



RESPONDER

Annual Newsletter of the Point Pleasant Fire Company #1 • November 2018

All volunteer fire and rescue services since 1924 - Serving portions of Plumstead, Solebury & Tinicum Townships

Our Members

Darrin Bodisch
Brent Bromiley
Aimee Carroll
Beth Carroll
Darren Carroll
Bill Dobron
Maryfran Dobron
Matt Dobron
Will Dobron III
Robbie Esswein
John Fezzuogilo
Scott Fleischer
Dan Froehlich
Robin Glenn
Jim Hadland
Rick Hadland
John Heinz
Don Hoagland
Dave Jones
Dave Kerr
Justin Kling
Bryce Long
Pat Mangione
Michael Nyari
Steph Osbourne
Alexandra Piu
Justin Reeser
Tim Schea
Lanny Schneider
Ryan Shafik
Abby Stever
Brent Stever
Gary Stever
Mark Stever
Ryan Suber
Eric Tarby
Tom Tinsman

Embracing Technology: "Air 41"

At the Point Pleasant Fire Company, we're continually evaluating the tools we use to ensure we're able to support the community to the best of our abilities. This includes staying current on new and emerging technologies. After extensive research, the Company decided to develop a Drone Program that will assist our teams in a variety of applications including: high angle and cliff rescues, marine rescues, search operations and even firefighting.

While their official name is Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAVs, they are more commonly referred to as 'Drones'. They are remote controlled, battery operated quadcopters that can capture high definition pictures and video. The drones can reach remote or unstable areas and send visual data back to the teams for use in assessing the situation.

Our program is built around a primary drone that carries two cameras: one standard and one infrared (thermal). The thermal camera is made by the same company that supplies the cameras we use in firefighting operations, providing visibility in smoke-filled rooms and allowing us to identify hot spots. The drone is built for industrial use and can fly in rain and high winds while remaining amazingly stable and fully functional. Additionally, we have two smaller drones that carry a single camera but can be deployed by a solo operator in seconds. Rescuers can carry a smaller drone into remote areas and deploy the drone from the palm of their hand. Together, these vehicles and their cameras provide vital information to our officers as they lead operations and make the critical decisions that save lives.

We've built the program to accommodate continual all-day operations. Since every call we answer is unique, we need to be prepared for everything from the simple to the complex. We're also working to extend the drone capabilities to not only observe an activity, but also provide

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Air 41 on its landing pad awaiting take off



The Drone Team in a training class during Sunday morning drill.

How to Contact Us

Emergencies: Dial 9-1-1

Non-emergencies: 215-297-5167



www.engine41.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box #1

Point Pleasant, PA 18950

Street Address:

6500 Point Pleasant Pike

New Hope, PA 18938



Embracing Technology: "Air 41"

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physical support. We've developed a delivery system that allows us to reach a victim quickly with various payloads depending on the situation. This could include a life vest, a radio, water, or even a life line. Recently the company began providing support to neighboring police departments, who face a variety of situations where the information provided by a drone can make a drastic, and hopefully positive, difference in the outcome.

We will continue to develop the program and look for additional opportunities to leverage it. We're excited to be able to add these tools to the company and are confident that they'll prove to be invaluable assets to our community and those around us.



An image taken from the drone using the infrared camera. An example of how the drone can be used in rescue operations to find missing subjects.

Our Fund Drive Response

Our annual newsletter fund drive is the largest contribution we receive, after annual tax contributions from the three townships we serve. Over the past 20 years, the response rate to our newsletter fund drive has increased from around 10% to nearly 25%. As a guide, a good response rate to an annual appeal from a non-profit organization is around 10%.

We are extremely grateful for both the increasing response rate as well as the generous donations that we receive. This fund drive, the contributions from our neighbors, and our fundraising efforts allow us to maintain our operations and support the improvements needed to meet the changing fire and rescue needs of our community. We are an IRS 501c3 non-profit organization, so we are able to directly accept matching gifts from your employer to enhance your tax-free contribution. Our IRS tax ID number is 23-6413644.

A Special Thank You to the Kerr Family

The members of the Point Pleasant Fire Company would like to thank Dave and Sandy Kerr for their many years of continued service to the Fire Company.

Dave has been a member of the Company for over 20 years and has served in many leadership roles during that time. Dave served as the Company's President for the last 8 years. During that time, he worked tirelessly to ensure financial security for the company as well as making sure our operations reflected the highest level of safety, professionalism and technical knowledge. Dave continues on as a Life Member of the Company.

Sandy Kerr spent many years as the editor of this newsletter. As our primary fundraiser for the year, the importance of this task cannot be understated. We thank Sandy for her many years of dedication, attention to detail and willingness to volunteer!

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Aimee Carroll

Alex Piu

Eric Tarby

John Heinz

Gary Stever



MAKE SURE YOUR HOUSE NUMBER IS VISIBLE FROM THE STREET

MARK STEVER 2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

His first mistake was letting us see the dive flag license plate on the front of his car. Following his invitation to spend a drill night with us doing dive rescue operations, he was hooked. Five years later, Mark is now a certified rescue diver, IFSAC/ProBoard Fire Fighter, technical rescue operator, lead drone operator, Vice President of the company, Chief Technology Officer, and a member of the Board of Trustees. Professionally, Mark is an Associate Director in IT at Merck. Mark has been married to his wife Kim for longer than either cares to admit, and is father to Samantha and Rhys. The officers and members congratulate and thank Mark! Mark has vowed to never volunteer for anything ever again.



DISCARD FIREPLACE ASHES PROPERLY

Every year fire departments in the Bucks County area respond to house fires caused by improperly discarded fireplace ashes. Our personnel have responded locally to multiple fires over the past few winters directly related to the improper disposal of fireplace ashes.

FACT: Many people don't realize the length of time required for ashes to cool enough for disposal. *Coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to reignite and start a fire for many days after the fire is out.* The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc.

BE SAFE: Treat ALL ashes and coals as HOT ashes, even when you think they have had time enough to cool. Take care to dispose of them wisely. Your house, deck or garage are unsafe locations for storing ashes while they cool and have been the origin of many recent and devastating fires both locally and nationally. **Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it outside and at least 10 feet from your home or nearby buildings.**

Follow These Simple Fire Safety Tips

- Clean and inspect your chimney at least once a year and again after every cord of wood burned.
- Do not discard your ashes into any combustible container such as a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can.
- Do not place ash containers on decks, porches or in garages.
- Put ashes into a non-combustible metal container with a lid.
- Pour water into the container to make sure the ashes are cool.
- Keep your can OUTSIDE the home, away from your fireplace or stove and anything combustible.
- Teach all family members to be safe with ashes from your fireplace or wood stove.

Learn more: www.engine41.com

WANTED

Are you looking for ways to help your community? We are an **all-volunteer** fire company and are always looking for new members.

A variety of opportunities are available, including firefighting and rescue, marine and dive rescue, administration, maintenance and fund-raising support.

If you're aged 14 or older and want more information, please call the fire company at 215-297-5167 and leave a message. Or, stop by the firehouse any Tuesday night after 7 p.m. Come join our family!

