

Richard Smith

From: "Richard Smith - Executive Director" <rsmith@boreal.org>
To: <rsmith@boreal.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2007 11:01 AM
Subject: News from Masonry Heater Association of North America



Fall Newsletter

The Mortar Board

Fall, 2007

Creating the MHA Bond

Featured Articles
Webmaster's Report

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2008 MHA Annual Meeting

April 11th - 17th, 2008

***Wildacres Retreat in Little
Switzerland, NC***

Dear Reader,

The Masonry Heater Association of North America is no longer printing our newsletter. We realize that there are many types of computer programs that read emails. Therefore, if you are having difficulty reading this newsletter, you may use the link below. The link allows you to view and print the newsletter in a *pdf* file.

[MHA Newsletter](#)

If you have difficulty using the link above, you may type in the following url address in your browser:
<http://mha-net.org/docs/temp/2008MHANewsletter.pdf>

President's Report



Dear MHA Member:

I trust that you are having a busy fall

\$350 for 6 nights lodging & meals



This year's annual meeting will take a whole new approach and feel. The business meeting is important but the emphasis is on education and "hands-on" experiences. There will be multiple sessions going on at one time, both indoors and outdoors. You choose what interests you. We also we will building heaters and a bake oven from scratch to finish. One thing that hasn't changed is our Pizza Party.

We are currently working with Igor Kunnetsov from Russia to attend and be our featured speaker. Alex Chernov will translate for us. It'll be an opportunity for MHA members to learn about Russian heater construction and design. Igor will speak to the general assembly then be with us as we build a double bell heater. Another featured guest will be Tom Stroud. Many of you remember Tom from years past. He will be with us and give a presentation with the technical committee and the benefits of membership in the Hearth Products and Barbecue Association

At this time it's a little early for the completed agenda. However, I can let you know a few details, here are a few seminars both indoors and outdoors:

"Masonry Heater Construction in Earthquake Zones" by Jerry Frisch and Dave Misiuk.

"Free Gas Heater Design Principles" by Igor Kuznetsov

"Hand built Contraflow Core Sequence" with William Davenport

"Brick Laying Skills" with Scott Helms

season, and doing lots of heater work.

As you know, the membership elected a brand new Board of Directors at our annual meeting this year. One of the strong messages from you was that you wanted to see good governance practices put in place, and increased transparency from the Board and from committees. The informal methods of running MHA that have served us well in the past were starting to show their age, as we have grown to close to 100 voting members.

I'm very pleased to be able to report to you that we have made huge strides in fulfilling that mandate in a short few months. In Article V of our bylaws, you, the members, delegate the authority to govern the affairs of the association to the Board of Directors. Here are some of the things that your new Board has accomplished so far, many of them firsts for MHA:

- MHA has filed its first IRS return
- I have instituted regularly scheduled quarterly Board meetings, and we have held MHA's first two regular Board meetings outside of Wildacres.
- We now have an accrual based accounting system, instead of a cash based system. This means that we can do regular cash flow projections, and know the state of our finances at any time, rather than just at the end of the year.
- The Members' Lounge is now your link to current happenings at MHA. I have asked all committees to provide regular quarterly reports to the membership, and you can find these on the new Committee Reports Page, linked from the Lounge. There is also a new Financial Page, where you have access to current financial statements and projections.
- MHA's first ever Balance Sheet has just been posted to the Financial Page.
- MHA's book store is back up and running.
- We are well underway in planning an exciting program for Wildacres 2008. Igor Kuznetsov from Russia will be our featured guest, and we are planning a multi-track system of hands-on and seminars, with several events going on at once to choose from.

"Understanding Financial Statements & Records...Accounting and Bookkeeping Methods" with Doug Hargrave

"Movie - A Crude Awakening" given by Norbert Senf

"Certification written testing" by Richard Smith, Executive Director

There are many more seminars both indoors and outdoors being planned. We will get the agenda to you as soon as possible.

Our committee's have been busy and will be addressing the membership about their progress. In particular, the Technical Committee has made a lot of progress this past year. Tim Seaton and Rod Zander have worked hard and will be giving a evening seminar.

Jeopardy for Heater Mason's will be presented by Marge and Gene Padgitt. The take off of the popular game will not only be entertaining but also very educational. The questions will sharpen and question your heater knowledge. We also will have a movie/slide night for our members to come and present their favorite projects.



Of course we'll have our annual MHA Auction. Our auction brought in about \$10,000 last year and has become a major fund raising event for MHA. There will be a change in how we conduct the auction and hopefully a lot more valuable, fun and interesting items to bid on. Please consider donating something whether you attend or not. Just contact Dick Smith if you'd like to donate an item. It sure helps your

- MHA's fundraising campaign for doing heater testing for our EPA-related activities has raised \$3900 so far. Matching funds will be provided by HPBA, up to \$5,000. Thank you to all who have contributed. Particularly to Brian, "anonymous", and Worm for their generosity.

I would like to personally state my appreciation to all the new Board members for taking their volunteer duties seriously, and contributing their time and energy to MHA to benefit us all. Our new Executive Director, Dick Smith, has also been extremely valuable both at the administrative level and in providing the Board with arms' length advice based on his long experience with other non-profit associations.

Doug Hargrave, our new Treasurer, deserves our special thanks. Not only is Doug one of our top financial donors, along with Jerry Frisch, but he has donated, literally, hundreds of hours of his time to set up our new accrual accounting system, and reconcile all of our accounts for the IRS filing. This is a huge step forward for MHA as we grow into the future.

I wish you all a good winter and prosperous New Year, and look forward to seeing you at Wildacres and sharing some time slinging mud, "talking heaters", and eating pizza.

