



BOX ALARM



Winter 2024



Cambridge, Ma Rescue 1

The first rescue, a 1932 Model AA rescue truck was first housed at the current Station 4 at 2024 Mass. Ave. Photo from H Smith collection

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings Members,

I hope you had a great holiday season. The MAFAA Christmas/Holiday party was a great time and was enjoyed by a dozen or so members.

We had a great meeting set up for January at the Brockton Fire Museum but the inclement weather forced us to cancel. We plan to revisit that location for the March meeting.

The board is in the initial stages of researching and planning to host the 2026 SPAAMFAA National convention. The membership voted at the November meeting to allow the board to move forward in submitting a bid. An acceptance by SPAAMFAA will be needed before we finalize all the details. This promises to be a great event that will bring publicity to our chapter. The 2022 event was a huge success and we already have great plans for 2026. Stay tuned!

Doug Boudrow

President, MAFAA

TRUSTEE REPORT

Happy New Year! As we kick off 2024,

SPAAMFAA Election Ballots are in the mail: If you're a member in good standing with SPAAMFAA keep an eye out for the ballot. If you haven't received your election ballot, feel free to reach out to me.

Winter National in Memphis: Anticipation is building for our Winter National event in Memphis. Join us for a fantastic celebration of our shared passion and a chance to connect with fellow members.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the election, or SPAAMFAA feel free to reach out. Here's to a successful and memorable 2024!

Brian Anderson Jr.

District 1 Trustee

NEWSLETTER UPDATES

Winter is here! Hope the holidays were good for everyone. We dedicate this issue to Al Fay who passed away recently. I would like to thank Howie Smith for the great article and photos of the history behind the Cambridge Rescue.

Also, still looking to cut down on the number of printed copies we have to mail. If you currently get a printed copy of the newsletter and can switch over to an email version please email me and we will change you over.

Mike Zarrella,

Newsletter Editor, MAFAA newslettermafaa@comcast.net

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Feb 4- Wilmington Fire Headquarters

March 3- Brockton Fire Museum

April 7- Townsend Fire Headquarters

May— No location yet

June 2- Shriners, Wilmington

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 @ CFD24Cl@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

FDNY Medal, Lieutenant George Friel, Cambridge Fire Department and Formation of Cambridge Rescue 1

Excluding Boston, Cambridge Fire Department had one of the first true rescue trucks in New England. The Cambridge Rescue company was formed in 1932 after an incident that left two civilians and a Cambridge firefighter dead and several others injured. In 1931, two workers were overcome working in a sewer manhole on Mass. Ave. in North Cambridge. (The location was next to the current quarters of Engine 4 and Squad 4 at 2024 Mass. Ave.) During the rescue efforts, Cambridge Firefighter William J. Atkinson was also overcome and died during the rescue.

This incident showed the need for specialized training and several Cambridge members were sent to New York City to train and study with the FDNY on rescue techniques. One of those members was Lt. George Friel.

While in New York, Lt. Friel was riding along with FDNY and found himself at the scene of an early morning fire on May 6, 1932 at Pier 54. The fire reached 5 alarms and toxic smoke injured many of the 700 FDNY members on scene as well as killing one civilian. The location was the Cunard Pier at the intersection of 13th Street and 11th Ave. Several FDNY firefighters were recognized with medals for their bravery in rescuing other FDNY members trapped in the building after a collapse.

I had heard years ago from the late Firefighter Ed Friel (Cambridge Engine 4 and nephew) that Lt. George Friel had received a medal for his part in the rescue but was never able to confirm. A number of years ago, I reached out to the Late Jack Lerch at the FDNY archives who was quick to dismiss that there was never a non-FDNY member to receive an FDNY medal. However, a few months later, I received an envelope in the mail with some photocopies of a page from the FDNY Medal Day booklet from 1932 with his writing that said "*Found it!*"

Jack Lerch was able to confirm that George Friel was the only non FDNY member to ever receive an FDNY medal. There are reports that an FDNY New York Salvage Patrol member did, but I have no details on that. The fact that the Patrol was separate from the fire department but still operated as city employees does put that in a grey area.

