



The Fire Trailer News



FALL 2009

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Fire Trailer News

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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 thank the Georgia Fire Investigators Association membership for the opportunity to serve as President of the organization for the 2009-2010 year. I am excited and motivated to take on this challenge working with the board and the committees to provide the best training and education for our members.

We had another spectacular Seminar in August. The 1st Southeastern Annual Training Conference was a huge success with over 215 attendees. The Training and Education committee did another fabulous job in coordinating and implementing the training schedule with well-known speakers. I would like to thank Kevin and Susan Cunningham, Dana and Laurel Mason, Ken LeCroy, Charles Williams, Tony Nix, Jane Cox, Keith Bell, Dennis Ellerbee, David Adams and Charlie Mangan for their unselfish and dedicated service to help put on these successful seminars.

At this time, committees are being formed for the upcoming year. If you would like to serve and work on a committee please let me or one of the board members know. I currently have a list of volunteers that I will assign a committee in the near future. If you have or hear of any ideas or topics that you think would benefit the membership for upcoming seminars please let us know. The Spring Seminar will be held in McDonough, GA on date to be determined.

There will be a Georgia Fire Investigator group on Facebook for those interested. Ed Canipelli started this project to see if there was any interest in sharing information with members. This is a closed group so none of the comments or discussions are visible to non-members. It should be noted that this is NOT associated with the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, but something that Ed started to see if there was any interest in this type of discussion group here in Georgia. If you would like to be a member please go to the group and request membership. I also encourage the members to visit the International Association of Arson Investigators at www.firearson.com for other training and educational through CFITrainer.net.



Respectfully yours,

Doug Byron

GFIA Board Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2009

President Charlie Mangan called the meeting to order at 12:23pm.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Doug Byron made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the Newsletter. 2nd to accept made by Kevin Cunningham. Passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was read by Doug Byron for Treasurer Ed Canipelli. Keith Bell made a motion to accept the financial report as read (along with added documentation). 2nd by Thom Burruss. Passed.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Kevin Cunningham gave the following information for the Training & Education report.

- 220 attendees at the Southeastern Annual Training Conference.
- A request for \$6,000.00 was made by Kevin Cunningham to update audio and visual equipment for the conferences and was approved during the Board Meeting. Doug Byron is researching the type and prices on the new equipment. Items being researched are: (2) projectors, (1) amplifier, (2) support tables for the projectors, and accompanying cables and attachments.
- Suggestions were made for locations for the Spring Seminar and will follow up during the next few months. Sites discussed are Houston County, Henry County, and White County.
- A motion to accept the T&E report was made by Charlie Mangan. 2nd by Keith Bell. Passed

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chairperson Jane Cox read the current status of the membership.

- 2008 there were 447 members.
- 2009 there are currently 361 members.
- Several of the new applicants were voted on during the Board Meeting.
- Kevin Cunningham made a motion to accept the membership report. 2nd by Ken LeCroy. Passed

OLD BUSINESS

- There were no discussions on old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- There were no discussions on new business.

Charlie Mangan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Kevin Cunningham. Meeting adjourned.

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2009

Release #09-335

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 925-6278

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Wal-Mart Announces Recall Expansion of Durabrand DVD Players Due to Fire Hazard

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: Durabrand DVD Players. (The August 20 recall of the silver Durabrand DVD player has been expanded to include the pink and purple-colored versions of the same DVD player.)

Units: About 4.2 million (1.5 million were [previously announced](#))

Importer: Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Ark.

Hazard: The DVD player's circuit board can overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Wal-Mart has received 14 reports of DVD players overheating, seven of which have resulted in fires that caused property damage. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves a single DVD player with a remote control. The device was sold in three colors—silver, pink and purple and has a U-shaped opening at the top to insert the DVD. The DVD players were sold under the following:

UPC codes and model numbers:

Silver: UPC 1799901002, Model No. 1002

Pink: UPC 1799934100, Model No. 1002 PINK

Purple: UPC 1799932100, Model No. 1002 PUR



Sold exclusively at: Wal-Mart stores nationwide from January 2006 through July 2009 for about \$29.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the product and return it to the nearest Wal-Mart for a full refund.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Wal-Mart Stores at (800) 925-6278 between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.walmartstores.com

CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx>.

1st Southeastern Annual Training Conference Photos



The Georgia Arson Control Board presented Richy Ayers with the first "Jim Swindell Scholarship Award."



The Arson Control Board presented the Cobb County Fire Investigations Unit with the Fire Investigator of the Year Award.

1st Southeastern Annual Training Conference Photos



Kevin Cunningham presented the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Lifetime Membership Award to Tony Nix.



Outgoing President Charlie Mangan performed the Oath of Office to incoming Officers, Doug Byron/President, Ken LeCroy/1st Vice President, and Keith Bell/2nd Vice President. Ed Canipelli/Treasurer not present.

GFIA Membership Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2009

President Charlie Mangan called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Chuck Keene made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the newsletter. 2nd made by Thom Burruss. Passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Doug Byron. Keith Bell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read. 2nd by Jess Zerbe. Passed

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Kevin Cunningham gave the Training and Education Report. The following information was given:

- There were 220 attendees at the Southeastern Annual Training Conference.
- A request for \$6,000.00 was made by Kevin Cunningham to update audio and visual equipment for the conferences and was approved during the Board Meeting. Doug Byron is researching the type and prices on the new equipment.
- A motion was made to accept the Training and Education report by Charlie Mangan. 2nd by Thom Burruss. Passed

MEMBERSHIP

Jane Cox read the current status of the membership.

- In 2008, there were 447 members.
- In 2009, there are currently 361 members.
- Several of the new applicants were voted on during the Board Meeting.
- Kevin Cunningham made a motion to accept the membership report. 2nd by Keith Bell. Passed.

DISTRICT REPORTS

- *METRO* – Jess Zerbe reported there are 58 members currently in the Metro and continuing their meetings. Forensic and Scientific Testing (FAST) is assisting in getting a speaker for the next meeting.
- *Southeast* – Rick Perryman reported there are currently 14 members. The next meeting is going to be held on the 10th of next month.
- *Southwest* – (Absent) No Report.
- *Northeast* – Mike Hale reported there are currently 25 members. The Northeast Chapter continues to meet once a month and the next meeting is in Hall County.
- *Northwest* – Ron Kibble reported there are approximately 25 members. The Northwest continues to meet once a month.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no discussions on old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion presented by Willie Brown in reference to purchasing a lifetime membership, P.O.S.T., and if there are political groups/lobbyist that represent the GFIA at the capital.

Charlie Mangan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Thom Burruss. Meeting adjourned.

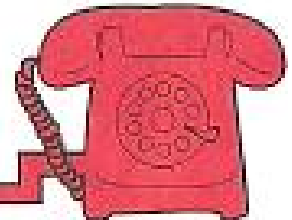
The Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Donates \$1000 to the Georgia Fire Academy



The President of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Charlie Mangan and Board Member Thom Burruss presented a \$1000 donation to Keith Howard, Division Director of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, to help rebuild the burn cells used for training in the Arson Classes taught at the



GEORGIA ARSON CONTROL, INC.



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

Since its inception in 1979, GAC has approved 510 rewards totaling \$1,459,350. The average reward paid is \$2,181 (as of 01/23/09). Total property damage from arson fires that resulted in rewards since 2004 is approximately \$7,760,448.

Arson Control Consultants

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

Information Coming Soon!