

# REUSABLE PACKAGING TODAY

Vol. No. II Issue VI Published by RIPA

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### Did you know...?

Historically, the capacity of the most commonly used wooden barrel was 42 U.S. gallons. This is still the reference capacity for a "barrel" of crude oil.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

IPANA Fall Conference  
November 2-4, 2011  
Washington, DC

UN Sub-Committee of Experts  
Nov 28—Dec 7, 2011  
Geneva, Switzerland

Chemical Packaging Committee  
February 15-17, 2011  
Sarasota, FL

Petroleum Packaging Council  
April 1-3, 2011  
Woodland, TX

## **RIPA CELEBRATES AT ITS 70TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE!**

Nearly 150 RIPA members and guests convened at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort in St. Petersburg, FL October 12-15, 2011 for RIPA's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

Seventy years! That's quite a long and healthy run. Very few national trade associations can trace their history back that far.

And in honor of RIPA's storied history, this conference featured what must be the first "game show" entertainment that's left contestants and audience members buzzing with excitement. As part of the second night's reception, small teams of RIPA members were recruited to represent the West, Central, and East regions of the U.S.



*Hershson Honoree Peter DeWitt (right)*

*...See "Conference" page 3*

## **IBC COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP A ROUSNG SUCCESS**

The "Gateway Arch" stands on the banks of the Mississippi River in St. Louis, MO as a monument to the westward expansion of the United States. Reaching 630 feet at its highest point, the structure's polished stainless steel facing reflects not only the images of the nearby town and river, but also the hopes and dreams of millions of Americans, past and present, who over the years passed through Missouri on their way to a better life in the West.

St. Louis was the host City for the first "IBC Compliance Workshop." Perhaps its history and central location helped draw nearly one hundred RIPA members to town to participate in a full-day session focusing on composite IBC regulatory compliance issues.

One of the principle organizers of the event, Brian Evoy, Fibre Drum Sales, Inc., was thrilled with the outcome. "It was great to see such a high level of participation by member companies," said Evoy. "We were able to take some very complex issues and make them understandable to everyone."

*...See "IBC Workshop" page 4*

## **WALKER TAKES THE CHAIR**

Spencer Walker, National Container Group, has been elected RIPA Chairman by the association's Board of Directors. Walker will serve a two-year term starting 1 January 2012.

Joining Walker's leadership team are; Ricky Buckner, Buckner Barrels, Vice Chair; Jerry Butler, ICS, Treasurer; and Jeff Bey, Recycle, Inc. East, Secretary.

Outgoing Chair Dennis Long thanked the Board and his team of officers for all they did to help him during the past two-years. "Serving as your Chairman has been a real honor for me," said Long. "Working with such a great leadership team and Board has been both gratifying and enjoyable. I believe I leave this job having helped better the group by improving both the delivery of services and the overall financial strength of the association."

*...See "Board" page 5*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RIPA's Annual Conference is traditionally a wonderful, well attended event that provides industry leaders with an opportunity to become current with the latest business and regulatory issues, catch up with friends - both old and new - and enjoy some time away from the office in a relaxing environment.

The 2011 RIPA Annual Conference was no exception to this general rule.

Nearly 150 association members and family traveled to St. Petersburg, FL for the three-day meeting, which was held at the newly redesigned Renaissance Vinoy Resort. The weather was just about perfect, enabling attendees to walk to the great downtown parks, restaurants and museums, and take in some stunning views of Tampa Bay.

The unofficial theme of the meeting was history – 70 years of association history, to be precise. RIPA has been in continuous operation since 1941, which makes it something of an “elder statesman” among North American trade associations. However, RIPA is still young considering that the Philadelphia Drug Exchange (now PDE), has been around since 1861! Nonetheless, the RIPA story, which is beautifully documented in Pam Terry's superb book, “Fifty-Five Gallons,” is both interesting and deeply compelling.

Some of that history was on display Thursday evening when “RIPA History Jeopardy” made its live television debut. Well, perhaps we didn't make it to TV, but it sure was live! I had the honor of hosting the event, which featured some of the best and brightest in the industry as players representing the East, Central and West regions of North America. A computerized “Jeopardy” Board was projected, the players were competitive, and the outstanding questions were developed by Mike Murphy, Elliot Pearlman, Larry Bierlein and Melanie Walker. Judging by the laughter and cheering, a good time was had by all. Congratulations to the West team, who prevailed after a tough fight.

