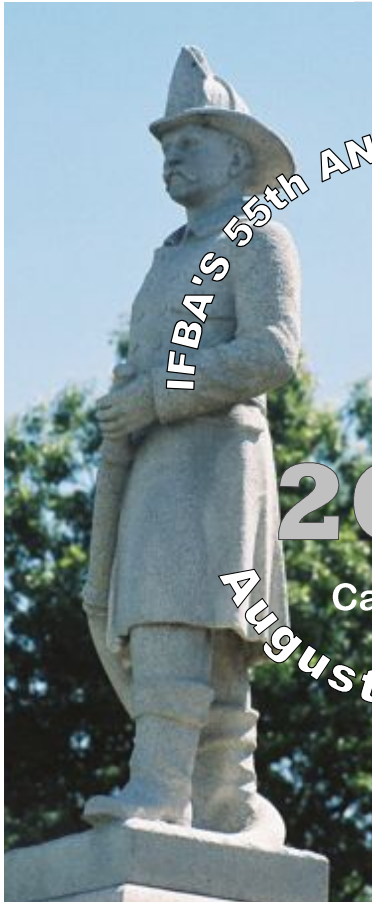
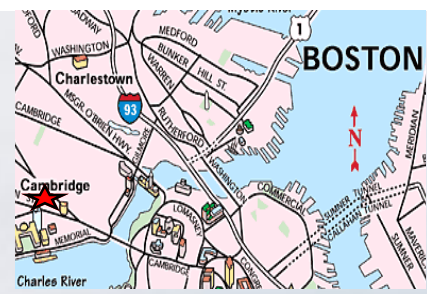


CONVENTION ISSUE



IFBA'S 55th ANNUAL CONVENTION

2007

Cambridge
MA

August 8-11, 2007



TURN OUT

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.”**

Editorial Staff

Jerry Traub, *Editor*
Ed McMichael, *Production Editor*
Jack Finney and Rodger Birchfield, *Photo Editors*
Paul McMichael, *Proof Editor*
Jim Williamson, *Circulation Coordinator*
Jack Finney, *Pre-Convention Editor*

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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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Publishing date April 1, 2008—**Submission deadline March 6, 2008**



New England FireCon '07 Inc.

P.O. Box 400213
Cambridge, MA 02140

September 21, 2007

This past August we had the privilege of hosting the 55th annual IFBA Convention in Cambridge, MA. It had been twenty-three years since the IFBA last visited the Boston area.

Over two hundred people took full or partial registrations for what was a tremendous experience. We are extremely grateful to our guests for allowing us the opportunity to showcase not only the Cambridge/Boston area, but to really give you a true taste of New England.

As many of you know, conventions don't "just happen"! They are the result of literally years of planning, meetings, working together and yes, sometimes disagreements. I am extremely proud of the group of buffs from Region One who "stepped up to the plate" to produce what was one of the best IFBA Conventions ever according to the feedback from many of you.

The NEFCON '07 Committee: (In no particular order)

Gerry Mahoney; Boston Sparks Assoc., Chairman

Rick Cutts, Box 52 Assoc., Treasurer

Ray Taylor, Providence Citywide, Secretary

Jim Roach, Providence Citywide, Registrations and IT

Peter Aloisi, Box 52 Assoc., Vendors and Boston Display

Mike Kass, Box 52 Assoc., Harbor Cruise

Dan Paglia, Box 52 Assoc., Bus Transportation

Frank San Severino, Box 52 Assoc., Maine and North Attleboro Displays

Carleton Winslow, Bob Sherwood, Cindy Sherwood Box 61 Assoc., Maine Trip and Lobster Bake

Bob Bowers, Boston Sparks Assoc., Banquet

Ken Beliveau, Conn. Fire Photographers, Photo Displays

Frank Greenberg, Bill Twigg, Paul Finn, Boston Sparks Assoc. Van Transportation and Hospitality

Steve Hooke, Mass. Statewide, Hospitality Room

Bruce Hickox, 1st Responder Wireless, Hospitality Room

Bill and Gigi Celentano, Box 22 Assoc., General Advisors

Herb Pearlstein, Boston Sparks Assoc., General Advisor

Paul O'Rourke, Providence Special Signal, Providence Display and Lunch

Paul Boudreau, Boston Sparks Assoc., Communications and Cookout at BSA

Ken LaBelle, Providence Citywide, Webmaster

Ignatius Kapalczynski, American Fire Services, Area Maps

I also want to thank Bill Mokros, Paul Schaetzle and Stu Nathan for their assistance and advice over the past few years. The various clubs in Region One who hosted meetings, donated resources and funds to get this off the ground were extremely helpful.

