



# protect&connect

May 2023

ISSUE #3

THE NEWSLETTER FOR HAUSER LAKE RESIDENTS FROM THE HLFPD AND HLVFD  
(HAUSER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT & VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT)

With this newsletter, we hope to reach every person living within the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District\*. Please reach us with comments, questions, feedback and address updates. Extra and unwanted copies being mailed to your address? Email Joan at [admin@hauserfire.org](mailto:admin@hauserfire.org) so we can minimize costs and annoyance.

## How to Contact Hauser Fire

IN AN EMERGENCY: Call 911. Otherwise...

### Hauser Lake Fire Protection District (HLFPD)

The Fire Station is located at  
10728 N Hauser Lake Rd, Hauser, ID 83854

Phone: (208) 773-1174

Website: [hauserfire.org](http://hauserfire.org)

Emails: [chief@hauserfire.org](mailto:chief@hauserfire.org) | [admin@hauserfire.org](mailto:admin@hauserfire.org)

Social media: NextDoor and Facebook/HauserLakeFire

*\*Find your home on the fire district map! Visit our website, [hauserfire.org](http://hauserfire.org), and click "District" in the menu.*

**May 19 and 20  
Annual Yard Sale  
at the Hauser Lake  
Fire Department**  
Drop off donations 5/18  
Buy new treasures  
5/19 & 5/20

FRIDAY | SATURDAY  
**MAY 19 & 20**  
Sale at the  
Fire Station  
NEW! Bake Sale  
9am to 4pm

THURSDAY  
**MAY 18**  
Donations drop off:  
8am to 4pm  
Reusable  
items only!

**YARD SALE**

**protect&connect**

**In This Issue:**

- Yard Sale!
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- Meet the Volunteers: Gary Mobbs
- Volunteers 'On The Clock'

Our third issue has  
arrived! Please let  
us know if any changes  
are needed to your  
address.

Hauser Lake Volunteer  
Firefighters Association, Inc.  
10728 N Hauser Lake Rd  
Hauser, ID 83854



# Getting to Know the Volunteers of Hauser Lake Fire

## Five Decades in Hauser: Fire Captain Gary Mobbs

If you deeply appreciate life here in Hauser Lake, with its beauty, wildlife and strong community connections, there is someone you should meet: Gary Mobbs, HLFVD Captain and contributor to our community for over 50 years. His long history here and unique knowledge of all things Hauser Lake brings a solid level of expertise and dedication to our fire department and community. Here is a little introduction.

**How did you join the Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire Department?** I was 16 years old when my brother, John, joined the HLFVD. I would go with him to meetings and thought it was so cool to be a firefighter and part of a fire department. When I turned 18, I joined as a firefighter and I haven't looked back one time.

**Did you have any apprehension about joining?** Not at all. I truly enjoy helping people. As a first responder we often meet people for the first time and it's usually when something bad has happened, one of their worst days. It's a wonderful feeling when we can come in, give some comfort, and try to make their day a little better. If it's a fire and we can put it out, maybe save some personal things, animals or property, then we have done well.

**What ties to the Hauser Lake community do you have and how do those impact your involvement in the fire department?**

My family bought one of the farms at the north end of the lake and I grew up there. I have lived here for over 50 years. What a wonderful place to grow up, put down roots, and raise a family! My dad, brother John, and my nephew Cody also joined the department. There was a group of us who went to the Post Falls Fire Department (currently known as Kootenai County Fire and Rescue) and trained with them for our Firefighter Essentials (basic firefighting). The next few years we did lots of live fire training with the Post Falls Fire Department. The more we trained the more I fell in love with being a firefighter. Soon after, we had EMTs responding to EMS calls. I still remember our first EMS call. We did CPR all the way to the hospital. I thought my arms were going to fall off.

In 1987 tragedy hit my house—our daughter Shalena passed away from cancer. During Shalena's course of treatments we had been in seven different hospitals. Those in the fire department and family members held a pancake feed to raise money for us. That helped us out financially. The next winter came along and I thought, why don't we have breakfast and raise money for a child with cancer who lives in North Idaho? I asked the guys in the department if they thought that would be something they would support and here we are, going on our 37th Shalena's Breakfast With Santa. Our losing Shalena led to hundreds of thousands of dollars being raised to help children with cancer. I am so proud of this department. In my eyes and heart, this department in some ways stands

way taller than any department around us and it's because of the heart of our volunteers. These guys and gals give and give with nothing in return. That's why I'm still here!

