

The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol 19, No 1 Peace be with you Feb/Mar 2003



The Arrowsic Arrow is published bi-monthly. Submissions may be sent to **Patty Olds** (443-4764) at paolds@gwi.net; or left at the Town Hall in the Arrow box. The Arrow is also available on the Internet at www.gwi.net/arrowsic, thanks to Paul Kalkstein (443-5675) paulk@mainefolks.com and Great Works Internet

Dear Reader,

As the sun hangs in the sky a bit longer every day, so do our hopes for a calmer, more peaceful world. Maybe it's a good time to take a deep breath and say a little prayer, and to notice once again how fortunate we are to live in our town called Arrowsic.

From the Arrowsic Webmaster

Paul Kalkstein 443-5675

Many thanks to Larry Wilson, who has kept our web site helpful and up-to-date. Larry has passed the Webmastership to me as of the New Year. As the number of residents who use the Internet grows, I hope to make the town web site (<http://home.gwi.net/arrowsic>) as useful as possible. The Arrow and the town zoning ordinance are on line, and more useful material will be coming soon. Residents can communicate with the Selectmen through the site.

If you have email and would like to join the town email list, please sign up on the home page of the web site. The web site is being automated so that committees may post their minutes. If committee chairs or members would like help with this process, please email me at paulk@mainefolks.com or call me at 443-5675.

One issue that has been raised is: can we have our own domain (www.arrowsic.org). Yes, we can, but it would be an annual expense to the town. Larry worked out a great deal with GWI that gives us space almost for free. You will notice that the site is found on Google and other search engines.

Would anyone like to work on a section about the history of Arrowsic? There is interest in such a page or section, with pictures and text. It could be done in Microsoft Word or another word processing program.

Please send me any suggestions through the form on the Arrowsic home page.
Thanks for your help!

Conservation Commission News

Phine Ewing, Chair 443-9795

The Arrowsic Conservation Commission will be sponsoring a discussion of conservation options for property owners at their February meeting. Jack Witham, president of the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust, and other land trust members will be on hand for the discussion and to answer people's questions. The meeting will be on the fourth Monday, Feb. 24, at 7:00 p.m., instead of the regular third Monday Conservation Commission meeting. Everybody is welcome.

Resident

HC 33

Arrowsic, Maine 04530

From the Selectboard

Larry Wilson, Michele Gaillard, Sukey Heard

We would like to advise everyone working on Town committees that the Selectmen are asking for budget requests for next year and reports for the Town Report be submitted to the Selectmen by April 30. This may seem like early warning, but when you figure it out, for most committees, there are only one or two meetings left before the deadline... Thanks for all your efforts!

We are also looking for photos that could be used in the Town Report as well as suggestions for the Dedication of the Town Report. Many thanks!!!

A Brief Update on Squirrel Point Light

Thanks to contacts by Mike Kreindler and Fred Kahrl, Verrill Dana (a well respected Portland based law firm), has kindly offered to do some pro bono legal work for us on what else we might do with regards to the situation at Squirrel Point. A small group of us (Mike, Fred, Sukey Heard, Roger Heard, Bart Chapin, Lucy Hull, Will Neilson and myself) met last night with Chris Neagle of Verrill Dana to get them up to speed on the history and efforts to date, and do a little brainstorming on further steps we might take. I think we were all impressed with Chris and his ideas. We expect to hear back from Chris next week, after he and his colleagues have had a chance to review the file and do a little further research. Chris was both enthusiastic and optimistic.

Just wanted to let you know that although we have not heard diddysquat from the Coast Guard, there is further action afoot, and our thanks to Mike and Fred for securing this excellent resource.

