



AURORA REGIONAL FIRE MUSEUM

PO Box 1782 • AURORA IL 60505
WWW.AURORAREGIONALFIREMUSEUM.ORG

April, 23, 2004

Greetings!

You are cordially invited to gather at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum in Aurora Illinois, on Friday June 25th and Saturday June 26th for the Great Midwestern Handtub Fire Engine Exhibition & Pumping Competition — the first handtub muster to be held in Illinois since 1896! Working in partnership with Handtub Junction, and North American Class “C” Muster Association, the Great Midwestern Handtub Expo will showcase the responsibility, teamwork, and pride of nineteenth century firefighters along with their hand-operated fire “engines.” Teams and engines from New England, the West Coast, Canada, and throughout the Midwest (many which have never been publicly displayed or pumped outside their local communities) have expressed an interest in this two-day event.

Aurora is Illinois’ second largest city and is located about 40 miles west of Chicago. The muster will be held in the parking lot and adjacent street near the Aurora Regional Fire Museum and Aurora’s new Central Fire Station. The newly renovated museum (housed in the 1894 old Central Station) will be open throughout the weekend.

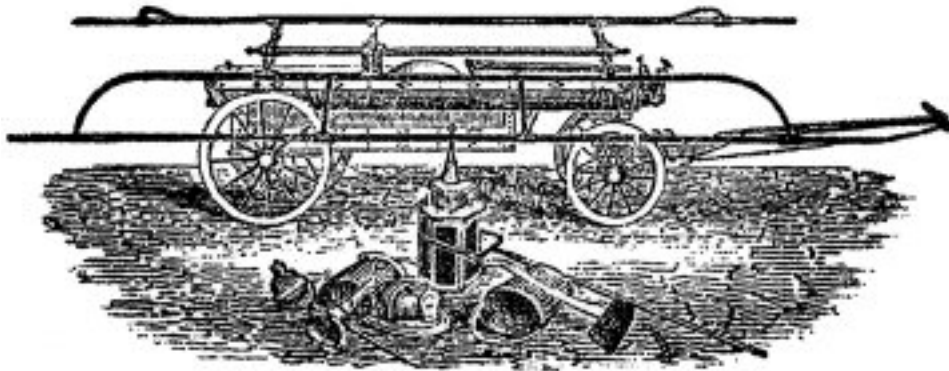
Enclosed for your review is a schedule of events, housing information, information on the Aurora Regional Fire Museum, and an Aurora Area tourism guide. Please join us on June 26th! Fill out and return the participant registration form by June 7, and make your hotel reservation now!

Handtub Expo Committee,
Aurora Regional Fire Museum

COME ONE – COME ALL

participate in the First Handtub Muster to be held in the State of Illinois Since the Nineteenth Century!

**THE GREAT MIDWESTERN
Handtub Fire Engine
EXHIBITION & PUMPING COMPETITION**



Hosted by Handtub Junction USA,
the North American Class “C” Handtub Association,
and the Aurora Regional Fire Museum – this event will feature
family-style activities for children of all ages, pumping demonstrations,
“friendly” competitions and a sanctioned Class “C” Handtub Tournament

The muster will be held adjacent to the newly renovated 1894 Old Central Fire Station,
(now home to the Aurora Regional Fire Museum) • Prizes will be awarded, along with the
opportunity to boast about being the best hand operated fire engine in the state of Illinois!

Saturday, June 26th, 2004
Aurora Regional Fire Museum in Aurora, Illinois

Aurora, Illinois is located approximately 40 miles west of Chicago, conveniently located off a major expressway. Activities abound for the entire family! Free street festival and live music on Friday evening. Farmer’s Market Saturday morning, the new Chicago Premium Outlet Mall and six museums are minutes away. The Hollywood Casino, Walter Payton’s Roundhouse, and the commuter rail station (with express trains to Chicago) are all within walking distance of the expo site!

