

# THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

## “COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

**Editor Emeritus:** Stuart L. Gates, Stony Point, NY 10980

**Editor:** Sheryl Rose

**Copy Editor:**

**John Kryger**

### RCVFA BIO TOWN VP STONY POINT



Chuck Larkin has over 30 years of service as a firefighter in Rockland County with Department 18, Department 26, and Department 51. He is a Past President of Wayne Hose Co. #1 and currently serves as Corresponding Secretary. Chuck is a new Life Member of the RCVFA and has 10 years of total service on the Board of Directors, serving as a Director for the Town of Haverstraw in the late 80's and as a Director and Town Vice President for Stony Point since 2017. Chuck is also a Charter Member of the Rockland County Firefighters Emerald Society, serving as Secretary since 2018. He also is a member of the HVVFA, where he serves as Rockland County VP, and FASNY.

Outside of the fire service Chuck has been involved in many community organizations throughout his life. He is a Life Member of the Stony Point Volunteer Ambulance Corps & served with Haverstraw Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He is a Member and Past Vice Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, Post 1600. A lifetime of service with the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 19, as a Scout and Adult Leader and he is a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow. Chuck also served on the Rockland County USBC Bowling Board of Directors where he was a 2-time Past President, Life Member and

member of the Rockland County and Northeast Council Bowling Halls of Fame.

Born and raised in Rockland County, Chuck lives in Stony Point and has 4 adult children and 5 wonderful grandchildren. He also enjoys going on trips with his longtime girlfriend Alice. Chuck has had a 40+ year career in the Pharmaceutical-Healthcare Industry and currently works for PDI/Nice-Pak in Orangeburg as a Maintenance Support Supervisor.

### CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



Hey Bonkoski. I said lay-in  
from the hydrant, not lay  
down in front of the hydrant.

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### RCVFA CONVENTION UPDATES

The Wayne Hose Co. 1, Stony Point has put in a bid to host the 2024 **RCVFA Convention only** to honor outgoing RCVFA President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Kurt Mulligan. The approved request by the Board of Directors now goes to the membership at the December meeting at Nanuet. The 2025 Convention and Parade has been awarded to the Nanuet FD,

and the 2026 Convention and Parade will be hosted by the David B. Roche Fire Co.-Thiells.

## NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK VOL. FIREMEN'S ASSN.

Roy De Young Jr.. is now the Past- President of the NJ & NY VFA. At this time our acting president's name is Tony Chiodo. And his email is. [ex11chief@aol.com](mailto:ex11chief@aol.com).

## 1930 FASNYS CONVENTION



### STATE CONVENTION

The Nyack Fire Department was host of the New York State Volunteer Firemen's Association's 38th annual convention and parade in August, 1930. The parade on August 22 was five miles long, lasted five hours, took an hour and one half to pass one spot. Three thousand firemen participated and an estimated 25,000 saw the parade. At Broadway and Main Street spectators were said to have stood 40 deep.

For months in advance, Nyack firemen and the ladies of their auxiliaries were busy raising funds for the great event. Although the great depression had already begun, more than \$12,000 was raised in Nyack alone by the general committee headed by Supreme Court Justice Arthur S. Tompkins. The women's entertainment committee of which Mrs. Mary Mitchell was chairman raised \$1,000.

By August 20, stores and homes in the Nyacks were decorated with bunting and flags, and a mood of gaiety pervaded the whole community.

On that day the visitors began pouring into Nyack. Fire apparatus strains shrieked as trucks arrived by ferry and highways, and visitors stepped from buses, taxis and private cars.

In ten minutes alone, 100 firemen checked in at registration headquarters at the Nyack Y.M.C.A. There were so many the registration committee ran out of badges. The Nyacks opened their homes to them and a total of 1,500 visitors were given rooms in hotels and private dwellings.

The convention itself was held in the Broadway Theater with welcoming speeches being given by Judge Tompkins, U.S. Senator Royal S. Copeland, a resident of Suffern, Chief Joseph O'Connor and Nyack's Mayor Oscar Kiesel, Sr.

There were 850 delegates present and Judge Tompkins was presented with a loving cup for his efforts in having brought the convention to Nyack.

