

# The General Alarm

## RFD Highlights



Fire Chief

Tedd Laycock

Volume 2, 2008

### Badge Pinning Ceremony

A badge pinning was held at the Canyon Crest Station on Friday, July 25. The following personnel were recognized during the ceremony:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Oran Pentz	Deputy Chief-Operations
John Martinez	Division Chief - Training
Mike Koury	Battalion Chief
John Peurifoy	Captain
Milton Caceres	Captain
Eric Wilmer	Engineer
Brian Clark	Firefighter



Family, friends and co-workers enjoyed celebrating the success of those honored at the ceremony. PHOTOS from top to bottom: Deputy Chief Oran Pentz; BC Mike Koury.; DC John Martinez; Cpt Milton Caceres; Cpt John Peurifoy; Retirees and Honorees

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**Prevention  
Education  
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## Thank You's



*July 15, 2008:* Well it is finally here. A bittersweet moment. A day that pales in excitement to the day I was hired some 30 years ago. I didn't have to work as hard to get here as I did to land the job of my dreams. I have been truly blessed beyond my wildest dreams. It has truly been my pleasure to have been a Firefighter and I am extremely grateful to my Savior and Creator to have kept me well enough to see this day. My only regret is that I don't have the energy to spend another 30 years serving in this capacity. I will however be involved with the Explorers and the Honor Guard, if they will have me or we don't change our coats to those worn by the few the proud the..... otherwise I will have to exchange my keg for a six-pack if you know what I mean.

I hope I have left you all a few colorful stories to share at the kitchen table regarding my illustrious career. I leave with the realization that my successes were only due to those who trained and led me into accomplishing my desires and I can only hope that through it all, I have done the same. It is, after all, all of you that makes this Fire Department one of the best there is and to think I got paid to do this. Well I was hoping this would be short because I know how annoying long memos (and SOPs) are, boring. So to all of you I bid you farewell in this chapter of my life and look forward to keeping in touch one way or another in the next chapter.

Continue on my brothers and sisters and remember what I have always said, This organization will not tolerate failure.

Sincerely,

Captain Evil (ETB), aka Captain Caffeine and of course Rosebud.

Love you all.

## General Alarm

*July 14, 2008:* Ever since I announced my retirement I've had people ask me, "Are you sure you're ready to retire?" "Aren't you going to miss all this?" And now that the day is here, I'll admit it's a little weird. I've been doing this my entire adult life and it is going to be strange not to put on the uniform anymore.

The truth is I've known for a very long time that I'm one of the lucky ones. Most people just get up and go their job every day, and I think the vast majority would much rather be doing something else. But for 32 years I have had the honor of working at a profession that I truly love. And quite frankly, if I had it to do over again I'd be the first in line to sign up for a fire academy.

I have had the privilege of learning from and working with some amazing firefighters ---- some long retired and others still proudly wearing the RFD patch on their shoulder. And I believe I've done my fair share of influencing others over the years, perhaps not always a positive influence --- but an influence nonetheless. In fact, I might have had some part in trying to teach others how to incorporate barking dog Christmas carols into the 1930 hrs radio test. Fortunately it never caught on.

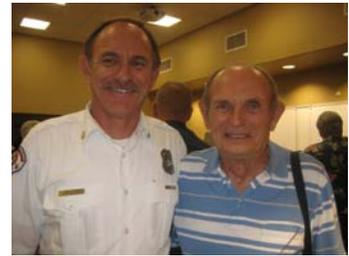
So while it is weird to be retiring, what makes it a little easier is that I leave with no regrets. I've had a great career and I've loved every minute of it. Water fights at any given moment, shooting hoops behind the station, playing cards into the wee hours of the morning, and having a small part in a few practical jokes. And in between all that, we fought fires, protected property, saved lives, and helped the citizens of this community in some of their most trying times.

Just for the record, between my dad and I, Riverside has been protected

by a Fisher for the past 48 years. Both my boys hope to one day have the same honor, but they're a few years away from making that a reality ---- so try and hold things together until they get here.

I consider it an honor to have worked with each and every one of you and I thank you for putting up with me.

