Register now for the 31st RCI International Convention and Trade Show at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL, March 10-15, 2016. Earn up to 21 RCI continuing educational hours (CEHs) and 18 AIA Learning Units (LUs), with 22 concurrent sessions and two six-hour auxiliary seminars to choose from and including Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) credits where applicable. You may also earn up to three additional RCI CEHs for trade show attendance.

For better savings, register for the convention and make your hotel reservations by February 12, 2016. Visit www.rci-online.org/international-convention.html or call 800-828-1902 for more information.

Meet Convention Keynote Astronaut Colonel Chris Hadfield

On Saturday, March 12, 2016, be welcomed by astronaut and space station commander Colonel Chris Hadfield at the RCI convention opening ceremony in Orlando, FL.

A heavily decorated astronaut, engineer, and pilot, Colonel Hadfield has received many awards including the Order of Canada, the Meritorious Service Cross, and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal. He was named

CONVENTION AMBASSADORS NEEDED

Every year we are pleased to have first-time attendees and new RCI members attend our convention and trade show. To assist them and make them feel welcome, RCI launched the Ambassador program in 2014. Due to its popularity, RCI will continue this program at the 2016 convention in Orlando, Florida.

RCI Ambassadors serve to make the experience of convention newcomers and new members as meaningful as possible by welcoming them, assisting them with educational choices and events and sharing their personal experiences.

Two Ambassadors will serve 1½- to 2-hour shifts during the hours of registration (2:00-5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11; 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 12; and 8:00-10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13). A brief orientation will be offered prior to each shift. One continuing educational hour (CEH) will be awarded to volunteers serving in this capacity.

If you are interested in supporting our association and helping new attendees by sharing your time and experience, please contact Melany Elwell at melwell@rci-online.org.

— James R. Birdsong
Executive Vice President/CEO

Online Registration Available for 2016 Convention

Register now for the 31st RCI International Convention and Trade Show at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL, March 10-15, 2016. Earn up to 21 RCI continuing educational hours (CEHs) and 18 AIA Learning Units (LUs), with 22 concurrent sessions and two six-hour auxiliary seminars to choose from and including Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) credits where applicable. You may also earn up to three additional RCI CEHs for trade show attendance.

For better savings, register for the convention and make your hotel reservations by February 12, 2016. Visit www.rci-online.org/international-convention.html or call 800-828-1902 for more information.
“The Sky Is the Limit” at the 2016 RCI Foundations’ Reception and Event on Sunday, March 13, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL. The event will feature both silent and live auctions, a 50/50 raffle, and door prizes.

The auction helps enable up to 25 college students studying architecture, engineering, and construction management to attend the annual convention, and also supports research, education, and information sharing in the building envelope industry.

Looking at this year’s list of auction items, I am thrilled with the generosity of our donors. At the time of this writing, we have received some very cool donations, including a 1993 “The Macallan” 18-year-old sherry oak single-malt scotch whiskey, a round of golf for two at any of the Disney World Orlando golf courses, two tickets to SeaWorld Orlando, and a guitar signed by the Doobie Brothers!

We are still in need of more donors. Would you consider being one of them? Think about an item you could donate. Do you or someone in your family have artistic ability or a hobby? Do you have a timeshare or vacation getaway you could spare for a week? Do you have access to something that would be a popular auction item? If the answer is yes, here is your chance to be a Foundation benefactor. (If the answer is no, cash donations are always welcome.) Please complete the donation form on page 3.

The RCI Foundation (U.S.) is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization committed to education and research. More information is available at: http://www.rcifoundation.org/. The RCI Foundation Canada is listed by the Canadian Revenue Agency as a registered charity. The charity registration number is: 841881352RR0001. More information can be found at http://www.rcifoundation.ca/
Again this year, RCI is pleased to announce that the RCI Foundation is providing funding for up to 25 full-time college students to attend the RCI 31st International Convention and Trade Show in Orlando, FL, March 10-15, 2016. Through this funding, individual travel expenses are covered for students to attend the convention, as well as RCI student memberships for one year.

