



## CHIEF'S CORNER

### EMS Week - A Chance To Reflect

Welcome to the June 2013 edition of the Chief's Corner. This month, I want to talk a little about the history of EMS in the LFD and how we got to the position we currently enjoy. It seems appropriate to discuss this topic as I am writing this during EMS week.

Due to my length of service with the department, I'm the only remaining active member who came to work before LFD was providing emergency medical services. When I began my career in 1976, the Department didn't provide any EMS and only responded to vehicle accidents to provide fire suppression. There was a private ambulance service that provided patient transport and the Lynchburg Life Saving Crew handled the patient care aspect. (This had been the system for quite some time.) During the summer of 1976, the private ambulance company approached City Council about an increase in the subsidy they were receiving and Council said no. The owner of the private company quickly informed Council that he was closing his business and gave them a one month notice. As a result of this decision, Council and the City Manager called Fire Chief William Anderson, and informed him that the Fire Department had approximately 30 days to start providing emergency medical services. To say that we started EMS on a wing and a prayer would be an understatement.

After several weeks of work and research, the department purchased two van (type II) ambulances and some tackle boxes to use as "jump kits," some Timmons splints, and a blood pressure cuff for each unit. We assigned personnel with Advanced First Aid training to the units and as they say, the rest is history.

Even at this early stage in the provision of EMS, when it seemed like the department was starting a new adventure, the level of patient care was excellent. We didn't have much to work with and the vehicles were less than ideal, but the firefighters who responded laid the foundation for what we are doing today. They cared about the patients and it showed in the care they provided. These members set the standard and established the legacy of great patient care with a compassionate attitude. These firefighters quickly showed that it is not the equipment and fancy medic units that provide the care, it's the people and how they treat the patients that matters.

As the calls for service went up and the skill level of the providers increased, we started looking at ways to improve and provide even better care. In 1978, the department participated in the first regional "Advanced Life Support" Cardiac-EMT class held at Lynchburg General Hospital. After the initial pilot program, the Fire Department started providing ALS care from the medic units and we have continued this level of service ever since. In 1983, the first regional Paramedic class graduated and LFD personnel were setting the standard of care again. In the years that followed, the call volume continued to rise and so did the number of LFD personnel providing emergency medical care. As we all know, emergency medical care is the largest part of the services we now provide and it has become the focus of

most of our responses. As one medic recently stated: "It is what we do, everyday, all day".

While equipment and training has greatly improved over the years, one thing has remained constant...the people providing the care are really what matters and we have always had great people. While everyone who rode the medic units in the early days contributed in some way, I thought it would be nice to pay special homage to some of the "Legends of LFD" emergency medical service. So, here are just a few of the many members who were there at the beginning and set the standard of care. If you can think of others, let me know and I will be sure and spotlight them in a future article. Here is my list:

**Steve Wade** (aka "The Breeze Man" or just "Breeze") has probably instructed more people in EMT than anyone else in the State of Virginia. Considered by some as the Godfather of EMS.

**Thomas Shepherd** (aka "Rabbit") a former combat medic who was known for his soft spoken demeanor.

**Warren Johnson or "Rusty"** (aka "The Waynesboro Flash") always provided that special touch and seemed to get in the newspaper on every call.

**Clinton Franklin** (aka "Doc Franklin") a fiery redhead who was never at a loss for words and loved the powder blue uniform shirts. He is still teaching EMS classes on the east coast somewhere.

**Steve Walthall** (aka "Little Stevie") responded on the first call ever handled by LFD's EMS.

**Robert (Bob) Fleshman** - (aka "Quiet Bob") is currently tying fishing flies somewhere on a trout stream.

**Carla Mann** (aka "Little Carla") is still taking X-rays somewhere in the halls of Centra Health.

**George (Kent) Ferguson** (aka "Big Toe") thus dubbed by a former partner who is still involved with LFD EMS. He holds the record for the longest service on the medic unit and the most calls in a 24 hour shift (27).

**John (Ricky) Bomar** (aka "Tube") talked more people into going to the hospital than Roy and Johnny combined. Once dubbed "The World's Busiest Man" by a former LFD Battalion Chief.

There you have it...a list of some individuals who were founding members of LFD's first "Special Team." I hope you enjoyed this flashback into the beginnings of EMS in the LFD. Until next time, take care and keep up the great work. However, never forget the most important rule: "Everyone goes home safe at the end of the shift".

