



www.satrans.org

Inside this issue:

Message from President	2
Speaker Bio	3
Put in the newsletter...	3
Labatt Food Service...	4
H-E-B Disaster Relief	4
Hurricane Info Access	4
DPS preparing for 7th Diamond Jubilee...	5
Stimulus funds for Ft. Worth rail intersection	6
Free Trade Alliance Program	6
Emergency Mgmt Training Opportunities	7
Fit For Work Offers Training	7
Calendar & Events	8

Sue D'Ambrosio, Editor
sdambrosio@satx.rr.com

Dave Katz ,
Contributing Editor
katzd@kci1.com

Lori Hill,
Desktop Publishing & Postal Distribution
lori@angelservices.net

John Williams,
Electronic Distribution
jwilliams@bexartrailer.com

San Antonio Transportation Association



Proud to be a member of the
Transportation Clubs International

Volume 11, Issue 8

August 2010

Monthly Meeting — August

When: Wednesday, August 4, 2010
11:30 – 1:00

Where: The Barn Door
8400 N. New Braunfels

Lunch: Grilled Pork Chops

Cost: \$20 for members and guests
\$15 for students with proof of registration

Guest Speaker: Mr. Michael Harris, Generation Performance Manager, CPS

Topic: CPS behind the Scenes



NICKEL PRESENTERS

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

RESERVATIONS

Naturally, reservations are very much appreciated but not mandatory.
Bring a friend or associate!

Contact Lynn

Simply click here: reservations@satrans.org. Alternatively, phone Lynn at 210-337-9101

VISA, MasterCard or Discovery Card



Message From The President

The Dog Days of Summer. I trust that your Fourth of July was safe and full of meaning. If you are like me, you are wondering where this year has gone. We are beginning the 8th (yes, 8th month!) of the year. There are only 146 shopping days until Christmas. Hallmark has already set out their Christmas ornaments for Pete's sake.

There is plenty to read about in the news. Thank goodness, there is progress in controlling the blown oil well in the gulf and soon they will be able to work at the long and painful process of cleaning the awful mess that it has caused. Our hearts go out to all who have been and will continue to suffer the effects of this catastrophe.

Also in the gulf news is a very active hurricane season. However, the effects were small here in San Antonio, the flooding and damage felt in south Texas and Mexico from hurricane Alex were great. There are still roads and bridges out causing delays and problems with freight into and out of Mexico. The economy continues to sputter, spin, and try to get back on track.

What is on track and destined for great things is the San Antonio Transportation Association. The fun starts with our August meeting and guest speaker Michael Harris P.E. with CPS. We will have more interesting and informative speakers in the months to follow with information you will want to know. We are making plans for our next golf tournament in October. It will be here before we know it. We will be announcing another bowling night in the coming months as well. Both events directly contribute to the SATA Scholarship fund – your generosity and participation is always appreciated.

We encourage you to brave the south Texas heat and come join us at 11:30 am on Wednesday, August 4th at the Barn Door. The air-conditioning will be doing its thing, the iced tea will be flowing and it is your chance to share a great meal and conversation with your friends and colleagues. Bring a friend and we look forward to seeing you!



—Allen Nace

“Put it in the Newsletter”

We encourage members to utilize the SATA Newsletter. Whether you need to hire, have a new location, or your company has won recognition, we will happily help you spread the word. Perhaps your company offers workshops or training or other opportunities that could benefit your fellow SATA members, the SATA Newsletter is a resource for you. It is online at www.satrans.org, thereby making it accessible to all members of Transportation Clubs International, as well.

Michael Harris - Generations Performance Manager, CPS Energy

Michael Harris is a professional mechanical engineer with a 23-year history at CPS Energy. During that time, he has developed expertise in the power plant, power plant efficiency testing, power plant project engineering and downtown energy marketing. In all, he has a good idea of what goes on behind the scenes.