Aerial Photographs of Arrowsic are available at:

US Geological Survey, EROS Data Center,
Customer Service, Sioux Falls, SD 57198
605-594-6151
edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/eros-home.html

Hope for the Future (and present)

If anyone is interested in seeing and driving a four-door, five passenger, manual transmission car that gets 50 to 65 miles per gallon, they are welcome to give either Lucy Hull or Bart Chapin a call at 443 4908. We have owned a Honda Civic gas-electric hybrid vehicle since May and find it powerful and quiet. You would never know you were driving anything but a regular Civic. The only difference is 700 to 800 miles between fill ups. The federal and state governments each give a tax break to those who buy ultra low emissions vehicles. You can drive to Portland for less gas than an SUV uses to go to Cook's Corner!

Give Peace A Chance: Three Strategies

submitted to us by three friends

1) Every Sunday from noon to 1 there is a "Bridges for Peace" demonstration on the Bath Bridge. Anyone moved to join us would be most welcome. Dress warmly, as the wind whips through there even on mild days.

2) The U.S. president has put out a request for feedback about war with Iraq. To register your opinion, here's how--it's very easy.....

President Bush's White House Opinion Line:
202-456-1111.

The line only accepts calls from 9-5 EST., Monday through Friday. A machine will detain you for only half a moment and then a pleasant live operator will thank you for saying "I oppose" or "I approve." It will only take 3 minutes, total.

Note that the weekends are closed for calls. The president has said that he wants to know what the American people are thinking. LET HIM KNOW. Time is running out. Then please forward this e-mail to as many people as possible right away. Please make a call if you have a minute. They will be tallying the numbers of those who oppose war and those who approve war. Tell them what you think... Tell them that you want PEACE. One PHONE CALL gives you a VOICE.

PLEASE PASS ON TO FRIENDS

3) Food Not Bombs - - Act Now

Here's suggestion for making a difference:

Place 1/2 c. uncooked rice in a small sealable plastic bag (a snack-sized bag or sandwich bag work fine). Squeeze out excess air and seal the bag. Wrap it in a piece of paper on which you have written:

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them." Romans 12:20

Please send this rice to the people of Iraq; do not attack them."

Place the paper and bag of rice in an envelope (either a letter-sized or a small padded mailing envelope - both are the same cost to mail) and address them to:

President George W. Bush, White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500

Attach \$1.06 in postage. (Three 37 cent stamps equal \$1.11) Drop this in the mail TODAY. It is important to act NOW so that President Bush gets the letters ASAP.

In order for this protest to be effective, there must be hundreds of thousands of such rice deliveries to the White House. We can do this if we all forward this message to our friends and family. If every one of the tens of thousands of persons who think war is NOT the answer send bags of rice..... imagine the impact. There is a positive history of this kind of activism! "In the mid 1950s, the pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation, learning of famine in the Chinese mainland, launched a "Feed Thine Enemy" campaign. Members and friends mailed thousands of little bags of rice to the White House with a tag quoting the Bible, "If thine enemy hunger, feed him."

As far as anyone knew for more than ten years, the campaign was an abject failure. The President did not acknowledge receipt of the bags publicly; certainly no rice was ever sent to China. "What nonviolent activists only learned a decade later was that the campaign played a significant, perhaps even determining role in preventing nuclear war. Twice while the campaign was on, President Eisenhower met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to consider US options in the conflict with China over two islands, Quemoy and Matsu. The generals twice recommended the use of nuclear weapons. President Eisenhower each time turned to his aide and asked how many little bags of rice had come in. When told they numbered in the tens of thousands, Eisenhower told the generals that as long as so many Americans were expressing active interest in having the US feed the Chinese, he certainly wasn't going to consider using nuclear weapons against them." From: People Power: Applying Nonviolence Theory by David H. Albert, p.43, New Society.

Pick of the Litter

taken from Coop America's *Real Money* 12/02

Cat owners can go through a normal-sized bag of litter every five to ten days. Most of this (clay) litter is non-biodegradable, and nearly four billion pounds of cat litter enter our landfills every year. This litter often contains silica dust, a chemical that can cause lung problems. Moreover, "clumping" clay litters have been found to be dangerous, even deadly to household cats because the clumping action goes on in their intestinal tracts as a result of paw-cleaning, a feline ritual.

