

THE BRAND

A Publication of the Chicago Hellfire Club
Spring 2021

CHC Looking Ahead From the President

Where oh where to begin?

Wait, I know...GRATITUDE.

So little has happened since I last wrote an article and yet it also feels like so much has happened. I cannot believe the lengths that our Programming committee under the leadership of Terry L, has gone through over these past fourteen months.

Along with the amazing support of the Zoom sub-committee, they have gone above and beyond in creating ways for our members and guests to interact as a club. They started small with social gatherings just for members. That parlayed into adding registered guests. Eventually, with the Board's approval, that turned into hosting actual "play" type parties.

If anyone had told me 18 months ago that we would be hosting play parties that people could access on their devices, I would have laughed and said, "Yeah, right!" Although not always in agreement with everything this group of dedicated brothers wanted to do, my admiration and respect for them trying, and wanting to create something, anything, never wavered.



David R



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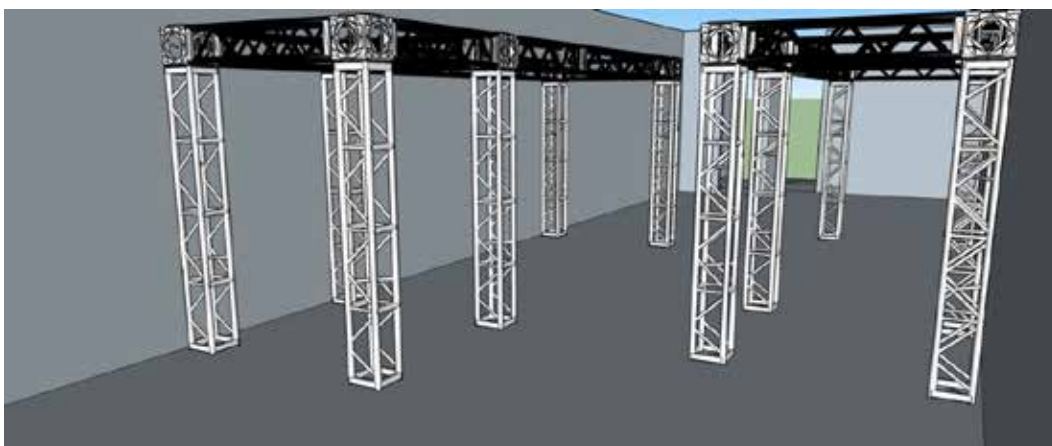


More from the President

CLUBHOUSE REMODEL

Oh and let's not forget that there is yet another sub-committee of Programming, (and House), which is the Clubhouse Remodel committee. I cannot name everyone on this committee, but kudos to Sir Electric Steve, and Pete N for taking the helm on this huge project. I am extremely excited for everyone to see and experience the end results on all of the work these guys are putting in.

Considering that we have been out of commission since March of 2020, it is mind-blowing how much Terry has had on his plate. If we had a "member-of-the-year" type of award, it would without a doubt go to Terry L for what he has accomplished. As a member of this club, I am grateful for him and all that he does. As President of this club, I count my lucky stars week in and week out for this man. Next time you see or contact him, please thank him.



Upstairs: Heavy metal truss

OUTREACH

Along with all of the above, I have to recognize some things Lawrence K and Travis F have done with the Member Outreach committee. Reaching out to members to check in on them, helping the VP with follow-ups on dues payments, and helping to foster a peer support group online for our members are just some of the things they have been up to over these last few months. The feedback from folks who have participated in these support group sessions has been nothing but positive. Under the facilitation of Full members Rudy D and Robert K, these sessions have proven to be a life-line for some. Brothers reaching out to brothers, brothers





More from the President

listening to brothers, brothers helping each other through rough times is what they have embodied. I am not in the least bit surprised by this — I am extremely grateful.

I will also extend a big shout-out to our Honorary, Full, and Associate members who willingly and graciously stepped up to serve on the Medical Advisory Task Force. These are brothers who are mostly in the medical field, so asking them to give more of themselves when they were already being taxed and pushed to their limits due to the pandemic, was a difficult ask...yet they did it. They did it for the betterment and the safety of our brothers and our club. In addition to all of his other responsibilities, our Vice President, Scott Z, stepped up to helm this task force. And he will continue to do so throughout the rest of this year. I am grateful for his willingness to always say "Yes", whenever I ask him to do more, and I am grateful to each of the members for caring enough to serve on this committee.

