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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Indianapolis IN 46206
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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
couraged.

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
Publishing date May 1, 2009—Submission deadline April 15, 2009
Publishing date November 1, 2009 - Submission deadline October 10, 2009
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IT WAS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN THE 2008 CONVENTION ISSUE
Necrology report that Justin Matters of Box 54 Club in New Jersey
was deceased. The IFBA and TURN OUT regret the error.
A policy is now in place to avoid this ever happening again. —ed
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.
Middlesex County Firefighters & Fire Wardens Assn.
Providence Citywide Fire Network
Special Signal Fire Assn.
The Leather Helmet Society

Region 3
Anne Arundel Alarmers Assn., Inc.
Box 234 Assn., Inc.
Box 414 Assn., Inc.
Central Alarmers, Inc.
Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assn.
Friendship Fire Assn.
Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
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
Hamilton Fire Relief Co. 20
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 Support Group 620
Plano Fire Rescue Associates
Signal “51” Group

Region 6
5-11 Club, Inc.
10-87 Club of Greater Rockford
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.
Waukesha County Emergency Support & Rehab Inc.

Region 7
2-11 Assn. Phoenix Fire Buffs, Inc.
Box 15 Club of Los Angeles
Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley
Mountain NewsNet
Peninsula Fire Buff Club
Phoenix Society of San Francisco Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company
St. Francis Hook & Ladder Society
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.
Second Alarmers’ Assn. & Rescue Squad of Philadelphia, Inc.
Signal 22 Assn., Inc.
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA)
South Jersey Fire Photographer’s Assn.
The Fire Bell Club of New York, Inc.
Third Alarm Bell Club, 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.
FRIENDSHIP FIRE ASSOCIATION

Headquarters, Engine Company No. 3, DC Fire & EMS
439 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001

Washington, DC -- The International Fire Buff Associates (IFBA) will hold its annual convention on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC from August 11-15, 2009. The Year 2009 host club will be the Friendship Fire Association (FFA), the volunteer branch of the DC Fire & EMS Department. FFA has named the event “Capital Blazes ’09.”

The convention hotel will be the The Liaison Capital Hill, located next door to FFA’s headquarters and museum. A block of 75 rooms have been reserved at the hotel, located at 415 New Jersey Avenue NW, just four blocks northwest of the U.S. Capitol. A special price of $159, per night, double occupancy, has been arranged by FFA. (call the hotel at 202-638-1616 for advance reservations).

In addition to visiting the historic Engine Co. 3 firehouse next door to the hotel, and FFA’s DC Fire & EMS Museum located on the third floor of Engine Co. 3, plans are being formulated for convention attendees to visit several popular Washington tourist attractions, including the Capitol, and a boat ride on the Potomac.

FFA’s nearly 50 volunteer members staff a state-of-the-art Canteen Unit and a Rehab Unit, both obtained at the end of 2005. FFA has spent the last three years putting together a 4,000 square foot museum, now complete with the exception of the arrival of only a handicapped-accessible elevator to be able to open the museum for general public viewing. The museum also houses an exact replica of the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial, the original of which is located in Emmitsburg, MD.

The Co-Chairs of “Capital Blazes 2009” are Walter Gold, FFA President (202-439-1936), and Vito Maggiolo, FFA Coordinator of Field Operations (202-439-0949).
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.
A summary of activity for Box 15’s rehab unit since the beginning of June has included: Seven 2\textsuperscript{nd} alarm fires (five with Columbus Fire, one with Truro Twp, one with Whitehall), 4-day long training exercises with the CFD recruit class, one Alert 3 (plane crash), two separate Hazmat/Bomb Runs, 10 special call responses (two with Columbus Fire, two with Violet Twp, and one each with Hamilton Twp, Mifflin Twp, Plain Twp, Whitehall Fire, and Upper Arlington Fire).

The last few months have been full of changes for Central Ohio. Several departments have been replacing EMS units, with Columbus Fire placing new Horton/International Medic units in service at stations: 8, 16, 20, 27, & 29. Seventeen similar units are on order for 2009.

CFD has also put four new American La-France tiller ladders in service at Stations 1,8,27, & 28. The first two were to replace existing tiller companies, while the last two switched existing ladder companies from towers to tillers. This was done because in part because 27’s & 28’s had area that the tower trucks had difficulties traveling in. Plans are to purchase at least one more new ladder in coming year and specs are being written now.

The biggest news however is the Ferrara / Spartan engines arriving. These were used to replace Engines 1, 2, 9, 12, 23, 24, 25, & 26. All have side mount 1500 GPM Waterous pumps, with 750 gallon tanks & Series 60 Detroit 425 HP motors. All are single stage pumps except for Engines 1, 2, & 25 having 2 stage pumps for high rise buildings of downtown and the OSU campus areas. These trucks will run as advanced life support companies and replaced front line equipment that were as much as 15 years old and most were commercial cab engines. Seven more Ferrara engines have been ordered for 2009.

On September 26\textsuperscript{th} 2008, 34 Columbus Fire recruits ended a long journey as Deputy Safety Director George Speaks administered the oath of office to them in a ceremony at
the Columbus Division of Fire Training Complex in the South end of Columbus. Their training started in February and consisted of Firefighter I&II, EMT-B, and Fire Inspector I. The members of Box 15 congratulate them on a job well done, and we look forward to working with them on future incident scenes.

