

# SAABE TIMES

A Publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

December, 1999

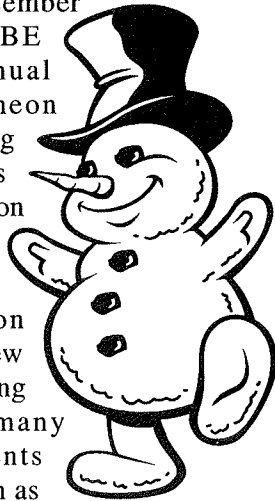
## Mark Your Calendar —

### Deck the Halls with the Folks from SAABE

Join us December 15th as SAABE holds its annual holiday luncheon where networking and socializing is the only thing on the agenda.

Well, okay, Paul Thompson might spend a few minutes bragging about our many accomplishments this year — such as a 10% increase in membership, an expanding awareness of the association within the commercial real estate community, educational offerings, regular meetings with good speakers, a consistent newsletter, an annual directory and good administration. But we won't let him take toooo long! And . . . you won't want to miss seeing the Board of Directors' year-end gift for Paul. No use trying, Elena will not give away the secret. You'll just have to come to be in on the fun!

Tex's Grill will prepare a special buffet just for our members which promises to be sumptuously delicious. This meeting will also feature the annual election, which will fill openings in the positions of Secretary, Vendor Representative and Education Director. Please join us and deck the halls!



## Education Corner

By Mike Lusk

OK, sports fans, this is your last countdown to the turn of the year 2000. Notice, I did not say turn of the century or millennium. Who is going to the big party in downtown San Antonio on December 31? If they are throwing a BIG bash this year, what are they going to do for the new millennium? I don't know about you, but I am getting tired of all this Y2K business. Just maybe the techno-wiz guys weren't so sharp after all, or the whole world wouldn't be as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. Me? I'm Y2K complacent. Ready to go. Based on what I hear in my travels, there may be lots of room at the New Year's Eve parties. Seems like anyone with any connection to a building/facility/factory/service will be working that night — just in case.

The Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) has a course scheduled for January. For the latest information, call Charles or Arlene at (210) 736-4567.

Lewellyn Technology will be conducting a course in Basic Industrial Electricity and Basic Industrial Electricity II in San Antonio, TX, January 18-19, 2000. (Houston, January 11-12; Dallas, January 25-16) \$299.00 per attendee per class. Call 1-800-242-6673 for information or to register.

### Upcoming NTT courses: 1-800-922-2820 to register

**Introduction to Industrial Electronics:** Houston, January 18-20; Dallas, January 25-27. \$985.00

**Welding:** Houston, December 14-16; Dallas, January 11-13. \$985.00

**“Hands-on” Boilers:** Dallas, January 11-13; Austin, January 18-20; San Antonio, February 1-3; Houston, February 8-10. \$985.00

**Uniform Plumbing Code:** Houston, January 17-18; San Antonio, January 19-20; Dallas, January 31-February 1; Austin, February 2-3. \$695.00

**Instrumentation and Process Control:** Dallas, January 11-13; San Antonio, January 18-20; Houston, February 1-3. \$1195.00

As a reminder, I usually have a copy of the brochure on these courses and can fax a copy to you if you like. Just call me and let me know (340-2533).

Speaking of education, I learned something last month. There IS a difference between our association coordinator (who gets last word on the newsletter) and a terrorist. You can negotiate with a terrorist (Obviously, we need to take a few links out of her chain).

# Above the Ceiling

by Paul Thompson

## Wrap it Up

...I'll take it! It's almost over: another year, decade, century, millennium coming to an end. So what will the next bring? What do we even call it? I remember growing up it was easy: the Fifties, Sixties, Seventies, Eighties, Nineties, but what's next — the double-aughts? Anyway, it's coming. I suspect that the world will not end January 1, 2000, which is probably bad news because that means we're going to have to keep on working for a living. Get used to it.

Speaking of the dreaded Y2K; are your ducks all in a row? Do you have a plan if the power, water, gas, phone, etc., go down? Are you sure about your HVAC system, security access, elevators, fire alarm control panel, emergency power, etc.? Hopefully, by now, everything has been checked, fixed, tested, backed up and overly worried about in your dreams. Time to sit tight and wait.

