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**Inside this issue:**

Message from President	2
Port of CC Rail Interchange	3
Tax Rebates Lower than in 2008	3
Scholarship Summary	3
Biden: High Speed Rail Funding	4
New Member!	4
NO to Cyclist Safe-Passing Rule	4
Celebrate the 4th at Ft. Sam Natl. Cemetery	4
<b>GENERAL BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ</b> Essay	5-6
Historical Events in July	7
Upcoming Events	7

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# San Antonio Transportation Association

Proud to be a member of the  
Transportation Clubs International



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## NO MEETING IN JULY!

**August Guest Speaker:** Gordon Hartman,  
CEO of the Gordon Hartman Foundation

**Topic:** Morgan's Wonderland

### NICKEL PRESENTERS

"A wealth of information for a nickel's worth of time!"  
TBA

### RESERVATIONS

Naturally, reservations are very much appreciated but not mandatory.

Go To: [reservations@satrans.org](mailto:reservations@satrans.org). or call Lynn at 210-337-9101



VISA, MasterCard or Discovery Card may be used for dues, luncheons, and Scholarship fund-raisers.

### First Support Wins Lackland AFB VOM Contract

We extend congratulations to *First Support Services*, together with Rubin's Fleet Services of Corpus Christi, Texas which was recently awarded a contract for aircrew and taxi support at Lackland Air Force Base. First Support is based in Dallas and has over 25 years in providing a broad array of services from vehicle operations and maintenance services, vehicle fleet management, logistics support services, transportation and maintenance services, communications and facility management service. The company's web address is: <http://www.firstsupportservices.com>. Perhaps they would like to join our association?

## Message From The President

Hopefully everybody knows by now we will not be meeting in July. Our next meeting will be in August. Get ready for a great 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2009 at SATA. It will be full of interesting speakers at our lunches, our fall golf outing will return, and another bowling tournament will be scheduled. Don't miss out on all the fun!

I want everyone to congratulate our new member to your Board of Directors: Terry Warth, Vice President of C.B. Richard Ellis. You may have met Terry at our meetings. He has graciously volunteered to serve and the Board unanimously appointed him to join them in helping run our great organization. Terry takes the place of Bill Lucas, who due to business and personal commitments couldn't continue in this role. We will still see Bill at our lunches and when you do, please take time to say thank you for all the many years of service to our group, including 2 years as SATA President.

As July 4<sup>th</sup> approaches, most of us are making plans to be with friends and family. Maybe we'll be at the beach, or floating down a cool Texas river, or perhaps just enjoying a good ol' backyard barbeque. Hopefully we might take a moment or two and think about the wonderful country we live in and thank those who made possible all that we have.

I was recently reading the Gettysburg Address, the famous speech by Abraham Lincoln. He was dedicating a cemetery there in the aftermath of a bloody battle which turned the tide in the Civil War. Even though that speech is known for its brevity, I'd like to quote the end of the

President's remarks:

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

These were powerful words indeed. We should all think from time to time about how we can individually be "dedicated to the great task remaining before us...."

Meanwhile, enjoy your summer days and have fun. I look forward to seeing everyone in August.

—Nick Wingerter



## Port of Corpus Christi Moves on Rail Interchange Yard

The commissioner of the Port of Corpus Christi recently authorized up to \$275,000 to pay a design firm to produce detailed design drawings and bidding documents for a new rail interchange yard.

The new interchange yard is part of the port's \$23 million to \$29 million Northside Rail Master Plan. The design docu-

ments for the new rail interchange yard will take about 60 to 90 days to be completed.

