



ASSOCIATED WIRE ROPE
FABRICATORS



Product Information Exhibition & Technical Summit April 20-23, 2026

Celebrating 50 years of serving the lifting,
rigging & load securement industry.



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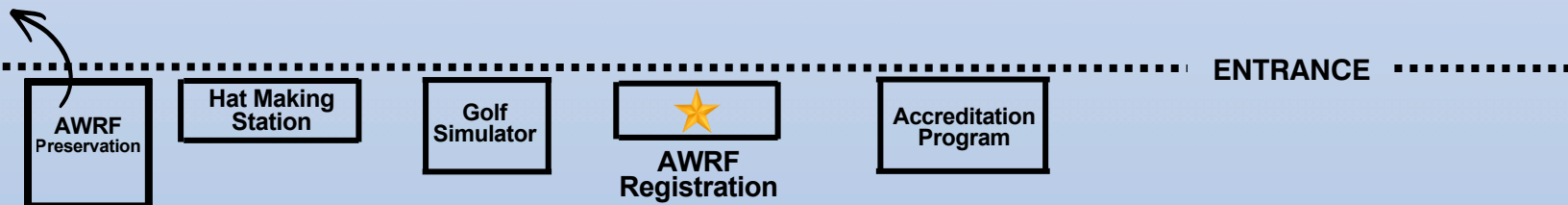
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HOUSTON



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AWRF PIE & TECH SUMMIT - SPRING 2026

AWRF Founding Members
Biloxi, Mississippi 1975

Schedule of Events

**Please ensure your badge is worn
at all times during all events.**

Monday

7:00 AM - 10:00 AM
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Board of Directors Meeting
Exhibitor Set Up
Registration / Badge Pick-up
Networking Golf Tournament

Hunter's Creek
Texas Ballroom/Foyer
Texas Foyer
Clear Creek Golf Club

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

First Timers' Reception
Opening Reception

Hunter's Creek
Altitude Pool Deck

Tuesday

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Breakfast Buffet
Production Information Exhibition
Luncheon Buffet

Texas Ballroom
Texas Ballroom/Foyer
Texas Foyer

11 AM-1 PM: Emerging Leaders Tour & Lunch & Learn

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Emerging Leader's Reception
Reception

Hunter's Creek
Altitude Pool Deck

Wednesday

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Technical Summit Breakfast
Opening Plenary/Keynote
Breakouts
Technical Summit Lunch
Breakouts
Reception

Texas Foyer
Texas Salon BC
Texas Salon BC & A
Texas Foyer & Texas D
Texas Salon BC & A
Texas Foyer

Thursday

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

NASA Tram Tour
Bus pick-up at 8 AM in the lobby
Pickleball Tournament
Bus pick-up at 11 AM in the lobby
Closing Reception

Space Center Houston
Elite-8 The Heights 610 W. 6th St.
Biggio's

Technical Summit

Schedule

TEXAS SALON BC*

Technical Committee Introduction

8:45-8:50

Tim Klein *WireCo* | Chase Vencel *Kito Crosby*

From Hook to High-Tech: Mastering Below the Hook Lifting Devices

8:50-9:45

Brooks Nunley *Kennedy Wire Rope*
Jon Alberson *Means & Methods Engineering*

Fork Trucks, Lifting Equipment, Safety Standards & Battery Lifting Beams

10:00-10:30

Jeff Ferchen *The Caldwell Group*

Finite Element Analysis of Rigging Hardware in Improper Loading Scenarios

10:40-11:10

Chase Vencel *Kito Crosby*

Lifting Clamp: Use/Care/Applications per (ASME B30.20)

11:20-11:50

Jay Schroeder *The Caldwell Group*

Load Distribution in Multileg Slings with Unequal Lengths

1:30-2:00

Anton van der Zalm *Van Beest*

Load Stability - Lifting Beam Applications & Pitfalls

2:10-2:40

Dan Mongan *The Caldwell Group*

Spreader Beams, Simply Right

2:50-3:20

Pat Clark *pewag* | Doug McElravy *pewag*

HMPE Life

3:30-4:00

Keith Shepherd *DCL Mooring & Rigging*

TEXAS SALON A*

Delaying or preventing twist effects from rope-sheave interaction

10:00-10:30

Joost Eertman *Ropeblock BV*

Installation of Wire Rope on Cranes

10:40-11:10

Tim Klein *WireCo*

Lubrication-Related Best Practice for Wire Ropes in High Temperature Service

11:20-11:50

Christopher Dyson *ROCOL*

Deep Learning & Wire Rope - Applied A.I & How It Works

1:30-2:00

Justin McCoy *Scope*

Closing the Gaps: How the Digital Product Passport Transforms Documentation and Traceability in the Lifting Industry

2:10-2:40

Milad Gerges *Yoke Industrial Corp.*

Using Loadcell Apps and Software in Lifting

2:50-3:20

Wayne Wille *Kito Crosby*

The Future of Lifting and Rigging: Driving Safety and Efficiency Through Digital Transformation

3:30-4:00

Wassil Bouali *RiConnect*



Meet Your Speakers...

