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San Antonio Transportation Association



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Transportation Clubs, International

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Monthly Meeting — May

When: Wednesday, May 6, 2009
11:30 – 1:00

Where: The Barn Door
8400 N. New Braunfels

Lunch: Chopped Steak Con Queso

Cost: \$20 for members and guests
\$15 for students with valid school I.D.

Guest Speaker: Steven Schauer, External Communications Manager,
San Antonio River Authority

Topic: The very latest on San Antonio River Authority Projects.



NICKEL PRESENTERS

“A wealth of information for a nickel’s worth of time!”
TBA

RESERVATIONS

Naturally, reservations are very much appreciated but not mandatory.
Contact Lynn

E-mail to: lvbrown@fiestawarehousing.com. Or call Lynn at (210) 337-9101

Remember, Use your **VISA**, **MasterCard** or **Discovery Card**, not only for dues & luncheons, door prize tickets and SATA sports events pre-registration, too!



Message From The President

When I was a young teenager, I'd often ride the bus to downtown San Antonio and see a movie at one of those grand old cinema palaces, like the Texas, Majestic and Aztec. Afterwards I'd wander down the Riverwalk and explore its twists and turns, and marvel at the fantastic designs and all the many nooks and crannies. "What a cool place this is!" I'd exclaim to myself and I'd appreciate the visionaries who created this masterpiece.

Back then, other than Casa Rio, there were no restaurants, bars or hotels. HemisFair in 1968 changed all that. The new canal was dug where the tall Marriott's stand now and the continuous construction of hotels, eateries and entertainment venues began. Now the most ambitious new expansion of the Riverwalk is about to be unveiled in May, and you can get a sneak peak at what's going on at our next lunch.

Our guest speaker from the San Antonio River Authority will enlighten us about what's officially called the Museum Reach — Urban Segment of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. Imagine taking a river barge from downtown past the Museum of Art to the Pearl Brewery development while going through a working lock system on the river near Brooklyn Avenue. The artwork, landscaping and whimsical designs along the way will astound you.

I'm sure we'll hear more about what the Authority is up to, including a 13 - mile linear park near the Missions on the south side. You'll also learn more of what SARA is doing to protect the environment along our beloved San Antonio River. This is a lunch you won't want to miss.

So make a reservation. *And bring a guest!* We really need to outreach and get new members. And if you can bring a door prize, that would be terrific. My company will be donating 2 box seats to an upcoming Saturday night Missions game. Other fun items will be yours to win as a door prize. Remember, Wednesday May 6. *I'll see you there!*

— Nick Wingerter



Steven Schauer

Manager of External Communications San Antonio River Authority



Steven Schauer is the Manager of External Communications for the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) where he is responsible for intergovernmental, media and community relations. Schauer has a Master of Public Affairs degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Incarnate Word in San Antonio. He was previously employed at the largest public relations firm in San Antonio, KGB Texas Public Relations and Marketing, and prior to that, Schauer worked as the Communications Director for San Antonio Mayor, Ed Garza, and as a Budget Analyst for State of Texas Governor, Rick Perry. Schauer is an active member at Community Bible Church, he volunteers in the community by serving on various boards and he is an avid runner and hiker.

Statistically Speaking

OP-Ed with Dave Katz

I decided to Google the San Antonio Transportation Association just to see what came up. Sure enough SATA did, but I got interested in another site on the page, the Texas Department of Transportation.

As I ran down the internet highway owned by the TxDOT, I became fascinated with some of the statistics for the San Antonio District which includes several counties. I would like to share a couple.

Because, in many of our businesses we either solicit or respond to bids, I think that you who submit bids need to take some lessons from Uvalde County. They have a perfect record. Yes sir, not one of that county's highway construction projects came in under budget. Read that as a big zero!

By contrast, Bexar County had 70% of their construction finish on time or sooner. To show the consistency in our county, they had 70% of the projects come in *over* budget. My boss would like the "on time" stuff but I believe I would be fired down-sized when it came to the over budget number.

