



# THE GULFSTREAM DIGEST

Vol. 4 No.4

The official voice of the GULFSTREAM - ASHI® Southeast Florida Chapter

April 2003

## A Grapple A Day ...

*“No one gets into  
trouble without his  
own help.”*

### Monthly Meeting

(2nd Tuesday of every month)

The next meeting of our Chapter will be held **April 8th, 2003** at The Ft. Lauderdale Marriott North, 6650 No. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. in the designated conference room. Fee for dinner and meeting is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests. **Please preregister by April 5th by calling David Riffle at Blue Star Home Inspections at 954-578-8323 or email at [bluestar\\_inspects@hotmail.com](mailto:bluestar_inspects@hotmail.com).**

### Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting scheduled to follow general monthly meeting. Bill, Rob, Tony, David, Pete and Joey are requested to be in attendance.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members and Affiliates,

Let's support our troops. Remember several of our own members have sons in the Armed Services protecting our rights and fighting for the protection of our country. Some Americans today view war as a video game on TV, turn it off and it goes away.

Let's take a moment each day and reflect on all the privileges and freedoms we take for granted. Let's not forget 9/11....for those who forget or ignore the past are doomed to repeat it.

I hope everyone can for that moment set aside your self-importance and ego boasting to think of those who are fighting, lay maimed and wounded in a hospital bed, being counted as MIA/POWs and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I am proud to be an American.

God Bless,

*William Hunter*



**ASHI INFORMATION SERVICE**  
**1-800-743-2744 • FAX 847-759-1620**  
**E-MAIL [HQ-ASHI.COM](mailto:HQ-ASHI.COM)**

Fax-on-Demand program allows you to access data, 24 hours a day. Just follow the voice prompts and have the document number ready.

General information provided on:  
ASHI® And Candidate Application #1001  
MRC Course Approval Forms #1012  
Education and Training #1014

**WEBSITE... [ASHI.COM](http://ASHI.COM)**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ASHI HEADQUARTERS

### BREAKING NEWS...

More than 20 percent of Membership shape ASHI's future by completing brand-building survey!

### Thousand plus complete brand-building survey

Rob Paterkiewicz announced that approximately 20 per-cent of the Membership used the on-line survey to voice their ASHI Brand concerns and desires. Responses are being tabulated and will be presented to the Board of Directors at its extended meeting April 11 & 12.

Paterkiewicz thanks all who participated, and promises the leadership will use Membership feedback as decisions are made. He will provide updates on the progress, but asks for everyone's patience, because this work takes time.

### COR: Nomination ballot deadline extended to April 7

The deadline for Council Representatives to return Nominating committee ballots is extended to April 7, 2003.

The process of choosing future officers and directors begins with the Representatives, who select the members of ASHI's Nominating committees by returning these ballots. The Officers Nominating committee will select a slate of officers to present to the Members, and the Directors nominating committee will select a slate of directors to present to the Council of Representatives.

### Sign all five lines with care

The good news is that InspectPAC authorization forms are coming in at a steady pace. The Membership is showing strong support for initiating a political action committee to increase ASHI's influence with the government.

The not-so-good news is not everyone is signing all five lines (one for each year), and some signatures are illegible. ASHI must gain your permission before soliciting your contribution to Inspect PAC. Please sign each line and return your form soon.

### Mark your calendar - July 18- 19-20 ASHI in DC

This July the annual Board of Directors with Town hall meeting is scheduled to be held in Washington, DC, where three hosting chapters promise to make it a "must attend" event for the more than 500 ASHI Members and Candidates who live within 100 miles of the Capitol. Here's your opportunity to watch your Board in action,

continued.....