Mr. Harris is not your buttoned-down speaker with dozens of power point slides. His casual style will draw us into an array of topics--from getting the coal to the plant and aspects of coal power, natural gas, combined cycle plants, gas turbines and nuclear wind, solar and landfill gas. He may have time to tell us about some "weirder stuff," like energy storage with compressed gas in underground geological formations, not to mention the good, the bad and otherwise of the envi-

ronmental movement.

Michael Harris, C.P.E grew up in San Antonio and graduated from UT, Austin. He has offered ten random facts about himself. (1) Eagle Scout (2) All State Band (3) Worship Leader (4) Former President of American Society of Mechanical Engineers, San Antonio Section (5) Board Member of SACCESS [San Antonio Council for Cooperation of Engineering and Scientific Societies] (6) Member, San Antonio Torch Club (7) Direct descendant of Mr. James Power, signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence (8) Plays the clarinet, saxophone, recorder, and bass guitar (9) Member, Board of Advisors, UTSA Department of Mechanical Engineering (10) Speaks and reads several languages (English, Spanish, French, Russian). Welcome, Mike!

A Moment with Dave Katz, an Op-Ed *BP Empathy*

I am empathic with BP about the oil spill, almost. Certainly, no one is gaining from the spill from a human, economic, political or public relations standpoint. I think BP is working hard, with one exception. It was stated that no contingency plans were made because this had never happened before. Maybe not to BP.

Does anyone remember Sedco 135F in the Bay of Campeche on June 3, 1979? Drilling at 1.3 miles, they had a blow out that was estimated to have released 3 million gallons. What 30 years and Mexico make!

Mexico and the world survived, and we will survive this one too, I suspect. With what BP's margins are, would it not be interesting to let BP make the rules and diddle with the operations of the US government instead of visa versa? Just my thoughts.

Dave Katz, August 2010

IN THE NEWS

Labatt Food Service Inc. has landed a \$13.7 million contract to distribute food to five military bases in Texas and Oklahoma.

The contract is the fifth such military contract secured by the San Antonio-based food distribution company since the spring of last year. Its military contracts are now worth a total of \$50 million, according to government officials. Labatt has 250 employees in San Antonio and is the largest food distributor in the Southwest. The company also has a distribution center in Dallas.

In addition to its current prime-vendor food-distribution contracts for all five San Antonio-area military facilities, Goodfellow AFB, Dyess AFB and Fort Hood, under the new contract Labatt will also distribute to Fort Sill and Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma; Tinker and Sheppard Air Force bases in Texas; and the Dallas-Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, also in Texas. Their contract's duration is one year.

("Labatt Food Service lands \$13.7 million military pact" San Antonio Business Journal online, Kent Krauss, editor. 7/20/2010).

Mr. Blair Labatt is our scheduled guest speaker in November. Mark your calendar!



Here Everything's Better.™

H-E-B Responds with Disaster Relief

As Hurricane Alex was hitting South Texas and Northern Mexico in early July, the H.E. Butt Grocery chain had deployed its Disaster Response Unit to Laredo to provide emergency relief in anticipation of the flooding of the Rio Grande River.

The Disaster Response Unit is a self-contained trailer with a diesel generator. Two water tankers and the H-E-B Eddie Garcia Mobile Kitchen, which can serve approximately 2,200 meals per hour, accompanied it. The company delivered 88 pallets of gallon drinking water containers to the food bank in Acuna, Mexico, (11,672 total gallons of water) and donated 300 cases of H-E-B Corn Flake Cereal boxes that the grocer helped distribute to the community.

San Antonio-based H-E-B is one of the largest independent grocery chains in the United States. The company has stores in more than 150 communities in Texas and Mexico.

(Source: SA Business Journal. Kent Krauss, Ed. 9 July 2010.)

Hurricane Information Access

Hurricanes directly affect our business. The **TXDoT Government and Public Affairs** office has a comprehensive hurricane preparedness section on their website, www.txdot.gov. You can find information on road conditions and evacuation procedures, as well as links to other agencies that carry information on local conditions including www.texasonline.com (<http://www.texasonline.com/>). Regional maps online show evacuation routes, all accessible on the Web at TxDOT's site, www.txdot.gov.