To be eligible for convention sponsorships, students must be full-time students enrolled in architecture, architectural engineering, structural or civil engineering, construction management, or other related areas of study. Students are eligible to receive this funding to attend the convention twice. Up to three students may be selected from the same university.

In an effort to reach as many colleges as possible, please notify us if you have contact information for any particular universities, community colleges, or trade schools in the above-related fields. We will be happy to contact the department heads to inform them of this opportunity.

Students interested in receiving the convention sponsorship should complete and submit the application form and supporting documents no later than February 5, 2016. Please share this information with any qualifying student you believe may benefit from attending the RCI convention. Contact Melany Elwell with any questions at melwell@rci-online.org.

KEYNOTE continued from page 1

the Top Test Pilot in both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy, and has been inducted into Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame. He is the author of two internationally bestselling books—An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth and You Are Here—and has been commemorated on Canadian postage stamps, Royal Canadian Mint coins, and Canada’s newest five-dollar bill (along with fellow astronauts Steve MacLean and Dave Williams).

For more information and to register for the convention, visit www.rci-online.org or call 800-828-1902.
The motivating force for the Boardman and Brown paper is that insurance industry losses have been increasing due to hail. Additionally, a region of the United States comprising Oklahoma, Kansas, and several northern counties of Texas has been identified as a very severe hail zone. A rating system for classifying low-sloped assemblies intended for use in that region is not available but is needed.

ANSI/FM 4473, *Impact Resistance Testing of Rigid Roofing Materials by Impacting With Freezer Ice Balls*, is available for steep-slope roofing and includes a maximum Class 4 rating requiring test specimens to withstand 2-in. ice sphere impacts with a kinetic energy of 23.8 to 26.1 ft∙lbf. Because the ANSI/FM 4473 test does not apply to low-sloped assemblies, the testing described in the paper was conducted to investigate the applicability of the method to low-sloped systems. The testing also provided opportunity to study the use of freezer ice balls for impacting the low-sloped roofing materials considered to be less rigid than those for steep roofing assemblies.

A total of 34 membrane test specimens were prepared. The specimen membrane covers included EPDM, PVC, TPO, SBS-modified bitumen, APP-modified bitumen, and built-up roofing products from a number of manufacturers and with varying thicknesses. FM Approvals had previously classified these products for severe hail. Two impacts were performed at each location. The acceptance criteria were pass/fail, with a specimen failing when a tear or crack through the membrane cover was observed.

The test results showed that 18 of the 34 test specimens (53%) experienced tears and cracks in the membrane covers. Because these covers had previously passed a severe hail test, these results indicated that the testing described in the study was differentiating and more severe than that used for the severe test classification. The authors concluded that the test shows promise as the basis for a severe hail test.

Specific findings in the testing included:

- Failure was not apparent on some specimens until after the second impact.
- More failures occurred with lower density iso board substrates than with gypsum board substrates.
- More failures occurred with thin membrane covers than with thick covers.
- In some cases, damage occurred to the membrane substrate when no damage to the membrane cover was observed. This raised concerns that hail in practice could unknowingly compromise the uplift resistance of an in-place assembly.
- Two-thirds of all failures in the testing occurred due to impacts at fastener/metal plate locations.

Although not specifically addressed in the paper, this latter finding raises questions regarding whether it is prudent to use mechanically fastened assemblies with the plates and fastener heads directly below the membrane in areas that may experience severe hail.

**TPO Puncture Resistance**

Bhawalkar, Yang, and Taylor initially describe that puncture or impact resistance for single-ply membranes is currently ill-defined. As a consequence, the study investigated
various modes of TPO membrane puncture using test specimens with varying membrane thicknesses, substrates, and attachment methods.

Three types of test methods were included. One method used a low-speed puncture (<20 in./min) akin to stepping on a sharp object setting on the membrane. Another method used a high-speed puncture (>20 in./min) similar to dropping a tool or piece of equipment. The third method was hail testing based on the ANSI/FM 4473 test using 2-in. ice spheres with a kinetic energy of 23.8 to 26.1 ft∙lbf. (Note that this testing was comparable to that done by Boardman and Brown).