The year end is traditionally a time to look back and maybe look a little forward, but I'm so busy I can hardly afford to look up! Anyway, some things are pretty obvious — SAABE is heading into Y2K in good shape:

Membership has been steadily rising the past three years!

Our regular monthly General Membership Meetings are very well attended with top-notch speakers and seminars!

The newsletter is published professionally with consistently high quality and useful articles.

The annual Trade Show with SABOMA continues its successful run!

We've revived the annual Membership Directory — a top-drawer resource!

We're becoming a great source for networking! Whether it's information on job possibilities, who's moved where, how to fix this, where do I get these parts, what educational opportunities are out there — SAABE is the "go to" guy.

Respect. Becoming a player in our chosen field and recognized as a leader. Takes time, effort and persistence. Get used to it.

...And dusting off my Year 2000 Compatible crystal ball I see for SAABE:

Our numbers continuing to grow — perhaps a membership drive?

The Certified Building Engineer (CBE) designation, scarred from its battle with the dreaded liability issue, but stronger for it. Show 'em what you've earned.

Building tours in SAABE member facilities. An old tradition reborn.

We're turning the page into a new millennium — can you believe it? As far as our trade goes, expect to see "smarter" buildings (that means more education needed), more emphasis on systems commissioning (it should actually work right, from the beginning?...What a concept!), electrical deregulation with its profits and pitfalls and a new look at energy efficiency as the Kyoto Protocols on Global Warming slowly become law. Whatever changes occur, expect this: SAABE will be there to help us all find the way.

Thanks again to John Boldt and the other Pioneers of '85 for starting this ball rolling!

## Bits & Pieces

Building Engineer of the Year to be announced at the January meeting! Turn in your nominations to Lynn Forester.

Elections in December at the General Membership Meeting. Turn in any new nominations to Lynn or at the meeting. Nominees are:

Secretary: Joan Woods

Vendor Representative: Mike Alvarez

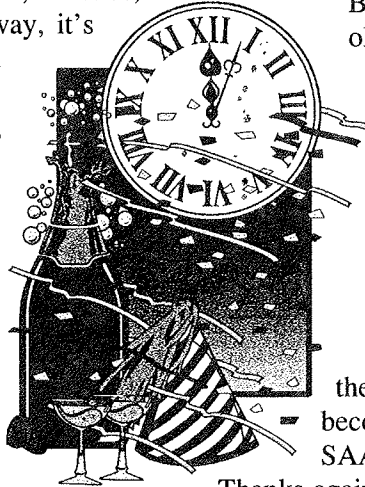
Education Director: Mike Lusk, Joan Woods

Thanks to Tim Young with Munters Moisture Control for November's great seminar on controlling mold and mildew. I've had some very recent experience with this subject.

Thanks also to Ms. Tomi Sue Beecham (SABOMA President) for the informational update on the new city asbestos law requirements. This concerns us all.

The 2nd Annual SAABE Christmas Party is set for December 15 at 11:30 (instead of regular meeting). Y'all come on down — this one is good eatin', good times, fun! And the best part is, you don't have to listen to me talk (much).

And lastly, with all the triumphs and tragedies of the century behind us and many more before us, remember the one whose birthday started this 2000 year old clock ticking.



