

From The Desk Of The President



Dear Texas Parking Colleagues:

The Texas Parking Association Conference and Trade Show is scheduled for April 9th thru the 11th in College Station, Texas. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The Board of Directors has been hard at work this past year bringing together what is most certainly going to be another great conference and trade show. But, the real thanks goes to our Texas A & M team on the ground in College Station, which has gone the extra mile to ensure a really great experience for everyone. These folks deserve our appreciation and word of thanks when you see them at the conference. The conference committee consists of Rod Weis, Rose Berryhill, Lynn Wiggs, Debbie Hoffman, Pete Willis and June Broughton.

I would encourage you to take advantage of the on-line registration process available to you as a link from the TPA website at www.texasparking.org. On-line registration opened January 28 and is rather simple to navigate, even for a first time user such as myself. It was quick and convenient and allowed me to print out a confirmation or create an invoice for having a check issued. The entire registration took approximately 10 minutes from beginning to end. Much faster and easier than printing the form, filling it out and going to the post office to mail it.

A new initiative the TPA has launched is the Roundtable discussions. This initiative is something the Board has been hoping to bring to the members of TPA for several years but it took the careful guidance of board member Liliana Rambo in order to make it a reality. There is no cost to attend the Roundtable and all are encouraged to attend when it comes to a city near you. Attendance is limited so register early to reserve your seat. For more information on the Roundtable discussion that may be coming to your area, visit the TPA website. If you have a parking industry topic you would like to see discussed at a future Roundtable or would like to learn how you could assist in bringing a Roundtable to your city, please contact the TPA at 1-800-880-0066 or by e-mailing the TPA at info@texasparking.org.

I hope to see everyone at the conference in April.

Regards,
Jerry Dinse, President
Texas Parking Association

Newsletter Highlights:

- President's Message
- Airport Parking Article
- Conference Info
- Conference Links
- Conference Schedule
- Membership

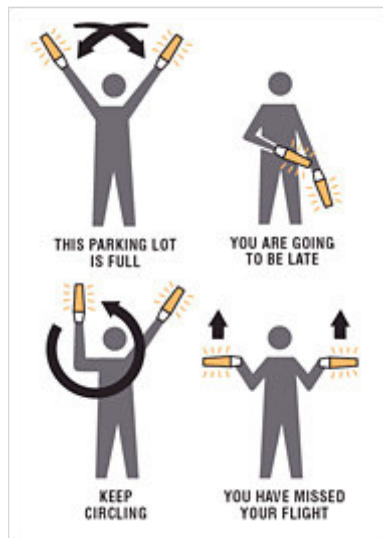
No Room at the Lot and Late at the Gate

By [MICHELLE HIGGINS](#)

Published: January 20, 2008

Provided by Liliana Rambo, City of Houston – Parking Management Division

WITH more travelers taking to the skies, it's becoming harder to find a parking spot at the airport.



Long-term parking at San Francisco International Airport filled up 70 days last year. Parking lots at Kennedy Airport in New York overflowed on Christmas Day. And because of the limited number of long-term spaces at La Guardia Airport (just 918), spots are practically gone every day by 9 a.m.

And it's not just along the coasts. The parking lots at Dallas Fort Worth International had 2.84 million vehicles in the year ended Sept. 30, up about 5 percent from the previous year. Phoenix Sky Harbor International had a 3 percent increase, to an estimated 4.34 million parked cars last year. And the long-term spaces at Pittsburgh International were filled about 20 percent of the time.

When lots fill up, travelers can spend precious moments circling for parking, possibly missing their flights. Paula Martin, a certified public accountant from Sandy Springs, Ga., learned this the hard way last summer. After being turned away from the parking lot she normally uses near Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, she spent 30 minutes driving around in search of a spot — time she had planned to use checking in and getting through security check points. In the end she made the flight, but just barely. “I was very close to missing my flight and very stressed out because of it,” Ms. Martin said.

The parking crunch isn't just affecting travelers catching a flight. It's a problem for the people picking them up, too. At Phoenix, for example, the garage for Terminal 4, which serves more than 75 percent of the airport's passengers, is often crowded by midday, especially on Wednesdays. When it does fill up, drivers are forced to park in remote lots and take buses back to the terminal to meet arriving passengers.

But with some simple planning, it's possible to beat the system. One method gaining popularity is to reserve a spot online. Services like Park 'N Fly Network (www.parknflynetwork.com) and AirportParkingReservations.com allow travelers to search for and reserve a parking spot at so-called off-airport lots by plugging in their departure airport and travel dates. Park 'N Fly Network, based in Atlanta, takes reservations for parking space near 67 airports in its network ranging from self-parking with bus shuttles to valet parking with amenities like car washes and oil changes.