The membrane samples included 60-mil sheets representing products from four major TPO manufacturers, as well as 45-mil and 80-mil sheets from one of those four manufacturers. In addition, fleece-backed sheets of different thickness and varying fleece weights from a single manufacturer were included.

Significant conclusions given by Bhawalkar, Yang, and Taylor included:

- For both the low- and high-speed puncture tests, the membrane specimens from the four manufacturers performed comparably.
- Puncture resistance is a function of thickness and reinforcement. Regardless of puncture speed, thicker membranes had increased resistance. Likewise, fleece-backing provided improved resistance. Cover boards always improved performance, with the improvement dependent upon the type of impact and cover board.
- In many hail tests, there was unobserved damage to the membrane substrate even though there was no visible damage to the membrane. The data obtained allowed the authors to make specific recommendations for preferable substrates to be used under TPO membranes in severe hail regions.
- In the hail testing, all TPO membranes tested in the field of the specimen passed as long as there was not an insulation fastener under the point of impact. Similarly, all lap seams tested passed, provided there was not a fastener under the point of impact. In contrast, all TPO specimens, regardless of the membrane thickness, failed when impacted above a metal fastener.

Based on this latter finding, the authors remarked, “This result clearly suggests TPO installations in high-hail areas should consider fully adhered methods of attachment for both the membrane and the top layer of insulation or cover board.” Note how remarkably similar this finding is to that made independently by Boardman and Brown, although they did not provide as specific a recommendation on using fully adhered assemblies as did Bhawalkar, Yang, and Taylor.

In summary, these two papers have an abundance of information regarding hail and puncture resistance of low-slope roofing membrane products. Building envelope consultants practicing in severe hail regions should familiarize themselves with the data and recommendations in the papers. An important takeaway: Serious consideration should be given to the types of membrane assemblies installed in severe hail areas to minimize the risk of hail failure. In the extreme, this includes avoidance of mechanically attached systems with fasteners and plates placed directly under the membrane cover.
RCI Ontario Chapter’s annual Christmas luncheon attendees.

RCI Ontario Chapter Annual Christmas Luncheon

The chapter’s 2015 Christmas luncheon was held on December 10, 2015, at the Burlington Convention Centre in Burlington, ON. The event was sold out, with 230 registrants. Attendees enjoyed cocktails, lunch, and a performance by award-winning magician and mentalist Mike D’Urzo.

RCI Ontario Chapter President Katharine Spavins welcomed everyone and introduced the 2016 board of directors. Ontario Chapter Social Director Kathiravel Karunananthan thanked everyone for attending and supporting the chapter.

The RCI Ontario Chapter thanks the following sponsors:

Wine Sponsors
- Soprema
- MJ Building Envelope

Cocktail Sponsor
- Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance

Silver Sponsor (Apple Watch)
- Soprema

Bronze Sponsors (Asus ZenWatch and Fit Bit Charge)
- GAF Canada ULC
- Provincial Industrial Roofing & Sheet Metal

Hockey Ticket Sponsors
- Dycon Roof Consultants Inc.
- Semple Gooder Roofing Corporation

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• David McMillan, Remy Consulting Engineers Ltd.
• John Mills, Sika Canada Inc.
• Jennifer Hogan, Pretium Anderson Inc.
• Bryan Fishburn, Fishburn Building Sciences Group Inc.
• Paul Zanetti, Lexsuco Corporation
• Denis Theriault, Semple Gooder Roofing Corporation

UPCOMING EVENTS

• January 27: RCI Ontario Chapter Annual General Meeting at the Brampton Golf and Country Club, Brampton, ON.
• February 18: The Social Committee will hold “Pub and Pool Night” at Spacco Restaurant and Bar, Toronto, ON.
• April 8: The Education Committee is delivering the RCI Vegetative Roofs for the Design Professional course at the RCI Ontario Chapter’s headquarters in Richmond Hill, ON.
• June 21: The Social Committee is holding the RCI Ontario Chapter Golf Tournament at King’s Riding Golf Club, King City, ON.
• November 3-4: The Education Committee presents the RCI Roof Technology & Science II course at RCI Ontario Chapter headquarters in Richmond Hill, ON.

