

WELCOME TO
DENVER
AWRF PIE & TECHNICAL SUMMIT

SPRING 2025
APRIL 6TH - 9TH



P.O. BOX 748
WALLED LAKE, MI 48390



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www.awrf.org



BOOTH MAP

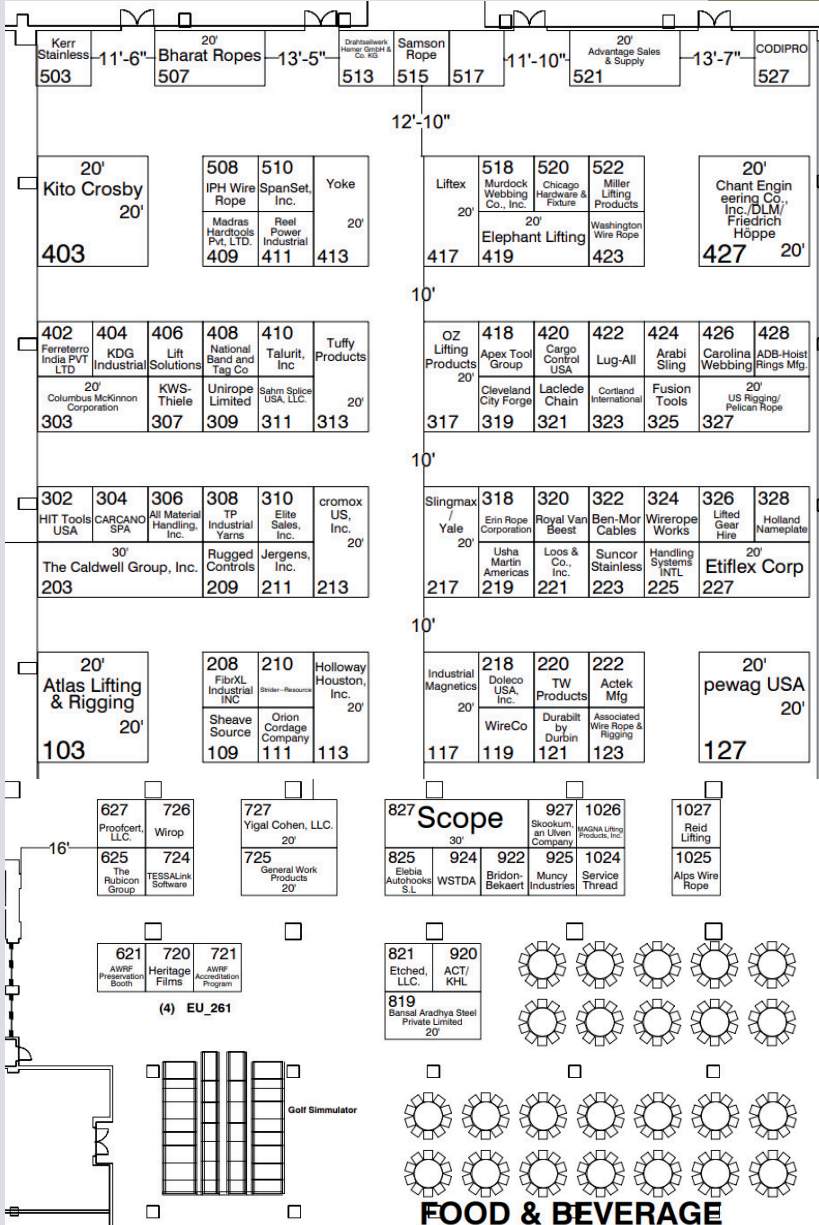




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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



SUNDAY - APRIL 6TH

8:00 am - 11:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting	Governors Square 17
10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration	Plaza Exhibit Hall
11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Product Information Exhibition Set-up	Plaza Exhibit Hall
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	First Timer's Reception	Governors Square 15
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Opening Reception	Majestic Ballroom

