

# TURN OUT

A dramatic night scene of a large fire with thick orange and yellow flames and smoke rising into the dark sky. In the foreground, several firefighters in full protective gear, including helmets and oxygen tanks, are seen from behind, walking towards the fire. They are carrying hoses and equipment. The scene is illuminated by the intense light of the fire.

**Fall/Winter 2014**

# TURN OUT

## The Official Newsletter of the IFBA

Published Twice Yearly—Spring and Fall

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

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### Subscription Information

*Turn Out* is available free of charge via internet website at [www.ifba.org](http://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*.

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### Deadlines

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Editor's Note: This is the third revision of the Fall 2014 issue. There was an apparent issue with articles and photos reaching the *Turn Out* e-mail "inbox," causing two clubs to be omitted from our original publication. We have revised the Fall 2014 publication to include these submissions, and we apologize for any hard feelings.

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# CONVENTION NEWS



## **Hosts of the IFBA 2015 Convention**

**August 12, 13, 14 & 15th**

**Meet us in the capital city for the Convention, we have many activities planned and look forward to seeing you next August!**

The Radisson Hotel Hartford is the convention hotel.

Located at 50 Morgan Street, In Downtown Hartford.

We have reserved a \$129 room rate that includes,  
free parking and continental breakfast.

### **Planned visits include:**

Hartford Fire Department, East Hartford Fire Department,  
New Haven Fire Department, Meriden Fire Department, Manchester Fire Department,  
The Fire Museum in Manchester CT and More.

Keep up to date on our website

**[www.ctfirephoto.org](http://www.ctfirephoto.org)**

# Region 1

Boston Sparks Assoc., Inc.  
Box 22 Associates  
Box 41 Associates  
Box 52 Association., Inc.  
Box 61, Inc., Portland Fire Buffs  
Connecticut Fire Photographers Association  
Connecticut Special Signal Association  
Essex County Fire Wardens Association  
Middlesex County Firefighter & Fire Wardens Assn.  
Providence Citywide Fire Network  
Special Signal Fire Assn.  
The Leather Helmet Society  
International Fire Photographers Association  
Southern Maine Fire Notification Network



## BOX 52 ASSOCIATION, INC. BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE FIRE PREVENTION AND  
EXTINGUISHMENT IN METROPOLITAN BOSTON

ESTABLISHED 1912  
INCORPORATED 1918

Fall is in the air here in Boston and the dreaded four letter word “snow” is not that far away. As we get ready for the Holidays, the Box 52 Association Board of Directors is hard at work planning for the 2015 meeting season.

We started the fall season in September with a visitation meeting to the home of Massachusetts Task Force One (MATF-1) in Beverly Massachusetts. MATF-1 is a FEMA sponsored Search and Rescue

Team that has seen duty throughout the country. The Beverly Fire Department sent their new Dive Rescue Vehicle for the members to inspect. We

were then given a complete tour of their facilities including the special “rubble pile” created to train the team members. We then adjourned to the training room where we had a presentation by noted Chicago area photographer Jim Regan. Jim’s presentation featured the Chicago fire department, its fires, firefighters and its apparatus. Jim’s presentation was well received and we learned much about the department. One of the highlights of the

visitation was viewing a memorial being created by the Task Force dedicated to those that perished at the World Trade Center where MATF-1 saw duty.

In fact, they were the first out of state team to arrive at Ground Zero.

In October we returned to our usual meeting place in South Boston where we had our annual

meeting and installation of officers. Elected were David Parr as President and Thomas Brophy as Vice President, Executive Secretary Michael Kass was re-elected as



Beverly, MA. Dive Rescue Unit-Photo by Bill Wilderman

Treasurer William Wilderman. After the formal reports of the annual meeting were given we had a brief recess to prepare for our guest speaker. Retired Commissioner & Chief of the Boston Fire Department Paul Christian presented a history of the Boston Fire Alarm Office and System. Chief Christian is no stranger to the Box 52 Association being elected as an Honorary Member when he was the active Chief of Department,. He also served as the Guest Speaker for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet.

Chief Christian is very familiar with the history of the Department and is a very active member of the Boston Fire Historical Society. They sponsor a web site that features many of the historical documents of the department.

Our November meeting, also held in South Boston, featured Captain Rick Connolly, retired from the Boston Fire Department. Captain Connolly is the Author of "Returning to Quarters – A History of Boston Firehouses" Captain Connolly served the BFD for 35 years. His book is a pictorial history of every Boston firehouse, both past and present.

Our December meeting is an annual event held at the Wayne Alarm Museum in Lynn. Captain Rick Conway presents a program of memorable

Lynn area fires. Rick has access to his Father's vast slide collection. Rick's Father is retired Deputy Bill Conway also a member of the Box 52 Association. Bill retired as the Acting Chief of the Lynn Fire Department.

Plans for the spring include reinstituting the annual ham and bean supper that was a tradition with the Association. Past President Alan Macdonald is heading up the planning for the event to be held at the Newbury Massachusetts Fire Headquarters.

IFBA members are invited to attend our monthly meetings. Details of upcoming meetings can be found on our web site [www.box52.org](http://www.box52.org) or our Facebook page.

## Caption This ...



Send your caption for this photograph to [turnout@ifba.org](mailto:turnout@ifba.org). The most humorous entries will be published in our next issue, and the entry deemed the best by the Editorial Staff will win a special *Turn Out* prize. Deadline May 1, 2015. Please show "Photo Caption" as the subject line on your email.

# ***Region***

# **6**

5-11 Club, Inc.

10-87 Club of Greater Rockford

Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.

Box 55 Assoc.

Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities

Indianapolis Fire Buffs

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.

# 5-11 Club, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 8511

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60680

**By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar**

Even though Chicago has experienced one of the coolest and wettest summers, as of Halloween 2014, our city has had nearly 40 multiple alarm fires, seven of them 3-11s, (3rd alarms) and numerous 2-11s (2nd alarms). Several of the 2-11s were for “MAYDAY” responses due to overcome or injured fire fighters.

Year to date, 15 civilian fire deaths have occurred in Chicago, 12 due to missing or inoperative smoke detectors.



Truck 47 Spartan ERV 103 ft. rear mount aerial (Photo by Chuck Bleck)

One of the worst incidents was on September 8th when four young children were killed in a far south side 18-unit apartment building fire. The owner of the building has been taken to court several times for code violations. The City has been very aggressive in enforcing the “Life Safety ordinance”.

The ordinance requires all high rise buildings built before 1975 to have a sprinkler system, fire alarm

systems, mass communications systems and action plans in place before the end of the year. Over 790 buildings in the City are affected by this ordinance.

The City has received two new 103 ft. rear mount aerials. The rigs were built by Spartan ERV. The medium duty aerials were assigned to Truck 24 and Truck 47.

The City has also received 25 new wheeled coach ambulances with an additional order of 26 units to be received by the end of the year.

On September 1, the CFD eliminated the two-tiered ALS/BLS ambulances. This change will increase the number of ALS ambulances to 75 supported by 59 ALS staffed engine companies and 13 ALS staffed truck companies. Twelve new Ford Interceptor SUVs recently received will be used for new battalion

chief cars.

