



# SAABE TIMES

A Publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

June, 2000

## Mark Your Calendar —

### **Your Personal Safety**

Wyman H. Herring, Jr., of the San Antonio Police Department will present a program on personal safety at the luncheon on June 21, 2000. During the presentation he will discuss security at home, in your vehicle and away from home. He will talk about using common sense instead of weapons, using your instincts, and how to avoid problems by having a safety plan. Officer Herring will demonstrate some "weapons" that are legal to carry without a license and those that require a license. Finally, he will discuss our rights to protect our property and ourselves.

Officer Herring, a native of San Antonio, has been with the San Antonio Police Department for 23 years. He is currently assigned to the East SAFE Unit as the Crime Prevention Officer and the Cellular on Patrol Coordinator. He is a Certified Crime Prevention Specialist and a Certified Law Enforcement Instructor.

The San Antonio Police Department is the municipal police authority of the City of San Antonio, Texas. The department is comprised of just over 1,900 men and women of every race and religion. The SAPD is an "all-purpose" police department, in that an officer is sent on every call for service whether it is police-oriented or not. The department is broken down into six substations to better serve the city.

### **Change of Venue**

Don't forget; this month's luncheon will be the last at Tex's Restaurant. Beginning in July, the monthly general membership meeting will be held at the Barn Door Restaurant, 8400 N. New Braunfels Avenue.

## **Education Corner**

*by Mike Lusk*

The dog days of summer are at least partially upon us again. A good time to sit in a nicely air-conditioned classroom learning something.

Diana at IEC has sent me a new list of upcoming courses:

- CE002 — Branch circuits; June 12th and 19th; July 10th and 27th
- CE006 — Boxes, Conduit, Cabinets and Panelboards; June 20th and 27th
- CE003 — Overcurrent Protection; June 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>
- CE007 — Motor Controls; July 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>
- CE004 — Grounding; July 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

The above courses are \$40 for IEC members and \$45 for non-members per 8 hours. Courses are conducted from 6 – 10 p.m.

Applications for the Electrical Apprenticeship Program are still being accepted through June 30, 2000. There are some pre-requisites, so don't hesitate or you'll miss it. Classes begin September 2000.

For more details on the above courses, or to enroll, call Diana at 736-4567 or fax 736-6319.

### **Some other seminars coming up:**

- Lewellyn Technology: Basic Industrial Electricity (June 22) and Basic Industrial Electricity II (June 23) in San Antonio, TX. \$299.00 per student/per class. 1-800-242-6673 for more information or to enroll.
- Performance Training Associates, Inc. (PTA): Programmable Logic Controllers. June 27<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, TX. \$395.00 per person. 1-800-208-6108 for more information or to enroll.

We have received our first two applications for CBE since we put out the new/revised program last month. They are being reviewed now by a committee. Results should be in the not too distant future. I will miss this month's general membership meeting, so we'll see you in July.

# Above the Ceiling

by Paul Thompson

## ...And the Beat Goes On

I miss one lousy article and stuff just starts piling up. I can't believe it:

The SAABE CBE (Certified Building Engineer) accreditation program is moving along. Several applications have been made and we will be reviewing them shortly. Pick up your application at the next general membership meeting, or call Lynn for one. Show 'em what you've got!

Changes, changes...Joan Woods (SAABE's former Secretary) is gone, but not forgotten. Elections to fill that vacancy will be held at the June meeting. Candidates are Bill Blackford (Voss Lighting) and David Webb (Cram Roofing)...and Rhondo Jauer is stepping down as Treasurer! What is going on?! Nominations will be taken in June.

This will be our last meeting at Tex's Restaurant at the Hilton Hotel. Starting in July, we will be meeting at the Barn

Door. No more taking your life in your hands with that infamous traffic interchange ("The Guillotine").

The Membership Committee is kicking it into high gear! The race starts July 1<sup>st</sup> with the checkered flag falling November 30<sup>th</sup>. Bring in new members, win big prizes! Is America great, or what?!

The long-awaited Building Tours will commence again after a ten-year absence. Come to June's meeting for details!

