TURN OUT

Spring/Summer 2008

56th Annual IFBA Convention in Racine Wisconsin August 13th to the 16th, 2008



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*

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.

Mailing Address: Turn Out PO Box 242 Indianapolis IN 46206

E-Mail: turnout@ifba.org

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 email 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*.

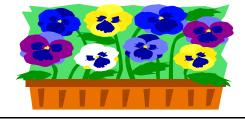
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INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES, INC. OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND COMMITTEES 2006-2007

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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. 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. 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 Support Group 20 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. 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.

56th Annual International Fire Buff Associates Convention Racine, Wisconsin - August 13th to the 16th, 2008 Schedule of Events

Wednesday – August 13th

0900 - 1800 Registration Open – All Day 1200 - 1600 Tours – Firehouse 3 Museum, Dispatch Centers 1300 IFBA Executive Board Meeting

1300—1600 Mt Pleasant, Caledonia, Sturtevant Apparatus Display at Hotel 1800 Opening Ceremonies, Fire Chief's Reception to follow

Thursday – August 14th

0700 - 0830 Buffet Breakfast at the Hotel 0830 Racine – Fire Apparatus 1200 Lunch 1300 Somers, Kenosha, and Pleasant Prairie Apparatus 1600 Back to the Hotel – Dinner on your own 1900 Workshops, Area Fire Buffing, Fire House 3 Museum

Friday – August 15th

0700 - 0830 Buffet Breakfast at the Hotel 0900 General Membership Meeting – IFBA 1130 Delegates/Alternate Lunch 1300 Open Afternoon – Workshops - Dinner on your own 1900 2009 Convention Preview, Area Fire Buffing, Ice Cream Social

Saturday – August 16th

0700 - 0830 Buffet Breakfast at the Hotel 0845 Union Grove, Kansasville & Raymond FD (Racine County Fairground) 1030 LDV Emergency Vehicles / US Tank Apparatus Display City/Town of Burlington FD, Burlington Rescue Apparatus Display 1215 Cotton Exchange Hwy 20/83 - Lunch Waterford, Rochester, Tichigan, Wind Lake Apparatus Display 1500 Arrive back at hotel 1830 Cocktails/Banquet, Installation of Officers, FB of the Year

Possible Workshops—see website for updates

Rehab Canteen Service Web Site Layout Fire Buff Communications (Radios/Pagers) Wills & Trusts Newsletter Layout Digital Photography MABAS Presentation Grants and Funding

> *TurnOut Spring 2008*

Area Attractions – Points of Interest

Come two days early, or leave two days late and enjoy many other attractions in the area.

Fire Museums (Maps provided for the adventurous)

Aurora Fire Museum – Aurora, IL Elgin Fire Museum – Elgin, IL Chicago Fire Museum – Chicago, IL Milwaukee Fire Historical Society Museum/Safety Center, Milwaukee, WI Firehouse 3 Museum – Racine, WI Fire Bell Farm – Slinger, WI.

Railroad Museums (Maps provided for the adventurous)

Illinois Fire Museum – Union, IL Rossville Depot Railroad Museum – Rossville, IL New Rochelle, IL – Major railroad crossing for Union Pacific, and Burlington Northern National Railroad Museum – Green Bay, WI East Troy Electric Trolley Museum – East Troy, WI

Other Area Attractions

Many area Golf Courses Milwaukee Zoo Racine Zoo Dog Track Racing – Kenosha, WI Dairyland Track Potowamati Gambling & Bingo – Milwaukee, WI Gurnee Mills Mall - Gurnee, IL Grand Avenue Mall – Milwaukee, WI Regency Mall – Racine, WI Prime Outlet Mall – Kenosha, WI Six Flags Great America Amusement and Water Park – Gurnee, IL Milwaukee Brewers/Chicago Cubs

Marriott Hotel Lodging - \$95 a night + tax. No Parking Fees (262) 886-6100—Reservation Code I f b I f b a

> Midwest Airlines Reservation Code: C M Z 6982 www.midwestairlines.com/conventions Convention Registration Fee - \$190 by July 1 After July 1—\$235

Optional Ladies Program tentatively planned – Grand Tour of Lake Geneva, WI including lunch is planned for Friday August 15th. Cost \$40/person. Includes transportations, a boat tour of Lake Geneva, playground for many rich and famous people from the Midwest and across the country, plus time for shopping in downtown Lake Geneva.

Child Care will be provided for the Banquet.

TurnOut Spring 2008



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

Executive Office

January 28, 2008

To: All IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members

Subject: Nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" Award-2008

According to Article 8 of the IFBA By-Laws, all Active Member Groups and Associate Members are eligible to submit nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" award to be presented at the 56th Annual Convention in Racine, WI on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the convention banquet.

Names of candidates for the award along with a resume stating the reasons for the person's nomination must be received by the Executive Office no later than June 1, 2008 in order to be considered by the Fire Buff of the Year Committee for the 2008 presentation. The IFBA operates on a fiscal-year basis, July 1 to June 30, for this award.

The Executive Office urges you to make this subject matter a top priority. This is a very great honor for the recipient and we are asking all clubs to put forth their effort in submitting these resumes. Surely you all have outstanding fire buffs in your midst, who may be deserving of this honor. If you have previously submitted a candidate and your candidate has not been selected, that name may be re-submitted. Only members of the IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members are eligible for this award. Our most recent award was **Jerry Traub** of the **Indianapolis Fire Buffs.** Please refer to the attached information regarding this award as provided by the "Fire Buff of the Year" Committee and the list of previous honorees. You may contact me at the address below for any information concerning this award.

It will be greatly appreciated if the nominations and resumes are forwarded to this office at the below address as soon as possible to allow the Fire Buff of the Year Committee sufficient time to study these nominations and make their final selection. Any names submitted after June 1 will not be considered.

Note: Do not submit these resumes to any member of the committee, as they must be officially logged in with the Executive Office for the permanent file. Otherwise, they will not be considered. We appreciate your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely your in good Fire Buffing,

William M. Mokros, Executive Vice President 11017 N. Redwood Tree Ct., Mequon, WI 53092-4338 262-512-0234, Fax 262-236-0095 E-mail: executiveoffice@ifba.org



"HENRY N. WILWERS FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR" AWARD

We, the members of the "Fire Buff of the Year" Committee, would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize IFBA's interest in the continuation of this Award for many years to come, and to expand somewhat on the information contained in the accompanying letter from the Executive Vice President regarding the nominations for the 2008 Award.

The "Fire Buff of the Year" Award, as it was first known, was established in St. Louis in 1967 to honor the man or woman who best exemplifies the qualities that distinguish a Fire Buff's outstanding achievements in the interests of the IFBA and/or the avocation of Fire Buffing. It has been awarded annually since that time. In April 1976 the name of the Award was changed to further honor its first recipient, Henry N. "Hank" Wilwers.

Any Active Member Group or Associate Member may nominate a member of an IFBA Member Group or an Associate Member to receive the honor. Nominations must be made, in writing, to the Executive Office, as described in the attached letter.

There are no specific "qualifications" or "standards" that must be met. The Committee considers (among other attributes): service to IFBA, service to the local buff club or clubs, service to local fire departments or agencies, service to national fire agencies, assistance to the fire service community in general. The "key word" is, of course, "**service**." A simple resume, supported by letters of recommendation, is all that is required by the Committee.

If a nominee is not selected, this does not signify a "pink slip" rejection for all time. It simply results from the fact that only one candidate is chosen annually. Should the nominator(s) wish a nominee to be re-considered the next year (or at a later date), a letter to that effect is the only requirement (all files are maintained for a number of years). The Committee does not automatically review these files each year - a re-nomination <u>must</u> be made.

The Committee protects the confidentiality of its deliberations and the identity of the honoree is not made public until the Award Ceremony at the annual convention banquet, nor does the Committee divulge the rationale for its selection, beyond the biographical data presented at the banquet, when all present learn of the accomplishments of the Award winner.

We would like to urge all IFBA Regional Vice Presidents and Member Group officers to make their constituents more aware of this fine opportunity to honor one of their own with this prestigious Award. There are many IFBA'ers who are qualified to join the previous honorees who have been recognized for their accomplishments.

> Phil Reid, Chairman Noel Kerkhoff Stuart M. Nathan

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE "<u>HENRY N. WILWERS FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR" AWARD</u>

<u>nenki</u>	N. WILWERS FIRE DUFF OF THE	ILAK AWAKD
Year presented	Recipient	Convention
1967	* Henry N. Wilwers	St. Louis, MO
1968	* William H. Perkins	Chicago, IL
1969	* Edward R. Damaschke	Annapolis, MD
1970	* William A. Brennan	Indianapolis, IN
1971	* Albert J. Burch	Philadelphia, PA
1972	* Charles C. Price	New York, NY
1973	Keith F. Franz	Milwaukee, WI
1974	* John I. Hruska	Boston, MA
1975	* Arthur D. Devlin, M.D.	Columbus, OH
1976	* James H. Blomley	Baltimore County, MD
1977	* Henry G. Nathan	St. Louis, MO
1978	Roman A. Kaminski	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1979	Walter M. P. McCall	New Orleans, LA
1980	* Edward A. Massmann	San Francisco, CA
1981	* William "Pop" Porter, Sr.	Indianapolis, IN
1982	* Duane W. Troxel (posthumously)	Detroit, MI
1983	* Denis E. Williams	Milwaukee, WI
1984	G. Grant Miller	Boston, MA
1985	Donald H. Cheu, M.D.	Columbus, OH
1986	Harold L. Holtzman	Seattle, WA
1987	William F. Noonan	St. Louis, MO
1988	*Harry W. Knodel	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
1989	* Jan C. Faulstich	Secaucus, NJ
1990	Malcolm S. "Bill" Ketchum	St. Paul, MN
1991	Gerald J. Hourigan	San Jose, CA
1992	* Frederick M. Hill	Westlake, OH
1993	* L. Murray Young	Milwaukee, WI
1994	George "Smokey" Bass	Universal City, CA
1995	William M. Mokros	Baltimore, MD
1996	George B. Ottley	Nashville, TN
1997	Stuart M. Nathan	Chicago, IL
1998	Herb Pearlstein	Columbus, OH
1999	Owen P. "Phil" Reid, Jr.	Tacoma, WA
2000	Ralph Decker	St. Louis, MO
2001	William "Bill" C. Celentano, Jr.	Houston, TX
2002	Paul Schaetzle	Moline, IL
2003	Steven C. Hansen	Milwaukee, WI
2004	Leonard W. Williams	Quebec City, Canada
2005	Gary M. Heathcote	Indianapolis, IN
2006	* James Rasmussen (posthumously)	Seattle, WA
2007	Jerry Traub	Cambridge, MA.