On a more serious note, the RIPA Board has elected a new leadership team, headed by Spencer Walker, National Container Group. Spencer is well known to just about everyone in the industry, and is very highly respected for his knowledge of every aspect of container production and reconditioning as well as his leadership skills. He will do a great job for RIPA.

Of course, in welcoming a new Chair, we have to say good-bye to our current Chair, Dennis Long. Dennis spent the past two years making sure the association held fast to its promise to represent its members, at home and abroad, as fully and as professionally as possible. He was always willing to roll up his sleeves and work on any project, large or small, until every task was completed. Dennis will remain on the Board in an ex-officio capacity, which means that his storehouse of knowledge will remain available to the association for at least two more years.

I know I speak for every member of the association when I say, “Thanks, Dennis, for all you did for our association these past two years.”



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rankin".

Paul Rankin



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Chairman.....Dennis Long  
President.....Paul Rankin  
Editor..... C.L. Pettit  
Editor.....Mark Rankin

Then the proceeding's host, RIPA President Paul Rankin, led contestants though a **Jeopardy**-style trivia quiz focused on RIPA history. There were actual buzzers for contestants to use, as well as a Jeopardy categories board up on the big screen!

Suffice it to say that there were many laughs to be had as the teams vied hard for the winning title. In the end, the West region - represented by Mike Bank, Rod Stewart and Mike Stephen - prevailed with the most **"answers in the form of a question"**. Each West region contestant was awarded a one-hundred dollar donation to a charity of their choice. Following Mike Bank's suggestion, the three have chosen "Conscious Alliance", a non-profit group that conducts food drives and delivers vital food resources to economically isolated Native American communities (see [www.consciousalliance.org](http://www.consciousalliance.org)). Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks for the contributions!



RIPA Jeopardy Teams

Shifting gears somewhat, the next night's event featured an elegant ceremony for bestowing the 2011 Morris Hershson Award of Merit to Mr. Peter DeWitt of DeWitt Barrels, Inc. in Marne, Michigan. Lifetime RIPA member, J. Michael Murphy, offered eloquent comments on the history of the award and the esteemed tenure of Morris Hershson as RIPA President between 1948 and 1983. RIPA President Paul Rankin described Peter DeWitt's many contributions to RIPA and the industry over the years. He noted that Peter had served as RIPA Treasurer and as RIPA Chair, and had recently spearheaded a successful effort to break the logjam at U.S. DOT that had been holding up approval of a vital new leakproofness testing technology.

Peter was joined by his lovely wife, Galene, and many other family members in accepting the award. Peter thanked his family for their invaluable support, and also thanked the "RIPA family" for the distinguished recognition.



Dennis Long, Indy Drum

On another occasion at the conference, members thanked the outgoing Chair, Dennis Long, for his two year of exemplary service. Dennis was awarded a new set of golf clubs as a thank you gift, although he noted that they would not necessarily improve his game.

The other outgoing officers, Vice Chair Spencer Walker, Treasurer Mike Bank, and Secretary Joe Wirth, were also recognized and thanked for their service.

RIPA's Product Groups met to discuss issues, establish policies and identify work items (see Product Group Reports on page 6).

RIPA's Supplier Members set up their displays the following day for the Suppliers Exhibition. This year, there were 12 Supplier Members exhibiting at the conference.

conference.

Attendees' accompanying persons were offered two tour options: one was a "Dolphin Cruise", the other was a tour of the Chihuly Art Museum and a glass blowing demonstration. Before the tours, there was a elegant brunch at the hotel, featuring a talk by the hotel historian.

The Main Speakers Program featured a number of prominent presenters speaking on a variety of timely subjects. Mr. Ben Supko from U.S. DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety spoke on his agency's priorities and processes, particularly as they relate to development of regulations and standards. Richard Schweitzer, Esq., reported to attendees on a host of regulatory developments affecting commercial drivers such as hours of service and electronic on-board recorders. Mr. Doug Evans with Ideal Lease presented data on assessing what advantages there may be to leasing vs. owning trailers. Mr. Bruce Boyd from Greif spoke about the flexible IBC industry and opportunities he sees for greater FIBC reuse. He encouraged RIPA and its members to explore opportunities with FIBC reuse and identified areas of potential cooperation with FIBC producers.



