



# WILMAR

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARCH 2012

VOLUME XXXII

PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR

ISSUE 1

## Chief's Report

Wilmar volunteer firefighters responded to over 300 calls for service in 2011. I'm proud of the commitment that each of our volunteer firefighters makes to responding to your calls for assistance day and night.

Additionally, our wonderful support personnel continue to ensure that our administrative needs are met, coordinate our fundraising activities, and provide critical support of to our volunteer firefighters when they are working at an emergency incident.

You may have read that the State of California is considering imposing a fee for residences in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). The majority of the Wilmar community falls within the SRA. The proposed SRA fee is designed to provide funding to Calfire for prevention and protection of properties in the SRA. I join the Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association in opposition of this fee. It is poorly structured and not fairly applied. We are working closely with our State legislators and local government to oppose this

proposed fee.

We continue to enhance our website and Facebook page to provide you with a means to stay connected with the services that we offer and with critical community information. You can now check our website for up to date burn information as well as the ability now to listen to our dispatch radio to hear us in action.

Finally, I'd like to thank each of you for your ongoing support of your fire department and the volunteer firefighters that serve you. I'm proud to share that we have been successful in maintaining a balanced budget despite the challenges of a weak economy and escalating costs for the goods and materials we need to serve you. Your financial support, through your donations and attendance at our fundraisers, is critical to ensure we continue to provide you with the high level of service that we pride ourselves on delivering to you.

## Directors' Dialogue

Another busy year has passed for the Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department. Our exceptional team of volunteers continues to provide our community with the highest level of service,

both responding to emergencies as well as endlessly training on the latest in firefighting methods and techniques. In addition, this dedicated group still finds time to participate in Department fund-raising activities, collect toys at Christmas time for less fortunate children, and perform regular maintenance on the fire station and the fire engines. We can never thank them enough for all they do. The Fire Explorer program continues to shine as well. Not only does this program provide an opportunity for High School age teens to get an introduction to the fire service, but it also prepares them to be the next generation of Firefighters.

## Annual Dinner

Meeting & Election

Stew & Polenta  
Bread & Salad

FRIDAY  
March  
23rd  
6:30 p.m.

ANNUAL  
DINNER MEETING  
& ELECTION  
FRIDAY  
MARCH 23

at the Holy Ghost Hall  
— Bodega Ave. at  
Eucalyptus

6:30 p.m.

Stew & Polenta  
Salad & Bread  
Coffee, Milk & Cold  
Beverages  
Dessert provided by  
Golden Hills 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  
Petaltuma, CA 94952

Fire Chief Mark Heine and Assistant Chief Mike Mickelson continue to lead the Department with professionalism and enthusiasm and are a tremendous benefit to the organization. Much of their time is spent working with our neighboring departments and agencies to maintain the positive relationships that are such a benefit to all of us. Agreements with the Cal Fire station on Lohrman Lane, the San Antonio, Lakeville, and Two Rock Volunteer Fire Departments, the Petaluma Fire Department, and the Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department allow us to share our resources and assist each other during emergencies.

Thank you to all our Wilmar Community friends and neighbors who joined us for the annual Wilmar Chicken BBQ in July. It was great to see everyone there enjoying the delicious BBQ chicken dinner, ice cold beverages, silent auction and raffle, and the kid's games and fire engine

rides. Congratulations to Ken and Betty McArthur on winning the Hawaiian vacation. Ken and Betty have lived in the Wilmar district for years and have promised to send us a postcard! Remember that all the proceeds from the BBQ are used to purchase the equipment and supplies that help our volunteers do their job, so thank you very much for your generous support.

Don't forget about our Wilmar Fire Department Auxiliary. We are always looking for community members to lend a hand at the annual BBQ and help out with other fire department projects and activities throughout the year. If you haven't already become a member of the auxiliary please contact Pat McLaughlin at [pmclaughlin18@comcast.net](mailto:pmclaughlin18@comcast.net) or call him at (707) 781-7181 to find out how you can help.

