



California Fire Museum

Orange County Fire Historical Society

The Watch Desk

October 2023 Newsletter

Donate today!

Light the future
for the
California Fire Museum
and
Safety Learning Center
at the Great Park.



Call to Adventure
at the California Fire Museum



VISION

*A world without
unintentional
injuries and deaths*

MISSION

*We inform and inspire
people to live safely and
foster community resilience.*



cafiremuseum.org



Thank you.



A 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.

CFM Board of Directors

President: Christopher Karr
Vice Pres: Ray Bizal
2nd V Pres: Don Croucher
Secretary: Laura Blaul
Treasurer: Hiddo Horlings
Membership: Jeff Miklaus

Directors

Don Forsyth, Past President
Bruce Bailey
Jim Henery
Brian Germain
Laura Blaul
Randy Marsile
Phil Johnson
Ralph Wright
Marc Hawkins
Mike McDonald
Dave Hubert
Rose Argo
Michael Moore
Jeff Miklaus
Tom Connors
Don Ford
Angela Garbiso, Director of Communications

Fund Raising Committee

Chair: Dave Hubert

Museum Planner

Howard Lovering, Logic Inc.
Robert Thompson, TVA Architects

Newsletter Editor

Don Croucher, crowncoach@aol.com

To Join the California Fire Museum, go to our web site at: www.cafiremuseum.org

Then click on membership. Fill out the application and mail with your check, all can be done on our web site.

Or come to one of our meetings and sign up.

See meeting schedule on this page, top right.

CFM 2023 Meeting Dates

Note the change of our meetings to every other month, see dates below:

All meetings are held at 600 PM and are held on line phone, in a Zoom format or in person at the Local 3631 Union Board Room, 1342 Bell Ave, Suite A 3, Tustin Ca 92780

Next meeting will be : 11-13-23

Facebook Page "California Fire Museum"

As a step to unify our vision and mission, we will be closing this Facebook page at the end of this month. What does this look like for you? We will be removing each of you off the account a bit at a time. Or you could stop following us.

We realize that we need to have one name and brand across multiple types of social media.

We encourage everyone to follow the newly established Facebook page Call to Adventure at the California Fire Museum. Additionally, we have an account on Instagram found as

@calltoadventure_ and on LinkedIn as Call to Adventure at the California Fire Museum.

Illustrating that we are unified will aid us and support our fundraising efforts. Let's build the dream of the museum and make it come to life at the Great Park in Irvine!

The California Fire Museum - Safety Learning Center Facebook group will still remain.

Angela Garbiso, Director of Communications



CFM - SLC Presidents Message

Thank you for being a member and for the opportunity to provide insight for the future plans for the **Call to Adventure at the California Fire Museum.**

I was honored to be elected as president of the museum in the Spring of 2023. Thank you to my predecessor, Don Forsyth, for his many years of dedicated service. I am excited about the positive and enlightening large-scale community impact that the museum will have in the upcoming years and decades.

The time has come for us to build a permanent state-of-the-art facility at the Irvine Great Park. We will expand our mission and scope with community safety and resilience as an integral focus for our future planning. We are passionate about growing our decades-old mobile museum into a welcoming home with citizens visiting from all over the world to learn about the fire service heritage of Orange County and California. The content rich learning environment will be for every age and stage - a training ground full of adventures.

In order to accomplish the goal of designing, building an operational and self-sufficient museum and safety learning center, we need to secure funding. While we continue to operate our mobile museum, we will also be intently focused on fundraising opportunities to make our dream of a permanent, physical home a reality. We invite you all to join us on the amazing journey and heed the "Call to Adventure."

Wishing everyone safe and resilient lives,
Chris Karr, President
Call to Adventure at the California Fire Museum

Dave Hubert, Chair CFM - SLC Advisory Council Update Message

Hello – All...Well it's time (per our January 23rd planning goal) for our CFM/SLC Advisory Council is to move-on and transition from Council to the CFM/SLC management group.

As you remember, we have asked for those from our local businesses who had special talent, training and wanted to lend us a hand, to volunteer and give us some management guidance for our Fire Museum project.

