



O V E R L O O K

T H E

February, 2016

The Story Behind the Dog Logo

... more than you ever wanted to know

By Bryce Browning



It was 1971 when the Brownings purchased our building lot in Muir Beach, and we soon hired Julian Knox to design our house. Julian (now passed away) was not only a talented architect, he was also a founding member of the new Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department, and since my little graphic studio was the only one he knew about, he contacted me on the FD's behalf to come up with a logo for their equipment, stationary, vehicles and so on.

The 'model' for the preliminary drawing was our own family dog (...a McNabb, a northern California herding breed) who we named Elvis (Old Swivelhips).

In those days everyone owned a dog. Muir Beach was as much a community of dogs as it was of people, enjoying liberties their owners could only wish for. Dogs would amass in cliques, cruising around wherever and whenever they chose. Elvis soon became one of the ring-leaders, and to our dismay, would occasionally try to instruct his followers in the art of herding the dozen or so cattle that once grazed up on the hill, or at least they did until the cows' owner took a couple of potshots at Elvis and his gang.

The preliminary mock-up of the logo was enthusiastically received by the firefighters who, I was told, thought it perfectly expressed the personality of Muir Beach (someone may have used the word 'quirky'). At that point it was formally presented to the CSD, who promptly rejected it as too controversial, too risqué, and totally off-the-subject (the word 'pornographic' may also have been used). At the studio, all progress on the job immediately stopped.

No matter... the next thing anyone knew, a stencil had been cut of the preliminary mock-up and that image was appearing on the fire truck, and everywhere else it would fit. Oops, CSD.

During the late 60's and early 70's the so-called 'Hippie culture' happened to find a landing place at Muir Beach. (Some say it never completely left.) Long before he became our Fire Chief, John-John Sward facilitated 'happenings' for rock bands of varying fame, with fund-raisers, picnics, parties and other events at the Beach. Could this be where he developed his eye for the promotional (just guessing)? Whatever the reason, it was John-John's inspiration to sell doggie-ized t-shirts at the new Firemen's Barbecue, and he arranged for samples to be run off by a fellow enthusiast. Main-stream screen-printing companies were later hired to produce the garments in predictable quantities (Crony alert: The first of these was half-owned by my daughter Gail). To everyone's wonderment they sold, then sold again the next year, then year after year, and have been meeting a pretty consistent demand ever since.

Just as John-John presumed, we had us a cult following.

When the Firemen's Association (the FD fund-raising arm) was born in 1995, one of our goals was to copyright the dog logo. Matt Brown, a San Francisco attorney then living at the Beach, generously got his law firm, pro-bono, to help register the image officially, making it the legal property of the Fire Department. And at last, this gave me the chance to re-render the preliminary mock-up in the exact form that's out there today. In the final-final version, the department kindly permitted me-- or rather my ego-- the opportunity to identify myself as the designer by slightly modifying three of the dog's feet to read 'BAB' when the image is rotated sideways. Incidentally, we did insist on paying for the legal services provided by Matt's firm-- his whole office got FD t-shirts.

Decades later, we still get occasional reports of FD t-shirt sightings at tourist haunts all over the world. I'm pretty sure that a big reason the shirts and other garments are still selling 44 years later is because of the protection provided by that Circle (R)-- it tells everyone who sees it that the image of the dog belongs only to us, and their donation goes directly to the FD's benefit.

Of course the other reason is the extraordinary efforts of Kathy Sward and many others who every year find new and more interesting things to stick it on.

February 3, 2016... with help from John-John and Kathy Sward, and Gail Falls

INSURANCE SERVICE OFFICE (ISO) RATINGS DROP FURTHER FOR MUIR BEACH

By Steve Wynn



As you all may recall, two years ago when Muir Beach's ISO rating unexpectedly jumped to a 10 causing some people's fire insurance premiums to increase an additional \$1000 plus a year, I started investigating the cause hoping to find a solution. After calling various people at the ISO office with little results, David Piel did some digging on his own and found the guy I should talk to. The key was to make MBVFD an official sub-station of Marin County Fire Department. After MCFD agreed to this declaration and after filling out various forms regarding MBVFD response times, list of equipment onboard our vehicles, firefighter training logs and certifications, I was able to make MBVFD an official sub-station of MCFD, resulting in the reduction of our ISO rating to a 4.

