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The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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What's Inside...

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Vol. 4 Issue 6

NAFED Meetings Round up

NJAFED

The Air Up There - J. Demeter

Recipe of the Month

NAFED has a survey!

Meetings Update

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NAFED Regional Meetings Are Successes!

The national Association of Fire Equipment Distributors recently held the second of its three regional conferences this past weekend, and it's safe to say that the first 2 meetings were rousing successes!

The first meeting was held in Las Vegas, NV at The Flamingo Hotel, right in the middle of The Strip, and the second meeting was held at Bally's Park Place Casino and Hotel, in Atlantic City, NJ on the Boardwalk. Both meetings had the same agenda, so regional companies could easily attend the meeting closest to them.

Agenda items included seminars such as, "How to Work Effectively with Young People", "Fire Protection Contract Language and Litigation: Interfacing with the Law", and "UL-300 - Where We Are Today and Looking Forward", just to name a few. Some of the breakout sessions and seminars were eligible for continuing education credits for applicable attendees.

The next, and last, of NAFED's regional meetings series will be held in Cleveland, OH, on May 8th - 9th.

Check out below for some of our pictures from this week's past NAFED meeting in Atlantic City, NJ! See you in Cleveland!



We're such hams...Shannon & Chrissy at the cookie counter

Chrissy's Corner

Randomness from the Editor-in-Chief



Spring has sprung! My allergies haven't started to bother me yet, the trees aren't necessarily "flowering" yet...but there IS promise of a few 60+ degree days here in NJ, so I'm feeling optimistic!

In addition, the NAFED regional shows are going on, which we talk about earlier in this issue. Just last week we attended the NAFED show in Atlantic City, NJ - right in our backyard (kind of). It was GREAT being down the shore again, even though it was freezing cold and by no means, good "walk toe boardwalk" weather (sadly enough). But just driving on the Garden State parkway and seeing part of the ocean/bay/body of water stretch before me - well that's a welcome feeling when you're a Jersey girl such as myself.

I really enjoy my state, I must say. Jersey is not all about that nasty smell you get while on the Turnpike in Linden (it's the cogen plant, people). In fact, that's the only place that really is pungently smelly Jersey (I think). We have tons of great places. The Boardwalk, for one - whether you're trolling Seaside Heights, checking out the Tiki bar in Pt Pleasant, or walking the longest boardwalk ever in Wildwood, you can't deny that NJ beaches are unique. Kohr Brothers ice cream, deep fried oreos, zeppolis, cheesesteaks, HUGE slices of pizza at The Sawmill....yum. Excuse me while I wipe the drool off of my keyboard.

I can't wait until summertime. Not only because I have a great excuse to eat my way through all the

Chrissy George, Editor-in-Chief



The lovely ladies of Wesco/Comtec...Shannon, Chrissy, and Joanna



Shannon and our brand new booth!



John and friends

The Air Up There:
In Search of Balance

by John Demeter

shore town boardwalks (thank you baby to be) but because...well..there IS a baby to be due in August! I can't tell you how excited I am. i already bought her - YES, it's officially a HER!! - an itty bitty David Wright NY Mets shirt so she knows what team to root for at an early age.

There's so much to be excited about - springtime, baseball season, sun, warm weather (coming soon I hope!)...please don't lose sight of all those exciting things and keep your chin up, even in crappy, cold, cloudy weather (like we're having here in NJ today). Things - like ice cream and Rita's Italian ice! - are coming soon, along with the sweet smell of salty sea air...if you're in NJ that is!

Thanks for reading,

Boeing Biofuels Update:

Continental, Boeing, and GE Team Up for Demonstration

Boeing, Continental Airlines, and GE Aviation announced plans on March 13, 2008 to conduct a biofuels demonstration flight in 2009. The goal of this demonstration is to identify sustainable fuel solutions for future airplanes and flights. The demonstration flight will be a Boeing Next-Generation 737 equipped with CFM International CFM56-7B engines (CFM is a joint company of GE Electric and Snecma). Prior to the flight, Continental and Boeing will work with an anonymous fuel provider to create several sustainable biofuel sources that will not affect food crops, water resources, or deforestation. The biofuel will undergo extensive lab and in-field tests, making sure to adhere to strict aviation fuel performance and safety guidelines.

Continental Airlines is part of their commitment to environmental safety. In the past 10 years, they have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 35%, and nitrogen oxide emissions by 75% (from on ground activities in Houston, Continental's hub). This is another important step between Boeing and other airlines towards environmental safety in the field of biofuels.

