



# The Fire Trailer News



FALL 2008

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## *Fire Trailer News*

### **President:**

**Charlie Mangan**  
AGL Resources  
Phone: 404-584-3786

### **First Vice President:**

**Doug Byron**  
Forensic and Scientific Testing, Inc.  
Phone: 770-449-4199

### **Second Vice President:**

**Ken LeCroy**  
Cobb County Fire  
and Emergency Services  
Phone: 770-499-3867

### **Secretary:**

**Robert (Keith) Bell**  
R. K. Bell Consulting Inc.  
Phone: 706-215-2828

### **Treasurer:**

**Ed Canipelli**  
Phone: 770-925-4130

### **Newsletter Editors:**

**Ken LeCroy**  
Cobb County Fire  
and Emergency Services  
Phone: 770-499-3867

### **Blair Darst**

Barrow County Fire Department  
Phone: 770-307-2987

*The Fire Trailer News is the official publication of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and is published four times a year: Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring. Views and opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the officers or membership of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. Articles, manuscripts and photos are solicited for this publication. No payment is made for contributions. Submissions should be sent to the editor. Appearance of advertisements in the Fire Trailer News does not constitute endorsement by the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. Advertisers shall not use the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association name or image in its commercial activities in any manner.*

## President's Message

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association membership for the opportunity to serve as your President for the coming year. I look forward to working with the members of the Board, the Training and Education Committee, and the membership so that we can provide excellent training opportunities for the members of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association.



We had another successful Southeastern Arson Seminar this past August in Savannah. We had 204 attendees at the conference. The Training & Education Committee did an outstanding job as usual by providing top quality training for the attendees at the seminar. I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Training & Education Committee, Susan and Kevin Cunningham, Laurel and Dana Mason, for their hard work putting together the training programs at the Spring and Southeastern Seminars.

At this time, committees are being formed for the upcoming year. If you would like to serve on a committee, please let me know. I can be reached at 404-386-3786. I will be contacting each District VP to try to schedule attending a meeting in each district this year. This will give me an opportunity to get input from the membership for ideas and topics for future seminars.

We are still looking at options for the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Spring Seminar that will be held in March, 2009. Kevin Cunningham is negotiating with a hotel in Augusta at this time. If you have a recommendation for another location, please contact Kevin Cunningham or myself as soon as possible.

Take care and I hope to see you soon.

Charlie Mangan,  
GFIA President

## 2008 GFIA Officers and Directors

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Office</u>
President	Charlie Mangan	AGL Resources, Inc.	404-584-3786
1stVP	Doug Byron	Forensic and Scientific Testing, Inc.	770-449-4199
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Ken LeCroy	Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services	770-499-3867
Secretary	Robert (Keith) Bell	R.K. Bell Consulting, Inc.	706-215-2828
Treasurer	Ed Canipelli	Forensic and Scientific Testing, Inc.	770-449-4199
Past President	Zane Newman	Americus Fire and Emergency Services	229-924-4411
Director	Thom Burruss	AGL Resources, Inc.	404-584-3786
Director	Bill Barrett	Holland Investigations, Inc.	404-391-1497
Director	Wade Crider	Gwinnett County Fire/Arson Investigation	678-518-4892
MFIA VP	Eddie James	Spaulding County Fire Department	770-228-2129
NW VP	Bruce Satterfield	Dalton Fire Department	
NE VP	Mike Hale	Athens-Clarke County Fire Department	
EC VP	Dan Gwinn	Martinez-Columbia Co. Fire Department	
WC VP	Tom Musselwhite	Macon-Bibb County Fire Department	
SW VP	Bill Knight	Crisp County Fire Department	
SE VP	James Ashdown	Liberty County Fire Department	