O'Hare Field received two new 2014 Oshkosh Stryker 4500 crash trucks. The identical units are now in service as 6-5-5 and 6-5-10. Both units have a 65 ft. HRT (High Reach Turret) and carry 4500 gallons of water, 630 gallons of AFFF, 500 lbs. of Halatronic chemical and 460 lbs. of dry chemical (Purple K). Two replacement pumpers for Engines 9 and 10 have also been put into service. The rigs are 2014 Emergency One units with



the Club held its 20th annual Fire Muster and Flea Market at the Quinn Fire Academy. The Club also participated in CFD Union Local 2's Fallen Firefighter Memorial at Rosehill Cemetery this past September. As of the end of Oc-

Engine 10 2014 Emergency One 2000 gpm pumper (Photo by Jim Regan)

2000 gpm pumps, 1000 gallons of water and 250 gallons of AFFF. The units are equipped with a Williams "Hot Shot" foam package allowing the units to send foam in three mixture ratios to any turret or outlet.

The 5-11 Club continues to be active in the Chicago area. In June,



Unit 6-5-5 2014 Oshkosh Stryker 4500 crash truck (Photo by Jim Regan)



Unit 6-5-5 2014 Oshkosh Stryker 4500 crash truck (Photo by Jim Regan)

tober, our canteens have responded to 60 calls for service. Please visit our website, [www.5-11clubchicago.org](http://www.5-11clubchicago.org), for the latest news about the 5-11 Club, activities and a growing photo gallery. Call or email the Club if you plan to visit Chicago. Tours can be arranged with several days' notice.





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

By Jerry Traub

Indianapolis RSU vehicles were active in the summer months, assisting Public Safety 5K Walk and Run to raise funds for student job placements during their vacation time. We met emergency personnel from fire, police, and EMS as runners left from near Downtown and toured a route that brought them back for medals and healthy snacks.

Later in June, our RSU 2 vehicle was exhibited during Public Safety Day at the Marion County fairgrounds. Services present included fire, EMS, helicopter, airport crash truck, antiques and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (HAM radio operators).

President Jim Williamson and Treasurer Jerry Traub attended the Region 6 meeting in Minneapolis in late May. Congratulations to the Extra Alarm Association of the Twin Cities on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their museum at 64 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NE is a great visit if you are in the area.

Codes of Conduct for members on a fire ground, and additional copies for RSU operators are being revised so that performance and conduct standards are understood and followed by all members.

Greg Gill will be replacing Dennis Chambers as Website editor. Some sections and graphics will be redone.

RSU responses continue for area departments and public safety providers. Multiple requests for SWAT and USAR are being received. Our aging fleet is a challenge to keep repaired and running.

The IFD shops are helping us and provide short-term replacement vans or buggies when our units are out of service.

Our Treasury was aided twice recently, as our Fire Department triumphed over their Police associates in a Burger-eating contest sponsored by the Hard Rock cafe. Later in the summer, IFD station 11B shift defeated a Police department challenge at the annual BBQ contest. As before, monies donated to us go into the Rehab Support account to benefit public safety responders.



Ernest "Ernie" Malone became Chief of Fire in a ceremony on Aug. 11, 2014. Photo provided by IFD.

A new chief of the Indianapolis Fire Department was named in July. 28-year veteran Ernest ("Ernie") Malone replaces Brian Sanford, who will become Chief of Staff in the Department of Public Safety. Ernie has held every merit rank in the department, and he has served as Assistant Chief since 2010.

He has already met with our Executive Board to receive a memento framed copy of the Indianapolis *Star* article an-

nouncement of his promotion. He has made proposals of how he can help the Buffs help him and his department. Lunch was good, too!

Our annual fundraising raffle for Indianapolis Fire Department personnel got a bump to \$3,000 for first prize this year, up from \$2,500. Trip expenses for Hawaii vacation first prize have made this increase necessary. Another \$1,000 in cash prizes are



2014  
Brian Sanford, out-going IFD Chief of Fire, presents the incoming Chief, Ernie Malone, with a ceremonial Chief's ax, as Troy Riggs, Director of Public Safety, looks on. Photo by Tod Parker.

payable to the next eleven winners. A first place Winner's dinner for his shift at the firehouse is a pleasant Thank You for firefighters and club members who volunteer to sell chances at their assigned stations.



An explosion ripped through a near-Westside, 2-story apartment building on May 15, 2014. No fire was reported, but the building sustained considerable damage. The cause was listed as an unexplained natural gas explosion. No leaks were found, nor was there evidence of a meth lab at the premises. Photo by Rodger Birchfield.

Our membership is slowly increasing, as referrals from current members are bringing new applicants. Former volunteer firefighters from Wayne Town-

ship Fire Dept. in Marion County are joining, to help with Rehab especially.

It was proudly announced at our September business meeting that we had been awarded WEB SITE of the YEAR at the IFBA convention in Dallas. Kudos to Dennis Chambers and Greg Gill for their leadership on this project.

Our Reserve IFD station 12 will be 100 years old in 2015. A committee has been appointed to develop a program for recognizing this anniversary, and especially those IFD members who served here when it was an active firehouse. Hopefully, some structural improvements and energy-saving changes can be a part of this celebration.

A fundraising website through "GoFundMe" has been started. Its goal is to generate funds for RSU supplies and maintenance. We have received donations already in the first two months. We also partner with "AMAZON SMILE", receiving a percentage of dollars spent through Amazon online sales, when buyers click on our name when purchasing.

IFB members rang holiday bells for The Salvation Army Christmas kettle at the March grocery on W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Folks' generosity toward the Army was very satisfying for those who volunteered for an evening shift.

We provided a public voting place for two precincts at our Reserve Station 12 for the November elections.

Our club officers' election was held at the last business meeting of the year in November. 2015 Executive Board will be: Ed McMichael, president; Byron Jacobs, vice-president; Maureen Killilea, secretary; Jerry Traub, treasurer; and Jim Williamson, immediate past president.

Scheduled activities for 2014 concluded with a Christmas party at the Rathskeller restaurant in December. Past service awards, door prizes, and a gift exchange made for a fun evening. We were pleased

to host new IFD chief Ernie Malone and his wife Tammy, and the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services coordinator Bert Williams and his wife Alexis.

Happy New Year, and see you in Hartford in 2015!



(Above and right) Indianapolis Firefighters battle a two-alarm church fire at 860 S. Holmes. The fire, which occurred on Oct. 2, 2014, was through the roof upon the arrival of the first units. The cause is still under investigation. (Photos by Tod Parker)

(Below) A July 30, 2014 car fire resulted in the destruction of a “do-it-yourself” car wash building. IFD response was a box alarm plus addition companies. (Photo by Rodger Birchfield.)





(Left) A June 20, 2014 derailment of some CSX tank cars resulted in an IFD hazmat response shortly after midnight. CSX emergency crews assisted the Fire Department in containing the leak, then took charge of the scene for clean-up and repair of the train tracks. No official cause was released. Photo by Rodger Birchfield.

(Right) Downtown Indianapolis was rocked once again by an underground utility vault explosion on Aug. 13, 2014. There have been a series of these explosions over the past several years, which result in manhole covers being blown tens of feet into the air, accompanied by grey-brown smoke. (Photo by Rodger Birchfield.)