NAVIGATING THE PANDEMIC

This Board of Directors has had to deal with, and address, and maneuver, the running of this club and make decisions for this club in some of the worst times this club has experienced in years and years. Everyone's commitment to showing up, and doing the work, and keeping to my mantra of "what is in the best interest of the club" has been positively affirming. I have a tremendous amount of respect for these men. And it goes without saying, I am so very grateful for all of them.

LOOKING AHEAD

Now, looking ahead there is a lot to be excited about. I already mentioned the Clubhouse remodel. There are other things as well. I won't go into detail because I don't want to step on Programming or Inferno's toes, (unless that is a scene they would like to try, then, I'm happy to do so). Suffice it to say, that I am optimistic. I know, some of you will react and say that I have been saying that for a few months now — not true. Up until 3-4 weeks ago, I had been saying that I was cautiously optimistic. Now, I'm just optimistic. And even for that, I'm grateful.

Forward We Go My Brothers!

David M Rosen President

president@hellfire13.net





Inferno 50

From the Inferno Coordinator

Dear Brothers

Last year at this time when I was writing this, I knew in my gut that Inferno 49 would not happen. This year I know in my gut that Inferno 50 will happen. Unless something changes between now and July, I am fully confident we will be meeting on the western shores of eastern Michigan again. This is not official. That will not come until July's board meeting.

FROM REGISTRATION:

Please remember that the usual deadline for all roommates is still June 1st. That means you may want to check in with all of your roommates to make sure they have gotten their Inferno 50 registration applications in. Trust me when I say, this is not the year to send emails or make phone calls of "Oops, I meant to get it in and time got away from me". On June 2nd, the registration team will begin the arduous task of placing heads in beds. If one of your roommates did not get his registration in, his spot will be filled with someone who did get theirs in on time.

There is no need to keep checking on the website to see if you can pay yet — you cannot. That function will become available sometime after the Board meeting of July 12, 2021...providing the Board's decision is a "GO" for Inferno 50.

If the Board's decision is "GO", then let's all be grateful that Inferno 50 can happen. Let's not be picky or whiny about housing, accommodations, roommates, payments, and time constraints. We are all working within circumstances that are not ideal, but had to be set up in order for us to pull this off. (That was from the Registration Chair himself, and his poor attempt at being polite about this, and not me as Coordinator).

Finally, one of the biggest ways you can help is giving us as much advance notice as possible if you plan on cancelling your registration. Many registered knowing they had ample time to change their mind about attending. Please do not wait for the Board's decision on July 12th. If you know you're not going to be able to attend, PLEASE let us know as soon



David K





More from the Inferno Coordinator

as possible. Simply send an email to inferno.registration@hellfire13.net informing us of your decision. It's that simple.

Please know that I have been in contact with the run site, and they are still looking forward to seeing us in September.

As has always been the practice, we recommend not making any travel plans until you receive your confirmation packet in the mail from the registration team. That usually happens in early to mid-July. Should you choose to ignore this recommendation, or even once you do make your travel plans after receiving your confirmation packet, we highly recommend purchasing travel insurance in case the event is cancelled or in case you have to cancel. We will not be refunding any monies paid for any individual's travel expenses.

We will keep you notified and up-to-date on any changes, modifications or adjustments, as we know them. We appreciate everyone's understanding, and flexibility.

So, to restate...

Reminders:

- Your attendance is not confirmed until you receive notification from the registration chair David R.
- Do not make any travel arrangements until you receive your confirmation from David R. and the registration team. This will happen sometime in late July after the board meeting July 12.

ADDING GUESTS

It is not too late for members to add guests to their list for this year's Inferno. Please send the following information to registration at inferno.registration@hellfire13.net:

1. Legal Name
2. E-mail address

Also appreciated would be:

3. Postal address
4. Phone number





More from the Inferno Coordinator

BIRTLES SCHOLARSHIPS

Do you know someone who needs financial assistance in order to attend Inferno?

The club has a scholarship set up to assist anyone with a financial difficulty.

The following information was sent in the e-mail blast about guest sponsorship information linked in the Inferno sponsorship packet. For complete information please refer to the packet link in that email.

Scholarships are only for one session of Inferno. If the nominee wishes to pay for the second session himself then they do not demonstrate financial need. The Inferno Committee has the final decision on who receives the scholarship and may decide which session the scholarship recipient attends. Scholarships are good for standard accommodations.

