

## Aeneas Valley Fire District Newsletter

This newsletter is an unofficial publication whose intent is to communicate with and inform the public on items of general interest. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy of the content, but if discrepancies occur between official paperwork and this newsletter then use the official source first.

**Starting out on a sad note:** Within less than 30 days two fire district members passed away, one rather unexpectedly. They are (in order of passing):



**Rick Taylor** (July 9, 1949 – March 8, 2011) - Rick loved helping his neighbors and community, and in 2010 he became a volunteer firefighter. He was also our Inventory Manager and was working on developing an inventory system for the district. He retired from Boeing in 2008 and moved to the Aeneas Valley with his wife, Lynn. Rick was only 61 when he passed due to complications of the flu.



**Tim Kenyon** (October 20, 1948 – April 4, 2011) – Tim was a long time valley resident and a major driving force in the formation of the fire district. He was elected a commissioner in the first election and served in that capacity for several years, resigning at the end of 2008 to become Fire Chief. Tim spent many, many hours in both positions working to get the fire district up and running. He is survived by his wife Karen and son Parker. Tim passed at age 62 from cancer.

Both men were greatly admired and respected as husbands, fathers, friends, neighbors and colleagues. They will be sorely missed but we are all better off for them having been a part of our lives.

**Promotions:** Bob Bauer has been promoted to fill the vacant Chiefs position. The position of Captain will be left open for now. This promotion was accomplished at the last commissioners meeting. Bob is absolutely the right person for this job and is well liked and respected by the firefighters.

**Fire Department Resources:** Since our district grew from 18.5 to 51.5 square miles with the annexation we have been working on increasing our firefighting resources to deal with the increased responsibility. To reduce our response times the fire department is working on both expanding our resources (we're adding an additional wildland engine this season and beginning work on another) and distributing them more evenly throughout the district. This is complicated by the need to stage our equipment at secure, easy to access locations with sufficient firefighters living in that vicinity to mount a consistent significant response to incidents. We do plan though to station the additional wildland engine farther down the valley in the area annexed into the district in 2009. We have several new applicants to be firefighters and now currently have around 20 members.

**Fire Info Day:** This year it will be on Memorial Day (Monday - May 30) at the Jones Place (404 Aeneas Valley Road, just in front of the Fire District 16 bulletin board) from 9AM to 3PM. Please put it on your calendar. It's a chance to see what we have to offer, and to talk to firefighters, the chief and commissioners about what is going on in this district. The Forest Service and DNR will also be invited to participate.

**Just a quick size-up:** One of our commissioners recently asked if we could keep track of the number of volunteers hours expended for the district. That led to some quick, back of the envelope calculations to see what we had done so far. While we are still refining this number we see that it easily exceeds 10,000 hours or 5 (unpaid) person-years of work. Actual firefighting is a small part of it. It is the largely invisible-to-the-public training, planning, deliberating, preparing, coordinating, upgrading, maintaining, communicating and researching that goes on behind the scenes that makes up the majority of these volunteer hours. So we may be mostly invisible but we are not idle!

**Results of the Annexation:** Because of the annexation of additional area into the fire district in 2009 our annual tax revenue is expected to increase from \$22,000 to about \$42,000 this year. While the commissioners are still deciding how to use this increase some of it will allow us to perform some badly needed equipment maintenance and upgrades.

**Grant activity:** Our grant request work has resulted in the following:

- We were awarded a Washington State Phase II grant request to allow FD 16 to build a pumper unit for a type 4 engine and get that engine into service. Total grant value is \$24,555, with the district responsible for half of that. However, using our own labor and some district owned equipment, actual cost should be \$5,817.
- Through another state operated program (FPP) we received a surplus 5-ton military vehicle (with only 240 original miles on it) to mount that type 4 pumper unit on. With that truck we also received a complete type 6 wildland pumper unit (200 gallon tank, pump and hose reel). This will allow us to complete the next activity.
- Using the donated type 6 pumper unit we will put another wildland engine into service. That should occur within a month.
- Courtesy of the Family Faire (AKA barter faire) we received a \$1,288 grant to acquire fire hose. With that money and some the districts we purchased 1,100 feet of 1" fire hose. This gives us enough to outfit 3 wildland engines with 600 feet of new hose each. This is part of an ongoing process to replace some of our old donated hose for safety and reliability reasons.
- Our 2009 AFG grant award of \$59,233 (we payed 5%, DHS payed the other 95%) allowed us to purchase wildland and structural clothing for 25 firefighters. That purchase activity is now complete. Special thanks to one of our Lieutenants, Shannon Garoutte, for the many, many hours she put into the sizing, purchase and fitting process. **Well done!!!** ☺



This completes our seventh newsletter. We're still looking forward to your comments and questions. To subscribe, ask questions or make comments please send an email to "avfdnews@amerion.com". Questions can also be mailed to "Okanogan FPD 16, PO Box 645, Tonasket WA 98855-0645". This newsletter will only be distributed via email or bulletin board as it's not a funded activity. A small number of paper copies are available at the monthly fire commissioners meetings. A private website with meeting minutes and newsletters is at [www.aeneasvalleywa.org](http://www.aeneasvalleywa.org). Click on "Fire District Info".