



BOX ALARM



Spring 2025

Mass Antique Fire Apparatus Association

48TH ANTIQUE FIRE APPARATUS PARADE

Muster & Firematic Flea Market



JUNE 14, 2025
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

NEW LOCATION FOR 2025!

**All People Church - 99 Concord St.
North Reading, Ma.**

Traditional Parade Route : Line up on Jewell Drive, Wilmington. Parade will step off @ 10 AM. Left on Eames Street, Right on Main St (Rt.38) to Wilmington Center, right on Rt62, Rt on Federal Street, to Concord St. to Fordham Rd.

Outside Vendor Spaces available: \$25 per 10x10 space
Privately owned apparatus Show Entry: \$20 per truck

Numerous trophies awarded, refreshments on site

For more information visit: www.massmafaa.com

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Members,

I apologize for the delay in circulating this issue. Mike has had most of it completed for some time now, but we were waiting on details for the annual muster in June. Due to circumstances beyond the club's control, we lost the date that we had secured with the Shriners. They had a client offer them a large sum for the same date and we were bumped. After some searching, we were referred to All People Church, just a short distance away. We are very excited for this new partnership and the large property is perfect for a muster site. We were also able to secure the second Saturday in June, which traditionally was always the weekend that the event was held. The parade lineup and route will remain the same. The executive board is also actively planning the SPAAMFAA National for August of 2026 in Marlborough. We have many exciting things planned for this event. Stay tuned!

Doug Boudrow

President, MAFAA

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All meetings are at 10 AM

April 13th Ashby Fire 895 Main Street

May 4th TBD

TRUSTEE REPORT

SPAAMFAA Board of Trustees Meeting Update

By Brian Anderson Jr., District #1 Trustee

On March 5, 2025, the SPAAMFAA Board of Trustees met in Kissimmee, Florida, to discuss key business and organizational updates. President Tim Jones called the meeting to order, and we quickly moved into a packed agenda. One of the main highlights was the election results, with President Jones, Senior Vice President Dan Lintz, and Junior Vice President Chuck Buschardt all securing their positions. Trustees Jeff Stauffer (District #7), Stan Socha (District #8), and Owen Franz (District #9) were also elected.

Financially, the organization remains in good standing, with investments performing well and donations exceeding expectations. However, we did discuss the need to monitor expenses closely, especially after hosting the Memphis convention, which brought some unexpected costs. We also approved funding for lodging at our meetings for the Executive and Treasury Secretaries to help ensure smooth operations.

A major focus of the meeting was improving our organization's digital presence. We approved \$20,000 to develop a new website, which will allow for better functionality, including the ability to implement electronic voting. The board also discussed the future of our archives, forming a committee to explore cost-effective solutions for their preservation and accessibility.

Another big topic was our upcoming conventions. The Summer 2025 convention will take place in Kansas City, Missouri, from June 18-21, and the Summer 2026 convention will be in Marlborough, Massachusetts, from August 27-30. Both promise to be great events with historic sites and fire service history on display.

Overall, it was a productive meeting, and I appreciate the dedication of everyone involved. As always, we need members to step up, whether by running for office, volunteering, or simply staying engaged. SPAAMFAA is built on its members, and together, we can ensure its future remains strong.

Brian Anderson Jr.

SPAAMFAA

NEWSLETTER UPDATES

Hello, been a long winter. Sorry for the delay in getting the issue out but some behind the scene stuff that needed to get sorted. I want to thank Howie Smith for his story on Earl Everhart.

The treasurer is accepting renewals. The renewal application is on the back cover or online payments available at

<https://massmafaa.com/membership-application>

Due to mailing costs we ask that anyone that can get an email version of the newsletter over a printed copy contact us.

