



SAABE TIMES

A publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

June 2003

Mark Your Calendar—

JOIN US FOR OUR JUNE LUNCHEON

Please join us on Wednesday, June 18 at the Old San Francisco Steakhouse for our monthly luncheon. The speaker will be Rob Jones from the San Antonio Water System, who will speak on "The SAWS Master Infrastructure Improvement Plan."

San Antonio's water and wastewater infrastructure, like many around the country, is significantly aging and in need of work. The city has over 9,000 miles of pipe (enough to run from here to Australia). By the end of this decade, 40% of that pipe will be 50 years old or older.

The city's next major challenge is to address the financial and operational issues of managing and restoring our water and wastewater infrastructure.

Please RSVP to (210) 408-1699 by Tuesday, June 19.

We hope to see you there! ❖

Education Corner

Texas HVAC Exam Prep

- Sponsored by Construction Seminars, endorsed by TACCA
- Cost: \$450
- June 13-15, Houston, TX
- July 11-13, Arlington, TX
- August 8-10, San Antonio, TX
- Visit www.constructionseminars.com for more information.

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- June 25 or 26 (one-day class)
- San Antonio, TX
- Presented by Amy Ables, Training Specialist
- Cost: \$125
- To register or for more information, call 512-331-1086

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- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- July 8, Mesquite, TX
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- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- July 9-10, Mesquite, TX
- Cost: \$345
- Call 1-800-824-7303 or visit www.teex.com for more information.

Contract Administration, Management and Scheduling

- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- July 9, Round Rock, TX
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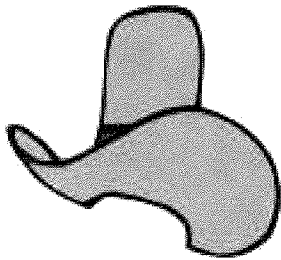
Send your email address to laurabray@braycommunications.com to make sure you stay informed of the latest events! ❖

A Message from the President

by Bob Beal

BOMA-SAABE Trade Show

I would like to first thank all the participants of this year's SABOMA-SAABE trade show. A big thanks to Tim Young of Munters (SAABE Vendor Representative) and Tom Lasater (1st Vice President of SAABE) for their help with the sub-committees. Tom and I helped raise some of the money for the food. As you can already tell by looking at Tom and I, we are food-motivated. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did. I have to say that everyone went all out.



All the vendor booths were very informative and everybody seemed to have a great time. If you did not get a chance to see Charles Gilbert (from Entech) sing, then that means you did not see your president sing. You see, Charles and I were volunteered to help with this year's theme ("Trade Show At The OK Corral"). We were asked to blaze

a trail from the "trade show seminar," around the fence, and back to the trade show in "singing cowboy fashion." Ask anybody that was there – it was a monumental event, something Charles and I will never forget. I have to say, Charles Gilbert is a great sport and is really a doggoned good picker and singer. Be looking for our debut CD some time next decade. This year we sold out the booths at the trade show faster than ever before. I hope this is a good economic sign for the rest of the year to come. A special thanks to Marcie Barber, Lynn Forester, Laura Bray, Tim Young, and all the members of SABOMA and SAABE for being such a class act.

Building and Engineer Survey

Part of being a leader in any organization is the ability to have a vision or perception – something that may help or make things better for the people that you have been entrusted to lead. In many cases your vision may not give you back the overwhelming support from the people you are trying to benefit. This is true for the Building and Engineer Survey that Doug Graves and Justin Jauer have put together. Both have held true to the original intent of the survey, even though the response from our members has not been great. Justin, Doug, and I still have a mission. By the end of our 2-year term we want to have a wonderfully informative and continually updated resource for our members. Please try to take some time and fill out what you can, even if you do not know all the info. This will give us an idea what our engineers know and don't know about their properties. This is not a test. It's a way to provide a valuable equipment database to our members. It's also a great way to refocus on some things that should be second nature to us. Everyone gets

caught up in changing lights, picking up trash, taking cold calls, and making tenants happy. We forget about the technical info we should all know. I am having a hard time with some of the questions. It makes me think, "What if my boss asks me some of these questions?" We on the committee are obligated to give our members the incentive to be on top of the info game. So please fill out the surveys with whatever info you have. If needed, eventually we will revisit some of the info that was left off.