Anton van der Zalm

VP Corporate Research & Development - Royal Van Beest

Working out of the head-quarter of the Group in the Netherlands. Started as a product manager back in 2003. With more than 20 years of experience in the industry, now responsible for all technical challenges and product developments within the group. With a degree in teaching Physics and Chemistry sharing knowledge is a core competence. Contributing member to the technical committees in ISO TC 111, CEN TC 168 and ASME B30.26. My mission: Empower customers around the world to lift, move, secure, and build great things with safe, high-quality products, innovative solutions manufactured by the companies in the group.



Chase Venci

Manager - Product Engineering - Kito Crosby

For the past twelve years, I have found great fulfillment in my professional career, where I collaborate to design and deliver lifting and rigging products and solutions for end users across the globe. I have developed into a subject matter expert, providing technical guidance on application use, product performance, product development, and design enhancements for lifting, rigging, and load securement hardware. I take pride in contributing to innovative, reliable solutions that improve safety, efficiency, and performance in demanding applications worldwide.



Christopher Dyson

Tribology Lead - ROCOL, a Division of ITW Limited

Chris Dyson first encountered tribology during his Mechanical Engineering studies at the University of Leeds, before doing a PhD in engine lubrication. Since 2013 Chris has worked for ROCOL, a specialist lubricant manufacturer in Leeds, UK, keeping collaborative links with the Universities of Leeds and Bradford. Since 2024 Chris has been based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana leading a field-based team of consultative lubrication and metalworking specialists, supporting current reliability needs, and developing insight to address emerging and future challenges.



Dan Mongan

Senior Sales Engineer - The Caldwell Group

Dan started working for Caldwell in 1990 and has led the design for a wide variety of projects, including a transport carrier for Intuitive Machine's Lunar Lander and a "dino flipper" for a live lab installation at North Carolina's Museum of Natural History. He not only trains Caldwell's internal staff on product function but is an important part of Caldwell's distributor and end user outreach.



Doug McElravy

Sales Operation Manager - pewag

Doug McElravy is the Sales Operations Manager at pewag, supporting the North American market across lifting and rigging solutions, hoist and conveyor chain, and industrial chain applications. He works at the intersection of sales, product management, and engineering to align pricing, product launches, and technical standards across U.S. and European teams. Doug plays a key role in managing product transitions, distributor programs, and complex topics such as tariffs, compliance, and supply chain strategy. With deep experience in lifting equipment and industry standards, he focuses on turning technical complexity into practical, customer-focused solutions. Doug is known for his data-driven approach and his commitment to improving clarity, consistency, and execution across the organization.





Jay Schroeder

Regional Sales Manager - The Caldwell Group

20-year overhead lifting industry veteran. I think the best part of our industry is that there is a new way to help someone every single day.



Jeff Ferchen

Director of Business Development - The Caldwell Group

With more than 25 years of lifting industry experience, including roles at The Crosby Group and Rockford Rigging, Ferchen leads Caldwell's inside and outside sales teams. In addition, he was named to the AWRP board of directors in 2022 and will serve until 2028.



Joost Eertman

Technical Director - Ropeblock B.V.

Joost has been with the Dutch company for 29 years. He began his career studying the deceptively complex matters of spelter socket mechanics and worked as project manager and lead engineer for the company's larger projects. Through the years he has gained detailed insight into global offshore, marine and construction equipment requirements, and implementation through smart engineering in the manufacturing process. As the operations manager and technical expert, he later contributed to the company's innovative designs for craneblocks, sheaves, swivels and sockets and its lean manufacturing and assembly approach. Mr. Eertman has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and is active in Euro Norm technical committees for cranes and wire rope. He has published research projects, is the author of the company's engineering directives and technical standards and speaker at several industry conferences.



Justin McCoy

CEO - Scope Computer Vision Technologies

As the CEO and driving force behind Scope, Justin leads all AI, engineering and product strategy. With over 15 years of experience building and leading product and technology organizations, Justin's AI experience ranges across electric utilities, power generation, oil & gas and government sectors. For the past decade, Justin has led teams in next-gen AI solutions for mission-critical industrial, commercial and military applications. His significant contributions to national defense and digital product innovation are actively utilized by the Department of Defense. Notably, he developed the groundbreaking WIDOW system, now the official mission planning tool of the U.S. Air Force. From subsurface industrial applications of computer vision, to deploying AI technology miles in the air, Justin has pioneered best in class AI for physical world applications.