This doesn't have to be the case. there are a wide variety of safe, environmentally (human and animal) friendly, and cost-efficient cat litters available. World's Best Cat Litter is made from milled, whole kernel corn, so it is decomposable and completely safe for animals, humans, septic and sewer systems. One bag of this litter (which is sold at Pet Quarters, Ames Supply in Wiscasset and Brooks Feed in Brunswick) will last for months, it clumps completely, is safely flushable, and completely odorless. The initial cost is more than clay litter, but in the long run you will save and our planet will save.

There are also Swheat Scoop, a wheat-based scoopable litter; Yesterday's News made from recycled newspapers; and Feline Pine made from pine pellets. These last two will not track outside the litter box.

Arts Section

ARROWSIC WRITERS READ
 AT THE ARROWSIC TOWN HALL
 ON SAT MARCH 1st
 AT 7PM.
 SIGN UP SHEET FOR READERS AT
 ARROWSIC TOWN HALL OR CALL
 NANCY BROWN ST: MP 442-7527.
 COME READ YOUR POETRY, STORY OR
 ESSAY. TIME LIMIT: 5MIN / READER

Local Man Makes Good

Al Miller has rewritten his play, MATCHING SHADOWS with Homer, and will show the "new and improved version" at The Theater Project in March. The play is based on a true story of a look-alike with Enver Hoxha, the communist dictator of Albanian, and takes place there between 1955 - 1992. A musical, with original music by Portland musician and ethnomusicologist, Barb Truex, MATCHING SHADOWS tells of Petar Shapallo's journey from village dentist to stand in for Hoxha, and then his surprising release into a changed Albania thirty years later, after Hoxha dies. According to Al, it's really the story of Shapallo and his wife, a presence throughout the play although she... but you'll have to see it to know their story. Al says he wrote the play because he loved the story and he wonders if it's really so different from us as we may think. And as a balance to go with this story, he urges Arrowsic families to show up for CHARLOTTE'S WEB in April, directed by Craig Ela.

Registrations Due

Liz Rollins, Tax Collector

AL'S PHE INC
 ALS PHE INC
 ANDERSON, AVERY H
 ATER, ROBERT C
 BLAKLOCK, WILLIAM
 BRIGGS, JANE W
 BRIGGS ADVERTISING IN
 BROOKS, DAVID M
 BRYANT, BARBARA J
 BUNTER, WILLIAM A
 CARLTON, ANN
 CARLTON, DALE
 CERRONE, WARREN E
 COLLIER, SUSAN J
 COSSART, EDWARD M
 CUNNINGHAM, PAUL
 DETWILER, BRIAN
 DRESSER, ARTHUR
 DUBE, MICHAEL D
 ELWELL, RICHARD
 ELWELL, RICHARD H
 ELWELL, ROBERT
 ELWELL, ROBERT A
 GRILL, CHRISTOPHER J
 GUNSTON, KENNETH A
 HIGGINS, RICHARD A
 HINDS, JOHN
 HINDS, JOHN
 JENKINS, J M
 JEWETT, DARLA M
 JORCENSEN, MARK
 JORGENSEN, MARK
 KAHRL, MARGUERITE B
 KENNEY-STILPHEN, VIVI
 LACHAPPELLE, OLGA F
 LEVESQUE, REBECCA A
 LOVEITT, WILBUR F
 LYDEN, DAVID J
 MOORE, GEORGE D
 MOUNT, PAMELA A
 O'DONNELL, NANAOK
 ORR, ED
 PIEH, JEROME A
 PINETTE, JAMES A