Ben Supko, U.S. DOT

Finally, a panel of RIPA leaders gave a presentation on RIPA and the reconditioning industry: past, present and future. Mr. J. Michael Murphy spoke largely about the past, the origination of the industry and the great distance it has come. RIPA President Paul Rankin spoke about ongoing issues and RIPA activities. RIPA Counsel Larry Bierlein spoke about the prospects for the future, recommending among other things that RIPA and its members look for growth opportunities in places like Latin America.

...continued on next page



Richard Schweitzer, Esq

Earlier that same day, RIPA conducted its General Membership meeting as required by the bylaws.

The following day, RIPA's Board of Directors met to tend to administrative matters and some policy oversight. A budget was proposed and approved for 2012. The current budget was deemed to be meeting expectations. A couple of new RIPA members were identified. Future meetings were discussed, including a spring Technical Conference to be held in or near Detroit, MI where attendees will tour Maxi Container's new facility. Read more about the Board meeting in the President's Message on page 2.

RIPA's 70th Annual Conference was enjoyed by everyone. The Vinoy Renaissance Resort in St. Petersburg served as the site for the third time in a decade. Clearly, the attendees appreciate the many activities and amenities that the location offers. Look for information coming soon about the next RIPA conference.



continued from page 1 "IBC Workshop"

The event got off to a great start with a Welcome Reception in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The food was great and drinks were plentiful, but the best part was the opportunity to meet many new faces from member companies operating in the U.S. and Canada. As hoped for, companies sent plant managers and operations professionals to the workshop, ensuring a great learning experience for industry personnel involved in day-to-day handling of composite IBCs.

The next morning, the meeting began with a general introduction to the IBC regulations presented by RIPA President Paul Rankin. He reviewed key definitions related to composite IBCs and, along with Association General Counsel Larry Bierlein, provided a summary of empty IBC transportation rules. Bierlein stressed the importance of using the association's "Empty IBC Certification" document. "Customers should always sign a document that tells you all the IBCs in a shipment meet the DOT/EPA emptiness standards," said Bierlein. "The shipper is responsible for complying with this rule, but we should help out by making sure they are fully aware of their responsibilities," Bierlein concluded.

A panel of RIPA experts took turns covering key subject areas. In the morning session, Brian Evoy gave an overview of incoming IBC management issues, including residue management and handling practices. Spencer Walker, National Container Group, covered IBC testing and recordkeeping requirements, and Larry Bierlein offered insight into "How to Prepare for a DOT Inspection."

Wes Ledbetter, Indianapolis Drum Service, kicked off the afternoon session with a detailed discussion of IBC marking issues. Several "sample" marking problems were presented, which generated spirited discussion and a host of important questions. Later in the afternoon, Rankin and Evoy covered issues related to closure and closure instruction compliance.

At the end of the day, both the panelists and workshop participants were exhausted, having spent many hours focusing intently on a wide range of IBC regulatory compliance issues. Association Chair Dennis Long, Indianapolis Drum, brought the day to a close. "What a great day of learning this has been," said Long. "I am sure everyone here today will leave this Workshop having learned a great deal more about the rules and regulations that govern this aspect of our businesses. This Workshop is one more example of why RIPA is so important to the industry," concluded Long.

During Long's term, RIPA more than doubled its financial reserve account and fought off efforts by EPA to impose onerous new emission requirements on drum furnace operations.

Long concluded his remarks to the Board by thanking Spencer Walker and his new leadership team for agreeing to serve the association. "It's a great feeling knowing that as I walk out the door, Spencer Walker is coming in," said Long. "Spencer is not just smart, he is a leader who is ready to take over and move RIPA forward."

Walker thanked Mr. Long for his service and told the Board that he is looking forward to working with them during the next two years. "Dennis has done a fantastic job at the helm," said Walker. "I appreciate the faith the Board has put in me, and I can hardly wait to get started," he concluded.

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## **ICCR ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

On August 23, 2011, the International Confederation of Container Reconditioners (ICCR) met at the gorgeous Rhiga Royal Hotel in Osaka, Japan for their Annual Board of Directors meeting. Among those attending were ICCR Chair Brian Chesworth, SERRED Chair Jacques Merritt, JDRA Chair Minoru Inaba and RIPA President Paul Rankin.

