



Until the Next Issue:  
Associate/Applicant Weekend -  
Nov 9-11  
Monthly Party - Dec 8  
----- 2013 -----  
Monthly Party - Jan 12  
Monthly Party - Feb 9

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings All!

The final quarter of 2012 has already begun. We hope our members, friends and guests have enjoyed each of our monthly and annual events this year and we look forward to closing out 2012 with as many of you as possible who plan to party and play with us at our remaining events.

We started our year end count down with the October monthly play party and we are looking forward to our Associate/Applicant Weekend (AAW) and the Thanksgiving holiday in November followed in December by our monthly party and the remaining major holidays (see the [club's events calendar and the Program Chair's article on page 3](#) in this newsletter). If you haven't already made plans, we hope you will consider joining us for any or all of our remaining scheduled events as we close out 2012.



**Paul Cantrell**  
**President**

Louis L.,  
Greg H.,  
Chris S., and  
Doug V. Members-at-Large

Congratulations to the new board members, and I look forward to working with each of you.

I'd also like to offer a special thank you to the men who served the club during this year as the 2012 Board of Directors. This year's 13-member Board of Directors did an awesome job taking care of the operations of the club.

This year's 2012 Board consists of:  
President: Paul Cantrell,  
Vice President: John R. [aka Skip],

[\(Cont'd on Page 6\)](#)

In October, The CHC held its Annual Meeting of the Full Members, including Board of Directors elections. The newly elected 2013 CHC Board of Directors are:

President: Paul Cantrell  
Vice President: Aaron P.  
Secretary: JW R.  
Treasurer: Hieu N.  
Program Director: Ben V.  
Membership: Jeff J.  
Inferno Coordinator: Gene M.  
David K.,  
David R.,

## IN THIS ISSUE

Pg	Article	Pg	Article
1	<a href="#">A Message from Our President</a>	5	<a href="#">First Timer</a>
1	<a href="#">In This Issue</a>	5	<a href="#">Notes from a Leading SM Therapist</a>
2	<a href="#">Time for a Change</a>	6	<a href="#">My First Inferno (or Memories of Cantrell in a Rubber Singlet)</a>
3	<a href="#">Calendar of Events</a>	6	<a href="#">President's Message Continued</a>
3	<a href="#">From the Program Chair</a>	7	<a href="#">In Memoriam - Michael B</a>
4	<a href="#">Are You Ready</a>	7	<a href="#">The Depth of Relationships</a>
4	<a href="#">Passing the Torch</a>	8	<a href="#">AAW Reservation Form</a>

# TIME FOR A CHANGE

I have been your Brand Newsletter Editor for the past three years and it has been a wonderful experience. When I was still an applicant to become an Associate, I began scouting for some way that I might be able to participate actively in the club. That was going to be hard since I live in Pennsylvania. While I was still at my first Inferno, someone had placed slips of paper on the tables on the last day asking newbies to write about their first Inferno experience. When I got home, I did just that. Back then, the Editors were in the U.K. and they used that article. The following year, John B. became Editor of the Brand and Tawse and John T. became Editors of the Cicatrix, the club newsletter for members only. I wrote a couple more articles for both the newsletters - why I have no clue because I had never had any desire to write before. It must have been the subject matter. In any event, Tawse and John were kind enough to allow me to help them with proof-reading their new issues and John Bradford and I were having regular discussions. In September, John told me that he was going to run for the Program Director the following year and he asked if I would be interested in editing the Brand. I was thrilled and amazed that I would be entrusted with that honor.