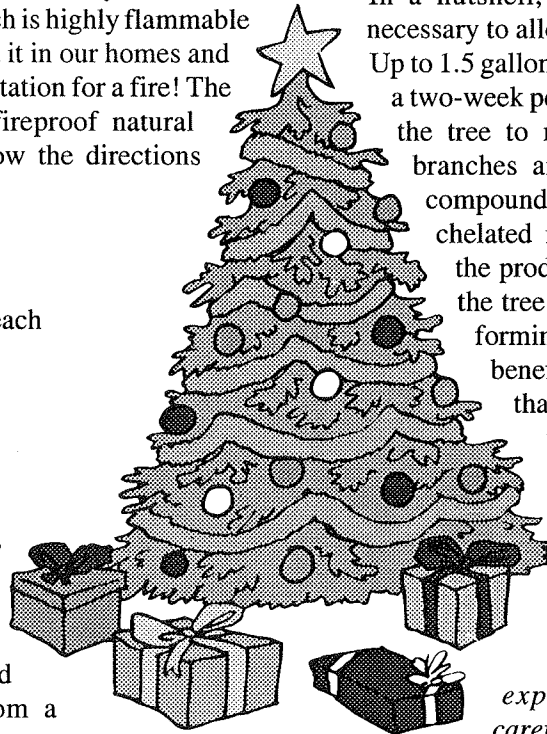
## Fireproof Your Christmas Tree

Every year many dreams result in tragedy as a result of Christmas trees catching on fire. Traditionally, we take a dead tree (usually a spruce or fir, which is highly flammable when dry), not properly prepared, set it in our homes and wrap it in electric wires. What an invitation for a fire! The following safety tip can help to fireproof natural Christmas trees, but you must follow the directions carefully:

### Ingredients

- Two cups of Karo syrup
- Two ounces of liquid chlorine bleach
- Two pinches of Epsom salts
- One-half teaspoon of Borax
- One teaspoon of chelated iron
- Hot water

You can purchase the Karo syrup, Borax a liquid chlorine bleach from your supermarket. The Epsom salts can be purchased from a drug store, and the chelated iron (pronounced KEY-lated) can be purchased from a garden shop or plant store.



### How Does It Work?

In a nutshell, the Karo syrup provides the sugar necessary to allow the base of the tree to take up water. Up to 1.5 gallons of water can be taken up by a tree over a two-week period of time. Boron in the Borax allows the tree to move the water and sugar to all the branches and needles in your tree. Magnesium compounds in the Epsom salts and iron from the chelated iron provide essential components for the production of chlorophyll, which will keep the tree green. The bleach prevents mold from forming in your solution. Some of the other beneficial side effects of this procedure are that the needles will not drop and you will notice an increase in natural pine fragrance.


Have a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season.

*PLEASE NOTE: We haven't tried this ourselves so we don't really know if it works. If you decide to try this experiment yourself, please proceed carefully and at your own risk!*

### Procedure:

- 1) With a saw, take your recently purchased Christmas tree and make a fresh cut at the base on the tree trunk. Cut an inch off the base of the tree. Try to make it a level cut.
- 2) Immediately after cutting the base off of the tree, mix your fireproofing ingredients as listed above. Fill a two-gallon bucket with hot water to within one inch of the top and add the ingredients. Stir thoroughly.
- 3) Immediately stand the trunk of the tree in this solution and leave for 24 hours.
- 4) Keep the remaining solution and place your tree in a stand with a well into which liquid can be poured.
- 5) When the tree is in its final resting place, use a plastic cup to pour solution from the bucket into the tree well. Fill the well.
- 6) Every day without exception, the well of the tree must be "topped off" with the solution from the two-gallon bucket.

Follow these simple directions and your tree will be fireproofed. If you are curious, after Christmas, when you remove your tree, snap off a branch and try to set it on fire **OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSE.**




MFG Direct  
Pricing Agreements

Dimming  
Controls

LED Exit  
Conversions

Energy  
Audits

Lighting Design  
& Consultation

Emergency  
Lighting

Fluorescent  
Retrofit  
Systems


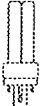
Lighting  
Fixtures &  
Replacement  
Parts

Building  
Facade  
Lighting

Landscape  
Lighting

Outdoor Security  
Lighting

Light Bulbs  
& Ballasts





**BOMA &  
SAABE  
MEMBERS**

Too many Calls — For Too Little? Make **ONE** Call.

**657-5025**

Fax: 656-5603 • e-mail..wyatts@americanlight.com



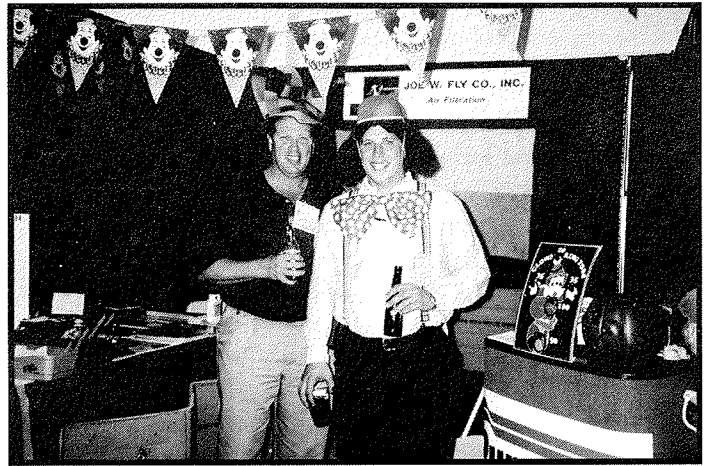
**American Light**

"The Lighting Specialist"