IN THE NEWS

Door Prize Contributors

A heartfelt thank you to Bill Lucas-EDS, for those wonderful SPURS Tickets, and to Fit for Work, SATA, Allen Nace, and Sue D' Ambrosio. It's really great to have all of our members and guests participate in the monthly raffles. You all are sponsors of the Scholarships, too. Now that the NBA/SPURS season is about over, please, consider donating a raffle prize for MAY! Thanks so much. The Scholarship committee acknowledges Chris Smith and Lynn Brown for their raffle savvy and hard work.

Directory Updates

Four new members joined the Association in April. Welcome, Guys. Members, update your directory.

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PLEASE, FLY YOUR FLAG THIS ARMED FORCES DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY!

Remember in your prayers and actions our servicemen and women, our veterans and dead, and their families.



IN THE NEWS

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

MEET THE SCHOLARS

Each of the four scholars is a graduate of Reagan High School.



Emily Carrico presently attends Texas A&M and is focused on her career as a veterinarian. Her goal is to work with exotic animals. Emily maintains a 3.69 GPA and expects to gain experience around the globe.



Marian Fisher is in her second semester and working toward her Bachelor of Nursing Science degree at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. In high school, she participated in pre-nursing organizations and activities since her junior year, including advanced courses in Biology and Calculus.



Ana Henriques is a biology major now attending University of Portland in Oregon. She will soon transfer to St. Edward's University in Austin where Ana will pursue her medical degree in ophthalmology. An A/B student, Ana was selected to teach a chemistry class and she works as a research-methods tutor for students writing biology papers. In addition, Ana is a Certified Nurse's Assistant.



Stephanie Hill will transfer from Northwest Vista College to UTSA in the fall. Stephanie's chosen career field is Elementary Education and she looks forward to helping children with learning differences. Stephanie's insights into this area of pedagogy and her desire to teach in the elementary grades are reflected in her 3.8 GPA.

IN THE NEWS

THE CALENDAR FOR MAY

May is believed to be named for Maia, Roman Goddess of spring. Fixed celebrations include Kentucky Derby Day- first Saturday; Cinco de Mayo (1862); the second Sunday (10th) is Mothers Day; Armed Forces Day is third Saturday (16th) since 1950; Memorial Day, aka Decoration Day, is the last Monday (25th) a legal holiday on we honor the memory of those who died in service to our country. The graves of our military and loved ones are marked with flags and flowers. It was first celebrated in 1866.

Logistical milestones in May:

V.E. Day, May 8, 1945. The Transcontinental Rail Road was completed in Promontory, Utah on the 9th, 1869. B.F. Goodrich Co. developed tubeless tire on the 11, 1947. In 1804, Lewis & Clark began their expedition up the Missouri River on the 14th. The first railroad timetable was published in the *Baltimore American* newspaper on the 20th, 1830. Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross on the 21st, 1881. Charles Lindburgh finished his famous solo transatlantic flight on the 21st in 1927. On the 24th in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge was opened to traffic; exactly one year later Samuel F.B Morse transmitted the first message as America's first telegraph line was opened. On the 27th, 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco was opened. U.S. Customs Court created on the 28, 1928. On the 30th, 1498, Christopher Columbus began his 3rd voyage to America; he died in poverty on May 20 eight years later. Also on the 30th in 1911, the first Indy 500 road race was held. In 1937, the last Ford Model T was built on the 31st.

SATA's CALENDAR

May

- 5: Cinco de Mayo
- 6: Steven Shauer, Manager, San Antonio River Authority will be our guest speaker.
Scholarships Awarded
- 10: Mothers Day
- 21: **SATA Bowling Event: 6:30 p.m. Country Lanes**
- 25: **Memorial Day**

June

- 3: Tentatively scheduled: Pat Leahy, Boeing

Jul 1: No Meeting

- Oct 7: SATA—Mike Dominguez, VIA
- Nov 4: SATA—Judge Nelson Wolff
- Dec 2: SATA—Blue Santa and Chief McManus

IN THE NEWS

Frank Miller to Head Up San Antonio's Airport Facility



Frank Miller (pictured), Pensacola Regional Airport director in Pensacola, Florida, has been named San Antonio's new Aviation Director, effective May 18. Miller will oversee daily operations at the San Antonio facility.