Recently, Marin County Fire Department pushed their ISO rating needle further by establishing definitive parameters. Because we are a sub station of MCFD, the new rules apply to us as well. **The new rules are:**

- MCFD ISO rating is a 3 if your house is within 1000 feet of a credible water supply (hydrant) and 5 road miles from a fire station (including Nicasio, Muir Beach, Skywalker).
- ISO Rating of a 3x if your house is within 5 miles of a fire station and greater than 1000 feet from a credible water supply.
- ISO rating of 10 if the property is greater than 5 miles from a fire station.

GREEN GULCH HOSTS “GOOD FIRE” SEMINAR

By Joe Rawitzer

Green Gulch Zen Center hosted a *Good Fire* Seminar on November 13, 2015 facilitated by Price Sheppy of the Golden Gate National Park Conservancy and Joe Rawitzer of the Central Coast Rx Fire Council.

The Good Fire effort is aimed at educating the community about the role and impact of natural and native burning, and the importance of watershed health. Plans are to have a class on Indian basket making with native mentors, and demonstrations of cultural burning practices.

Speakers included Abran Lopez, an Amah Mutsen tribal member, who described his work in restoring the landscape using native practices. Abran has worked with tribal crews on invasive plant removal, and a Nature Conservancy sponsored prescribed fire training exchange known as TRES, in the Klamath River watershed. Abran is being mentored by tribal elders and veteran firefighters to continue his work restoring beneficial burning to the fire adapted ecosystem.

Joe Rawitzer spoke about the fire history of California and told of research that has determined that fire returned every 1 to 7 years in the coastal landscape prior to settlement. Native people tended the land using fire to provide new growth for animals and plants utilized as food and essential materials for shelter and daily living. Green Gulch Farm will be hosting

Mike Swezy of Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) gave a crash course in fire physics, fire behavior, and the wildfire history of Marin County. MMWD is working to reduce hazardous fire fuels on the 22,000 acres under their management.

Jordan Reeser, National Park Service Fire Management Officer, detailed his work prescribed burning Park lands near Point Reyes, the good results obtained, and some of the problems encountered when smoke from a good burn went out to sea as planned, but then turned around and came back into the Bay area.

Christie Neill explained her role as Vegetation Management Program Battalion Chief with Marin County Fire, and Vice President of Firesafe Marin.

Bill Kuhn, Marin County Parks fire ecologist talked about the important role of grazing animals on the landscape. The combination of fire, where feasible, and grazing are the best forces at work to sustain balance and diversity.

A live fire demonstration was held in the afternoon supported with a fire engine and patrol from Muir Beach Fire Department, a fire engine from Central Coast Rx Fire Council, and a 4,000 gallon water tender from Golden State Fire Support.



Antonio Pares working the fire



Eric Moore and Antonio Pares



Steve Davis, Antonio Pares, Joe Rawitzer, Nikolara Jansons, Eric Moore, Steve Wynn

MUIR BEACH DISASTER COUNCIL

2015 YEAR END REPORT

By Steve Wynn

It is often difficult to keep a community motivated to be prepared for a potential disaster. You drill, have meetings and, thankfully, rarely have to put your skills into practice. But when something does happen, the only thing you have to guide you is your training. Those are the moments you end up saying to yourself, I wish I took more time to remember what to do and how to do it. For us in the fire department, we use what we learn in our drills fairly often, which helps reinforce and fine tune our skills. For residents involved in the disaster council, drills may seem mundane and time consuming, but when the time comes to put it all into practice, you will find that events start moving very fast, things get quite confusing and rarely do things go as planned. Feeling comfortable with the skills learned in drills gives you the foundation to be able to adjust the procedures you learned when needed. 2015 was a great year for MBDC, here is where we stand:

- Currently there are a total of 15 liaisons.
- At the beginning of 2015, Muir Beach Disaster Counsel, (MBDC), purchased 25 disaster radios for all Muir Beach Disaster liaisons. Radio checks were held every month and there was one community-wide drill that incorporated the MBVFD and the MCFD.
- MBDC started stockpiling disaster medical supplies and received 30 cots from the Red Cross.
- MBDC purchased CERT backpacks for all the liaisons containing PPE, flashlights and other items needed for the job.
- MBVFD, MCFD and MBDC started combining efforts with Green Gulch to include them in our emergency response plan for this part of West Marin.
- MBDC will be sending out a survey to the community to get a better understanding of how people feel about various issues in community emergency preparedness.
- Last year we conducted a community wide disaster drill involving the MBDC liaisons, MBVFD and Marin County Fire Department. The focus was on radio communication with the Muir Beach Incident Command, Muir Beach IC. This year, on **April 24, we will stage another community wide drill**. Stepping it up from last year, we will incorporate radio communication with mock injuries and EMS response. Participants will be MBDC liaisons, MBVFD, MCFD, Marin County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Green Gulch.

