

International Utility Locate Rodeo

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Ten years of high-tech hide-and-seek were celebrated in Georgia on Saturday, August 6, on the campus of Georgia Tech University. The International Utility Locate Rodeo (Locate Rodeo), hosted by Georgia 811 and the National Utility Locate Contractors Association (NULCA), is described as “The Olympics of the Locate Industry.” More than 60 locate technician competitors from across the U.S. and Canada were in attendance this year.

“Locate technicians perform extraordinary work to protect our communities, but their work often goes unnoticed,” said Claudette Campbell, President and CEO of Georgia 811. “The Locate Rodeo is a great way to honor the men and women who locate underground utilities, and to showcase to the world how their hard work keeps residents safe.”

The mission of the Locate Rodeo is to be the preeminent event for Utility Locate Technicians. Locate Rodeo is designed to celebrate the art and science behind the craft of underground utility locating. It recognizes and serves as the cornerstone for promoting high quality and achievable standards in the industry.

Christopher Koch, President of Hance Utility Services and current NULCA President, explained that “NULCA is proud to once again co-sponsor this important event. The Rodeo provides an unparalleled opportunity to recognize the everyday heroics of dedicated trades people and to celebrate the professionalism of a largely invisible industry. The mutual respect and camaraderie among competitors is inspiring.”

Competitors compete in one of four divisions: gas, power, telecom or water. Within each division, their skills are put to the test at three differ-

ent event sites. The scores from all three event sites are used to determine the winner. Each competitor is allowed 12 minutes to complete an event and time is used as a tie breaker. A bonus event, the Locate From Hell (LFH), is open to any competitor who feels they are up to the challenge.

Decisions to participate in the LFH are voluntary and it differs from other divisions in several ways. First, there is only one event site. Second, the competitor only has 3 minutes of mean time for locating. Third, the competitor may not use his or her own equipment -- they are required to select equipment from one of the participating Rodeo Equipment Manufacturer sponsors.

First place winners in each division won \$1,000, second place earned \$500 and third place took home \$250. The total purse for the event was \$8,750. In addition to the Rodeo winnings, the Rodeo Equipment Manufacturer’s Challenge (REMC) made it possible for first place winners to add up to \$1,000 more to their winnings. In addition, Double Diamond Sponsor Krylon awarded \$100 to each first place winner.

For the 2011 competition, REMC Diamond sponsors Radiodetection and Vivax/Metrotech sponsored all four divisions and the LFH. Winners in each division, who declared their use of a Diamond REMC’s equipment, added \$1,000 to their winnings. Gold Level REMC sponsors had their equipment available at the LFH and could add \$500 to a competitor’s first place winnings. This year that group included 3M, Mclaughlin Group, Inc., and RIDGID. **DP**

For more information about the Locate Rodeo please visit www.LocateRodeo.com or look for Locate Rodeo on Facebook and Twitter.

RANK	DIVISION	WINNER	COMPANY	EQUIPMENT USED	CITY/STATE/PROVIDENCE
1	Telecom	Tina Neri	Manatee County Utilities	Ridgid	Bradenton, FL
2	Telecom	Brad Fitzpatrick	C-3 Locating		Hampton, VA
3	Telecom	Brian Honeycutt	ARKUPS	Vivax/Metrotech	Conway, AR
1	Power	Chad O’Quinn	Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond	Vivax/Metrotech	Fitzgerald, GA
2	Power	Andrew Emmerson	STS	Vivax/Metrotech	Marietta, GA
3	Power	Terry Sheeks	Colorado Springs Utilities	Vivax/Metrotech	Colorado Springs, CO
1	Water	Andy Royal	Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond	Vivax/Metrotech	Fitzgerald, GA
2	Water	Marshall Trezevant	Synergy One	Vivax/Metrotech	Marietta, GA
3	Water	James Dorminey	Gainesville Regional Utilities		Gainesville, GA
1	Gas	Brian Brown	Heath Consultants		Chattanooga, TN
2	Gas	Todd Grinham	Synergy One	Vivax/Metrotech	Duluth, GA
3	Gas	Raymond Powell	One Vision Utility	Vivax/Metrotech	Richmond, VA
1	LFH	Brian Honeycutt	ARKUPS	Vivax/Metrotech	Conway, AR
2	LFH	Corey Downing	STS	Radiodetection	Norcross, GA
3	LFH	Tina Neri	Manatee County Utilities	Ridgid	Bradenton, FL