Engineer Spotlight

Charles Mikolajczyk (The CHARLIE), Part 1

When I hear someone bring up Charlie Mikolajczyk, I can't help but think about his February 2001 Tech Talk article ("Close Encounters Of A Different Kind"). It was a great article, but what I remember most was his "Charlie's Law" at the end of his article – "Happiness is a belt-fed weapon!" The Charlie heads up engineering for Endeavor Real Estate Group and has his office at the FORUM building. There is too much to write about Charlie in one article, so I am splitting this into two parts. This month I am going to give praise to Charlie's contribution to SAABE and to *SAABE Times*. Charlie is considered top notch on the engineering scale by his peers in San Antonio and has always been an icon in our "Engineering Society." This month will mark the completion of 73 published "Tech Talk" articles for *SAABE Times*. That is six years of informative monthly articles. Check out the "Newsletter Archive" at www.saabe.org to read some of his previous articles and "Charlie's Law." Charlie is one of the few that have been awarded the Certified Building Engineer by SAABE. Read this month's Tech Talk # 73 on page 4. Next month I will cover more about Charlie as an engineer and his other contributions to SAABE. ♦

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Sponsorship Opportunities

SAABE has added several new sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorships are a great way to get your company some name recognition with San Antonio's largest association of building engineers:

\$100.00: Name recognition at the meeting (sign near the podium that is visible to all the members) and a brief description of services and introduction of the sponsor.

\$250.00: Vendor has one table (table-top display is allowed) at the entry to the luncheon and can distribute literature and business cards before and after the meeting as all the traffic is going through the door. Tim Young (SAABE vendor rep) will coordinate this to make sure the speaker and this sponsor are not competitors.

\$500.00: Vendor has the podium and an opportunity to address the membership. Material must be educational in nature, but the vendor has a table up front near the podium with the opportunity for members to take literature and cards or small give-aways at the end of the meeting.

Also, don't miss our new information exchange table and networking board at the next meeting. The table gives engineers an opportunity to display a question or need (for example a part you can't find), and there is a business card display for all members.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Tim Young at 210-651-5588 or tim_young@munters.com. Make your reservation early for the next meeting so you don't miss these exciting additions to our luncheons. ❖

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Full page: \$164

Business card: \$109

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Call 210-408-1699 for ad dimensions, or visit SAABE's web site at www.saabe.org. ❖



Tech Talk #73

by The Charlie

Looking Back At It All (Original Author Unknown)

Looking back, it's hard to believe that we have all lived as long as we have. As children we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. Our baby cribs were painted with bright colored lead-based paint. We often chewed on the crib, ingesting the paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. We drank water from the garden hose or a stream, not from a bottle. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

Some students weren't as smart as others or didn't work hard so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), the term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the school PA system. Every year, someone taught the whole school a lesson by running in the halls with leather soles on linoleum tile and hitting the wet spot. How much better off would we be today if we only knew we could have sued the school system. At school they did give us a couple of baby aspirin and cough syrup if we started getting the sniffles. What an archaic health system we had then. Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself. I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, PlayStation, Nintendo, X-Box or 270 digital cable stations. I must be repressing that memory as I try to rationalize through the denial of the dangers that could have befallen us as we trekked off each day about a mile down the road to some guy's vacant lot. We built forts out of branches and pieces of plywood, made trails, and fought over who got to be the Lone Ranger. What was that property owner thinking, letting us play on that lot! He should have been locked up for not putting up a fence around the property, complete with a self-closing gate and an infrared intruder alarm.

We played king of the hill on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites and when we got hurt, mom pulled out the 48-cent bottle of Mercurochrome (Monkey-Blood) and then we all got our posteriors whipped (physical abuse). Now, it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics and then mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

Mom invited the door-to-door salesman inside for coffee, kids choked down the dust from the gravel driveway while playing with their Tonka trucks, and Dad drove a car with leaded gas. Our music had to be left inside when we went out

to play and I am sure that I nearly exhausted my imagination a couple of times when we went on extended vacations. We should probably sue the folks now for the danger they put us in when we all slept in campgrounds in the family tent. How sick were our parents?