For, you see, it has been a true honor to have served as

your Brand Editor these past three years - working with the Officers of the Club to bring you, as members and guests, their messages and the events of the club and often a story or two about a member's or guest's experiences with the club. The highest honor for an Editor is hearing that one of those stories has made a difference



**Jack Schweitzer**  
**Brand Editor - 2012**

in someone's life, and that happened to me during this past Inferno XLI. A member, who had apparently been undecided about joining the club, began telling me that he had only decided to join after reading a particular story in the Brand. That story was about a leather man at the IML mart who wanted to try out a sleepsack at the Mr S booth. He asked a stranger wearing the CHC colors on his vest if he would hold his possessions and an expensive camera while he did that "because if he could not trust a member of the Chicago Hellfire Club, who could he trust"! That report on the reputation of trust associated with CHC made a difference in his decision to join. The member telling me this story knew I was the Editor of the Brand, but had no idea I had also written the article, and it became vali-

validation that the Brand was representing the club as it was meant to be and it was making a difference.

Now it is time for your new Editor for 2013, Kevin B., to have those same experiences, hopefully. Please give him your full support by providing him with articles, pictures, and poems about your experiences at club-related events or about club related history. It will make his job so much easier, make the newsletter much more interesting and provide a richer history for the club.

In closing, I would like to thank the officers of the club that I have had the privilege to work with for their patience and understanding, all of the guys who ever submitted an article, my predecessor, John B, for his guidance and encouragement, and Tawse and John T. for an amazing amount of support and a fantastic working relationship and friendship. I could never thank all of you enough, and I hope our relationships continue and grow ever stronger.

In Brotherhood,  
Jack Schweitzer, Brand Editor 2012

## THE BRAND

**Jack S., Editor 2012**

**Kevin B., Editor 2013**

**Spring 2012 Issue Article Deadline**

**February 16, 2013**

Send articles, news, and correspondence to:

**E-mail (preferred):**

[news@hellfire13.net](mailto:news@hellfire13.net)

**Regular Mail:**

CHC/Fireside Club

Attn: Brand Editor

PO Box 577618

Chicago, IL 60657-7618

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Special Event	2012 Date MM/DD	Event	Place	Time	Additional Information
AAW	11/09	Meet and greet	Clubhouse	7 pm - 9 pm	See Program Chair's Article on page 3 and the reservation form on <a href="#">page 8</a> .
	11/09	Party	Clubhouse	9pm - 2am	
	11/10	Banquet	<a href="#">Marcello's</a>	6pm - 9pm	
	11/10	Party	Clubhouse	9pm - 2am	
	11/11	Brunch and party	Clubhouse	11am - 3pm	
	12/08	Monthly Party	Clubhouse	8pm - 2am	See Note A, below
2013	1/12	Monthly Party	Clubhouse	8pm - 2am	See Note A, below
	2/9	Monthly Party	Clubhouse	8pm - 2am	See Note A, below
	3/9	Monthly Party	Clubhouse	8pm - 2am	See Note A, below

Note A: To reserve a place at the party, please send an email to [program@hellfire13.net](mailto:program@hellfire13.net) including your name and phone number and if a guest, the name of your sponsor. Also include the date of the party you wish to attend.

## FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The days are getting shorter but that just makes the nights longer! We're fitting in a lot more fun for you this winter, so make sure to hit one of our upcoming parties.

First up is Associate Applicant Weekend, November 9, 10, and 11. We welcome guests as well as members and applicants to these events; whoever is coming, though, please RSVP so we can get your names on the lists for the banquet and parties. The [RSVP form](#) for AAW is printed on the last page of this edition of The Brand. The form says that reservations for the banquet and party package are due November 1, but there may still be space available if you act now! If you are a guest and have a problem contacting your sponsor, notify us as [program@hellfire13.net](mailto:program@hellfire13.net).

Anyhow, AA Weekend starts Friday, November 9 with a 7pm to 9pm meet-and-greet at the Clubhouse. This is when the applicants introduce themselves to the members of the club. At 9pm, the Friday night party starts. Then, on Saturday, November 10, we have our banquet at

Marcello's on North Avenue. Cocktails begin at 6pm. Saturday night finds us back at the Clubhouse, with our party starting at 9pm. The weekend culminates with a brunch and party at the Clubhouse beginning at 11am on Sunday, November 11.

