BLAZING TRAILS

Sponsored by the Smoke Rise Homeowner's Association
Post Office Box 471
Warrior, Alabama 35180

JANUARY 2019 ISSUE fb: Smoke Rise Residents and HOA
email: smokerise@smokerisehoa.org webpage: smokerisehoa.org

GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, January 31, 7:00 PM
Smoke Rise United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall
corner of Scenic Trail and Grandview Trail
Everyone is welcome!

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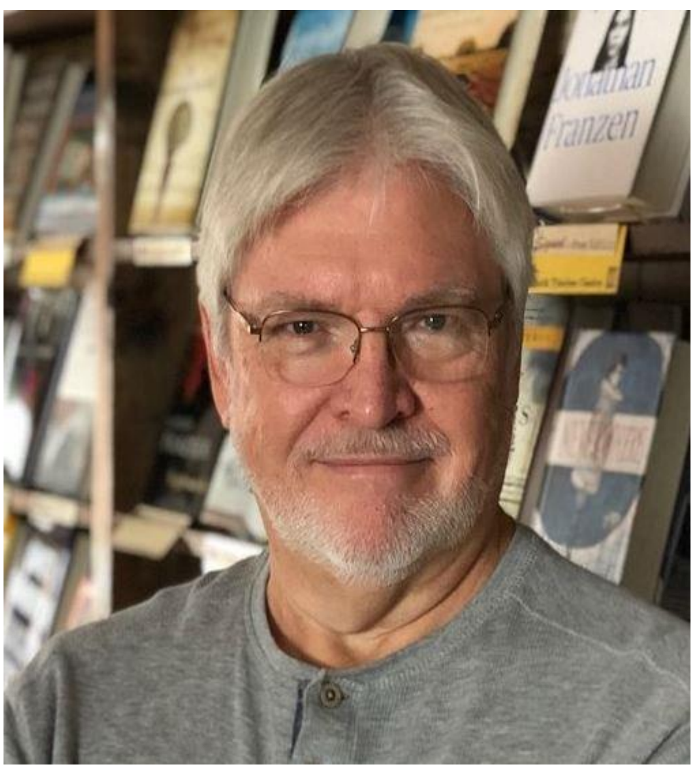
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND
OPEN TO ALL SMOKE RISE RESIDENTS

Award-winning and best-selling author, broadcast journalist, "Radio Personality of the Year," screen writer **Don Keith** will be our guest speaker Thursday, January 31. **Don** frequently conducts seminars and writing workshops around the country and is an in-demand public speaker. He also has written several scripts and has other projects in various stages of pre-production for movies and television. He has written biographies, fiction and nonfiction books on World War II ships and little known battles, submarine battles, amateur and broadcast radio, Alabama football and much more. Don has written extensively about World War II history. He sponsors the **UNTOLD MILLIONS** Project, an effort to encourage the capture and publication of eyewitness accounts of major historical events such as the Great Depression, World War II and other wars, the space program, the Civil Rights struggle, and more. The project web site is www.untoldmillions.net. His author web site is www.donkeith.com.

He will also give some behind the scenes information about his most recent movie based on his book **"Firing Point "**, **"Hunter Killer,"** which is in theaters now. He will have several of his books with him and be available for autographing. Come and hear the fascinating adventures of this prolific writer!



Don Keith was born in 1947 and has lived in the South all his life. He received his degree in broadcast and film communication with a minor in English and literature from Alabama. As a broadcast journalist, he won awards from the AP and UPI for news writing and reporting, and the first winner of Troy's Hector Award for innovation in broadcast journalism. He was a broadcast personality for over 20 years in Birmingham and Nashville, and won *Billboard Magazine* "Radio Personality of the Year" in 2 formats, country & contemporary. He owned his own consultancy, co-owned a Mobile radio station (WZEW-FM), and hosted and produced several nationally syndicated radio shows.

His writing has appeared in *The Washington Post, CQ Magazine, The American Legion Magazine, The K9YA Telegraph,* and *The Irish Times.* He has spoken to scores of groups and participated in hundreds of events around the country. He regularly conducts seminars and writing workshops.

His first novel drawing heavily on Keith's own athletic and academic experiences, published in 1995, **The Forever Season**, won "Fiction of the Year" in 1997 from the Alabama Library Assoc. Others that followed were **Wizard of the Wind**, based on his years in broadcasting; **Final Bearing**, co-written with former nuclear submarine commander George Wallace, a sequel followed, **Firing Point,** which became a major motion picture titled **Hunter Killer**, starring Gerard Butler and Gary Oldman; and **Dangerous Grounds**, another submarine thriller.