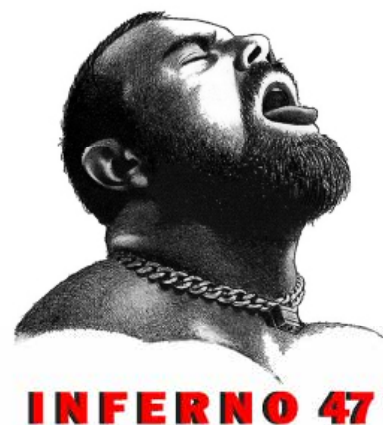
- Who can nominate? Any club member in good standing.
- Who is eligible? Men who are members of the gay S&M community and are legitimately eligible to attend Inferno.

Members can email their nominations to inferno@hellfire13.net. You should include enough information that the Inferno Committee can make an equitable decision on the nomination. It is also helpful if you include a picture of the nominee.

HELPING OUT AT INFERNO

Remember as you fill in your duty assignment requests on your application, these are important jobs that need bodies. Being selected to work Setup or Teardown counts as duty for one session of Inferno. That frees your time during the run for play. If you work both Setup and Teardown, you have the run entirely to yourself. Think about the options.

We are especially looking for men with skills in woodworking and carpentry for Setup. I encourage all to consider requesting the duty assignment.





More from the Inferno Coordinator

TEARDOWN

Please consider helping us prepare for Inferno 51. Start thinking now: If you're attending Session B, can you stay until Thursday? We can always use a few extra hands in tearing down. The people who help us disassemble and store the equipment and supplies from this year's Inferno are the first step in getting next year's Inferno ready, and we can use all the same skills as we need for Setup.

We need men willing to get hot and sweaty, to do a little lifting. More men make it easier for all. We need men willing to work in a team. We also need men who know their hands and power tools. We need men who can organize and men who can take direction. Working Teardown counts as at least one session's duty of Inferno. Like Setup, Teardown does not count for both sessions, but we'll take it into consideration when working up duty rosters.

At the end of Inferno, even if you've done your official duty, we really appreciate if you can give us even an extra 30 minutes of help.

THE MCADORY FUND

The official charity for Inferno 50 is the McAdory Fund. Created by the Chicago Hellfire Club in memory of Michael McAdory, the fund's purpose is to provide financial support to members of the leather community who find themselves unable to pay for rent, medical bills, food, or other necessities due to poor health, prolonged unemployment, or other serious life events. The McAdory Fund provides assistance to anyone in the leather community with urgent financial needs. If you or someone you know in the leather community has fallen on hard times, you should know about the McAdory Fund.

The essential principles of the McAdory Fund remain unchanged – We provide a hand up, not a handout. No one is entitled to a grant, but any CHC member can nominate for assistance himself or any other member of the leather community in need. The McAdory Committee is supported by the members and leadership of the Chicago Hellfire Club but





More from the Inferno Coordinator

operates independently of the Club. All requests for assistance and decisions on grants are kept strictly confidential.



INFERNO! Are you coming?

The McAdory Fund is planning the traditional silent auction and raffle but is also looking for those opportunities when we can combine the fun of Inferno with our fundraising efforts. If you have any auction donations or ideas to contribute, let the McAdory Fund committee know at McAdory@hellfire13.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Inferno Roommate Deadline June 1, 2021
- Clubhouse Breakdown August 28, 2021
- Truck Load (Labor Day) September 6, 2021
- Truck Un-Load following Inferno September 16, 2021
- Clubhouse reset September 25, 2021

*Other Inferno 50-related dates are on the Calendar.
See Page 13.*

In Brotherhood,
David K Inferno Coordinator
inferno@hellfire13.net



And the Winner Is...

The Most-Beloved Mug is from Inferno XXV, with Artwork by Copy Berg



Original artwork by Copy Berg

Inferno 50 Coordinator David K ran an online bracketed survey, asking CHC members to pick their favorite mug, from Infernos 16 through 48. (Brackets are on Page 10.) The winner, above, features artwork created by Copy Berg, also shown at right.