Come to think of school again, remember corporal punishment? Look at the teacher wrong (you get whipped), failed to do your homework (got whipped), tripped Peggy Lynn (got whipped really bad), etc. Don't know about you but corporal punishment definitely taught me what not to do!

This generation growing up in this time period has produced some of the greatest risk-takers and problem solvers ever. We had the freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

How did we survive?

Next Month: Reducing Slip-Fall Liabilities

CHARLIE'S LAW: Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm!

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And the Winner Is:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Best Booth: | Sanitors/Grounds Control |
| Runner-up, Booth: | Plant Interscapes |
| Best Table: | Horizon Interior Systems |
| Runner-up, Table: | 2 Guys' Enterprise |
| Best Costume: | Richard Alexander (ABM Janitorial) |
| Mingle Game: | Clara Rodriguez ❖ |

Thank You, Trade Show Prize Sponsors!

Grand Prize:

\$500 gift certificate to North Star Mall, donated by Transwestern Commercial Services, won by Melinda Felts of R.M. Crowe

Door Prize

TicketMaster gift certificate
 Reggiano's gift certificate
 Reggiano's gift certificate
 Two Texas Land & Cattle gift certificates
 Circuit City gift certificate
 Cattleman's Steak House gift certificate
 Pappas Restaurant gift certificate
 Two Deluxe Desk Chairs
 Home Depot gift certificate
 Macaroni Grill gift certificate
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2003 Trade Show Committee Members

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Tim Young, co-chair

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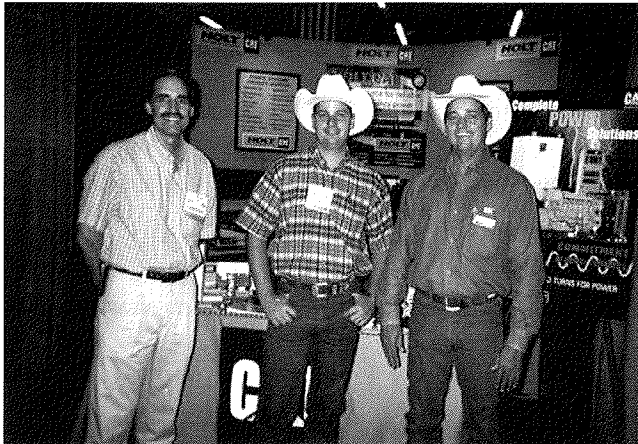
A Rootin', Tootin' Good Time!



The Floozies snag their next victim (Lynn Forester, Margo Law, Charles Gilbert, Teresa Tuma, Marcy Barber)



Trade Show Co-Chair Marcy Barber with costume winner Richard Alexander



Holt Power Systems Booth



Runner-up Booth Plant Interscapes



Ronnie Schaner of Brandt Engineering



Sanitors-Grounds Control, Best Booth Winner

Advice from "What Is It?" Picture

Charlie Mikolajczyk enjoys playing SAABE's "What Is It?" game each month on the SAABE web site. Last month's photo led him to share some advice:

"An extremely important thing regarding water valve caps (see www.saabe.org for last month's photo) is that 'an actual water valve turns counterclockwise to close.' The cap shown indicates this, but few engineers know this. If the valve under the cap turns clockwise to close, a cap with 'OPEN LEFT' should be installed. We have found on numerous occasions, especially with bypass valves on large water meters, that a mixture of open right and open left valves were used. This is a nightmare until you finally identify which direction is open and which is closed for each valve (a meter with a bypass can contain from 3 to 5 valves).

"The solution is simple. SAWS will change the caps to the correct ones once this has been identified. However, valve caps often get mixed up! The secret to keeping the correct caps on the correct valves is to paint the caps and the sockets so that the correct cap goes back on the correct valve!"

