

HOT TOPICS

August 15, 2001

Volume 1 – Issue 3



Retired Firefighters Honored At Banquet

Family, friends and co-workers gathered at the Delray Beach Golf Club on July 14th to celebrate the careers of six men who have saved many lives, answered many calls, and made many personal sacrifices while serving our community as firefighters and paramedics.

“For 135 years, collectively, each of these individuals served with honor and distinction. They made a unique and unusual contribution to our community,” said Chief Kerry Koen as he opened the program to honor Lt. Arthur Neddo, Lt. Robert Brown, Lt. Dennis Morley, Paramedic Butch Tillson, Driver Engineer Ronald Pangburn and Lt. Nick D’Atrio. The tributes flowed as each retiree’s achievements were recognized and applauded. Then, City Manager David Harden and Police Chief Richard Overman joined with Chief Koen to express their grateful appreciation to each honoree and present them with plaques to “put on your wall and look at with happy memories.”

Lt. Neddo, the first to be honored, joined the department right out of high school. At that time the starting salary was \$659 a month, according to Battalion Chief Mike Hendricks who praised Lt. Neddo as “a person with a big heart who is one of exceptional gentlemen in this department.”

Since retiring last year, Lt. Neddo admitted that it could be compared to “going through withdrawal” but he said he was pleased to be back among friends again and celebrating this special time with his family.

Lt. Robert Brown and Chief Koen have crossed paths many times in the 40 years since they attended Seacrest High School together in Delray Beach.

“I’ve probably known Bob longer than anyone else in this room,” remarked Chief Koen. He added that Bob’s red hair has turned white, but he still has the smile that earned him the nickname, “Grin ‘em Down Brown” while in school.

Lt. Brown has the distinction of being one of the first paramedics to provide Advanced Life Support services to the community and he remembers the day well.

“It was a Friday the 13th in January, 1978. Nine of us at the department had just been trained as paramedics. The new ALS equipment had been loaded on the truck the day before and the late John Andrews and I were on duty. We were getting all kinds of calls that day. There were no radios on the truck so we couldn’t communicate with the hospital. We’d have to find

a telephone and call the emergency room to get permission to start an IV.”

Lt. Brown has seen many changes over the years and he has enjoyed his career in Delray Beach.

He believes his greatest achievement was his contribution toward the enhancement of the pension system through his 15 years of service as a Trustee on the Police and Fire Fighters Retirement System Board of Trustees. He served seven years as the Board’s chairman and during that time lots of changes took place including using money from the State for a cost of living raise for pensions.

Besides his service on the pension

board, Lt. Brown’s contributions have included working as one of the city’s first “Haz Mat” Technicians, donating over 20 gallons of blood to the Palm Beach County Blood Bank, and, according to Chief Koen, “inspecting the refrigerators at the Fire Department to make sure no food has been left there beyond its shelf life.”

As Lt. Brown embarks on retirement, he plans to grow a beard, move to Tennessee and spend a lot of time cultivating his interest in model trains. What advice does he have for firefighters coming up through the ranks? “Go to the National Fire Academy, and get as much education as you can by taking advantage of the tuition reimbursement program.”

Lt. Dennis Morley was originally hired as an Emergency Medical Technician. He, too, was among the first group of employees to receive training as a paramedic. His 25-year career has included specialized work in trench rescue and extrication.

“He’s been an outstanding mentor to the younger guys coming up through the ranks,” said Division Chief Richard Murphy during his tribute to Lt. Morley. “It will be a loss when Dennis is gone.”

And when presenting his plaque to Lt. Morley, Chief Koen remarked, “The only thing to make this better tonight would have been to have Tommy Buce here, too.” Lt. Buce, a close friend of Lt. Morley’s, retired from the department two years ago and is living in Alabama.

Bernard “Butch” Tillson followed in his father’s footsteps when he became a Delray Beach Firefighter in 1981. He became proficient as a paramedic and spent much of his career as an EMS instructor. When Chief Overman presented his plaque, he noted it was given in behalf of “all the people who were out there and needed you when you showed up.”

