



TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE



April 10, 2011

WELCOME TO SAN DIEGO!

On behalf of San Diego Gas & Electric, it is my pleasure to welcome you to "America's Finest City"! We are delighted to be your host for the Spring 2011 IEEE Transformers Committee Meeting. San Diego is California's second largest city and host to the Navy's Pacific Fleet.

The Catamaran Hotel is located in Pacific Beach (PB), a California beach town and part of the City of San Diego. PB is host to many college kids and surfers, and will probably be busy with people on spring break. Traffic will be busy most of the time, but especially in the morning and evening rush hours. Parking outside of the hotel is a challenge, but there are a lot of things to do within walking distance.

There are two bays in San Diego: San Diego Bay and Mission Bay. San Diego Bay is the bay that is seen as you fly in, with the big aircraft carriers. Mission Bay is a smaller bay for mostly recreational activities. The Catamaran is located on Mission Bay.

This time of the year, weather is typically in the mid-60s (18-20°C) in the day and mid-50s (13-14°C) at night. A marine layer of clouds usually comes in at night until mid morning.

Mission Bay is right out the door of the Catamaran with nice calm beaches and a path following Mission Bay. Across Mission Boulevard is the Pacific Ocean with a boardwalk and beaches. Many restaurants, bars, and shops are along the boardwalk and within a couple blocks of the beach.

We have planned the following events around the technical meetings:

- San Diego Zoo: Sunday morning departing at 8:30 & 10:00 am. Returning 1:30, 3:30 & 4:30 pm.
- Sunday Evening Reception: A luau-style reception beach-side at the hotel (weather permitting).
- Tuesday Luncheon: Dr. Richard Seymour, head of the Ocean Engineering Research Group at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, presentation on Ocean Renewable Energy.
- Wednesday Midway Dinner Social: Busses begin boarding at the Catamaran and the Bahia at 5:30 pm. The hangar deck and flight deck are open from 6:30 until 10:30 pm. Most of the airplanes on exhibit are on the flight deck, which also provides a nice view of the city and bay. Hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 to 7:00, dinner 7:30 to 9:30, with docent tours of the engine room and captains quarters from 6:30 until 8:30. Flight simulators are open from 6:30 to 8:30. The gift shop is open from 6:30 until 8:30. Jazz band from 7:00 until 10:00. First bus departs at 9:30 pm.
- Spouse/Companion Tours, Monday & Tuesday (see Meeting Schedule & Flyers on the website).

Other things to do:

- Beaches: Outside the Catamaran on Mission Bay, or across the street (Mission Blvd) approx 100 meters to the beach. The water is cold and the air temperature is cool, but it should be sunny after the typical morning clouds burn off.
- Sea World: Fish and whale entertainment (www.seaworld.com).
- Del Coronado: Famous historical hotel ~30 min drive from the Catamaran (www.hoteldel.com).
- Gas Lamp District: Redeveloped historical area downtown San Diego, full of restaurants and clubs. Park at Horton Plaza, the Convention Center, or some of the parking lots nearby. Parking at Horton Plaza can be validated at machines in the mall for a couple of hours. For baseball fans, the Padres are in town, and it is Spring Break for some, so the Gas Lamp will be busy. Approx 10-15 minutes from the Catamaran depending on traffic (www.gaslamp.org).

- Old Town: First European settlement of California. State Historic Park, 24 restaurants mostly Mexican food and shopping (www.oldtownsandiego.org).
- Balboa Park: 15 museums including aerospace and natural history, all kinds of stuff, including the location of the San Diego Zoo (www.balboapark.org).
- USS Midway Museum: Aircraft carrier museum, if you can't wait for our Wednesday evening social event (www.midway.org).
- La Jolla: Rocky beaches, art galleries & upscale shopping. Up the coast, 10 to 15 minutes.
- Sea Port Village: Restaurants and shops on San Diego Bay. Free concerts on Sunday. Ten to 15 minutes from the Catamaran, depending on traffic (www.seaportvillage.com).
- Padres are in town, battling the Dodgers (April 8, 9, 10) and Reds (April 11, 12, 13) at Petco Park in the Gas Lamp District (www.padres.com).
- Cabrillo Monument (Point Loma): My favorite view of Downtown San Diego (www.nps.gov/cabr).

Food and Drink (walking distance):

- Gringo's: Mexican Restaurant and bar, ~8 blocks north of the Catamaran, 4474 Mission Blvd. Open daily 11 am to 10 pm. Sunday brunch at 10 am. 858.490.2877 (www.gringocantina.com).
- Green Flash: Restaurant and bar, a couple of blocks north of the Catamaran on the beach with a sunset view, 701 Thomas Ave. Call ahead for dinner, daily 8 to 10 pm, 858.270.7715 (www.greenflashrestraunt.com).
- Lahaina Beach House: Dive bar with good shrimp and fish tacos, on the beach a couple of blocks north of the Catamaran, 710 Oliver Avenue and Strand Way. Walk up and stumble back. Favorite of some, but not recommended for everyone, 858.270.3888.

Food and Drink (driving distance):

- RT's Long Board Grill: About a mile away from the Catamaran, 1466 Garnet Ave. Good burgers, salads, and tacos. 858.270.4030. College crowd (www.longboardgrill.com).
- Donovan's Steak & Chop House (www.donovanssteakhouse.com)
 - UTC area, my favorite steak, near La Jolla, 10-15 minute drive, 4360 La Jolla Village Drive, 858.450.6666. Not open Sunday or Thursday
 - Gas Lamp District, 10-15 minutes drive, near downtown, 570 K Street, 619.237.9700. Open everyday
- Georges on the Cove: In La Jolla, 10-15 minute drive, great view & food, upscale, 858.454.4244 (www.georgesatthecove.com).
- Anthology: 10-15 minute drive in Little Italy, near the USS Midway. National talent music and dinner show. Check out their website at www.anthologysd.com.
- The Fish Market: Good seafood & sushi bar, near the USS Midway, approx 15-20 minute drive. "Top of the Market" is located upstairs and is more upscale. Open every day 11 am to 9:30 pm, 619.232.3474 (www.thefishmarket.com).

Transportation: The San Diego International Airport (SAN) is about 8 miles (6.8 km) from the Catamaran.

- Taxi -- about US\$30 one-way.
- Super Shuttle -- US\$12 one-way with group rate code "SEC58", please tip well, 858.974.8885 (www.supershuttle.com).

San Diego Laws:

- No smoking or fires on the beach or boardwalk
- No alcoholic beverages on the beach
- No glass on the beach

Thank you for joining us in San Diego for the Spring 2011 Meeting! See you soon!

Rob Mayer

Spring 2011 Meeting Host
San Diego Gas & Electric

