Highlight: November 2003 RMC Meetings

The November Research Management Committee Meetings are scheduled for November 3-6, 2003, at the Red Lion Hotel in Austin.

RMC meeting start times are as follows:

RMC 1 - Wednesday Nov 5, 2003 - 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Nov 6, 2003 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 2 - Monday Nov 3, 2003 - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday Nov 4, 2003 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 3 - Monday November 3, 2003 - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday November 4, 2003 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 4 - Monday November 3, 2003 - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday November 4, 2003 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 5 - Wednesday November 5, 2003 - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday November 6, 2003 - 8:00 a.m.

Agendas will be distributed at a later date.

According to TxDOT hotel reservations should be made no later than October 10, 2003 by calling (512) 323-5466.

The rate is $80.00 for a single and $110.00 for a double sleeping room. To receive the contracted rate, please identify yourself as attending the Texas Department of Transportation RMC Meeting.

(Continued on page 2)

Ed’s Notes

As you can see, we’re making some changes to our newsletter. The most obvious is that we’ll be experimenting with a more traditional newsletter look and feel. With all the software tools in the marketplace, it is time to get current.

Another change is that I’ll be more involved with the newsletter (read that as “taking a turn”). In order to do this effectively, Lisa Palmer will be coordinating content from within TOG.

I encourage any of you to write a hundred words or so and transmit them along. If you want to highlight a project or an event, please do so. A dozen sentences is all we need to make a story.

We’d also like to feature more photos. So send JPEG files! I know there are some shutterbugs in TOG.

Ed Seymour
Relentless in Seattle

TOG was well represented at the Institute of Transportation Engineers 2003 Annual Meeting in Seattle in August.

Cool temperatures (in the '50s) were welcomed by all the Texans and the conference offered many opportunities for assimilation of technical information and for visiting old friends in the profession. Technical presenters or panel moderators included: Kay Fitzpatrick, Beverly Kuhn, Grant Schultz, Srinivasa Sunkari, Gary Thomas, and Zong Tian. Others attending and participating in committee meetings included Larry Rilett, Ed Seymour, and Curtis Herrick. Jim Carvell also attended the ITE International Board Meetings, where he represented District 9, TexITE.

Also in the proximity of the Pacific Northwest, Montasir Abbas attended the TRB Signal system committee summer meeting held in Portland, Oregon on July 27-29. Montasir gave two presentations at the conference entitled "Detection Design-The Research Perspective," and "Hardware-in-the-Loop Research Applications at TTI." In addition, Montasir substituted for Roelof Engelbrecht and gave a presentation entitled "Framework for Hardware-in-the-Loop."

November RMC

(Continued from page 1)

Hotel information:
Red Lion Hotel
6121 IH-35 @ Hwy 290
Austin, Texas 78752
(512) 323-5466

Star Wars the films:
Good Guys like Luke Skywalker
move left-to-right ---->
Bad Guys like Darth Vader
move right-to-left<-----

Computer viruses aren’t so obvious!

We have the tools to minimize the impact of these intrusions. Microsoft has published patches that shield our systems from the current pandemic. And our virus software can add a substantial measure of protection.

Please visit TTINet for the latest advice and information on antivirals.

These tools aren’t quite an army of benevolent clone troopers, but they could help save our Republic.

Where’s Yoda when you need him?

Welcome Back

TOG would like to welcome back Edward Brackin. Air Force Master Sergeant Edward has spent the past 8 months on deployment in the Armed Forces, first in Kuwait, then stateside.

Edward returned to work at TTI on August 18th. The entire TOG family would like to thank Edward for his service and celebrate his safe return home.

We have the tools to minimize the impact of these intrusions. Microsoft has published patches that shield our systems from the current pandemic. And our virus software can add a substantial measure of protection.

Please visit TTINet for the latest advice and information on antivirals.

These tools aren’t quite an army of benevolent clone troopers, but they could help save our Republic.

Where’s Yoda when you need him?

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”
Calvin Coolidge

Thank you Edward.
Birthdays

Sep 04 Penelope Weinberger  
Sep 06 Justice Appiah  
Sep 07 Patricia Johnson  
Sep 12 Michael Perez  
Sep 17 Allison Hardy  
Sep 19 Robert Benz  
Sep 20 Stacey Wayland  
Sep 22 Conrad Dudek  
Sep 22 Diane Fischer  
Sep 23 Garry Ford  
Sep 30 Chi-Leung Chu  
Sep 30 Gene Goolsby  
Sep 30 Leonard Ruback  
Oct 01 Dan Walker  
Oct 11 Omar Mata  
Oct 11 Tim Wolff  
Oct 14 Leslie Thomas  
Oct 17 David Ibanez  
Oct 19 Gene Hawkins  
Oct 19 Charles Stevens  
Oct 20 Seung-Jun Kim  
Oct 20 Brenda Manak  
Oct 27 Srinivasa Sunkari  
Oct 31 Marcus Brewer

Kudos & Congratulations

Congratulations to Dan Middleton on receiving his 20-year TTI service pin. Thanks Dan!