Visit the RCI Ontario Chapter website at www.rci-onchapterinc.ca for details on all upcoming events. Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/rciontariochapter and LinkedIn at https://www.linkedin.com/company/rci-ontario-chapter?trk=biz-companies-cym for up-to-date event information.

— Denis Theriault, RRO
Ontario Chapter Director

Interface journal is seeking submissions for the following issues. Optimum article length is 1,500 to 2,500 words, with five to ten graphics. Articles may serve commercial interests but should not promote specific products.

Articles on subjects that do not fit any given theme may be submitted at any time.

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<td>November 2016</td>
<td>Product Manufacturing</td>
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Submit articles or questions to Executive Editor Kristen Ammerman at 800-828-1902 or kammerman@rci-online.org.
2016 Officers Elected by Georgia Chapter

On Friday, December 11, 2015, the RCI Georgia Chapter held its general membership meeting and officer election for 2016. The event took place at Maggiano’s restaurant in Dunwoody, GA. The following were elected to serve on the 2016 board of directors:

- **President**: Jim Brown
- **Vice president**: Christian Dawkins
- **Treasurer**: Bob Kenney
- **Secretary**: Rich Chapman
- **Immediate past president**: Gene Hand

For more information about the Georgia Chapter of RCI, visit www.rcigeorgia.org.

— Gene Hand
Georgia Chapter Past President

A Message From the Outgoing Puget Sound Chapter President

Members,

As I reflect on 2015, I can smile to myself, realizing that the past year has been both rewarding and challenging. As with anything worth doing, it was not easy. It was challenging at times balancing all the facets of my life, but always rewarding to see the growth of our [Puget Sound Chapter] and its members. Getting to know you all over the past year was a great benefit, and I hope to continue the friendships that have been forged.

As I continue to reflect on 2015, it is with great personal sadness that I remember the loss of former [Puget Sound Chapter] president and RCI member Eric Weller. Eric’s contributions to our chapter are memorable, and he will remain in my thoughts as a leader and friend.

Thank you for allowing me the pleasure of serving as your president for the past 12 months. It has been a great experience that I will cherish. I would also like to thank our 2015 board of directors and our administrative consultant. They stepped up in huge ways to get all the work of running this organization completed. I would also like to thank our many sponsors for their continued support of our organization.

Here is a snapshot of our chapter at the end of 2015:

- We founded the Portland Branch of the Puget Sound Chapter.
- We made charitable donations to six organizations totaling $4,000.
- We planned two classes in our region (one in Portland and one in Seattle) in 2016.
- Our ending balance was $20,000.

As my final act, I would like to wish the incoming President Bryce Given and board “fair winds and following seas.” It has been a pleasure serving this great chapter!

Respectfully,

Andre R. Coppin
Puget Sound Chapter Past President

Western Canada Chapter to Hold Annual General Meeting

The RCI Western Canada Chapter will hold its annual general meeting on February 5, 2016, at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver, Canada. The following topics and speakers will be presented:

- “The Mysterious Art of Shingle Installation,” by Sean Lang, Specifex Building Science Inc.
- “Wind Uplift and the CAN/CSA A 123.24,” by Peter Kalinger, Canadian Roofing Contractors’ Association; and Dr. Baskaran, National Research Council of Canada
- “Cedar Shakes and Shingles101,” by Tony Hyatt, Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau
- “Fall Protection Requirements: Quality Assurance and the Role of the Design Authority,” by Brian Boomars, IRC Building Sciences Group

**Agenda**

8:00-9:00 a.m.: Registration
9:00-9:50 a.m.: #1 presenter and questions
9:50-10:15 a.m.: Coffee break
10:15-11:05 a.m.: #2 presenter and questions
11:05-11:55 a.m.: #3 presenter and questions
11:55 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Lunch break
1:00-1:50 p.m.: #4 presenter and questions
1:50-2:10 p.m.: Break
2:10-3:00 p.m.: #5 presenter and questions
3:00-3:30 p.m.: Social/networking

Register online at: www.rciwesterncanada.org. Call Molly Shipowich at 604-317-6006 or e-mail at info@rciwesterncanada.org with questions.