Miller boasts 22 years with the Pensacola airport and has also previously been airport manager for the Walker Field Airport Authority in Grand Junction, Colorado, and for both the city and borough of Juneau, Alaska. He is also active in the Airports Council International of North American, currently serving as second vice president and previously serving on the board. (Texas Government Insider, April 24, 2009)

International Trade & Economics

On April 9, 2009, the Bureau of Economic Analysis announced a decline in the trade deficit of the goods and services sector. Total February 2009 exports of \$126.8 billion and imports of \$152.7 billion resulted in a goods and services trade deficit of \$26.0 billion, down from \$36.2 billion in January 2009.

The February export total was \$2.0 billion more than the January export total of \$124.7 billion and February imports were \$8.2 billion less than January imports of \$160.9 billion. These figures illustrate the importance of international trade between the United States and countries all around the world, especially our largest trading partners: Mexico, Canada, and China. (*Policy Post*, April 9, 2009. Free-Trade Alliance Electronic Publication)

El Paso Approves International Bridge Study

Ten years from now, there may be a bridge across the Rio Grande, between the Bridge of the America's and Mexico's Zaragoza Bridge. El Paso City Council has begun steps to determine the location for a vehicle and pedestrian bridge to alleviate the long wait at the city's port of entry. A tolled bridge is estimated to cost between \$100-\$300 million dollars. (Texas Government Insider, 27 Mar. 2009.)

San Antonio due \$27.1M in military upgrades

Travel I-35 near BAMC & Ft. Sam Houston and you'll see a multitude of trucks, aggregate haulers, cement mixers, cranes, drilling machines and other construction equipment that seems everywhere. Dozens of trucks line up with pre-constructed living units ready to install.

San Antonio bases soon will implement new plans to spend \$27.1 million in new stimulus funds, adding to the already extensive work at BAMC and Ft. Sam Houston. Contractors will be working on projects to repair Randolph Training Command's airfield pavement, repair base roads and water mains and other infrastructure. Lackland AFB will be getting new barracks and lots of roof repairs. You who work at or near Kelly field can expect to watch a new aircraft-hangar and runway being built. (Information source: Texas Government Insider, 27 March, 2009).

IN THE NEWS

Dallas bridge construction project moving forward



The City of Dallas and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have announced plans to move forward with the construction of Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, thanks to a four-year, 404 permit extension, which will allow construction to continue. Construction is expected to be complete by spring 2011.

Portions of the bridge's steel arch and supporting girders have arrived in the Port of Houston from Italy. In the accompanying photo, the first shipment of steel for the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge arrives aboard the *Pantanal*. The bridge, designed by world renowned architect Santiago Calatrava, will feature six lanes connecting Singleton Boulevard to Woodall Rodgers Freeway, a 400-foot central arch pylon, 1,200-foot-long bridge span and more than five miles of supporting cable. (Texas Government Insider, 27 Mar, 2009)

Some Texas Border Ports of Entry to Receive DHS Funding

Two Texas border ports of entry will share more than \$400 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for homeland security projects along the United States-Mexico border. Some \$269 million of that has been set aside for port and infrastructure projects in Los Ebanos and Corpus Christi as well as in Otay Mesa, Antelope Hills, New Mexico, and Nogales, Arizona.

Of that amount, \$42 million will go toward Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment (NIIE), both low energy and large-scale systems that are big enough to scan tractor-trailers, at Southwest border ports of entry. The funding also includes \$50 million in SBInet funding to accelerate deployment of surveillance technology and associated command and control technologies in Arizona, including deployment in Nogales and Sonoita stations, and \$50 million to pay for tactical communications modernization for the El Paso and Rio Grande Valley Sectors TSSU, Port of Houston Authority partner on degree program. (3 Apr. Texas Government Insider).

