



# RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

[www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org)

Membership Meetings

February 19, 2008  
Tuesday  
7:00 PM

Home of Clayton Peterson  
1202 21st Street, Rock Island  
Elections

March 18, 2008  
Tuesday  
7:00 PM

Gas & Electric Credit Union, Hosted by Daryl Empen  
2300 4th Avenue, Rock Island  
Viewing, discussion and voting on Preservation Award nominations.

April 15, 2008  
Tuesday  
7:00 PM

Voss Brothers Lofts  
2125 3rd Avenue, Rock Island  
This month's meeting will be held at the renovated Voss Brothers Warehouse. The original four-story section was built in 1924, and a three-story addition was added in 1947. The renovation created 35 lofts, with 20 unique floor plans featuring exposed brick and duct work. This is a 2006 Preservation Award winner for the adaptive reuse of a historic building. There will be a tour if there is a vacant apartment available.

Comments and suggestions for Society activities are always welcome, now and in the future!  
Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities.

## HISTORY OF LOCAL BREWERIES

Thursday, February 14  
6 PM

Front Street Brewery  
208 E River Drive, Davenport

The Scott County Historic Preservation Society has invited all historical societies in the QC to a joint meeting. The topic will be History of Local Breweries. Front Street Brew Master Steve Zuidema will give a short talk about modern brewing techniques. The featured guest speaker will be Mike Wenthe of Tailor Ridge, Il.. He is a local brewery historian of 30+ years who will talk to us about local brewing. Additional artifacts will be provided by Merle Vastine, who has had a brewing display at the German American Heritage Center.

There is no charge for the program. Food and beverages will be from the menu.

## 2008 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations for RIPS officers and committee chairs are being accepted. If you would be interested in serving as an officer or chair a committee, please contact Diana Alm 309/788-3383 or [dalm@qconline.com](mailto:dalm@qconline.com).

## 2007 PRESERVATION AWARDS

What improvements to historic buildings have you observed around town this year?

Each year RIPS honors individuals, groups or businesses who have made special efforts to preserve or restore historic structures in our community or whose actions have served to support historic preservation in Rock Island.

In order to be eligible for an improvement award the structure must be 50 years old or older and lie within the city limits of Rock Island. It is expected that the project will be a genuine restoration or renovation of original work. Awards are generally given only for exterior improvements that are visible from the public right of way, although interior restoration of public buildings, such as churches or businesses, may also be considered.

Painting alone is not a qualification for an award, however it is often important as part of other improvements. Another requirement is that the project be completed, which may include paint. We welcome submission of incomplete projects as they will give us potential candidates for subsequent years. Please send as much information as you can – address, owner, scope of work, whether completed or not, etc. -- to Diane Oestreich, 788-1845 or [blueskies78900@yahoo.com](mailto:blueskies78900@yahoo.com).

## 2008 ANNUAL FARNAM DINNER

The theme of the 2008 Farnam Dinner will be steamboats and steamboating. The dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rock Island, Illinois. Cocktails begin at 5:30; dinner at 6:30; and the program will follow at 7:30. The cost will be \$35 per person, or \$325 for a table of ten. Michael Blaser, a Quad City artist who is widely renowned for his steamboat paintings, will introduce Captain Hawley. Captain Clarke "Doc" Hawley spent his career on rivers, not only as a pilot but as watchman, deckhand, mate, and even calliope player. In 1993, the National Rivers Hall of Fame gave an Achievement Award to Captain Hawley. He co-authored the 1994 book *The Excursion Boat Story: Moonlite at 8:30*, and has taught at Tulane University.

Tickets to the dinner may be ordered at [www.RiverAction.org](http://www.RiverAction.org) (click on the Henry Farnam Dinner logo). Or leave your name and mailing address with: Curt or Libby Roseman at: 309/ 764-6122.

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## RECAP 2007

As usual, last year was very active for RIPS. Not only did we continue our regular work, but we sponsored several significant events. Our website [www.rockislandpreservation.org](http://www.rockislandpreservation.org) has been refined and continues to be updated regularly. Now we are in the process of adding a downloadable audio version of our Watch Hill Tour. You'll be able to download to your ipod or a CD and take the tour just as if you had a personal guide.

