

Registration Open For 2017 RTA Symposium & Technical Conference In San Diego



The Manchester Grand Hyatt overlooks beautiful San Diego Bay, offering views of a marina and the downtown cityscape.

Registration is now open for the 2017 edition of the Railway Tie Association's Symposium & Technical Conference.

Slated for Oct. 30-Nov. 3 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, the conference brings attendees together for networking, industry exhibits, education, the latest purchasing plans by the Class 1 railroads, status updates on major railroad engineering projects, research and development initiatives and more.

To confirm your registration, log onto www.RTA.org/2017-conference or complete the registration form that follows in this issue and email it to ties@RTA.org or fax it to (770) 460-5573.

The Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego San Diego's premier waterfront downtown hotel, the Manchester Grand Hyatt, is the

site of the RTA Conference.

The hotel offers a spectacular waterfront resort-style setting, complete with shopping, dining and entertainment venues.

The hotel's luxurious guest rooms and suites feature Hyatt's Grand Beds, complimentary Wi-Fi, and beautiful city and bay views.

Amenities at the Hyatt include eight on-site dining options with views, including the 40th-floor Top of the Hyatt, the waterfront Sally's Fish House and Bar, and a 24-hour market.

The hotel also features a 24-hour fitness center, two rooftop pool decks with whirlpools, fire pits and bay view sundecks.

The hotel is ideally situated on San Diego Bay between the San Diego Convention Center and the city's popular Seaport Village.

The hotel is also just steps from Gaslamp

Quarter, and only 2.7 miles from San Diego International Airport.

Day 1 – Relax, Enjoy & Connect

Tuesday, Oct. 31, is a day for catching up with friends and making new ones during activities like the Annual RTA Golf Tournament, which will be held at scenic Maderas Golf Club. Maderas has been a ZAGAT top-rated golf course in San Diego for the last seven years.

Optional activities for the day include behind the scenes, private events held just for RTA attendees at the San Diego Zoo. One event is a private tour and the other event is an interactive visit with a zookeeper and the animals.

Another tour option is a guided, behind-the-scenes visit to the USS Midway, where noted author Scott McGaugh will share his knowledge of the historic ship. This event



The business of the conference includes panel discussions that address everything from economics and procurement issues to major Class 1 maintenance projects and purchasing plans. A major component of the conference also includes vendor exhibits, where attendees can learn more about the latest products and processes.



will be followed by lunch in Old Town San Diego.

Later, RTA's guest-sponsored hospitality suites will open from 3-6 p.m., prior to highly anticipated President's Reception, held from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Day 2 – Getting Down To Business

Wednesday, Nov. 1, will start early with the RTA General Business Session and Welcome from RTA President Tim Ries of Koppers Inc. Ries will open the meeting and move into the Economic Session, where analyst Tony Hatch will provide a rail system outlook for 2018. Judd Johnson of Hardwood Market Report will update attendees on hardwood production and consumption.

Quality control will be the topic of the next session, with presenters including UPRR's Nate Irby, NS's Brad Crawford, Kim Merritt of Southern Pine Inspection Bureau, Jeremy Williams of Timber Products Inspection and Don Guillen of AAR.

Following a networking and exhibition break, lunch will include keynote addresses from Dallin Brooks of the Western Wood

Preservers Institute, who will discuss putting preserved wood back on the forest products industry map. Linda Bauer Darr of ASLRRRA will provide an update on short line and regional railroads and lead a panel discussion on short line and regional railroads.

The Engineering Forum, where executives from AREMA and Class 1 railroads will provide updates on their latest construction and maintenance projects, will follow the short line session.

The evening will officially close with the Annual RTA Banquet and Awards Ceremony, where a "Top Gun" theme will take center stage. Comedian Mark Cordes, otherwise known as "The Spouse Whisperer", will provide entertainment following recognition of RTA's John Mabry Forestry Scholarship winners and winners of RTA's Branding Hammer, Broad Axe, and Silver Saw awards.

Day 3 – The Environment, Research & Purchasing Plans

Thursday, Nov. 2, will start with a session on the environment, tie disposal and contractor topics.