MONDAY - APRIL 7TH

7:30 am - 9:00 am	Breakfast Buffet	Plaza Exhibit Hall
8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Product Information Exhibition	Plaza Exhibit Hall
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Luncheon Buffet	Plaza Exhibit Hall
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Emerging Leaders Lunch & Learn	Plaza Court 2 & 3
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Networking Reception	Majestic Ballroom

TUESDAY - APRIL 8TH

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Networking Breakfast	Plaza Foyer
8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Technical Summit	Plaza Foyer/Ballrooms
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Networking Lunch	Plaza Exhibit Foyer
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Networking Reception	Plaza Foyer

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 9TH

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Networking Breakfast	Plaza Foyer
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Technical Summit Continued	Plaza ABC
11:30 am	Bus Pickup	
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Pickleball Tournament	
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Closing Reception	Parlor Room

*Schedule is subject to change

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TECH SUMMIT SCHEDULE

TUESDAY APRIL 8TH

8:30 am - 10:30 am	<i>Opening Sessions</i>	Plaza Ballroom ABC
10:40 am - 4:50 pm		
Path One	<i>Steel & Lifting</i>	Ballroom E
Path Two	<i>Synthetic & Lifting</i>	Ballroom F
Path Three	<i>General Hands on</i>	Plaza Court 2 & 3
Path Four	<i>General Hands on</i>	Plaza Court 4 & 5

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9TH

		Plaza Ballroom ABC
8:00 am - 9:00 am	<i>Overton Safety Training</i>	
9:00 am - 9:30 am	<i>Users Manual - 5th Edition Review</i>	
9:30 am - 10:00 am	<i>The Arecibo Telescope Failure</i>	
10:00 am - 10:30 am	<i>Conclusion</i>	

*Schedule is subject to change





TECH SUMMIT PRESENTATIONS

Magnetic Lifting Application

Paul Hardy - Industrial Magnetics

When using a magnet to lift steel items the surfaces conditions must be considered:

- The relative flatness of the steel to be lifted (is it rough, dirty, rusty, painted perforated, or textured)
- Does the surface allow complete coverage or contact with the face of the magnet?
- Before lifting the face of the magnet must be inspected for damage or other conditions that effect its performance.

When using a magnet to lift a steel the physical properties of the load must be considered:

- Sag – how much does the material deflect between lift/anchor points where the magnets attach.
- What dynamics does the load have that requires a more complex solution (layers, bundles, limited contact area, changes in orientation, etc.)
- How is the magnet/magnet system being lifted and what are the restraints

Effects of Lubrication on Wire Ropes' Service Life

Laura Lombardi - Usha Martin Italia

Corrosion protection is an essential feature affecting ropes' service life, particularly for applications involving warm temperature, marine environment or deep sea. In this perspective, it is important both to understand which are the products and the application modes which can help to maximize the rope's performance. Several types of lubricants with different chemical composition and properties have been developed during the years. Moreover, with the development of renewables applications and with the increased awareness about environmental matters, particular care has been dedicated to "green" solutions. Rope makers put great efforts to the development of solutions capable to preserve the native lubrication, as the grease applied during manufacturing plays an essential role in terms of corrosion protection throughout the rope's life. The presentation will provide an overview of the different types of lubricants and lubrication modes and it will show a few examples of ropes retired from service and their associated level of corrosion.

Impact of Rope Properties on Drum Stress - Challenges and Predictions

Max Stök - Institute of Mechanical Engineering - Clausthal University

The mechanical properties of ropes, including longitudinal and lateral stiffness, friction coefficients, and structural design, significantly influence the stress experienced by rope drums. The evolution of these properties over a rope's lifetime, due to wear and environmental factors, leads to changes in the stress exerted on the drum. Initial research findings on these changing properties will be presented. The prediction of drum stress is complex and often lacks precision, posing challenges in ensuring safety. Various standards and prediction methods will be compared, highlighting their respective strengths and limitations. Insights into improving the safety of rope drums through a better understanding and forecasting of rope behaviour over time are provided. Recent research aims to provide insights into improving the safety and longevity of rope drums through better understanding of rope behaviour over time.



