



S.A.A.B.E. TIMES

A Publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineer

January, 1999

Mark Your Calendar —

Fire Protection & Code Presentation

January's General Membership meeting seminar will be presented by John R. Cochrane, P.E. of Protection Development, Inc., and lunch will be sponsored by SAABE.

Protection Development, Inc. (PDI) was formed in 1985 by three graduates of the University of Maryland's Fire Protection Engineering program. The firm is based in San Antonio but works throughout Texas, the United States and New Mexico. Presently, the firm has a total staff of eight technical and administrative personnel. In addition to sprinkler, fire alarm, and special hazard fire protection system design, PDI conducts fire flow tests and needed fire flow analyses. The major aspect of their business is providing building fire code reviews, conducting life safety code analyses and negotiating with authorities having jurisdiction on code provisions and alternate means of compliance.

John Cochrane earned a BS degree in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland in 1979. He worked for the SA Fire Department as their first fire protection engineer in 1984 and 1985. In 1985, he left the fire department to start a consulting firm. He was registered as a Professional Engineer in 1982. His experience covers a broad range from municipal fire fighting, marine fire fighting, marine fire protection system design, additional fire protection engineering, as well as building and fire code consulting.

Mr. Cochrane will be addressing upcoming changes to local building and fire codes, and describing the future of model building codes. He will also address common problems with sprinkler and fire alarm designs and San Antonio's fire protection system maintenance requirements. He will be available for a question and answer period after the presentation.

Education Corner

by Mike Lusk

Here are some up coming seminars. These are presented by national Technology Transfer, Inc. (NTT). For more information, or to register, call NTT at 1-800-922-2820. I also have a copy of each brochure.

"Troubleshooting Electrical Control Circuits," February 9-11, 1999. San Antonio, TX \$985.00

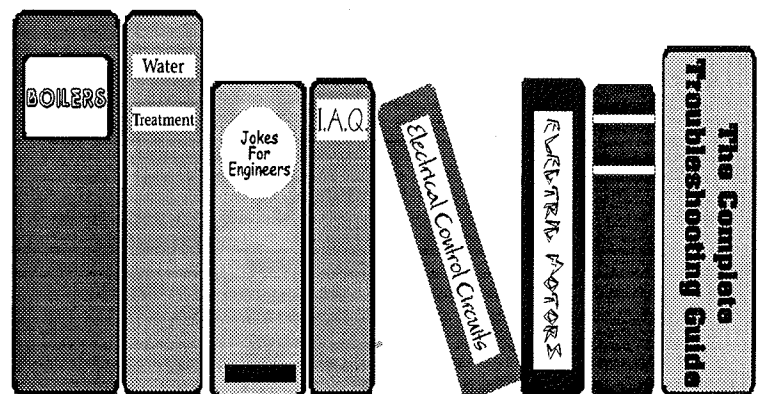
"Fiber Optic Training," February 9-11, 1999. San Antonio, TX \$985.00

"Introduction to Grounding and Bonding of Building Electrical Systems," February 22-23, 1999. San Antonio, TX \$695.00

"Introduction to Industrial Electronics, Including Troubleshooting and Maintenance," March 9-11, 1999. San Antonio, TX \$985.00

"Introduction to the National Electric Code 1999," March 16-19, 1999. San Antonio, TX \$985.00

If you see something on these lists I put out each month that is of interest to you, but the dates don't work, give me a call. Sometimes they are taught in Austin or Dallas the week before or after they are here.



Above the Ceiling

by Paul Thompson

...In With the New

Hope that everyone out there had a real good Christmas and New Year's holiday. SAABE's coming off a real good year, in fact, we broke the century mark in December...That's right, we now have 100 paid members! Mr. Tim McElroy, longtime Building Engineer and my compadre over here at the Pyramid put us over the top! Push that bar up a little higher.

Invoices have been printed and should be showing up soon — I know everyone's looking forward to that.

Everybody ready for the Y2K bug? The clock is ticking...one year to go until...??...