(Left and below) A late-night barn fire destroyed the structure and damaged a nearby house. Firefighters were hampered in their fight by long hose-lays, no access roads for aerial trucks, and high voltage wires nearby.

The fire, which occurred five days before Halloween, gave off

a jack-o-lantern type glow.

The fire was located at 6030 Buck Trail Road, on Indy's southeast side.

(Photos by Bill Grossman.)





# Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

**By: Dan Rode**

## **Milwaukee Fire Bell Club activities**

The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club (M.F.B.C.) has had a busy year in 2014. As of this date, there have been responses to (14) emergency incidents, (11) training exercises, and (20) P.R. events. Five of the emergency responses have been to the north in Ozaukee County (M.A.B.A.S. Division 119) where we have seen an increase in the workload. Surprisingly, only three of the emergency responses have been to the City of Milwaukee (a 3rd alarm fire in an auto parts warehouse-more on this in a bit, a methane gas leak, and a 1st alarm + special calls for 7 additional engines to Miller Compressing Company-an auto salvage yard).

With the proliferation of cell phones, advanced fire detection technology, and vigilance of the public, fires have been noticeably down this year. The exception being the small spikes during the frigid weather earlier this year. The majority of the responses have been to training exercises and P.R. events. The M.F.B.C. served at two unique training exercises this year. First, the M.F.B.C. spent five days in July serving the Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.) during their visit in Milwaukee. The U.L. was studying the affects of fires in knee walls and attics and determining the fire flow path coupled with the tactics of transitional attack and aggressive ventilation. There is more on this in the M.F.D. update below. Second, the M.F.B.C. spent three days at the end of August serving numerous fire and law enforcement agencies in the southwest portion of M.A.B.A.S. Division 107 participating in an active shooter exercise. This new and emergent threat has resulted in the fire service and law enforcement partnering together to address these frequent, high profile incidents. Two high schools in the Greenfield-Whitnall School district were utilized for this training opportunity and also showcased the

importance of multi-jurisdictional cooperation and T.E.M.S. (Tactical E.M.S.) operations. Unfortunately, in the southeast Wisconsin area, we have experienced four active shooter incidents in the last ten years (two in Oak Creek and two in the City of Brookfield). The lessons learned from these exercises help to establish working relationships and address issues such as communications, terminology use, positions of responsibility, etc.

The M.F.B.C. has begun preliminary research into replacing the current Emergency Support Unit 1 (E.S.U. 1) which is a 1972 International (renovated in 1999 by Welch Fire Equipment). E.S.U. 1 has served the club well for the past 15 years and is beginning to show wear and tear as the miles add up. Members have been exploring various options as well as fund raising opportunities to best determine an appropriate vehicle and price to support our rehab mission. 2015 will be an exciting year for the club as these initial preparations are further explored.

The club has been extensively utilizing the cooling vests at various emergency incidents and training exercises this year. The vests have been showcased at several chief officer meetings and P.R. events to demonstrate the importance of firefighter safety, especially during the summer months when its essential to cool the body's core temperature. This program offered by M.F.B.C. will continue in popularity in the coming year among the fire service and law enforcement personnel we serve.

## **Milwaukee Fire Department updates**

The Milwaukee Fire Department (M.F.D.) is currently proceeding through the 2015 budget process with City Hall. The mayor's budget does not call for any service reductions but interestingly enough does recommend the construction of a new Repair Shop annex (behind the current Repair Shop). The

current Repair Shop was constructed in 1929 and is currently too small with three bays and two heavy lifts supporting a fleet of 46 engines (32-active & 14-reserve), 22 trucks (14-active & 8-reserve), 20 med units (12-active, 6-reserve, & 2-SURGE), and numerous cars & SUV's, as well as specialized and support apparatus. The new facility would allow for the needed space to work on apparatus (i.e. tilt cabs, raise aerials, etc.) as well as storage for reserve equipment. A final determination for the estimated \$10.7 million project will be determined by the full Common Council in the coming weeks.

Greater alarms have been down this year compared to previous years with only (6) 2nd alarms and (3) 3rd alarms (17 in 2013 and 33 in 2012). Run volume in 2013 was 73,631 including 3,268 for fire, 8,668 for rescue, 60,499 for E.M.S., and 1,196 for service. Unfortunately, there have been nine fire fatalities this year (compared with only 2 last year). Busiest companies in 2013 were:

- Busiest engine: Engine 13 (4,340 runs)
- Busiest truck: Truck 9 (2,448 runs)
- Busiest rescue: Rescue 2 (2,019 runs)
- Busiest B.C.: Battalion 1 (1,142 runs)
- Busiest med unit: Med 5 (4,801 runs)
- Busiest firehouse: Engine 36 & Med 5 (8,313 runs)

One of the larger fires to occur this year was on April 24th. At 11:55 a.m., Engine 14 & Truck 8 (located on the far south side of the city) was dispatched to Roz Auto Salvage, 5848 S. 13th St. (two blocks north of their firehouse) for a reported propane tank on fire. When both companies pulled out onto their apron, they were greeted by a large column of heavy black smoke in the sky. Immediately, companies requested a 1st alarm as they found heavy fire in a 1-story 50' x 150' auto parts warehouse. Fire was threatening to extend to exposure

A, the offices, as well as to rows of salvaged cars and auto parts. 2nd & 3rd alarms were transmitted in rapid succession to prevent the fire extension. Three water towers and one tower ladder eventually were able to extinguish the fire. This fire also saw Oak Creek Fire Department Engine 3 and Battalion 18 respond and assist companies operating on the C/D sides of the fire building. Residents in dwellings located directly west of the fire building were ordered to shelter in place due to the heavy, low hanging toxic smoke in the area.

The M.F.D. continues their strong working relationship with their Shared Services partners in Division 107. Responses in 2014 have seen the M.F.D. send resources to our partners on 51 separate occasions while the M.F.D. has received assistance at 37 incidents. At the end of this year, the M.F.D. will take this partnership a step further when they join M.A.B.A.S. Division 107 and Division 109 will cease to exist. This joint partnership will ensure a continued working relationship while strengthening communications, training, box card revisions, and terminology usage. The M.F.D. and all fire departments in Division 107 also have partnered for a regional video conference system. Initially, the system is being used for E.M.T. and Paramedic re-certification but eventual plans are to



The scene that greets arriving companies at the 3rd alarm fire at Roz Auto Salvage warehouse, 5848 S. 13th St., 04-24-2014. Photo by: Dan Rode

include morning roll calls with chiefs, table top exercises, and post incident analysis.

Another relationship that the M.F.D. has developed is with the Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.). The U.L. was in the City of Milwaukee for the first two weeks in July conducting live burns in three acquired balloon-frame constructed vacant dwellings to study the effects of fires in knee walls and attics. The final results of this study are to better understand these dangerous types of fires and develop strategies for more effective extinguishment while keeping firefighters safely out of harms way. These types of fires have well been known to create flashover and back draft conditions without warning, injuring and killing numerous firefighters across the United States. The results of the study are due out sometime at the end of this year or beginning of next year. Be sure to check out U.L.'s website (<http://ul.com>) for further information.