Realizing and Maintaining a Standard for Used Fiber Rope

Justin McCoy - Scope Computer Vision Technologies

- Leveraging technology to improve operational safety of stringing lines
- Transitioning stringing lines from a consumable to a management asset
- Electric Utilities, Contractors, Manufacturers' and Rigging Shops embracing next generation line inspection programs

With over 60 million feet of rope inspected in the US and Canada, hear from Scope's CEO how customers across North America have adopted a new rope inspection technology enabling the electric utility industry to better ensure that every pull is a safe pull, while also shifting the perspective of rope from a commodity to a manageable asset. In this presentation, Scope's CEO, Justin McCoy, will discuss how utilities, contractors, manufacturers and rigging shops are implementing a new generation of best practices around line care and increasing jobsite safety through the use of a cutting edge technology.

Join the session to understand how technology is being leveraged to empower and enhance rope inspector ability to perform comprehensive inspections of lines used in mission critical operations. Hear first-hand stories of what has worked, what challenges lie ahead and how operations are being considered.

The Arecibo Telescope Failure - Spelter Socketing Best Practices

Timothy W. Klein, PE - WireCo

The intent of the Presentation is to educate the membership on the best practices of spelter socketing for structural applications using the findings from the Arecibo Telescope investigations. The Arecibo Telescope was a radio telescope located in Arecibo, Puerto Rico that collapsed on December 1, 2020, after 57 years of service. The collapse occurred after two structural cables failed in August and November 2020. Investigations by NASA and several Engineering Design firms revealed the long-term structural capacity of spelter sockets, combined with limited inspections were ultimately the cause of the failure. These investigations led to industry changes within ASCE codes and inspections requirements at other Government Facilities. Following best practices for spelter socketing of wire rope and strand combined with regular inspection of structures will be presented to ensure that future events as seen with this structure are avoided.

Wire Rope - The Importance of Wire Rope Inspections

John Groce - WireCo

The mechanical properties of ropes, including longitudinal and lateral stiffness, friction coefficients, and structural design, significantly influence the stress experienced by rope drums. The evolution of these properties over a rope's lifetime, due to wear and environmental factors, leads to changes in the stress exerted on the drum. Initial research findings on these changing properties will be presented. The prediction of drum stress is complex and often lacks precision, posing challenges in ensuring safety. Various standards and prediction methods will be compared, highlighting their respective strengths and limitations. Insights into improving the safety of rope drums through a better understanding and forecasting of rope behaviour over time are provided. Recent research aims to provide insights into improving the safety and longevity of rope drums through better understanding of rope behaviour over time.



Information Center for Ropeway Studies: Researching The Technologies of Rope

Lisa Dunn - Colorado School of Mines

The Information Center for Ropeway Studies, established in 1991 as a special collection at the Colorado School of Mines Library, supports research on the engineering and technologies of transportation by rope. Resources for researchers—The Center's initial focus on wire rope has expanded over time to include other forms of rope and related technologies. While small, the Center is considered the largest public collection of such materials in North America; it includes books, journals, reports, manufacturers' catalogs, photographs and artifacts. The role of current and past technologies—Both current and older materials are available to aid researchers in better understanding the history and development of rope technologies and their role in industry. The Center's expanded scope now includes the wider impact of rope technologies on society and the papers of people contributing to the ropeway industries. Discovering the Center's materials—Access to the Ropeway Center and its resources.

Deformation of Shackles in Overload Situations

Anton van der Zalm - Van Beest BV

The presentation on deformation of shackles in overload situations will cover simulations created by Finite Element Analysis. Chapters in the presentation that will be discussed: Behaviour of different types of shackles, behaviour under different loading conditions, symmetric loading, different loading angles.