Mike Fisher, Division Chief **Retired**



*July 18, 2008:* Joan Danfifer of Riverside County Department of Public Health emailed Deputy Chief Pentz thanking the RFD haz mat team for hosting the quarterly CHOG drill on July 17 at our new training facility. Special recognition was given to Eng **Mike Staley** for teaching the classroom portion about tech ref materials and to the Riv Co Bomb Squad and Army Reserve for displaying their special equipment.

*July 16, 2008:* Fire Chief Steve Lewis of Newport Beach Fire Department sent Chief Laycock a thank you letter. On behalf of the family of Firefighter Kevin Pryor and the members of the NBFDF, he thanked RFD personnel for their presence at the funeral service for Kevin Pryor on June 24, 2008. Chief Lewis said that the huge outpouring of support sent a special message to Kevin's family and did make a difference.

*August 28, 2008:* Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor **Gail Muench** emailed RFD members thanking them for their support and concern after the unexpected death of her husband, Mo.

*August 15, 2008:* Retired Fire Buff **Jim Weaver** sent an email on behalf of his wife, **Donna**, thanking the Riverside City Firefighters Association for the beautiful flower arrangement they sent following her recent surgery.

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## Congratulations



*6 month practical:* FF/PM **Tony Giovannetti**, FF/PM **Crispin Nunez**, FF/PM **Paul Young**, FF/PM **Ryan Kaessner**, FF/PM **Jeremy Roberts**, FF/PM **Scott Semer**

*12/15 month evaluations:* FF/PM **Chuck Tasker**, FF/PM **Brian Davis**, FF/PM **Romney Ellsworth**, FF **Dustin Fenske**, FF/PM **David Castaneda**, FF **Christopher Naron**, FF/PM **Steve Edwards**, FF **Thomas Henritze**, FF **Todd LeSieur**, FF/PM **Steve Schlom**, FF **Justin Flagg**, FF **Brandon Mollicone**, FF **David Gilstrap**, FF **Bryan Hoffman**, FF **Jeremiah Meadows**, FF/PM **Shannon Smith**

*Engine Certification:* FF/PM **Josh Fudge**, FF/PM **Dan Wible**, FF **Chris Adams**

*Promotion:* BC **John Martinez** to Training Division Chief; Cpt **Mike Koury** to BC; Public Safety Dispatcher **Diane Dominguez** was promoted to the position of Public Safety Communications Supervisor effective Sept 5. Congratulations to her on this well-deserved promotion.

*New Hire:* FF **Brian Clark**

*Master Sergeant at Arms:* Captain **Thomas Jay** was offered and has accepted the position of "Master Sergeant at Arms" for this year's National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. The "Master Sergeant at Arms" answers to the Honor Guard Commander and Deputy Commander and is responsible for coordination, direction, and calling of all commands at the memorial service. He will also be "chairing" the Fallen Firefighters committee at the California Memorial and will be the over all Honor Guard Commander for that event.

*Employees of the Year:* This year the Fire Department has chosen Engineer **Bob Linden** and Emergency Manager **Tony Coletta** as the employees of the year to represent our department at the annual city service awards luncheon. Congratulations to both on their well-deserved recognition.

*Retirements:* After 32 years of service, Division Chief **Mike Fisher** retired on July 14. A celebration was held at the Training Facility on July 14. Captain **Tony Braun** retired on July 15 after 30 years with the RFD



## Growing Families...



*Molly Riley Galbreath*, 6/25/08, 2215 hrs, 9 lbs, 21 inches (Dad is RPD Officer and Public Safety Dispatcher **Brian Galbreath**)

*Jersey Rae Monteleone*, 7/2/08, 1730 hrs, 5 lbs 14 oz, 18 inches (Mom is Public Safety Dispatcher **Kelly Monteleone**)

*Madison Renee Hughes*, 7/12/08, 2104 hrs, 5 lbs 13 oz, 18 inches (Mom is Public Safety Dispatcher **Alyssa Hughes**)

*Kyleigh Elise Richardson*, 8/08/08, 0440 hrs, 6 lbs 5 ox, 18 ½ inches (Mom is Public Safety Dispatcher **Tonya Richardson**)

*Samantha Jane Cook*, 8/09/08, 0041 hrs, 9 lbs, 21 ½ inches (Mom is Public Safety Dispatcher **Michelle Ortega**)

