

SCENES FROM ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA— THE ICRI 2013 SPRING CONVENTION

BY DALE REGNIER



ICRI held its 2013 Spring Convention March 20-22 in St. Pete Beach, FL, at the TradeWinds Island Resorts. Along with the usual and traditional spring convention activities was the continuation of ICRI's 25th Anniversary celebration, begun at the annual Kick-Off Party in February in Las Vegas, NV. While ICRI honored a number of the association's founding members at Thursday's Recognition Luncheon, the anniversary party on Thursday night included an amazing fireworks display that wowed not only party guests but also hundreds of spring-breakers up and down the beach as well. As celebrations go, if you missed this spring convention, you definitely missed out!



The first-place winning team for the Florida West Coast Chapter Golf Outing included (left to right): Jim Schwartz; Jason Bousquet; Caitlyn, who dispensed refreshments; Charlie Mayer; and David Poulter. While not technically part of the team, rumor had it Caitlyn was an inspiration

The industry-leading committee work shared the spotlight with some thought-provoking technical sessions, a larger-than-usual contingent of exhibitors, and a record-breaking 291 attendees to make this expanded 3-day event extraordinary for everyone.

As usual, the convention began on Wednesday morning with our "Visit the Exhibits" Continental Breakfast, where exhibitors showed off their newest products and services. The theme of this convention, "Looking Ahead—ICRI Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary," allowed members of the Technical Activities Committee to recruit a variety of industry professionals, who gave the attendees thought-provoking presentations on the technologies that are shaping our industry. Trending issues like moisture mitigation, waterproofing, and leak detection were included with updates on the new ACI 562 Repair Code, strategies for industry improvement, and a discussion of the impact of higher education to take this convention's Technical Sessions right to the heart of where this industry stands after 25 years of ICRI.

After the first round of Technical Sessions Wednesday morning, a contingent of golfers took advantage of the nearly warm weather to get in a round on Wednesday afternoon before the majority of the attendees came together at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening. A big thank-you goes out to those from the Florida West Coast Chapter who helped get the golf outing set. They include Ingrid Shawn Rodriguez, Michelle Nobel, Rob Wilson, and David Karins. The Welcome Reception tends to act as the official beginning of any ICRI convention, and many attendees enjoyed



Taking a minute for a photo on the putting green (left to right): Tom Ouska, Kurt Heinrichs, Mark Hughes, and Michael Saulnier



Another foursome from the course (left to right): John Theede, Jim Kontos, Brian Horn, and Josh Senevey

some refreshments, perused the exhibitor tables, and then met with friends before heading out for dinner.

In addition to another “Visit the Exhibits” breakfast and more Technical Sessions—including a session on the ACI 562 Repair Code that was standing-room only—Thursday also kicked off committee meetings. Much of what ICRI does as an industry association comes from the hard work of our technical committees. We broaden our knowledge base and expand the industry by working together in these committees. All of our guidelines come out of the collaboration of our members in these committees. If you want to know what is happening at any time with any of our committees, you are encouraged to drop by the Technical Committee page of the ICRI website to view a description of what is being worked on right now.

The annual spring Recognition Luncheon on Thursday was an opportunity for ICRI to make everyone aware of the contributions made by a growing number of individuals and entities that help drive and sustain this organization. In addition to thanking ICRI’s Supporting Members and Past

Presidents, ICRI took some time to acknowledge those who gathered 25 years ago to lay the groundwork for this association. Around 45 of the original



Guests were able to mingle, meet friends, and visit the exhibits at the Wednesday evening Welcome Reception



Rae Jean Nicholl (left) and Ralph Jones (center) with his wife Brenda (right) enjoy the Welcome Reception



Always the official kick-off to any convention, the Welcome Reception gives attendees the chance to see and be seen



Ken Lozen (left) spends some time with Bud Earley



Left to right: Derek Ratkowski, Garth Fallis, Antonio Nanni, and Keith Kesner



The Recognition Luncheon was packed to capacity as ICRI took the time to say thank you directly to a large number of members and companies for their hard work and dedication



A big moment at the Recognition Luncheon included thanking the ICRI founding members who were in attendance by giving them a small token of appreciation. From left to right: Jim McDonald, Ken Lozen, George Reedy, Marty Sobelman, Jay Paul, Bob Swan, Kal Hindo, Garth Fallis, Patrick Morrissey, Jim Warner, Peter Craig, Chuck Pfahl, Bob Terpening, Frank Verano, Bert Kriekemans, Peter Emmons, and Jack Morrow



Showing off his skills for the attendees, the head chef at the TradeWinds Island Resorts created this special dessert for Thursday's Recognition Luncheon



Incoming President Bud Earley (right) thanks Immediate Past President Garth Fallis (left) by giving him a plaque dedicated to his term

70 or so founding members of ICRI are still members today, and we were honored that over 20 of them were in attendance at this convention. They were recognized at the luncheon and each was given a small plaque to recognize the vital part he or she played in creating ICRI and continuing to nurture it today.

