



Green Valley Fire District Fire Corps Newsletter—First Quarter 2017



Just a quick comment from LT Pratt:

At the writing of this note for the newsletter, I find myself completing 6 months with the Green Valley Fire District. I must say that I was aware of the GVFD Fire Corps and the programs that members of this group provided to the Green Valley community, but I had not really prepared my mind to get around the pace and extend Fire Corps impacted the area. Simply put, “YOU FOLKS ARE AMAZING!”



From the daily interaction with the Field Shift Crews to working with the Admin Office members, the level of dedication, professionalism and customer service is nothing short of incredible. Daily the GV Web Site receives customer comments of the level of service as always being positive and appreciated. And if we don't receive a comment, it's because the internet was down. Just so you are aware of the numbers and why you go home so tired after your shift, last year Fire Corps installed 3,325 alarms that's over 1,300 more than last year. Replaced 10,600 batteries and that was after going to a two-year program. 35% of these battery replacement appointments resulted in smoke alarm replacements. Lockboxes installed was 401 in the year 2016. This year 604 boxes were installed. 2,163 homes were visited as a result of the SARP and SABP.

On top of all of that, Fire Corps members responded to the major portion of the 1523 desert pest removal calls received. You maintained the station supplies, delivered mail, swapped air tanks, replenished water and applied hydrant markers. And please don't forget the office staff that received the calls, scheduled the appointments, packed the bags, mailed the letters, handled the receipts and maintained the data base. Simply put, “YOU FOLKS ARE AMAZING!”

The Fire Corps Training Academy was a huge success that provided consistent training to our newest members and provided great feedback to the steering committee on how we do things. Kudos to Dick Baker, Dave Vleck, Chuck Hill for putting on a wonderful academy. And to the instructors; Peggy Cederstrom, Paul Ober, Bob Budnick, Mike Walker, and Denny Mart for a job well done.

I could go on forever! So, I'll save some for next letter. But one final thank you and kudos to Denny Mart and Marti Skeldon. What a fantastic FC Pancake Breakfast this year! It broke records all around and from what I could tell, it ran very smoothly and fun was had by all. Thank you to all who bussed tables, cooked pancakes, pour drinks, served the food and collected the donations.

We have some new projects on the horizon and are always looking for ideas to make Fire Corps even better. But for now, I close with my favorite comment;

Simply put, “YOU FOLKS ARE AMAZING!”

Fire Corps Members Sweep Honors

Volunteer Fire Corps members Anne Birch and Bob Budnick were recently honored at our general meeting by GVFD Fire Chief Chuck Wunder for volunteering over 4000 hours each in community service for GVFD. Both are long term members. They have both participated in all aspects of the program. Currently, Bob specializes in installing rapid entry lock boxes. Anne has specialized in all Fire Corps field work areas and is best known for her commitment to the scheduling of all the field volunteers. Both are always ready to participate in any Fire Corps community activity.



**Peggy Allen
2016 FC Admin
Member of the Year**

Peggy Allen was a Fire Corps charter member and served as the FC Admin chief and lead member until 2016 when she retired from that level and now works one or more Admin shifts per week as our District Volunteer. She started out in Headquarters as our first Admin volunteer answering the phone, performing clerical duties and just helping out in general and then proposed that we add volunteers and have an Administrative Fire Corps group. She then interviewed and trained all of the FC Admin volunteers who worked from 2006-2016 and built and maintained their schedules as well. This volunteer then assisted in the development of all original admin forms, check sheets and Standard Administrative Procedures (SAGs) as well as formatting many of the initial Field forms.

Chuck Hill works primarily in the Field, but has taken on so many additional tasks and responsibilities over the years that are administrative and vital to the success that FC has enjoyed. Some of these include: Interviewing and training incoming Field volunteers for the past years, writing White Elephant and AFG (assistance to firefighters) grants, collaborating with leadership and crews to coordinate "Smoke Alarm Blitzes" for the past four years in various areas of Green Valley, serving as unofficial District photographer, and leading the conversion to Zoll reporting for Fire Corps.



**Chuck Hill
2016 FC Field
Member of the Year**



Anne Birch, representing the Green Valley Fire Corps, was presented an Award of Recognition plaque from the Green Valley Firefighters Association Local 4125 at their annual Christmas Party on December 18th. Anthony Taylor of Local 4125, made the presentation "In acknowledgment and gratitude for your hard work, dedication and loyalty". On the left—LT proudly displays the plaque.