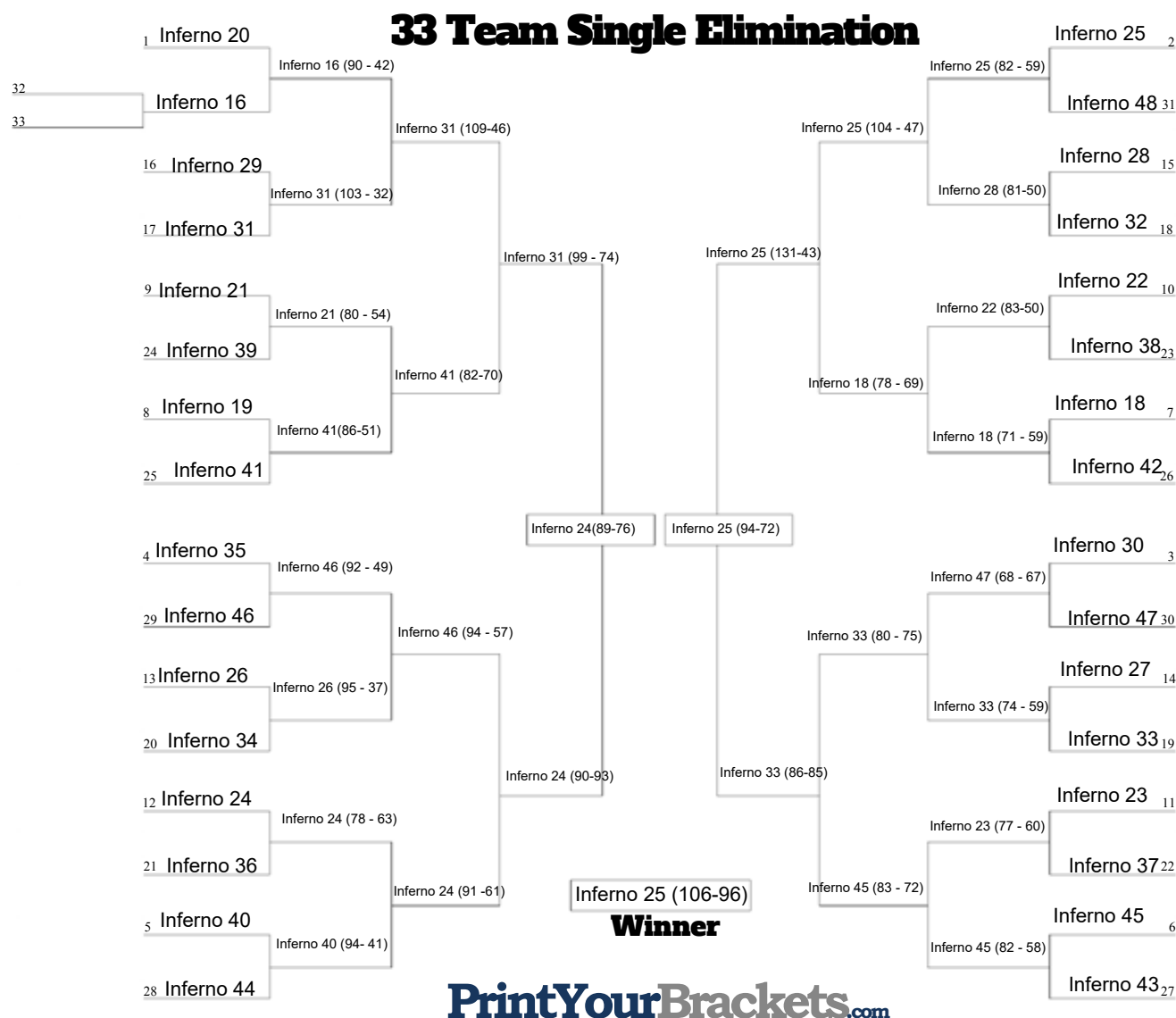
The final vote? Pretty tight, with 106 votes for the winner and 96 votes for second place Inferno 24.





How The Inferno Mug Vote Went Down

Brackets are below





CHC Update

From the VP

NEWS FROM THE VP

We made it! Covid-19 is on the way out...and CHC is on the way back. After 14 months of cancelled parties, the Clubhouse is coming back to life. When you get back to the Clubhouse you will see many wonderful additions and changes, and the likelihood of Inferno gets better every day. Here is an update of what's going on in the VP world.

FLEDERMAUS AWARD

The Fledermaus Award was established to honor the memory of Tony DeBlase and is awarded every third year to recognize long-term service to the club. Soon the nomination process will begin. The award will be presented at the Applicants Weekend Banquet. I encourage you to think about club brothers who you might want to nominate and watch your email for nomination information.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Please contact me if the VP can help you resolve an issue. (vp@hellfire13.net)

In Brotherhood,

Scott Z VP

vp@hellfire13.net



Scott Z





Wait Until You See What They Did to the House

From the Clubhouse Remodel Guys

Bought to you by the Program Committee's House Division

Greetings, Brothers,

The dungeon upgrades are wrapping up and we thank you for your support and help. A truss was erected and many bolts found their holes.

We cut a lot of wood and tightened a lot of screws to bring the glory hole booth to completion in time for the return of social events at the club house.

