

Southwind

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Association of
Electric Motor Repair Shops
for Co-operative
Self-Improvement

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2010 Fall Conference News

By Charles A. Brown
Vice President,
Southeastern Chapter

The 2010 Fall Conference will be here before you know it! Plans are in the works for what we hope will be one of the best Southeastern Chapter meetings ever, to be held the first weekend in November at the world famous Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina. The Grove Park Inn is one of the finest resorts in the southeastern United States, but we have negotiated a rate for this location that will stun you. If you are bringing family or friends there is no need to be jealous that they are enjoying the Sports Complex, Golf Course or Spa while you are sitting in meetings and classes. The fine folks at the Grove Park Inn have agreed to extend our rate three days before and three days after our meeting date, so you can come early and stay late to enjoy this world-class resort. From the centerpiece fireplace that dwarfs most others, to the plush rooms, fine restaurants and great hospitality, you will not be disappointed with what this place has to offer in the way of comfort. Asheville is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and is the home of the famous Biltmore House (America's largest private home.) Asheville is truly beautiful this time of year. If you wish to learn more, just visit www.groveparkinn.com and you will see that words cannot describe our conference venue.

Of course our conference will not lack things to do either. The schedule will be packed with training classes, sales seminars and our exhibit hall where vendors will display their products and show their hospitality to you, their valued customers. The Technical Committee has some great new ideas for technical sessions that all shops, independent of size, will find useful for every day operation. Of course, for our avid golfers there will be a day set aside for you to show your stuff. More details will be provided to you as soon as they are available, in plenty of time for you to make your plans to attend this great conference. But please pay close attention to the information inside this issue of *Southwind*. This is a marvelous hotel, but our room block is limited. Please do not risk disappointment. Make your hotel reservations early!

If you have never attended a Southeastern Chapter conference, please let this one be your first. The Southeastern is one of the best chapters in our association and I am proud to belong to it. I know that we are going through tough times and every penny must be watched, but if you carefully consider the opportunity this conference represents and the value that it brings, I am confident that you will make plans to join us in Asheville this November and this conference will be the success that I know it can be.



NOTICE: CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEET SOON

The Southeastern Chapter Board of Directors will soon meet for its annual Spring meeting. At this meeting, the board will swear in new officers and conduct the routine business of the chapter. Do you have information you would like to share with the board, or any business that you would like the board to consider at this meeting? If so, please contact the chapter office at once so that your item can be added to the agenda.



The Tragedy of Lost Mail

It's been more than two years since the Southeastern Chapter moved to a new location and changed its address, but mail intended for the chapter is *still* arriving at the old address. Unfortunately, the forwarding order for that mail will soon expire. Suggestions, complaints, death threats and (most tragically) checks intended for the chapter or its Executive Secretary/Treasurer will soon be lost forever in the endless drafty halls of the US Post Office or, worse, delivered to the unsavory characters who now inhabit the old Southeastern Chapter digs. PLEASE note the chapter's new address on the last page of this newsletter and update your records.

On a related note... Every year the chapter receives several checks intended for EASA International. This year has been no exception.

Remember to mail your EASA International dues payment to EASA in Saint Louis, Missouri, not the Southeastern Chapter.

THANKS!



I sure am glad that we came to the 2010 EASA Southeastern Chapter Fall Conference here at the beautiful Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina!

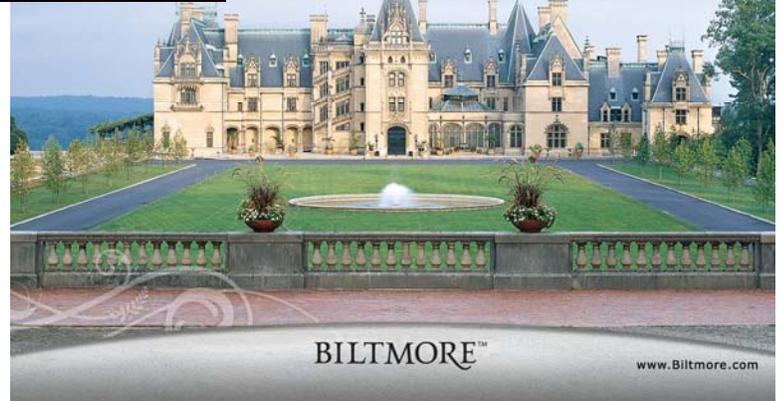


That Ray Paden is so hot!



