

FUN in the Field!



LAFD



The only Heavy Rescue Rig in the City, manned on the A Shift by Dale Robinson and Jesse Franco, Club Member, Todd Sands and Ray Hoffman on the B Shift, and Domingo Albarran, Club Member, and Robbie Stover on the C Shift. It has a rotating boom that can spin 360 degrees, and at its max can take on 80,000 pounds.



The gear cabinet on the Heavy Rescue Unit, which goes on 1.74 calls per day on average.

Club Counselor Gedina Bergstrom has a great time visiting Fire Stations.

Story and photos by Gedina Bergstrom, Club Counselor

How many Fire Stations do you think I can visit in one day? And what type of trouble do you think I can get in to? Well, on Aug. 2, I hit a high of seeing five stations! Captains were in epic moods, and Firefighters were full of enthusiasm about seeing a new face in their stations.

Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Gedina Bergstrom, and I am happy to be the Club's Member Services Counselor for the LAFD.

I started off at FS 25, where Capt. Backstrom was cooking up lunch. After chatting with some of our new Club Members (Firefighters Neil Romine and Ryan Penrod), I headed over to FS 44, which had some energy. Capt. Mcleod was eager to hear about our Long Term Care insurance product, as we are the only organization in the City that offers it!

From there, I made my way up to FS 50, with Capt. Myron Ross (a new Club Member). What a crew! I'm very happy to call seven of them new Club Members (Dennis Hong, Armando Jurado, Capt. Myron Ross, Rick Reyes, Fred Magalona, Antonio Jones, and Roger Camunas). By the end of our conversation, we were figuring out our best poses in front of the rigs with *Alive!*



Back to front: Hydraulic spreaders or "Jaws of Life," which can spread up to 32 inches; hydraulic cutters, which can cut up to 208,000 pounds; combination hydraulic cutter (spreader and shears, which can spread up to 11,000 pounds and cut up to 49,000 pounds); and a large hydraulic ram, which can push and spread up to 65 inches.



Firefighter/Apparatus Operator Domingo Albarran.



FS 50, C Shift. New Club Members, from left: Dennis Hong, Ricardo Reyes, Armando Jurado, Fred Magalona, Antonio Jones, Roger Camunas, and Capt. Myron Ross.

My Impromptu Ride-along

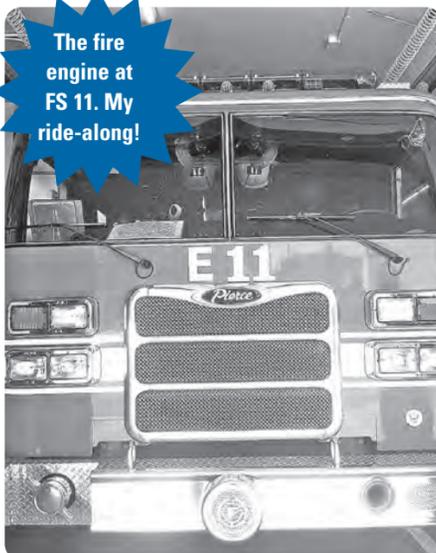
In my adventures on Aug. 8, I was privileged to an impromptu ride-along with Firefighter Mike Villata. Lucky me!

No emergencies were involved – we just went around the block, but it was epic because it was my first time on an engine! They had me put on a heavy-duty headset and strap into the passenger seat. Firefighter Villata filled me on their neighborhood and how the engine works. Did you know that the lights and sirens we see and hear are activated by buttons Firemen push with their feet? I didn't.

It was a real treat, and I would like to extend my thanks to Capt. Gregory Malais (new Club Member), Capt. Kesserton, and Firefighter Villata for giving me the opportunity to learn more and more about the LAFD.



Firefighter Mike Villata pulls out of the station.



The fire engine at FS 11. My ride-along!



Firefighter Mike Villata, 3 years of service with the LAFD.

Next on the list was Fire Station 56, and was I in for treat! About halfway through my presentation, the guys got a call for a run, and then there were only two Firefighters left. We made excellent use of our time. Did you know that Station 56 has the only Heavy Rescue Rig in the City? This baby was a sight to behold. She looked like a semi truck on steroids! Fire Fighter/Apparatus Operator Domingo Albarran (new Club Member) and Firefighter/Swamper Jesse Franco (new Club Member) gave me all the details on this truck pictured here. There are approximately six people who can operate this vehicle that goes to work when a heavy-duty rescue is needed, for example: cliff rescues, car crashes, collapsed structures, and industrial accidents. These guys even pulled out some of the heavy-duty tools that they use. Just as we were finishing up, the rest of the crew returned, and we finished, signing up two more members.

I finished my day visiting Station 20, which was just getting ready to sit down for dinner. They were a focused group that had great questions and were excited about the Club and all the benefits they could receive by becoming members.

All that in one day! I look forward to visiting the remaining stations!

Handball at FS 92

And then, four days later... it was handball!

When I visited FS 92, they were training for a handball tournament in Venice. Have you heard about the 12th annual Venice Beach 3-Wall Doubles Tournament? When I stopped in on 92, I got a chance to see our new Club Members in action. Check them out!

Thanks to Firefighters Jeff Escalante, Ryon Jones, and Alfred Kuzichev for welcoming me!



ABOVE RIGHT: Station 92 personnel get their practice in before the 12 annual Venice Beach 3-Wall Doubles Tournament. From left: Firefighter Alfred Kuzichev new Club Member; Firefighter Ryon Jones, new Club Member; and Firefighter Jeff Escalante, new Club Member.

Hyperion!

Let's Play Golf in October

San Dimas Canyon Golf Course

Friday October 28, 2011
9 a.m

2100 Terrebonne Ave.
San Dimas, CA 91773
Phone: 909.599.2313

\$ 85 Per Player

Buffet style lunch included.



Donations to St. Jude's Children Diabetes Research will be very welcomed

The sooner you sign up, the earlier your TEE-Time. Must be paid by October 18, 2011 minimum of 20 players.



- includes:
- Golf /w cart, includes GPS.
 - Longest /drive Contest.
 - Closest to pin on a Par 3
 - Raffle
 - Dont forget lots of fun.
- (Best Ball Scramble Format)

Any Questions? Call
Gus Luque (626) 347-7360
gustavoluque93@yahoo.com
Ralph Madrid (323) 772-4880
ralphmadrid@yahoo.com