Best Regards,

Norbert Senf

The "New" MHA Book Store

The Book Store is up and running. To date, we have shipped over 150 orders with gross receipts over \$12,000.

Check out the New Bookstore at:

[MHA Bookstore](#)

All MHA merchandise available while supplies last.

Webmaster's Report

Once again we find our website a great source of marketing and education. Over 900 pages viewed per day during a 30 day period.

From Oct. 12 - Nov. 11th, 2007

Total page views:	29,121
Total Visits:	11,986

association.

To attend the Wildacres Retreat and the annual meeting you must be a paid member in good standing. Reservations must be paid in full and on a first come - first serve basis. It's a great deal and a great opportunity for members to learn what's going on in MHA, what's new in the trade, and be able to learn first hand from experienced heater mason's.

For a reservation form, please use the link below and either fax or mail the form back to the MHA office. The reservation form can also be found on the [MHA Website](#).

2007 Wildacres Report



The annual meeting of MHA was once again a huge success. Even though the weather turned bad, the electricity decided to take a brief leave of absence, and "some heavy issues" needed addressing, the membership moved forward.

Elections were held, reports given, committee's formed, and heater's built. The association made great strides.

John Rousseau has a complete report of the 6 day meeting. You can view it at:

Total page views per day: 940
Pages per visit: 2.43

Most popular Pageview totals for month:

1. Home page	7,920
2. Gallery	4,582
3. Mall	3,395
4. Membership Directory	2,086
5. MHA News	1,670

By Laws Committee Report

The Bylaws Committee for the Masonry Heater Association has been making use of a Yahoo! Group established by MHA Secretary and Bylaws Committee member Marge Padgitt. This committee has been at task reviewing an extensive new bylaws draft written in 2006 by Ken Matesz and comparing it to the existing MHA bylaws.

As of November 1, 2007, the review process has moved along quite smoothly. Posting records on the committee's Yahoo! Group page show no suggested changes, additions, or deletions to the draft set of bylaws. So far the committee has been asked to review Articles I - VI. The draft set has only 12 articles, with several of the last 6 articles being one paragraph long. Committee Chairman Ken Matesz estimates that at this rate, the committee will have been asked to complete the review process early in 2008.

The Bylaws Committee should have a meeting and vote in the first several months of 2008 on the draft bylaws. The plan is to have a committee-approved set of bylaws to present at the next MHA Annual Meeting.

The Bylaws Committee further wishes to remind MHA members that new committee members are always welcome. If anyone else would like to participate in this review process, please contact Marge Padgitt so that she can add you to the Committee's group forum.

Ken Matesz

Interested in membership?

MHA is the association of choice for people interested in or people building masonry heaters.

Find out more about membership and an application form at this link [Join MHA](#).

[2007 Wildacres Report](#)

Education Committee Report



We have been busy on the education front. Just about all of our current efforts are being poured into the workshop schedule for the next AGM at Wildacres. We have reconfigured the workshop schedule and are devising the hands-on and classroom topics to address the following:

- Provide education opportunities for all our members and promote a positive environment for learning, inquiry, and discussion.
- Offer choices so individuals may follow their interests.
- Provide quality hands-on workshops for the benefit of new members and beginners, i.e., step by step heater building sequences, as would be conducted "in the field".
- Demonstrate the wide field of masonry heater design and construction styles in an "open source" fashion.
- Promote education and discussion of regulatory



Technical Committee Report

The committee has been busy recently with EPA and ASTM meetings in Raleigh, NC and Tampa, FL. Rod Zander and Tim Seaton attended those meetings and represented MHA. The EPA meeting in Raleigh concluded with the feeling that the "white paper" be drafted as soon as possible. The Hearth Products and Barbecue Association will contribute \$5,000 towards the cause if matching funds were available from MHA. MHA will match those funds and the process is moving forward with the "white paper" being drafted.

At the ASTM meeting in Tampa, FL discussion centered around the draft fueling protocol and whether we need the ASTM fueling protocol. The existing document is a clearly defined research paper and protocol for testing purposes. That should be all that is necessary for the draft. It is currently perceived by the EPA that masonry heaters are very clean burning. Therefore, the EPA will give recognition and acknowledgment of the research paper.

Rod and Tim also attended the outdoor hydronics task groups as well as the EO6 subcommittee meeting while in Tampa. On behalf of all the members of MHA special thanks should be given to these gentlemen for all the work and time given on behalf of MHA members.

For more information or a desire to help the Technical Committee please contact Rod Zander and Tim Seaton.

Rod Zander

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

As you can see, the format of the newsletter has changed. In the future, you will be receiving at least quarterly newsletters and periodic bulletins.

This is an opportunity for you to show the your special projects, scheduled workshops or committee information. Contact me if you'd like something

issues, air shed awareness, technical developments, and masonry heater construction standards (ASTM).

-Provide the "building blocks" for a continued strengthening of the MHA's educational programs and assist in the continued fostering of heater masons in development.

Please stay posted for the upcoming workshop schedule for Wildacres 2008. We hope to see you there!

Wm. Davenport

Quick Links...

[MHA Website](#)

[MHA Bookstore](#)

[Membership Information](#)

[MHA Chat Line](#)

included in future emails.

Richard Smith
Executive Director

MHA TIP

Did you know there is a MHA chat line? It's a forum where members can ask questions, comment, or answer questions from fellow MHA members. Go to:

[MHA Chat Line](#)

Sign up and enjoy!

As a member you have a voice in your association. The Board of Directors and your Executive Director hopes this newsletter was informative. If you have comments, questions, or would like more information, feel free to contact me.



Executive Director

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