



Green Valley Fire District Fire Corps Newsletter—Fourth Quarter 2016



Greetings to all,

It is with great excitement and anticipation I join the ranks of incredible people associated with the Green Valley Fire District and Green Valley Fire Corps! I can say without hesitation that since August 22nd, my first day with the organization, I have been truly amazed at how caring, compassionate, and professional everyone has been in my indoctrination into the “Fire World.” Simply put, I’m blessed beyond my wildest expectations at how all of you have provided me with whatever I’ve needed to help me get settled. Especially how much patience and grace has been extended as I’ve embraced my new position.

Each day provides me with new experiences in a career I hold dear; A career in Community Service and Public Safety. Many of you know I come to you from a 30-year adventure in Law Enforcement with the Pima County Sheriff’s Department. In that time, I thrived on serving the communities I worked in, enjoying the many small victories helping those in crisis or making bad things in their lives go away. Yes, I wrote a speeding ticket or two, but I confess I gave more warnings than citations. I served as District Commander here in Green Valley during the years 2001 through 2007 and believe those years to be my most rewarding because of the community, the volunteer spirit, and resident engagement I had the chance to work with. I love Green Valley!

I hope to bring my experience of a nationally certified “Incident Command Instructor”, member of a National Type I Incident Management Team, Community Preparedness Planner, and Volunteer Coordinator to the Fire District. My years with the Sheriff’s Department showed me that you can’t measure the value of the men and women who selflessly volunteer their time, energy, and talents to an organization. That view holds true with my brief view of the Green Valley Fire Corps. Many of you have heard me comment on how amazed I am in the growth of this group and the tremendous programs that are provided to the Green Valley area. The members who have stepped up to participate in the Corps steering committee have great insight and vision as to the direction of the organization and I am proud to work with such fine people.

With that said, as the District’s “Community Outreach Coordinator”, I hope to rely heavily on the expertise and motivation of the Steering Committee and each Fire Corps member. Each of you by your daily efforts have produced an active and growing Fire Corp. Areas of recruitment, training, and governance are areas I hope to engage in with the committee’s help. My overarching goal is to see you, the members of the Green Valley Fire Corps continue to better the organization with your ideas and your leadership. To promote each member’s ownership in what they do each hour they volunteer and to receive satisfaction in what is accomplished in and for the Green Valley community. This is what I seek as your coordinator.

I am looking forward to meeting all who are returning to the area from their travels. So please, when you get back, come by and say hi! I’m actually starting to remember names! Plus, I really want to hear the wonderful stories you bring back of your time away. Especially, if you have been fishing!

LT Pratt

To All Fire Corps:

Now that we are fortunate to have LT on board for Fire Corps support I wanted to take the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you for your patience, caring and support since I have been working with you all. I'm so proud of all of your effort and growth over the past few years and have been incredibly blessed in getting to know you.

Please keep up the great work and I look forward to hosting you all at our annual party together on April 1, 2017 at our house!

Katie

Field Officer Training—Update

Thanks to the many of you who have served as FTOs (field training officer) in the recent past. With your help we have added thirteen members to our field roster since earlier in the year.

While the 'on-the job-training' has the benefit of scheduling flexibility, and provides for the rapid assimilation of new members, it also introduces differences in emphasis and content into training based on the background of the FTO.

In order to assist FTO's and help provide a more consistent training experience to recruits, Dave Vleck and Dick Baker have updated the training checklist and it is now being used. It is still a work in progress and needs some fine tuning and additional documentation. You may even find some references to SOGs which are currently being developed.



The next step is a training session for FTOs to be held in November which will help to provide consistency in our new member training. If you wish to attend this training session and be available in the future to serve as an FTO please contact either Dick or Dave. Contact them before they end up having to come to you!

CPR— Important!!



Would you know what to do if your someone near you went into cardiac arrest? Calling 911 should always be the first step, but before medical professionals arrive, immediately performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) will greatly increase the chance for survival. However, according to the American Heart Association (AHA), less than one-third of these individuals receive the help they need, because most bystanders are untrained in CPR and are afraid they will do something wrong.

If you are called on to give CPR in an emergency, you will most likely be trying to save the life of someone you love: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend. 70 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in homes.