It has been a great year and Barbara Piotter has done a tremendous job preparing our community for a potential community-wide disaster. Over the years, she has regularly attended the West Marin Disaster Counsel meetings, interfaced with the Red Cross, re-kindled our CERT and liaison program, started collecting disaster medical supplies and has worked closely with MBVFD to coordinate and prepare Muir Beach.

This year Barbara will be stepping down from the position of Muir Beach Disaster Council Coordinator. I want to congratulate her on all that she accomplished and thank her for her service to our community. We will be looking for her replacement, so if anyone is interested please contact me at: steve@muirbeachfire.com



MBVFD 2015 YEAR END REPORT

Active Duty Volunteer Firefighters:

11 total Volunteer firefighters
2 Assistant Chiefs, Robert Allen and Chris Gove
1 Medical Director, Dr. David Taylor
Fire Chief, Steve Wynn

Training and Certifications

31 drills were held in 2015
All firefighters are current with their EMR or EMT certification.
One firefighter is currently a licensed MD.
All completed MBVFD FF1

Current Emergency Vehicles

Engine 676
Squad 660

Summary of Incident reports for 2015

Muir Beach community....17
Big beach and Overlook.... 7
Muir Woods.....25
Slide Ranch.....1
Green Gulch.....6
Roads and Hwy.....23
Trails.....7
Other.....2

Total calls: 88

Total man hours on scene: 197.95

64 of the calls were for injury/ medical reasons



Fire House Project

After receiving CSD approval for using the Overlook location for the new firehouse, the failing redwood water tank was dismantled and initial drawings were made. The plan is to get approval for the basic exterior look and design from neighbors, then start designing the interior and driveway along with the engineering plans to begin the permitting process.

Fire Engine Turnaround for Sunset Way road project

Linda Lotriet and I took on the duties of moving forward the Sunset Way road project until the newly elected CSD board members and new District Manager, Bill Hansell, were ready to take over the project on 1/27/16. We worked with engineer Glenn Dearth to come up with turnaround options for consideration of the Muir Beach CSD.

Fire Hydrants for Sunset Way Road and Water Line Project

Part of the Sunset Way road project is to install a new water line which will increase the diameter of the fire hydrant water pipe to 6 inches. For this part of the project, Muir Beach acquired 9 new fire hydrants from Marin County Fire Department. 6 were paid for by Marin County Fire Department and 3 were paid by Muir Beach CSD for a cost of \$6,151.95.

Cost per hydrant = \$2,050.65

MBCSD savings of \$12,303.90

Fire Box at the Bottom of Cove Lane

To expedite response to a structural fire at the bottom of Cove Lane, I have suggested, and the CSD board approved, the installation of a fire box that will contain 200 ft. of firehose, a nozzle and hydrant tool. Having no turnaround at the end of Cove Lane (due to the desire of the residents in the area), prohibits fire engines from driving down this road. In the event of a fire at the bottom of Cove Lane, the plan would be to run a series of hoses from an engine at the top of Cove Lane. To compensate for potential time lost for this process, installing a fire box with hoses ready to attach to the hydrant will expedite the time required to get an initial quick attack of water on the fire. It will also provide a faster response in the case that a beach bonfire goes out of control and ignites the hillside.



Hwy 1 Safety Project

After organizing a meeting in 2015 with the Marin County Board of Supervisors office, Cal Trans, California Highway Patrol, National Park Service and Marin Transit, I presented various strategies for increasing safety along Shoreline Hwy.