RHYTHMIC CABLE
 RHYTHMIC CABLE
 RHYTHMIC CABLE
 ROBBINS, KAREN M
 ROSS, WILLIAM L
 SAFFORD, GEORGE A
 SCOTT, BRIAN D
 SCOTT, NANCY
 SHAW, RON
 SHULTZ, ROBERT E
 SOKOL, DAMIAN
 SPENCER, JAMES A
 STAFFORD, GEORGE
 STAIB, MARYANN GAY
 STOEBE, JEFF
 STOEBE, JEFF
 STOEBE, JEFFREY A
 STOEBE, SARAH
 STONE, JOHN F
 SULLIVAN, TIMOTHY
 SWEARINGEN, RICHARD
 SWEARINGEN, RICHARD
 TEXTER, KENNETH
 WHITE, JOHN L

Town Hall
Hours:
wednesdays
3:00-5:30 pm
fridays
8:30-11:00 am
ph: 443-4609

Trash and Recycling

Jeff Mann 443-6174, Roz McLean 386-0179, Bob Kalish 443-4660

JANUARY	3 ^R		17 ^R		31 ^R
FEBRUARY			14 ^R		28 ^R
MARCH			14 ^R		28 ^R
APRIL			11 ^R		25 ^R
MAY			9 ^R		23 ^R
JUNE			6 ^R	13	20 ^R 27
JULY	??		11	18 ^R	25
AUGUST	1 ^R		8	15 ^R	22 29 ^R
SEPTEMBER			12 ^R		26 ^R
OCTOBER			10 ^R		24 ^R
NOVEMBER			7 ^R		21 ^R
DECEMBER	5 ^R			19 ^R	

^RRecycling, as well as Trash pickup

"If I had known this, I would have become a shoemaker."

—Albert Einstein, after the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, 1945

Rechargeables Vs. Alkalines

What?

Choose rechargeable batteries over single-use alkalines.

Why?

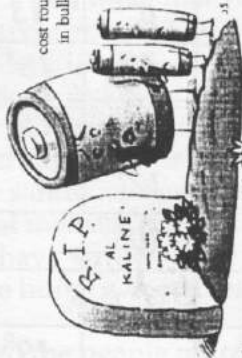
Save money while your batteries last longer. Americans use and discard more than three billion batteries (single-use and rechargeable) annually. To get an idea of just how many power cells that is, picture AA batteries laid end to end circling the Earth... six times. In addition to the strain on landfills, the ingredients in many batteries are hazardous—and can leach into our soil and water supply.

Wow! Fortunately, rechargeable batteries have come a long way in terms of technology and convenience. In use fewer batteries—and therefore minimize the burden on the environment—it's important to go rechargeable or battery-free when you can.

Battery Costs and Benefits

The benefits of using rechargeable batteries are many—you'll use fewer batteries (and, therefore, resources); you'll keep toxins out of landfills; and you'll save money, too.

Though the initial cost of rechargeable batteries and a charger can seem steep, they really are far thrifter in the long run. For example, AA rechargeable nickel-metal hydride cells (NiMHs)



cost roughly \$3.50 (less if you buy in bulk), compared to 70 cents for a typical alkaline.

Buy a dozen and throw in a good charger (prices vary—let's say \$30). With proper use, that one-time investment of \$72 means you'll rarely have to buy another battery, since most rechargeables will last for more than 400 cycles.

The authors of the *Real Goods Solar Living Sourcebook* put it this way: "Taking into account their life-span and initial expense, single-use alkalines cost around \$0.10 per hour to operate. Because of their long life, rechargeable nickel-metal hydride cells end up costing \$0.001 per hour, including the cost of the battery, the charger, and electricity needed to power the charger."

Alkalines, Nicads, & NiMHs (Oh, My!) Are there times when a single-use alkaline might be the best choice? And if you do use rechargeables, which type is the best for your needs and the planet? Following are some definitions and suggestions.

SINGLE-USE ALKALINES are the most familiar (and incessantly advertised) types of batteries. However, as their name implies, they can be used one time only—and then they're discarded. Though they no longer contain toxic mercury, as they did prior to 1992, they still contain toxic heavy metals that can pollute soil, water, and air.