Upcoming Events

March 2008

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

6th - 7th - [NAFED Regional Conference, Las Vegas, NV](#) 17th - St. Patrick's Day 20th - First Day of Spring 23rd - Easter Sunday

Upcoming Events

April 2008

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

3rd - 4th - [NAFED Regional Conference, Atlantic City, NJ](#) 20th - Passover

Upcoming Events

May 2008

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

5th - Cinco de Mayo

8th - 9th - NAFED
Regional Conference,
Cleveland, OH
11th - Mother's Day
26th - Memorial Day



Everyone, it seems, is looking for balance in life. A Google search of the phrase "Balance Life" turned up 18,500,000 hits, about half as much as "Sex Life", a clear indication of how important this subject is to all of us. So we weren't surprised when we learned that the Halon Technical Options Committee has taken up the problem of "Regional Imbalances" of halons in the world. In fact, we were downright giddy since this is exactly what we recommended HTOC do in a prior column. You can read that [here](#).

We'd like to help HTOC cut to the chase. Regional imbalances are caused by regional regulations. Nothing more! There is a shortage of halon 1211 in the United States and in Europe. Why? U.S. tax code places an import tax on halon 1211 of nearly \$45 per pound. We doubt that the IRS has ever collected a penny of tax for imported halon 1211 since the tax alone is almost four times higher than the current market price! In Europe, the European Commission, in their eternal wisdom, has banned the importation of halons from anywhere outside of the EU! (They want to make sure that nasty halon doesn't get into the atmosphere over Brussels!) Hence, none of the approximate 60,000 metric tons of halon 1211 residing outside of the U.S. and Europe will be sold into these markets. So it sits, in pressurized fire extinguishers, rusting, seals drying and corroding, waiting to self-vent into the atmosphere (at best) or injure or kill someone unaware of its pressurized contents. (But at least it won't happen in Europe!)

(By the way, we can understand a country not wanting to export halons, in an effort to maintain a supply for local industries and essential users, but why would a country not allow an import? If it's used, well then it served its purpose, if not – well, what difference does it make? Is it being imported just for kicks?)

The U.S. requires EPA authorization prior to the importation of any ozone depletion substance (a good thing), but bases that authorization on the importer having to provide the name of the company from which it came, a contact person at that company including his/her phone, fax and email address. (This is in addition to approval by the exporting countries environmental authority.) The purpose of this is to allow the EPA to independently verify that the halon in question was truly reclaimed and not newly manufactured –

"Exploring sustainable biofuels is a logical and exciting new step in our environmental commitment. For more than a decade, we have been focused on reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions, while providing industry-leading service to the places our customers want to go," said Mark Moran, Continental Airlines executive vice president of operations. "Boeing and GE Aviation have been frontrunners in pioneering technology that will benefit the aviation industry, customers, and the environment, and we are pleased to benefit from their expertise in this venture." For more information on the Continental/Boeing biofuels testing, please visit [Boeing's Press Release](#).

"Boeing and GE Aviation have been frontrunners in pioneering technology that will benefit the aviation industry, customers, and the environment, and we are pleased to benefit from their expertise in this venture."
- Mark Moran,
Continental

Spotlight on State Organizations: NJAFED



There was no better, concise way to say this than to use the words of NJAFED themselves - this is the description from the website of this valuable organization!

The New Jersey Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (NJAFED) is a not for profit organization that utilizes its fund raisings towards further educating and lobbying to improve the economic environment, business performance, and technical competence in the fire protection and fire safety industry. The overall mission is to assure that, through efforts in educating its members and the general public, New Jersey becomes and remains a safe place to work and raise a family.

NJAFED began in 1987, and has had a wide variety of president and board members since then, all committed to bringing knowledge to the fire protection industry and to the public.

The mission of NJAFED (New Jersey Association of Fire Equipment Distributors) is to continuously enhance fire safety in New Jersey. This is

which would be a violation of the Montreal protocol as well as the U.S. Clean Air Act. The problem is that there are no more manufacturing companies making halon 1301 or 1211 anymore. The last of the Chinese factories were shut down last summer. Another problem is that many of these halon containing cylinders were manufactured decades ago, installed decades ago and, in some cases, removed a decade ago!! What are the chances of finding that person who can attest to the installation and removal of a halon system ten years ago? In many cases the answer is slim to none.

So, the halon sits waiting, cylinders rusting, seals drying -- 50,000 metric tons of halon 1301 and 91,000 metric tons of halon 1211. Anyone still wonder why there are regional imbalances?

Trivia Time!

Congratulations to our winners of last month's trivia!

Dave Catchpole,
Chris Gerlich, BFPE

And our runner-ups, who each received a \$25 American Express gift card!