Keith Shepherd

President & CEO - DCL Mooring & Rigging

With 36 years of experience in the rigging industry including ownership and managerial responsibilities I lead teams with emphasis on growth and innovation in new markets and applications. A safe working environment and continuous improvement are top priorities. The ability of DCL Mooring & Rigging to offer a complete rigging package including anchors, anchor chain, rigging hardware, lifting slings - both wire rope and high performance synthetic, all backed by our engineering department, allows us to meet your most critical applications.



Milad Geroges

National Sales Director - YOKE Industrial Corp.

Results-oriented professional with over a decade of Business-to-Business (B2B) experience across the lifting equipment, telecommunications, medical, and mechanical sectors. Possesses 14 years of experience in lifting accessories, including wire ropes, slings, and chains, with deep expertise in leading brands such as Crosby, Casar, Carl Stahl, RUD Germany, and YOKE. Enhanced by 5 years of project manager experience in telecommunications, managing MTN projects and utilizing technologies from top vendors like Ericsson, Nokia Siemens, and Alcatel. Proven success in biotechnology and medical device sales with brands including Abliance, Biolabo, Convergent, and Capp, as well as expertise in mechanical seal sales with the EagleBurgmann German brand. Passionate about delivering exceptional results through innovative sales strategies and dynamic project management, and eager to contribute to a forward-thinking organization that values growth, client satisfaction, and operational excellence.



Pat Clark

Manager of Industrial Sales - Channel Partners - pewag

Pat Clark is the Manager of Industrial Sales – Channel Partners at pewag, supporting manufacturer representative groups across the United States and Canada within the commercial and industrial lifting and rigging market. With more than 20 years of industry experience, Pat brings a broad perspective that spans field operations, sales leadership, marketing, technical product support, and lift planning. He has worked extensively in hands-on and customer-facing roles, including rigging rental field representation, leading sales and marketing teams, and delivering Rigger I and Rigger II training. Pat also contributes deep technical expertise through his experience as a lift planner and his active involvement in industry standards development. He serves as a committee member for ASME B30.7, B30.16, and B30.21, and is engaged with the Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA). Now working on the manufacturing side, Pat focuses on strengthening channel partnerships, supporting technical alignment, and helping customers navigate complex lifting challenges.



Timothy Klein

Director of Infrastructure - WireCo

For the past 25 years Timothy W. Klein has worked in the Fabricated Products Division at WireCo. He is currently the Director of Infrastructure at WireCo. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in several US states as well as holding a Professional Engineering License in Canada. He earned his Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri Science and Technology. Tim has several published papers on the mechanics of wire rope and currently serves on the Main Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers B30 and is the Chair of the B30.26 Subcommittee. He is also the Chairman of the Technical Committee for the Associated Wire Rope Fabricators and past Chairman of the Wire Rope Technical Board. Tim is a proud Veteran of the US Army and continues to stay active outside of work spending time with his family and volunteering with the community.



Wassil Bouali

Technical Sales Manager - RiConnect

Wassil Bouali is a Technical Sales Manager at RiConnect, where he helps organizations operationalize safety compliance and traceability across safety-critical equipment and operations. RiConnect combines rugged NFC/RFID identification (including stainless-steel tags designed for harsh environments) with Digital Asset Passports to centralize certificates, inspection history, maintenance records, and field documentation—improving audit readiness and reducing administrative overhead. With a background spanning industrial digitalization and safety-focused SaaS, Wassil has led customer engagements and go-to-market initiatives across Oil & Gas, utilities, renewables, and heavy industry. His work emphasizes practical adoption: aligning stakeholders (HSE, Lifting Authority, operations, and procurement), defining priority safety use cases, and quantifying ROI through reduced compliance gaps, faster inspections, and stronger governance of certification records. Wassil holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and an MBA, and he completed a Berkeley Haas certification in AI & Strategy in Business.



Wayne Wille

Business Development Manager - Kito Crosby

Wayne Wille joined Crosby Straightpoint in May of 2016 as a business development manager and has been in the scale and force measurement industry for over 29 years. Throughout the 29 years, Wayne has had many different roles, from technical support, product training, product development and developing and supporting distribution networks. Wayne's current role as business development manager involves working with distributors and end-users. His main focus is on promoting and implementing wireless technology using RF, Bluetooth and Software into the rigging industry. As we grow going into the future, electronics is all around us and our industry is ready for it.

