

NEXT MEETING:

APRIL 19

**THE RIVIERA COUNTRY
CLUB &
THE GETTY CENTER
www.hftp-la.org**



LOS ANGELES

Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals
APRIL 2001 ISSUE

President's Message

Thanks for the great turnout last month at the new Disney Grand Californian! And thanks to the Orange County Chapter for all the work they did to help make the meeting so successful! We had great door prizes too!

This month's meeting promises to be another wonderful experience. We will meet first at the Riviera Country Club for hors d'oeuvres and drinks and then, depending on how you want to get there, zip over to the Getty Center by bus or car, where we will have a representative from the Center speak to our group on the Getty Foundation and its plans for the future. Our thanks to Dennis Pacheco, from the Los Angeles Country Club, for making all the arrangements for us.

As we approach our summer break, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our members that our association is not just about having dinner each month at some fancy hotel in town. The Board is committed to bringing what it feels are important issues and topics to the meetings. However, we cannot know what is always important to you without your contributions. Each year we ask members who have shown interest in the leadership of our Los Angeles Chapter to join the Board. This year is no different. We need your contribution. If you are interested or wish to be heard, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Board Members, past or current.

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Hobnob with the Stars at the Riviera Country Club & Revel in the Grandeur of the Getty

The Riviera was founded in 1926 and is known as a playground to the Stars. The Club has hosted over 30 Los Angeles Opens, the PGA Championship twice and, most recently, the U.S. Senior Open.

For most, the Riviera Country Club by itself would be enough. But not for the Los Angeles Chapter of HFTP, for at 5:30 pm it is off on a bus, or in your own car, to the fabulous Getty Center. There we will be met at The Grove by Katherine Klose of the Getty Center staff. Ms. Klose will give us a brief history of the Getty Center and let us in on some of their plans for the future. When Ms. Klose is done speaking, you will be free to wander in the Getty until 9 pm, at which time the Center closes and the bus will head back to the Riviera.

This is a great event to which you are encouraged to invite a guest or members of your staff. Do not miss this one! *Dennis Pacheco*

**THE RIVIERA C.C.
1250 CAPRI DR.
PACIFIC PALISADES
(310) 454-6591**

**Thursday, April 19
Special Meeting Time!**

Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres,
& Dinner
at the Riviera from
4:00 - 5:30 pm, then
continue on to the Getty
Center (bus or your car)

**THE GETTY
CENTER
1200 GETTY CENTER DR.
LOS ANGELES
(310) 440-7300**

Tour the Getty 7-9 pm
Bus returns to Riviera at 9

**ALL THE DETAILS are
found on front & back
pages of NEWSLETTER!**

**PRICE: \$35.00 per person
for members & first-time
guests; All others, \$45.00.**

Please make
checks payable to "HFTP"
("No Shows" will be billed)
**RSVP online at
www.hftp-la.org
by Monday, April 16**

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AND YOU THOUGHT COMMITTEES WERE BAD.....

Submitted by Dennis Pacheco

The U.S. standard railroad gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches.

That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the U.S. railroads were built by English expatriates. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

The wagon wheels were spaced that way because of the wheel ruts. The wheel ruts represented the spacing of the Roman war chariot's wheels. Everyone followed the spacing because they were afraid to offend their conquerors. Hence the U.S. standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Thus, we have the answer to the original question.

Now, the extra-terrestrial twist to the story.....

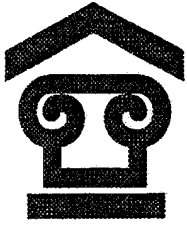
When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track (as you'll remember) is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, the major design feature, of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, was determined over 2,000 years ago by the width of a horse's ass.

And you wonder why it is so hard to get ahead in this world!



On the Move!

Herb Hammann has moved to the Anaheim Convention Center with ARAMARK



About The Getty

J. Paul Getty believed in making art available to the public for its education and enjoyment and founded the J. Paul Getty Museum in 1953. This small museum, established in his ranch house in Malibu, housed collections of Greek and Roman antiquities, 18th-century French furniture, and European paintings. Fascinated with the ancient world of the Mediterranean, he later built a Roman-style villa, modeled after the 1st-century AD Villa Papiri.

When most of Mr. Getty's personal estate passed to the Trust in 1982, the Trustees wanted to contribute even more to the visual arts through an expanded museum as well as a range of new programs. Planning for the Getty Center began in the mid-1980s, when property in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles was acquired by the Getty Trust. The architectural firm of Richard Meier & Partners was awarded the design commission.

The Getty Center, a dramatic hill-top campus in Los Angeles, opened in 1997. The Villa closed for renovation that same year and will reopen in the future as a center for comparative archaeology and cultures.

President's Message, continued from Page 1

Scholarship and internship have been important subjects to the Board. We have asked our Director of Education, Don St. Hilaire of the School of Hotel Administration at Cal Poly, to put together a program for us. We will revamp our existing scholarship program and add on an internship program. We will ask for member hotel participation. If you have any thoughts or ideas regarding scholarship or internship, please do not hesitate to contact us.

See you all at the Riviera!

James Le

Los Angeles Chapter President



CYBER SLEUTHS* INVESTIGATE HOT SITES ON THE INTERNET

Nation's Restaurant News has an interesting e-biz site: <http://www.nrn.com/nrnebiz/>

Headline news site called the WiredHotelier.com <http://www.wiredhotelier.com/>

The hospitality upgrade site continues to useful: <http://www.hospitalityupgrade.com/>

For those interested in the Asia Pacific Rim area: <http://www.hotelasiapacific.com/>

Our old home has a great web page for the Best Practices info. The articles can be downloaded for free with Adobe Acrobat reader:

<http://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/publications/hraq/feature/bestpractices.html>

For those who want to view an interesting demo regarding meeting planning:

<http://www.meetingbroker.com/meetingbroker/index.htm>

For all sorts of info, including product demos, visit Foodservice Central.com at:

<http://www.foodservicecentral.com/content/homepage/default.as>

Other favorites:

<http://www.flightarrivals.com>

<http://www.hcareers.com>

<http://www.100hot.com> (Hottest sites on the Net!)

Starwood purchased Geac (major PMS vendor from Tustin, CA)

<http://www.geac.com/default.asp?Page=press040301>

Above sites provided compliments of Cyber Sleuths Don St. Hilaire, Neal McCracken, & Eden Slegre

(You too can be a Cyber Sleuth! Submit your favorites to: eden@globalhospla.com)

Controllers' Conference

Orange County
Week of 4/22 -- includes testing for
CHAE and CHTP

The Getty Center
 &
Riviera Country Club
 at the
Thursday
April 19th
Meeting:
Next


Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals
 Los Angeles Chapter
 Global Hospitality Network
 3579 E. Foothill Boulevard, #229
 Pasadena, CA 91107

CALENDAR


HFTP LA Chapter
Meetings
 May 24 - St. Regis,
 Century City
 For June Meeting:
 date & location TBA

Riviera/Getty Transportation Information

You may decide to take a free bus ride* to the Getty from the Riviera Country Club, which is located at 1250 Capri Drive, Pacific Palisades. Parking at the Riviera is provided free of charge and paid for by our Chapter. (*Seating on bus is first-come, first-served basis.)
If you drive to The Getty, parking will be \$5.00.
Directions to the Getty: The Getty Center is located in Los Angeles near the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) and the Santa Monica Freeway (Interstate 10). Take the Getty Center Drive exit from the 405 and follow the signs.




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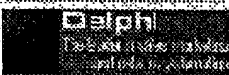


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