Port officials plan to request funding for the project from the Texas Department of Transportation, which is expected to distribute about \$1.5 billion in stimulus funds soon. Port officials also plan to replace the old interchange yard

near the Tule Lake Lift Bridge with a new Viola Channel Rail Interchange Yard in early 2010, along with improvements to the Sunside Rail and two railroad bridges between Corpus Christi and Houston as part of the Rail Master Plan. (Strategic Partnerships, *Texas Government Insider*, 6/12/09)

## Tax Rebates Lower Than In 2008

The State of Texas sent the City of San Antonio a tax rebate of \$16.3 million for this month, a 0.75 percent drop from last year's number. Bexar County's rebate for June was 18.3 million, a decline of 0.19 percent compared with June 2008. And San Antonio's **VIA Metropolitan Transit** system received a rebate of \$7.3 million, a 0.55 percent decline from last June's mark. In addition, the state's 10 local transit systems, among which is **VIA**, received a total of \$100.4 million in sales tax allocations in June, down 6 percent compared to the same month last year. (Source: San Antonio Biz Journals.com (6/12/09))

## Scholarship Committee Summary

For eighty-nine years, the San Antonio Transportation Association has been true to its mission in supporting education of its members and their children. It's been my observation over these last five years to that almost every SATA scholar was a beneficiary of their *own* dad or mom's generosity. These members had given (and still do) of their time and talents, serving the club as they headed committees, arranged bowling

and golf tournaments, worked fund-raisers, donated door prizes (oh, for those SPURS game tickets!) and golf tournament prizes, prepared and distributed newsletters and directories, served on the board of directors, enlisted speakers, generated great ideas and personally bought loads of scholarship raffle tickets.

Before her retirement, Ada Geneva chaired the scholarship committee for many years

and often expressed how gratifying it was to make the awards. She was right! From 2006 to the present, SATA has awarded 21 scholarships totaling \$24,332, including the Paul Rhoades Memorial Scholarships reserved for those enrolled in logistics and transportation programs. The 2009 Scholarship Committee extends thanks every one of you for your support.

-Sue

## Biden: High-Speed Rail Funding Expected Late This Summer

Funding for high-speed trains from the federal economic stimulus bill will be made in installments - with the first installment expected late this summer. The first payments of \$8 billion in stimulus funds were discussed by Vice President Joe Biden at a meeting with state governors recently. These trains can travel at speeds of up to 150 miles per hour.

Guidelines [were] expected to be issued to the states by the federal government by June 17 relating to how the funds will be awarded. The first installment will be used to improve systems where work could begin quickly with measurable results. There are 10 corridors identified as potential high-speed rail routes that could participate in the funding allocations. The president

also has asked for an additional \$5 billion in high-speed rail funding in the federal budget.

A high-speed rail system, officials say, would reduce both highway and air traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and reduce energy usage, thus reducing dependence on foreign energy sources. A nationwide system of linked rail corridors is expected to be released by mid-October as part of a national rail plan. Biden said a national effort to build high-speed rail lines could have as big an effect on transportation as did building the interstate highway network. Governors from 23 states, including Texas, participated in the meeting. (From: Strategic Partnerships, State and Local Government Pipeline, June 10, 2009)

### New Member!

Welcome our newest member, **Blake Baumann**, a consultant with Vertical Alliance Group, 618 Gaylon St, Copperas Cove, TX. 76522.

Blake can be reached at 254-542-3365. His Fax is 254-542-3365. E-mail is: [bbaumann@verticalag.com](mailto:bbaumann@verticalag.com).

### NO to Cyclist's Safe-Passing Rule

The SA Express News reported on 6/20 that Governor Perry nixed the Safe-Passing bill that would require motorists to give at least three feet of clearance to cyclists and vulnerable road users. SATA supports common courtesy and common sense. ALL road users need to drive defensively ALL the time.

### Celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

**The Granaderos and Damas de Gálvez** invite you to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Independence Day Patriotic Ceremony at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery to honor our country's founding. The program will open with a wreath-laying ceremony. Featured will be Mark Collins as General George Washington on horseback (He portrayed GW

on the PBS televised series, *The Revolution*.) There will be a roll call of the thirteen colonies, complete with musket volleys and fife & drum music. David Hall will present pealing interludes from his replica of the Liberty Bell. Finally a 21-gun salute by the Military Services Detachment by of the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery and

Taps by Ray Gutierrez, Texas Commander of Bugles Across America. This stirring program will begin at 10:00 and end at 11:00 on Saturday July 4. Truly a meaningful patriotic celebration and one you will not soon forget. Bring your school age kids! ([www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org))