His work involving military history began with **Gallant Lady**, the true story of a remarkable WW II submarine, the *USS Archerfish*, and was written with significant help of former *Archerfish*

crewmember Ken Henry. This was followed by **In The Course of Duty**, the story of an amazing WWII submarine, the *USS Batfish*, her heroic efforts in the Pacific and story of how she came to rest high and dry in a former bean field in Muskogee, Oklahoma–the middle of the Dust Bowl and the Cherokee Nation. Then came **Final Patrol,** personal, behind-the-scenes stories of each of the 17 WWII submarines that are open to the public around the country as museum ships. Each of these books were offered as featured selections of "The Military Book Club." Next was **The Ice Diaries**, the untold story of America's first nuclear submarine, *USS Nautilus*, and her historic Cold War trip to the North Pole in 1958. The book was co-written with Capt. William R. Anderson, the skipper of *Nautilus* on that top-secret voyage. **War Beneath the Waves** was another true story of a series of events aboard the WWII submarine *USS Billfish,* how a young officer took charge of a submarine during a vicious depth-charge attack and, with the help of a couple of Chief Petty Officers and brave crewmembers, saved the boat. **Undersea Warrior** is about the life and exploits of Commander Dudley "Mush" Morton, WWII's first submarine "ace" and one of its most inspiring and controversial personalities. **The Ship That Wouldn't Die** tells the amazing, true story of a ship mistakenly attacked by the Japanese at the Battle of the Coral Sea and how her crew managed survival 4 days adrift at sea. And, **The Indestructible Man**, the inspiring story of WWII hero Captain Dixie Kiefer who led his men through the Coral Sea, Midway, and a brutal kamikaze attack in the China Sea.

His biographies include **The Bear: The Life and Times of Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant**, a unique series of vignettes about the legendary college Alabama football coach; **We Be Big**, a collaboration with radio personalities Rick Burgess and Bill "Bubba" Bussey; **Mattie C.'s Boy** tells the story of Shelley Stewart, who grew up challenged by poverty, family cruelty, brutal racism and more to become one of the country's top radio broadcasting personalities, a successful businessman, and one of the key players in the human rights movement in Birmingham, AL in the '60s; and **Dream On**, the true story of Steve Skipper, who was a brutal enforcer for the Crips gang but overcame that life to become one of our most honored artists.

Don lives in Indian Springs Village, AL, with his wife, Charlene. He is also an active "ham" radio operator since he was 13 years old (call sign N4KC) and he has published 4 books about the hobby, **Riding the Shortwaves, Get on the Air…Now!, Dial Dancing,** & **The Amateur Radio Dictionary**. He is a member of the Alabama Writers' Forum and the Alabama Writers Conclave, and actively supports local and statewide literacy efforts, the latest being an effort to encourage people to capture and publish oral histories and other material from those who have been eyewitnesses to and experienced historical events.

He and Charlene have 3 children–Andy, Gary & Erin–and 5 awesome grandchildren, Laci, Alexa, Jackson, Emily, and Samantha.

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SRHOA BOARD

Sec. 1 – Sylvia Brown, Treasurer / Historian
Dolores Fort, Secretary
Sec. 2 – Anita Harper, President
Robert Stump, Vice President
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Sec. 4 – Tera Lee & Joan Lineberry
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Sec. 6 – Edna Caudle & Elizabeth Jawahreh
Sec. 10 – Cathy Conner
Sec. 11 – David Rowe

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SRHOA COMMITTEES

ACC – David Hunter, Chair, Sec. 2
Dick Brown, Sec. 1
Alan Grostick, Sec. 2
Cty. Comm. Liaison – Roger Hurt, Sec. 2
Neighborhood Watch – Christy Harris, Chair
Jay Baker & Doug Frye, Sec. 1
David Hunter & Robert Stump, Sec. 2
Roy Adams & Woody Franks, Sec. 3
Kim Jarman & Larry Goss, sec. 4
Community Events–Christy Harris, Chair, S. 4

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UPDATE ON THE "DOG FOOD" PLANT

For the past 11 months, the HOA has been seeking a solution to the odor from the Hanceville "dog food" plant. We have been working with American Proteins, and more recently, Tyson Foods who purchased the plant this summer.

A committee of the SRHOA Board met with several executives from Tyson Foods. A Tyson Vice President, the Senior Environmental Manager and the Operations Manager of the Tyson Rendering plants made a trip from Tyson headquarters in Arkansas to Smoke Rise to meet with us.

Tyson has committed to install state of the art odor reduction equipment at the plant. The equipment, known as Regenerative Thermal Oxidizers (RTOs) are expensive but much more effective in reducing odors from a rendering plant than the bio-filters that are in place now. The RTO installation will cost $3.6 million and will take about a year to complete. New permitting from ADEM has already begun and is on a "fast track" from them.
Tyson should be commended for their commitment to Smoke Rise and surrounding areas to "do what's right" for their neighbors.