However, standard alkalines have a longer shelf-life than most rechargeables; they'll last for about five years on a shelf without significant energy drain. Plus, rechargeable batteries typically contain 35 to 70 percent of the total energy a single-use alkaline can store. Therefore, standard alkalines are still the best choice for emergency equipment, such as flashlights and smoke detectors, as well as battery-powered clocks.

RECHARGEABLE ALKALINES are better than single-use alkalines because they can be used more than once. However, they are costlier than single-use and other rechargeables, in terms of financial expenses and environmental impact, since they lose capacity with every charge and can only be recharged about 50 times. They can also be temperamental about charging. Of course, they're still a big step up from single-use batteries.

Of all the rechargeable types, these alkalines

have the highest initial capacity, the longest shelf life (about five years), and are fully charged when you break them out of their packaging.

NICKEL CADMIUM RECHARGEABLES

(NICADS) can be recharged over 500 times, but their toxic cadmium makes disposal problematic. When they are no longer usable, nicads must be recycled.

Nicads have the fastest energy discharge rate of the battery types discussed here—over 60 days, nicads left sitting on a shelf or inside an appliance will lose 60 percent of their power, according to the *Real Goods Solar Living Sourcebook*.

An even better rechargeable choice is the NICKEL-METAL HYDRIDE (NiMH) battery. Like the nicad, the NiMH can be recharged hundreds of times. However, instead of toxic cadmium, NiMHs use metal hydrides, which are less harmful to the environment. NiMHs also have a lower discharge rate than nicads—over 60 days, NiMHs on a shelf will experience 15 percent energy loss. (This need not be a problem if you have spare batteries.)

Most experts, including Consumer Reports testers, state that NiMHs actually perform better than single-use alkalines in high-power drain electronic devices such as digital cameras, flash cameras, or camcorders. According to Greenbatteries.com, "Alkaline batteries have a high-rated capacity, but they can only deliver their full capacity if the power is used slowly. Electronic devices such as digital cameras place a high power drain on batteries, so it is much better to use rechargeable NiMH or nicad batteries."

Because of their long life, less-toxic innards, and solid performance, NiMHs are your best bet for non-emergency equipment.

The Art of Battery Maintenance

Even the best rechargeables will die prematurely if improperly charged. Here are tips to help you get the most from your batteries.

- Any battery's number-one enemy is heat, and overcharged batteries get hot. What has been called the "memory effect" of lost capacity in nicads is actually the result of incorrect charging. It's worth a few extra dollars to purchase a smart charger that will automatically shut off or switch to a "trickle" charge when the batteries are ready. (Even with trickle charging, don't leave batteries sitting in a charger for weeks on end.)

- Chargers can cost anywhere from \$10 for a basic model to over \$100 for the most sophisticated; a good smart charger can be purchased for about \$30. There are even chargers with car adapters for travel.

Choose to Reuse

If your old baseball mitts or hockey skates are sitting around collecting dust, you can sell or trade them to Play It Again Sports. This national chain sells used and new sporting equipment—and they'll give you cash for your quality old items. To find a location near you, call (800)476-9249, or visit www.playitagainsports.com.

If you have an old wedding gown you wouldn't mind parting with, consider donating it to Making Memories Foundation. MMF sells the gowns via a consignment program with bridal shops and uses the money to fulfill dreams or wishes for metastatic breast cancer patients. You can send your gown to Making Memories Breast Cancer Foundation, 12708 SE Stephens St., Portland, OR 97233. If able, please include a \$5 donation for cleaning and pressing. For more information, visit www.makingmemories.org, or call (503)252-3955.

We invite your reuse ideas! Send them to our editors, see your name in *Real Money*, and get a free gift subscription for a friend. See p. 5 for contact information.

Corrections

We listed an incorrect Web site for Seven Bridges Cooperative in the "Organic Beer & Wine" article from our Aug./Sept. 2002 issue. The correct URL is www.breworganic.com.

Also, we erroneously referred to New Belgium Brewing as an organic brewer. The company's beers are not organic (though their cotton clothing line is). New Belgium's brewery is powered by wind energy. We regret the errors.

