

Sub-Fire Newsletter

Since 2003

February 1, 2004

FEBRUARY 2004

CALENDAR

- Feb. 1—Karey Hendricks' & Josh Williams' birthdays
- Feb. 2—Groundhog's Day
- Feb. 5—Association Business Mtg 7pm; EMS Drill
- Feb. 11—Board Meeting 7pm
- Feb. 12—E-Boards & Chiefs meet 6pm; Drill Night (*Basic Extraction*) 7pm
- Feb. 14—Valentine's Day; *Juliet Aguayo's* birthday
- Feb. 16—President's Day
- Feb. 19—Drill Night (*Joint drill with Station 80*) 7pm
- FEB. 21—SUBLIMITY FIRE AWARDS BANQUET & CASINO NIGHT
- Feb. 23—Officer's Meeting 7:30pm; *Wayne Palmquist's* birthday



Chief's Message

Well....for those of you who need a reminder, February 14th is coming up and is a great chance to let that special someone know how much they mean to you. So guys—get mushy for a few minutes and let her know you care. Gals—give him a kick in the pants and a bottle of beer. That's how it works, right? (--grin--).

Hope you're all ready for a great banquet this year! Make sure you have Feb 21st

circled on your calendar and please don't forget to RSVP—We need to have an accurate count for meals.

This year we are adding casino games to the evening: Craps, Blackjack, and Roulette. If you don't know how to play or you just want to practice, we will set aside some time the next few Thursday evenings to teach and play so everyone can have fun on banquet night.

Each person will start the evening with \$500 in scrip. Periodically throughout the banquet, we will auction off items on display. Use your scrip (hopefully your winnings) to bid on items

you wish to "purchase." Some items

will also be raffled, so if you choose, you can buy raffle tickets with your scrip.

We're planning to have a "SPECIAL" guest. This is a well-known LAS VEGAS entertainer. You'll all recognize him and his music.

Be sure to thank the following people who have put in a lot of time

planning this night: Shannon Tallman, Karen



Lienemann, Jerry Heater, Josh Williams, Gene Ditter, and Joan Merrell. Also, thanks to our friends and neighbors from Stayton Fire District for covering our district so we can have the evening off to play, and for providing dealers and table operators for the games.

In other news, as you should all know, Sublimity Fire District is in the planning stages of a significant operational change. I would appreciate two things from each of you: as much assistance in this as possible, and your honest feedback. Together we can make this happen and *work*.

An especially important upcoming date for us is Thursday, February 5th. I will have a proposed Constitution and By-laws for the NEW Firefighters Association, as well as guidelines for the funds that will align with the purpose of the organization. I hope in May we can move this to approval and formation of the new Association. Auxiliary members should also be at these meetings, if possible.

Captain Williams and I will be gone from February 22nd until late in the day on February 26th. We are working hard at writing grants. Since so many relate to Homeland Security and Domestic Preparedness, we are taking some training in New Mexico. This is all expense paid by the Office of Domestic Preparedness, so no cost will be incurred by the district.

So...stop in any time if you want an update on the operational planning, if you have comments or questions and *especially* if you want to offer to help.

Chief McMahan

Sublimity Fire District

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Record Highs in 2003 Keep Sublimity Fire Busy

With its highest alarm total ever recorded, Sublimity Fire District members were scrambling to keep up with the demands for service in 2003.

In eight out of the twelve months in 2003, Sublimity had higher alarm totals than in any previous years. The

call volume increased dramatically—to 713 alarms, a nearly 19% increase from the 2002 year-end total of 600 alarms.

With such an increase in calls, the demand on the fire district volunteers has

increased as well.

In an effort to recruit new members and to retain existing members, the Sublimity Fire District is looking at some possibilities for operational changes.

One of the goals of these

possible changes is to create and foster an extremely positive atmosphere, to make the Main Station a place where people would enjoy spending their time.

Members have asked themselves and each other, "What can we do to make this a better place?"

Some suggestions have been to encourage fun group activities. One idea was to have game nights or hold free classes taught by members at the station, such as a beer brewing class.

Other proposed changes include: redecorating the station to create a more welcoming and comfortable feel, bringing in outside companies to perform cooking, cleaning, or laundry services, or creating more active "hands-on" training sessions.

If you have any suggestions, please contact the station at (503) 769-3282.

Recipe of the Month

submitted by Gene Ditter

Shepherd Pie

- 1 lb. ground hamburger
- 1 lb. ground sausage
- 3-4 cans french sliced green beans, drained
- 3 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 5 lbs. mashed potatoes

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Add onions or desired spices to hamburger and sausage. Brown in frying pan. Place in bottom of 13 x 9" baking pan. Spread green beans (mix with canned corn if desired) over the top of meat. Spread soup over the top of beans (do not dilute). Cover with mashed potatoes.

Bake until heated through (approximately 30 minutes)

Serving suggestion: Goes well with French Bread or Garlic Bread

2003 Alarm Totals

EMA	454
Fires	73
False Call	51
MVA	47
Service Call	41
Good Intent	39
Hazardous Cond.	7
Other	1

Volunteer Spotlight: Gene Ditter

It's no surprise that Gene Ditter became a career firefighter. It's in his blood. In fact, his grandpa Gene Ditter was a member of the Sublimity Fire District for over fifty-five years and was Fire Chief for over thirty-three years. His dad Delbert was the Assistant Chief for over twenty years.

Gene started in the fire service as a volunteer for Sublimity when he was still in high school. After he graduated, he entered the sleeper program at the Tualatin Fire Department (now Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue), the department where he remained until

his retirement in 2002, thirty years later.

At Tualatin, Gene worked in the fire alarm department (dispatch), then transferred to the line. He worked as a Firefighter and Firefighter Paramedic, was a member of the HazMat team, and finished off his career with the title of Driver.

Gene is a valuable asset to Sublimity Fire. He shows up to nearly every call, assists in training, evaluates district drivers, and even occasionally treats members to some of his excellent cooking—a skill he perfected while being in the fire service.

His hobbies include: brewing various beverages, making sausage, mountain biking, fishing, and cooking. He is also trying to relax, but says that he has to work really hard at it.



Gene Ditter