* Deceased

TurnOut Spring 2008

	56th Annual IFBA Convention in Racine Wisconsin August 13th to the 16th, 2008 Registration Form
	http://www.racinefirebells.org
Full Name	
Name for ID Badge	
Address	
City/State/Zip Code	
Telephone	
IFBA Organizational Affiliation	
Status: DELEGATE Alternate Deleg	ate Guest IFBA OFFICER
Full Registration by July 1st, 2008	\$190
Full Registration postmarked after July 1.	
r as registration postantice and july r	
Partial Registration Wednesday (Chiefs R	eception)\$40
Partial Registration Thursday (Apparatus	Tour)
Parnial Registration Friday (General Mem	bership Meeting)\$30
Partial Registration Saturday (Apparatus)	Four & Banquet)
Optional Ladies Tour of Lake Geneva, W	540
Convention Headquarters	Easy Travel and Access
Marriott - Racine	Midwest Airlines to Milwoukee
7111 Washington Avenue	Interstate 94 between Milwaukee & Chicago
Racine, WI 53406 (262) 886-6100	Reservation Codes:
www.racinemaniott.com	Marlott Hotel - I F B I F B A
to serve a server again the server of the server	www.racinemanloff.com
Room Rate is \$95/hight plus tax	Midwest Airlines - C M Z 6 9 8 2
Free Parking	www.midwestahlines.com/conventions
FIREHOUSE 3 In The Hottest Museum Community Service	in Racinel
FIRE SERVICE & PUB REHAB Operations in Sou	LIC SAFETY

PO Box 081042 Racine, Wisconsin 53408-1042



Racine Fire Bells

Rehab & Emergency Services Support in SE Wisconsin

May 6, 2008

All Member Clubs

Welcome to Racine, Wisconsin! The Racine Fire Bells are hot on the trail in preparing the 2008 IFBA Convention and it is that time of year to start preparing the Display Advertising Book.

This will be the 56th Annual IFBA Convention however it will be the 60th Anniversary of the Racine Fire Bells as an organized Fire Buff group. We were organized on October 1st, 1948. My gosh has it been that long? Time flies when you are having fun... The Convention will run August 13th through the 16th, 2008 at the Marriott Convention Center in Racine.

As we prepare for the Summer Convention, which we know will be exciting; there are some deadlines we need to observe regarding our Ad Book. In preparing for the Ad Book please bear in mind our soft deadline for Ad Copy is July 1st, and our absolute hard deadline is July 15th, 2008. Any material received after the hard deadline will not be in the Ad Book. The book goes to the printer July 20th.

The book will be 8-1/2" by 11" in size. When laying out your ad please bear in mind we lose ³/₄ of an inch around the outside of the page as a non-printing border area. Otherwise the sky is the limit. Camera-ready ads and artwork are strongly encouraged. We can accept Adobe PDF files, TIFF files, Quark Express and PageMaker files. We prefer photos be in TIFF format however JPEG is also ok. Photo resolution should be at least 300 dots per inch (DPI) for the best reproduction quality. All interior pages are Black & White. Only the front and back cover will be color. As in the past the back cover is dedicated to the 2009 IFBA Convention.

On the back is our display ad size and pricing information. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are excited at seeing everyone this summer, and we especially look forward to your display ad in the 2008 IFBA Convention Ad Book.

Sincerely,

Scott Tangerstrom, President Racine Fire Bells, Inc PO Box 081042 Racine, WI 53408 Steve Hansen, Ad Book Coordinator Racine Fire Bells, Inc

56th Annual IFBA Co. 60th Anniversary of t			
Display Ad Book Deadline for Ad	Copy is J	uly 1, 2008	
Full Page Ad	7 x 10" ('or 10 x 7")	\$150
Half Page Ad	7 x 5" (o	r 5 x 7")	\$90
Quarter Page Ad	3.5 x 5"	(or 5 x 3.5")	\$60
Business Card Ad	d 2 x 3.5 (or 3.5 x 2)	\$35
Supporters of the	56th Ann	ual Convention	\$20
and an		t deadline for Ad Copy is reading for an Ad Copy is	beer in mind our sol
We would prefer Camera a either on paper or computer of import most types of file Publisher, Quark, and Pager files and Adobe PDF files are able. Mail your ad and remittance to Racine Fire Bells, Inc	Ready Copy disk. We can es including naker. TIFF also accept-		
We would prefer Camera a either on paper or computer import most types of file Publisher, Quark, and Pager files and Adobe PDF files are able. Mail your ad and remittance to	Ready Copy disk. We can es including naker. TIFF also accept-		



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



Welcome to all from Columbus, Home of the longest continuous operating Advance Life Support service in the fire service.

2007 was another active year for Box 15's rehab services. We responded to: eight 2nd alarm fires, one 3rd alarm fire, ten special calls due to extreme heat or cold, one 2nd alarm Haz-Mat incident, six training activities of USAR, Haz-Mat, & Fire service personnel, Plus six Civic Activities. A total of approximately 2200 public safety personnel were served.

This was also a year of growth for the local fire service, In March it was announced that the Columbus Division of Fire had received Accreditation from the Commission of Fire Accreditation international. This makes CFD the second largest metropolitan fire department in the country to achieve this standard and the third of the twenty-five largest fire departments in the United States to be granted accreditation.

The Truro Township Fire Department had the luck of Irish by opening a second station on Saint Patrick's Day.

At our November meeting, we had our annual elections. Our club officers for 2008 are: Brett Barber, President; John Kuczek, Vice President; Jim Henderson, Treasurer; Kevin Shop, Secretary; Bob Hess, trustee; Chris Maupin, trustee.

The Columbus Fire Department had a lean year in 2007 for fleet replacement (A com-

mand vehicle, a new bomb squad vehicle, and some support vehicles), 2008 looks to a year of major fleet replacement. 8 Ferrara pumpers with Spartan cabs with1500 pumps and 750 tanks are due to start arriving May, along with a matching Ferrara /Spartan Air Supply Unit. The first of 4 American La-France /LTI 110 foot Tiller Aerials is due any time now. The city has 5 International/Horton Paramedic Ambulances on order, but there is talk of doubling or tripling the order. The city is also in the planning stages of replacing the Battalion Chiefs' Ford Crown Victoria's that range from 4 to 8 years old with SUV's.

Hard hats are out all over town as replacements are being built for Columbus Station 10 (West Broad Street in the Bottoms), Norwich Township Station 80 (Old Hilliard), and new Training Buildings for Columbus Fire at the Admin Complex on Parsons Ave (South End).

Also all fire buffs who plan on being in the Central Ohio area this summer, please save this date: June 21st, 2008, State Fire Marshall's Office and the Central Ohio Antique Fire Apparatus Association will present the 8th Annual Fire & Safety Expo & Muster at the Ohio Fire Academy, Reynoldsburg, Ohio. For further information on this event, please check, www.coafaa.org.

For a list of recent Box 15 responses with photos, please visit our new & improved website @ www.box15.org.

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

> *TurnOut Spring 2008*



OFFICERS

President: Jerald Ricks Vice President: Mike Pack Secretary/Treasurer: Tom McDonald

Spring 2008 Edition By Tom McDonald

2007 HFD Multiple Alarms

A third straight record year for multiple-alarm fires in Houston was how 2007 ended. This time, the total reached 75 fires. There were five 4-11s, eight 3-11s, and 62 seconds. Districts 28 and 68, adjoining one another in southwest Houston, tied for having the most. Each had 11 multiples, and geographically placed the epicenter for multiples in those two busy districts right around Station 51 on Bellaire Blvd. (and only about three miles west of my house).

On March 28, arguably the year's most dramatic fire consumed the top two floors of a six-story office building on the North 610 Loop near Gellhorn. Occupants were waving from broken windows as the first fire units arrived. Numerous aerial rescues were made by Ladders 44 and 45 in the first minutes of the 4-11 blaze. While searching for other occupants, three of whom were later found dead, Capt. Eric Abbt (8-A) called for a Mayday, and was rescued by Ladder 20's aerial.

On July 27, a massive blaze leveled nearly 100 apartments in Channelview at I-10 & Dell Dale. Mutual aid units responded from all across Harris County, but none from the HFD. Another large apartment fire, this time in Houston proper, consumed all of one building and part of another on W. Gulf Bank on August 20. Another spectacular blaze consumed the entire top floor of an apartment building on Dashwood on August 31.

An early-morning 4-11 on September 17 destroyed two large houses and a garage-apartment on W. Dallas, killing one resident. On the night of October 29, there were three multiples inside of six hours. In one, a civilian was rescued from a burning mid-rise office building on the far west side. Another three-multiple shift occurred on November 8 including simultaneous 2-11s just before midnight. Two days later, there were two 3-11s only ten hours apart including a spectacular fire that consumed several townhouses under construction off Washington Ave.

After a lull of only 2 multiples between the first of September and the middle of October, activity kicked into record-setting high gear with 18 multiples in fewer than 30 days, ending November 27, including a pair of 4-11s on Nov. 26, one of which resulted in numerous rescues of elderly residents in a high-rise near Sharpstown Mall. See the January 2008 edition of *Firehouse Magazine* for a photo montage of that activity. Now, here is the detailed list for 2007's multiples:



Abbreviations used below: $F = fire \ fatality; \ HR = high \ rise; \ MA = mutual \ aid; \ MD = firefighter \ may$ $day; UC/D/R = under \ construction/demolition/renovation, \ T = "taps" \ or \ partial \ alarm; \ V = vacant$