Chief

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## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following members who celebrate anniversaries with the department in June:

### 37 Years

Brad Ferguson

### 33 Years

Anthony Smith

### 19 Years

Jonathan Wright  
Thomas Goode  
Mike Reeves

### 18 Years

Stewart Barney

### 17 Years

Jonathan Simms

### 15 Years

Bob Mays

### 14 Years

Diron Martin  
Todd Styles

### 12 Years

Jennifer Collins  
Todd Davis  
Darryl DuBose  
Scott Hudson  
Matt O'Daniel  
Carey Orange  
Tony Peeler

### 10 Years

Anthony Andrews  
Will Copes

### 8 Years

John Cruise  
Stephanie McLane  
Joey Kilgore

### 3 Years

Chris Hiner  
Chris Harris  
Andrew Jenks  
Patrick Madigan  
Eric Mendel  
Greg Pyton

## CERTIFICATIONS

### Command & Control of Fire Dept. Operations at Target Hazards

Chris Adams	Russell Ayscue
Lincoln Barnes	Tom Bartell
Frankie Campbell	Jason Campbell
Allen Carwile	Heather Childress
Jennifer Collins	Thomas Goode
Robert Hamilton	Darrell Hamlett
Roger Harris	David Jackson
Warren Jamerson	Diron Martin
Jody Mayberry	Bob Mays
Tom McCrickard	Jimmy Mitchell
John Norman	Carey Orange
Mike Reeves	Sean Regan
John Ripley	Mike Thomas
Kenny Turner	Danny Williams
Jonathan Wright	

## BREMS AWARDS

BREMS held its Annual Awards Banquet on May 23, 2013, to recognize individuals and agencies for their outstanding efforts during the past year. Approximately 130 people attended the event. Dr. Peter O'Brien was the guest speaker at the event. He spoke highly of the dedication of EMS providers to ensure the highest level of care possible to patients in our area. Congratulations to Lynchburg Fire Department's Captain Jimmy Mitchell, who received the award for Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider of the Year.



Captain Jimmy Mitchell

The Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider of the Year Award is given to an individual who exemplifies outstanding dedication and service to his or her community through involvement with EMS.

Captain Jimmy Mitchell was recognized for his excellent patient care, leadership, and patient advocacy he delivers daily. Congratulations Captain Mitchell!!!

The BREMS Council is one of eleven non-profit EMS councils serving the Commonwealth of Virginia. They serve the Cities of Lynchburg and Bedford and the Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell. The EMS agencies serving the BREMS region include volunteer, career, industrial, commercial, and law enforcement organizations.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The number of advanced life support providers in the Lynchburg Fire Department is growing! The Department will potentially gain sixteen new ALS providers over the next month or so. Several providers have already completed the testing process, and the rest of them are waiting for their test date to arrive. They have all worked hard to complete the class work, clinical time, and volumes of paperwork to complete the program. Please take a moment to congratulate the new providers for this accomplishment. The increased number of ALS providers raises the standard of care that our Department provides to the community.

## DEPARTMENT SPONSORS NFPA 1584 TRAINING

The Lynchburg Fire Department invites Safety Officers, Training Officers, Chief Officers, Paramedics, EMTs and interested fire and EMS personnel to attend the "Firefighter Rehabilitation and Medical Monitoring — A Guide to NFPA 1584 (2008)" class. This class outlines firefighter rehab and will be presented by Masimo Corporation (with the support of the International Association of Fire Chiefs). This three-hour comprehensive program provides the knowledge to set up and administer firefighter rehabilitation according to the 2008 NFPA 1584 standards. Firefighter rehabilitation has been identified as a critical part of managing the health and safety of firefighters and reducing line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

The training is being offered FREE of charge on the following dates:

Date	Time	Location
June 4 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)	9:00 a.m.	Central Virginia Community College Merritt Building Rooms 5145 & 5146 3506 Wards Road Lynchburg, VA
June 5 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)	1:00 p.m.	
June 6 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	6:30 p.m.	

To register, visit <http://masimo.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/2/lynchburg>. For more information, contact Matt Millner, John Ripley, or Chris Adams.

## LYNCHBUG PIPES AND DRUMS

Recently, the Lynchburg Fire Department Pipes and Drums have represented the department at several local events, including Relay for Life events for Lynchburg College, Amherst, Rustburg, and Lynchburg. In addition, they also played at the Lynchburg Police Department's 2013 Police Officer's Memorial Service at Heritage United Methodist Church during Police Memorial week.



L-R: William Plail, Anthony Smith, and Darrell Evans

## CENTRAL VA BURN CAMP



### Calling All Burn Camp Volunteers!

By: Master Firefighter Abbey Johnston  
Local 1146 will once again provide, prepare, and serve dinner for adolescents at the Central Virginia Burn Camp.