*Andrew Marion Hearn*, 8/15/08, 5 lbs 14 oz (Dad is Captain **LaWayne Hearn**)

*Jasmine Estrada*, 8/26/08, 5 lbs 10 oz, 19 inches (Dad is Engineer **Mike Estrada** and Mom is his wife **Joy**)



## Fill the Boot for Burn Institute

*Fill the Boot for Burn Institute:* RFD members volunteered for the "Fill the Boot" campaign held at the Automobile Club Raceway in Fontana on Aug 28-31. The Inland Empire Chapter of the Burn Institute organized the event to raise funds to send local kids to Burn Camp. FF **Cory Bruce** serves on the Inland Empire Board for the Burn Institute. Among the volunteers were: **Cory Bruce**, **Garen Roehl**, **Matt Mathis**, **Thomas Jay**, **Lisa Holloway**, **Anna Hauldren**, **Brian Clark**, **Paul Young**, and **Ryan Kaessner**.





### In Memory...

*Retired Division Chief Chuck Edwards:* Retired Division Chief **Chuck Edwards** passed away on July 24. He lived in Henderson, Nevada but suffered a heart attack while visiting in the Sacramento area. His funeral was held on August 1 in Nevada City, CA. Several retired RFD members attended the funeral as well as Chief **Tedd Laycock** and Training Division Secretary **Linda Daugherty**.

*Retired Engineer Bill Kinsinger:* Retired Engineer **Bill Kinsinger** passed away on August 8 in Phelan, CA. He served with the RFD from 1960 through 1984. "Celebration of Life" was hosted by Bill's wife, Diane, at the HomeTown Buffet in Victorville on Aug 21.

*Retired Firefighter Richard Lavoie:* Retired Firefighter **Richard Lavoie** passed away on September 11 from complications after heart surgery. Richard has been living in Grants Pass, OR.

*Condolences:* RFD sends our condolences to Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor **Gail Muench** who unexpectedly lost her husband, Mr Morrie Muench, on July 26. A memorial service was held August 1 at St. Francis De Sales. The RCFA sent flowers and EMD Coordinator **John Peurifoy** attended the service.

USAR Division Chief **Dave Lesh** and Captain **Jeff Loveland** were activated as incident support staff for Hurricane Gustav on Aug 29. Chief Lesh responded to Jackson MI as part of the state EOC team there. Captain Loveland was sent to Houston Texas as the Deputy Communications Leader for the Incident Support Team there. Both remained for several weeks as a series of hurricanes/storms passed through the area.

CATF -6 was not high enough in the rotation to be activated for pre-staging. Teams from Orange

### USAR Responses

County, LA City, and Oakland responded from California. However, a pre-roster was developed for CATF6 to expedite response if needed. The OES Swiftwater Team was briefly activated for Hurricane Ike but was cancelled prior to leaving.



RCFA Local 1067 B o D attended IAFF Convention in Las Vegas

*July 9, 2008:* Gaye Hawkins, Associate Music Minister of Magnolia Avenue Church, thanked Chief Laycock for crews who attended the "Celebrate Freedom" service on July 6. The special service honored police officers, firefighters, and military. Honor Guard members **Jeff Loveland** and **Tim Odebralski** participated in the Presentation of the Colors and fire crews staffed an information table in between the three services. DC **Oran Pentz**, BC **Dave Campos** and Capt **Thomas Jay** coordinated with RPD and church personnel for representation and participation in the service. Ms. Hawkins concluded the letter thanking the fire department its daily service in making Riverside a "safe and peace-loving community."

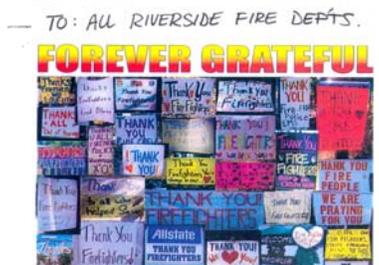


### More Thank You's

*July 31, 2008:* Resident Glenn Kangiser emailed Chief Laycock thanking crews for their assistance on the Telegraph Fire. Mr. Kangiser stayed in his underground cabin throughout the duration of the fire. He offered fire crews food, drinks, and shelter as they worked in the area checking for hot-spots and flare-ups. He sent some photos of the strike team. Below is the RFD crew on E5 (**Dave Hernandez, Roger Cutshall, Bryan Klinke, and David Castaneda**)



*July 22, 2008:* Raquel Jennings sent a poster sent to the Riverside City Fire Department thanking personnel for helping out at the Ridge Fire.