Day/Data	Time	Shift	Location	Alarm	Qaaunanay
<u>Day/Date</u> Th0104	1019	D	525 N Wayside	<u>Alam</u> 2-11	<u>Occupancy</u> Whse
Th0104	0346	D	7947 Grow Ln	2-11	Apts
We0117	0350	B	10310 W Little York	2-11	Night club
We0117 We0117	2042	C D	5801 W Sun Forest	3-11	Apts
Sa0127	0730	C	4463 N MacGregor	2-11	Apts
We0131	0935	Ă	7047 Bissonnet	2-11	Apts
Tu0206	0800	A	6868 Hornwood	2-11	Motel
We0207	1440	B	9803 Club Creek	2-11	Apts
Fr0209	2215	B	2121 W Loop S	2-11	Cmcl
Mo0212	2333	Ċ	5354 W Bellfort	2-11	V apts
We0214	1530	Ă	12000 MLK	2-11	Apts
Sa0217	0859	В	6431 Fannin	3-11	HR UR
Su0218	2220	Č	9988 Windmill Lakes	2-11	Apts
Th0301	0558	Ċ	626 Aldine Bender	3-11	Lumber store
Tu0313	2311	В	6200 Collingsworth	2-11	House, MD
Su0324	1530	Ċ	9090 S Braeswood	2-11	Apts
We0328	1712	Ā	9343 N Loop E	4-11	Ofc bldg, 3F, MD
Th0405	0032	В	12302 Fondren	2-11	Apts
Th0412	1151	В	1445 Lakeside Est.	2-11	Apts
Th0412	1442	В	9988 Windmill Lks	2-11	Apts
Sa0414	1250	В	400 San Jacinto	2-11	HR
Sa0421	0326	В	10881 Richmond	2-11	Apts
Th0503	1845	С	5205 Aspen, Bellaire	2-11	MA House
We0509	0910	С	930 Main	2-11	HR pkg gar
We0509	1944	С	12500 Dunlap	2-11	Apts
Th0517	1630	С	1500 Pressler	2-11	HR UC
Tu0522	0839	В	13030 Northborough	2-11	Apts
Mo0528	1216	D	4200 Westheimer	2-11	Offices
Su0603	0633	D	11500 Keegans Rdg	2-11	Apts
Sa0616	0900	А	6060 Hooton	2-11	Motel
Tu0619	0915	D	1001 Texas	3-11	HR
We0620	2355	С	118 Payne	2-11	House, MD
Su0624	0440	В	1536 Gessner	2-11	Apts
Th0705	0335	С	15902 Galveston Rd	2-11	Apts
Fr0706	1355	С	6600 Rupley Cir	2-11	Cmcl
Th0712	0510	В	5107 Lyndhurst	2-11	House, MD
Th0712	1820	С	6156 S Loop E	2-11,2t	Apts
Mo0716	2035	А	9220 Clarewood	3-11	Apts
Mo0723	0311	С	15534 Zabolio	2-11	Apts
Fr0727	1500		15430 East Frwy	OCL	92 apts
Tu0731	1045	D	6000 Telephone	2-11	HR
Tu0731	1532	D	200 W Little York	10t	Tire store
Tu0731	1945	D	909 Fannin	4-11	HR
Tu0807	0830	C	800 Gessner	2-11	HR
Fr0810	1740	В	121 Sugarberry Cir	2-11	Townhomes
Su0812	2150	В	9223 Imogene	2-11	Apts



Th0816	1120	D	2615 Riverside	2-11	Apts
Mo0820	2045	В	5850 W Gulf Bank	3-11	Apts
Fr0824	0950	D	5550 Hollyview	2-11	Apts
Fr0831	0535	D	5800 Dashwood	2-11	Apts
Su0916	0235	D	10141 Eastex Fwy	2-11	Whse
Mo0917	0259	С	1922 W Dallas	4-11	3 houses, F
Fr1019	1715	D	7979 Westheimer	2-11	Apts
Sa1020	0015	D	12850 Whittington	2-11	Apts
Mo1029	1840	В	600 Westcross	2-11	V cmcl
Mo1029	1930	В	16420 Pk Ten Pl	2-11	Off bldg
Tu1030	0040	В	5900 Southmund	2-11	House, MD
We1107	2110	А	8655 Pitner	2-11	Apts
Th1108	0940	В	5600 Holly View	2-11	Apts
Th1108	2320	В	10403 Forum Pk	2-11	Apts
Th1108	2330	В	2000 Crocker	2-11	2 houses
Sa1110	0625	D	1202 Utah	3-11	3 T'homes UC
Sa1110	1636	D	4639 Wild Indigo	3-11	Apts
Su1111	2038	С	600 Westcross	2-11	V cmcl
Fr1116	2043	В	9220 Clarewood	2-11	Apts
Th1122	0339	А	5006 Fairmont	2-11	2 T'homes
Su1125	1855	С	5600 Fondren	2-11	Restaurant
Su1125	2304	С	9900 Homestead	2-11	V cmcl
Mo1126	0154	С	611 Dairy Ashford	4-11	Apts
Mo1126	0955	D	7225 Bellerive	4-11	HR, MD, MCI
Tu1127	0700	С	440 Benmar	2-11	Off Bldg
Tu1127	1045	С	2001 Holcombe	2-11	HR
Sa1201	1515	А	4700 Pederson	2-11	House, MD
Tu1204	0130	С	8201 W Bellfort	2-11	Apts
We1205	1239	С	911 Preston	2-11	Bldg
Tu1218	0650	В	6565 Fannin	2-11	HR
Mo1224	0500	А	10101 Forum Pk	2-11	Apts

Other HFD News

HFD firefighter severely injured in ceiling collapse

On January 21, 2008, a "routine" house fire turned nearly tragic when HFD Firefighter Brandon Everette was critically burned while fighting it. Everette was detailed that day from his normal assignment at Station 18 (near downtown) to Station 61 (near Hobby Airport). The odds would have favored a slower day than normal for Brandon at 61's; but, as fate would have it, the normally slow house was first-in on a fully-involved attached garage fire.

Reports came out that Brandon's air pack regulator fell out of his face mask after being hit by a falling ceiling. Unable to find his regulator quickly, he was forced to inhale superheated air that singed his airway severely. He spent weeks in the hospital, most of it on a ventilator. His prognosis looked grim, but recent reports and pictures on the Houston firefighter union web site (www.local341.org) show Brandon awake, out of bed, extubated, and feeling much better.

Station 105 opened

In early 2008, the HFD opened a new, two-bay Station 105 in the Summerwood subdivision at the corner of West Lake Houston Parkway & Duessen Parkway. This is a



remote site just west of Lake Houston (the principal water source for the city). Although much of the station's local service area has been within the city's limits for years, call volume has always been minimal. In fact, the station was only built in response to recent residential and commercial construction in the area. An engine company and a medic unit were placed in the new station, but run totals are still expected to be light.

Houston Club news

The 2008 spring IFBA Region 5 Meeting will be held April 18-19 in Shreveport, Louisiana, hosted by the Signal 51 Group. I will try to give a brief synopsis of that meeting in the next edition.

On a personal note, I retired from the Houston FD after 26 years of service in early 2008. I was a Senior Captain assigned to Ladder Co. 59 when I left. I enjoyed my years with the HFD, but felt it was time to move on. I was fortunate enough to have a career which included service as a firefighter, company officer, paramedic, instructor, dispatcher, and, yes, fire museum director. I must say, a large fire department can afford a member many "offshoot" jobs from a basic firefighting career. Since there is no "ideal" end point to a career, and since I got to the point where I was enjoying my time off more than my time on, I decided now was the "ideal" time for me.

Please e-mail your comments to me at TMCFIRE@AOL.COM. Please put the word *Turnout* in your e-mail heading so I don't confuse it for spam.



Gordie Kirkpatrick, Oshawa ON, Canade. Our favorite fire buff shows his response mode at his station. E-mail: gordiekirkpatrick@sympatico.ca

TurnOut Spring 2008

Photos of Interest from North Texas

Ft. Worth, TX firefighters had a tough fight on their hands involving a fire at a flea market on the south side of the city just after noon on January 15, 2008. The market was not open at the time of the fire and crews eventually started tearing into the sheet metal exterior to gain better access. Response was Engines 17-28-4 Quints 17-21.





TurnOut Spring 2008



Although this reported house fire on March 14, 2008 was outside the Burleson, TX fire district, the paid crew from Station 271 ended up being first on scene and reported a garage fully involved. Although three additional volunteer companies eventually arrived on scene (Mid-North, Joshua, Godley), crews were unable to keep the fire from spreading to the rest of the house.



TurnOut Spring 2008



A fire was reported on the afternoon of February 28, 2008 in a one and a half story wood frame structure at the corner of Wilson and King Streets in Burleson, TX that was being used as a hair salon. While crews knocked down initial visible fire on the upper floor, it became apparent the fire also involved the many void spaces around the attic. After additional truck work the fire was eventually extinguished with one quint responding on mutual aid from Crowley.



Ft. Worth, TX firefighters battle a one alarm house fire on East 12th Street near Riverside Drive on the city's short east side on April 12, 2008. The house was reportedly vacant at the time of the fire. Response was Engines 14-19-5-1 Truck 14.



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.



Racine Fire Bells Inc. 2007 Activity Report and Regional Apparatus Update By Steven Jones, RFB Inc.

Hello from Racine, Wisconsin, location of the 2008 IFBA Convention, hosted by the Racine Fire Bells.

Severe Weather

The Tulips and Daffodils are finally in bloom. Can that mean that this long and arduous winter is finally over? Tumultuous weather seems to be making headlines all over the country the past few months, and we in southeast Wisconsin have had our share of it. Emergency responders in our area have been taxed by Mother Nature, from tornadoes in January (a first here), to blizzards that contributed to one of our snowiest winters ever, to spring floods which left much of Kenosha County (the same location as the tornados) under water.

The most notable incident from a fire buff's standpoint were the tornados that struck southeast Wisconsin during the second week of January. The damage began in the western Kenosha County Township of Wheatland and continued on a path that took it through the north side of the City of Kenosha. In fact, emergency responders on the scene of an injury accident in the Town of Wheatland had to hold on for dear life as the twister blew right over them along Highway 50 (the light bar of a police cruiser was blown off and still hasn't been found).

The tornado did extensive damage to homes and subdivisions in its path. Numerous homes were leveled, presenting emergency responders with a monumental search and rescue challenge. As the storms continued east towards Lake Michigan an apartment complex on Kenosha's north side was heavily damaged, and several smaller outbuildings destroyed.

The storms occurred at a particularly dangerous time. Schools were either in the process of dismissing children or had already sent them on their way. Many people were just getting out of work or arriving at home. Darkness was also beginning to set in and power over a large area was lost.

This situation led Kenosha County authorities to take the unprecedented step of requesting two separate 5th alarm assignments from surrounding communities. One 5th alarm assignment, calling primarily for ambulances and heavy rescue, was sent to the Wheatland area, where homes had been destroyed. The second 5th alarm assignment was dispatched to a staging area in the City of Kenosha from where incoming units could be deployed as needed.

Rigs from as far north as Milwaukee and as far south as the Chicago suburbs began to stream into the area. In the midst of all the search and assessment activity a working house fire with children trapped was reported on Kenosha's far southeast side. First units on the scene included a heavy rescue from Libertyville, Illinois and an engine from the Town of Burlington in Racine County. Working with recalled crews from the Kenosha fire department the incident was rapidly mitigated with no injuries to the occupants.

Incredibly, while numerous injuries were reported, no fatalities were caused by the evening storms. During the incident both rehab units from the Racine Fire Bells were pressed into service, as well as RFB members who provided rehab from their personal vehicles. Mutual aid for additional rehab was received from the MESS canteen/ rehab organization in northeastern Illinois.