Technical Summit

Keynote

From Hook to High-Tech: Mastering Below the Hook Lifting Devices

It's time to advance the design of BTH devices. Learn about the basics behind lifting devices and the advancement pushing the capabilities of current below the hook lifting equipment. Starting from concept to contract requirements, design, manufacturing to field uses, this presentation will cover the life span of a BTH device. The specific standards and literature used for the design, manufacturing, and operation of BTH equipment followed by examples pushing the current uses. Examples and common manufacturing practices for commodity products and bespoke designs will be shared.



Photo: Courtesy of The Caldwell Group

Brooks Nunley

Founder - Innovative Lifting, LLC & HMPE Technical Advisor - Kennedy Wire Rope

I am the Founder of Innovative Lifting, LLC, a U.S.-based manufacturer specializing in lifting, testing, and custom manufacturing tooling solutions. With nearly two decades of industry experience, I focus on delivering the right solution for each application—ensuring performance, safety, and reliability while consistently exceeding customer expectations. Throughout my career, I've led high-performing sales teams across global markets, supporting lifting operations in subsea, topside, and manufacturing environments. This experience has given me a deep understanding of complex challenges and the importance of speed, precision, and execution in critical operations. I founded Innovative Lifting on a simple but powerful principle: putting the right people in the right roles creates value. Our leadership team brings over 60 years of combined experience in lifting and lowering solutions, allowing us to approach challenges with both technical expertise and practical insight. At Innovative Lifting, we are a solutions-driven organization committed to simplifying complex problems and delivering results quickly. We pride ourselves on responsiveness, innovation, and building long-term partnerships with our customers.



Jon Alberson

President & Chief Engineer - Means & Methods Engineering

Jon Alberson founded M&ME to redefine how engineering supports the construction inputs during the lifecycle of a project. His 15 years of experience in the trenches includes Front End Planning, Contract development, labor strategy, technology use in the construction space, project execution, start-up and claims management. Specific projects include HRSG and Combustion turbine installations, Selective Catalytic Reduction and Scrubber installs, Boiler modifications, powerhouse retrofits, wastewater treatment facilities, and outage tie-ins. Jon holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Georgia Institute of Technology, Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University, and a license Professional Engineer.





Technical Summit

Sessions

Load Distribution in Multileg Slings with Unequal Lengths

Anton van der Zalm

The presentation of deformation of slings with sling length differences will cover simulations created by Finite Element Analysis. Chapters in the presentation that will be discussed:

Behavior of different types of slings in case of length differences

- Steel Wire Rope slings
- Chain Sling
- Synthetic slings

Behavior in case of length differences with

- 2 leg slings
- 3 leg slings
- 4 leg slings

Lubrication-Related Best Practice for Wire Ropes in High Temperature Service

Christopher Dyson

Wire ropes in high temperature service, such as heave compensation units, ladle cranes and coating lines, have different lubrication requirements than many other systems. Some of the key factors in these systems are described. Avoiding melting and controlling oil separation is important to effective lubrication. Thermal and oxidative degradation means a shorter lubricant service: Also, the thickening and drying of the lubricant can reduce lubrication effectiveness. At especially elevated temperatures, solid additives become more important in extending effective lubrication. At elevated temperature, corrosive mechanisms are significantly different to e.g. marine environments, so require different corrosion protection mechanisms.

Finite Element Analysis of Rigging Hardware in Improper Loading Scenarios

Chase Vencel

This presentation examines how rigging hardware responds structurally when subjected to improper or unintended loading conditions, using finite element analysis (FEA) as an investigative and explanatory tool. While rigging components are typically designed and rated for well-defined load paths, real-world use often introduces off-axis loading, eccentric forces, partial engagement, or other deviations from ideal conditions. These scenarios can significantly alter stress distribution and failure modes, even when applied loads remain within rated capacity.

Load Stability - Lifting Beam Applications & Pitfalls

Dan Mongan

Load stability is the cornerstone of safe rigging operations. When a product is palletized or on lifting frames, its center of gravity (CG) may be in question as to how the load is stacked or secured. If rigging connections are placed below the CG, the load becomes prone to tilting, swaying &/or rotation, requiring extra planning and securement. Limitations in rigging placement such as structural design, pallet construction, or available lifting points—can restrict options for maintaining balance. In addition, environmental and operational constraints, including limited headroom, confined spaces, and the lifting path, must be factored into the rigging plan. Proper assessment of CG, rigging geometry, and lifting conditions ensures that the load remains stable during handling. Proactive planning and adherence to best practices mitigate risks, protect equipment, and safeguard personnel.