**For more details, visit: www.Handtubs.com or
www.AuroraRegionalFireMuseum.org/HandtubExpo**

HANDTUB JUNCTION • POST OFFICE BOX 359 • SOUTHBOROUGH, MA 01772 • (508) 786-0977
AURORA REGIONAL FIRE MUSEUM • POST OFFICE BOX 1782 • AURORA, IL 60507 • (630) 892-1572

COME ONE – COME ALL!

On July 28, 1897, in the small town of Monmouth, Illinois, the hand-engine "Peoria No. 1" pumped a stream of 182' 6" – thus winning that muster, yet ending an era of handtub competitions in the State of Illinois – until now! The Aurora Regional Fire Museum, in partnership with Handtub Junction, and the North American Class "C" Muster Association, invite you to participate in the Great Midwestern Handtub Fire Engine Exhibition & Pumping Competition. This two-day event will feature static displays of hand-operated fire engines, pumping demonstrations, a sanctioned Class "C" Handtub Tournament, and "friendly" competitions between other class and sized engines. The event is open to anyone -- all makes, models, and classes (sizes) of hand-engines, from anywhere in the country.

We welcome and encourage fire departments with hand-operated fire engines from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, and all points North, South, East, and West -- to attend this unique Midwestern event!

ABOUT THE AURORA REGIONAL FIRE MUSEUM

By 1980, the Aurora Fire Department had outgrown their old Central Fire Station and a new fire headquarters was built next door. There was much discussion about the fate of the old station, a building that had faithfully served the city for eighty-six years. After sitting vacant for seven years, a grass-roots preservation group saved the old station and transformed it into the Aurora Regional Fire Museum.



In the spring of 2001, the City of Aurora and the Aurora Regional Fire Museum began a three-year, million-dollar renovation of the old Central Fire Station – a project that refinished the original walls and floors, upgraded the foundation, replaced the roof, and recreated the building's original front facade complete with bay windows and decorative onion-shaped dome.

One of the gems of the Aurora Regional Fire Museum's collection of fire apparatus is a 1850s era Button hand-pumped fire engine. While our building was closed for renovations, museum volunteers restored this engine back to its original appearance and operating condition. We are delighted to have the opportunity to showcase both the newly completed building, and our restored hand pumper, by co-hosting the Great Midwestern Handtub Fire Engine Exhibition & Pumping Competition.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY –

Plan to arrive Friday afternoon. The museum will be open, we will have a check in table and help you find your hotel, park your engine and trailer, and brief you on the latest plans for the weekend.

At 5pm, the activities (and your engines) will move about two blocks south of the museum to Downtown Alive -- a huge, FREE, street festival with dozens of food vendors, beer tents, kids games, and live music. It's "Jump, Jive, and Wail" night at Downtown Alive and between 6 and 10pm, thousands will hit the streets and dance the night away to the live music provided by Big Bad Voodoo Daddy -- a well-known national touring swing band that has appeared on the Tonight Show and during the Superbowl's halftime show. A special static display area has been arranged at this event for visiting handtubs and other fire apparatus. We'll have volunteers on-hand to "stand watch" and answer questions from the crowd, freeing some of your crew to enjoy the night's festivities.

SATURDAY —

For those early birds, (or those family members that don't mind missing some of the muster), Aurora's weekly Farmer's Market is open from 7am to noon, and is located in the parking lot of the Aurora Transportation Center which is a block-and-a-half north of the museum/muster site.

The "Exhibition and Pumping Competition" will be held in the parking lot and adjacent streets near the Aurora Regional Fire Museum and Aurora's Central Fire Station. There will be a 10am planning meeting at the fire museum where we will draw lots to determine the pumping order, and outline the rules for those engines and teams new to pumping at a competition. For those engines not able to pump, a static display area will be established.

Groups of eight or more firefighters – or those wanting to play firefighter – without a hand-operated fire engine, will be allowed to compete using the Aurora Regional Fire Museum's Button hand pumper, "Young America No. 2."

The museum will be open throughout the day on Saturday. Refreshments will be available, and there will be plenty hands-on firefighting related activities for kids (and kids at heart).