This session will be followed by a discussion of the latest R&D developments affecting the wood tie industry.

Perhaps one of the most highly anticipated sessions of the conference is the Class 1 Railroad Purchasing Forum. Moderated by Kristine Storm of the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad, this forum allows Class 1 railroads to share their purchasing plans for the coming year. Prepare for this session to be

a standing-room-only event, so plan to be present beginning at 8 a.m. to avoid missing any of the important information shared.

"I encourage all RTA members to attend this important conference," advised RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt. "If you are part of the wood tie industry and want to stay on top of the latest research and development initiatives, purchasing plans, economic and procurement issues, and so much more, there is no better place to stay informed than this conference. Along with a healthy dose of networking and fun, the important topics that will be presented will help keep members in the know about the latest developments affecting their businesses."

Register now using the form included on page 21 or go online to register at www.RTA.org/2017-conference. ■



The RTA team has planned an exciting list of optional activities for the conference that will allow attendees to learn more about the unique culture and beauty of San Diego area.

Please note that minimums must be met for all events to be held as planned, and maximums apply in most cases.

Register using the form included in *Crossties*, or visit RTA.org/2017-conference to register online.

Golf Among The Cliffs

Golfers will delight in the RTA Golf Tournament at the Maderas Golf Club on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

A Johnny Miller course, Maderas has been rated by Zagat as the top golf course in San Diego County for seven consecutive years.

Maderas Golf Club combines beauty with challenge as it winds through the cliffs, rock outcroppings, creeks and forests of the inland hill country of north San Diego.

Golfers will leave the hotel at 7:00 a.m. for the Golf Tournament to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$245 for registering prior to the event. Registration at the event costs \$295. Transportation, breakfast and lunch are included in the fee.

Take A Walk On The Wild Side



Also on Tuesday, attendees may choose from two events at the San Diego Zoo. Each event will operate simultaneously from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., so you will not be able to participate in both tours.

The first event is the Behind-The-Scenes private tour of the zoo. From the private zoo bus, you will enjoy a personally narrated tour that encompasses a large portion of the huge compound.

You will 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 groundbreaking advances in animal care that have been made in San Diego and how those advances have been implemented in zoos around the world.

When you disembark from the bus, you will be escorted behind the scenes by your experienced tour guide and taken to an area normally closed to the public. Here, you will experience up-close encounters with the animals.

The private tour is \$195 if paid prior to the event or \$225 at the event if not sold out. This tour can accommodate up to 40 people

The second zoo event, called Animals In Action, allows participants to see animals in action. Join the zoo’s trainers as they encourage natural animal behaviors. Someone from the audience might even be invited to join in a training session.

Bring your camera to this interactive experience, as the animals will come to you for an up-close view.

The trainers will also take participants behind the scenes to feed, touch or help train some of the zoo’s animal ambassadors.

The Animals in Action interactive event is \$275 if paid prior to the event or \$305 at the event. There is a 40-person maximum.

Behind The Scenes USS Midway Tour



On Tuesday, Oct. 31, History buffs will especially appreciate the Behind the Scenes Tour of The *USS Midway* aircraft carrier with noted author Scott McGaugh.

Commissioned in 1945, the *USS Midway* served 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.

The adventure includes a private tour of areas not open to the public on the carrier.

Scott McGaugh, noted author of “Midway Magic” and “*USS Midway – America’s Shield*,” will lead the tour.

Lunch is included as part of the Midway Tour and will take participants to Old Town San Diego to capture the “Spirit of Mexico” at its best at Casa Guadalajara.

The *USS Midway* Behind the Scenes Tour

and included lunch in Old Town San Diego is \$175 pre event and \$195 at the event if not sold out. Transportation and lunch are included in the price. There is a minimum of 10 and maximum of 15 for this event.

Shop & Explore



On Wednesday, Nov. 1, enjoy a private tour of the Birch Aquarium at the world-renowned University of California-San Diego Scripps Institute of Oceanography followed by shopping in famed La Jolla.

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.

The tour will be followed by shopping in one of the most affluent communities in the United States, La Jolla. With its beautiful cliffs, natural scenery and friendly residents, La Jolla exudes a charm like no other place in the world.