Lifting Clamp Use/Care/Applications per (ASME B30.20) Jay Schroeder

Lifting clamps are essential for secure handling of plate, structural steel, and fabricated components. ASME B30.20 sets the governing safety standard, requiring manufacturers and users to ensure clamps are properly marked, inspected, and applied within rated capacity. Frequent inspections before each use should check for cracks, deformation, excessive wear, malfunctioning locking mechanisms, and legible identification. Periodic documented inspections shall be performed by qualified personnel. Clamps showing any rejection criteria—such as distortion, missing parts, or worn gripping surfaces—must be removed from service immediately for further inspection and rebuild/repair if possible. Safe operation requires clamps to be applied only to compatible loads, positioned correctly, and never exposed to side loading or shock. By following B30.20 guidelines and maintaining disciplined inspection practices, users help reduce risk of accidents and prolong clamp service life.

Delaying or preventing twist effects from rope-sheave interaction Joost Eertman

In nearly all crane applications, fleet angles (the angle of attack of the wire rope on to the sheave groove) are the main reason for the introduction of twist in the wire rope while you are working the crane. The type of operation ran with the hoist is of great influence on the amount of twist generated in the system. When the accumulated twist in your system is released between the tip of the crane and the lower block, it may at one point result in block rotation. The overtime buildup of twist has then tipped the balance of a stable tackle to a tackle with cabling. Our presentation addresses earlier studies and presents further research to sheave and block design delaying these phenomena and a patent pending solution preventing it.

HMPE Life Keith Shepherd

A journey of steel wire to HMPE synthetic fiber conversions covering a multitude of applications over the past 35 years. From offshore seismic towing to inland marine towing to blue water towing to onshore & offshore heavy lift. Presentation to include technical information about HMPE fiber (do's and don'ts, pros & cons) and current market situation.

Fork Trucks Lifting Equipment, Safety Standards & Battery Lifting Beams Jeff Ferchen

Lift trucks standards are different than typical rigging standards such as the ASME B30 series and don't really say much about attachments. However, they are essential for today's rigging, lifting, and material handling, offering versatility in moving heavy or awkward loads. When properly rated and paired with approved attachments, they improve efficiency while reducing manual handling risks or possible unsafe conditions due to obstructions. However, misuse such as exceeding capacity or incorrect rigging can lead to equipment damage, premature sling failure and even injury. Battery lifting beams serve a specialized role in forklift maintenance, enabling safe removal and installation of heavy industrial batteries used in manufacturing environments. They are compact in nature, ensure balanced lifting, minimize strain on operators, and reduce the likelihood of battery or truck damage. Key considerations include confirming beam capacity, inspecting for wear, and ensuring proper attachment to the lift truck. Common issues arise from worn components, inadequate operator training, or ignoring load balance requirements. Selecting the right equipment and adhering to safety practices enhances both productivity and workplace safety.

Deep Learning & Wire Rope - Applied A.I. & How It Works Justin McCoy

Understand how computer vision is being applied in the wire rope industry. Gain a basic understanding of deep learning. Understand where value exists and where work still needs to be done.



Photo: Courtesy of Holloway Houston



Closing the Gaps: How the Digital Product Passport Transforms Documentation and Traceability in the Lifting Industry

Milad Gerges

The lifting and rigging industry are facing a growing challenge as companies struggle with delayed, missing, or inconsistent manufacturer documents, creating costly inefficiencies and compliance risks. Documentation gaps and the use of multiple or duplicated traceability numbers, often result in operational delays, audit complications, and reduced confidence in product integrity. This presentation explores the development and deployment of Digital Product Passports (DPPs) in lifting and rigging hardware using embedded NFC enabled digital SupraNano chips. We will examine how these digital chip tags enable real-time access to certifications, inspection records, and maintenance logs directly from the product itself, with no paper trails or external databases required. We will look into how DPP systems are implemented within lifting products and what regulatory support this shift toward digital documentation in the lifting and rigging industry. We will also address cybersecurity considerations, user adoption in the field, and the potential for standardization.



Spreader Beams, Simply Right

Pat Clark
Doug McElravy

Spreader beams are a critical component in many heavy lift configurations, yet improper selection or setup can introduce unnecessary forces, reduce capacity, and compromise stability. This session focuses on compression-style spreader beams and the key factors that influence their performance in real-world lifting applications. This presentation will examine how span, sling angles, hook count, and force paths affect load distribution and overall system capacity. Particular attention will be given to the differences between compression and bending behavior, correct rigging point selection, and how small changes in geometry can have a significant impact on stability and safety. Common application pitfalls will be discussed, along with practical guidance for evaluating lift conditions and selecting the appropriate beam configuration. Based on field experience and applied lift planning, this session is intended for professionals involved in lift design, beam selection, and execution of critical lifts who are responsible for achieving safe, predictable outcomes under varying site constraints.