Some of the convention sessions were exceptionally lively, none livelier than that at which the Rev. Joseph R. Allen, an Episcopal clergyman from Nassau County, L. I., was elected State president to succeed Clinton D. Cass of Ithaca. Allen had opposition and it was the Rockland County delegation headed by Ex-Chief Harry Jones, with the Nassau and Suffolk delegates, which carried the election in his favor.

A "Miss Nyack" popularity contest run in connection with the week's events was won by Miss Katherine McGuinness, while a "King of the Convention" contest staged by Manager Burke of the Rockland Theater was won by Peter Junge of Highland House. Junge was given a gold watch. There is no record of what Miss McGuinness received.

A popularity contest was also staged by Harrison and Dalley's and this was won by Kenneth Owen of Highland House.

Social events included a boat ride on the Hudson for the men, a bus ride to Bear Mountain over the Seven Lakes drive and a luncheon followed by a theater party at the Rockland for the ladies. There was also a carnival at Memorial Park, just in case any visitor lacked something to do. Judge Tompkins gave one of his famous clambakes for the State officers at his home in Upper Nyack.

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The Naval Military Band, which had arrived in Nyack early, serenaded him with his favorite selection, "The Old Gray Mare," which is Massippi's theme song.

Fifteen hundred delegates and special guests were entertained at dinner in a great tent erected on the lawn of the Clarkstown Country Club.

Later, following the convention, the Nyack Fire Department presented Dr. Pierre A. Bernard, head of the club, with a silver cup in appreciation of his gesture. An old house, old cars, and rubbish mysteriously caught fire in a series of five small blazes. The Journal, striving to uphold Nyack's reputation as the perfect host, reported that local "wise guys" were believed to have been responsible for the fires, rather than the visitors.

Thursday of that week there was a great tournament on Midland Avenue where a fire tower had been erected. One thousand firemen from 76 companies competed before an audience of 10,000, watching as streams of water shot into the air, lives were "saved" and as trucks veered and skidded, ladders cracked and hose ripped. Forty cups were awarded.

One of the major events, however, was unscheduled. It was a visit to the government by Nyack's Lady of the Glass House, Evelyn Ward Leigh, with her pithon and horse. The horse, as usual in summer months, wore a bonnet and trousers to keep away flies, while the beautiful, Auburn-haired Mrs. Leigh, was gowned in one of the quaint, tight-bodied, gingham frocks which she affected.

Fifteen State troopers and three detectives from New York City's pickpocket squad augmented police from the Nyacks, County and fire police the day of the parade.

Early in the morning bus-loads of spectators began arriving. Nyack streets were gay with colored uniforms, a mass of laughing, boisterous humanity.

There were 100 visiting fire companies in the parade in addition to Nyack's 50 trucks and 160 pieces of apparatus.

There were eight divisions in all. Chief O'Connor headed the first division, while other divisions were headed by Deputy Chief Ray Ackerman and Battalion Chief Harry Hashrook and by former chiefs of the Nyack Fire Department.

Ex-Chief Ralph ("Mippy") Smith left the Nyack Hospital where he was a patient to ride in the parade. Judge Tompkins marched at the head of Massippi.

The parade formed on Main Street, west of 9-W, extending far into Central Nyack. It proceeded south on Highland Avenue and Hillside Avenue (the old Hillside which Thruway wiped out), turned left at the Corneillon Avenue railroad, thence north on Broadway to the Old Stone Church, Upper Nyack, the parade countermarching between the church and Fifth Avenue, Nyack.

The reviewing stand was on Broadway between Second and Third Avenue. Among those who had a place of honor on the stand was Chace's Frank Colsey, believed to be at that time, Nyack's oldest fireman.

Chief O'Connor was chairman of the parade committee, Ex-Chief J. Edmund Smith of the tournament committee, and Walter Getney, former president of the State association, of the reception committee.

## NOVEMBER FIRES



Photo/C.Kear

**Nov. 8, 2023:** 2227 hours Dept. 20 (Tallman) 19 E & 99 (Suffern) Mahwah FAST structure fire 21S. Monsey Road. 2233 44=4 & 13 responding, 2233 20 Command reports 2Frame dwelling fire, evacuated, heavy fire 1 side. 2237 44-9 responding. 2238 water on the fire, 2243 3 lines stretched, 2245 7=Engine (Monsey) to scene. 2247 Mahwah Co, 1 relocated to 20-100, 2251 15-78 (Sloatsburg) relocated to 20-100, 4 lines in operation. 2256 6-FAST (Hillcrest) to scene, 2257 Main body of fire knocked down, all searches negative. 2325 Under Control.

