



We will never forget...

**2011 IFBA Convention
Jersey City**



TURN OUT

Spring 2011

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

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

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

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Submission Policy

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

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(Cover Photo by Ron Johnson)

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**MINUTES FROM
IFBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, NJ • April 9, 2011**



Minutes by: Gerald Mahoney, IFBA Secretary

0910 Called to Order by President Schaetzle

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Officers

Sam Robinson of Antique Fire Apparatus Assoc. of New Jersey addressed the group. His organization will coordinate the muster at the hotel on Saturday during the convention.

0930 Executive Board Committees broke into Caucus Groups. Reconvened at 0945 hours.

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meeting. Passed.

Communications. Executive VP Mokros will report in detail in his Executive VP report.

Treasurers Report by Treas. Schaetzle. Motion to accept. Passed.

President's Report by Pres. Schaetzle. Motion to accept. Passed.

2nd Vice-President Report by Tom Pelaia. 55 paid registrations as of today. Seminars to include presentations by FDNY Chiefs Jonas and Salka as well as Retired FDJC Deputy Chief Cobb.

Report of Executive Vice-President by Bill

Mokros. Motion to accept, passed.

Executive Board Committee Reports:
Constitution & By-Laws by Bill Celentano.

1. Discussion ensued on the role of East-Coast VP-At-Large. Bill Celentano will be stepping down after the 2011 Convention.
2. Requirements for submitting a convention bid. Discussion on whether the body should create a by-law that specifies requirements for an organization(s) to submit a bid to host a convention. A policy will be presented to the general membership for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Education by Gary Wignall.

1. Gary spoke on the process of recruiting former members back to the IFBA as well as other fire buff organizations that have never been IFBA members.
2. Discussion on what seminar topics would be desirable at future conventions.

CFSI by Stu Nathan.

1. Stu spoke on the CFSI dinner. IFBA committed to 5 seats at the 2011 dinner which was held April 7, 2011.
2. National Fire Heritage Center at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. Discussion on what role if any exists within NFHC for IFBA artifacts.

Convention Facilitator:

1. Rick Cutts spoke on convention issues including a reminder that those planning to go to Toronto in 2012 will require a passport.

Finance Committee:

1. Chuck Liedtke spoke on a review of the financial records and all was found to be in order. Discussion on suggestions for the reserve fund.
2. Current interest rates on CD's are less than 1%. We should seek a more profitable vehicle for these deposits. Marc Wallace suggested a long term growth mutual fund.
3. The treasurer will research utilizing various investment vehicles.

Insurance:

1. President/Treasurer Schaetzle reports the policy has been renewed and is enforce.

Member Services:

1. Jerry Traub reports that Turn-Out has only one submission for the next issue so far.
2. The Indy Publishing Group has published ten semi-annual issues so far.
3. Jerry Traub reported on a communication he received regarding a public speaker.

Fire & Life Safety:

1. Gerry Mahoney reports all paperwork for the 2011 convention is in order.

Publicity:

1. Stu Nathan requests he be notified of any fire service publications that he should contact regarding any IFBA publicity.

Web Page:

1. Bill Mokros reports the new web site is up and running and has gotten tremendous feedback. Clubs encouraged to submit photos of their canteens in operation to be placed on the web site.

Recruitment & Retention:

1. Wally Banks submitted a report on suggestion for improved recruitment and retention efforts, including the marketing of the IFBA.
2. Please send any ideas or suggestions on marketing/recruitment/retention to Wally Banks.

Fire Buff of the Year:

1. Phil Reid encouraged all Regional Vice-Presidents to have their region's clubs submit nominees.

Newsletter Awards:

1. Ira Cohen reports there will no award this year.

Strategic Planning:

1. Tom McDonald reported on a few issues including utilizing the Rasmussen Fund this year to pay for the registration of one person to attend their first IFBA convention. Steve Hansen will be the final arbiter of who receives the award based on submission of a written essay.
2. Memorial Fund has \$550.00. Suggestion that those monies be used to establish/maintain the archives of the IFBA in a setting.

Hilton Hotel:

1. Craig Williams, General Manager of the hotel addressed the group.

Regional Business:

1. Ken Belliveau reports that he has been contacted by Stephen Walsh; President of the International Fire Photographers Association to relocate to Region 1. Motion made by Chris Oliphant, Second by Wally Banks. Passed.
2. Most Regional VP reports have been submitted via e-mail.
3. Region 7 Executive Vice-President Kenn Smith submitted his resignation effective today. The President will appoint a replacement.

Future Conventions:

1. Toronto 2012. August 14 through 18. Web site is www.torcon2012.com. Hotel is the Downtown Sheraton at 123 Queen St. West. Excellent cooperation with Toronto FD and the Firefighters Union. Dates for the Spring Board meeting have not yet been established. Gary Wignall advised the train experiences a significant delay at the U.S./Canada border in both directions due to immigration/passport issues.
2. Milwaukee 2013. July 10 through 13. Hotel is the Wyndham Milwaukee Airport Hotel. Rate of \$99.00 per night. Hotel restaurant is open for three meals per day. Numerous restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.
3. Dallas, TX 2014. Wally Banks has submitted a written bid to host the 2014 IFBA Convention. Official host will be the Box 4 Fire Buff Association, Inc. They are working with the Irving and Dallas Convention Visi-

tors Bureaus to assist in locating a hotel. Motion by Wignall, second by Liedtke. Passed.

4. Ken Belliveau spoke on hosting 2015 in the Hartford, CT area. He plans to submit a formal bid in September.
5. Tom McDonald spoke on the Region 5 meeting to be held May 6 in New Orleans. Tours of the area will be on May 7.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

1. Motion by Chris Oliphant, seconded by Marc Wallace to create the position of Vice-President at-Large (ex officio) appointed by the President to serve as needed. Passed.
2. Region 11 VP Kerkhoff wrote the Exec. VP regarding the deadline for clubs to submit application. A potential new club in Florida would like to have their membership approved at the 2011 Convention. VP Kerkhoff is requesting the deadline be moved. Motion by Marc Wallace, Second by Chris Oliphant to extend to July 1, 2011 the deadline for clubs to submit applications for membership for action to be taken at the 2011 convention. Passed.

Motion to adjourn at 1245. Passed.

The Executive Board will reconvene on Tuesday September 6, 2011 at 7:00pm at the Hilton Hotel Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gerard E. Mahoney
Secretary

IFBA Spring Board Meeting Recap

By Jerry Traub, *Turn Out* Editor

IFBA officers, regional vice-presidents, committee chairpersons and local convention personnel attended the Spring Board meeting at the Hilton Hotel, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, April 8, 9, and 10, 2011.



William Mokros, Gerry Mahoney, Paul Schaetzle, and Tom Pelaia consult their laptops during the Spring Meeting. (Photo by Chuck Liedtke)

Attendees gathered Friday evening for check-in and hospitality room visit before a group meal at a nearby restaurant. Once done, the hospitality room was re-opened for beverages, snacks, and conversation.

After a hotel breakfast Saturday morning, April 9, the Board meeting was called to order shortly after 9 a.m. After Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call, Committee caucuses met in the room for the next thirty minutes. Previous meeting minutes and Financial report followed. Then President's report, 2011 Convention report and Executive Vice President's reports were offered.

Committee reports followed Regional Vice-Presidents' written reports were accepted. Kenn Smith of Region 7 submitted his resignation effective immediately.

Future conventions were discussed under Old Business, several future convention planning requirements were identified. Next executive Board meeting will be September 6, 2011, at 7 p.m.

Members were driven to the city of Newark to visit Special Operations station, served lunch, and then shown an upcoming catastrophe/ rescue site developed by the Newark depart-



New Jersey area Buff Club canteens are on display at Newark FD Special Operations Building. (Photo by Chuck Liedtke)

ment. Very realistic! A visit to the Newark Fire museum gave visitors a look at several unique items and a 9/11 memorial.

Everyone motored to Fort Lee, NJ #3 station community room for dinner and videos showing local fire-fighting. Hospitality room was available after the dinner.

Sunday brought breakfast and hotel check-out as those present returned to home quarters, looking forward to September's 59th annual convention and business meeting 09-07 to 11, 2011.



Ft. Lee, NJ, FD Station 3 sported an interesting sign and mural in their Community Room. (Photos by Gary Wignall)



President's CORNER

Since the Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on October 16, 2010, the officers of the IFBA have been hard at work. The re-vamping of the Executive Board committees has expanded the role of the regional vice presidents to include oversight for the future of the organization as a whole. The vice presidents have accepted this new responsibility enthusiastically, working to improve on the services that the International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. can offer to its member organizations.

First, I would be remiss without saluting the Indianapolis Fire Buffs for stepping up to the plate and hosting the Annual Meeting in 2010. The historic flooding in Nashville caused the unprecedented decision by the Box 55 Assn. to cancel the annual convention. However, the Indy group stepped up to the plate and provided a full day to allow the IFBA to accomplish its necessary business. Our hosts also provided the great hospitality that has been a hallmark of the Indianapolis Fire Buffs. They have the gratitude of the entire IFBA.

The Fire Buff Assn. of New Jersey, the host group for the 2011 convention has put together an outstanding program, which will allow attendees to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Attack. The convention hotel is a first class facility with a fantastic rate for the New Jersey – New York Metropolitan area. A good number of IFBA members have taken advantage of the early bird registration and I hope that many more will register for the convention at the current discounted rate.

Building on the theme of the organizational Executive Board meeting following October's Annual Meeting, your Board has been focusing on its fiduciary, strategic and generative responsibilities. The Executive Board has been organized into six major committees to look at "the big picture" and devote more of its energy to strategic planning. The major committees include:

- Constitution & By-laws
- Education
- Finance
- Member Services
- Recruitment & Retention
- Strategic Planning

In addition to the reorganized Board, communication and interaction among the officers has vastly improved. The IFBA established a dedicated conference call line and regularly scheduled conference calls are held bi-monthly. In the past, Board members only interacted twice a year at the "face to face" meetings. The conference calls not only will help the Board members communicate better, but also will make more efficient use of the time at actual meetings.

An initiative to bring more groups into the IFBA has been launched and will hopefully bear fruit in the near future. Letters have been sent to fire buff groups that are currently not members with the hope that they will consider joining the IFBA. Regional vice presidents in the prospective member group's area will also follow up. At least two inquiries for member applications have been received by the Executive Office recently.

Please visit the IFBA website, www.ifba.org when you have a minute. Spearheaded by Executive Vice President Bill Mokros, the site has been completely redesigned. Our internet home has a much improved look and will be frequently updated. A different member group will be featured on the home page nearly every week, so make it a habit to visit the site often!

We owe much gratitude to those working to further the goals of the organization. The IFBA and its members have provided much service to fire fighters in the course of its history. With renewed and continued focus by all, we can continue this noble service.

Look forward to welcoming you all to New Jersey in September!



Paul Schaetzle, President,
International Fire
Buff Associates, Inc.

Jersey City, NJ
April 16, 2011



The Fire Buff Association Of New Jersey

Post Office Box 269
Caldwell, NJ 07006

*Host of the 2011
International Fire Buff Associates Convention*



NEW JERSEY AWAITS!

The International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. Executive Board met at the Convention Hotel, the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights / Meadowlands, on April 9, 2011 and finds the host group and the hotel staff ready and waiting to welcome you on this September. The Fire Buff Association of New Jersey, this year's host, has planned a memorable event that you won't want to miss! The 59th Annual Convention spans the period September 7-10 2011. The clubs of the FBANJ- the Bayonne Fire Canteen, The Bell and Siren Club, The Box 54 Club, The Gong Club and South Jersey Fire Photographers, invite you to join us for not only the convention events, but also for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.



The Convention Hotel is the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights / Meadowlands, 650 Terrace Ave., at the intersection of Interstate 80, U. S. Route 46 and NJ Route 17 in Hasbrouck Heights. Our location in Southern Bergen County is convenient to Newark Liberty International Airport, Newark Pennsylvania Station for Amtrak riders, and only 10 miles from New York City. Come early and stay late while you enjoy your stay here in Northern New Jersey! Besides the convention, we have a lot more to offer, including the Jersey

Shore, Atlantic City, and of course New York City! Please note that the special hotel rate of \$135 will be available for those coming in early and/or staying after the Convention ends.

Attendees will enjoy a very favorable **Room Rate of only \$135.00 per night which includes a continental breakfast each morning and free parking.** If you would rather enjoy a full breakfast, just take your continental breakfast coupon to the hotel restaurant where we have arranged for you to receive a discount on a full breakfast. To reserve you hotel room, just go to www.hilton.com and follow the prompts for groups to make your reservation. For those who prefer the phone, simply call 1-800-HILTONS. A special group code

Bayonne Fire Canteen

The Bell and Siren Club Inc

Box 54 Club

Gong Club Inc

South Jersey Fire Photographers

Turn Out • Spring 2011



The Fire Buff Association Of New Jersey

Post Office Box 269
Caldwell, NJ 07006

*Host of the 2011
International Fire Buff Associates Convention*



has been designated for the convention,
IFBA3.

Remember, to get your free continental breakfast and free parking you must make your reservation using the above web-site or by phone using the code IFBA3.

