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Peninsula Ambulance Corps Serving the Blue Hill Peninsula and Beyond

New Ambulance Ordered

The average car is acknowledged to be good for 10 years or 100,000 miles, whichever comes first. However, an ambulance is not the average car. Ambulances—because the miles they drive are rougher than the usual work commute—age rapidly.

Some ambulance companies replace their trucks every three years, others every five. PAC, however, has a 40+ year history since its founding in 1968 of holding on to its vehicles 8-10 years, when their odometers read in excess of 100,000 miles.

That practice may seem prudent and frugal, but the cost of operating an ambulance increases dramatically as it ages. Routine maintenance for a new truck in its first nine months of life costs approximately \$2,760. A similar truck with 80,000 to 100,000 miles on its odometer will cost close to \$11,430 for the same time period. As the truck continues to age, not only do maintenance

costs rise, but unforeseen age issues occur.

PAC is not immune to these increasing costs and we have been incurring them at a greater-than-expected rate on our 2004 Ford. In order to avoid the false economy of continuing to maintain this vehicle, PAC has ordered a new ambulance from Sugarloaf Ambulance and Rescue Vehicles. The cost is \$144,000, and delivery is expected by the end of October.

This purchase, coupled with the purchase of a second replacement vehicle within the next three years, will be addressed through a capital campaign in early 2011. Though both trucks are currently safe, the price of keeping them reliable will only increase each year.

This is a serious decision, but our commitment to this community requires that we not only provide the highest quality care available, but that we do it in vehicles that are safe and reliable.

Joe Wardwell Observes 20th PAC Anniversary

In 1990, Joe Wardwell was a 17-year-old high school student. He came to PAC for a CPR course and, when asked if he'd like to learn to drive an ambulance, responded as any 17-year-old boy might—"YES!"

Shortly thereafter Joe joined the Corps as a driver, quickly progressing to EMT status and one of PAC's most diligent volunteers. Rumor had it that one day in class his pager sounded and that he left and never returned! Not quite true, but Joe knew he wanted to work in EMS and pursued that goal with focus. He graduated high school and achieved his paramedic diploma at Northeastern University in 1992. Joe's first position was for MEDCU in Portland, but soon after, he became PAC's first full-time licensed paramedic. By that time, others had their paramedic licenses and



Joe Wardwell

PAC was quickly transitioning into a full-time paid service.

In his 20 years with PAC, Joe also filled the positions of inventory manager and scheduling manager. He remained with PAC on a full-time basis until an opportunity with the Bangor Fire Department provided a perfect fit for him and his family. Joe continues to drive from Orrington for a once-a-week 24-hour shift as a part-time paramedic because, as he says, "I like it here."

Joe shares his life with wife Cecelia and their two children who like to visit their dad when he's on duty at the station.

The Peninsula Ambulance staff and board of directors extend their congratulations to Joe Wardwell on 20 years of service to PAC and the communities it serves.

Move Over Law in Maine

The “Move Over” law, passed in 2001 and adopted by all states except Hawaii, Maryland, New York, and the District of Columbia, is designed to protect emergency responders working on the roadside. “Move Over” laws were created in response to officer roadside fatalities in the line of duty.

Since 2003, motorists in Maine alone have struck 16 state police cruisers from behind, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The “Move Over” law requires motorists to enter the passing lane when going by a stopped emergency vehicle with its lights on—or to slow down by 20 MPH below the posted speed limit, if the passing lane is occupied by traffic. The law applies also to passing sheriffs’ vehicles, highway patrol cars, fire trucks, ambulances, and wreckers.

Motorists who fail to observe the law can be fined at least \$311 for the violation.

Owl For Sale

You still have a chance to be the owner of *Owl*.

In May of this year, Peninsula Ambulance Corps announced the raffle of this 18’ powerboat. The event was a great success—the boat was seen at several public showings in Blue Hill and Brooklin, and 144 tickets were sold at \$100 each. The winning ticket was drawn on July 3 in Brooklin, immediately following the town’s annual parade. The anonymous winner asked that PAC sell the boat and keep the proceeds. As a result, the boat is now available for sale.

Owl was built in 1966 by Canada Yachts. Designed by C. Raymond Hunt, she is of the highly regarded Surf Hunter family of designs by C. Raymond Hunt and Associates. Her engine is a 135-horsepower Volvo Penta, and her appraised value is \$18,000. All offers are now being entertained. Potential buyers may view the boat at Seal Cove Boatyard in Brooksville, or see the online listing at www.yachtworld.com.

Proceeds of the raffle and of the boat’s sale will go



towards PAC’s annual operating deficit. This deficit occurs because the rates at which PAC are paid do not cover our operating costs. For that reason donations from the community ensure that we can continue to provide high-quality medical transport services to residents of the Blue Hill Peninsula.

A Letter from the President

When you reach my age (somewhere north of 50!), growth, if it occurs at all, takes place in the mind. That kind of growth often occurs with stealth, leaving one unaware of its presence until highlighted by something specific. For example: I realize that my years on the PAC Board and now as its president have made me a more aware person. I also understand the meaning of community, as a result of the Board’s knitting the ambulance corps into the community fabric. And further—I understand that, in reality, the emergency services provided by PAC are really provided by the greater peninsula family—under the direction of the Board, its officers, and employees.

Why this reflection? Because of PAC’s two ambulances. One is gracefully aging, while the other is near the end

of its life. Our annual appeals keep us afloat year-to-year, but each vehicle costs close to \$150,000, and we have committed to purchase the first one in October, largely with borrowed funds. Therefore—a Capital Campaign is not only in order, but mandatory. It is never easy to ask for monetary support, but it is easier when we are of the same family. So we will soon be coming to you—our community, our family—both for assistance in running this campaign and for the monetary support needed to keep us whole.

Take it from this member of the Board—you and our community will be better and stronger for the experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Vaughan".