In addition to protecting those we know, as a representative of the Fire District, the public would expect that we have the knowledge of how to respond to such an emergency if we were to come across one.

Immediately prior to the start of the next Fire Corps general meeting in November, there will be a 'quickie' CPR training session covering 'hands-only' CPR. The important concept to remember.....'push hard and fast'. Want more?? Take advantage of the sessions provided by the Fire District that covers CPR, AED usage, and some basic first aid. You will receive certification from the American Heart Association that is good for two years. The charge for this training is \$50 but for you....no charge. What a deal!

Seems that in the previous newsletter, there was an error that some of you picked up on, particularly those involved. Not sure who is responsible for this but it could be me. I had talked to the Bailey's in the northeast to get some background for publication. But then I ended up giving their story to the other new couple in our group, the Peterson's. Well...anyone could have made the same mistake?? In any case , the real Baileys appear below followed by the real Petersons.

Meet more of our new Fire Corps Members!



Beth Bailey



Steve Bailey

This one is a '2 fer 1'. Steve and Beth now spend their summers in Yelm WA which is a little west of Olympia. They purchased their home in Green Valley two years ago which is a convenient short walk from Station 152. They had visited friends in Sahuarita, met up with a realtor while visiting, and the rest is history. They came to our pancake breakfast in January which led them to membership in our group. Steve spent 20 years a boiler maker, first in California and later at the Puget Sound shipyard. After that he had his own construction business for the next twenty years and lived on the Oregon coast. Much of his business involved meeting the needs of the elderly. Now a lot of his spare time goes toward woodworking. I found out that tool-wise, he has a complete set in Washington with another complete set in Green Valley. Beth is part of our SHiM team and brings much in the way of earlier experience. She spent many years as an elderly case manager of senior services with the state of Oregon and was involved in case management, senior services, and other areas. She enjoys travelling and pursuing creative projects. She knows painting, beading, rug hooking, and looks for classes in these and other areas.



Sue Peterson



Gary Peterson

Gary and Sue spend summers in their home in Arcadia MI near one of the top ten golf courses in the country. Upcoming will be their fourth year in Green Valley just a stones throw and a short walk from station 151. In fact, that relationship helped them find us at Fire Corps. Sue was in the habit of taking goodies to the folks at the station and later met Chief Wilford at a firearms training class. Brian suggested they check into Fire Corps...and here they are. Thanks—Chief. They found Green Valley by visiting friends here and then eventually just followed them here. Both are on the executive board of their Lions Club at home and are extremely busy with that. When they arrive in MI it is time to plan for a huge event in July (Arcadia Daze). When over, it is then time to start the plans for the next year. In what spare time they have Gary enjoys woodworking and fishing and Sue likes to play cards and other games. In Green Valley they have taken up pickle ball. They will be back in the area in early November and both have one or two more training sessions with George Johnson and Dick Jones.

Tom Meyer comes from a cabin (now home) in Minong in northern Wisconsin, also home of the famous Jack Links beef jerky. They previously lived in Hudson, have owned the cabin since 1992, and Tom has been busy improving it into a year round home. He and his wife have also been in Green Valley for the past seven years and have owned in Quail Creek for three years. They started out renting and then took advantage of a Robson 'free night' offer which ended up purchasing there. Tom is heavily involved in the American Kennel Club and is normally gone every other weekend at events where he judges, competes, and conducts seminars. He spent many years raising English Springer Spaniels. During his ride-along with Terry Balfanz and Dick Baker discussion finally led to the finding that Terry had purchased a hunting dog from Tom about thirty years ago! And Terry's brothers had also purchased dogs from him. He has enjoyed his experience with our FC unit and the opportunities to give back to the community and to meet new people. He has previous experience as a volunteer fire fighter. His wife is a basket maker and has an extensive studio at their Michigan home.



Below is our latest organization chart for the Fire Corps Steering Committee. Many thanks to new members Linda Hoeger and Mike Walker! Too small to read? Get a full size version at....

<http://s229637236.onlinehome.us/gvfire.corps./FC%20Steering%20Org%20Chart%20Oct%202016.pdf>