The IFBA Executive Board will convene on Tuesday evening, September 6, 2011. This would be an ideal night to arrive and enjoy the metropolitan area's many attractions. This will also ensure that you will be able to attend the Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service following breakfast on Wednesday, September 7th. We have planned three seminars that will recreate the response from both sides of the Hudson that tragic day 10 years ago, conducted by nationally renowned speakers. Battalion Chief John Salka, F. D. N. Y. Batt. 18, will discuss the F. D. N. Y. response to Box 8087, the World Trade Center. Deputy Chief (Ret.) Robert Cobb, now head of the fire service section of the Insurance Services Organization, will recount the activities of the Jersey City Fire Department that day. Finally, we will hear the fire buff club's perspective, as your hosts describe how each of their canteen units responded to this incident.

Following the seminars we will board busses to Jersey City for a Hudson River dinner cruise, embarking from Liberty State Park. The evening will

feature the Statue of Liberty and the world famous skylines of both states as well as the very sites that were the subject of the morning's seminars.



On Thursday we will set out for the Tear Drop 9/11 Memorial in Bayonne for an apparatus display including many of Northern New Jersey's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) vehicles. Then it is off to Newark, for a buffet lunch at Iberia, one of the renowned Portuguese restaurants in the "Ironbound" section. This will be a treat not to be missed, so bring your appetite! After lunch we will head to Port Newark, the largest container port on the East Coast, where we will have a demonstration of the New Jersey's High Volume Foam and Water

Bayonne Fire Canteen

The Bell and Siren Club Inc

Box 54 Club

Gong Club Inc

South Jersey Fire Photographers



The Fire Buff Association Of New Jersey

Post Office Box 269
Caldwell, NJ 07006

*Host of the 2011
International Fire Buff Association Convention*



Distribution task force. Keep your eye on the water as we may have a visit from F. D. N. Y. Marine Co. 1, the Three Four Three, named in memory of the 343 F. D. N. Y. members who made the supreme sacrifice ten years ago.



Friday morning at the hotel will be our Annual Business Meeting, and then it will be back to Jersey City's Liberty State Park for a highlight of the Convention, an afternoon visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. These symbols of American Freedom are always impressive, both to new and returning visitors alike.

Saturday we will walk right outside the hotel to an adjacent office building parking lot where an antique fire apparatus master and display, hosted by the Antique Fire Apparatus Association of New Jersey, our local SPAAMFAA chapter. That evening's Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony will feature the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, Dr. Denis Onieal, as the keynote speaker.

Bayonne Fire Canteen

The Bell and Seven Club Inc

Box 54 Club

Gong Club Inc

South Jersey Fire Photographers

Although the formal program of Convention ends with the Banquet, a host of commemorative events on both sides of the Hudson will take place on Sunday, September 11, 2011. We urge everyone to stay and participate in these memorials. We will have complete information on the schedule of events to help you choose which you would like to attend.

Fires? Our area continues to be one of the busiest areas in the world for fire activity. During the Executive Board meeting weekend, the Bayonne Fire Canteen had to forego attendance at the Board's lunch stop to serve at a 2nd Alarm at 47 Ave. C, Bayonne that morning. As many Board members were sitting down to breakfast that Sunday morning, the Gong Club turned out to a 2nd Alarm at 178 Manhattan Ave., Jersey City, where Rescue Co. 1 made a daring rescue of a trapped resident.



First line at Jersey City 2-2 384, 4/10/11
(Rich Sikora Photo)



The Fire Buff Association Of New Jersey

Post Office Box 269
Caldwell, NJ 07006

*Host of the 2011
International Fire Buff Associates Convention*



Your hotel is minutes away from three of New Jersey's major cities, Jersey City, Newark and Paterson. Any free time during the convention can easily be filled exploring the departments that protect these cities. New Jersey's first and only regional department, the North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue, is also a quick ride from the hotel. See how this department protects the most densely populated area of the country. The immediate vicinity of the hotel is served by a number of volunteer departments, stocked with a variety of apparatus to please everyone.

Oh, and if you take a short ride east on Interstate 80 across the George Washington Bridge, you can visit a department in another state whose initials are F. D. N. Y.!

Registration material can be found within the pages of this edition of Turn Out. For continued updates on our Convention, please go to www.fbanj.org, or send us an email at info@fbanj.org. We look forward to seeing you in New Jersey in September 2011!



The Gong Club, Car 26, in operation at 2-2 384 during the IFBA Executive Board Weekend (Ken Sikora Photo)



59th Annual International Fire Buff Associates Convention



“New Jersey Remembers 9-11 10 Years Later”

September 7-10, 2011

Convention Schedule

Tuesday September 6, 2011

12 noon - Hotel Check in
7:00pm - IFBA Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday September 7, 2011

7:00am - 8:30am - Continental Breakfast for Hotel Guests
9:00am - Opening Ceremonies
11:00am - 3:30pm Seminars given by 9/11 responders
5:00pm - Board Busses to Liberty Harbor Marina
6:00pm - Board John J. Audubon Cruise Ship for 3 hour Dinner Cruise on the Hudson River
9:30pm - Board busses back to the hotel arriving at 10:15pm

Thursday September 8, 2011

7:00am - 8:30am - Continental Breakfast for Hotel Guests
9:00am - Board busses for Apparatus Display and UASI Urban Search and Rescue
Demonstration at 9/11 Tear Drop Memorial at Peninsula Harbor, Bayonne NJ
12:00pm - Lunch at Iberia Restaurant, Newark NJ
1:30pm - UASI Neptune Foam System Demonstration, Port Newark NJ
3:30pm - Busses return to Hotel, arriving at 4:15pm
5:30pm - Convention Preview

Friday September 9, 2011

7:00am - 8:30am - Continental Breakfast for Hotel Guests
9:00am - Annual IFBA Business Meeting
11:00am - Board busses for Liberty State Park Ferry Terminal
12:30pm - Board Ferry for Liberty Island and Ellis Island Tour
5:00pm - Board Ferry back to Liberty State Park Terminal
5:15pm - Busses return to Hotel arriving at 6:00pm

Saturday September 10, 2011

7:00am - 8:30am - Continental Breakfast for Hotel Guests
9:30am-3:30pm - Apparatus Muster next to Hotel at 611 Rt 46 Office Building
6:00pm - 10:00pm - Annual Banquet

Sunday September 11, 2011

7:00am - 8:30am - Continental Breakfast for Hotel Guests
Optional Trips to 9/11 Memorials

EVENING BUFFING ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION

SCHEDULE AND TIMES ARE TENTATIVE



**59th Annual International Fire
Buff Associates Convention**
WWW.FBANJ.ORG



“New Jersey Remembers 9-11 10 Years Later”
September 7-10, 2011

Convention Registration Form

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-MAIL Address _____

IFBA Club _____

Status: DELEGATE _____ ALTERNATE _____ IFBA OFFICER _____ Guest _____

_____ Full Registration by June 30, 2011.....\$325.00

_____ Full Registration After July 1, 2011.....\$340.00

Make Checks payable to: Fire Buff Association of New Jersey

*Mail Completed Application to: Fire Buff Association of New Jersey
Post Office Box 269
Caldwell, NJ 07006*

For more information e-mail info@fbnj.org

CONVENTION HOTEL

HILTON HASBROUCK HEIGHTS/MEADOWLANDS

ROOM RATE \$135.00 per night

Includes Continental Breakfast and Free Parking

For Reservations go to:

<http://www.hilton.com/en/ti/groups/personalized/EWRHHHE-IFBA3-20110905/index.html>

Or call 1-800-HILTONS

Group Code IFBA3



**59th Annual International Fire
Buff Associates Convention**
WWW.FBANJ.ORG



“New Jersey Remembers 9-11 10 Years Later”
September 7-10, 2011

Convention Partial Registration Form

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

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International Fire Buff Associates, Inc.

**11017 N. Redwood Tree Court
Mequon, WI 53092-4338**

Executive Office

February 12, 2011

To: All IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members

Subject: Nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" Award—2011

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 59th Annual Convention in New Jersey on Saturday, September 10, 2011 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 July 1, 2011 in order to be considered by the Fire Buff of the Year Committee for the 2010 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. 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 July 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 2011 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 must 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

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



THE LEATHER HELMET SOCIETY

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

By Charles F. Pierson Jr. ,
LHS President

The Leather Helmet Society was officially adopted April 10, 1992.

The objective of the club is to stimulate interest in the appreciation of the firefighting profession and to promote positive public relations of the firefighting profession. Furthermore, to perpetuate that tradition of brotherhood in the firefighting profession.

We hold bi-monthly business meeting at various firehouses throughout the state along with a fire related entertainment, i. e.- guest speakers, fire ground videos.

One of our largest project achievements was completed few years ago when the members realized the need to acknowledge the numerous LODD in the City of Manchester, New Hampshire. With the blessings of then Chief of Department Joseph Kane we began our fund raising effort. Soon we realized this enormous task could not be accomplished alone. A combined effort of the Manchester Fire Department and the Leather Helmet Society steadily continued the effort. Money was raised by benefit hockey games, raffles and donations. We worked with Eliot, Maine sculptor Christopher Gowell. The finished memorial is now erected on the side of Fire Headquarters at 100 Merrimack Street.

Our annual fundraiser is the “Bob Fitz” Fireground slide show that is held in October in conjunction with Fire Prevention week. This year we are holding our 10th annual show October 8th at the American Legion in Merrimack, NH. Past presenters include Boston Fire Department photographer Bill Noonan, Jim Reagan from Chicago, Chief Dave Traifaros providing photos from Detroit and Chicago area, our friends from New Jersey Fire Photographers Association as well as Leather Helmet Society members. We hold our slide show the night before the big Manchester Fire Prevention Parade and muster.

We also contribute annually to the New Hampshire State Committee of Merit which acknowledge the efforts of firefighters and EMTs that have gone above and beyond the call of duty the past year with “Lifesaving” awards.

Each year we have our annual “Al Britton Awards Ceremony” Christmas Dinner at a local restaurant for our members and spouses where we acknowledge fire service personnel and fire buffs that have promoted the good and welfare of the fire service through the years with a plaque.



Region 3

Anne Arundel Alarmers Assn., Inc.

Box 234 Assn., Inc.

Box 414 Assn., Inc.

Central Alarmers, Inc.

Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assn.

Firecom/Newslink

Friendship Fire Assn.

Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire
Department, Inc.

Ladies Auxiliary of Box 414 Assn.

S. H. C. Assn.



Friendship Fire Association

C/O DCFD Engine Company 3
439 New Jersey Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001



The Triangle Fire

By
Mark Tennyson
Curator
Washington, DC Fire & EMS Museum

“Fire! Hundreds of thousands of times a year, that shout reverberates down hallways or the inner recesses of the mind as Americans come face to face with one of the most dreaded causes of death and disfigurement. Ironically, for every American who will confront flames or choking smoke this year, there are hundreds who will give the threat of fire not a moment’s thought, who will continue to take only the slightest precautions to guard against fire.”

This statement was written over thirty five years ago. Despite its age, it still rings true. America, despite all of the Fire Service’s best efforts, continues to have the highest fire loss- -lives and property- -than any country in the world. And while that is discouraging, things are not as bad as they were. A horrific fire in 1911 brought America to a new plateau of fire safety. The impact of this one fire was so great that it also changed the Nation’s direction, both politically and socially.

In addition to being an historian, I have been in the fire service (career and volunteer) for over 35 years. Ever since I first entered the fire service, I have been aware of a needless and tragic fire in New York City that killed 146 mostly young women garment workers. The story lives on strong in the fire service because of the very real concern that this

might happen again. The fire occurred at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. The business occupied the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors of the Asch Building one block east of Washington Square in the Greenwich Village section of New York City. The building still stands and is known as the Brown Building. It is part of the New York University.

This document will consider the fire from the perspective of a firefighter. It will look at the fire’s lightning fast spread and complete destruction of three floors of an occupied building in about twenty minutes. The conditions that allowed the fire’s rampage, and the impacts of the deaths of 146 workers also will be discussed.

Before I wrote this, I needed to try to get a feeling of what had happened at the Triangle Factory a century ago, so I traveled twice to the Brown Building. The security staff was kind enough to let me walk with them on the very floors where the fire once raged. Having read several books and articles on the fire, I had made a mental map of what the floors looked like in 1911. While the floors are now occupied by science labs, the floor-to-ceiling pillars are still there. They look just as they appeared in the post-fire photos. So were the iron railings and posts of the Green Street stairwell. Painted black, they looked exactly like they did in 1911. On the ninth floor I looked at the windows along Green Street. I was saddened to see how the window sills were so close to the floors. With little effort, one could step out into eternity. Many did.

I work for the Washington, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Museum. The museum is located on the third floor of a firehouse built in 1916. The museum occupies the 4,000 square foot loft area which had been built to store hay for the horses that pulled the steam fire engine and hose reel wagon. The apparatus was motorized shortly after the station opened. As a result, the hay loft was used for about a year. Since then, it has remained in remarkably good condition. The wood on the floor and ceiling is all original, as is the wood around the windows. I often look across this loft and think how similar it was to any of the garment factory lofts built around the same era. I can almost see rows of sewing machine tables filling the wide open floors with similar high ceilings. I have fought fires in similar spaces over the years. I have seen first hand how shockingly fast fire can reach its free burning stage and explode through a space like this. I can only imagine the sheer terror that gripped the 146 Triangle victims in the last seconds of their lives.