# Scenes From The Greatest



*Robyn Pinson and Mike Lusk of Enviro-Tex*



*Joe Fly, Jr. and James Bishop clown around in their booth.*



*Talking shop at the Beldon Roofing Company booth.*



*An enthusiastic Ed Miller waves hello from the Power Maintenance International exhibit.*

# of Trade Show On Earth!



*Ringmaster Robert Steele runs the show at the Blackmon-Mooring exhibit.*



*The crew from Wheeler Coatings enjoy the trade show.*



*The gang from American Light proudly display their wares.*



*John Gormley with Stone Care of Texas invites patrons to see what he has to offer.*

## Happy New Year (We Hope)!

We promised not to do a Y2K article, and we're stickin to it! However, as a tidbit of information. On Friday, December 31, 1999, at exactly 11:00 a.m., pay careful attention to any information regarding Singapore. This is due to Singapore being located West of the International Time Zone (midnight does not occur simultaneously worldwide). So, when it's 11:00 a.m. here, it will be the stroke of midnight there, giving us thirteen hours of lead time to correct any anomalies.

OK, we tried to stay away from Y2K related issues so here goes some unrelated tips.

### If You Can't Clear the Hurdle, Lower the Bar!

Many times we have dialed up a host or remote and due to screen variances, what you are seeing is not the whole screen, which may cause you to scroll back and forth to view tool or task bars. By default, Windows installation procedure places the task bar at the bottom of the screen (even if you maximize an application). However, if you don't like it, or it's in the way, you can easily move it!

To begin, on Windows 95, place your mouse pointer anywhere on the task bar except on the Start button, or on a task button (by the way, it don't matter how hard you try, "press to start" does not work if you're using your left index finger and are pressing the lower left corner of the screen). Anyway, if your task bar is full, place the pointer on the clock. Now, press and hold the left mouse button while you move the pointer to any edge of the desktop. Once you have it where you want, simply release the mouse button and the task bar will move to that location. For Windows 98 and NT, simply click and hold the pointer at the top edge of the task bar, and drag it down.

### Fill Before You Kill, or Leap Before You Look!

Before you buy a color printer or ink jet refills, you need to find out what type of cartridges your printer will use. Some make colors by mixing the primary colors (Cyan, Magenta and Yellow). These are usually referred to as CMY, or tricolor process. Often, these printers only have one cartridge containing supposedly equal amounts of all three colors. The tricolor process produces black by mixing all three colors together, but the result is usually a greenish-black rather than a rich, dark, true color.

More modern printers add a true-black color which is referred to as K, using a four color process called CMYK. These printers often will have one tricolor, and one black cartridge. You may also even see printers with one cartridge for each color. The four cartridge ink jets will save you money in the long run because you can replace only those color cartridges that have run out, rather than throwing out the whole tricolor cartridge when only one color is gone!

### A Happy Computer is a Happy Computer!

Want to keep your computer happy and working at its best? Browse the Web every so often! Try finding some sites your computer will enjoy. The sites you want are the ones for the companies that manufactured your sound card, monitor, printer, graphics card, hard drive, and any other peripherals you might have. And don't forget your motherboard.



What should you look for? Updated drivers for each component! Most existing drivers are buggy to some extent, even greater if it's first generation, and updates are almost always released periodically to correct problems. Make driver searches a habit and you'll probably be restarting less often.

### Tsk, Tsk, Bad Disk!

You have inserted a floppy disk into the drive and you get a message that states the disk is unreadable and gives you the option to re-initialize it? Well, if you know that the disk contains files, don't click the initialize option unless you want to kiss the files goodbye. Instead, try re-inserting the disk a few more times. Often a disk may not fit well (especially if you keep them together with a rubber band), or the spindle may be stuck. If you choose to re-initialize and it fails, "don't try it again", and "don't be thrifty". Toss the disk — it's not worth losing future data.

