

Spring 2014



Bodega Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter

PO Box 28, Bodega, CA 94922 • 707-876-9438 • www.bodegafire.org • www.facebook.com/bodegafire

About BVFD

Founded in 1949 in West Sonoma County, the department consists of 100% volunteer men and women. We are 501c3 organization with no tax base. We respond to fire, rescue and emergency medical services in 16 square mile radius and provide automatic and mutual aid to the communities of Bodega Bay, Valley Ford, Occidental, Bloomfield, Two Rock and Freestone.

Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendars for the Sunday, May 18th from 7:30am to Noon at the McCaughey Hall in Bodega. Prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and include pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, milk and orange juice.

Hall Rental

Please consider renting McCaughey Hall for your next event or private party. If you're interested, please contact us for more information at 707-876-9438.

Monthly Business Meetings

Our monthly business meetings are held in the training room of the new Fire Station. Join us every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

A message from the Board President

We had a dry winter and now we are getting into wet-dry spring. I hope everyone is enjoying the new season. As most of you know we have completed our Fire Station and it is fully operational. The community support has been outstanding and we all deserve congratulations for a job well done.

Over the last few months, there have been many articles in the local newspapers regarding the various Sonoma County Fire Agencies or Departments. The articles were in depth and had many scenarios (along with some misinformation) which briefly described the different types of Fire Departments operating within Sonoma County (Cities, Districts, Volunteer Departments, Cal Fire and County Fire). Bodega Volunteer Fire Department is part of the County of Sonoma CSA 40, which is a group of 15 Volunteer Fire Departments coordinated by Sonoma County Fire & Emergency Services. While many other departments are having difficulties, Bodega Volunteer Fire Department is in good shape. We have outstanding support from our local community and volunteers which enables us to keep our cost to the most essential needs. We also receive excellent support from Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services, with training, equipment and various insurances.

BVFD is the perfect example of how a small community Volunteer Fire Department can work. We do not expect any major changes in the near future, but there is always the possibility of changes (over the next few years) that could affect us in some way. When we know something we will surely let our members know.

Again, thanks for the great support.

Best Regards, Bill Newman, BVFD President

Chief's Report

First, I would like to start by saying thank you to our community for their continued support and generosity as our Fire Station is finalized and we've received our occupancy from county officials. We still have a few minor projects to complete that will make it fit our needs, but in the end we did it! I am proud to say, our new station has improved our response time.

I often write about our 18 professional volunteer firefighters, but I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the other volunteers who keep the place operating flawlessly. Gratitude to the cooks and servers for our various fundraising events, quilters, board members, grant writers, event coordinators and maintenance crew.

In 2013, we responded to 137 calls of service in our community and neighboring areas. Our firefighters completed over 75 hours of training and I am quite pleased to say we have one of the best and most dedicated groups in the county. This past year, we also had two of our volunteers further their skills and successfully complete the Santa Rosa Junior College Firefighter 1 Academy. Congratulations Martin Newman and Eric Calley, who both have been successful at getting hired at Cal Fire. Congratulations Aaron Pendergraft who recently completed the Sonoma County Fire Academy. We must continue to encourage and recruit a good balance of volunteers to remain a healthy and viable department for the future. If you are interested in joining the crew, please contact me.

Year-to-date BVFD Calls January through April 2014

	Calls
Vehicle Accident	13
Hazardous Condition	6
Fire Alarm	4
Medical Aids	6
Rescue	3
Structure Fires	0
Vegetation Fires	1
Fire Investigation	4
Station Coverage	2
Total	39 calls

Sincerely, Ron Albini, Fire Chief

Board of Directors

Bill Newman
President

Ron Albini
*Vice-President
Fire Chief*

Abigail Myers Killey
Treasurer

Jim Grant
Laird Sutton
Secretaries

Keep Connected

Like and follow us on Facebook for pictures of progress of the new Fire Station, events, volunteers, local news, conditions and updates.

Grant Update

We rely on grants to purchase or upgrade equipment that we cannot otherwise afford. We received a 2012 AFG FEMA grant that was awarded last year for a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus compressor/refilling station. Prior to having our own piece of equipment, after training or a fire call we would go to neighboring station, Bodega Bay Fire to refill the bottles for our air packs. This unit was recently installed in the new fire station and is maintained by Sonoma County Fire.

We are always looking for new ways to receive funding and currently have submitted grant applications for the following items: a new Water Tender Truck, a new lawn mower, advanced medical equipment and upgraded fire nozzles.

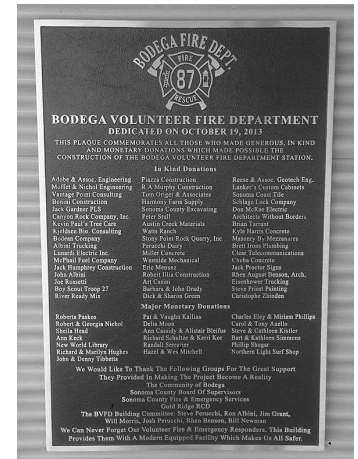
Respectfully submitted by Josh Perucchi, Fire Captain/EMT

Building Update

The picture to the right is our Commemorative Plaque that proudly hangs near the entrance to our new fire station. This plaque acknowledges our appreciation to many in-kind donations and major monetary donors that helped us along the way. Below the plaque is our brick donor wall, which is now sold out and will be finalized shortly. Thank you all that have contributed and your continuous support! If you haven't done so already, please stop by to see our new building.

Annual Membership Dues

Membership for 2014-2015 fiscal year is due July 1, 2014. This past year, we had a shortfall in membership and hope those who did not join last year will reconsider. We ask that each household and businesses become a member. Membership form is included with this newsletter. Thanks to all that continue to support BVFD with their \$50 annual membership payment.



2014 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

Sunday, May 18
7:00 am – 12:00 pm
Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, August 3
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
34th Annual Big Event BBQ

Saturday, August 23 & Sunday, August 24
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Bodega Seafood, Art & Wine Festival

Saturday, October 4
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Polenta Dinner

Friday, November 28 & Saturday, November 29
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Annual Christmas Crafts Faire

Events held at McCaughey Hall

**Bodega Volunteer
Fire Department
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