \$700 cash prize! On behalf of the Board of Directors, thanks for your support.

Speaking of the Board of Directors, I'd like to express my thanks to Cheryl Brown for serving as an interim Board Member during the past year. Cheryl stepped up and volunteered to fill a vacancy on the Board at last year's Annual Dinner

ANNUAL BBQ FUND-RAISER INFORMATION

**SUNDAY, JULY 24
11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
HOLY GHOST HALL**

For more information,
phone
Debby or Pat McLaughlin
781-7181



Meeting after longtime board member Pat McLaughlin's term expired. Cheryl has served as Board Secretary this year and done a great job. Thanks Cheryl.

Thank you also to Pat McLaughlin and the Willmar Fire Department Auxiliary for all their assistance during the year. Remember that we are always looking for community members 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 become a member of the auxiliary yet contact Pat McLaughlin at pmclaughlin18@comcast.net or give him a call at (707) 781-7181.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Dinner Meeting on Friday, March 18th at the Holy Ghost Hall. In addition to a great meal and a chance to visit with your Wilmar friends and neighbors you'll also receive an update on the events and activities of your Fire Department over the past year and get a chance to meet the members of the Wilmar VFD.

Thank you to all the members of our community who have supported the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department over the past four decades. Whether you helped out at the annual BBQ or served on the Board of Directors, you've made a difference and helped to make this

the great organization that it is. And as always, an especially big thank you to all the men and women who volunteer as firefighters, sworn to protect the members of our community. You make us all proud.

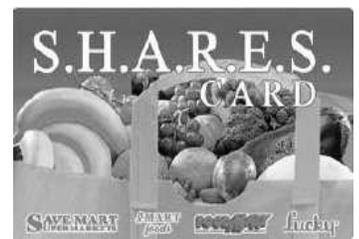
Wilmar Explorers... **INTERESTED IN JOINING?**

Fire Exploring for the Wilmar Fire Department is a great way to become involved in your community! Our Fire Explorer program is an agreement between the Wilmar Fire Department and the Learning for Life Organization (Boy Scouts of America), and is a youth program serving the Wilmar community. Our purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and prepare them to become responsible, caring adults while learning about the fire service, training with the fire fighters and eventually working alongside the Wilmar professional fire fighters.

Our program is open to anyone from age 15 1/2 to 20. What we can offer you is an opportunity to attend an annual week-long Explorer Fire Academy, earn valuable life experience and community service hours, and add experience to your college application and resume. We meet on the first and third Mondays

every month for training, and are currently accepting applications for anyone interested in becoming part of a great organization. For more information and to obtain an application, please call the station at 765-1995 and leave a message for Lead Advisor, Kelly Bradley.

S.H.A.R.E.S. **CARD**



We are pleased to offer you a new way to support your fire department and our dedicated Volunteer Firefighters. The SHARES Card provides you an easy and no-cost way of supporting us. By utilizing your SHARES Card you will be providing valuable funding that will enable us to continue to provide you high quality customer service by ensuring our Firefighters are well trained and provided with the needed tools and equipment.

Simply swipe your SHARES card each time you shop at any Lucky's, Save Mart Supermarkets, or FoodMaxx. Our department will receive 3% of your purchase amount. There is no cost to you! Please give us a call or send us an email; we'd be happy to send you a SHARES Card.

Explorers' PROGRAM

As 2010 came to a close, Post 9400 welcomed three new Fire Explorers; Dylan Parks, Sam Martinez and Jake Ielmorini. They were the top three candidates from a pool of seven interviewed for the position.

Our Explorers have started the New Year with renewed vigor. We have added a new training curriculum to the program. Should the current Explorers stay with the program for at least two plus years they will have compiled enough training hours on specific topics to complete the State of California Volunteer Training Program! Some of the topics include: Fire service organization and responsibility, firefighter safety, ropes and knots, hose nozzles and fittings, a variety of fire engine equipment used on the fire ground, structural and wildland firefighting, rescue, CPR, and first aid. Once the Explorer completes all of this training successfully, he/she will receive a certified "Volunteer Certificate" from the California State Fire Training office.

Our first training date in January started the ball rolling with Organization and Responsibility. The on duty crew at the Cal Fire station on Lohrman Lane assisted with the training. Fortunately for us, Cal Fire will be helping us out with many types of Explorer training throughout the year!

