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Boise Bash

Saving a Kaiser

Sea Monsters

Boise Bash

NSA/ISU 2007

by John Dennis

The combined 33rd Annual NSA convention and 16th ISU congress ran from July 10 to July 17, 2007, in what many at first thought to be a strange choice of location—Boise, Idaho. Unlike the previous (1995) joint convention/congress in Atlanta, this one had been scheduled in a small inland western city lacking nonstop air connections to the world and, in the expectations of many, probably lacking most of the amenities of an urban center like Atlanta.

But concerns about the event's location generally evaporated with-

in the first day of registering. In the words of one east coast sophisticate, "...the city of Boise so exceeded my expectations. Boise was a clean and friendly city, easy to navigate, great weekly events, interesting stores, and the most fabulous restaurants, on par with, or better than, in New York City!"

By the time the seven-day event wound down, the most often heard opinion among the 463 people attending from 16 different countries was that that it had been one of the best conventions and/or congresses ever, and "one of" was

often left out. Hotter weather than expected made everyone especially grateful that the hotel and convention center next door were in the heart of downtown, with museums

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Host hotel for the convention/congress, the Grove is positioned diagonally at Capitol Blvd. and Front St. in downtown Boise where it towers above the convention center and the "The Grove" public fountain space directly behind it. What looks like a crack in the corner is a lighted map/sculpture of the Boise River, complete with steam effect that dribbles water on the sidewalk.

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Boise's historic Idanha Hotel was just one of many popular eating destinations an easy walk from the convention center. The fanciful 1901 building contains Idaho's first elevator, a bar, an art gallery, an Indian restaurant, and a French restaurant, and was an irresistible target for a hyperstereo attempt. (All otherwise uncredited stereos by the author)