Don't forget: if you've got an electrical license coming up for renewal, or a BOMI accreditation (SMT, SMA), you must complete your Continuing Professional Development requirements (e.g. classes). Either that or let it expire and **TEST OVER!**

Lastly, thanks to Martin B. Miller of SAWS for last month's great presentation on surface water resource protection.

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# How Do I Sell A Membership to SAABE?

As our Year 2000 Membership Drive gets underway, you may be saying to yourself... "I am not a salesperson. I would have no idea where to start trying to sell a membership." Well, in response to your trepidation, take these points into consideration:

- Would my parts suppliers find a benefit in being affiliated to an organization such as SAABE?
- Would any of my contractors appreciate expanding their business marketing potential by meeting other potential customers who may not be already aware of their product?
- Do I have any friends who are employed by other buildings that may have an interest in sharing their experiences with others in the same occupation?
- Do I know anyone that would benefit from our Certified Building Engineer Accreditation Program?

- Who do I know that works as hard as I do and might appreciate a lunch once a month in an organization that sets us apart from the rest and dedicates a few hours to my education and well being?

Don't forget that starting in July, our Year 2000 membership dues are 40% off their normal annual cost until October. In October, new members will pay their Year 2001 dues and receive the last three months of the Year 2000 free.

When signing up new members, please make sure that they are aware of our new location beginning with the Wednesday, July 19, 2000 meeting. Our new location is The Barn Door Restaurant located at 8400 N. New Braunfels Avenue. The meetings will continue to take place on the third Wednesday of every month, at the same time of 11:30 A.M.

Good luck and don't hesitate to contact any of the Membership Drive Committee members with any questions.

## Membership Drive Prize Sponsorship

We are asking all associate members for their patronage in support of our Year 2000 Membership Drive. We would like to take a moment to express our appreciation to CRAM ROOFING for their donation of a \$100.00 gift certificate to Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. All prizes are to be awarded at the December membership meeting.

If your company is interested in sponsoring a prize, or would like to contribute a portion of the first and second place prizes, valued respectively at \$500.00 and \$300.00, please contact one of the following people on the SAABE Membership Drive Committee:

- **Mary Parker**, Five Star Electric: (210) 492-4200
- **David Webb**, Cram Roofing Mobile: (210) 286-3549
- **Perry Wornat**, Cite Corporation Mobile: (210) 559-5084
- **Tim Young**, Munters Moisture Control Mobile: (210) 601-2563

For a partial prize sponsorship, please make your check payable to the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers, referencing the "Membership Drive Prize Sponsorship", and mail to Lynn Forester at the membership office. All companies making donations will receive an honorable mention in our upcoming newsletter articles.

Thanks again to CRAM ROOFING for their support and commitment to the growth of our organization.

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# Tech Talk #37

by The Charlie

## The Extreme Tool Box! (Part 2 of 2)

Many times throughout the day, our duties involve the application of a variety of adhesives, lubricants and more. In building the ultimate tool set, here are some additional items which no tool set should be without:

**Duct Tape (The good stuff):** Most commonly referred to as 100 mph tape. Can also be used as muffler Bodo, instant leak repair kit, etc. The roll makes an excellent drink holder for the large beverage containers.

**Foil Tape:** This item and Chevrolet Orange spray paint, are the hardest item to keep in stock. Commonly used and referred to as instant chrome.

**WD-40:** Although commonly mistaken for a lubricant (it is a solvent and water displacer, hence; WD!), it is one of the better liquids to use on rusty fasteners. Also an excellent de-foamer if overshooting certain surfactants in the cooling tower! Good fire ant killer (best when used in combination with a match), and another good spud gun propellant.

**One Can of Used Motor Oil (6 oz.):** Excellent stain for repairing scratch on doors.

### Loctite:

(Purple #222): Commonly used for a pesky fastener which occasionally becomes loose.

(Blue #242): Used when conscious about a fastener becoming loose.

(Green #290): When concerned about a fastener, "after it's assembled" (no disassembly required).

(Red #272): Used when extremely serious about a fastener.

**Chizel:** This really does exist. It is an aerosol used to break loose flanges when sealed with Loctite #515. However, on the serious side, read the can. It is a known carcinogen! On the lighter side, don't use this. Use the liquid hack saw as described in last month's issue!