Proper Use of High Performance Synthetic Slings - Reductions due to bending

Thanasis Varnava - Cortland International

As loads become heavier, High Performance Synthetic Lifting slings have been replacing steel wire more and more in the industry. This presentation focuses on explaining rigging best practices for the different types of synthetic slings (Roundslings, rope slings and synthetic shackles). Heavy focus will be placed around bending efficiency for different rigging configurations, which is a subject that is greatly misunderstood in the industry.

Break Load Performance of UHMPE Synthetic Rope Grommet Sling on DIN 7540 Lifting Hooks

Matt Marks - DCL Mooring & Rigging

This presentation examines the integrity and performance of Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMPE) synthetic ropes configured as grommet type slings, focusing on their interaction with various bending radii as specified in DIN 7540 for lifting hooks. We conducted a series of break tests to evaluate the impact of bending radii on the rope's tensile strength. Preliminary data highlights information collected on the breaking strength of different diameters of UHMPE ropes as they interact with the DIN 7540 hook r2 dimension. This analysis is aimed at comparing actual results to that of mathematical formulas used in lifting operations. Our findings aim to contribute to the verification and development of improved performance standards and operational guidelines for synthetic rope applications in heavy-lifting industries.



Technological Advancements in Load Monitoring

Wayne Wille - Kito Crosby

There have been significant innovations in load monitoring, including advanced load indicating devices and vision/audio systems, that can improve safety and efficiency of day-to-day load handling operations. These developments are the result of an increasing demand for products that allow the user to quickly determine the load to be lifted, and can improve safe crane operation using vision/audio systems. This presentation will include discussion about recent developments in load monitoring, and specifically load indicating devices and vision/audio systems.

Modern load indicating devices use advanced strain gauge technology for precise tension and compression measurements. The load output information is now available in several forms, including self-indicating, long-range RF, or Bluetooth technology. Load indicating devices are available in a range of materials and configurations for a wide variety of applications. The presentation will discuss the products and monitoring/data acquisition options that are available for complex load systems, and examples of applications will be shown.

Vision/audio systems mounted to crane blocks (or other strategic locations) offer real-time, high-resolution, bird's-eye views that reduce blind spots and improve situational awareness. With easy integration into cranes, they enhance safety by providing the operator clear visibility of loads and surroundings. Overall, these advancements ensure better load management, increased safety, and promote more efficient operations. The features and benefits of the systems will be discussed, and examples of applications will be shown.

The Technological Evolution of the Load Binder

Joe Spelman - Kito Crosby

Over the decades, load binders have undergone significant technological advancements, enhancing their efficiency, safety, and ease of use. Through the years, advances in materials provided stronger and more durable products, while reducing weight. Modern load binders now incorporate several key innovations including simplicity of use, ergonomic design, and reduced input force during tensioning. Some load binder designs have been adapted to use external power sources such as portable drills and other power tools to automate the tensioning process. These innovations significantly speed up operations and reduce manual labor. These advancements have not only made load binders more effective and reliable but have also significantly improved safety standards and operational efficiency. The presentation will discuss some of the advancements in load binder designs that provide reliable load securement and require minimum effort by the user.

How to be an Effective Instructor:

Ron Overton - Overton Safety Training

In this 60-minute presentation, attendees will learn the steps and techniques for "Effective Instruction", regardless of the topic or type of training being provided. Steps and techniques covered include Employers Requirements, Instructor Requirements/Traits/Skills/Role, Methodology, Types of Training, Training Material Development, Adult Learning, Effective Instruction Steps, Planning and Scheduling, Speaking and Presenting, Controlling/Managing the Room, Facilitating, Using Multi-Media, Managing Different Student Types, Written Evaluation/Knowledge Verification Development, Practical Evaluation Development, Documentation and Record Retention, Roadblocks/Obstacles to be Overcome, Opportunities to Accel. Attendees will receive a 14-page handout recapping the presentation and steps for future reference.