At the Asch Building, the working conditions were ridiculously overcrowded. Some doors were locked and once opened, swung inwards restricting the crowds of people trying to escape. There were fire hoses on the fire floors, but since there were no laws requiring them to be serviced and checked, no training in their use was given. Buildings in the city had sprinklers, but sprinkler installation was optional. The fire escape was flimsy and obstructed by open steel window doors. The fire escape also stopped far short of the bottom which may not have mattered because the bottom was a skylight. Countless workers died as they fell through this skylight when the weak fire escape buckled. Despite all of this, no one was ever convicted of any crime. The next day, America's perception of fire safety began to change forever. To

understand the fire and its ramifications, you need to put it in the context of New York City at the turn of the last century.

In 1911, the shirtwaist industry in New York City was growing rapidly. There were more than five hundred shops/factories in the city, employing close to forty-thousand workers. The Triangle Company was the largest in the city employing more than 500 workers. Many of the workers were immigrant girls of Jewish and Italian ancestry. Many had recently arrived from Europe, and few spoke fluent English. The Triangle Factory produced over 10,000 shirts a week.

This was also a time of great upheaval for Eastern European Jews. In Russia, it was a particularly hard time for Jews. There was much forced poverty and violent oppression. Many of the Russian Jews had tired of the anti-Semitic czars and longed to leave the country. These, and other socio-economic factors, resulted in a mass migration of some two million Eastern European Jews to the United States from roughly 1900 to the end of World War I. About 18,000 immigrants per month arrived in New York City. There were no public agencies waiting to help them get started.

After their arrival, the immigrants usually roomed with relatives and friends in the overcrowded, noisy, tenement apartments of the Lower East Side. In 1909, there were over 100,000 tenement buildings in New York City. The buildings did not have lighted hallways and there was one public toilet at each end of the public hall per floor for the residents. A total of some hundred thousand rooms in the city did not have windows. Three quarters of the residents of the Lower East Side averaged five people per small room. Despite these horrific conditions, most of the immigrants kept their dignity by keep-

ing themselves and their residences clean.

The Lower East Side was full of nearly identical tenement apartments, called the “dumbbell” design. They were six stories high and 25 feet wide, 100 feet deep, and were intermixed with small shops like laundries and bakeries at the street level.

Generally, the buildings had small front windows facing the street and rear windows overlooking a very small yard. Each floor had four apartments, two in the front and two in the rear. The buildings were densely populated with multiple families. A small airshaft was built into each building at each

side. This created a narrow space between the living quarters, giving the building its name. Many tenements were also used as home factories (commonly called sweatshops) for making inexpensive garments. This business also further compounded the problem of overcrowding.

With the garment industry exploding in the city, the garment-making jobs moved from the tenements to the new loft-type buildings being constructed across the city. The loft buildings had large wide open floors (1,400 sq. ft. and above). These wide open floors were originally made to display manufactured goods. A McClure’s Magazine article on the Triangle fire stated that loft buildings were never constructed to be factories. Slowly, over time, the garment manufacturing industry began moving onto the loft

building floors. It was cheaper for the garment bosses to consolidate all their workers together in factory-type settings. Since there were no factories available, the employers used the loft buildings. McClure’s Magazine stated, “...in these lofts they found exactly what they wanted. They got cheaper insurance,

because loft buildings were fire-proof. The installation of motors and shafting allowed them to use electricity instead of the old gasoline engines, and electricity was cheaper. There was daylight until five o’clock, even in winter, which meant the saving of gas. Their subcontractors, or sweat masters, could put a quarter



more operatives into the same space, and for this reason: The New York factory laws said that every factory worker shall have 250 cubic feet of air. A tenement ceiling is no more than eight feet high; a loft ceiling ten or eleven. And obviously the more space there is above the worker, the less need there legally needs to be around him.

Considering the great amount of floor area always taken by tables, men and girls and machines could be packed as closely as the chairs could be put, leaving the factory owners still within the law. There was a saving on every side. The cloak and suit-makers began the [emigration] into the loft towers. They were followed by the manufactures of waists and white wear, by the hat and straw braid makers, the celluloid manufacturers, the

hair and feather workers, the furriers, the lace and necktie and novelty and even fancy-goods manufactures. They filled up the loft-savable, so the speculative builders began to erect more. Tower factories went up from Canal to Fortieth Streets. The higher the building, the cheaper it could profitably scale its rentals; the more central it was, the easier to attract employees; and in this way New York got its "mid town loft zone - its factory district." The tenements went up equally as fast to supply the labor needed by the loft industry. The two fed on each other and operated off the thousands of new immigrants arriving each year.

In 1909 my grandfather immigrated from Italy to New York City. He was 15 years old and arrived all alone by steamship. "Pop" lived a long life, and I was fortunate to have heard his stories of struggles and triumphs first hand. Like most immigrants, he found his arrival to a new and strange land difficult and overwhelming. But he knew America was a land of vast opportunities and was always grateful to be here. He eventually became a citizen and loved his adoptive country.

The early 1900's was a time of social change in New York. This time is known as the Progressive Movement. There was much to change in New York: unsanitary housing, dangerous work places, tons of garbage and horse manure in the streets, and numerous orphanages running through the neighborhoods. In the political, world there was widespread vice and corruption. By 1909, the Progressive Movement was at its peak. America's young President, Theodore Roosevelt, had just completed two terms and was known as a Progressive President. He had challenged the railroad monopolies, enacted new food and drug safety laws, and sided with labor during a coal strike.

1909 also was the year the garment workers of New York City decided to strike. In 1909, the average garment industry worker in the city worked an average of twelve hours a day. They worked six and seven days a week and made about six dollars. At work, they were constantly monitored by management to ensure they weren't slacking, even when they went to the bathroom. They were almost always females, new immigrants, and ranged in ages from thirteen to thirty. Several years before the strike, the garment workers had begun to organize themselves under the International Ladies Garment workers Union (ILGWU) Local 25.

The March/April 2004 edition of the American Postal Work Magazine summarized the strike as follows; "One union activist, Clara Lemlich, convinced 400 of her co-workers to conduct a strike at the Triangle factory in late September 1909. A few weeks later, while still recovering from a severe beating by management thugs, Lemlich delivered a rousing speech at a rally that helped convince garment workers across the city to take part in a general strike. Within days, 20,000 walked off the job, demanding a 20-percent raise, a 52-hour work week, overtime pay, and collective bargaining rights. They also called on city leaders to institute and enforce better workplace health and safety standards. Though management tried to divide workers along ethnic and gender lines, the strikers remained united and won better pay, shorter hours, and union rights. The strike ended within days at some factories; Triangle's management continued to employ scab labor until they agreed to most, but not all, union demands on February 8, 1910."

Despite the gains that resulted from the 1909 strike, the loft factories remained dangerous for the workers. In fact fires were not uncommon in these places. There had been 42

shirtwaist factory fires in New York City in 1910. By 1911, the number had nearly doubled. These fires were not limited to New York City alone. On November 25, 1910 a fire occurred in a Newark, New Jersey loft factory, just across the river from New York City. This fire was four months to the day before the Triangle fire. The fire killed 25 workers, 19 of whom had jumped from the upper floors of the building.⁹ New York's Fire Chief, Ed Croaker, warned that a fire like that could happen at any time in New York City. He tried to implement safety measures, but his requests were largely ignored.

Soon after the strike, the young workers returned to their routines at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. On Saturday March 25th, 1911 about 500 workers continued cutting fabric (on the eighth floor) and sewing garments (on the ninth floor). Most of the company's workers were on the eighth and ninth floors (approx. 250 per floor). The tenth floor was where the Triangle's administrative offices were.

At 4:45 PM, quitting time that Saturday, workers began heading for the Green Street exit located in the north-eastern corner of the building. Here they would catch the freight elevator for the ground floor. There was also a set of stairs. The female workers had to line up in single file so managers could check their purses for stolen fabric (an investigation later found there was no real theft problem at the Triangle Factory). The way to the exit was narrowed by a partition so only one person could pass at a time. This facilitated the purse search. The male workers exited the building with no delay.

It should be noted that all fires progress through three stages: Incipient, Free Burning, and Smoldering. The fire at the Triangle

Factory was no exception. Firefighters know each stage of the fire. These stages have their own characteristics and this plays a part in how the fire is fought. The Incipient stage is the earliest stage of the fire. It involves the conditions where the flame first appears and, for a short time, remains relatively small. Fires in the incipient stage can normally be extinguished quickly.

The incipient stage of the Triangle began in a clothing scrap bin under one of the cutting tables on the eighth floor of the Asch building, at about 4:45 PM. The workers had begun walking towards the exit when someone saw smoke and a small flame in one of the scrap bins. Someone called, "Fire!" Some cutters attempted to throw water from buckets hanging on the wall. The construction of the bins, which ran the length of the tables and had narrow openings, may have prevented some of the water from reaching the fire. In addition, the bins had not been emptied in several weeks and contained over a ton of highly-flammable scraps. Also, large piles of cut fabrics were piled on top of the tables over the bins. The fire quickly reached the free burning stage.

The free burning stage of a fire is characterized by a rapid spread. There is an increase in the intensity of the flames and corresponding heat. The conditions of the space the fire is in begin to rapidly deteriorate. The fire has become self-sustaining and is out of control. The smoke becomes a whirl of toxic chemicals, spreading across the ceiling and then banking down to the floor. When conditions are right this smoke will explode, called a flashover, bringing temperatures to an excess of 1,200 degrees.

At the Triangle, the fire's free burning stage came quickly. The fire roared out from under the cutting tables and began burning the

paper cutting patterns hanging from the ceiling. These drifted in flames down to the other tables, setting them on fire. The large room began to darken down in heavy smoke. Workers grabbed a fire hose mounted in the stairwell but were unable to get water. Frightened workers began to try to exit the inward opening stairwell doors, further hampering escape. Some of the workers ran to the elevator, but it continued on to the tenth floor. With conditions worsening, sheer panic began to set in.

When the elevator finally did open on the eighth floor, it created a huge flow of air that caused the superheated smoke to explode in a flashover. This blew out many of the windows, allowing more oxygen to feed the fire. People down on the streets heard the muffled explosion and breaking glass. They looked up to see large volumes of smoke pushing from the eighth floor windows. A large crowd quickly gathered. Some also saw what they thought were flaming bundles of cloth fall to the sidewalks below. They thought the managers were throwing out their best material before the fire damaged them. They were shocked to discover the flaming bundles were women who had jumped to escape the flames.

Back on the eighth floor workers finally made entry into the Washington Place stairwell, falling and tumbling over each other down to the street. Others rushed onto the elevator. Only about twelve could fit on board at a time. When the doors closed, some workers jumped on top of the car as it descended, bashing in its roof. Some in desperation slid down the elevator's cables severely cutting their arms and legs. Others made it to the flimsy fire escape.

The elevators started getting over-loaded and stressed. McClure's Magazine (Vol. XXXVII September 1911) reported, "On the

Washington Place side, to which the hundreds cut off on the eighth and ninth floors were crowding, there were two elevators, measuring five feet by six. They went first to the eighth floor, because it was on that floor the fire broke out; and then to the tenth, to save the proprietors and staff. One of the elevator-men, Giuseppe Zito, ran his car until he fainted. He still shows the effects of what he went through."

By now the workers on the ninth floor began to see large volumes of smoke rising past their windows from below. This floor was full of long rows of sewing machine tables which restricted free movement. A great panic ensued. The terrified ninth floor workers ran to the Washington Street stairwell. They found the door locked. Others ran to the Green Street stairwell. As on the eighth floor, this exit also narrowed so only one person could pass at a time. Soon the fire had made it way to the ninth floor via open windows and a large air vent that ran between the floors. Flames and smoke quickly raced across the ceiling. Terrified workers made their way to the fire escape. The windows on the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors all had sheet iron shutters. As the fire enveloped the three floors, the heat caused the shutters to bend outward. This further blocked the workers' decent on the narrow escape. To make conditions even worse, flames now were able to push through the bent shutters, causing the metal fire escape to get superheated and weaken. The women's hair and clothes began to catch fire. Suddenly, the overloaded fire escape twisted away from the building dumping the workers into the courtyard below. Many smashed through the skylight below and fell into the Asch Building's extended basement. Others were fatally impaled on the four inch spikes of an iron fence.

Out at the intersection of Washington Place and Green Street, the onlookers continued to

gather. One bystander, John Mooney, ran over and pulled the handle on the corner fire alarm box. At 4:45 PM Fire Department Central received two telephone calls from 23 Washington Place reporting a fire. The alarm was dispatched sending eight pieces of fire apparatus, engines and ladder trucks and a Battalion Chief. Engine 72, a horse drawn steam engine located on nearby Mercer Street, was first on the scene at 4:46 PM. They noted heavy fire conditions showing on the eighth floor. Typically, the engine's driver connected a section of hose to the hydrant on the street to the steam engine. Another section of hose was connected to the building's standpipe connection by the sidewalk. The hydrant was opened and the engine's pump engaged to increase the water pressure in the building's fire-fighting piping. On this fire, however, a section of hose was connected directly from the hydrant to the building's standpipe connection. The Washington Place and Green Street section of the city had become one of the new high water pressure areas. Using a series of cut off valves, water could be redirected to certain hydrants increasing their pressure to 200 pounds. This is an excellent pressure for fighting fires, even by today's standards.