The suggestions discussed were:

- Creating a rumble strip along the center divide of Hwy 1 to discourage vehicles from crossing over the double yellow line.
- Adding signs indicating do not cross double yellow line.
- Placing more advisory signs at Tam Junction for oversized vehicles.
- Improving turnouts by filling potholes and eventually paving the turnouts.
- Communication with tour operators regarding better training and safer driving practices for bus drivers who drive Hwy 1 on their way to Muir Woods.
- Increasing signage to instruct oversize vehicles and other slow-moving vehicles to use turnouts.



To date, Cal Trans has fixed potholes in all the turnouts. The next step is to push for the rumble strip, hopefully before the summer when bus traffic increases.

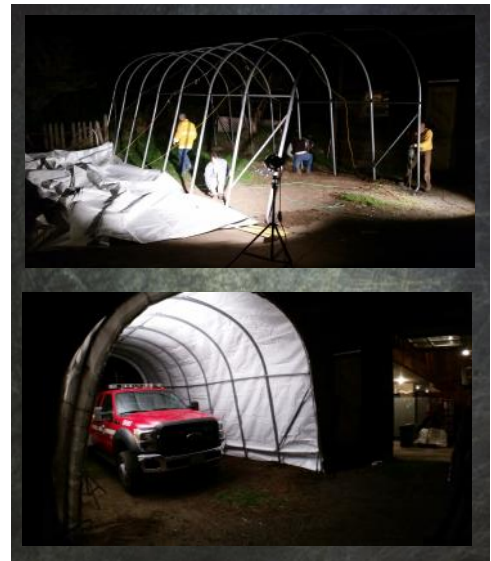
Recently, I received notice from the CHP informing me that they will be coordinating and conducting a tour bus strike force that will increase enforcement and perform bus inspections at Muir Woods.

Green Gulch joins in on emergency preparedness efforts

Headed by Joe Rawitzer, Green Gulch has been moving full steam ahead with their emergency preparedness efforts. Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Marin County Fire Department, Muir Beach Disaster Council, National Park Service and the Marin County Office of Emergency Services all met and started combining efforts with Green Gulch to include them in the emergency response plan for this part of West Marin. Discussions have started regarding installation of an emergency siren on Green Gulch property that would provide an early tsunami warning system for people on the beach, the community of Green Gulch and Muir Beach.

Temporary Shelter Approval from NPS for 660

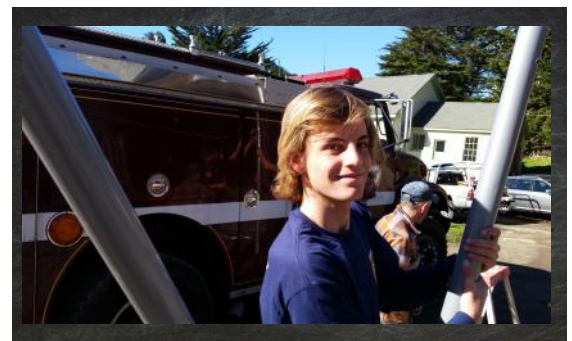
National Park Services approved the installation of a temporary garage to house Squad 660 which until now has been parked outside the barn. The structure was approved for two years or until the new firehouse is completed. Muir Beach firefighters turned out to help assemble the beast, along with a few furry sideline spectators who witnessed the spectacle.



MBVFD Junior Firefighter Program

The MBVFD Jr. Firefighter program gives our youth a chance to train side by side with our active duty firefighters. It's a program that teaches teamwork, leadership, community service and, of course, how to be firefighter.

Tennessee Hildebrand joined our Jr. firefighter program this January 2016. On his first day his young back was quickly put to work on helping with assembling the temporary garage for Squad 660...If you remember the movie karate Kid, this was our version of "wax on, wax off"