I wrangled Bill into helping us move to our new place (to us, at least) a while back. While we were taking a break, I mentioned that there must be at least 500 ducks on the lake. "Those aren't ducks, those are coots," Bill said. Yeah, well the

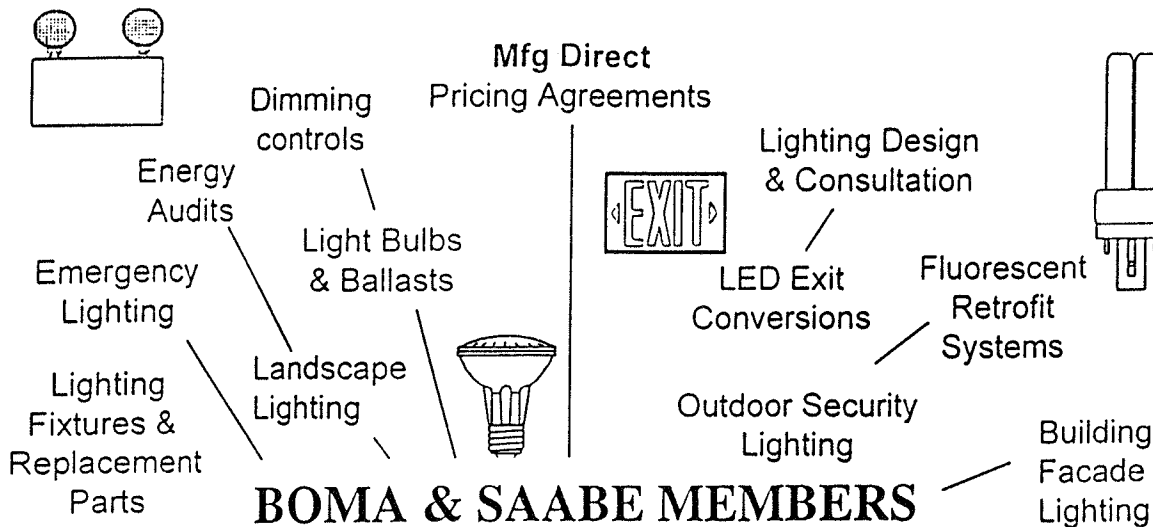
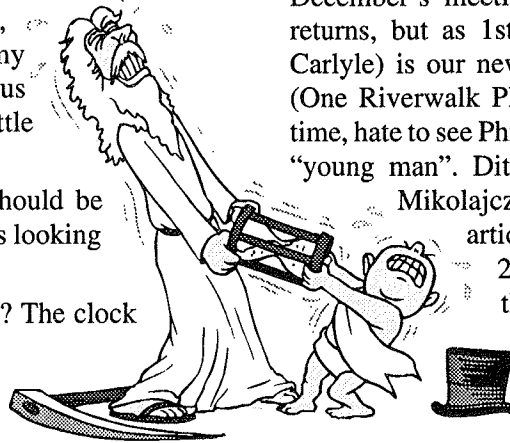
difference is, those birds on the lake are young coots...Bill's an old coot.

Congrats to all the Board members elected at December's meeting. Elena Castillo (KCI Properties) returns, but as 1st Vice President. Tom Lasater (The Carlyle) is our new 2nd Vice President. Rhondo Jauer (One Riverwalk Place) will be Treasurer. At the same time, hate to see Phil Anderson go — take a deserved rest, "young man". Ditto for our very own "The Charlie" Mikolajczyk — rumor is, he's got Tech Talk articles on his computer through the year 2003! Looking forward to the mix of the new board with us old coots!

You all have a good 1999!

P.S.: In an effort to nip in the bud any impeachment proceedings,

I categorically deny the rumors of any romantic involvement with Halle Berry, Cindy Crawford or Jennifer Lopez. Has 1998 been a crazy year, or what?!



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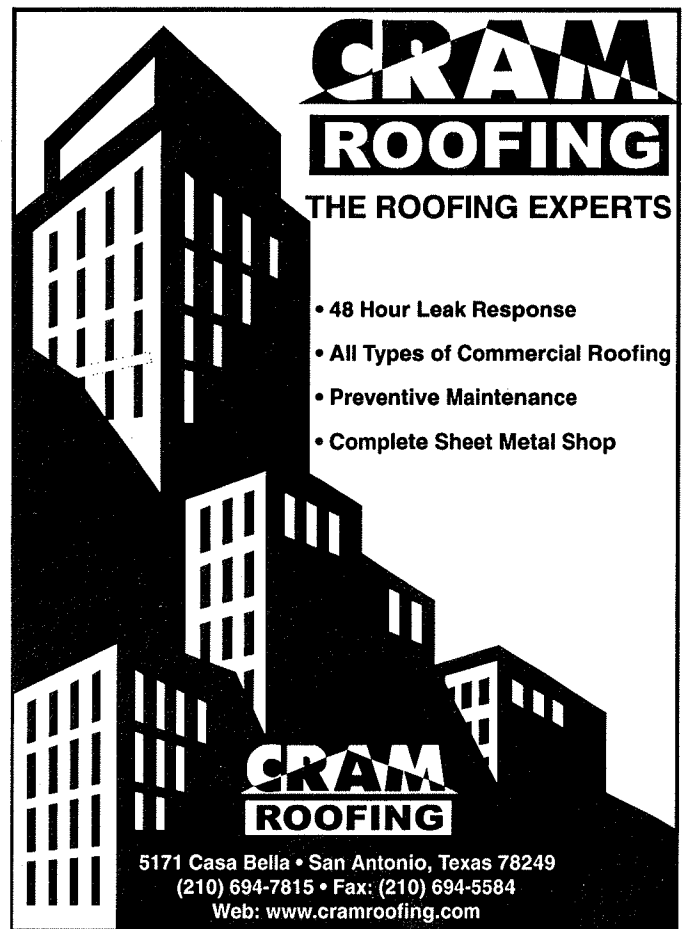
 **American Light**
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SAABE Code of Ethics