Installation of Wire Rope on Cranes Timothy W. Klein

Wire rope is an integral part of the mechanics that are necessary for crane operation and, like any other mechanical part, it performs best when installed correctly. This technical presentation will provide the audience with the basic procedures to ensure proper installation is achieved with the correct equipment and guidelines. Two factors are key to proper installation no matter what type of equipment, or which wire rope is being used: making sure the rope is free of twist and assuring that the rope is tightly spooled on the drum. In addition, the speaker will provide the maintenance requirements per the ASME standards that will keep wire rope systems operating at full capacity.

The Future of Lifting and Rigging: Driving Safety and Efficiency Through Digital Transformation Wassil Bouali

From the ropes and pulleys of ancient builders to the forged shackles and chains of the 19th century, lifting and rigging has always been a measure of human ambition. Today, in 2026, the industry still relies heavily on paper certificates, manual checks, and physical stamps—traditions that have carried authority for generations but now struggle to keep pace with modern demands. That legacy is meeting a turning point. By embedding digital chips in lifting gear, every hook, shackle, or sling carries its own story—certificates, inspections, and repairs—accessible with a simple scan. Assets can even be geotagged in real time, bridging the field with the office. The next era of lifting and rigging belongs to both smart steel and smart data: alloys that are lighter, stronger, and more durable, paired with systems that are traceable, transparent, and predictive. What strength once promised, information now secures—the certainty that safety can be proven, not just assumed.

Using Loadcell Apps and Software in Lifting Industry

Wayne Wille

Join me to learn more about how software and smart device apps can help and be used in the lifting industry. There's more features out there than most are aware of. We will show you all the features and benefits of how a smart device application on your phone can be used to talk to wireless Bluetooth loadcells and the features that come with those applications. Also, we will dive into software that works with wireless loadcells; showing individual loads, total loads, alarms, data logging, Center of Gravity, load testing and more right from your computer. See how software or Bluetooth can benefit you and your application with data collection and logging.

Milestone Members

40 Years

Liftex Corporation
Wisconsin Lifting Specialists, Inc.

30 Years

Actek Manufacturing & Engineering
Block Division, Inc.
Chant Engineering Co., Inc.
Elite Sales, Inc.
Hercules Crane & Lifting Supplies
Ken Forging Inc.
KWS Inc.
SpanSet Inc.
Titan Supply LP

20 Years

Eriez Magnetics
St. Pierre Chain & Wire Rope
Premier Wire Rope
SC Industries, Inc; Contec Hoist & Rigging

10 Years

Diversified Chain & Rigging, Inc.
Strong Yun Industrial Co. Ltd.
Dynamic Load Monitoring (UK) Ltd.
Yale Cordage, a Slingmax Group Company

Please note: Milestones are met after the full year of membership has been established.
Ex. Members who joined in a year ending in 5, receive their plaques in 2026.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our milestone members for their unwavering dedication and contributions to AWRP 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.



Annual Fall Meeting
Phoenix, Arizona 1999

Thank You to our Scholarship Donors



 **KITO CROSBY™**



YOKE®
Safety is our first priority™

16 guys
SCHOLARSHIP

 **FULCRUM™**
LIFTING

MAZZELLA®

 **VAN BEEST®**



We extend our deepest gratitude to our full scholarship donors your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

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.

Thank You

Acero Sueco Palme
ADB - Hoist Rings Mfg.
Advantage Rigging LLC.
Advantage Sales & Supply
All Material Handling
American Rigging and Supply
Arabi Sling & Rigging
ARG Industrial
Ashley Sling LLC
Assembly Specialty Products
Associated Wire Rope & Rigging
Bairstow Lifting Products
Bethlehem Wire Rope Inc.
Bishop Lifting
Bridon-Bekaert
Cable Moore, Inc.
The Caldwell Group
Cargo Control USA
Cargo Equipment Corp.
Cascade Rigging
CECA, LLC
Celik Halat
Chant Engineering Co., Inc.
Chicago Hardware & Fixture

cromox US
Dakota Riggers & Tool Supply
DCL Mooring & Rigging
Doleco USA
Elephant Lifting Products
Elite Sales Inc.
Esmet Inc. - Electroline
Gulf Marine Contractors
Hanes Supply, Inc.
Holland RFID
Horizon Cable Service, Inc.
I & I Sling
Industrial Splicing & Sling
Jordan Wire Rope
Ken Forging
Kennedy Wire Rope
Kulkoni, Inc.
F.D. Lake Company
Metro Wire Rope
OSP Sling
OZ Lifting Products, LLC

pewag
Pacific Industrial Supply
Pacific West Wire Rope
Peck & Hale, LLC
Peerless Industrial Group
Pellow Engineering Services
pewag USA
The Rigging Box
The Rubicon Group
Sahm Splice GmbH
Slingmax Group
Southern Wire
St. Pierre Chain
Stren-Flex
Tiger Lifting North America
Trinity Sling
TW Products
Van Beest USA
United Rigging
West Coast Wire Rope & Rigging
Wire Rope Exchange
Wirop Americas
Wirerope Works
Wisconsin Lifting Specialists