Finally on Sunday October

New CFD Engine 1 on the back ramp of Station 1

New Ladder 1 sits at the Columbus City Fleet Maintenance Center prior to going in service

The last time they get to stand around together in front of a burning building! Photo by Columbus OH Division of Fire Photography.
5th, Members of the Columbus Division of fire met at the Firefighters’ Memorial across from Columbus City Hall to remember those members of the division who had answered their last alarm in the past year. This year’s service fortunately did not include any active members, as the bell was rung for the 22 retirees who have departed. Once again Box 15 assisted at the memorial and served refreshments at the Central Ohio Fire Museum and Learning Center’s open house that was immediately afterwards.

For details of all club rehab responses, visit our website @ www.box15.org.

November 2008

It is with great sadness Box 15 says farewell to Lewis “Duane” Kesterson, who died on November 18th after a battle with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Duane had been involved with Box 15 for 20 years. Despite physical limitations, he was a frequent sight on the fire ground assisting with the club’s rehab operations and buffing in general. The son of a Jackson Twp Grove City Ohio Volunteer Fire Fighter, Duane was unable to follow in his father’s footsteps because of cerebral palsy. The Jackson Twp Fire Department had in fact honored Duane by making him an honorary firefighter, giving him the same badge number his father wore long ago. On the afternoon of November 21, 2008, the local fire service community said farewell to Duane with a full fire dept funeral including apparatus from 4 departments.
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 Support Group 20
Plano Fire Rescue Associates
Signal “51” Group
During the pre-dawn hours of June 24, 2008 fire units were dispatched to a structure fire at the corner of South Hampton Road and Pleasant Hill Road in DeSoto, TX to find a working fire in a one story strip shopping center. Due to fire extension into multiple ceilings, crews were eventually forced out and a long exterior battle began that lasted well over 3-1/2 hours.

All photos and captions by Jeff Harwell, jefflizharwell@sbcglobal.net
On the afternoon of August 15, 2008 Burleson, TX firefighters responded to a working fire in an occupied one story dwelling. While one occupant made it out, and elderly resident did not and perished in the fire.

On September 9, 2008 Grand Prairie, TX units were once again called to the scene of a fire in the self storage units located on Camden Drive in Station 2’s fire due area. In the photo Engine 4, Truck 8, and Truck 1 are preparing to go to work as 2nd Alarm units begin to arrive on the scene.

The day before Thanksgiving in 2007 a family on Colt Lane in Crowley, TX lost their house during a General Alarm fire that brought in mutual aid from over half a dozen area departments.
Region 6

5-11 Club, Inc.
10-87 Club of Greater Rockford
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.
Waukesha County Emergency Support & Inc.
By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar

Fire action in Chicago has been below average for the year with only 28 multiple alarms, mostly 2-11 alarm (3rd alarm) fires as of this writing. Many of these fires have also become hazmat incidents due to some of these buildings containing chemicals that can add to the risk of normal fire fighting duties. A recent 2-11 of the City's northwest side illustrates how a normal blaze can change into a hazmat incident. On September 5, 2008, Engine 94 responded to a still alarm at a medical rehab center. The fire was in the ceiling of a 50'x100' trussed roof building. As firefighters entered the building, they encountered light smoke conditions. They soon discovered numerous false ceilings and after getting through all of them, discovered a roaring fire in the dead space above the ceiling. The Engine's officer ordered everyone out of the building and started a defensive effort. Medical chemicals inside the structure prompted the hazmat response. Although the building was a total loss, the attached 30'x50' office section next door was saved.

In July of 2008, John Brooks became the new Fire Commissioner of the CFD. Commissioner Brooks had been Assistant Fire Commissioner under Ray Orozco, Jr. Commissioner Brooks has over 30 years on the job and the 5-11 Club looks forward to working with him in the future. Mr. Orozco was promoted to Chief of Emergency Operations in the Emergency Management Agency. This agency is responsible for the 9-1-1 Center, 3-1-1 Center (non-emergency requests for
services), traffic management, all emergency operations at major disasters, and any serious weather related incidents.

Two new command vans have been placed into service. 2-7-1 and 2-7-4 are somewhat smaller than the command vans placed into service in 2005. Command Van 2-7-2 (one of the 2005 units) was severely damaged in an onboard electrical fire and it is doubtful it will be rebuilt. The old Command Van 2-7-1 was renumbered 2-7-3 and 2-7-2 is now using a 1993 unit. The CFD has placed into service an Incident Management Command Post 2-7-9. The 39-foot Freightliner was built by LDV and has three consoles, radio compatibility with numerous agencies, and satellite reception equipment. At present, the unit is stored with other special operations rigs on the south side. The unit's first response was during an 8" rainfall that flooded about 500 homes on the City's north side Albany Park neighborhood.

Responding to all 2-11 or larger fires and other incidents during hot and humid weather conditions. The two rigs are 2007 Ford F550 with Supreme Van bodies. At this time they are only responding from May through September. A new light wagon is on order. The two existing smaller units, 9-1-3 and 9-1-5 are covering the City at this time.

