

A Publication of the Chicago Hellfire Club

April 2023

From the President & VP

What a whirlwind start we've had this year! I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe, healthy, and energized for the rest of the year ahead.

I would like to thank all our brothers who have been working so hard to keep our space and events in excellent form. Our new Program Director, Electric Steve, has delivered three monthly play parties with fantastic pre-party events: a demo on Florentine Flogging, a social dinner, and most recently a discussion on being a switch. We now look ahead towards our April party (the best of the year in the totally unbiased opinion of your yellow-flagging VP) and our May events both at the clubhouse and at IML. Look to see more information about IML weekend in the weeks to come.

Our House Chair, Peter N, and his hardworking committee have continued to plan and carry out vital repair and maintenance work both on the structure of our house and the dungeon equipment. The time invested by this group of brothers is extraordinary and we simply could not do what we do without their efforts.

Our Inferno Coordinator, Hieu N, has been hard at work preparing and launching registration for Inferno 52, this September 7-13. The Inferno Committee is planning new and updated spaces to keep Inferno the best BDSM event it can be. Please read Hieu's update for more information.

Our Membership Chair, Dino James (fka Chad M), had led his committee to review and advance applications for membership. So far this year we have approved 17 new Associate Members and 5 Local Associates have become Full Members. This club is you, all of you, and building our ranks is the most essential act to preserve and continue our mission.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for giving their time. Running this club is a big and rewarding responsibility, and these brothers all take part.

In Brotherhood,
Steve 'Corvo' M | Vice President



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From the Inferno Coordinator

Greetings, guests of the club! Inferno is the annual run of CHC. Imagine four whole days like our monthly parties, six nights/seven days if you join us for both sessions. This will be our 52nd Inferno and it will be an amazing time again!

- Session A September 7-10
- Session B September 10-13

Sponsorship and Applications

CHC Members have been submitting the names and info of men they will sponsor for Inferno. This is not the same as being sponsored to a clubhouse party. If in any doubt, please check with your past sponsor if he has sponsored you for Inferno 52.

Guest registration begins on April 15 at 1 PM Central. We expect Inferno to be popular again and to be full, so please figure out your room and roommate preferences now and act quickly to secure your spot. Our policies on health, rooms, acceptable behavior, van service, and more are listed on the club Inferno page, and you should review them all before or during registration. In particular, we have updated our Covid-19 vaccination policy to require proof of the updated Bivalent booster to be uploaded by August 1, 2023 to attend Inferno this year.

Birtles Scholarships

We don't ever want the cost to keep the right men from joining our event. The club maintains a scholarship fund to support a limited number of participants for whom it would otherwise be a financial hardship. Your sponsor may also submit you for a Birtles grant which would cover up to standard accommodation for one session and transportation.

Helping Out at Inferno

If you're sponsored and register for Inferno, we need you to do your part. All participants in Inferno have a duty assignment – it's the only way to make such a huge event work. Consider signing up for Setup or Teardown – these assignments occur before and after the run, giving you maximum time for play. If you work both, you'll have the entire run with no other assignments.

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





Tear Down

Please Please Please consider helping us prepare for Inferno 53. Start thinking now: If you're attending Session B, can you stay until the end on 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 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. If you already requested a different duty assignment but can help with Tear Down please email inferno. registration@hellfire13.net.

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.

In Brotherhood,

Hieu N. | Inferno Coordinator





From the Program Committee Chair

I want to welcome everyone to 2023, CHC style. We are looking forward to an exciting year of Parties, Demo's and Events.

We are back to our normal demos in April, just in time for our always popular April Showers party. The back of our social area will be transformed into a splash friendly water sports area for all to enjoy. In addition we will feature a demo on catheter play continuing with the theme of piss and water sports play.

May is always a special time for us at CHC. We celebrate spring with 4 parties. Our usual May party, the second Saturday of the month, and 3 parties for IML.

We celebrate Mr. International Leather with parties on the Friday and Saturday night of the Memorial Day weekend, and a brunch play party on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. We also plan to extend the play hours for our IML evening parties from 7 PM to 8 PM instead of a demo. We expect these parties to be popular, so please sign up as soon as the announcements go out.

Our regular parties feature demos/special events from 7 - 8 pm, and the play parties run from 8 pm - 1 am. Doors will open at 6:45 pm and close at 10 pm.

As a reminder, all CHC parties require proof of vaccination to attend. We are using the CDC definition for fully vaccinated, which means it must be two weeks after your final dose in the vaccines primary series. This means that boosters are not required to attend. If you haven't already done so, please upload your vaccination card to your profile on our website.

If you have any feedback, please let the Program Committee know! These parties are for our members and guests, and we want to make sure we are giving you what you want.

I am honored to be your Program Chair for 2023, and excited about all the interesting events we have in store for this year!.

In Brotherhood,

Sir Electric Steve | Program Committee Chair





Club Brother Curates Pup Play History Exhibit at LA&M

A new exhibition, "Pupping Out: A History of Canine Role-Play" explorers the fascinating world of pup play.

A new exhibition exploring the world of pup play is set to open at the Leather Archives and Museum (LA&M) in Chicago. "Pupping Out: A History of Canine Role-play" traces the evolution of this unique subculture from its early origins to its growing international community today.

Pup play, also known as puppy play, is a recreational activity that involves participants taking on the role of a canine, often dressing up in costumes and accessories and engaging in role-play with others. "Pupping Out" is the first exhibition that explores the various forms and facets of pup play, including its history within the LGBTQ communities, its therapeutic value, and its global popularity among people with different backgrounds.

"Pupping Out" results from years of research by curator Dr. Guangshuo Yang, who has worked closely with pup players and members of the leather and BDSM communities. The exhibition has received support from the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies at Northwestern University.

To curate the exhibition, Yang has tapped into collections from various institutions and conducted oral history interviews with pup players, handlers, and event organizers. The exhibition features a range of artifacts, including leather wear, canine hoods, community runbooks, self-published zines, personal ads, photos, paintings, and videos. An interactive "kennel" allows visitors to try on different gears and explore animal roleplay at their own pace.

"We're thrilled to be opening this exhibition and sharing the fascinating world of pup play with the public," said Yang. "Pup play is much more than getting into bed with a dog hood on. It has deep roots in many subcultures and has evolved into a recognized form of alternative sexuality that fosters a growing international community. We hope this exhibition will shed light on the rich history of pup play and inspire greater understanding and acceptance of this unique subculture."

"Pupping Out: A History of Canine Role-play" is displayed at the Leather Archives and Museum beginning on April 15th. For more information, visit leatherarchives.org.

Opening Reception

An exhibit opening reception will be held from 6-8 PM on Friday, April 14 at the LA&M. All are welcome.







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