For the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers, a new year brings the hope that our organization will continue to grow and prosper in 1999 and well into the new millennium. We resolve to provide a quality service that will aid our members in their professional development. In turn, we encourage members to review the SAABE Code of Ethics — our commitment to the trade of building engineering:

1. It is the intent that SAABE members maintain the highest standards in their conduct of Association affairs.
2. SAABE members shall have as an achievable goal maintaining objective, professional judgment. They shall not compromise that judgment by undertaking any activity, accepting any contribution or having any conflict of interest that would prevent acting in the best interest of SAABE and the building engineer profession.
3. SAABE members shall practice in a manner that shall not discriminate because of race, sex, creed, age or national origin.
4. SAABE members shall use SAABE membership solely as a means of professional development, not for purposes of sales and personal aggrandizement.
5. The use of mail lists, membership information, and membership resources, or any calls, contacts, or working relationships outside the association shall be conducted in the highest professional and ethical manner.
6. The act of selling products or services is strictly prohibited at any SAABE meeting or gathering, except at trade shows or displays established for that purpose.
7. Associate and Vendor members are a vital part of SAABE and an important resource to the building engineer profession. Associate and Vendor members shall use SAABE membership as a means of professional development for themselves to better understand the needs of building engineers and as a means of providing professional development information to the membership at large.
8. When Associate and Vendor members are given the opportunity to provide professional development to the membership, the presentation must be educational and informational and not a sales presentation on the member's services or products.

SAABE Code of Ethics was formally adopted by the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers in January 1996. Acceptance of and adherence to this code is a condition of membership in SAABE.



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Meeting Sponsors Needed

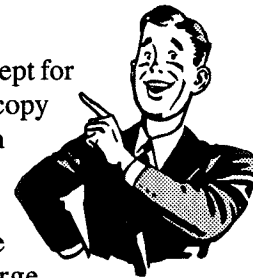
SAABE is always in need of a few good sponsors for our monthly general membership meetings. There are, however, a few simple guidelines to follow when sponsoring our meetings. When a meeting sponsor is a vendor company, their sponsorship must include payment for lunches. The only time a sponsor does not have to pay for the lunches is when a non-vendor entity is providing the program. Such an entity would include, but is not limited to, government agencies, municipalities, educational institutions or other non-profit agencies. Each exception for payment must be approved by the board on a case-by-case basis.

Presentations must be "generic" (not a sales pitch) and informational in nature. Handouts that provide useful information are very welcome. Presentation length should be between 20 and 45 minutes and it is always a good idea to leave some time for questions. Tex's Restaurant has a microphone, VCR and monitors available at no cost. For other equipment (slide projectors, overheads, etc.) they have an on-site audio-visual representative who can set you up for a small charge, or you can bring your own equipment.

For those members who would like the opportunity to sponsor a SAABE luncheon — but would rather leave the public speaking to someone else — you might consider stepping up to the plate for SAABE and sponsoring a non-profit agency's presentation.

The cost to sponsor a luncheon is \$350.00. Please contact Mike Alvarez at 824-7683 for more information.

Advertise in the SAABE Newsletter!



NOTE TO ADVERTISERS: Except for member personal classified ads, ad copy must be camera-ready, or an additional charge will be made. Fees are to be paid with order. Personal classified (non-commercial) ads are available to members at no charge. Non-members will be charged \$3.00 per column inch.

Commercial Rates	1 Issue	3 Issues*	1 Year**
Full page (7.25" w x 9.5" h)	\$110.	\$280.	\$1,000.
Half page (7.25" w x 4.25" h)	60.	150.	575.
Half page (3.5" w x 9.5" h)	60.	150.	575.
Quarter page (3.5" w x 4.75" h)	30	75.	280.
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Ask about rates for specific placement.