Racine Fire Bells Rehab 2007 Annual Report Total Emergency Responses for Rehab = 102^* *Ties 2005 record for most calls ever **Racine County Responses** Racine = 18Union Grove = 5 Caledonia = 4 Raymond = 2Tichigan = 2 Sturtevant = 2 Mt. Pleasant = 2 Kansasville = 2 Town Burlington = 1 Wind Lake = 1 Rochester = 1 Total = 40 Responses Kenosha County Responses Kenosha = 27 Kenosha Police = 1 Bristol = 2 **Pleasant Prairie = 6** Silver Lake = 1 Paris = 1Twin Lakes = 1 Somers = 3 Total = 42 Responses Walworth County Responses Lake Geneva = 1 **City Delavan Police = 1** Sharon = 1 Town Delavan = 3 Lyons = 3 Elkhorn = 5 Bloomfield/Genoa City = 6 Total = 20 Responses

Rehab Unit Emergency Responses

Rehab Unit 64 = 26 Responses Rehab Unit 65 = 64 Responses POV 9124 = 2 Responses POV 9125 = 1 Response POV 9138 = 1 Response POV 9150 = 11 Responses

Rehab Unit 64 and 65 worked jointly at 1 incident POV Units (Privately Operated Vehicles/RFB First Responders) were used on 15 occasions at 13 incidents. POV Units worked jointly at 2 incidents

Rehab Responses by Month

January = 6	May = 7	September = 9
February = 14	June = 9	October = 2
March = 7	July = 10	November = 8
April = 11	August = 11	December = 8

Types of Calls

Residential = 53 Structure = 22 Hazardous Device = 1 Apartment = 6 PD Investigation = 2 Smoke Scare = 1 Barn = 4 Marsh = 1 Accident = 3 Dive Call = 4 PD Shooting = 1 Haz Mat = 1 Haystack = 1 Gas Leak = 1 Trench Collapse = 1

Total = 102 Emergency Calls Supporting Twenty-Six Fire Department and Law Enforcement Jurisdictions in Three Counties

Non-Emergency Events

Total Non-Emergency Responses = 25

Racine County = 14

Kenosha County = 9 Walworth County = 2

Non-Emergency Responses Handled by Rehab Unit 64 = 6 Non-Emergency Responses Handled by Rehab Unit 65 = 17 Non-Emergency Responses Handled by POV Unit 9150 = 2 Non-Emergency Responses Handled by 9124 = 1

There was one non-emergency incident where Rehab Units 64 and 65 worked jointly. There was one non-emergency incident where Rehab Units 64, 65 and POV Unit 9124 worked jointly.

New Apparatus

There should be plenty of new apparatus on hand for convention-goers to examine by the time IFBA members arrive in mid-August. Here is a capsule look at some of what has been delivered recently:

Mt. Pleasant Fire and Rescue, Racine County

Mt. Pleasant personnel placed their newest piece of equipment in service just this The 2008 Pierce Heavy Duty month. Rescue Pumper was built on a Velocity chassis powered by a Detroit S60 515 hp engine. The rig is equipped with a Hale 2000 gpm pump and a 750-gallon poly tank. Other equipment includes a Harrison 30 kw generator, Code 3 and Whelan light package, 9000 watt Will-Burt Scan light tower, enclosed pump module, hydraulic ladder rack, 12,000 lb front winch and numerous pre-connects. The unit is currently in service as Engine 121, and operates from Mt. Pleasant's fire headquarters.

Caledonia Fire and Rescue, Racine County

Caledonia fire fighters placed their new Pierce tower ladder in service during the fall of 2007. The rig was built on a Dash chassis equipped with a Hale 2000-gpm pump, 300-gallon tank and 100-foot platform. Additional equipment includes a Command Zone electronics system, Control Zone pump panel, Smart Power 10kw 120v light under basket, front of basket and back of cab, LED warning lights, cord reel and Lyfe accessory at basket. The rig is assigned to Station 3 in Franksville and operates as Truck 253. The former Truck 253 has been placed in reserve as Truck 252.

Racine Fire and Rescue, Racine County

(Yet to be delivered at press time). The RFD is anticipating the delivery during the next two months of a new Pierce Quantum pumper for Engine Co. 2. The new rig will have foam capabilities, as Engine Co. 2 is first due at Batten International Airport on Racine's northwest side. Old Engine 2, a 1988 Emergency One, will be placed in reserve. Rescue 8 will be receiving a 2008 Ford-Medtec rescue squad. Former Rescue 8, also a Ford-Medtec, will be placed in reserve. Command Car 41 will be getting a 2008 Ford Expedition equipped with LED/ Strobe warning lights, replacing a Chrysler Town and Country mini van.

Lake Geneva Fire and Rescue, Walworth County

During the fall of 2007 Lake Geneva fire fighters placed in service a new rescueengine built by Pierce on a Lance chassis. Equipment includes a TAK-4 suspension, 2000 gpm Hale pump, 750 gallon tank, Husky foam, Cascade system, Hydraulic 10 kw Sonar light tower, hydraulic ladder rack, two bumper mounted cross lays and an enclosed top mount pump panel. The new unit was given an official "wet down" by area fire fighters during a ceremony on October 21st. It is designated Engine 2861.

Williams Bay Fire and Rescue, Walworth County

Rescue 3640 was built by Rosenbauer on a Ford F-550 crew cab chassis.

Somers Fire and Rescue, Kenosha County

Department personnel took their recently retired 1995 Ford-Medtec Rescue 6342 and transformed it into SRT Rig 6351 for the use of Somers specialized rescue team. A 2007 Ford-Medtec was placed in service as new Rescue 6342.

Kenosha Fire and Rescue, Kenosha County

There always seems to be something new in Kenosha. Most notable of late is the delivery last fall of a new Sutphen 100-foot platform for Truck Co. 7. The new rig is also equipped with a 2000 gpm pump. Truck 7, which cost nearly \$1 million, is based at Station 7, located at Kenosha's airport. Kenosha's fire personnel also have two new medium duty rescue units at Stations 3 and 4.

On a side note, John Gumbinger, son of former Kenosha Fire Department fire chief Jerome Gumbinger, in collaboration with several contributors, has published a spiralbound book containing the complete history of KFD apparatus as well as information and photos related to the Peter Pirsch and Sons co. and several local chassis manufacturers. The book is a must have for Pirsch enthusiasts, as well as anyone interested in apparatus history. Purchase information for this book will be available during the convention.



We were just leaving the hotel Sunday around 11am [after the Spring Board Meeting] when Racine FD ordered an extra engine to a fire on Jackson Avenue. Paul Schaetzle, Jim Carey, Billy Ladell, Marc Wallace, Stu Nathan and myself responded. A few photos are attached. It got dicey for a few minutes until the power company was able to kill the power at the pole. Photos and caption by Gerry Mahoney.



Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

by Gary Schmidt, ESU Chairman

Metropolitan Milwaukee experienced its second most snowiest winter in history – 99 inches of snow, more than twice the normal. Fortunately, only one greater alarm occurred during a snowstorm (which slows the response of emergency equipment). Temperatures were not as cold as it can get and there weren't any major apartment fires that often occur around here due to the use of space heaters. In fact, there were record highs set in January, but then snow returned with a vengeance in February and March of 2008.

The serving totals for the Emergency Support Unit (ESU) Response Team in 2007 were:

Donuts	60	Gatorade	70 gallons
Burgers/Chicken	825	Lemonade	11 gallons
Stew/Ravioli/Soup	15 gallons	Coffee	36 gallons
Nutri-Grain	430 bars	Cocoa	21 gallons
Sox	3 pair	Water	639 bottles
Towels	40	Ice	32 bags

The Burgers/Chicken sandwiches came from the McDonald's dollar menu.

The Gatorade, coffee, and cocoa are in powdered form made at the scene with the 35 gallons of water we load up at quarters before leaving for an incident.

The towels, dunked in ice water, are used in humid conditions to cool down firefighters. Sox are given out typically in winter when firefighters get water in their boots

The ESU also now has a misting fan and rehab tent to be used in summer operations.

A challenge that the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club faces in 2008 is the radio changes occurring for the departments we serve, mandated by Homeland Security interoperability initiatives. The City of Milwaukee is converting to the M/A-COM Open Sky system while the 14 departments serving the 18 suburbs and the Mitchell International Airport are all moving to the 800 MHz Milwaukee County Trunk Radio System (MCTRS).

Concurrently, the MCTRS system is being rebanded due to the FCC arrangements with Sprint/Nextel and an 800 MHz version of MABAS is being developed. The bottom line is that VHF frequencies that were used for the last 50 years and monitorable via same radios used by the departments in order to keep abreast of escalating incidents in order to be in the position to respond from our "off-duty" lives if needed. Taxstrapped departments are not in the position to provide the radios, so the Milwaukee Fire

inexpensive commercial scanners no longer can be. Fire Bell Club members must now acquire the



Bell Club is looking for the first time at private industry grants.

January 21, 2008 – Cudahy WI Engine 1463 working at a large house fire extending to exposures during a snowstorm. The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club ESU-1 shown in background.



March 15, 2008 – The City of Milwaukee Fire Department Dive Team responds to the icy waters of the Port of Milwaukee searching for a person who jumped from an expressway bridge that spans the area. Photos by Chuck Liedtke





By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar

Fire action in Chicago was about average for the past year with 44 multiple alarms for 2007. So far, the City has had 13 multiple alarms through March 2008. These alarms, plus 10 special duty runs and police incidents, have kept our canteen service busy. Our canteens are now responding to all 2-11 alarm fires and some high-rise fires if requested by the Incident Commander.

One of the latest multiple alarms was for a fire in the 4th floor laboratory building on

arrived on the scene and immediately asked for a "box." Eight minutes later he asked for a 2-11 alarm. After being advised of the large amounts of chemicals stored in the building, a Level 1 hazmat was sounded. While some companies mounted an interior attack, truck companies were performing exterior ventilation procedures to reduce smoke conditions on the fire floor. At 10:37 a.m., a Level 2 hazmat was requested by the fire commissioner who wanted to insure firefighter safety during overhaul pro-



cedures. The location of the fire was in a photo lab area with numerdark ous rooms. The temperature during the fire was near 5° F with a 20 mile an hour wind making the wind chill index at the time of the fire at -20° F. Our canteen set up near the fire building but

Tower Ladder 5 at the University of Illinois-Chicago 2-11 and Level 2 Hazmat (*Chuck Bleck photo*)

the University of Illinois Chicago campus that occurred on January 19th. The fire came in as an automatic fire alarm at 9:36 a. m. The 4th Battalion chief noticed fire blowing out of the 4th floor windows as he

was allowed to serve in the fire building lobby once the area was declared safe

On March 7^{th,} the CFD fought a smoky fire at 4580 N. Elston Avenue. The midmorn-

Turnout Spring 2008 ing fire was in a one story trussed roof building approximately 75' x 125' that housed a silk flower warehouse. About an hour and a half into the fire, the roof and two walls collapsed. Firefighters remained on the scene for several hours chasing hot spots underneath the rubble.