← Can you believe this pool at the Spa? The Grove Park Inn is world-renowned for its beauty, style and peace. No cannonballs or belly-flops please.

I can't wait to see the Biltmore Estate! →

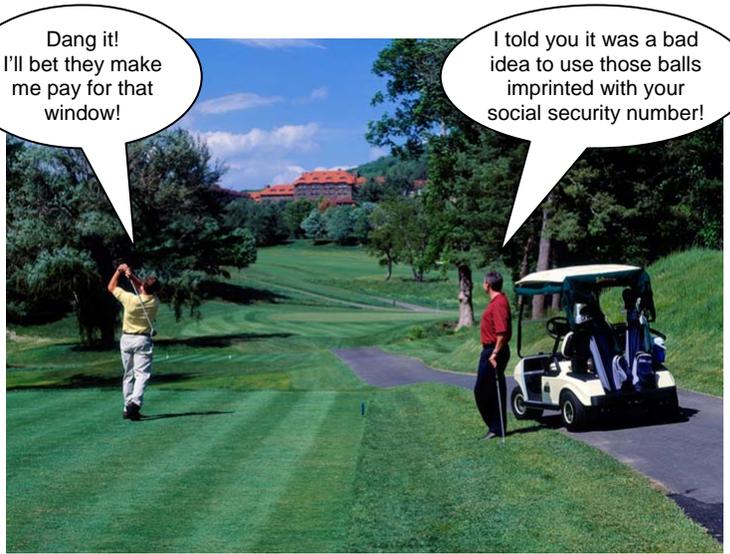


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Dang it! I'll bet they make me pay for that window!

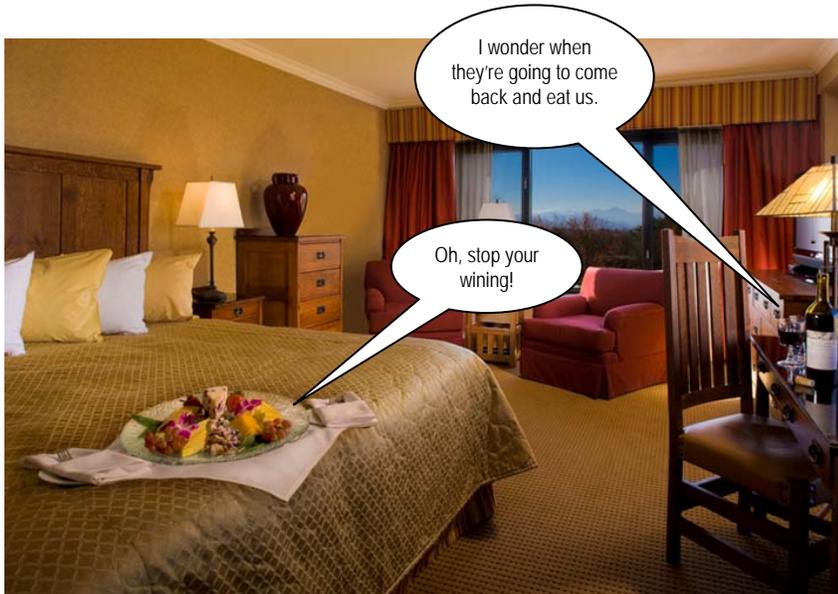
I told you it was a bad idea to use those balls imprinted with your social security number!



Just take a look at these beautiful photos of the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa. If you want to see pictures without silly captions, check out the hotel's website at www.grovetparkinn.com.

