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IFBA'S 54th ANNUAL CONVENTION
Seattle

EMERALD CITY II BUFFCON

Washington
JULY 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22, 2006

TURN OUT

The Official Newsletter of the IFBA

Published Twice Yearly—Spring and Fall

The purpose of the IFBA is
“To serve as a common ground for Fire Buffs, active in promoting the general welfare of Fire Departments, allied emergency services, their officers and members.”

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Subscription Information

Turn Out is available free of charge via internet website at www.ifba.org. You may download and print each edition free; however, you may not sell or otherwise profit from selling printed copies.

Those individuals or clubs wishing a printed copy of *Turn Out* in lieu of obtaining through the website should contact Jim Williamson for additional information and pricing.

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Submission Policy

Turn Out has an “open submission” policy. We encourage immediate submission of stories on fires and events “when they happen.” More than one submission per issue is welcomed and encouraged.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit articles electronically to the e-mail address noted below. As an alternative, articles may be submitted on CD or disk, or as a last alternative, in written form.

Electronic files should be prepared using a major word processing program, such as *Word* or *WordPerfect*. You may always submit an article in “text” format also.

Pictures should be digitized at 300 dpi resolution to allow for sizing. **All photographs must be captioned** and acknowledge the photographer. Of course, photos should be sharp and clear. Full color photos are encouraged.

Once submitted, all articles and pictures become the property of *Turn Out*.

Deadlines

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INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFFS ASSOCIATES, INC.

MEMBER CLUBS

Region 1

Boston Sparks Assoc., Inc.
Box 22 Associates
Box 41 Associates
Box 52 Assn., Inc.
Box 61, Inc., Portland Fire Buffs
Connecticut Fire Photographers Assn.
Connecticut Special Signal Assn.
Essex County Fire Wardens Assn.
Hartford Citywide Radio Assn.
Middlesex County Firefighter & Fire Wardens Assn.
Providence Citywide Fire Network
Special Signal Fire Assn.
The Leather Helmet Society
TAC-9 Radio/Paging

Region 2

The Fire Bell Club of New York, Inc.
New York Central Radio System, Inc.
Massey Shaw and Marine Vessels Preservation Society LTD
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA)
Third Alarm Assn., Inc.

Region 3

Anne Arundel Alarmers Assn., Inc.
Box 234 Assn., Inc.
Box 414 Assn., Inc.
Central Alarmers, Inc.
Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assn.
Firecom/Newslink
Friendship Fire Assn.
Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Ladies Auxiliary of Box 414 Assn.
S. H. C. Assn.

Region 4

Box 15 Club, Inc.
Box 27 Associates
Box 42 Associates, Inc.
Central Ohio Fire Buff Associates
Extra Alarm Fire Assn., Inc.
Fire Notification Network of Michigan
Fire Page Ohio
Hamilton Fire Relief Co. 20
Western Reserve Fire Buffs Assn.
Western Reserve Fire Museum of Cleveland Ohio, Inc.

Region 5

Box 4 Fire Buff Assn., Inc.
Firefighting Historical Society, Inc.
Fort Worth Red Helmets
Greater Houston Fire Buffs
International Fire Photographer's Assn.
Little Elm Box 620 Support Co.
Plano Fire Rescue Associates
Signal "51" Group

Region 6

5-11 Club, Inc.
10-87 Club of Greater Rockford
Brookfield Fire Associates, Inc.
Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities
Metropolitan Emergency Support Services, Inc. (M. E. S. S.)
Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc.
Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.
Milwaukee Fire Historical Society, Ltd.
Moline Second Alarm Assn.
Racine Fire Bell Club, Inc.

Region 7

2-11 Assn. Phoenix Fire Buffs, Inc.
Box 15 Club of Los Angeles
Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley
Mission Valley Fire Associates
Mountain NewsNet
Peninsula Fire Buff Club
Phoenix Society of San Francisco
Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company
Seattle Fire Buff Society
Tacoma/Pierce County Fire Buff Battalion

Region 8

Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.
Box 55 Assoc.
Indianapolis Fire Buffs

Region 9

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.
Bell & Siren Club, Inc.
Box 54 Club
FireCom Emergency Radio of NJ
Gong Club, Inc.
Signal 22 Assn., Inc.
South Jersey Fire Photographer's Assn.
Second Alarmers' Assn. & Rescue Squad of Philadelphia, Inc.

Region 10

Box 12 Assn., Toronto
Box 43 Assn.
Club Appel-99 Quebec
The Ontario Fire Buffs Associates, Inc.
Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Assn.

Region 11

Broward Assn. For The Relief of Firefighters
Central Florida Fire Buffs
Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA.

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MESSAGE FROM IFBA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM M. MOKROS



Executive Office, International Fire Buff Associates, Inc., 11017 N. Redwood Tree Court, Mequon, WI 53092-4338

Greetings fellow Fire Buffs and welcome to the premier edition of "TURN OUT" Magazine, electronic version.

As we usher in this new era of electronic publishing, we must give credit and thanks to Jerry Traub and his associates from Indianapolis that stepped forward to undertake the challenges of this new (to us) medium. Let's continue to encourage their endeavors.

The Executive office has been busy working my way through all the IFBA documents that were passed on from Gary Heathcote. Thanks to Gary for the assistance in making a smooth transition. Most everything is now in order and we are progressing without a problem.



I was privileged and honored to attend the Firehouse naming ceremony held in Baltimore earlier this year to honor Past Executive Vice President Roman A. Kaminski. The ceremony was nicely done and well attended by many dignitaries. The IFBA has to be proud of one of it's own.

I attended the Executive Board meeting in Seattle in early April and after just a taste of the city and surrounding area, I am looking forward to the convention in July.

I am pleased to serve the IFBA as Executive Vice President and thank you for honoring me with your trust. If there is anything that I can do to assist any clubs or members, please do not hesitate to ask. I read my e-mail daily and will respond in a timely fashion.

FROM THE EDITOR'S KEYBOARD:

Greetings, readers! Welcome to the first electronic Turn Out. Although delayed in its arrival, we at the Indy Publishing Group hope its content and appearance made the wait worthwhile.

I want to thank volunteer staff members Jim Williamson, Ed McMichael, Rodger Birchfield, Jack Finney and Paul McMichael for their efforts. My young wife Betsy deserves applause for helping me through my technical challenges in my new role. Mom used to say "many hands make for light work". I am pleased that these talented folks are sharing their time and ability for your information and entertainment.

Our on-line publication is available at no cost, electronically. Directions are posted for obtaining printed copies at the cost of printing and mailing. We are considering "special" editions, such as post convention information and photos, without waiting for the semi-annual publication time. Unsolicited submissions are not included in this edition, but they may be in the future, at the direction of the IFBA Board and the Editor.

All clubs are encouraged to submit for publication. If there are technical concerns about your materials, printed or photo, please contact us first so your work is generated to be compatible with our publishing program. We'll work with you to be sure what comes in is capable of going back out.

Let me hear from you about what we have done. Perhaps we can talk at Seattle during the upcoming National convention. Hope to see you there!

Enjoy,
Jerry Traub

CONVENTION NEWS

The 54th Annual IFBA Convention will be held in Seattle July 18 through July 22, 2006. A brief summary of the events follows:

The doors to the **Emerald City II Buffcon** will open Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 1 p.m. for early arrivals. Impromptu tours and discussions are the order for the balance of the day. Our host hotel, The Red Lion on Fifth Avenue, is within walking distance of nearly 200 restaurants.

On Wednesday, July 19, the event begins with opening ceremonies and a memorial service. During the afternoon, the Executive Board will meet, and there will be seminars presented by local Fire Departments.

On Thursday, July 20, it will be off to the Washington State Fire Training Center for a full day of tours, burns, demonstrations, and food. The coaches will stop at the Outlet Center in North Bend for those who wish to shop instead of visiting the Center.

The IFBA annual meeting for delegates will begin the day on Friday, July 21. The afternoon will feature additional seminars and optional tours to various places of interest.

Saturday, July 22, the Apparatus Display will occur at the Seattle Fire Department Training Center. Both large and small apparatus will be on display. Apparatus will be positioned for best photography, and there will be a designated photo stand where apparatus will be rotated through. There will be a display of classic ambulances and a model emergency vehicle contest.

Winding up Saturday night will be the Banquet at the Red Lion.

On Sunday, we will bid all attendees a fond farewell, and those going on the Alaska cruise will transfer to the *Sun Princess* for a week long voyage.

Registration fees are: \$220 if paid before May 31, \$250 if paid June 1 through July 8, and \$300 if paid after July 8. Please see the registration form for additional information.

2006 ALASKA BUFFING CRUISE FOR THE IFBA

On Sunday, July 23, 2006, those IFBA convention attendees who so choose will be off to board the *Sun Princess* for a seven day Alaska cruise, departing from and returning to Seattle. The itinerary follows:

Sunday, 7/23	Board <i>Sun Princess</i> at Seattle Cruise Terminal	
Monday, 7/24	At sea	
Tuesday, 7/25	Ketchikan	
Wednesday, 7/26	Cruising Tracy Arm Juneau	Cabins start at \$1499 ppdo
Thursday, 7/27	Skagway	
Friday, 7/28	At sea	
Saturday, 7/29	Victoria BC	
Sunday, 7/30	Debark Seattle and homeward bound	

For full information and booking, contact Sally Goodgeon at Catalyst Travel, 888-353-3216 or by email catalysttravel@hotmail.com.

SEATTLE BUILDS FIRST NEW STATION IN 30 YEARS

69% of Seattle's voters on November 4, 2003 agreed to a Fire Facility and Emergency Response levy. It provides money to renovate, expand or rebuild 32 neighborhood fire stations; build two new fireboats and renovate a third; and purchase equipment and supplies to help people during an emergency. This makes Seattle able to proclaim it is making itself "the most prepared city in America".

So far, the centerpiece of this preparation is rising from the ground between 4th Ave and 5th Ave, Yesler Way and Washington . This 61,000 square foot facility is about a mile South of the Red Lion convention headquarters hotel. You can see it on the way to Safeco Field in the near-South end. A \$43,451,00 property, it will house Seattle P.D. EOC; Seattle Fire Alarm Center (FAC); and relocated Seattle Fire Station 10. On-site parking for 44 vehicles is included. Occupancy is expected in 2008.



Seattle FAC is 13,300 gross square feet and includes a dispatch area; a server (IT) room and radio repair room; shift personnel support spaces; and admin offices and support spaces. It will be constructed to an "essential facility" standard and have the capability of 72-hour operations under emergency conditions.

While current Station 10 is architecturally significant, it is wholly inadequate to accommodate modern firefighting apparatus. Any attempt to expand its bays and otherwise upgrade would undermine its historic character. It is sited in a liquefaction zone and surrounded by seismically vulnerable historic buildings. Renovation of this facility is not feasible.

Station 10's portion will be 29,600 square feet and include seven apparatus bays housing one engine company, one ladder unit, an aid unit and a hazmat unit; decon facilities; bunkroom; kitchen; shower; restrooms. Built to an "essential facility" standard, it will have capability for 72-hour operations under emergency conditions. When built, it will meet all current seismic safety codes.



SEATTLE FIRE BUFF
SOCIETY PRESENT
EMERALD CITY II BUFF CON
CONVENTION
SEATTLE WASH
JULY 18-22 2006



CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

ALL CONVENTION ATTENDEES MUST HAVE A
REGISTRATION FORM FILLED OUT IN FULL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIPCODE _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL (IF ANY) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER _____

MEMBER SOCIETY _____

MEMBER SOCIETY TITLE (IF ANY) _____

ARE YOU A CONVENTION DELEGATE? YES ___ NO ___

ALTERNATE DELEGATE FOR CONVENTION? YES ___ NO ___

FULL IFBA CONVENTION REGISTRATION _____

SATURDAY NITE BANQUET DINNER ONLY REGISTRATION _____

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID AT TIME OF REGISTRATION IN U.S. FUNDS

SEE PAGE 2 FOR FEE SCHEDULE

FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES APPARATUS DISPLAY, SAT. NITE
BANQUET, & TRIP TO WASH. ST. FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY

WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST REGISTRATIONS IN THE MAIL

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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**SEATTLE FIRE BUFF
SOCIETY PRESENT
EMERALD CITY II BUFF CON CONVENTION
SEATTLE WASH
JULY 18-22 2006
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM PAGE 2**

**FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES SAT. NITE BANQUET,
APPARATUS DISPLAY, AND FIELD TRIP TO WASH. ST. FIRE TRAINING
ACADEMY**

\$220.00 IF PAID BEFORE 31 MAY 2006

\$250.00 IF BETWEEN 1 JUNE 2006 - 8 JULY 2006

\$300.00 IF PAID AFTER 8 JULY 2006

SATURDAY NITE BANQUET ONLY REGISTRATION \$75.00

OPTIONAL TOURS WILL BE AVAILABLE EACH DAY

**OPTIONAL TOURS TO INCULDE PIKE PLACE PUBLIC MARKET,
MUSEUM OF FLIGHT AT BOEING FIELD, FRIDAY NITE BASEBALL**

**WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST REGISTRATIONS BY
US OR FOREIGN MAIL**

**ALL REGISTRATION FEES TO BE PAID AT TIME OF REGISTRATION
IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. ALL REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE PAID IN
CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK, MONEY ORDER, OR PERSONAL CHECK
BEFORE 8 JULY 2006. AFTER 8 JULY 2006 CASH OR CERTIFIED CHECK
IN U.S. FUND ONLY. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE RECEIPT OF
YOUR REGISTRATION BY CONVENTION ADMINISTRATION.
PAYMENT MADE OUT TO EMERALD CITY II BUFFCON**

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO:

**SEATTLE FIRE BUFF SOCIETY
EMERALD CITY II BUFF CON
301 2ND AVENUE
SEATTLE WA 98104**

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Region 1

Boston Sparks Assoc., Inc.
Box 22 Associates
Box 41 Associates
Box 52 Assn., Inc.
Box 61, Inc., Portland Fire Buffs
Connecticut Fire Photographers Assn.
Connecticut Special Signal Assn.
Essex County Fire Wardens Assn.
Hartford Citywide Radio Assn.
Middlesex County Firefighter & Fire
Wardens Assn.
Providence Citywide Fire Network
Special Signal Fire Assn.
The Leather Helmet Society
TAC-9 Radio/Paging

*TURN OUT
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Box 41 Associates

P. O. Box 41
Lynn, Massachusetts 01903-0041

A Member of the International Fire Buff Associates
<http://www.box41.com>

Preserving Lynn's Firefighting History Since 1914

Officers 2006:

President: Raoul Vincent
Vice-President: Joseph Carritte
Secretary: Fred Berube

Directors:

Julian Olansky
Donald Beliveau
Frank Fitzgerald

Article and photos by J. Pozark

Greetings from the North Shore of Greater Boston, the crossroads of Fire Districts #5 and #13.

While not quite up to the pace of the "War Years", fire business has been picking up. Younger buffs are getting a taste of fire duty in years gone by. On November 12th the Lynn Fire Alarm Office received a call for smoke coming from a building at 13 Stone Place in a neighborhood known as the Diamond District. City Box # 342 was struck and companies arrived to find an outside fire extended into the building. Initially it was thought to be minor extension. Companies were beginning to be released when a call was received for a building fire at 29 Parrot Street not far away in the East Lynn section of the city. CB # 324 was transmitted where Engine #1 found fire on floor # 2 and put all companies to work affecting a quick knockdown. Companies operating at the fire on Stone Place found the balloon frame construction had permitted greater extension and an engine company was sent to assist.

The day was not over however. At 1537 hours Eng # 3 and Lad # 2 were dispatched to cover the Town of Saugus for a Working Structure Fire. Then, shortly before quarter to Ten O'clock, Marblehead Police Dispatch received a call for a fire in a building under construction and transmitted Town Box # 131. Units found fire in a nearly completed four unit condo complex roughly 150' X 100' in size. The

initial interior attack was unsuccessful and the operation became an exterior one quickly. A Working Fire Signal and Second Alarm were struck at 2144 and 2148 hours. These were followed by a Third Alarm at 2238 and a Special Call for an Extra Engine at 0107 hours. Lynn Fire Alarm dispatched Swampscott's Eng # 21 and Tower Ladder #21 to the scene on the Working Fire with Lynn Eng # 5 to cover. Later Lynn Eng # 5 and Lad # 1 along with Nahant Eng. # 31 would work at the fire as well as companies from Salem, Peabody and other North Shore communities. Lynn Eng. #1 covered at Marblehead Headquarters while Revere Lad # 2 covered at Swampscott HQ. Water supply for the 3 aerial master streams and 3 ground monitors required some relay operations. This was an all-nighter with some units being released at 0700 the next day.

November 22nd brought an early morning Worker in a vacant "Gin Mill" in a downtown taxpayer block at 54 State Street.

December 5th would start a twofer for Group Two. At 1318 hours CB# 413 was transmitted for a telephone report of a fire. While units were responding, a Central Station Fire Alarm was received for the same address. Engine # 5 had fire showing on arrival from the top floor of a 4 Story Brick, 18 Unit OMD. Second due Eng # 3, assisted Eng # 5 with the top floor stretch. The building was partially sprinklered with coverage in the public areas. The cold smoke made locating the fire

apartment difficult. Lad # 1 went to the fire floor for "open up". District Chief Maloney, C-4 ordered the Second Alarm with an extra Ladder Company, seconds after Eng # 5's "Working Fire" signal. A back-up line was stretched by second alarm companies and the fire was knocked down. The Red Cross was requested to assist the 30-40 people displaced. Engines from Saugus, Marblehead, Lynnfield, Peabody and Wakefield along with Revere Lad # 2 and the Swampscott companies covered the city.