We will have our last party of 2012 on December 8, starting with a demo at 8pm and play from 9pm to 2am. Next year we will have a new Program Director, Ben V., please help me in welcoming him to the Board of Directors. Our regular monthly parties for 2013 will begin on January 12; keep an eye out for email updates.

J.C. L.  
2012 Program Director

# FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

## ARE YOU READY?

As the VP of the Chicago Hellfire Club, one of my biggest responsibilities is to be the primary point of contact for our members. So why am I writing an article here in the Brand, the newsletter for you: our guests? Communicating with our guests and the public are the responsibilities of our President, or our Program Director. You're not my responsibility, right?

Well, I want you to be my responsibility. If you've been a guest of the club, you have an idea of what the club has to offer. The Chicago Hellfire Club is a gay male club dedicated to S&M sex. The club is over 41 years old. We have a lot of history and many skilled and horny perverts who want to do dirty things to and with you.



John "Skip" Reddy  
Vice President

If you're at least 21 years old, male, have been to the clubhouse, and been to Inferno, you may be eligible for membership already. Talk to the man who sponsored you to your last CHC party, or any member of the club, and find out if you have what it takes to apply for membership. If you aren't ready for membership, ask what it is that you need to do to join the longest running and most respected gay S&M club in the United States, maybe the world.

So, are you ready?

Yours in leather (chastity, hypnosis, getting you to join up),

-John "Skip" Reddy  
CHC VP, 2012

## PASSING THE TORCH

This article isn't exactly related to being the VP of the Chicago Hellfire Club. In fact, I'll be stepping down from the office at the end of this term. We've had elections and will have a number of new officers next year, but I'm not going to be disappearing from the club.

You see, I have been indulging a personal program lately. Every now and then I'll mention via twitter ( [@Reddywhp](#) ) that I'm doing impromptu skills workshops. As a result, I've run two basic rope skills workshops and a one-on-one flogging tutorial.

Why have I done this? The self-serving reason is that I want more tops with practiced skills so that I can get bottom time. But the actual reason is that I've been really thinking about mentoring lately. In looking at the CHC Bylaws and Standing Legislation, and particularly in our statement of purpose, we as a club have been given a strong directive to provide an opportunity for education.

In the most recent members-only newsletter, I challenged my brothers to engage in more mentoring and spreading of knowledge. Our club is a wellspring of perverted skills and knowledge; we should pass that on.

I'm trying to put my proverbial money where my mouth is. I'd love to hear back from our members and our guests: What sort of classes would you like to see? What sort of skills would you like to practice or develop? Sometimes it's about learning something new. However, it can also be about taking the time to practice a known skill in a low-pressure environment. I call it "lab time."

I'll be working with the Program Director to work up a way to organize and advertise a resurrection of our SM University (SMU). I want to hear from you. Reach me via email at my email address of [skip@redskywhip.org](mailto:skip@redskywhip.org).

Yours in leather (ropes, chains, and making tops so I can bottom),

-John "Skip" Reddy  
CHC VP, 2012



# LETTERS FROM CAMP

Here are three articles written by attendees at Inferno XLI

## FIRST TIMER

Yes, this was my first experience at Inferno and what an experience it was. I first learned of Inferno from a friend I met at a gay campground in Florida. Knowing my interests, he suggested that I check out the Recon web site. From there I have met many men with whom I am now friends. One of them invited me to IML and now Inferno.

I, naturally, attended and couldn't have had a better time. From the time I arrived until my departure it was an awesome adventure. Every person I met and with whom I had appointments was great...and, believe me, I kept my "dance card" full. What a great family and my hope is to become a member.

From the cross to the slings, to the bench and the vertical cage, from flogging to electro, to bondage, cbt, tt, and more my limits were challenged and, to date, I have been up to the challenge. I tried it all and fully enjoyed it.

