



Alive!

The Best Years

A NEW Section for Retired Club Members
SEE PAGES 31-37

SERVING OVER 17,000 CITY AND DWP EMPLOYEES

City Employees Club of Los Angeles Vol. 4 ■ No. 9 September 2005

Get Your Tickets Now!

ClubFest Is Almost Here



ClubFest 2005 has added lots of fun music for a great afternoon for adults and kids alike. Do not wait any longer! Buy your tickets now — use the registration form on page 57.

Sunday, October 2

10:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Calamigos Ranch (Above Malibu)

StubHub: New Club Partner for Prime Tickets

Need great seats for special events? Forget brokers: Try new Club partner StubHub.

THE CLUB — The Club introduces a new way for members to get those great seats for special concerts and sporting events: StubHub, a great alternative to brokers, and at a discount for Club members.

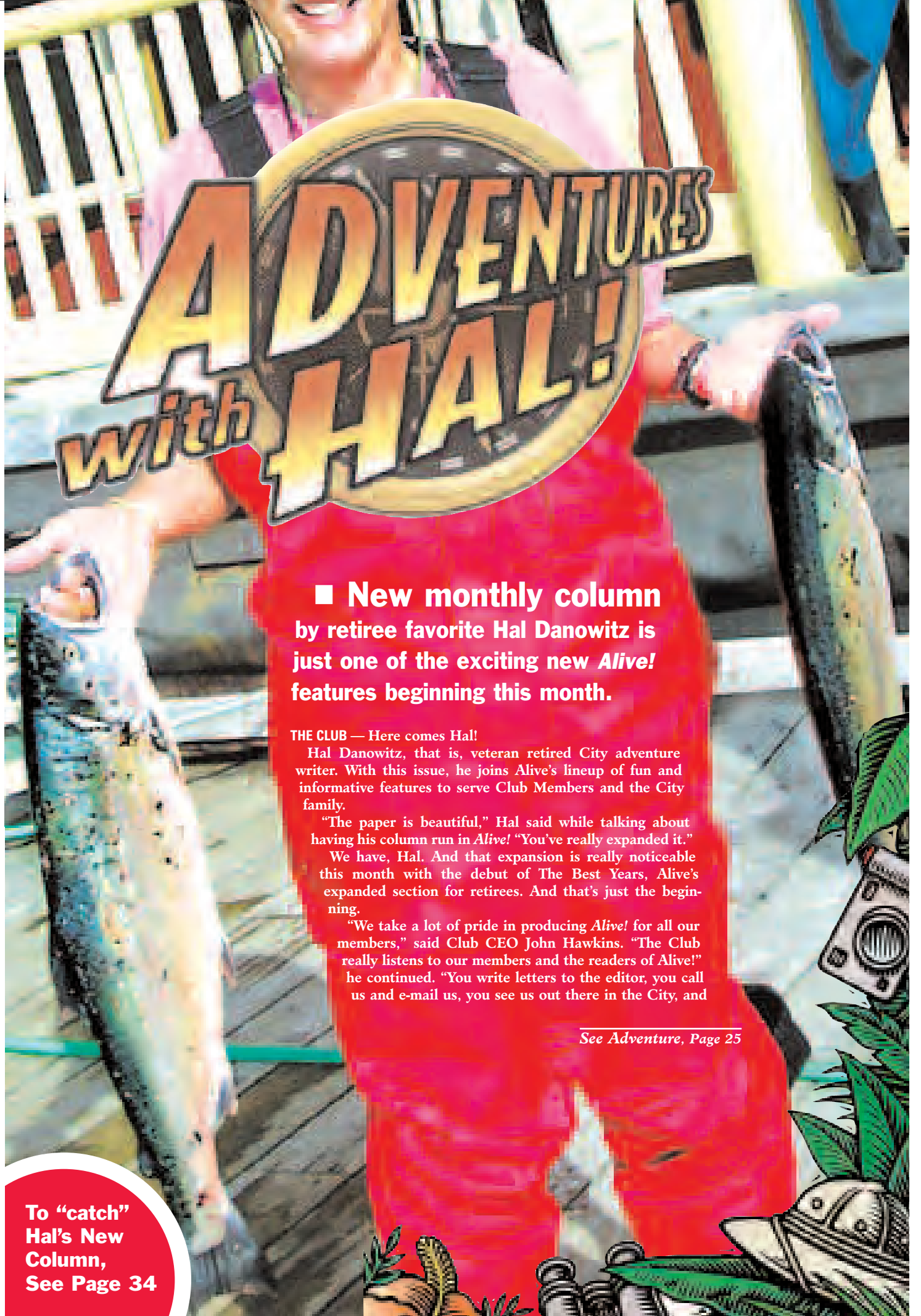
Navin Cotton, the Club's Ticket Guy, is still your best source for movie tickets, amusement parks and many other offers. But for those one-of-kind requests, he suggests StubHub.