The next day Group Two was working their second day tour. At 1030 hours the FAO received a call from Lynn PD Signal Room reporting a local fire alarm sounding with a haze of smoke in the house at 46 Grove Street. This is in the West Lynn Section of the City. The box was transmitted and almost immediately the "Pine Hill Engine", Eng # 7 reported smoke showing. District Chief Maloney C-4, responding from the same house ordered the second alarm. Fire was showing from floor 2 with extension to floor 3 of a standard issue New England three-decker. An additional ladder company responded. Overhead wires in front of the building limited access. Ladder # 1 responded to the rear of the building by way of the street to the rear of the house and backed down a driveway to make the roof with the stick. During this fire, Marblehead had a working fire at 154 Elm Street. The Marblehead Engine covering Lynn Eng # 5 was sent home and Swampscott Eng # 21 responded to the Marblehead fire on the Box. All this, while Swampscott Eng # 22 and Tower Lad # 21 operated with the Mass. State Police Bomb Squad at a suspicious package incident. Nahant Eng # 31 covered East Lynn and Swampscott from Lynn Eng # 5's quarters.

On December 20th, at 2239 hours, the FAO received a report from the police of a working building fire at Summer and Ashland Streets and CB # 74 was struck. Eng # 9 found fire in a 1 and 2 ½ story irregularly shaped commercial building of mixed construction. Eng # 3 quickly ordered a Working Fire. The clanging of the water motor gong indicated the sprinklers were flowing. However, they would discover

that building modifications were reducing the sprinklers effectiveness. This was a cold night and first arriving companies found two bad hydrants. An additional engine was special called to assist with water supply and at 2246 hours the second alarm was filled out. During the fire, the confusing layout disoriented one fire fighter who was injured and removed by Action Ambulance Service ALS 30 to the Salem Hospital.

Ending year totals for the Lynn Fire Alarm Office were Lynn Fire Department 15,049 incidents. The office also handled 2033 incidents for the Swampscott Fire Department and the last half of the Nahant Fire Departments 451 calls. Total for the office 17,533.

The New Year brought more fires. On the night of January 14th the Saugus Police Dispatch Center received an E 9-1-1 call reporting a fire at the Fox Hill Yacht Club on the Saugus River which separates parts of Lynn and Saugus. While responding, the PD Dispatch updated the Shift Fire Captain that an additional 9-1-1 call was received and the fire was possibly on the Lynn side of the river in a boatyard. The Captain instructed the PD Dispatch to make sure Lynn Fire was notified and continued to the incident. Massachusetts statewide E 9-1-1 Law requires any agency which responds to a call that it finds in another jurisdiction to operate until relieved by that community's units. Arriving, the Saugus units saw fire showing on the Lynn side and went to work. The area is a bad location for a fire. Warehouses, junkyards, a boatyard and a large number of dog kennels which house racing greyhounds are located here. The kennels have been the scene of some tragic multi-fatality fires. With limited hydrants and access, "this place ain't easy". Saugus Engine #1, 3 and Tower #1 went to work. Lynn transmitted CB # 638 at 2319 hours for 1071 rear Western Avenue. Multiple trucks and containers were on fire including cylinders of flammable gasses. Lynn companies were troubled by three bad hydrants and a working fire was ordered at 2325 hours. At one point both the Saugus Tower and Lynn Tower # 4 were flowing water on the fire. Meanwhile mutual aid companies came in to cover

Saugus and Lynn stations.

Later, while all companies were still working at CB # 638, the Lynn PD Signal Room notified FAO of a working fire at 7 Alice Avenue. There were women and children trapped and police officers were attempting rescues. The FAO struck CB #325 at 2353 hours. This building is a short trip from the house of Eng # 5 and Lad # 1 on Fayette Street. First arriving companies found a heavy fire and smoke condition and ordered the second alarm at 2357 hours. Responding on 2-325 were Lynn Eng # 9 Salem E-4 Lynnfield E-1 and Revere L-2. Capt. James MacDonald in the H-1 Safety Car reported heavy fire on all floors of a 3 story wood frame house with Mansard roof. He assumed command until relieved by C-1 Chief of Department Edward Higgins. At 0003 hours, an additional truck was special called and Lad # 2 along with Med - 1



Mack "C" and Mack "CF"/ Baker work at 2nd Alarm on City Box # 46 McGloin Square, late 80's

responded to the fire. All Out on CB # 638 was at 0219 and on CB #325 at 0206 hours.

January 27th brought members of Box 41 Associates to the home of the Boston Sparks Association at 344 Congress St. in Boston for a fundraiser. They were there to support BSA Director Chris O'Brien. Many area buffs were in attendance when Lynn Fire Alarm transmitted CB # 517 at 2009 hours for a reported building fire on North Common Street. First units on scene found fire between and involving two buildings at 55 and 57 N. Common Street. The Bravo side building was a large 3 story wood frame, apartments over

stores. The Delta side building was a large 2½ story, two family, peaked roof style house. Lad # 2 Capt. Jim MacDonald ordered second and third alarms on arrival at 2012 hours to get help in quickly and the members made a good stop with All Out at 2221 hours.

Two days later on January 29th, 55 North Common was again struck by fire. City Box # 517 sent out at 0345, working fire at 0348 and the second alarm at 0352. All Out sounded at 0545 hours.

On February 10th Lynn saw its first fire fatality of the year a couple of blocks from the FAO. A Central Station Fire Alarm was

received from a private alarm company at 2252 sending Eng # 1 and Lad # 1. This was followed shortly by an E 9-1-1 call reporting fire alarm sounding and smoke in the building at 8 Joyce Street, a 4 story wood frame rooming house. CB # 415 was struck at 2255 with Eng #5-10 H-1 C-4 and Med-1

filling out the assignment. First arriving units started a coordinated attack with Eng # 1-5 running a line and Lad # 1 performing the horizontal vent from their stick. The working fire was sent at 2258 hours with Action BLS 91 special called at 2302. Despite the fire alarm system and the actions of the fire department there was one fatality.

Recently Lynn fire units were beginning to clear from a rash of calls. In the FAO we were reaching for the Calamine Lotion and starting to get the companies sorted out. Medic 1 had just come in service with the private BLS to transport. Suddenly the police receiver came

alive with a cruiser calling “get the fire down to Liberty and Washington Streets. We got a guy with a can, pouring gas over himself” The operators in the office started Medic-1 to the scene. Eng # 10, Capt Oliver commanding, was out of service returning to quarters after picking up a spare pumper. Only a block away they responded and called for the electric company. The disturbed individual was indeed pouring gasoline over himself, as he stood over an open electric service manhole with the gasoline running into the hole. After a tense stand off, people from Lynn Fire and Police Departments and Action Ambulance Service were able to restrain and decontaminate the individual before there was any ignition.

Fire business in the area has also been busy. The Town of Nahant had working fires at 11 Vernon Street on November 30th 2005 and 119 Castle Road on January 17th. The Castle Road fire occurred during a snowstorm and mutual aid units did a commendable job getting to Nahant. The Town of Nahant consists of two small islands joined to the mainland by a long causeway. Swampscott Eng # 21 responded to the fire with Lynn Eng # 5 and Lad # 1 covering the Nahant Station. During the fire, Lynn units responded to and extinguished a kitchen fire.

On November 11th, 2005 Swampscott Fire used all companies at a Technical Rescue for a man trapped under a bulldozer. This quickly became a recovery operation with the members assisting.

December 13th, 2005 around 1147 hours the Salem Fire Alarm Office began receiving multiple pulls from Street Box #3273, Barnes Road at Barnes Avenue. At this time a cell phone call was being transferred from Mass. State Police HQ to Salem Police to the Salem Fire Department reporting a fire at 7 Barnes Road. First arriving companies found heavy fire in the rear of the 2 story SFD with extension to floor 2. Companies began the initial attack when neighbors reported there might be someone in the building. Deputy Chief Harrington ordered the second alarm while Lad # 1 members focused their primary search. No people were found but Firefighters located an unconscious dog and removed him to the

exterior where two off duty firefighters who lived in the area resuscitated the pet. This effort received much media attention including appearances on national morning shows.

December 7th and 8th kept things going. Coming on the heels of the back to back deuces in Lynn on the 5th and 6th, Revere had a working fire on the 7th at 15 Atlantic Avenue when a porch fire extended to floor 3. An additional Engine and Truck were special called to the fire. The next day Revere had a second alarm on Box 32 for 72 Shirley Avenue. The fire was in a 3 story wood frame 6 family OMD. Fire on floor 2 extended to floor 3 and the cockloft. Five hand lines were stretched and operated with one extra engine and truck over the second called for relief. The day was not yet over however. About 1830 hours, Saugus used both their engines and their truck for a serious Motor Vehicle Accident with entrapment. Then at 2142 hours Saugus responded to a reported building fire at 6 Sherbrooke Terr. The fire conditions required a second alarm transmitted at 2146

Peabody was beaten by a multiple alarm fire in cold weather on January 15th and another fire on the 22nd. The first, a third alarm with one extra engine and truck, for a large 3 story wood frame OMD at 4 Cottage Street. The second fire was in an adult book store, 1 story 75’X50’ on historic US Route #1. This fire went to three alarms with two engines over the third.

Later that same day, the City of Beverly was struck by a fire in a garden style apartment complex which required the transmission of four alarms with much mutual aid from throughout District #5. Apparatus from as far away as Gloucester responded to the fire. Due to cutbacks, Beverly’s Ladder Company is out of service on a regular basis. Two civilians had to use a contractor’s ladder to rescue an occupant trapped on a balcony.

On the fire apparatus front, Saugus has placed their new Pierce Ladder in service and will be bidding for a new pump and brush truck. Lynnfield has placed in service a new large ambulance. These are known locally as mega-ambulances after a local newspaper columnist made derisive remarks about Lynn Fire

Department's similar vehicles. Salem Fire is taking delivery of a new KME pumper.

The membership looks forward to the warmth of summer and the muster season. Come the fall we will observe the 25th anniversary of Lynn's Second Great

Conflagration. The fire originated in a large loft building downtown and spread to many other building requiring more than 125 fire companies to fight it.

If you're in the district drop us a line or "pull the hook" and we'll show you around.



New England FireCon '07 Inc.

By Gerry Mahoney

Greetings from the Greater Boston area where plans are well underway for the 2007 International Fire Buffs Convention. The convention dates are August 8 through 11, 2007. The guaranteed hotel rate of \$149/night is also offered for 3 nights prior and 3 nights after the convention.

Convention headquarters will be the Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston which is located at 5 Cambridge Parkway in Cambridge on the banks of the historic Charles River with a spectacular view of the Boston skyline.

We are advertising this convention as one where you won't need a car. There is plenty to see and do in the Cambridge/Boston area. Historic Bunker Hill Monument which commemorates the first major battle of the Revolutionary War is a one mile walk from the hotel. The world famous Boston Museum of Science and Omni Theater is literally "around the corner" and the Cambridge Galleria Mall with over 120 shops and restaurants is across the street.

Among the things we are working on is a

boat ride on historic Boston harbor, an informative seminar on the tragic Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse fire in December 1999 that claimed the lives of six Worcester Firefighters, a seminar by acclaimed Boston Fire Department photographer and author Bill Noonan, apparatus displays, and trips to either the Cape Cod area or coasts of Maine and New Hampshire for a traditional New England Clambake. (Don't worry there will be food for the landlubbers too!).

Friday of convention week will be the business meeting in the morning with the rest of the day to explore and enjoy the many wonderful things we have in the area.

The convention will conclude on Saturday with a trip through Southeastern Massachusetts and lunch in the Providence, RI area. On Saturday night we will gather for our traditional banquet and installation of officers. The IFBA was last here in 1984, we hope to see many old friends and make many new ones in 2007!

For additional information visit the following web sites: www.nefcon07.com, www.sonesta.com/boston, www.cambridgefire.org, or www.bostonusa.com.

Region 3

Anne Arundel Alarmers Assn., Inc.

Box 234 Assn., Inc.

Box 414 Assn., Inc.

Central Alarmers, Inc.

Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assn.

Firecom/Newslink

Friendship Fire Assn.

Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire
Department, Inc.

Ladies Auxiliary of Box 414 Assn.

S. H. C. Assn.

BOX 414 Association, Inc.

FIRE – POLICE

MEMBER OF IFBA

QUARTERS
414 NORTH GAY STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21202
410-727-2414



By Stuart M. Nathan

During 2005, the Box 414 Coffee Wagon responded on 97 runs, including 62 one alarm fires, 26 two alarm fires, 5 three alarm fires, 3 four alarm fires, and one five alarm fire. The total of 37 multiple alarm fires during 2005 (including two which were covered by canteens from the surrounding counties due to multiple incidents) was one of the lowest number of additional in several years. Back in the busy 60's and 70's, we often had about 100 additional during a year.

Our coffee wagon spent 483.5 hours on the road for fires, and 658.75 hours on details. Our details include serving at the many training exercises during the year, homeland security drills, funerals of active duty members of the Fire Department, Department blood drives, and the like. The many volunteers who serve on the wagon donated a total of 5090 hours. The top volunteers were Walt Lemmon with 922.5 hours, Charles Shultz with 763.25 hours, Marie Lemmon with 602.50 hours, Joe Freund with 415.75 hours, and the late Richard Schlick (See "In Memoriam" below) with 362 hours.

Also Bill Porter led the volunteers staffing our Museum with 106 hours; followed closely by his wife Ann and son William with 100.5 hours; Charles Shultz with 94 hours; and Walt Lemmon with 63.5 hours. Walt and Marie Lemmon and Club President Bob Brown have kindly opened a little "Bed and Breakfast" on the second floor of our Club Quarters for visiting fire buffs on certain special occasions. We were honored to have IFBA Executive Vice President Bill Mokros stay with us recently. I am not sure we are ready yet to be listed in the

AAA Tour Guide, but all great ideas start small.

A brief review of the food we served on the Coffee Wagon last year shows the following amounts dispensed:

Coffee	298 gallons
Water	975 gallons
Gatorade	1328 gallons
Hot Chocolate	2217 cups
Donuts	315 dozen
Hot dogs	4132
Egg McMellons	1831

CLUB PURCHASES SECOND WAGON

Earlier this year, we purchased a used (1979 Chevrolet) canteen from the Rockville, Maryland Volunteer Fire Company for use as second Coffee Wagon. It is anticipated that the unit, which is smaller than our current wagon, will be used in the event there are two on-going incidents requiring our services and as a back-up to Car 414. The wagon is currently at Krammes Kustom Body in Pennsylvania for outfitting, including a new generator and refrigerator.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

A new firefighter-paramedic entry-level test was administered in January with about 1400 persons taking the test. It is anticipated that a new class of 70 will begin at the Fire Academy on March 20, 2006 with the next class beginning in the fall. The last two classes of firefighter-paramedic apprentices graduated on February 10, 2006.

The Department has been experimenting

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with the use of the four squads that are located in each quadrant of the City. Effective January 10, 2006, a squad will be assigned on each box alarm and may be used as the RIT company or otherwise at the discretion of the commanding officer at the fire. Also, all companies are currently undergoing enhanced RIT training at the Fire Academy.

The Department has been working with local businesses to implement an "Adopt-A-Firehouse" program to help renovate stations. The first project at Engine 41 in Highlandtown is almost completed with a local contractor, Streuver Bros., donating over \$250,000 in labor and materials to fix this station that had been condemned last year due to the possibility of roof collapse. Engine 41, Truck 20, and Battalion Chief 1 that had been relocated to other house should be returning to their remodeled quarters within the next month.

APPARATUS NEWS

In the last issue of "Turn Out" we reported that the Department had just received two new tandem rear axle Seagrave Concorde rearmounts that were placed in service at Trucks 15 and 21. Well, the Department is currently negotiating with Seagrave to possibly replace these trucks with a new tiller truck and a new rearmount. Stay tuned for further details.

Currently on order are one Seagrave tiller

truck and a new hazmat vehicle, both due in this Spring. Also on order are four squad medics and four regular medics from P&L Custom in Manasquan, NJ, 5 Pierce pumpers, and one Pierce squad to be used as either a replacement for one of the existing squads or to enable one of the current squads to be used as a reserve.

Also due are new air cascade and command vehicles.

The City is proceeding with the construction of a new 85 foot fireboat, tentatively scheduled to cost about \$6.1 million. The Department has also recently acquired a used Maryland Transit Administration bus to be upgraded for use as a rehab vehicle and has finished the refurbishing of a new EMS command vehicle.

IN MEMORIAM

On January 16, 2006, Box 414 lost one of its newer but most active members, Richard Schlick, after a short illness. Richard spent many hours working on the Coffee Wagon and was always in the top five in number of hours volunteered. He averaged well over 300 hours per year and served 362 hours on the wagon during 2005. He was well known by the members of the Fire Department because of the many hours spent on the wagon. Richard will be missed.

IFBA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT EMERITUS HONORED

On February 16, 2006, the Baltimore City Fire Department honored IFBA Executive Vice President Emeritus Roman A. Kaminski by naming the quarters of Engine 5, Truck 3, and Medic 10 after Roman. The ceremony which recognized Roman for his 60 years of service to the Fire Department was attended by over 200 of his friends, including our IFBA Executive Vice President Bill Mokros and immediate past Executive VP Gary Heathcote. The highlight of the festivities was when Roman unveiled the sign over the station that reads "Roman A.

Kaminski Fire Station."

For many years, Roman and his wife Gertrude, who passed away several years ago, lived right across Eastern Avenue from where the firehouse, which opened in 1964, is located. To the firefighters in this station, Roman was known as "Mr. Fire Department."

