



Knuckle Buster



Newsletter of the Wisconsin Association of Emergency Vehicle Technicians

February 2008

2008 Spring Seminar Rapidly Approaching

The 2008 WAEVT Spring Seminar will be held May 14 – 15 at the Fox Valley Technical College Fire Training Center in Neenah, Wisconsin. Classes will be Hale Pumps, World Transmissions and Aerial Maintenance presented by Pierce.

We will again be using the La Quinta Inn and Suites we used last year for our conference hotel and the dinner meeting. Rooms can be reserved under WAEVT and the cost is \$64. Rooms will only be guaranteed until April 14, 2008.

Seagrave Fire Apparatus will be sponsoring the dinner this year. RNOW, the Seagrave dealer for Wisconsin, will be sponsoring the bar and hospitality hour. We thank them for their support of our organization.

We are asking you to pre-register if at all possible. We are trying to get an accurate count for lunches and dinner so we don't pay for extra lunches and dinners.

We will again be offering EVT Certification Testing on Thursday afternoon. You must register at least 20 days in advance with the EVTCC. Visit www.evtcc.org for registration forms, study guides and information.

We are also looking at ways to increase attendance and to continue the networking and fellowship aspect of the dinner and the association. If you have any ideas, please let a board member know. If someone you know would be interested in receiving information about the seminar, please contact Jon Coutts

Elections to be held at Annual Meeting

We will be holding elections for three Executive Board positions at the Annual Dinner Meeting Wednesday May 14th. The three positions up for election this year are Executive Vice President, currently held by Mark Evel; Treasurer, currently held by Dave Kamps; and Vice President, currently held by Mike Meyer. Mark and Dave

have indicated that they would like to retire from the board due to job changes. I have placed the position descriptions from the bylaws below. The Board meets 2-3 times a year to set up and review the two seminars. If you are interested, please contact Mark, Dave or Jon for more information.

ARTICLE XII
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The duties of the Executive Secretary shall be to assist the President and all other members of the Board of Directors in any way possible. He shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors. He shall conduct all elections of the officers of the organization; however in the event the Executive Secretary is unable to conduct an election, then and in that event the presiding officer shall appoint another member who is not an elected officer of the organization to conduct the elections. Buy donuts when deemed necessary by the board.

ARTICLE XI
TREASURER

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies due this organization, and keep suitable records of the same. He shall deposit all monies so received in a bank designated by the Board of Directors. He shall render statements, showing receipts and disbursements in full to date, and the monies in the treasury. He shall draw all checks for disbursements of monies authorized by the Board of Directors. No monies shall be disbursed except by check signed by the Treasurer. An annual audit of the Treasurer's books shall be exercised by an Audit Committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

Fall Seminar Date Set

The Fall Seminar will be held on Thursday, September 18th. We are attempting to get TFT Nozzle Servicing and Duo Safety Ladders for Ground Ladder Testing. We will attempt to get both to do hands-on sessions. We are tentatively scheduling TFT for the morning and

Duo Safety for the afternoon. We will again provide lunch for those attending. Please mark this on your calendars. We will be asking for pre-registration for this seminar also. More information will follow at the Spring Seminar and in future issues of The Knucklebuster.

Consider Joining the EVTA

The Emergency Vehicle Technicians Association (EVTA) is a national organization dedicated to promoting and educating emergency vehicle technicians. They provide support for state associations, a voice for emergency vehicle technicians, and provide one of the premiere bulletin boards for EVT's. There are over 473 technicians and factory representatives that are members of the forums with over 2500 posts in the last two years. For more information on the EVTA go to <http://www.evta.info/>. To check out the bulletin board go to <http://www.evta.info/> and click on Techtalk.

Shop Housekeeping Tips

By Chris Cavette, Senior Editor InService

Winter is a good time to clean up around your shop area. Bad weather often limits outdoor activities and gives everyone a little time to do some housekeeping. Here are some tips to keep your shop in good shape.

Organize spare parts and equipment. Sometimes shops slowly acquire a variety of “stuff” without giving adequate thought on where to store it. Before it gets any worse, take time to organize some proper storage. Construct a few simple storage racks to get items up off the floor and down from the rafters. Put the heavy items on lower shelves and anchor the entire shelving unit to a wall or the floor. Be sure to maintain full-width aisles and clear doorways to allow safe movement in and around the shelves. Keep tires and other rubber items out of direct sun and away from devices that have electrical motors, such as air compressors and blowers. Sunlight contains ultraviolet rays and electrical motors generate an almost invisible gas called ozone — both can seriously degrade rubber compounds and cause them to fail.

Secure sensitive items. Some items are especially dangerous or may be prone to theft and require special storage. For example, mis-use of fuel is a common problem, and many departments control access to the fuel storage and dispensing equipment. In some cases, a simple chain-link fence enclosure with a padlocked gate is all that’s needed. Radios and other expensive items may need to be kept in a locked cabinet. Spare apparatus batteries need to be stored off the floor and in a ventilated area away from ignition sources. Compressed-gas cylinders need to be secured with a chain in an upright position, and those with flammable gases need to have warning signs posted.

Improve the working environment. If your shop could benefit from upgraded lighting, an improved heating system or additional air line connections, this would be a good time to do it. Ditto for the construction of an interior office space to provide a clean, quiet and secure place to conduct business and keep records. Have a licensed contractor do the work if you don’t have your own skilled personnel. Be especially careful about doing your own electrical modifications or additions — causing a short circuit that burns down the shop is frowned on in most departments.

Catch up on paperwork. Winter is a good time to make reports, organize files and write proposals and outlines for work in the coming year. It’s also a good time to order and review the manuals you may need for your apparatus and equipment. With the proper manuals, you can then potentially expand your preventive maintenance program to include the regular inspections and maintenance required by the manufacturers. Doing it “the way we’ve always done it” without double-checking the proper procedure is no longer acceptable and can buy you a one-way ticket to a day in court. And while you’re catching up on your paperwork, review some of the many service training opportunities coming up next year and make arrangements to enroll one or more of your technicians for classes or seminars.

Taking time to clean your shop will give you an opportunity to look at what you’ve got and how you use it. Perhaps in the process, you’ll think of better ways to do things.

In a future issue, we’ll offer some safety tips to further improve your shop area.

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Website News

We are working on resolving the issues with our website host. Please check to see if it is back up from time to time. We will be posting information on upcoming events and training. In the future we hope to

post registration forms for our seminars. This is a work in progress, so please bear with us. If you would like to have something posted or would like to help with the website, contact Jon Coutts or John Roberts

E-Mail Addresses

We would like to compile an address list for sending information and newsletters. Please send your e-mail address to Jon Coutts. If you know the e-mail address of another member of the association, or someone who

you think would be interested in receiving it, please forward them to Jon at jdcoutts@sbcglobal.net. Thank you

EVT Bulletin Boards

EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION

<http://www.evta.info/forums/>

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE MECHANICS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.wsfma.org/indexdb.htm>

Training Opportunities

WAEVT Spring Seminar May 14-15, 2008 FVTC Fire Training Center, Neenah, WI

WAEVT Fall Seminar September 18, 2008 Fox Valley Technical College

Hale Pump Schools <http://www.haleproducts.com/Main/Content,30,10.aspx>

Pierce Factory Training <http://www.piercemfg.com/company/training.cfm>

EVT Certification Commission <http://www.evtcc.org/>

Fox Valley Tech EVTCC Classes <http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteID=365&eventDisp=EVTC>

Fire Chief Magazine In Service Maintenance Section <http://firechief.com/in-service/shopcal>

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