



RTA 2015 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort and Spa
Tucson, Arizona
November 2-5



Tuesday, November 3

- 8:30 am **RTA Golf Tournament**
– *JW Marriott Starr Pass Golf Club*
(PLUS Additional Activities for Attendees during Golf Outing – See Below)
- 3:00-6:00 pm RTA Guest Sponsored Hospitality Suites
5:30-7:00 pm RTA President's Reception

Wednesday, November 4

- 7:45-8:00 am **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION AND WELCOME**
- 8:00-9:20 am **ECONOMIC SESSION** with Economic Keynote Address
Dan Meckstroth, Manufacturer's Alliance for Productivity and Innovation
Tony Hatch, ABH Consulting, "Railroad Investment Analysis 2014"
Allan Zarembski, Introduction to New RTA/UD Educational Efforts
- 9:20–11:00 am **Procurement, Resource and Utilization Session I** *Skipper Beal, Moderator*
Judd Johnson, Hardwood Market Report, Production & Consumption
Don Finkell, American OEM & 2015 President Hardwood Federation
Jeff Hanks, Bill Hanks Lumber Company
Jeff Edwards, Edwards Wood Products
- 11:00–12:00pm **NETWORKING AND EXHIBITION BREAK** (Lunch Buffet opens at noon)
- 12:00–2:45 pm **RTA Working Luncheon** with Keynote Address
Dick Maggiore, Innis Maggiore
- Procurement, Resource & Utilization Session II** (Continuous after Keynote)
Jack Shannon, JT Shannon Lumber Company
Scott Jones, Forest Land Owners Association
Robert Crosby, FLOA Member Louisiana
- 2:45-5:30pm **Engineering Forum** (Continuous no break)
Focus on Class 1, Regional & Short Line Infrastructure Partnerships
David Fink, Pan American Railways
Brian Lindamood, Director Capital Projects, Alaska Railroad - AREMA
John Cech, BNSF
Randy Bowman, Norfolk Southern
Kevin Hicks, Union Pacific
Tod Echler, CSX Transportation
Vendor-mercials: 3-Minute Presentations will occur in this session





RTA 2015 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE ...Continued



Wednesday, November 4

7:15 pm **Annual RTA Banquet & Awards Ceremony**

Thursday, November 5

7:45-10:15 am **Research Forum** (21 minute slots)

Bror Moldrup, Advances in Wood Treating Infrastructure

Ronald Clawson, A Comprehensive 5-yr. Review on Dual Treated Ties Using Tru-Core Process

Nate Irby, Best Handling Practices for Wood Ties

Mark Porter, PVC Wraps for Ecologically Sensitive Treated Wood Piling and Railroad Applications

Dr. Richard Bennett, Optimizing Bridge Strength - Testing of Scaled Bridge Ties With and Without Ports for Borate Inserts

Bill Bushman, Bridge Tie Design Services for the 21st Century

Recycling and Disposal Technology Forum (21 minute slots)

Dr. Niki Labbe, Maximizing Value and Environmental Benefit for Used Ties- Creosote De-Sorbition Prior to the Production of Upgraded Fuel

Stephen Smith, Torrefaction Processing for Energy Production

10:15-10:30 am **NETWORKING AND EXHIBITION BREAK**

10:30-12:30 pm **Railroad Purchasing Forum**

Cory Thomas, BNSF

Sheila Gudenrath, Union Pacific

Larry Fenwick, CSX Transportation

Kristine Storm, Genesee & Wyoming

Corey Plunkett, Norfolk Southern

Bill Blaise, Kansas City Southern

Bruce Emberly, Canadian National

Rob Churma, Canadian Pacific



Attendee/Spouse (Fee Included) and Optional (Fee Not Included) Activities:

The **Golf** tournament, **Desert Jeep** tour and **Barrio Culinary** tour are on Tuesday, November 3rd. The **Sonoran Desert Museum Tour & Raptor Free Flight Experience** are on Wednesday, November 4th



(during the Business Sessions). All of these activities are optional and require additional registrations. **Minimums must be met for all events** to run as planned and maximums may apply in some cases.

NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Optional - RTA Golf Tournament – JW Marriott Starr Pass Golf Club 8:30-3:00 on November 3, 2015

Pre-event Cost is \$195 - At the Event \$225

The Starr Pass Golf Club legend began more than 120 years ago when Richard Starr crafted a trail through the rugged wilderness of the Tucson Mountains. PGA Tour Commissioner Dean Beaman personally selected the Starr Pass Golf Club site. With the help of renowned golf course designer Bob Cupp and PGA Tour professional Craig Stadler, they created a world-class TPC golf facility. Starr Pass Golf Club hosted the annual Tucson Open between 1987 and 1996. A true desert course, natural elements are used as hazards while showcasing majestic vistas of the Catalina Mountains. Legends such as Arnold Palmer, Phil Mickelson, Payne Stewart and Nancy Lopez have carved their way through this historic golf course.



