



## 99<sup>th</sup> Annual RTA Conference Schedule

**Manchester Grand Hyatt-San Diego, California - October 30<sup>th</sup> -November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**

### Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

7:00 am **RTA Golf Tournament - Maderas Golf Club**  
*(Top ZAGAT Rated Course in San Diego  
 for 7 years in a row)*

**PLUS...** Additional **Activities** for Attendees

3:00-6:00 pm RTA Guest Sponsored Hospitality Suites  
 5:30-7:00 pm RTA President's Reception



### Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

7:45-8:00 am **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION and WELCOME**

8:00-9:00 am **Economic Session**  
 Tony Hatch, *Rail System Outlook for 2018* - ABH Consulting  
 David Caldwell, *Hardwood Production & Consumption* - HMR

9:00-10:30 am **Procurement Session - "Telling It Like It Is"**  
 Ray Moistner (*Moderator/Presenter*) - Indiana Hardwood Lumber Assn.  
 Brett Franklin, Tri-State Timber  
 David Brazeale, Brazeale Lumber Company  
 Skipper Beal, Beal Lumber Company  
 Geoff Henderson, Anderson-Tully Lumber Co.  
 Henry Christ, Dunaway Timber

10:30 am - Noon **Third Party & RR Quality Control Session** - Stacey McKinney, Moderator  
 Nate Irby, Union Pacific Railroad  
 Brad Crawford, Norfolk Southern  
 Don Guillen, Association of American Railroads  
 Kim Merritt, Southern Pine Inspection Bureau  
 Tad Cleve, Timber Products Inspection

Noon-12:30 pm **Networking and Exhibition BREAK (Lunch Buffet opens at 12:15pm)**

12:30-3:15 pm **RTA Working Luncheon** with Keynote Address  
 Dallin Brooks, Putting Preserved Wood Back on the Forest Products Industry Map  
 Linda Darr, *Outlook for Short Line and Regional RRs* - ASLRRRA

**Regional and Short Line RR Session** - Linda Darr, Moderator (Continuous)  
 Kristine Storm, Genesee & Wyoming  
 Judy Petry, Farmrail  
 Bob Snyder, OmniTrax  
 Alan Matheson, Tacoma Rail  
 Scott Adams, Watco





## RTA 2017 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE ...continued

3:15-5:30pm

**Engineering Forum** (Continuous with 20-23 minute slots)  
*Major Projects on the Drawing Board or Underway*  
Dwight Clark, UPRR and AREMA President  
Carmen Trevizo, TTCl  
John Cech, BNSF (invited)  
Mike Singelyn, Canadian National (invited)  
Tod Echler, CSX (invited)  
Kevin Hicks, UPRR  
TBA, Canadian Pacific (invited)  
**Vendor-mercials: 3-Minute will occur in this session**

7:30-10:00 pm

**Annual RTA Banquet & Awards Ceremony** - Top Gun Theme

### Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

7:45-9:15 am

**Railroad Sustainability, Tie Disposal & Contractor Forum**  
Nathan Joe Loftice, BNSF, Moderator  
David Smat, BNSF  
*Participants Invited Include:*  
Jeff Lloyd, Nisus Corp.  
Jason Feagans, Blackwood Solutions  
Curtis Schopp, National Salvage & Service  
Richard Carney, Railworks Corp.  
Jeff Peterson, Omaha Track

9:15-10:45 am

**Research Session**  
Jim Carter, Norfolk-Southern (retired)  
Tim Carey, Lonza  
Todd Euston/Michael Liesenfelt, GREX  
Andreas Schwarz, Lindner America  
Jeff Morrell, Oregon State University

10:45 am-12:30 pm

**Class 1 Railroad Purchasing Forum** (Kristine Storm - *Moderator*)  
Cory Thomas, BNSF  
Nate Irby, Union Pacific  
David Knopsnider, CSX Transportation  
Scott Feldman, Norfolk Southern  
Bill Blaise, Kansas City Southern  
Darryl Odger/Mitchell Johnston, Canadian National  
Rob Churma, Canadian Pacific



## Optional Activities:

### (Fees Not Included in Registration)

The Golf Tournament, San Diego Zoo and Midway Tours tour are on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Private Birch Aquarium Tour followed by a La Jolla Shopping Adventure is on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> during the Business Sessions. These activities are optional and require additional registrations. **Minimums must be met for all events to run as planned and maximums apply in most cases.**



## OCTOBER 31, 2017

### Optional - RTA Golf Tournament - Maderas Golf Club

8:30 am - 3:00 pm on October 31, 2017

Pre-event Cost is \$245

At the Event \$295

*Transportation/Breakfast/Lunch included*

Welcome to Maderas Golf Club in San Diego, a Johnny Miller masterpiece. Rated the top Golf Course in San Diego County for seven consecutive years by the Zagat Survey, Maderas Golf Club offers beauty and challenge as it winds through the cliffs, rock outcroppings, creeks, and forests of the inland hill country of north San Diego.