As always I'd like to express my gratitude and appreciation of all the Wilmar Volunteer Firefighters and Explorers. This is a great group of dedicated people who commit so much of their time and energy to support our community. Thank you! We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual Dinner Meeting on Friday March 23rd at the Holy Ghost Hall. Please join us for a great dinner and support your volunteer fire department at the same time.



## Wilmar Explorers....

### Program Update

As we started into the winter of 2011, our Explorers continued to train with our own Volunteer Firefighters along with Cal Fire crews on a wide range of topics. Two of our Explorers have moved on to other volunteer departments and three of the more recent Explorers have moved into the rank of volunteer; Pat Bradley, Tyler Selna and Shane Redmond, are now enrolled in the SRJC Fire Fighter I Academy. This training is the beginning of a State Certification track that they would need in order to become career firefighters in a paid Fire Department.

In September of 2011, five of our Explorers (pictured above) attended and completed the annual "9/11 Stair Climb" event hosted in San Francisco at the Trans America Pyramid building. They climbed 47 floors **two times** to simulate and remember the difficult task of the 343 FDNY Firefighters who lost their lives on that horrific day, ten years ago. This will now become an annual event for our Explorer Post!

In March of this year we will be sending five of our explorers, (James Hall,

Dylan Parks, Zack Cipriano, Tanner Berncich, and Cameron Murrin) to the California Fire Explorer Academy. This year it will be held in the Town of Sonoma and Fire Explorers from around the state and beyond will participate in training including, flammable liquid fires, auto extrication, wild land fire fighting, rope and heavy rescue, and structural fire fighting training.

In the summer of 2012 our Explorer Post will be saying good luck to four of our Explorers who will be moving on to attend colleges in California and Arizona. With all of the movement we will have several openings for Explorers. We are currently looking for interested youths, ages 15-1/2 to 20, who would like to be involved in our exciting explorer program. Look for us online at [WilmarFire.com](http://WilmarFire.com) and click on the Explorer Post tab for all our contact information.



Are you on Facebook? Well, Wilmar Fire Department is. "Like" us and we will keep you updated on our emergency incidents, provide safety tips, severe weather warnings and upcoming events. Search for us as Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department or go to [www.facebook.com/wilmarfire](http://www.facebook.com/wilmarfire).

### Annual BBQ Fund-Raiser Information

Sunday, July 22  
11 A.M. to 4 P.M.

### Holy Ghost Hall

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



# 2012 Community Recognition Award



**Leo Ladner**

In choosing this year's recipient for the Community Recognition Award, the Board of Directors unanimously selected former Board Member Leo Ladner! Leo began his time with Wilmar shortly after he and his wife Linda purchased a lot on Middle Two Rock Rd. from Henry Bash. Henry invited Leo to the annual dinner meeting in early 1985 so that he could "familiarize himself with our local Volunteer Fire Department." Little did Leo know that he would leave that meeting as the newest elected Board Member!!!

During his first few months on the Board, Leo toured the old barn which was Wilmar's "firehouse" back then. The barn was rented to Wilmar by Henry Bash. It housed the department's fleet of fire engines, but was certainly a challenge for the firefighters as the floor was

dirt and became flooded leaving behind soggy mud each winter. Leo made a push to the board to bring in truck loads of gravel to eliminate the mud, but it was determined that the gravel would raise the engines too high to clear the doors.

Leo remained a Board Member and recalls the many discussions by the Board to find a way to build a modern fire station that would accommodate the department for many years to come. Finally in the early 90's, a deal was struck with Wilson School to lease a portion of their play yard in order to build a fire station. Leo remembers all the many details that the Board had to work through such as adapting the school's septic system, replacing the antiquated playground equipment, as well as rallying the community for not only its financial support, but for its donation of professional labor skills to keep the overall costs down.

