



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## **Seventh Annual Texas Lineman Rodeo comes to Seguin July 20**

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SEGUIN-A hot summer day in Seguin, acres of park land and towering pecan trees, the Guadalupe River flowing nearby and . . . more than 100 electric linemen scrambling up poles for the 'raw egg climb,' the 'hurtman' rescue, the hot-stick transformer change and other exciting events. It's the Seventh Annual Texas Lineman Rodeo – and you don't want to miss it!

The Rodeo is free and open to the public and starts bright and early Saturday July 20, with a 6:30 a.m. opening ceremony at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Nolte Island Park. Team competitions begin at 7 a.m. and winners will be announced at the 5 p.m. awards presentation. A variety of concessions will be served -- including breakfast tacos, lunch items and beverages -- so bring your appetite, lawn chairs and sunscreen and spend the day watching some exciting competition among the top electric linemen in the nation.

The Lineman Rodeo is designed to encourage three-man teams in the Journeyman Lineman category, and single lineman competition in the Apprentice category to test their skills in a competitive, controlled environment with safety and job knowledge as the judging criteria. Main events include pole climbing, hurt man rescue, using an insulated hot stick to replace electrical components at the top of poles, line splicing, knot tying and ten other competitions designed to test team and individual safe line work practices. The pole climbing and hurt man rescue events draw the largest crowds and loudest cheers. Pole climbers must ascend and descend a pole without breaking the raw egg each competitor carries in his mouth. In the hurt man rescue, a 150-pound dummy must be 'rescued' from the top of a 40-foot pole. This is a timed event, because of its importance in rescuing an injured co-worker where time is the difference between life and death.

Teams from throughout the state will be competing to see who is "Best in Texas." Competitors will represent one of four divisions: Investor-Owned Utilities, Contractors, Municipal Utilities and Electric Cooperatives. Teams are already registered from Austin, San Antonio Bryan/College Station and the Guadalupe-Valley Electric Cooperative. Houston will also be sending a number of teams including those from the Mid-South Electric Cooperative and the Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, while the Dallas/Ft. Worth area will be represented by Denton, Garland, Hillco and Panola-Harrison. Several teams from the investor owned utilities have early registered including AEP West Texas Utilities, AEP Central Power and Light and Texas/New Mexico Power.

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Last year's event attracted more than 40 three-person teams plus 30 apprentice linemen. "We expect at least this many to compete on July 20 in Seguin," said Bobby Christmas, GVEC operations division manager and Rodeo Committee chairman. "We're planning for up to 500 people, including contestants and their families."

"Safety is the number one priority at the Lineman Rodeo," said Texas Electric Cooperative's (TEC) director of loss control and sponsor of the Texas Lineman Rodeo Robert Bryson. "The events are competitive, and time is very important to the competitors. But the greatest emphasis is on safety. Linemen literally put their lives on the line every day in their daily routine. There's no room for error."

TEC Loss Control Safety and Training Program will sponsor this year's Lineman Rodeo. Other agencies helping to coordinate the event are the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC), the Guadalupe-Blanco-River Authority (GBRA) and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

"GBRA has operated a Hydroelectric Division since the 1960's, so we have a first-hand appreciation of the skills required to be a top lineman," said GBRA general manager Bill West. "We are delighted to be hosting this year's Rodeo. We invite everyone to come out and enjoy the competition and the beautiful setting along the Guadalupe River."

Many families extend the Rodeo into a weekend vacation by spending Sunday tubing on the river or visiting Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels, shopping at the outlet mall in San Marcos or taking in the sights in San Antonio.

To reach Nolte Island, Take IH 10 to Exit 610 (Highway 123 Bypass) in Seguin. Go south on 123, across Highway 90A (East Court Street) to the next light (Wal Mart on right). Turn LEFT at the intersection and stay on FM 466 (Capote Road). Just before the bridge across the Guadalupe River, turn RIGHT at the marked entrance to Nolte Island and follow the road past the hydroelectric plant into the park.

Local camping and RV information is available from: River Shade RV Park, 3995 S. State Highway 123 Bypass (830) 379-8826, 1-800-364-7275 or on the web at [www.woodalls.com/a/00825\\_rivershade.html](http://www.woodalls.com/a/00825_rivershade.html); also Bryan's Country RV Park, 14070 FM 725 (830) 379-5945; Circle H RV Campground, 3260 U.S. Highway 90, (830) 379-9855; Dusty Oaks RV Park & Campground, 119 Tschoepe Road (830) 372-0203; or McQueeney Marina RV & Boat Launch, 1901 Terminal Loop Road (830) 557-9900.

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CUTLINE (digital photo attached to e-mail transmissions):

Electric Linemen from throughout the state will converge on Seguin for the Texas Lineman Rodeo on July 20. Teams compete for prizes and professional recognition in a number of events, including the 'hot stick insulator change' atop a utility pole on the competition field at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's Nolte Island Park.