Meanwhile, Engine 72's officer and crew entered the Washington Place lobby and tried to push their way past crowds of exiting workers as they made their way to the stairwell. They were carrying several sections of 2 & ½ inch hose. As they neared the eighth floor, they connected their hose to the standpipe connection in the stairwell. The crew found the entire eighth floor was a fire storm. The heat conditions were unbearable. Huge volumes of air rushed up the stairwell behind them feeding the flames. The noise of the roaring fire was deafening. To escape the intense heat, the firefighters flattened themselves on the stairs and landing and opened the nozzle.

As Battalion Chief Worth arrived on the scene, he noted an occupied building with fire conditions on the eighth and ninth floors. He understood the seriousness of the situation and the potential for life loss. He took his keys and opened the street alarm box front cover. With New York Firemen Magazine (Vol. 2 No. 3 July 1941) stated, "When Chief Edward J. Worth of the 3rd {battalion} arrived on the scene, Engines 72 and 33 were already stretching lines up the stairways. He immediately called for a 2nd and 3rd alarm. Later Deputy Chief John Binns transmitted a 4th alarm, bringing Chief of the Department, Edward F. Croker."

Meanwhile, Engine 18 arrived on the scene at Waverly Place and Green Street. The engine's officer, Captain Ruch, had his men connect a section of hose from the hydrant to the building's standpipe connection. He looked up and saw heavy fire blowing out of the eighth floor windows and entering some of the ninth floor windows. Groups of workers were leaning out of other ninth floor windows shouting for help. Then they began to jump. The Captain ordered his crew to spread life nets. The firefighters quickly found the nets were not effective for people jumping from the ninth floor, roughly 100 feet above street level. He saw one small person go right through the fabric of the net. Other people jumped in groups of as many as three or four at a time. When they landed, the nets pulled the firefighters right off their feet, causing them to tumble on top of those who had jumped.

Ladder 20 arrived on Washington Place and also saw people jumping from the ninth floor. The crew immediately set the truck's braces and began to raise the aerial ladder. To everyone's horror, when it was fully extended, it only reached the sixth floor. Ladder 20 had the longest ladder in the city.

Up on the ninth floor the fire was quickly taking over and panic had set in. McClure's Magazine (Vol. XXXVII September 1911) stated (quotation marks in this quote appear exactly as they were in the magazine), "When those girls saw themselves trapped a hundred feet above the street, some of them tried to fight the fire with the pails. One little girl was still holding fast to her pail when her body was taken up from the sidewalk. But the flames were coming in from the [outside], and there wasn't anything to fight. "I broke the window with my pail," says Anna Gullo, on the ninth floor, "and more [fire] came in." "We started to run all around," says Yetta Lubitz, "and the flames came out all around." Some of them began to catch fire. Almost none jumped till they were on fire. And those who weren't had to keep away from those who were. "The flames were near me. My mouth was full of smoke," says Natie Weiner; "I wanted to get on the table and jump. But the windows were too crowded, and I seen so many bodies laying dead on the ground that I thought I would be dead, too... But the smoke and flames were terrible, and some of the girls said it was better to be smashed than burned, and they wanted to be identified." "They didn't want to jump," says little Rosie Yasum; "they was afraid. They was saying their prayers first, and putting rags over their eyes so they should not see."...On the ninth floor 58 girls crawled into a little corridor or cloak room where they succumbed to the deadly smoke. "I saw them piled, testified fireman Jacob Wohl, one of the first to enter "They had their faces towards a little window."

Meanwhile, as Engine 72 fought the fire from the Washington Place eighth floor stairwell landing, Engine 18's crew began fighting the fire from the Green Street stairwell. They were extinguishing the fire from opposite ends of the floor. Once the fire was knocked

down on the eighth floor the companies advanced their hose lines up to the ninth floor. There they found the entire space engulfed in flames. Their firefighting efforts were hampered by the many rows of sewing machine tables. Additional companies made their way up the stairs and extinguished the fire on the tenth floor. It was all over in about fifteen minutes.

The final stage of all fires is the smoldering stage. At the Triangle, the free burning fire stage never made it to the smoldering stage. The fire department interrupted the sequence. Most all of the combustible materials have been consumed during the free burning stage. The fire has lost its momentum and has been reduced to coals. The coals may burn for hours or days. The classic problem with coals is when someone shovels out their fire place ashes from a fire the previous day. Placed in a paper bag and put in the garage or on a wooden outside deck, small live coals in the ash slowly heat the bag, causing a brand new fire. Often the owner is caught off guard. I have seen many homes lost this way.

After the fire, the true horrors were realized. With New York Firemen Magazine (Vol. 2 No. 3 July 1941) stated, "When firemen searched the 9th floor ruins after the fire was extinguished, they found a mass of more than 50 bodies piled five feet deep in the cloak-room. The remains of 20 more girls were found between the long work tables. Either they were trodden upon by their co-workers in the wild stampede for the exits or, cornered by the initial blast of flames, they were unable to extricate themselves from the overcrowded tables." Nineteen bodies were found after they had tried to escape by jumping down an elevator shaft. They were found on top of and elevator car, its roof smashed in.

By a little after 6 PM, most of the small remaining pockets of fire had been extinguished. It was getting dark and arc lights were brought up to illuminate the charred floors. Hundreds of onlookers had gathered on the streets below. The firefighters rigged block and tackle devices so the bodies they recovered could be lowered to the street from both sides of the building. As the bodies were lowered to the street, some of the onlookers cried out in anguish. Jacob Woll of ladder Company 20 lowered 14 bodies found by the Washington place door. Nearby, Lieutenant Lauth found 11 bodies in the remains of a small dressing room. Next he found the charred remains of two young women huddled together behind the toilets. On the streets below, a reporter who had witnessed the fire stated that he counted 54 bodies of those who jumped. The book *History of the New York Fire Department*, chapter on Modern Times {1898-1922}, stated that

onlookers below were shocked to see blood and brains on the sidewalk. Thirty-three were on Green Street. About two dozen victims were estimated to have died when the fire escape twisted away from the building.

David Von Drehle described the poignant aftermath of the fire by naming some of the victims, "Among the dead were Samuel Bernstein's brother, Jacob, who plunged into the elevator shaft, and Joseph Brenman's two sisters Rosie and Surka, asphyxiated and burned where they fell. The Goldstein sisters, Mary and Lena, both died: Lena jumped and was quickly identified; Mary's body on the floor of the loft was so badly burned that five days passed before her family remembered a distinctive repair to one of her shoes."

The bodies were placed in temporary coffins and taken to the city morgue, which quickly



filled up. A temporary morgue was set up at the 26th Street pier in lower Manhattan. Wagons and ambulances transported three or four coffins each. Desperate family members, weeping and wailing, tried to follow the bodies to the morgue, hoping to find the status of a missing loved one. The police stopped them and let the vehicles proceed. Close to the pier, mothers and wives ran down the street in front of the wagons, pulling hair from their heads and shouting the names of their loved ones. At one point one of the covers was torn off one of the carriers revealing two bodies twined together in a death embrace. When the crowds saw this they screamed anguished cries in Yiddish and Italian.

The fire resulted in many swift changes in America's safety laws. With New York Firemen Magazine (Vol. 2 No. 3 July 1941) stated, "Public indignation over the disaster was sharply aroused. Even while the bodies of the victims were moved to an improvised morgue at the East 26th Street Pier, to await identification in the very same wooden caskets occupied by the victims of the General Slocum disaster seven years previous, citizens demanded immediate reforms in the inefficient laws that permitted such a calamity. Chief Croker, who just a month before, while suggesting a revision of the building and factory laws, had predicted this slaughter with alarming accuracy, urged the creation of a bureau of prevention in order to concentrate responsibility under one head.

As a direct result of the public's strong demand for legislation reform following the Triangle Fire, the Factory Investigation Committee headed by Alfred E. Smith and... Senator Robert F. Wagner drew up the Labor Law, which became effective on October 1, 1913. Fire Prevention was established as a Bureau of the Fire Department on May 1, 1913. Under its jurisdiction was placed those sections of the Labor Law which aimed at the elimination of fire hazards in New York City, such as adequate exits, fire resisting stairways, automatic sprinklers, limitation of the number of employees, fire escapes, alarm system and fire drills." On October 14th 1911 The American Society of Safety Engineers was formed. Some consider this the beginning of the modern safety movement.

Chief Croker, who had been with the New York Fire Department since the 1880's, retired shortly after the Triangle fire. The Chief had seen it all over the years, but what he saw on the floors of the Asch building must have shook him to the core. He didn't say what he felt, but left the building abruptly. Shortly after he left the fire department, he dedicated the rest of his life to fire prevention.

One of the first people to be fined for violation of the new Labor Law was former Triangle Factory owner Max Blanck. He was found guilty of locking an exit door at his new factory during working hours. He was fined \$20.00.

REMINDER

The IRS requires that all non-profit organizations file a Form 990 or 990-N annually to keep their non-profit status. To be timely filed, the return should be submitted by **May 15**. Electronic filing is available. See www.irs.gov.

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

GREATER HOUSTON FIRE BUFFS

PO Box 697

Bellaire, Texas 77402

OFFICERS

President: Jerald Ricks

Vice President: Mike Pack

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom McDonald

April 2011

Club's 20th anniversary yields a new name

Print out the above logo. It will be the last time you see "Greater Houston Fire Buffs."

The organization is turning 20 years old this spring, and it will do so with a new name: "Greater Houston Fire *Battalion*." The fire-service support organization was founded on June 5, 1991 at the Houston Fire Museum by a group of local firefighters, retirees, and other citizens dedicated to working in any way necessary to help the area's fire services.

The original name the group used was "Houston Area Fire Buffs," but that was changed a few years later to

"Greater Houston Fire Buffs." The group has always been a chapter of the International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. (IFBA). In fact, the Houston chapter hosted the IFBA's Annual Convention in 2001, only days after the infamous 9/11 attacks.

Club Secretary Tom McDonald, a retired Houston Fire Department captain and president of the Houston Fire Museum, said the new name would likely prove more appealing to prospective younger members. He said the connotation the word "buffs" has developed in recent years is that of just casual hobbyists. He acknowledged that was true in some cases, but that fire "buffs," in practice, served more than just casually.

McDonald noted that the actual term "buff" – now applied to virtually any fan of a particular interest -- originally



Jan. 14, 2011: 719 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX, 3-alarm-equivalent fire. This fire spread through 16 units of an occupied apartment complex at 719 Sheldon Road in a suburb just east of Houston. Channelview's VFD called for assistance from 10 neighboring departments including Baytown, Pasadena, and Houston. (Photo by Tom McDonald)

applied to citizens in the 19th century who would assist firefighters at fires. "They often wore 'buff' or tan-colored overcoats; hence the name that firefighters dubbed them," he said.

"Fire buff organizations, of which there are many across the country today, support their local fire services in a number of important ways, including as resources for fire-scene photography and videos, for manpower on fire rehabilitation ("rehab") units, and for charitable fundraising or contributions to worthy fire-service causes. The term 'battalion' is often used in the fire service, and better reflects what these citizen groups, who are dedicated to service, actually do. They are essentially an additional citizen-based 'battalion' available to local fire departments," he said.

Membership in the Greater Houston Fire Battalion is open to any one so dedicated. Annual dues are only \$20 per year. The Houston club has routinely used some of its dues to help fire-service causes in the area, often to provide assistance to a killed or injured firefighter's family.

In the next few weeks, there will be more details on the club's web site, www.ghfb.org, about a special commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the organization this June. For more information about the club or that event, contact Tom McDonald at tmcfire@aol.com.

Article submissions?

Send me your input: photos or articles. I don't want to have to do the whole thing!

Tmcfire@aol.com. Say "Turnout" in your title, please.



Jan. 3, 2011: 1100 Heights Blvd., 3 alarms. A spectacular blaze greeted Houston firefighters about 4 AM just northwest of downtown. This large, two-story home, valued at \$2 million and built only four years ago to replicate a century old Victorian home was fully engulfed along with a two-story guest house behind it and a single story garage apartment on an adjacent lot. An elderly female resident and her caretaker perished in the tragic blaze. (Photo by Tom McDonald)

2011 HFD Fire Activity

Mar. 12, 2011: 8990 Richmond, 3 alarms. This blaze began reportedly as a kitchen fire and spread to a common attic under a "rain roof," a pitched roof retrofitted on an apartment building built originally with a flat roof. About eight units at the apartment complex in southwest Houston sustained major damage as a result of the 6:30 PM fire. (Photo by Tom McDonald)



BOX 4 DALLAS, TX

By Wally Banks, Dallas, Texas

The year 2010 continued a trend of fewer multi alarm fires in the Dallas Fire Rescue Department. In 2010 the canteen made 72 runs including emergency runs to 28 two alarm fires, 10 three alarm fires, 7 four alarm fires, 1 HazMat/Gas leak, 1 very large grass fire, and 5 Mutual aid runs to neighboring cities. In the form of non emergency runs the canteen went to 3 Night Burns, 1 CFA Burn, 2 SWAT DPD DFR assist rescue runs, 3 US & R drills, 3 other drills, and 8 Public Service runs such as the union Easter egg hunt, the Health/Safety Fair days at Dolphin, the two Denton State School days, a funeral, etc..

