



# Slingmakers

Issue No. 101

Spring 2004

**Industrial Splicing and Sling, L.L.C.**



## Letter From The President

Dear AWRP Members:

In a time when our business world seems to be up side down with ever changing steel costs, rising fuel prices, unprecedented product liability claims and governmental regulations, our Association offers its members the opportunity to learn, explore and exchange ideas which could make a difference in the successful operation of their businesses in this current economic environment. In the first week of May, we will be holding our Spring General Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. This will be an excellent opportunity for you, as a member, to participate and learn from the great program that Ted Sullivan our Program Director, has planned. By using the AWRP website, [www.awrf.org](http://www.awrf.org) you can find out more details about this meeting and even register online. While online, checkout the "members only" section for some current industry information that may be important to you.



As most of you know, Frank Becker of American Wire Rope and Sling, has chaired the AWRP Technical Committee for the past nineteen years and has decided to step down from that position. Likewise, Howard Will of the Caldwell Group has decided to step down as Chairman of the Testing Committee after thirteen years. I would like to thank Frank Becker and Howard Will for their many years of dedicated service to the Association. We are certainly going to miss their leadership in these committees, but I am happy to announce that Don Pellow of Pellow Engineering Services has assumed the chairperson position for the Technical and Testing Committee for year 2004. On behalf of the Association, I would like to welcome Don and wish him all the success in his new position.

Don Sayenga has been the AWRP Chief Executive Officer for the past sixteen years and has contributed greatly to the success of this organization. Don and his wife Carlene have dedicated themselves over the years to making AWRP the best Association in our industry. After our Spring meeting

in Savannah, Don will be retiring as our Chief Executive Officer. Fortunately, Don has agreed to stay on until the end of this year, 2004 as a Technical Advisor to our organization.

In early February, we had our Winter Board of Directors Meeting in Las Vegas to set our operating budget for year 2004. In the face of declining membership and reduced dues collection, it has been difficult to balance expenditures to revenues while continuing to provide quality services to our members. However, I would like to thank the Finance Committee headed up by Mike Wallace of Loos and Company for their hard work on this years successful budget preparation.

I am happy to report that our Executive Director transition program is on schedule and on budget and should be complete within the next several months. Jeff Gilbert has assumed operating control of the Association and is working out of the new Detroit, Michigan office.

The Data Gathering Committee has successfully completed its fifth year of working with the profit planning survey for the regular members. We have had increased participation every year and with the current tough economic times, this operational information has proven to be valuable to our regular members.

Currently, the Board of Directors is reviewing the Association's policies and procedures. We are now reviewing the membership policy and if any member has any input into this policy, please contact the AWRP office or a board member.

We all recognize that our business world is rapidly changing, with computers, the internet and cell phones, and therefore we must change to survive. Your Association is not any different, it must change in order to continue to be successful and add value for its members. We will continue to work hard in the area of electronic communications throughout the Association in order to better serve you. We solicit your input to improve the Association and your continued support is vital to the ongoing success of our organization.

Mark Metz  
AWRP President

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Rope Fabricators  
Preservation  
Committee**

**AWRP Technical &  
Testing Committee  
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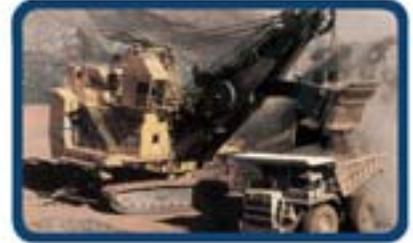


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3. The covering SOCKET.

The combination of these three units literally locks the rope into a strong, solid assembly.