I have only one regret about Inferno XLI and that is I did not schedule for session B.....next year, LOOK OUT

Alan T.

## FROM THE NOTES OF A LEADING SM THERAPIST

Thursday 6 September

The patient, Mr. Leatherwriternyc (aka Jim G), has been referred to me by his Inferno sponsor (Mr. Jon B). The patient is exhibiting classic signs of Pre-Inferno Anxiety Syndrome (PIAS). Mr. Leatherwriternyc is alternating among a series of unlikely, but nevertheless stress-producing, scenarios.

The patient is obsessing that he:

- Needs to lose 20 lbs and have both ab and pec implants by 9 September and his arrival at Session B
- Will play with so many hot men that he will decide to abandon his corporate career and open an online SM toy store and candle shop

- Will play with no one, go home for an extended threesome with Ben & Jerry, and then abandon the aforementioned corporate career and open an online SM toy store and candle shop
- Will discover that he is not a heavy BDSM bottom but a vanilla cross-dresser, embarrassing his respected Inferno sponsor to the point where both of them will be asked to leave the event

The list goes on. I am prescribing an immediate THUD intervention (Thrashing Hindquarters Under Duress) prior to his departure, followed by as much SM sex as humanly possible in the time allotted to Session B.



Thursday 13 September

The patient is now completely cured and is now looking forward to the AA Weekend in Chicago. He states that the unexpected and deep sense of fellowship and solidarity he encountered was not only life-affirming, but transformational. He then shared with me a view of his artistically altered buttocks (a wide range of carefully applied red, blue and black tones), his still-throbbing and encrusted nipples, as well as a stunning display of the carefully applied red stripes and welts on his back. "I was a canvas for a series of master artists," he proudly declared. (Note to self: Did he mean "Artist Masters"?)

I have recommended follow-up group therapy to keep his recovery on track.

Jim G.

# MY FIRST INFERNO OR MEMORIES OF CANTRELL IN A RUBBER SINGLET

I was at Session A, had a bunk in the barracks, and vowed to register earlier in the future.

I laughed a lot. I ate a lot. I drank a lot.

I was tied up, tied down, blindfolded, gagged, and hooded.

I was slapped, bitten, kissed, groped, and embraced.

I was flogged, edged, electro-fied, and my C and B were mercilessly and relentlessly T'd.

I was gagged with my own sock and my hands were tied above my head while someone ran the blade of a knife all over my body. I screamed like a victim in a slasher movie. But I didn't say stop.

I was kissed long enough and hard enough that I lost my balance and dropped to my knees onto pavement, and didn't feel a thing.

I wore a pink shirt on Friday, and was told to leave it in my cabin for the duration. That was good advice.

I wore my red sneakers on Friday, and was met with an alarming amount of scorn. I wore them all weekend.

I faced my crippling shyness head-on and met men from across the country and around the globe. I even managed to learn some of their names. ("Daddy" and "Sir" count as names.)

I saw men in complete football uniforms, men who'd been beaten bloody, men encased in rubber, men who acted like dogs. They were the happiest men I'd ever seen.

I stood at the poolside bar, singing along with the bartenders to the original cast album of *Company*.

I became closer to the men who call me brother than I am to the brothers who share my last name.

I stood up on Sunday morning and was welcomed into a brotherhood.

And I belonged.

Johnny R.

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And so it would seem, Inferno XLI was another rousing success. Thank you to the three gentlemen who wrote these excellent articles to share their experiences with us.

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## A Message from Our President [\(Cont'd from Pg 1\)](#)

Secretary: Doug V.,  
Treasurer: Rob W.,  
Membership: Jeff J.,  
Program: JC L.,  
Inferno Coordinator: David K.,  
Mark F.,  
Greg H.,  
Louis L.,  
Gene M.,  
Chris S. and  
Scott Z. (Members at Large).

