



ACCOMPLISHING TOGETHER WHAT
NO ONE COULD DO ALONE

THE GAB-RRR

Year 22 - Issue 3

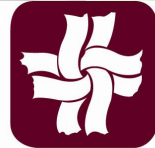
Community • Integrity • Prosperity

Monthly News from the Duluth Merchants Association

March meeting

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 @ 6 pm

Bank of North Georgia
1490 Distribution Drive
Suwanee, GA 30024
Phone: (770) 476-6200



Bank of North Georgia

About Bank of North Georgia

It's hard to find real people in banking today, but not at Bank of North Georgia. Perhaps our logo says it best. This hand woven symbol represents the "web" of commerce and community with each strand depending upon the other - ultimately reinforcing the weave as a whole.

Simply put, that's Bank of North Georgia's philosophy. Our business is intricately linked to our customers, the communities we serve and our employees. And like that hand woven design itself, each of our products and services has been carefully crafted to support and strengthen our business and valuable relationships.

Although we belong to one of the strongest and most capable regional banking networks in the U.S., we consider ourselves first and foremost members of this community.

That means our customers are not just account numbers or voices on the phone to us. You're the people we see out in the community everyday. You buy groceries where we do. Your kids play soccer with our kids. Together, we enjoy everything this community offers.

We strive to provide the most comprehensive banking products and services available anywhere. Please let us know if you have any questions about any of the information you find on our [website](#). Our current customers know how hard we work to exceed their expectations. If you're not a customer, we invite you to see what we have to offer. I promise a very rewarding, powerful relationship.

Discover how easily we can build a lasting relationship

MORE POWER TO YOU

info@banknorthgeorgia.com (770) 576-4471

We have a special on loans for small businesses in our market! Owner occupied buildings, office suites, etc. can be financed as low as 4.25% and as high as 5.25% depending on the amount and size of the loan. Closing costs are minimal as well!



2011 Officers

- President Sunny Ramsay**
Vice President James Johnson
Secretary Al Brown
Treasurer John Monk
Past President Glenn Sarver

Board of Directors

Greg Steele	(770)	495-8882
Al Brown	(770)	495-8900
Jim Johnson	(404)	626-6245
Chris McGahee	(770)	476-3434
Mark Williams	(770)	441-0945
Albert Marquez	(907)	717-9666
John Monk	(770)	495-8900
Sunny Ramsay	(678)	312-6857
Glenn Sarver	(770)	265-2448
Harold Stamey	(770)	476-1943
Richard Jackson	(678)	644-2007
Allan Roth	(770)	401-2013
Michele Murray	(770)	366-4955
Lynette Purves	(678)	561-3491

The Gab-RRR is a monthly publication of the Duluth Merchants Association. Back issues are available at www.DuluthMerchants.com



From the President

Dear DMA Members,

Another great and powerful meeting at **Street Smarts/Stantec!** First and foremost thank you Marsha Bomar, Founder of Street Smarts, for always being a strong supporter of the DMA. We are greatly appreciative of your support of our association through your continued membership, annually hosting at least one meeting and always being available to consult. The Meeting on February 1st was the normal fantastically organized and food filled event. Your Meeting Room is great and we thank you for everything. The newest is that **Street Smarts** has joined **Stantec**, a professional consulting firm with over 10,000 employees, operating out of more than 150 locations across North America. Well done Marsha, our congratulations to you and your fine associates.

We hope to see a huge crowd at our next meeting on March 1st at our first time hosts:



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 Suwanee, GA 30024
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Please use our DMA Web Page (www.duluthmerchants.com) to access their story and to map your best route to the meeting! Let's all turn out for their generous hosting of this March Meeting.

News? Announcements? We encourage all DMA Members to take advantage of the **GABRR Newsletter**. We want your articles and announcements to fill the pages of **Your Newsletter...the GABRR...**A great benefit of your DMA Membership. Make it work for you! Again, refer to the DMA website to send in your information and even photos!

The Board encourages you to bring lots of business cards, you can bring brochures to place at the registration desk...and we always encourage you to bring a Door Prize! Most of all...Make DMA a Regular Reserved Date on your Calendar...We want to see all the DMA Members benefit from their membership!

I personally look forward to see you at the March 1st DMA Meeting!

