



News Brief September 8, 2014 Meeting Report

Our September meeting was at the facilities of the Alfred Fire Department.

Our host was Chief David Lord, who provided an excellent history of the department and a tour of the fleet that you see below:



We had an excellent opportunity to photograph their complete fleet. In addition, we were given explanations of the fleet and it's missions, including the area incident support trailer which can only partially be seen in the photo below.



Chief Lord (SM910) gave us a history of the department, including apparatus and building progress and the work that went into the new station. Of particular interest is the way that live-in students are incorporated into the operations of the department and the training they receive before actively participating in incidents.

We thank the Chief for hosting our quarterly meeting and supporting SMFNA !

We then moved to the training room, which they build at the mezanine level of the station to review the SMFNA communications systems and discuss some operating tips that will help us all:

SMFNA Repeater Links

Ch 1 & 3 & 12 are now tied – one giant rptr

Ch 9 remains stand alone, BUT

What comes out of 9, comes out on 3 & 12

If you use Ch 9, but can hear Ch 1 you will appear as though you are linked to 3 & 12.

Ch 1 has tail beep, Ch 9 does not

Ch 11, due to FCC Rules for GMRS, can't tie to other channels

Operating Hints

ID the Channel you are using

Delay after PTT Before Speaking (one thousand)

Always call SM before announcing an incident

Stay on the channel for follow up

If possible, announce on Ch 9 as well

Quarterly meeting highlights:

SMFNA is now a Full Member of the International Fire Buffs Association

There were no new officers nominated for 2015, the existing slate was nominated

To send info for the web, we especially need pictures, use info@smfna.org

20 Year Member Steve Harding was recognized for his long service to SMFNA

We discussed the upcoming December vote to drop Ch 11

The December meeting will be in Saco, on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 19:00

It will include:

A tour of the new Station and apparatus

A talk about the Department

A vote on the future of Ch 11

Other business related to the 2015 Plan

Annual Elections

We all left feeling it was a great night and grateful to Chief Lord and the Alfred Fire-Rescue Department.