

# SCI Convention 2011

## BY Martin & Carolyn Estep

We began our trip to the convention site in Providence, RI bright and early in the morning. According to what I could find the trip should take us about 5 ½ hours but I told Carolyn to figure more like 7 because we had to go through New York. We were moving right along and reached the bridge going into New York in about 3 ½ hours. Then the nightmare began! By the time we reached Providence the 5 ½ hour trip turned into 10 hours. When we reached the hotel, which was a bit tricky to get into, you can be sure I was not a happy camper. After we got checked in and registered with the convention I was feeling a bit better. That evening we attended a very nice gathering in the hotel with very good food, great service and a nice German



band, that was versatile enough to play about anything you wanted. (OK! It's getting better)

That night we attended something called The Waterfire Festival. This is a ceremony that goes on at the river, where they build bonfires in the middle of the river and entertain the crowds with beautiful music. The crowds are huge and when all the fires are lit it is quite a site.



Sunday was filled with visitation to 2 member's homes to see their collections. After a pleasant bus ride our first stop was the home of Les & Charlotte Whitham. They live in a home way back a lane through the woods. Les and Charlotte have a beautiful home, a great collection to view and they were great hosts to a bus full of strangers coming in from the rain.



Next we continued on to the home of Frank & Dianne Pociadio to tour their beautiful home and view their collection. With all the steins perched up on the overhead beams they better hope that the house is very stable.



Monday was filled with meetings, a tour of the Newport Mansions, Ron Fox's auction and finally a delicious Lobster bake for dinner.



Tuesday the convention officially began. As usual for the early birds there was the ever popular water aerobics then the hotel put out a very nice breakfast buffet each day. Steve Steigerwald and Lyn Ayers were the main speakers for the day and Ralph Joyce, John Grube and Dan Rumplick put on excellent round tables. The stein sales room opened along with the hospitality room and the day was ended with Italian night. The night included a very good meal, great entertainment and a lot of people doing some very strange things on the dance floor.



Wednesday started out with the same early morning routine but then we had our General Membership Meeting. This year the Master Steinologist Award was presented to Wolfgang Gult and the Jack Heimann Award was presented to John Kelly. Steve Steigerwald received the Jack Lowenstein Editors award. Susanne Kellogg was presented the Gemütlichkeit Award and Bob Lindstrom received the SCI Service Recognition Award. Wendell Barney & James Fredholm were the winners of the Membership contest. Barney received a 3 year membership to SCI and James received a 1 year membership. The outgoing Officers of SCI received special recognition. They were our own Carolyn Estep, Ravi Patel and Phil Masenheimer. Walt Vodges received special recognition for all the services he has given to SCI over the years. He says he will still be helping in any way he can but he wants to start taking some time for things he has put off over the years. Ron Fox will be taking over as Prosit Editor. All this was followed by speakers Walt Vodges and Ron Fox. Round tables were presented by Ron Jacob, Dave Harr and Les Paul. Once again we could go to the hospitality room and the stein sales room.

Thursday, our final day, was filled with meetings, Stump the Steinologists, High Tea, the members auction and German night. For German night we had a very good German band for entertainment and of course Carolyn showed up in the Munich Child outfit. Maureen Joyce was crowned Miss Beer Stein and of course they held the German dress competition. Lots of fun, good food and there were more of those people doing very strange things on the dance floor. There was a small group of Keysteiners that hung in there right to the end.