# TRAINING

## Monroe Street Live Training Burn

Crews participated in live training burns on Sept 9 and 10 at a residential structure donated by Call Baptist University at 3715 Monroe. CBU was kind enough to allow the police and fire departments to train with the structure for over 2 months prior to the burn and its demolition. The structure was used for search/rescue, ventilation, hostage situations, etc. prior to preparing it for the burn.

Participants in the live training burn were pleased with the lessons learned from the drill. Public Safety Communication Dispatchers were invited to attend the drill in addition to the fire crews. Three dispatchers (**Gaynell Jones, Christine Di- osmito , Kelley Uberhor**) volunteered for the drill on their own time. They participated in the Fire Control 3 class to better understand the behavior of fire as well as witnessed first hand the on-scene challenges of communications on a fire scene. They

were excited about their experience and felt that they were now better prepared to serve as fire dispatchers. In addition, they were impressed by the welcome they received from fire crews. Thanks to their positive experience, EMD Coordinator Captain **John Peurifoy** already has a list of interested dispatchers for the next live burn.



**Above: Dispatchers suit up for the drill. Below: Daniel Balboa captured these moments at the Monroe Training Burn including: Eng Steve Scotti, FF/PM Jeremy Roberts, FF/PM Steve Edwards and Steve Schlom; FF/PM Scott Semer, Training Capt Mitch Wesche**

## CHOG DRILL

: Riverside City FD hosted the quarterly haz mat drill for CHOG (County Hazardous Operations Group) on July 17 at the new EOC/Training Facility. The drill focused on the ICS position of technical reference specialist. RFD Engineer **Mike Staley** reviewed various software and internet resources for identifying chemicals. Participants then used their new skills in three different scenarios. In addition, there were two demonstrations given by the Army Reserve WMD Specialists and the Riverside County Sheriff Hazardous Device Team.



# Photo Gallery...



Top: Mag/Brockton Fire and Pat Mullen responded on the OES Type III strike team (with OES 8635) to the Telegraph Fire near Yosemite in August. Bottom: Crews at Monroe Manor Fire



Left: Explorer Post 101 won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the bucket brigade at the High Desert Muster. The A Team took 1<sup>st</sup> place in bucket brigade and 2<sup>nd</sup> in hose cart at the Route 66 Muster on Sept 21. B Team won 1<sup>st</sup> place in buckets at the Chino Muster on the same day.

Right: Public Safety Dispatcher **Christine Kelsey** did a 12-hr ride-along at the Arlington Fire Station. The firefighters reviewed basic medical assessment skills and terminology with Christine.



Final tributes to retiring Cpt Tony Braun at the Arlington Fire Station



## Arson Certification

For the first time, Riverside City FD hosted an arson canine certification test the week of July 28. Arson dogs came from throughout the western United States to participate. The accelerator dogs have been trained to smell in three different categories: light (i.e. paint thinner), medium (i.e. gasoline), and heavy (i.e. diesel). The dogs sit and bark when they smell an accelerator; their reward is either a toy or food depending on the specific canine. Instructors from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives proctored the test. Arson Investigator/Captain **Terry Miller** has worked with chocolate lab Holly since 2003. Other local fire agencies that have accelerator dogs are Rialto, and San Bernardino.



Left: Going away breakfast for BC Campos by A shift. Right: RFD Go Kart Drivers



## 9/11 Dedication

On Sept 11, a ceremony was held at the Airport Station at 10am to honor those USAR/RFD personnel who responded to the World Trade Center. The ceremony also dedicated a large tripod art sculpture that was formerly located at City Hall. The artist had donated the piece to the City prior to 9/11. He had also done work at the WTC that was destroyed during 9/11, so the City thought it was appropriate to relocate the art to a location honoring public safety personnel.

