



Flourishing in Ft. Lauderdale

The Society's **2006 SNAME Maritime Technology Conference & Exposition and Ship Production Symposium (SMTC&E/SPS)** was held in Southeast Florida's sunny Ft. Lauderdale convenient to watercraft, power and sailing yachts, cruise ships and ocean-going commercial ships of all types and sizes. There was something for everyone, and this was abundantly clear when observing the scene from the windows of our host hotel, the Ft. Lauderdale Grande Hotel and Yacht Club. It was just across the street from the Broward County Convention Center where the technical program and courses, committee meetings and the Exposition were located. This was our first of two years in Ft. Lauderdale as a trial to ease Headquarters' planning burden and "brand" the location to improve awareness and attendance.

The Annual Meeting began with the Executive Committee meeting Tuesday night. The following morning there were numerous standing committee meetings, an accredited technical course and the Council meeting, all conducted prior to the President's Reception located that evening outside under the stars overlooking the ever-changing boat traffic navigating the Intra-coastal Waterway. There was ample opportunity for socializing and networking with fellow members, friends, colleagues, students and young members at this event, and throughout the week at the Expo, the SNAME Banquet and the alumni dinners. In fact, it was hard not to run into a student, as they attended in record numbers (153) this year from colleges and universities all over North and South America and Europe.

The technical program was developed with small craft and yachts in mind, and included the popular Ship Production Symposium, two day-long technical courses, technical sessions incorporating energy transportation, environmental effects, high-speed craft and ferries, LNG ship design and technology, and small craft development. Specific events drawing considerable attention featured a Super Yacht panel, a Small-Craft Technical Session, a panel on International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) in Southeast Florida and an Alternative Energy Session.

The International Exposition numbered 147 booths and afforded event-goers an opportunity to network, meet potential partners or clients and examine new products and emerging technology in the boat construction, shipbuilding, design, technology and production segments of the industry. For the second year in a

row the schedule for the Innovation Sessions has been filled, and has proved to be popular for members and visitors.

Thursday was packed with events beginning the Keynote Session featuring awards certificates of recognition, the Keynote address delivered by Roger Marshall on the subject of 'super' and 'mega' yachts, President Compton's Annual Address and the required Business Session. That evening at the SNAME Annual Banquet, the Society's major medals were awarded to Edward N. Comstock, recipient of the 2006 David W. Taylor Medal; Peter G. Noble, recipient of the 2006 Vice Admiral "Jerry" Land Medal and Preben T. Pedersen, recipient of the 2006 Davidson Medal.

Following dinner the filled-to-capacity hall was treated to a banquet address by Halsey C. Herreshoff, who regaled his audience with anecdotes and slide presentation of notable events in the history of the America's Cup as well as the historical significance of his illustrious family, the Herreshoff's of Bristol, RI, early yacht designers and builders. His comments highlighted the brilliant career of his grandfather, Capt. Nathanael G. Herreshoff, one of this country's most famous and innovative power and sailing yacht designers and builders of Centuries past.

A highlight for the nearly 530 registrants and non-members in attendance was the focus on students and young members who participated in a first time "icebreaker" social event, the popular Job Fair, the Student Steering Committee meeting to elect new officers for 2007, and, new this year, the Student Technical Poster Session, which was well received and impressed members and visitors alike. Over 100 students participated in the Student Congress and Awards Lunch, held on Thursday, with a "design and build" competition created by young members, which called for development of a "Trans-Pac" sailboat by the eight teams in a little over an hour. The sailboats, constructed from simple materials provided, were tested on Thursday for stability and righting moment as well as their ability to sail downwind in a straight line in the "official" pool. One team dominated, and was awarded their first prize in cash.

Friday was designated exclusively for the Student Technical Paper presentations, again very well received. And lastly, the Student Summit, in its second year, was held on Saturday, with over 80 members and students in attendance to discuss changes to benefit student participation in SNAME and new ideas to promote more student interest for future conferences.

Ft. Lauderdale was a terrific new venue and all agreed that being surrounded by boats and ships of all types and sizes provided much inspiration for the 2006 SMTC&E, and the expectation by those who attended that next year for the same location will be even more successful.