CLASS III		
DATE OF ACT		DATE OF AWARD
Lieutenant		
Sept.	1. <i>Peter P. A. Hick</i> , H. 4	April 17, 1933
	4. <i>John Ryan</i> , H. 26	
	4. <i>James T. Supple</i> , E. 23	
Firemen 1st grade		
May	4. <i>James J. Fitzsimmons</i> , E. 31	"
"	26. <i>Charles C. Roggenkamp</i> , Rescue 1, now H. 24	"
"	26. <i>James E. Walsh (I)</i> , Rescue 1	"
"	26. <i>Domenico A. DiBenedetto</i> , Rescue 1	"
Lieutenant		
"	26. <i>George H. Friel</i> , Cambridge, Mass. Fire Department, assigned to Rescue Co. 1	"
Firemen 1st grade		
Aug.	1. <i>William Nygryn</i> , H. 16	April 28, 1933
"	1. <i>Harry W. Held</i> , H. 16	"
"	1. <i>Alfred H. Scherpf</i> , H. 16	"
"	1. <i>Thomas J. Sheridan</i> , H. 16	"

The actual Friel Class III Merit medal has never been seen and it was rumored to be in the Friel family at one time. What does still exist is an FDNY style hat badge in my collection that was given to Lt. Friel when he was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain in Cambridge by Captain Ryan from FDNY. A friend he kept in touch with from his days riding in New York. I believe it to be John P. Ryan who was one of the charter members of FDNY Rescue 1. The paper its attached to reads, "Capt. Friel from Capt. Ryan."



As you can see by the logo on the door (next page), the first rescue truck was dedicated to Wm. J. Atkinson who died in the line of duty and was the impetus behind the formation of the Rescue Company.

Photo H Smith Collection



Photo courtesy of Ed Morrissey

Information for this article also found in the book, "Fire Rescue, The History of FDNY Rescue Company 1 by Paul Hashagen and Herb Eysser, 1989, Fire Apparatus Journal Publications



2024 EVENTS

SPAAMFAA Winter Meeting February 21-24 —Memphis

April 20-21 Allentown

This is just a local sample of the events scheduled. For a complete list, go to the link below. <http://www.cafaa.net/anita/anita.html>

It is strongly advised that you contact the sponsors of these events to be certain they are still scheduled. Bad weather, lack of participants and vendors may cause rescheduling, cancellation or change of venue.



Anita Ford's Best On The Web
Nationwide Listing of Musters, Parades and Special Events

MARKET PLACE

Welcome to the new Marketplace.

Email me to list your wanted or sale items.

Email newslettermafaa@comcast.net

WANTED

Wanted: photo or slide collections of fire apparatus .

mzcp@comcast.net Mike Zarrella.

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

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

Front bumper for a 1955 Maxim any condition

wclark8@aol.com Bill Clark

FOR SALE

FIRE REPLICAS

CHICAGO FIRE ENG-81 Mack B \$300 \$175

Shipping available for extra cost or can be picked up

Walter Curran 978-992-7914

NEW PRICE: Ex-Norwell 1961 GMC 550 Gallon Pumper. The body has been restored to original condition. New seat covers have been installed. Tires have passed inspection. All lights work! Two nozzles on boosters. It has a big Federal siren, No extra equipment. It has been kept in a heated garage all of the time. Price reduced to \$22,000.00 or best offer. Contact Roger A. Leslie, 671 Webster Street in Hanover, MA. 02339 or 781-871-

Maxim bumper S series (some pit marks) \$75.00 Ralph Harris CFD24C1@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



Longtime community leader and past MAAFAA President Al Fay has passed away. Al was a Burlington firefighter and served on many local boards and committees, including the Select Board and the Planning Board. He was also a member of the Housing Authority and was well known for his involvement with the Special Olympics.