An additional collaboration also is in the early stages of development. The M.F.D., Health Department, and local community



Companies prepare Truck 17's water tower to protect the office area, 04-24-2014. Photo by: Dan Rode



First due Engine 14 & Truck 8 operate defensively on the D side, 04-24-2014. Photo by: Dan Rode

based health organizations (including hospitals) have partnered together as a task force to create a community paramedic program referred to as Mobile Integrated Healthcare (or Paramedicine). The two basic components of the program are pre-hospital admissions and post-hospitalization discharge follow up care. An immediate goal of the task force is to address non-emergent transports.

An E.M.S. Captain position has been created to coordinate this pro-

gram.

As for apparatus, the M.F.D. currently has on order two engines, three med units, and one heavy rescue, all due early next year. Several support vehicles are being placed into service including two sedans, one S.U.V., and one pick-up truck. All apparatus bump downs from the large 2013 purchase order have been completed and now the reserve fleet (engine, truck, and med unit) is in the best shape ever.

As for personnel movement, congratulations are in order to D.C. Dan Berendt who was promoted to Assis-



Truck 6 and Tower 1 operate on the B side of the fire building, 04-24-2014. Photo by: Dan Rode

ing Academy. What is especially unique about these probationary firefighters is their already certified as Paramedics (receiving this training during their two year apprenticeships as Fire Cadets). The firefighters have been assigned to two firehouses with Paramedic Units and will rotate their assignments between the engine and med unit. 13 additional Fire Cadets (2014 hires) have been hired in mid-September to begin their two year apprenticeship. 26 Fire Cadets (2013 hires) will begin their paramedic training very shortly. And in 2015, it is anticipated that 26 additional Fire Cadets (2015 hires) will begin their training.

That is about it for now from the Cream City. We hope all of our friends in the I.F.B.A. have a blessed and safe holiday season. Be sure to bundle

up, it may be one of those winters again. Keep your ears glued to the scanner and fresh batteries in your camera, never know when you'll need it...



Engine 14 & Truck 8 performing mop up on the remains of the fire building, 04-24-2014. Photo by: Dan Rode

*Serving the Community  
since 1947*

tant Chief in-charge of E.M.S./Training/Education (due to the retirement of A.C. Mike Romas). Promoted into A.C. Berendt's position (Firefighting Deputy Chief-Blue Shift) is B.C. Brian Smith of Special Operations. Congratulations to both gentlemen on their promotions. Also, on October 26, ten new fire recruits (2012 hires) graduated from the Train-



M.F.B.C. E.S.U. 1 operating at the methane gas leak/fire in a construction site at Water & St. Paul, 04-22-2014. Photo by: Chuck Liedtke

# ***Region***

# **7**

Box 15 Club of Los Angeles  
Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley  
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

### ***.Vegetation Fires, Structure Fires, Traffic Accidents, and Rural Responses All in a Summer's Work For Fire Associates***

This summer and early fall provided the members of Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley with their usual variety of calls for assistance. As the only rehab response group for the 12 fire departments in Santa Clara County, one thing is certain -- hot weather will mean a busy fire season. This year's highlights included a 125-acre vegetation fire, a 2-alarm blaze at a world-class restaurant, a multi-vehicle traffic accident, and an early morning pallet fire at a large barn and storage lot in a rural portion of Fire Associates' response area.

#### **125 Acres Burn In the South San Jose Foothills**

The afternoon of June 30 was HOT with very little breeze.

At 1:45 P.M., the San Jose Fire Department received multiple calls of a vegetation fire burning low on the



A mix of short grass and dense vegetation made this a difficult fire to fight. (Photo by John Whitaker.)

north side of the Santa Teresa foothills. San Jose escalated the response to a Tier 1 (one alarm) and with units en route reporting a large, increasing smoke column, upgraded to Tier 2 almost immediately.

John Whiteside had been closely monitoring fire radio activity due to the heat (100 degrees at 1:30 P.M. at his home), and proactively responded to San Jose



Fire Air Tanker 83 made a retardant drop while avoiding nearby power lines. (Photo by John Whitaker.)

Station 35 to drive Fire Support Unit 3 to the fire. Located south of Curie Dr. and west of Cottle Rd., the blaze was about 2 miles from the station. A Tier 2 request for Fire Associates' assistance was received a few minutes later.

John loaded all the ice he could manage and took FSU-3 to the fire at 2:20 P.M. Meanwhile, John Whitaker started from his home to the fire, and Don Gilbert, monitoring the fast moving fire (already at 10 acres) went to get FSU-2. Don responded to the Almaden Valley side of the fire since it was burning over the ridge top. Randy Whiteside soon arrived to assist his father, John. The unified Command Post was set up at the intersection of Curie Drive and Curie Court.

At 1:46 P.M., Morgan Hill Cal Fire dispatched a

high-level response of at least 14 engines, 4 dozers, 2 water tenders, 5 hand crews, and multiple air tankers and copters. San Jose went to a Tier 4, plus requested a Type 3 engine strike team from Santa Clara County Fire for structure protection on the Almaden Valley side at Scenic Vista Drive. Other departments within the county sent engines to assist San Jose at the fire and for station coverage. FSU-3 soon was totally depleted of its load of about 12 cases of liquid drinks, and left the scene to return to nearby Station 35 to replenish liquids and ice and then return to the fire.

While all this was happening, San Jose had another large brush fire erupt 6 miles away. John Whitaker left the Santa Teresa incident to provide liquids (using his personal vehicle) to the crews at the new fire located in Coyote Creek off Tuers Rd. Later, FSU-1 from Santa Clara responded to assist at that fire. With temperatures in the low 100s, the need was mostly rehydration of firefighters.

Because the Santa Teresa fire was located south of the hillside canal, the fire was deemed a State Resource Area and, therefore, a Cal Fire responsibility. However, fire units already on scene continued the firefight, regardless of their agency affiliation. Cal Fire arranged for dinner to be catered and as crews demobilized, they passed through the food line for a delicious, hot meal! Crews were on scene all night and throughout the next day.

The fire covered 125 acres with no structures lost. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries. John Whiteside and FSU-3, the last FSU to be released, returned to Station 35 at 10:00 P.M. It made for a long, hot day!

## **World-Renowned Los Gatos Restaurant Burns In An Early Morning Fire**

Sometimes, being close doesn't help.

When a fire broke out at Manresa Restaurant on Monday, July 7, Santa Clara County Fire's Los Gatos Station was literally across the street. But, the 4:00 A.M. fire had a head start, and it was already a roaring blaze by the time Engine 83 got on scene. Located at 320 Village Lane in the downtown area of Los Gatos, the restaurant is world-renowned for its gourmet cuisine.



Firefighters worked feverishly in the early morning hours to save this world-renowned restaurant. (Photo by John Whitaker.)

When crews arrived, the fire appeared to be burning on the outside of the structure with extension into the roof area above the kitchen. Shortly after the fire attack began, a decision was made to go defensive as the roof was fully involved and in danger of collapsing. By the time a second alarm was called, the fire had run through the restaurant's attic area. According to news reports, the restaurant was not destroyed, but it will take some time to replace the roof and repair smoke and water damage to the interior.