—Karen Spiegel

Where Do Bad Batteries Go?

Even the most carefully maintained batteries will eventually wear out—though it may take most of your lifetime. Call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRBC) to find a recycling location near you that will accept rechargeables (see resources). In addition to nicads and NiMHs, RBRBC can help you recycle the specialized rechargeable batteries that power cell phones, laptop computers, DVDs, and even electric toothbrushes.

In addition, many battery recycling centers will also take single-use alkalines. If you can't find someone to take your old batteries, contact Battery Solutions, which will recycle them (see resources).

Of course, it's always best to start with the question "do I really need this?" before buying an electronic device. But it's hard to deny that life is enriched by photographs of loved ones or music on a morning jog. Fortunately, technology has provided us with batteries that are efficient, convenient, affordable, and better for the planet. ☺



WHO COMES WHEN YOU CALL '911'?

AN UPDATE ON THE ARROWSIC VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Lee Johnson, AVFD Community Liaison

FEBRUARY 2003

***Mostly, you don't need it.
But sometimes you do.***

The Town of Arrowsic has 7.8 wooded square miles and 253 buildings, all of which need fire protection. We also have 3 square miles of water within town limits. The 22 members of the Arrowsic Volunteer Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Ike Heffron, help to provide the emergency services we need. Most common winter calls to the Fire Department include: auto accidents, chimney fires, carbon monoxide alarms, and ice rescues. In summer, woods fires, unpermitted bonfires, and water rescues predominate. The AVFD also responds to house fires, medical emergencies and downed power lines. Since June of 2002, the AVFD has responded to 11 calls in Arrowsic, and assisted at 19 calls in Georgetown, Woolwich, West Bath, and Topsham.

"I started eleven years ago with the Georgetown Fire Department," says Chief Ike Heffron, a certified Maine State Firefighter. "I'm not in it for the glory. I enjoy assisting people and being involved with the communities. Over the years, I've seen a lot of homes destroyed with nothing left. Every time you save something or someone it's satisfying."

When you call 911, Sagadahoc County Dispatchers know which area departments and equipment to activate by radio pager. Then it's up to the Incident Commander at the scene, usually the local Fire Chief, to determine what additional resources to call in depending on his or her

assessment of need. Arrowsic is situated midway between two active and well-equipped mutual aid partners. Woolwich has 22 volunteers and 7 trucks; Georgetown 26 volunteers and 8 trucks. Woolwich, Georgetown and Arrowsic forces

work together regularly. "After you've assisted at a number of mutual aid calls, you get to know the members of the other fire departments," says Mike Kreindler. "Then the three towns really function as a single unit."



CHIMNEY FIRES call for careful roof work.

Sue Lizotte and Herb Hewlett practice skills with ladders and chains.

The Fire Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs and Fire Wardens of the Woolwich, Arrowsic and Georgetown (affectionately known as 'The WAG Team') meet monthly to coordinate activities and training. "It helps to coordinate purchasing," says Georgetown Chief Mark Tamburo. "We know what equipment we can count on from each other, and we all don't have to get everything." Joint training sessions also facilitate working together in the high stress situation of an actual emergency. "We're very fortunate to have someone like Ike as Fire Chief. Ike's an excellent trainer and an excellent leader," says John Rollins.

A primary goal of the AVFD in 2002 was to re-

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Current Issues Facing the Fire Department**
- **Common Misconceptions About the AVFD**
- **Who Are They?**
- **December and January Stories**

....sometimes you do.

(Continued from page 1)

staff and train new local members of the AVFD so that Arrowsic could pull its weight in mutual aid with neighboring towns, ensuring reciprocal support for Arrowsic. "We call on Arrowsic all the time, and they've been really good friends of ours," Woolwich Fire Chief Wayne Saunders said in January. "Every time we've called we've gotten a really good turnout of people from Arrowsic." "They're very professional and we really enjoy working with them." Georgetown Chief Tamburo adds, "I feel very comfortable that Arrowsic will show up when we call on them. They've done a lot of training, and it's been working out really well for us. I'm very happy with the people. When we've called, they've been there, and we know their faces. I'd like Arrowsic to know that we thank them."