The aquarium tour and shopping later is \$105 pre-event and \$125 at the event. Lunch is on your own in La Jolla, with many options for casual and fine dining overlooking the ocean available.

Top Gun Fun

Always a fun experience, the RTA Banquet this year will be aptly themed “Top Gun” and will be a salute to San Diego’s military heritage.

Grab your flight gear and aviator glasses or honor your favorite branch of the military dressed 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 U.S. Military. ■

For more information on any of these or other elements of the RTA Conference, log onto RTA.org/2017-conference or call (770) 460-5553.



SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Join Us In San Diego, California | Oct. 30 - Nov. 3, 2017



Download the Conference App with this QR code and at www.eventmobi.com/rta2017

Registration For The 99th Annual Conference

NOTE: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES COVER ALL MEETINGS, BUSINESS LUNCHEON, PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, AND ANNUAL BANQUET. Please complete both the Registration AND golf form if you want to play in the golf tournament.



#rta2017 for 2017 Conference Tweets

Reserve Your Hotel:

Manchester Grand Hyatt

Make your reservations now!

Reserve Online At:

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/RailwayTieAssociation2017>

The room block expires Sept. 20, 2017.

Room Block Only Guarantees Rate. **ROOM BLOCK DOESN'T GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY SO BOOK EARLY!**

Make hotel reservations under the RTA Room Block by calling 619-232-1234.

RTA Room Block Rate is \$199 + tax per night.

Reserve Your Space:

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(Golf registration form is at the bottom)

Name _____ Company _____

TO APPEAR ON BADGE

Address _____ Phone _____

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE USE ADDRESS ON CARD

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Business) Email: _____ Spouse Name (if attending) _____

Please Check All Fees That Apply.

Yearly Membership fees must be paid in advance.

	Fees For Early Reg. (Before 9/1/17)	Fees For Late Reg. (After 8/31/17)
<input type="checkbox"/> Producer, Supplier, Contractor & Consulting Member	\$585	\$635
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member	\$345	\$395
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member—Railroad, Government & Academic	\$595	\$645
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member—Other	\$1175	\$1225
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse Participation (Fee to attend any conference events.)	\$295	\$345

(Full refund (minus \$50 admin fee) until 9/19/17. Half refund until 10/1/17. No refunds after 10/1/17)

Optional Events

	Advanced Registration	On Site Registration
<input type="checkbox"/> OCTOBER 31 (All 10/31/17 tours include transportation & lunch)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament (Fill out form below.)	\$245 pp	\$295 pp
<input type="checkbox"/> San Diego Zoo - Behind The Scenes	\$195 pp	\$225 pp
<input type="checkbox"/> San Diego Zoo - Animals in Action	\$275 pp	\$305 pp
<input type="checkbox"/> Midway Tour	\$175 pp	\$195 pp

NOVEMBER 1

<input type="checkbox"/> Private Tour of Birch Aquarium & La Jolla Shopping	\$105 pp	\$125 pp
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(Please have breakfast on your own prior to the tour. Transportation included – lunch on your own. This event takes place the morning and afternoon of the first day of business sessions on Wednesday 11/1/17 and is for spouses and guests.)

****Minimums & Maximums Are In Effect So Advanced Registration is Necessary****
Tours are not guaranteed to run if minimums are not met.

TOTAL PAYMENT (Include spouse fees & any optional tours or golf fee) \$ _____

Payment Type:

CHECK CREDIT CARD

Card # _____

Exp Date _____

Name On Card _____

3 digit CVC on back of card _____

4 digit CVC on front of AMEX _____

Billing Zip/Postal Code if different from above: _____

NOTE: Presenters and attendees who are RTA members need to check the box that corresponds to their membership type and submit that fee.

RTA GOLF REGISTRATION PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM PER GOLFER

Maderas Golf Club

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 • RTA Tournament - Shotgun start format (\$245 each player).
Contact golf shop at (858) 451-8100 for club rentals.

Name _____ Company _____ Handicap _____

If you have preferred playing partners for main tournament list them below (Each must register separately.)

