

The Bodega Volunteer Fire Department



Chief's Report Summer 2010

After years of planning and many long nights of meetings, I am happy to say our New Fire Station has started to take shape. I would like to thank the many Volunteers who continue to donate countless hours to this project, and I also would like to thank the many local companies who have donated or sold building materials to us at a reduced cost. This project could not have happened without you.

Over the next several months the Station's looks and Site will continue to change and will blossom into a functional building that we will all be proud of. At that point we will have used most of our funds available and will be looking to raise some more funds to complete the final phases of the project. If anyone would like to help with either their construction skills or by making a monetary contribution please contact me at chief8700@comcast.net

Grant Update

On April 16, 2010 we received notification that we have been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for a New Type 3 Wildland Engine to replace our current Type 3, which was built with a 1962 chassis.

After nearly a month and a half of reviewing proposals and bids we have signed a contract with Rosenbauer-Central States Fire Apparatus who was actually the builder of our last Grant Engine. We are all very excited and can hardly wait for its arrival sometime next spring.

We continue to search for grant opportunities. In 2009 we applied for an AFG Fire Station Funding grant and recently found out that we were turned down. However on a brighter note, we just received notice that we have been awarded a very generous grant of \$6000 from the Fisherman's Festival Committee from a portion of their proceeds to purchase Waterproof Safety Jackets for our Volunteer Firefighters and also a Cal Fire matching funds grant for some miscellaneous appliances for our New Engine.

We have also applied for new Auto Extrication Equipment from the Office of Traffic Safety and the 2010 AFG Grant for Laundry Equipment for our New Station.

Upcoming Events

Our **Big Event** held on August 15th is nearing and as usual we are looking for volunteers to assist with set-up, clean-up and other jobs the day of the event. If you can help, please contact Linda Albini at 874-1217. We will also be calling soon for a donation of a dessert

The **Seafood Art and Wine Festival** is also coming up soon. We receive a generous portion of their proceeds and in turn provide volunteers to assist with Wine Pouring, T-Shirt Sales, Quilt Ticket Sales and The Great Duck Race. This is a major Fundraiser for the BVFD; if you can volunteer please call Vickie Watts at 876-3385

Please help us by paying your membership dues. After careful consideration we have raised membership dues to \$50 per household, the first increase in so many years we can hardly remember. We ask that all households pay their minimum dues of \$50; any amount over this will be greatly appreciated and is tax deductible. Please also remember that our fiscal year is from June 1 to May 31. Your Volunteer Fire Department relies on this to maintain essential equipment and train the dedicated Volunteers.

Have a Safe and Fun Summer!

Sincerely, Chief Ron Albini

The Big Event

It may be hard to believe, but this is the 30th year of the Big Event. Annie Springer will be the Grand Marshall this year for the parade and some of us remember her as Fire Chief proposing that we have a "Big Event" to raise money for a new revival for the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department. The first one was a Friday Night dance plus a two-day affair and it just about did everyone in and it has been a one-day event ever since. Other "events" have sprung up in the area since then but the Bodega Big Event has retained its reputation as "the event" where the admission is free, the food is great, the kids are welcome, the music is foot-stomping good and the parade is as down-home as it gets.

This year the **30th Big Event, Sunday August 15 from 10-5**, will fittingly be around our new Fire Station. Parade at 10:30, music by two bands, BBQ Tri-Tip and Chicken, crafts, history videos, games, beer and wine, commemorative T-shirts and more.

Bring your friends, meet your neighbors, have a great time and be proud of your New Fire Station, which your attendance, good times and devoted volunteers helped to make happen.

Our phone number is 707-876-9438

Our website is www.bodegafire.org

Need for Volunteers

Our new building is the result of years of planning and hard work. We are grateful to those who have donated materials and many hours of volunteer labor and expertise. Our department is truly a "volunteer department," from help during the fund raisers, people working in the kitchen, cleaning tables, setting up, taking down, making the quilt and selling tickets, sitting at tables during the Big Event, doing all the behind the scene things to make it happen. Right now we have an urgent need for people to take on organizing jobs and attend the monthly meetings.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. Everyone in attendance has a voice in the direction of the department. This is where the overall plans are made which affect the course of the BVFD. The meetings are usually over by 9:00pm and it is an evening well spent by those who care about the future of their department.

There is a need for someone to take over the job of Hall Monitor. This person keeps the schedule of the use of the hall, makes sure that insurance forms are filled out and that the hall is left in the same condition after as before it is used. The load of doing this has fallen on the chief and his wife at the present and is too much with all of the other things that they do.

Some of the secretarial functions need to be picked up, as those who are doing them now are running on less energy than when they were younger.

Those who have organized fund raising Big Events, Craft Fairs, parades, cooking etc. are really just a few people who have given their time to make the department work. They need help. It is amazing the number of things our department does with just a few people in position to organize.

And we need a President of the Board. Our Chief, Ron Albini, has been doing many functions of the president and needs to be able to put his energy to work in Fire Chief functions. He has been doing a wonderful job but needs more space at this time.

This is a critical time – please start by coming to the 2nd Tuesday of the month business meetings, the next one is August 10th, and share your thoughts and your time. The BVFD is the heart of Bodega and it needs care. LS

DATES TO REMEMBER

2nd Tuesday of each month 7:30 pm *Business Meeting*

August 15th Sunday 10am – 5pm *THE BIG EVENT*

August 28th & 29th Sat and Sun *BODEGA SEAFOOD
ART & WINE FESTIVAL*

October 9th Saurday 5 - 8pm *POLENTA & STEW DINNER*

November 26th - 27th Fri/Sat *CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FAIRE*