



Four New Firefighters

On June 2, 2011, the Tuolumne County Joint Basic Fire Academy (JBFA) graduation was held at the Opera Hall in Sonora. The Groveland Fire Department had four community-spirited graduates. Proudly displaying their new helmets and badges are from left to right, Colton Klein, Ryan Sullivan, Michael Bortoli, and Jesse Gray. Kline a local resident and business owner received the Bob Craig

Achievement Award for leadership. Sullivan and Gray, both over 18 years old, attended the JBFA while finishing their final semester at Tioga High School. Sullivan received the GFD Code 3 and Clinton Holt Memorial Scholarships that he will use at Columbia College for Basic Fire and EMT classes. Bortoli is also a local resident who is interested in serving our community. Also pictured are department personnel who attended the graduation: left to right, Fire Chief Shane Warner, Fire Captain Jon Rock, Fire Engineer Joey Hall, Firefighter Sarah Pennington, Fire Captain Jake Ruhl, Firefighter Warren Gray, and Asst. Fire Chief Jim Burdick.

Included in the JBFA six month training is 56 hours of first responder medical training, S-212 Wildland, Confined Space, Haz Mat First Responder, Incident Command System 200, Auto Extrication, Fire Control 3, Rapid Intervention Team, and Basic 32 Wildland training. All of the academy classes are taught in the evening or on the weekend, so these firefighters and their families have already donated 400 plus hours to serving our community.

The Groveland Fire Department operates with a combination of career staff and volunteer firefighters. Without our hard-working volunteers, we could not provide the same high level of service we currently offer. These new volunteers will respond, along with the regular Groveland Fire staff, to emergency incidents, including structure and vegetation fires, medical aids, rescues, Hazmat, and vehicle fires and accidents, including extrications. The volunteers also help with community events such as the 49er Parade traffic control, Memorial Weekend Barbecue, Main Street Halloween, and Destination Santa.

We welcome these new volunteer firefighters to the Groveland Fire Department and appreciate their perseverance and commitment!