As always any stories or photos are greatly appreciated. Mike Zarrella,

Newsletter Editor, MAFAA newslettermafaa@comcast.net

Earl Everhart riding in Howie's 1946 Maxim) — Eric Fellows photo story on pages 5 & 6



MAFAA RADIO CALL SIGNS

MAFAA radio frequency can be used by any member for communication to and from events, and during parades. Contact Ralph Harris for car assignments @ CFD24C1@charter.net

Car 1 Doug Boudrow	Car 6 Ralph Harris Jr.	Car 11 Jay Chatterton	Car 16 Mike Damato
Car 2 Jim McGonagle	Car 7 Daniel Harris	Car 12 Brian Huss	Car 34 Rich Hamilton
Car 3 Tom Fitzgerald	Car 8 Gary Fleischer	Car 13 Don Lennerton	Car 37 Gordon Holstrom
Car 4 Chris Clark	Car 9 Joe Lennerton	Car 14 Kevin Beaulieu	Car 121 Justin Holstrom
Car 5 Ralph Harris Sr.	Car 10 Dave Amiot	Car 15 Brian Anderson	Car 196 Bob Brusket

Here are some rules that will make radio conversations better and more effective:

1. The golden rules to follow are CLARITY, BREVITY, SIMPLICITY and SECURITY.
2. Remember, that you can either listen or you can talk... not both.
3. Identify yourself at the beginning of each transmission by giving your call sign.
4. Listen before transmitting. Don't cross talk.
5. When multiple people are in range, do not answer a transmission unless you know the call is for you. Listen for your call sign.
6. Spell out key words and phrases using the NATO Phonetic Alphabet.
7. Do not say YES or NO. Always use the words "AFFIRMATIVE" or "NEGATIVE".
8. Know what you are going to say before you press the PTT button.
9. Wait for at least a second after pressing the PTT button and before beginning your message.
10. Keep the microphone at right angles to your face. Don't talk directly into it.
11. Speak slowly, distinctly, clearly
12. Do not let your voice trail off at the end of words or sentences.
13. Only acknowledge a message when you fully understand it. Or ask to repeat message with "SAY AGAIN" and not REPEAT.
14. When you have received and understood the message, respond with "10-4", ok on the message, etc.
15. Always acknowledge. Silence is not the completion of a conversation.
16. Talk slowly, do not shout and use a professional tone... emotions are a bad idea.
17. Keep messages shorter than 20 seconds.
18. Use plain English. (No ten codes)

On two-way radios, the common protocol to spell out critical words is to use NATO's phonetic alphabet.

ALPHA
BRAVO
CHARLIE
DELTA
ECHO
FOXTROT

GOLF
HOTEL
INDIA
JULIET
KILO
LIMA

MIKE
NOVEMBER
OSCAR
PAPA
QUEBEC
ROMEO
SIERRA

TANGO
UNIFORM
VICTOR
WHISKEY
XRAY
YANKEE
ZULU

“I wish everyone knew Earl”

It's late February as I put together this article and this time of year, my mind always circles back to my friend Earl Everhart! Earl passed away a few years ago on March 2, 2022 but honestly, that's not always why I think of him at this time of year. It was almost always late winter or early spring when I had free time and I would drive up to Vermont to visit with him and he would warn me about “mud season.”

I would usually bring some photo albums of Maxim fire apparatus for him to look at it, but to be honest — we didn't need material to talk about. Earl loved to talk! And I loved to listen! For those that didn't know him, Earl worked for many of the major apparatus manufacturers, including Oren, Mack, Maxim, National Foam, Hahn, Hendrickson, FMC, Middleboro Fire Apparatus and Pierce, and spent the last 23 years of his career as an owner of Vermont Fire Technologies in Williamstown VT. I always jotted down some notes and I would love to share what he shared with me.

He confided that out of all the places he worked, Maxim was his favorite. He started working at Oren and they were going out of business, so he was going to work for Mack. Shortly after starting at Mack, they were going to shut down one of their plants and force him to move north if he wanted to keep his job. Joe Whitcomb (from Maxim) asked him if he was going to move north, why not come work for Maxim. He said OK and he never looked back.

I thought it would be neat to share a few stories that Earl shared with me. One of his stories from his time at Mack was about their “C” model cab. When Mack started building the cabs, they were still using a Swiss hammer and molding the metal sheets a little bit at a time (by dimpling) — which was very time consuming. One day a tour came through the Mack factory and a guy that worked for Airstream campers asked why they didn't have a mold. They pulled the Airstream employee aside to talk to him and he explained that Airstream used an oak wood mold and used hydraulic pressure to push the heated metal against the wood to mold their round trailers. Mack changed how they did their cabs because of a guy on a tour and saved a ton of money in the process.