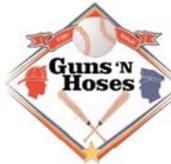
The week-long camp is a traditional summer camp held at Camp Holiday Trails (in Charlottesville) for children under the age of 18 who have suffered burns of any kind. Many of the children who attend feel as though this is one of the only environments where they feel "normal" and can just be themselves.

For many years, it has been Local 1146's privilege to prepare and serve a Thanksgiving style dinner one night during the week for the children. Many look forward to our meal all week, as it is their favorite! We will also be serving a quick breakfast for the campers the morning following our dinner. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Local 1146 President, Abbey Johnston at 434-444-4422.

Dinner preparation is June 12 (A-Shift). We will leave Lynchburg mid-afternoon and serve dinner at 6:00 p.m. Breakfast preparation is June 13 (B-Shift) and breakfast is prepared at 6:00 a.m. Anyone who is willing is asked to camp overnight (in a cabin) on June 12<sup>th</sup> to accommodate an early breakfast preparation on the morning of June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## GUNS 'N HOSES

By: Firefighter Brandon Brown  
Plans are underway for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Guns 'n Hoses! This year's game will be held on August 11, 2013 (A Shift) at 4:00 p.m. at the City Stadium.



Each year, through this event, the Lynchburg Fire and Police Departments raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (Fire Dept.) and the Special Olympics (Police Dept.). All monies raised benefit people locally and are split 50/50 between these two great charities.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased beginning in mid-June from Greg Wormser (A Shift), Jennie Mayberry (Fire Marshal's Office), or Brandon Brown (C Shift). This price includes a free t-shirt (to the first 1,000 fans), admittance into the Guns 'N Hoses game (at 4:00 p.m.), and the Hillcats game (at 6:00 p.m.). Donations are also accepted for those who are unable to attend; however, we hope everyone will make plans to attend and support these worthy causes...and also cheer LFD on to ANOTHER victory!



## COUNCIL UPDATED ON EMS

On May 28, 2013, Fire Chief Brad Ferguson, Acting EMS Battalion Chief Heather Childress, and the Fire Department's Operational Medical Director, Dr. Marilyn McLeod, provided City Council with a brief presentation regarding the great strides the department is making in the provision of Emergency Medical Services in Lynchburg. This presentation provided Council with an update on some of our current projects, such as aggressive field resuscitation, advanced practice paramedics, and telemedicine. In addition, Council was briefed on several new exciting projects on the horizon, such as the Community Paramedic Program, Advanced Paramedic Skills, and Public Access Defibrillator Program (PAD).

## NEW RESCUE 1

By: Battalion Chief Keith Johnson



We are very proud to take delivery of our new Rescue 1. This 2013 Pierce Arrow XT heavy rescue vehicle will replace the current 2002 Spartan.

In the next couple weeks, we will mount equipment and prepare the vehicle for service. We also have acquired a grant that will help fund the purchase of new hydraulic rescue tools for this apparatus.

A big thank you to the Apparatus Committee and the City's Fleet Services for their hard work and diligence during the replacement process.

Rescue 1 plays a vital role in our daily operations with both special teams, structure fires, and vehicle extrications. We all look forward to this vehicle upgrade and are fortunate to have top quality apparatus in the Lynchburg Fire Department.

## PROGRESSIVE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

By: Past Vice-President Anthony Andrews

The Lynchburg Progressive Firefighters Association (LPFA) has been in existence since 1995 when it was introduced to the Lynchburg Fire Department as a separate entity that would encompass community outreach and upward mobility of minority and women firefighters.



Since then, the LPFA has made tremendous strides to foster relationships with the department and neighboring community centers and schools. As we mark the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LPFA this year, we would like to take a moment to thank all past and present LPFA members for their time, efforts, financial support, and ideas. This has been an organization that we can take pride in saying that all members have an equal stake in the decision making process. THANK YOU to all for what you have done to pay it forward for others...