Maritime Transportation Management and Security Degree Program

Texas Southern University is teaming up with the Port of Houston Authority (PHA) for a new degree program in Maritime Transportation Management and Security. The program - the first of its kind at any Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the country - will address three imperative national transportation needs: logistics, security and environmental matters. PHA has committed \$2 million to the project over the course of the next two years, much of it going to recruit students and develop the program. Students will have opportunities for cutting-edge, relevant academic programs that speak to the real needs of future job markets. (Information from *Texas Government Insider*, April 17, 2009)

Tandem Lifts Allowed

Maritime terminal operators can now vertically lift two empty containers, one on top of the other as of April 9. The rule, published Dec. 10 in the *Federal Register*, is a revision to the marine terminals standard and parts of the longshoring standard (29 CFR Parts 1917 and 1917). The change permits use of semiautomatic twistlocks for a vertical tandem lift of 2 empty containers as long as certain safeguards are strictly followed. (*Safety and Health*, February 2009.)

IN THE NEWS

Free Trade Alliance to Launch Cross Border Trucking Coalition

The Free Trade Alliance is making an effort to launch a group called the Cross Border Trucking Coalition. The coalition is expected to be comprised of companies, industry organizations, trade associations, and business chambers that support trade, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and cross-border trucking efforts, projects and programs throughout the United States and Mexico.

This bold move by the FTA is in response to the U.S.DOT's cancellation of its Cross Border Trucking Demonstration Project, then, Mexico responded with new tariffs on U.S. goods. These actions are heavily affecting the U.S. agriculture and industrial sectors, the FTA says. As we know, current law allows Mexican trucking companies to only travel within a 25-mile commercial zone north of the U.S.-Mexico border before drivers submit their trailers to customs and inspections.

The Free Trade Alliance is a public-private partnership with the mission to develop and enhance the international trade-related economic development of San Antonio and the region through foreign investment, trade development and advocacy. (Source: PhiniseeTamarind, in *San Antonio Business Journal Online*, Kent Krauss, Ed. April 20, 2009).

Crash-warning Systems are Field Tested

The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute is field-testing an integrated crash-warning system in commercial trucks. Ann Arbor, MI –based Con-way Freight is participating in an integrated vehicle-based safety system program under an agreement with DOT. According to the April 2009 edition of SAFETY-HEALTH (p.35) the technology uses “inertial, video and radar sensors, and [GPS] to make drivers aware of their vehicle’s surroundings and warn...of roadway hazards and potential collision risks.”

Piracy on the High Seas

High drama in April as *Mearsk Alabama* was attacked and ship’s Captain Richard Philips was rescued by the U.S. Navy Seals and the USS *Bainbridge* over Easter weekend. The U.S. and France were immediate targets in the succeeding week. Since then, piracy is “the” topic around the world as threats to shipping traffic continue to escalate. Recently, James Caponiti, acting deputy administrator for the Maritime Administration told members of Congress on February 4, that in 2008, 42 vessels were seized by pirates operating off the coast of Somalia, and globally, 889 mariners were held hostage. Ship seizures resulted in 11 murders and 21 missing persons who are presumed dead, according to the International Maritime Bureau. (*Safety-Health*, April 2009, p34)

Congressman Cuellar, TxDOT Announce \$12 Million to Expand Loop 1604

Washington, DC - Congressman Henry Cuellar, together with officials from the Texas Department of Transportation, announced April 14 that more than \$12 million in funding will be available for the widening of Loop 1604 between FM 78 and Graytown Road. The major new funding will create jobs throughout the San Antonio area, ease traffic, and support economic growth. Of the \$12 million, \$8 million are making its way as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 passed recently by Congress, while \$4 million are being sent from the state. The expansion is expected to relieve traffic congestion on Loop 1604 at Rocket Lane and Lower Seguin Road.

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**SAN ANTONIO TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
2009 BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

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MAY 18TH**