Continued on page 2



Retirement Banquet Continued from page 1

Since retiring last fall, Paramedic Tillson has completed his training as a computer technician and landed a job with the Alliance for Better Education, a new company in Milledgeville, Georgia. He will be moving there in August with his wife Cindy and sons, Patrick and Joseph.

The life of a firefighter is not without personal sacrifices and Driver Engineer Ronald Pangburn sacrificed his health for his career. He was looking forward to a long career in the fire service but was forced to retire on a medical disability.

"I'm sorry I wasn't able to fulfill the years as I had planned, but I am committed to staying healthy," said Driver Engineer Pangburn. "There's some new treatments out there and my future is looking brighter."

Lt. Richard "Nick" D'Atrio, the sixth honoree, was on a road trip to Alaska and was unable to attend the banquet.

After the plaques and praise were dispersed, Division Chief Russ Accardi came forward to wrap up the evening. As he thanked the families for their support over the years, he spoke of their personal sacrifices—holidays and birthday celebrations that are missed. "You know what I'm talking about, but unless you're a firefighter, you don't understand what that means," said Chief Accardi. "Still, it's an honor to serve in this very special profession."

Nancy King
Staff Assst./Publ. Editor

Administration News by Ellen Wickert

More Telestaff News! We have received the first information on implementation of TeleStaff. A conference call was held with the Project Leaders and other key people on the team.

For those of you who do not know what Telestaff is, it is a program developed for Fire Department scheduling. It

is designed to automate and manage all staffing needs. It combines the power of a computer with the simplicity of the telephone to ensure that staffing is accurate, constant and fair. I will provide more information as the implementation progresses.

I want to thank everyone who indicated an interest in being on the team. Some of you were not chosen due to the size of the team, but we will keep your name for the future.



Photo by Paramedic Ron DeLong
SPECIAL OPS NEWS

Pictured above is *Lt. Mark Reynolds* with the newest addition to the Delray Beach Fire Department fleet of vehicles. This Dodge Ram pickup is equipped with extra heavy-duty suspension and a four-wheel drive transmission that gives it the capability of deploying our Zodiac Dive boat as well as towing and hauling heavy trailers and equipment. Its high ground clearance will enable it to be used to assist in on and off road incidents. With all this truck has to offer it will be a significant asset to Special Operations and the entire department.

Operations News

by Acting Assistant Chief
Charles Stravino



In the middle of July, the department sent approximately fifteen (15) officers and step-up officers to a two day Survival Techniques and Rescue Class at the Broward Fire Academy. The class focused on Rapid Intervention Teams and strategies for saving our own. This training took a tremendous coordinated department wide effort over six days. Thanks to those staff personnel who contributed by filling positions for those who went to training. I can say firsthand that this was a valuable learning experience.

Also, in July, some multifamily residential structures scheduled for demolition became available for crews to train in. Several companies practiced hands on forceable entry skills. A commercial structure (West Side Liquors), also became available and crews used this building to practice survival techniques learned at the Broward Fire Academy.

Unfortunately these buildings arise on short notice but crews have been flexible in taking advantage of these training opportunities.

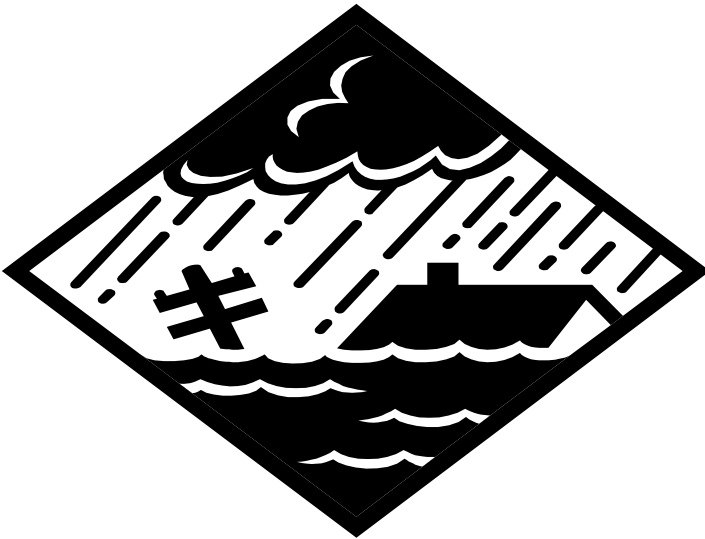
In the near future, we will schedule a live L.P. Gas burn at night for each shift.