With the second alarm, Fire Associates was paged to respond for assistance with Rehab. An-



At daybreak, smoke still billowed out of the restaurant as firefighters worked on the roof. (Photo by John Whitaker.)

Lexington Reservoir on northbound Highway 17 -- the main commute route from the Santa Cruz coast to the San Jose area. Multiple ambulances and fire rigs were dispatched by Santa Clara County Fire to rescue, treat, and transport victims of the 10-vehicle accident.

A two-trailer big rig hauling dirt came downhill and plowed into slowing traffic. The big rig ran over several vehicles and then, with one trailer still attached, broke through a steel and wooden post barricade. The big rig eventually stopped on the Old Santa Cruz Highway -- a frontage road adjacent to Highway

17. The rear trailer detached and continued down Highway 17 for about 50 feet before jackknifing into the center, concrete divider.

swering the 4:21 A.M. call was Don Gilbert and John Whiteside in Fire Support Unit 2. Meeting them on scene was FASCV member John Whitaker who was able to direct them to the Rehab location on the corner of Village Lane and Petticoat Lane (yes, Petticoat Lane!). As Rehab was being established, FASCV president Jerry Haag arrived on scene to lend a hand.

Lots of coffee and donuts were consumed by hungry firefighters who had not yet had breakfast and were burning lots of calories. They quickly consumed the first 2 dozen donuts with John Whitaker taking off in his personal car to a nearby donut shop to get another dozen. It didn't take long before those, too, were gone! After all firefighters had been served and the crews were beginning to be released, Rehab was demobbed at approximately 8:30 A.M.



An out of control dirt-hauler careened into many slowed vehicles causing a 10-car pile-up and one fatality. (Photo by John Whiteside.)

### **Fire Associates Responds To Assist At A Major Highway Accident**

On Thursday, July 10, a major traffic accident occurred at approximately 7:50 A.M. near the Alma Cal Fire Station. The site was located at the

Seven patients were transported to local hospitals. Sadly, there was one fatality.

At 10:57 A.M., Fire Associates members were paged to respond to the scene to support Fire, California Highway Patrol, and Caltrans person-

nel doing recovery, vehicle removal, clean-up, and the CHP Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT). After several phone calls to obtain details of the service request and availability of Fire Associates responders, John Whiteside departed San Jose Station 6 at 11:40 A.M. in FSU-2. The accident created massive traffic jams, even with coned-off two-way traffic in the normal southbound lanes. En route, John encountered FASCV member Dan Wong in his POV and together they finally reached the scene at 12:45 P.M.

County Fire had forty meals delivered just ahead of the FSU's arrival. Tables and benches were set up. Cold bottled drinks and lemonade were provided along with CLIF bars. John and Dan remained on scene until all the vehicles had been removed and the highway cleaned of debris. FSU-2 was released at 5:00 P.M., just ahead of the highway being reopened. John arrived back at Station 6 at 5:40 P.M. after refueling the support unit.

### **Large Pallet Fire In Rural Gilroy Lights Up the Morning Sky**

On Wednesday, October 22, an early morning blaze started in a pile of pallets in a complex at 2713 Ferguson Rd. in rural Gilroy and was reported to South County Fire at around 4:40 A.M. Units from the South Santa Clara County Fire District arrived and reported the blaze was large and starting to involve what could best be described as a barn.

Once on scene, the South County B/C requested more resources, adding 4 Water Tenders and more additional Engines to his original request. The fire was burning in several thousand square feet of pallet storage, and thousands of pallets were burning. Once the fire established in the barn, the IC added Ladder Trucks, 5 more Engines, and 2 more Water Tenders to his request, together with a strike team of Type 1 Engines to stand by in the vicinity to protect other nearby structures.

Around 7:00 A.M., Fire Associates was paged to the scene, and John Whiteside responded in Fire Support Unit 3, stopping along the way for a supply of donuts. John was met on site by Fire Associates' guest Bill Roth and the pair set up for morning Rehab. Hot coffee and donuts proved to be as popular as always. A short while later, Fire Associates member Bruce

Dembecki arrived on scene to help out.

Eventually, the fire spread into bales of cardboard waiting to be recycled and the operation to pull apart the cardboard and other debris to extinguish the fire extended for multiple hours. While several thousand square feet of barn were lost, the bulk of the large building was saved.

After a very long morning, fire crews were delighted when lunch was served by the members of Fire Associates.

SSCCFD was assisted in fighting the blaze by units from Gilroy Fire, Morgan Hill Fire, Cal Fire, and San Jose Fire with additional support in the form of Water Tenders from Spring Valley Fire and Hollister Fire (and, of course, our FSU-3).



Firefighters used a surround-and-drown strategy as stacks of pallets and cardboard burned. (Photo by Craig Allyn Rose.)



## Phoenix Society of San Francisco



Article and Photos By Milton Yuen

San Francisco firefighters battled two four alarm fires within a span of three days in January 2015.

On Wednesday January 28, 2015 at 18:45 hours, firefighters were dispatched to a report of fire in a three story wood frame apartment building at 3222 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Mission District of San Francisco. A working fire was called at 18:47 hours bringing a total of four Engines, two trucks, a Division Chief, two battalion Chiefs, one of two Rescue Squads, Paramedic Captain and a Medic unit. The first floor of the building consists of retail stores and restaurants. Second floor were occupied as offices. The top floor consist of a number of apartments housing over forty people. Fire-

fighters found a number of people trapped and in need of rescue. A second alarm was called at 18:50 hours followed by a request for additional medic units and another paramedic captain. The third alarm was called at 19:03 hours as the fire continued to spread on the third floor and attic space of this large “U” shaped building built in 1907. The Alpha side faced 22<sup>nd</sup> street while the Delta side faced Mission Street. The Bravo side of the building is another three story wood frame apartment building. There is a new eight story 114 units condominium building on the Charlie side of the building. At 19:35, the fourth alarm was called. There were five ladder pipes in operation assisted by at least three deck guns. Firefighters were unable to revive one man rescued from the third floor. Six people were injured.





On January 31, 2015, at 13:22 hours, SFFD dispatched three engines, two trucks, Division 2, two Battalion Chiefs, a Rescue Squad and a Medic unit to a report of an apartment fire at Scoot and McAllister Streets in the Alamo Square area of the city. A working fire was called at 13:25 hours followed by a second alarm at 13:29 hours. Fire involved the rear of a three story apartment building spreading quickly between adjoining four and three story wooden Victorian buildings. At 13:35 hours, the third alarm was called as the fire continued to grow and spread to the exposures. The fourth alarm was called at 13:54 hours. Fire damaged a total of four buildings before it can be controlled at 14:34 hours.





# ***Region***

# **9**

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.

Bell & Siren Club, Inc.

Box 54 Club

Fire Nell Club of New York, Inc.

Gong Club, Inc.

Signal 22 Assn., Inc.

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

Third Alarm Association, Inc.

South Jersey Fire Photographers Assc.