Sunny
 Sunny Ramsay, 2011 DMA President

Board Member Bio

Allan Roth

Duluth Pawn Shop



Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Allen spent the first 35 years of his adult working life was in banking in Pittsburgh and Atlanta. About 23 years ago the Entrepreneurial spirit emerged and he opened the Duluth Pawn Shop. 20 years ago, Duluth became the permanent home for the Roth family of two boys. One son is now an attorney with a law firm in Buckhead and the other son has his Master's Degree in Art and is living in New York City. Both of Allan's boys are on their own and doing well for themselves. Allan has one granddaughter whom he enjoys spending time with.

The Duluth Pawn Shop and the Duluth community have been good together over the years. Allan joined the DMA over 15 years ago. Allan states that it has been his honor to serve on the Board of Directors for several years. He has also been a member of the Masonic Lodge in Norcross for over twenty years and just recently transferred to the lodge in Duluth. He is a former treasurer for the POCI Club Georgia Chapter. February 19, 2011 Lynda Cupell and Allan were wed and their past five years will continue forward as Man and Wife. They will, of course, be living in Duluth!



March 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 DMA Meeting- Bank of North GA 6PM	2	3	4	5 Planned PETHood Vaccine Clinic 9 - 1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19
			20 \$5 Jewelry Sale GMC - D (7a - 4p) Public always welcome!			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



Duluth Fine Arts League
Presents
Duluth READS

Can you imagine one book, one city, one big READ?

Duluth READS is an initiative of the Duluth Fine Arts League

In partnership with local business sponsors

Through this partnership, we will encourage Duluth citizens to join others in the shared experience of simultaneously reading the same book and participating in related events during March, 2011.

The book has been selected and the author is coming to Duluth.

TERRY KAY

To Dance with the White Dog

Georgia Hall of Fame and Author of several classic Southern novels

March 3 Book Talk, Duluth Public Library 6:30 pm

March 11 See this Hallmark film, free at Red Clay 7:00pm

March 19 Meet Terry Kay Duluth City Hall 11:00am

Join Duluth Fine Arts League

www.artsduluth.org

"Downtown Artsy"





Flash Networking Events are a fun, exciting and effective tool for creating viable referral partnerships from other business professionals. These events increase your potential referral sources by meeting a variety of business minded people in one setting. The event starts with a lunch & presentations from our VIP Flash Sponsors. Then, flash networking begins as you rotate through three tables, sharing your business with 4 - 8 people at each table.

You have two minutes at each table to discuss your business. This is also an opportunity to share products and/or services and distribute business cards & marketing material.

Our next event is on March 16th at the Rosebud Restaurant on Sugarloaf in Lawrenceville.

- 1) go to www.flashnetworkingnow.com register using code FBN
- 2) Send an email to pam@solutionsmarketingllc.com to confirm your attendance
- 3) Invite a friend
- 4) See you on 3/16 at 11:30

Advanced Registration Required for all FBN Trades / Barter.

Check out www.flashnetworkingnow.com for all upcoming dates too!

Pam Blatchford
pam@solutionsmarketingllc.com
[678-313-6856](tel:678-313-6856)



Jewelry Sale



by Phantasia's South

\$5.00 Jewelry & More!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH

THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH

7 AM – 4 PM



Gwinnett Medical Center –Duluth

ER Hallway

(Just past the Gift Shop!)

Cash, Checks, Credit Cards &
Payroll Deduction

Sponsored by GMC Auxiliary

The Public is ALWAYS Invited!!!





Alaska Vacation Planning

Alaska is both the northernmost and largest state in the entire United States. It is a vast state that offers visitors many things to do and see, from fishing (Alaska is known for having excellent salmon and halibut) and observing wildlife to exploring glaciers and hiking through the wilderness. Since Alaska is such a massive state, it's a good idea to thoroughly and carefully plan out your vacation before you visit.

Visiting Alaska is a lifelong dream for many people. If you ask around, it is likely you will discover that others have the same interest in visiting Alaska as you.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors come to Alaska each year on escorted package tours, leaving virtually all their travel arrangements in the hands of a single company that takes responsibility for ushering them through the state for a single lump-sum fee. Many others cut the apron strings and explore Alaska on their own, in the process discovering a more relaxed, spontaneous experience. Each approach has advantages and disadvantages, of course, and which way you choose to visit depends on how you value those pros and cons. Unfortunately, some people make the choice based on expectations that aren't valid, so it's important to know what you're getting into.

