

ICRI 2008 Spring Convention: 20th Anniversary Celebration

By Kelly M. Page



The foursome of (left to right) Graeme Jones, Bill McCann, David Karins, and Rob Wilson takes a break during the ICRI Golf Tournament



One of the spectacular scenes of nature on the LPGA golf course (photo courtesy of Bob Swan)



(Left to right) Brian Daley, Nick Adams, Randy Beard, and Gary Storm enjoy the beautiful LPGA golf course



REPAIRS THEN AND NOW:
20 YEARS OF ICRI

2008 SPRING CONVENTION
APRIL 16-18, 2008 • THE SHORES RESORT & SPA
DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, FLORIDA

A beautiful hotel on Daytona Beach, a fantastic party to celebrate ICRI's 20th Anniversary, and record-breaking attendance all made for a memorable 2008 Spring Convention, April 16-18, at The Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach Shores, FL. Almost 300 people showed their support for the organization and the industry by participating in the convention.

To help celebrate this special occasion, we changed the schedule of the convention. Because we occasionally hear from our very active members that it is difficult for them to see Technical Sessions, as they are so involved in committee meetings, this convention kicked off Wednesday morning with great Technical Sessions, and no committee meetings scheduled during this time.

This was followed by the first ICRI Golf Tournament on Wednesday afternoon. Around 80 golfers enjoyed the hospitality at the LPGA International Golf Course, with a box lunch, followed by the tournament. Though it was a bit windy, the sun was shining, the course was great, and everyone had a terrific afternoon.

This was immediately followed by our Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening. Attendees mingled among the exhibitors and caught up with old friends. The winners from the golf tournament—looking slightly sunburned—received their prizes during this event as well.

Thursday morning at the convention was as busy as ever, beginning with the "Visit the Exhibits" breakfast. This is one of the special times we set aside to strongly encourage all attendees to visit the exhibits; and if you do, you might even be lucky enough to win a great prize, as we always have a drawing during these breakfasts.

The theme for this spring convention was “Repairs Then and Now: 20 Years of ICRI,” which made for some very interesting presentations at the Technical Sessions, including talks from prominent members, Past Presidents, and many others. We had a record number of committee meetings going on during this time as well.



(Left to right) Dan Anagnos, Joe Durr, and Bill Barker have a great time at the Welcome Reception



(Left to right) Former ICRI Board of Director Bert Kriekemans, who came all the way from Belgium to attend the convention, catches up with Brian Iske and Rob Pusheck



Philip Clark (center) meeting potential customers at the “Visit the Exhibits” breakfast

Celebrating our anniversary really began at lunch Thursday, with our Recognition Luncheon and 20th Anniversary Special Presentation. In addition to introducing the 2008 Board of Directors, inducting new ICRI Fellows, recognizing ICRI’s Supporting Members, and handing out the Chapter Awards for activities in 2007, ICRI President Monica Rourke presented a recap of the past 20 years of ICRI. All Past Presidents were specially recognized along with highlights from their year in office. We also formally recognized ICRI’s first group of 20-year members!

After all of the hard work during the day on Thursday, it was time for some fun! Attendees celebrated 20 years of ICRI with a fun-filled casual evening on a deck overlooking the beach and the ocean, with plenty of food and drink. ICRI’s first Executive Director, Milt Collins, entertained the crowd with some of his memories of the early years of the organization. And the DJ kept things hopping with some great music enticing many people out onto the dance floor. As you can see from the photos, everyone had a great time at this event!

And as no trip to Daytona should be without a trip to the famous track, on Friday evening, several ICRI chapters helped sponsor an evening at the Daytona Speedway Experience. Attendees got to race each other in simulated cars, learned how to change a tire in mere seconds, and much more.

As you can see, ICRI conventions are full of interesting activities and many lively (and fun!) networking opportunities. We hope to see you all at the 2008 Fall Convention in St. Louis, MO, October 29-31, 2008. The theme of the convention is “Masonry Repair,” and we also have many great speakers and social events lined up, including one for spouses. In addition to the regular convention activities, we will also be honoring the recipients of the 2008 ICRI Project Awards at a special dinner. If you have never attended a convention, this fall would be a great time to start!



ACI Executive Vice President Bill Tolley (right) congratulates ICRI’s 2008 President Monica Rourke on the association’s 20 years of success



(Left to right) Ralph Jones, Katherine Blatz, Monica Rourke, Dan Anagnos, and Chuck Knight share some camaraderie at the 20th Anniversary Party



(Left to right) Jim Warner, Dennis Pinelle, Bud Earley, and Cathy Earley enjoy the beautiful sunshine and a great dinner



(Left to right) Milt Collins, Allen Roth, Sally Collins, and Rick Edelson enjoy catching up



ICRI members and guests at the 20th Anniversary Party were lively on the dance floor all night long!



(Left to right) Brian Daley and Scott Parello taking advantage of the beautiful weather and scenery on the beach

ICRI President Monica Rourke is multi-talented—she can even change a tire in seconds! (at the Daytona 500 Experience outing Friday night) (photo courtesy of Bob Swan)



Sally and Milt Collins share their memories of ICRI's early years



(Left to right) Dennis Pinelle and Katherine Blatz post the quickest time in the tire changing event at the Daytona 500 Experience