Although his interest in the Fire Department pre-dates his joining Box 414 in 1959, he became very active in our Club from the start. He was regularly assigned to coffee wagon duty and soon became an officer in Box

414. Roman was President from 1970 to 1972 and still serves on our Board of Directors and on our Nominating Committee. He is also our club liaison to the Fire Officers Local 964 and the Firefighters Local 734.

In 1978, Roman was presented with the IFBA's highest honor – the Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year Award. He served as President of the IFBA from 1975 to 1976 and Executive Vice President for many years. Roman also represents the IFBA on the Congressional Fire Services Institute National Advisory Committee and was Chairman of the Committee from 1997 to 1998.

Roman was named the Baltimore Fire Buff of the Year in 1992 when he was awarded the Charles C. Price Fire Buff of the Year plaque. He also has been appointed Honorary Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department.

As if that weren't enough, Roman also chairs the Baltimore City Fire Prevention Committee, the Highlandtown Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year Dinner, and serves on the Board of the Baltimore City Fire Foundation. Moreover, at the Annual Fire Department Medals Day Ceremony, Roman presents the Gertrude A. Kaminski Award, including a medal and check, to members of the Fire Department who have rendered outstanding service during the past year. He also presents, in Gertrude's name, the Paramedic of the Year Award at the Box 414 Annual Banquet.

Box 414 is proud to have our distinguished member, Roman A. Kaminski, receive such a high honor from his hometown fire department, the Baltimore City Fire Department.



A Detroit firefighter engaged in overhaul following a fire at an industrial building. Photo from DFD website.

Region 4

Box 15 Club, Inc.

Box 27 Associates

Box 42 Associates, Inc.

Central Ohio Fire Buff Associates

Extra Alarm Fire Assn., Inc.

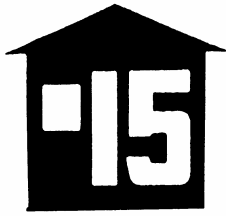
Fire Notification Network of Michigan

Fire Page Ohio

Hamilton Fire Relief Co. 20

Western Reserve Fire Buffs Assn.

Western Reserve Fire Museum of
Cleveland Ohio, Inc.



BOX 15 CLUB

COLUMBUS, OHIO



Recently Box 15 undertook a change atop its leadership members. We have voted in a new President Brett Barber, a new Vice-President Dave Vaughn, a new Secretary Kevin Shop, and Trustee Jim Scott, while the Treasurer Jim Henderson, and Trustee Greg Northrop are returning board members. Our current past President Paul Freedman will also be highlighted in this article as well.

Our first highlighted member is Brett Barber Box 15's new president. Voted into the

age 62, he has been actively associated with the fire service for 44 years. One of Brett's earliest recollections in life was a church fire in Piqua Ohio, when he was 2 ½ years old. Shortly after turning 18, Brett joined the Whitehall (Ohio) Fire Department as a volunteer. His father, Don, was a volunteer dispatcher with Whitehall at the time. In those days, Ohio offered a 40-hour Trades & Industrial "Basic Fire Fighting" course. Once you passed it, you were considered a firefighter. In 1967, Brett also



position on Nov 29 2005, Brett will bring is vast know
Pictured from left to right – Greg Northrop, Trustee; Paul Freedman, Past President; Jim Scott, Trustee; Kevin Shop, Secretary; Jim Henderson, Treasurer, David Vaughn, Vice President; Brett Barber, President. [Box 15 Staff Photo]

how and skill to the highly respected spot within the service.

Brett Barber, elected President of Box 15 for 2006, has no intentions of slowing down. At

pursuits took him out of Central Ohio. Having traveled extensively throughout the Western Hemisphere, he has always stayed very close to the fire service – whether in New York, Los

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Angeles, Tulsa, Chicago, Houston or in Mexico, Central or South America.

In 1996, Brett and his wife, Janet, moved back to the Columbus area from Deer Park, Texas and he immediately re-joined Box 15. The organization was busy planning for the 1998 IFBA convention, and Brett wasted no time in picking up part of the load. For the past 10 years, Brett has been one of our more dedicated members, serving at different times as Membership and Fund Raising committee chairs, PIO, Trustee and has served 3 terms as Vice President. Brett apparently got his fire service roots naturally, his dad, uncle and grandfather were 3 of the founding members of the Box 21 Club, in Dayton, Ohio.

Some of Brett's most treasured memories were when he, Pete Fowler and Harry Knodel would spend weekends "riding out" with the Snorkel Squads or the 12th Battalion in Chicago. "You'd see more fire in one weekend there than you would in Columbus in a year." Those were great training opportunities.

Brett and Jan have 2 children, 11 grand and step-grandchildren and now their first great-grandchild.

Our next highlighted board member of Box 15 is Dave Vaughn. When Columbus Fire Department needs to contact Box15 they call Dave.

Dave Vaughn was first elected to Box15 in August of 1985. He served as "in charge" of Canteen operations from 1986 to 2002, during that time he has also served as Trustee to Box15 in 1987 & 1988, served as Vice-President of the club from 1989 to 1991 and again now in 2006, and as President of Box15 in 1992.

Dave has an impeccable training record with the club via D.H.S., State of Ohio, and The Columbus Ohio Division of Fire. He holds certifications in HazMat operations, Incident Command System 100 & 200 Level, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and IS-700 & 800. He also served as the Principal contributing writer for Box 15 to the IFBA's TurnOut Magazine.

He has served on the Operations Committee (Now Fire Dept. Services) as an active member & participant since 1986. He has also co-

designed the interior layouts and specified all/most of the equipment used in our rehab units since 1986. He serves as a Senior In-Charge Officer on the Rehab Units. Additionally he serves as the Box 15 representative to both the Northwest Area Strike Team (NAS*T) and the Central Ohio Strike Team (COST). NAS*T is a regional hazardous materials response consortium while C.O.S.T. is a State of Ohio regional Urban Search & Rescue unit.

Our most recent past president is Paul Freedman. Paul Freedman has been with the club for more than 10 years and has served in various capacities. He works full time for the city of Columbus in their Building Department as the city's floodplain manager, and as such, feels that this provides a unique way for him to give back to the community. Paul has said, "This community has been good to me, and this is my way of supporting their kindness in turn."

Paul grew up far from his current home in central Ohio in the New York City metropolitan area. He saw first hand the large scale destruction of urban fires as a child growing up in Jersey City, New Jersey. With family still there, he visits them often and on many of his trips east, he often stops by a local fire house to chat and to trade duty shirts. Paul studied environmental science at a small state school in southern New Jersey and served as a park ranger for several seasons at Acadia National Park. It is here that Paul picked up an appreciation for wild-land fire fighting and the specialized equipments and tactics that that branch of the fire service requires. Graduate school brought him out to central Ohio, and after completing his master's degree and accepting a position with the city, he decided to make Columbus his home.

Working for the city of Columbus, his work often brings him into contact with many of the firefighter that he has helped at the scene of a working fire and on more than one occasions a confused chief was left asking why the building department was already on scene only to realize that Paul was their as part of Box 15, volunteering his time. He also loves to travel and besides visiting fire stations in Italy,

Switzerland, France, and England, his has started a tradition of visiting New Orleans for their Mardi Gras celebration. Even with all the distractions the city has to offer, he finds time to visit with the NOFD. While Paul is skipping this year's festivities out of respect for the ongoing recovery effort, he cannot wait to return next year so see old friends in the fire service there and to trade stories.

When he is not discussing fire department policy among friends or visiting fire stations for a Saturday pizza dinner, he can often be found hiking in the local parks or fishing on the waters of local reservoirs. Paul may live and work for the city, helping the fire department whenever and however he can, but his heart is out in the fields that surround the city itself.

Another new member of the board for Box 15 is Kevin Shop. He was voted into the secretary position also on November 29, 2005. Kevin has been with Box 15 since April 2004. During that time Kevin has taken on the responsibility of photographing all of the front line fire service vehicles within the City of Columbus for the department to use on its in-house computer network. During the later summer and fall of 2004 over 200 digital photos taken and then edited for the department. Kevin enjoys photographing all fire apparatus, and is currently in talk to provide the department with photograph of all the new equipment the City is and will be receiving in the next months ahead.

Kevin is currently a dispatcher for a local hospital in Columbus. He has several years of dispatching experience with 3 different fire and police departments in the metro area. Kevin previously held a State of Ohio Peace Officer Certificate.

While not working and not with Box 15 Kevin enjoys airline photography and has had work published in 3 different airline magazines. He also enjoys IDPA and other tactical types of rifle/handgun shooting competitions.

Jim Henderson is the treasurer for Box 15. Has been a member of Box 15 Club since 1976. Jim has also served on numerous other committees in Box 15 including membership and fundraising and a member of the Board of

Directors of the Columbus Ohio Fire Museum. In addition to fire buffing his other interests include gardening and OSU Football.

Jim is employed as a Senior Staff Accountant at large electric power company and is a licensed public accountant in the State of Ohio. He is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants and a Senior Member of the Society of Depreciation Professionals.

Our next board member we would like to highlight is Trustee Greg Northrop. Greg A. Northrop, is a young 60 years, he is a very active funeral director, and POC Fire fighter in Bucyrus Ohio. He is a five-year member with Box 15 and is in second term as a Trustee.

Active firefighter since 1958, have been a member of 6 departments, and had riding privileges in Chicago, where he is a veteran of SS-1, Toledo, and now Columbus.

Former Member of Detroit Fire Buffs Association, current member of Box 15, COFBA, COAFAA, SPAMFAA, GLIAFAA. Greg is active in fire photography, collecting photos, books, models, and enjoys walking through old firehouses, and loves to catch the old rigs inside.

Jim Scott, Box 15 second trustee lives just north of Columbus in the suburb of Westerville. Where a long and storied past, awaits visitors from far and wide. In this town its firehouses keep watch over its thousands of residents and one highly regarded private university.

Jim Scott is a highly motivated member of Box 15 over the years he has taken numerous run for the club. Though these runs he has become exposed to many aspects of the fire service. Jim then decided to turn his life towards the fire service, Jim has recently become NREMT-B and Ohio Firefighter I/II certified, and is currently attending paramedic school in order to pursue a full-time career in the fire service.

With young members coming in and senior members here to lead them Box 15 future looks bright.

WESTERN RESERVE FIRE MUSEUM WESTERN RESERVE FIRE BUFFS ASSOCIATION

by Paul Nelson

CLEVELAND FIRE NEWS

The Cleveland Fire Department continues to operate at a reduced level established during a financial cut back in 2004. Manpower level is set at 907 members, compared to 1,050 in 2003 with company levels set at 40 suppression units. That includes:

23 engines (one also cross operates fireboat; also includes 3-54' squirts, 1-65' telesquirt, 5-60' light rear-mount aerials) all 1500gpm/500gal

1 rescue pumper 1500gpm/500gal with dive equipment and special rescue equipment

12 ladders (3 platform 2000/quints, 3 rear mount 1250/quints, 6 rear mount aerials)

4 rescues (one is heavy rescue, all are ALS)

There are additional companies designated as "brown-out" units, with apparatus ready to be placed in service if daily manpower permits (E5,E9,E29,L17,L42). If daily manpower permits an ALS/fire rescue designated as Rescue Squad 6 is placed in service with those scenarios occurring before vacations begin. Company manning is set at four members fixed per requirements of the City Charter.

Several changes were implemented at the first of the year with Rescue 1 moving from Station 13 to Station 41 (E. 116th and Melba Ave.) and Ladder 13 reactivated at Station 13 (4950 Broadway).

Two new pumpers were added to the fleet late in 2005 at Engines 40 and 42. Both were General Safety Rosenbauer/Spartan 1500/500 with 60' light aerials. Apparatus was similar to 2004 units except a larger cab and painted aerial. The aerials in 2005 dropped the RK name with the Rosenbauer name dominating.



General Safety/ Rosenbauer/ Spartan 1500/500/60'.
Left E41 (2004 model) Right E40 (2005 model).

(Paul Nelson photo)

2005 RUN STATISTICS

Number of incidents – 65,830 (highest number ever, compared to 56,230 in 2004)

Busiest companies:

Engines 41 – 4,064 runs

24 – 3,573 runs

17 – 3,216 runs

30 – 3,152 runs

Ladders 10(T) – 2,782 runs

1 (T) – 2,781 runs

30 – 2,553 runs

4 – 2,671 runs

Rescues 3 – 3,752 runs

2 – 3,210 runs

1 – 2,843 runs

(Heavy) 4 – 2,773 runs

Most structure fires:

Engines 24 – 239 fires

22 – 221 fires

31 – 207 fires

30 – 206 fires

Ladders 9 – 234 fires

30 – 222 fires

10(T) – 220 fires

11 – 214 fires

Rescues 1 – 358 fires

3 – 325 fires

2 – 288 fires

(Heavy) 4 – 270 fires

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MUSEUM NEWS

Work continues in the demolition stage of interior areas prior to start of restoration and renovation. Every Thursday is work day with volunteers (members, off-duty firefighters, retirees) pulling down old walls, pulling out old electrical and telephone cables and other similar tasks. We needed a brick wall opened up for a new entry to the main floor which provided Tactical Rescue 5 a chance to try out their new saws as a drill. It is just one example of the great support and cooperation at the museum from the fire department.

Discussions are underway with the local trade unions to provide labor as the project moves forward. Several local vendors have donated paint and other building materials. Fund raising continues with two local foundations donating sizable grants for the project and a continuing payroll deduction plan from almost 90% of Cleveland firefighters.

Each year in November all CFD members attend a one-hour session on their options for contributions to United Way and other charitable agencies. Through the cooperation of Chief Paul Stubbs, those sessions are held at the museum where, at the end of each session, firefighters are given an update on museum progress by Executive Director Dan Hayden and

Board Member Joe Mason who both are retired Cleveland firefighters. Once the building is ready the Fire Department's Public Education will be housed in the Museum. It is also hoped that the main floor can be made available for public displays this summer.

The annual Flea Market was held at the Fire Academy on the first Saturday of March with almost 500 visitors. Highlight of the day was a raffle for a new Cairns helmet donated by a vendor and won by a firefighter from Engine 36 as well as sale of some extra items from the Museum. Memorial Day weekend is the date for the Fallen Firefighters ride that will include passing by a dozen City and suburban firehouses to the East. The ride starts at the Museum and ends up in the park downtown on the Lake. Last year about 1,000 motorcycles took part in the event.

Memorabilia continues to appear as more individuals become aware of the Museum and its mission. Recently the Ahrens Fox plate from a Cleveland 1914 double-dome Model A pumper (Engine 24) was brought in by a former member of the Buffs club active in the 50's and 60's. Retired members of the Department and families of deceased members likewise have begun to bring in material that will augment our historical collection.



Companies at Museum for annual charities session

Photo by Paul Nelson

RECENT CLEVELAND FIRES
(PHOTOS BY MRFMC/WRFBA MEMBER
STEVE NEDRICH)



2 1/2-story frame dwelling
at E. 66th Street and St.
Clair Avenue.

Commercial block at W.
25th St. and Carroll Ave.



Two story vacant block at
W. 97th and Lorain Ave.

*TURN OUT
Spring 2006*

Region 5

Box 4 Fire Buff Assn., Inc.

Firefighting Historical Society, Inc.

Fort Worth Red Helmets

Greater Houston Fire Buffs

International Fire Photographer's Assn.

Little Elm Box 620 Support Co.

Plano Fire Rescue Associates

Signal "51" Group

GREATER HOUSTON FIRE BUFFS

PO Box 697

Bellaire, Texas 77402

OFFICERS

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Vice President: Mike Pack

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom McDonald

By Tom McDonald

For starters, in the first sentence of the second paragraph of last issue's (Fall 2005) column, a mysterious semi-colon reappeared at three inopportune times, obscuring the facts in that sentence. So, I will repeat it here for clarity and correction:

"The year 2004 ended with an above-average 54 multiples (the average for the past 60 years is 42 multiples per year)."

Now, let's talk about multiple-alarm activity in Houston in 2005, as it was a record year. The Houston FD had its busiest year ever for multiple alarms (based on known records) in 2005 with 71. This trounced the previous record of 65 set just 4 years ago in 2001. The number of 2-11s in 2005 was 54, the most in a single year (also based on known records), beating the previous high of 46, also set in 2001.

This is truly remarkable as HFD has one of the largest first-alarm response profiles in the business (3E, 2L & 1DC on the smallest box up to 5E, 3L & 3DC on high rises and 1-11s), all with minimum crews of 4. Institution of a "1-11" response undoubtedly kept a few fires that would have otherwise gone to a 2-11 (second alarm) or "taps" (extra engines) at a lower level. A 1-11 now adds 1E & 1DC to smaller first-alarm responses (such as houses and garages) and 1E, 1L & 1DC to larger first-alarm responses (such as apartments, stores, and warehouses). By HFD policy, a working fire in a high rise immediately gets a 2-11.

After a year in virtual hibernation, SW Houston came back to life with a vengeance in

2005, producing 41 of the total 71 multiples (58%) in a geographic slice of the city made up of only 1/5 (20%) of its total area (a wedge bounded by Buffalo Bayou on the north, Main St. on the east and south, and the city limits on the west). Those 41 fires total to just one shy of the average number (42) of multiples in the *entire* city for the past six decades. Specifically, the 4 busiest SW District Chiefs (10, 28, 69, and 82) had a total of 34 multiples, with 12 in District 10, 10 in District 28, and 6 in each of Districts 8, 69, and 82.