ICCR Chair Brian Chesworth opened the meeting by thanking JDRA for hosting the event. Then, on behalf of the international reconditioning community, he expressed deep concern for the people of Japan who have suffered so greatly as a result of the earthquake and tsunami. JDRA Chair Inaba thanked Mr. Chesworth and all reconditioners for this expression of concern and the many offers of assistance that came after the tragic occurrences.

The ICCR Board discussed the location of the next International Conference and, following a generous offer to host the meeting from SERRED, agreed that it should take place in Europe. Chairman Chesworth thanked JDRA for its extensive efforts to host the meeting in Asia, and agreed that Europe would be a suitable location for the event. SERRED Chair Jacques Merritt informed the group that given the late date, SERRED would select a location for a meeting to be held in 2013. Several locations are being considered for the event, noted Merritt.

Each group provided an update of recent activities and container statistics. JDRA Chair Inaba noted that the earthquake created severe business problems for some JDRA members because numerous automobile plants and suppliers to these plants were forced to close or reduce production. He said that approximately 14.5 million new steel drums are produced annually in Japan, compared to about 11.2 million reconditioned drums.

Mr. Merritt said that European reconditioners produced about 10 million steel drums; 1.5 million plastic drums; and, about 2 million IBCs in the previous year. He noted that high scrap prices have contributed to spot shortages of steel drums in various locations in Europe. Importantly, SERRED has formed a working group to develop a marketing strategy for reconditioned drums.

Mr. Rankin reported that U.S. reconditioners produced about 29 million steel drums in 2009, which was the last year measured. Additionally, group members reconditioned approximately 5.5 million plastic drums and almost 2 million composite IBCs.

All groups agreed that China and India are the new locus of growth for the industrial packaging industry. Mr. Chesworth and JDRA have contacted key governmental authorities in both nations and provided information about the global reconditioning industry. Importantly, a key Chinese government official has accepted a copy of the ICCR Code of Operating Practice, and expressed interest in the development of a modern and environmentally efficient reconditioning industry in that nation.

ICCR has embraced the principle of developing metrics for the "sustainable steel drum." The groups agreed to study a draft RIPA proposal and provide comments for its improvement.



## **PRODUCT GROUP REPORTS**

### ***IBC Product Group***

There is never a shortage of issues for the IBC Product Group to discuss. Despite having held a day-long workshop in St. Louis a month earlier, members of the IBC PG barely had time to complete the work items on their agenda. PG Chair Peter Cutt, IMACC Corp., led a lengthy discussion on IBC marking requirements. Cutt pointed out that metric weight and measurement abbreviations must appear in the primary and secondary marking strings on IBCs, and assured members that DOT does not stipulate the kilogram mark applied as part of the stacking load mark. RIPA has advocated the use of 250 kg. for the stack load mark, while most manufacturers apply a much higher mark, e.g. 1650 kg. The higher mark allows stacking of filled IBCs in transport, which the RIPA mark allows stacking only of empty IBCs being returned for reuse.

Paul Rankin provided an update on DOT enforcement decisions, including recent efforts to force IBC re-processor to perform a second leakproofness test on IBC bottles that were previously tested by the manufacturer. RIPA recently met with DOT officials to discuss this issue, but enforcement officials appear to believe a second test is required if the bottles have been moved by truck to a re-bottling facility.

The Group also discussed closure instruction requirements related to the repair of an IBC. They were advised that current DOT rules say that if a valve has been removed in a repair operation that valve must be re-applied in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, including torque.

The final agenda item was an update by Paul Rankin on efforts by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agency to apply a small fee to packagings entering the U.S. that contain residue. CBP is primarily interested in tank cars and tank trucks, explained Rankin. RIPA is working with the Agency to revise the draft proposal to exclude small packagings, including drums and IBCs.

### ***Flexible IBC Product Group***

The Flexible IBC Product Group was meeting at a RIPA conference for only its second time, having been inaugurated at the spring RIPA Technical Conference. The group was advised that a speaker from Greif's flexible IBC operations would be presenting a talk as part of the Main Program scheduled for the following day. Mr. Bruce Boyd would be talking about the flexible IBC industry, its major players and principal products, and opportunities for reuse and reconditioning. Also, the group was advised that RIPA staff was coordinating with the Flexible IBC Association (FIBCA) on production of operating guidelines for reuse and reconditioning of FIBCs.