Although somewhat disappointed that our effort to recruit more volunteers from our Advisory Council was lower than we expected (from our 38 folks who attended our January open house at the Great Park hangar) we have had four very capable members who have stepped up and now doing a great job as our new Museum Leadership Team...Not only do we have a Fire Museum, but also a Safety Learning Center for our community, and things are looking up.

Today, CFM/SLC has some new goals, firm leadership, and is heading in a new direction... Yes, we still have more needs, and are still looking for professionals in the corporate legal, corporate management and the "not for profit accounting areas."

So, the CFM/SLC Advisory Council as of November 1st, is now with the CFM/SLC leadership who will also provide the communications to the AD council.

As your Advisory Council chairperson and one of the founders of CFM/SLC, Barbara and I will be retiring after 22 years with this project and will continue to support our cause in every way we can!

Barbara and I are very proud of what has been done, how we did it, and results we achieved...Yet we do understand what is still to be accomplished.

I will miss the hands-on satisfaction of doing something so worthwhile in the interest of our Community and our Fire Service...I also will miss you-all and the great times we had together... THANK you for the opportunity, and stay safe...Dave, Barbara, and Dottie (DID YA CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR LATELY?)

P.S. If you should need to contact anyone at CFM/SLC, you may call and leave a message at 949-916-5019 and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

By, Bruce Bailey: **CFM Events**

The California Fire Museum, for the 9th year, has attended the San Clemente High School Homecoming Parade. CFM Hose Tender 27, along with CFM Members Krista & Matt Colvin, along with Bruce Bailey participated in the parade. The Cheer Team had a wonderful time riding and waving at all the parents, brothers, sisters and neighbors.



By Randy Marsile : **24th Annual Cruisin for a Cure**

On Saturday September 9th the California Fire Museum/ Safety Learning Center along with Crown Coach Enthusiast Club participated in the 24th Annual Cruisin for a Cure Car and Truck Show. The CFC charity raises a lot of money for cancer research and provides free testing for prostate cancer. Everyone had a great time the event leader provided us with free entrance, free catered lunch, and free goodie bags, and we made some contacts for future events were possible donors maybe attending.

Special Thanks all who attended: Don Ford, Bruce Bailey, Ralph Wright, Jim Davis, Tony Gaetano, Rod Van Sickle, Angela Marzari, Mike McDonald, Randay Marsile, Dave - Barb Hubert and Dottie,



Photos from this year's C4C 2023. CFM & CFE have been at this event for 23 years, only missing the first one due to Croucher being in the hospital with prostate cancer surgery.

City of Placentia - Government Heritage Festival Parade.



In our commitment to be a part of the communities we serve, CFM's HT27 had the honor of carrying the Ceremonial Bell in the City of Placentia - Government Heritage Festival Parade.

The El Dorado High School Football team won the annual rival game this year against the Valencia High School Tigers.

The parade also included the Eldorado High School Marching Band, Color Guard, Cheer, Song, and Girls Flag Football.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your celebration!

THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

AND

THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE SERVICES ASSOCIATION

are inviting you to the
2023 Orange County Fire Service Memorial

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023

9:30 AM

IRVINE REGIONAL PARK

1 IRVINE PARK ROAD

ORANGE • CALIFORNIA • 92869

For more information, please contact Andrea Brooks,
abrooks@orangecityfire.org or 714.288.2531.



The Annual Orange County Fire Services Memorial event take place on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 9:30 AM.

Irvine Regional Park, 1 Irvine Park Road, Orange, CA 92869

James Henery, Division Chief
 Orange County Fire Authority
 Division 6

Annual OC Fire Services Memorial Family Outreach Request

Please see the attached list of names to be read at the “Annual Orange County Fire Services Memorial” scheduled for Tuesday October 10th at the Irvine Regional Park, time 0930. I am asking if you have any family contact information for any of the members being honored that you reach out to them and let them know they are invited to the event.