Special thanks to Cambridge Firefighter Brian Collymore who did a tremendous job as the DJ on the harbor cruise!

To Robyn at Providence Special Signal: We'll never forget the hospitality every time we met in Rhode Island!

Also, a big thank you to my two bosses: Cambridge Fire Department Chief Gerry Reardon and Chief of Operations Jack Gelinas. When you run a buff convention and the local chief tells you basically: "Whatever you want, you got it," it makes things a lot easier!

Last but certainly not least, a sincere thank you to my wife and three daughters and the families of all our committee members who were so understanding and supportive of this endeavor.

Let's not wait twenty-three years for the next one!

See you in Racine in 2008!

Gerry Mahoney

IFBA FIRECON '07 – HOW IT HAPPENED...

By Jerry Traub

It seems like just the other day when we Fire Buffs gathered in Cambridge, Massachusetts for Firecon '07. On the banks of the Charles River, overlooking the Boston skyline on one side and the academic and scientific wonders of Harvard University and its neighbors on the other, we came and enjoyed the Royal Sonesta Hotel. Fair weather when we were outside and gentle rains when we were indoors made for a memorable stay in America's "Walking City".

Confusion about which coast we were on was created Tuesday, August 7, when an unusual fog from the Atlantic Ocean covered the waterfront like it was San Francisco. But, the street signs and rush hour jumble on the highways in and out of town convinced arriving conventioners that this was the right place.

IFBA officers, vice presidents and committee persons met for Tuesday evening's Executive Board meeting at the Royal Sonesta. Led by president Gerry Mahoney, the agenda was handled in quick fashion and topics discussed for the annual business meeting the following Friday.



The Royal Sonesta, Boston, was the site of the 2007 IFBA Convention. (Photo courtesy The Royal Sonesta)



Cambridge Fire Chief Gerry Reardon welcomes conventioners at the Opening Ceremony. Seated (left to right) Fr. Daniel Mahoney, Chief of Operations Jack Gelinas, Gerry Mahoney, Bill Mokros.



Color Guard at rest at Opening Ceremony, August 8, 2007.

Wednesday's opening session was well conducted, as the Pipe band opened the ceremony with stirring music. Introductions and welcomes were extended, and the 2007 program was under way.

Seminars held that day included a memorable presentation about the Worcester, MA cold storage building fire by chief John Sullivan, WFD. After lunch, "Mr. Fire Photo" Bill Noonan shared his experiences with attendees. Lastly, an informative comparison of canteen operations between Special Signal Association of Rhode Island and the Gong Club of Jersey City, NJ was conducted.



Pipe Band from Worcester Fire Brigade performs at the Opening Ceremony.



The Pipe Band attracted attention from a neighboring convention, much to their delight.



Convention hosts look to Chairman Mahoney as they greet guests at the registration desk.



Winners of the longest “drive” were David and Gillian Rogers, who came all the way from London, England!



(Left) Chief John Sullivan, Worcester, MA FD at his compelling presentation of the Cold Storage fire, during Wednesday’s seminars. Attendees were spellbound as the tragic circumstances were related.



Gordon (or is it Don?) Biscomb accepts an autographed copy of Bill Noonan’s most recent book. Ralph Decker patiently waits his turn.



Convention guests happily board the *Frederick L. Nolan Jr.* in Boston Harbor for the twi-light cruise.



(Left) Dave Vaughn and his young wife from Columbus, OH enjoy the Boston Harbor cruise. (Above) Gordy Kirkpatrick, Oshawa, Ontario, up to his usual antics. (Right) The program committee outdid itself by bringing in this beautiful rainbow during the cruise.



That evening, we were transported to the Boston Harbor where we enjoyed the scenery of the city with a cruise as night fell. A rainbow appeared as a special event and an EMS response by Harbor Police and medics provided a buffing opportunity.

Our cruise ship awaits the boarding of the convention guests.



Cambridge Firefighter Ken Souza, Cambridge Firefighter/Disc Jockey Brian Collymore and Pres. Gerry Mahoney on the Boston Harbor cruise. DJ Collymore (right) entertains the guests as the sun sets.



Boston FD's Marine 1, *Firefighter*, uses all 6000 gpm to welcome Firecon 07's evening cruise.



Retired Boston Firefighter Bill Twigg, Retired Boston Lieutenant Frank Greenberg, Janice Bello and Patty Twigg enjoy the cruise of Boston Harbor.

