



## Tuesday February 26, 2008 General Meeting

In attendance, Rick, Richard & Jayne Baumeister, Chris Brock, Tony Davis, Roger & Karen Debenham, Ron & Karen Hentges, Dave Koerber, Dennis Hudson, Bill Martin, Doris Moritz, Bryce & Kayla Nelson, Rino Parsegian, Bill Powers and Zach Price.

Roger Debenham opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and spoke briefly about the 2008 goals for S.M.E.R.T. We want to improve our website; work more closely with Big Thompson Canyon Volunteer Fire Department; and begin to apply for a C.W.P.P. (Community Wildfire Protection Plan). Zach Price explained that a CWPP is being proactive on wildfire mitigation. Everyone was encouraged to go to <http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpp.cfm> and read about this plan themselves. It will require the input from many community members as well as the state, county and local authorities.

Roger asked Chris Brock to briefly summarize our finances and fundraising successes to date.

Chris explained we have received \$2,070 in donations for truck insurance since our request on January 26, 2008. The 2008 Women of Fire calendar project is \$1291.00 above expenses.

This brought up the subject that our current By-Laws define the Secretary/Treasurer as one person. With Chris taking on two other jobs she would like to be relieved of secretarial responsibilities. Karen Debenham volunteered to take on this position. All agreed that we can split this out to two separate individuals.

Roger reminded us of previous incidents that occurred in March of past years. Fire season may start earlier than usual this year due to 2007 being a rather wet year.

Roger announced he wants to retire as President/Acting President. He has been at this position for over 5 years. He introduced Richard Baumeister, who has agreed to take on this position. At a future meeting, we will formally hold elections for the S.M.E.R.T. board.

Richard explained he has many years of experience with fleet management. He has owned and operated his own businesses. While he is new to S.M.E.R.T. he is not new to running operations similar to ours. He intends to rely on each of us to offer assistance in our strong areas. What Richard wants to bring to our organization is Professionalism. He believes that can happen through training and procuring the proper additional equipment. Everyone that wants to participate will be provided with training.

Richard passed around a handout of a revised Mission Statement he prepared. A copy with corrections is included.

Richard said if we only did one thing – the most critical thing we do is our ETA Emergency Traffic Assistance Team. This team was organized under Bill and Shirley McKenna. Recently, they asked to step down due to health and time issues—they will still respond if needed. David and Pat Maslowski have agreed to head this team.

Richard has lofty ideals for SMERT—making our organization easier to manage and stronger. Zach Price talked to us previously about the grant money available to communities with a CWPP (see above); but Richard wants us to consider fundraising as a year round event. His goal is to provide each of us with a stat sheet of information that any potential donor would want to know about us.

Richard's son-in-law, Rino Parsegian told us of his efforts to date in acquiring corporation sponsorship. He has contacted Home Depot in Loveland, Greeley and Fort Collins; and Wal-Mart in Loveland and Fort Collins. He also has contacted a friend at Hill AFB in Utah. They are closing the base which had several fire stations. Rino was told that they will donate whatever doesn't sell at auction to us. Other types of businesses we can approach would be Bloedorn Lumber and Alpine Lumber.

Richard explained that we don't want to limit our fundraising to any one sort of business. His stat sheet will include a list of material things we need, such as shovels, pulaski's or something simple as batteries for flashlights and headlamps.

Some of the improvements he would like to see on our website are a separate page for a list of current S.M.E.R.T. needs. This list would be dynamic—adding new items as the need arises and crossing off items as we receive them. Here also would be recognition to those sponsors who provided the items.

Richard told us we now have a list of requirements for the vehicles as well as personal requirements for equipment. Rino will be preparing an inventory list to keep track of our assets.

Richard explained why we included Meth Lab Concerns on the agenda by relating a few personal experiences. Bill Powers, a special ops/tactical medic as well as full-time paramedic for PVH, went into more detail about how dangerous it can be for us to pick up unknown trash in the woods. Those individuals who cook meth typically will dump their waste in remote regions. Richard also handed out a sheet of the various chemicals that are used in the production and their toxicity. Another reason to be well-informed is our annual road clean-up could potentially expose us to this sort of waste.

Karen Debenham explained she communicated with our insurance carrier on Tuesday. The premium has gone down to \$698/year. We will insure Engine 61 effective immediately. As soon as the title is received for Engine 62 we can transfer coverage from 61 to 62. This will give us a dependable working vehicle and allow Richard to finalize the maintenance on Engine 61. At \$698 per vehicle (per year) we have enough to insure all 3 vehicles this year.

Finally after both fire trucks are operational, Richard will direct his efforts to bringing the Rescue Truck up to speed. He explained that Bill Powers spruced up the interior of this vehicle and equipped it with much of his personal equipment.

Tony Davis commented our first requirement should be to outfit all those volunteers who want to get up close and personal with fire incidents with Nomex. Rino explained his father (a career firefighter in California) donated a great deal of equipment toward this end. Zach offered that he could possibly get us 6 to 12 FSS fire back packs (for carrying your personal equipment into the field).

Both Zach Price and Bill Powers have extensive training and experience to bring to our organization. We are fortunate they work opposite schedules so at least one of them should be on the mountain all the time.

Zach asked Karen about a computer application that could dial out when we needed to contact our volunteers quickly. Karen did not know, but was certain there was something like this. On Wednesday Karen spoke with a representative of TTI Inc about their PhoneTree2000 product. We will be receiving more information on this and it will be discussed at a future meeting. The cost is \$895 to a non-profit organization.

Roger commented on the new generation of FRS radios with the longer antenna. Midland and Motorola both work better in our terrain than the older generation radios.

Meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Debenham