Thank you, Gentlemen, for a wonderful year and for all your efforts and hard work at making it a successful year for our club.

The remaining months of 2012 will be key for the

transition of those newly elected to the 2013 CHC Board of Directors as we gear up for our 42nd year of club events and activities. Thank you to each of these men for their dedication and commitment at stepping up to the challenge of leading CHC through our next year.

We welcome you to join us throughout 2013 at any or all of our monthly and annual events. If you're interested in exploring membership opportunities within CHC, please inquire via [info@hellfire13.net](mailto:info@hellfire13.net)

Season's Greetings to all and please remember to continue your support of your LGBTQ local and national charities as well as any of the other national charities that are near and dear to your hearts.

Regards,  
Paul Cantrell – CHC President 2012

## *In Memoriam*

We are saddened to report that our CHC Associate Member and brother, Michael B., passed away shortly after returning home from Inferno XLI. He will be remembered as a loving, caring, and fun-loving man.



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## THE DEPTH OF RELATIONSHIPS

About seven years ago, when I finally admitted to myself that I was gay and started on my gay/kink life experiences, everything seemed so new, so different, so good. Going to Inferno and other leather events were opportunities to meet and play with great men, learn their skills, listen to their stories and receive their care and offer mine to them.

Recently, a new attendee at Inferno mentioned to me that he was astounded by the overwhelming sense of community and acceptance that he felt there. He told me he even hesitated to write about that because he did not want to jar or test that feeling lest it disappear too quickly. I remember feeling that same way, because before I knew it, I found myself caring more deeply about the men I was meeting than I had ever felt for any friends I had ever had.

Then without warning about 2 years ago, the first man I had ever played with died of a heart attack, and the loss I felt weighed heavily. I had good memories of him and my visits with him and even a few pictures. A few months later another friend died and then a friend had a serious bout with cancer. Then news another friend had ALS. Most recently, yet another friend died suddenly of a heart attack.

These were all good men; important to me and loved by me and many others. I am not sure I could have known how deeply I would feel about the men in my new life. I doubt any straight men would understand what it is like to love another man as deeply – to love a friend who is not a partner so deeply and to feel the loss when death comes calling or the concern when serious illness strikes or even the sense of worry about a friend when their finances fall apart.

No one warned me about this part of being gay. Probably for the first time, I can only truly begin to imagine how many guys must have felt in the 80's and early 90's when AIDS first took so many friends. There are good memories of wonderful men and deep appreciation for their impact on my life and the lives of others, but there is also sorrow that the joy and guidance and love they shared will no longer be shared with other men except through our stories and memories of them and our sharing with others of what they taught and passed on to us. No one warned me, no one could have.

# AA WEEKEND RESERVATION FORM

November 9-11, 2012

Send in Your Reservation ASAP -Space Is Limited!

Person Submitting Reservation	
Email	
Phone	
CHC Sponsor Name (Guests Only)	

## AA Weekend Banquet Attendance

Please print name(s) below of (all) Banquet attendees covered by this form and indicate their price in the next column:	Member or Applicant Price: \$20 Guest Price: \$35
	\$
Total	\$
Please indicate any special dietary needs here and who, in the list above, this applies to:	

## AA Weekend Party Attendance

List names of anyone covered by this form who will be attending one or more parties. Indicate the donation amount if a guest. In the far right columns indicate which parties will be attended by each person.	Suggested Donation for Party Ticket(s): \$25/party or \$65 for all three parties for Guests only. (No Donation Necessary for CHC Members or Applicants)	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	\$			
Total Donation and total number attending each party				

<b>Grand Total of Banquet Tickets and Party Donations</b>	\$
Reservations for the banquet must be received by <b>November 1, 2012</b> . Send checks or money orders payable to <b>FIRESIDE CLUB, LTD.</b> with this reservation form to Fireside Club, Ltd., P.O. Box 577618, Chicago, IL. 60657-7618.	