General Bernardo de Galvez  
(Encyclopedia Britannica)

## GENERAL BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ: A Hero Remembered

Susan D' Ambrosio, Editor

*"Through the years, Hispanic American citizens have risen to the call of duty in defense of liberty and freedom. Their bravery is well known and has been demonstrated time and again, dating back to the aid rendered by General Bernardo de Gálvez during the American Revolution". —President Ronald Reagan*

When I received the invitation to participate in the *Granaderos & Damas de Gálvez* ceremony at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, I linked into Robert Thonhoff's work, *The Vital Contribution of Spain in the Winning of the American Revolution: An Essay on a Forgotten Chapter in the History of the American Revolution*. ([www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org).)

I was astonished. And humbled, even embarrassed. I taught American History in an earlier career. I'd never in twenty years taught about Bernardo de Gálvez, nor do I recall contemplating the logistics involved in conducting that war or what happened on the western and southern fronts. I took it for granted. Bob Thonhoff has sparked a renewed interest in that struggle from oppression.

Many of the first fighters in the American Revolution carried their own guns, leftovers from the French and Indian War; some showed up with the family blunderbuss. Given that beginning, what hope did Washington's Continentals have to win independence? We learned that France and Spain gave the fledgling American effort support, but what does that mean to the trucker on his way to Texarkana or the shipper in San Antonio today? Logistics and transportation professionals greet the challenges of getting supplies to our troops every day. Now, picture what it was like in 1776-81—poor or no roads & bridges; hand carried communiqués; a dearth of industry and few American firearms or food producers on a scale equal to the need.

To begin with, in 1776, Texas was part of *Nueva España*. New Spain included present-day Southwestern United States, Mexico, Central America (except Panama), the Caribbean, and the Philippines. Bernardo de Gálvez governed the Texas Territory, an area that included nearly all the land west of the Mississippi plus New Orleans.

Ben Franklin was in France raising support for the American cause. Trade was restricted. Our eastern seaboard was patrolled and then blockaded by the Royal Navy. Washington's men were in desperate need of arms and supplies. However, it was Spain and the Count of Aranda who sent 12,000 muskets to General Washington at his headquarters near Boston (Thonhoff, p 2). An ah-ha moment...Patriots got the muskets to fight the Redcoats from Spain!

Franklin enlisted the Spanish firm of Jose Gardoqui and Sons to ship, "215 bronze cannon, 4,000 field tents, 12,826 grenades, 30,00 bayonets, 30,000 uniforms, 51,314 musket balls and 300,000 pounds of gunpowder from a French port by way of Bermuda to Boston" (p 2). Spain also provided almost eight million *reales* (currency) (p 4) with which all types of supplies were purchased and sent by way of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to General Washington and George Rogers Clark.

King Carlos (Charles) III declared war on Britain June 21, 1779. Immediately, the 33-year old governor and General, Bernardo de Gálvez, began a military campaign against the British in the Gulf of Mexico. Gálvez quickly raised a navy and an army. His forces engaged and defeated the British at Manchac, Baton Rouge, and Natchez in 1779; Mobile in 1780; and Pensacola in 1781. They secured the upper Mississippi and Ohio rivers by defeating the British at San Luís (St. Louis, Missouri) and San José (St Joseph, Michigan) they fought alongside George Rogers Clark at Vincennes, Indiana, and Kaskaskia and Cahokia in Illinois. American and French privateers sought refuge in and /or took their captured prizes to the Spanish controlled ports in Caribbean and to New Orleans, even as his navy defeated the British in the Bahamas (p.3).

*Continued on next page...*



To feed his men, Gálvez purchased about 9,000 head of Texas cattle from ranchers and missions in the San Antonio River Valley (*Surprise!*) during the war. The animals were trailed by Texas ranchers and escorted by Spanish Texas soldiers to his men campaigning in Louisiana and Florida. He supplied his cavalry and artillery with several hundred head of Texas horses (p.3). It is left to my imagination how they moved all that livestock. Were longhorns and horses herded to some point, and then transported in part by some type of watercraft? Given the terrain around San Antonio Bay or almost any point in the Coastal Bend area, it makes one pause...how would you have done it? (The San Antonio River was first documented by Cabeza de Vaca in 1535 and it was named in 1691, so, I'd guess Governor Gálvez had many maps of the area when he developed his strategy. Spain introduced cattle and horses into area more than a century before!)

