



# The Granite Slate

Laramie County Fire District #10

## Board

President-George Nickerson 637-4912

Vice President-Gary McKee 421-2805

Treasurer-John Welch 632-3841

Member at Large-Carl Federer 632-3765

Member at Large-Rose Moore 634-6409

## **PICNIC - Mark your Calendar!**

The annual Fire District #10 summer picnic is July 10, 2010 starting at noon. Bring your family and friends for lunch and meet our volunteers. The Auxiliary will provide the main dish, drinks and table service. Each family please bring a salad, side dish or dessert. We will also have the silent auction as a fund raiser for the scholarship fund. If you have an item (or two) for the silent auction, please contact Betsey Nickerson at 637-4912.

Applications are still being accepted for the \$500 scholarship. The basic requirements are: Laramie County high school graduate who has a family member involved in any Laramie County Fire District and attending a Wyoming School. Please contact Janice McBride for an application before July 4, 2010. 701-0088.

## **Laramie County Fire District 10 Continues to Improve**

### *Chief Neil Priest*

As I type this the gears of creativity and innovation are grinding through the district. The Senior officers have taken a look at our processes and the way we do business and have come up with some exciting and challenging goals and a new direction of the department. I have surveyed the apparatus and equipment of the district and found some much needed areas of improvement. With help from county and federal grant monies, we will be upgrading 3 of the initial response units, to improve the service to our friends and neighbors. These will include the command vehicles and initial attack and rescue vehicles. These upgrades will improve not only our ability to respond, but the flexibility we have in responding.

I am pleased to announce that Assistant Chief Jim Kuhns has eagerly and wholeheartedly taken over the training of the organization. Jim has cemented a relationship with the state fire marshal's office and created a comprehensive and far-reaching training plan that will benefit new recruits and veterans alike.

Our Capitan of Administration Ginna Walker and I are creating a fully encompassing database of equipment and materials at our disposal. This will allow for positive control and accountability of district assets and also, aide in trend analysis and budget preparation in future years.

July 2010

Quarter Three

88 Harriman Road, Granite Canon, WY 82059

This is a very exciting time to be a part of this district. As always I welcome ANY ONE interested in giving back to community please feel free to call myself or any of the officers! Thank you for your time.

### **Certified First Responder Course to Be Offered**

*Assistant Chief Jim Kuhns*

A **certified first responder** is a person who has completed a course and received certification in providing pre-hospital care for medical emergencies. They have more skill than someone who is trained in basic first aid and they are not a substitute for advanced medical care rendered by emergency medical technicians (EMT) and paramedics.

Lifesaving skills in the first responder course include recognizing unsafe scenarios and hazardous materials emergencies, protection from blood borne pathogens, controlling bleeding, applying splints, conducting a primary life-saving patient assessment, in-line spinal stabilization and transport, and calling for more advanced medical help.

Other supplementary skills at this level include the taking of vital signs including manual blood pressures, advanced splinting and the use of the Automated External Defibrillator.

A certified first responder can be seen either as an advanced first aid provider, or as a limited provider of emergency medical care when more advanced providers are not yet on scene or available.

Our ambulance service, American Medical Response, will be providing the First Responder course and certification at the Harriman Fire Station on August 9, 11, 16, 18 (3 hour evening classes) and August 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> (8 hour classes). This course is open to everyone in our community to include our volunteer Fire Fighters. If you are interested to participating in this course please contact me so you can complete the course application and your book can be purchased.

Brenda Hammock, Clinical Education Specialist for AMR, will be instructing the course at no cost to the community. Fire District 10 is in the process of applying for a grant to purchase the course book.

Contact Jim Kuhns at (307) 634-9221, [kuhnsjd@msn.com](mailto:kuhnsjd@msn.com)

### **Personnel Protective Equipment and Fire Behavior.**

*Assistant Chief Jim Kuhns*

This month your volunteer fire fighters reviewed lessons on Personnel Protective Equipment and Fire Behavior.