**Maalox:** We all know this one's use. However, it also makes an excellent high temperature anti-seize lubricant.

**One Leather Boot Lace:** This item can be a life saver. Can be used as valve packing material when none is handy!

**Electrical Tape (3M Super 33+):** Other uses are as a tie wrap, band aid, and to tape your ignition and house key

together (to remind you to do something "before you leave the property")!

**Brake Fluid:** Absolutely the best substance to use on rusted fasteners. Although you'd best stay away from any finishes, especially paint!

**Altoids:** Best used to eliminate gorilla breath before communicating with customers. Another use is the can; it's great for storing small parts!

**Tooth Paste:** When used in combination with a finger; next best thing if out of Altoids. Another good use is that it makes a good polishing compound.


**Beer Bottle (brown in color and empty):** Although not recommended at all, we have seen this used as a welding goggle!

Back to the serious side next month!

Charlie's Law: Spend your time on the non-urgent important things. Don't get consumed in the urgent things which are not important.

*"Just a Maintenance Man"*

## Employment



Trammell Crow Central Texas, Ltd., is seeking a Maintenance Technician. Responsibilities include performing troubleshooting, diagnostics and repairs on buildings, industrial systems, grounds and maintenance equipment to include: packaging and handling machinery, plumbing systems, kitchen equipment, roofs, drains, shop, grounds equipment and HVAC. Technical, vocational or on-the-job training in at least one of the following areas: HVAC, electrical, mechanical, process controls, mechanical power transmissions, painting, plumbing, carpentry or engine repair.

Please mail resumes to 700 N. St. Mary's, Suite 900, San Antonio, Texas 78205, or fax to Human Resources (210) 223-9647. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

# Slide Rules Make a Comeback of Sorts — As Antique Collectibles

By David Siegel

If slide rules could talk, they might like to quote Mark Twain, who once said, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." Yes, as we all know, the electronic calculator introduced in the early 1970s brought along the demise of the slide rule. Although new slide rules have not been made by any major manufacturer since 1972, some engineers may be happy to know the slide rule lives!

By the 1970s, the slide rule headed for extinction — a part of math, science, and engineering history. "The great time for collecting was the 1980s, when everybody was throwing them away. You could go to a thrift store and buy a bag of them for \$5," says Bob Otnes of Palo Alto, California. "That's no longer the case." Today, slide rule collecting has developed a loyal following made up of techies and non-techies alike. "As in many kinds of antique collecting, it's the weird things that are interesting to people."

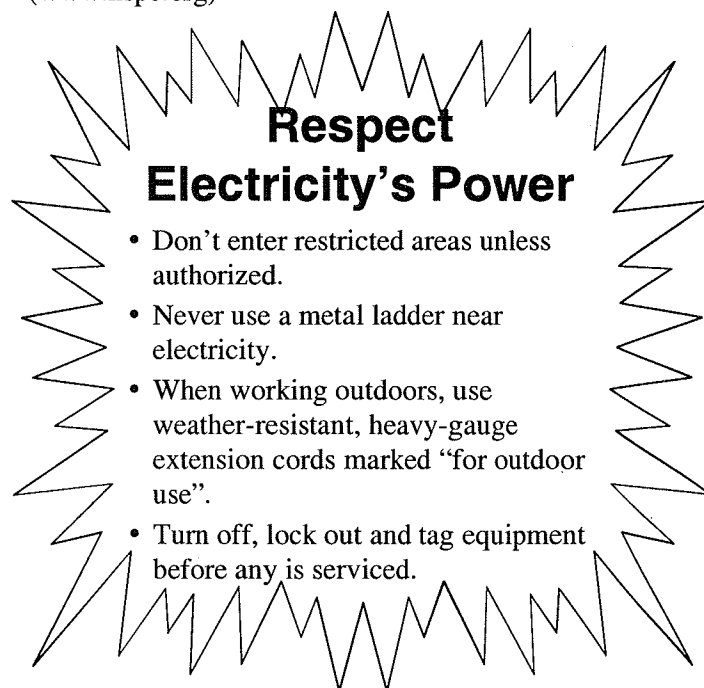
Slide rules date back to the 1630s, but many later-day users knew little about the history of the tool they were using. Furthermore, many slide rules from other countries, such as the Chinese "Flying Fish," were almost unknown in the U.S. At the pinnacle of collecting, Otnes puts the Thacher calculator, designed by American civil engineer Edwin Thacher in the 1800s. The two-foot long drum slide rule sells for "well into the thousands," says Otnes, who recalls an auction in England where a Thacher calculator sold for 5,000 pounds. Other unique slide rules that attract collectors include circular slide rules and pocketwatch slide rules. There's even a cattle gauge slide rule, used to calculate the approximate weight of meat from a head of cattle while "still on the hoof."