Our volunteer members are on call 24/7 and we are available for dispatch by pager, radio, or blue light. The top ten members responding to calls in 2010 were.....in first place Dale Aymond making 56 runs (77.7% of all runs); in second place Wally Banks making 53 runs (73.61%); in third place Jerry O. Jones making 47 runs (66.27%); in fourth place was Larry Palmer making 46 runs (63.88%). Our fifth place responder was Judy Stehle with 41 runs (56.94%), in sixth place was Ken Johnstone making 31 runs (43.05%); in seventh and eighth place were Bill Marshall and Brett Willard making 29 runs (40.27%); holding down ninth place was Mike Hoskins making 27 runs (37.50%); at tenth and eleventh place were Larry Powell

and Bill Manning making 24 runs (33.33%). The other 18 Box 4 members made between 23 and 2 runs. We appreciate all those who volunteer and belong to the club. Box 4 continues to function as the largest mobile dispenser of Gatorade in Dallas.

A recap of some significant responses by our club since my last report were:

On November 7th, 2010 we were called to a 4 alarm fire at 3362 Forest Lane at Box 027503 for a fire in a 3 story assisted living center on B Shift. The first alarm was at 1401 with Engines 02/30/35, Trucks 20/41, Rescue 43, Battalion Chiefs 02/07. The second alarm was at 1405 with a response from Engines 20/27/41/43, Trucks 07/43, Battalions 04/09, Deputy Chief 806, Rescue 30, Staff Chief 808, and 684/685/782/785/821/829/896. A third alarm was struck at 1419 with Engines 15/28/42/56, Trucks 15/57, Rescue 15/20/35,



11-26-10: Fire crews battle an apartment blaze at the Sequoia Apartments. (Photo by John Billingham)

and 780/825/885/USAR 15. A fourth alarm was ordered at 1453 with responses from Engines 11/48, Truck 11, Battalion 03, Staff Chiefs 802/814 and 784. There were numerous rescues of the elderly residents. The box was tapped out at 1505.

On January 27th we went to the first 4 alarm fire of 2011 on A shift at 7117 Holly Hill at Box 370005. The first alarm was at 0421 with Engines 22/28/37, Trucks 37/41, Battalions 3/4 and Rescue 28 responding to a two story apartment with fire through the roof. A second alarm was transmitted at 0427 with Engines 41/55/57, Trucks 17/57, Battalions 1/7, Deputy Chief 806, Rescue 37, and 684/685/784/829/896. A third alarm was requested at 0429 with Engines 17/19/29, Truck 11, and 885 answering the bell. A



Lamar on C shift at 2206 on March 5, 2011. Units responding on the first alarm were Engines 3/4/6, Trucks 3/4, Battalions 1/3, and Rescue 6. We were assigned on the second alarm at 2211 along with Engines 15/18/24, Trucks 15/24, Rescue 24, Battalions 6/9, Deputy Chief 807, and 684/685/781/820/829/896. Coming to the fire on the third alarm at 2232 were Engines 11/23/45, Truck 11, Rescue 18, and 780 and USAR 19. A fourth alarm was struck at 2307 turning out Engines 1/44/53, Truck 37, and 803/825. Out taps were transmitted at 0110

Jerry Jones completed the one year probationary period and became a full member of the club. Mike and Karen Hoskins along with Colin Wheeler continue as probationary members and are hard working members of the club. We added a new probationary member Peketha Johnson in 2011.

For more information please visit www.Box4.org.

fourth alarm was sent at 0437 with Engines 8/11/42, Truck 20, Staff Chiefs 801/901, and 825/USAR 19. Out taps were transmitted at 0500.

On February 3, 2011 on C shift we were sent to assist a rescue at the Greyhound Bus Station at 1920. This event was during the ice storm which occurred during the Super Bowl week and 400 of Greyhound's passengers were being deprived of the promise to See America/Go Greyhound. We were told that they were without food or refreshment for several days. We provided canteen service to the passengers.

Our next alarm was a 4 alarm fire at Box 042505, a large 2 story warehouse at 2000 S.



3-5-11: Two scenes from the fourth alarm, vacant warehouse fire at 2200 S. Lamar as captured by photographer John Billingham.

**B
O
X** **4**
DALLAS, TX



There was excitement in the small community of Beckville, TX on Saturday afternoon October 2, 2010 when the local fire department was toned out for a mobile home fire on the south side of town. Mutual aid was provided by the Carthage Fire Department. One fire-fighter was injured. Beckville is located about 30 miles southeast of Longview.



If your house was located just two blocks away from the town's fire station, you'd feel pretty confident if you house ever caught fire. Such was the case on December 19, 2010 in the north Texas town of Lillian. However the local department had difficulty getting a crew together, and by the time they did, the fire had spread throughout the first and second floor.

Photos of Interest from North Texas



(Above) The dry winter of 2010-11 was starting to become apparent to north Texas fire departments just before Christmas. This working structure fire resulted from a controlled burn that got out of control and turned into a fast moving brush fire that eventually consumed the wood framed structure just east of Burleson.

All photos and captions by
Jeff Harwell,
jefflizharwell@sbcglobal.net

(Below) Yet another controlled burn that got out of control, this one in Alvarado on January 3, 2011. The result was several structures that were lost, including the mobile home on the left - of which very little remains except for the foundation.





While north Texas winters are relatively mild, temperatures the first week of February 2011 were well below normal. Snow that fell the first part of the week took several days to melt because the temperature never made it above freezing. On February 5, 2011 a boat fire was reported just west of Burleson, and when the first unit arrived the boat was fully involved. *(Editor's note: Yes, Virginia, it does snow ... even in Texas!)*

FIRE HEAVILY DAMAGES TOWN'S FIRE STATION

By: Jeffrey A. Harwell

During the early evening hours of February 12, 2011 all northern Hill County Texas Fire Departments were paged out for a working fire in the downtown business district of Covington, which was located about 40 miles south of Ft. Worth. Two additional departments in southern Johnson County were toned out as well, requesting tankers to start staging at the town's park. As it turned out, the fire was located in the town's fire hall (fire



This is one of the Covington Fire Department's two tankers that were pulled from the burning fire hall during the February 12, 2011 fire. The back of the other tanker is pictured at the far right.



The view of the front of the Covington fire hall with the rest of the downtown business district extending west to the left of the picture. Itasca Engine 118 is pictured on the right, the reference to the Wampus refers to the school's mascot.

station). The fire hall was attached to the rest of the city's business district on the west side, and the fear existed the fire might continue traveling through the downtown buildings, quickly over taking the city's small water system.

Arriving Covington firefighters were able to pull out the department's pumper with only slight damage, and it was able to start pumping. The two tankers were also pulled out although they were covered with soot and had some damage to the top of the rigs. Firefighters were unable to get the bay doors open in front of the two brush trucks, and they remained in the station throughout the incident. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the attic area of the fire hall.

(Right) Firefighters are accessing the damage done to the department's two brush trucks. Due to problems getting the bay doors open, the two trucks remained in the station throughout the incident.



Region

6

5-11 Club, Inc.

10-87 Club of Greater Rockford

Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities

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

Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc.

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

Milwaukee Fire Historical Society, Ltd.

Moline Second Alarm Assn.

Racine Fire Bell Club, Inc.

Waukesha County Emergency Support & Inc.

By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar

The 5-11 Club has grown in membership due to the increased activity of our Support Service Units (canteens) and newly defined goals for the future of our organization. The Support Service Units finished 2010 with a record 104 runs. Unfortunately many of these responses were for the wakes and funerals of three firefighter and six police officer line-of-duty deaths.

Fire action remains about average with a total of 33 multiple alarm fires -- twenty-two 2-11s, nine 3-11s and two 4-11s. Chicago endured some extreme weather conditions this past winter causing our Support Service Units to respond to several still and box alarm fires and to be on standby status at other times. The worst of the weather occurred on February 1st and 2nd when a blizzard dropped 20.4 inches of snow at O'Hare Field with other areas reporting 24 inches of snow. The storm created a nightmare situation during the evening rush hour. The occupants of over 600 cars and 10 buses were stranded on Lake Shore Drive for over six hours as

70 mph winds contributed to the unbearable conditions. The CFD deployed over 150 firefighters and paramedics and 50 rented snowmobiles to rescue the 1000 or so stranded motorists and riders. Fortunately, no major fires occurred in the City during this time.

On December 22, 2010, the City suffered another fatal fire incident where two firefighters were killed when a wall and roof collapsed during the wash-down and final search of a vacant laundry at 1744 East 75th Street. At least 17 members were injured with four of them being trapped under tons of debris. Our Club offered prayers and support for the families of FF Edward Stringer of Engine Co. 63 and FF/EMT Corey Ankum of Tower Ladder Co. 34 who each made the ultimate sacrifice that day.



This view from the rear shows the magnitude of the collapse and the massive amount of debris that firefighters had to deal with while searching for their trapped brothers. *(Tim Olk photo)*



Firefighters use a hand line to wet down the rubble of the building collapse that trapped Chicago firefighters at 1744 E. 75th Street. *(Tim Olk photo)*

On the apparatus front, three Crimson Fire 103 foot rear mount heavy duty aerials were placed into service at Trucks 9, 31 and 51. The City expects to receive five additional aerials some time this year. Engine Co. 60 received a new Crimson Fire 2000 GPM 3 stage pumper. Their old rig was transferred to Engine Co. 109. Engine Co. 23's old rig, a 2000 ALF/3D pumper, was retrofitted out as a reserve squad unit with the pump being removed. Fleet Management has been involved with ordering three new squad and snorkel units for 2012. No details on the bid opening are available at this time. Three new 2010 Ford Expedi-

tions were assigned to the EMS Bureau. A 2009 Ford SUV was also placed into service for the Special Operations Battalion Chief (5-1-5). The Special OPS Chief responds to any 2-11 (and up) Haz Mat incidents and high rise fires in addition to any special ops incidents. Three new Oshkosh CFR rigs for

O'Hare Field have been assigned for delivery this Spring. Rumor has it that bids are out for a new command van for O'Hare, too. The City also will receive a Medical Ambulance Bus that will operate as a mass casualty unit. The replacement for the 60-year-old fireboat, Victor I. Schlaeger (Engine Co. 58) has had



Chicago Truck 9. A 2010 Spartan Gladiator Classic/Crimson 103' rear mount aerial. *(Larry Shapiro photo)*

its sea trials and pump test during the past few weeks and should arrive in Chicago in May or June.

The new firehouse for Engine Co. 109 is nearly 60% completed. The new house is located at 24th and Kedzie on the southwest side. Construction has begun on another new house at 40th and Wabash in the City's Englewood neighborhood. The new quarters for Engine Co. 16 will take up the east half of an entire city block and should be completed in 2012. The City is planning to build three new houses at O'Hare Field due to the new runway construction.

Our friends at the Greater Chicago Fire Museum have announced that the Museum is now open to the public on the last Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.

m.

The 5-11 Club, along with The Fire Buffs of Illinois, will hold their annual Fire Academy Muster and Flea Market on Saturday, June 18, 2011. Over 60 vendors, antique apparatus and hopefully a water tower demonstration will be part of the day's events. Also, the Fire Museum will be open on that Saturday.

The Club has a new website. Please visit the site at www.5-11clubChicago.org. Details of the Muster, other events and historical data about the CFD are available on the site.

Remember, if you are ever in Chicago, please contact one of our members listed in the "Visiting Fireman" to show you around the City.

Fire Museum of Greater Chicago, 5218 S. Western
(Chuck Bleck photo)



More Puns for Educated Minds

- The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

By Gary Schmidt

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club Serves at Funeral of Slain Police Officer

On March 20, 2011, Fond du Lac police officers were shot at upon arriving at the scene of a reported sexual assault. K9 Officer Ryan Williams was shot twice in the chest. Officer Craig Birkholz was shot and killed. K9 Grendel was shot while in the back of the squad car.

The Kenosha funeral for the line of duty death of the Fond du Lac Police Officer was unlike any other Police Officer funeral that I have ever witnessed. I would estimate over 700 squad cars participated containing over 1,000 officers.

On Friday, I called the president of the Racine Fire Bells, Scott Tangerstrom, to offer our restroom services. Kenosha is in the jurisdiction of the Racine Fire Bells. Scott checked with the Kenosha Police Officer coordinating the event and then Scott had me work with the officer directly. The plan called for the mourners/officers to gather at the funeral home 7-9:30am. The Racine Fire Bells were located there. The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club's Rehab-2 was asked to set up at the church and then go to the cemetery afterward. The Kenosha Police were very grateful of our offer, to say the least. It probably took 45 minutes to an hour from the first police car to arrive at the church until the last one arrived. The 10am Mass probably did not start until after 11:30am.