**Donors as of April 10th*

Emerging Leaders

The Future of AWRP

Elevate your professional journey by joining the Emerging Leaders, a dynamic community within AWRP dedicated to individuals aged 40 and under. As part of this vibrant network, you'll have the opportunity to connect with fellow young professionals, exchange ideas, and cultivate invaluable relationships that propel your career forward. From exclusive networking events to mentorship opportunities and professional development resources, the Emerging Leaders program empowers you to thrive in the industry. Join us as we shape the future of AWRP and embark on a journey of growth, leadership, and innovation.

Lunch & Learn

Houston Area Students at 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 a 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

Mentorship Program

Did you know, earlier this year the EL launched a Mentorship Program? We're proud to have connected experienced professionals from across the rigging and lifting industry with the next generation of leaders. Mentees were thoughtfully paired with experienced professionals from different companies and departments, gaining guidance, perspective, and real-world insight that goes beyond day-to-day experience.

We're still looking for mentors and mentees to join the program! This is your chance to elevate your career and make a real impact on the future of the rigging and lifting industry. Whether you want to share your expertise as a mentor or grow as a mentee, this program is designed to connect, inspire, and create lasting professional relationships. Reach out to nicole@awrf.org



EL HAPPENINGS

TUESDAY

**EMERGING LEADERS TOUR
LUNCH & LEARN
11:00 AM-1:00 PM
TEXAS BALLROOM**

**EMERGING LEADERS
RECEPTION
5:00 PM-6:00 PM
HUNTER'S CREEK**

"I think this program is excellent in every respect, there is a designed template that is helpful to follow for both the mentor and mentee which allows for a guideline to help both parties articulate their expectations from the program. It also serves as a great tool for newer members joining the association to help them engage and learn from those who have spent years in the association to introduce them to key contacts who can facilitate their growth and knowledge about our markets and end customers. Personally it has allowed me to share my previous work experience and knowledge to help bring a new perspective to how the mentee can view certain situations or help him navigate geographies and who to work with in certain organizations. I think this is a must for any new member to help them grow deeper in their knowledge and expand their network within AWRP."



Photo: Courtesy of Unirop



Accreditation Program

Safer Shops. Stronger Industry.

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.

Unlock everything you need to know—meet our auditor, browse FAQs, and sign up in seconds. Just scan the QR code to get started!



"The AWRF Accreditation Program helped us firm up policies and procedures, adding structure to what we were already doing within our organization. Initially, the process may seem overwhelming, but it truly is not. Following the program and format step by step will get you there! Robert Wilson is an outstanding facilitator and a true pleasure to work with. He works in partnership with you to help address any issues you may encounter along the way to accreditation. I highly recommend this program for companies looking to improve."

**- Scott Thielmann, General Manager
Wisconsin Lifting Specialists**

Accredited Members





Annual Spring Meeting
Maui, Hawaii 1986

IPTAM

The mission of IPTAM (I Pay Twenty a Meeting) is to expand the Association's scholarship funds, which ultimately will result in awarding additional scholarships to AWRP member employees, and their families. For only \$20, IPTAM provides all conference attendees with a mechanism to be contributors to the scholarship efforts of AWRP. 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, AWRP'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?

Find someone from the AWRP Staff to donate cash or donate by PayPal with QR code



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarship applications are now open! Through the generous support of our membership, AWRP is able to provide fifteen scholarships each year – twelve traditional, three trade – to any AWRP Member Company Employee, their spouse, or dependent(s) wishing to continue their education. Applicants are encouraged to express themselves as everyone is unique and everyone has a story to tell. This program has really grown throughout the years thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors continuously improving the program.

Please submit all applications to scholarships@awrf.org



Deadline to apply July 10th

PICKLEBALL

Join us for an exciting and high-energy round of pickleball! Whether you're a seasoned player who loves a little competition or a beginner just looking to have some fun, this is the perfect opportunity to get in on the action. Enjoy a lively atmosphere, connect with fellow attendees, and take a break from the conference to unwind on the court.