Walter Shawlee of British Columbia had his interest sparked in 1997, when he found his high school slide rule while cleaning out a desk. The Pocket Deci-Ion from Keuffel & Esser cost Shawlee about six months of savings from a weekend job at an electronics surplus business. "There's such an enormously high gadget value in a slide rule," he says. "It's hard to explain what the appeal is, but I really, really wanted one." As Shawlee cruised the web, he began purchasing old inventory from school districts, student stores; and a huge find in Singapore was "the absolute El Dorado of slide rules." By 1998, he had enough inventory to expand into slide rule sales and now runs The Slide Rule Universe. The website can be located at [www.sphere.bc.ca/test/sruniverse.html](http://www.sphere.bc.ca/test/sruniverse.html).

Who's buying slide rules today? Other than collectors, it's people who simply miss their slide rules or want to commemorate days gone by. Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. recently bought 300 slide rules to give away at an internal, corporate-wide trade show, and Dallas Semiconductor Corp. bought more than 100 to give to their executives in celebration of the company's 15th anniversary. Another market, guys from NASA. But even more orders come from people who are worried that children are getting a poor math education. Last December, ABC News carried a story about a private school in California that purchased a set of 30 rules as a way to introduce students to a "new" way of doing math. And just recently, free slide rules were donated to a West Virginia public school teacher who could not get funding to purchase them.

Although Shawlee enjoys selling slide rules, he says the most rewarding (and most time-consuming) part of the job is restoring rules that have seen their better days. Missing a cursor screw or a cursor glass frame? Shawlee, with the help of other collectors, has set up a parts exchange where people can buy or trade for the parts they need. "I like bringing them back to life," says Shawlee. "It's sad to see them falling apart."

Source: May 2000 issue of Engineering Times ([www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org))



# Ask Tio SAABE

by Tom Lasater

## Is Your Building Up to Code?

# Uniform Fire Code Inspection

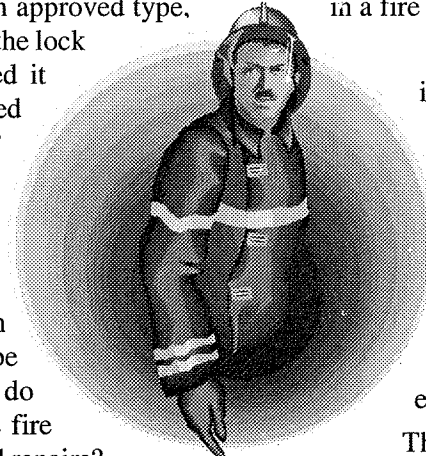
Starting with your standpipe – is it identified with a red no parking curb, has last year’s shrub type growth been cleared away, is there a minimum of 3’ clear space around the standpipe for identification and location by the fire department? Is the key box visible and an approved type, has it been opened recently to assure that the lock operates properly, and have you checked it recently to assure vandals have not dinged it so it will no longer open without force?

Has the fire control and alarm system been tested within the last year, do the batteries meet specifications (voltage correct and not beyond age limits), are the zones clearly marked and identified on building prints-floor layouts with the type pressure-flow-valve position-etc., and do you have a contractor recognized by the fire department for your annual inspection and repairs?

Is a notebook with floor plans including basement and parking areas available showing all smoke and heat detectors, pull stations, and phone connections at the fire control station or the front desk area? Also included in the notebook should be the location and type of all hazardous material along with the MSDS for each material.