At least two mass casualty vehicles are on order for delivery this year and will feature a detachable P.O.D. unit system used in Europe for many years.

One of the newest units to join the fleet is the Special Operations Tunnel Rescue Unit

> 5-2-6 which is quartered with Engine 91 and Squad 2 on the City's north side. The vehicle is a 2007 Freightliner/LDV which will respond to all tunnel and CTA subway incidents. The City and some of the surrounding suburbs are part of a massive storm retention system that has 25' diameter tunnels running 250' underground for 200 miles prompting the need for a unit of this type.

Silk Flower Warehouse Fire at 4580 N. Elston (*Mike Penchar photo*)

O'Hare Field has placed a new 2007 Pierce-Dash 100-

The bidding process continues on a multi-

year contract to supply numerous pumpers and aerials. We have learned that specifications are being written for a large fireboat with heavy capacity monitors and a rescue package. The present fireboat, the Victor I. Schlaeger (Engine 58), is 59 years old and had a million dollar rehab and updating in 1997. We will be providing you with more updates as the information becomes available.



formation becomes available. 5-2-6 Special Operations Tunnel Rescue 2007 Freightliner/LDV (*Chuck Bleck photo*)

Other additions to the fleet

include 18 new Ford-Braun ambulances for the EMS Bureau. This makes 90% of the 75 ambulance fleet no older than two years. into service. Recently six truck companies were designated advanced life support units with a paramedic assigned to each shift.

Turnout Spring 2008 The truck companies that have become ALS trucks are 2, 29, 32, 41, 45 and 60.

Finally, another hose wagon is being outfitted using a 1988 Emergency-One Pumper.

Several new firehouses under construction should be ready for occupancy in the next several months. Engine 121's new quarters at 95th and Prospect Avenue (150' west of their old house) is nearing completion. Engine 70's new quarters at Clark and Elmdale is 50% complete. This new facility will have an additional building for classrooms and a training pad just north of the new station. Engine 18's new house is on a fast track for completion this year. The new house located near 15th and Blue Island Avenue will replace the oldest active firehouse in the City. The last firehouse that will probably be completed this year will be located at Clark and Rogers on the City's far north side.

Three significant anniversaries will be commemorated this year. In August, the Chicago Fire Department will celebrate 150 years as a paid department. Several events are planned. We will publish details as they become available on our Club's website. Secondly, December 1st will mark the 50th anniversary of the tragic Our Lady of the Angels fire which killed 92 students and 3 nuns. Lastly, it has been 50 years since the introduction of the first snorkel into the fire service by the Chicago Fire Department.

The 5-11 Club has suffered the loss of two of our members in the past several months. Mr. Stan Jakalski, a 34-year member of the Bensenville (IL) Fire Department and an active member of the 5-11 Club since 1990, passed away in late October 2007. Stan was our membership committee chairman and our canteen coordinator. Stan always went that "extra mile" to get our support units up and running. It is because of his efforts both canteen units are now operational.

In November, former regular member Mike Hochfelder passed away after a long illness. Mike and his wife had relocated to Florida in 2004 but Mike remained in the 5-11 Club as an associate member. Mike was very active with the Red Cross Disaster Services, the Salvation Army Canteen Service, and was instrumental in getting initial funding for the 5-11 Club canteen.

Both of these gentlemen will be missed for their talents and contributions to the 5-11 Club.

The Club is actively planning the upcoming fire muster at the Chicago Fire Academy to be held on June 14, 2008. This will be the 13th year this event will be held at the Academy.

For those of you who visit our website (http://www.5-11club.org/), you will notice several new links. One of these is http:// www.chicagofd.org/. This link is to an unofficial website that has many sub-links to fire photos, Civil Defense era memorabilia and to the Chicago Fire Museum. Speaking of the Chicago Fire Museum, they now have a new home at Engine 123's old quarters at 52nd and Western Avenue. Although not presently open to the public, work is progressing and details of its opening will be on our website.

In closing, please remember that we always welcome visitors to our City. Please contact us at our website or call us at 708-453-5114 for any assistance you may need during your stay.

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



OF SAN FRANCISCO P.O. BOX 31847 San Francisco, CA 94131



Here's a historic photo, sent to me by the son of a long deceased member of the Phoenix Society of San Francisco.

It was taken on the 1st Saturday in April, 1965, when the Phoenix Society of San Francisco took a field trip to San Jose, CA, 40 miles south of San Francisco, to tour the San Jose Fire Dept.

Most of the people pictured no longer are alive, but the few who are:

1. I'm the one standing in the diver's seat, with a turnout coat, plus white shirt & tie.

2. Up in the hose bed, next to the rolled up length of hose, with a dark jacket and open light colored shirt is Bob Goldstein.

3. The lean man on the tailboard is Bill Egan,

SFFD, who used to come to some Phoenix Society functions. He's now retired.

4. Right at the end of the roof ladder, with a dark sport coat on, balding, and hands clasped in front is Bill Rothschild. Still lucid and driving at age 88, and you'd never guess that he's that old. His wife still looks like a glamour girl.

5 At the far right, the Asian man with glasses and a light sport coat, white shirt, and tie, is Dr. Don Cheu, now a retired surgeon.

Len Williams, IFBA Secretary Treasurer of the Phoenix Society of San Francisco

The rig is my personally owned 1929 N-S-4 Ahrens-Fox, which I still own

TURN OUT Spring 2008

Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley

Sunday, May 18 was a busy day for Fire Associates and the San Jose Fire Department.

"The Villages" - It started off at about 11:30 A.M. with a 4-Alarm fire at a retirement complex in the Evergreen district of the city. First reported as a "Precautionary First Alarm", the fire actually fully-involved 4 units of an 8-unit building. Your Blogmaster (ever on the spot) lives just a few blocks from the sprawling retirement community and quickly noticed a large column of smoke immediately after the first dispatch. John Whiteside was called on the phone to be ready to "saddle up", while John Whitaker headed to the fire scene. Whitaker arrived at 5028 Cribari Vale just behind the 2nd-in engine and took some spectacular photos (view here) before calling Whiteside to inform him that this was "the real deal!" John Whiteside brought Support Unit 2 and FASCV members Mike Chappell and Brian Woodson also arrived on scene. Firefighters worked hard to contain the major damage to the 4plexes where the fire began, limiting the extent of the fire in the other half of the building to minimal fire damage in the attic space and water damage. Unfortunately,



as reported in the SJ Mercury News, the fire resulted in the death of the occupant of the unit where the fire started.

Creek Estates Court - While on scene at "The Villages", firefighters in Rehab noticed a large column of smoke coming from a neighborhood just outside the complex's main gate. Fire units that had just been released from the 4-alarmer, quickly made their way to the address on Creek Estates Court to find the fence and side of the garage fully involved. It was odd to see Engine 3

and Truck 303 as the first-in equipment. They are a downtown-based station, but had been called to "The Villages" and became the primary equipment on this second fire -- way out of their normal response area. John Whitaker voluntarily left from "The Villages" fire in his private vehicle to provide these 1st-alarm crews with much-needed relief on a very hot day. All of these crews had just worked a 4-alarm fire and had not yet made it into rehab. Early impressions were that the Creek Estates fire looked serious, so Brian Woodson left "The Villages" to retrieve Support Unit 3 from its base at Station 26 on Tully Rd. When the Creek Estates fire was quickly doused, Brian brought the support unit back to "The Villages". John Whitaker's photos of this fire can be seen at: Creek Estates Ct. Fire.

Tier 2 Grass Fire - At 4:35 P.M., shortly after Brian Woodson arrived back at "The Villages" with Support Unit 3, San Jose Fire called a Tier 2 for a grass fire near a mobile home park on Old Oakland Rd. at Bern Ct. Brian and Mike Chappell responded from the Evergreen district to this fire way out in the north-central portion of the city. Brian and Mike provided much-needed service to the fire crews who had a difficult time containing the fire to an area along Coyote Creek and some surrounding grass and brush. The fire was adjacent to the San Jose Municipal Golf Course.

And now for the fourth fire of the day in San Jose!!!

6247 Solomon Court - At about 6:30 P.M., while John Whiteside was returning Support Unit 2 to Station 26, San Jose Fire crews were called to 6247 Solomon Court in the southern part of the city. This 3-alarm fire involved a large 2-story home -- the front of which was fully involved when the first equipment arrived, according to a San Jose Mercury News story. Fortunately, John was only one block from the station when the called was dispatched. "Fortunate" because his supplies were totally depleted from the two previous Evergreen-area fires. He quickly restocked, and headed out to the Blossom Valley district. Brian Woodson and Mike Chappell eventually joined John when their Support Unit 3 was released from the tier fire. FASCV members Don Gilbert and Jill Levy were also on scene to lend support. Most of the fire crews working this fire had either been on the earlier tier fire or had been at "The Villages" location. It was after 11:00 P.M. before John returned home. That is a long day in the hot sun!

KEITH FRANZ ELECTED PRESIDENT of SPAAMFAA

Congratulations to past president and longtime IFBA Publicity Director Keith Franz. He was elected SPAAMFAA National President at their Winter National Conference in Dallas, TX, February, 2008.

Keith is better known to many Buffs as the Founder and Director of the Venerable Fire Collection, Inc., located at his home in Slinger, WI. He and the family have hosted individuals and bus loads (Milwaukee, 2003 convention) at their superb display of memorabilia and multiple apparatus. Keith also serves as chief of the Cedar Lake FD.

We wish him well as he leads the chapters in their various business and fun endeavors. IFBA secretary (and SPAAMFAA treasurer) Len Williams promises to keep an eye on Keith as he shares National Board duties. Well done!



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 Fire Buffs are expanding canteen services in 2008. Adding to our Salvation Army field kitchen, we have reconfigured an ambulance body from the former Warren Township fire department, (That county department is now a part of Indianapolis Fire Department, operating as Battalion #4.)

Ed McMichael has overseen the update, as well as scheduling new responders and making many runs himself. Arrangements will include retired IFD personnel serving during daytime hours, when club members are least available. From January through mid-May, 41 responses have been logged. As our services become better known, several rehab runs have been out-of-county for haz mat and multiple-alarm events.

IFB again provided rehab services for FDIC HOTS training during the April conference in Indy. Two training sites and apparatus staging for the Convention Center trade show were staffed. Also during FDIC, we hosted the Eastern Kentucky University Fire Science students' meeting and reunion at Firefighters Local 416 hall. Our guests generously provided a \$500 donation to IFD "Fire Stop" school children's education program.

Our Pager program has been redone, with upgraded units replaced for our members, news media, and firefighters who subscribe to our service. It is reported those units will not be affected by the upcoming radio change to digital dispatch, replacing analog now in place.