Once the units are made operational, the reduction in odor will be immediate. Until then, the Tyson folks have asked us to continue to document when we notice odors. Please record the odor events on the website "thesmell.info" AND call the plant at 256-352-9821 ext 2117. That phone number is also given on the website.

Thank you to the many residents who have worked to find a solution, to all those who documented "smell" events, especially to those who participated in the community meeting in early November, and to the SRHOA.
Please, continue to document the odor events, but be tolerant of progress during the next year or so. We will be monitoring the progress of the installation and will provide updates as we can.

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WEST BLOUNT CHAMBER NEWS

At the January 17 meeting, Rep. David Standridge (left) and Sen. Shay Shelnutt (right) gave a legislative update concerning what was expected to happen in Montgomery during this upcoming session. There has been a big turnover after this last election in both houses. Orientation was held in December to help the new members learn about procedures. Leadership positions were elected the first full week of January, and committee assignments were made. David was re-elected as the Rural Caucus chair, with 40 members.

Shay stated there are 12 new members in the Senate, with a Republican supermajority, however, the new members are not as conservative as those who were replaced. The major issues facing the legislator this session will be infrastructure, although no plan has been presented, overcrowded prisons, the lottery, how will it be handled & where will the money go. As far as the increase in gas tax, so far there have been no bills introduced, no consensus, no details, only rumors.

Questions were asked about the status of the 160 project. David read a reply sent by ALDOT: the repaving is almost complete with the exception of 2 driveways and shoulders left. The project at Mtn. Woods Lake Rd is behind schedule mainly because of difficulties of moving the utility lines last summer, plus the weather has not been cooperative with all the rain.

There are 2 budgets to work on, General and Education, both are in better shape this year, which should make for easier passage. One problem – what to do with the extra money, who should get it, for what projects, and how to satisfy all the pet projects that will be put forth. It was noted that the road budget was not under the legislature, who has no control as to where that money goes.

James Chapman, Hayden Police Chief, raised the question of funding for state requirements for law officers. Every officer is required to take specific training mandated by the state, but the state does not allocate any funds for the fulfillment of this mandate. Since funding is involved, this proposal will have to start in the house with an appropriation bill. Our Representatives are the ones this question should be put to.

The next Chamber meeting will be March 21st sponsored by Hayden Lion's Club. The new starting time of 5:30 for networking will continue, since it provided an opportunity for local business people to commune with each other & share.

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WBFD NEWS

The calendar year 2018 was a successful one for the WBFD; Sta. 4 in Nyota was built on donated land, Sta. 2 in Smoke Rise was remodeled to make it ready for full-time personnel, which began in April, and Sta. 1 had some upgrades. We took possession of new apparatus, updated the hoses and made each engine ready for ISO inspection. We started and completed a VFF:160 class, certified over 20 students from West Blount and surrounding departments; 3 of our firefighters completed paramedic school; 4 completed FF I/II (Recruit School); numerous EMT-Basic licenses obtained; acquired a new rescue mini pumper (above) via federal grant funding; plus, 1,231 calls were answered with minimum response time.

The end of 2018 saw over 70% payment for fire dues with total funds received of $542,971.54.

The bills for the 2019 fire dues have been mailed. They will be considered current until March 31st. If necessary, a second notice will be mailed June 1st with a $15 late fee attached. At the end of December 236 accounts had been sent to the attorneys for the purpose of filing liens on those properties who have not paid their dues for a year or more. Those individuals who are having financial difficulty meeting this obligation may go to Station 1, Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 2 PM to make application for hardship consideration. This process is required on a yearly basis and must be done in person. Proof of income is needed at time of application

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GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

Auburn University Government and Economic Development Institute has established a new Community Profile webpage with at-a-glance information about cities and counties in Alabama.

Following is some interesting 2018 information

for	Blount County	SR	Hayden
Population:	58,070	1,755	1,362
Median Age:	40	43	38
Gender Male:	49.37%	49.23%	49.37%
Gender Female:	50.63%	50.77%	50.66%
Median Income:	$49,019	$90,041	$66,249
> than County		81%	35%
> than State	1%	83%	37%
> than Nation	-19%	47%	9%
Median Expense:	$49,429	$75,106	$54,225
Habitat –Own:	80.57%	92.49%	87.64%
Habitat – Rent:	19.43%	7.51%	12.36%

http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/gedi/knowyourcommunity/?fbclid=IwAR1uSxecYP_r39HoPsAE-iS6hxwftT-fYS0jMcxGZC1-OY-1St9tzeHT9NQC

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