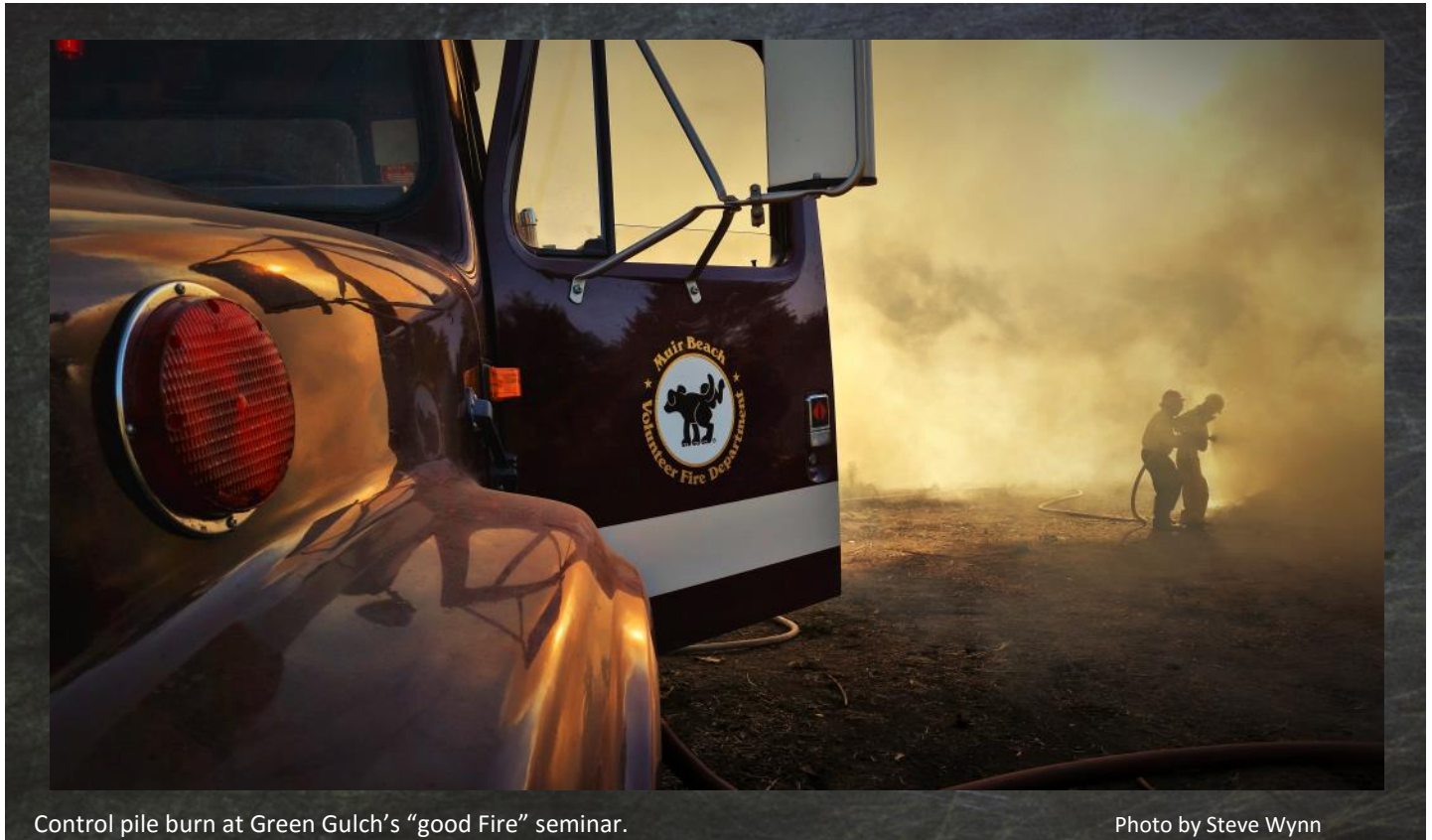


Goals for the future

- Increase volunteers to 15+
- Build the new firehouse
- Acquire water tender and chief's vehicle



Shot of the Month



Control pile burn at Green Gulch's "good Fire" seminar.

Photo by Steve Wynn

Reminders

Amazon Smile will make a donation to an organization of your choice. To have the MBVFD be your selected charity, simply type <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0330764> into your browser and shop as you usually do or you can go to our site www.muirbeachfire.com and click on the Amazon Smile link on our home page. Then, every time you make a purchase on Amazon, Amazon Smile will give 0.5% of your purchase to MBVFD!!

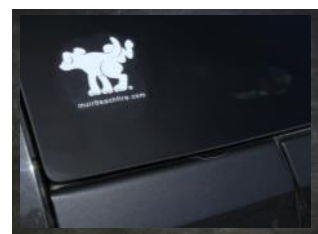


SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

PLACE A MBVFD

STICKER ON YOUR CAR WINDOW

*To get your free MBVFD sticker contact
Steve Wynn at : steve@muirbeachfire.com*



STICKER GOES ON THE OUTSIDE OF WINDOW