We're excited to announce that four of our Explorers will be attending the annual California Fire Explorers Academy in Oxnard from April 10-16, 2011. The four Explorers are Pat Bradley, Shane Redmond, Andrew Morgenlaender and James Hall. Post Advisor Kelly Bradley will accompany the Explorers to Oxnard for the training and graduation ceremony.



Wilmarfire.com
IS ONLINE!

Wilmar Fire now has its own website. Our address is:
www.wilmarfire.com.

Although our site is still in the construction stage, you are welcome to access the website and provide us with feedback on what we have so far, and also what you might like to see included. Once completed, the site will be a great tool for us in communicating with the Wilmar community, as well as our Firefighters, Explorers, Fire Board and Auxiliary Members! Please be sure to bookmark our website address.



WILMAR ROSTER

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

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>
Mark Heine	Fire Chief
Mike Mickelson	Battalion Chief
Justin Fox	Captain
Garrett Green	Captain
Brian Mickelson	Captain
Kristen Anderson	Firefighter
Devon Ayers	Engineer
Chris Bonilla	Engineer
Kenderic Braal	Firefighter
Jesse Cole	Firefighter
Marc Dessel	Firefighter
Chris Foss	Firefighter
Eric Haggard	Firefighter
Ryan Hamilton	Firefighter Recruit
Nathan Hayden	Firefighter Recruit
Steve Heine	Firefighter
Jim Jensen	Firefighter Recruit
Kyle Kidder	Firefighter
Carlos Lopez	Firefighter
Jonathan Lucchesi	Firefighter
Jesse Morris	Firefighter
Daniel Powell	Firefighter
Hannah Barnett-Powell	Firefighter
Kevin Powell	Firefighter
David Tuttle	Firefighter
George Vedder	Engineer
Christina Zempel	Firefighter Recruit

SUPPORT:

Doug Cole	Captain-Support
Mark Horn	Captain-Support
Pat McLaughlin	Auxiliary Program Spt.
Don Reid	Projects
Jane Singleton	Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS:

Jim Eckhoff	President
Bob Green	Vice President
Cheryl Brown	Secretary
Al Mello	Treasurer
Lisa Gravesen	Member/Historian
Rich Casarotti	CSA #40
Joe West	CSA #40

EXPLORER ROSTER

Kelly Bradley (Leader)	Jacob Ielmorini
Pat Bradley	David Lindsay
James Hall	Andrew Morgenlaender
Gabriel Horrell	Dylan Parks

Firefighter PROFILE

Jesse Cole is a twenty year old Penngrove native who graduated from Petaluma High School in 2008 and who has been associated with the Wilmar Fire Department since 2005. He started as an Explorer and became a full fledged Volunteer in 2008. In 2008, he also began his seasonal work with Cal Fire where he has worked most recently at the Sonoma/Lake/Napa unit based in Healdsburg under the supervision of fellow Wilmar Volunteer Brian Mickelson. When he is not working for Cal Fire he is attending Santa Rosa J.C. where he is pursuing his AA degree. Jesse is preparing himself for a

career as a professional firefighter and following in the footsteps of his father, Doug Cole, who is a retired Captain from the Marin County Fire Department (and also a contributor to the Wilmar Fire Department). Jesse lives with his parents Patricia and Doug Cole and has two older sisters Kristina and Jennifer. He is also the proud uncle of Kristina's daughter Haylee.

Jesse was in a serious single vehicle accident late one night in December, 2008 and it was eight hours before the accident was found and he was hospitalized. Although he was in a coma for several days, fortunately much to the relief of his family and many friends he is now fully recovered.

Jesse credits his



Jesse Cole

experience and training with the Explorers and as a Volunteer for his being hired by Cal Fire. One aspect of being employed by Cal Fire is the "opportunity" to participate in numerous strike teams throughout California. So far his longest stretch is twenty-eight days in the field which was preceded by seven days at their training academy. Most of his "calls" at Wilmar have been medical aide related. He is currently taking the EMT course at Santa Rosa

J.C. and then will take the EMT registry exam sometime in June.

Because Jesse lives outside of the Wilmar boundaries, he participates in the Wilmar Shift Program. One of his assignments is to manage the overall program and schedule the six program participants in either day or night work shifts. In addition, there are typically five or six nights per week where personnel are actually sleeping at the firehouse.

Jesse is one more example of a community member who has benefited from participation in the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department program while generously contributing his talents and time. We wish him success.



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