

# Conference Offers Latest Tie Industry Trends & Ideas

Breaking a record, more than 300 members and guests of the Railway Tie Association convened in November in the beautiful Sonoran Desert location of Tucson, Arizona, for the 2015 RTA Symposium & Technical Conference. The host hotel was the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa, where members were treated to a breathtaking view of saguaro-covered terrain and a location in the foothills of Tucson Mountain Park. Prior to the business getting underway, members, spouses and guests enjoyed numerous networking activities, such as the Annual RTA Golf Tournament, a Jeep tour of the desert and more. Below is a pictorial essay depicting conference activities, speakers, vendors and participants.



## Hitting the Greens

The weather was absolutely gorgeous the day of the Annual RTA Golf Tournament. The tournament was held at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Golf Club.



John McGinley, Chuck Kraynik, Gene Dodson and Joe Reardon



Paul Cabrol, Kristine Storm, Jim Raines and Rob Crawford



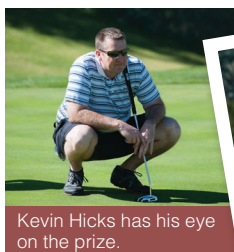
Rob Churma with Beau Van Dyke



Frank Wilson with Mike Hoffman



Lee Nall with Jonathan Chalon and Mike Land



Kevin Hicks has his eye on the prize.



Mike Pourney with Phil Myers



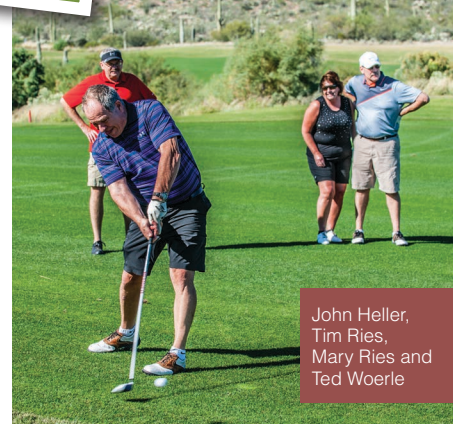
Rick Gibson



Alan Cox



Terry Good, Ben Chapman, Kenny Dailey & Larry Jones



John Heller, Tim Ries, Mary Ries and Ted Woerle



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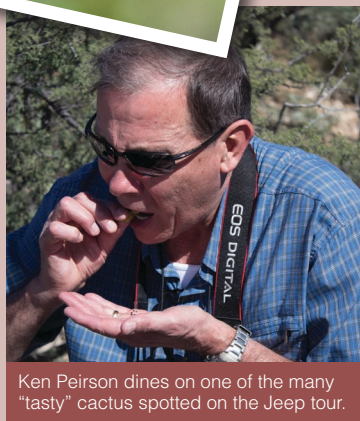
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# Experiencing The Beauty & Tranquility Of The Sonoran Desert

Attendees were able to experience the Sonoran Desert Museum first hand and with a knowledgeable guide in a separate Jeep tour, who shared information about the area's plants, animals and history. They learned about the life of the giant saguaro cactus, visited a thousand-year-old Hohokam Indian occupation site and saw the bountiful desert wildlife.



# President's Reception

The Annual President's Reception is always a highlight of the conference and offers attendees the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, too!



# President's Reception



Rich Lincoln with Victoria and Curtis Schopp



Stella-Jones was a Top-Tier Conference Sponsor.



Ben and Missy Chapman with Jim Gauntt



Saul Gonzales with Juan Quintana and Guadalupe Acosta



Jana and Jeff Lippincott with David and Genette Whitted



Scott Hanks and Skipper Beal with Jeff and Teresa Edwards



Kevin Hicks with Gayle and Heide Minkler



Barb and Gary Ambrose



Randy Huffman with Jason Feagans



Tom Holmes with Jon Zillioux



Delores Mancione with John and Leigh Reaves



Travis Gross (center) with Laurie Nemece and Ted Woerle



Some of RTA's newest members, Tim Cromier and Lee Tingley of Timber Restoration Services



Rigi Chackanad, George Caric and Sheila Gudenrath



Howard Tomlinson with Terry Good



Wes Platt with Jeff Parrett

# Wednesday RTA Business Session & Luncheon

Sessions on Wednesday kicked off with the annual RTA General Business Session and Welcome from RTA President Kenny Dailey. Session topics ranged from economic issues impacting railroad investment to procurement, resource and utilization to major engineering project updates from the Class I railroads.