### Hard Rock, On Your Hard Drive!

If you want to spice up your Windows sound effects, all you have to do is start a sound recording utility and play the audio CD. There are however, a few important considerations to keep in mind!

First, there's the question of which program to use? You can use the Windows sound recorder, but it defaults to a

*continued on page 5*

## Tech Talk

*continued from page 4*

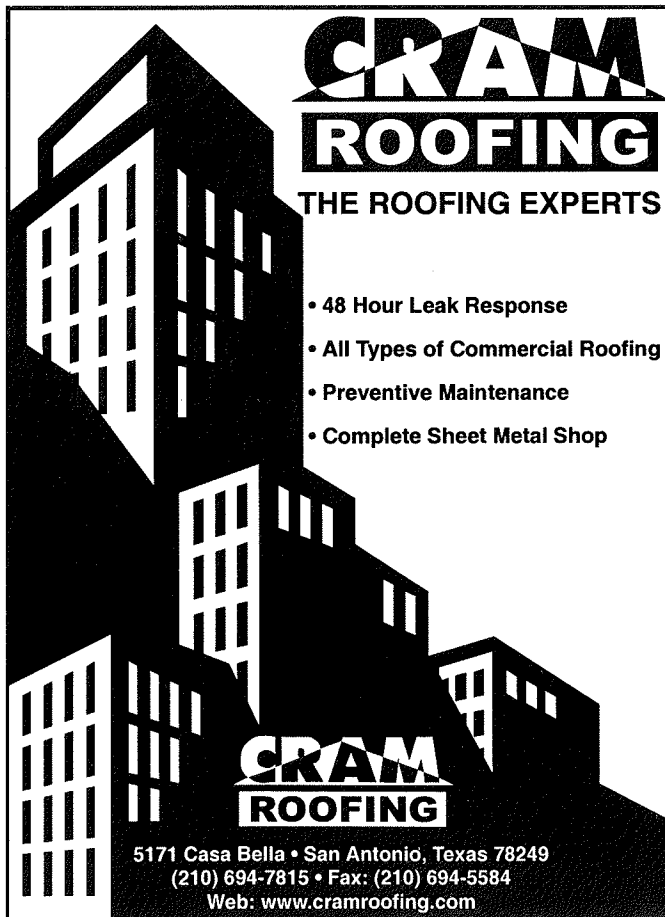
maximum of 60 seconds recording limit. You can trick it to run longer (insert Wave files to reach the desired length, and then record over it), but you'll be better off if you use a more flexible recording utility (your sound card may have come bundled with one).

Second, and more importantly, is the sound quality. A standard audio CD is at 44.1 KHz, this means that over 44,000 samples of data are taken every second. A stereo has two channels and takes twice as many samples as monaural. These samples are at the least, 16 bit, which means that two bytes will be required for every sample!  $44,100 \text{ samples/second} \times 2 \text{ channels} \times 2 \text{ bytes/second} = 176,400 \text{ bytes of data per second}$ . "A minute of this will consume more than 17 MB of your hard disk's capacity".

So if your adding spice to your sound effects, you should not have any problems. If you looking to duplicate the contents of a CD on your hard disk for listening pleasure, you may need to make a sizable investment in storage capacity. Or, more conveniently, add a CD burner to your PC.

**Closing Quote:** Do not follow a beaten path. Instead, go where there is no path "And Leave a Trail"

**"Just a Maintenance Man"**



**CRAM**  
**ROOFING**  
THE ROOFING EXPERTS

- 48 Hour Leak Response
- All Types of Commercial Roofing
- Preventive Maintenance
- Complete Sheet Metal Shop

**CRAM**  
**ROOFING**

5171 Casa Bella • San Antonio, Texas 78249  
(210) 694-7815 • Fax: (210) 694-5584  
Web: [www.cramroofing.com](http://www.cramroofing.com)

## Planning Makes Perfect

"Dear Sirs: I'm writing in response to your request for additional information on my accident report form.

I am a bricklayer and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a six story building. When I finished, I had bricks left over that weighed about 500 lbs. I decided to lower them down by a pulley on the side of the building. I secured the rope at ground level, went to the roof, swung the barrel and loaded bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly so the bricks would descend slowly.