"We've been looking for a way to help Club Members get great seats for special concerts and sporting events," he says. "And StubHub is a great resource for those kinds of events."

See Discount Tickets, Page 16



To "catch" Hal's New Column, See Page 34



■ New monthly column by retiree favorite Hal Danowitz is just one of the exciting new Alive! features beginning this month.

THE CLUB — Here comes Hal!

Hal Danowitz, that is, veteran retired City adventure writer. With this issue, he joins Alive's lineup of fun and informative features to serve Club Members and the City family.

"The paper is beautiful," Hal said while talking about having his column run in Alive! "You've really expanded it."

We have, Hal. And that expansion is really noticeable this month with the debut of The Best Years, Alive's expanded section for retirees. And that's just the beginning.

"We take a lot of pride in producing Alive! for all our members," said Club CEO John Hawkins. "The Club really listens to our members and the readers of Alive!" he continued. "You write letters to the editor, you call us and e-mail us, you see us out there in the City, and

See Adventure, Page 25

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City Employees Club of Los Angeles
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



For London

■ **Club Member Michael Barnes holds fundraiser for victims of London terrorist bombings.**

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

Michael Barnes, Club Member and employee at the Harbor, is also President of the British and Dominion Social Club. And so when he heard of the recent terrorist bombings of the "tube" and buses in London, he reached out to help.

The social club hosted a fundraiser July 23 at the club's headquarters in Garden Grove. The Club provided some items for the silent auction; the Harbor Dept. Employees Club (HDEC) assisted in selling tickets for the raffle.

Here is Michael's wrap-up:

Dear friends and fellow countrymen,

On Saturday night your generosity and support for the victims of the London Bombings and their families was without question outstanding. I am proud to be part of the British community in Southern California and especially here in Orange county.

To all the volunteers for all their hard work behind

the scenes, making it possible for this event to happen, the Board of the British Club thanks you.

To all the wonderful artists who entertained us for seven memorable hours, giving freely of their time, we all thank you.

Last but not least, to all our friends and fellow members for their tremendous show of support in making this a financial success, I thank you on behalf of London Bomb Victims and their families.

So far we have raised more than \$5500, and still donations are being sent in.

Please contact our Relief fund Chairman Larry Brown at lbrown2014@aol.com if you would like to make a financial donation, all checks should be made out to: **The British and Dominion Social Club, 12882 Valley View St., Suite 10-B, Garden Grove, CA 92645** and in the memo, write **The London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund.**

All funds will be given direct to a relief organization in London.

Regards to all,

Michael Barnes, President British and Dominion Social Club.



From left: Michael Barnes, British and Dominion Social Club President, Port of LA Employee and Club Member, aboard the Angelina II; Marcel Bamdijk, Marketing Manager, 4.5 years; and Steve Hanger, Machinist, 25 years, Club Member.



The "Beach Toys" sang songs as a tribute to the Beach Boys.



Steve Hanger, Machinist, 25 years, Club Member, sold raffle tickets to Port of LA employees.



From left: Joe Donnelly, vice president of the British and Dominion Social Club, with Phyllis Green, guest.



From left: Rebecca Barnes, wife of Michael Barnea, with Ginni Burch. The ladies did a great job selling raffle tickets.



The "Beach Toys" got many of the guests dancing.

Adventure Column Is One of the New Features

Adventure

Continued from Page 1

tell us how much you love the Club's newspaper. We're always happy to hear it. And we respond by giving you even more.

"We wanted to do something special for retirees, and Hal's great monthly column is exactly what we were looking for. I love reading about his adventures, and now you can, too."

Hal's column is just the beginning: This month's issue also features an expanded entertainment section, other new columnists, new contests, and even a new crossword puzzle.

Hal's new column, "Adventures With Hal," leads the way. Hal worked for the City (he retired from the Controller's office as the Director of Systems) for 35 years. And he travels extensively. So he writes a monthly adventure column for retirees.

"I'm surprised by how many fans I have," Hal says. (There will be many more, now that you're in Alive!, Hal!)

"I love meeting with everyone, and I have a lot of fun writing the columns."

Be one of the first to congratulate Hal on his column being in *Alive!* Read it on page 34, and send him a note.

