

Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter



Spring 2010

A Message From the Chief

As I've settled into my position as Fire Chief, this has been another great year for the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department (GTVFD), thanks to all of the hard work of our wonderful volunteer members and the incredible support from the Gunflint Trail community.

Some of you may have seen our new tactical tender fire truck on the trail already this spring. [See article and photo on page three.] A huge thank you goes out to the entire community for your fundraising support, which greatly helped us get the Grant to purchase our new truck.

Also new this year is a tactical repeater communication system that finally lets members of the department communicate with each other via radio across the entire fire district. Special thanks go to Rick Johnson, our Communications Officer, for all his work leveraging our fundraising with Cook County to get the funds to complete this project, and installing the system.

Another GTVFD member, Laura Popkes, received the 2009 Emergency Services Provider of the Year Award at the Cook County Emergency Services Conference dinner on April 24, for her outstanding working as an EMS provider. We are very proud of Laura and all she does for the department.

This year we started more formal training for members for wildland firefighting. This spring, twenty-one members attended training specifically designed for rural fire departments that provide initial attack on wildland fires. While we still rely on the U.S. Forest Service and MN DNR to fight wildfires in our area, we are better prepared to safely assist with initial attack where we may be the first to respond to a wildfire. We also have more training to safely assist with larger incidents.

I am excited to welcome three new volunteer members to the GTVFD – the Class of 2010! Forrest Parson (Hungry Jack), Cory Christianson (Loon Lake), and Tom Bettenhausen (Old Gunflint Trail) have all recently joined the department. A big welcome and thank you!

Finally, welcome to the people who have homes and cabins in the Greenwood and Twin Lakes areas. This area has been added to the Gunflint Fire District, so you folks may see us around your neighbor-



hood some time. There will be no difference in what you should do for an emergency - **always dial 911 in an emergency!** Cook County dispatchers will page out the appropriate group or agency to respond. I just want you to know that you may now see some GTVFD members when and if the need arises.

For those new to our fire district as well as Gunflint Trail folks who are familiar with us, I would like to attend as many lake association meetings as possible this summer.

Please let me know when your association is meeting, and I will try to get a GTVFD representative there if I can't make it.

I am again proud to have the opportunity to lead the members of this diverse department and of the men and women who have dedicated their time to serving this community. When you see a member of the GTVFD, be sure to thank them for their dedication and for being there when you make the call. And thank you for being such a great community to live and work in.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Mike Prom, Fire Chief
218-388-2224 mike@canoeit.com

The greatest potential for a devastating wildland fire is from now until the end of October. Make sure your property is Firewise and use extreme caution with open flame. The rules for burning are made for the safety of all. When burning is allowed be sure to adhere to the restrictions including the hours for burning, what materials are allowed to burn and calling the Sheriff's Department prior to starting your fire. Do not burn garbage or debris or have a burn if you are not able to closely monitor it for the next few days. Never leave a fire unattended and always make sure the fire is dead out.

Greetings to the New Gunflint Fire Department Service Area

As you may know, the Cook County Board of Commissioners recently enlarged each of the fire department service areas so that all residents and seasonal visitors in the county are now served by a fire department. For the GTVFD, this means the addition of the Greenwood Lake and Lima Grade areas. As part of our effort to get to know our new territory and its residents, we visited the areas as part of our training exercises last September. Some of those in the new service area will continue to receive medical emergency service from Grand Marais. The important thing to remember is, **dial 911 for any emergency**, and dispatchers will know who should be paged out for the service you need.

The Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department (GTVFD) is an all-volunteer full-service agency that responds to medical emergencies, structure fires, and wildland fires in the Gunflint Trail Service Area. This Service Area includes a region of approximately 197 square miles bordering both sides of the Gunflint Trail for 41 miles from Greenwood Lake to its end at Saganaga Lake. The GTVFD has been serving the Trail since its founding in 1992. We operate out of three fire halls located at mid-Trail, Gunflint Lake, and Seagull Lake. You can learn more about the Department and find useful information, such as how to help protect your property from wildland fires, by visiting our website: www.gunflint911.org. Should you have further questions or suggestions, you will find a full listing of contact information for our department officers on the website.