**Nov.14, 2023:** 0844 hours, Dept. 11 (Orangeburg) 1-Engine (Blauvelt) 25-Ladder (S. Spring Valley) 13-FAST (Piermont) structure 330 Blaisdell Road (Chromalloy)Outside structure extending to interior. 0859 11-Comman 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm 16-9 (Sparkill) 21-Engine (Tappan) 1-Engine (Blauvelt) 2-FAST (Central Nyack) 44-7 and 8 responding.0900 2-FAST and 16-99 relocated to 11-100. 0915 hours Under Control.



Photo/R. Lagrow

**Nov.14, 2023:** 0839 hours Dept. 19 (Suffern) and 20-Engine (Tallman) structure fire 108 Yorkshire Drive Unit 16, Suffern. 0904 19-3 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm 5-Engine (Hillburn), 15-78 (Sloatsburg) Mahwah Engine and FAST. 44-7 responding from Dept. 11, 0911 light basement smoke, 0913 fire 2<sup>nd</sup> fl. Bedroom right side. 0918 searches negative, 0937 Under Control.

## CSST

### WHAT?

**Corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST)** is being used for natural gas and propane piping, replacing the rigid black pipe we are used to. If you have taken the Tactical Response to Natural Gas Emergencies training and been to Leak St you have seen the excellent installation done by Charlie Prevot

### SO WHAT?

The above picture from Jim Hartwick



When lightning strikes in the area of a building with CSST or the building itself the CSST can become energized with a zillion volts. Where the CSST is close to metal objects like nails, pipes, gusset plates, it arcs creating an ignited gas leak with about a 6" flame. Often there are multiple points of ignition in the basement creating a fast fire that extends into the first floor.



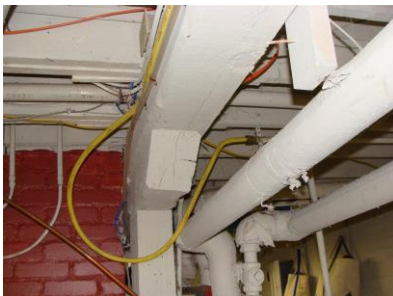
**There have been three very tragic LODDs when FDs have attacked the first floor fire not knowing the basement is fully involved as well and structural members are weakened. The attack team goes thru the door and thru the floor conducting an aggressive interior fire attack. NOW WHAT?**

Two important considerations

1. Realize this stuff is all over your first due area (faster, cheaper, easier to install) and identify it by pre-planning inspections. We often forget to look at basement levels during our walk thru.
2. Especially for lighting caused fires, consider that CSST maybe involved with multiple points of origin in the basement.



New Constuction



Rennovations



Insanity

-Jerry Knapp

**IMPROVING YOUR HOUSE FIRE SEARCH TACTICS**

Last month our Brother and Sister firefighters from the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI.COM) made available-- for free-- on line-- a short course on how best to lead as an officer and execute as a firefighter, search, fire attack and ventilation at house fires. I strongly recommend you grab a cup of coffee, beer or soda, and sit back and take this training. It makes a great company or department drill when you can't do hands on. All you have to do is click the mouse.

House fires are our most important alarm. It is where we deal with the lives of civilians we are sworn to protect. An American dies on average every 3 hours or about 8 each day. These deaths are 75% of all US fire deaths and they occur in their own home. Financial loss to house fires is about \$8 Billion each year.

The program provides tactical considerations based on numerous live fires in fully furnished homes and there are lots of great videos. These live fire tests showed how strategically and tactically important it is to both learn to control the flow paths while searching a residential fire and to use the interior doors to increase your chance of success and survival during the fire. **Sounds simple, and it is, after you learn how FSRI used the data to provide tactical considerations for your use at your next fire.**

Like learning to drive a fire truck, you may not be able to take it all in so consider going thru the program a couple times. The information you will gain on flow paths, bi-directional vents, fire development and flashover survival may save your life. What you learn will help you size up your next house fire and help you evaluate conditions during search and fire attack to enable you to make a rescue or escape with your own life from these deadly fires. -Jerry Knapp

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### DID THAT BUILDING JUST LAND FROM MARS?