And More Achievements!!

Ted Hoeger rules! Ted is one of the brave cyclists who regularly participates in the El Tour de Tucson ride which is held in November. This past November the 108 mile ride was a real challenge for all because of extreme winds. In fact cyclists reported that, no matter what part of the ride you were on, the wind was always against you. Whereas Ted was not among the first finishers, he did end up in the top 20 percent of his age group which is an achievement not to be ignored. Congrats Ted! Ted also participates in a Green Valley group that goes out in the early AM on Wednesdays and Sundays no matter how cold it is.



Ted (center) and other of his biking friends at the El Tour de Tucson



Rick Phillips



Ed Lesiewicz



Ken Mork



Lance Jacobcs

2017 Fire Corps Academy Declared a Success

Seven new field members and several returning members received certificates awarded by LT after completing four afternoons of training. Topics included all those listed on the new FTO checklist with special presentations on ladders, lockboxes, desert pests, CPR, and SHIM. Many thanks to those making it happen and to the dedicated attendance of the participants.



Karen Knoll



John Knoll



Maureen Raso

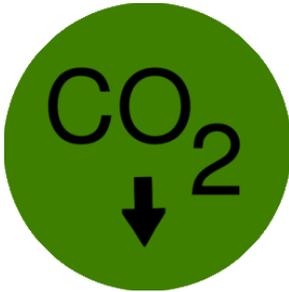
For your calendar.....

Friday, March 10—Home Tour—contact Jeff Jamieson

Wednesday, March 29—Fire Corps general meeting—2:00 PM

Saturday, April 1—April Fool's Day Picnic—Katie S. Home





Carbon Monoxide Alarm Project....

Will be ramping up soon. We will start in the Green Valley Townhouses community where we installed battery powered smoke alarms three years ago and then move on to Fairways I and II where we installed alarms in the past year and a half. This is funded by the White Elephant award of \$8,00 received in December. Stay tuned for details coming soon.



For the 50 acre and fire in Arivaca last Thursday, Ted Hoeger and Ed Lesiewicz were pressed into service to provide support. They needed to finish up what they were doing in order to get water bottles from station 152 and then ice and a chest from station 151 and take it to the crew that was providing mutual aid to the Arivaca Fire District. The service provided by Fire Corps was much appreciated! We don't get called for this service often but we are there.

**Below.....State Legislature relives Fire Corps from snake duty!! For more info
Google on 'AZ Snake Shot'**

Rats and snakes beware: House gives preliminary approval to 'snake shot' bill

By: [Hank Stephenson](#) January 31, 2017 , 4:18

Republican Rep. Jay Lawrence of Scottsdale is so sure that "snake shot" can't hurt people, he considered letting someone shoot him with it to prove it. But in the end, Republicans in the Arizona House took his word for it.

Welcome to More New Members from Last Spring



Connie Newsome

Connie's whereabouts have taken her from Coeur d'Alene to Tucson and finally Green Valley. She was in Tucson for six years starting in 2004 and worked as the customer service construction manager in Quail Creek. Since her husband worked for the Town of Sahuarita it made sense to move to Green Valley. She enjoys periodic travel and particularly visiting state parks. You may know that she is now 'permanently engaged' to another FC person. She loves her Admin work and all the people she contacts.



Bud Salsbury

Bud shares his time between here and Salmon Idaho where he lives in the mountains three hours from the nearest Walmart. While there he enjoys hiking, fishing, hunting, and riding his ATV. He spent most of his career as an instrument technician for nuclear power plants and then was with the Department of Defense for 17 years. He learned of Green Valley through visiting friends here and found out about Fire Corps being nabbed by a FC representative during 'fill the boot' day at our local Walmart.



Dick Clark

Dick has worked in the Admin group since last summer. They have been permanent residents in Quail Creek since 2011 and snow birded there starting in 2008. They found Green Valley on the way driving to Nogales and never got any further. Previous trips to Arizona were conferences when they decided that this was for them. After college Dick landed in New York and ended up staying there for the next 50 years. After working in a Presbyterian hospital for ten of those, he and his wife operated a successful travel agency. He points out that the business changed dramatically beginning in the 80's with many changes in the airline industry and the advent of the use of the Internet. He learned of Fire Corps by being one of our SABP customers and making the phone call. In the rest of his spare time he volunteers with Friends In Deed, CPAC, and a few Quail Creek committees.