



SAABE TIMES

A Publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

September, 2000

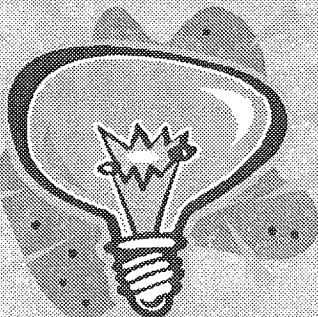
Mark Your Calendar—

Lighting Basics

Please join us for our monthly General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, September 20, 2000. Greg Graham and Wyatt Stevenson of American Light will present a program detailing the basics of lighting sources as well as new items, energy-saving items and controls.

American Light, Inc. has been in business for 18 years and maintains six locations in San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi, and Fort Worth. The company is a full-line lighting and electrical supply house specializing in energy audits, controls and lighting remodels.

Greg Graham and Wyatt Stevenson have 18 and 13 years of experience in lighting and electrical service, respectively. Be sure to bring your lighting questions and concerns to the meeting; they will be happy to address them.



Education Corner

by Mike Lusk

Upcoming Seminars:

NTT:

“Troubleshooting Electrical Control Circuits”; Houston Sept. 26-28; Austin Oct. 10-12; and Dallas Oct 17-19. \$985.00. 1-800-922-2820.

“Refrigeration and Air Conditioning”; Dallas Oct 10-12; Austin Oct. 17-19; San Antonio Oct. 31 – Nov. 2; and Houston Nov. 7-9. 1-800-922-2820.

“National Electrical Code”; San Antonio Sept. 26-28. 1-800-922-2820.

“Industrial Electronics”; Dallas Oct. 3-5; Houston Oct. 10-12. 1-800-922-2820.

“OSHA (1910.269) GT & D High Voltage Electrical Safety”; Dallas Sept. 26-27; Austin Sept. 28-29. 1-800-922-2820.

“Welding”; Houston Oct. 24-26; San Antonio Oct. 31 – Nov. 2; Dallas Nov. 7-9. 1-800-922-2820.

LEWELLYN Technology:

“Basic Industrial Electricity & Basic Industrial Electricity II”; Dallas Oct. 10-11; Houston Oct. 24-25; San Antonio Oct. 26-27. \$349.00. 1-800-242-6673.

Association of Energy Engineers:

“Fundamentals of Buying & Selling Energy”; Dallas Oct. 11-13. \$1270.00. 770-279-4385.

COMPED Solutions:

“Troubleshooting & Maintenance PCS”; San Antonio Nov. 2, 3 & 14; For more information and prices, call 1-800-258-7246 (Or call Mike for a faxed copy of the brochure).

Performance Training Associates, Inc.:

“Building and Facility Electrical Systems”; San Antonio Nov. 13-14. \$395.00 per day or \$695.00 for both days. 1-800-208-6108.

And for you adventuresome souls, ASME Professional Development; Understanding Chiller Performance; HVAC Systems – Sizing and Design; and several courses on elevators. Courses held in such nice places as New Orleans, Las Vegas, San Diego, Las Vegas, Alexandria, VA, Las Vegas, Charleston, SC, Houston, or Las Vegas. If you might be interested, call me for more information. That’s all for this month.

Above the Ceiling

by Paul Thompson

Taking the Heat

Yesterday we went up to 109° to break San Antonio's all-time high record. Today it was 111°. We're not just inching up — this is more like what Bob Beamon did when he added two feet to the long jump! We're baking. Fires out west in Montana, Idaho, Kerrville....Kerrville?! And San Antonio is setting records in electrical usage with the CPS crews busy replacing blown transformers. Which eerie beauty do you prefer: the sight of hundreds of acres burning in the night, or the brilliant, powder-blue light and out-of-this-world sound as a transformer explodes? You got to laugh or you'll cry.

...And the aquifer continues to drop. Still in Stage II, which means being able to water a total of seven hours a week, down from 28 hours a short couple of months ago. For those of us who have acreage, this is a real stretch. Forget that lush green lawn; in fact, the word "green" is pretty much history. Hopefully, some of this stuff will survive. And the dry ground is shrinking, twisting and busting pipes, cracking foundations, keeping SAWS crews busy (along with the concrete and foundation guys). If (when) we get to Stage III, the *real* watering restrictions begin. I believe you can only water in years ending with an odd number...