Escorted Tours --An escorted package tour provides security. You'll know in advance how much everything will cost, you don't have to worry about making hotel and ground-transportation reservations, you're guaranteed to see the highlights of each town you visit, and you'll have someone telling you what you're looking at. Often a package price saves money over traveling at the same level of comfort independently. If there are weather delays or other travel problems, it's the tour company's problem, not yours. Everything happens on schedule, and you never have to touch your baggage other than to unpack when it magically shows up in your room. In an escorted tour, you'll also meet new people, a big advantage if you're traveling on your own. Many passengers on these trips are retired, over age 65.

Large Tour Companies -- A single cruise-ship company, Carnival, dominates the Alaska package-tour market operating under various brands. The "vertically integrated" operations allow the company to take care of everything you do while in Alaska with tight quality control. In some popular areas, cruise lines have bought everything in sight, even historic attractions.

Holland America and Princess, both now owned by Carnival, developed independently as the primary competitors in Alaska and still operate separately. Each offers tours as short as a couple of hours to independent travelers who want to combine their own exploring with a more structured experience. All can be booked through any travel agent. Other cruise lines also offer land tours, but typically only for their own passengers.

Independent Travel Planning -- You can book everything yourself, but for a long trip, it can get quite complicated to keep track of all the dates and deposits. If you're using a trusted travel agency use caution as agents who don't specialize in Alaska are aware of only the biggest attractions and best-marketed companies. Another option is to use a travel agency or trip planner based in Alaska. They'll know much more about the place and can help you more in picking out what you want to do.

Unfortunately, there are cautions to be offered in using the agencies. They work on commission, which means they're being paid by the establishments you're buying from. A good agent will disregard the size of the commission and really look out for you, but I've encountered too many visitors on poorly planned itineraries not to advise caution. Some travel agents book visitors on trips to far-flung corners of the state in quick succession, so they wind up staying only briefly in expensive places and then zoom off somewhere else, all with little concern for the visitors' true interests. Your best defense is to do enough research so you can actively participate in the planning.

Beware of Fraud -- In 2003, one of the largest trip planners in Alaska went bankrupt, leaving many visitors with worthless vouchers for prepaid reservations. It turned out the owner was using clients' credit cards to keep the business afloat. In 2005, even worse rip-offs had cropped up on the Internet. Use caution. If you prepay large trip expenses to a planner or a provider directly, be certain to use a credit card that will protect you, and buy travel insurance.

Planet Earth Adventures/Discover Alaska Tours operates Alaska tour groups of all sizes. With our many years of experience and knowledge of Alaska, we take the guesswork and risk out of planning an Alaska vacation. All the details are taken care of, the accommodations are comfortable and inviting, food is delicious, and the scenery exceeds expectations.

For 13 years, our company has been committed to providing expert advice and the best value for the widest selection of Alaska group vacation packages. We do this by listening to our clients, providing quality service, flexibility, and customer satisfaction. Our first hand knowledge of this state and its many options for visitors makes us the best choice to help with your group travel coordination.

There are a wide variety of Alaska vacation options that cater to every interest, type of accommodation, and level of adventure. Regardless of your Alaska vacation needs, Discover Alaska Tours/Planet Earth Adventures hopes to play a valuable role in planning your upcoming Alaska vacation. Give us a call at **(678) 274-9941** or visit our website at www.tours2alaska.com

We love Alaska and look forward to sharing this beautiful state with you!

Southeastern Railway Museum

Georgia's Official Transportation History Museum
Duluth, Georgia

Upcoming Events

If you have any questions or would like to sign-up for camp, please contact the museum's Education Coordinator, Beth Kovach, at 770-495-0253 extension 2, or education@southeasternrailwaymuseum.org. You can also find more information at our website: www.southeasternrailwaymuseum.org

Second Thursday Preschool Program

March 10th

10:30-Noon

The event will be inside in the heat except for viewing the transportation item!

All Aboard the Southeastern Railway Museum's Preschool Program! The second Thursday of each month the Southeastern Railway museum will present a new program for children ages 1-4. The program will include circle time, songs, activities, and a craft. And of course, children will get to climb on board the featured vehicle of the month. The cost is \$7 per participating child. One adult is free per family. You do not need to sign-up for the program. To attend, check-in at the ticket counter by 10:20 AM on the second Thursday of any month. We can't wait to see you there. If you have any questions please contact the museum's Education Coordinator, Beth Kovach, at 770-495-0253 extension 2, or education@southeasternrailwaymuseum.org.

Junior Engineer Model Railroad Club

Regular Meeting

March 19th and 20th

All Day

Activity: The Piedmont Train Show at The Cobb Galleria

Junior Engineer Model Railroad Club members will show off their modules at The Piedmont Train Show at The Cobb Galleria! Members will also get to walk around and see all of the other exhibits as well. Entrance is free for all members.