Thursday morning attendees were up and going early for the bus trip to Portland, Maine. Fireboats on the waterfront, a classic old firehouse museum and apparatus visits at city stations were followed by a lobster bake lunch. Afternoon activity took us to the Kennebunkport Trolley Museum. Tuesday evening allowed future convention cities Racine, WI and Washington, DC region to promote their program for 2008 and 2009.



An early stop during our Portland, ME visit was at the Portland Fire Museum, 157 Spring Street. Original horse stalls and name tags were still in the building.



The *Cavallaro*, one of Portland FD's fireboats, awaits its next call on station at Portland Harbor.



Rarely seen away from the East Coast is a fire vehicle designed for fire alarm repair. Portland, ME, and many other East Coast cities still use street boxes.



Box 61 Inc., Portland Fire Buffs' canteen, on display outside of its station.



(Left) Our lobster chef proudly displays our lunch as guests gather for the lobster bake at Verrillo's Banquet Center.

(Right) Guests enjoy a true East Coast delicacy, fresh lobster, along with cole slaw, red potatoes, clam chowder, and dessert.



(Above and right) Next stop after lunch was the Seashore Trolley Museum, Kennebunkport, ME, home of the National Collection of American Streetcars. Founded in 1939, the museum exhibits and demonstrates electric trolleys and other public transportation.



President Gerry Mahoney presides at the Annual Meeting of the IFBA. Left to right: Treasurer Paul Schaetzle, Secretary Len Williams, and Executive Vice President Bill Mokros.



Friday's general business meeting brought officers and delegates together for Regional updates, on-line Turn Out information and convention status report from facilitator Rick Cutts. The nominating committee submitted their slate for national offices and election followed. Regional vice presidents offices were filled or appointed.

The Hospitality Room provided snacks and beverages, and allowed a few new stories to be told.

Afternoon activities included a well-stocked vendor room. That evening conventioners were hosted for dinner at the Boston Sparks clubhouse downtown.





Some of the sightseeing opportunities on Friday included the *USS Constitution*, “Old Ironsides”, the only wooden sailing ship still on active duty within the U.S. Navy. It is stationed at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston Harbor. Above right, Exec. VP Bill Mokros patiently waits for his chance to board the *Constitution* for an informative tour conducted by active duty sailors. (Right) Turn Out Editor Jerry Traub welcomes Region 8 VP Ron Huff aboard the *USS Cassin Young*, a World War II destroyer, currently anchored next to Old Ironsides and undergoing restoration.



Boston Sparks Assn. provided a sumptuous dinner on Friday night at the Boston Fire Museum, 344 Congress Street. Dinner included the best dessert in town, “Classic Italian Slush.”



(Above) This stunning ceramic mural graces the entrance to Boston Firefighters' Local 718 Florian Hall, 55 Hallet Street. (Right) Boston FD Tower Ladder 3 dwarfs the fire alarm service bucket on display at Florian Hall.



Pres. Gerry Mahoney provides the "personal touch" as he halts traffic for the safe passage of convention goers to the apparatus display.

Saturday morning's sunshine led us to bus trips through Boston to the Florian Union Hall and equipment display. Next was a stop in North Attleboro for another display with many unique units.



Brookline's Tower 1 awed most conventioners with its multi-positioning and tower extension (left). Boston Engine 50 on display outside its quarters at 34 Winthrop Street, Charlestown (above).

Arriving at Providence, RI headquarters, it was lunchtime and photo time with several canteens shown. A drive-by of city stations occurred as we left the area to return to Cambridge for the banquet and closing ceremonies.



Rehoboth, MA FD "Breaker 2" is a brush truck mounted on a 2.5 ton Army truck for accessing brush fires .



Eye-catching graphics were evident on several apparatus at the North Attleboro display.



Apparatus displayed at North Attleboro included Ladder 1's tiller, Albion FD's Squad 21 (heavy rescue) complete with horse and steamer artwork. Below is the show stopper, a beautiful Ahrens Fox.

SPECIAL THANKS to all our contributing photographers! Photos submitted by: Ken Beliveau, Jennifer Beliveau, Jerry Traub, Jim Williamson, Gerry Mahoney, and Ed McMichael.





Saturday's lunch was provided by Providence Special Signal Fire Assn. at the Providence Public Safety Complex. Musical accompaniment was provided by the local pipe band.



Region 2 VP Ira Rubin samples a hot dog served from Salvation Army Rehab Unit 2 at Providence HQ.



