



Knowledge for Creating  
and Sustaining  
the Built Environment

# Big Sky perSPeCtive



Big Sky Chapter, CSI  
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Volume 2, Issue 1

November, 2007

## BIG SKY CHAPTER NEWS

### **BIG SKY CHAPTER TO BE AT MONTANA ROOFING CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW**

The Big Sky Chapter will be at the MRCA Convention & Trade Show January 23 – 25, 2008 at Fairmont Hot Springs. Watch for more details, and make plans to attend.

### **BIG SKY CHAPTER WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING**

On June 11, 2007, the Big Sky Chapter website officially went on-line. Our address is [www.csibigsky.org](http://www.csibigsky.org). The site was created for members to have a quick, one-stop location to go to for news about upcoming events, opportunities and news from the Chapter, Northwest Region, and Institute levels. The website is administered by Member Pipeline, Inc, and will be updated monthly. If you have news or material that you would like included on this website, please contact any of the Chapter Officers or Directors. Deadline for submittals is the 6th day of every month. Please take a minute or two and visit our site!

### **CSI NORTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE September 2008 - Seattle, Washington**

#### **Big Sky Chapter to host 2011 Conference**

We are giving thought to co-hosting this conference with Idaho Chapter. Discussion has already started between our chapters.

Photos from the 2007 CSI Show in Baltimore are currently posted on the CSI Institute website:

<http://www.csishow.net/2007/>

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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### **CSI CHAPTER BEST PRACTICES TO GROW THE NORTHWEST MEMBERSHIP**

By: RW Simmons, CSI, CCPR  
Northwest Region Director

Maintaining membership was the theme of last month's article, which identified ways to retain our membership through a number of Tips that can be found in the Institute's Chapter Best Practices guide, as presented by the Institute Membership Committee. This CSI Chapter Best Practices guide can be found and downloaded from the CSI web site [www.csinet.org](http://www.csinet.org).

Every year, chapter leaders evaluate their chapter's overall plan and performance and ask themselves: How can we increase our membership participations in chapter functions? What do chapter leaders need to do to increase interest in the programs?

Good leaders evaluate the course the chapter is taking to make the membership more active with programs and educational seminars, as well as providing informational and interesting meetings to help create a balance in the membership of professional and industry members.

#### **CSI Chapter Best Practices**

CSI Best Practices addresses a number of ideas for the chapter leaders such as:

- Meeting Location: Choose the best place that would make the most members want to attend.
- Meeting Time: Choose the time to hold your meeting that is easiest to make for the majority.
- Meeting Notice: Long lead time, bring up immediately available multiple information sources, and "build the meeting interest for the membership."
- Meeting Reservations: Have standing reservations at the beginning of the year for ease of Response.
- Meal pricing program: Several great ideas were listed.
- Meeting Hospitality and Conduct.
- Programs and Program Topics. (Hot topics drive interest, advanced notification instills a desire to attend).
- Program Speakers & Tips for having successful programs.

CSI Best Practices should be in every chapter leaders' meeting folder and reviewed monthly, prior to board meetings, as a guide for chapter success.

Let us all continue the excellent effort in increasing and maintaining our Northwest Chapters' membership and CSI interest.

**Editor's Note:** This is a repeat article from Robert Simmons, CSI, CCPR, with relevant information that we should all keep continually in mind as we recruit new members.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Big Sky Chapter #146

July 2007

"It is better to have a goal and miss it, then to not have a goal...and hit it!"

### **1 YEAR PLAN** (July 2008)

#### **Increase Active Membership (I AM)**

- What **I AM** expecting from membership in CSI and the Big Sky Chapter.
- What **I AM** contributing to the Big Sky Chapter.
- What **I AM** willing to do to help the Big Sky Chapter

#### **How to Implement I AM**

- Meetings:
  - Monthly / Quarterly membership meetings.
  - Brown Bag luncheons.
- Education:
  - CEN Program Provider
  - CDT study classes
  - Student Affiliate Group
    - Mentoring
- Recognition:
  - Member awards from Chapter / Region / Institute