It is no exaggeration to say that this is one of the nicest, most beautiful venues we have ever used for our Fall Conference. The Grove Park Inn is truly a world-famous resort, just minutes away from the incredible Biltmore Estates (www.biltmore.com). The Christmas at Biltmore event will begin on November 5, and the magnificent estate will be decorated for the holidays in true Biltmore style, including the Candlelight Christmas Evenings display.

The Grove Park Inn will honor our phenomenal room rate for three days before and three days after our conference dates. Plan your attendance at the 2010 Fall Conference to include a few extra days and make sure you visit Biltmore and the other beautiful area attractions.



The Southeastern Chapter Notorious for Procrastination

It's not too big a problem when we meet at the Marriot in Charlotte. It's not that the Marriot isn't a nice hotel, it is. It's just that the demand for rooms in Charlotte is moderate, and the hotel is usually happy to accommodate those who can't make up their mind until somewhat beyond the "last minute." But often when we travel to more exciting and exotic locations I get those phone calls: "I just called the hotel and they say they don't have anything available. Is there anything you can do to help?" In 2007 we exceeded our block by ten or fifteen percent at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simon's Island, and fortunately the hotel was able to extend the contract rate to *most* of our late callers.

But the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa is one of the most exclusive and expensive hotels we have ever used for our Fall Conference. Our negotiating has been lengthy and our planning cautious and conservative. We have obtained an extraordinarily attractive room rate for this conference but our block is limited and *will be reduced* if it

appears that we are going to have difficulty selling out.

On the other hand, once our room block is sold out, additional rooms will be sold at the contract rate *only* if the resort has more than 100 "run of the house" rooms still available in the hotel inventory. This means that the longer you wait to make your reservation, the better chance you will have of paying the "prevailing" rate for your room or suffering the intense disappointment of not getting a room at all.

A Special Word to Our Exhibitors

Just as with room block and rate availability as described above, at this point our Exhibit Hall has space limited to only thirty (30) display tables, and these will be sold (as always) on a first-come first-served basis. Although the exhibit schedule and reservation fee for tables has not yet been finalized, *we strongly urge you to make plans now and be ready to reserve your table as soon as the Fall Conference registration package becomes available.* Remember, subscribers on our email list receive newsletters, announcements and registration information days before those who receive only "snail-mail."

This Fall Conference promises to be something very special. Please don't miss it or pay more than you have to because you kept looking for "the last minute."



Conference Dates: Wed. Nov. 3 – Sun. Nov. 7

Rates: Single: \$159 Double: \$159

Extra persons in room (more than two): \$40

ONLINE BOOKING:

www.grovecparkinn.com and enter the group number **68Z012**.

RELEASE DATE FOR THE GROUP BLOCK:

Monday, October 4, 2010

Reservation requests received by The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa after this date are subject to resort availability at prevailing rates. Reservation requests are subject to contracted block availability prior to release date.

DEPOSIT – CONFIRMATION

A deposit equal to one night's sleeping room rate by a major credit card (listed below) or a check is required to confirm your reservation. You should receive a written or email confirmation within 2 weeks. If you do not receive confirmation please call 1- 800 - 438 - 5800.

Deposit will be forfeited if reservation is cancelled less than 3 days (72 hours) prior to 4pm on arrival date.

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT

Our check-in time is after 4 p.m. and our check-out time is before 11:00 a.m. A major credit card will be required at check-in.

The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa
Reservations Department
290 Macon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 252-2711 Ext. 1010
or 1-800-438-5800
Fax (828) 210-8314





**Southeastern Chapter
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It only *seems* early
Start making your plans now to attend the
2010 Fall Conference November 4-6 at the
beautiful Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa in
Asheville, North Carolina.

Our plans for the 2010 Fall Conference are so exciting that we are making a special effort to get the word out as soon as possible so that our members and friends can make their plans now. Please see inside for more information.

Meeting The Challenge Together

Volunteers Needed

This year the Southeastern Chapter will host the 2010 EASA International Convention. Volunteers from our chapter are needed to help. If you know you will attend and are willing to assist, please contact the Southeastern Chapter office.