Until next month...Be safe!

Emergency Management News

by Assistant Chief John Tomaszewski

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association – Disaster Response Plan



On August 24, 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated southern Dade County with the worst natural disaster to strike the United States. Numerous fire rescue agencies from across the State of Florida and the nation assisted in the effort to respond to the needs of the victims of this disaster. It became abundantly clear from this effort that greater coordination for inter-agency disaster management was required.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association created the Statewide Emergency Response Plan to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of fire rescue resources throughout the

state in assisting local agencies in mitigating the effects of a disaster. The Statewide Emergency Response Plan lends itself to the rapid activation and response to aid a community in the event of a local disaster. These events include train derailments, hazardous materials incidents, wildland fires, domestic terrorism, hurricanes and other events that may overwhelm the department serving a community and its normal mutual aid resources.

The coordination of the Statewide Emergency Response Plan, including its future development, revision, distribution, training and implementation remains the responsibility of the Florida Fire Chief's Association. A Disaster Response Committee composed of members from across the state has been appointed to oversee this process and there is an annual plan revision schedule. Regional Coordinators are responsible for planning, staffing, deploying and tracking resources, and assisting agencies with reimbursement procedures at the local level.

Since its inception, the Statewide Emergency Response Plan has been activated to provide assistance around the state on many occasions. Resources from Delray Beach have been deployed to Brevard County after Hurricane Erin in 1995, to the Florida Keys after Hurricane Georges in 1998, to Volusia and Flagler Counties for the wildland fires in 1998, fires in the Everglades in 1999, and a wildland fire in Collier County in 2000. This plan has proven to be an effective tool for managing resources during and after a disaster and

Fire Safety News by Assistant Chief William Adams

Lt. Trish Dunkelmann and the map committee are continuing their work in updating the maps. New maps for both the apparatus and stations are either in place or will be soon.

Welcome back to *Lt. Hal Knabb*! *Lt. Hal Knabb* received a plaque from *Police Chief Richard Overman* for his participation in teaching safety issues to senior residents who enrolled in the Senior Academy.

Jerry VanGelder, our Plans Reviewer, will be moving to Estero, Florida to assume the Plans Reviewer position with the Estero Fire Department. Jerry has done an excellent job of assuring compliance with the codes. He has also been very successful in communicating the needs of our department during the design phase of new projects. We wish him the best in his new position.

Training and Safety Division

by Division Chief Russell Accardi

The Training and Safety Division provided a 16 hour training course for our officers entitled, "Rapid Intervention Operations" which was held at the Broward Fire Academy in Davie. This training was conducted July 11th-20th on a shift schedule. Our officers reviewed case studies and statistics on firefighter fatalities first. Then they learned how to locate and remove lost or trapped members using the Academy's seven story smoke tower. The second day allowed them to conduct two practical scenarios using the apartment and collapse simulator to rescue firefighters. These scenarios provided command experience on the complexities of running a rescue operation from the command post.

The officers and step-up officers who completed this program were *Chief Stravino, Chief Accardi, Chief Fitzer, Lt. Dorcas, Lt. Beckowitz, Lt. Cooper, Lt. Moreland, Pm. Williams, Lt. Garcia, Lt. Staab, Pm. Zimmer, Pm. Press, Lt. Wetzel, Lt. Giaccone, and Lt. Bush.*

We also have had the opportunity to take advantage of some buildings that are scheduled for demolition, which provided valuable hands on experience. "A" and "C" shifts practiced forcible entry at the apartments on SW 2nd Avenue and SW 1st Street. Over twenty doors were forced and numerous windows were taken out to practice Vent Enter and Search (VES) techniques. They also practiced survival techniques breaching interior walls

The other opportunity was training conducted on "A" shift at the Westside Liquors building, which included survival techniques on locating the correct hoseline and following it to the exit under thick smoke conditions. Also, being sent in as a (RIC) to locate and remove a lost/trapped firefighter. An exterior wall breaching operation was also done to make access to the outside.