Active AVFD members spend two Saturday mornings a month training in truck operations, handling fire hoses and pumps, fire suppression techniques, emergency procedures, incident command, traffic control and hazardous materials. Additional training in specialized skills that require individual certification, such as the use of air tanks to enter fume-filled locations, is an extra time commitment made by those who elect to participate in sessions taught by State certified instructors. It's the choice (and responsibility) of each member of the AVFD to be trained for a role within his or her comfort level, so that Chief Heffron knows in advance whom he can count on for what.

"I joined the Fire Department after the Selectmen called for local help, simply to help the small community where I live in providing a vital service even though I had no training or experience in fighting fires before that," says Roger Heard. "For me it has been an enjoyable experience working and training with people I look forward to seeing every time. Ike has done a wonderful job as Chief and has worked closely with the surrounding towns in providing protection for the area."

"It makes me feel connected to the community, and that I'm contributing something of value," says Nancy Sferra.

Saturday training sessions in January focused on ice rescues. Will Neilson, Mike Kreindler, Nancy Sferra, John Hinds and Herb Hewlett volunteered to train to use immersion suits and reach people in the water (Donna Blanchette and Ike Heffron are already experienced), with remaining AVFD members responsible for handling landlines, coordinating medical backup and fulfilling other essential roles. The second Saturday ice rescue installment, originally planned to go "live" at Sewall Pond, has been postponed until the weather warms up to somewhat safer levels for cold water training. In the meantime, January's second training session reviewed truck operations and chimney fire issues.

All volunteers carry pagers that allow them to be notified by the dispatcher when there is a request for assistance. If you are at the scene of an accident, rescue or fire and already trying to help, you are

required by law to follow the direction of firefighters arriving at the scene. Most often, they are likely to request that you stay out of the way and let them do their job. This is important to minimize confusion and prevent injury.

Current Issues Facing the Fire Department

Arrowsic's fire station has room for only the mini-pumper and the tank truck. The Town's brush truck is kept outdoors where exposure to the weather is bad for the equipment on it. Garage facilities for all the Fire Department's vehicles is a requirement for State funding. Arrowsic's Board of Selectmen has requested that the Properties Committee develop a proposal to solve this problem and present it before the 2003 Town Meeting.

Firefighting is a dirty business, and emergency response vehicles, tools, safety gear and diagnostic and communications electronics are expensive. The volunteers work to protect the Town's investment with constant maintenance. After a call the hoses, fittings, ladders and trucks must be washed, dried and re-packed and the pumper truck refilled with water to prepare for the next response. Removing fire residues, dirt, road salt and corrosive chemicals used in fire suppression is very important to extend equipment life. Since our own fire station has no water in it, the AVFD washes the equipment at other mutual aid fire stations. (In summer, water from Sewall Pond is also used.)

Common Misconceptions About the AVFD

Misconception: The AVFD wants to build a new Fire Department building.

In fact: The issue of housing the brush truck needs to be addressed, and could be handled with a simple garage structure. Other than that, the AVFD can continue to operate with its current facilities. The Properties Committee will be presenting its recommendations to the Selectmen, with the final decision left up to the town's vote to weigh the tradeoff between any facilities it proposes and its funding.

Misconception: The only way to volunteer for the fire department is to train as a firefighter.

In fact: Many other roles are available which would help support our fire protection effort and would not require your participation as a firefighter. For instance, you could help by performing equipment checks, delivering food on prolonged calls, or helping with paperwork such as the issuance of burn permits. If you are interested, even if you don't have a clear idea of what you would like to do, please contact Ike at 371-9093. (Of course, you can also volunteer to join the Fire Department! And if you have doubts about your physical abilities or other constraints, don't assume you can't, discuss those with Ike.)

Misconception: The AVFD cannot accept donations.