We learned that during a fire our ability to predict what will happen may be hampered by limited information, time pressure, and our level of understanding of fire behavior. Fire behavior is predictable and fire fighters need to understand the combustion process and how fire behaves in different materials and in different environments. Fire fighters also need to know how fires are classified so that they can select and apply the most appropriate extinguishing agent. Most importantly, an understanding of fire behavior permits the fire fighter to recognize developing fire conditions and be able to respond safely and effectively to mitigate the hazards presented by the fire environment.

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You can help your volunteer fire fighters by designing and landscaping your home with wild-fire safety in mind. Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it. For example, hardwood trees are less flammable than pine, evergreen, eucalyptus, or fire trees. Your best resource for proper planning is [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) which has outstanding information used daily by residents, property owners, fire department and others to assure safety from fire.

Protect your home: Regularly clean roof and gutters. Inspect chimneys at least twice a year and clean them once a year. Use 1/8-inch mesh screen beneath porches, decks, floor areas and screen openings to floors, roof, and attic. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> the State Forestry Department conducted Wild Land Fire Fighting training. Ron Graham, State of Wyoming Office of State Land & Investments, Forestry Division, stated the department can give land owners information regarding an NFP grant. Mr. Graham will also work with landowners to develop a plan for defensible space around your home, fuel treatment, fuel breaks and/or slash treatment. He may be reached at [rgraha@wyo.gov](mailto:rgraha@wyo.gov) for further information on developing a plan or how to apply for grant money once a plan has been implemented...

**We have ordered ten training CD's: S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior and S-130 Fire Fighter training. These courses provide instruction in the primary factors affecting the start and spread of wildfires along with the concepts and skills to be performed on the field day exercise. If you want to use one of the CD's please contact me at (307) 634-9221 or (307) 421-1436.**

## Engineering Update

### *Captain of Engineering, John Walker*

As Captain of Engineering, I am responsible for keeping the apparatus in running condition. When I look at the equipment that we currently have, I see we have come a long way from 1996, when I joined the fire department.

At that time, the department had four pieces of equipment, our current Forestry 10-2, Tender 10-4, a 1996 pick-up truck which is Brush 10-1 now, and an antique pumper. I undertook the job of placing the pumper back in service. After soldering over 50 splits in the copper pipes which had frozen, it finally held water. When District 2 got a new pumper, they gave their old, but much better pumper to us for the antique one. They wanted it for a parade vehicle.

We still have the pumper, Engine 10-1, as our primary structure fire apparatus.

The fire district purchased a 1979 ambulance from the fire department in Hanna. We don't transport patients in Rescue 10-8, but it is still used to shelter patients until the AMR ambulance arrives. When the roads are icy there can be delayed arrivals.

Our 2004 Brush 10-2 was purchased with a grant. Chief Neil Priest approached the Laramie County Chief's Association and received money to pay for our newest addition, 2009 Brush 10-3.

An additional Forestry unit was added from US Forestry. The Tender 10-1 and Rescue 10-1 were purchased at the Richey Brother auction. Tender 10-1 was just sprayed with Rhino Lining inside the tank so that the water will no longer rust the interior of it.

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The Chief and Assistant Chief each have a Command vehicle so they can respond quickly without having to stop at one of the fire stations.

We are a well-equipped fire department. Our response to emergencies will continue to improve as we update equipment with newer models and recruit more trained responders.

## **Administration Update**

### **. *Captain of Administration, Ginna Walker***

Our fire department has responded to thirty incident calls since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January this year.

It is a satisfying feeling to help our neighbors and the strangers on the highway in their time of emergency need. You may not realize that there are benefits, other than “good feelings”, for being an active volunteer responder.

The State of Wyoming has a retirement program called the Volunteer Firemen’s Pension Fund. Criteria to register for the program are:

1. enrolled with the fire district as a “firefighter”
2. attended a minimum of six of the department’s personnel or Board meetings each year
3. make payment of \$12.50 per month contribution to the plan (billed twice yearly).

**Fire District 10 will pay the contribution** for firefighters who respond to 25% of the district’s calls (based on the previous six month period), or for certified Firefighters or EMT’s who respond to 25% of the district’s calls (based on the current six month period).