If you live in the new service area, please consider this an invi-

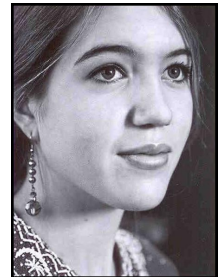
tation to get to know us better. If you belong to a property owners association, we would be happy to send a Department representative to your next association meeting to describe to your members the capabilities of the GTVFD and its current projects, and to discuss any special issues you may have.

GTVFD Scholarship Program

Did you know that the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department has a new scholarship program to support High School seniors that live in the Gunflint Trail Fire District? This program was implemented to show our support for Gunflint Trail seniors headed for post-high school education. Any Gunflint Trail senior with a GPA of at least 3.0, who is a citizen or permanent resident and has lived on the Trail for at least the last two years may apply for the scholarship. Scholarships are awarded for \$500, and up to five scholarships can be awarded in any year. Recipients of the award in 2009 were Brianna Baumann and Tara Austin. Way to go Brianna and Tara! For more information about the scholarship program, contact Dan Baumann at 388-2203 or dan@golden-eagle.com.



Scholarship recipients Brianna Baumann, left, and Tara Austin, right.



The GTVFD is working on "outfitting" the new Tactical Tender with all of the gear it needs as well as raising funds and applying for grants for expanding our Fire Halls. Specifically, we are trying to expand Hall 3 at Seagull so it can fit both a truck and a person in the garage at the same time. We would like to install bathrooms at the halls, and we would love to have a community room / training room at Hall 1 at Poplar.

Support your Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Dept. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please return this form with your donation to Dave Clutter, GTVFD Treasurer, 60 Voyageurs Point Rd., Grand Marais, MN 55604. Donations can also now be made online at our website: <http://www.gunflint911.org>. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

New Fire Truck for the GTVFD

You may notice a new fire truck on the Gunflint Trail this summer. The Department has acquired a new Tactical Water Tender, capable of supplying water at a fire, plus fight a fire using foam and / or gel to protect both structures and escape routes in the event of a wildfire. The new truck has already been used at some small wildland fires on the Gunflint Trail, proving it can navigate our narrow roads and steep terrain with vegetation/branches cleared up to 13.5 feet high and 12 feet wide. The truck replaces an old water tender that was not safe to drive, as well as an older fire engine.

The truck was purchased with a Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant of \$150,100, with the remaining \$58,000 coming from the department, and your fundraising efforts. It is housed at Hall #1 (Poplar Fire Hall). It is expected that the new Tactical Water Tender will be an important initial attack truck for our expanded fire district (see article on previous page).

You can see the new truck in person at the Canoe Races at Gunflint in July and the Mid-Trail Auction and Flea Market Fundraiser in August. It is through the support of the Gunflint Trail community that we have been able to make this kind of progress in upgrading our equipment. Our thanks go out to all of you!