SATURDAY EVENING —

Immediately following the pumping competition, join us for an informal, Midwestern, "family-style" dinner and awards banquet at the muster site. Arrangements are still tentative, but plan on spending Saturday night chatting with old friends, (and making new ones), while having dinner and sharing in the fraternity of the fire service.

Various non-competitive awards will be presented in addition to the first and second place trophies for each class of handtub. Remember, there has not been a hand pumped fire engine muster in Illinois since 1897 – so the first place winner in each class will also have the opportunity to boast about being the best hand operated fire engine in the "Land of Lincoln"

LOTS TO DO!

Activities abound for the entire family. For those not interested in "mustering" or touring the fire museum, there are eight other museums in the Aurora area, ranging from art, to science, to children's activities, to history. There is even a military history museum where visitors can crawl through a WWI trench, land on the beach during D-day, and climb on a real tank! If shopping in more your style, the brand new Chicago Premium Outlet Mall is five minutes away by car and features 120 outlet stores. Those wanting to explore, can hop a train into downtown Chicago. Trains leave every hour, weekend rates are cheap, and the train station is just a block-and-a-half from the museum/muster site. Walter Payton's Roundhouse, (a restaurant and microbrewery complex with a Walter Payton museum and fantastic live entertainment every evening), and the Hollywood Casino, (one of Illinois top gambling establishments), are also within a block-and-a-half of the event.

For more details on the things to do in Aurora, see the enclosed *Aurora Area Travel Planner* or visit the Aurora Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau online at: <http://www.EnjoyAurora.com>

PARTICIPANT'S ENTRY FORM

THE GREAT MIDWESTERN HANDTUB FIRE ENGINE EXHIBITION & PUMPING COMPETITION
Saturday, June 26th, 2004 at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum in Aurora, Illinois

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF....

Name

Phone

Postal address

e-Mail address

City

State

Zip

ABOUT YOUR PLANS....

Date you plan to arrive in Aurora?

Date you plan to depart?

How many in your crew?

Thursday, June 24

Saturday (evening), June 26

Friday, June 25

Sunday, June 27

Saturday (before 10am), June 26

Monday, June 28

Are you bringing an engine?

Yes – We're bringing an "engine" and we want to pump some water.

Yes – We're bringing an "engine" but we want to participate in the *static display(s) only*.

Nope – Don't have an engine, but we've got a crew (minimum of 8) that would like to compete.

ABOUT YOUR ENGINE....

Year

Make

Piston diameter

Classification

Class A (7 inch or larger piston cylinders)

Small Engine (less than 3 1/2 pistons)

Class B (from 4 1/2 to less than 7 inch pistons)

Single Piston Class

Class C (from 3 1/2 to less than 4 1/2 inch pistons)

We plan to produce a commemorative souvenir booklet of this event. Please provide us (on a separate piece of paper or via e-mail) a brief history and a photograph of this engine.

HOW WE CAN HELP....

We might have indoor secure storage for your handtub fire engines and trailers overnight in a community about 5 minutes away. Would you be interested in keeping your engine/trailer there?

Yes, sounds great No thanks

We are planning a casual dinner/awards presentation on site following the competition.

Would you be interested in attending?

Yes, sounds great No thanks

Any questions or things we are forgetting about? Send us an e-mail: ARFMinfo@aol.com or give us a call: (630) 258-5878. For the latest information on this event, you are encouraged to visit our website: www.AuroraRegionalFireMuseum.org/handtubexpo/

DISCLAIMER

The Aurora Regional Fire Museum, the North American Class "C" Handtub Association, and the City of Aurora, accept no responsibility in the case of accidents or injuries to any person or persons attending the Great Midwestern Handtub Fire Engine Exhibition and Competition, or to loss or damage or theft of any piece of equipment from an apparatus being stored or displayed by or on behalf of the aforementioned entities. Proof of insurance would be appreciated with this application.

Please return this entry form to — Aurora Regional Fire Museum, PO Box 1782, Aurora, IL 60507 — by June 7