IN THE NEWS

DPS Preparing for the 7th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary

Events will kick off with 13-day motorcycle ride across Texas to six agency facilities. July 25th



through August 6, about three dozen motorcyclists will participate in various stages of a 13-day tour of Texas with stops at each of the

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Regional Headquarters facilities. It is the start of the 75th Diamond Jubilee anniversary celebration of the state's law enforcement agency.

The Texas Department of Public Safety was established in 1935 when the motor officers of the State Highway Patrol were combined with the Texas Rangers. In the accompanying photo, depicts an early day motor officer exiting his motorcycle to talk to a motorist.

Although the actual date of the 75th anniversary of the agency is not until Aug. 10, the celebra-

tion will begin with the motorcycle ride. The ride participants will carry with them a DPS Diamond Jubilee flag that will fly at each regional HQ celebration. The riders also will carry with them uniform items from two motor Patrol officers who graduated in the 1930s State Highway Patrol academy class, one of the items from Arthur Fischer, the first Texas Highway Patrolman killed in the line of duty. The ride will both pay tribute to the agency and honor those officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.



The motorcyclists will leave Austin's DPS Headquarters on Sunday, July 25, and after stops at the various regional HQ's, will gather in San Antonio on Thursday Aug. 5. The 75th Anniversary tour will conclude at Austin's DPS Headquarters on Friday, Aug. 6. (Source: Texas Government Insider, Volume 8, Issue 28 - Friday, July 16.)

Door Prize Donations Needed



A big Thanks to our June Contributors. We hope everyone will remember to bring a door prize for our August meeting. As I write this, we are exactly one month into summer! (7/21) It is my hope all the back-to-school advertising will prompt you to think of our scholarship program raffle.

IN THE NEWS

State to seek \$58.4M in stimulus funds for Ft. Worth rail intersection

Officials of the Texas Transportation Commission and the Regional Transportation Council recently agreed to seek \$58.4 million in federal stimulus funds to pay for improving a freight rail intersection in Fort Worth. The T, the Fort Worth transit agency, has agreed to contribute \$2.5 million to the \$94 million rail project.

The freight rail intersection, known as Tower 55, is where the Union Pacific Railroad, the Fort Worth-based BNSF Railroad and Amtrak trains all cross, often resulting in long waits for trains to cross over the tracks. The rail intersection project is a priority because upgrading the intersection could speed shipments of vital goods throughout the state, lower business costs and keep more trucks off state highways, said Bill Meadows of the Texas Transportation Commission.

Plans call for adding additional tracks to allow about 40 more trains to use the intersection daily, up from the 100 trains that now cross through the intersection each day, transportation officials said. (Texas Government Insider, Strategic Partnerships. 19 Jul 2010)

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Free Trade Alliance Program

The San Antonio Free Trade Alliance and Mexico Group 2010 invite you to attend their upcoming program entitled: "**The Impact of Mexico's Recent Mid-Term Elections and the Road to the 2012 Presidential Election.**" **Dr. Mario Melgar Adalid, Featured Columnist at Excelsior & Of-Counsel Attorney, Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton of San Antonio, TX, will present the program.**

DATE: Friday, August 13, 2010

Time: 7:30-9:00am

Place: Burton Grossman International Center at the University of the Incarnate Word Campus, 847 E. Hildebrand Ave. in San Antonio.

FEE: Free to members and \$10 to prospective members.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Emergency Management Training Opportunities

Mark Chadwick, Training Officer for the San Antonio Office of Emergency Management is offering training in preparation for potential emergencies. Following is the training schedule. All of these courses are free of charge. Complete online registration at www.preparingtexas.org.

Programs:

August 19, 2010: **Private Sector Counter Terrorism**

August 24-26, 2010: **Preparing the States: Implementing Continuity of Operations (COOP)**

Participants can choose to opt for certification, allowing them to train members of their own organization.