2023 Orange County Fire Service Memorial			
Names of Honorees			
Department	Honorees Name	Title	Date of death
Orange County Fire Authority	Steve Markusic	Firefighter	08-13-2023
Orange County Fire Authority	Eddie Ventura	Reserve Firefighter	06-11-2023
Orange County Fire Authority	Don Blackburn	Fire Apparatus Engineer	03-30-2023
Orange County Fire Authority	Jerry Hunter	Assistant Chief	3-2-2023
Orange County Fire Authority	Doug Miller	Fire Apparatus Engineer	02-24-2023
Orange County Fire Authority	Ron Roberts	Division Chief	02-09-2023
Orange County Fire Authority	Mike Ballantyne	Fire Apparatus Engineer	02-01-2023
Orange County Fire Authority	Lornie Baldrige	Fire Captain	12-29-2022
Orange County Fire Authority	Mike Tooley	Fire Apparatus Engineer	11-16-2022
Orange County Fire Authority	Jerry Kirstine	Fire Captain	
Orange County Fire Authority	Gerald "Gerry" Casman	Fire Pilot	
San Clemente Fire Department	Ronny J. Coleman	Fire Chief	9/19/2023
Santa Ana Fire Department	Bob Small	Fire Apparatus Engineer	05-03-2023
Santa Ana Fire Department	Donald E Wright	Fire Apparatus Engineer	04/01/2020

Sacramento Police Department

Aug 25

We are aware of an unmarked fire truck that has been spotted driving in the city. We are working with the Fire Department to determine its legality on the roadway. Please report any suspicious activity regarding this fire truck to the Sacramento Police Department Dispatch. [twitter.com/SacFirePIO/sta...](https://twitter.com/SacFirePIO/status/1518111111111111111)

SacPolice **Update:**

The Sacramento Police Department has located and identified the owner of the fire truck. The fire truck is not stolen, and it is not illegal for individuals to own a decommissioned fire truck. Officers from our traffic enforcement team advised the owner on the proper license endorsements needed and the emergency vehicle equipment violations that must be corrected before a vehicle of this type can be legally operated on a roadway. We want to thank the Sacramento Fire Department and the community for their assistance.

Quote Sacramento Police Department@SacPolice

This article ran in the CFM August newsletter : See the next page for a very interesting response from CFM member Jeff Hubert.



From: hubertfamily@verizon.net, To: crowncoach@aol.com
Sent: 9/5/2023 1:06:16 PM US Mountain Standard Time
Subject: Re: CFM - SLC Aug. 2023 Newsletter

Hi Don! I hope all is well! Just a note. The photo used in the story of the privately owned fire engine being driven around in Sacramento is ex ORCO Shop #5113. It is 1 of our former 4 '83 Van Pelts that was used as E-34 then rotated to 2's as E-202. The engine was bought at auction by retired LA City Engineer Joe Ortiz and later sold to an unknown party when Joe became ill and his collection was downsized with sales help from Lou Farah. Joe had done some major updates to the Van Pelt including adding a fake chrome grill, newer light bar, Q Siren (much to Kevin O'Connell's annoyance), white stripes, chrome wheel covers, etc. All of this was done to make it look more modern and more usable in TV or movies. Attached are some photos of E202 and later at Joe's House when my wife and I were there for the auction. I spent many hours on this rig as E-202. Was this the actual rig they were looking for in Sacramento? CFM - SLC Member, Jeff Hubert

Jeff: I had no idea that the rig in the article was one of our ORCO Fire engines. But after reading your comments I know why. Being altered to look more modern really changed the look. YES, the photo is from the Sacramento paper article. The article caught my eye due to the private owned rig and that it is OK for a party to own a former fire dept rig.



Ortiz altered 1983 Van Pelt



Another shot of the Ortiz engine.



The 83 Van Pelt serving as E-202



Another shot as E-202



Another of the 83 Van Pelt serving as ORCO E-19



Another shot serving as E-19



McKenna Auto Group



**Road Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 669
Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 483**



Orange County Fire Services Association



Orange County Professional Firefighters



AK Darcy Shows and Events



Debbie Baker Cruisin for A Cure, Dr. David Risch, John Keys, Pacific Palms Amy & Ryan Schrier, Valley Center Fire Prot District, Tom O'Keefe, Deanna Hennessey, Pat Rojas, Targeen Baumgart, City of Escondido, City of Vernon, City of La Palma The Duffields, John Flavin, Kelly Speeg, Newport Bch. Firefighters Assoc., Kathy Cooper, Great Park Conservancy, George Toussaint, Fred Stoll, CDF/San Diego County Fire, Dan Coffman, Bruce Bailey,