Optimizing Steel Lifting Equipment for Harsh Environments: Cold Temperatures, Marine Conditions, and Surface Coatings

Felix Nyberg - Kito Crosby

This technical presentation delves into the challenges of operating steel lifting equipment in harsh environments, focusing on cold temperatures, marine conditions, and the importance of surface coatings. It examines how cold weather can lead to material brittleness and reduced ductility, and how the marine environment accelerates corrosion and fatigue, compromising equipment safety and reliability. The presentation highlights advanced material design and protective coatings, such as hot dip galvanizing and zinc flake coatings, that enhance the durability and lifespan of steel products in extreme conditions. Practical recommendations will be provided for engineers, procurement specialists, and safety managers to mitigate these risks, ensuring safe and efficient operations. This session is essential for professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of material performance in demanding environments and improve the selection and maintenance of lifting equipment.

Lubrication-Related Influences on the Fretting Wear of Bright and Galvanized Drawn Wire

Christopher Dyson - ROCOL

The fretting wear scars that form at internal contacts within wire ropes can have a significant influence on fatigue cracking of rope wires. In turn, lubricant and lubrication-related factors have a significant influence on the nature and progression of this fretting wear. Bright and galvanized drawn wires were evaluated using a laboratory-scale fretting wear test, using different model lubricants to consider the effect of key lubrication-related properties. Base fluid viscosity of wire rope lubricants was particularly considered. The progression of fretting wear on bright and galvanized wires was significantly different. Thus, the most influential lubrication-related parameters varied somewhat between both types of wire. This was confirmed using multivariate statistical analysis. In particular, the running in of galvanized wire was more sensitive to lubricant base fluid viscosity than bright wire.

Cordage Institute - HANDS ON

Domestic Chain - HANDS ON

NACM Members

WRUM - 5th Edition

WRTB



OPENING SESSIONS

PLAZA BALLROOM ABC

8:30

KICKOFF

AWRF President, Mike Poroo and Technical Committee Chairman, Tim Klein, introduce the new Technical Summit - Antitrust Caution - Milestone Membership Plaques

AWRF

9:00

GENERAL

Robert Wilson, AWRF's Accreditation Program Auditor & LEEA Liaison reviews the AWRF Accreditation Program and benefits of taking part in the program

LEEA | Robert Wilson

9:20

STEEL

The Arecibo Telescope Failure - Spelter Socketing Best Practices

WireCo | Timothy Klein

10:00

GENERAL

Information Center for Ropeway Studies: Researching the Technologies of Rope

Colorado School of Mines | Lisa Dunn

PATH ONE

BALLROOM E

10:40

STEEL

Effects of Lubrication on Wire Ropes' Service Life

Usha Martin Italia |
Laura Lombardi

11:20

STEEL

Optimizing Steel Lifting Equipment for Harsh Environments

Kito Crosby | Felix Nyberg

12:00

STEEL

Impact of Rope Properties on Drum Stress - Challenges and Predictions

TU Institute of Mechanical Engineering - Clausthal University | Max Stök

1:30

LIFTING

Deformation of Shackles in Overload Situations

Royal Van Beest |
Anton van der Zalm

2:10

STEEL

Lubrication Related Influences - Fretting Wear of Bright and Galvanized Drawn Wire

ROCOL | Christopher Dyson

2:50

LIFTING

Magnetic Lifting Application Consideration

Industrial Magnetics |
Paul Hardy

3:40

STEEL

Wire Rope Relubrication - How to Get the Most Out of Your Rope?

Bridon-Bekaert |
Dave Sleightholm

4:20

STEEL

Wire Rope - The Importance of Wire Rope Inspections

WireCo | John Groce

PATH TWO

BALLROOM F

10:40

SYNTHETIC

Realizing and Maintaining
a Standard for Used Fiber
Rope

Scope Computer Vision
Technologies | Justin McCoy

11:20

SYNTHETIC

Designing for Strength

Cortland International |
Thanasis Varnava

12:00

SYNTHETIC

Break Load Performance-
UHMPE Synthetic Rope
Grommet Sling-DIN 7540
Lifting Hooks