All contributions have to be paid through the fire department. If you start the plan before the age of 46, you can retire at age 60. For those who start the plan after age 46, the retirement age is extended to 61-70 years of age.

The amount of the pension depends on the number of years volunteered. Young people (under 25) can expect a monthly check of \$500 - \$700 at retirement age. Even someone 65 years of age, who volunteers until they are 70, will receive a check of \$119.33 each month.

Contact Assistant Fire Chief, Jim Kuhns at 634-9838 or Captain of Administration, Ginna Walker at 632-5843 if you have questions, would like an application to become a volunteer, or want an application for the pension plan

## **Auxiliary News**

Sixty four brave neighbors came out in the fog to enjoy the pancake breakfast on April 17. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations and to our cooks and crew: Dan and Christy Crochet, Sharon Dana, Betsey Nickerson, Ruth White, Neil Priest, Jim and Donna Kuhns, Sis Spertzel, Jim and Janice McBride.

Our annual clean up along I-80 will be held August 28. We will meet at the Warren Road exit at 8:00 and

divide into crews. Lunch will be served after we are done. Please bring gloves, appropriate clothing for our ever changing weather and a smile that you get to help our community and state. The Auxiliary will provide bottled water and snacks for the workers.

## Romancing the Past

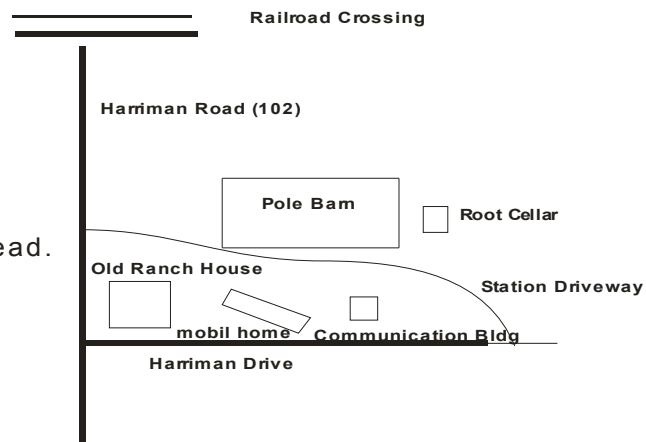
During these busy times life never seems to be less complicated or stressful. I thought a brief review of the development of Laramie County Fire District #10 Fire Station facilities might provide a relaxing moment picturing some events of days gone by

The first Station was built on the corner of Harriman Road (102) and Harriman Drive. This was part of "The Old Boyce Ranch" sometimes referred to as "The Old Ranch House". Dates are sketchy but we do know this station was called the pole barn. The poles were communication poles from Union Pacific. Instead of constructing the building in the typical fashion the poles were laid horizontally in "log cabin" style. The roof was precast cement. We have not turned up any pictures but this must have been an imposing structure!

The Rolling Stock housed in the pole barn included a 1942 Fire Engine, Old Dodge Ambulance, and a 6x6 Forestry Truck (subsequently sold to the Steputis Family)

**The present Harriman Station** was built in the early 80's the lease was negotiated with the State by Mr Newstead. The material for the most part was acquired from a party in Colorado just this side of the switch backs.

Many families provided their time and talents to erect the Harriman Station!



What follows are those families who helped in no particular order. If we have omitted a contributor please accept our apologies! (Burns, Henning, Pralle, McLaughlin, Newstead, Bolinski, Federer, Moores, Steputis, Hall, Smith, Mitchell, Montoya)

The rolling stock included; 1968 GMC Fire Engine acquired from Fire District #2, 6X6 Forestry with a Skid Pack (wild fire equipment), and a 6x6 Military Gas Tender converted to a water tanker.

In our next newsletter look for the Granite Station bio, present day rolling stock and a snapshot of the future. George Nickerson President

**Enclosed you will find a new AED card. The information includes locations, contacts and basic directions to use the AED. If you have the orange card, please discard and use the new one. We**

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**are looking for a location on Otto Road. If you are able to place an AED on your property, please let Jim Kuhns know. 634-9221**