On the subject of “accidental improvisations” when it comes to fire apparatus — Earl also mentioned that when Maxim was building tillered aerials in the 1970's, a common complaint was that the tillerman couldn't see the rear wheels while seated inside the small enclosed tiller cabs. It just so happened that one of the Boston Fire Department mechanics named Joe Roper (and his brother) owned a neon light business on the side. They took sheets of Plexiglas, heated it up and used vacuum to mold and shape it into a bubble for the windows. Other manufacturers also used these windows, not just Maxim.

There were so many stories, but I only have time and room for one more and it was a great one - how the American LaFrance 700 Series came to be. During World War II, any fire apparatus built was deferred to the military or to any community that had a vital industry to the war effort. After WWII, there was a huge demand for fire apparatus from communities that couldn't buy fire trucks. We have to remember that fire departments were prohibited from buying fire trucks from 1941-1945. In 1946 many fire departments that needed fire trucks that couldn't get them in the last few years started placing orders. The Government thought that the fire truck industry might take advantage of this and increase prices for customers so the

Government instituted a 2-year freeze on pricing. Whatever a truck cost in 1941 was what customers would pay in 1946-1948 (with as much as a 10-15%) markup was all that was allowed. Apparatus manufacturers were forced to list their pricing and make it public. To circumvent this regulation, American LaFrance came out with the 700 Series cab forward and said "This is a new model, there was no pricing for it in 1941, therefore, we can charge what we want for it." They were right. The government had no leg to stand on. Also, because it was new and good looking, customers wanted it. Brilliant salesmanship on the part of American LaFrance.

I wanted to share what I heard as it is always interesting to get a peek behind the curtains from someone who was so respected and influential in the fire apparatus industry. Since Earl has passed on and isn't with us any longer to confirm or deny, please take these stories for what they are — meant for entertainment and not fact. The one fact I can add is, "I wish everyone knew Earl."

-Howie Smith

Photo captions

Earl (center) with other Maxim employees at the Maxim 100th in 2014 (H Smith photo)

Earl doing what he loved best — talking! (H Smith photo)

Earl riding in Howie's 1946 Maxim) — Eric Fellows photo



MAFAA CLUB STORE



Short Sleeve Shirts
Sizes Youth Large to Adult 2XL \$20



Baseball Caps (Adjustable- One size fit all. \$20



"New" Patches \$5



Vinyl Decals \$4



**2023 Dash Plaque
\$3**



**2024 Dash Plaque
\$5**



**2022 Convention Challenge Coin
\$5**

Items can be ordered by emailing: mafaatreasurer@gmail.com

Orders can be picked up at a meeting or shipped for a nominal fee.

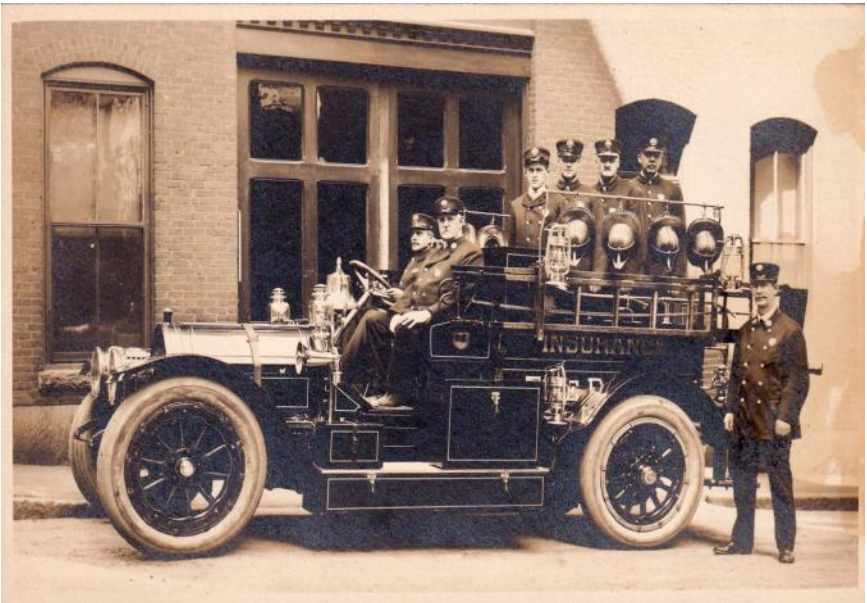
2025 EVENTS

April 5 & 6 Allentown Auction & Flea market

June 18-20 Independence, MO. SPAAMFAA Summer Convention

Sept 12-14 Orange, CT 100th year anniversary of service to the Town of Orange. We were selected to host the 142nd Annual Connecticut State Firefighters Association's convention. The 2025 Convention will be held September 12th and 13th, with a convention parademon September 14th. Go to our website <https://www.orangevfd.org/2025-state-firefighters-convention/> for more information.