Golf in San Diego has never been better. Step onto the first tee and enjoy the course's three lakes, five waterfalls, and over forty acres of native wildflowers. Maderas Golf Club is the number one golf course in San Diego for a reason.



### Optional - TWO Lifetime Memory "Behind the Scenes" San Diego Zoo Events

*Lunch and Transportation to/from Zoo included in the price*

(ABSOLUTE Minimum 25 - ABSOLUTE Maximum 40 - for each event)

- A. Behind the Scenes Private Tour of the Zoo  
\$195 pre-event - \$225 at event (if not sold-out - tour will accommodate 40 maximum)
- B. Animals-in-Action (Interactive with Zookeeper and Animals)  
\$275 pre-event - \$305 at event (if not sold-out - tour will accommodate 40 maximum)



### Tour A - Behind the Scenes 9:30 am - 2:00 pm October 31<sup>st</sup>

From your private zoo bus, you will get a personally narrated tour that encompasses a large portion of the huge compound. Enjoy sights such as the Polar Bear Plunge, the African Plains, Cat Canyon and more. During this extensive tour you will be given the history of the zoo and learn about some of the ground-breaking advances in animal care that have been made right here in San Diego, and how those advances have been implemented in zoos around the world...(continued next page)







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...This tour is truly special as you disembark from the bus and be escorted behind the scenes. With an experienced tour guide, you will be taken to an area normally closed to the public and experience very special up-close encounters! Some of the areas you may see are the elephants, giraffes, koalas, camels, or hippos and okapis. This is sure to be a memorable day, so come and enjoy the thrills and wonders of the world-famous San Diego Zoo.

### **Tour B - Animals in Action 9:30 am - 2:00 pm October 31<sup>st</sup>**

At Animals in Action, that's exactly what you'll see! Ever wonder how exotic cats can navigate a tree branch while maintaining perfect balance, or how a cheetah and a dog can get along? Join us to see how our world-famous trainers encourage natural animal behaviors at the San Diego Zoo. Learn how these behaviors can also help with daily animal care routines and hear amazing inside stories about each animal you meet. Someone from the audience might even be invited to join a training session! Meet a rhino up close, see exotic cats climb and jump, feed the flamingos, and much more! Bring your camera to this fun and interactive experience, as we bring the animals out to you for an up-close view.

Our expert trainers will also take you behind the scenes to feed, touch, or help train some of our animal ambassadors. You will hear amazing stories about each animal you meet, and find out how the San Diego Zoo is helping to save species here and around the world. Some animals are unique to this experience and can only be viewed by attending Animals in Action!



**Optional - Behind the Scenes Tour of The Midway** with noted author Scott McGaugh  
....followed by **Lunch in Old Town San Diego** at Casa Guadalajara  
*Transportation and Lunch included in price*  
(Minimum 10 - Maximum 15)  
**9:45 am - 1:45 pm October 31, 2017**  
**\$175 pre-event - \$195 at event (if not sold-out)**

## Midway Tour

Prepare for a lifetime memory aboard the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier. Commissioned in 1945, she served proudly during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and in the Persian Gulf until retired in 1992. The namesake ship of her class, she was the first carrier built too large to pass through the Panama Canal. Explore this floating city of the sea and relive 50-years of world history aboard the longest-serving Naval carrier of the 20th century.



This adventure includes a private tour of areas not open to the public on the historic aircraft carrier. Exhibits range from the crew's sleeping quarters to a massive galley, engine room, the ship's jail, officer's country, post office, machine shops, and pilots' ready rooms, as well as primary flight control and the bridge in the island over the flight deck.

She inspired all who served on her and now her "Midway Magic" continues to astound visitors from around the world and chronicle the achievements and sacrifice of those who defended our nation.

Your private tour guide is Scott McGaugh, noted author of *Midway Magic* and *USS Midway - America's Shield*. Scott is a nonfiction writer who believes history is best shared and preserved on a personal level, both as a source of knowledge and inspiration.

## Lunch in Old Town San Diego (included in above - alcoholic beverages on own)

A spectacular Mexican restaurant is a welcoming landmark for Old Town San Diego, capturing the "Spirit of Mexico" at its best. The ambience of Casa Guadalajara is reminiscent of gracious haciendas deep in the heart of Mexico. Award winning Mexican cuisine and delicious seafood are specialties.