## 2008 GFIA Committee Chairs

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Office</u>
Finance	Doug Byron	Forensic and Scientific Testing, Inc.	770-449-4199
By-Laws/Legal	Jim Fisher	Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, PC	404-954-5000
EP&G	Mark Dietrichs	Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP	404-888-6127
T&E	Kevin Cunningham	Cunningham Investigative Services	770-978-1251
	Susan Cunningham	Cunningham Investigative Services	770-978-1251
	Laurel Mason	Analytical Forensic Associates	770-982-0210
	Dana Mason	David H. Smith & Associates, Inc.	678-471-6494
Nominating	Dennis Ellerbee	EFI Global	770-233-0121
Editor	Ken LeCroy	Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services	770-499-3867
Membership	Jane Cox	Office of Insurance Commissioner	404-656-6879
CFI Certification	Ralph Newell	Newell Investigative Services	770-297-7138
Web Master	Dana Mason	David H. Smith & Associates, Inc.	678-471-6494
Chaplain	Bill Barrett	Holland Investigations, Inc.	404-391-1497
Parliamentarian	Teresa McAfee	State Farm Insurance Company	770-593-6548
921	Rod Sanders	Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services	770-499-3887
Photography	Jane Cox	Office of Insurance Commissioner	404-656-6879
Sergeant at Arms	James (Mike) Kennedy	Kennedy & Kennedy, Inc.	678-245-2164
Sergeant at Arms	Joe Jones	AGL Resources, Inc.	404 584-3786
Awards	Ed Canipelli	Forensic and Scientific Testing, Inc.	770-449-4199

## NEWS from CPSC

### U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2008

Release #08-367

**Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 624-4320**

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

#### Gardner Bender Recalls Electrical Wire Splices Due to Shock and Fire Hazards

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Electrical Wire Splices (also known as Butt Splice Connectors)

**Units:** About 53,000

**Distributor:** Gardner Bender, of Milwaukee, Wis.

**Hazard:** When crimped, the splice can fail to hold the wires adequately together, posing a shock and fire hazard to consumers.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Gardner Bender has received one report of a recalled butt splice failing to hold wires together. No injuries have been reported.

**Description:** The recalled butt splices are used to connect electrical wires to one another. They are typically used for wiring small electrical appliances, like audio equipment, or in automotive applications. The splices are yellow insulated vinyl and measure about one inch long and ¼ inch wide. They were intended for use with 12-10 AWG wire. 12-10 is stamped on the side of the splices. Model numbers 10-126, or 21-126, and Gardner Bender are printed on the product's packaging. They were sold in packages of 8 or 50.

**Sold at:** Electrical distributors, hardware stores, and home centers nationwide from June 2005 through April 2008 for between \$1 and \$5.

**Manufactured in:** United States

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using products that contain the recalled butt splices and contact the firm for free replacement splices.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact Gardner Bender at (800) 624-4320 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.gardnerbender.com](http://www.gardnerbender.com).



## **GFIA Board Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2008**

The following are the minutes as recorded by Secretary Ken LeCroy of the GFIA Board Meeting called by President Zane Newman on August 13, 2008 at the Georgia Fire Investigators Association Southeastern Seminar in Savannah, Georgia.

Members present: Jane Cox, Ed Canipelli, Charlie Mangan, Zane Newman, Greg Cloer, Doug Byron, Bill Knight, Kevin Cunningham, Ken LeCroy, Bill Barrett, Wes Durham, Dan Gwinn, Mark Hathaway, and Thom Burruss.

Meeting was called to order by President Newman at 2:05 pm.

Motion by Thom Burruss to accept the minutes of the previous Board Meeting as published in The Fire Trailer Newsletter. Second by Doug Byron. Voted and Approved.

**Financial Report** – Treasurer Ed Canipelli not present, report given by Charlie Mangan. Motion by Doug Byron to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, second by Bill Barrett. Voted and approved.

**Membership** – Jane Cox advised there are 19 new membership applications. Applications were reviewed separately. Ken LeCroy made a motion to accept the new membership applications. Second by Thom Burruss. Voted and approved.

**Training and Education** – Kevin Cunningham said there were approximately 210 attendees at this seminar.

Due to room cancellations, the GFIA was assessed a \$5,000 facility charge for failing to meet the contract agreement. Kevin advised the GFIA was given the choice of a \$5,000 facility charge or allowing the hotel to provide a \$5,000 meal. Kevin stated the lunch on Tuesday was the resulting decision. Future contracts can be renegotiated to negate any future penalties/facility charges. Issues with attendance prior to the start of the seminar were discussed by Kevin Cunningham, Zane Newman, Charlie Mangan and Thom Burruss.