IFB continues to maintain IFD reserve station #12. Several heat and electrical system repairs have been completed. Wishard Hospital Medic 27 continues as a tenant 12 hours a day. A special 7th District Congressional election and May primary voting were held there. Awards, commendations, memorabilia and patches are being displayed in the Watch room as Jim Williamson and others provide display cases.

Two new books are available from area publishers:

R o d g e r Birchfield has written a third app a r a t u s b o o k , "Stutz Fire E n g i n e Company,



a Commemorative Edition," signed by the author from a 750 count limited printing, can be obtained for \$42.75 from M.T. Publishing Co, Evansville, IN.

A new Indianapolis Fire Department history book, the first since 1993, is available from Local 416 by contacting Lori White, office manager. Lori@L416.com. Cost is \$50 plus shipping.



Aerial attack supplements the deck gun stream at vacant three-story frame residence on North Delaware Street, May 21, 2008. Second alarm companies made a great stop and prevented communication to nearby structures. Photo by Tod Parker.



May 16, 2008: Indianapolis firefighters braved dangerous conditions after a large electrical line dropped in front of working fire building.

TURN OUT Spring 2008

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.



GONG CLUB, INC. JERSEY CITY, NJ

by Paul Schaetzle and Conni Spellman

The Gong Club neighborhood was once again ablaze with action during the wee hours of Thursday, November 29, 2007. Box 150 was transmitted at 0114 dows. Deputy Chief Timothy Kearney assumed command upon his arrival one minute later and received reports from the police that fire was showing in the rear. Chief Kearney directed the working fire companies to respond to that side of the fire.



150 Jersey City 11/29/07 140 Newark Ave. Lad. Co. 6 prepares their ladder pipe while Lad. Co. 2 members head for a closer look. (Henry J. Haines Photo)

hours for a fire at 141 Newark Ave. between Grove and Erie Streets, about 200 feet east of the Gong Club quarters. Capt. Richard Gorman of Eng. Co. 6 reported smoke in the area followed by "smoke form the 3rd floor of a commercial building. Fire Dispatch advised companies of numerous holes in the floor of a vacant building at that address. Batt. 1, Batt. Chief Gregory Lallo arrived shortly thereafter, reporting that he had "smoke puffing out of third floor win-

classic old time downtown commercial building with a storefront on the ground floor and storage above. The 2nd floor of the building was sealed by a decorative façade, with the upper floors ceiling heights making it the equivalent of a 4 story struc-The building ture. fronted 25 feet on Newark Ave. and ran through the entire block, some 150 feet deep, ending in a 2 story section fronting on Railroad Ave. The

The fire building was a

rear façade was part of an elaborate mural that spans nearly the entire city block, depicting various Jersey City landmarks.

Res. Co. 1 reported fire venting through the roof in the rear. Batt. 4, Batt. Chief John Farrington confirmed a large body of fire in the rear section, prompting Chief Kearney to strike a 2nd Alarm soon after his arrival. A 3rd Alarm was transmitted a short time later along with a special call for Ladder Tower 4. Fire soon broke through the roof and threatened exposures flanking the fire building. Companies set up master streams both front and rear. At the height of the fire, Ladders 2 and 6 operated their ladder pipes in the front while Ladder Co. 7 and Ladder Tower 4 operated their master streams in the rear. Sqd. Co. 4 also operated their deck pipe on the Railroad Ave. side.

The ferocity of the flames on Railroad Ave. was not equaled in the front of the building. Thick black smoke bellowed from the upper floor windows, but no fire ever vented onto Newark Ave. The flames roared through the mid section of the building with such intensity that a major collapse occurred, hurling portions of the 2nd and 3rd floor into the ground floor store. Fire was under control by 0400 hours, but companies remained on site through mid-day awaiting evaluation

of the building by structural engineers.

At one time, the building housed the National Discount Store, but in its last use, the ground floor was occupied by Studio Discount Gallery, which had vacated the premises a few years ago.

Such runs are "old hat" for the Gong Club, with over a dozen major fires under its belt within eyesight of Club quarters. The last such inci-

That was also a Ave

pre-dawn blaze reported by Member Bill Ladell from quarters. Alas, no members were in quarters that night. However, 5 members quickly made their way to Bay St., turning out with Car 26 for what would be over 6 hours of service.

Rundown:

- 0114 Box 150 Eng. Co. 2-6-5-10 Lad. Co. 2-6 Res. Co. 1, Batt. 1. Div. 1. MSU
- 0118 WF 150 Sqd. Co. 4 Lad. Co. 9 Batt. 4 Car 30
- 0121 2-2 150 Eng. Co. 14-13-9 Lad. Co. 7 Batt. 3 Car 1-3-26-28 OEM
- 0127 3-3 150 Eng. Co. 11-19 Lad. Co. 12
- 0127 S/C 150 Lad. Co. 4
- 0144 4-4 150 Eng. Co. 7 Lad. Co. 11

FRIGID FIFTH IN UNION CITY

The evening of December 1, 2007 brought the first real cold snap of the winter, fol-



dent was on June 30, Union City 12/1/07 811 11th St. North Hudson units have their hands 2006 at 181 Newark full on this frigid Saturday night. (Adolf Passburg Photo)

lowed the first snowfall before bv dawn. However dawn came early on 11th St. in Union City, where a spectacular fire destroyed two buildings in a tightly packed block between Summit Ave. and Kennedy Blvd.

Shortly before 2300 hours, North Hudson companies were dispatched to 808 11th St. Fire was actually across the street at 811 11th St., but there was no trouble finding the correct address as fire was through the roof and into an exposure almost immediately. A 2nd Alarm was transmitted upon arrival followed by a 3rd Alarm less than 5 minutes later. The fire building was an occupied 3 story frame multiple dwelling, 25' x 60' which soon had fire on all floors and through the roof. The exposure building, 813 11th St., was a 2 story frame, 25' x 60', used as a day care center. This building soon became heavily involved and all units were withdrawn relatively quickly to resort to an exterior attack.

Other nearby buildings included a large 2 story frame mixed occupancy that fronted on Summit Ave., another dwelling on 11th St. and a row of occupied frame dwellings on 10th St. Sundry extensions and garages added to the exposure problems. Division 1, Deputy Chief Anthony Avillo transmitted 4th and 5th Alarms before the clock stroked midnight. Despite numerous overhead wires, Ladder Co. 1, using a spare Seagrave tiller, operated a ladder pipe and Eng. Co. 3 backed into a yard off Kennedy Blvd. to operate their telesqurt. Numerous handlines snaked their way through hallways, basements and rooftops of buildings on Summit Ave. to combat the fire from that vantage point.

The collective efforts of companies from North Hudson, Jersey City, Hoboken and Bayonne succeeded in holding the fire to the two 11th St. buildings, but both buildings appear to be beyond salvage. Fire was declared under control by 0300 hours, but units are maintaining a fire watch even as this article is being written, more than 18 hours later. Some 26 persons from at least 6 families were displaced. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, operated for over 5 hours, serving some 7 gallons of hot chocolate, 6 gallons of coffee, 5 gallons of Gatorade, 2 gallons of soup and assorted other items.

Rundown (times approximate):

- 2250 1st Alarm Eng. Co. 1-SQ2-4-3 Lad. Co. 1-2 Res. Co. 1 MSU / Safety Div. 1 Batt. 1
- 2252 WF Squad Co. 6-1
- 2253 2nd Alarm Eng. Co. 5-9 Lad. Co. 3 Batt. 2
- 2258 3rd Alarm Eng. Co. SQ10-11 Lad. Co. 4 Batt. 3 FDJC Car 26
- 2317 4th Alarm FDJC Eng. Co. 8-11 No. Hud. Lad. Co. 5
- 2340 5th Alarm FDJC Eng. Co. 10 Hobo ken Eng. Co. 3 Bayonne Lad. Co. 3

HOBOKEN IN JANUARY; A FIRE WONDERLAND!

In 2007, the Gong Club canteen responded only once to the neighboring city of Hoboken, albeit for a spectacular fire in an enclosed lumberyard at the height of a driving rainstorm. However, the first month of the New Year saw our Hoboken responses double as compared to all of 2007. Both of these Janaury battles reached 4th Alarm status.

The first major battle originated in a popular bar, McSwiggins, located opposite the rear of Hoboken City Hall, at 110 1st St. on January 7, 2008. A corner property, the four story mixed occupancy also carries an address of 101 Bloomfield St. Patrons were quenching their parched tongues with a few cold ones as Sunday night turned into Monday morning. Shortly after 0100 hours, however, tongues of flame came bursting through the wood floor of the century old building. Barflies and barkeeps alike bolted for the doors as fire rapidly engulfed the tavern and raced to the upper floors of the building. Hoboken's fire fighting force, comprised of 3 engines, 2 ladders and a rescue company fought a valiant, but losing effort to keep the flames in check and save the pub's precious stock.



Hoboken 1/7/08 110 1st St. Fire has advanced to all floors from the popular McSwiggin's Bar on the ground floor (Conni Spellman Photo)

With exposures threatened on both streets, reinforcements were summoned from North Hudson, dispatching Eng. 9, Sqd. 4 and Ladder 2 to the fire. Jersey City was also invited to the party, with Eng. Co. 18-5-10,

Ladders 3, 11 and Ladder Tower 4, under the command of Battalion 1, B. C. Robert Forenza eventually operating at the fire. Ladder 11 operated their ladder pipe in the front of the building until replaced by Ladder Tower 4's bucket. That company remained on the scene to overhaul the upper floors from the exterior due to the collapse of a major portion of the interior floors and roof.

Car 26 operated for over nearly 7 hours, serving 6 gallons of coffee, 5 gallons of Gatorade, 4 gallons of hot chocolate and 2 gallons of soup to thirsty fire fighters.

Later in the month, the action shifted to the north end of Hoboken's main thoroughfare. A pre-dawn, ferocious fire roared through a block long apartment complex at 1203 Washington St. on January 29, 2008. Often referred to as the "Yellow Buildings" by locals due to the distinctive color of its brickwork, the five story, renovated structures are home to scores of young professionals that have flocked to the Mile Square City. Although Eng. Co. 4 and Ladder Co. 1 are a scant two blocks north, fire had engulfed an apartment on the 3rd floor and flames were soon venting like a blow torch out of the rear of the structure.

Once again North Hudson and Jersey City companies responded to augment the Hoboken Fire Department. Car 26 was dispatched with the Jersey City units at 0245 hours. The same North Hudson companies responded, while FDJC companies were Eng. Co. 18-5, Ladder as rapidly confined to the apartment of origin, resulting in the 2nd Alarm companies being quickly released. The Bayonne Fire Canteen was also returned prior to their arrival on the orders of Co, 3, the Mask Service Unit with Batt. 3, B. C. John Farrington, and Safety Battalion Chief Eugene Walsh. All hands were heavily engaged for several hours as fire extended into the cockloft and journeyed south to the 12th St. side of the building, inflicting heavy damage in its wake. Sadly, one resident perished, the occupant of the apartment of origin.