## GONG CLUB, INC.

**JERSEY CITY, NJ**

by Paul Schaetzle

### MAY FLOWERS?

“Flores”, the Spanish word for “flowers” was the name of a grocery at 201 New York Ave, in Union City. However, neighbors and fire fighters could have done without this type of flowers on the early morning of May 6, 2014! The Flores Deli & Grocery occupied the ground floor of a large 3 story corner building opposite



5/6/14 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm, 201–11 New York Ave., Union City. Five Alarm's worth of companies hard at work! (Adolf Paasburg Photo)

Washington Park, a county park that marks the border between Union City and Jersey City. A Hudson County Sheriff's Officer patrolling the park spotted smoke coming from the deli and radioed the alarm to his dispatcher. North Hudson companies responded at 01:54 as additional calls were being received including reports of people still in the building. Eng. Co. 1 arrived to find heavy smoke churning from roll down gates soon followed by fire. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm was ordered almost immediately upon arrival!

A heavy body of fire in a heavily stocked grocery with occupants above at 2 o'clock in the morning was only the beginning of the troubles in store for North Hudson fire fighters. The corner building adjoined a row of five attached 2.5 story frame dwellings, all occupied by sleeping residents. Smoke was already pushing from the first two exposure buildings. Deputy Chief David Curtis wasted no time in transmitting a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm upon his arrival. Fire was racing rapidly in the old frame structures and Chief Curtis needed manpower to evacuate all the buildings and attempt to cut off the fire.

Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, is assigned on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm in North Hudson and turned out at 0230 hours. Two minutes later a 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm was transmitted, resulting in Jersey City Batt. 3, Eng. Co. 5-8 and Lad. Co. 12 joining Car 26 on the response. Two ladder pipes were deployed on the original fire building while interior firefighting was conducted in the exposure buildings. Such a job is labor intensive, so at 0251 hours a 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm was transmitted bringing Jersey City Eng. Co. 13-15 and Lad. Co. 11 into the fray.

Before the sun rose on New York Ave., some 16 hand lines were used to wage war on the fire in all five exposure buildings. Heavy damage occurred in all exposure buildings, 203, 205, 207, 209 and 211 New York Ave. The original building was a total loss. Some 60 families were displaced, but only one minor injury, to a fire fighter, was reported.

### MAY SADNESS

Later that same day, Jersey City fire fighters and buffs were saddened to learn of the death of Chief of Department (Ret.) John Mullins at age 89. A lifelong resident of Jersey City and a World War II U. S Marine Corps veteran, he was appointed to the Jersey City Fire Department as part of the legendary class of November 1, 1947. He was promoted to Chief of Department on October 2, 1978, retiring on March 1 1990. A great friend of the Gong Club, Chief Mullins was a fixture at all of the Club's events in addition to always coming to Car 26 at every fire to talk about the day's job. Chief



Captain Mark Lee, Eng. Co. 10, F. D. J. C.  
1960 - 2014

Mullins was at the helm when the 1989 IFBA Convention was held here and attended nearly all of the convention activities. Even after his retirement, Chief Mullins was a regular at monthly meetings of the various

firematic organizations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor above our quarters and would always stop in to visit. He will be sorely missed.

As the wake for Chief Mullins was in progress, more sad news hit the F. D. J. C. Captain Mark Lee of Eng. Co. 10 succumbed to cancer on May 9, 2014. A popular and hard-working officer, Capt. Lee personally organized the Department's Christmas Toy Drive each year, collecting donations from every fire fighter on the job, buying and wrapping toys with his crew and then throwing a party to distribute gifts to needy children. In addition to his Jersey City activities, Capt. Lee spent weeks at the World Trade Center in 2001 and returned each year to join with F. D. N. Y. fire fighters to hold a flag at the Tunnel to Towers Run held each September. A large contingent of fire fighters from both sides of the Hudson saluted at his funeral at St. Paul's Church in Greenville on May 14, 2014. Capt. Lee was also featured in a photo depicting Gong Club service, covered in ice while clutching a cup of coffee at a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm in 2006. The tradition will continue, however, as a recent appointment was Fire Fighter Mark V. Lee who is proudly following in his father's footsteps at Eng. Co. 10.

### JULY TRAGEDY

A Morris County cancer charity dedicated its 5K run and walk this year to Captain Lee. The event was held in Liberty State Park on Sunday, July 13, 2014 with many fire fighters and Gong Club members planning to attend. However at 0822 hours that morning, Car 26 was special called to Box 771, 2395 Kennedy Blvd., and would spend the entire morning at that location.

Jersey City Police Officer Melvin Santiago was ambushed as he responded with other JCPD units to a Walgreen's Pharmacy at that address shortly after 0430 hours that day. The actor created a disturbance in the store and lay in waiting in the store's parking lot for the police to respond. He shot Officer Santiago at point blank range before the Officer had even alighted from his radio car. The shooter was brought down at the scene immediately by a hail of police bullets. Car 26 served police officers and fire fighters as the lengthy crime scene investigation and biological hazard mitigation were conducted. Sadly, Car 26 was tasked with similar duty nearly 5 years earlier to the day when Police Officer Mark DiNardo was slain on Reed St. on July 16, 2009.

The wake and funeral for Police Officer Santiago drew nearly 7,000 police officers on July 17 and 18, 2014. The Gong Club invoked Region 9's long standing Mutual Aid Agreement, and was ably assisted by the Bell & Siren



7/18/14 Lincoln Park, Jersey City. New Jersey State Troopers find some shade and cold refreshments following the funeral for Jersey City Police Officer Melvin Santiago (Conni Spellman Photo)

Club and the Bayonne Fire Canteen at the funeral. Canteen units from the NYPD, Port Authority, New Jersey State, Edison and other area Police Benevolent Associations worked the funeral as well. The canteens circled the large fountain in Lincoln Park adjoining St. Aloysius Church where a Mass of Christian Burial was held.

### DROUGHT OVER!

After a nearly 2 month reprieve, the fire drought in Jersey City was finally broken on a cool late October night. The record books will show that the last time a 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm was transmitted was way back on September 2, 2014, and that was an automatic 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm for a high rise. Jersey City's charmed life ended at 01:58 on Tuesday, October 28, 2014.

Box 515 was transmitted for 177 Kensington Ave. at that hour, a residential street that dead ends at Lincoln Park after crossing West Side Ave. Ladder Co. 12 was finishing up a carbon monoxide investigation a little over 3 blocks away when the box was transmitted. Capt. Kenneth Simone later said the company had smelled smoke as they were clearing the scene and radioed that they were taking in Box 515. Eng. Co. 9 arrived simultaneously with Lad. Co. 12 but Capt. Simone gave the first report "Working Fire, 2 story frame". Capt. Simone next reported that wires were down and all companies should use caution.

Batt. 4, Batt. Chief Paul Drennan, was hot on their heels, arriving as Squad Co. 4, Capt. Anthony Klocko, reported a "2 story frame, heavy fire on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; extending to a similar exposure; transmit a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm". The Working Fire assignment had not even been announced when Chief Drennan followed that order with a message that the fire was extending to the other exposure and to have Public Service Electric respond for the wires on a rush. The tail end of his message was garbled and when asked to repeat, Chief Drennan replied, "Strike a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm;" a scant 1 minute after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm!