It was a very well-attended luncheon.



Kevin Hicks gives the annual safety briefing.



Dick Maggiore of PR firm Innis Maggiore gives the luncheon keynote address on "positioning."

The conference gearing up for the full array of informed speakers.



Stan Thomas reads the Resolutions Report.



President Dailey opens the business session.



Tom Holmes with George Cario and Rob Churma.



Dick definitely had the crowd's attention.



Bob Denk with Vince Harkins looking over their notes.



Allen Goff with Sheila Gudenrath and Nate Irby.

# Annual RTA Banquet

Each year, attendees look forward to the Annual RTA Banquet. This event is far from stuffy, as attendees can get a little creative with their attire based on the theme (Trio of Cultures) and enjoy the evening's entertainment. This year, the entertainment was provided by award-winning comedian Rocky Laporte.



Laurrie Nemece with Ted Woerle



Larry Redhouse serenades the early arrivals to the banquet.



Jim Gauntt with Banquet Comedian Rocky LaPorte



Gayle and Heide Minkler with Gary and Ann Hunter



Brian Lindamood with Mark and Jerri Huston



Jerry Farley, Dallin Brooks and Paul Dandy



Jack Shannon, Judd Johnson, Tim Thornburgh and Wesley Byler



The carving station was a popular place too.



Beau VanDyke with Gary and Barb Ambrose



Rob and Stacey Banister with Maureen and Zach Dombrow



Jerry Farley and Shane Kitchens



The RTA Team displays their "Trio of Cultures" attire.



The Trio of Cultures Buffet was a big hit.



Greg Spilker with Nick Delmonico



Comedian Rocky LaPorte thoroughly entertained the banquet crowd.



Lee Nall accepting his golf "skins" win at the banquet.



Pattie Parrett with Kathleen Broadfoot



Cowboy (Jeff) Lloyd with Arne Arneson



Mark and Jerri Huston



Greg Grissom of Georgetown Rail gives away one of the American Express Gift Cards to winner Delores Mancione.

# RTA Conference Exhibitors

The RTA Conference would not have been possible without the support of our many sponsors and tabletop exhibitors.



Wood Care Systems



Jeff Lloyd, left, Ken Laughlin, center, and Kevin Kirkland, right, work the Nisus booth. Nisus was a top-tier conference sponsor.



Tim Cromier of Timber Restoration Services behind his tabletop exhibit speaking with Jason Feagans.



Tony Nichols of Bridgewell Resources talking with the North American Tie and Timber group at his booth.



Claus Staalner of American Wood Technology



Grady Brafford with Tim Carey of Arch Wood



David Piper and Mike Goldston at Brewco's exhibit.



Jimmy Watt with Wayne Fleming at the StrikerBilt booth



Dave Barry of Lewis Bolt talking with Gary Hunter.



Wheeler Lumber's exhibit table



Curtis Schopp of National Salvage Corp. speaking to a couple of conference attendees in front of their table.



Marty Fox speaking with Barry Black of Taylor Machine Works.



Rich Lincoln with Omaha Track speaking with David Woodard of Nevada Railroad Materials.

# Awards & Recognition

A highlight of the Annual RTA Banquet is the awards ceremony recognizing the winners of the coveted Branding Hammer, Broad Axe and Silver Saw awards.



Jon Zillioux (left) did the honors for David Hatfield (center) who accepted his plaque from President Dailey.



Gary Hunter and Jeff Broadfoot (behind) escorted the Branding Hammer Award winner, Gayle Minkler, to the podium to accept his plaque presented by President Kenny Dailey.



Kenny Dailey thanks outgoing Board member, Jeff Broadfoot, for his years of service to the Executive Committee.



John Heller was pleased to escort the Broad Axe award winner, Scott Hanks, up to receive his plaque from Kenny Dailey.



Thank you to all of the businesses involved in making the 2015 RTA Conference a success!

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