

CHIEF'S REPORT - JANUARY 2007

Once again I am starting my letter off on a sad note. The Bodega Volunteer Fire Department President Bill Yeurs has passed away from a fall that occurred at his home on November 30, 2006. Although Bill was our president for only a short time, he has been a member of our small family for years. Bill has been a part of our building committee since its start and along with past president Ernie Marshall was very instrumental in the purchase of the Sauter trailer property and the Bodega Post Office.

I truly enjoyed working with both of these gentlemen. They are already greatly missed. Both had a vision to see a new modern fire station to house all fire equipment for improved response time and a safer community. We must push on and complete this project and make their vision a reality. If you would like to become a part of The Fire Station project or just want to help anyway you can with a donation or the actual construction when the time comes, you can contact me at 874-1217.

In 2006 the firefighters responded to 109 emergency calls in our community and in the neighboring communities, which included everything from Medical Aids to an overturned gasoline tanker in Valley Ford. I would like to thank all the Fire fighters that give their time to make the community a better and safer place.

This year I am happy to say that we have had two new volunteers join our fire department. Josh Perucchi who has lived in Bodega all his life is now working towards a career in the fire service. He has been attending Santa Rosa Jr. College taking the necessary preparation classes so he can start his Fire Fighter I Training this spring. Good Luck Josh!

Also new to our fire department is Tom Bennett. Tom has a military background and is currently employed as a Sonoma County Sheriff. Tom has been volunteering as a fire fighter for about 8 months and has been a great addition. We welcome Tom and his wife Angela and their children, Cody, Casey and Cassidy to our community.

In 2006 we received \$2000 from the Fisherman's Festival Committee to complete our uniforms. We have also applied for two FEMA grants: one for a Thermal Imaging Camera and another for a Type One Engine. Thermal Imaging is a new technology that allows firefighters to see through smoke to locate a victim who may be trapped in a fire, as well as helping firefighters locate and extinguish fires that may not be seen by the naked eye.

If successful on the Type One Engine grant this would replace our 1967 Van Pelt Engine that still works well but is 40 years old. This would provide us with a new engine that would easily last us another 20 plus years. I must thank Assistant Chief Gary Watts and Sonoma County Department Of Emergency Services staff member Theresa Russo for all their hard work on these projects

Our Support Staff has also been busy planning the 2007 Fundraising Events. We have a very small but dedicated group. Along with our normal Fundraising Events we will once again be part of the Seafood Art and Wine Festival held at the Watts Ranch in Bodega.

If you would like to help please contact me at: 8700@bodegafire.org -- or my wife Linda, at 874-1217. We actually have quite a bit of fun working together and it makes you feel good doing something for the community. Once again I would like to stress the fact that a Volunteer Fire Department is dependent on the many types of contributions of all of the community members. Thank you for your support.

BVFD Chief Ron Albini