Visit our web site each month and click on the "What Is It?" link on the home page. Submit your guess each month. In December, the engineer with the most right guesses will receive a nice prize! ❖

May Door Prize Winners

Jerry Hernandez: Home Depot gift certificate (donated by Brandy Johnson of Ranger Industrial)

Tom Lasater: Swivel light (donated by American Light)

Sam Garcia: Free class (donated by Amy Ables)

Many thanks to our door prize donors. If you'd like to donate a door prize, please contact SAABE president Bob Beal. ❖

Job Listings

Are you looking for someone to add to your staff? Post your open positions on SAABE's web site, www.saabe.org. This service is free of charge to SAABE members. Send your job listing to Laura Bray (fax 210-408-1799, email laurabray@braycommunications.com). ❖

RSVPs are Important

SAABE's monthly membership luncheons are a great way to meet new people and share ideas. Regular members receive a free lunch as part of their membership dues; lunch is only \$15 for associate members.

When you RSVP for a meeting, we order a meal for you at the Old San Francisco Steak House. If you then don't attend the meeting, your meal sits there uneaten. At several recent meetings, SAABE has thrown away over fifteen uneaten meals due to no-shows. This has cost SAABE nearly \$500—a waste of your important membership dues.

Everyone has last minute emergencies. But if you have RSVP'd for a lunch and cannot attend, **please** call or email Laura Bray (210-408-1699, laurabray@braycommunications.com) and let her know that you cannot attend.

Regular members who RSVP and do not attend will be billed \$5 to help defray the cost of the uneaten meal. As usual, associate members who RSVP and do not attend will be invoiced for the full cost of the meal (\$15).

Please help us use your membership dues wisely and **cancel** your RSVP if you cannot attend! We appreciate your help! ❖

It Pays to Advertise in SAABE TIMES

<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>1 Issue</u>	<u>3 Issues</u>	<u>1 Year</u>
Full page	\$110	\$280	\$1,000
Half page	\$60	\$150	\$575
Quarter page	\$30	\$75	\$280
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(210) 599-3838
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Paul Moore
Moore Lighting & Electrical
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Sam Colson
Gerloff Company, Inc.
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If you know someone who'd like to join SAABE, have them visit our web site at www.saabe.org to obtain a membership application. Or call Laura Bray (210-408-1699) and she will fax one to you. ❖

The Daily Chronicle

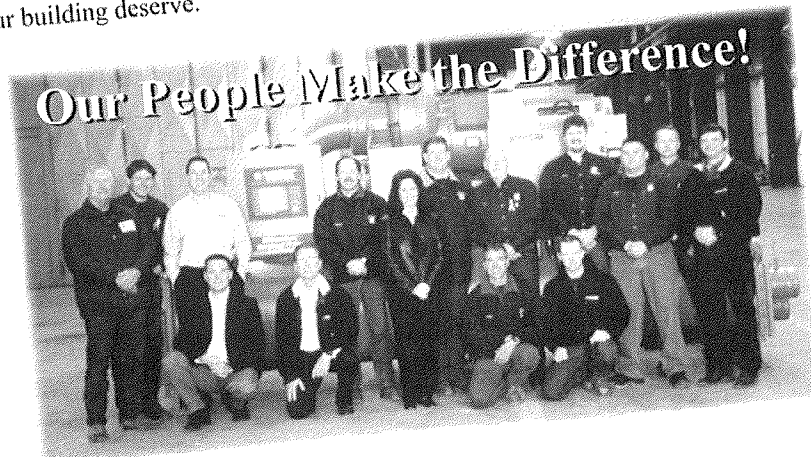
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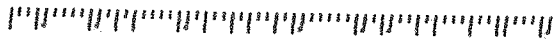
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SAABE TIMES June Issue

Final Thought:

"'Automatic' simply means that you can't repair it yourself." — Mary H. Waldrip

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Membership Luncheon June 18, 2003

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Old San Francisco Steakhouse

Program:

Rob Jones, SAWS: "The SAWS Master Infrastructure Improvement Plan"

Upcoming Luncheon:

July 16, 2003

Program to be Announced

The *SAABE Times* is edited by Laura Bray and printed monthly for the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers by:



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