The purchase of 50 new pumpers and 30 new aerials has been delayed. The bids were to have been opened this Fall, but at this time no details are available on this purchase. They were originally meant to be delivered over a five to six year period.
Three of the four new firehouses have been completed in the last two months. As of July 28th, Engine 121, Truck 40, Battalion 21 and BLS Ambulance 91 are now in their new quarters at 95th and Prospect Avenue in the City's far south side Beverly neighborhood. On August 2, Engine 18, Battalion 4 and BLS Ambulance 84 moved into their new quarters on the near west side on Blue Island Avenue. The third house is Engine 70's quarters at Clark and Peterson on the City's north side. Joining Engine 70 will be Truck 47, Battalion 9, Ambulance 13 and Engine 59. The last house to be completed will be for Engine 102, Truck 25 and Ambulance 56. The building is about 60 percent complete and should be ready for occupancy in late 2008 or early 2009. All of these houses were built basically from the same plans as the earlier four stations opened in 2004-2004. Two remaining rebuilds for Engine 16 and Engine 109 are on hold.

Engine 18's New Quarters on Blue Island Avenue (Photo by Mike Penchar)

Engine 70's New Quarters at Clark and Peterson (Photo by Chuck Bleck)

On the Club scene, our two canteens, SSU-1 and SSU-2, are fully operational. SSU-1 is located at Engine 106 on the north side and SSU-2 is quartered at Engine 80 on the far south side.

Our responses have increased over the past year as we are now responding to police department incidents and the wakes and funerals of two policemen killed in the line of duty. We have also served refreshments at three different 100-year company anniversaries, the 135th anniversary of Engine 18, all of the new firehouse dedications, and at the Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony.

On June 14th, we along with the Fire Buffs of Illinois, held our annual Fire Muster at the Chicago Fire Academy. Despite the gas crunch, 12 antique rigs and over 60 vendors participated in the event.

We would also encourage everyone to visit our website at www.5-11club.org. It is a

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very active website with frequent updates on fire action and news of the CFD. Fire pics are usually posted on the site within a few days of incidents.

We would like to congratulate the Racine Fire Bells for a great IFBA Convention in August. We look forward to seeing all of our friends again next year in Washington, DC.

Finally, we still have several members on call for tours of the CFD or fire action. Just give us a "heads up" via a phone call or e-mail of your plans.

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

By Gary Schmidt, ESU Chairman

2008 continues to be a slow year for fires in the Milwaukee area. The Milwaukee Fire Department has had only 17 greater alarms in the first 10 months (half of a normal year), with nothing larger than a 2nd alarm until June 13th. The eleven suburban departments of Milwaukee County also has had very few greater alarms.

In the last year, the Milwaukee Fire Department continues to enforce a structured rehab policy – as firefighting crews are rotated out, vitals are taken and the crews go to a formal rehab area (often setup by the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club) that includes a tent, chairs, and in warm weather, a misting fan and cooling towels. After being rehydrated, vitals are taken again, looking for sustained elevated blood pressure and/or pulse.

The Milwaukee Fire Department also has placed into service two bariatric paramedic units. Each contains a 1600 lb. capacity cot for large patients and also a winch for loading into the rig.

Municipal budget pressures are again...
squeezing the staffing levels of engine and truck companies. Currently, Milwaukee’s 37 engines are 4-person except for the Haz Mat and Dive Rescue teams, which have stayed at 5-person. The 16 truck companies currently have nine companies staffed at five and seven staffed at four. The proposed 2009 budget calls for the elimination of an engine company and dropping all trucks to 4-person companies.

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Fall 2008
Region 7

2-11 Assn. Phoenix Fire Buffs, Inc.
Box 15 Club of Los Angeles
Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley
Mountain NewsNet
Peninsula Fire Buff Club
Phoenix Society of San Francisco
Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company
St. Francis Hook & Ladder Society
Seattle Fire Buff Society
Tacoma/Pierce County Fire Buff Battalion
Again this summer, southern California has been the scene of numerous wildfires, several of which have destroyed numerous homes, including a mobile home community. Some of the statistics listed for these fires are simply amazing, when they show the number of firefighters, engines used, air support, and estimated cost.

By John Whitaker, Fire Associates' president

The Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit (SCU) now has its own web site. Link to it at: Cal Fire SCU (www.calfirescu.org). Cal Fire is what used to be called the CDF, the CA Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection, the country's largest fire dept., which handles vegetation fires, either as first responders or on a mutual aid basis, and also provides protection on a contract basis to some communities.

There's a lot to look at if you start clicking on some of the links of that web site.

On SCU's web site is a link to such things as an interactive map of all the station locations. Interesting that if you click on a station, it lists the equipment assigned to that station and (often) a photograph of the equipment. At the bottom of some of those pages, local fire photographer Craig Rose and John Whitaker, president of Fire Associates, are given credit for the photo and then there is a link - either to Craig's "Emergency Photo" web site, or our Fire Associates Blog.

Happy Web surfing...

Photos courtesy of Cal Fire.
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

Indianapolis area firefighters and public safety officers are benefiting from a busy 2008 for the Rehab Support units that are manned by Indianapolis Fire Buffs. There have been 79 responses from mid-June to mid-October, 2008, in Marion and surrounding counties. Our assistance has been provided at numerous box alarms, for residences and commercial structures; add to that special calls for dive team recovery of a pistol needed as evidence in a homicide; a middle-of-the-night response for a missing boater at a local reservoir who was safely tucked in bed at home through the entire incident; and a second alarm plus at a warehouse complex that involved five area departments.