Anthony Andrews  
James Scott  
Steve Jackson  
Maurice Braxton  
Michael Thomas  
Larry Jones  
Maurice Bruce  
Natasha Williams  
Colao Lombre  
Cedric Coleman  
Fletcher Wimbush  
Ed Molette  
Darryl DuBose  
Brian Younger  
Eugene Penick  
Quincy Scott

Oscar Harmon  
Joe Bennett  
John Spinner  
Tim Jackson  
Candace Brown  
Miles Tranks  
Ronnie Lewis  
Kenny Bunch  
Jack Williams  
Thomas Mack  
Preston Crawford  
Cary Word  
Gitau Muhoro  
Katherine Dunnaville  
Thomas Goode

## RETIREE RECONNECT

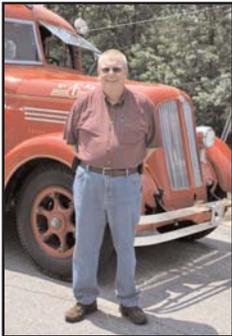
Beginning this month, we will begin featuring our "Retiree Reconnect" segment in Flashpoint. The purpose of this segment is to allow department members to "reconnect" with our retired members and find out what they've been up to! It will also introduce new department members to our retirees who served for many years and share some of their valuable knowledge.

The idea for this new feature came to the Flashpoint via the Lynchburg Fire Department Museum, Inc. As Museum Board members have been talking with retirees, many of them offered valuable stories and information about department history and relics, etc. The idea for the "Retiree Reconnect" was born.

As retirees reflect on their service with the department and share stories, hopefully readers will gain further insight and appreciation for those having previously served.

This month highlights retired Captain Steve Wade (a.k.a. "Breeze"). Below are his responses to questions we posed to Breeze. (If you have any suggestions for future questions or other ideas, please share them with Tammy Sage.)

We hope you enjoy! Watch for future segments of the Retiree Reconnect!



**Captain Steve Wade**  
25 Years of Service  
(May 1977 to January 2002)

### Share a fond memory or experience that you were a part of during your service with the department.

Two of the greatest memories of my career were:

1. Completing my Paramedic Certification
2. Being promoted to Captain

### What do you miss the most about the department?

I miss the people I worked with (my second family) and all the good times and bad times that we all shared together.

### What advice would you give to someone just starting their career with the department?

Master your training evolutions, have fun around the station, and when the alarm sounds get your "A" game on because the lives of everyone around you depend on your performance!

## ART LIPSCOMB RECEIVES AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO FIRE SAFETY

By: Acting Battalion Chief Thomas Mack

The annual spring session of the Virginia Fire Prevention Association (VFPA) convened in Virginia Beach on May 21, 2013. It was my pleasure to witness one of our own retired employees, Art Lipscomb, who is also a past President of Local 1146, receive the Virginia Fire Prevention Association President's Award.

Art was commended for his commitment to improving fire safety across the Commonwealth and for his participation in the General Assembly and code adoption processes. Art participated in a meeting to discuss various legalities dealing with fireworks while he was at the conference. VFPA president James R. Dawson, Jr. presented the award in front of approximately 150 attendees as one of his last duties as president before the new officers took their positions.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Communications Meeting and Operations Staff Meeting

Date: June 6, 2013  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Fire Administration Training Room  
\*\*Note: The Operations Staff Meeting will take place immediately following the Communications Meeting

### Annual Retirees' Social

Date: June 7, 2013  
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Place: Fire Administration Training Room  
RSVP: Tammy Sage at 455-6341

### BREMS Education Night (Hosted by Centra & BREMS)

Date: June 11, 2013  
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Place: Lynchburg General Hospital,  
First Colony Conference Room #1  
Speaker: Dr. Marilyn McLeod, Regional OMD  
Topic: Cardiac Arrest  
Cost: FREE

### Burn Camp

Date: June 12-13, 2013  
Place: Camp Holiday Trails  
Charlottesville, VA  
Contact: Abbey Johnston, 434-444-4422.

### EMSAT

Date: June 19, 2013  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Topic: An EMS Guide to Motorcycle Crash Response  
The following CE will be awarded:  
(ALS — Category 1 Area 80; BLS — Category 1 Area 04)  
Contact: Matt Millner, Training Division, ext. 6359

### Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Date: June 21, 2013  
Time: All Day\*  
The theme "Work In Progress" emphasizes the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day partnership with the National Association of State Foresters and why forests are always a "Work in Progress."

\*Group activities will be held from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. at Peakview Park. Activities include: an "interactive" forest, a rain garden activity, tree identification walk, leaf rubbing, rides in a Bucket Truck, Knuckle Boom operation, and MORE! Many departments are participating in activities at the park and in the afternoon, tours of various City departments will be available.

### Recruit Graduation

Date: June 27, 2013  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Information Technology Building  
3550 Young Place

### Mark Your Calendar -- Fireman's Ball

Date: October 12, 2013  
Place: Kirkleyss Hotel  
Tickets will be \$75/couple and will be available beginning in September. More details are forthcoming.

