

On Call

By:
Rick Branham



This week's edition of On Call comes to you while I am heavily involved in helping with the 132nd annual Little World's Fair. Last week I asked you how many hours it took to become a level 3 firefighter in Kentucky. The answer is 400 hours. This may not sound like a lot of hours but getting these hours will work through another job and getting the hours in the category you need is very challenging.

If you want to become a paid or career firefighter you will become 400-hour certified and beyond. Most paid departments send you through their version of a firefighter academy. An academy can last between 14 to 18 weeks but can be longer according to that particular department. Just getting to the academy is a trial in itself. The process can be

long, lasting up to a year before you are hired.

The testing process begins with an aptitude test with general questions. A score of 75% or higher must be achieved to proceed to the next step. Next a physical test is performed with various stations that must be passed. After which an interview, background check, polygraph and mental evaluation is done. If you pass all this then you are ranked according to your score. The higher the rank the better chance you have of getting accepted into the academy. However, if you rank low on the list there is a chance you will not get hired and would have to restart the process all over. Generally career departments only hold on to the applicant list for one to two years before restarting the process. Passing all of

the hiring process does not guarantee you a spot in the academy.

So you made it to the academy, now what. Training, lots and lots of training accompanied by testing. A lot of information is thrown your way in a short amount of time. At the end of the academy is the final testing process. The fire department will most likely have a final exam for their course but also you will need to pass Level 1 and Level 2 IFSAC exams.

IFSAC stands for International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and consists of both written and practical exams for both level 1 and level 2. The practical exam consists of several different skill stations. You must pass each station in order to complete the practical exam. By passing the exams you become an IFSAC certified firefighter. What does this mean? First, most career departments in the state require this IFSAC and secondly you can be a firefighter anywhere. IFSAC is recognized on a global scale and is a great achievement in the fire ser-

vice. Not only have you become a 400-hour certified firefighter but you also achieve IFSAC level 1 and level 2 standing.

Now you may ask, can a volunteer achieve IFSAC and if so how? The answer...will be revealed next week. Now that you know how to become a firefighter, I am going to fill you in on the gear that we wear and why we wear it because it's not for the look...although some firefighters may disagree.

Until next week, I hope you have had the chance or plan on attending the fair this year. Remember the proceeds go to support the Brodhead Volunteer Fire Department.

"Strange"

(Cont. from A2)

blame.

The ship has been seen in 1835, one of the earliest sightings on record. It vanished before the eyes of the seafarers just as a storm was approaching. As noted last week, King George V of England is said to have seen the ship on July 11, 1891.

In March 1939, dozens of beach-goers saw the phantom ship off the coast of South Africa and gave detailed accounts of the vessel. However, no one there had ever seen a 17th century craft. The following is a portion of reports in a local newspaper: "With uncanny volition, the shipped sailed steadily as on the Glevcairn beach, as folk stood about keenly discerning the whys and wherefores of the vessel. Just as the excitement reached its climax, however, the mystery ship vanished into thin air as strangely as it had come." The last recorded sighting was in 1942 off the coast of Capetown. The ship was said by witnesses to sail into Table Bay and then vanish.

The series about the Flying Dutchman will conclude next week.

Sources: Wikipedia and Occultopedia

"Memories"

(Cont. from A2)

how time-consuming the job really could be as I drove all over the county. After we dropped off our customers, she's slide across the big bench seat, positioning herself right by my side.

Uncle Jesse's oldest daughter, Patsy, was not only my first cousin, she was one of my closest friends. When neither of us had a date on a weekend, we usually were together. Because she was a couple of years older than I was, I could get her opinion on a lot of interesting ideas. After she left for UK, I missed her very much. One weekend, she came home and presented me my first UK sweatshirt. I loved it so much that I wore it until it was in threads. I think one of the reasons I decided to attend UK was because of her.

My times with Uncle Jesse and his grocery store were good ones indeed. I got

to work doing something that I loved (driving), and he taught me how to be a reliable worker and delivery boy. Uncle Jesse was a lot of fun to be around. He was a huge cut-up with a wonderful sense of humor. He loved to play jokes on me while I was working for him. I will always be grateful for the part of my life when I worked with him. It was quite an experience.

(You can reach me at themtnman@att.net or you can drop me a line at P.O. Box 927 - Stanton, KY 40380. I appreciate your comments and suggestions.)

"Points East"

(Cont. from A2)

So one of my cousins told us to hang old aluminum pie plates or old com-

puter cd's in the garden where they would twist around and reflect light and that would scare the black winged vermin away. And I had a big stack of old, blank, slow speed cds laying around cause I didn't know how to recycle them.

So I spent two hours with an old spool of fishing line and making big loops through the middle holes of the CDs and I hung more than a dozen of these reflectors off the stiff tassels of my sweet corn so that they would twist and turn and shoot rays of multicolored light and scare off birds.

Sunday morning looked out and the black birds had discovered that my CD's made excellent mirrors and they were sitting in the tassels, using their reflection, to see how to pick the sweet corn out of their teeth.

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Bookmobile Schedule

No service week of Aug. 12-16.

CCFFG Meeting

Concerned Citizens for Fair Government will meet Thursday, Aug. 15th on the third floor of the courthouse at 6 p.m. Please use back door.

Retired Teachers Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Rockcastle Retired Teacher's Association Wednesday, August 14th at 11 a.m. at the Renfro Valley Lodge.

Grandparent Program

The Cumberland Valley Area Agency on Aging will be taking applications for the Kentucky Grandparent Program on August 26th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rockcastle Senior Center on US 25. Interested grandparents must bring the following information: proof of all household income, social security cards for all people living in the home, birthdates and picture ID. For more information, contact Kyle Swafford or Candice Henson at 1-800-795-7654.

State Service Officer at London

A certified and trained State Service Officer will be at the London DAV building on West 80, behind Clark Truck on Aug. 14th from 9 a.m. to noon to assist all veterans and their dependents with VA claims. There is no charge for this service. For more information, 606-862-0032 or 606-877-1308. Leave message if no answer.

Brodhead Lodge Meeting

The Brodhead Masonic Lodge #556 meets every third Saturday at 7 p.m. on Main Street in Brodhead above Brodhead Pharmacy.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon.

Kiwanis Club Meetings

The Rockcastle Kiwanis Club meets every Thursday at noon at the Renfro Valley Lodge. Everyone is invited.

Historical Society Hours

The Rockcastle Historical Society is open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the RTEC garage building.

American Legion Post 71

American Legion Post 71 meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. of each month on the third floor of the courthouse. Commander David Owens invites all Rockcastle veterans to join this organization that honors American soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Summer Lunch&Learn Series

Thursday, August 29 • 12 noon
Brodhead Baptist Church

"What is Celiac Disease?"

(An explanation of a gluten-free diet and other digestive diseases.)

Brittany Perkins-Saylor, Physician Assistant

Free lunch provided.

Please call (606) 256-7880 by August 26 to register.



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