A “hot and cold” unit is being refurbished from a light wagon that was formerly used by a township department that merged with Indianapolis Fire. This should provide harsh weather protection for firefighters. Volunteer labor from the Buffs will keep the retrofit cost affordable.

Picture ID cards are being provided with our new logo for Rehab support and other club personnel.

Indianapolis Fire has a new chief—Brian Sanford was appointed to replace former chief Jim Greeson, who moved over to the State Office complex as Indiana State Fire Marshal. Chief Sanford was able to attend a Buffs’ monthly meeting where a set of framed mats from THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR newspaper were presented. These were the original photos and story of his promotion. Chief Sanford acknowledged the past services provided by the local Buffs and announced his intention to keep that relationship going.
Two club members were in attendance at Racine for the 2008 convention. The Fire Bells did a great job, with good trips and good food and pleasant weather. Congratulations to Bob Deibler for his selection as Henry Witters-award “Fire Buff of the Year”.

Another successful Hawaii trip raffle fundraiser for Indianapolis firefighters has concluded, with 12 happy winners and the Fire Buffs making a profit.

Current president Rodger Birchfield was recently announced as Editor of the SPAAMFAA newsletter “Silver Trumpet”. Indianapolis also will have another publisher when Scott Rawlins takes over as editor of “Enjine!-Enjine! magazine for SPAAMFAA.

Officer elections for the 2009 term have concluded:
President: Jerry Traub
Vice-President: Mark Burke
Secretary: Ed McMichael
Treasurer: Paul McMichael.

Sept. 30, 2008: Who says fire pictures can’t be “artsy”? Firefighters take a break after battling a two alarm fire in an apartment building, formerly motel. Multiple roof layers hampered the efforts. This fire was responded to by Wayne Township, Decatur Township, and the Indianapolis Fire Department. Photo by Tod Parker.

Sept. 20, 2008: Firefighters prepare to enter this fully involved residence. This response was upgraded from a still alarm to a box alarm and caused damage to both exposure houses. Photo by Tod Parker.
Oct. 29, 2008: Pike Township firefighters work to extract two patients from an overturned semi-trailer along I-465. Entrapments occur regularly along this section of roadway. All photos by Tod Parker.

Oct. 25, 2008: Indianapolis Fire Department firefighters prepare to attack this box alarm blaze on LaSalle Street. This fire was one of a series of arson fires that have plagued the near-eastside.

Tod Parker maintains a website at www.phototac.com, where he posts pictures of fires, as well as other fire department rescues. He is the official photographer for the Pike Township Fire Department and is a member of the Indianapolis Fire Buffs. Says Tod regarding vehicle extractions: “It's no secret to me that many departments use my photos for training and education. In fact, I provide them free of charge to anyone who asks, as long as they are not being published in a book or manual. I remember, years ago, when I took my first EMT class, the photos we had to look at were lousy. One of my goals in photographing fire and rescue is to provide excellent examples that can be used in the classroom as well as basic and/or advanced training - hence the reason I take extractions so seriously. They’re hard to catch, but they're important to study and learn from.” Turn Out appreciates being granted permission to use Tod’s pictures.

Nov. 7, 2008, 2:30 a.m.: Wayne Township firefighters remove the roof from this Ford Explorer to free the entrapped driver. The vehicle had left the roadway and rolled down a 30 foot embankment on a remote west-side road. Rescuers had a difficult time with the incline and had to rig ladders and ropes to get personnel and equipment to the scene.
By Ron Huff, Region 8 Vice President

Greetings from Nashville!

A tip of the helmet to Chief Steve Hanson and the Racine Fire Bells for a great convention, great trips, good weather, and good fellowship that made for an excellent time.

A relatively safe summer has made for a small fire load for Nashville and Box activity. Two second alarms left one child dead from smoke inhalation and eight apartment units damaged in the first second alarm. Another second alarm destroyed a well known Nashville restaurant that happened to be closed from a previous fire.

As we move into fall, Box 55 has started the plans for the 2010 convention. At this time, we have the hotel locked in with a rate of $99 per night. We will be going to the Jack Daniel Distillery plus the Friday night Opry. I encourage everyone to walk across the street and go through the Conservatory. It is like being on a tropical island, and with the 1,000 room addition to the hotel, it has grown to about three times its original size. We will have Lady’s Day to go to Opry Mills mall for shopping.

Box 55 has been asked to serve the Secret Service, F.B.I. and U.S. Marshall’s Office when they arrive in town for the Presidential candidates debate at Belmont University on October 7. We will operate Rehab 55 from the staging area at the State Fair Grounds while Support 55 will make emergency runs.

Apparatus News: All Nashville’s first line units are now under six year’s old. A new 100’ Pierce Velocity tower is on order with
delivery expected late December 2008 or early January 2009. This will be a twin to Tower 17 that was purchased unfinished off the production line at Pierce on an emergency purchase plan. Old Tower 17’s E-One had a ladder failure, and because of age and cost of repair, the unit was removed from service. With the opening of the new Bottoms, Engine 5 has gone back home with Engine and Truck 9 after a year or so with Engine 8. Also, Engine 38 has moved to new quarters in the Neely Bend area of Madison. This leaves Engines 33 and 35 as Nashville’s last double engine house.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Washington D.C. next year.