Kevin stated the Training and Education Committee has been asked by representatives from the Insurance Industry for future training more toward privates than public safety. The committee will research possibilities.

Bill Barrett discussed past events related to the Firefighter Standards and Training Council and the issues with documentation of training for public safety employees.

Peachtree City is interested in hosting the next Spring Seminar, however local prices would make this too expensive. Augusta is also interested, the rooms will be more expensive than at the Southeastern Seminar. Based on these two options, Augusta appeared to be more likely.

The new sound equipment is working well. The mixer will need to be refurbished after this conference. There is also a problem with future storage of the GFIA trailer. Needs to be stored inside, looking for location options.

Keith Howard at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center needs Fire Scene Reconstruction books for the next Arson Level II class. State Farm has agreed to donate \$2,500 to the GFIA for this purpose. Kevin advised that he is working with Goodman Construction to provide building materials for the burn cells. The \$1,000 previously approved by the Board for the purchase of building materials will be used to provide other books for the Arson Program.

Motion by Thom Burruss to accept the Training and Education Committee Report. Second by Bill Barrett. Voted and approved.

### **District News:**

**Northwest District** – Mark Hathaway stated they meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of odd numbered months. They have 27 members.

**Northeast District** – No Report

**Metro District** – Greg Cloer said they meet on the third Wednesday of every month at Manual's Tavern in Atlanta. Newly elected officers are, Eddie James from Spaulding County as President, Jess Zerbe from Marietta Fire and Emergency Services as Vice President and Jamie Blackstone as Secretary/Treasurer. New Bylaws were approved at the Spring Seminar.

**East Central District** – Dan Gwinn advised they were having a Youth Firesetter Intervention Class on September 18-19, 2008.

**Southwest District** – Bill Knight said they meet on the first Wednesday of even numbered months and they have approximately 28 members. They are providing training for Peace Officer Standards and Training and Firefighter Standards and Training credits.

**Southeast District** – No Report.

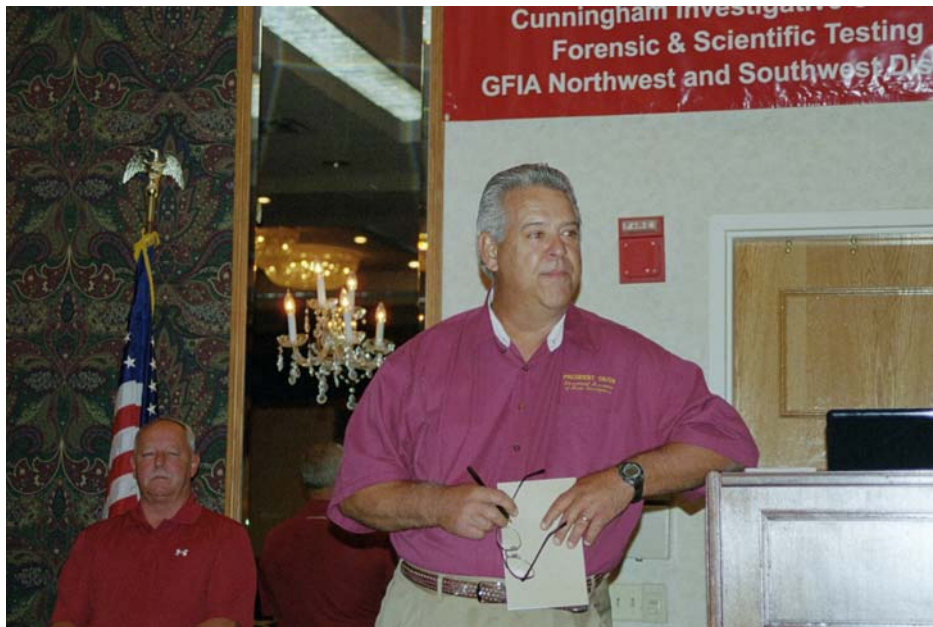
**West Central District** – Thom Burruss advised that Tom Musselwhite is trying to get the District back up and running.