In early 1997, shortly before the department held a station grand opening celebration for the community, Leo stepped down from the board after serving for a total of 12 years! On more than one occasion Leo volunteered to fill in as an "interim" Board Member during times that the board was shy of its five member requirement. Please join

## WILMAR ROSTER

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

Name	Title
Mark Heine	Fire Chief
Mike Mickelson	Assistant FireChief
Justin Fox	Captain
Garrett Green	Captain
Brian Mickelson	Captain
Devon Ayers	Engineer
Chris Bonilla	Engineer
Hannah Barnett-Powell	Firefighter
Kenderic Braal	Firefighter
Patrick Bradley	Firefighter Recruit
Jesse Cole	Firefighter
Marc Dessel	Firefighter
Chris Foss	Firefighter
Scott Gratto-Bachman	Firefighter Recruit
Eric Haggard	Firefighter
Ryan Hamilton	Firefighter
Steve Heine	Firefighter
Andrew Ihlenfeldt	Firefighter
Jim Jensen	Firefighter
Kyle Kidder	Firefighter
Carlos Lopez	Firefighter
Jonathan Lucchesi	Firefighter
Mathew Moulyn	Firefighter Recruit
Daniel Powell	Firefighter
Kevin Powell	Firefighter
Shane Redmond	Firefighter Recruit
Tyler Selna	Firefighter
David Tuttle	Firefighter
<b>SUPPORT:</b>	
Doug Cole	Captain-Support
Mark Horn	Captain-Support
Pat McLaughlin	Auxiliary Program Spt.
Don Reid	Projects
Jane Singleton	Admin. Assistant
<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>	
Jim Eckhoff	President
Bob Green	Vice President
Al Mello	Treasurer
Cheryl Brown	Secretary
Lisa Gravesen	Member/Historian
Rich Casarotti	CSA #40
Joe West	CSA #40
<b>EXPLORER ROSTER</b>	
Tanner Berncich	Jacob Ielmorini
Pat Bradley	Cameron Murrin
Zachary Cipriano	Dylan Parks
James Hall	Sean Parratt
Codoy Hughson	Ian Toll

us at the Annual Dinner Meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, as we honor Leo for his many years of service to our department!

# Firefighter

Profile



**Brian Mickelson**

**B**rian Mickelson has been a Wilmar Volunteer Fire Department Captain since 2007 and a member of the Department since 2000. His association with the firefighting community however began much earlier as he is a fourth

generation Mickelson involved as a volunteer firefighter. Brian has also been employed by CAL FIRE since 2003 with a current classification as LT Engineer and is currently working out of the CAL FIRE station on Lohrman Lane. Although he has had many assignments with CAL FIRE and has been deployed throughout the state at various times, one of his favorites was when he was stationed on Boggs Mountain as part of a seven person crew in support of a helicopter designed to carry and dump water.

Brian grew up in the Petaluma area and attended Wilson, Petaluma Junior High and Petaluma High School graduating in 2003. He has a younger sister Kristy who is a

sophomore at Fresno State. He attended Santa Rosa J.C. and received his AS in Fire Technology in 2005. While at PHS he was active in their FFA program and has been involved in the raising of livestock much of his life. Brian was a member of the Wilmar Explorer Program for two years while attending PHS which led to his joining Wilmar where he moved up the ranks to his current position.

Brian currently lives in Petaluma in the home he purchased in April of 2009. He enjoys hunting and fishing and enjoys trips to Colorado to pursue those interests and he has purchased a Bass boat which he hauls to Lake Sonoma. He along with Mark Horn made a trip to Mobile, Alabama a couple of years ago to visit with

Konrad Schmidt and watch Konrad play several baseball games for Mobile. (Konrad was a Wilmar Volunteer who is now playing professional baseball and had an excellent year for Reno in the PCL last year.) Brian says he and Mark had a great time visiting New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

Brian is very much satisfied with his choice of firefighting as a profession and intends to continue in this field either with CAL FIRE or in a position with a local Fire Department. He is enjoying his association with Wilmar and sees himself being involved for the foreseeable future. He enjoys his role and responsibilities as a Wilmar Fire Department Captain.



**WILMAR FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**  
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 Petaluma, CA 94952

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