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Masonry Heater Association of North America's Spring Newsletter

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2008 Annual Meeting



Once again MHA was blessed by having a guest speaker that was outstanding. Igor Knuznetsov traveled from Russia to talk about his free gas movement theory. He didn't speak English, but Alex Chernov was a great translator. Many members commented to me that they learned a lot and were delighted he came. A big thank you to both Igor and Alex for a great job. Also to William Davenport for bringing the idea to the board and helping Dick and Alex with travel and visa arrangements.

Dear Richard,

I was speaking to a number of MHA members at our annual meeting, received member's emails, and had phone conversations with members, it's beginning to look like a really busy spring and summer for a number of our members. I hope your as busy as you want to be also.

A lot is going on in MHA. We just completed our annual meeting in April and the HPBA Expo, we will have a MHA booth at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's Fair in June, a supplement is being developed for the bookstore's portfolio, and a log book is being considered for certification and certified mason's.

While your busy building masonry heaters this summer, remember to take high resolution photographs. Take them while the heater is being constructed and also when finished. You need those photographs and so does MHA, so click away.

Make sure you continue to go to the MHA website for the latest articles and information. An example of what's in the website is listed below in the MHA News article. These are only a few of the interesting topics now on the website.

Have a great summer.

Richard Smith
Executive Director

Bake Oven Page on MHA Website

A new link has been added to the MHA website - Bake Ovens. MHA is getting more and more requests for information on bake ovens making the addition of the link a perfect fit for MHA. Thanks goes out to Norbert all the work it takes to develop and publish the page.

Check it out at :[MHA Bake oven page](#)



A change from meetings in the past was the format of the schedule. Thanks to Wm. Davenport, we had a number of seminars and workshops going on at the same time. At times it was a bit overwhelming, but at the end of the day, everyone attending had a great choice of subjects to choose from. After a couple days we ended all indoor seminars and focused attention to the outdoor workshops. The outdoor workshops have been and continue to be the center piece of the annual meetings.

Two heaters were built from scratch to the finish and then fired. Two bake ovens were also built, one was "experimental" (R. & D.) and the other was for the pizza party. A huge thank you goes out to Frank Giamarria who lead the pizza party. Not only does Frank know how to makes a pizza, he knows how to put a smile on everyone's face.

If you'd like to look at a photo report of the 2008 annual MHA meeting, go to MHA website or use this link: [2008 MHA Annual Meeting](#)

We had a great time, learned a lot, had an auction that was very entertaining and a financial success.

Next year's annual meeting is already in the planning stages. If you have any idea's please contact me.

2008 Auction at Wildacres

The atmosphere was charged as we began the 2008 auction at Wildacres. Over 100 items were being auctioned off and many members where looking for bargains. Then as soon as the auction started, it became clear this was not going to be a serious auction. Between Frank Giamarria dancing in front of everyone trying to get the bid higher, Connor O'Brien singing an Irish song, and Pat Manley doing a great job as the auctioneer, we rapidly had an evening of entertainment while having an auction.

However, with that said, we had excellent items donated by our members. From maple syrup, books, bake oven items, the list goes on and on. Under the guidance of Pat Manley as our auctioneer, the auction raised just over \$13,000

A special thank you goes out to Fred Pevey and Allan Turner who donated a soapstone heater. It was a generous gift and all of us in MHA want to thank them for it. Of course, many others donated items also. Here is a link of the donors and the amount their items raised: [MHA donors list](#)



If you'd like to see more of the heater donated by Alberdeen Soapstone, here is the link to some pictures: [Alberene Soapstone Heater](#)

MHA Chat List

Just a reminder to MHA members. There is a chat room setup for you. It's a forum for you to ask questions and possibly help your fellow MHA members. The link to the chat room is:

[MHA Chat Room Registration](#)

MHA News

Interesting items from the MHA website found in the MHA News link.

Cold Climate Housing Research Center is sponsoring a design contest for clean burning and high-efficiency retrofit for a common existing all-masonry fireplace. Check it out at:
[CCHRC Retrofit Contest](#)

Strategies for preventing hairline cracking is a round table discussion by experienced heater builders.
[Strategies for preventing hairline cracking](#)

Workshop announcement by Kiesling Construction in Nova Scotia. Learn how to build an original Austrian Grundofen from Edith Kiesling. [Kiesling Workshsop](#)

There are more interesting topics and reports located at [MHA News](#)



MHA Masonry Heater Contest Results

The first annual Masonry Heater Design Contest was held at the annual meeting at Wildacres. We had a number of entries and the judges had their work cut out for them. Thanks goes out to Marge Padgitt for all her hard work organizing the event. Go the link below for Marge's complete contest report:
[Masonry Heater Design Contest Results](#)



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