**Old Business** - None to report

**New Business** – Discussion by Ken LeCroy about finding a new Editor for the newsletter. Blair Darst has stated he is willing to take over with continued assistance from the current Editor. Motion made by Doug Bryon that Blair can assist current Editor for one year before taking over. Second by Zane Newman. Voted and approved.

Being no further business Doug Bryon made a motion to adjourn. Second by Thom Burruss. Voted and approved.

## 44th Annual Southeastern Arson Seminar Photos



The Georgia Fire Investigator's Association was honored to have IAAI President Ken Finley present at the seminar.



Bob Gore Scholarship winner Jody Yarbrough (Americus Fire and Emergency Services) and KG Davis Scholarship winner Donna Dingler (Fulton County Fire Department) pictured with incoming President Charlie Mangan.

## 44th Annual Southeastern Arson Seminar Photos



Bill Barrett is presented with the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Lifetime Membership Award.



IAAI President Ken Finley performs Oath of Office to incoming Officers, (L-R) Charlie Mangan/President, Ken LeCroy/2nd Vice President, Doug Byron/1st Vice President, and Robert (Keith) Bell/Secretary. Ed Canipelli/Treasurer not present.

## **GFIA Membership Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2008**

The following are the minutes as recorded by Secretary Ken LeCroy of the membership meeting held on August 13, 2008 at the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Southeastern Seminar in Savannah, Georgia. The meeting was called to order by President Zane Newman at 4:45 pm with 79 members present.

Kevin Cunningham made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Membership Meeting as published in The Fire Trailer Newsletter. Second by Thom Burruss. Voted and approved.

**Financial Report** – Treasurer's report from Ed Canipelli (absent) was presented by Charlie Mangan. \$14,038.66 in General Fund. \$16,773.30 in Money Market Account. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Kevin Cunningham. Second by Thom Burruss. Voted and approved.

**Membership Report** – Jane Cox stated there are 424 current members and 19 new applications. There were 50 members who have not renewed and will be dropped from membership after this conference. Motion to accept Membership Report by Doug Byron. Second by Ken LeCroy. Voted and approved.

**Training and Education** – Kevin Cunningham said there were 200 attendees at this seminar. We are having a good conference, with positive comments, however the numbers are the lowest since Brunswick. The GFIA was assessed a \$5,000 facility charge for not filling the rooms stated in the contract. Hotel agreed to provide a \$5,000 in additional food. (Tuesday's lunch) Committee is looking into renegotiating future contracts. Discussion into possible reasons for low attendance. (Economy, Budget constraints, etc...) GFIA received approximately \$4,000 in donations for breaks and hospitality room. Let the committee know if you have ideas for future speakers and topics. The Insurance Industry is interested in more training for privates. Exploring the possibility of break-out sessions.

Possibilities for the Spring Seminar are Peachtree City, which is out of our price range and the Augusta Marriott. Looking into Augusta. Persons with alternate ideas can contact the Training and Education Committee. Facilities need to be large enough to accommodate approximately 115-125 attendees.

Keith Howard at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center needs Fire Scene Reconstruction books for the next Arson Level II class. State Farm has agreed to donate \$2,500 to the GFIA for this purpose. The GFIA will purchase the books and place a sticker inside acknowledging State Farm for the donation.

Donna Dingler from Fulton County Fire Department advised they are in communication with Keith Howard from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center about hosting an additional Arson Level I course in Fulton County as a satellite location. Donna is requesting current Arson Level I instructors to assist. Contact Donna at Fulton County for details.

Persons interested in teaching small classes around the State can contact Doug Byron, Kevin Cunningham or Charlie Mangan with your subject.

Motion to accept the Training and Education report by Ken LeCroy. Second by Zane Newman. Voted and approved.

**Nominating Committee:** - Chairperson Dennis Ellerbee announced that Keith Bell won the election for Secretary. Ed Canipelli for Treasurer and Ken LeCroy for Second Vice President ran unopposed. Motion made to destroy the ballots by Chuck Keene. Second by Thom Burruss. Voted and approved.

### **District News:**

**West Central District** – Tom Musselwhite advised he was attempting to start up the District again, help would be appreciated.

**East Central District** - Dan Gwinn advised they were having a Youth Firesetter Intervention Class on September 18-19, 2008.