## The Gulfstream Digest

The Newsletter of the  
Gulfstream Chapter of ASHI®  
<http://www.Gulfstream-ASHI.org>

### Officers:

#### William ( Bill ) Hunter

521 SE 4 Street  
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Home/Fax: 954-429-1455  
Email: [Inspktr1@aol.com](mailto:Inspktr1@aol.com)

**Rob Berens** - Vice President  
Anchor Building Inspections

**David Riffle** - Treasurer  
Blue Star Home Inspections

**Tony Munroe** - Secretary  
Advantage Building Consultants

**Pete Romano** - Cor Representative  
Hawkeye Home Inspections

**Joey Caballero** - Immediate Past President  
5th Avenue Building Inspections

### Committees:

Newsletter Editor:

**Kathy Pooler**, Publications Plus  
**Joey Caballero**, 5th Avenue Building Inspections

Webmaster:

**Jerry Peck**, Inspection Services Assoc.

Legislation:

**Pete Romano**, Hawkeye Home Inspections  
**Jerry Peck**, Inspection Services Assoc.

Education:

**Burt Silver**, Ideal Home Inspections

Seminars:

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS CMTE**

Ethics:

**Jeff Rothberg**, JR Inspection Services  
**Norm Sage**

Membership Records/Sign In Attendant:

**Rob Berens**, Anchor Building Inspections

Past Presidents: Joey Caballero, Keith Ruehl,  
Burton Silver, Peter Romano, Graham Bailey, Jerry  
Peck

Founding President: Ron Sabac

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ASHI HEADQUARTERS CONTINUED

participate in the Town hall format, and attend a reception and educational seminar hosted by the Greater Baltimore, MAC and NOVA ASHI chapters. Details will be announced as plans are confirmed.

### **Discussion boards to be moderated**

Kurt Mitenbuler, Jack Feldman, Mark Cramer, John Ghent and an additional member to be named will moderate the ASHI Membership Only on-line discussion board.

Next week, discussion board users will be asked on sign-in to read and agree to the rules and protocols of conduct on the forum. The change is being made to allow continued exchange of information and opinions, while protecting the Society. As the committee chair, Mitenbuler will field complaints. He said he hopes the committee is (more or less) invisible and that it doesn't dampen the fun.

### **Projects proposed for NAHB and ASHI**

Once ASHI and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) started talking things started happening. NAHB is interested in what home inspectors can tell builders about products and building techniques standing up over time, and about educating consumers on buying new construction. ASHI has also been invited to contribute to NAHB's online newsletter.

### **ASHI part of Residential Moisture Management Network**

ASHI has accepted an invitation to join the EPA, IBHS, and other interested organizations in a network designed to disseminate the results of government research on residential moisture, such as mold and mildew. Specific activities and ASHI's role will be reported as they develop.

### **ASHI exam online this month**

By the end of April, the ASHI Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics examination will be available online. Candidates will receive instructions on how to exercise this option. It will continue to be available at testing centers.

### **Changes at HQ**

Allison Dziejewior (pronounced Jevor) is ASHI's new receptionist. She takes over receptionist duties from Yvonne, who was promoted to Membership Coordinator. Allison is a Roosevelt University graduate with a degree in Marketing. Her e-mail is allisond@ashi.org and her extension is 101.

In another change at HQ, Tonya Abbot will be leaving ASHI and we wish her well.

### **Officers out and about**

On March 25, ASHI President Rich Matzen visited the Oregon Association of Home Inspectors (ASHI Chapter), and talked about branding. He reported the organization had grown from an independent state group to an ASHI chapter with two Council Representatives, and he predicted Charlie Rouse, Jim Katen and Mary Gail Sullivan are mem-

bers who we'll be hearing more from in the future.

Also in March, ASHI President-elect Steve Gladstone spoke at the Central New York Chapter annual conference, attended by approximately 40 inspectors, and Immediate Past-president Mike Casey spoke at a joint luncheon meeting of the Carlisle Association of REALTORS® and the Central PA-ASHI Chapter. Casey reported chapter members are excited about the branding project and want to participate. He also attended a CREIA conference in March.

### **MRC pass/fail letters coming soon**

The deadline for accepting MRC claim forms has passed, and submitted forms are being reviewed. Pass or fail letters will be mailed later this month.