#### **1 Year Goal** (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

- Increase Chapter membership by 2X (56 new members)
  - Incentives:
    - CSI "Bucks" (from Institute)
    - Big Sky Chapter Awards
      - 1+ new member - Free dinner at Chapter Meeting
      - 5+ new members - Chapter Dues paid for 1 year
      - 10+ new members - CSI Institute Dues paid for 1 year
- Establish Big Sky Chapter as a CEN (Construction Education Network) Program Provider
  - Develop a Chapter Meeting Program Schedule
    - Set up Chapter "GoTo Meeting" Account
    - Four (4) membership meetings per year
    - Promote Continuing Education Credits (CEU's)
    - Begin CDT training classes
  - Expand Big Sky Chapter Website into a powerful chapter membership tool

### **5 YEAR PLAN** (July 2012)

#### **Increase Chapter Membership Statewide**

- Sponsor two (2) new CSI Chapters within Montana
- Establish monthly Chapter meetings/programs
- Establish one (1) new Student Affiliate Group in Montana

#### **Develop Big Sky Chapter Website**

- Purchase Big Sky Chapter website from MemberPipeline
  - Add "GoTo Meeting" to website and include video cameras

#### **Host the CSI Northwest Region Conference in 2011**

## SIDEBAR ARTICLES

### SPECIAL EVENT

#### **MONTANA ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW.**

PLACE: FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS, MONTANA

JANUARY 23 - 25, 2008

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **MEETING IN THE MOUNTAINS 2008**

MARCH 28, 2008 IN RED LODGE, MONTANA

#### **2008 NORTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE**

**PUGET SOUND CHAPTER - SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

SEPTEMBER 2008

CHECK REGION WEBSITE: [WWW.CSINWR.ORG](http://WWW.CSINWR.ORG) FOR UPDATES

### CHAPTER EVENTS:

#### Big Sky Chapter Board Meetings:

Date: 3rd Thursday of the calendar month

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Location: CTA Architects conference room; Billings, Montana (unless notified otherwise)

#### Quarterly Chapter Meetings:

Date: 4th Tuesday of the month January, April, July & October

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Location: Bozeman, MT (Price and location to be determined)

#### **Next Chapter Program:**

#### Montana Roofing Contractor's Association Convention

Location: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Montana

Date: January 24, 2008

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm (tentative)

Registration: Go to the MRCA website:

<http://www.montanarca.com/convention.htm>

Articles, 250 words or less, are requested for this monthly newsletter. If you have articles or information to be shared with the Montana members, please send by e-mail to:

<http://xinbox.com/q9chjf>

### Big Sky Chapter Contacts and Documents

### Find a CSI Chapter

## **BIG SKY CHAPTER BECOMES A REGISTERED CSI CEN PROVIDER**

Big Sky Chapter members now have another incentive to attend chapter meetings . . . continuing education credits!

On September 24, 2007, the Big Sky Chapter received a letter of approval from Jeff Iwankow, Chief Operations Executive for CSI's Construction Education Network, indicating that our application had been approved. The CSI CEN program sets the industry standards for continuing education programs, based on International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) criteria. CSI CEU's and HSW continuing education credits are accepted by licensing, certification, and accreditation agencies.



The Big Sky Chapter joins the following CSI Chapters currently listed as having become a CEN provider: Palm Beach Chapter, Capital Chapter (125), Baltimore Chapter, Milwaukee Chapter, Housatonic Chapter (110), Central Virginia Chapter, Pensacola Chapter, Los Angeles Chapter, Mt. Rainier Chapter, Tampa Bay Chapter, Akron Canton Chapter, Little Rock Chapter, Columbus Ohio Chapter, East Bay Oakland Chapter, Nashville Chapter, Puget Sound Chapter, San Diego Chapter, Willamette Valley Chapter, Cleveland Chapter, Redwood Empire Chapter, Metro New York Chapter, and Greater Orlando Chapter.

The Big Sky Chapter meeting on October 23, 2007 provided members and guests the opportunity to register for continuing education credits, and with assistance from the CSI NW Region, we were also able to offer AIA continuing education credits. If you missed it . . . you also missed out.