Convention goers marveled at the well-equipped Salvation Army Rehab Unit that included a stainless steel, fully functional restroom.



Providence FD proudly displayed their apparatus during the stop at their Public Safety Complex. Above, Engine 1 pauses for a moment for pictures.



Region 1 VP Carlton Winslow and Pres. Gerry Mahoney makes a final check of the door prizes display at the Convention Banquet and Awards Ceremony. (Right) Pres. Gerry Mahoney asks yet again, "How we doin'?"





Exec. VP Bill Mokros administers the Oath of Office to incoming IFBA President John Degenhardt as a part of the Closing Banquet.



Out-going President Gerry Mahoney accepts the Past President's plaque from Bill Mokros.



Regional Vice-Presidents take their Oath of Office for the 2007-2008 term. Left to right: Carlton Winslow, Mark Platek, Ira Rubin, Frank Novak, Chuck Liedtke, Larry Childress, Ron Huff, Gary Wignall, and Bill Celentano, Jr.

Closing ceremonies on Saturday evening included a wonderful meal, good company and a nice setting overlooking the Charles River. Newly-elected national president John Degenhardt was sworn in, along with First Vice President Steve Hansen, Second Vice President Vito Maggiolo, and now Past President Gerry Mahoney. Jerry Traub was named Henry Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year.

Thanks to the regional clubs for a great time at Cambridge. Look forward to Racine in 2008.



For those who missed it, this was Jerry's horse stall at the Portland Fire Museum.



Phil Reid presents a shocked Jerry Traub with the 2007 Henry Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year award.

International Fire Buff Associates

2006 / 2007

Necrology Report

- | | |
|---|---|
| • FRANK ABLINGER, MEMBER | SIGNAL 22 ASSOCIATION |
| • CHARLES "ARNIE" ARNWINE, MEMBER | SIGNAL 22 ASSOCIATION |
| • TOM BOYCE, ASSISTANT UNIT CHIEF & VP | BOX 54, TEANECK, NJ. |
| • JEFF CHERENSKY, PAST PRESIDENT | BOX 42 ASSOCIATES |
| • RONALD L. CONN, FOUNDING MEMBER | GREATER HOUSTON FIRE BUFFS |
| • BOB 'BOBBY' DOLAN, PAST PRESIDENT, | SOUTH JERSEY FIRE BUFFS, NJ. |
| • JOSEPH GREEN, MEMBER | BOX 61 CLUB PORTLAND ME. |
| • NORBERT HANDLEY, MEMBER | CHICAGO 5-11 CLUB |
| • HENRY J. HAINES, LIFE MEMBER | GONG CLUB, JERSEY CITY NJ. |
| • DAVID M. KELTY SR, OFFICER | SIGNAL 22, TRENTON, NJ. |
| • FRED KIRCHWEHM, MEMBER | CHICAGO 5-11 CLUB |
| • GARY MOGOL, MEMBER | EXTRA ALARM ASSOC, OF THE TWIN CITIES, MN. |
| • CHERYL NOVAK, IFBA PRESIDENT 1998 | WESTERN RESERVE FIRE BUFFS, CLEVELAND, OH. |
| • JULIAN OLANSKY, DIRECTOR | BOX 41 ASSOCIATES, LYNN MA. |
| • MR. ROBERT E. POLING, LIFE MEMBER | BOX 15 CLUB, INC., COLUMBUS, OH. |
| • EDWARD SAGER, MEMBER | BELL & SIREN CLUB, NJ. |
| • RAYMOND H. SCHLUETER, PAST PRESIDENT | BOX 8, ST LOUIS, MO. |
| • ROBERT "BOB" STONE, MEMBER | THE FIRE BELL CLUB OF NEW YORK |
| • CHET SUTHERLAND, FOUNDING MEMBER | CONNECTICUT FIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION |
| • CAPTAIN EDWARD TAYLOR, MEMBER | BOX 52 ASSN., BOSTON, MA. |
| • WILLIAM WEBBER, MEMBER | THE LEATHER HELMET SOCIETY, MANCHESTER NH. |
| • ERLA WHITTAKER, MEMBER | 10-87 CLUB, ROCKFORD, IL. |
| • L. MURRAY YOUNG, PAST VP
IFBA FBOTY 1993 | BOX 52 ASSN., BOSTON, MA. |
| • WARREN 'WINNIE' ZOREK, MEMBER | THE FIRE BELL CLUB OF NEW YORK |

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE