



**SPAAMFAA**  
SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION &  
APPRECIATION OF ANTIQUE MOTOR  
FIRE APPARATUS IN AMERICA

**AMOSKEAG**  
**RESERVE**  
**ENGINE**  
**COMPANY**



SPAAMFAA - NEW HAMPSHIRE

**CHAPTER NEWSLETTER 08-1**  
**MARCH 2008**

**AREC**



**TEXAS FIRE MUSEUM**  
North Texas Historical  
Fire Society  
[www.texasfiremuseum.org](http://www.texasfiremuseum.org)



**SPAAMFAA**  
WINTER CONFERENCE 2008

1929 Southern

# CHIEFS LETTER



**MARCH MEETING - FRIDAY MARCH 14TH 7:00 PM**  
**CONCORD FIRE DEPARTMENT- 24 HORSESHOE POND LANE &**  
**140 NORTH STATE STREET (RIGHT BESIDE EACH OTHER) IN THE**

Hi Everyone,

March has finally arrived (by the time you get this) and I for one would love to see all of the snow in southern NH disappear! The trip to Texas, where the ground was bare, made me extremely anxious for spring to arrive.

Speaking of Texas, Edie and I had a wonderful time at the 2008 SPAAMFAA Winter Conference in Dallas. The North Texas Historical Fire Society (NTHFS) members can be proud of the outstanding job they did as hosts. This SPPAMFAA Chapter has what I would consider to be one of the best if not the best, arrangements in the country. Founding members of the Texas Fire Museum, acquired the condemned former Dallas Fire Department Maintenance building and with crews of NTHFS members, cleaned, painted and made repairs to this structure. The original nature of the building, lends itself to the Texas Fire Museum's mission of education and restoring antique fire apparatus. Not a bad place to hold chapter meetings either!

Years ago, I joined SPAAMFAA for the purpose of learning more about antique fire apparatus and how to properly restore a vehicle back to its "glory days". We all know the purpose of our organization and facilities such as the Texas Fire Museum offers the best attributes for successfully meeting the mission of SPAAMFAA.

The January AREC meeting was held in Nashua, thanks to Mark Plekarski. Mark did a nice job organizing the meeting and road trips to surrounding sites. Paul Sanborn volunteered to organize the March meeting in Concord. This is the kind of teamwork we need to keep AREC rolling!

Three issues were discussed in January. More exposure of AREC members and trucks at local events, the printing of an AREC Roster for chapter members and the possibility of resurrecting a muster like the "good old

days"! The best communication to chapter members about state wide events can occur through AREC Newsletters, the AREC website and AREC emails. Not all members can make the bi-monthly meetings or organize a meeting but you can get involved in your chapter by doing something as simple as contacting me with information about events in your area. I can then pass this information along through the three methods mentioned.



In closing, it is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of Alice Sanborn, wife of AREC member Walter and mom of AREC member Paul Sanborn. Alice was a frequent attendee at AREC meetings with Walt and she will be sorely missed. Our thoughts

and prayers are with Walter, Paul and their families.

**Please become more involved with AREC  
and help keep us all informed!**

Your Chief  
*Bruce Lemire*

Bruce Lemire  
259 Shirley Hill Road  
Goffstown, NH 03045  
603-497-4637  
brucelemire@comcast.net

**AREC Officers:** **President - Bruce Lemire**  
**Vice President - Rick Canfield**  
**Secretary - Jeri Canfield**

**Treasurer - Charles Harrington**  
**Editor - Bruce Lemire**

**SPAAMFAA 2008 Winter Conference- Dallas Texas**





## **IT'S A DATE**

Each year, there are numerous interesting events taking place. Large annual events get the press but many smaller local events are overlooked because of little or no communication. Please help us out by sending us dates in advance so we can publish them here. It is your responsibility to confirm the dates printed here as we may not have time to confirm all dates listed here.

**March 14, 2008 (Friday) 7:00 pm- AREC Meeting Concord Fire Department Training/meeting room at Headquarters complex - 150 North State Street, Concord, NH 7:00 pm**

**June 14, 2008 (Saturday) 9:00am-2:00pm 31st Anniversary Fire Apparatus Parade, Show & Firematic Flea Market- Lynnfield/Wakefield MA - Massachusetts Antique Fire Apparatus Association**

**SPAAMFAA - 50th Anniversary Celebration July 30- August 3, 2008**  
Hosted by the Central New York Chapter in Syracuse, NY.

**Welcome new member Wayne Perkins to AREC!**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT - JERI CANFIELD**

On January 12, 2008 the Amoskeag Reserve Engine Company Chapter of SPAAMFAA met at Nashua Station #4. Fourteen members were present. Our host for the day was Mark Piekarski. The



reports were read and accepted. President Lemire reported that the Maine Chapter has been in touch about our having another shared event at Firefly Restorations as we did last year. A May date was suggested and President Lemire said he would be in touch with Thornton Ring to set a date. Because of questions from those present about how to contact the membership it was suggested that a roster be published. A motion was made and seconded to do this in the near future. Other topics discussed at the meeting were possible sites for events for us to show off our trucks and spread the word about AREC. The Rib Fest in Merrimack, Shaker Village, and maybe the race track in Loudon at some point, were possibilities. The meeting ended with a tour of the station

and the equipment.