**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK GRIZZLEY**

Photo by Big Sky Chapter member Robert Jones, CSI

**Big Sky Chapter of CSI**  
**What do you want out of it...what are you willing to put into it?**

# Message from the President

## The President's Specs

By Jan E. O'Brien, CSI  
Big Sky Chapter - President



## NOVEMBER MEANS MORE THAN THANKSGIVING

While November is when we traditionally observe Thanksgiving with our family and friends, it is also a special month for members of the Big Sky Chapter of CSI. November 21, 2005, Bob Simmons, CSI, CCPR emailed the 13 Montana non-affiliated members of CSI to introduce himself as the Northwest Region Membership Chairman, and to plant the idea of forming a CSI Chapter within the state. One year later, on November 18, 2006, CSI Institute Board approved our request for a Chapter Charter, and Carole Schafmeister, FCSI, Institute Secretary formally notified us that we were Chapter #146 of the Construction Specifications Institute.

As our chapter approaches its 1-year birthday, we have much for which to be thankful. Lets share CSI with those we come in contact with, and encourage them to join. Together, we can help make CSI and the Big Sky Chapter play a larger role in the construction industry throughout the state and region.

### Big Sky Chapter News

The Big Sky Chapter is just one component of the Construction Specifications Institute. As such, our mission is the same as CSI Institute . . . "Advance the process of creating and sustaining the built environment." We embrace the Core Values of CSI: Foster innovation and creative thinking; Honor and embrace our diversity; Encourage personal and professional growth; Make knowledge-based decisions; Strive for cooperative solutions; Promote stewardship of the environment; Promote and recognize individual and team excellence; Celebrate camaraderie; Keep promises, and trust others will do the same; and Value the needs of those we serve.

Chapter Meeting: The next Big Sky Chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at Fairmont Hot Springs in conjunction with the Montana Roofing Contractor's Association. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Chapter Development: Monthly Chapter board meetings are held on the third (3rd) Thursday of every month during the noon hour in the conference room at CTA Architects, Billings, Montana (unless noted otherwise). If you have items of business that you would like the board to discuss, contact any of the officers or directors.

The next Chapter Board meeting is scheduled for November 20, in Billings. The business agenda will include the January 24 chapter meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs in conjunction with the Montana Roofing Contractor's Association; progress update on our CDT training program; and chapter membership.

The Big Sky Chapter website is on-line!! The website is updated monthly to help keep you informed of current and upcoming events in the Big Sky Chapter, NW Region and Institute levels. If you have news items that you would like included, please call, fax or email material(s) to us by the 6th day of each month.

Opportunities: There are several Chapter committees that could use your help! If you have a desire to serve on a committee that would better our chapter, please contact any chapter officer or director.

**Move into the "Know Zone" and out of the "no zone"**

Continuing Education websites:

[www.BDCuniversity.com](http://www.BDCuniversity.com)

<http://www.aecdaily.com/en/236763?list=1&sponsor=27412&node=1598283>

## MORE BIG SKY CHAPTER NEWS



**BIG SKY CHAPTER MONTANA CSI - January 13, 2007**



### CSI Membership Challenge

- **Big Sky Chapter Membership Award Levels:**
  - 1+ new member - Free dinner at Chapter Meeting (\$20 value)
  - 5+ new members - Chapter Dues paid for 1 year (\$40 value)
  - 10+ new members - CSI Institute Dues paid for 1 year

**NEW CHAPTER MEMBER COUNT** 00

#### **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!**

Help us stay connected... If any of your contact information is out of date, please go to the CSI website at [http://www.csinet.org/s\\_csi/index.asp](http://www.csinet.org/s_csi/index.asp) and log in using the information provided on your membership card. You will then go to the Membership page and choose "Modify your Profile" from the box in the bottom left corner of the page. Please make sure CSI has your current email address – thanks!

#### **CSI CERTIFICATE AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

2008 National Exam Dates:

**CDT** - March 29 - April 5, 2008, at 400+ testing locations throughout the U.S.  
**CCS, CCCA, CCPR** - April 5, 2008

#### **2008 exam registration opening October 2007!**

Look for a brochure in both the October and November issues of Construction Specifier magazine.

Big Sky Chapter to offer CDT training classes this fall.

#### **BIG SKY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER RECEIVES REGION AWARD**

The Big Sky Chapter newsletter "perSPECtive" received the Northwest Region NEWSLETTER EXCELLENCE AWARD at the CSI Northwest Region Conference in Salem, Oregon, August 25, 2007.