Continued

AirportParkingReservations, based in Madison, Conn., offers reservations for spots near 200 airports, which it plots on a [Google](#) map to give users a sense of how far they are from the terminals.

In addition to peace of mind, these online services can save money over airport parking lots. For example, the cheapest lots at Hartsfield in Atlanta cost \$9 a day. Park 'N Fly Network has parking as low as \$7 a day. The trade-off, of course, is the distance to the terminal. Air Park Parking (www.airparkparking.com) recommends, for example, that drivers parking near La Guardia add 15 minutes to their travel times. But some off-airport sites offer perks to make up for the added time.

Besides offering shuttle service every three to five minutes at some airports, Park 'N Fly, a chain of 18 facilities within the Park 'N Fly Network, has taken to handing out disposable booties for passengers to wear when they take off their shoes at security checkpoints.

Not to be outdone, airports are working on their own improvements to ease parking congestion. Kennedy is planning to build a 1,500-space garage across from the new [JetBlue](#) terminal in time for summer travel. Construction for a 5,000-vehicle parking ramp is under way at [Minneapolis-St. Paul International](#), bringing its total to 22,000. Hartsfield regularly updates the status of its parking lots on its Web site, www.atlanta-airport.com. (The day after Christmas, all three economy lots were full, but seven other lots, including daily and airport park-ride shuttle lots were open.) And for passengers willing to pay a premium, Hartsfield also guarantees overnight parking spots in the Gold Reserve Lots near the North and South terminals. Gold parkers pay \$24 a day with an annual minimum fee of \$288. In return they are ensured a parking space with no waiting in line to take a ticket or look for a space.

IN addition, more airports are creating free cellphone waiting lots to help alleviate traffic generated by passenger pick ups. Instead of circling the terminal, drivers can wait at these designated lots until their arriving party calls. [Detroit Metro Airport](#), for instance, has a newly expanded cellphone waiting area at the Smith Terminal, with 37-spaces next to the airport's rental-car facilities. Check your airport's Web site for parking and cellphone waiting area information.

Airport hotels are starting to get in on the act, too, by offering packages with parking and shuttle service included. The Hyatt Regency at O'Hare International in [Chicago](#), for example, is offering parking for up to 10 nights with a one-night stay. And [ParkSleepFly.com](#) offers parking and hotel packages at airport hotels in the [United States](#), [Europe](#) and [Canada](#); its cruiseport feature specializes in deals for popular [cruise](#) departure cities in the United States, as well as [Toronto](#).

Wherever you decide to park, keep in mind that peak parking periods correspond to air traffic patterns. Lots are filled quickly on holidays, like the upcoming Presidents' Day weekend. Spots are also hard to find midweek, when lots fill up with [business travelers](#). Park 'N Fly Network recommends securing a spot three to four weeks ahead of time for peak travel periods. During the recent holiday period, for example, all its parking spots were taken by mid-December at Kennedy, Phoenix, [Miami International](#) and [Orlando International](#).

2008 Conference Update

The 2008 Texas Parking Association Conference

The next TPA Conference will be held in College Station, Texas on April 9-11, 2008.

Combine powerful technology and information with smart decision-making to provide cutting edge solutions to your business needs. With knowledge, leadership, education and resources, the Texas Parking Association has the solutions to make your business a success!

REGISTRATION IS CURRENTLY OPEN.

Please check our website, www.texasparking.org, for more information and updates regarding the 2008 conference.

2008 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION LINK: <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=156750>

SPONSORSHIP LINK: www.texasparking.org/conferences_2008

CONFERENCE HOTEL – HILTON COLLEGE STATION & CONFERENCE CENTER

Right in the heart of Texas, the Hilton College Station & Conference Center is located at the intersection of University Drive and Tarrow Boulevard, less than two miles from Texas A&M University. The hotel has 303 luxuriously appointed guest rooms, with over 65 suites, several in-room Jacuzzi suites and a two bedroom Presidential Suite on the top floor, overlooking the beautiful Brazos Valley.

Use Group Code “PARK” when making your reservations.

HILTON COLLEGE STATION LINK: <http://www.hiltoncs.com/>

CONFERENCE GOLF TOURNAMENT–BRIARCREST COUNTRY CLUB GOLF COURSE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH, 7AM-1PM

The 2008 TPA Golf Tournament will be held at the Briarcrest Country Club Golf Course. Registration is \$100 and includes green fee, cart, breakfast and lunch.