Despite the funeral home staging area being across the street at a high school (where I assumed they had facilities), Rehab-2 was probably used by at least 300 officers. After some checking, I found church officials who opened up a restroom in an adjoining school

hallway. Later on, another set of restrooms were made available in the gymnasium. I spent many trips checking which of the three areas had the shortest lines and directed another 100 officers from Rehab-2 lines when appropriate, taking them to the other facilities, while Gary Fedder stayed with Rehab-2. Rehab-2 performed flawlessly.

I should be noted that I had asked Scott if he had a problem with us serving coffee/cocoa from our rig. He did not. As the Mass began inside the church and most of our patrons were inside, I called Scott to see if the Racine Fire Bells would be coming to the cemetery (they did not come to the church). I indicated that our single hot water machine was barely keeping up with the demand (it was bone-chilling cold and windy). The Racine Fire Bells started early that day (they were on scene by 7am) and just had finished cleaning up from the funeral home duty. They were not planning on going to the cemetery. I double checked with Scott to make sure he did not have a problem with us staying there (he didn't and was very thankful of us helping out).

As directed/requested by the Kenosha Police, we picked up from the church and went to the cemetery when the Mass was about 2/3 completed so that we could be in position before the squads arrived. We were on the highway at the main entrance to the cemetery (a majority of the squad cars eventually parked 3-4 abreast on the closed highway). Across from us was another remarkable scene - because the other officer that was shot was a K-9 officer and his dog was also shot (both survived), the highway was lined with 40 K-9 squads from across the State. When the procession passed them, the officers and their dogs stood at attention along the road.

At the cemetery, approximately another 100 officers, military personnel, and veterans used the restrooms (the slain officer served in both Iraq and Afghanistan). Besides the soup, cocoa, and coffee, another big hit was the boot/hand warmers.

It never crossed my mind that we would be using Rehab-2 for such a circumstance, but the rig really came through. Our Club did a great service for the public safety departments of not only the State of Wisconsin, but also Minnesota, Illinois, and Indiana who were in attendance.



“Serving Waukesha County’s Finest”
Waukesha County
Emergency Support & Rehab, Inc.
2755 S. Johnson Rd.
New Berlin, WI 53146
262-896-6661 or 414-588-6688

By Roger Lawton

For Waukesha County Emergency Support & Rehab, 2010 was a slow year as far as responses go. We had a few fire responses, some training events and a number of PR events. We did several fund raisers to obtain money to cover operating costs. Due to the state of the current economy, there were fewer donations and diminished grant monies for our group. Thus our fund raising efforts were both necessary and fun for the members of our group as well as being great community-building activities. With money being so tight right now our biggest project, finding a replacement rig, is still alive but moving along very slowly. Despite the economy, morale and participation are alive and well for our organization. Everyone brings something significant to the table.

In this article I would like to recognize one of our members who is a steadfast fire buff. On Saturday, January 15th of this year, the 30-unit apartment building that he lived in was burned and his personal property was totally destroyed. Shortly after the fire started and the alarm was turned in, Mark Kirschling of

Waukesha, called me to activate the club. His first concern was that the rig be put into service and respond to the scene to make sure that the firefighters were taken care of during the freezing temperatures of this multiple alarm fire. His building is a total loss, but Mark remains optimistic for the future. Several club members and local fire department members came forth to help. Our club is blessed with great people who have kind hearts. As founder of this organization I couldn’t be more proud to have such great volunteers. It is an honor to work with them.

Several days after his home was destroyed by fire, a hopeful club member, Mark Kirschling, enters his apartment to look for any salvageable belongings.

Photo by Mary Baysinger





It has been several issues since we sent a report, so we'll try to catch everyone up on news around the Quad Cities and some of the more notable action since our last report.

During 2009, Second Alarmers contributed 1002 hours of volunteer time at 64 events, including general alarms, MABAS calls, PR, training, and housekeeping at our headquarters. Interestingly, more time was spent at MABAS incidents that year than at general alarms in Moline.

In July 2009, Bettendorf, Iowa called for our rehab services at a fatal train crash. Due to a manual track switch being left open, an 83-car train of the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad left the main line and entered a siding where

it struck a number of parked, empty freight cars. The DME engineer and conductor were killed. The collision sheared most everything from the frame platform on the lead engine and crews spent the better part of 14 hours searching for and recovering the two trainmen from the mangled cab wreckage. While a variety of Bettendorf firms provided food and drink, Air Supply 12 served the food, dispensed the drinks, and provided plenty of shaded seating for the rescue crews.



This was the scene that greeted some of the 29 departments responding to the Darling International fire in Lynn Center. The vast amount of smoke gives evidence as to why I-74 was shut down for a time. (Photograph by Dave Irwin.)



Victim recovery proceeds behind a tarp at the Bettendorf train collision. To the right of the ladder is all that remains of the lead locomotive: the frame and trucks. (Photograph by John Lartz.)

The summer of 2010 brought another MABAS call for our service and that of 28 other fire departments. Lynn Center, IL is a rural village located about 30 miles south of Moline, near Interstate 74. Employees of the Darling International feed plant there discovered fire in one of its livestock feed warehouses. Flames were already through the roof when the Orion, IL fire department arrived, and within minutes, half of the 40x200-foot building was engulfed. Smoke from the fire closed



Over one million gallons of water was hauled from surrounding towns and sources to fight the warehouse fire, and was supplied to a series of portable tanks. (Photograph by Dave Irwin.)

I-74 for about half an hour and 29 departments from as far away as the Rock Island Arsenal and Knoxville, IL (30 miles) responded. Because Lynn Center has no community water system, tankers were especially needed to haul water from two nearby lakes and the town of Orion. Over one million gallons of water was brought to the fire scene. A diesel fuel tank truck stood by to refuel tankers and fire equipment. The Air 12 crew provided rehab and filled a few air bottles, although the fire was basically fought defensively. The Darling firm began rebuilding the following day.



It took nearly an hour to bring this fire under control. (Photo courtesy of the *Dispatch/Argus*)

November saw Air 12 respond to East Moline for what started as a basement fire. When the EMFD arrived on scene, they found the basement full of fire that spread throughout the structure. None of the 10 people who lived in the house were injured, and an overloaded electrical receptacle was determined to be the cause. We provided air, lighting, and plenty of hot chocolate and coffee.

Moline Fire Department responded to an apartment fire in January 2011 that turned into a HazMat incident.

A small fire in the kitchen was quickly struck, but firefighters discovered several items commonly used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Members of the Hazardous Materials Response Team, Quad City Metro Enforcement Group, and Illinois State Police Meth Team arrived to process the scene. Air 12 and a crew of five responded to provide lighting, refreshment, air fill, and as a place to warm up, since temps that evening were around 10 degrees. Decontamination protocols made for a long evening, with Air 12 on scene for over seven hours. The two residents and a third individual, who were seen running from the scene, were arrested on charges of meth manufacturing.

Away from fire action, we're pleased to note that the Moline Fire Department has a new chief. Ron Miller, a 28-year veteran of the MFD, was appointed in January 2010. He replaced Chief Rick Jewell, who retired in 2009 after 25 years on the department, the last five as fire chief.

The Davenport (Iowa) Fire Department just took delivery of a new fire/rescue boat. It's



(Left): Air 12 provided air refill, rehab, and lighting for this MABAS response to East Moline. The fire is out, but our crew remained on-scene to assist with break-down. (Photograph by Ken Lemaster)

(Below): Those are not firemen, but members of the Metropolitan Enforcement Group who took command of the operations once the fire was out. Note the interesting "tool" in the hand of the officer on the right. (Photograph by Ken Lemaster)

the first true fireboat in the area. Twenty-six feet long, its 400hp Chevy engine powers both the marine jet propulsion drive, as well as the onboard fire pump. The pump can deliver 2500 gallons per minute to hoses or a monitor, or it can operate as a floating fire hydrant for pumpers on land. It will be made available to all area departments along the Mississippi and was purchased through a grant of \$178,000 from the federal government.

We hope to see you in New Jersey for the 2011 IFBA Convention.



Davenport Fire Department members (l-r) Tyler Schmidt, Paul Hartman and Adam Lamar test the department's new fire rescue boat. The boat has a top speed of 40 mph and a draft of only 18 inches. (Photograph by Jeff Cook of the Quad City Times)

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



FIRE ASSOCIATES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY

By John Whitaker

The 2011 fire season has started off with a bit of a whimper. Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley (FASCV) members are enjoying a bit of a respite from their usual number of calls. By the end of March, FASCV has responded to only 10 calls. This compares to 24 runs at the end of March, 2010. The organization normally responds to an average of 80+ calls per year.

Never the less, a few of the runs that the group has made represent a variety of fire-fighting activity. The calls for help included a barn fire, gas line break, two hazmat operations and a house fire. The first quarter of the year ended with the group's April monthly meeting which was held at the San Jose Fire Museum.

Monday, January 10: Barn Fire

The year began at three minutes after midnight on Monday, January 10, the South Santa Clara County Fire District called for Fire Associates assistance. Located on Columbet Ave. in San Martin, a barn was fully involved and threatening a home and several out-buildings. John Whiteside responded in Support Unit 2 and was met on scene by FASCV members Mike Chappell, John Whitaker and Dan Wong.

On a very cold (and getting colder by the hour!!!) Winter morning, FASCV members

quickly established a rehab area and served hot coffee, donuts, and assorted Clif Bars. The air temperature by 3:30 A.M. reached a bone-chilling 28 degrees (by California standards)! The barn was located approximately 75 yards to the west of Columbet Ave. and was surrounded by corrals containing an assortment of small farm animals...and a llama. Several ponies were inside the barn at the time of the fire, one of which was severely burned and tended to by a neighboring veterinary doctor.

Responding for the South County Fire District were 3 engines, 2 water tenders, and a Cal Fire Battalion Chief. Responding in on mutual aid were Gilroy Fire's Engines 61 and 81 along with a Battalion Chief. The barn



South Santa Clara County Fire District crews work to extinguish a barn fire in San Martin. (Photo by John Whitaker)

and several small sheds were a total loss, but a nearby home was saved after a small roof fire was extinguished. Fire Associates was released just before 3:30 A.M. As the serving

table was being washed, the water on the table turned to ice between to ice between the time water was poured and a cleaning cloth was applied -- proof that it really was cold!

Saturday, January 22: Gas Line Break

At 4:16 A.M. on Saturday, January 22, Fire Associates responded to a special request from the San Jose Fire Department. A car was sitting on top of a broken gas meter on South Second Street. Don Gilbert responded with Support Unit 2 and was joined on scene by George Hoyt, John Whitaker and Bruce Dembecki.



A tow truck operator works to remove a car from on top of a broken gas meter as a San Jose firefighter supervises the operation. The broken gas line had been successfully shut down. (Photo by John Whitaker)

Although the incident amounted to the equivalent of a first-alarm response, it was expected that firefighters would be on scene for an extended period of time while Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) crews dig up the street to access a shut-off point. However, shortly after FASCV members arrived and set up a rehab location on W. Humbolt Street, PG&E announced that they had been able to access a valve and had stopped the flow of natural gas. No digging was necessary. So, fire crews were released and enjoyed our hot coffee and Clif Bars before going back in service. After breaking down rehab, FASCV members celebrated the early departure by going to a nearby coffee shop and having breakfast.

Monday, February 14: Valentine's Day Hazmat Response

The Santa Clara County Fire Department called for Fire Associates on Monday evening, February 14, just at the end of the Valentine's dinner hour. At 7:48 P.M., FASCV was paged to a factory fire on Butterfield Blvd. in Morgan Hill. Don Gilbert and John Whitaker responded in Fire Support Unit 3. They were met on scene by FASCV members Bruce Dembecki, Mike Chappell and Ron Green.

The first-arriving County Fire units found a heavy column of smoke coming from the center of a large, tilt-up concrete structure occupied by TenCate Advanced Composites. According to their website, TenCate Advanced Composites USA is a supplier of composite pre-impregnated thermoset epoxies and cyanide esters, thermoplastic laminates, adhesives and syntactic foams. Does that sound like a Hazmat situation to you?

Santa Clara County Fire was joined on scene by South Santa Clara County Fire District, Gilroy Fire Department and San Jose Fire Department rigs who arrived as part of a mutual aid response. Once the initial fire was knocked down, fire crews had to deal with a Hazmat clean up operation. The fire apparently was the result of chemicals that "over cooked" and the resulting smoke and fumes were not easily vented. The Hazmat situation meant that the rehab area was also staffed by 3 American Medical Response (AMR) medic rigs as well as an AMR supervisor.

Fire Associates provided the usual hot coffee, cold beverages and Clif Bars until released at approximately 11:00 PM. Fire crews greatly appreciated the response on a night when most husbands are home with their wives!

Saturday, March 19: Aqueous Ammonia Leak

At 11:21 A.M. on Saturday, March 19, Fire Associates received a request for assistance from the San Jose Fire Department (SJFD).

A 5,000-gallon tank of aqueous ammonia was leaking at the Santa Clara Valley Water District treatment plant located in the Almaden Valley. The leak caused SJFD to respond a Hazmat Task Force and the extended



Members of the San Jose Fire Department's hazmat team meet with Santa Clara Valley Water District employees as they attempt to contain an aqueous ammonia leak. (Photo by John Whitaker)

containment and clean-up operation necessitated a call for FASCV help. John Whitaker responded in Fire Support Unit 2 and was joined by FASCV members Jerry Haag and Dan Wong.

