



SAABE TIMES

A publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

September 2007

Mark Your Calendar—

JOIN US FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

The next General Membership Meeting of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers is set for 11:30 am on Wednesday, September 19, at the Alamo Cafe on 281 (just north of Bitters). See www.saabe.org for program details.

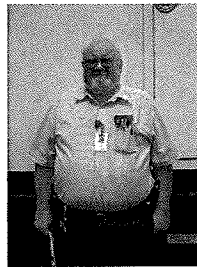
The meeting will be held in the first floor Travis/Bowie rooms, to the right of the entrance. There is plenty of parking at the back of the restaurant. **Please make sure to check in at the front desk when you arrive.** Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, as members have reported attempted break-ins in the restaurant parking lot.

RSVP to (210) 408-1699 by Tuesday, September 18.

PLEASE RSVP so we can be sure to have enough meals on hand!

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Engineer Spotlight



Tom Lasater

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814 Arion Parkway, Building #3
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- **How long in the building engineer trade?**

Since 1975 (32 years) working on the full gamut of properties from residential to commercial. My specialty is HVAC, but I can work on and fix most any challenge that comes along. I have been a member of SAABE since 1998.

- **Any awards, recognition, or special training?**

I received special training in the Navy. I lived in Greenland at one point and spent two years working on the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System.

- **Hobbies/what do you enjoy during off-hours?**

Digital photography and traveling to small, Hill Country towns, taking pictures all the way.

- **Family/Children?**

I've been married to the same woman for 46 years and have two sons and six grandchildren. Having time to spend with my family is very important, and I make time each year to visit them as often as I can.

- **As Vice President of SAABE, how would you like to see the organization improve?**

SAABE has moved away from an educational focus over the past years, and I would like to see a reemphasis in this area—not by just the leaders but by the general membership also. We all need to take an interest in this profession and mentor junior engineers and high school students so that there is a good base of talent coming up through the ranks.

- **Any interesting stories from your years in the business?**

One time I asked an assistant to have a vendor come out and work on the sprinkler system. The assistant followed through and had the system serviced by the appropriate vendor. I followed up to see what was done and realized that the wrong type of sprinkler system had been serviced. I was referring to the **fire** sprinkler system. I learned a very valuable lesson—accurate communication is key! ❖

A Message from the President

by Charles Mikolajczyk, CBE-M

Well, just like we stated last month... "Unless it happens before this article is printed, we have yet to deal with 100° weather." Wow, what an odd weather event. The highest temperature recorded this summer at the SAT airport was 98° on August 13.

Being from an old farming community and listening to numerous old proverbs and wives' tales, I just can't help but wonder what relevance this will have on our eight-week winters? Alas, summer is not over yet, so don't be putting the boat back into the garage or putting away the patio furniture just because some 30-million children are now back in school. Dove season is in the air, and that means two things (well, maybe more, but here are two main things)—heat and lots of rain...traditionally anyway!

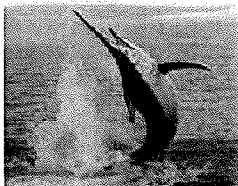
We hope most of you are already registered for the SABOMA Open on October 12, 2007 at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort. We hope to see you there!

For me, September is a roll of the dice and time to let it all hang out. It really is the end of summer and time for me to take advantage of every weekend and utilize them for that long forgotten "mental relaxation time" (MRT). For me, that means cutting loose and hunting on a ranch and fishing... every weekend. Do yourself a favor and don't go too long without some MRT. It does your body good!

Now that we have your attention, is it enough to come to a luncheon once a month or go to a picnic once a year? Your involvement in a committee with SAABE is a critical part of the infrastructure of the organization. We had several members this year who actively participated on one or more committees... were you one of them? Get involved and get a first hand look at how you can help—yourself and others. We truly value your opinion and look forward to your participation.

In parting, please be sure and RSVP to the SAABE luncheons....

Till then, FISH ON!



CM ❖

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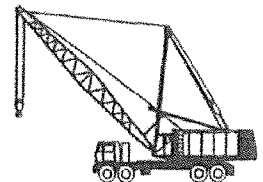
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Apply for the SAABE Scholarship/Educational Assistance Program

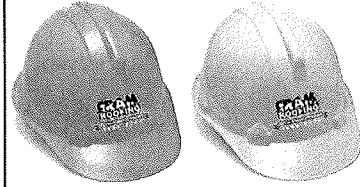
SAABE now offers a program to provide scholarships and educational assistance to SAABE members for participation in courses related to property maintenance (especially SMT/SMA* programs offered by the BOMI Institute).

Applicants must be regular members of SAABE and hold a position in the field of building maintenance. The place of business must be within the San Antonio geographical area. Applicants must have long-term career plans in building engineering/maintenance and must have at least two years of experience in the field. Applicants are responsible for a portion of the cost of any course.