Optional – Private Jeep Excursion into the Sonoran Desert (Minimum 6 – Maximum 36)

9:30am – 2pm November 3rd

Pre-event Cost is \$105 - At the Event \$135

(Boxed or other Lunch Included)

Experience the desert first-hand! Our knowledgeable guides will lead you through the plants, animals, and history that make the Sonoran Desert unique. On the way you will learn about the life of the giant saguaro cactus, visit a thousand year-old Hohokam Indian occupation site, and see bountiful desert wildlife. Our guides will even bring along a critter or two!



Optional – Private Best of the Barrio Tour (Min. 6 – Max. 29) A Culinary Romp thru the Authentic Mexican Cuisine of Tucson

9:30am – 2pm November 3rd

Pre-event Cost is \$105 - At the Event \$135

You will ride aboard one of our luxury vehicles through Tucson's Barrio while getting an insider's look at each location and their recipe for success. With tastings ranging from handmade pastries/tortillas, carne asada and Sonoran hot dogs, to chicken quesadillas, you will not go home hungry. This combination of cuisine, history, and fun has already proven to be a winner with visitors and locals alike. This tour is a Tucson Weekly "Best of Tucson" Award winner. In 2012, it inspired Visit Tucson's international marketing campaign, "The Best 23 Miles of Mexican Food", which proudly declares that the "Best 23 Miles of Mexican Food" north of the border is to be found in Tucson."



NOVEMBER 4



7:30 – 9:00am on November 4th *Note: Due to the very special Desert Museum tour there is*



no separate spouse breakfast this year. Spouses/Guests not participating in the tour may enjoy coffee and muffins in the Registration Area while quantities last

Optional (Recommended) – Sonoran Desert Museum and Raptor Free Flight Experience

8:00am - 2:30pm on November 4th

(Boxed Breakfast on Bus at 8:00am - Lunch at Museum also Included!)

Pre-event Cost \$150 - On Site Cost \$175

Spend the day at the Sonoran Desert Museum and experience one of the wonders of the desert at the Raptor Free Flight. The Desert Museum is ranked on TripAdvisor.com as one of the Top 10 Museums in the country and the **#1 Tucson attraction**. Unlike most museums, about 85% of the experience is outdoors! The 98-acre Desert Museum is a fusion experience: zoo, botanical garden, art gallery, natural history museum, and aquarium.



Anna's Hummingbird



Collared Lizards



Gila Monster

- 230 animal species
- 21 Interpreted acres w/ walking paths thru various desert habitats
- 1,200 types of plants – 56,000 individual specimens
- One of the world's most comprehensive regional mineral collections
- The **Hummingbird House** visit will leave you breathless with how close you can get to the birds

The **Raptor Free Flight Experience** is THE Desert Museum presentation that must not be missed. Only conducted during certain times of the year, you'll have birds of prey fly so close that you can feel the rush of wind as they whiz by. The birds fly completely untethered, without leg straps, in an open desert presentation you must see to believe. Owls, hawks, falcons and the only raptor species that hunts as a family (like wolves) are featured with 2 separate presentations at 10am and 2pm the day of your visit.



Harris Hawk



Ferruginous Hawk



Barn Owl



RTA Banquet – Trio of Cultures Desert Southwest Culinary Experience

7:15pm – 11pm on November 4th

Join RTA in Celebration of the three incredible Cultures that merge in the US Desert Southwest. Railroads and cowboys opened the American West; our Native American history that once flourished in the desert now enjoys a renaissance of understanding and growth; amigos who have immigrated from South of the Border bring a unique cultural flair of food and experiences. Feel free to dress in appropriate apparel from Western wear (denim, boots, hats, bolo ties, bandanas, etc.), to culturally sensitive/appropriate Native American (native-made jewelry, beaded shirts, dresses, moccasins, shawls, etc.) or Mexican attire (colorful cottons, puebla dresses, mariachi clothing, serapes, sombreros, etc.) and celebrate the melting pot of food and friendship the three cultures now enjoy in Arizona.



Banquet Entertainment



Rocky LaPorte - With his unmistakable accent and his hilarious yet endearing delivery, Comedian Rocky LaPorte is becoming more well known by the day. His performance on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” brought him a standing ovation, and he’s been featured on his own “Comedy Central Presents” special.

Rocky’s opened for the likes of, Louie Anderson, Garry Shandling, Drew Carey, Tim Allen, Hootie and the Blowfish and the Righteous Brothers, just to name a few. He’s done an enormous amount of charity work also for St Jude’s for Children, N.F.L. Charities, Homeless shelters, cancer research and Police and Fire Dept fundraisers. Rocky has won numerous awards for his clean corporate-client-friendly humor:

- **Top 5:** Last Comic Standing 2014 - NBC
- **Winner:** Stand Up of the Year Award - Las Vegas Comedy Festival
- **Winner:** Johnnie Walker National Comedy Search, Hollywood