Units arriving on the multiple alarms found that the exposure to the west presented a more challenging problem, an occupied 4 story brick, 8 unit apartment house. Despite the usual overhead wire obstacles, Ladder Companies 11 and 12 managed to extend their aerials. A live wire came down across Ladder 12, sidelining that rig until the electric power was cut. The exposures were searched and evacuated without incident. The displaced residents and other neighbors gathered in the park which was also runs along the south side of the street. The original fire building was found to be vacant and unoccupied.

Using 7 hand lines, the fire was brought under control within an hour but not before the entire roof and attic of the original fire building collapsed. The correct address for the building of origin was 188 Kensington Ave.

The dead end street presented not only a problem for fire apparatus but for canteen operations also. However, Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, responded into Lincoln Park, mounted the curb and took a position, appropriately, adjacent to the Chief Henry E. Farrier Monument. This statue is dedicated to Jersey City's first Chief of Department, who was killed in the line of duty on January

24, 1891. Chief Farrier would be proud of his firefighters this morning!

Response:

0158 Box 515 Eng. Co. 9-17-15-Sqd. 4  
Lad. Co. 11-3-12 Res. Co. 1 Batt. 4 Div. 1  
0201 WF 515 Eng. Co. 7 Marine Unit MSU  
Batt. 2  
0203 2-2 515 Eng. Co. 8-10-22 Lad. Co. 6  
Car 3-26-30  
0204 3-3 515 Eng. Co. 5-11-19 Lad. Co. 4  
Batt. 1 Car 5

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

For the first time since 1991, a company was disbanded in Jersey City. Eng. Co. 18 was officially disbanded on September 10, 2014, although the company had led a nomadic and sporadic existence since its house was closed in 2010. Its last official quarters was with Eng. Co. 7 at 715 Summit Ave. as of January 1, 2011, but had rarely been in service the past 3 years. Eng. Co. 18 was organized on March 3, 1918 in a magnificent 3 bay firehouse at 520 Palisade Ave. The company would spend 50 years here until the City decided to sell the building and Eng. Co. 18 was squeezed into the 1897 quarters of Hook and Ladder 3 at 218 Central Ave. on January 2, 1968. Its 2007 American LaFrance has been reassigned to Eng. Co. 10.

Company strength of the F. D. J. C. remains the same, however, as the Marine Unit is now fully staffed with an officer and 3 firefighters. "The Boat" occupied new quarters (a double wide trailer!) at 196 Johnston Ave. aka Zapp Dr., in Liberty State Park's marina on December 18, 2013. When not manning the marine fleet, the company takes land responses with its new 2014 Ford F550 Firematic BRAT, equipped with a 250 GPM pump and 200 gallon tank. The company is dispatched on all working fires as the FAST unit and can take stills in its immediate area. It has also been used for manpower or relief at long duration operations including mutual aid responses.

After serving 12 years as Chief of the Gong Club, Marc Wallace had to step down as his job relocated him to Houston, TX. Secretary (and IFBA Region 9 Vice President) Conni Spellman has been elected to fill the remainder of Marc's term. The outgoing Chief Wallace received a suitable plaque in commemoration of his years of service, which is proudly displayed in his new Humble (TX) abode. Greater Houston Fire Battalion take note!

# ***Region***

# ***10***

Box 43 Association  
Club Appel-99 Quebec  
The Ontario Fire Buffs  
Associates, Inc.  
Greater Toronto  
Multiple Alarm Assn.  
Pompiers Auxiliaires de  
Montréal



## *Pompiers Auxiliaires de Montréal*

By Steve Garnett

I wish to extend my sincerest greetings to you from the newest IFBA members in Montreal, Canada. Through this article for the “*Turn Out*”, I would like to introduce ourselves by providing a synopsis of some of the history of our group

In the French language, our official name is the “Pompiers Auxiliaires de Montréal”. The English translation is “Montreal Auxiliary Firemen”. We use the acronym PAM. The group was founded in 1944 by a team of men active in civil security. Their goal was to create a non-profit organization offering canteen service to fire fighters and to preserve the history of the fire department through the creation of a fire museum. The first scheduled meeting took place on September 10, 1944. It was at that occasion that the first President, John F McGurk, and Vice-President, P. Lamarche, were elected. Also voted in that evening were the initial Secretary, Thomas P. Lyng, and Treasurer, William St. Louis. The original 16 regular members were also registered.

On January 10, 1945, the first canteen box was inaugurated. The actual cost, at that time, to produce the box was \$12.85! It was handmade and consisted of a wooden exterior with a metal interior measuring 36”X18”X24” that worked similarly to a Thermos container. Members used this canteen box to serve appreciated warm beverages to fire fighters at major calls during

the cold Canadian winter months. A designated member was responsible to retrieve and bring the canteen box directly to the scene of the fire. The other members would rush to the fire stations closest to the fire to make the coffee and transport it to the fire ground where it was poured into the canteen box. The first use of that device was at a three alarm fire, on January 30, 1945, which destroyed a school for young girls.

April 21, 1948 advanced P.A.M. into the motorized age with the purchase of a used 1943 Ford ½ ton panel truck. The city garage generously assisted the members with the repairs of the truck and worked in helping execute the necessary modifications required to meet the needs of P.A.M. The primary function of this unit was to transport the two canteen boxes and other items used to make the coffee and Bovril that were served on the scene of fires. On May 28, 1949, PAM acquired a Coleman camping stove which was used to make the coffee at the intervention, instead of at the closest station.

In 1953, with the approval of City Council, the fire department procured a new 1953 Fargo three-ton



1946 Bickle Seagrave Tiller

Route Van for PAM to replace the 1943 Ford and the portable canteen boxes. The interior was custom-made to suit the updated requirements of the group. A generator was installed to provide interior and exterior lighting. Cupboards to store supplies such as coffee, cups, sugar, powdered milk, Bovril and cigarettes were built. For the first time, a large water reservoir and sink became available inside a mobile vehicle. Two propane tanks, positioned on the outside of the truck, were used to replace the Coleman stove to prepare the coffee.

Members of the group added a soft drink dispenser in 1959 which became a unanimous success amongst the fire fighters. Also that year, a new meeting location became necessary as the group membership increased and the collection of artifacts significantly expanded.

During the spring of 1964, a second vehicle was acquired on May 1. This unit was a small van that was converted to serve as an ambulance. Now with two trucks, qualified members could respond to all major incidents with an actual ambulance and others could travel to the event in a mobile canteen. The administration of oxygen, the provision of medical aid and serving beverages became the three main responsibilities of PAM.

The evolution of PAM continued in 1969 when all members received the first official dress uniform on June 6 that consisted of a shirt, dress pants and dress coat. The director of the fire department recognized the invaluable contribution that PAM delivered and insisted that shoulder crests be sewn to the Auxiliary dress coats to clearly distinguish PAM members from uniformed fire fighters. This was the first time the name "*Pompiers Auxiliaires de Montréal* " was displayed in public.

From 1971 to 1976, PAM participated in the annual Oceanside, NY parade. Since that time, at least once a year, PAM has attempted to travel to

a different U.S. city to participate in different parades. Our latest U.S.A. parade appearance was in the summer of 2011 in Syracuse, NY at the SPAAMFAA convention and muster.