September 28, 2010: **All Hazards Community Awareness and Partnership Training**

October 20-21, 2010 **Public Information in a WMD/Terrorism**

Contact Mark Chadwick, Training Officer, San Antonio Office of Emergency Management. PO Box 35488, San Antonio, TX 78235-0488. Voice: 210.206.8688; FAX: 210.206.8570; E-

Mail: mark.chadwick@sanantonio.gov. Web Site: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/emergency/>

FIT FOR WORK Offers Training

An invitation from SATA member, Gary Masters at Fit for Work.

Company directors, supervisors, managers, and HR, need to be on top of OSHA record-keeping requirements. Whether employees charged with this task are new on the job or have been at it awhile, this is a great orientation or refresher opportunity. Participants will learn about and understand the purpose of OSHA's general recording criteria.

This four-hour course will educate your team with proper calculation of injury and illness trends.

WHEN: August 6, 2010; 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: FIT for WORK Corporate Office, 8930 Four Winds Drive, Suite 101, San Antonio, TX 78239. 210.495.8788.

COURSE FEE: \$150.00 per person; Three for \$300.00.*

RSVP to reserve your seat: training@wellworkforce.com

* - The three persons must all be from the same organization

For further information and other training opportunities, contact Gary Masters at info@wellworkforce.com or call him at 210-422-1800.

THE CALENDAR

August Calendar

August's mostly logistics- related, selected events in history.

The first week of August roars in with the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. Thinking of Sturgis, I recall *Botticelli's*, a cozy *ristorante italiano* on Main Street in Rapid City. I mention this because a few members have visited Italy in the last few years, and because August is, among other things, National Panini Month! August 5 is International Beer Day!

On **August 1st, 1902**: US buys the rights to Panama Canal from France; the first Jeep is produced in **1941** and, in **2007** the I-35W Mississippi River Bridge spanning the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota, collapses during the evening rush hour. **3rd, 1981**: Air Controllers strike and President Reagan fires them. **4th, 1790**: Coast Guard had its beginnings as Revenue Cutter Service. **5th, 1914**: the first electric traffic lights installed, in Cleveland, OH. **6th & 9th, 1945**: U.S. drops Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The **6th** is David Robinson's 44th Birthday. **11th, 1998**: British Petroleum buys Amoco for \$49 billion. **12th, 1992**. The US, Mexico and Canada complete negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement. **15th, 1914**: The cargo ship *Ancon* is the first to sail through the Panama Canal. **17th, 1896**: The Klondike Gold Rush begins. **21st, 1959**: Hawaii becomes 50th State and in **1945**, President Truman signs a bill ending the Lend-Lease program that shipped some \$50 billion in aid to American Allies during WWII. **24th, 79 AD**: Mt. Vesuvius erupts and buries Herculaneum and Pompeii, killing over 20,000 people. **25th, 1950**: Harry Truman orders the Army to seize the railroads to avert a strike. **28th, 1963**: Martin Luther King delivers "I have a dream" speech in Washington, DC. Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast in **2005**. **29th, 1885**: Gottlieb Daimler awarded the first patent for a motorcycle. **30th, 1956**: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway opens.

Upcoming events

Aug 4—Scheduled speaker; Michael Harris, PE, CPS Energy

Aug 19—Counter-terrorism Workshop (see article above)

Sep 1— Ms. Tina Markezinis with Maersk, Inc

Oct 6 — Nick Wingerter: "CSA 2010 - USDOT's New Truck Safety Program"

Nov 3 — Blair Labatt III & Tony Canty, CIO. Labatt Foodservice, "Mistake-proofing orders"

Dec 1—Scheduled SAPD Deputy Chief Jeff Humphrey, head of the Traffic Division/ Blue Santa

Happy Birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard!!



*Remember to
Thank All Our
Men and Women in Uniform,
Serving their Country
and Communities!*