**What challenges do you face as a volunteer?**

When I was working and had a young family—that's tough! Balancing family, working eight to ten hours a day, making training on Wednesday nights and some Saturdays, making calls during the day and all hours during the night. Let's not forget eating dinner and hearing the page...you

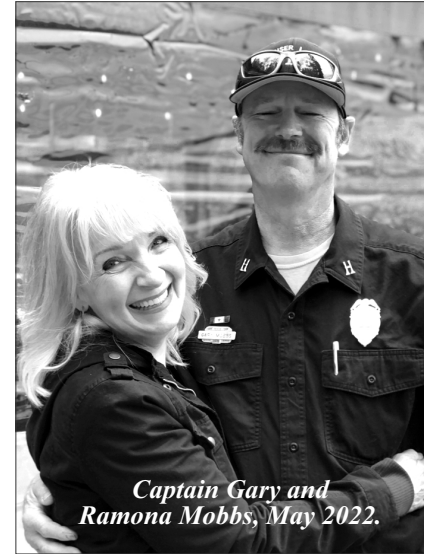
drop your dinner and leave your family. I can't count how many family functions, birthday parties, Father's and Mother's Days, and Christmases I have left my family to go help someone in need. But that's what we do!

**Does being such an active volunteer affect your personal life?**

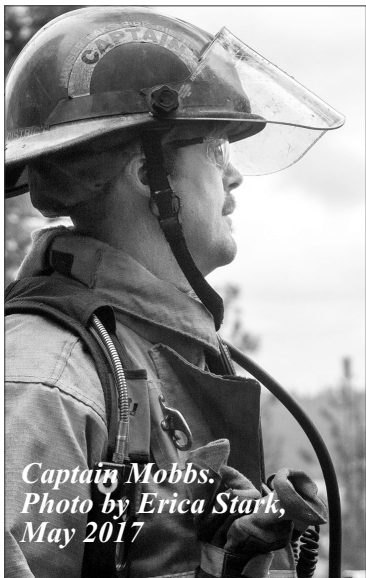
It can from time to time. It can be tough on family life. It takes a LOT of understanding and patience from your spouse when she/he has made a special dinner and the page goes out and you have to get up and leave. I could not do what I do for the Hauser Lake community if it wasn't for my wife, Ramona, being supportive.

**What keeps you motivated and active?** My colleagues in the department help keep me motivated. When I'm teaching the new recruits I see how excited they are to learn how to put out a car fire, extricate someone from a car, or rescue someone from ice cold water. Watching their excitement during live fire training—these things excite me, too.

**Of what are you most proud?** Wow, there are so many things I'm proud of! I am so proud of where this department is now. I look back on the two military trucks we had when I first started and look at what we have now. We went from a small, two-stall brick building, which someone crashed into and caved in, to the current fire station. And we have outgrown this station too! It's not just one or two people, this takes the entire team! There are a couple of us that are state instructors and we go out to different areas and teach fire/rescue training. Hauser has a great Ice Rescue team. We hold an Ice Rescue class each year and departments come from all around. It fills up quickly. Something I'm most proud of is having been accepted on the Sheriff's Department Dive Team. I was the only "Fire Guy" on the team. Last year I wrapped up 17 years on the team. Hauser Lake patrons might not truly grasp what a time commitment these Firefighter/EMTs make on a monthly/yearly basis in fire/EMS training and responses. We truly have a wonderful group of people volunteering here in Hauser Lake and we can always use more as our community continues to grow. I am so proud of these guys and gals that respond without any hesitation. Quoting Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer!"



*Captain Gary and  
Ramona Mobbs, May 2022.*



*Captain Mobbs.  
Photo by Erica Stark,  
May 2017*

# Volunteers Are 'On The Clock' For Us

The HLFPD has only two paid staff members, Fire Chief James Neils and District Secretary/Treasurer Joan Rodman. They both work very hard, admits Joan (who wrote this article) but it's good to periodically pause and ponder *the incredible amount of work done around here by volunteers*. The number of volunteers varies—as of May 2023 we have 32—but there are always many people working hard in the background and all of their work benefits us in Hauser Lake. ***How many hours do they work, you ask?*** Well, we happen to have the hours from last year, 2022.

These hours are pulled from the fire station database, created in 2021 by Chief Neils, into which everyone tries their best to enter their time, divided into several task types. We know there are unrecorded hours because it's easy to forget to enter hours spent working at home, or running errands, or studying for a class; however, the hours we do have 'on record' give a sense of the vast amount of work.

All these hours support the mission of providing fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical response, and excellent community service. These hours also reflect **MONEY SAVED** for HLFPD tax payers. By one measure, each hour of volunteer service is worth \$26.11 ([serve.idaho.gov](http://serve.idaho.gov), May 2, 2023). **Using that value, in 2022, the volunteers in our fire department saved our District \$168,853!**

However, the *true value* of having a volunteer fire and rescue department in Hauser Lake greatly exceeds this simplistic calculation. Knowing that when you call 911 for help, helpers will arrive soon—within minutes and sometimes from right down the street—to assist you or your loved ones... ***How much is that really worth?***