The following seminars were recently approved for MRCs:

#### **North Central Ohio Seminar**

Date: April 5, 2003

Where: Realty One Corporate Offices, 6000 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, OH

7 MCRs

Contact: David Tamny, 614-459-5941, dtamny@columbus.rr.com

#### **Rocky Mountain Seminar**

Date: April 26, 2003

Where: 4-Points Sheraton Hotel  
1475 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver, CO

8 MCRs

Contact: Robert Knepshield, 303-646-1131,  
rbsk@worldnet.att.net

continued...

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ASHI HEADQUARTERS CONTINUED...

### Suntech 2003

Date: May 2-4, 2003

Where: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, St. Petersburg, FL  
21 MCRs

Contact: [www.suncoast.com](http://www.suncoast.com) or  
Tom Tafelski, 727-535-5576

### Western Washington Heat Pump and Air Conditioning Seminar

Date: May 3, 2003

Where: La Quinta Inn, Bellevue, WA  
4 MCRs

Contact: Deb Wenneman, 206-378-  
1476, [dakota15@earthlink.net](mailto:dakota15@earthlink.net)

### Do you know someone who de- serves recognition?

Twice a year, ASHI publishes Reporter special editions — InspectionWorld in January and Special Recognition in June. If you know of an individual, a chapter or an organization that deserves to be recognized for community service or service to the Society, send information and photos to [sandyb@ashi.org](mailto:sandyb@ashi.org). This is an opportunity for ASHI to recognize all our innovative extra-milers.

### Presentations still sought

If you know of a presenter who would add to the educational value of InspectionWorld, encourage him or her to submit a proposal. The Call for Presentations form is available on [www.ashi.org](http://www.ashi.org) in the ASHI Document section. The Education committee continues to welcome submissions through this month.

## SAFETY TIPS

Important Safety Tips, we hope you find informative and useful. Please pass it on to those you love!

From the Consumer Product Safety Commission website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) - they're definitely worth a visit. There are a number of ways to help prevent fires, burns, shocks, falls, drowning and other hazards.

- \* Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.
- \* Purchase fire extinguishers for the kitchen and make sure everyone in the house knows how to use them.
- \* Have a professional electrician inspect your home's electrical wiring system. This should be done every 10 years.
- \* Have the newly-developed arc-fault circuit interrupters installed in your control panel to prevent electrical fires.
- \* Have an electrician install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in rooms where water could be present.
- \* For families with small children, install safety latches

and locks on cabinets and drawers to prevent access to medicines and cleaners.

- \* Safety gates help keep small children away from stairs and rooms containing hazards, but beware of the old-style accordion gates which can be an entrapment and strangulation hazard.
- \* Anti-scald devices for regulating water temperature can help prevent burns.
- \* A spring-loaded lid support device can prevent the lid of chests used to store toys from falling on a child's neck or from closing and trapping a child inside the chest.
- \* Window guards and safety netting for balconies and decks can help prevent serious falls.
- \* Outlet covers and outlet plates can protect children from electric shock or electrocution.
- \* Window blind cord safety tassels can help prevent strangulation in the loops of cords.
- \* Every member of the family should have a proper-fitting bike helmet and other safety equipment, which can be used for riding on bicycles, scooters, skates and skateboards.



**MINUTES  
GULFSTREAM-ASHI MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2003  
6:30- 9:00 PM EST.  
FT. LAUDERDALE MARRIOTT NORTH**

The monthly meeting began with casual discussions and dinner at approximately 6:45 pm . Tonight was the first night we had buffet style dinner and charged \$30 a head. All in all, the feedback from the membership was positive and we will probably continue this with different themes each month. (i.e.: Mexican, Italian, etc.).

After dinner and before the meeting began, the membership and guests proudly recited the pledge of allegiance. This was followed by introductions and welcoming of all new visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Hunter around 7:30 pm.