A rope and chain web is up for your enjoyment/torment. Equipment and furniture is in new configurations to give you more options for play.

The wrestling mats were relocated to a more convenient location and better secured to the wall.

The wet areas and back stairs have been improved and present new opportunities for play and other uses.

More of our Inferno banners have been put out and equipment is much easier to reach.

The work to make the dungeon and club house the best it can be is never ending and we welcome your ideas and feedback.

**Yours in Brotherhood,
Sir Electric Steve and Peter N**

Dungeon Upgrade Committee - Project Coordinators

sirelectricsteve@gmail.com

PS - While I was out of commission due to medical issues, Peter N stepped up to finish the glory hole booth as well as



Sir Electric Steve





More from the Clubhouse Remodel Guys

put the finishing touches on the dungeon. He worked with Gabe W who designed and installed the bondage webbing at the end of truss structure. (Gabe began this project more than a year ago.)



The new glory hole booth

David W designed the changes to our wet area. I would also like to thank the following members. Joe M, our program manager Terry L, our house manager Steve K, and Dean O. I also want to thank the numerous volunteers who came in to help cut, sand, paint and clean up after all the work that's been done.

The Dungeon Upgrade Committee will continue to exist and periodically reevaluate our play spaces to make them as usable and playful as possible.

Sir Electric Steve





Parties Resuming

From the Program Committee

Greetings

JUNE CLUBHOUSE PARTY

We'll be hosting our regularly scheduled party on Saturday, June 12 with Covid precautions similar to what we did over Memorial Day weekend. Stay in touch with your sponsor and watch email for invitations to our events.

In Brotherhood,

Terry L Program Director

Program@hellfire13.net

Club Calendar | June 2021 to Dec. 2021

Inferno 50 and other event dates are shown for convenience and are contingent on approval by the CHC Board. Do not make any Inferno-related travel arrangements until you receive your confirmation from David R and the registration team. This will happen sometime in late July after the Board meeting July 12. **Inferno 50-related dates are shown in red.**

See related article from the Inferno Coordinator beginning on Page 4.

Date	Event	Location	Time
Tuesday, June 1, 2021	Inferno Roommate Deadline		
Saturday, June 12, 2021	Monthly play party	Clubhouse	8:00 p.m. to midnight
Saturday July 10, 2021	Monthly play party	Clubhouse	TBA
Saturday August 14, 2021	Monthly play party	Clubhouse	TBA

Calendar continues on Page 15.





Club Calendar | June 2021 through Dec. 2021

Continued from Page 14.

Date	Event	Location	Time
Saturday, August 28, 2021	Clubhouse Break Down for Inferno 50	Clubhouse	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 28, 2021	Pre-Inferno BBQ TBA		5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 6, 2021 Labor Day	Truck Loading Drive to Run Site	Clubhouse	10:00 a.m. to noon
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021	Inferno 50 Begins	Run Site	3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021	Inferno 50 Ends Begin Tear Down	Run Site	Noon
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021	Finish Tear Down Unload truck at clubhouse	Run Site Clubhouse	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. approx
Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021	Clubhouse reset	Clubhouse	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021	Monthly play party	Clubhouse	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021	Monthly play party	Clubhouse	TBA
Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021	Monthly play party	Clubhouse	TBA





Remembering Donn Mielke

A memorial service for longtime CHC member Donn Mielke will be held July 17th at Ridgewood Memorial Park Cemetery, 9900 N. Milwaukee Ave., Des Plaines IL, 60016. Visitation will be held from 2pm to 4pm. A Memorial Service will be held from 4pm to 5pm, followed by interment.

After the service to celebrate Donn's life, please join mourners for a meal. RSVP to Mike K (Donn's slave of 40 years) via text or call (773) 982-4400.

Club Contacts

How to reach us

EMAIL ADDRESSES

President: President@hellfire13.net

Vice President: VP@hellfire13.net

Program Director: program@hellfire13.net

Party Registrations: program@hellfire13.net

Volunteer Coordinator:

Volunteer@Hellfire13.net

Secretary: Secretary@hellfire13.net

Treasurer: Treasurer@hellfire13.net

Membership: Membership@hellfire13.net

Hours: Hours@hellfire13.net

Inferno Coordinator: Inferno@hellfire13.net

Inferno Registration:

Inferno.Registration@hellfire13.net

McAdory Requests & Information:

McAdory@hellfire13.net

Newsletters (Brand/Cicatrix):

News@hellfire13.net

House Committee: House@Hellfire13.net

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