Rescue 12, a 2008 International/Pierce with 18.5 walk-in rescue body, was a recent addition to the Nashville Fire Department. Photo by Ron Huff.

Station 5 & 9—"The Bottoms," housing Engines 5 and 9, as well as Truck 9, sits at 601 2nd Avenue So. It was completed in the spring of 2008. It will be one of the stations we will visit during the 2010 convention. Photo by Ron Huff.
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 MOTHER OF ALL WEEKENDS!

Hopefully Jersey City fire fighters celebrated with their mothers early this year as two major blazes kept them occupied on the 2nd weekend of May.

The wee hours of Saturday, May 10, 2008 brought companies to 3521 Kennedy Blvd., a 3 story frame multiple dwelling with a laundromat on the ground floor. Box 463 was transmitted at 0011 hours. Eng. Co. 11 reported a working fire upon arrival. Batt. 3, Batt. Chief Peter Griese, who was visiting at the Gong Club quarters when the box was struck, sized up the situation and immediately ordered a 2nd Alarm. Fire soon extended to all floors and through the roof. Typical of many Jersey City neighborhoods, aerial ladder access was prohibited by a large number of overhead utility wires across the front of the building. Ladder Co. 6 was able to maneuver into a rear yard off Bleecker St. and throw their stick to the roof of the adjacent 2 story frame structure at 3523 Kennedy Blvd. This building is now a chiropractor’s office, but in a past life, housed Narrowback’s Pub, a popular watering hole that more than a few visiting buffs knew well!

Fire extended into the 2nd floor rear of that building, prompting Acting Deputy Chief John Austin to strike a 3rd Alarm at 0050 hours. After a dogged effort by all companies, the fire was brought under control. The 2nd Friday of the month is the Gong Club’s meeting night, so Car 26 had a heavy crew of
11 operating until 04:40 hours.

Mother's Day dawned cool and peaceful, but that would barely last half the day. Deputy Chief Robert Cobb was at the Fire Dispatch Center at 1145 hours when the phones lit up reporting a fire at 272 St. Paul's Ave., within the first due territory of Eng. Co. 7 and Lad. Co. 3 quartered next to Fire Dispatch. Bolt ing out the door as Box 330 was being transmitted, Division 1, Chief Cobb, beat the assignment into the Box and was confronted with fire in three buildings upon arrival! As Chief Cobb was putting his gear on, he struck a 2nd Alarm and sent his Technician (that's what they call Aides now days!), Fire Fighter Vincent Curci to check the rear. Neighbors were running up to the Chief screaming that people were still in the building. Curci hot footed it back to the front waving 3 fingers in the air; "3rd Alarm!" orders Chief Cobb over the radio!

The reports of trapped occupants were true; 2 people leapt from the first floor rear and a large woman was at the basement window. Rescue Co. 1 and other units extricated her from the cellar through the window, frame and all! The fire was now heavily involving #274 and #272, both 2 story frame dwellings, and #270, a large 2.5 story frame dwelling.

Incredibly, fire was already blowing out the side windows of #270 and now burning the siding of #268, a large frame doctor's office at St. Paul's & Skillman Avenues. Deputy Chief Cobb ordered a 4th Alarm 20 minutes into the fight, the first such greater alarm for 2008.

Once again, a plethora of overhead wires precluded any aerial ladders from reaching the buildings' front facades or roofs. Ladder 12 nosed into a parking lot in the rear of #268 off Skillman Ave. and operated their aerial and ladder pipe from that vantage point. Ladder Tower 4 set up their master stream on Skillman Ave. as well. Although the peaked roof of #270 collapsed, the heavy body of fire was knocked down by 1400 hours, salvaging the last exposures, #268 and #274 from complete destruction.

Cause of the fire is under investigation, with the suspicions of the Fire Investigation Unit piqued by the discovery of over $100,000 in cash in the ruins of #270. Car 26 was chauffeured by Probationary Member Greg Rivera, his first run! Member Anthony Pecorelli started his Gong Club career in the same manner 3 years ago! Seven Gong Club members turned out to dispense some 225 bottles of water, 10 gallons of Gatorade, 3 gallons of soup and 4 gallons of beef stew to the troops.

Response:

1145  Box 330  Eng. Co. 7-11-5-9  Lad. Co. 3-6  Res. Co. 1  Batt. 3  Div. 1  MSU Safety Officer
1147  WF 330  Sqd. Co. 4  Lad. Co. 4  Batt. 4  Car 30
1154  2-2 330  Eng. Co. 6-14-2  Lad. Co. 7  Car 3-26-28
1155  3-3 330  Eng. Co. 22-13  Lad. Co. 12  Car 1-5-14
1205  4-4 330  Eng. Co. 15-17  Lad. Co. 9  Batt. 1
1300  S/C 330  Eng. Co. 8  Lad. Co. 2

HOT UNDER THE COLLAR AT HIGH NOON!

Jersey City Firefighters were hot under the collar and everywhere else battling a 3rd Alarm in the midst of a scorching July heat wave. Even the phone lines at the Fire Dispatch Center were hot as numerous calls
were received reporting a fire at 227 South St. in the Heights section of the city. Box 448 was struck at 1157 hours for a one story frame residential structure just east of Kennedy Blvd.