Car 26 again spent several hours in Hoboken, supplying the troops with 5 gallons each of coffee, Gatorade and hot chocolate.

FROZEN FEBRUARY FIRE FIGHT

Jersey City firefighters spent a cold February 28, 2008 fighting not one but 2 multiple

alarm fires at the same time! The first fire was at 467 Palisade Ave. Apparently, residents of the fire time spent looking for the fire before calling the Fire Department. Hence the fire had gained significant headway when Box 420 was transmitted at 1017 hours followed by the Working Fire

1021.

Kearney

re-



Kearnev

wires.

struck

the evacuation tones due to the possible collapse of the roof. While Ladder 7 was in front of the building, only ground ladders could be used because of many low hanging Ironically, this is the same set of wires and

3rd

Alarm

at

the same box where Fire Fighter and Gong Club Deputy Chief Carlos Negron was electrocuted at a 3rd Alarm at 411 Palisade Ave. on March 20, 1993. In fact, at the time of his unfortunate passing, Carlos resided a few doors north of the building involved in this fire

the

1052. Soon after, Chief Kearney ordered

The fire eventually broke through the roof

lapsed into the third floor. Chief Kearney was able to call the fire under control 1404, at though companies remained in the scene for quite awhile afterward for extensive overhauling.

col-

Car 26 was chauffeured by Member Jim Fay with members Ladell, Phillips, Jeffers,

quested at 2nd Alarm at 1038. When all those companies became committed, Chief

Chief Timothy alarm. (Conni Spellman Photo)

Rivera and Conni Spellman operating as well. Despite the bright sunny day, the tem-

Deputy vided a challenge for the truckies at this mid-morning multiple

peratures were in the low 20s, so plenty of coffee and hot chocolate was served. Due to the time of day, the crew also served beef stew and soup to the cold and hungry fire fighters. Car 26 was strategically positioned in Riverview Park opposite the fire building. This park, by the way, has an overlook featuring a spectacular view of Hoboken, Downtown Jersey City and the entire New York skyline.

Meanwhile, more trouble was brewing about one mile south. Box 169 was struck at 1141 hours for a fire located at 68 Magnolia Avenue. This is a large 5 story brick apartment building adjacent to the grounds of St. Joseph Church, whose pastor, long time FDJC Chaplain Father James Pagnotta, was occupied at the first fire. With fire blowing out the windows of a second floor apartment, a 2nd Alarm was transmitted at 1149. With Car 26 operating at 3-3 420, Club Officers activated the IFBA Region 9 Mutual Aid Agreement, calling for the Bayonne Fire Canteen to respond. Response to this 2nd Alarm included some companies from Hoboken and North Hudson in addition to FDJC units.

Nonetheless, a tip of the helmet to the Bayonne buffs for turning out.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

With Chief of Department William Sinnott nearing mandatory retirement age, the New Jersey Department of Personnel administered a competitive exam for the position of Chief of the Jersey City Fire Department in January 2008. An appointment list was promulgated with Deputy Chief Michael O'Reilly topping the list with a score of 91.920. Chief Sinnott retired on April 1, 2008 with Chief O'Reilly assuming the position on an acting basis until he took the oath of office on April 11, 2008.

The new Chief was appointed to the Department on June 1, 1981 and hales from the Greenville section of the city. Chief O'Reilly held the rank of Deputy Chief less than one year. Previously, he was the Chief of the 4th Battalion, Group A, when he reported to then Deputy Chief Sinnott, who commanded Group A.

The outgoing Chief Sinnott held the top post for 15 months, capping a career that was 1 month shy of 42 years. A frequent visitor to the Gong Club, Chief and Mrs. Sinnott honored us with their presence at the Club's annual Christmas Party on December 14, 2007.

We wish Chief O'Reilly a long and successful tenure and also wish our good friend, Chief Sinnott, a long and happy retirement.

Jersey City's southern neighbor, Bayonne, also has a new man at the helm. Chief Greg Rogers was sworn in to the top position on April 17, 2008. Our best wishes for success are also extended to Chief Rogers.

2011 PLANNING IN FULL SWING

The Gong Club is continuing to work with several Region 9 clubs to bring the International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. convention to New Jersey in 2011. The host entity from 1989, the Fire Buff Association of New Jersey, Inc., has been reactivated. Currently five Region 9 clubs are on board. The groups are meeting regularly and several prospective hotels have been visited.

The FBANJ is now mulling over various hotel proposals with the goal of announcing dates and a hotel by the August 2008 Racine Convention. A novel idea to raise "seed money" for the convention expenses is also in the planning stages.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Racine and sharing the latest update for 2011 at this summer's convention!

[Reprint from the Jersey City *Reporter*] They answer the call every time

The Gong Club, volunteers for Fire Department, celebrating 50 years in historic firehouse

Ricardo Kaulessar Reporter staff writer

They are based in a historic firehouse in Downtown Jersey City, are on the scene at every fire and have gotten the praises of the Fire Chief.

No, not an elite unit of the Jersey City Fire Department but just as respected - the Gong Club.

Founded in December 1950 by a group of young fire buffs, the Gong Club is a familiar sight for not only Jersey City firefighters but throughout Hudson County for their volun-



SERVING THE CITY'S BRAVEST – This canteen vehicle belongs to the Gong Club, the Jersey City-based volunteer group that assists Jersey City and other Hudson County fire departments by offering beverages, food, and other remedies to fight the exhaustion that comes from firefighting.

teer service in providing food, beverages, misting fans, cold towels, and other items to help firefighters recover from the rigors of fighting dangerous, exhausting fires.

Their work is known as rehab and the 31 members of the Gong Club are able to offer (not all at the same time) their services with the help of their Canteen Unit, which the Fire Department recognizes as Car 26 and calls upon when there is a fire of two alarms or above.

The Gong Club is a nonprofit corporation that gets its funding from payroll deduction contribution by each Jersey City firefighter and donations from the public.

On Feb. 22, the Gong Club observed 50 years stationed in the Bay Street firehouse, which served as the headquarters of the Fire Department from 1871 to 1933.

Two members of the Gong Club share their memories and observations of their work. Being there for the city's bravest

Conni Spellman's introduction to the Gong Club was on a date.

Spellman was going out with her future husband Patrick, who was already in the Gong Club, when she first learned about what they do. Soon, she was hooked.

"It's now 17 years later and I still love doing this," Spellman said. "What you do is gain an appreciation of the work these firefighters do in serving the public by seeing it up close."

Spellman said their services, however, are not limited to the Jersey City Fire Department since they also assist the North Hudson Fire and Rescue. The Gong Club is also on call when the Jersey City Police Department has a major police investigation or there are any other disasters.

Spellman recalls one of the Gong Club's last major operations, when the bodies of Jersey City police officers Shawn Carson and Robert Nguyen were being recovered from the Hackensack River after the emergency vehicle they were driving went off the Lincoln Highway Bridge, which spans from Jersey City to Kearny, on Christmas Day 2005.

"We served almost every day, pretty much around the clock, when that happened," Spellman said. "It was one of the more tragic situations we [the Gong Club] had been around."

Spellman also mentioned the uplifting endeavors in which the Gong Club participates, including community events like the March of Dimes Walk America and the three-mile Carlos Negron Memorial Run, an annual event in Liberty State Park since 1994, which is held in honor Negron, a beloved club member, who died on-duty in March 1993. Also uplifting is the respect they receive from Fire Department Chief William Sinnott.

"The chief has been our biggest fan, always touting the work we do and that appreciation goes all the way down to the firefighters," Spellman said.

Chief Sinnott last week confirmed his appreciation for the club saying in his 42 years on the job that they are a "valuable adjunct to the fire department" and they were always a "welcome sight."

How long does Spellman plan to be part of the club? She is not sure but at least long enough to see the club celebrate its 60th Anniversary in 2010.

They call it home

The Gong Club home base at 244 Bay St. in Jersey City is not just their quarters but also serves as a bastion to the existence of the Fire Department. While the ground floor is occupied by the Gong Club, the second floor is occupied by the Jersey City Retired Firemen's Association, and the top floor is a museum with Fire Department memorabilia.

Both locations were not open when the Jersey City Reporter visited the Bay Street firehouse to meet with Jim Fay, a two-year member of the club with many years of appreciation for the club as a dispatcher for the New York City Fire Department and a Port Authority cop patrolling the PATH trains.

He gave a short tour, pointing to the numerous photos on the walls of the firehouse from major fires over the 50 years in Jersey City and other parts of Hudson County that were attended by Gong Club members. Many of the photos were taken by the late Warren Zapp, a longtime Jersey City resident, amateur photographer, environmental activist, and one of the founding members of the Gong Club. There are also photos of Carlos Negron and other longtime member, Joseph Lovero, who died in Manhattan on 9/11.

Fay also showed off the watch desk at the front of the firehouse where historically firefighters have stood guard and listened for the alarms that let them know where a fire was taking place.

And then there's the custom-built canteen vehicle, which has been in service since 2001.

Inside, it is equipped with a double coffee urn, microwave oven, gas-fired hot plate, freezer, beverage dispenser, and hot chocolate dispenser. And the cabinets are stocked with all kinds of hot chocolate packets, granola bars, and large-sized soup cans.

As Fay stood inside the canteen, he was reminded of why the canteen is considered such a vital component for local firefighting.

"Chief Sinnott was here [at the Bay Street firehouse] for a Christmas party and he said some prophetic words about the canteen," Fay said. "He said, 'It's no longer coffee and donuts and it's not just window dressing.' "

Fay continued, "The firemen need nourishment and help because of the heat they are sustaining while wearing their gear. What we do is not 'Oh, that's nice', it's 'Where are they, we need them now.' What we do is an important part of the firefighting operation."

For more information on the Gong Club, call (201) 333-9147.

Comments on the story can be sent to rkaulessar@hudsonreporter.com.