### ***Steel Drum Product Group***

The Steel Drum Product Group discussed U.S. DOT's position regarding the checking of torque values on packages with "factory" pre-torqued closures. DOT officials have been requiring a check of pre-torqued closures prior to shipping.

The group discussed U.S. OSHA requirements for Hazard Communication Plans, noting that such plans must specifically mention whether Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) are maintained on-site or are activated through a 24-hour "fax on demand" service such as that available through RIPA.

Finally, the group was advised that, according to recent DOT citations, remanufactured steel drums must not be marked with the "RL" normally assigned to reconditioned drums.

### ***Plastic Drum Product Group***

The Plastic Drum Product Group discussed the Competent Authority Approval for manufacturing of plastic drums using recycled plastic materials. The current Approval issued in 2007 is written for members of the Plastic Drum Institute (PDI). RIPA's C.L. Pettit reported that four companies applied separately and were issued conforming Approvals in December 2010. As reported elsewhere, U.S. DOT has moved away from issuing Approvals through membership-based trade associations.

The group then discussed efforts by regulators to deem a change in **supplier** of resin as a change in drum design-type (even if the resin specification stay within accepted tolerances). RIPA's C.L. Pettit reported that the two leading plastic drum and IBC manufacturing groups – PDI and RIBCA – had jointly submitted in

2010 a letter to U.S. DOT requesting that enforcement policy refer to an ASTM specification on HDPE – similar to how the steel drum regulations refer to an ASTM specification on steel for steel drums. Reportedly, the issue is “in line” for a potential rulemaking by DOT, though it may not be a high priority. Some parties have suggested that individual companies should apply for Approvals that would provide for changes in resin supplier. Others, however, have voiced concern that the potential for issuing Approvals that vary in their parameters could create market distortions or unfair advantage. DOT notices of “probable violations” for “missing data on resin” are reportedly occurring.

The group was advised that an ASTM taskforce was in the process of voting on a proposed protocol for “conditioning” plastic drums in advance of testing for UN qualification. Also, the group was advised of a proposed technical change at the UN for the “date wheel mark”. Added to the proposal recently was language providing for “equally effective methods” of dating. Some packaging companies are said to be looking at laser etching.

### ***Fiber Drum Product Group***

The group discussed the periodic testing for qualification of select fiber drum designs. Several member companies have jointly conducted qualification testing of four drum types since 2009. New testing would be scheduled among the participating companies.

RIPA’s C.L. Pettit reported that a Competent Authority Approval (US DOT) for “Selective Testing” of fiber drum design-types to qualify for hazmat service expired in March 2011. Two fiber drum manufacturers recently reapplied and were granted the Approval on the same terms and conditions. The expired Approval previously had been granted to members of the International Fibre Drum Institute (IFDI). As has been reported here and elsewhere, U.S. DOT has moved away from issuing Approvals through membership-based trade associations.

RIPA would like to thank the exhibitors at the Annual Conference in St. Petersburg ! The exhibits always make for a more successful event. And thanks to ***all*** RIPA Supplier / Associate Members for attending and supporting the association!

Exhibitors:

Banjo Corporation  
BASCO, Inc.  
Clean Earth Systems, Inc.  
Con-Tech International  
CPP - USA  
Delta Coatings Corporation  
Drum Parts Midwest  
Engineered Recycling Company  
Enterprise Marking Products  
International Precision Components Corporation  
Sheboygan Paint Company  
Stainlez, Inc.



**HazMat News**

**Wine Making News**

**Near;y Naked Passenger Sues for Rights Violation**

Airport security has been a delicate issue for many years. As a frequent flyer, I know that I must hold back my frustration of partially undressing and having to walk barefoot, or in my socks, through a security machine or pat down. Few travelers dare to question the process. However, Aaron Tobey, 21, of Charlottesville, Va., a student at the University of Cincinnati, was passing through Virginia's Richmond International Airport on December 30, 2010 when he opted-out of going through the full body scanner. He was instead seeking an enhanced pat down. When he went through security, he [took off his pants and shirt to reveal the Fourth Amendment written on his chest in magic marker](#). He went there knowing he would not do the advanced imaging and instead do the pat-down. Tobey was handcuffed and briefly held on charges of disorderly conduct. A federal civil rights lawsuit was filed on his behalf, claiming Tobey's First and Fourth Amendment rights were violated. The lawsuit was filed by the Rutherford Institute, a civil liberties group. During the last week of August 2011, U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson threw out most of Tobey's claims, but agreed to proceed with charges that his free-speech rights were violated. The judge also rejected the equal protection and search-and-seizure claims against the TSA screening officers who summoned police, but said it was premature to dismiss the free-speech claim. The final outcome and charges are yet unknown. Bizarre behavior continues to plague our security screening which, by its design and implementation, does, sometimes, cause travelers to act out their frustrations.

