



# The Smoke Eater

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SPAAMFAA Chapter - White Rose Fire Preservation of York, Pa.

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## 2021 Officers

President – Greg Halpin [greg@halpin.com](mailto:greg@halpin.com)

President Elect – Neil Gunnet [fireguyneil@gmail.com](mailto:fireguyneil@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Robert Straw [strawcem@aol.com](mailto:strawcem@aol.com)

Recording Secretary – Kraig Herman  
[alwaysready1853@outlook.com](mailto:alwaysready1853@outlook.com)

Member At Large – Roy Gentzler [wysim@yahoo.com](mailto:wysim@yahoo.com)

Member At Large – Dave Maletz [dpmaletz@outlook.com](mailto:dpmaletz@outlook.com)

## Editors Comments:

I hope everyone enjoys the new look of “The Smoke Eater”! It is still a work in progress. My hopes are to make it look a bit more professionally done. Articles are always welcomed and can be emailed to me at [alwaysready1853@outlook.com](mailto:alwaysready1853@outlook.com)

Ideas of things to add or feature are also always welcomed! - Kraig

## ***FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT.....***

The elected officers of the Old Fire Farts of York County, Pa., Inc. held a board meeting on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Several items of business were discussed. Of great concern was our lack of attendance at two of our quarterly meetings this year. Our fourth quarter meeting was not held due to a lack of members in attendance. We certainly hope that this was an anomaly, and not an omen of things to come. If anyone has concerns about the scheduling of our meetings, please contact one of your elected officers. We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual meeting in January 2022.

Since we had no fourth quarter meeting, we were unable to appoint a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates for election at our upcoming annual meeting. All our current officers are eligible to run for office in 2022 and have stated a willingness to do so. We will strive to appoint a committee to prepare a slate for election at the annual meeting in January.

We have set the date for our annual Christmas Party, which we will hold this year in conjunction with the Union Fire Company of Manchester, at their engine house on Saturday evening, December 4, 2021. Check elsewhere for more details and don't forget to RSVP to Kraig Herman. Rumor has it at least one jolly old fat man will be in attendance.

Another item discussed at our board meeting was resuming our annual fire flea market in 2022. A date and location are being worked on, and if anyone would like to help with the flea market, please contact one of your elected officers. Our last flea market was during the 2021 SPAAMFAA Winter Conference, so we are looking forward to having our standalone flea market once again.

Hopefully by the time this newsletter is completed and distributed, we will have the date and location of our 2022 annual meeting available, where I hope to see many of you in attendance!

Stay safe, keep warm, and keep fire service history alive!

Greg Halpin

President

**ATTENTION OLD FIRE  
FART MEMBERS.....**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the White Rise Fire Preservation of York, Pa. (AKA – The Old Fire Farts of York County, Pa.) will be held on **SUNDAY JANUARY 16, 2022** at ALERT FIRE COMPANY 3118 NORTH GEORGE ST. EMIGSVILLE, PA. A catered meal will be served starting at 5pm with the meeting to follow at 6pm.

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On behalf of the Officers of the Old Fire Farts to you and yours.....



## *A Jolly Good Time Was Had by All*

On Saturday evening December 4<sup>th</sup>, members of the Old Fire Farts and Union Fire Co. (Station 23) held a joint Christmas party for their members. This was the first year for this event and one to hopefully continue for years to come. The Old Fire Farts supplied a baked ham and Union supplied steamed shrimp. Attendees were asked to bring a covered dish to share....let's just say there was not much in the way of leftovers! As a surprise for the young at heart (and even the not-so-young at heart), Santa and Mrs. Claus made a surprise visit! The happiness witnessed on the faces of the children made for an enjoyable evening.