One major decision, made with legal advice, was to drop our insurance. The rate had climbed to \$500 annually, more than half of our budget. Despite shopping with other insurance carriers, we found no significant difference in rates. We also verified that the insurance we carried, the only kind available, is aimed at organizations with paid staff and with significant resources and more opportunities for liability. Paid board members and officers are subject to more potential liability than are volunteers. Moreover, for events held on private property – such as house tours -- our insurance only offered secondary protection rather than primary. In other words, individuals' homeowners insurance would come into play first. In the future, we may choose to purchase specific insurance, if needed, for a single event or group of events.

As an all volunteer organization whose activities are generally held in public places, we felt that \$500 could be better used to further our mission of education about historic preservation. One immediate result of this is that we did not have to search for grants to publish our new, full color, Watch Hill tour booklet. We'll also reprint additional 1918 Government Housing (39<sup>th</sup> Street area) booklets as needed. These resources also permit us to continue to sponsor events without cost to those attending.

Our special events in 2007 included:

*February* – Public workshop on “Researching Your Building’s DNA” at the Rock Island County Historical Society (RICHS). Special thanks are due RICHS and Kathleen Seusy for making the library available in the evening.

*May* – Annual Award program and extensive newspaper publicity with photos.

*July* – Public tour and regular membership meeting at Saukie’s Little Stone House, which the Rock Island Park and Recreation Department permitted us to open.

*August* – Public guided walking tour of Watch Hill Road area that was extremely well attended! This included publication of our brand new, full color Watch Hill booklet.

*October* – Public presentation on Mail Order “Kit” Homes, with a special emphasis on the Quad Cities. The program, featuring Rebecca Hunter of Elgin, was co-sponsored by Illinois Humanities Council. Again, the event was very well attended!

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Rather than using a separate mailing (at 41 cents each), we are asking you to use the attached forms to renew your membership in RIPS. Your newsletter label tells you when your membership, which runs from March through February, expires.

Even if your membership has not expired, we're sending the form so that you may subscribe to Old House Journal, either for the first time or to renew your existing subscription. Because we send the subscriptions in as a group, we MUST receive your subscription payment by Monday, March 3. This will likely be the last year we offer these group subscriptions, as similar prices, even for renewal, are now available online on many websites.

If you have any questions, call Diane Oestreich at 309-788-1845 or email [blueskies78900@yahoo.com](mailto:blueskies78900@yahoo.com)

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### OLD HOUSE JOURNAL DISCOUNT SUBSCRIPTIONS

(COMPLETE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU ARE SUBSCRIBING)

RIPS can offer you a one-year subscription (6 issues) of OLD HOUSE JOURNAL magazine at our cost of only \$16.00. Regular subscription rates from other sources vary a great deal, but are usually more. RIPS does NOT profit from this and offers it only for your convenience. This price is available to both members and non-members, and is available for renewals and new subscriptions. Subscriptions must be received by **Monday March 3rd**.

You may include a single check for membership and subscription. If this is a renewal, please include a label from your current subscription. If the label is not available, be sure the name you enter here is identical to that on the subscription so you do not get duplicate issues.

To subscribe, send this form and a check for \$16.00 payable to Rock Island Preservation Society to:

Rock Island Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 3261  
Rock Island, IL 61204-3261

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one or more) NEW RENEWAL GIFT

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### ROCK ISLAND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

#### Membership Form

Please return this form with your dues for the next fiscal year, March 2008 through February 2008. If there have been no changes in the past year to your address, phone, or email, all we need is your name.

Dues are \$10.00 for EACH adult, \$5.00 for a student. Make checks payable to Rock Island Preservation Society and return to:

Rock Island Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 3261  
Rock Island, IL 61204-3261

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If we have your email address, we will email meeting agendas and minutes. If you DO NOT wish to receive these, please check the box.

Do NOT send email minutes & agendas

We will send you a membership card if you check

Please send membership card