Eng. Co. 14 was first to arrive and had no trouble finding the location as the column of smoke was as high as the Noon time sun. Fire had already extended to a 2 story frame dwelling at #229 and would soon extend to another dwelling to the east at #225. To complicate matters, some 1st Alarm units were tied up at a training exercise at the PSE&G Electric Generating Station at Duffield & Van Keuken Avenues. Batt. 4, Battalion Chief Kenneth Drennan, normally the second due chief, assumed command. As the Working Fire signal was transmitted, Res. Co. 1, Squad Co. 4 and Division 1, Deputy Chief Michael Terpak, broke away from the PSE&G facility and responded. A 2nd Alarm soon followed at 1212 hours.

Once again, a tangled web of overhead power lines prevented the use of any aerial ladders. Numerous handlines were stretched and ground ladders were raised to access the roofs of the buildings. As lines moved into position to protect exposures, fire roared out of the exposure building at #225 with a vengeance. Companies had to battle their way from the front porch into the building to beat back the flames. As all three buildings were now heavily involved, Deputy Chief Terpak transmitted a 3rd Alarm to bring sufficient manpower into the fray to deliver a knock out punch.

The oppressive heat was made all the more obnoxious as the temperature on a nearby bank flashed "91 degrees" at the height of the firefight. It took more than an hour before firefighters won a hard fought battle and brought the fire under control. The weather took its toll, however, with some firefighters looking as if they had gone 10 rounds in a heavyweight fight! Six members were laid out by the heat and were transported to the Jersey City Medical Center.

Successful boxers have good handlers in their corner and the FDJC had just that in the form of Car 26, the Gong Club canteen. Member Jim Fay was in quarters when the box struck, turning our immediately on the 2nd Alarm. Joined by 2 other members at the scene, the club dispensed some 186 bottles of water and 20 gallons of Gatorade to the parched troops.

Response:

1157 Box 448 Eng. Co. 11-14-18-15 Lad. Co. 7-6 Batt. 4
1202 WF 448 Eng. Co. 9 Lad. Co. 11 Car 30 Batt. 2
1205 Sqd. Co. 4 Res. Co. 1 Div. 1 MSU Safety Batt. responding from the PSE&G facility
1212 2-2 448 Eng. Co. 7-5-8 Lad. Co. 9-2 Car 3-26-28
1240 3-3 448 Eng. Co. 17-10 Lad. Co. 12 Car 1-5 Batt. 3
1240 S/C 448 Eng. Co. 2 with Decon / Rehab Unit
1311 Fire Under Control
1530 Watch Line Eng. Co. 13-2-19 Lad. Co. 8

FATAL FIRE STRIKES UPTOWN HOBOKEN AGAIN!

In the Spring 2008 edition of TURN OUT,
we recounted the predawn blaze that roared through the apartment complex at 1203 Washington St., claiming the life of one resident on January 29, 2008. Eight months later, Hoboken companies turned out shortly before 0400 hours to the same square block. The fire of October 1, 2008 was 1202-8 Hudson St., a 5 story renovated apartment complex. The rear courtyards of this building and the structure involved in the January fire abutted each other. Once again, Hoboken fire fighters were confronted with occupied 5 story building in the middle of the night.

A 2nd Alarm was quickly transmitted, followed by 3rd and 4th Alarms. Hoboken’s 3 engines, 2 ladders and their rescue company were augmented by North Hudson Sqd. Co. 2, Eng. Co. 9, Lad. Co. 2, MSU and Rehab bus. Jersey City units comprised the 3rd & 4th Alarms, bringing Batt. 1, Eng. Co. 5-10-19, Lad. Co. 3-12-2, MSU and Car 26 to the fire.

Fire gained possession of the 5th floor and cockloft, with flames lighting up the predawn sky from the front façade and cornice. Both Hoboken ladder companies threw their sticks to the roof and Eng. Co. 4, using a 1980’s era spare Mack CF pumper, cranked up their deck gun to darken down the fire roaring overhead. Handlines moved in to extinguish the fire, a long and tedious task, while other companies conducted an exhaustive search of all floors and the exposures. Sadly, an 80 year old woman, the mother of the building’s superintendent, perished in the fire.

Investigators later determined that the fire was caused by a lamp falling onto a bed.

Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, operated for 6 hours serving fire fighters from 3 departments and numerous other agencies.

**GONG CLUB HERO HONORED**

On October 3, 2008, the Jersey City Fire Department named the quarters of Engines 14, 18, Ladder 7, and the High Rise / Tunnel Unit, at 595 Palisade Ave. in memory of Fire Fighter Carlos Negron. Carlos died in the line of duty on March 20, 1993 just down the street from where this 5 year old firehouse is located. As faithful TURN OUT readers will recall, Carlos was serving...
as Deputy Chief of the Gong Club when he made the supreme sacrifice.

The ceremony was conducted by Fire Director Armando Roman and led by the FDJC Honor Guard, and the Hudson County Fire and Police Pipes and Drums. Both of Carlos’ children attended with their children, as well as his brother, Fire Fighter Frank Negron and several nephews and nieces. Several Gong Club members, as well as Car 26, were in attendance.