Thanks goes to *Lt. Dorcas and Lt. Cooper* who conducted this valuable session on July 26th. Even though there is usually a small window of opportunity with these structures, it is valuable life safety training for our personnel. Thanks to all who participated

The County Haz Mat Oversight Committee, who is responsible for ensuring the four (4) Palm Beach County Regional HazMat Teams are properly equipped, trained and prepared for their mission, has completed an inspection of the Delray Beach/Boca Raton Team 4 at our Station #5. Preliminary information looks as though it went very well. We will find out the final scoring grade given for the evaluation in the

near future.

ACLS recertification training started July 25th and will conclude on August 10th. Look for the specific schedule on the monthly training calendar. Remember all EMT's that this also counts towards your recertification CEU's as well.

All operations personnel are reminded to review the Safety Bulletin Boards at each station for safety related information being posted. The most recent bulletin is 01-07 entitled Hydration and Rehydration: How To Stay At Peak Levels For Operations In Summer Heat. We encourage anyone who has information or ideas for inclusion to submit them to the Training and Safety Division for consideration.

Training Schedule

August 1st – 3rd

ACLS Model 12 @ Fire Headquarters

August 8th – 10th

ACLS Model 13 @ Fire Headquarters

August 14th – 17th

Haz Mat Techs Only

BRFR Station: TBA

09:00 until completion

August 22nd – 24th

Dive Training

Divers Only

Location: TBA

August 29th – 31st

City Training on Workplace Violence Policy

Use Training Model 4 for Unit Training

Assignments

3 Sessions: 9:00-10:00, 10:30-11:30 & 1:30-2:30

@ Station 1

From the Chief's Desk

The lead story in this Edition of "**Hot Topics**" covers the Benevolent Association Dinner recognizing the many years of service of six of our members. Congratulations go to **Jed Dalton** and **Tim Garito** for a great job of getting all the arrangements handled, and putting together a very well attended event. Thanks guys!

The Kiwanis Club of Delray Beach honored **Steven Anderson** and **Mark Siciliano** on July 15th as annual recipients of their Fire Fighter of the Year. Steve was the 1998 recipient and Mark garnered the 2000 recognition. The Kiwanis Club has been recognizing Fire Fighters for their work in the community since 1977.

Vacation time for **Joe Liguori** and family in the Green Mountains of Vermont...the **Ackerman** (senior) family in the mountains of North Carolina...and the **Murphy** clan in and around Captiva Island (rain and all). Later "thousands" of Fire Fighters made their way to the Keys for the "mini-season," including an **undisclosed number of Delray's bravest**. It's lobster salad-time again!

Ellen Wickert was one of 15 graduates of Leadership Delray - 2001 and was so recognized at a graduation ceremony at the Hamlet Country Club recently. Sad news to report that **Gerry Van Gelder** is leaving our staff to move to the west coast of Florida and work with former Fire Marshal **Mike Cato** at the Estero Fire Protection District. Thanks Gerry for all your hard work while you were in Delray Beach...you made a big difference.

New graphics and striping may be seen on a number of cars and utility units entering service with the fleet. Our goal is to get all of our fleet standardized with the new graphics in the next few months. Thanks to our **City Sign Shop** for all the support and assistance...and the best news of all is...**Mark Reynolds** now has "wheels".

Union officials and management

are working out the final details for a group to attend the **Sixteenth Redmond Symposium on the Occupational Health and Hazards of the Fire Service** in Phoenix this September. We'll also have a chance to tour a number of facilities operated by the Phoenix Fire Department while we're in town. **John Tomaszewski** attended the annual conference of the Florida Fire Chief's Association in Stuart.

Nineteen additional portable radios have been added to our system which will give us enhanced capability during hurricanes and other extended operations. Thanks to **Mike Twigger** for working on this program and bringing this acquisition to closure.