...— Howard Skolnik

**Top Educators Offer HazMat Lithium Battery Shipment Illegally**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is proposing a \$175,000 civil penalty against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for alleged violations of Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations. The FAA alleges that MIT offered a fiberboard box containing 33 electronic devices to FedEx for transportation by air from Cambridge to Seattle on Aug. 25, 2009. Each electronic device consisted of a lithium battery attached to a circuit board and tube-like container. The package was discovered with smoke and flames coming from it while it was moving on a conveyor at the FedEx sorting facility in Medford, Mass. Two of the devices in the package heated and melted, which caused the surrounding cushioning and packaging to catch fire. Because the package was not properly labeled and marked, Federal Express employees did not know the shipment contained hazardous material. They made several unsuccessful attempts to extinguish the flames with a fire extinguisher. Specifically, the batteries were not packaged in a manner that would prevent a short-circuit that could create sparks or generate a dangerous quantity of heat. MIT allegedly offered the box when it was not packaged, marked, classed, described, labeled or in condition for shipment as required by regulations. The airbill accompanying the shipment specifically stated the shipment did not contain dangerous goods. In addition, the FAA alleges MIT employees were not properly trained and tested to handle hazardous material. MIT is allowed to negotiate the FAA fine.

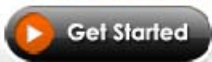
— Howard Skolnik

**SIP Certified: Sustainability in Practice**

On a recent trip to California we happened to notice many wine bottles touting the ["SIP" Certified Seal — Sustainability in Practice](#). The certification program evolved from nearly two decades of effort to understand and implement sustainable farming practices, such as soil conservation, pest management, water quality, and special attention paid to biodiversity and habitat. When one finds the SIP seal on a bottle of wine, you can be assured that growers are preserving and protecting the natural environment, treating their employees and community with care, and have sound business practices with a long-term view that protects both the present and future. Third party auditors confirm adherence to the strict standards. This "Gold Standard" program was developed with the input of experts from the Environmental Protection Agency, National Resources Defense Council, university advisors, community and environmental organizations, and adapts and improves as practices evolve. SIP seals are now appearing across the country at select grocery stores, membership warehouses, wine stores and restaurants. Not only do we think this is a great idea, but we are happy to see that several of our [stainless steel barrel customers](#) have made the list!

— Dean Ricker

Looking to BUY?



Looking for ANSWERS?



Closure Instructions







**HazMat News**

**A Busy Month for Howard!**

In this past month, I have made a number of presentations and appearances that I want to share with our customers and friends.

Skolnik recently completed the development and implementation of a documented Sustainability Plan. This plan addresses all aspects of the products we purchase, use in fabrication, sell and scrap. On September 9th., 2011, I was invited by [Mindful Metropolis Magazine to participate in a Green Seminar](#) held at Moraine Valley Community College. As one of four Chicago-based panelists, I presented the basis for our Sustainability Plan, the process of development, the implementation, and the ongoing maintenance of the plan.

Great Western Containers of Canada established their support of [Kids Cancer Care in Calgary, Canada](#) and hosted their first annual golf outing/dinner fundraiser. Skolnik was a corporate sponsor and I had the good fortune to attend this worthwhile and touching event. Ms. Savannah Brown, a 12 year old cancer survivor was the key note speaker and told her story from initial diagnosis, to treatment, to participating in the Kids Cancer Care summer camp. Thank you GWC!

Labelmaster held their 6th Annual Dangerous Goods Instructors Symposium in Memphis, TN at the Peabody Hotel — “the one with the ducks.” On September 27th, 2011, the first night of the Symposium, 40 fortunate attendee’s were able to participate in the [Night Time Hub Tour of FedEx](#). The Hub Tour is a highly coveted hazmat opportunity and I was excited to partake. From 10:30pm to 2:30am, we witnessed the arrival of a large percentage of the global fleet, about 170 planes, as they landed, were unloaded, their cargo uploaded, sorted and reloaded, then watched as the planes started departing. During the 4 hours, 7,800 employees transition more than 1.5 million packages every night. It was like a “tsunami of packages” that all pass through this incredibly complex, high speed, high energy hub. Thank you Fedex!