Worcester Fire Patrol



MARKET PLACE

Welcome to the new Marketplace. Email me to list your wanted or sale items.

Email newslettermafai@comcast.net

WANTED

Wanted: photo or slide collections of fire apparatus .
mzcp@comcast.net Mike Zarrella.

Pair of 1955 Maxim Front fender inner panels & windshield panels
for my 1982 American LaFrance

Contact: Bill Clark 248 Boretz Rd , Colchester ,CT 06415

860-537-0122. wclark8@aol.com

FD Patches from - Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and
Maine. Best contact info is:

Tyler Yalian 508-981-8384 T.yalian@yahoo.com

Mack E-Model/Type 45 Parts: including a Two-piece seat,
gas tank, window regulators for half doors, Bulldog &
Base, plus other misc items. Let me know what you have.

Also looking for any Andover, Mass FD memorabilia.

Contact: Dicky Krafon 978-375-6616. dickykraf-ton@gmail.com

FOR SALE

*1933 Hahn Chemical hose wagon partially restored asking \$7,000

*1956 Chev-American LaFrance Foamite-currantly being restored-make me an offer

*Darley Champion front mount pump T model 500gpm Make me an offer-proceeds to benefit the Colchester Hayward Fire Museum fund

*Hannay Hose reel-refurbished make me an offer proceeds to benefit the Colchester-Hayward fire Museum fund

* 1000-gallon Waterous two stage pump-make me an offer proceeds to benefit the Colchester Hayward Fire Museum fund

*Waukesha 145 GZ gas engine-heads need refurbishing included-Spicer 4753 transmission with clutch and pressure plate, Carburetor Magnito, Distributer and repair manual price-\$2500.00

Contact: Bill Clark 248 Boretz Rd , Colchester ,CT 06415

860-537-0122. wclark8@aol.com

Federal Signal Corp Siren - Model 77GA 12v DC

Dual-tone \$1000

Contact: ALFRED AVERIO 508-695-0713

Maxim bumper S series (some pit marks) \$75.00 Ralph

Harris CFD24CI@Charter.net

Lynn 1951 Seagrave pumper. It has been sitting for a while but ran when parked. It comes with a lot of equipment. My phone number is 781-718-8489. Dave Chiaradonna



Massachusetts Antique Fire Apparatus Association Membership Application

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Email: _____

Apparatus Owned: (If changed from previous years)

MAKE: _____ MODEL: _____ YEAR: _____

TOWN SERVED: _____

MAKE: _____ MODEL: _____ YEAR: _____

TOWN SERVED: _____

Membership: (circle) NEW RENEWAL

Member Type: Active \$20 Affiliate \$50 Lifetime \$300 Additional Family \$5

Newsletter: EMAIL or MAIL I wish to be listed in the roster: YES or NO

The Massachusetts Antique Fire Apparatus Association (MAFAA) was founded as a local group in early 1977, as a chapter of SPAAMFAA. The purpose of the organization is to promote and preserve antique motorized fire apparatus. However, ownership of apparatus is not required, just a passion for them! A general membership meeting is normally held the first Sunday of each month throughout Eastern Massachusetts. The annual fire apparatus parade, show, and firematic flea market is held in June. A bi-monthly newsletter is published, "Box Alarm" which contains numerous articles, reports, photos and classifieds, and calendar of upcoming events.

Membership in SPAAMFAA is not required, but highly encouraged.

The following classification of memberships are available:

Active: Any individual person 18 year of age or older. (\$20 per year, \$5 each additional family

Affiliate: Any fire department, Museum, or Group owning vintage fire apparatus (\$50 per year)

Life: A one time payment available to individual members (\$300)

Payments via check or money order (Payable to: MAFAA) can be mailed to:

Massachusetts Antique Fire Apparatus Association P.O. Box 3235 Andover, Ma. 01810

Online application and payments available : www.massmafaa.com