- Your Name: _____
- Preferred Partner: _____
- Preferred Partner: _____
- Preferred Partner: _____

Return this form with all registration fees to:

Railway Tie Association
115 Commerce Dr.,
Suite C
Fayetteville, GA 30214

(P) 770-460-5553
(F) 770-460-5573

To submit form electronically,
e-mail to:

ties@rta.org

SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Oct. 30 - Nov. 3, 2017 | **SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego



#rta2017 for 2017
Conference Tweets

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 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
Judd Johnson, Hardwood Production & Consumption – HMR
- 9:00-10:30 am **Procurement Session – “Telling It Like It Is”**
Ray Moistner (Moderator/Presenter) – Indiana Hardwood Lumber Assn.
Arnie Hogue, Anderson-Tully (invited)
Brett Franklin, Tri-State Timber
David Brazeale, Brazeale Lumber Company
Tim Tucker, Tucker Timber Products (invited)
Henry Christ, Dunaway Lumber
- 10:30 am - Noon **Third Party & RR Quality Control Session**
Nate Irby, UPRR
Brad Crawford, Norfolk Southern
Kim Merritt, Southern Pine Inspection Bureau
Jeremy Williams, Timber Products Inspection
Don Guillen, Association of American Railroads
- 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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 (CONT.)

- Bob Snyder, OmniTrax
Ron Close, Watco
Alan Matheson, Tacoma Rail
Judy Petry, Farmrail
- 3:15-5:30pm **Engineering Forum**
Major Projects on the Drawing Board or Underway
Dwight Clark, UPRR and AREMA President
Randy Bowman, Norfolk-Southern (invited)
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
- 7:15-10:00 pm **Annual RTA Banquet & Awards Ceremony - Top Gun Theme**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- 8:00–9:15 am **Environmental, Tie Disposal & Contractor Session**
Nathan Joe Loftice, BNSF, Moderator
David Smat, BNSF
Additional Participants TBA
- 9:15–10:45 am **Research Session**
Jim Carter, Norfolk-Southern (retired)
Tim Carey, Lonza
Todd Euston, GREX
Andreas Schwarz, Lindner America
Jeff Morrell, Oregon State University
- 10:45 am- **Class 1 Railroad Purchasing Forum**
(Kristine Storm – Moderator)
Cory Thomas, BNSF (invited)
Nate Irby, UPRR
CSX Transportation (invited)
Scott Feldman, Norfolk Southern (invited)
Bill Blaise, Kansas City Southern (invited)
Bruce Emberly, Canadian National (invited)
Rob Churma, Canadian Pacific (invited)



ATTENDEE/SPOUSE (Fee Included) AND OPTIONAL (Fee Not Included) ACTIVITIES:

The Golf Tournament, San Diego Zoo and Midway Tours tour are on Tuesday, October 31st. The Private Birch Aquarium Tour followed by a La Jolla Shopping Adventure is on Wednesday, November 1st 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
7:00 am -3:00 pm on October 31, 2017. Pre-event Cost is \$245 - At the Event \$295 Transportation/Breakfast/Lunch included.

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)

Tour A – Behind the Scenes Private Tour of the Zoo
9:30 am – 2:00 pm on October 31, 2017. \$195 pre-event - \$225 at event

Tour B – Animals in Action (Interactive with Zookeeper and Animals)
9:30 am – 2:00 pm on October 31st. \$275 pre-event - \$305 at event (if not sold-out – tour will accommodate 40 maximum)

Optional – Behind the Scenes Tour of The Midway with noted author Scott McLaugh, 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)

NOVEMBER 1, 2017

Optional (Highly Recommended for Spouses) Private Tour of the Birch Aquarium at World Renowned University of CA-San Diego Scripps Institute of Oceanography...followed by shopping in famed La Jolla
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

RTA Banquet (Fee Included in Registration)
Top Gun Theme. 7:15 pm – 10:00 pm



See page 20 for detailed descriptions of optional activities.



RTA's Annual Symposium & Technical Conference presents numerous opportunities for learning, networking and fun. Reserve your spot today at RTA.org/2017-conference.