At Labelmaster’s DGIS VI, I presented a workshop on the [Writing of Closure Instructions](#). The workshop was designed to emphasize that the most important part of a dangerous goods package is the closing process. With Closure Instructions required, the instructions need to be written in a manner which conveys required tools, types of inspections, proper assembly and a finite closure point. Participants were first asked to write simple instructions for simple tasks (ie, how to tie shoe laces), and eventually they were given UN certified drums or boxes and asked to write a closure instruction. The exercise did highlight the nuances of good instruction writing and all who attended claimed that their communication skills were improved. I will be giving the Workshop again at the DGAC Annual Conference in Tampa on November 8th, 2011...— Howard Skolnik

**HazMat Fines: More Common, More Expensive!**

Fines for non-compliant shipments of dangerous goods are getting larger and more frequent. Only recently, Jones International Groups, Inc. agreed to pay EPA \$17,000 for failing to comply with requirements related to the export of universal waste - spent lead-acid batteries - to Hong Kong through the Port of Portland in Oregon. Quality Carriers, Inc. will pay more than \$46,000 to settle hazardous chemical reporting violations at its facility in Kent, Washington, for storing large amounts of hydrogen peroxide above threshold planning quantities without properly reporting it to the Kent Fire Department, King County Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the state emergency response commission. The DOT’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced \$3,876,000.00 in fines against American Welding & Tank, LLC (AWT) of Fremont, Ohio for violating federal hazardous materials safety standards. The company was fined for manufacturing and selling unsafe nurse tanks – a type of cargo tank used to store and transport anhydrous ammonia, a hazardous material used in farming operations. But the fine that is the most astounding is that Logitech was fined \$261,000 for making unsubstantiated pesticide claims for its computer keyboards. The company incorporated a silver compound designed to protect a keyboard against deterioration, then marketed the keyboard as protecting the user from bacteria and microbes. To promote such benefits for that use a company must have the product tested, then registered by the EPA. Products that kill or repel bacteria or germs and/or claim to do so are considered pesticides, and must be registered with the EPA before their sale or distribution, pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). EPA will not register a pesticide until it has been tested to show that it will not pose an unreasonable risk when used according to the directions. — Howard Skolnik

**Wine Making News**

**Super Sonoman Testing Seamless Stainless Barrels**

We are always excited to hear when our winery friends and customers have big news, and that is exactly what we are hearing about our friends at [Super Sonoman](#). Winemaker Chris Taddei is making big waves in the wine world with his amazing artisanal wines. It began with his desire to make the best Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County has ever produced. The diverse geology of Sonoma County and its topography have made it the ideal location to make world class wine for years but the grapes that are most often associated with the region have been Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Zinfandel to name a few. If you were looking for an elegant, age-worthy Cabernet Sauvignon however, the choice was easy, go to the Napa Valley. Super Sonoman is now bringing wine lovers another choice. The first grapes were harvested in October of 2003 and they now have the first four vintages in the bottle and two vintages in barrel. Chris is now experimenting with [Skolnik’s new 55 GALLON SEAMLESS STAINLESS STEEL WINE BARREL with the CREVICE FREE INTERIOR](#). We can’t wait to try what Super Sonoman releases next, their wines truly are in a class of all their own. — Dean Ricker

<p><b>Looking to BUY?</b></p>  	<p><b>Looking for ANSWERS?</b></p>  	<p><b>Closure Instructions</b></p>  
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**SKOLNIK** is a business to business manufacturer of new [carbon](#) steel drums and stainless steel drums for highly valued contents. From custom wine barrels to drums for hazardous materials (hazmat) and dangerous goods, we are a leader in specialty packaging.



STAINLEZ™

Call us at 877-971-7987

Stainlez is an industry-leading manufacturer of container components. From valves to caps and lids, our products make containers safer, easier, more reliable, and working in perfect harmony with one another.

Just because we design and custom build some of the most trusted container parts on the market doesn't mean we're standing still.

Stainlez is always moving, innovating, and creating - striving to make our container parts and container systems the most technologically advanced in the world.



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