



## Eighty-four Compete in Atlanta

# Discovering Excitement, Inspiration at 2007 Locate Rodeo

**E**ighty-four competitors from 21 states representing 35 companies competed in the Sixth Annual International Utility Locate Rodeo in Atlanta, Ga. In addition, the Rodeo had the help of more than 120 volunteers from 14 states and Canada, representing 43 companies.

"It takes three components to hold a successful event: dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors and top notch competitors. We had it all this year, and for this we are extremely grateful," said Claudette Campbell, Executive Director of the Utilities Protection Center, Inc. (UPC) of Georgia. UPC and the National Utility Locate Contractors Association (NULCA) hosted the Sixth Annual International Utility Locate Rodeo on August 4 at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Ga.

"It is inspiring to watch the men and women of our industry, those who day in and day out work so hard to protect people in and around communities, participate in a fun and competitive environment," said Rob Shivley, President of NULCA.

Campbell echoed Shivley's sentiments. "I have never seen or felt this much excitement at the Locate Rodeo," she said.

The International Utility Locate Rodeo is the premier event for utility locate technicians. Locate Rodeo is designed to celebrate the art and science behind the craft of underground utility location. It recognizes and serves as the cornerstone promoting high quality and achievable standards in the industry.

Shivley described the Locate Rodeo as, "an Olympic-like event for the underground locating industry."

"It is an opportunity for the industry and those involved in it to give a big thank you to many technicians around the country by allowing them to come together and show their locating prowess. It is a privilege to be associated with this event," he said.

Excitement and support were not only found from competitors and volunteers, but with the 2007 Locate Rodeo sponsors. In addition to the support of these businesses, a new sponsorship opportunity was created. The Rodeo Manufacturer's Equipment Challenge (REMC). REMC had the opportunity to sponsor a division or all divisions. As a division sponsor, a competitor could sign

a waiver declaring that they would only use that manufacturer's equipment in competition. If this competitor won first place, they could earn additional winnings. Some locate equipment manufacturer's made the most of this newly created challenge and signed on for the first-ever REMC. REMC sponsors were the only ones allowed to have equipment at the Bonus Event, called the "Locate from Hell." In past year's, this was open to anyone and competitor's made their selection once they arrived at the event.

The Locate from Hell (LFH) is challenging because of the limited time allowed to successfully locate the given utility. Only three minutes are allowed compared to the 12 min-

---

*It is inspiring to watch the men and women of our industry, those who day in and day out work so hard to protect people in and around communities, participate in a fun and competitive environment.*

---

utes allotted at the event wheels in the other divisions. Also, competitors may not use their own personal equipment at the LFH. They must select their equipment from those provided by the REMC sponsors. Participation in the bonus event is voluntary, but the chance at additional winnings drew 80 of the 84 competitor's this year.

Russell Brock from Utiliquist was the all time highest paid Locate Rodeo winner. Brock participated in the Rodeo Equipment Manufacturer's Challenge (REMC) and won an additional \$750 from Radiodetection for taking first place using RD equipment in the Locate From Hell. He also won \$1000 from the Rodeo purse for his first place win at the Locate From Hell. Adding in his \$500 second place win in the Telecom division, Brock won a total of \$2250. **UF**



Locate Rodeo is designed to celebrate the art and science behind the craft of underground utility location.



Locate technicians have 12 minutes to complete a locate during competition.

## WATER



1st Place: Jereme Jeffries, Locating Inc. (Portland, WA) *Center*  
 2nd Place: Matthew West, West Locating (Hanahan, SC) *Left*  
 3rd Place: Eric Atkins, Dalton Utilities (Dalton, GA) *Right*

Event 1 Winner: Jereme Jeffries, Locating Inc. (Portland, WA)  
 Event 2 Winner: Marshall Trezevant, SourceOne (Marietta, GA)  
 Event 3 Winner: Chad O'Quinn, Fitzgerald Water, Light and Bond Commission (Fitzgerald, GA)

## POWER



1st Place: Gene Redden, Georgia Power (Douglasville, GA) *Center*  
 2nd Place: Mike Regnier, ELM Locating (Bloomington, IL) *Right*  
 3rd Place: Raul Ignacio, ELM Locating (Pembroke Pines, FL) *Left*

Event 1 Winner: Jeremiah Gragg, Windstream (Baldwin, GA)  
 Event 2 Winner: Gene Redden, Georgia Power (Atlanta, GA)  
 Event 3 Winner: Beverly Wilder, Georgia Power (Atlanta, GA)

## TELECOM



1st Place: John Manis, R.W. L. Communications (Tallahassee, FL) *Center*  
 2nd Place: Russell Brock, Utiliquest (Hiram, GA) *Left*  
 3rd Place: Rudel Sticher, Benton Georgia (Douglasville, GA) *Right*

Event 1 Winner: John Dunham, SM & P (Kansas City, MO)  
 Event 2 Winner: Danny Kilpatrick, Benton GA (Douglasville, GA)  
 Event 3 Winner: Brett Deslonde, Level 3 (Mobile, AL)

## GAS



1st Place: Kevin Gossett, Utiliquest (San Diego, CA) *Center*  
 2nd Place: Zachary Corchero, ELM Locating (Carson City, NV) *Left*  
 3rd Place: Chris Klosowski, CLS (Florence, KY) *Right*

Event 1 Winner: Kevin Gossett, Utiliquest (San Diego, CA)  
 Event 2 Winner: James Drake, SM&P (Loves Park, IL)  
 Event 3 Winner: Carlos Ackles, Benton Georgia (Douglasville, GA)

## LOCATE FROM H\$LL (Bonus Event)

1st Place: Russell Brock, Utiliquest (Hiram, GA) *Center*  
 2nd Place: Johan Rengifo, STS (Lawrenceville, GA) *Right*  
 3rd Place: Joel Roberts, Premier Utility (Patchogue, NY) *Left*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
 WINNERS!**

**SEE MORE RODEO PICTURES ON PAGE 34**