DCL Mooring & Rigging |
Matthew Marks

1:30

SYNTHETIC

The History of Weaving

WSTDA | Bob Jasany

2:10

LIFTING

Magnetic Lifting
Application Consideration

Industrial Magnetics |
Paul Hardy

2:50

LIFTING

Deformation of Shackles
in Overload Situations

Royal Van Beest |
Anton van der Zalm

3:40

LIFTING

Technical Advancements
in Load Monitoring

Kito Crosby | Wayne Wille

4:20

LIFTING

The Technological Evolution
of the Load Binder

Kito Crosby | Joe Spelman



PATH THREE

PLAZA COURT 2 & 3

10:40

LIFTING

Hands-On demonstration by the WRTB members

Members of the WRTB

12:00

STEEL

Wire Rope – The Importance of Wire Rope Inspections

WireCo | John Groce

1:30

SYNTHETIC

Designing for Strength

Cortland International |
Thanasis Varnava

2:10

LIFTING

Technical Advancements in Load Monitoring

Kito Crosby | Wayne Wille

2:50

SYNTHETIC

Realizing and Maintaining a Standard for Used Fiber Rope

Scope Computer Vision
Technologies | Justin McCoy

3:40

SYNTHETIC

Hands-On demonstration discussing Lifting slings, working line inspection and retirement requirements

Members of Cordage Institute
| Sarah Padilla



PATH FOUR

PLAZA COURT 4 & 5

10:40

LIFTING

Hands-On demonstration by the NACM members

Members of the NACM

12:00

LIFTING

The Technological Evolution of the Load Binder

Kito Crosby | Joe Spelman

1:30

STEEL

Optimizing Steel Lifting Equipment for Harsh Environments

Kito Crosby | Felix Nyberg

2:10

LIFTING

Wire Rope Relubrication - How to Get the Most Out of Your Rope?

**Bridon-Bekaert |
Dave Sleightholm**

3:40

LIFTING

Hands-On demonstration by the NACM members

Members of the NACM



EMERGING LEADERS



Denver Area Students Join the PIE

We are thrilled to announce a plan aimed at the local youth, spanning from high school to college levels. Understanding the critical need for early engagement, our approach is twofold: education and firsthand experience. The event will include an presentation by the Emerging Leaders, designed to shed light on the many opportunities within the wire rope and rigging industry. This presentation will not only highlight the technological advancements and the science behind our work but will also underline the diverse career paths that our sector offers.

Students will also be treated to a guided tour around the exhibit, led in groups by others within Emerging Leaders. This tour is designed to be more than just a walkthrough; it is an interactive session where students will meet face-to-face with representatives from various exhibiting companies. These encounters are crucial for students to gain insights from real-world professionals and see the tangible applications of their potential studies and work.

Matt Marks
Emerging Leaders Committee
DCL Mooring & Rigging



MILESTONE MEMBERS



40 YEARS

Bishop Lifting
Chicago Hardware & Fixture Co.
Vanguard Steel Ltd.
Weisner Steel Products

30 YEARS

LiftPRO International
Marine & Industrial Supply
Maritime Marketing
Slingmax

20 YEARS

Jergens, Inc.
Pfeifer Wire Rope &
Lifting Technology
All Material Handling

10 YEARS

Cargo Lift SA De C.V.
Howard Supply Company
Accurate Rigging and Fabrication
Advantage Rigging LLC.
National Band & Tag
OZ Lifting Products, LLC.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our milestone members for their unwavering dedication and contributions to AWRF and the lifting and rigging industry. Your commitment, expertise, and support over the years have played a crucial role in shaping the success of our organization and advancing the standards of our field.



AWRF ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The AWRF Accreditation Program is a comprehensive initiative designed to promote industry standards and encourage continuous improvement among rigging, lifting, and load securement. The program provides members with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to safety, quality, and operational excellence, reinforcing their credibility within the industry.

Participation in the AWRF Accreditation Program is crucial for members who want to distinguish themselves in an increasingly competitive market. By adhering to the AWRF RP&G for Sling Shops, members ensure that their operations meet or exceed the highest standards, which not only increases trust with clients but also enhances the overall safety of operations.