TURN OUT Spring 2008

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

With the departure of Chief Dennis Rubin to Washington, DC, Mayor Shirley Franklin has been in the middle of a search for the new fire chief for the city of Atlanta. In late November it was announced that Kelvin J. Cochran, chief of the Shreveport, LA Fire Department had accepted the position and would began work in January. According to a press release, Chief Cochran has been with the Shreveport FD since 1982, and has been fire chief since 1999. At the time of this appointment he was second vice president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The Signal 51 group in Shreveport has already dropped us a line indicating what a good relationship they had with the chief, and they really hated to see him go. Atlanta's interim fire chief had been Harold Miller, who announced his retirement on January 11, 2008 after 29 vears of service.....Also on January 11, a reception was held for metro Atlanta's first female fire chief – Becky Denlinger – who is retiring after 30 years of service with the Cobb County Fire Department.....Another metro Atlanta department also has a new fire chief. College Park announced in December that Cedric Scott had been appointed fire chief of that department. Chief Scott rose through the ranks of the Macon/Bibb County Fire Department before leaving to become the fire chief of the Waycross Fire Department (south Georgia)

Past MFA Foreman and long time member Royel E Vreeland (Roy) died on Monday March 17, 2008. Roy was originally from Chicago, IL and retired in 1982 after working for the U.S. Army and Delta Airlines. Funeral services were held at the Living Grace Lutheran Church in Tucker with interment at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton. The MFA provided the pallbearers for the funeral.....On December 5, 2007 Arnold Hardy passed away at the age of 85 in Stone Mountain. Most younger fire buffs wouldn't recognize that name, however Mr. Hardy was the first amateur photographer to win the Pulitzer Prize back in 1946. The photograph he took was at the tragic Winecoff Hotel fire on December 7 of that year. That one photograph is the most widely recognized photo from the fire, and shows a woman falling to her death.

With the metro Atlanta area trying to become the garden apartment fire capital of the world, it's sometimes easy to forget that occasionally there are a few large commercial fires. One such fire occurred on the evening of November 7, 2007 in the 5000 block of South Peachtree Street in the Norcross area of Gwinnett County. Firefighters arrived to find heavy fire conditions in the lumberyard portion of the Norcross Supply Company. Weather conditions at the time of the fire showed a temperature of 48 degrees, a dewpoint of 21, and a wind out the northwest. While that meant that the wind was blowing the fire away from the adjacent Atlanta-Washington mainline of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, it was blowing it into all of the nearby exposure buildings, as well advancing firefighters. Multiple aerial and ground streams were set up in a defensive position. all operations and were complicated by the presence of numerous electrical wires crossing the property. DeKalb County backfilled Gwinnett County

stations and even answered a call or two.....The second noteworthy fire occurred during the early morning hours of February 11 in the Fulton Industrial district of western Fulton County. As metro Atlanta residents were driving to work that morning there was no mistake a major fire was taking place on the west side of the city. The fire involved massive amounts of carpet stored in a warehouse near the intersection of Selig and Mendel Drive SW, and the thick black smoke being produced drifted straight up for several hundred feet before being caught by stronger winds aloft and blown over the city causing a number of environmental concerns. As for the fire fight itself, after an initial interior attack crews were ordered out as the fire vented through the roof with the automatic sprinkler system non functional. From then on it was totally defensive with the city of Atlanta providing mutual aid companies and the GMAG mutual aid system providing additional manpower.

Mother nature played havoc with the city of Atlanta on the evening of March 14 when a tornado made its way through the downtown area of the city. The first ominous word on the fire radio came in shortly after 9:30pm when Division 1 announced for all units, if it was safe to do so, pull onto the pad and sound sirens for 3 minutes in response to the tornado warning that had just been broadcast. The first fire department response came a short while later when Battalion 1 requested a 2 + 1response to Peachtree at Marietta for multiple injuries and debris in the area. Other calls soon came in with similar reports – 170 Boulevard, Pryor at Alabama, Glenwood Avenue, Jackson Blvd, ... and the list kept growing. Shortly after 10:00pm television stations started carrying live coverage of damage to the Georgia Dome where the SEC basketball tournament game had gone into overtime as the storm blew in. Atlanta fire units were tied up on storm related calls for well into the next morning and afternoon. Shortly after 1:00pm on March 15 a GMAG request went out to help back fill vacant city stations. The official report for the tornado was that it was an EF-2 category twister that was on the ground for 6 miles with a maximum width of 200 vards. One fatality was attributed to the tornado – a brick wall fell on the victim near the MLK Marta Station. In an ironic twist of events, the only notable multiple alarm fire for the month of March was in an apartment building that had been heavily damaged by the tornado. On March 31 Atlanta fire units arrived at 419 Chamberlain Street SE to find a three story apartment building heavily involved. After a quick rescue of 3 persons from the third floor by Engine 6, it was a defensive battle the rest of the night with 3 ladder pipes and 2 deck guns.

problem that is becoming more А pronounced in the metro Atlanta is the construction of houses in subdivisions with only a few feet separating each house. When you combine this practice with the widespread use of wood and vinyl siding, you can pretty much predict the results. We've reported in this column on several large fires Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties that were caused by this new trend. Henry County (SE of Atlanta) is the latest department to lose multiple homes in this scenario. A fast moving fire during the early morning hours of December 20 went to 3 Alarms and required the activation of the mutual aid system. Operations were totally defensive from the start with 4 homes destroyed. Hall County suffered a

similar fire on December 18 in the 5600 block of Ashmore Court. One person died in the fire, one house was totally destroyed, and four were damaged. The city of Atlanta has even called two different 2nd Alarms for multiple houses being involved in a single incident. On December 12 two houses were fully involved on Perkerson Road SW, and on December 15 two houses were destroyed and two heavily damaged in a fire on Hogue Street NE in the MLK Historic District.

Other multiple alarm fires to highlight, most of which are apartment fires:

10-5-07 DeKalb County - 3700 block North Decatur Road, 2^{nd} Alarm apartment fire

10-7-07 DeKalb County – 1819 Mountain Industrial Blvd, 2nd Alarm on arrival at Super 8 motel

10-12-07 DeKalb County – Wesley Chapel Road & Snapfinger Road, apartment fire, defensive mode, fire running attic with partial collapse, T16 & T20 flowing LP

10-14-07 Atlanta – 352 Sinclair Avenue NE, 2nd Alarm for multiple houses involved 10-15-07 Clayton County – Laurel Point Apartments, fully involved vacant building under renovation, 3rd Alarm equivalent, apparatus problems gaining access to complex through gates

10-16-07 Atlanta – Peachtree Road & Colonial Heights, jumper on top of crane, request our FSU880

10-21-07 Cobb County -2^{nd} Alarm, Villas Mobile Home Park, multiple mobile homes involved

10-23-07 DeKalb County – 250 Flat Shoals Road Gresham House Apts, roof 80% gone w/ 2LP's flowing

10-27-07 Atlanta – 3048 Middleton Road NW, 2nd Alarm to stage on apartment fire

10-31-07 Sandy Springs - heavy fire in

multi story condo flowing Q1 & Q2, defensive mode

11-2-07 DeKalb County -2^{nd} Alarm, 500 South Columbia Drive, United Methodist Children's Home, large 2 story dorm, defensive, limited water pressure, mutual aid Decatur

- 11-2-07 Gwinnett County Park Crossing Way Lilburn, 2 story 8 unit building heavy fire in 4 units
- 11-5-07 DeKalb County 2nd Alarm, 1108
 North Hills Parkway, Chadworth Apts, heavy fire 2 story apartment, back and forth between offensive and defensive

11-20-07 DeKalb County – 3582 Morningside Village Lane, 2^{nd} Alarm + 2 extra engines, fire on bottom floor of 2 story apartment with extension to attic, unable to cut off, Q19 & L18 flowing LP's

11-24-07 Atlanta – 735 Ralph McGill Blvd NE, heavy fire attic 1 story commercial building masonry construction, request 2nd Alarm, T12 flowing

11-25-07 Atlanta – Hollywood @ Bolton NW, 2 story apartment building, partial collapse, E8 flowing deck gun

11-26 07 Atlanta – North Avenue @ Angier Avenue NE, working fire on a large sheet metal building that had access problems, using one ladder pipe, one stinger, one 2-1/2", and multiple 1-3/4" handlines

11-27-07 DeKalb County -2^{nd} Alarm on arrival 1075 N. Hairston Road, 2 story garden apt, quick kd

11-29-07 DeKalb County – 3188 Misty Creek, 2 story apartment, pulling crews out to flow L23

12-6-07 DeKalb County – 5 Tiburon Drive, heavy fire 2 story condo, 2^{nd} Alarm, pulling lines to protect exposures, offensive mode with handlines

12-12-07 Atlanta – 4238 Powers Ferry

Road NW, large house 90% involved, 2nd Alarm for manpower, 2 deck guns & 2 stingers in front along with aerial streams from Sandy Springs Q4 and AFD T21

12-12-07 Atlanta – 3500 Peachtree Road, car driven off 6th Floor of a parking garage and hanging suspended in air by steel cables necessitating rescue of driver, E23 E25 T25 T17 (from Powers Ferry Road fire) B1 GSAR6 and SQ4 (also from Powers Ferry Road fire)

12-16-07 Gwinnett County – 1500 Holcomb Bridge Road, 2 story apartment building w/ fire thru roof

12-19-07 DeKalb County – 6561 Old Hampton Drive, heavy smoke showing on 2 story apartment, 2^{nd} Alarm to stage, heavy fire eventually thru entire roof, 2 ladder pipes used 12-24-07 DeKalb County – 6800 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, 2^{nd} Alarm by DeKalb County, one alarm by Gwinnett County for 2/3 story apartment with fire running attic, quick knockdown

1-5-08 Atlanta – 2^{nd} Alarm on arrival 2980 Jonesboro Road SE, 2 story garden apt, heavy fire top floor and attic, 5 handlines operated

1-9-08 Clayton County -2^{nd} Alarm for large 2 story house 781 Rock Shoals Court, one ladder pipe

1-22-08 Atlanta – 3909 Campbelton Road, 2 story frame apt bldg, setting up ladder pipes

2-2-08 DeKalb County – 2848 Buford Highway, Buckhead Creek Apts, E8 o/s w/ heavy fire in center of 2 story apt bldg, 2^{nd} Alarm with partial collapse of roof

Historical images from the camera of the late William Harwell



Almost 30 years ago this is what Cobb County Station #4 looked like at 4269 Atlanta Road. Nothing in this December 27, 1979 photo can be recreated today, as the equipment is obviously long gone, and the station was demolished a while back to make way for the widening of Atlanta Road.

TURN OUT Spring 2008



(Left) Atlanta had a number of Mack pumpers in service in the late 1970's and Engine 19's Champaign Bulldog Mack is pictured at a motor vehicle accident on Highland Avenue on September 9, 1979. If our records are correct, this should be a 1978 1000/500 CF Model.

(Below) This classic 1960 Pirsch was filling in for the regular Engine 5 when it was pictured working at a one alarm house fire just south of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium on September 8, 1979.



Tucson, Arizona was another customer of Ward LaFrance Ambassador Pumper series. Here, one of the engines is pictured on July 15, 1979 working at a structure fire at Stratford and Arroy Chico ...





(Above) Chicago, Illinois Engine 16 and Truck 11 were captured on film during a call way back on October 14, 1972.

(Below) What a turnout of classic fire apparatus for a motor fire at the Milwaukee Hospital on October 17, 1972.



To our readers:

Your Turnout staff is creating two broadcast email 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.