After we were finished with the business portion of the meeting, we convoyed over to Hollis. The first stop was the late 1800's station which is now the historical society building complete with exhibits. They have a handtub and hose reel as well as lots of pictures of times past. There was also a restored horse drawn hearse which drew many comments from the crowd. Upstairs was set up with exhibits to look like a country store. Our next destination was the Hollis fire station where we were greeted by active members who graciously shared their station and knowledge of the apparatus with us. At this point the 7 members that were left went to the local restaurant for lunch and then on to Mark's home for a tour of his new garage and to look over his collection of apparatus and other vehicles. All in all it was a very good day. Many thanks to Mark for getting this meeting together and supplying the tour of sites.

Respectfully Submitted;

Jeri Canfield, Secretary.

## **ON THIS DATE IN N.H. FIRE HISTORY:**

*By Mark Piekarski*

### **ON THIS DATE IN NH FIRE SERVICE HISTORY:**

The month of March can bring any kind of weather and any kind of hazard as the history books show. In reviewing notable incidents in the month of March, interestingly, there were many Town owned buildings lost to fire and other hazards - even one on Town Meeting Day!

Thanks again to the Statewide Notification network ([www.swnh.org](http://www.swnh.org)) for their effort in this database.

#### **March 3, 1944- Hampstead, NH:**

The Central School damaged beyond use by fire. It was reported that many students assisted in saving books from the school, while others were reported throwing books into the fire!

**March 11, 1888- Manchester, NH:** (Another) major Blizzard- 40 inches of snow in 3 days, leaving 12 to 15 foot snow banks through the City.

**March 13, 1855- Meredith, NH:** Floor timbers at the village hall gave way tumbling 150 voters into the basement on town meeting day.

#### **March 17, 1951- Bedford, NH:**

The Bedford Firehouse was gutted by fire. It appears the fire started on the second floor meeting room by a stove. All 3 of Bedford's Engines were saved with only minor damage.

#### **March 19, 1841- Exeter, NH:**

The Exeter Court House was destroyed by fire. Ironically, they had been hosting an exhibition of the "Conflagration of Moscow"!

**March 19, 1949- Hampton, NH:** A major fire destroyed the Hampton Town Hall.

**March 26, 1947- Tamworth, NH:** A fire destroyed the farmhouse and killed Arthur Walden, "lead" dog-sled driver on Admiral Byrd's first Arctic expedition. Walden died of smoke inhalation and a heart ailment after saving his wife from the fire. The Walden's were also famous for creating the "Chinook" breed of dog in 1917.



**January 2008 AREC meeting**



**Picture Gallery** *Texas Fire Museum*





# News, Mail & Events

**AREC - Electronic news!** Send me your email address (if you have not already) so I can communicate with you about AREC news!

Bruce

*This will be your last AREC newsletter if you have not paid your 2008 AREC Dues! See below*

This form can be used to pay 2008 dues or to join AREC. Enlarge on copy machine if you please!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town /City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make \$20.00 check or money order payable to:**

**Amoskeag Reserve Engine Company**  
 Send to: **Amoskeag Reserve Engine Company**  
**P.O. Box 307**  
**Lebanon, NH 03766**

## For Sale & Wanted

**WANTED:** Pictures, information, parts or equipment from Wolfeboro, NH 1930 Buffalo. Contact the Pres. (Chief)

**MALTESE CROSS - by AREC Member Vinnie Toland!**

*AUTOGRAPHED COPIES - EXCLUSIVELY FROM DMC ONLY \$24.95*

*HARDCOVER, 6 x 9, 240 PAGES [WWW.DMCFIREBOOKS.COM](http://WWW.DMCFIREBOOKS.COM) or call 1-800-563-5318*

**"First To The Flames"** Book on Fire Chief Vehicles 1900-1999 (450 Pictures)  
 By Ed Peterson - Past President SPAAMFAA, Current SPAAMFAA Archives Chairman.

Send: \$10.00 for book and \$2.50 Shipping & Handling to;

**Edwork Enterprises**  
**1749 Grove Street**  
**Hummelstown, PA 17036-8812**

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**Amoskeag Reserve Engine Company**

Bruce Lemire - Editor  
259 Shirley Hill Road  
Goffstown, NH 03045



AREC Web Site - [www.arecnh.com](http://www.arecnh.com)

**March Meeting - Friday March 14th Concord Fire Department 150 N. State Street & 24 Horseshoe Pond Lane Concord, NH 7:pm**



**Directions To Concord Fire Department Headquarters**

**8** From Route 93 take exit 15W and head towards us-3/North Main Street. (.6 miles). Turn right onto commercial Street (.1 miles) turn left on Horseshoe Pond Lane.