A Courtyard lush with greenery and brilliant flowers is canopied by a grand California Pepper Tree estimated to be over 200-years old. The beautiful splashing fountains are Mexican Cantera stone and colorful Talavera tiles, Mexico's most important traditional art forms. Hacienda gates and wrought iron fixtures were chosen to reflect San Diego's rich Hispanic heritage.





**November 1, 2017**

**Optional (Highly Recommended for Spouses)**

**Private Tour of the Birch Aquarium at World Renowned Univ. of CA-San Diego Scripps Institute of Oceanography...followed by shopping in famed La Jolla**

**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Please breakfast on your own prior to departure  
(Minimum 30 - Maximum 54)**

**All Tour Related Costs (including transportation and entrance/docent fee at Aquarium)**

**\$105 Pre-Event - \$125 at Event**

**(Lunch-on-Own in La Jolla - Many options for casual & fine dining overlooking the ocean)**



One of the largest oceanographic museums in the country, The Birch Aquarium at Scripps is beautiful and sits above the sea on the cliffs of Torrey Pines. The Birch Aquarium offers outstanding views of the Pacific Ocean and an interactive learning experience for all visitors. Take a tour through the Hall of Fishes, the new immersive bioluminescent Infinity Cube, and the phenomenal one-of-a-kind seahorse exhibition. Then, venture outside where guests can touch mammals that thrive in a simulated tide pool.



**La Jolla Shopping!!!**



While La Jolla is known to be one of the most affluent communities in the United States, its beautiful cliffs, natural scenery and friendly residents give it a charm like no other place in the world. Upscale designer boutiques, world class restaurants overlooking the Pacific Ocean and an array of art and antique galleries with magnificent seascape views make La Jolla one of the most popular destinations in the world. Shopping in La Jolla is world class!



## RTA Banquet (Fee Included in Registration)

### - Top Gun Theme

7:30 pm - 10:15 pm on November 1<sup>st</sup>

Do You Feel the Need for SPEED? Join us in the Danger Zone and be our Wingman at this year's Rockin' Salute to San Diego's military heritage with our Top Gun Themed Banquet



Are you a Maverick? If so, grab your flight gear and aviator glasses, or honor your favorite branch of the military in camo or other historic military garb and have a little fun with the RTA Brigade as we remember the best-of-the-best of us The United States Military. Always a fun time with great food, this year's banquet promises more action-packed sequences than a take-off from the Midway Aircraft Carrier.



## Banquet and President's Reception Entertainment

### *Gabriel Romo*

Returning to delight attendees at this year's event is Latin guitarist Gabriel Romo. His unique style, influenced by Jose Feliciano, and talent delights audiences throughout the Southwestern U.S. and especially in his hometown of Tucson, AZ.



**Mark Cordes** is an inventive comedian and humorist. He has been hailed by critics as a “One Man Laugh Factory”. He has toured and worked with stars like Harry Connick, Jr., Kenny Loggins, Ray Charles, Hall & Oates, Chicago, Vince Gill, Little River Band, Kenny G, and dozens of others.

Mark is one of the most requested Corporate Comedians in the country with over 22 years of experience and 1500+ corporate events to his resume. Mark’s client list is a who’s who of Fortune 500 Companies.

From his humble start at an open mic, he steadily worked his way up the comedy ladder including appearances on Saturday Night Live! From opening act to feature act to headlining the top comedy clubs and corporate events from coast to coast, Cordes has enjoyed the ride. “I realize every day how fortunate I am to do what I love. To be able to travel, meet interesting people, and make people laugh is a gift I enjoy sharing”.

When Mark’s not entertaining the corporate world, he’s touring with his one man show “The Spouse Whisperer”. He takes the audience through a hilarious insight into relationships from first date to exploring all the ups and downs of marriage

“...NEVER MISSING A BEAT. IMPECCABLE TIMING, CHARM & INNOVATIVE, INTELLIGENT MATERIAL...” - Minneapolis Star - Tribune

“YOU WERE GREAT! I WANT TO STEAL ALL YOUR MATERIAL” - Al Michaels - NBC Sports



*Join us and others at the...*  
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*Full Schedule Coming Soon*

**OTHER RAILROAD INDUSTRY MEETINGS SCHEDULED AT RTA IN 2017 INCLUDE:**

- **AREMA COMMITTEE 30**
- **REMSA FALL BOARD MEETING**
- **RAILTEC FALL PLANNING SESSION**
- **RAILROAD SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM**