Don't suppose you've had any *AC calls* have you? With the stress that these conditions put on all systems, you find out where your weak links are real fast. But be careful out there, especially if you have to work on a roof. Make sure you drink lots of water, wear a hat, take breaks more frequently, keep in the shade as much as possible and get out of the heat NOW if you experience any signs of heat stress (dizziness, etc.). Probably not a bad idea to let somebody know you're out there and check in routinely. Be safe — these things can sneak up on you.

Sorry to all you folks (a record turnout of 80) who came to see the SAPD Bomb Squad at the July General Membership Meeting. As you know by now, we got stood up (again) when they were called out on a bomb threat (again). But luckily, the meeting didn't bomb when SA Fire Department Chief Rodney Hitzfelder jumped into the breach. On zero notice, he put on a very professional seminar on SAFD's "pre-planning" program for fire emergencies. Their ultimate goal is to have a computer database of every building in town. This would be a basic "map" of each property (floor plate, egress, stairs, fire control room, on-site hazards, etc.) which could be pulled up by any fire crew at the touch of a button. More on this to come.

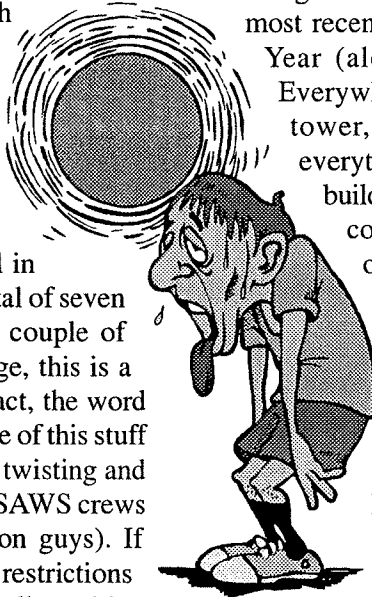
Congrats to el new guy, Cesar Alvarado, who was

recently elected to the position of Treasurer. Welcome to the frying pan!

For those of you who missed last month's tour of the Forum Building, what can I say? You missed it!! After touring the building, it is easy to see why The Charlie was most recently named SAABE Building Engineer of the Year (along with co-recipient, Bernardo Chapa). Everywhere you went, from the brand-new cooling tower, to the machinery rooms, to the roof — everything was the definition of a well maintained building: clean, organized, equipment labeled, pipes color-coded, logs up-to-date, procedures spelled out step by step, records at your fingertips — *very* professional. But there is a secret Charlie may not want you to know — he's got a veteran crew behind him (the newest guy's only been there five years) that help put him on top! Thanks, Charlie! Now, who would like to host the *next* building tour? Say, Bernardo, what's the Saint Anthony like?

Recently, I was called to the carpet by a letter from a ticked-off Associate (vendor) member. He took exception to my ringing endorsement of our paid sponsor (Amcon Controls) and pointed out that SAABE should never take the position of showing favoritism towards any one vendor. To this I can only say, "Guilty as charged." Although we always encourage our members to use *SAABE vendors*, I clearly went over the line here. It was wrong and I am sorry. Does it seem to be getting hotter in here, or is it just my imagination?

Like Camilo says, "It's a weather thing — whether you like it or not."



Heard It Through the Grapevine



- Elena Castillo is now the Chief Building Engineer for Rector Management. She can be reached at 495-2195.

Texas Wisdom

1. Never slap a man who's chewin' tobacco.
2. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
3. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in.
4. If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
5. If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
6. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
7. There's two theories to arguin' with a woman. Neither one works.
8. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
9. Don't squat with your spurs on.
10. It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.
11. Always drink upstream from the herd.
12. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
13. There are three kinds of people: The ones that learn by reading, the few who learn by observation, and the rest of them who have to touch the fire to see for themselves if it's really hot.

a name you can trust



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Charles H. Mikolajczyk, Jr., CBE
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San Antonio TX 78230

SAABE TIMES
September Issue

Final Thought —

“Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”
— *Will Rogers*

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Membership Luncheon
September 20, 2000

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: The Barn Door
8400 N. New Braunfels Ave.

Topic: Lighting Basics

Speaker: Greg Graham and Wyatt Stevenson of
American Light

Sponsor: American Light

Upcoming Luncheon October 18:
Ward Systems

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



210-340-5454
e-mail: inkspot@onr.com

