

**Cityside Saga,  
San Diego Downtown News  
December 26, 2002**

By JOHN GREGORY  
Editor-in-chief

- The holiday rush is particularly evident during this season at the San Diego International Airport. But leading up to now there have been a few developments (besides the new Airport Authority). For example, did you know that Aeromexico now offers a non-stop flight to Mazatlan from San Diego? Yes, the inaugural flights began Nov. 12 and will continue flying on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Departure time from San Diego is 1:45 p.m. and arrival time in Mazatlan is 5:05 p.m. Return flights depart from Mazatlan at 11:05 a.m. and arrive in San Diego at 12:35 p.m.

The airport is now hosting a live band once per month, also. The first performance began the terminal Jazz series in the Terminal 2 Baggage Claim area featuring Bill MacPherson in November. Raggle Taggle performed on Dec. 13 and the Peter Popping Duo is slated for Jan. 10, 2003.

The San Diego International Airport is not without its holiday spirit, either. Award-winning tree designer Whinnery Designs has placed five "Holiday Trees" at various locations throughout the terminals. The Angel Tree is in the Commuter Terminal; the Silver and Gold Tree is in the Terminal 1 Baggage Claim; the Stained Glass Tree is in Terminal 2 West, on the second floor near the ticket counters; the Billy Buttons Tree, adorned with snowman ornaments, is in the Terminal 2 Baggage Claim; and the Hippie Tree, with classic decorations such as glass Volkswagen ornaments, is in Terminal 2 on the second floor across from the food court. The trees will remain until Jan. 5, 2003.

- Time for trash talk about the holidays. San Diego Environmental Services said the average California family will generate between three and 10 extra bags of trash through this festive season. Folks, that's 100 million bags of garbage, enough to fill Qualcomm Stadium 300 times.

What a great idea! Now we know what to do with Qualcomm Stadium after the Chargers leave.

Environmental services suggests we all recycle holiday garbage such as aluminum pie and turkey tins, glass food jars, milk jugs, metal cans, champagne bottles, etc. Or, better yet, re-use the material: design your own wrapping paper using shopping bags and decorate them with paint; make gift tags from last year's holiday cards; and collect re-usable wrapping paper. Might I also suggest the great American tradition of re-gifting.

- There is a small light of hope for those who overindulge on New Year's Eve, or for the weary traveller who is caught in long lines. A San Diego company has developed B Clear, marketed as a fast acting hangover prevention. B Clear is an all natural energy supplement with vitamins and electrolytes. It's effervescent (like Alka-Seltzer), so it goes right into your blood stream. Take one before you start your holiday party, then take another before you hit the sack. B Clear replaces the vitamins and electrolytes you deplete when you consume alcohol. The product can be found at Longs Drugs and 7-11s, or look for locations on [www.bclearusa.com](http://www.bclearusa.com).
- Looking ahead, let's take a quick peek at some of the events heading this way in the new year:

Those looking forward to viewing the next line of new cars at the San Diego International Auto Show should be on the lookout. The auto show, which attracts thousands of attendees to the San Diego Convention Center annually, is getting an early start this year. It

opens on New Year's Day and runs through Jan. 5. The reason for the early appearance is that the show's planners expect to lure even more spectators because children will be out of schools, workers will be off work and visitors will be in town during the early January holiday period.

The 15th Annual San Diego Boat Show will be hot on the Auto Show's heels as the National Marine Manufacturers Association opens the Boat Show Jan. 9 through 12 at the Convention Center and Marriott Marina. The association will host the Discover Boating Center which provided 400 free boat rides on San Diego Bay during last year's event. The purpose was to help educate the public about how affordable boating is for the entire family. After all, a family can get into a starter boat for under \$10,000.

Meanwhile, the Southern California Marine Association (SCMA) decided to bring its own boat show to San Diego next summer. The SCMA currently has four other boat shows scheduled for 2003, in Los Angeles, Anaheim, Pomona and Long Beach. The only decision yet to be made is where in San Diego to hold the new event. Could it be at the Convention Center and Marriott Marina, perhaps?

The large military presence in San Diego is accentuated by the fact that the U.S. Naval Institute will be hosting West 2003, Jan. 14-16 at the San Diego Convention Center. This event is billed as the largest "state-of-the-art warfare and technologies exposition on the West Coast." The halls will be filled with exhibitors showcasing all the latest warfare technology and attendees are sure to get their fill of military speak and acronyms since a who's who of admirals are scheduled to speak during the conference. A telecast presentation by General Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, may be the highlight, but the most unlikely speech of the conference may be the breakfast

address by Congresswoman Susan A. Davis, a Democrat.

- The annual Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, which runs through the streets of San Diego while bands provide runners with musical inspiration and rhythm, traditionally starts in Balboa Park. Next year's version will be held June 1, 2003. But did you know our San Diego musical marathon has sister events in different areas of the nation? It's true. The Country Music Marathon & 1/2 Marathon, for instance, is set for April 26, 2003 in Nashville. The Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon is set for Virginia Beach, Va. on Aug. 31, 2003 and the first Rock 'n' Roll Arizona Marathon and 1/2 Marathon is scheduled for Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe, Ariz. on Jan. 11, 2004.
- The Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park reopened earlier this month after being closed for renovations. The museum held a wonderful holiday event underwritten by Sally Stevens Jones on Dec. 12. The museum was filled with Timken patrons. The fine conversation by those in attendance could not overshadow the extraordinary exhibits on display, highlighted by a room filled with Russian icons and another with 16th century bronze sculptures by Giambologna and students who worked in his studio. I highly recommend a visit to the privately-funded Timken Museum of Art for a tremendous fine art experience.
- The deadline was Dec. 22, so we are anxiously awaiting the results of the San Diego Natural History Museum canine mascot contest. The purpose of the contest was to find a dog to star in print marketing and media promotions for the upcoming exhibit titled "DOGS: Wolf, Myth, Hero & Friend." The museum asked those interested to submit a color photo of their cute canine along with a short description of why their dog should be selected as a mascot. The winning pet's owner will win a year's supply of Pedigree Food for Dogs (the exhibit sponsor), exhibit guest passes

and a one-year family membership to the San Diego Museum of Natural History.