The guest speaker for the evening was Colette Lee Corcoran, an attorney from Corcoran & Elkins, LLP. She spoke to the membership about ways to set up your home inspection business (sole proprietor, corporation, sub chapter S, etc.) and the advantages and disadvantages of each. The general consensus was for our business to stay away from sole proprietorship. Colette also shared stories about cases she has had and currently has regarding mold and mildew issues. If you decide as a company that you are not going to test for mold, it is wise to disclaim it in your report and inspection agreement.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to accept them by Norm Sage. It was seconded by Mitchell Captain. Thanks again to Bill Hunter for graciously accepting the duty of secretary by taking the minutes at the September meeting in the secretary's absence.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Treasurer's report: We have approximately \$5,600 in the account according to Treasurer David Riffle. David asked if everyone would e-mail him prior to bringing a guest for dinner. Apparently, there were more people at this meeting than were expected.

continued...



**MINUTES  
GULFSTREAM-ASHI MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2003  
6:30- 9:00 PM EST.  
FT. LAUDERDALE MARRIOTT NORTH  
continued**

Mitchell Captain suggested allowing candidates be allowed to be mentioned on promotional materials when marketing to Real Estate agents. This topic is still open to discussion. No vote was made.

Two new bills have been introduced to the State for hoe inspector licensure. HB 1131 and SB 1902. If you have not had the opportunity to review these, log on to [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com) to see them.

The membership was reminded that we have had a vote in favor of State licensing. However, we need to make sure that the bill not only benefits the consumer but us inspectors as well.

President Hunter went on record to state that as president of the Gulfstream ASHI chapter, he can not endorse the recent bill submitted by a couple of our members because no one has had a fair chance to review it. Once membership feedback can be obtained, then he will announce our position on the bill.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Munroe  
Gulfstream-ASHI Secretary



# HUMOR!

**Just a little humor to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump!**

## **You Think A Gallon Of Gas Is Expensive?**

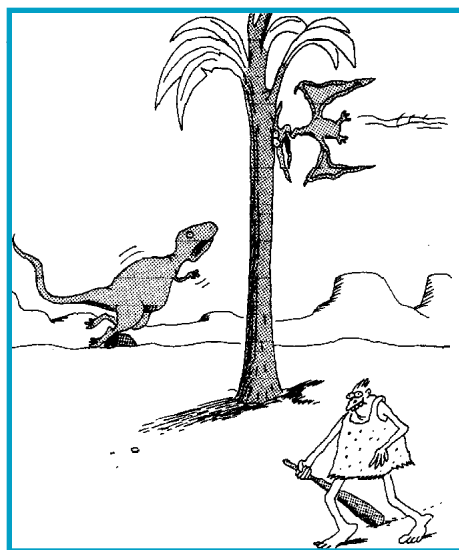
Diet Snapple 16 oz \$1.29.....	\$10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea 16 oz \$1.19 .....	\$ 9.52 per gallon
Gatorade 20 oz \$1.59.....	\$10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray 16 oz \$1.25 .....	\$10.00 per gallon
Brake Fluid 12 oz \$3.15 .....	\$33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil 6 oz \$8.35 .....	\$178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4 oz \$3.85.....	\$123.20 per gallon
Whiteout 7 oz \$1.39.....	\$25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5 oz \$0.99.....	\$84.48 per gallon

and this is the REAL KICKER.....

Evian water 9 oz for \$1.49 ..... \$21.19 per gallon

\$21.19 FOR WATER! .....and the buyers don't even know the source.

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, or Whiteout, or God forbid, PEPTO BISMOL or NYQUIL!!!



**Although it lasted only 2 million years, the Awkward Age was considered a hazardous time for most species.**

The Gulfstream Digest is presented monthly for the members and candidates of ASHI®. The use of materials herein is the sole risk of the reader.

Gulfstream Digest is the official publication of GULFSTREAM ASHI®, a not-for-profit, voluntary professional society. Correspondence to the chapter president should be mailed to William (Bill) Hunter; 521 SE 4 Street; Deerfield Beach, Florida 33441.4745.

Articles and newsletter information should be sent to Kathy Pooler, editor; via fax: (860) 889-2893; e-mail: Kathy@PublicationsPlus.com; or snail mail: Publications Plus, 5 Melody Lane, Norwich, CT 06360-1717. Materials must be of interest to members of the home inspection profession and must be submitted **no later than the 15th of the month** to be eligible for the next issue.

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