The recruitment and selection process went into high gear during the month with oral boards, polygraphs, medical evaluations and background checks being completed. Our assessment team (s) consisted of **Chief Koen, Russ Accardi, Charlie Stravino, Doug Randolph (HR), Tommie Osborn, Kathy Hoecherl, Mark Siciliano, Mike Camera, and Joe Albano** with background checks being done by **Mike Twigger, Tim Garito, John Tomaszewski** and **Ellen Wickert**. Behind the scenes, **Tammy, Cecelia and Gloria**, along with some part time help, put together the applications and made "hundreds" of phone calls to set appointments and confirm arrangements. Also, our thanks goes to **Mike Hendricks and Mike Wigderson** for their support and assistance. This is a very important process and a great deal has already gone into it to make certain we all will have top quality co-workers in the future. If we are not able to fill all of our current vacancies, we will begin the process again...as we are **totally committed to maintaining very high**

standards for appointment to current and projected vacancies in this agency.

Congratulations to our two **Competition Teams** including **Steve Anderson, Robert Creasman, Randy Bahe, Mark Singer, Joe Lang, Ken Thompson, Bill Marino and Joe Albano**, who traveled to **ClinCon** and represented Delray Beach in a field of over 60 teams from the United States and around the world. Both teams improved their standing over last year's efforts. Thanks to all those who spent so much time preparing for this intense event, and are also already planning for next year. Can we say "**Final Five-2002**"?

Our collective sympathy is extended to the family of the late **C. Spencer Pompey**...community leader and friend. Mr. Pompey always gave us good advice and council, and we will miss him.

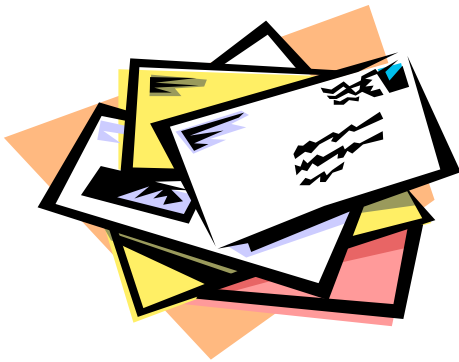
Be on the lookout for WOW's, and let me know when you hear of, see or participate in one. A WOW is description I use to describe "**exceptional**" customer service. It is the type of service that truly would make a customer say "WOW", I didn't realize you guys did that". I think you all have had that type of experience, **but we should pass it along** so others may be aware of what is occurring within our customer base.

Tommie Osborn was awarded a Bronze Medal in Track events at this year's **International Fire and Police Games in Indianapolis**. The City Commission recognized Tommie at their regular meeting on August 7th by presenting him a Proclamation for his recent achievements. Also, the same evening, **Rescue I** was on display in front of City Hall before the Commission meeting to let the public and the City Commissioners examine our very latest improvement to the emergency response fleet

Finally, our very own **Wayne Yoder** will be "presenting" at the "**International Disaster Manage-**

Letters from “Mr. and Mrs. Smith”

Mr. and Mrs. Smith represent our “customers“, and are very important people in our community. We thought you might like to read some comments and excerpts from the many letters, notes, and phone calls received each month regarding the services we provide. Keep up the great work!



“Twice in the past few months your rescue teams have responded promptly to emergency calls made to my small condo complex. On the second occasion, I had a chance to talk with your Paramedics as they aided my elderly neighbor. I found the members of your rescue teams to be efficient, highly competent, and surprisingly empathetic. I say “surprisingly”, because I would have expected those who deal with life-threatening injuries around the clock to be a bit jaded, and a bit callous. However your personnel were gentle and caring, *the way human beings ought to be*. I know that made a big difference to my neighbor. He trusted them and therefore, took their advice – to let them transport him to the hospital. That decision saved his life. Later, the doctors found that he had fractured his hip and he required immediate surgery and a pacemaker. He is home now and doing well, not only because of the medical procedures your personnel applied, but *also because of the care and concern they radiated*. I certainly sleep better at night knowing that a group of first-rate Paramedics is just minutes away”.

O.C. – Delray Beach

“Thanks for the prompt, courteous and professional service rendered to my wife. *It is most assuring to know that you are there*. We “older folks” need you!”