The luncheon also served as an opportunity to recognize certain individual contributions. As is tradition, ICRI welcomed its newest Fellows: Patrick Morrissey and David Rodler. New for this celebration was the addition of the Honorary Member Award and the Distinguished Service Award. An Honorary Member "... shall be a person of eminence in the field of the Institute's interest, or one who has performed extraordinary meritorious service to the Institute." The Honorary Members for 2013 are Rick Edelson, Peter Emmons, and Jim McDonald. All three have given more than their fair share of time, skills, and knowledge to ICRI and the industry. The Distinguished Service Award was created to acknowledge specialized "service above self" either nationally or locally. The 2013 recipient is Tree Tietfort, who exemplifies this award with her commitment and drive to not only save the Southwest Florida Chapter but to also turn it into a thriving entity.

The luncheon also contained some suspense, as chapter members attending waited with bated breath to learn who would receive the coveted Chapter of the Year Award. After honoring the Excellent and Outstanding Chapters for their great work in 2012, it was revealed that the Baltimore-Washington Chapter was awarded the Chapter of the Year Award. The recipient of the Most Improved Chapter in 2012 was the Florida West Coast Chapter.

Finally, current ICRI President Bud Earley took to the stage and introduced the 2013 Officers and Board of Directors, thanked 2012 President Garth Fallis, and outlined his vision for this year.

Thursday ended with a bang—literally. The 25th Anniversary Party Reception and Dinner was a beachside celebration that included amazing food,



Founding member and Past President Peter Emmons and his wife Anne enjoying the 25th Anniversary Party on the beach

an open bar, an ice sculpture of the 25th Anniversary logo, and music from Victor Wainwright and the WildRoots that had the entire crowd moving to the beat. As guests munched, chatted, and danced the night away, preparations were finalized to stop them in their tracks. After the beautiful sunset faded, the darkness was replaced with an incredible pyro-



ICRI President Bud Earley chaired the 25th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee in the years leading up to his taking office



The beach in Florida was perfect for the party, although guests did require sunglasses for the sun and coats for the chill



Beth Newbold (left) with Pat Winkler (right)



Victor Wainwright and the WildRoots brought the rhythm and blues as the night's entertainment



Rick Edelson (left) and Monica Rourke (right)



From left to right: Jerzy Zemajtis, Kelly Page, and Ron Burg



Guests mingled on the spacious deck



Carlton Steinmetz (left) and Keith Harrison (right)



Guests enjoyed the scrumptious buffet, including Don and Linda Ford



From left to right: Julie Samuels, Naomi White, Mark de Stefano, and Mark LeMay



Kevin Michols (left) with his wife Coleen (center) and Mark Nelson (right)



Scott Harrison (left) and Bob Swan (right)



Jessi Meyer (left) and Rae Jean Nicholl (right)



Claire and Michael Breetz



Josh Hollis (left) and Steven Royalty (right)



Heidy Braverman (left) with Jorge Costa (right)



Susie and Rick Edelson



Robert Terpening (right) with his wife Barbara (left)



The crowd grew as the sun began to set



Amy Zdrowak (left) and Barb Sample (right)



Revelers (from left to right): Martha Reynolds, Bill Reynolds, Jason Coleman, and Heather Coleman

technic display. Fireworks illuminated the night sky for 10 minutes, leaving the crowd speechless, except for the requisite “oohs” and “aahs.” More than one attendee described it as the perfect way to end the evening and celebrate ICRI’s 25th Anniversary.

The convention closed Friday after the final “Visit the Exhibits” breakfast as well as a full day devoted to committee meetings. If you are not attending ICRI conventions, you are definitely missing out on a big benefit of membership. We hope to see everyone at the ICRI 2013 Fall Convention in Chicago, IL. We’ll be at the Fairmont Hotel in the heart of the city from November 13-15. Join us this fall as we look back at the history of ICRI while planning for the next 25 years.



The highlight of the evening came in the form of some amazing fireworks



Party guests and hotel guests—even those up and down the beach—were treated to a fantastic show



The amazing music drove many to finish the evening out on the dance floor



Each convention starts big and ends even bigger thanks to the enthusiasm of all the attendees—thank you for a great 2013 Spring Convention