*Consecutive months.

** Subject to review every three months.

Send advertising copy (camera-ready b/w or b/w velox) and your payment to:

SAABE
P.O. Box 691861
San Antonio, TX 78269.

1999 Dues Schedule

For Regular and Associate Members —

- One Representative \$30 each
- Two Representatives \$100 each
- Three or More Representatives . \$90 each

Employment Opportunity

Maintenance mechanic needed. Basic skills required. Please call 524-9000 to apply.

Have You



Your Membership?

Tech Talk #20

by The Charlie

Petrified of Metric Sized (Part One of Two)

As the turn of the century approaches, another dilemma other than Y2K becomes reality. This is the anticipated year that the construction industry plans to adopt the requirement of metrication for its units of measurement. The automotive industry started the same use of metrication in 1977, but to date there is still a combination of metric and standard units of measurements and components used.

Construction Products in General

What will change?

- Concrete block, drywall, plywood, suspended ceiling and raised flooring systems. These dimensions will change to fit a 100-mm module.
- Products that are fabricated or formed for each job (cabinets, trusses, ductwork, doors, windows and concrete work), can usually be made in inch/pound or metric sizes with equal ease.

What will stay the same?

- All other products since they are either cut to fit each job (structural steel, framing, lumber, trim, siding, wiring, piping and roofing), or are not dimensionally sensitive (fasteners, hardware, electrical components, plumbing fixtures and HVAC equipment), will simply be relabeled in metric units. For example; a 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wall switch face plate might be relabeled 70x115 mm; a 30-gallon water heater may change to 114-liter.

Doors

What will change?

- Heights, from 6'8" to 2,050 mm; and from 7'0" to 2,100 mm.
- Widths, from 2'10" to 850 mm; from 3'0" to 900 mm; and from 3'4" to 1,000 mm.

What will stay the same?

- Door thicknesses
- Door materials and hardware

Note: For commercial work, doors and door frames can be ordered in any size since they are normally custom fabricated.

"2x4" Studs and Other "2-by" Wood and Metal Framing Members

What will change?

- Spacing, from 16" to 400 mm and from 24" to 600 mm

What will stay the same?

- Framing member cross sections

Note: Since "2-bys" are produced in nominal dimensions, there is no need to convert them to new, rounded, "hard" metric dimensions. "2x4s" may keep their traditional name, or perhaps they'll eventually be called "50x100s" (mm), or more exactly but less likely, "38x89s".

Drywall, Plywood, OSB and Other Sheet Products

What will change?

- Widths, from 4'0" to 1,200 mm
- Heights, from 8'0" to 2,400 mm; and from 10'0" to 3,000 mm

What will stay the same?

- Thickness, so that fire, acoustical and thermal ratings won't have to be recalculated.

Note: Metric drywall and plywood are readily available but may require longer lead times and may cost more in small amounts until their use becomes more common.

Ceiling Systems

What will change?

- Grids and lay-in ceiling tile, air diffusers and recessed lighting fixtures from 2'x2' to 600x600 mm; and from 2'x4' to 600x1,200 mm
- *What will stay the same?*
- Grid profiles, tile thickness, air diffuser capacities, fluorescent tubes and means of suspension

HVAC Controls

What will change?

- Temperature units, from Fahrenheit to Celsius
- Everything else

Note: Those fortunate enough to have digital controls can easily be converted with no difficulty.

Concrete

What will change?

- Strength dimensions, from "psi" to megapascals rounded to the nearest 5 Mpa per ACI 318M as follows:

2,500 psi to 20 Mpa	3,000 psi to 25 Mpa
3,500 psi to 25 Mpa	4,000 psi to 30 Mpa
	4,500 psi to 35 Mpa

What will stay the same?

- Everything else

Next Month: Metric Sized Pipe, Conduit, Steel and Drawings!

"The Charlie"



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



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San Antonio TX 78230

S.A.A.B.E. TIMES
January Issue

*Wishing You a
Happy and Prosperous 1999!*

1999 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 <i>Association Coordinator</i>	521-8838
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Membership Luncheon January 20, 1999

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Tex's Restaurant
in the Airport Hilton

Topic: Fire Codes

Speaker: John Cochrane, P.E. of
Protection Development, Inc.

Sponsor: SAABE

Upcoming Luncheon:

February 17: To Be Announced

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



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email: inkspot@onr.com