And make sure you check out the other features:

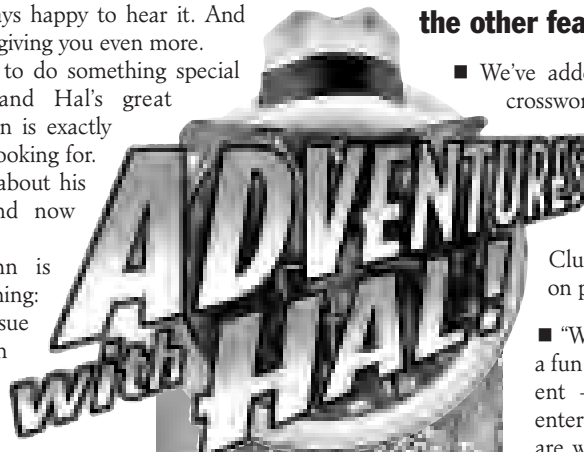
■ We've added a fun (and original) crossword puzzle and contest for retirees. See page 35.

■ The Smart Money, a new financial planning column by Club Partner Eric Garcia, on page 32.

■ "Who's Got the Popcorn?," a fun – and sometimes irreverent – new focus on home entertainment. We know you are watching more and more movies at home, so Ticket Guy (Navin Cotton) and Events Guru (Michelle Moreno) have the pleasure of helping you with your choices, and add a trivia contest, too. See the new column on page 60.

■ Love writing reviews? In addition to writing movie and book reviews as you have been, you can write short reviews of your favorite rental movies, too, also in "Who's Got the Popcorn?"

■ "History Comes Alive!" columnist Hynda Rudd adds a trivia question to her informative column.



Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

"It all comes down to giving our Members more," Hawkins said. "We're at your service."



Graduates!

Congratulations!

Let the Club family celebrate with you ... by putting your photo in *Alive!*

Club members: Have you had a family member graduate from elementary school ... high school ... or college this summer? Send us a photo, and we'll publish it in *Alive!*

Make sure you tell us:

- The name of the graduate.
- The school from which they graduated. If a college, tell us their major.
- Their future plans (briefly)
- The name and department of the Club member they're related to (and how they're related)



Digital photos are preferred. Send them to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

If you have a paper print, send a duplicate (we prefer you not send the original) to:

Grad Photos
City Employees Club of Los Angeles
350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Print photos will be returned within two months after publication if you request it, and if you write your name and address on the back.



Discount Tickets • Discount Tickets • Discount Tickets • Discount Tickets



The Ticket Guy, Navin Cotton, fills another order over the phone.

THE CLUB — The Club's popular Ticket Guy, Navin Cotton, was reading a story published in *Alive!* in May 2003. And laughing.

In the article, he was talking about how amazed he was that he was then filling 100 ticket orders a month. "100 orders a month!" he said, reading the story. "And I thought that was big."

Now it's really big. Try ten times that: The Ticket Guy now processes about 1,000 ticket orders a month for grateful Club Members on a budget.

The number of tickets he has sold to Club Members, about the best deal in town, has doubled in one year. The volume may have changed, but the concept is the same: tickets for good events, at great Club prices.

He's happy to do it. He started as a claims adjuster and, when the Club was created almost three years ago, he sold tickets half time. Now, not only does he sell tickets at a great discount full-time, but he employs an assistant during the summer.

"Back when I started, I had no idea, no clue, what I was getting myself into," he laughed. "But it's all good. It just shows what a great benefit this is."

What's driving the sales? Well, to put it simply, great deals.

"Disneyland is just through the roof," he said while answering another phone call for Disneyland tickets. "It's partly because of the 50th anniversary of Disneyland, but really, it's a good deal, too, for people with families."

Ticket Guy reports that Magic Mountain, Seaworld and Legoland tickets are also very popular. And of course the cinema tickets.

He knows what's coming in October: Knott's Halloween Haunt/Knott's Scary Farm. "About one of every four calls in October is for that Halloween event," he said. "It was huge last year, and I know it will be big again this year."

Ticket Guy is constantly adding new events, and he's just added the StubHub service (see story on the front page) for special events. It's a supplement for his services, not a replacement. Club Members should come to him first.

His newest event: The Los Angeles County Fair (see related story). "I no more than put that on the Website, and the calls started coming in. It's already going fast." Club Members can save 40 percent off regular-price fair tickets.

And don't forget about the great Club merchandise: hats, watches, gift books and the like. The Club keeps re-ordering, because Club Members keep buying the quality and unique merchandise. The keepsake merchandise make



Kelly Arthurs, Building and Safety, gets ready to go to Knott's.

great retirement presents.