The family was presented with a Proclamation from Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy and a plaque from the Fire Department. IAFF Local 1066 donated the plaque that will be mounted at the firehouse. Chief of Department Michael O’Reilly, in his speech, noted that he and Carlos were appointed to the job in the same class, along with Director Roman, on June 1, 1981. O’Reilly said that Carlos often talked about going to fires in other towns while off duty. Thinking this to be somewhat strange, O’Reilly questioned Carlos, who told him about going to these fires with the Gong Club. That was how O’Reilly and the rest of the class first learned about the Gong Club.

FDJC Chaplain, the Rev. James Pagnotta said the invocation and the blessing of the firehouse. Afterward, guests enjoyed a luncheon served in the firehouse kitchen, complete with cookies and coffee. This is the second “naming” honor for a Gong Club member. Marine Co. 1’s fire boat, the Joseph Lovero, is named after our member who was killed on September 11, 2001.
Region 11

Broward Assn. For The Relief of Firefighters

Central Florida Fire Buffs

Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA.
The big news in the Atlanta area was the July 11, 2008 announcement from Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin regarding the city’s budget crisis and how the fire department would help cover the deficit. Thirty six currently filled positions were abolished, with most of these positions consisting of new recruits from the fire academy. Newly graduated recruits were pointed in the direction of other nearby fire departments that might be hiring. It was also announced that night that the oldest station in the city (#7’s at 535 W. Whitehall Street SW) would be closing down and Engine 7 would be abolished, with its former territory being picked up by other nearby companies. Air Unit 7 is now running out of Station 1 for the time being. A couple of days later came the announcement that Squad 4 was being abolished, and in its place 4 truck companies would become combination heavy rescue/truck companies. The official last day for Station 7 was July 14, 2008, when it closed down after 98 years of service. As reported in the last issue of Turn Out, the city of Atlanta has a new fire chief, Kelvin J. Cochran from Shreveport. This can’t be the ideal situation for a new chief to step into during his first year on the job. To make matters more interesting, the city council overwhelmingly voted in mid-August to place Engine 7 back in service due to public concern about response times. Thus the groundwork was laid for a classic political battle involving who has ultimate authority in city government – the mayor versus city council.

Reported problems in the Futon County 911 call center came to a head in early August when a 39-year old mother of two died from a blood clot in her lungs. While that doesn’t sound all that unusual, the circumstances surrounding the death were highly unusual. The Fulton County operator who entered the call reportedly sent fire and emergency units to Wells Street in Atlanta instead of Wales Drive in Johns Creek, resulting in a delay of over an hour for the victim. A number of Fulton County agencies have set up their own 911 center in order to take Fulton County out of the process.

In keeping with the new city annexation frenzy in Fulton County, the city of Chattahoochee Hills was created in the southern portion of the county at the beginning of the summer, complete with its own fire department. Fulton County Station 9 in Rico was disbanded at the same time. The city of John’s Creek in the northern portion of the county is expected to go on-line with its new fire department on October 7, 2008. At that time the city will stop contracting with Fulton County for fire service at its three fire stations. That will leave Fulton County Fire Department – once with employment around 400 – with the difficult decision of what to do with excess personnel should there not be enough resignations and retirements. At present it is estimated that the county has just over 150 personnel. Officials had originally thought that layoffs would have already been necessary when Sandy Springs and Milton started their own fire departments, but there was enough attrition at the time to avoid them. The city of Milton and Alpharetta have started a policy
by which the closest company responds to an incident regardless of the city boundary. They’ve even gone as far as relocating Milton Quint 43 to Alpharetta Station 1 for better access to certain areas of Milton. This makes even more sense due to the fact that Alpharetta dispatches for Milton, and as of October 1 they will also handle all 911 calls for the city of Milton as well. One recent newspaper article indicated that some of the new cities in the northern part of the county are having difficulty finding enough money for basic city services. Seems like there’s not enough money being generated by taxes in the mainly residential neighborhoods. Having independence is nice, but it comes with an associated cost as well.

The city of East Point has a population around 40,000 and borders the city of Atlanta on its southwest side. At the beginning of the summer the city announced it was looking at closing three of its five fire stations in order to meet the budget deficit. In the end, two stations were closed: Station #1 at 2757 East Point Street Downtown and Station #5 at 3949 Washington Road in the south part of the city. With those two closures Engines 1 and 5 and Truck 1 were officially disbanded, with 48 firefighters laid off. It might be noted that the city used to run two rescue units, but those are still out of service due to previous budget cutbacks. That leaves the city with three stations in service: #2 at 3171 Norman Berry Drive (SE), #3 at 3800 North Commerce Drive (SW), and #4 at 2222 Ben Hill Road (NW). Now another political squabble is brewing as the press is now reporting that even before the layoffs, the city fire department was able to meet national response times less than 50% of the time. To further illustrate the budget woes for the city, when a fire erupted in a vacant apartment complex on September 14, firefighters tried five different fire hydrants before finding one that worked. And the one hydrant that did work was some three blocks away from the fire. To stir up the pot even more, the city has suspended East Over a six month period during 1989-90 the Atlanta Fire Department would be called out to multiple alarm fires at the former cold storage building on Haynes Street no less than 3 times. While the building design was basically non-combustible construction, a local company was storing paper records throughout the non-sprinklered facility.
Point Fire Chief Rosemary Cloud for what her attorney states was her unwillingness to make budget cuts and her willingness to grant media interviews. She is still working while she appeals the suspension.