Geographically, there was really only one other notable grouping of multiples, a batch of 3 on El Dorado Blvd. in the Clear Lake area (far SE), particularly noteworthy though because all of the fires occurred *after* temporary Station 94 (which would have been first-in on all three fires) was closed to be rebuilt as a permanent structure and its engine company was disbanded.

Some of the noteworthy incidents during 2005:

On Jan. 17, HFD sent a box (first alarm) to a fire found to be in the adjoining city of West University Place. Two garages and a house burned, and HFD pulled a 2-11 to assist West U, Bellaire, and Southside FDs already on the scene.

On Feb. 6, right in the middle of the Super Bowl, a 4-11 fire destroyed a 3-story apartment building on Meadowglen in W Houston. On Feb. 12, The Blood Center on La Concha near the Medical Center had a 4-11 fire in a warehouse adjoining the main office building. Much of the city's blood supply stored there had to be destroyed.

On Feb. 19, HFD Captain Grady Burke (Eng. 46-B shift) was killed in a vacant house fire on Brandon Street in SE Houston. He had just arrived at work and took the call before his

own shift began, but was killed when a large segment of the house's roof collapsed on him. Within the following 9 days, there were two 2-11s pulled for missing firefighters in houses, and, in both those cases, the firefighters were found safe.

On April 17, a spectacular warehouse fire on Wallisville Road required only a 2-11 and 2 taps to contain. The response might have been larger had the operation been other than a defensive one. Dozens of large drums of volatile chemicals exploded and launched fireballs during this fire where many long lays were required.

On April 20, simultaneous multiples broke out just 6 blocks apart Downtown, one at the Bayou Place entertainment complex on Texas and one at the Doubletree Hotel on Dallas. Five alarms worth of companies were committed to the two fires, both of which were quickly contained. On May 8, Mother's Day morning, a 4-11 fire roared through the attic of a dozen garden-style condos on Bayou Glen in W Houston.

On the night of May 29, a severe lightning storm with tornadoes moved across the city. Several houses and apartments in SW Houston were heavily damaged by a tornado. A large church at Watonga and W 43rd was destroyed by fire after being hit by lightning. In early June, arson was ruled in numerous fires in an apartment complex on Upland in W Houston, and in July there was another rash of fires in an apartment complex on Dairy View on the far SW side. On June 27, a fire tore through an east-end rooming house on Ave. C killing one resident and injuring several more plus a firefighter.

On August 29, Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage along the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coasts. The residents of New Orleans were particularly hard hit and were evacuated by the tens of thousands when levees broke flooding most of the city. Houston welcomed more than 200,000 displaced people initially at the Reliant Complex in S Houston, then later at the Brown Convention Center downtown and other relief centers as they

opened up. HFD members stepped up to the plate for several weeks with EMS crews triaging these arrivals, including many who were seriously ill.

Late on September 23, as another major hurricane named Rita approached the upper Texas coast east of Houston, the Galveston FD, battling a multiple-building fire in gale force winds, called Houston for a one-alarm assignment of mutual aid. A couple of hours later, another wind-whipped fire swept through an apartment building in the Clear Lake area of far SE Houston. The neighboring city of Pasadena got in on the act, too, with a major fire that destroyed a shopping center that same night.

The month of December exploded with activity in Houston, with 12 multiples, which I believe is a one-month record (best of my recollection). SW Houston burned on 4 consecutive weekends that month, with A-shift 3-11s each of the first three weekends on Corporate (on the 3rd), W. Bellfort (on the 10th), and Clarewood (on the 17th). There was a fatal 2-11 fire on the second weekend that consumed two houses on Rutherglenn Street.

On Christmas Eve, HFD "hit for the cycle" (a 4-11, a 3-11, and a 2-11 within 24 hours) with the 4-11 in a townhouse complex under construction on Washington Avenue, followed by a 3-11 apartment fire two hours later off Kirkwood near I-10 W, and a pre-dawn Christmas morning 2-11 that consumed a large church on Cullen. Two SW Houston apartment fires 7 hours apart the day after Christmas resulted in a 2-11 on Dairy-Ashford, and a 1-11 on W. Bellfort in which 3 children died.

While Houston experienced this December activity spike, dry conditions across most of Texas resulted in numerous major grassland fires as the year ended. Over Christmas weekend, dozens of homes burned during wind-whipped ground-cover fires near Dallas.

At deadline for this article, members of Greater Houston Fire Buffs were planning to be hosts for IFBA's Region 5 meeting to be held April 7-8 in Beaumont, a city of 100,000 only 90 miles E of Houston. Beaumont was chosen

in order to visit its excellent fire museum, its fire department stations, and to have a presentation about how the city dealt with the onslaught of Hurricane Rita.

Probably the biggest political issue in Houston in early 2006 was associated with the sea of evacuees that washed into Houston after Hurricane Katrina. Nearly every vacant hotel room and apartment in the city became occupied in the days and months following the storm by an estimated 200,000 people (more than 10% of Houston's pre-Katrina population). By early 2006, a small percentage of these evacuees had returned to their communities, but by no means a significant number. That number remained in Houston. Although most of these people were law-abiding and glad to have a roof over their heads, there were many others who took to crime. Murders in Houston skyrocketed in the last quarter of 2005 as did other types of crime. It remains to be seen how this forced

migration of people will impact the futures of the two affected cities for the long haul, but undoubtedly it will have a major impact on each.

On a personal note, I am still a Captain in HFD (24 years OTJ now), but in December 2005 transferred to a slower firehouse. Four years on Engine 82 (typically, a "Top 10" engine in HFD) was enough for me. I moved to Engine 37, at 3828 Aberdeen Way off Stella Link Rd., a two-bay house shared with only an EMS unit. It is in a "nicer" part of town, less than two miles from my house. I actually live in a "bedroom" community called Bellaire that is surrounded by Houston and has its own paid FD (or I would have transferred there).

Please e-mail your comments including your desires about future columns to Tom McDonald at TMCFIRE@AOL.COM. Please put the word *Turnout* in your e-mail heading.

Fort Worth, Texas Area Fire News

Article and Photos By: Jeffrey A. Harwell

On the evening of May 2, 2005 the Benbrook FD in southwest Tarrant County responded to a working fire in a one story storage building in the 7300 block of West Vickery Boulevard. Since Vickery Boulevard represents the dividing line between Benbrook and Ft. Worth, the Ft. Worth FD also responded with a one alarm assignment. Firefighters were able to get a fairly quick knockdown

with handlines and some of the Ft. Worth companies returned to service without going to work.

Just as this fire was wrapping up, the Arlington FD dispatched Engine 10 and Quint 9 on a seemingly innocent automatic alarm at the Rush Creek Church located on Green Oaks Blvd in southeast Tarrant County. A minute before Engine 10 arrived on scene a cell phone caller reported smoke coming from the attic of the red brick building, which



Arlington, TX Quint 1 has finally made it into position on the northwest corner of the fireground only to find out the fire spread has basically been halted. The May 2, 2005 fire involved the youth building (original sanctuary) of the Rush Creek Church on Green Oaks Boulevard.

turned out to be the youth building. At this point the remainder of the first alarm assignment was filled out with three additional engines and a battalion chief. The building involved was actually the original sanctuary building which was somewhat U shaped featuring wood and brick veneer construction with a peaked wood truss roof.

An interior attack was soon abandoned as fire began to break through the roof. At that point firefighters scrambled to get Quints 9, 7, and 6 in service with ladder pipes as quickly as possible. Poor Truck 1 was requested to set up ladder pipe operations on the northwest corner of the structure, but due to driveway configuration, collapse zones, etc, they spent most of the fire trying to negotiate their way into position. By the time they finally reached their assigned position, the fire spread had pretty much been stopped in the southwest corner. The fire would eventually go to 4 Alarms with mutual aid fill-in companies provided by the Ft. Worth, Euless, and Grand Prairie Fire Departments. Investigators later determined that one of the church youth had started a fire in a sofa on the second floor. The new sanctuary was located far enough away that it was never considered an exposure.

1842	Auto Alarm	Engine 10 Quint 9
1845	Fill 1 Alarm	Engines 9-15-13(RIC)
	Battalion 2	
1849	2nd Alarm	Engines 12-3 Quint 7
	Battalion 3	E1 to 9, E6 to 10
1856	3rd Alarm	Engines 6-16 Quint 6
		E1 to 10, E5 to 9, Q1 to 6, FWFD to 1
1920	4th Alarm	Engine 14 Quint 1
		Q8 to 6, E2 to 10, E11 to 8, EFD to 8, GPF to 2
2015	1st Special	Engines 5-8
		FWFD to 7, E4 to 7, and E11 to 15

Just as the Dallas Cowboys were wrapping up their victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday October 30th, the Crowley FD in southern Tarrant County was being dispatched for a possible chimney fire in a residence on Williamson Road near Cleburne Road.

Although this is unincorporated Tarrant County, it is protected under contract by the Crowley FD, which operates two stations with two to three paid personnel at each station, with additional support from volunteers. First in units reported smoke showing and a mutual aid



Conditions deteriorate as water supply problems develop at a house fire on Williamson Drive in Crowley, TX. Crowley Quint 254 will have plenty of fire to attack once the water supply is re-established.

engine was requested from the Burleson FD. The house construction was rather complicated since a number of additions had been made over the years. As the first crew was making an interior attack, the ceiling collapsed on top of the firefighters briefly trapping them. When



An overall view of the fire scene on Williamson Road in Crowley, TX on October 30, 2005. Several additions to the house hampered firefighting operations as the fire spread from the chimney area to the multiple attics.

firefighters were able to make it to the exterior of the building they discovered that one of the crew didn't make it out. Crews re-entered from

a different door and rescued the injured firefighter (hand injury). From that point on an exterior attack was mounted, but difficulties were encountered when trying to establish a water supply, and the fire gained much headway. Eventually a water shuttle was established to a fire hydrant on Cleburne Road using tankers from multiple departments. In all, 9 departments fought the fire.

Slightly one month later, just a few miles south of this fire, the Mid-North FD of Johnson County was toned out on yet another Sunday



Burleson, TX Engine 3 fills up with water from Crowley Tanker 54 during the November 27, 2005 conflagration in the Mid North fire district of northern Johnson County. The temperature at the time was around 80 degrees with 18% humidity and winds out of the west gusting to 44 mph.

afternoon for a grass fire in the vicinity of County Road 915A. While grass fires are extremely common in north Texas, the conditions this day were not that common. Temperatures were hovering around 80 degrees with 18% humidity and winds out of the west gusting to 44 mph. Add to that about 6 months without any measurable rainfall and you get the picture that conditions were ideal for rapid fire growth. The fire chief happened to live right in the middle of this fire, and one of his first reports indicated that he did in fact have at least one structure involved, perhaps two structures, he just wasn't sure as visibility was near zero. As incoming units reported heavy black smoke showing from many miles away, it was obvious that a number of structures were involved. In perhaps an unprecedented move, the Johnson County Sheriff's office toned out every single department in the county to respond mutual aid to Mid-North. That meant that Company 75 from Grandview in the far southern section of the county had 24 miles to travel to reach the fire. While numerous Tarrant County stations



Mid North, TX Engine/Tanker 283 is pictured at a one alarm house fire on a bitterly cold December 7, 2005. The fire started around the chimney area of the two story wood frame dwelling and spread throughout the structure and to an attached mobile home. Burleson and Joshua provided mutual aid for tanker shuttles to the nearest hydrant. Units were delayed on reaching the scene due to the original reporting caller giving the wrong address, and also due to the fact that all roads were coated with sleet and ice - not something Texans are used to dealing with.

were closer, they were already engaged in assisting neighboring Parker County on a massive grass fire south of Weatherford. Depending on which report you listen to, there were anywhere from 8 to 20 structures destroyed.

The conflagration type atmosphere would continue in Tarrant County as Tuesday December 27 became a day that Arlington firefighters would not soon forget. If you happened to be driving down Interstate 20 that afternoon, you might think that you were in a war zone. Two massive fires were burning south of the interstate, and one to the north. On this particular day a dry line moved in and a strong, dry wind quickly developed from the southwest gusting up to 33 mph. More importantly, the humidity plunged to 8% as the temperature at DFW Airport rose to a record high of 82 degrees - some 30 degrees above normal. And with the previously mentioned drought, simple grass fires soon became conflagrations. Arlington fire communications quickly ran out of available radio channels as numerous grass fires threatening structures were reported in rapid succession. More importantly, communications soon ran out of fire companies

to dispatch to new fires, which meant there were no companies available to respond to assist units on existing fires that were growing larger.

Two of the grass fires in Arlington that afternoon involved the loss of occupied houses. Had Engine and Brush 16 been in the station they could have likely controlled a grass fire in the rear of 7001 Grindstone rather quickly, seeing as how the station was only two blocks away. But on this day Company 16 was already on another incident, and the fire quickly destroyed four houses as it blew across neighboring Mitchell Parkway. At this point firefighters were able to stop the fire before it reached the next street (Lake Jackson Drive).

The largest fire of the afternoon didn't even start out as Arlington's problem. The grass fire originated in the rear of 1233 Swiney Hiatt Road in the city of Kennedale - several blocks from the Arlington city limits. When you have to set up a ladder pipe in a housing development cul-de-sac and a deck gun in an apartment complex parking lot just to protect exposures you know your afternoon is not going well, and such was the case for the Kennedale and Arlington departments. Kennedale's immediate concern was the Steeplechase Estates housing development on the north side of the fire which is where they set up their quint. Arlington's concern were two apartment complexes directly in the path of the fast moving fire, and that's where firefighters found the fire burning shrubs at the base of several of the apartment buildings. As luck would have it, the exterior construction of the apartment buildings was non combustibile - some type of stucco and brick veneer - and there was no extension. Had the exterior construction been vinyl siding While Arlington companies focused on protecting the multiple 3-story buildings in the apartment complex, there were about a dozen houses on Joplin Street that were also in the path of the rapidly spreading grass fire. At one point an Arlington engine was asking for a supply line to help battle an attic fire in one of those houses on Joplin Street, the reply from command was one of those situations you don't won't to be in. Command simply advised that there was no help, do the best you could.

Eventually mutual aid companies from Ft. Worth started to arrive at both this fire and the one on Mitchell Parkway, but not before substantial damage had occurred. The Joplin Street fire claimed four houses and five barns, with several houses damaged in the Steeplechase Estates neighborhood on the fire's northern flank (city of Kennedale). It's interesting that the fire burned all the way to the divided highway at US287 before finally reaching enough of a fire break to slow it down. It was also interesting to note that in almost every case the houses lost were those of wood frame and/or modular construction. There were several houses in the middle of the fire's path that featured brick veneer construction and were spared.

Several new stations have gone in service over the past few months. The newest is a replacement Station #1 for North Richland Hills located at the corner of Davis Boulevard and Shadywood Lane. The new three bay station houses Quint 221, Brush 221, and the Northeast Tarrant County Bomb Squad vehicles. In November of last year the city of Fort Worth opened new Station 41 on Blue Mound Road just east of US Highway 287. This temporary station was the result of the city's decision to hastily annex a large swath of land in the northern part of the city before a new state annexation law became effective. We first learned that the station was on-line when we heard Battalion 6 requesting PD in front of Station 41 for cows blocking the roadway near the station. Yes, in many parts of the surrounding landscape the cows outnumber the humans in this part of Tarrant County. But growth is rapidly advancing north and Fort Worth had to fill in the gaps. The station is pretty much a two bay shed next to a modular building and houses Engine 41 and Water Tender 41. The replacement for Fort Worth Station 8 may or may not be ready for occupancy by the time you read this. Opening has already been moved back from January to perhaps March. The three bay station located at Rosedale and 12th will house Engine 8, Towerladder 8, and Ladder Tender 8, as well as some departmental administrative offices.



I.F.B.A. TURN OUT EDITION APRIL 2006

BOX 4 - DFR 896

Where to start is the big question for this article. First of all, Dallas Fire-Rescue has openings for Chief of Department and Chief of Operations. Chief Steve Abaira and our City Manager had some disagreements on how the department should be managed and as a result the Chief resigned. He was a great supporter of Box 4 and will be greatly missed. The club voted him an Honorary Member, the first in our 45 year history. Assistant Chief Kenny Dorsett retired after over 30 years of service and again he was great supporter of Box 4. We should have a new Chief named in the next several weeks with one of the 4 finalist being an internal Candidate. The others are from Shreveport and Ft Worth.

For the full year 2005 we responded to 107 calls for assistance of which 3 were one alarm fires; 35—two alarm fires; 20—three alarm fires; 10—four alarm fires; 3—five alarm fires; 4—six alarm fires; and 32 were other incidents including SWAT, grass fires, mutual aid, and community service calls. This is the highest number of runs we have had in the last 3 years.

As a result of increased Fire activity and the number of multiple calls coming for our assistance at the same time, the Club voted to add another unit. We purchased a used 3/4 ton Suburban, red in color, and have equipped it as a back up to our BIG RIG. It is about ready to go in service. We have a 40 gallon water tank on board along with chairs, mister fan, lights, and all the stuff necessary to serve our fire-fighters. We plan on using this unit as first in on brush fires, and it will run automatically on either all 3rd or 4th alarms. This unit will give us much flexibility if and when we need to get off road. The unit is shown in the photo section and is numbered 897.



On the equipment scene the new fire boat is in but not yet lettered and the new \$29 Air Unit is delayed and suppose to be here any minute. Seems they had to repaint it when the power failed at the manufacturer and the temps dropped so low the paint job was ruined. All other apparatus is on schedule.

Now for the fire scene. WOW!!!!!! We had some really big fires during the last 3 months. I think some were what you might call "once in a life-timers."

Let's start with December 3rd. The day was really warm with temps expected to be in the high 80's with a cold front due in at dusk. Box 2690 was struck at 2:34pm for a High Rise Assisted Living Facility. This 10 story facility was built around 30 years ago and was on a hill at the end of a dead end street. The first companies were out at 2:37pm with fire blowing out of a third story window. The following is how this 7 alarm plus fire progressed:



photo by John Billingham

1st Alarm	2:34pm	Engines 14/26/52; Trucks 15/26/36; Chiefs 3/6/9; Rescue 71
2nd Alarm	2:39pm	Engines 15/33/36; Trucks 4/23; Deputy 807; Rescue 26
3rd Alarm	2:44pm	Engines 1/16/45; Truck 24; Rescue 15/70
4th Alarm	2:49pm	Engines 4/18/23; Chiefs 800/803; Rescues 45/52
5th Alarm	2:59pm	Engines 8/46/49; Rescues 3/11/23/49
6th Alarm	3:30pm	Engines 6/27/41/47; Trucks 11/19/53; Rescues 6/8/71
Special Call	3:45pm	Engines 19/24/25/51/54; Truck 17; Rescue 37/43/47

At the time of the 5th alarm a Mass Casualty Incident was declared bringing out the Medical Staff from Parkland Hospital and alerting all hospitals to anticipate multiple victims. Smoke from the fire spread to all floors and it was necessary to evacuate many patients

by ladder and firefighters carrying patients down multiple flights of stairs. Some patients were evacuated to the roof while others were taken out windows and placed on window ledges. Firefighters sat with victims on the ledges till they could be evacuated.

Box 4 was stretched as we set up 3 rehab stations as well as assisted with the victims of the fire. At the height of the fire 24 engines, 14 trucks, and 20 rescues (MICUs) representing about 50% of the fire departments resources were committed. There were over 300 older citizens in the building. One person died in the original fire apartment, 2 people were critical from smoke and 7 others had less severe injuries. Considering all this could have been a much worse disaster.



photo by John Billingham

While this box was winding down the winds shifted out of the north and the temperatures started to drop quickly. At 5:26pm just 2.5 miles from Box 2690 Box 1460 was struck for fire in a two story wood frame apartment house. First out companies were from all over the city and filling in at stations miles from their home house. The fire whipped by high winds spread to an adjacent two story wood apartment building and escalated as follows:

1st Alarm	5:26pm	Engines 43/48/55; Trucks 37/57; Chiefs 5/8; Rescue 8
2nd Alarm	5:38pm	Engines 11/17/23/24; Trucks 3/4/49; Chiefs 3/9; Rescue 33
3rd Alarm	5:51pm	Engines 15/33/45/49; Truck 23
4th Alarm	6:01pm	Engines 4/36/51/52; Chief 800

Of course at both fires many auxiliary units were dispatched including most all chiefs of the department. At the height of the 4th alarm we had less than 2 engine companies and less than 1 truck company covering each of the city's 9 fire divisions.

Both of the above incidents fell on the day of our annual Christmas Party. Needless to say there were a bunch of tired folks at the banquet. The Club was impressed when Acting Chief Bright and Deputy Chief Dervett came to the banquet. They had also been to both of the fires and we are sure they were pretty tired. But they still had time for us. We will always have time for them.



photo by David Wignall

On January 12, Box 2901 was struck for a condo complex at the very far boundary of north Dallas. First out engine 22 was 6 minutes out and got out with smoke showing. This fire escalated as follows:

1st Alarm 10:58am Engines 22/29/57; Trucks 20/57; Chiefs 2/4; Rescue 57
 2nd Alarm 11:17am Engines 28/48/56; Trucks 37/41; Chiefs 3/7
 3rd Alarm 11:35am Engines 7/20/37/55; Truck 39
 4th Alarm 11:56am Engines 6/39/41; Truck 53 Chief 802
 5th Alarm 12:10pm Engine 8/27; Chief 800
 6th Alarm 12:36pm Engines 13/17/31; Rescue 21

Eventually the fire spread to 36 units of the condo complex which was of wood frame and composition brick construction. As with many of our bigger fires this one was caused by a plumbers torch and spread through the complex through wooden frame floor joists.



On January 3rd, Box 2660 was struck for a warehouse containing used carpet and carpet padding in south-west Dallas. First out companies got out with just light smoke showing but once they gained entrance to the warehouse the smoldering fire "exploded" quickly escalating to 5 alarms as follows:

1st Alarm 5:34pm Engines 14/26/52; Trucks 26/36; Chiefs 6/9; Rescue 26
 2nd Alarm 5:39pm Engines 15/36/45; Trucks 4/15; Chiefs 1/5; Rescue 45 Deputy 897
 3rd Alarm 6:00pm Engines 4/8/47; Truck 43
 4th Alarm 6:08pm Engines 18/23/33; Truck 49
 5th Alarm 6:30pm Engines 24/41/49; Chiefs 800 and 801

The warehouse was a total loss and afforded our club photographers with some really hot pictures so to speak.



Our latest big one was on February 22, when box 425 was struck for a warehouse on the south side of the central business district. This area had been converted to a movie set and the buildings in the area had been in a number of TV programs and movies. This 40,000 sq. ft. two story was built around 70 years ago and was in an area of the city with older water mains. The first in engine got out with some light smoke showing, but again once entry was made the fire quickly escalated.

1st Alarm 12:53pm Engines 3/6/18; Trucks 4/24
 Chiefs 1/3; Rescue 23
 2nd Alarm 1:14pm Engines 15/23/45; Trucks
 3/15; Chiefs 5/6 Deputy 807
 3rd Alarm 1:22pm Engines 4/24/44; Trucks 37;
 Chief 2
 4th Alarm 1:29pm Engines 1/11/19; Trucks 23
 5th Alarm 1:41pm Engines 8/14/38; Chief 800



photo by Dale Faust

Again this fire was spectacular and looked liked some of the fires we see from up north.

TAKE A LOOK!

Our photo pages show some of the action from the fires we reported on and a few others. In our next article we plan to focus on the new equipment arriving in Dallas. If your travels bring you to Dallas,

please contact us. We will be glad to show you around and who knows you might get to make a "Big One." Contact John Fesperman at 972-702-8295 or Dale Aymond at 214-808-8598.



5 Alarm Warehouse Fire, February 22, 2006
photo by Dale Faust



2 Alarm House Fire, February 19, 2006
photo by Bill Marshall



5 Alarm Carpet Warehouse Fire, January 3, 2006
photo by Bill Marshall



Mutual Aid Gas Tanker on Fire, December 10, 2005
photo by John Bittingham



6 Alarm Apartment Fire, December 3, 2005
photo by Larry Powell



6 Alarm Apartment Fire, December 3, 2005
photo by David Wignall

Region 6

5-11 Club, Inc.

10-87 Club of Greater Rockford

Brookfield Fire Associates, Inc.

Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities

Metropolitan Emergency Support
Services, Inc. (M. E. S. S.)

Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc.

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

Milwaukee Fire Historical Society, Ltd.

Moline Second Alarm Assn.

Racine Fire Bell Club, Inc.

Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc.

P.O. Box 725 South Bend, Indiana 46624

By Mark Rzepnicki

Greetings from South Bend, Indiana. I again debated on whether or not to write this article, because activity has been that slow. I've been going to the Station every month to dust the cobwebs off the Canteen. That and recharging the battery, but more on that later. I decided to give myself a Christmas present of a digital camera, so maybe by next article I can have some photos in here.

The Penn Township Fire Department dedicated their new Headquarters Station on October 9, 2005. It has 4 bays and replaces an old station built in the 1950's. Their Deputy Chief John Snyder is a long time member of our club. The new station is on the corner of Jackson and Elm in the southeast part of the County. On the topic of Fire Stations, South Bend broke ground on a new Station 2 which will replace the existing station which Memorial Hospital bought for expansion. The new station will have 3 bays and will be on the corner of Lincoln Way West and Chapin. The move will put Engine Company 2 further west of where they were before. The plan is to have the station up and running by early 2007.

We responded to a fully involved house fire on November 17, 2005 on the north side of South Bend. Two young boys were at home at the time but were able to escape the blaze without injury. As I have mentioned, the canteen hadn't moved in a while. It got to the fire just fine and a few of the club members responded without much trouble, but after everything was done and the rig was taking up, the battery died. It had to be jump started to get it back. It went to the garage for an oil change and basic getting ready for winter check up and everything seemed OK. We started going once a month to put a charger on the battery to make sure we didn't have that problem again. Just recently we have had two calls in the early

morning hours. On February 12, 2006 we got called to a huge barn fire at a large dairy farm in Madison Township. The rig was dead but was able to be jump started in the station and made it out to the call. The temperature was about 2 degrees, so the coffee and hot chocolate were really appreciated. A lot of farm machinery was lost in the blaze which they estimate to be about a million dollars in damage. After getting back, the battery showed a full charge when put on the charger. Just a few weeks later on March 1, 2006 South Bend had a commercial building fire in a strip mall on the east side of town. It was the Great Escape store which sells above ground pools, saunas, pool tables, and everything else like that. The main electric panel box exploded from some electrical fault and when the first rigs arrived, it looked like it would extend to the rest of the mall. We were called out immediately. Sprinklers and firefighters made quick work of the fire. Again the rig was dead and had to be jump started with the help of some very sleepy firemen. Again, it didn't let us down and got us there and did the job, but by now we knew we had to do something. It is now in the garage, where steps will be taken to prevent this from happening again. The Salvation Army has told us that we are next in line for a new canteen, but we are not holding our breath till we get it. We received our present rig in 1986 and I guess we are paying the price for keeping it in decent shape for so long.

Again the apparatus front has been as slow as the fire activity. There is talk of both South Bend and Mishawaka buying a pumper late this year or early next.

December was cold and snowy but January and February were rather warm with no snow at all. We wonder what the summer will bring. That's all for now, stay safe and happy "buffing".

Racine Fire Bells

By Steven Jones

Fire Bells Crack the Century Mark in 2005

With 19 calls during the month of December the Racine Fire Bells capped the most remarkable year in their history with their busiest month ever, finishing 2005 with a total of 102 rehab runs. The overall tally eclipsed the old record by 36 calls. A number of factors appear to have contributed to the high volume of calls, not

the least of which was that fire activity in the region did seem to be up. The most significant accomplishment of the past year, outside of the record number of alarms answered, was the continued

diversification of the organization. Several years ago the Fire

Bells added a second rehab unit to their operation. They continued that growth last spring by joining forces with the Lake Geneva Fire Department Auxiliary, effectively creating a tri-county service that provides support to dozens of fire, EMS, law enforcement, state and federal agencies. Twenty-five such agencies called upon the Fire Bells for assistance during 2005. The Fire Bell's Rehab Unit 64 was reassigned to new quarters at Lake Geneva Fire

Station 1 after the merger with the Lake Geneva Auxiliary. This was done to streamline response times and gave the Fire Bells a rehab unit on each end of their response area. To insure that rehab supplies reached emergency crews as quickly as possible, several members were designated as "Rehab First Responders" or POV (personally operated vehicle) Units. These members were each given enough supply to initiate rehab operations while awaiting the arrival of a rehab unit. During 2005 Rehab Unit 64 responded to 20 calls. Rehab Unit 65



Racine fire fighters battle a raging residential fire at 1914 W. Hubbard Street on Thanksgiving night. The fire was fought in 16-degree temperatures, requiring the rotation of nearly every company of fire fighters on duty at the time. The Racine Fire Bells had several members on scene providing fire crews with much needed rehab services. Tim Stein photo.

responded to 77 incidents, while both units were present at the same scene 3 times. The POV units accounted for 5 responses. Another fact that can be cited for the Fire Bell's success is t h e

c o n t i n u i n g evolution of the MABAS S y s t e m t h r o u g h o u t

Southeastern Wisconsin. As fire departments throughout the region develop their respective MABAS cards they have been designating that the Fire Bells respond earlier and more often to their incidents. As a result, the organization is responding to a wider variety of emergencies than ever before. A summary of last years activities compiled by Fire Bell President Tim Stein indicates that members volunteered over 1400 hours towards rehab duty. The amount of rehab supplies distributed during 2005 is

staggering, as indicated by the following figures: Bottles of Gatorade – 2124; bottles of water – 1900; cups of hot chocolate – 368; gallons of coffee – 150; gallons of mixed Gatorade – 23; gallons of hot chocolate mixed – 21; cases of pound cakes used – 98.5. Structure fire responses involved house, barn, apartment, garage, storage facility and wildland incidents. Other responses included a structural collapse, natural gas leak, missing person search, law enforcement investigation, law enforcement tactical situation, and six water rescue/recovery incidents. An additional 14 non-emergency responses were made including 8 public relations events, 2 training fires, 2 parades, 1 funeral detail and 1 emergency government drill. Responses were distributed as follows: Racine County – 54; Kenosha County – 39; Walworth County – 8; Milwaukee County – 1 (mutual aid to Milwaukee Fire Bells). The Kenosha Fire Department headed the list of those seeking the Fire Bell's services, with 21 requests. Racine was second with 13, followed by Salem and Mount Pleasant, with 8 each.

Fire Bells Bid Farewell to Veteran Member

The Racine Fire Bells lost one of their staunchest supporters January 27, 2006 when veteran member Sy Holding passed away at the age of 77. Though slowed in recent years by health problems Holding remained involved with the Fire Bells, overseeing the organization's Bingo fund-raisers. Much of Holding's four-plus decades with the Fire Bells were spent as the organization's president. Holding once credited the feeling of camaraderie he shared with the area's fire fighters as the thing he found most rewarding. Holding, a stocky Racine native, will be remembered as someone who wasn't afraid to speak his mind. This edge may have been honed during a four year hitch with the United States Army, most of which was spent fighting in Korea. Holding credited his toughness with helping him to overcome life's challenges. While in the army Holding exhibited a knack for leadership, rising through the ranks from private

to master sergeant in only six months. While many will recall his toughness, Holding had a compassionate side as well. This trait was captured in a series of photos taken at the scene of a natural gas explosion that destroyed a Racine residence in 1972. The homeowner, who was away when the explosion occurred, nearly collapsed when she returned to find fire fighters overhauling what was left of her shattered dwelling. Holding went to comfort the distraught female, leading her from the scene with the aid of a Racine patrolman. It was Holding's longtime hope that the Fire Bells would always find a way to persevere. Thanks in great part to his contributions, that hope has a solid foundation. Holding was buried with full military honors at West Lawn Cemetery in Mount Pleasant.

Longtime Fire Buff now Interim Fire Chief

Racine Fire Chief John Hilmer, 53, submitted his retirement notice in mid-December after more than 30 years with the department. "It's good for me and good for the department to have someone come in with different ideas," Hilmer said during an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Shortly after the announcement the Racine Fire Bells were proud to learn that one of their veteran members, Lieutenant-Paramedic Steve Hansen, was selected as Interim Chief. Hansen, who joined the RFD 25 years ago, has been a member of the Fire Bells since 1977. Hansen, a Past President of the IFBA ('96-97), was selected as recipient of the Henry Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year Award for 2003. During his many years with the Fire Bells Hansen has filled a number of important roles, including chairing the committee in 1997 that provided funds for a brand new rehab unit. Hansen is currently Chairman overseeing the operation of Racine's Firehouse 3 Museum.

New Apparatus

Things have been very busy on this front, and there is every indication that this will be the case for some time to come. The Pleasant

Prairie Fire and Rescue Department in Kenosha County took delivery recently of a new Pierce Quantum pumper/tanker. The new rig has a 1750 gpm Waterous pump, 2000 gallon tank and is powered by a Detroit Diesel Series 60



The City of Burlington recently placed this Pierce Enforcer 1500/500/75-foot unit in service as Quint 921. Tim Stein photo.

470 hp engine. New Pierce rigs were also delivered recently to Mt. Pleasant (Dash 1500/750 rescue pumper) and the City of Burlington (Enforcer 1500/500/75-foot quint). Departments in Union Grove, Caledonia, Somers and Linn are planning new apparatus purchases. Waterford is renovating a former WE Energies pickup into a grass rig, and is also looking at adding a second station to cover a rapidly growing portion of the village. The Town of Burlington is currently in the process of purchasing a used heavy rescue rig built on a 1995 International chassis from a department in Connecticut. The new unit will be housed at



The Village of Pleasant Prairie received this Quantum 1750/2000 pumper-tanker from Pierce Mfg. The unit operates out of Station 2 as Engine 5614. Tim Stein photo.

Station 2 in Bohner's Lake once it is made ready for service. Kenosha recently placed in service two new modular ambulances built by Marque on Ford 450 chassis. Sturtevant, Mt. Pleasant and Racine have added new Ford modular ambulances built by Medtec.

Fire Bells to Host Regional Convention

Southeast Wisconsin will be the location of a tri-regional convention, hosted by the Racine Fire Bells, May 5-6, 2006. The timing of the convention is significant to the Racine area, as it is the 114th anniversary of the Great Fire of 1882, which devastated much of the "Belle City's" business district. Final details for the convention, that will bring together members from IFBA Regions 4, 6 and 8, were still pending at press time.

ATTENTION ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CLUBS

We need your photographs of all things fire related: action shots, new apparatus, unusual apparatus, unusual runs! Unfortunately, there are always a few "holes" that need to be filled, and we'd love to feature your photo. Please submit to turnout@ifba.org and include a short description of the photograph. And, always, please acknowledge the photographer!

Clubs, if you would like to have your club logo featured with your article, please submit a good rendering to (yeah, you guessed it!) turnout@ifba.org. We'll build a library so you won't have to send it with each story.

By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar

Chicago is going through one of the mildest winters since 1870. We are in the midst of a continuing drought with only about 14 inches of snow since the beginning of December. Normally the Chicago area would have received about 45 inches of snow by this time. This has impacted the multiple alarm totals with only 42 multiples for 2005 and just 5 for 2006 so far.

We did, however, end the year with a significant 5-11 plus 1 special alarm that also included a level 2 Hazmat plan in a soap and candle factory located near 15th and Ashland Avenue on the City's west side. The October 18 fire was first reported at 10:34 p.m. and within 20 minutes had completely involved the 70'x300' warehouse. The two-story building also housed the factory and company offices and was of block construction with a metal deck roof. The fire was out of control for over three hours despite the use of three master streams, several deck guns, three tower ladders and numerous handlines.

The most recent extra alarm was at the Pilgrim Baptist Church located at 33rd and Indiana Avenue in the Bronzeville District of the City. The fire, which occurred on January 6th, is believed to have started around 3:30 pm. when roofers using torches ignited rafters in the large domed roof. Within minutes, the totally involved roof crashed into the sanctuary of the historic church and landmark that was built in 1891 as a synagogue. In a short time the fire took control of the entire church. Several of the



Engine 26 and Truck 7 working at the 5-11 on 15th Street (Photo by Mike Penchar)

CFD companies had to be diverted to fire brand control and to answer the numerous alarms in the nearby areas for smoke investigations. Our canteen responded to both fires and served over 100 cups of coffee, cold water and hot chocolate, the beverage of choice for many of the firefighters.



Another view of the 5-11 on 15th Street (Photo by Mike Penchar)

On December 3, 2005, the Chicago Fire

Department disbanded Engine 61, stationed near 54th and Prairie, and reorganized Truck 12. The new truck company will run out of Engine 110's house at Foster and Claremont on the north side. Truck 12 will provide an additional truck company protection to the northeast corner of the City which has many high-rise buildings and hospitals. On the same day, Engine Company 84, along with Truck 51, joined Ambulance 36 and moved into their new quarters at 21 West 59th Street. Their old house, known as the "castle in the ghetto" is to be torn down for a \$200 million junior college. This past summer, as Engine 77 was taken out of service, Engine 38, Truck 48 and Battalion 14 moved into their new quarters at 3949 West 16th Street. As of this writing, only 4 of the 5 scheduled new houses have been given the go ahead for construction in 2006. New quarters for Engines 18, 70, 109 and 121 should be completed in early 2007. Additional new (replacement) houses will be added to the capital improvement projects list in the future.

On the apparatus scene, we forgot to mention that Engine 63 was the sixth pumper from the most recent Spartan-Crimson to be assigned in Spring 2005. An add-on order for nine additional pumpers from Crimson has arrived and will be ready for assignment in the next few weeks. These new rigs will replace many of the 1992 and 1993 Spartan-Luverne pumpers now on the roster. Tower Ladder Companies 23 and 54 have been assigned new 100' Pierce units. Truck Companies 1 and 51 also received new 100' rear mount Pierce tandem-axle rigs recently. Truck 12 was given a 1993 100' Seagrave rear-mount when it was reorganized. Two Ford diesel-powered Air Mask trucks, built by Alexis, have arrived. Two new command vans are in the process of being built at AK Specialty Vehicles. Light Wagon 5 (9-1-5) has been rebuilt by HCI using a Ford F350 chassis. Light Wagon 3 (9-1-3) will be next. A second Hazmat rig (5-1-2) was placed into service at Engine 60's quarters when Engine 77 was disbanded. The rig is a 2003 ALF heavy equipment type unit identical to 5-1-1. Bids for a new Hazmat support vehicle (5-1-

1A) were sent out for purchase in 2006. A 1995 Seagrave Collapse Rescue unit has been placed into service by taking Truck 26's old rig, removing the aerial, and adding additional storage space. The rig will run as 5-2-2. A clarification is in order from our last *Turnout* article. Alexis Fire Apparatus was the supplier for the 3 six-wheel Gator ATVs. Also, the 6 Segway one-person people movers have been used at parades and special events patrol and for EMS services.



Truck Co. 51 2005 Pierce 100-ft. rear mount aerial (Photo by Chuck Bleck)

In Club news, we have recently elected and have sworn in our new officers for 2006. John Divita remains as our President, Dennis Ahrens is our V.P., Harold Klein is our Recording Secretary, Mike Penchar is our Corresponding Secretary, and Paige Van Vorst is our Treasurer. The Club provided our two canteen rigs to help transport toys for Firefighters' Union Local 2's Christmas Toy Drive held on December 3, 2005. Over ten other vehicles joined the parade including 5-11 Club member Bill Bruton who used his restored Chief's Buggy. The toys that were collected included over 100 bicycles that were loaded onto an Illinois National Guard 6x6. Seven of our members helped deliver the toys to the Local Union Hall for sorting by Catholic Charities.

Our 12th annual Fire Muster will be held at the Chicago Fire Academy on June 17, 2006. This joint effort by the 5-11 Club and the Fire Buffs of Illinois will feature both Water Tower 2 and Water Tower 3 throwing streams for the first time in over 50 years. The Fire Museum of Greater Chicago will have their 1918 Mack Bulldog High Pressure Wagon. This rig started out as the tractor for Truck 4 but was converted

into a high-pressure wagon by the CFD shops for Water Tower 1. This will be a rare opportunity to see classic fire apparatus doing their best after so many years.

In closing, we hope to see you at the various

IFBA regional meetings and the upcoming Seattle Convention. When visiting Chicago, please give us a call to arrange for some tours. You can also visit our website at www.5-11club.org.

Moline Second Alarmers

by Dave Coopman

While last year's warm weather produced many calls for service, as the weather cooled down in the Fall, so did our number of runs. But that allowed for more training time on behalf of our MABAS status, as well as for the Moline Fire Department.

As the year came to a close, the group participated in two eight-hour NIMS (National Incident Management System) training sessions with a third one yet to complete. NIMS was mandated after the events of 9-11 (and maybe Hurricane Katrina as well) so all emergency bodies would be working from the same script and using the same procedures no matter where they operated outside of their normal jurisdictions.

And while the last months of 2005 seemed very slow, the group's statistics for the year yielded a few surprises. For general alarms, mutual aid and special call-ups, a total of 143 men reported, 309.25 man-hours of time were volunteered, and 239 air packs were filled on-scene.

For public service activities, which included fire truck rides, displays of our mobile cascade truck and assisting at public service and educational events, a total of 86 men reported and 325 hours of volunteer time was committed. Our training records show that the group had 326.25 hours of training in 2005.

While we have filled more air pack bottles in the past, the group has never volunteered more total time in one year – 960.5 hours. Part of this can be attributed to the fact that we designated a training officer and hold training every month on a separate night from

our regular meetings.

The City of Moline was so impressed with those figures that certificates and uniform service ribbons were awarded to each member of the group. Our advisor, Battalion Chief Mike Day, Fire Chief Rick Jewel and Mayor Don Welvaert showed up at our Christmas party to make the presentations. Needless to say, members were totally surprised and very appreciative.

That December presentation was the last "official" function of our advisor Mike Day. After 29 years on the job, Mike retired in January of this year. When he became our advisor, Mike was a Lieutenant. We watched him progress up the ranks to Assistant Chief, then Battalion Chief, and interim Fire Chief before returning to shift command. Mike and his wife Debby sold their home and became happy wanderers in a 40-foot RV on their way to Texas. The Second Alarmers gave Mike a plaque in appreciation of his years of service to both the department and to us, and also presented him with a fuel card to help him make at least one trip south and back (your mileage may vary).

At the same time, we welcomed our new advisor, Lt. Ted Smith. Ted is a shift officer at Station 13, just off John Deere Expressway for those who visited that station during our IFBA convention. Ted is also the haz-mat officer for the Moline FD and has been giving us our NIMS training.

With the arrival of colder weather at the start of 2006, calls for service suddenly increased. Three mutual aid house fires in East Moline resulted in 66 hours of volunteer time and 60 bottles refilled. One of those fires also

had a fatality connected with it, but not, as it turned out, fire related. A teenaged neighbor allegedly killed the occupant of the house and the fire was set to cover the crime. That neighbor is currently in jail and awaiting trial.

At the end of January, a house fire in Moline caused by an unattended deep-fat fryer brought 9 of our members to the scene to refill 37 bottles. Because the house had been added to several times, it made for a tough extinguishment by firemen and also illustrated that fryers should never be left unattended, as no one was home at the time.

In closing, we salute and say “Congratulations” to Roman Kaminski for having a fire station named in his honor. It couldn’t have happened to a more worthy and honorable individual!

MABAS RESPONSE AND RESCUES

Change a few facts and a house fire in Rock Island on April 11 would create plenty of newspaper copy for the week. The tragedy. The funerals. The analysis of the attempts that came up short. Instead, headlines read “Heroic Rescue Saves Four!”

The alarm came in around 0230 hours on April 11 at 28th Street and 8-1/2 Avenue and sent all units of the Rock Island Fire Department to a fully involved, 3-story house perched high on a terrace.

The house was reportedly over 100 years old and had once been a mortuary. For years it was used as apartments for students at nearby Augustana College. However, the current owners were in the process of turning it back into a single-family unit, but with one apartment in the attic.

The location of the house was a problem for the Rock Island department. Perched on a



terrace, the roof was almost 80 feet above street level. Several years ago, RIFD got rid of its aerial truck and equipped all engines with Squirts. Those Squirts could not reach the upper levels of the house, so a MABAS response was called.



That response brought the aerial truck and one engine from the Rock Island Arsenal, two engines from Moline and the Second Alarmers. It also had one engine from Davenport, IA fill in at Rock Island's central station and one engine from Bettendorf, IA fill in at the Arsenal.

As back-ups were arriving from the MABAS call, Rock Island firemen were busy putting up ground ladders to the second floor porch roof to rescue a mother and her three daughters trapped there with no other way to safety. The owner's son scampered down a back outside fire escape just prior to it being engulfed in flames.

On the ground, many handlines were stretched and the Arsenal's 100-foot aerial was raised to its maximum to get water to the top of the house. It soon became apparent, however, that firemen were fighting a losing battle.

As interior crews would knock down the fire in one spot and concentrate on another, the fire would flare up again in the spot they just thought they had extinguished. There were just

too many false ceilings and walls from the house's former use as apartments.

If the height of the house wasn't enough of a problem, the terrace the house sat on offered other problems. With all the water being thrown at the fire, the hillside became extremely muddy and slippery. A block wall on the face of the terrace also held back much of the runoff until it gave way and sent a deluge of water and mud cascading down the hill and into the street. Footing was tough no matter where one walked.

The decision was made to pull all firefighters from the interior and make it a "surround and drown" activity.

The Second Alarmers only filled 11 air bottles to this point, but stood by with rehab services. Eight members turned out for this response and spent a total of 18 man-hours of time at the scene.

While the local Quad Cities governments figure out how to cooperate on services, the Quad Cities firefighters proved they knew how to figure that concept out.



Boston firefighters at work at the Woonsocket Mill fire. Photo by Michael Gleason.

Region 8

Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.

Box 55 Assoc.

Indianapolis Fire Buffs



Indianapolis Fire Buffs
2205 East 58th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

By Jerry Traub

Our membership remains constant, but aging. Monthly business meetings and first Saturday of each month breakfast at an IFD station remain the major activities. We still control reserve station 12 for IFD, with a Wishard (city) Hospital medic stationed there from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

We host the firefighters Emerald Society meeting first Thursday monthly, and we vote two precincts for Primary and General elections for the neighborhood.

Maintenance and housekeeping are on-going issues but we get support from the department and our Emerald Society tenant.

The Salvation Army canteen is still housed

here, along with Indianapolis firefighters experienced some water pressure problems while our 1950 Ford- fighting this working garage fire on Bacon Street recently. Boyer engine

used for parades and displays. Occasionally, out of town firefighter groups training in the area will sleep there at no cost, as a favor to the department.

Canteen runs are still down, with our most recent service following the strong windstorms that caused downtown building damage like we

haven't seen in generations. We also assisted at FDIC again this year, allowing our members a chance to visit with attendees from all over the world, and we get personal inspections of the newest apparatus at the staging area for the exhibits in Convention Center and RCA Dome.

We still have our pager membership group. By joining at least as an Associate member, we will rent you a pager that can be used for all usual services, but which also receives fire dispatch for IFD and Marion County departments.



Publishing group for Turn Out is working along, while struggling with some technical issues. First issue is days away from being released. We really expect that it will be worth your

wait.

Photo by Brett Jackson

Our IFD personnel have

changed significantly in the last several months, as over 50 retirements went through at year's end, with over 2,000 years of combined experience now gone. We hope to energize the younger, new guys and gals to continue to support our fundraiser raffle as the veterans have. Word is out that four new engines will be

spec out and two new aerials were hopefully
purchased off the floor at recent FDIC exhibit.
See you in Seattle



An additional hazard for firefighters on the
Bacon Street garage fire: overhead wires
caught fire and fell, causing arching and live
wires on the ground.
Photo by Brett Jackson

Area departments fight a late-night blaze
at Melody Skateland. Fire photo by
Rodger Birchfield.



An apartment building at 16th Street and
Central Avenue was the scene for this
multiple alarm fire. Photo by Ryan
Duffin.

Region 9

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.

Bell & Siren Club, Inc.

Box 54 Club

FireCom Emergency Radio of NJ

Gong Club, Inc.

Signal 22 Assn., Inc.

South Jersey Fire Photographer's Assn.

Second Alarmers' Assn. & Rescue
Squad of Philadelphia, Inc.

The Bell and Siren Club, Inc.

Organized 1949

Charter Member International Fire Buff Associates

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Post Office Box 269
Caldwell, New Jersey 07006
973-395-0095



EMERGENCY CALL:

Newark Fire
Headquarters
973-733-7400

By Ira Cohen

We are pleased to introduce the officers of the Bell and Siren Club for 2006:

President- Chris Coon
Vice President- Frank Sapienza
Treasurer- Lois Tanis
Secretary- Ira Cohen

Chairman Exec. Committee- Bill Hicks
Member Exec. Committee - Leon White
Member Exec. Committee- Al Smyth
Member Exec. Committee- George Ottley
Member Exec. Committee-Sheldon Reynolds

At our end of the year Holiday Party, we were pleased that Newark Fire Director Lowell Jones, East Orange Chief Tim Weiss, as well as several East Orange officers and firefighters were able to join us. A highlight of the evening was when Director Jones honored members George Ottley, Millard Thatcher and Tom Pelaia by naming them Newark Honorary Deputy Chiefs, and gave each of them a badge for their new appointment. This continued a tradition started many years ago by then Director John P. Caufield when he decided to reward any individual who had 25 years of membership in the Club and also had served as President.

On Dec. 8, Newark ordered a 3rd Alarm for Box 1317 for a fire in a row of houses at 240-242-246 Fifth St. All were 3 story wood frame structures, with the fire starting in 242, which was vacant and immediately spread to the

adjoining exposure buildings. Arriving companies encountered several dead hydrants as well as water pressure problems. Headquarters 17, our Rig, responded at 23:30 and operated for 3 hours before returning to quarters. However, the NFD maintained a fire watch on the scene all night.

At 16:30 on Dec. 19 a large junkyard at 20 Main St. on the border of East Orange and Orange started to burn. The fire rapidly escalated and mutual aid from Bloomfield, West Orange, Millburn, Montclair, and South Orange were activated to both operate at the scene and also provide station coverage. While Headquarters 17 was operating at this fire, Newark transmitted a 2nd Alarm for Station 3213, 85 Bloomfield Ave. for a laundry. However, Newark knocked it down fast, and the Deputy ordered us up, since the Rig was still operating at the Orange fire. Later that day at 23:30 East Orange had a multiple alarm in a large 2 ½ story wood frame house at 202 Sanford St. Headquarters 17 responded and was on the scene for 2 hours.

2005 ended on a very tragic note when on Christmas night 2 Jersey City Police Officers accidentally drove off a bridge. The warning gates to the lift bridge spanning the Hackensack River on Routes 1 & 9 between Jersey City and Kearny had not been working properly for some time, and whenever the bridge opened, police officers had to respond to stop traffic. This night the weather was horrible and there was a deep fog making for very poor visibility. JCPD officers Shawn Carson and Robert Nguyen had just placed some warning flares on the Kearny

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side of the bridge and were returning to the Jersey City side, when without realizing it, the bridge opened and they drove off the opening into the river below.

Mutual aid was activated with many towns sending police, fire and EMS workers to the scene to aid in the initial recovery efforts. Newark Battalion 5 requested the Bell and Siren Club respond to the Kearny side to serve the rescue workers. At the same time, the Gong Club was operating on the Jersey City side of the bridge. Sadly, the rescue operation soon changed to recovery and even though Officer Carson's body was found in a few hours, it took several days before Officer Nguyen was found.

During these days, as well as for the funerals of the 2 officers, the Bell and Siren Club helped the Gong Club provide canteen services to all the emergency workers. The Bayonne Fire Canteen and the Teaneck Box 54 Club also assisted. It was another example of the way these four clubs work together on mutual aid.

While responding to the funeral of Officer Nguyen on Jan. 7, Newark dispatched a 2nd Alarm for Box 4171 for a fire at 126-132 Quitman St. Four vacant 2 ½ story wood frame town-houses were burning and Headquarters 17 redirected its response to take in the fire. The Gong Club and the Bayonne Fire Canteen handled the funeral.

Irvington had a General Alarm fire in several wood frame houses on Ellis St. early in the afternoon of Jan. 27. Even though the Bell & Siren Club does not normally service Irvington, we responded because of the various mutual aid companies on the scene.

Two days later we were operating at a 2nd Alarm in East Orange. Early in the morning at 1:50 Headquarters 17 responded to 232 S. Clinton St. for a fire in a wood frame house, with exposure problems. Two hours later we were back in service.

South Orange is a largely residential town with a downtown shopping area, and Seton Hall University. Fortunately, they rarely have major fires that require the services of the Club, but this was not the case on Feb. 4 when a large

Victorian house at 138 Irving Ave. was engulfed in flames. Headquarters 17 was alerted at 3:00 and stayed on the scene until 6:30 serving South Orange and the mutual aid departments.

Hockey fans are aware that Newark is currently building a new arena to house the New Jersey Devils. This facility will be located in the center of the downtown, and on Feb. 5, at 16:00 we were dispatched to a 3rd Alarm at Box 2224. The location was 81 Lafayette St., and this large commercial building was next to the quarters of NFD Truck 1 and Rescue/HazMat in the area that will be demolished for the new arena. It was hard to get at the seat of this fire, and as the night wore on, a bulldozer had to be called in to knock down some of the walls, so the firefighters could get to the heart of the blaze.

One of the most affluent areas of not only New Jersey, but the United States is the Short Hills section of Millburn. Minimum housing starts at \$ 1 million and goes up from there. But simply because a house is worth several million dollars that does not prevent it from burning, and that is what happened the night of Feb. 7 at 120 Lawrence Drive. The owners were in Florida and this large ranch house was for sale. Reports indicated that earlier that day a real estate agent had shown the house and possibly left an appliance on causing an electrical fire. In any event at 22:30 Headquarters 17 responded to provide rehab and support services to not just Millburn but also the numerous mutual aid fire departments that were assisting. The Rig was on the scene for 2 hours before returning to quarters.

The next day we responded to a more typical fire for us, a 2 ½ story wood frame house, with exposure problems, located at 468 Avon Ave. Newark transmitted a 2nd Alarm for Station 4433 for this job, and the Bell and Siren Club responded at 2:00 and served for 1 ½ hours.

Later the same day, Headquarters 17 was dispatched at 20:50 to another mutual aid fire, this time in Belleville. The B.F.D. was operating at 271 Hornblower Ave. where they

had a fire in a very large 2 ½ story house. Helping at the scene were Newark with a Signal 9 assignment (2 Engines, 1 Truck, & 1 B/C), Bloomfield, Nutley, Orange and Montclair. Headquarters provided rehab for 2 hours.

At 10:30 on Feb.19 Belleville was faced with a General Alarm, with numerous mutual aid departments, operating in a large 3 story commercial building at 119 Washington Ave. Newark sent a Signal 9, and Bloomfield, Orange, Nutley and North Arlington were at the scene, and South Orange and Cedar Grove provided station coverage. There was extensive

use of master streams, as because of the magnitude of the fire, no effort was made to enter the building. Headquarters 17 provided rehab and canteen services for 3 ½ hours.

On March 4 the Club was back in Irvington for a 3rd Alarm fire in a 2 ½ wood frame, with exposures, at 21st St, near Madison Ave. As in the past when we responded to Irvington, it was at the request of the Essex County Fire Coordinator because of the amount of mutual aid at the scene. Headquarters 17 responded at 8:00 hours and served for 2 hours before returning to quarters.



GONG CLUB, INC.

JERSEY CITY, NJ

by Paul Schaetzle

VOLVO REPAIR SHOP HEAVILY INVOLVED

Tuesday, September 6, 2005 may have been the first day after the unofficial end of summer, but it was a perfect summer's day. The day was marked by pleasant temperatures, low humidity and not a cloud in the sky. However, as dusk crept in to signal the end of a blissful day, an ominous black cloud filled the sky 3-3 771 Jersey City 9/5/06 No problem in locating the above Jersey City's fire here! (Robert Scollan Photo) Bergen section.



their evening meal, Box 771 was struck at 1837 hours for a fire reported at 678 Communipaw Ave. Squad 4 and Rescue 1 at 582 Communipaw had a short, straight run and could see that the pleasant part of the day was coming to an abrupt halt. Inky, black smoke was billowing from a one story brick structure at #688, Lou's Volvo Repair Shop. Capt. Robert Keating of Squad 4 reported a Working Fire and set about the task of forcing entry and getting water on the seat of the fire. As the balance of the first alarm assignment arrived, the smoke turned ugly, pitch black, pushing out of every crack and crevice of the building

*TURN OUT
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with ferocity!

Division 1, Deputy Chief Thomas Kearny, assumed command and ordered a 2nd Alarm. Ladder Companies 11 and 12 were working on the roof to cut some large holes to vent and reduce the possibility of a backdraft. As the truckies completed their task, fire belched out of the freshly cut holes. Ladder 11 reported that development and both companies scampered off the roof to set up their ladder pipes. Tower Ladder 4, responding on the Working Fire as the FAST truck, maneuvered their apparatus to the front of the building to set up their tower.

The Fire Dispatch Center advised Division 1 that they were receiving calls for a house fire on Harrison Ave., which would be the rear of the fire building. Eng. Co. 18 was ordered to that side of the fire, followed by a special call for an additional engine to the rear also. At the same time, two nearby boxes were also transmitted, Box 765 for Lexington & Bergen Avenues and Box 635 for 94 Union St. Division 1 ordered a 3rd Alarm at that point, but every piece of apparatus was now assigned to one of the three active incidents.

Box 765 was determined to be smoke from the original fire, so a number of units on that box were directed to respond to the 3rd Alarm on Box 771. After manhandling two large overhead doors off the front of the building, engine companies had a better shot at locating the seat of the fire. However, the fire wasted no time in announcing its presence; the black smoke venting from the doorways rapidly turned red. Fire now resembled a blow torch coming out of the western overhead door, devouring a large hanging sign on the front of the building before it was beaten back with two 2 and a half inch handlines.

After a good hour of firefighting, the 150' x 75' one story brick building was now a blackened hulk. At the height of the battle, numerous explosions occurred due to the flammable contents of the shop and over a half dozen cars inside, all of which would need a lot more repair work than when they arrived at the shop!

Oddly enough, the fire at the auto repair shop came at a time when the Gong Club canteen, Car 26, was out for generator repairs. Resourceful members loaded two coolers of bottled water, a five gallon jug of Gatorade, cookies and other supplies into Member Pat Spellman's van and responded as "Squad 26"! The Bayonne Fire Canteen was also requested to respond for mutual aid and operated as well.

Response:

1837 Box 771 Sqd. Co. 4 Eng. Co. 8-17-10 Lad. Co. 11-12 Res. Co. 1 Batt. 4

1839 WF 771 Eng. Co. 9 Tower Ladder 4 Div. 1, Batt. 2 MSU Car 20-30

1847 2-2 771 Eng. Co. 22-2-18 Lad. Co. 9 Car 3-5 Sqd. 26

1905 3-3 771 Eng. Co. 5-7-6 Lad. Co. 8-2 Car 3A Bayonne Fire Canteen

MASSIVE RESPONSE TO HACKENSACK RIVER

Numerous units from a multitude of agencies responded to a report of a truck into the Hackensack River off the Communipaw Ave. Bridge, Jersey City, on Christmas night. Police and fire units converged from both sides of the bridge, which is the heavily traveled U. S. Truck Route 1-9 connecting Jersey City and South Kearny. F.D.J.C. Rescue Co. 1, returning from another box alarm, responded immediately and launched their inflatable boat into the river from an old access road under the bridge. Eng. Co. 17 and Lad. Co. 9 reported to the top of the draw bridge, which was in the open position. The worst fears of the responders was not only confirmed but compounded into a tragedy of devastating proportions. The vehicle which had plunged into the Hackensack River off the bridge as it opened was a Jersey City Police Emergency Service Unit with two Police Officers on board!

Divers from a host of agencies were called to the scene to search the dark, cold waters of the Hackensack. To complicate matters, a steady rain was falling and a thick fog was

rolling in. Undaunted by the horrible weather conditions, divers from the Jersey City Police, New Jersey State Police, Bergen County Dive Team, NYPD and F.D.N.Y. Rescue Co. 1 all converged on the scene. The divers staged on both sides of the river and a systematic search was conducted.



Approximately one hour into the

Still 775 Jersey City 12/28/05 View from the Kearny side as the search continues for P. O. Nyguen (Paul Schaetzle Photo)

operation, New Jersey State Police divers located the ESU truck and brought one Officer to the surface. He was immediately rushed to University Hospital in Newark, a State Trauma Center. Newark Police cleared a route from the site directly to the hospital. Police Officer Shawn Carson was officially pronounced dead a short time later.

The Army Corps of Engineers responded with their large workboat, the Heyward, a well known fixture in New York Harbor. The boat is equipped with a large crane capable of pulling vehicles from the waters of the harbor. The ESU truck was recovered and transported to the Corps' facilities at the foot of Chapel Ave. It was then photographed and transported back to the ESU quarters at the City's DPW complex.

The second Police Officer was not located for several days. Divers from various units were either deployed or staged at both sides of the river until approximately 0215 on December 26, 2005, when New Jersey State Police Divers called off the search until daybreak. Operations resumed at 0930 and continued until dusk each day until Thursday, December 29, 2005 when the body of Police Officer Robert Nyguen was located by NYPD divers.

The Communipaw Ave. bridge remained

closed for several days. The incident is under investigation by the Jersey City Police and various other agencies. It now appears that the safety barriers on the Kearny side of the bridge were inoperative due to mechanical problems and an accident which damaged a swing barrier on Christmas Eve. The bridge tenders.

Employees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation had requested the police to block the bridge while it was raised for marine traffic. After delivering flares to a radio car, the ESU officers attempted to return to Jersey City, unaware that the bridge was raised.

Response included JCPD, F.D.J.C., Kearny Police, Kearny Fire Dept., Newark Police, Newark Fire Dept. (Batt. 5, Res. Co. 1), Bergen County Dive Team, NYPD Harbor, Aviation and Emergency Service Units, F. D. N. Y. Rescue Battalion, Res. Co. 1, TAC 1, New Jersey State Police, U. S. Coast Guard, Port Authority Police, Army Corps of Engineers, New Jersey Transit Police, Hudson County Sheriff's Office, Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.

Car 26 was special called by order of Chief of Operations, Deputy Chief Robert Cobb, responding at 2312 hours. Chief Cobb also requested a canteen to the Kearny side of the bridge. Since Newark companies were operating there, HQ 17, the Bell & Siren Club, was dispatched. Upon arrival on Communipaw Ave., Car 26 was ordered to the command post at the top of the bridge and also was asked to supply hot drinks to the divers staged under the bridge. A jug of hot chocolate was carried down to that area by Gong Club Deputy Chief

Bob Scollan, followed by a special call for the Bayonne Fire Canteen to cover that sector. Three of the four I.F.B.A. clubs operating canteens in the northern part of the state operated at the incident.

Initial F.D.J.C. response included:

2022 Still Alarm 775 Eng. Co. 17, Lad. Co. 9, Res. Co. 1, MSU

2025 S/C 775 Div. 1, Squad Co. 4
2058 S/C 775 Eng. Co. 6, Lad. Co. 2, Haz
Mat Unit Car 1 - 3 - 3 A - 2 8
2254 S/C 775 Car 26

Res. Co. 1, Squad Co. 4, Batt. 4 and Car 3A along with an engine company responded each day of the operation. At least two canteens also operated each day. At one point, 13 boats and a score of divers were searching the river for a distance of five miles.

The Funeral of Police Officer Shawn Carson was held on Friday, December 30, 2005, while the Funeral of Police Office Robert Ngyuen was conducted on Saturday, January 7, 2006. Both days were clear and cold, drawing thousands of police officers from across the country. A joint effort by the Gong Club, Bayonne Fire Canteen and the Box 54 Club served the multitude at each service. We sincerely thank our neighbors in Region 9 for assisting us with both the recovery operations and funerals.

SMOKE ON THE WATER... FIRE IN THE SKY!

MARINE 1 RADIOS FIRST REPORT

Washington's Birthday, 2006: a typical winter's day in Jersey City; a mix of sun and clouds and a temperature hovering at the freezing mark. With no snow or rain falling this day, FDJC units took advantage of the weather to do some outdoor training, including putting the Department's newest unit through its paces, the 52 foot Sea Ark fireboat that was delivered last month.

While the training session was in progress, Box 954 was transmitted at 1120 hours for 90 Randolph Ave., a neighborhood of tightly

packed frame dwellings on the hill rising west from Garfield Ave. Shortly after the Box was struck, the radio waves crackled with a message from the fledgling fireboat, "Marine 1, heavy smoke visible from that area!" Eng. Co. 22 arrived on the scene soon thereafter to find a two story frame dwelling at the northeast corner of Randolph and Claremont Avenues heavily involved. A narrow alley separated the fire building from a row of 2 ½ story frame dwellings, which were severely threatened. Capt. Lawrence Stallard of Eng. Co. 22 ordered a 2nd Alarm immediately upon arrival. Both Battalion 2, Batt. Chief James Drennan, and Division 1, Deputy Chief Timothy Kearney, were responding from Fire Headquarters in the Downtown area of the city.

Companies went to the roof to vent, but fire lunged out of the building with a vengeance, racing into the exposures to the north and engulfing the ground ladder used to access the roof. Members of Res. Co. 1 and Ladder Co. 8 were now trapped on the roof. Gong Club Member Fire Fighter George Borek of Res. Co. 1 transmitted a "Mayday" over the air. Tower Ladder 4 rapidly positioned their bucket and plucked the four fire fighters from their precarious position. Although the fire did not exact a human toll, the flames were not content to remain in the building of origin. As Deputy Chief Kearney transmitted a 3rd Alarm, fire raced into the row dwellings at 92 and 92A Randolph Ave. Tower Ladder 4 now operated their master stream into the fire building while an all out effort was made with several handlines to stop the fire from extending further.

These tactics halted northern movement, but to everyone's astonishment, smoke and fire were now belching from a 2 ½ story frame house across the street at 101 Randolph Ave. We now had a conflagration on our hands! Streams were now flowing east and west on Randolph Ave. An additional engine and truck were special called and all hands worked to bring the fire on both sides of the street under control. The original fire building and the exposure at #92 partially collapsed. The fire

was under control after an hour of hard firefighting. Many more hours of extensive overhauling followed, with a single engine company remaining on a watchline overnight.

Car 26, the Gong Club Canteen, operated for over 7 hours, serving 140 bottles of water and several gallons of coffee, hot chocolate and Gatorade. Five fire fighters were injured, with one member admitted to the Jersey City Medical Center. The attached photo by Ron Jeffers captures the early action.

FAIRMOUNT FRAMES UNDER FIRE

The wee hours of Monday, February 27, 2006 brought some of the coldest weather of the winter season for the Jersey City area. After a relatively mild January, February brought a 20 inch snowfall on the 12th and temperatures now



4-4 517 Jersey City 2/27/06 Third Alarm companies going to work as fire extends up Fairmount Ave. (Paul Schaezle Photo)

rounded the corner from Duncan Ave. into West Side Ave. and spotted a 2 story frame commercial building with heavy smoke pushing from steel roll up gates that secured a ground



4-4 517 Jersey City 2/27/06 Exposure building on Fairmount Ave. lights up as units scramble to head off the fire. (Ron Jeffers Photo)

hovered near the teens. The thermometer stood at 20° at 0209 hours when the Zetron and radio system of the Jersey City Fire Department barked “Striking Box 517 for a fire at 792 West Side Ave. at Fairmount Ave.” Fire fighters and buffs alike hoped that this would not amount to much, but they were in for a very rude awakening!

Batt. 4, Batt. Chief Michael O’Reilly,

floor restaurant. “Working Fire” reported Chief O’Reilly, “Rescue 1 come in with a metal cutting blade on your saw”. The fire building was a long, narrow corner building with three retail establishments on the first floor. There were no front or side exposures, but the rear was another story. The

involved structure was actually the end building of a row of fourteen attached frame dwellings extending up Fairmount Ave. to the east. These houses, part of a block mixed with one and two family homes, Victorian era mansions and a large apartment house, remained a stable residential neighborhood, one block south of the St. Peter’s College campus.

Sizing up the situation, Chief O’Reilly keyed his portable radio a scant two minutes

later, "Batt. 4, We're going to have a lot of fire once we open this up. Strike a 2nd Alarm!" How right he was! No sooner was the door forced, when all hell broke loose. Ladder companies reported the fire was already in the cockloft and roof, extending to exposures. Rich brown and black smoke billowed from the restaurant and adjacent corner grocery store. "Strike a 3rd Alarm", ordered Chief O'Reilly at 0219, a short ten minutes into what would be a very long night for all hands.

Deputy Chief William Sinnott arrived and took command of the fire. Chief Sinnott ordered Tower Ladder 4 to make their way to the corner position to cover the West Side and Fairmount fronts. Ominous clouds of grayish, brown smoke began to push from the eaves of the row frame dwellings on Fairmount Ave. Typical of the Jersey City landscape, every conceivable wire or cable was strung across the front of the row dwellings, preventing any aerial ladder access. Two 35' extension ladders were raised and "truckies" clamored up the ladders with saws and hand tools to trench the roof. If the row was to be saved, a stand

would have to be made near the corner building, which was now starting to vent fire. An additional ladder was special called at 0235, followed by a 4th Alarm eleven minutes later. As companies cut the roof, pulled ceilings and operated handlines in the exposures, it soon became obvious that the fire had passed the first stand. Another truck was special called and a concerted effort was made to make another stand three houses to the east. Ladder Companies 6,

7, 2 and 3 were assigned to roof operations, while Engine Companies 6, 7, 9, 17 and 8 worked handlines in the second floor and cockloft of #449 Fairmount Ave., no easy task in the frigid weather.

Fire was now burning furiously on West Side Ave., despite master streams from Tower Ladder 4, ladder pipes of Ladders 9 and 11 and Squad 4's deck pipe. Heavy fire soon was blowing from the top floor of #459 Fairmount with fire rolling across the ceiling of the adjacent two attached homes to the east. The situation looked

desperate at that point, as smoke was now pushing along the roof lines of nearly all the buildings in the row. A determined effort by all



4-4 517 Jersey City 2/27/06 Heavy artillery lined up on West Side Ave., Ladders 4, 9 and 11. (Robert Scollan Photo)



3-3 Weehawken 1/15/06 North Hudson Fire Fighters also battled fire and ice when fire ravaged this dwelling at 80 Highwood Terr. on a frigid Sunday evening. (Ron Jeffers Photo)

companies working in the exposures proved successful! The fire's march across the row dwellings was halted at #449 and the remaining seven homes in the row were saved.

The fire building partially collapsed and the immediately adjoining homes in the row were damaged to the extent that immediate demolition was ordered. Although the fire was declared under control at 0529, master stream operations continued for several hours followed by extensive overhauling carried out under treacherous, icy conditions.

Frozen firefighters thawed out with 12 gallons of hot chocolate, 9 gallons of coffee and 2 gallons of beef stew from Car 26, the Gong Club canteen that operated for 8 and ½ hours. North Hudson's Rehab Unit, a bus converted by their ever resourceful Shops, and a NJ Transit

bus also provided shelter from the bitter cold. Pat Spellman was the chauffeur for Car 26, augmented by 3 other members, the 17th run of the year for the Gong Club.

Response:

0209 Box 517 Eng. Co. 9-15-17-Sqd. 4
Lad. Co. 9-11 Res. Co. 1 Batt. 4

0213 WF 517 Eng. Co. 7 Lad. Co. 7
MSU Div. 1 Batt. 3 Car 20-30

0215 2-2 517 Eng. Co. 2-10-5 Lad. Co. 6
Car 3-26-28

0219 3-3 517 Eng. Co. 14-8 Tower
Ladder 4 Car 1-3A-5-14

0235 S/C 517 Lad. Co. 2

0246 4-4 517 Eng. Co. 22-6

0323 S/C 517 Lad. Co. 3

0415 S/C 517 No. Hudson Rehab Unit



HOMELAND SECURITY APPARATUS ARRIVES

A 2005 Pierce Saber Mask Service Unit for Hudson County was delivered to the Jersey City Fire Department. This rig is one of six purchased by the State of New Jersey and distributed to the six Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) counties. The rig replaced Jersey City's 1993 GMC Betten Mask Service Unit and, in addition to its Jersey City assignments, responds on multiple alarms throughout Hudson County. (Ron Jeffers Photo)

Sea-Ark of Monticello, Arkansas delivered a 52' fireboat to the Jersey City Fire Department on January 13, 2006. Eight companies are receiving training on the boat and in marine firefighting operations. Two fire fighters will be permanently assigned to the boat, which will be berthed at the foot of 6th St. Plans call for a land based company, trained in marine operations, to augment the crew when the boat responds. A similar unit is slated for delivery to Newark, also a UASI city. (Paul Schaezle Photo)



*TURN OUT
Spring 2006*

Region 11

Broward Assn. For The Relief of
Firefighters

Central Florida Fire Buffs

Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA.

METROPOLITAN FIRE ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTA, GA

By: Jeffrey A. Harwell

The October Meeting of the MFA was held at DeKalb County Station 6 at 2342 Flat Shoals Road. Our guest speaker was Battalion 5 Chief Bill Smith who was IC for the DeKalb team that responded to Gulfport, MS for 21 days in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.....The November meeting was held at Cobb County Station 4 at 1901 Cumberland Parkway. The station houses Engine 4, Truck 4, and Squad 4. Lieutenant Chris Sobeski was our guest speaker and he gave a tour of Squad 4 and the Trench Rescue Truck. The December meeting was held at Atlanta Station 12 on DeKalb Avenue. None other than department chief Dennis Rubin was our guest speaker with the topic being the AFRD response to hurricane Katrina.....The January meeting was held at Atlanta Fire Communications in the old Sears Catalog Distribution Center off Ponce De Leon.....The February meeting was held in conjunction with, and in support of, the East Point Woman's Club and Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundations 19th Annual Firemen's Biscuit Bake Off held at the Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church.....It is with deep regret that we report the death of one of the founding members of the MFA. Floyd Willcox McRae Jr. passed away on October 4, 2005 at the age of 83. It was in June of 1970 that Floyd, Bill Durrett, Peter Wilcox, and Ed Milam founded the MFA. Floyd was instrumental in creating the MFA Medal of Valor, the highest award that any firefighter can receive. He was particularly proud to have served as chair of the Medal of Valor committee, and with the Governor of Georgia, presented the award 14 times in the 30 years since he conceived it. The last time it was presented, the award went to Atlanta firefighter Matt Mosley for his daring helicopter rescue of crane operator Iver Sims at the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill fire in April of 1999. In September 1993, then department chief David Chamberlin

made Floyd an Honorary Deputy Fire Chief of the Atlanta Fire Department.

DeKalb County Captain David "Buck" Rogers, a 20 year veteran with the department was seriously injured on October 30th when he fell through a skylight during working fire on East Ponce de Leon Avenue in Scottsdale. The structure was believed to be a pre-engineered building that had reinforced fiberglass skylight panels that are molded in the same shape as the metal roof panels, with no framework to distinguish these skylights when smoke conditions are present. Rogers fell approximately 20 feet to the concrete floor, but luckily landed in an area that was near an exterior door. He then went through a 7-1/2 hour surgery to repair arm and pelvic damage (shattered elbow).....As expected, Fulton County FD has continued to provide fire and EMS services to the newly incorporated city of Sandy Springs. As reported in the last issue, Sandy Springs became the state's second largest city as of December 1st, however there was no provisions at start up for their own fire and EMS department. If you're a public safety employee in Fulton County, you're not feeling very bright and cheerful these days. That's because of the high uncertainty of exactly how many county employees the new city government may hire on for its new fire department. And if you're still a public safety employee for Fulton County after the dust settles, there's no guarantee that you'll have a very bright future. When Sandy Springs decided to incorporate their big chunk of land immediately north of Atlanta, it took a tremendous amount of the county's tax revenue along with it. So it remains to be seen what kind of services the county will be able to maintain for the remaining unincorporated areas. But wait, the plot thickens even more. Work is now underway to create two more cities in the two unincorporated areas that are left in north Fulton County. The city for the

northeast area would be named Riverside, and the city for the northwest area would be named Milton. This plan has created yet another battle between the leaders of the new proposed cities, and two of the existing cities - Roswell and Alpharetta. The cities of Roswell and Alpharetta have been gobbling up chunks of the

unincorporated county over the years by annexation with little or no competition. Now these city leaders see their future annexation prospects going by the wayside as every piece of unincorporated land in the north county

will soon be spoken for. The roughly 21,000 Newtonton community appears to be one of the key battlegrounds, as the future city of Riverside and the existing city

of Roswell play tug-of-war on who will end up with the right annex this prime piece of property. Trying to maintain/incorporate fire and rescue services for this region should be a quite a challenge for someone. Fulton County is unique in that it is divided into two totally separate areas by the city of Atlanta - and the two areas don't even touch. And not to be outdone by the movement in north Fulton County, there is now work underway in DeKalb County to make Dunwoody its own incorporated town. No details on that yet....In a surprise move, Gwinnett County Fire Chief

Jack McElfish turned in his resignation on February 7. Although he reportedly gave thirty days notice, he was apparently relieved of duties immediately. Before coming to Gwinnett County, McElfish was also Fire Chief in Richmond, Virginia and Clayton County, Georgia. Assistant Chief of Operations Steve

Rolader has been named acting Chief. Rolader has been with the county fire department for 36 years, the past 6 as Assistant Chief.... Shortly after Chief McElfish's resignation was announced, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper reported that two more Gwinnett fire officials had resigned when it was uncovered



Picture from the Past: The date of this photo is November 6, 1982 and we're at Alabama and Central in downtown Atlanta as overhaul units continue to operate at the scene of an earlier multiple alarm fire. Left to right is Engine 14, the light wagon from Station 10, and at the far right is either Ladder 5 or 11. This fire was unique in that companies had to operate handlines in Underground Atlanta (one level below the street level that the picture was taken on) to keep the fire from spreading into that noteworthy tourist area. Several stores at street level were totally destroyed and much of the ruins collapsed downward. According to MFA member Dave Williams, the light wagon is unique in that the generator body dates back to 1940. The chassis was originally a 1939 Chevrolet, repowered in 1963 with the Chevrolet in the picture, which is still the arrangement is 2006! (Photo by Jeffrey A. Harwell)

that many Gwinnett County schools had not had fire inspections in several years, and at least a dozen had not received inspections over the last five years. The two additional officials that resigned were the Gwinnett County fire marshal and a fire inspector. This was not good news for the north Georgia fire marshal contingent since it was only a few years ago the same problem surfaced with the Atlanta Fire Department failing to inspect numerous assembly occupancies - the most notable being the Atlanta Braves baseball stadium....

After years of trying to get a countywide

fire department for Columbia County in east Georgia, it has finally come about - well, sort of. The Augusta Chronicle newspaper is reporting that at 7:00am December 31, 2005, the Martinez-Columbia Fire Rescue Service took over fire/rescue services for all unincorporated portions of the county. While that may sound like a county wide fire department, the county is actually contracting to Martinez-Columbia (a private company) to provide protection for the county. But nothing comes easy in east Georgia, and this move was no different. The North Columbia Fire & Rescue had been protecting the northern portion of the county under contract, and leaders could not agree on transferring their existing station and equipment to the county. So North Columbia sold the equipment and station to pay for existing debt and quietly exited the fire/rescue business. In the southern part of the county, the city of Harlem and county officials could not come to an agreement for that city to provide fire protection for the areas surrounding it, which is how it had been handled in the past. What all this means is that the county and Martinez-Columbia are having to construct an additional four fire stations. The new Harlem station will be protecting a rather small area with relatively few calls. The interesting history behind the Martinez-Columbia department is that, until 2004, it was supported solely by subscriptions, and payment was on a voluntary basis. One unofficial survey in the late 1980's indicated that about 93% of residents actually paid their subscription. In theory, if your house caught fire and you weren't paid up, the fire department could refuse to fight the fire. While this never happened in Martinez, it did happen at a commercial fire in the neighboring West Richmond fire district (not a good public relations tool!). Now that issue is no longer applicable, with all funds being collected by property taxes through the county.....And the adjacent Augusta-Richmond County government, much to everyone's surprise, has actually appointed a permanent fire chief. Apparently one swing vote on the council was obtained to waive the four year college degree

requirement, and 30 year department veteran Howard Willis was approved as fire chief in December of 2005.....Carroll County - just to the west of Atlanta - has used a five year \$1.77 Homeland Security grant to hire 18 new firefighters to help boost the critically short manpower in 6 of the county's 12 fire stations. The grant is designed to cover 90% of the salaries for the first year, and drops to 80% for the second year, 50% for the third and eventually to zero for the fifth year and beyond. Currently, six of the county fire stations run with only one paid firefighter per shift. It's the largest group ever hired by the department. Previously, nine firefighters were hired at one time when the department staffed a truck company.....Gwinnett County will be ordering several new vehicles including a new Haz Mat Unit (\$467,000), an additional air/light truck (\$316,000), and a new tanker to replace the existing 1985 model (\$270,000). The new air/light truck will provide the county with a second on duty air/light unit.

On the fire front, there was a long dry spell from August through most of November, other than your typical two alarm garden apartment fires that are rather frequent for metro Atlanta. And some weeks even those were non-existent. The city of Atlanta went to 3 alarms on November 22 for a gas meter vault on fire in front of the Greenbriar Common Apartments in the 3000 block of Stone Hogan Connector. This was certainly not an offensive show with lines only in place to protect exposures until Atlanta Gas could secure the supply. Most of the additional companies were used to help evacuate an estimated 20 buildings in the area using MARTA rapid transit buses.....Just over 24 hours later on Thanksgiving eve the city of Atlanta responded to 430 Boulevard NE and found a working fire in a 2 story apartment with a basement, and a 2nd Alarm was sounded rather quickly. Companies on the 2nd Floor reported extension to the attic and a 2-1/2" handline was ordered to that floor to assist. Conditions started to go downhill from that point, and as fire started breaking through the

roof a wall collapsed on the "B" side, temporarily trapping one firefighter who suffered burns to the face. The fire quickly extended to the exposures on either side and 3rd and 4th Alarms were transmitted. The GMAG mutual aid system was activated and surrounding departments provided companies to assist on the scene and for fill in duties. Firefighters were eventually forced to go defensive on both the original fire building and the exposure at 420 Boulevard. Wind gusts in the neighborhood of 20mph did not help the effort. The initial call reporting this fire came from police officers who were delivering Thanksgiving meals in the area. Our canteen unit responded and set up on Boulevard off Wabash Street.

It's not known whether it was straight line winds or a small tornado, but on the evening of January 2 the Fayette and Fulton County communication centers were inundated with calls for storm damage along their shared common border. Fulton County set up their command post at Station 15, and the GMAG mutual aid plan sent a task force of five Atlanta engines, one Douglas County Quint, and one Clayton County medic unit to the scene and numerous other units for fill in. Although a number of houses were listed as inhabitable, there were no reports of serious injuries.....The importance of automatic sprinklers were once again displayed before the public on Sunday January 15 when fire struck the seven story Holiday Inn hotel in Marietta. A 34 year old South Carolina man perished in the fire. Since the hotel was built prior to 1991, it was reported to not be required to have sprinklers. The newspaper account indicated that the fire alarm system was working but audibility was apparently a problem in some areas. The fire caused serious damage to floors 2-5. Both Marietta and Cobb County units battled the blaze, which even featured over the ladder rescues.

The town of Griffin, located between Atlanta and Macon, suffered a rather large fire

just after lunch on February 3. Firefighters were heavily engaged in fighting a fire that had possession of three businesses in a 60' x 250' one story commercial building. All Griffin equipment (Engines 1-2-3, Pumps 1-2 and Squad 2) were on the scene early on as well as Spalding County Engines 1-6, Squad 1, and Battalion 1. The fire even had possession of the continuous awning that ran across the front of the building. One civilian suffered 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burns on the upper arms, chest, and face and was transported to the Grady Hospital Burn Unit in Atlanta. A total of nine businesses suffered damage. Henry County also provided mutual aid fill in companies.....It's been a while since the metro Atlanta area has had what you would call a busy weekend on the fire front, but February 17-19 would definitely qualify. Friday night started things off with a late night fire at 2285 Phillips Road for a fully involved structure fire. Battalion 4 requested a 2nd Alarm due to an extremely long hose lay for a supply line. Engine 25 started by dumping its entire bed, followed by Engine 13, and the supply line was finally completed by one of the 2nd Alarm engine companies. Three engines were redirected to battle the brush fire the resulted south of the original incident. Daybreak on Saturday found Henry County units battling a 2nd Alarm fire in a 24 unit apartment building on Rock Quarry Road in Stockbridge. Only four units were saved, with multiple jumpers reported and at least half a dozen injured residents transported. The GMAG mutual aid group provided two engines, one quint, one ladder, one rescue, and one battalion chief for fill in assignments in Henry County. Saturday evening the excitement shifted to DeKalb County with command quickly requesting 3 additional engines for a fully involved house fire in the 2400 block of Miriam Road. There was an initial report of six occupants inside the house, firefighters located three and requested a 10-18 call for ALS rescue assistance. Later that evening just before midnight Atlanta sent Engines 39-3-21-29, Trucks 21-19-26, and Battalions 6 & 3 to 4141 Peachtree Dunwoody Road in far northeast



The month of March back in 2005 was not good for homeowners in Gwinnett County, Atlanta's northeast suburb. On March 11 a fast moving grass fire damaged nine houses in the 4600 block of Pine Isle Way in Buford. These photos are from a fire that occurred the

very next afternoon in Lawrenceville. Firefighters arrived just after 1:30pm in the 900 block of Lakebend Drive to find a large single family dwelling fully involved with heavy fire in both exposures. Command quickly requested three additional



engines and one additional truck company over the first alarm assignment. A fourth house also received substantial damage. (Photos courtesy of Gwinnett County Fire Department)

*TURN OUT
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Atlanta where they found a two story residence fully involved and immediately went defensive. Engine 27 & 29 were special called to the fire which featured one stinger and multiple handlines. Then on Sunday afternoon the action moved to just west of Turner Field near downtown Atlanta with units arriving to find a two story 30 x 60 church fully involved with fire coming out of every window and thru the roof. The actual location was 641 Windsor Street, with fire units operating one ladder pipe (T1), one deck gun, one stinger, and multiple handlines.....We had a chance to get our canteen out on February 20 for a run up to

Roswell. Engines 2 & 4, Quint 7, Rescues 4 & 7, and Battalion 1 were all reporting heavy smoke showing while in route to a vacant church fire at 2925 Holcomb Bridge Road near the Gwinnett County border. A partial roof collapse occurred while units were arriving and operations were defensive from the start with Engine and Truck 1 being special called. The fire building was one story in the front and two-story in the rear, and units operated one ladder pipe and multiple handlines for containment. Our canteen was requested due to the extended overhaul.