It was a blustery and rainy early afternoon, so the first order of business for FASCV was to erect both of FSU-2's pop-up shelters. Once those were in place, serving tables and benches were put out. Pots of hot coffee were quickly perked along with a request for a kettle of hot water for tea. Temperatures were in the high 40's and the rain continued to fall throughout the entire operation.

Since the call came in just before the noon hour, fire crews on scene not eaten lunch. So, FASCV was asked to pick up and serve 40 sub sandwiches and chips. Jerry Haag and Dan Wong made the lunch run and Jerry reported that since the order was placed for the

San Jose Fire Department, the sandwich shop offered a 10% discount on the meal -- a much appreciated offer, we're sure.

Firefighters from the SJFD Hit Team donned their protective gear and inspected the tank

for danger. The report back was that the leak had been adequately plugged by Santa Clara Valley Water Dept. personnel and the 250 gallons of leaked ammonia was contained. By mid-afternoon, the scene was turned over to

Water Department representatives who indicated that they would have a contractor vacuum up the spill to eliminate any problem. Fire Associates was released from the incident at 3:00 P.M. However, the work was not over as John and Dan had to return to Station 6 and spread out all the FASCV equipment to dry. The day's work was completed shortly after 4:00 P.M.

Wednesday, March 30: 2-alarm House Fire

It was late morning on March 30, when John Whiteside was listening to his radio scanner. He was following a house fire incident in Gilroy when he heard the IC call for a 2nd alarm. John made a quick phone call to Gilroy Fire Dispatch and asked if the IC would like Fire Associates to respond. The reply back was "Yes!" John then had our paging service notify members at 11:10 A.M. John Whitaker, Mike Chappell and George

Hoyt responded along with John Whiteside, who drove Support Unit 3. The fire was located on Westwood Drive.

Upon arrival, FASCV members not only found the street full of fire apparatus, but also a curiously large police presence. The house was set back from the street with the front yard fenced off and a lot of items stored where a front lawn normally would be growing. Cars, a tent, barrels and other assorted "stuff" littered the space. Inside, firefighters had an equally hard time maneuvering through the numerous items stored in the house. Because of the access problems, and known chemicals stored in the garage, the IC called for a 2nd alarm to be struck. Although the fire never got much past the smoldering stage, the access problems required additional manpower.

On a sunny, spring day, FASCV served the usual water, Gatorade, and Clif Bars. Since the fire started just before the lunch hour, the fire department also ordered up 40 double hamburgers and fries from a local fast-food franchise to feed the hungry crews. FASCV provided the tables for serving and our portable benches were quite popular with firefighters who had been involved with the extensive overhaul. After most of the fire crews had been released, FASCV members left the scene in the early afternoon.



Firefighters enjoy a little R&R provided by Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley after a 2-alarm house fire in Gilroy. (Photo by John Whitaker)

April Monthly Membership Meeting

The first quarter of the year ended with our April monthly meeting on Thursday, April 7. The meeting was held at the San Jose Fire Museum (sanjosefiremuseum.com).

San Jose has a rich and colorful history spanning more than 234 years, from its founding as the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe in 1777. On October 24, 1850 a conflagration took place in San Jose burning for more than

two days, destroying numerous structures, causing great monetary loss to businesses and injuring two firefighting volunteers. It took more than three years after that fire for the Common Council to raise enough money to acquire fire apparatus and equipment. On January 27,

1854 the Common Council passed Ordinance 239 establishing San Jose Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 and forming the San Jose Fire Department. The San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) recently hosted the Department's 157th Anniversary Celebration.

It's the mission of the SJFM to preserve the history of the Department -- and firefighting in general. As such, the Museum has a large collection of antique fire vehicles, firefighting equipment, memorabilia and an extensive research library. The collection is housed in a 16,000-square-foot warehouse on the grounds of the City of San Jose Corporate

Yard.

It was here that Fire Associates members gathered for their April meeting surrounded by this extensive collection. Members were greeted by SJFM President, John McMillan, and Vice President, Jim Carter. John made a short presentation describing recent additions to the Museum's collection and an update on

its attempt to acquire Old Fire Station One in downtown San Jose as a future Museum location. After a general business meeting, FASCV Past President and SJFM volunteer, John Whitaker, conducted a walk-around tour of the Museum's prized 1914 Knox Martin tractor-drawn 1899 American steamer – the only one of its kind known in the world!



San Jose Fire Museum's combination of a 1914 Knox Martin Tractor pulling an 1899 American Steamer is the only firefighting version of a Knox Martin known in the world! (Photo by John Whitaker)



Spring Board Meeting attendees pass through the buffet line at the Saturday evening dinner, held at the Community Room at Station 3, Ft. Lee, NJ Fire Department. (Photo by Chuck Liedtke)

Region **8**

Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.

Box 55 Assoc.

Indianapolis Fire Buffs



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

By Jerry Traub

The year 2011 dawned snowy and cold in Indianapolis like much of the country. Another Marion County township department was combined into IFD on January 1. Lawrence Township, on the far Northeast side, adds three stations and extends the city's coverage to the county line. Nearby and incorporated City of Lawrence continues with its own police, fire, and municipal services.

Club officers for 2011 began their term January 1: president Jerry Traub, vice-president Dennis Huff, secretary Ed McMichael, and treasurer Ryan Duffin. A dinner and award ceremony in December noted that retired treasurer Paul McMichael's past service had exceeded twenty consecutive years.

Membership has shown an increase. Several new buffs are bringing access to supplies and services which we need for our reserve station 12 and RSU apparatus.



Club member Dennis Chambers drives our "new" Maxim in the St. Patrick's Day parade. The right seat is occupied by son David, also a Club member. (Photo by Tod Parker)

Our 1967 Maxim engine is now housed at station 61 (old Perry Twp. area). It participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade with club members and several IFD retirees on board. Chauffeur Dennis Chambers successfully negotiated the parade route with son David "in the seat." A retired Rural Fire dispatcher's family requested use of our engine for the funeral. We were able to respond.

Indianapolis Fire department's 150th anniversary is being noted by a one hour documentary film produces by WFYI, our local PBS station. \$1,000 was donated from our Raffle fund to assist in production and DVD costs. Portions of the film were done at our reserve station 12, when retirees were shown addressing the most recent rookie class and telling them how "it really is" as firefighters.

Rehab Support Units provided 243 responses in 2010. Mechanical problems have challenged our ability to be as helpful as we want for public safety requests. A sad event meant multiple assignments in late January when IMPD officer David Moore was shot and killed during a traffic stop. We assisted during the manhunt for the shooter, supplying meals to the base station. Days later, we provided hot drinks and snacks at the mortuary for the large crowd waiting in the snowy weather to greet the family. Our participation was noted in an article in the Indianapolis *Star* the next day. We were able to assist at the funeral at Conseco Fieldhouse the last day of services.

A new RSU unit is expected soon with the lease of a retired ambulance body from Wayne Township Fire Dept. We are working on installing surplus city property MDT's (mobile data terminals) in all our units, improving our communication with Dispatch and between units.

A challenging day began with our scheduled response with RSU's to a public safety sweep of an abandoned high-rise property that was harboring homeless and drug-related activities. About the same time, an industrial accident occurred on the other side of town when a forklift operator plunged his unit through the floor and was trapped in the basement. Multiple special teams were called for Structural Collapse, HazMat and Entrapment. The lift operator did not survive, but the lengthy operation kept our unit there into the afternoon, serving fire, police and EMS.

Many members and fire RSU and The Salvation Army units served during the Fire Department Instructors Conference in March. HOTS training provides on-site, live fire activities for structural, extrication and search & rescue.

Our pager service is being altered and upgraded for receiving IFD dispatch as text messages on cell phones, removing the cost of pager rental. An updated server arrangement will further reduce the cost substantially for subscribers.

Editor Jerry Traub and IFBA immediate past-president Jim Williamson attended the Spring Board meeting in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. They look forward to returning for the September convention and annual meeting with additional IFB attendees.

Tod Parker continues to document notable fire activity in the Indianapolis area. For a larger number of "shots," visit his website at www.phototac.com.



(Above) Heavy fire greeted firefighters in this box alarm fire on Jan. 9, 2011, at a barber shop. The cause is still open. (Right) April 17, 2011: Firefighters from Pike Twp. and IFD battled heavy fire and falling temperatures at this two alarm apartment fire. They were able to get a quick knock on the fire. Two injuries were reported. (Photos by Tod Parker)





(Left) Feb. 10, 2011: Snow and ice caused issues at this box alarm plus extra companies residence fire. The fire started in the garage and extended into the house. Lack of hydrants, an extremely long hose lay, and only one access road to the house increased the firefighting difficulties. Companies from IFD, Pike Twp., and Carmel FD combined on the attack.

(Right) May 1, 2011: Fire was through the roof when firefighters arrived at the two story residence on the City's northside. It is believed that a lightning strike ignited the blaze. The owner was out-of-town at the time of the fire.

(All photos by Tod Parker)



(Left) Feb. 24, 2011: No this is not a training photo ... firefighters had to extricate the driver of the sedan which somehow ended up underneath the minivan. This accident occurred in the parking lot of a local Kroger store. Minor injuries were reported.

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

WILL WINTER EVER END?

That seemed to be the question for our area as snowstorm after snowstorm blanketed the entire Northeast. The seemingly endless barrage of storms started on Sunday,



Bay Street Buried! Gong Club Quarters when it finally stopped snowing; December 27, 2010. (Henry Haines Photo)

December 26, 2010. Snow fell for over 24 hours, resulting in a full blown blizzard with an accumulation of nearly 29 inches. Seven more snowfalls occurred in January 2011, topped off by a 19 inch storm on January 27th. Gong Club members spent many hours shoveling the sidewalk and apron clear, turning out to some relatively routine runs.

However, 2010 was topped off with a roaring inferno that destroyed two large 3-story frame tenements at 3803-7 Park Ave., Union City.

The mid-afternoon blaze, situated on the Weehawken border, drew a 4th Alarm assignment from the North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue, augmented by companies from Jersey City and Hoboken. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, turned out on the 3rd Alarm and operated for almost 7 hours. Frozen firefighters consumed 6 gallons of coffee, 6 gallons of hot chocolate and 4 gallons of beef stew along with Gatorade and bottled water. Both buildings were heavily damaged and were demolished following the fire.

This would be the 56th and final run for 2010 for Car 26. Bottled water was the most popular item on the menu this past year, with some 4,139 bottles served. Gatorade, with 3,664 cups followed by 1,920 cups of hot chocolate. Car 26 was on the street for nearly 163 hours in 2010, including 8 special details. Gong Club members didn't have to wait long for the first run of the New Year! A 2nd Alarm at 100 Montgomery St., Box 137, at 1741 hours on January 1, 2011 led this year's responses.

BATTALION 4 BATTLES BACK TO BACK BLAZES

An unwelcome change of pace from this winter's seemingly un-relenting barrage of



4-4 North Hudson 12/28/10 3803-7 Park Ave., Union City. North Hudson Fire Fighters battled snow, freezing temperatures and heavy fire two days after the Blizzard of 2010! (Ron Jeffers Photo)

As the engine companies pushed forward to the top floor, Ladders 9 and 11 raised their aerials into the icy night sky. Ladder 9 positioned their ladder into the 4th floor window to overcome the double hazards of a raging fire and horrendous weather. The company successfully pulled both people out of the windows and down the aerial ladder to the frozen, but considerably safer street.

2nd Alarm units augmented the initial

snow was an ice storm which stuck northern New Jersey on the afternoon of February 1, 2011 and continued into the next day. At nearly the stroke of midnight, the streets were a sheet of ice and this was the stage for a daring rescue by Jersey City Fire Fighters. Box 579 was struck at 2358 hours for 117 Corbin Ave. in the city's Journal Square area. Eng. Co. 15 and Lad. Co.9 headed down hill from their Sip Ave. quarters into a night sky filled with sleet, freezing rain and now a strong odor of smoke.

assignment to confine the fire to the apartment of origin. The fire fighters, apparatus and equipment were soon covered with the same sheet of ice that had enveloped the streets. Fire was under control by 0100 hours. Eng. Co. 8 and Lad. Co. 2 were assigned to Watch Line duty at 0245 hours to give the companies who worked the fire a chance to thaw out in quarters.

The companies turned right onto Corbin Ave. near the bottom of the hill. Capt. Patrick Giacomo of Lad. Co. 9 reported a working fire, spotting heavy smoke billowing from the top floor of a 4 story brick occupied apartment house. A closer look revealed two people frantically waving for help as thick black smoke poured over their heads/ Meanwhile, a seeming mass of humanity was clamoring down the stairs to escape the fire. Capt. Michael Monaghan, Eng. Co. 15 ordered a 2nd Alarm at 0003 hours, now February 2, 2011.