Thursday 12-3 PM
Elite-8 The Heights
610 W. 6th Street

NASA TOUR

Join your AWRP conference colleagues for an exclusive private tour aboard the NASA Tram Tour at Space Center Houston. This behind-the-scenes experience takes your group onto the NASA Johnson Space Center campus to explore historic Mission Control, astronaut training facilities, and Rocket Park. Led by expert guides, you'll gain insider insight into NASA's bold missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. After the tour, you will have time for self-exploration in the museum, exhibits and gift shop before returning to campus — making this inspiring field trip both seamless and unforgettable.

Thursday 9 -11 AM

AWRF STORE

Our AWRP Store is open to all members. The store offers co-branded items designed exclusively for you. We hope these resources help you highlight the value of the AWRP brand and share with your customers the benefits of working with an AWRP member.



SHOP NOW



TOPIC SUBMISSION

New this year, we're introducing a dedicated booth where you can submit ideas for our next technical summit—now's your chance to help shape the conversation! Have a topic you're passionate about? A challenge the industry should be talking about? Or a fresh perspective that could spark new ideas? We want to hear from you. This is your opportunity to play a direct role in building future programming and bringing innovative, relevant content to the forefront. Stop by, share your ideas, and be part of what's next. Whether it's cutting-edge trends, real-world solutions, or bold new thinking, your voice can help inspire the direction of our next summit. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

FUTURE MEETINGS

FALL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 18-21 (SUN-WED)
WAILEA BEACH RESORT, MAUI, HI



WE EXPECT TO SELL OUT. SECURE YOUR ROOM TODAY!



2027

TECHNICAL SUMMIT & P.I.E.
APRIL 5-8 (MON-THURS)
MARRIOTT MARQUIS, HOUSTON, TX

FALL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 18-21 (MON-THURS)
OMNI OKLAHOMA CITY HOTEL
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

2028

TECHNICAL SUMMIT & P.I.E.
APRIL 2-5 (SUN-WED)
OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE, ORLANDO, FL



Fall Meeting
Portland, Oregon 1979

50 Year Anniversary Merchandise

Don't miss our limited-edition 50 Years merchandise! If your size isn't available onsite, no worries—we can pre-order it and ship it right to your door. Just let us know!

\$45
Ladie's Double Knit 1/4 Zip

AWRF
Lifting, Rigging, & Load Securement

\$25
Snapback Hat

\$45
Carhartt Long Sleeve

\$55
Men's Sweater Fleece Vest

\$15
50 Years Water Bottle

\$80
Carhartt 1/4 Zip

\$50
Backpack

AWRF Antitrust Guidelines

Antitrust Guidelines for Associated Wire Rope Fabricators - Effective April 2026

AWRF's Antitrust Policy

It is the policy of AWRF to comply fully with all applicable antitrust laws in connection with all AWRF meetings, events, and other activities. Conduct that violates — or could be perceived as violating — the antitrust laws is strictly prohibited. AWRF is committed to fostering procompetitive collaboration while preventing any appearance of anticompetitive behavior. All members, representatives, and staff share responsibility for compliance.

Why Antitrust Compliance Matters to AWRF

Antitrust compliance protects the association, its member companies, and their individual representatives from the severe consequences that can result from an antitrust violation. These include criminal prosecution (with potential jail time and fines), civil treble damages plus attorneys' fees, lengthy investigations, significant business disruption, and reputational harm.

Antitrust "Don'ts" – Prohibited Conduct

Discussions or agreements (formal, informal, oral, or implied) concerning any of the following topics are prohibited:

- Prices, costs, margins, discounts, wages, output, or other terms of sale/purchase.
- Market, customer, or territorial allocation.
- Bid rigging or coordination, or the discussion of open competitive opportunities or RFPs.
- Wage fixing or employee no-poach/non-solicit agreements.
- Sharing your company's competitively sensitive information (current/future prices, costs, strategies, bids, compensation data, production/sales figures).
- Group boycotts or refusals to deal with suppliers, customers, or competitors.

These prohibitions apply to all settings — formal meetings, informal conversations, and social events. There are no "off-the-record" discussions with competitors.

Antitrust "Do's"

- Promptly report any antitrust questions or concerns you may have in connection with any AWRF activities to AWRF staff or legal counsel.
- If anyone raises antitrust concerns during an AWRF meeting or event, immediately stop discussion of that topic until legal advice is obtained.

Antitrust Counsel Contact

Herb Allen, AWRF Legal Counsel, Honigman LLP hallen@honigman.com
202-899-4133 (office) | 505-681-8432 (mobile)



Thank You

to our event sponsors



JOIN US FOR OUR
50 YEAR CELEBRATION
OCTOBER 18-21
WALEA BEACH RESORT
MAUI, HI

