

## *New apparatus arrives at Stantonsburg Moyton VFD*

Chief Brandon Epps, Firefighter Tom Riddle, and our good friend, Joe Higgins, a firefighter from our neighboring fire department, Station 2, in Saratoga, NC, made the trip up to Lower Merion Township in Pennsylvania to pick up our newest member of the Stantonsburg Moyton VFD apparatus team, a 1978 Pierce/Osh Kosh 85' Snorkel. The guys left on Friday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, hoping to keep their early departure a secret as to surprise members on Saturday with the new arrival. Needless to say, Saturday turned into Sunday morning. Well, they should know you can't keep secrets in a volunteer department!

They got up early on Saturday and went to the Gladwyne Fire Company to do a bit of training on the rig, then start on the long, and as it turned out, a real long trip back home. The crew pulled out from the Gladwyne Fire Company with some fan-fair, you might even call it a small parade, and a police escort out of town. What a great bunch of folks from that township and fire company!

Well, the return trip started about 1:00pm on Saturday and ended about 10:30a.m. on Sunday morning. Wow! What took so long as it only took them 6 hours to get there (should have been four, but they got tied up in some road construction on 95). Well, let's just say a 54,000 pound truck just does not go that fast, so they had to putt-putt along at a whopping speed of 50 – 55 mph – wide open! The truck is made to fight fire, not set land speed records.

As their trip progressed, they happened upon a very tragic event which delayed their trip for some time. As they were traveling south on 95, a vehicle traveling in their direction lost control as it passed them, hit a guard rail, careened off the road and collided with a concrete bridge piling. The driver was killed; however, a 17 year old female was not injured. Our folks were first on the scene and did what they could for those involved. Just goes to show you that no matter where you are, volunteering is in your blood and you help anyone at any time. Way to go guys! Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of the driver. After clearing the scene, our guys were back on the road, heading to good ol' Stantonsburg, NC.

As the trio made their way through Fredericksburg, Virginia, one of the back tires decided it did not want to hold any more air and just let loose. Of course, this was right in the middle of no where close to 'can't get there from here.' They began making phone calls and Chief O'Briant from Station 2 came to their aid. He began making some calls and searching the Internet to get them some help. Oh, this was around 11:00p.m. on Saturday night. Help arrived, the tire was fixed, and the guys were back on the road putt-putting along at a snails pace. Thanks to Chief O'Briant for all his help.

After having to make several stops to re-energize, the guys soon made it to Wilson County. Asst. Chief Stan Talton and Chief O'Briant met the truck at the 264/I95 interchange. We all met at Barton College to shake hands and breathe a big sigh of relief. After a good look at the truck, the tired, yet dedicated trio, headed out for the 15 mile ride to the truck's new home, Stantonsburg Moyton VFD. If you're in the neighborhood, come on by and give it a good look. The truck is not new, but it will serve our community well and be a major asset in our continued efforts to preserve life and property!!! Thanks to the Gladwyne Fire Company for all their help in obtaining this truck. To learn more about Gladwyne Fire Company, check them out on the web, [www.gladwynefirecompany.org](http://www.gladwynefirecompany.org).