CONFERENCE EVENT – MESSINA HOF WINERY & RESORT

THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, 6:15 PM – 10:00 PM

If you enjoy kicking back with a bottle of Messina Hof or Paulo just wait until you visit the Messina Hof estate. Our 100-acre estate, of which 42 host the vineyard, is nestled in Bryan, Texas. In addition to the winery, the estate is home to The Villa bed & breakfast, The Vintage House restaurant and the Winemaster's Room wine bar. Tours and wine tasting are offered seven days a week. Our calendar of events is packed with cooking classes, wine appreciation classes, food and wine pairing seminars, murder mystery and winemaker dinners, and more! More

Mark your calendars for the evening of April 10th, when the winery is reserved for TPA conference attendees. A special wine tasting and dinner event is sure to please everyone's palette! More details to come...

2008 Conference Schedule

Wednesday, April 9th

7:00am – 1:00pm	Golf Tournament, Briarcrest Country Club
9:00am – 10:00am	Registration
10:00am – noon	Session 1 <u>Discover a Global View of Texas A&M University</u>
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch on your own
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Registration
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Session 2 <u>Discover the Essence of Designing a New Garage</u>
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Session 3 <u>Discover the Latest Trend in Technology: Integrated Access and Revenue Control System</u>
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Registration
5:00pm – 7:30pm	Opening Reception, Vendor Exhibition Hall Open

Thursday, April 10th

8:00am – 9:30am	Registration
8:30am – 9:30am	Vendor Exhibition Hall Open (Breakfast Coupon for Restaurant)
9:30am – 10:30am	Session 1 <u>Discover How to Use the Media to Your Advantage</u>
	Session 2 <u>Discover the Key to Clean Safe Parking Facilities with Consistently Functioning Equipment</u>
10:45am – 12:00pm	Session 1 <u>Discover the Elements of Developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan</u>
	Session 2 <u>Discover What to Expect when Implementing Pay-By-Space and Pay-On-Foot Parking</u>
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch/Vendor Exhibition Hall Open <u>Discover Best Business Practices</u>
1:00pm – 1:15pm	Keynote Speaker
1:30pm – 2:45pm	<u>Discover the Transit Management Options</u>
1:30pm – 2:45pm	Roundtable Plus Session 1: <u>Discover How to Manage Parking in a Sustainable Community and with the "Green Effect"</u>
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Roundtable Plus Session 2: <u>Discover How to Get to the Next Level in Customer Service</u>
4:00pm – 6:00pm	Evening Reception/Vendor Exhibition Hall Open
6:15pm	1st Buses Depart for Messina Hof
6:45pm	Last Bus Departs for Messina Hof (driving directions are available in your TPA Conference folder)
6:15 pm – 10:00 pm	Vineyard Cuisine, and Wine Tasting & Paring
7:00pm	Dinner
8:30pm – 10:00pm	Buses Depart from Messina Hof

Friday, April 11th

8:30am – 9:30am	Continental Breakfast/Vendor Exhibition Hall Open
9:30am	Business Meeting
10:00am – 11:30am	Session 1 <u>ADA Expert Panel</u>
11:45am – 12:00pm	Gifts, Awards and Door Prizes

Texas Parking Association

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Want to submit an article for consideration, or you have a request for a specific topic...send your request to Larry DeLuca at ldeluca@abm.com

We're on the Web!
See us at:
WWW.TEXASPARKING.ORG

Membership Has Its Privileges

The Texas Parking Association offers three different levels of membership. They include:

Regular.....\$125 [Voting privileges] (Representatives of municipalities or other government bodies or parking authorities, transportation authorities, boards, bureaus, commissions or departments, also including universities, colleges, airports, hospitals, stadiums and auditoriums, or other institutions having similar responsibility for the establishment, operation, maintenance, control or direction of public parking..)

Affiliate.....\$150 [Voting privileges] (Representatives of corporations or consultants, private developers or individuals engaged in supplying goods or services to the parking industry or interested in or involved with the operation and development of institutional or municipal parking, whether for profit or otherwise and who support the objectives of the Texas Parking Association.)

Associate.....\$75 [No voting privileges] (Representatives of the Regular and Affiliate members or any other individual, corporation or Association that the Board may elect.)

A download of the application can be found at www.texasparking.org.

TPA Board

The foundation of the TPA is that it is a volunteer based organization designed to enhance the parking industry within the State of Texas. Listed below is the current 2007 Board:

- President - Jerry Dinse – Parking Program Mgr - Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
- Vice President - Brad Conner – Associated Time & Parking
- Secretary - Eve Grubb - Texas Medical Center
- Treasurer - Larry DeLuca - Ampco System Parking
- Bob Harkins – Parking and Transportation Services - University of Texas At Austin
- Liliana Rambo – City of Houston Parking Mgt
- Chris Golgert - Program Management
- Chris Archer - Associated Time and Parking Controls
- Rod Weis – Transportation Services - TAMU
- Scott Kangas - University of North Texas
- Jane Wilcox – The University of Texas at San Antonio

Coming Next Issue:
2008 Annual TPA
Conference Recap