If you have any questions or would like to sign-up, please contact the museum's Education Coordinator, Beth Kovach, at 770-495-0253 extension 2, or education@southeasternrailwaymuseum.org.

For ages 7 and up. A parent or guardian must be present. Initial Membership is \$100 per child, Additional years will be \$50 per year (\$20 off additional siblings) and includes a module and admission for child and parent to monthly Junior Engineer Model Railroad Special Events.

The Second Annual Photo Contest Exhibit

All open days in March

Enjoy the temporary exhibition of the photographs from Second Annual Photo Contest. The photographs will be on display in the exhibit hall for the public to view and pick their favorite. See them while you can!



3150 Main Street
Suite 103
Duluth, 30096

New DOWNTOWN Duluth Business Plans OPEN HOUSE

Friday, February 25th 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Duluth's premier community/shared office space, located in the heart of downtown, is celebrating its GRAND OPENING!

The Work Spot is Gwinnett's first and only coworking location!

What is coworking? (via wiki.coworking.info) Coworking is redefining the way we do work. The idea is simple: that independent professionals and those with workplace flexibility work better together than they do alone. Coworking answers the question that so many face when working from home: "Why isn't this as fun as I thought it would be?" Beyond just creating better places to work, coworking spaces are built around the idea of community-building and sustainability. Coworking spaces agree to uphold the values set forth by those who developed the concept in the first place: collaboration, community, sustainability, openness, and accessibility.

The Work Spot offers independents an affordable alternative to working from home.

Memberships, catered to individual needs, offer **The Work Spot** members flexibility and convenience and the opportunity to work alongside a community of professionals from industries across the board. Some of the benefits we offer:

- Secure Wi-Fi
- Kitchen
- Fax/printer/scanner/copier
- Conference Room (up to 12)
- Meeting Rooms (up to 4)

www.workatthespot.com



We didn't need the groundhog – we heard it from the cats!

Punxsutawney Phil and **General Beauregard Lee** both saw their shadows on Groundhog Day, predicting an early Spring. At **Planned PETHood**, we didn't need to wait for their forecast because we already knew. *The cats told us!*

It's common knowledge that Spring and Summer are “kitten season,” when cats start looking for love and litters of unwanted kittens result. But this year, in early February, about 75% of the cats that have visited us at **Planned PETHood** have been in heat (if not already in early pregnancy). **The cats know that Spring is coming, and they are getting their party on!**

If your cat is acting strangely and vocalizing (*CAT-erwauling!*) she may be in heat. If your un-neutered male cat is roaming more and for longer periods of time, he knows the girls in the neighborhood are looking for a “date”. He may also be marking his territory - and that smell is NO fun to deal with!

You can bring these randy felines to **Planned PETHood**, where our regular price to spay a female cat is only \$60 - including a rabies vaccination. The same service for a male cat is only \$45. Dogs can be fixed for \$70 - \$100 depending on sex and weight.

Planned PETHood is a non-profit spay/neuter clinic, and we are able to offer these low prices thanks to private donations and a generous grant from PetSmart Charities. Over 100,000 dogs and cats are killed in Metro Atlanta shelters each year. **Planned PETHood** believes that making spay/neuter affordable and accessible for pet owners will help to decrease the number of animals entering shelters, and thereby decrease the number killed each year.

Contact **Planned PETHood of Georgia** if you have any questions or wish to schedule an appointment for your pet to be spayed or neutered:

Planned PETHood of Georgia
2860 Buford Hwy, Duluth GA 30096
678-561-3491
www.PlannedPETHoodGA.com

DMA Meeting Locations

NOTE: All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

<p>Jan 4, 2011</p>	<p>February 1</p>	<p>March 1</p>
	  <p>Stantec</p>	 <p>a division of SYNOVUS BANK</p>
<p>April 5</p>	<p>May 3</p>	<p>June 7</p>
	 <p>DULUTH FINE WINES</p>	 <p>Gwinnett Medical Center Lawrenceville • Duluth</p>
<p>July 5</p>	<p>August 2</p>	<p>September 6</p>
<p>TBA</p>		
<p>October 4</p>	<p>November 1</p>	<p>December 7</p>
	<p>TBA</p>	 <p>NEW DAWN THEATER COMPANY</p>

Do you have news or an article you like to include in the DMA Newsletter? Send it in by the 15th of the month in order for it to be included in the next newsletter.