



NORTH LAKES *News*

Published Quarterly by North Lakes Fire & Rescue December, 2009

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NORTH LAKES NEWS is written by Chief Darren Woods,
and designed and edited by FF Connie Tucker.

Welcome to the second edition of North Lakes News! North Lakes is the newest fire department formed in Aroostook County—North Lakes Fire and Rescue. North Lakes comprises Sinclair (Long and Mud Lakes) Fire Station, Cross Lake (formerly Guerette) Fire Station, and the newly established Madawaska Lake Fire Station.

We continue to grow and learn through training and certification classes. We hope you will read with interest and celebrate the success of our newest fire and rescue team established TO SERVE AND PROTECT!



AR Gold Foam Training

Completed Trainings

Firefighters in this department have been very busy, not only with calls and training within the department, but also outside of our regular schedule.

- Firefighters participated in a joint training with the Caribou Fire Department and the Aroostook County EMA on how to use a recently acquired AR Gold firefighting foam trailer delivered by the manufacturer. This will be housed at the Madawaska Lake building and will be ready to respond statewide. Firefighters who completed training included: Natalie Adams-Collin, Captain Ben Pelletier, Steve Belanger, Lt. Joshua Belanger, Adam Olmstead, Dean Gardiner, Terry Thibodeau, Connie Tucker, Gary Langley, Buddy Olmstead, and Captain Kirk Ward.

- Chief Darren Woods, Capt. Kirk Ward, Capt. Ben Pelletier, Lt. Joshua Belanger, and FF Steve Belanger all completed an Emergency Vehicle Operator instructor course delivered by Maine Fire Training and Education.

- Firefighters participated in a training on the department's new vehicle extrication tools – extrication struts delivered by the company. Completing training were: Natalie Adams-Collin,

Captain Ben Pelletier, Steve Belanger, Lt. Joshua Belanger, Adam Olmstead, Dean Gardiner, Terry Thibodeau, Buddy Olmstead, and Captain Kirk Ward.

- Firefighters participated in a training on Basic Pumps delivered by Don Copeland of Maine Fire Training and Education. Two-thirds of the entire department is Pumps I-certified.
- Department officers completed a fire department management training

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Extrication Training

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delivered by Chief Woods. Certified were: Asst. Chief Dave Bouley, Asst. Chief Gary Langley, Capt. Wayne Dionne, Capt. Kirk Ward, Capt. Ben Pelletier, and Lt. Joshua Belanger.

- A small crew participated in Residential Sprinkler System training in Caribou along with other County Fire Departments, State Fire Marshall's Office, and various building contractors.

Announcements

BIRTHS



To Lt. Joshua Belanger and his wife, Jessica, a daughter, Faith Elizabeth, on July 2, 2009. She weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz.

EMA Storage Facility also houses Madawaska Lake Station

We are pleased to announce that the County of Aroostook is now the lease holder for the former MDOT garage on US Rt. 161 just north of the Lake Street/Westmanland Road intersection.

This facility will be of great use to the entire county, as it will be housing a number of state and county assets that could be deployed to any part of the county or state during a disaster.

Aroostook County will continue to house Tanker 14 for North Lakes Fire & Rescue, and we will have a meeting/training space within that facility, as well as a small kitchen and an office for department and EMA business.

Rescue Team Ready to Go!

The North Lakes Rescue Team is ready to go after months of classroom and hands-on training. Should Caribou Fire & Ambulance or Ambulance Service Inc. be sending an ambulance to one of our coverage areas (Sinclair, Cross Lake or Madawaska Lake), they will call them out, and that crew will be backed up by Caribou Fire or Fort Kent Fire.

This is a great increase in capabilities for all of our areas, since it can take some time for units to respond from either responding agency. This will result in quicker responses, and will be a great service to both our citizens and those that are passing through.

North Lakes members continue to advance education

The following members have enrolled in the Firefighter 1 & 2 Academy held in Caribou: Kirk Ward, Natalie Adams, Adam Olmstead, Peter Smith, Terry Thibodeau, and Bryan Forbes. This will begin in January and continue into the summer. We wish them all the best of luck!

The following members have enrolled in the Fire Instructor 1 & 2 program that will be held in Presque Isle starting in February: Kirk Ward, Ben Pelletier, Steve Belanger, Josh Belanger. This will be a great help to both our department and the departments in our region as we continue to train together.

Chief's Notes

As you can see, our members continue to put in extra time and training to better respond to incidents within our communities. Their efforts should be applauded, as it takes a lot of time away from their own homes and families to accomplish everything that they do.

This department has responded to three times the number of calls this year than any other year on record. I expect with the rescue crew up and ready that this will just continue to increase.

We have also had an inspection, Insurance Services Office, at my request. The inspector came in and went through all the personnel and training files, testing, and maintenance documentation, and then proceeded with an inspection of all three stations. The official conclusion will be out soon, but it showed that we will continue with our Class 9 rating for all of our communities. I know that there was some concern about this, but I was always confident that our department would shine and, as usual, it did.

During this time of year, people tend to look at things in their lives and what they are most thankful for. I can easily say that I am thankful to this department and all of its members for their hard work and dedication to protecting the lives and property of your fellow citizens.

Get to Know Us—Our Firefighters



Safety Officer Richard Rossignol

Sixty-four-year-old Richard has served the Sinclair station for 31 years--the longest serving volunteer there. A retired Maine DOT crew supervisor, he is married to Lucille, a CNA at Forest Hill Nursing Home in Fort Kent. They have three grown children and six grandchildren living in Texas, North Carolina, and Vassalboro. Richard likes to snowmobile and tackles building projects like the playhouse he built recently for his grandchild. Richard keeps busy this winter working in a potato packing house part-time.



FF Terry Thibodeau

Firefighter Terry is a 56-year-old Maine DOT highway crew supervisor out of the Van Buren garage. Terry lives on Madawaska Lake with his wife, Barbara, a hairdresser who runs Lakeside Silver Scissors out of their home. He has two daughters, Ashley, 26, and Alysia, 20. He loves to hunt and fish, and spend time with his granddaughter, Madison.



FF Peter Charette

Peter Charette, 44, has been a member of Cross Lake Station for several years. He works as a flagger and lives in Fort Kent with his parents. Peter's sense of humor is legendary, and he laughingly calls himself "unmarriageable." This talented woodworker has been creating wooden models of trucks, skidders, log and grappler trailers, machinery, and toys of all kinds for many years. He also enjoys fishing and working on small engines.



Lieutenant Joshua Belanger

Lt. Belanger heads up the Rescue Team for the department and serves out of Cross Lake Station. The 22-year-old computer technician at UMFK is married to Jessica, and they have one child, Faith, 5 months old. He lives on Cross Lake and enjoys playing the drums, snowmobiling, and messing around with computers. Josh is the son of Cross Lake FF Steve Belanger.