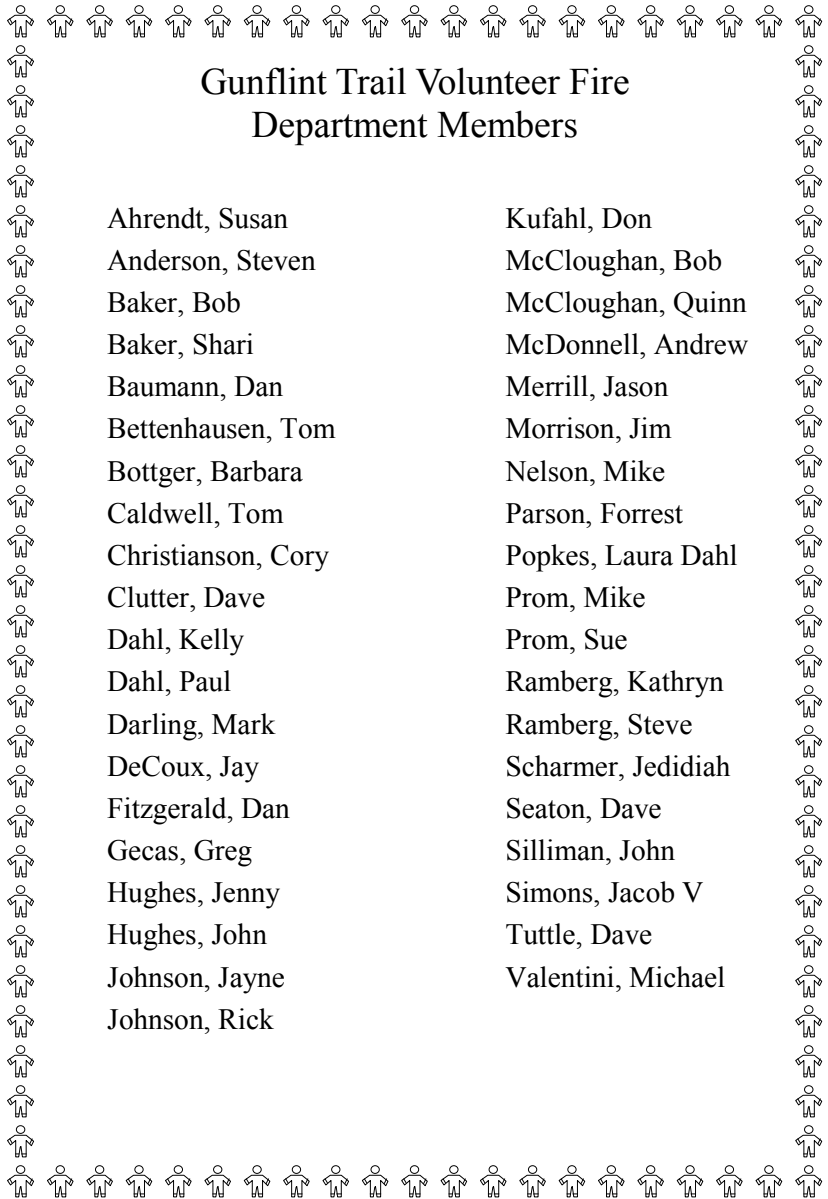


Remember to mark your calendars for the **Gunflint Canoe Races**

A fundraiser for the benefit of the Gunflint Trail Fire Dept.

July 21, 2010, 4 p.m.

Food, fun, prizes, raffles, and of course, the canoe races!



Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department Members

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ahrendt, Susan | Kufahl, Don |
| Anderson, Steven | McCloughan, Bob |
| Baker, Bob | McCloughan, Quinn |
| Baker, Shari | McDonnell, Andrew |
| Baumann, Dan | Merrill, Jason |
| Bettenhausen, Tom | Morrison, Jim |
| Bottger, Barbara | Nelson, Mike |
| Caldwell, Tom | Parson, Forrest |
| Christianson, Cory | Popkes, Laura Dahl |
| Clutter, Dave | Prom, Mike |
| Dahl, Kelly | Prom, Sue |
| Dahl, Paul | Ramberg, Kathryn |
| Darling, Mark | Ramberg, Steve |
| DeCoux, Jay | Scharmer, Jedidiah |
| Fitzgerald, Dan | Seaton, Dave |
| Gecas, Greg | Silliman, John |
| Hughes, Jenny | Simons, Jacob V |
| Hughes, John | Tuttle, Dave |
| Johnson, Jayne | Valentini, Michael |
| Johnson, Rick | |

GTVFD Newsletter
189 Sag Lake Trl.
Grand Marais, 55604



Firewise Update

2009 was a busy time for the Firewise Committee. Funding is still available to get a Cook County Firewise Hazard Assessment for your property if you have not already done so. Support for property clean-up also continues, and funding is available to assist with creation of defensible space around your home or cabin. There are plans to set up “chipper days” for property owners to chip slash at no charge. Details about this program will be sent to property owners in July. Please note that the Blankenburg pit is now closed because it is full

of trees and slash from the end of the trail fuels reduction project.

For the latest information on any of these projects, or what you can do to Firewise your property, visit the Cook County Firewise website: boreal.org/fireinfo. Also feel free to contact John Bottger, Gunflint Trail Firewise Committee member, at jbbottger@boreal.org if you would like additional information.