

## 2014 SCI CONVENTION PITTSBURGH, PA

by Carolyn Estep

SCI had another great convention, this time in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, thanks to Sue Fox (our Vice President of Conventions). The Embassy Suites Hotel Pittsburgh went out of their way to make sure our SCI Convention went well. Many steins exchanged hands and found new homes. There were twelve new SCI Convention attendees. It was so good to welcome them. Hopefully we will see them again at another convention. Also found several attendees without a chapter home so attempted to connect them to a local chapter in their area. We also signed up a few new SCI members who had come to the hotel for the commercial auction of Fox Auctions. We are hoping to connect these to a local chapter so they can learn more about steins and enjoy their stein hobby with others in their area. Thanks to Pat Jahn & friends for sitting outside the commercial auction with the SCI information. Great idea and hope we can do this again next year.

Best of all is to see all our long time SCI friends. All a fun loving group from all over the United States and Germany too! (Always great seeing Mark Rossman from Germany!) We hope our other European SCI members will be able to join us again another year.

Wednesday, September 3rd: Hot breakfast made to order for overnight hotel guests, every morning, in the Atrium. A pre-convention tour of 40 people left the hotel to go on Molly's Trolleys; a sightseeing tour of Pittsburgh with a behind the scenes tour and ride on the historic cable railway, the Duquesne Incline. After that, they went to Pennsylvania's first authentic Hofbräuhaus, modeled after the legendary 400+ year-old Hofbräuhaus in Munich, Germany. The food is always good there!



Every day 5:30 - 7:30 pm, the hotel has a hospitality reception for overnight hotel guests, in the Atrium! What a treat with open bar and snacks.

The Executive Board Meeting was at 8:00 pm and I heard it ran late. Thank you SCI Officers for your hard work so we don't have to be involved in the politics!

Thursday, September 4th: After another great hotel breakfast we were off to open registration again. Love seeing all the SCI members and helping them get settled for the convention. Preview time for the Commercial Fox Auction items. We got to see many stein collectors who had just come for the auction. Some we knew and some we met for the first time. I had the pleasure of meeting Ron's daughter, Kerri and helping her on the back table at the auction. I also had the opportunity to help prospective buyers on the telephone. These were very nice gentlemen that I called when an item they wanted was coming up for bid at the auction. Once I had them on the phone they would bid thru me. Wow, it was a real rush spending someone else's money to help them win the bid! Saw many happy people after the auction. Sue and Kerri had to work late that night to take care of everything from the auction. Sue also had to be at the Board of Trustees meeting at 8:00 p.m. and we heard it again went late! Not sure the attendees got much sleep that night or the night before. Thanks for all for your hard work to again keep us out of those politics! It is a hard job, but we appreciate you all taking care of this for all the members.

Friday, September 5th: Our Convention General Membership Meeting started our 48th Convention. Awards were given out:



**Master Steinologist - Jack Strand**



**Jack Lowenstein Editor's Award - Bill Hamer**

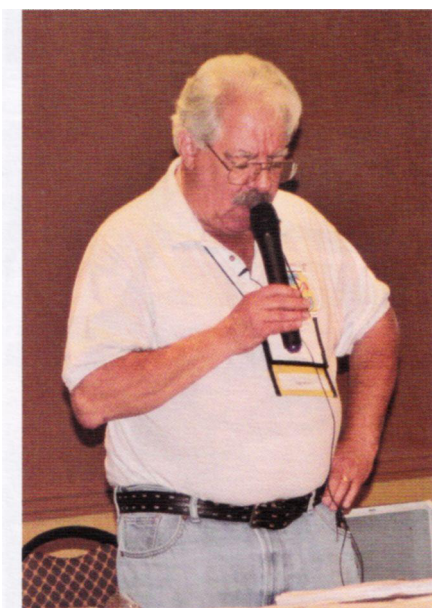


**Miss Beerstein - Robyn Mertz**

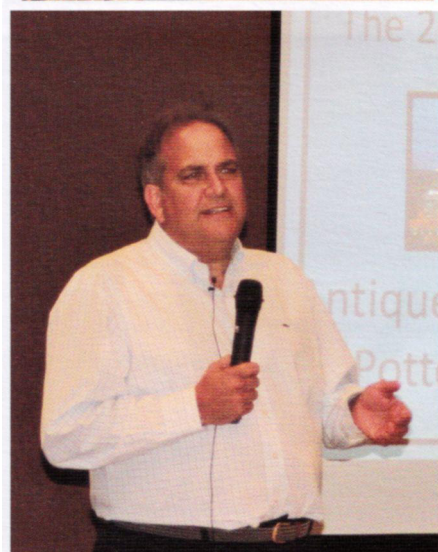
Our main speakers were Jerry Berg on Reinhold Merkelbach and John Lamb on Sports Steins. They did such a great job that I did not see anyone fall asleep.