**Northwest District** – Mark Hathaway reported they meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of odd numbered months. 27 members.

**Northeast District** – Mike Hale advised they meet on the third Tuesday of even months and have 2-4 hours of training. They have 20-25 members and meet in Hall County.

**Metro District** – Greg Cloer reported they have approximately 38 members and meet the third Wednesday of every month.

**Southwest District** – Bill Knight said they meet on the first Wednesday of even numbered months and they have 28 members. Approximately 2-4 hours of training every meeting.

**Southeast District** – No Report.

**Old Business** – None to report.

**New Business** – Charlie Mangan announced that IAAI President Ken Finley would be in tonight, please make him feel welcome.

Being no other business, Kevin Cunningham made a motion to adjourn. Second by Greg Cloer. Meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

## **NEWS: GM Recalls 944,000 Vehicles for Fire Hazard**

### **Recall involves vehicles that are equipped with windshield washer fluid heaters.**

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- August 28, 2008 -- General Motors is recalling 944,000 vehicles, 850,000 of them in the United States, because of the potential for a fire in the vehicles' heated windshield washer fluid system.

A short circuit in the circuit board that controls the system could cause a grounding wire to overheat. That could lead to smoke and the malfunctioning of other electrical components, GM (GM, Fortune 500) said in a letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In rare cases, it could cause a fire, GM said.

GM is aware of three fires caused by this problem, two of which were in the company's own test fleet vehicles, GM spokesman Tom Wilkinson said. The company is not aware of any injuries caused by the problem.

The vehicles must be turned on for the short circuit to occur, Wilkinson said, but he could not say whether the washer fluid heating system needed to be in use.

The models listed below, if they're equipped with a heated windshield washer fluid system, are subject to the recall:

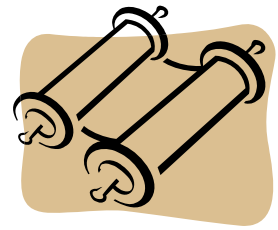
- 2006-08 model year Buick Lucerne sedans
- 2008 model year Buick Enclave SUVs.
- 2006-08 model year Cadillac DTS sedans
- 2007-08 model year Cadillac Escalade, Escalade ESV, and Escalade EXT SUVs.
- 2007-08 model year Chevrolet Avalanche, Silverado trucks, Suburban, and Tahoe SUVs.
- 2007-08 model year GMC Acadia, Yukon, Yukon XL SUVs, and Sierra trucks.
- 2008 Saturn Outlook SUVs.

The fluid heating system is a popular option on many of GM's large cars and SUVs, said Wilkinson.

On cold days, the system heats windshield washer fluid before spraying it onto the windshield, where it can melt ice and frost on the windshield.

To fix the problem, dealers will install a fuse that will shut off the system in the event of a short circuit. GM has not yet provided NHTSA with a schedule detailing when owners of affected vehicles will be notified.

## Chaplain's Corner



God's Word Is Vital

### Matthew 4:4 NKJ

**4** But He answered and said, "It is written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

When Jesus faced the devil's temptations as recorded in Matthew chapter four, His first response was to quote **Deuteronomy 8:3**.

God wants you to learn the same lesson that Jesus knew: Nothing is more important than God's Word. Without the Word, your life will be less than God intends. The Word of God is vital!

God bless,

Bill Barrett

Chaplin GFIA

### *How successful is the Georgia Arson Control Program in Fighting Arson?*

*Since its inception in 1979, GAC has approved 498 rewards totaling \$1,411,850. The average reward paid is \$2,835 (as of 05/12/08). Total property damage from arson fires that resulted in rewards since 2004 is approximately \$7,193,448.*

## Upcoming Events



The Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Spring Seminar  
Information Coming Soon!



The newest educational module on CFITrainer.net, A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development, is now available on CFITrainer.net as the featured module.

November 4-7, 2008



Investigation of Gas and Electrical Fires.

Visit [www.firefindings.com](http://www.firefindings.com) for details and enrollment information.

**THE GEORGIA FIRE  
INVESTIGATOR'S ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 382  
SNELLVILLE, GA. 30078**



**The Georgia Fire Investigator's Association  
Spring Seminar**

**Information Coming Soon!**