In May it was announced that Sam Heaton would be appointed fire chief of Cobb County, with an effective date of May 27, 2008....On May 16, 2008 DeKalb County Engine 14 was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Max Cleland. The rig reportedly struck the concrete support beam for the railroad trestle that went over the highway. Three firefighters and four civilians were transported to the hospital.....The MFA canteen was out of service for over a week during the month of July. It seems the unit’s gas tank had a number of holes in it that necessitated the installation of a new tank that had the rig back in service by July 24.....Several new stations have opened or ground was broken during 2008. You can pencil in Gwinnett County replacement Station 18 at 1515 Mineral Springs Road and new Station 29 at 2800 Thompson Mill Road in Buford. In Cobb County, replacement Station 9 is open for business at 7300 Factory Shoals Road.

Multiple alarm fires since our last Turn Out article:

4-16-08 Gwinnett County – 3200 Lake Colony Drive, 24 unit apartment building fully involved on arrival, 3 injuries + damage to 7 vehicles and one other building
4-18-08 Cobb County – 3034 Sandy Plains Road, 2nd Alarm on arrival for large 2 story house, 6 handlines + 2 deck guns
4-19-08 Atlanta – 2nd Alarm Hatteras Way & Calloway Court NW, 3 story townhomes w/ exposures
4-21-08 Atlanta – 2097 Hollywood Road, 2 story garden apartment w/ fire on floors 1,2 & thru roof
4-21-08 Douglas County – Wesley Pond Apts, 20 unit building total loss w/ at least 2 ladder pipes
4-21-08 Carroll County – Bowden Tyus Road, 3,000+ wood pallets burning, one firefighter injury
5-6-08 Atlanta - 2nd Alarm 3350 Mt. Gilead Rd SW, 2 story, 12 unit apt bldg, two TL’s operating
5-7-08 Dekalb – 2390 Tollivar Hills Lane, fire involving 3 vacant houses, one LP and 4 handlines
5-13-08 Clayton County – 5758 Georgia Highway 85, fire thru roof of two story apartment building
6-1-08 Atlanta – 2nd Alarm 45 Ivy Chase NE for fire in a 2 story townhome
6-4-08 Cobb County – 490 Six Flags Drive, Magnolia Crossing Apts, 10 units lost, multiple transports
6-8-08 DeKalb County – 2nd Alarm 2629 NE Expressway, 2 story apt bldg, good stop in attic
6-11-08 Marietta – 2nd Alarm Equivalent, 280 Cobb Parkway, 1 story 250x50 strip center with main fire in mattress store, partial collapse with mutual aid from Cobb County using several aerials
6-18-08 DeKalb County – 2nd Alarm 490 S. Stone Mountain, Chimney Trace Apts, T25 and T23 operating on two story 100x75
6-25-08 Gwinnett County – Satellite Blvd @ Beaver Ruin Road, multiple aerials & deck guns in use for a fire at a recycling plant
7-17-08 DeKalb County – 2nd Alarm 4137 Sandy Lake Drive, firefighter mayday, all firefighters accounted for but 6 transported, Q17 aerial ops on 8,000 square foot brick veneer home
7-18-08 Atlanta – 2nd Alarm 171 Ormond Street, defensive with 2 ladder pipes on
three houses
7-27-08 Alpharetta – 101 Emily Lane, E5 with two, two story houses fully involved slight damage to a 3rd house, mutual aid Roswell 2 engines and 1 battalion chief
7-29-08 Atlanta – 1500 Marietta Blvd, 2nd Alarm on large warehouse, two sprinklers + one H/L
8-1-08 DeKalb County – 2nd Alarm 3104 Buford Highway, Esquire Apts, defensive on two story apartment with T2, T1 and Q19 flowing aerials
8-22-08 Union City/Fulton County – 2nd Alarm + Buffington Road and Flat Shoals Road, commercial building well involved, ladder pipes operating with collapse zone established, Atlanta M/A fill-in
9-1-08 Atlanta – 2nd Alarm, 3703 Peachtree Road NE, 3 story apartment building
9-4-08 Atlanta – 2nd Alarm, North Avenue & Somerset Terrace – vacant Dixie Stamp & Seal, heavy fire 1 story brick, flowing deck gun between buildings w/ 2 ladder pipes, stinger, plus handlines

You never know what you might run into while traveling around the country. Although lettered for the nearby Wilburton, OK Fire Department, this relic was found in 2007 parked outside the Hartshorne, OK station in the eastern part of the state. Evidence indicates that this 1975 Hendrickson model formerly served at the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico.

While traveling to Philadelphia, PA in the early 1990’s William W. Harwell, Jr. was able to capture this image of a multiple alarm fire at an unknown location.
To our readers:

Your *Turnout* staff is creating two broadcast e-mail lists. List “A” will be those persons who would like to receive an e-mail alert when a new issue of *Turnout* is posted on the IFBA website.

List “B” would be those persons who would like a reminder, approximately two weeks before submission deadline, that copy and/or pictures are due.

To be added to one or both lists, please e-mail the Indy Publishing Group at turnout@ifba.org with your name, club affiliation, e-mail address, and choice of list A, B, or both.

Be sure to let us know of any e-mail changes.