## 2021 Muster Held At Fawn Grove

On Sunday September 26, 2021, the Old Fire Farts held our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Muster at Olde Thyme Days Park located in Fawn Grove, Pa.. There were 43 pieces of apparatus on site to enjoy a beautiful, yet windy day. The following is a list of award winners:

Best Appearing Handrawn: Frank Schmursal 1890 Woodhouse Hose Reel

Best Appearing 1900 – 1929: None registered

Best Appearing 1930 – 1949: S.A.F.E.R. (formerly Rescue – Dallastown) 1948 Mack

Best Appearing 1950 – 1979: Terry Fix and Sam Wise 1974 FW.D. / Seagrave

Best Appearing 1980 – 1998: West Manchester Twp. Fire Dept. (Lincolnway Sta.) 1982 Mack

Featured Apparatus (Howe – Oren – Grumman)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: David Littleton 1989 Grumman Fire Cat

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Russell Piper 1946 Ford / Oren

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Duane Ober 1970 Howe Defender

Best Appearing In-Service Unit: Rockville V.F.C. 2019 Seagrave Aerialscope

Best Appearing Fire Company Owned: Frederica V.F.C. 1936 REO

Best Appearing Privately Owned: Terry Fix 1935 Seagrave

### Pumping Contest Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Malden Miller

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jack Roberts

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Terry Fix

### Kids Drafting:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Asa Davis

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Easton Kosmicki

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ezra Davis

# The Christmas of 1920 at York Firehouses

*Compiled by Gregory C. Halpin*

At the monthly meetings of the various fire companies on December 7, 1920, preparations for the upcoming Christmas holiday were on the agenda.

At the Rescue engine house, a committee was appointed to make arrangements for a display and gifts for the south end children. Fred W. Aldinger was appointed chairman, with Levi Keeney, Anthony Mann, Harry Booth and Jacob Snyder on the committee to arrange for decorating the station and providing presents for the children.

At the Laurel, a committee of Frank Heckert, John McComas, Edward W. Kroll, John Blymire and John Krider had already started work on the platform that would hold the Christmas trees in the apparatus room. It was planned to display fifteen lighted evergreen trees along with fountains, electric trains and other features on the twenty-two-foot by fifteen-foot platform. Much of the work on the platform would be done by drivers Eugene Greiman and Edward Kroll. The Laurel opened their doors on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. to allow the public to see their display prior to the Christmas morning activities.

The Royal firemen would once again host the official West End Christmas tree on the triangular lawn of the engine house for the eighth year in a row. A fifty-seven-foot tree was erected in the yard, strung with lights and artful decorations. The tree was illuminated for the first time at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and would be lit every evening for the remainder of the year.

Yorkers awoke to a sunny and moderate Saturday morning on Christmas Day. It would be a green Christmas rather than a white one.

At the Royal engine house at 7:30 a.m., a ceremony was held by the tree, with the fire department chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Henry Stein leading the service. The brass quartet and the choir from St. Matthew Lutheran Church provided music, with the pastors of St. Matthew Church and St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church participating in the program. Members of the fire company distributed gifts to about 1,000 children after the service was concluded.

At the Laurel, the doors were opened to the public at 9:30 a.m., and about 1,200 children were provided with gifts of candy, oranges and other fruits. Kittie's jazz orchestra played music in the engine house that Christmas morning, while visitors admired the trees and platform display.

The Rescue engine house opened up at 10:00 a.m. for the neighborhood. The Rescue Fire Company Band, made up of about 30 members of the company, provided music on Christmas morning at their engine house. The station had been decorated both inside and out, and for two hours the firemen distributed candy, oranges and bananas, and other gifts to the children. No estimate of the number of children was provided.



Eagle Fire Co. No. 7 engine house decorated for Christmas.

*Photo from the Gerald Stein collection.*

**OLD FIRE FARTS OF YORK COUNTY PA**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**NEW APPLICATION**

**RENEWAL APPLICATION**

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU A SPAAMFAA MEMBER:** YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YES, WHAT CHAPTER?** \_\_\_\_\_

**I PREFER MY "SMOKE EATER" NEWSLETTER BY MAIL** \_\_\_ **DOWNLOAD** \_\_\_

**TYPES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:**

**ACTIVE MEMBER \$25.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **LIFE MEMBER \$200.00** \_\_\_\_\_

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MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO A FREE SUMMER PICNIC AND CHRISTMAS PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ AND OTHER BENEFITS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

**CORPORATE AND ASSOCIATE FOUNDATION LEVELS:**

<b>BOARD LEVEL</b>	\$ 1,000.00 _____	<b>PRESIDENT LEVEL</b>	\$500.00 _____	<b>COMMITTEE</b>
<b>LEVEL</b>	\$ 400.00 _____	<b>CHIEF LEVEL</b>	\$300.00 _____	<b>CAPTAIN LEVEL</b>
\$ 200.00 _____	<b>Lt. LEVEL</b>	\$100.00 _____		

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