One of the key benefits of earning AWRF Accreditation is improved business reputation. Companies that are accredited by AWRF are recognized as leaders in the field, setting themselves apart from others. The program also offers access to valuable resources, such as industry insights, access to LEEA's Technical Center, and Access to LEEA technical guidance documents and online training.

Moreover, the accreditation program helps businesses stay up to date with the latest safety regulations and technological advancements, ensuring they remain competitive in an evolving industry. For members, this means better risk management, greater client satisfaction, and the ability to attract new business opportunities.

AWRF ACCREDITED MEMBERS

- DCL Mooring & Rigging
- Global Rigging & Synthetics
- Fulcrum Lifting
- Holloway-Houston, Inc.
- Unirope LTD.
- U.S. Cargo Control
- Nelson Wire Rope
- SWOS





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Cascade Rigging
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Elite Sales

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Industrial Splicing
Ken Forging
Kennedy Wire Rope
Kulkoni
OZ Lifting Products
Peck & Hale
pewag
Sahm Splice USA/CECA
Slingmax Group
St. Pierre Chain
Stren-flex
United Rigging
Washington Wire Rope
West Coast Wire Rope
Wire Rope Exchange
Wire Rope Works, Inc.
Wiroper Americas
Wisconsin Lifting

16 GUYS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Jeff Ashley
- John Fireovid
- Jeff Giannou
- Chris Giannou
- Andrew Hall
- Barry Heavican
- Mike Lindsey
- Matt Mazzella
- Tony Mazzella
- Don McCollum
- Mike Posey
- Jay Richmond
- Keith Shepherd
- Denny Worwick
- Bruce Yoder
- Hugh Yoder

Your company's involvement in our scholarship initiative plays a crucial role in helping students reach their academic and career goals, providing them with opportunities they might not otherwise have had. With your support, we are able to empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

Thank you for your dedication to education and for partnering with us in this important endeavor. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support.



I PAY TWENTY A MEETING IPTAM



The mission of IPTAM is to expand the Association's scholarship funds, which ultimately will result in awarding additional scholarships to AWRF member employees, and their families.

For only \$20, IPTAM provides all conference attendees with a mechanism to be contributors to the scholarship efforts of AWRF.

IPTAM opens the door for conference attendees, whose companies may not currently be donating to the scholarship program, with a way to support, and grow, AWRF's scholarship efforts. Additionally, even if your company is currently donating to the scholarship program, IPTAM provides you the ability to personally contribute and be a difference maker.

Each meeting attendee that donates at the conference meeting will be recognized by affixing an IPTAM decal to their meeting badge as well as being recognized in Slingmakers Magazine.

WANT TO DONATE?

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NEW WAYS TO CONNECT

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Cvent app, designed to enhance your experience at our upcoming events! This innovative tool will help you manage and navigate events with ease, providing seamless access to schedules, speaker information, networking opportunities, and more—all in the palm of your hand.

What to Expect:

- Real-time updates on schedules and session details
- Interactive features for networking with attendees and speakers
- Personalized agendas to help you make the most of your time
- Easy event navigation with maps and venue information
- Instant notifications for important event updates and reminders

We're excited to provide you with this new way to engage with our events, making them even more interactive, informative, and enjoyable. If you have any questions or need support, please feel free to contact our office. We're here to help!

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PICKLEBALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH - 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

MILE HI PICKLEBALL

3700 Havana STE 305, Denver, CO

Join us for a fun-filled pickleball event! Whether you're hitting the courts or just cheering from the sidelines, it's a great opportunity to connect, relax, and enjoy some friendly competition. Even if you're not playing, come spectate, mingle, and experience the camaraderie. We can't wait to see you there!

Beer & wine available for purchase on premises!

Please note - bussing to the event is reserved for those that are registered to play. If you would like to come cheer on the players, please arrange for a ride share or car-pool.



PICKLEBALL SPONSORS



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THE LIFTING EXPERTS



Safety is our first priority™



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