Congratulations go to a number of staff that recently received promotions.

Kevin Balke, Center Director of TransLink, was promoted to Research Engineer. He will continue to use his Center Director title.

Dave Fenno, Houston Office, was promoted to Associate Research Engineer.

Beverly Kuhn, Division Head of the System Management Division, was promoted to Research Engineer. She will continue to use her Division Head title.

Edgar Kraus, San Antonio Office, was promoted to Associate Transportation Researcher.

Bryan Miller, Dallas Office, was promoted to Senior Systems Analyst II.

Larry Rilett, TransLink, was promoted to Professor by the Department of Civil Engineering. He was also promoted to Research Engineer at TTI.

Srinivasa Sunkari, System Monitoring Program, was promoted to Associate Research Engineer.

Mike Vickich, Houston Office, was promoted to Systems Analyst II.

Kudos to Brenda Manak who has done such a great job with the newsletter over the last year! Thank you.

Hello’s

Stacey Wayland joined the Operations and Design Division in August as a Senior Office Assistant. She is located in room 410 of the CE/TTI Building and will be providing assistance to the Work Zone and DMS Program and Signs and Markings Program. She comes to us from the Department of Civil Engineering Undergraduate Office where she worked for 2 years. Stacey has two children; Justin who is 5 years old and just started Kindergarten and Michael who is 5 months old. She and her husband Oscar keep very busy with their active little ones and love to watch them grow. In Stacey’s spare time she enjoys working on jigsaw puzzles and just enjoying life with her family!

Leslie Kacer joined the Center for Professional Development in August as a Research Assistant for the DPC. Leslie, who graduated in August from Texas A&M, has worked as a student worker for DPC for three years. Welcome Leslie!
Goodbyes

The Signs and Markings program recently said goodbye to Tim Gates. Tim wrote the following message.

Hello all,

“As many of you know, Friday August 15th will be my last day at TTI. I will be leaving College Station on Saturday the 16th for Madison, Wisconsin to pursue a PhD in Civil Engineering at the University of Wisconsin. I’ve enjoyed my time at TTI and working with all of you. It’s hard to believe I’ve been here for over three years. It seems like yesterday when I rolled into town from Michigan right in the middle of 30 consecutive days of 100-degree temps!

Please keep in touch and I’m sure I’ll see many of you at TRB. After the 15th and until further notice, please contact me at timothyjgates@hotmail.com and 979-220-1035. My home address will be 8570 Greenway Blvd, Apt 202, Middleton, WI 53562.

Take care, Tim”

Alamo Roulette

Austin Bischoff has moved from 402 to 405M. His new telephone number is 862-4591. Thanks go to SPP&E and Katie Turnbull for loaning the office to Austin since March.

Most of the staff in the San Antonio Offices have swapped locations. The new office assignments are:

1100 NW Loop 410, Suite 460
San Antonio, Texas 78213
(210) 979-9411
(210) 979-9694 Fax

Transportation Operations Group (TOG)

Michael Perez
Kandis Salazar
Steve Venglar
3500 NW Loop 410, Suite 315
San Antonio, Texas 78229
(210) 731-9938
(210) 731-8904 Fax

Natosha Avery
Edgar Kraus
Robert Pina
Cesar Quiroga

The San Antonio Office would like to welcome back Steve Venglar. Steve and his family returned to San Antonio after living in Austin since 1997. Steve will continue to work primarily in the area of operations. Thanks again to SPP&E and Katie Turnbull for working so closely with TOG to make this a smooth transition for everyone!

Calendr of Events

September 30 — US TEA-21 expires
October 13-15 — Transportation Short Course, College Station TX
November 2-5 — Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference, San Antonio TX
November 3-6 — Fall TxDOT RMC Meetings, Austin TX
December 11 — All TTI Day, Brazos Center, Bryan TX

FY 2004 TTI Holidays

November 27-28 — Thanksgiving
December 24 – January 2 — Winter Break
January 19 — Martin Luther King Jr., Day
March 18-19 — Spring Break
May 31 — Memorial Day

Joan Stapp - The Signal Operations Program (FSO) would like to say farewell and best wishes to Joan Stapp. Joan has decided to retire and enjoy life in Caldwell. More changes are in store for Joan — she will be getting married later this winter. Joan has been an Office Assistant with the Transportation Operations Group and the transportation faculty in the Civil Engineering Department since 1982. Thanks, Joan, congratulations and best wishes!

Would the Duke have allowed roulette?