Gálvez possessed exceptional foresight, common sense, and strong logistics and diplomatic capabilities. For example, the French fleet was under Gálvez's command during a two month siege of Fort George in Pensacola in the spring of 1781. After their victory, he dismissed the French and provided a half -million pesos—from tax monies collected throughout *Nueva España*—to French Admiral Comte de Grasse who re-provisioned his fleet in Havana and then sailed north, arriving just in time to help Washington bring about the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown (p 3).

At war's end, the American Congress commended General Bernardo de Gálvez for his heroic aid and statesmanship in America's struggle for independence. On June 21, 1785, he succeeded his recently deceased father, Matias de Gálvez, in Mexico City as the Viceroy of *Nueva España*. Regrettably, in the fall of 1786 the much loved and talented leader succumbed to illness in an epidemic in Mexico City at age 40.

On April 23, 1789, the *Galveztown*, a Spanish warship and the only foreign ship in New York Harbor, was the first to salute General Washington as he made his way to his inauguration. Standing at Washington's side at the presidential inaugural parade was Spain's first ambassador to the United States, Diego de Gar-doqui (p.5). Certainly, these honors demonstrated the warm, mutual regard between George Washington and Spain.

When we consider the meaning of Independence Day this year, we might recall the munificent leadership of Bernardo de Gálvez, hero, statesman, and logistician, without whose assistance our history would be very different. There is so much more to the story, I hope you'll read Thonhoff's brief essay at [www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org). While there, take a look at the map for the cattle trail indicated by the dotted line.

References: Ronald Reagan quotation accessed at [www.granaderos.org](http://www.granaderos.org) 6/18/ 2009

Thonhoff, Robert H. 2006. Karnes City Texas. *The Vital Contribution of Spain in the Winning of the American Revolution: An Essay on a Forgotten Chapter in the History of the American Revolution*. demonstrated the warm, mutual regard between George Washington and Spain.

### Selected Historical Events in July

#### July is named for Julius Caesar.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> in 1863, the 3-day battle of Gettysburg began.

2<sup>nd</sup>, 1957-The USS Seawolf Submarine with a liquid cooled reactor, launched.

The VA was founded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1930.

4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, The Declaration of Independence was signed.

The 6<sup>th</sup>, 1933- the 1<sup>st</sup> All-star baseball game was played in Chicago.

10<sup>th</sup>, 1940 - the Battle for Britain began.

11<sup>th</sup> 1955, -the USAF Academy was dedicated.

15<sup>th</sup>, 1916 - the Boeing Company founded in Seattle.

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1935 - the first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City, OK.

20<sup>th</sup>, 1969- Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1942- Navy's 1<sup>st</sup> squadron of jet fighters formed at Quonset Pt., R.I.

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, 1814-George Stephenson demonstrates the first steam locomotive.

29<sup>th</sup>, 1914-The first transcontinental telephone conversation- New York to San Francisco.

And, on the 28<sup>th</sup> in 1935- The 1<sup>st</sup> successful flight of a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress-they were flown by U.S. and British Air Forces in WWII.

### Upcoming Events

**July 1:** No business meeting in July

**July 4:** Please, fly your flag in honor of our Declaration of Independence, as well as for the Service Men and Women who have fought for it!

**Aug 5:** Luncheon and Board Meeting; Mr. Gordon Hartman will be our guest speaker

**Sept 2:** TBA-Pending Confirmation

**Oct 7:** SATA-Mike Dominguez, VIA

**Nov 4:** SATA-Judge Nelson Wolff

**Dec 2:** SATA-Blue Santa and Chief McManus



**A Happy Independence Day to All!**

**Remember our Veteran's!**