— Guillaume Vadeboncoeur, PEng, LEED AP
2015 Western Canada Chapter President
**The Mid Atlantic Chapter Is Growing**

This past fall, the RCI Mid Atlantic Chapter (RCI MAC) formed a branch called the Blue Ridge Branch. It is located in southwestern Virginia. Derek Cundiff of Cornett and Cundiff Inc. in Roanoke, VA, is serving as the branch liaison. Members interested in participating in the new branch should contact the liaison at the following:

Derek B. Cundiff, AIA, RRC, LEED Green Associate  
Vice President, Cornett & Cundiff, Inc.  
2927 Rosalind Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24014  
Phone: 540-343-9095

The Mid Atlantic Chapter elected its 2016 board of directors in December. They are:

- **President**: Steve Bentz  
- **Vice president**: Steven J. Bohlen  
- **Treasurer**: Dan Mathews  
- **Secretary**: Michael A. Hebert

The following calendar of events has been established by the Mid Atlantic Chapter for 2016:

- **January 14**: Annual dinner  
- **February 18**: Educational seminar  
- **May 12**: Educational seminar  
- **June 2**: Golf outing  
- **September 15**: Annual membership drive and Crab Feast Social

Stay tuned for future announcements and event locations.

— Rick Scruggs  
RCI MAC Past President

**Blue Ridge Branch of RCI MAC Meets in Roanoke**

Members of the newly formed Blue Ridge Branch of the RCI Mid Atlantic Chapter (RCI MAC) met on December 14, 2015, in Roanoke, VA. Topics of discussion included opportunities to expand branch membership, presenting educational topics of interest, and advocating the advancement of roofing and waterproofing consulting throughout central and southwestern Virginia, western North Carolina, eastern Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

The next meeting of the Blue Ridge Branch will be held in conjunction with the Region II meeting at the 31st RCI International Convention and Trade Show in Orlando, FL.

— Derek B. Cundiff, AIA, RRC, LEED Green Associate  
Blue Ridge Branch Liaison

**So Cal Chapter Holds Annual Election and Holiday Party**

The So Cal Chapter of RCI wrapped up 2015 with its annual holiday party held on December 2 at the Shoreline Village Yard House, in Long Beach, CA. More than 50 members and industry associates attended the party, which included a donation drive for Toys for Tots, a three-course meal, and raffle prizes. Guests quickly filled two large bins with new, unwrapped toys for the drive. Donations were given to the U.S. Marine Corps reserves and distributed to children whose parents could not afford Christmas gifts.

So Cal Chapter President Jason Mullis summed up chapter activities for 2015 and announced upcoming events while guests enjoyed their meals. A deejay spun holiday tunes, and nutcracker table decorations set the mood.

Board member Gary Weaver presented awards to chapter officers and volunteers Jason Mullis, Danny Westerfield, Danielle Ward, Linda Legerton, Greg Clements, and Moira Howmann. Golf Event Chair Danielle Ward and her supporting committee members Gary S’Dao, Greg Morrow, Mike Anderson, Linda Legerton, Gary Weaver, Jason Mullis, Greg Clements, Danny Westerfield, Rod Ashley, and Moira Howmann were also recognized for their hard work and commitment to the 2015 golf tournament. Most of these excellent volunteers will help the So Cal Chapter put together the 2016 golf event, which will be held April 14 at the Oak Creek Golf Course in Irvine, CA.

The pleasant and festive evening ended with the annual raffle ticket drawing. The chapter extends a big thank-you to Sunshine Supply Company and Water Mitigation Concepts for their generous support of the annual holiday party.