Brian Sickle, Fike
Deb Sutton, DSI

This month's trivia question is based on my favorite tv show - which will be coming back to the air with new episodes this Thursday - The Office (The U.S. version with Steve Carell)! The FIRST TWO PEOPLE to [email us](#) with the correct answer to the following question will each win a \$50 American Express gift card! Get ready...

- In the "Dundies" Episode, name 2 of the Dundie awards that are given out by Michael at the ceremony at Chili's.

Good luck!

Recipe of the Month!

In keeping with the thought of "summer and spring in the air", here is a recipe for some tasty roasted garlic burgers - perfect for the grill inside and out! YUM! Anything with burgers and garlic MUST be tasty, right? The full text of this recipe can be found [here](#). Enjoy!

accomplished by disseminating information and knowledge to the public and by improving the technical competency of its members.

Past Presidents Include:

Holly Rulon from Atlas Fire
Dewey Bratton from Kidde Sales & Services
Paul McGrath from City Fire
Larry Weissman from Northern Fire
Scott Nichols from Northern Fire
Roland Straten from Associated Fire Protection

Our Current Board Members Are:

James Newell, President, from Allied Fire & Safety Equip. Co., Inc.
Scott Nichols, Vice President, from Specialized Fire
John Demeter, Treasurer, from Wesco HMB, Inc.
Tony Tibbrine, Secretary, from AWT Fire Equip.
Diane M. Pein, from Approved Fire Protection Systems, Inc.
Rick Pollock, from A Corky Linardo Fire & Safety Equip.
Joe Racite, from Racite Fire Equip.
Al Fecci, from Jersey Coast Fire Equipment
Rich Ravaoli, from Survivor Fire & Security Systems, Inc.

Meetings are held twice a year - a smaller scale one in the winter, and a full day meeting in the summer. Major points discussed at meetings include licensing and the ever changing industry surrounding it, training, legislation issues, insurance, safety, and anything else affecting the fire protection industry.

Current membership extends not only to members from NJ, but also to members from Pennsylvania and Maryland. NJAFED's member list is over 50, and growing strong - please click [here](#) to join the growing member base of this organization - you can make a difference - NJAFED can help!

Congratulations to Larry Angle!

Congratulations are in order to Larry Angle, whose son Blake and daughter in law welcomed a brand new baby girl, Liberty Turner Angle on Saturday 4/5/08 at 5:54pm! Libby is 6 lbs, 9 oz. The new family and new grandparents are doing well and excited to have a new "princess" in Texas!

Our warmest congratulations to Larry, Blake, his wife, and new daughter and the rest of the family on this joyous occasion!

Roasted Garlic Burgers

2 pounds ground chuck
Sea salt, preferably gray sea salt, and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1/4 cup Roasted Garlic Paste, recipe follows
1 loaf good crusty bread, cut into 4 sections

Preheat the grill. In a bowl, mix the meat, salt and pepper, and the roasted garlic paste.

Form 4 burgers by using a mold, the top of a lid, or your hands. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate until you are ready to grill them.

Cook burgers over a hot fire until desired temperature is reached.

Meanwhile: Split the pieces of bread, and pull out some of the soft center to make a hole for the burger. Place the bread face down on the grill to toast.

Place the burger in the bread, and top with your favorite condiments.

Roasted Garlic Paste:
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 pound peeled garlic cloves, store bought
Gray sea salt and freshly ground pepper

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Heat an ovenproof saucepan on the stovetop. When it's hot, add the extra-virgin olive oil. Next, add the cloves and season with salt and pepper. Let the cloves begin to caramelize, then put the pan in the preheated oven.

Roast cloves in the oven for about 30 minutes or until they are nicely browned. (Starting the garlic on the stove will save at least 20 minutes of roasting time). Let cool.

When cool enough to handle easily, put the roasted garlic into a small bowl, mash with a fork and add oil from the pan until a paste forms. Store, tightly covered, in the refrigerator, for up to 1 week.

NAFED Survey

Please be sure to visit the NAFED page [here](#) to receive and fill out an important survey detailing the effectiveness of fire extinguishers. There is not much data in the industry regarding how effective extinguishers, and with your help, NAFED can compile results and use them towards vital legislation. Please participate if you can!

Save the Date!

Some upcoming important meetings to take note of in your date book:

NAFED Regional Meetings for 2008

May 8-9, 2008, Cleveland, OH

NFPA World Safety Conference & Expo 2008

June 2-5, 2008, Las Vegas, NV

Wesco will be attending all of the above meetings, so be sure to stop by and say hello!