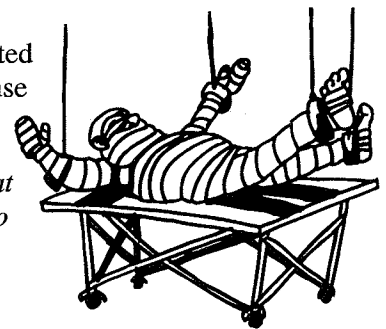
You will note in Block #11 of the report that my weight is 135 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I forgot to let go of the rope. I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building and met the barrel that was going down at a rapid pace. This explains the skull fracture and broken collarbone listed in Section #3.

The barrel slowed me down some and by this time I was holding tightly to the rope. The barrel hit the ground and the bricks flew out, leaving the 50lb. barrel empty (again, I refer to my weight). This caused me to rapidly descend down the side of the building, but then I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken teeth and severe lacerations on #3.

The last encounter slowed me more and I lay on the pile of bricks in pain at the bottom. Unable to move because of all that had happened, I lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back down. That explains the two broken legs listed on #3.

This explains why I cited "poor planning" as the cause of the accident."

*Special thanks to Patrick at Fax Daily for permission to reprint this story.*

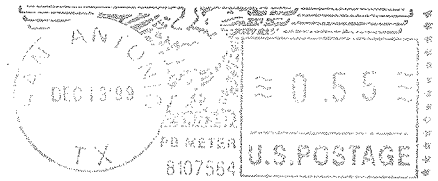


### Employment Opportunity —

The Hilton San Antonio Airport has an opening for a Chief Engineer. Must have two to three years experience. Please call (210) 377-4650.



**San Antonio Association  
of Building Engineers**  
P.O. Box 691861  
San Antonio, TX 78269



Charles H. Mikolajczyk, Jr., CBE  
Endeavor Real Estate Group  
8000 IH 10 W, Suite 250  
San Antonio TX 78230

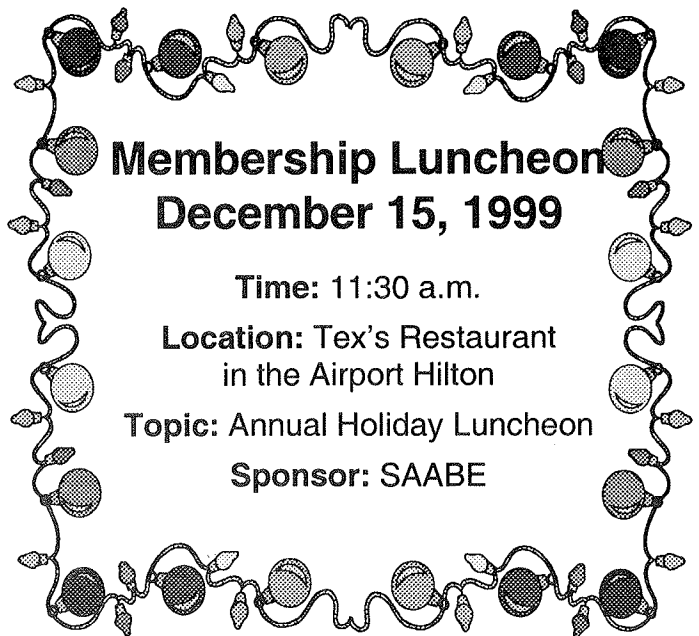
**SAABE TIMES**  
**December Issue**

*Happy Holidays!*

**1999 Board of Directors**

Paul Thompson, SMA <i>President</i>	524-9285
Elena Castillo <i>1st Vice President</i>	341-0064
Tom Lasater <i>2nd Vice President</i>	828-9829
Mike Halvorsen, SMA, CBE <i>Secretary</i>	241-4440
Rhondo Jauer <i>Treasurer</i>	225-1119
Mike Lusk <i>Education Director</i>	340-2533
Mike Alvarez <i>Vendor Representative</i>	824-9581

Lynn Forester (830) 981-5223  
*Association Coordinator*



**Membership Luncheon**  
**December 15, 1999**

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Tex's Restaurant  
in the Airport Hilton

**Topic:** Annual Holiday Luncheon

**Sponsor:** SAABE

The SAABE Times is produced monthly for the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers by:



210-340-5454  
email: inkspot@onr.com