The following board members were elected to serve in 2016:

- **President**: Dean Larsen  
- **Vice president**: Szymon Zienkiewicz  
- **Treasurer**: Moira Howmann  
- **Secretary**: Gay Weaver  
- **Board member**: Danny Westerfield  
- **Board member**: Ron Johnston  
- **Board member**: Ed Sapaigao  
- **Board member**: Kyle Eazor  
- **Board member**: Greg Clements  
- **Board member**: Dave Erney  
- **Immediate past president**: Jason Mullis

We wish you all a very happy new year.

— Szymon Zienkiewicz, RRO, PE, LEED AP  
So Cal Chapter Vice President
During the December 11, 2015, Denver Chapter meeting held at the Arvada Public Library in Arvada, CO, the 2016 board of directors were elected. Below are the results:

- **President:** Dustin T. Smoot, RRC, RRO, LEED AP
- **Vice president:** Conrad Kawulok
- **Treasurer:** Dale Strutt, RRC, RWC, RRO
- **Secretary:** Kathryn Gromowski, PE
- **Immediate past president:** Richard Burke, RRO
- **Director:** Peter Hovanec
- **Director:** Rich McReynolds

Following the business meeting, a one-hour educational seminar titled “The Sustainable Benefits of Roof Coatings” was presented by Johnny Smith, western sales manager for Karnack Coatings. The program discussed the driving forces behind the sustainability and energy-efficiency of the roofing system. The standards and initiatives behind the sustainability movement were discussed, as well as the various roof coating systems that can be used as potential solutions to sustainability challenges.

After the business meeting and seminar, the group relocated to the School House Kitchen & Libations restaurant for appetizers and cocktails. A good time was had by all who attended.

Visit us at www.rcidenver.org for more information about the Denver Chapter of RCI.

— Richard J. Burke, RRO
Denver Chapter Past President

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**FLORIDA CHAPTER ANNOUNCES 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Members have chosen the following candidates for your 2016 RCI Florida Chapter board of directors:

- **President:** John E. Kuchler, Sr., RRO
- **Vice president:** Carey Hunt, RRO
- **Treasurer:** Daniel Stokes, CSI, CDT, CPRC
- **Secretary:** Patrick M. Hiltman, RRO
- **Professional director:** Tony Robinson, RRC, BECxp, LEED AP
- **Associate director:** Wayne Heironimus
- **Immediate past president:** Michael Goolsby, RRC, LEED AP BD+C, CDT, CBO

For more information about the chapter, visit www.rciflorida.org.

— John E. Kuchler, Sr., RRO
Florida Chapter President
The following RCI members were recently approved for Member Emeritus status:

- Thomas R. Baker, RRC
- Robert J. Boessen, RRC, CDT
- Thomas P. Billish, RRC, RRO, CDT
- Arthur P. Ward III, FRCI, RRC
- John W. Wells, RRO

Individuals who qualify for Emeritus status are members who have been in good standing with RCI for the past 20 years, have reached the age of 70, and have been recommended for such change in status by their region or by documented application to the secretary/treasurer of RCI, Inc. Members so qualified may, upon approval of their application to RCI, be granted the status of Member Emeritus. Members Emeritus shall have the rights and privileges of the classification held at the time of application for change in status and shall be entitled to print and otherwise use, as a suffix to their name, the title “Member Emeritus.” Members Emeritus are exempted from annual dues.

**NEW RRCs**

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**NEW RROs**

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<td>Chester Keith Schaber</td>
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<td>Paul D. Srokose</td>
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</table>

**RCI Recognizes Allen Blaker**

RCI Professional member Allen Blaker was recognized by the Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors (SAAR) for 30 years of service and presented the SAAR Affiliate of the Year Award. He also serves on the SAAR Community Outreach and Awareness Committee (COAC), which built a playhouse to use in Scottsdale’s Prada Del Sol Parade and then donated it to charity.

Blaker is the owner and operator of Inspection Specialists Inc., in Phoenix, AZ. For more information, visit www.yourinspectionspecialists.com.