The Uniform Fire Code adopted by the City of San Antonio states in the existing high-rise buildings appendix 1-B section fire drills shall be conducted by staff and employees every 120 days and a written record of each drill maintained. Also notice is to be given to the fire department 24 hours prior to the drill. In addition the building management shall establish and maintain a written fire and life safety emergency plan for building egress approved by the Fire Chief. Remember that stairwell pressurization tests

are to be conducted quarterly to maintain 0.05” water column with primary or generator power for smoke resistance in the egress area. Any failure in the evacuation equipment (doors, exit lights, alarms, emergency generator) in a fire could result in loss of life.



The annual inspection of the sprinkler system is also part of the inspection. Remember the extra sprinkler heads and tool in a cabinet is also required – 6-12 heads for most of our buildings. A suggestion but not part of the code is diagrams or drawings of the manual valves controlling water cutoff of both the dry and wet systems showing location and direction to turn for security or the night crew could prevent a waterlogged building after an emergency.

These are just a few of the areas inspected; the best approach is a courtesy inspection in which you as the building engineer invite the Fire Department to review your facility for conformity to the code. With this approach you will be present to gain information for repairs or additions to bring your facility up to code and the Fire Department will become familiar with your facility in case of a fire emergency.

I would like to thank Tomi Sue Beecham, RPA, RBM, with Lincoln Properties who recently experienced a visit from the inspector, and Captain Rick Mazuca / Lieutenant Jay Sikes who are both in the Building Code Inspection Department and can be reached at 207-8410. The best hours to contact the Fire Department is early in the AM 8-9 and late PM 3-5. Our thanks to these individuals for their assistance and information in helping us prepare this article.



# VOTE!

There are two nominees for the open slot of Secretary — David Webb of Cram Roofing and Bill Blackford of Voss Lighting. A special election to fill the vacancy will be held at the June luncheon.

# Heard It Through the Grapevine



- **Eddie True** is now the local representative for Mid-Continental Restoration Company, Inc. He may be reached at (210) 946-3404.
- **Lee Ray Romero** is now the local representative for Stanco Plumbing Specialties. He may be reached at (210) 310-0936.
- **Rhondo Jauer** is now with Genesis Supply. He may be reached at (210) 375-8555 or (210) 219-8150.
- **Danny Moreno** is now with Tolin Mechanical Systems Company.
- **Jock Tilghman** is now at Corporate Square. He may be reached at (210) 681-2494.
- **Phil Eastman** is now at Riverview Towers. He may be reached at (210) 224-5006.
- **Camilo Enriquez** is now with Pyramid Property Management.

## Colin Powell's Rules

1. It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.
2. Get mad and then get over it.
3. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
4. It can be done.
5. Be careful what you choose. You may get it.
6. Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
7. You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.
8. Check small things.
9. Share credit.
10. Remain calm. Be kind.
11. Have a vision. Be demanding.
12. Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers.
13. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

*From My American Journey by Colin Powell*

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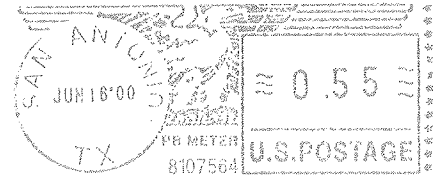
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**SAABE TIMES**  
**June Issue**

**Tricks of the Trade**

If you have a few miniblind slats left over, don't throw them away. They come in handy when painting baseboards and other woodwork. Instead of masking, hold up one of the slats and paint along its edge. You'll save time and keep the paint where you want it.

**2000 Board of Directors**

Paul Thompson, SMA <i>President</i>	524-9285
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Mike Alvarez <i>Vendor Representative</i>	824-9581

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

**Membership Luncheon**  
**June 21, 2000**

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

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

**NOTE:** This is the last luncheon at Tex's

**Topic:** Personal Safety

**Speaker:** Officer Wyman H. Herring, Jr., SAPD

**Sponsor:** SAABE

**Upcoming Luncheon July 19**

**Sponsor:** Nathan Alterman Electric

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



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