24 hours later, Battalion 4 was again in the thick of battle. Group C was on duty for the next tour, which was considerably drier, but still below freezing. At 0240 hours, February 3, 2011, Box 655 was struck for a fire at 8 Park St. This address is a middle building in a row of seven 2 story townhouses built at the turn of the 20th Century and is a short 2 blocks from the Communipaw Ave. home of Squad Co. 4 and Rescue Co. 1. These units were greeted by heavy fire blowing out the rear of an occupied dwelling with the attached exposure buildings in danger of being engulfed as well. A 2nd Alarm was transmitted 9 minutes into the incident with the engine companies stretching lines into

both exposures and the fire building. Truckies scrambled to cut the roofs and pull ceilings to get ahead of the fire.

Row house fires are manpower intensive, prompting Acting Deputy Chief Gregory Lallo to strike the first 3rd Alarm of 2011 at 0311 hours. Cognizant of the frigid weather, Chief Lallo also special called the Decon / Rehab Unit and requested that the Board of Education open Lincoln High School across the street from the fire buildings. The collective efforts of the 3rd Alarm assignment

2/3/11 8 Park St.

0240 Box 655 Sqd. 4 Eng. Co. 10-8-22 Lad. Co. 11-8 Res. Co. 1 Div. 1 Batt. 4 MSU Safety Officer
0243 WF Eng. Co. 9 Lad. Co. 9 Batt. 1
0249 2-2 655 Eng. Co. 5-13-15 Lad. Co. 3 Batt. 2 Car 1-26
0311 3-3 655 Eng. Co. 2-7-11 Lad. Co. 6 Car 3
0323 S/C Lad. Co. 7 Decon / Rehab Unit

THE CRIMSON FLEET IS IN!



Jersey City's Crimson Fleet. Campbell Supply Co. delivered 3 pumpers on January 10, 2011 to supplement 2 ladders previously received. Lad. Co. 3, Eng. Co. 14, 8, 17 and Lad. Co. 11 (l-r) (Bobby Scollan Photo)

succeeded in confining the heavy fire damage to the original building and relatively moderate damage to the adjoining structures.

Frigid fire fighters consumed 10 gallons of hot chocolate and 4 gallons of coffee from Car 26, the Gong Club Canteen between the 2 fires.

Response:

2/1/11 117 Corbin Ave.

2358 Box 579 Eng. Co. 15-9-7-17 Lad. Co. 9-11 Res. Co. 1 Div. 1, Batt. 4 MSU Safety Officer

2/2/11

0001 WF Sqd. Co. 4 Lad. Co. 12 Batt. 3
0003 2-2 579 Eng. Co. 11-5-8 Lad. Co. 6 Car 26

Chicago fire fans will feel right at home in Jersey City. Not only is the same manufacturer providing apparatus, the rigs are decked out in the traditional Chicago colors of black over red! A 103' rear mount demonstrator purchased in 2009 for Ladder Co. 11 has been joined by a 100' tractor trailer aerial for Ladder Co. 3. On January 10, 2011, three pumpers were delivered, now assigned to Engine Companies 8, 14 and 17.

The Chicago color scheme is sweeping Hudson County with Hoboken, North Hudson and some Secaucus apparatus sporting this hue.

GONG CLUB MARKS 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

December 10th marked the 60th Anniversary of the Gong Club. Members and guests gathered at Rita & Joe's Restaurant in Jersey



Gong Club Members gather to celebrate their 60th Anniversary on December 10, 2010!

City to mark this milestone. In addition to celebrating its anniversary, the Club presented Life Member plaques to five members who have recently completed 25 years of service. Bill Sinton, Tom Pelaia, Rich Sikora, Pat Spellman and Victor Cook were cited as part of the festivities.

Sadly, the Club lost a Life Member in March with the passing of Dick Weixler. Although

resident of Quincy, MA, Dick had been a member of the Gong Club since 1973. A frequent visitor to quarters in his younger years, Dick was a radio wizard who designed and helped build the radio system in quarters that continues to function today. Dick was also a well known buff in the Boston area and had been a member of the Box 52 Association since 1949. May he rest in peace.



Indianapolis, March 25, 2011: The annual “Pumper Pull” during FDIC week is a popular challenge event between visiting departments. Held outside of Firefighters’ Local 416, this event draws many spectators ... even when it’s cold! (Photo by Tod Parker)

Region

10

Box 12 Assn., Toronto

Box 43 Assn.

Club Appel-99 Quebec

The Ontario Fire Buffs

Associates, Inc.

Greater Toronto

Multiple Alarm Assn.



Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Association

Founded 1975 Incorporated 1994

P.O. Box 173, Station D, Etobicoke, Ont., M9A 4X2

TORCON2012



Convention News

By the time you read this article we will be just over a year away from the 60th IFBA convention. It seems like just a few years ago that Toronto last hosted this event when, in fact, it was in 1978. Most attendees of that convention like to mention that they had a great time. But almost everyone brings up the 3rd alarm bowling alley fire that kept conventioners entertained. While we can't guarantee the same buffing action, we can promise you a great time!

The 2012 convention will be hosted by the GTMAA from August 14th -18th 2012 at the spectacular Sheraton Centre located in the heart of downtown Toronto. The following link www.sheratontoronto.com provides lots of information about the hotel and its facilities. Please go to www.torcon2012.com for the latest updates regarding promotion codes and other booking information.

A reminder to any International visitors, including those from the States that a valid passport will be required to enter *and* leave Canada.

Passport applications will be available at this year's event being held in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey from September 6 -10 2011.

Do not forget to purchase your tickets for the upcoming 50-50 draw. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00 and the draw will be held

Saturday September 10 at this year's I.F.B.A. convention. Anyone wishing to purchase can use the club PO Box with cheques made payable to GTMAA with Torcon2012 raffle in memo line.

**GTMAA
P.O. Box 173
Postal Station "D"
Etobicoke, Ontario
Canada
M9A 4X2**

Club News

It is with great sadness that the Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Association must report the loss of longtime member Barry White on March 16th. Barry was a firefighter with former City of Scarborough (now part of Toronto) for over 30 years and retired as a District Chief. A great supporter of the club while he was on the job, Barry was quick to join our gang, so that he could continue to serve his brothers and sisters still battling fires. Barry soon became a primary driver for our previous support unit, S.U.N. 1 and then in 1996 Support 7. He was also a long serving member of our executive board, always quick to offer sage advice or even the occasional firm opinion. Barry was also President of the Scarborough Firefighters Retirees Club, President of the former Scarborough Quarter Century Club, member of the Highland Creek Legion 258 Colour Guard and co-founder of The Scarborough Firefighters

Museum.

But above all these accomplishments Barry was a devoted family man leaving behind his wife of 55 years, Pat. Barry is also mourned by his 2 daughters Denise and Shelley and his 5 loving grandkids. Rest in peace, Barry, you will be missed.



Barry White with Support 7 - 2010. (Photo courtesy of Larry Thorne)

Support 7

Support 7 has had a quiet start to the year so far. Our *emergency* responses this year have been limited to only a few runs. However, we proudly provided 3 days of service to Toronto Police Services assisting them with the visitation and funeral for Sgt. Ryan

Russell who was killed on January 12th in the line of duty. Club members tallied over 157 hours of manpower for this event; most impressive.



Support 7 serving at Sgt Ryan Russell's funeral. (Photos courtesy of Tom Luethi)



Rolling out of quarters – Station 223. (Photos courtesy of Tom Luethi)

Region

11

Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA

Central Florida Fire Buffs.

Metropolitan Fire Association

ATLANTA, GA

Article by: Jeffrey A. Harwell

A number of new stations have been placed in service during the past year. The city of Atlanta opened three new replacement stations. Station 13 opened at 447 Flat Shoals Avenue SE in May 2010. Station 18 opened at 2007 Oakview Road in June 2010. Station 24 opened at 3300 North Inner Look (Hartsfield Airport) in April 2010. And the long, long awaited replacement for Station 11 finally opened in December 2010 at 65 16th Street NW in the Atlantic Station Development and houses Engine 11, Truck 11, and two mini-pumpers in the 15,750 square foot structure.

The Gwinnett County Fire Department completed three new stations in 2009. One was a replacement station, the other two were brand new stations the county could not staff at the time due budget

constraints. In 2010 the funding to staff the two new stations materialized thanks to a property tax increase. Replacement Station 18 is located at 1515 Mineral Springs Road and uses a three bay station to house Engine

18, Ladder 18, and Medic 18. New Station 29 is located at 2800 Thompson Mill Road and houses Engine 29 in a two bay station. New Station 30 is located at 1052 Ozora Road and houses Engine 30, Ladder 30, and Battalion 5 in a three bay station.

Also in late 2009 Union City opened its third fire station at 6375 Oakly Industrial Boulevard. The 9800 square foot station will house an engine, 100 foot elevating platform, and a command vehicle. And finally, Henry County broke ground in early 2011 to replace its oldest station. The new Station 9 will be located at 122 Rock Quarry Road and will be

a 9,300 square foot structure being constructed jointly with the city of Stockbridge.

Multiple alarm fires for the last part of 2010 included a 2nd Alarm in Gwinnett County for a 6,000 square foot two story house with basement that had the attic fully involved on

arrival (5100 block of Creek Walk Circle), a 2nd Alarm in the city of Atlanta for four units heavily involved in a Days Inn motel (1701 Northside Drive NW), a General Alarm fire



Even back in the summer of 1979, DeKalb County was beginning to be known as the garden apartment fire capital of the south. In this photo, Engine 7B's Seagrave is pictured mopping up after yet another working apartment fire, this time at the Glenwood Apartments.



DeKalb County Engine 3, Snorkel 1 and the back of Engine 10B are pictured in front of the Applewood Apartments in the south part of the county during a multi alarm fire in the summer of 1979.

in a former meat packing facility on Adamson Road. Cedartown's aerial and an aerial from nearby Rockmart were observed operating master streams.

Notable fires for the month of February included a condo building at 3285 Atlanta Road that saw all Smyrna fire companies as well as multiple Cobb County companies working. City of Atlanta fire units answered a 2nd

in the city of East Point for a three story, 24-unit apartment building (Kenelworth Drive), and a 2nd Alarm on arrival for a three story ordinary brick walled school (80 Joseph Lowrey Boulevard NW. Our canteen was requested for the Atlanta school fire but the unit had to be placed out of service when it developed an oil leak.

Alarm for at 815 Brookline Street SW in which companies had to be pulled out so master streams could be used to knock down the bulk of the fire. Units on scene included Engine 1,2,10,14,17,20,25 and Trucks 1,2,10,15. The last day of February saw Atlanta units on a 2nd Alarm at Vesta Avenue and Lamar Avenue on a 3 story townhouse

January 2011 was rather slow for multiple alarm fires in the immediate Atlanta area. All College Park fire units turned out for a major fire at an apartment building where the fire breached a fire wall (203 Yorktowne Court with mutual aid provided by Clayton County), and the city of Atlanta struck a 2nd Alarm for a fully involved house fire that spread to both exposures (Elbert Street and Metropolitan Parkway). On the last day of the month the northwest Georgia town of Cedartown suffered a major fire



The old and the new at Ft. Valley Fire Station #2. The pride and joy of this central Georgia department was their 1924 American LaFrance pumper. The photo was taken in the summer of 1982.

fire in which two ladder pipes had to be set up for control.

The first half of March saw several smaller 2nd Alarm fires in Atlanta and DeKalb County. Then around 1:00 pm on March 18th Fulton County southside Battalion 1 requested a 2nd Alarm for heavy fire conditions in a 3 story condominium complex at 5565 Old National Highway. Truck 7 came out with one victim while Engine 1 tried to make a stop in the attic. The stop was unsuccessful and a full defensive attack was initiated. At one point fire was observed along the roof line of an adjacent building. Cobb County and the city of Atlanta provided mutual aid. Later in the afternoon our canteen was requested but was eventually canceled due to the extended ETA (the fire was on the opposite of Atlanta as rush hour was approaching). Two days later Atlanta fire units were dispatched just after 9:00 pm for a building fire at the rear of a recycling company at Mays Turner Road and Joseph Boone Boulevard. The fire in the abandoned three story structure eventually went to three alarms and lasted well into the next day. Our canteen was requested and operated

throughout the night. And on the very next afternoon, our canteen was requested once again for a fire in College Park that involved three buildings that had eight apartment units each.

There were a couple of changes in the rank of Fire Chief in metro Atlanta. Clayton County Fire Chief Alex Cohilas stepped down at the end of 2010 and was replaced by Jeff Hood, a 32 year veteran of the department. And in the newly formed city of Johns Creek, Jeff Hogan has been named Interim Chief to replace Joseph Daniels who was removed due to a personnel matter.

And in Coweta County there was good news and bad news. The good news was the county fire department received a \$918,245 homeland security grant for a new 700MHz public radio system from Motorola. The bad news involved Engine 16 rolling their apparatus while responding to a brush fire around noon on March 20th. Two firefighters were transported by ground and one by air with what were termed non life threatening injuries.



Indianapolis, Jan. 25, 2011: Abandoned building fire. Heavy fire upon arrival. Attack went defensive immediately as structural integrity was a major concern. Took over 2 hours to get under control. Two alarms plus extra companies. (Photo by Tod Parker)

**PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE
“HENRY N. WILWERS FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR” AWARD**

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.
2008	Bob Deibler	Racine, WI
2009	Hal Bruno	Washington DC
2010	No award presented	

* Deceased