A new Dodge "Sportman" ¾ ton ambulance was assigned to PAM on July 26, 1977. The fire department was so impressed with the services PAM provided to fire fighters that it decided it was essential to furnish the new vehicle with more contemporary equipment. At the time, a major component was a sophisticated stretcher which could have been easily transformed into a rolling chair, if necessary. Other tools included a portable defib, a portable oxy meter, sterile water, disinfect-



1953 Mack-Magirus aerial

tant solutions and a back board. In its day, this ambulance was the most modern in the province of Quebec.

The fire museum is currently located at 5100 St-Laurent Boulevard in Montreal. It shares space with active fire station #30 in a heritage building that dates back over 100 years. This location became available when the district police station vacated the premises on October 2, 1979, followed by the start of renovations. On June 6, 1980, the City of Montreal inaugurated the Montreal Fire Fighters Museum with a grand celebration in collaboration with the fire department and fire fighters union. The museum also serves as our head-

quarters where we hold our annual meetings, gather on a weekly basis and maintain our current response units.

On June 22, 1984, PAM was presented its first former Montreal Fire Department, European-style, rear mount, 1953 Mack-Magirus aerial ladder. Members of Pam began restoring the apparatus in 1985 until it was completed in June 1987. It has become a parade favourite.

The Canadian federal government officially recognized PAM as a “non-profit organization” on November 13, 1987. This special status is still in effect day.

During 1991, PAM placed into service a new 1991 Gruman step van mobile canteen. This truck was furnished with all the necessary equipment to respond to major fires and to be totally self-sufficient. It was equipped with a large capacity generator, 70 gallon water tank and high volume coffee maker, amongst many other amenities.

PAM celebrated 50 years of service in September 1994. A spectacular fire apparatus parade was organized with the participation of over 70 trucks from Montreal and surrounding areas.

A major weather related event took place from January 4 - 10, 1998. An ice storm caused widespread power outages and millions of people went without power for long periods after heavy ice toppled power pylons. PAM played an important role in this historical event as members responded to calls throughout the City of Montreal providing hot

beverages and food to fire fighters for a continuous six day period. Precipitation fell as ice pellets and snow. Freezing rain exceeded 35 mm in Montreal.

January 1, 2002 was another historical moment. The provincial government of Quebec mandated the merger of many cities across the province. This forced the 23 existing municipalities and fire services on the Island of Montreal to merge

with the City of Montreal. This created one island-wide fire service providing protection to nearly two million residents with all the components of any large metropolis. The new SIM department is the



1923 Seagrave Pumper

largest in the province, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Canada and 6<sup>th</sup> largest in North America. Two of the hurdles that the new service went through were the integration of all the former suburban radio communication systems into one and replacing dozens of deteriorated pre-merger trucks. Volunteers had to take the necessary training to become full-time, paid fire fighters. And the list goes on! Due to this forced merger, PAM responses significantly multiplied as a result of a much larger fire department covering a vastly increased territory.

One component of the responsibilities fulfilled by PAM changed in 2006. New laws controlling ambulance transport gave this task to the provincially managed EMS service. As a result, the fire department retired the PAM unit and replaced it in April 2007 with a mobile first aid and rehab vehicle.

We have come a long way from the early days of our wooden canteen box. But our primary goal re-

mains the same which is to provide the best possible care on the fire ground to the 2500 fire fighters who protect us. We strive to improve our first responder training and continuously review and revise our rehab capabilities. We have 26 members in our association and we run approximately 200 calls a year. We respond to second alarm fires upon request of the incident commander and, automatically, to all three alarm fires as well as hazmat incidents. Our services are requested at major floods and at hostage situations with the police SWAT team. We also participate at city

and fire department special events and attend many antique car expositions and parades.

On behalf of the new IFBA members from Montreal who attended this year's annual convention in Dallas, I wish to convey our deepest gratitude for your warm hospitality. We appreciated visiting the sites and meeting so many motivated and committed members of the IFBA and local emergency services. It would be our pleasure to welcome any IFBA members to Montreal and present our group, fire department and city.





## **Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Association**

Founded 1975 Incorporated 1994

3442 Nadine Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5A 3L3

**Member IFBA**



## **The Year In Review**

### **Support 7 – 2013 Recap**

Support 7 had 39 runs resulting in 1,552 hours of service by the members of G.T.M.A.A. at which 108 pots of coffee, 880 cereal bars and numerous cases of cookies, water and Gatorade were served.

### **In Memorial**

Since our last reporting, the club suffered the loss of three members:

Doug Andrew – July 16, 2013

Charles Croft (Life Member) – December 26, 2013

Neil McCarten – March 3, 2014

### **2014 In Review**

Our annual dinner, the Bruce Beauchamp Memorial Dinner, was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> and was well attended with 50 members and guests enjoying a good meal and wonderful fellowship. Member Larry Thorne was the recipient of both the Photographer of the Year and the Robert Andrew Fire Buff of the Year awards. This is the first time in my memory that both awards have been won by a single member. A well-deserved tribute to Larry's dedication to the fire buffing community in general and our club more specifically.

The June meeting and BBQ was again held at Toronto Fire Services Station 334, home of fire boats Wm. Lyon McKenzie and Sora. 60 members, guests and station crewmembers, despite having been rained out of the opportunity to enjoy a boat trip around the harbor on the McKenzie, enjoyed a great evening.

TFS Pumper 224 moved to its new quarters in August and its call letters were changed to Pumper 221. The official opening of the new station, located on Eglinton Avenue East just east of Midland Avenue, took place on September 12<sup>th</sup> with Support 7 and several club members in attendance.

September brought a wonderful IFBA Convention, skillfully hosted by Box 4 in Dallas, TX. We were pleased to see such a large Canadian contingent make the trip to Dallas, including 8 of our members, 5 from the Ontario Fire Buff Association and 3 from the Montreal Firefighters Auxiliary. Job well done by Box 4 and on to Hartford, CT in August 2015.

### **Upcoming Events**

Our November meeting, to be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> will see the bi-annual election of officers to serve for 2015-2016. We have had many members step forward to help steer the club for these two years and I look forward to reporting the new slate of officers very soon.

November 29<sup>th</sup> will bring our annual Christmas Dinner, which will again be held at the Canadiana Restaurant. It is a comfortable evening of food and fellowship. Anyone interested in attending are welcome and should contact any member of the current Executive for further details i.e. address, times and cost.

Our December meeting, to be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> will be our traditional end of the year BBQ. 2015 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our organization and we look forward to celebrating this milestone throughout the year. We would love to have our friends in the fire buff community join us in the celebration. More details will be forthcoming as things are solidified.

Submitted by: David MacDonald, G.T.M.A.A. Vice-President



G.T.M.A.A. members with Support 7 at the dedication of new Toronto Fire Services Station 221  
Photo credit: Capt. Karen Reid, Toronto Fire Services



2014 IFBA Convention – Dallas, TX Photo credit: Karen Hoskins

## Additional Photos from The Gong Club



**Engine Co. 18**  
March 3, 1918 – September 10, 2014



**Marine Coastal Response Unit**  
2014 Ford F550 Firematic BRAT 250/200 (Ron Jeffers Photo)