No, it had been there 42 years. My department was going to do a roof cutting drill at a local gas station that was slated for demolition. When we went to prepare for the training we noticed the roof was spongy when we walked on it. When we looked from below the roof rafters were as much as 10 feet on center and varied in construction. Roof sheathing was 5/4" x 6" planks. Had we cut the roof during a fire it is very likely we would have fallen to the concrete floor and been injured or killed. See Jan Fire Engineering for the article: "Did That Building Just Land From Mars?" Jerry Knapp



If you would prefer to receive your copy of "The Trumpet" in an electronic version rather than the paper version, please send us your e-mail address. We will add you to our e-mail list and remove you from the snail mail list. Please contact Sheryl Rose at [SherylERose58@gmail.com](mailto:SherylERose58@gmail.com)

### TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

You are searching the second floor of a working house fire. Manpower is short and you are alone. Suddenly you find two victims, one on the bed one on the floor. It's just you, which one do you rescue first? Water is not on the fire yet, flashover is coming soon and it's your call. This is your once in a life time life and death decision.

Are you looking for some great free training you can do on your own or even use for drill night when it is too hot or too cold to train hands on in gear? Try this program: COORDINATION OF SUPPRESSION AND VENTILATION IN MULT-FAMILY BUILDINGS. (FSRI.ORG). It is based on data collected during live fires in acquired structures. These are very realistic fires the kind we face here in RC.

This free training program builds on previous UL research (Residential Fire Attack). As a technical panel member for this \$1.5M project I can tell you if you want to be a better fire officer or firefighter and make better decisions at residential fires, this is required training. Simply, it links live house fire condition measurements to our fireground experiences and they reinforce our tactics and strategies. These are summarized as **tactical**

**considerations** for you to use at your next house fire. This training is available at the click of your mouse, easy to understand, has great videos and provides certificates for those who finish. The RCFTC offers a 3-night program that utilizes the tactical considerations in these live fire studies to help you make better you a fire officer/IC at house fires.

In Aug 2022 a select group of UL tech panel members (from all previous projects) will meet in Philadelphia to help guide UL's future research projects like the two described above. If you have any ideas on how UL should proceed to assist the US fire service, pls contact me at [knappj@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:knappj@co.rockland.ny.us) with your thoughts so I can share RC concerns and possibly help us get the knowledge **you want via this well funded and important fire research.**

Which person did you save???? Here is the TACTICAL CONSIDERATION that will help you. Measurements of deadly toxic gasses collected during the fire attack study showed the victim on the floor has a much better chance of surviving, so take that one first. The victim on the bed likely has inhaled more deadly products of combustion and will not survive.

Please go to FSRI.ORG to take advantage of this world class training and tactical considerations.

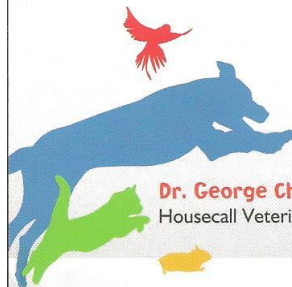
Jerry Knapp



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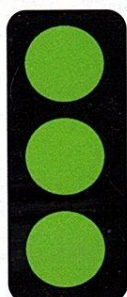
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**CALENDAR****LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 12/27/2023**

- Fri, Dec 8
- RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at Nanuet FD, with Pres. Kurt Mulligan
  - First Day of Hanukkah
- Sat, Dec 9
- Orangeburg Fire Dept, 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday Parade 6 PM
- Sun Dec 10
- Hillburn FD Breakfast 8am-noon at Firehouse \$10 includes: eggs, sausage, ham, home fries, juice, and coffee, Bloody Mary's \$1. 50/50, Firefighters only
- Tue, Dec 12
- Voting for Fire District Commissioners
- Wed, Dec 13
- RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at SW Johnson-Garnerville with Pres. Stewart Rhymer (Raffle Drawing)
  - RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Pearl River Hook & Ladder, with Pres. Matt DeGennaro
- Sat, Dec 16
- Cosgriff Ladies Auxiliary, Breakfast with Santa, Maple Ave, Haverstraw, 9-1 PM, \$15 Age 11 & Up, \$10 4-10 years, Under 3 Free, Photos with Santa, Mrs. Clause, free
- Thur, Dec 21
- Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, (3<sup>rd</sup> Thur.), with Chairperson Lisa Castaldo
- Mon, Dec 25
- Christmas
- Tue, Dec 26
- Kwanzaa
- Wed, Dec 27
- Deadline for articles for Trumpet
- Sun, Dec 31
- New Year's Eve, Don't Drink and Drive!
- Mon, Jan 1, 2024
- New Year's Day
- Wed, Jan 10
- RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at FTC, with Pres. Stewart Rhymer
  - RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Central Nyack, with Pres Matt DeGennaro
- Thur, Jan 11
- Museum Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairperson Linda Wanamaker
- Fri, Jan 12
- RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at Nyack Fire Patrol, with Pres. Kurt Mulligan