In fact: We don't know where this one came from, but the AVFD welcomes donations and is not prohibited from accepting them.

Who Are They?

Arrowsic Volunteer Firefighters include:

Donna Blanchette (Maine State certified), Dale Carlton, Ron Elwell, Phine Ewing, Ruth Fatscher, Greg Guckenberger, Roger Heard, Sukey Heard, Ike Heffron (Maine State certified), Tara Heffron, Herb Hewlett, John Hinds, Mike Kreindler, Sue Lizotte (Maine State certified), Jeff Mann, Will Neilson, Dick Newcomb, Phil Packard, John Rollins, Liz Rollins, Nancy Sferra and Jim Stump. Junior Firefighters: Brian Carlton and Lawrence Heffron.

Thank them when you see them. They're on call at all times and in all weathers, and they put in a lot of time keeping our equipment and their skills ready.



ICE RESCUE TRAINING includes donning cold water survival suits. Here, (left to right) Phine Ewing, Will Neilson and Nancy Sferra pose for a team shot.

December/January Stories

December 26 at 2:30 A.M. Bart Chapin and Lucy Hull of Bald Head Road were awakened by the smell of kerosene fumes. The exhaust vent on their Monitor heater had been blocked by drifting snowbanks the night of the first big storm. Luckily, they woke up and unblocked the vent before their family or pets showed any dangerous symptoms. Check your vents regularly during the winter. Plug-in carbon monoxide detectors are also commercially available and are a good idea, particularly for the middle of the night. Bart and Lucy did not call 911 in this instance, but you should feel free to do so if you suspect elevated carbon monoxide levels or other toxic leaks.

December 29, seven Arrowsic and nine Woolwich firefighters were called in for a chimney fire at Bob Kalish and Eloise Vitelli's on Newtown Road. "Chief Ike Heffron was here within six minutes of when I called 911," says Eloise. "And everybody knew their job. Mutual aid works and they worked well together." The fire was a difficult one

and required two and a half hours to extinguish because, although Bob and Eloise had had their woodstove chimney cleaned in October, it was already completely blocked by creosote. The task was complicated by the fact that only the smaller Arrowsic pumper truck could fit down Newtown Road, narrowed by recent snowfall. Reminders: In addition to having your chimney cleaned regularly, check your woodstove for burning efficiency and make sure you're using fully dried hardwood. When you use your stove, open your damper fully for a few minutes to let any built up creosote burn out. And, put your new street number outside your driveway, so the fire department can find you.

December 29 at the intersection of Spinney Mill Road and Route 127, a two car collision injured one driver. At the risk of stating the obvious, snowbanks and ice have reduced visibility and traction at many of our intersections.

December 31, the AVFD assisted at the water rescue off Reid State Park,

which was widely reported in the press. The family of Patricia Taylor requested that donations in lieu of flowers be sent to the Georgetown Fire Department.

January 10, a malfunctioning furnace at Ron and Sue Elwell's on Old Stage Road filled their house with toxic fumes. Chief Ike Heffron says annual cleanings will drastically reduce the risk of furnace malfunctions.

January 18, a chimney fire at Robert & Catherine Mitchell's on Preble Point Road was extinguished by the AVFD with Mutual Aid from the Georgetown and Woolwich Fire Depts.

January 24, the AVFD responded with Mutual Aid to West Bath by staging the Tanker for station coverage during a structure fire in their town.

January 26, an AVFD crew of nine along with the Arrowsic Tanker and Mini-pumper assisted Woolwich and other towns to work a fully involved barn fire on the George Wright Road, Woolwich into the early morning hours.



Want more?

Check out the AVFD on Arrowsic's website at <http://home.gwi.net/arrowsic/fd>.

To get involved or be a guest at training, call Ike Heffron (371-9093) or ask any AFD volunteer. Also feel free to call Lee Johnson (386-1651) with any comments (either anonymous or attributed) on the AVFD or suggestions for improvements.

PACKING UP after every use, the trucks and equipment are prepared for the next call.