A lot of people stop by the Club office to pick up their tickets. And while the Club — and the Ticket Guy — are always happy to see members drop by, Ticket Guy suggests that members order their tickets over the phone, or by fax, or through the Club Website (www.cityemployeesclub.com). You'll have to leave a credit card number and pay for the postage, "but a gallon of gas is more expensive than the postage," he said. "And it's less wear and tear on the members."

Counselors often carry cinema tickets with them, but you can always call your counselor (see back page) three days ahead of time to confirm.

There are other benefits to his booming business besides making Club Members very happy: Ticket Guy is building his own cult of celebrity. People know him ... and like him.

Ticket Guy Breaks Records

■ Ticket discount is one of the best reasons to be a Club Member — and you're proving it with booming sales.

"I've met a lot of cool people doing this," he said. "They come up to me, and they're great. When my wedding picture was in a few months ago, a lot of people wrote in and congratulated me. A few even sent nice gifts, which was not necessary but definitely cool and appreciated."

"I see people at the movies and they say, 'Hey, it's the Ticket Guy!' My neighbor said, 'I know that guy! It's the Ticket Guy!'"

"And people see me at church, too. Someone once asked me to autograph my photo in his copy of *Alive!*"

As far as the Club's ticket benefit goes, the sky's the limit.

"Most people say, 'It's great, I don't use it enough.' And that's right. Whenever they need tickets at a great discount, we're ready."



Natalie Sanchez, Gen. Services, buys Legoland tickets from the Ticket Guy.

Try Club Partner StubHub for Prime Tix (But Try Ticket Guy First)

Discount Tickets

Continued from Page 1

"It's a supplement to the Club's own ticketing service. Try me first, but you should go to StubHub for premier tickets. It fills a need and continues our great service to our members."

StubHub is a leading marketplace for tickets to sporting events, concerts, theater and exclusive events. StubHub now offers a concierge-type service to the Club so that members can use StubHub to purchase tickets. City Employees will earn a \$10 discount on all transactions when they use the special Club Website or phone number. You can either log on to



When to Use StubHub

Have you ever tried to purchase tickets to those special events like concerts or premier sporting events, and been frustrated by Websites that say "sold out" or by brokers who can't give you exactly what you want, when you want?

That's where StubHub comes in. It's a ticket clearinghouse, where ticket owners offer what they have to those who want to buy. You see what is on offer, and you decide to buy or not from a position of confidence.

With StubHub, you avoid brokers and

"sold out" messages from ticket Websites.

Here's How to Use StubHub
Have a premier event you want to attend? Here's what you do:

- **Contact the Ticket Guy (888-777-1744) or check out the ticket order form in the back of this issue of *Alive!* to see if he's already got a great deal on the tickets you want.**
- **If the Ticket Guy isn't selling the tickets you want, log on to StubHub's special Club site to locate what you're looking for: www.stubhub.com/cityemployeesclub**
- **If you would rather use StubHub's Club phone line instead of the StubHub Website, call (800) 563-1690**
- **You must use StubHub's special Club Website or phone number to get the \$10 discount on orders.**

More Information

StubHub does not take any inventory of tickets. Instead, StubHub is the marketplace for event tickets, where all transactions are 100 percent guaranteed. StubHub acts as a clearinghouse and validates all sellers and all transactions. A vast selection of tickets is available on StubHub at any given time. Thousands of ticket sellers list tickets with

StubHub, and this creates a competitive marketplace.

"Club Members don't have to go to brokers anymore," says Tony Knopp, Southern California Corporate Sales Manager for StubHub. "Most of the time, people go to TicketMaster and see that an event is sold out. Then they have to go to a broker."

"They don't have to go from place to place anymore," he says. "They can just come here."

"We work with teams — the USC Trojans, the San Diego Chargers, and many others — and we work with individual season ticket holders, too," to build inventory. "If we have to, we'll also go to a broker to find what you're looking for."

"We're more affordable, especially for sporting events, and we have a lot more inventory," Knopp says. "We can get you better seats for that really special night out."

Brokers don't always have what you want, he says.

"When you call a broker, they sell you what they have, not what you want. We look for what's best for you, not for us. You tell us what you want, and we try to find it."

"We're all about personal service," he says. "We look forward to working with City employees."

Use the special Club Website and phone number, listed above. But if you have questions, special requests or large orders, you can contact Tony Knopp directly at (310) 228-0966, or aknopp@stubhub.com