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALES**

Empire H&L, Upper Nyack  
 Empire Hose Co., Piermont  
 Orangetown Fire Co. 1, South Nyack  
 Highland Hose Co. 5, Nyack  
 SW Johnson SFE Co. 1, Garnerville  
 Wayne Hose Co., Route 9W, Stony Point  
 Sloatsburg Fire Dept.  
 Lady Warren Hose Co. 5, Haverstraw

**NO DEC. MEETINGS**

RC Vol, Safety Officers Assn.  
 RC Fire Chiefs Assn.  
 RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary  
 NJ&NY VFA

**Future Events**

- Wed, Jan 17
- RC Vol. Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at Monsey FD, with Pres. Lisa Castaldo
  - RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Nanuet FD, with Pres Carol Cich
- Thur, Jan 18
- RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM at Congers FD with Pres. Kevin Huslinger
- Tue, Jan 23
- Association of Fire Districts, 7:30PM, at Tallman FD, with Pres. Vincent Pacella
- Thur, Jan 25
- Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, **elections** with Chairperson Lisa Castaldo
- Fri, Jan 26
- NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at Piermont FD, (63<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year), 554 Piermont Ave, Piermont NY, with Pres Anthony Chido

**To view this newsletter on line, please go to the following web site:**

<http://www.rcvfa.com/trumpet.html>

Thanks to Sheryl Rose, Stuart Gates, and John Kryger

Please email Sheryl Rose with any Fire Department news, dates of events, fundraisers, etc. [SherylERose58@gmail.com](mailto:SherylERose58@gmail.com)



**Garnerville, NY 10923**  
**PO Box 16**  
**RCVFA TRUMPET**



**FROM THE  
FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**



After a quiet stretch over the past few months, we started to get busy once again here in Rockland. Over the past several weeks, we have had two house fires in Tallman, one in Nanuet and two in Hillcrest. (for a while, Thiells FD were the only ones really catching work!) As always, we continue to do great work, especially with some of the advanced conditions a few have been confronted with. Unfortunately, there was one fatality in the Village of New Hempstead on the morning of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Hillcrest volunteers responded to find heavy fire from the windows, eaves, and roof area on the #4 side of the dwelling (#1 & #3 side too). Shorthanded, Hillcrest made an aggressive attack knocking down a bulk of fire quickly. Hoarding conditions were rampant within the dwelling creating dangerous conditions. Searches were conducted, (in addition to VES) although very difficult with the hoarding situation. Unfortunately, the male victim was found under debris and deceased between the kitchen and the dining room. No working smoke detectors were found, and it appears that the victim was heading towards the fire which appeared to have started in a family/living room. When we receive reports of possible victims trapped or still in a building, it is always very difficult to conduct a search, especially in high fire conditions and in particular hoarding. Although we must be aggressive, we must also be smart. We can easily put ourselves in dangerous conditions (yes, beyond knowing our job is inherently dangerous) that we are really not accustomed too. Such as hoarding, where you must climb over and through tons of items and junk to make any efficient efforts. Conditions like this can delay our searches and we must be aware of the current fire conditions, line placement, back up lines and how our manpower is. It's not like searching a well-maintained home, in layouts we are familiar with. Take that extra second and get the overall picture of what is going on and what may happen next. Communication is extremely important between command and all members on the fireground. Be aggressive but be smart and be safe. And remember, please keep an eye on all of your members who have responded to a fatality incident. Check in on them. There is always assistance that can be provided to each member individually or as a group. If you are ever in question, please reach out to my office. Wishing everyone a Happy Hannukah and a Merry Christmas!