Next we had a delicious lunch buffet. The hotel had everything well organized so the food line moved quickly. We even got all those outrageous low calorie desserts!

Next were the Round Tables put on by Ron Fox and David Harr so you know they were good! Both did a fantastic job (so I heard) to help us with more stein education. I may have to get one of those DVDs from Lyn Ayers since Martin and I were back at the registration operation again.



Members Stein Sales room opened up at 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. The room was full of sellers with a huge selection of steins and other go-with items. A lot of business took place in that large room and many, many members went away that day with smiles on their faces. Both buyers and sellers seemed happy.



Another delicious and wonderful afternoon tea was put on again by Sue Fox. Carol Fox and Karen Cress were valuable assistants to Sue. It is always so nice to see the ladies in their fancy hats and their "Sunday Go To Meeting Clothes". We are also honored to have some very pleasant gentlemen join us again. Thank you Sue for the great assortment of teas, our scones, sandwiches and "no calorie" sweets! We all left with a very full stomachs, tea magazine, cute tea pot and smiles.



As a special treat this year, the Faience Stein College was given by our own Ron Fox. (No he has not worn out yet.) I understand another great job was done by him. (I missed this one too; have to get the DVD from Lyn.)

Saturday, September 6th: Joann Ellis led the early risers in Water Aerobics both Saturday and Sunday mornings again this year. This is always great for the body (and sometimes the mind) and we thank Joann.



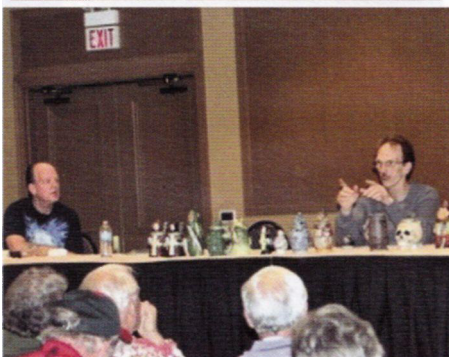
After another great hotel breakfast we left on three big buses for the Pittsburgh Gateway Clipper Fleet Cruise. The buses took us to the docks on the river front. We had the Clipper paddle boat all to ourselves. They served another great buffet luncheon and more of those low carb and calorie desserts. (For some reason the scale did not agree with that when I got back home.)



We enjoyed the riverboat ride and explored the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers! We saw Pittsburgh's glorious skyline with the beautiful landscapes and towering skyscrapers. This city has a lot of history and is still a very growing city. We saw Heinz Field Stadium, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers and PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates. After the cruise, chapter pictures were taken by our SCI Photographer as we got off the boat. He is my favorite photographer, and of course I am not prejudice!

Saturday evening we again were able to socialize in the Atrium with all our old (experienced) friends and new ones too! A 1st Timers Meet and Greet Social was on the second floor in the Three Rivers Room. It was nice to get a chance to meet and socialize with our new convention members.

Sunday, September 7th: The swimming pool was visited again by Joann Ellis and some early risers.





Next we had the member's auction which is always a highlight of our convention. More steins found new owners and the suit cases are now full!

Next was another special event "Stump the Master Steinologists". We want to thank our Master Steinologists, who were there, for their time to help us out with our stein questions. Sorry to say Martin and I had to miss this event since our car decided to have a problem when we started to load it that afternoon. (No power and it is a hybrid car, not good!) But service came and got us taken care of, we are just blessed we did not wait until Monday morning to start loading the car.

During the hotel hospitality reception these wonderful pirates started to show up and were ready to "party"! What a great bunch of pirates they were too. Loved the costumes and some had changed so much it was hard to recognize them. Some had grown beards and hair just for the Pirate Night. A special picture booth was again there this year, but this one printed our convention information on it and with four pictures it came out almost like a vacation post card. What a great souvenir from our convention. This was the last night of our convention. Our Farwell Pirate Costume Dinner was held in one of the Ballrooms. Sue had the ballroom all decorated for our pirate night. She managed to keep the doors closed until just the right time to enter. She also surprised us with special awards for many members. What a great time! There were pirates and wenches of all kinds. Most of our members dressed the part for this special night. Ron asked us different questions for some great prizes. We had another great meal by the hotel, more pictures, and then it was time to say our sad goodbyes to our friends, until next year. Time was too short but what great memories this convention gave us.

We look forward to seeing our friends again in Orlando, FL September 25 - 27, 2015!