2022 Volunteers	Total Hours*	HOURS* SPENT ON...					
		911 Calls	Admin	Main- tenance	Meet- ings	Other	Train- ing
Andrews, Kyle	150	27		3	4	27	90
Belanger, John	57	14		2	5	15	21
Belanger, Matthew	208	24		1	21	29	134
Boyle, Andy	261	32	79	7	23	21	100
Darby, Joe	68	14		11	6	12	26
Hall, Shaya	181	15		1	16	20	128
Hron, Jeanne	114	1		4	15	56	38
Hron, Katie	358	114		15	28	21	181
Kamps, Shane	1015	179	188	132	116	127	271
Knorpp, Andrea	204	38	2	6	44	50	66
Lewis, Connie	52	2			26	22	3
Lewis, James	102	4	2	4	24	41	24
Maddalone, Andrea	47	0		2	33	9	4
Maddalone, Tom	174	35			50	27	61
Mask, Jody	227	2	3	18	29	45	131
McDevitt, Daniel	246	29	6	6	18	30	157
Michael, Wes	43	0			40	3	0
Mobbs, Gary	584	112	11	47	74	135	206
Neils, William	115	29	4	7	12	26	34
Nickolaus, Melissa	54	9			3	37	5
Renfro, Dee	56	1		6	11	29	10
Shervanick, Larry	411	121	4	47	28	117	94
Shervanick, Vickie	186	8	1	10	20	120	27
Strohte, Dave	61	20			3	24	14
Strohte, Shauna	24	0				24	0
Sullivan, Karyn	66	0		6	21	29	11
Unnamed Members	881	191	37	121	73	82	377
Former Members	525	102	3	14	40	96	270
<i>Subtotals</i>		<i>1119</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>468</i>	<i>779</i>	<i>1272</i>	<i>2482</i>
<b>Total Hours Last Year</b>	<b>6467</b>	<b>If every hour is worth \$26.11, 6467 hrs = \$168,853</b>					

\*All hours are rounded to nearest whole number.



# House Fire on Hwy 53!

**Spoiler Alert: it was totally planned.**

The Idaho Department of Transportation (DOT) donated a residential structure to our fire department in April, creating a mutually beneficial opportunity that made our community safer. Property was cleared for the DOT and our fire department got valuable, hands-on structural fire fighting experience through controlled burns along Highway 53 near Pleasant View Road. We enjoyed the practice with our mutual aid partners, Kootenai County Fire & Rescue and the Kootenai County Sheriffs Office, as they participated with us during live fire training exercises. Big thanks go to local photographer Russell Phillips for taking and sharing many dramatic photos; and to the *Coeur d'Alene Press* and reporter Devin Weeks for covering the event in a front page article on April 23.



## Firefighter Katie Hron Featured



A few days later on April 29, HLVFD volunteer Katie Hron was spotlighted in our local paper ([cdapress.com](http://cdapress.com)) as part of their "Fast Five" series!

### Check 'em out!

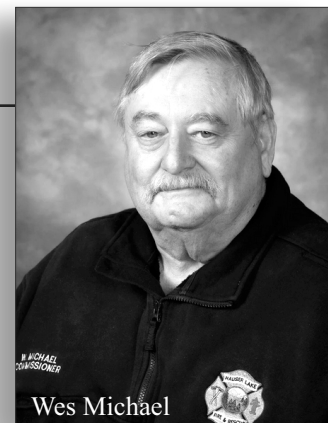
Links to the two *Coeur d'Alene Press* articles and all the training photos are online at [hauserfire.org](http://hauserfire.org). From any page of our site, click "Everything Else" in the menu.



Photo credits: #1 and #2 by Devin Weeks, courtesy *Coeur d'Alene Press*. Photo #3 Katie Hron, also courtesy *Cd'A Press*. Photo #4 courtesy Russell Phillips.

## Commissioner's Corner

*Having served continuously since 1979, HLFDPD volunteer Wes Michael was asked to share his observations of the HLFD.*



Dear Patrons,

I have been associated with the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District for over 40 years. I have held several positions including volunteer firefighter and, for the last 18 years, District Commissioner. Even years ago, the quality of people who became volunteers in service to our great Community of Hauser Lake was evident. Not thrill seekers, not people ordered into service by the court, simply ordinary people who want to give back—people who have different skills and want the personal satisfaction of contributing. In Hauser, I have noticed people still serving well past their day-job retirement. I have also noticed people who came to enjoy fire fighting and medical response so much that they

went on to become full time professional fire fighters and EMTs. I can't think of a greater compliment to the Community than that.

The District has come a long way in expanding operations to meet the needs of our Community:

1) Procuring modern equipment and training on its use so that ISO levels are kept current. (ISO is the system that rates communities for fire insurance costs to homeowners.)

2) Developing and training an Emergency Medical Response Team that is recognized for its high quality response.

3) Developing and training teams to work with businesses in the Community to promote safety and security.

4) Having and honoring Mutual Aid Agreements with other fire and medical organizations for emergency response help, in both Kootenai and Spokane Counties.

*All this with volunteers!* The level of dedication among our fire district's personnel is nothing short of **REMARKABLE**.

Sincerely,  
Wes Michael  
HLFPD (Since '79), Board of Fire Commissioners President