H.F. – Delray Beach

“Thanks to *Jeff Harkcom and Ron DeLong* for being so helpful on July 27th when our car broke down on Linton Blvd. They stopped to help us on their way back from the hospital, gave us some water to drink, and helped us get back on our way. I’m a “heart patient” and their “helping hand” took a lot of pressure off me.

N.C. – Boynton Beach

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN DELRAY BEACH?

by Bill Rego, Special Events Coordinator

August 24th

Ale-abration at the Marriott Hotel, 8:00 p.m. – Midnight, \$50/Ticket, Fun-Music-Gourmet Foods-Exotic Beers-Raffles. Benefits go to the American Cancer Society. For more information please call 561-394-7751.

August 31st – September 4th

Annual Bed Race & Summer Nights on the Avenue – Cheer your Fire Fighters, runners up last year, to victory of the Delray Beach Trophy. Celebrate with them as they would go on to defend the trophy in Hawaii, defending Delray as 2000 World Champions at 6:00 p.m.; Parade of beds race will start at 7:00 p.m. Bring your friends & neighbors along with you because there will be much more going on with the grand opening of the Pineapple Grove Way District.

October 20th

American Heart Association’s Annual Heart Walk, 7:30 a.m. – Siemens ICN, Inc., 900 Broken Sound Parkway, Boca Raton, FL, 3 miles – City of Delray Beach sponsored event. Fire Fighters have been the #1 contributors for the past 2 years. Let’s keep up the good work!

9th Annual Fire Fighters Recognition Dinner, Dancing, and Awards Program will be held at the Elks Club in Delray Beach at 7:00 p.m. until midnight. This year we will be honoring John Hansen, Bill Adams, Butch Tillson, Ron Pangburn, David Kobrin, Bob Jolly (Beach Patrol), Rich Connell (Beach Supervisor) and Carol Carpenter (Civilian Award).

November 10th

Palm Beach County Council of Fire Fighters Annual Chili Cook-Off, Lake Worth...Taste some of the wildest chili’s you could ever imagine. *Local 1842* will be there to defend last year’s title of *Best Chili* over all, along with the other locals from Palm Beach County. Food, live entertainment, spirits and Fraternal gathering.

Recipe of the Month...Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share? Bring it to Cecelia in time for next months newsletter.

Thought Of The Month



Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitude and the choices you make today.

Unknown

HIS-tory by Chief M.B. Wigderson

How I Came To Work For The City of Delray Beach.

My story began in 1967. My, how time flies! Let me digress back to that simpler time. 1967, the year I got married, and started work with Northwest Airlines and became a father, what a year! Soon things settled down to a routine schedule of work, this was my choice over college. Working at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee was great work for a kid with only a high school education, and I loved wearing that blue suit to work everyday. The first six months there I worked only lost and found baggage, until I found out nobody else would work it more than a month. I could tell you many stories, but I won't. The best thing that happened to me in those early days was going to coffee with Roy Meyer. Roy was a twenty year veteran of NWA and he hated his work. One day, I asked Roy why he didn't just quit. After all, I wouldn't stay in any job I didn't like. Roy just looked at me. After a while, he said he couldn't. At his age, no one would hire him at the money he was making. He joined NWA right after the war and had never gone to college. Roy had done for me what my parents could not. By his example, he convinced me that I needed to be in school. So, I started classes at MATC, Milwaukee Area Technical College. Business— that's the ticket! I could see myself as a Station Manager. By 1970, I was doing very well, until my union, the BRAC, Brotherhood of Railroad and Airline Clerks, decided that we needed a raise and voted to strike. I walked a picket line from July

until December when the strike was settled and then waited until March to be called back to work. I got my raise at the expense of sixteen workers who never did get called back in Milwaukee, 22% nation wide.

Lesson learned: Be careful who you play, I bet my job with.