For full details, rules, and an application, visit the SAABE website at www.saabe.org. ❖

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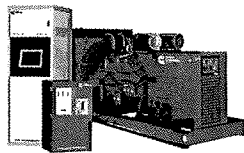
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Education Corner

San Antonio Building Codes Academy Fall Training Opportunities

The San Antonio Building Codes Academy (SABCA) is a South/Central Texas regional training academy sponsored by the City of San Antonio Development Services Department. SABCA was established in 2006 with the goal of bringing high-quality educators and necessary building-related codes training to code officials, design professionals, builders, tradesmen and building owners and managers.

SABCA provides training seminars in the fall, winter and spring of each year and is now accepting registrations for the following seminars scheduled for October 15-18, 2007:

- 2006 International Residential Code Fundamentals Building Provisions
- 2006 International Building Code Fundamentals Nonstructural

For more information, go to www.sanantonio.gov/dsd and look for the SABCA hyperlink. ❖

It Pays to Advertise in SAABE TIMES

Dimensions	1 Issue	3 Issues	1 Year
Full page	\$110	\$280	\$1,000
Half page	\$60	\$150	\$575
Quarter page	\$30	\$75	\$280
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(call for ad dimensions, 210-408-1699)

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Job Openings

There are several job openings currently listed on the SAABE website (www.saabe.org). Visit the site for full details.

If you have job openings, please forward them to laurabray@braycommunications.com for posting. ❖

SAABE August Lunch Summary

by Kendal Langenberg

The August general membership luncheon was truly a great event! From the fantastic food (fajitas) to the fabulous speaker (Roland Maldonado), it was an all-around good time!

Mr. Maldonado is the Chief Mechanical Inspector for the City of San Antonio. He gave us a brief overview of what his department does, as well as some statistics to demonstrate how busy his department is. For example, Roland and his crew are keeping track of 1,898 permits that are currently active! They have also already reviewed 1,354 plans this year!

In addition to handling these normal "day to day" responsibilities, the inspectors also have to stay on top of developments in codes and regulations on a state and federal level. But, in spite of having to juggle all that is required of them, the inspectors strive for great customer service. Roland emphasized that customer service is behind everything they do! Thanks again, Roland, for all you do for our great city. And, thanks for speaking to us at our monthly luncheon. Special thanks also to George Perez and Roger Cortez, from Roland's department, who also attended our luncheon.

We are back over the 200-member mark again! We have been this high before but never this early in the year. If you know of an engineer that is not part of SAABE, be sure to invite him to a lunch! And, if you know of an engineer that has

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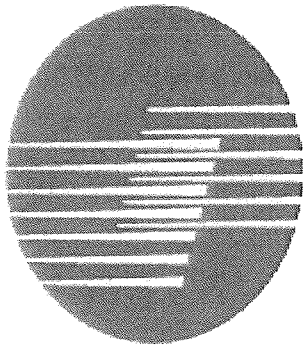
Keith Garrett

**Office 210-659-6701
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dropped out of SAABE, please do all you can to corral him back in. It would be great to end the year with record membership!

Please keep your eyes open for places that might be able to host our monthly membership luncheons. There will be a need to make a change of venue in the not-so-distant future, providing that we continue to grow in membership. Isn't it nice to have this problem?!

Don't miss our next monthly luncheon on Wednesday, September 19. It should be another great time of food, fun, and education! C-ya there... ❖



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COSA's Development Services Re-inspection Fee Process Changes

Currently, re-inspection fees are assessed by the City of San Antonio's Development Services inspectors when your project fails inspection for one or more of the following reasons:

- Work not ready for inspection
- Code deficiencies
- Corrections from a previous inspection are not made
- Work covered with earth, concrete, sheetrock, plaster, insulation, building finishes, etc.
- City reviewed plans not on the job site when required
- No access to equipment/inspection
- Building/house locked
- Gate codes not provided
- Unable to locate building due to address not being posted

When assessing these fees, the inspector is required to open several computer screens before entering the required fee. These burdensome, time-consuming steps slow down the inspection process; therefore, the inspectors are not as efficient when responding to their assigned inspections for the day. This time drain may actually result in some of the inspections not

being performed for the day they were scheduled.

Beginning Monday, August 13, 2007, re-inspection fees will be automatically assessed on your permit by the Hansen Land Development software system whenever an inspector disapproves a scheduled inspection for one of the above listed reasons. Exception: When an inspector arrives at the job site on the day after the inspection was scheduled to be performed, the re-inspection fee will not be assessed.)

In other cases where there are extenuating circumstances, re-inspection fees may only be waived by either the Senior Inspector or the Chief Inspector for that discipline. All waivers will be documented properly in the Hansen system for audit purposes.

With this efficiency measure, the Development Services Department will be delivering more effective service to our customers. If you have any questions on this computer change, please contact Development Services Managers Patrick Poloskey at 207-0148 or George Perez at 207-0159. ♦

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SAABE TIMES
September Issue

Final Thought:

"One can't have something for nothing. Happiness has got to be paid for."—
 Aldous Huxley

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**September Membership Meeting:
 Wednesday, September 19**

Program to be Announced
Location: Alamo Café on 281
11:30am

**Upcoming Program:
 Wednesday, October 17**

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