

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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BCMC 2004

www.bcmcshow.com

Look Out, Charlotte! by Tom Manenti, 2004 BCMC Committee Chair

After the thrilling success of BCMC 2003, the 2004 show is projected to be even bigger and Charlotte has all the accommodations for another record-setting event.

Guess where we will be next October for BCMC 2004? Charlotte, North Carolina! I am honored to have the opportunity to be this year's BCMC Show Committee Chair. I would not have accepted this nomination if not for the tremendous staff and



volunteers who care so much and work so hard to make the show a success, year after year.

As of January 1, there were only 279 days (nearly 40 weeks) remaining before we are all together again. Why did we choose Charlotte, you ask? According to the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce (www.charlottechamber.com), you may want to hold off on getting that hair cut until the week of the show: the average man's haircut (without styling) is just \$9.30!

Thankfully, a cheap haircut isn't all Charlotte has to offer. "Charlotteans" tout their community of nearly 600,000 as highly livable and very affordable, based on cost and quality of living

factors. The Queen City in the heart of the Tar Heel state (visit www.charlottecvb.org for the history behind the name) is home to Bank of America world headquarters. The Charlotte Convention Center, which features the modern elegance of a structure erected in 1995, will host our 2004 show. With 280,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space and state-of-the-art lighting, sound and fiber optics features, the Charlotte Convention Center has every amenity to accommodate exhibitors and attendees alike. (Visit www.charlotteconventionctr.com for more information.) If nothing else, Charlotte will win our hearts and minds with its traditional southern charm.

The show last year in Phoenix was new territory for us in terms of location, and by all counts a tremendous success. Charlotte has the makings of the same kind of freshness. What do I mean by fresh? Supreme accessibility by many neighboring regions!

Charlotte's location in the central region of North Carolina and the sunny, moderate climate lends itself to unlimited accessibility. Interstates 77 and 85, which intersect in Charlotte, link the city with the Great Lakes region, New England and Florida. Interstate 40, running coast-to-coast across the United States, is only an hour north of Charlotte. A two-hour journey to the west takes you to the Blue Ridge Mountains; a three-and-a-half hour trip to the east, to Atlantic beaches. Within an hour's drive east of the city are some of the world's best golf courses.

The BCMC Committee met on location on December 11, 2003 to begin the series of planning meetings and functions. We continue to learn from the feedback we get from the exhibitors and attendees as well as our experience from past shows. BCMC 2004 will feature even better, more focused educational sessions presented by successful industry colleagues. Where can you go, once a year, and see so many exhibits, equipment and seminars, specific to our industry, in one location? BCMC 2004 in Charlotte; see you there!

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