Our whole life's saving was depleted and our landlady evicted us from our South Milwaukee, first floor, Polish flat apartment. We never missed a payment, but she did worry and besides Susan was pregnant with Beej (Short for BJ) and she didn't want two kids living down stairs from her. Fifteen months later, the pilots, in July of 1972, went on strike. That's when I decided that I needed a career where there would be no strikes. I thought that if I could do anything, live anywhere, what would I like to be. That's when it came to me. When I was seven to ten years old, I spent my summers hanging out at our local fire station in Madison, Wisconsin. The Firefighters would fix my bike, tell me stories about their work, let me watch them train and sometimes feed me. That's what I always wanted to be, a Firefighter, I had just forgotten. I had a friend at the airport who was a retired Captain on the Milwaukee Fire Dept. and I asked George, if he could live his life all over again would he want to be a Firefighter? He thought for a moment and said "Mike, I would do it all over again, except I would do it in a warmer climate." As luck would have it, my Brother-in-law, Dennis Wondra, was working for the Delray Beach Fire Department, and with his help I made ap-

plication, tested and interviewed for a position. Back then it helped to have someone on the department to vouch for you, especially coming from out of state.

I started work on September 8, 1972, working 24 hours on duty followed by 48 hours off duty for \$640 a month, a 40% drop in pay...but guaranteed no strikes. Welcome to paradise. For a boy who had little or no interest in school, I had picked a career that would require continuous education and training. I completed college at Palm Beach Junior College (P.B.J.C.) with an AS Degree in Business/Fire Science. I have attended classes at the University of Maryland Fire Rescue Institute as well as the National Fire Academy and the Emergency Management Institute, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Well that explains how and why we got to Florida and how I ended up working for the Delray Beach Fire-Rescue. Check out our website at www.delrayfirerescue.com.

I am quite proud of our city and department

Chief Wigderson's journey through time, past and present, will continue in next months newsletter. Stay tuned as His-tory unfolds...

Congratulations to **Scott Gainer** on his recent promotion to Lieutenant which was effective on July 14th.

Scott joined the Department on November 23, 1987 and lives with his wife and 2 children in Boca Raton.

The distribution of our next newsletter is September 15, 2001. All News articles should be turned into Cecelia Shade in the Administrative Office on or before September 1, 2001. Deadline for turning in news articles will be September 1st at 5:00 p.m. We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of "Hot Topics" and we look forward to producing our next new and exciting issue.




 City of Delray Beach
 100 NW 1st Avenue
 Fire-Rescue Headquarters
 501 West Atlantic Avenue
 Delray Beach, FL 33444

Departmental Anniversaries

Thomas Nabors	August 17	18 yrs.
Jan Holmsted	August 28	12 yrs.
Adam Granath	August 15	7 yrs.
Spencer Langley	August 15	7 yrs.
Eduardo Cagnin	August 15	7 yrs.
Matthew Pearce	August 15	7 yrs.

Congratulations to our personnel who have reached the 7 year mark or more in their careers in the Fire Service. We wish you much success in the future...

EMS NEWS by Chief Richard Murphy

Congratulations to ALS Competition Teams

I would like to congratulate the Department's two (2) competition teams who recently competed at the ALS/BLS International Competition in Orlando. While the level of competition was very high, both teams made marked improvements over last years ranking.

Sixty-two (62) teams competed in this year's event. The team of *Fire Fighter/Paramedic Steve Anderson, Fire Fighter/Paramedic Randy Bahe, Fire Fighter/Paramedic Rob Creasman and Fire Fighter/Paramedic Mark Singer (alternate)* finished 17th with a total of

103 points. *Fire Fighter/Paramedic Joe Albano (alternate), Fire Fighter/Paramedic Joe Lang, Lieutenant/Paramedic Bill Marino and Fire Fighter/EMT Ken Thompson* finished 25th with a total of 98 points.

Here is a brief description of the scenario that the teams were faced with:

After being shown a brief segment of videotape from a rodeo, they were told that they were the Emergency Medical Team at that rodeo. They were directed to the center of the rodeo ring where they had a report of a man down. The teams had twelve (12) minutes in which to complete the scenario. Upon entering

the scenario (ring), the three-person team encountered two patients: One who was apparently a rodeo clown and had been gored by a bull and had an abdominal evisceration as the only obvious injury. The second patient was apparently the bull rider who was lying face down and was in respiratory arrest.

What is the possible cause of the rider's respiratory arrest and what is the treatment? What other injuries might you suspect to the clown with penetrating trauma to the abdominal cavity? Talk to one of the competition team members to get additional information.

Great job on your performance!