**SLEEVE:** Wire rope passed through sleeve.



**SLEEVE & PLUG:** Strands fanned out to insert plug.



**SLEEVE, PLUG & SOCKET:** Plug driven in and strands closed to apply socket.



**COMPLETED ASSEMBLY:** With socket applied, twisted strands are visible through inspection hole.

### BENEFITS & FEATURES

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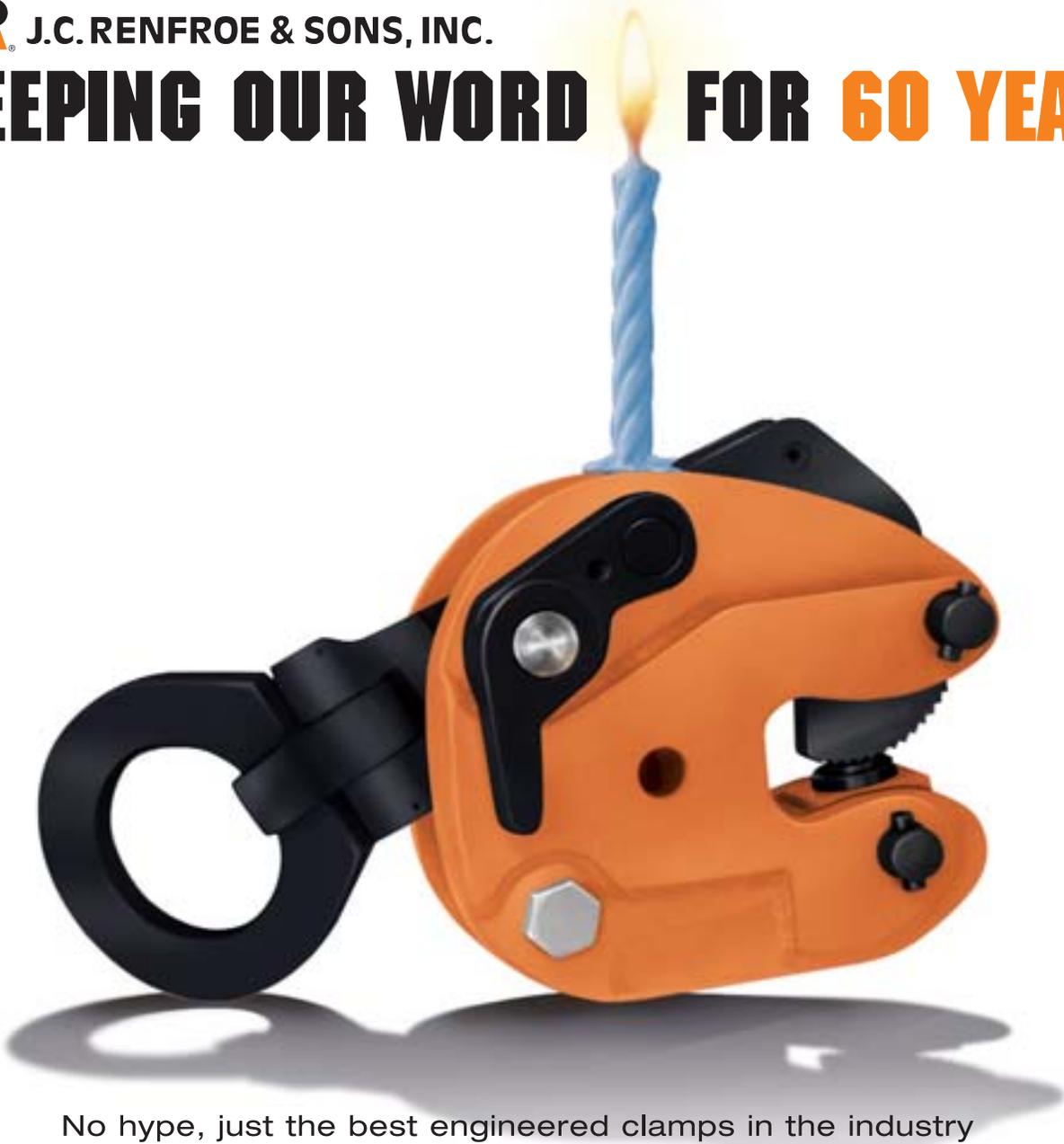
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# GENERAL COUNSEL

## PRODUCTS LIABILITY

By  
J. Barry Epperson,  
General Counsel and Chairman,  
Government Affairs Committee



On February 6, 2004, The Daily Oklahoman, the principal Oklahoma City newspaper, published an article, the substance of which follows:

"A Fairfax man, crushed while lifting a 17,000 pound piece of equipment, has been awarded \$26 million, The Oklahoman has learned.

The settlement for Richard Dean LaRue - who now is a quadriplegic - came after Oklahoma County jurors spent seven days listening to testimony in District Judge Carolyn Ricks' courtroom.

An hour before the jurors were expected to hear closing arguments, LaRue and his family accepted the offer from Action Crane Service and manufacturers of the slings - or lifting straps - used with the rented crane.

LaRue, 37, was paralyzed July 2, 2002, while attempting to move a Manlift onto a trailer with a crane he rented from Action Crane, formerly of Norman.

Attorneys in the case refused to confirm or deny the amount of the settlement because of a confidentiality agreement.

While evidence was being presented at the courthouse this week, state legislators were talking about proposed tort reform that would limit judgments in civil lawsuits.

"This case puts the proposed tort reform in perspective" said Mark Bialick, LaRue's lead attorney. "This is the kind of guy that brings the absurdity of that legislation home".

"Dean LaRue would have gotten \$300,000 to live as a prisoner in his own body under the tort reform proposal of Governor Henry.

LaRue's medical expenses have been \$500,000 and are expected to reach \$8 million during his lifetime, Bialick said.

Warnings on the slings used in the accident were inadequate, LaRue's attorneys argued. Red threads begin to show on the slings when the muscle strength of the straps has been lost - warning the user to take the slings out of service, Bialick said.

Victor F. Albert, lead attorney for the crane company, said "Our position was that this accident happened solely because of these slings and the failure of the manufacturer to provide reasonable information how they were to be used and taken out of service".

LaRue attended the trial each day in his red, motorized wheelchair that he operates with his mouth.

LaRue, sitting with a maroon blanket on his lap, testified that there was no doubt in his mind that he saw the red threads prior to the accident.

As the Manlift was being raised off the ground, LaRue testified he was trying to straighten the equipment when he was insured.

"I was trapped and oil was dripping on me", LaRue testified, "I was afraid I was going to catch on fire".

Jurors were grateful the matter was resolved and relieved they didn't have to decide liability and damages, Albert said."

In response to the article, the Government Affairs Committee of AWRP conducted an investigation with the following results:

1. Mr. LaRue was not involved in the rigging, crane operation or movement of the load. He did not participate in selecting or attaching the slings from the crane hook to the Manlift to be lifted. Mr. LaRue was a spectator to the events. Mr. LaRue had hired an outside crane company with an operator to load the Manlifts onto a truck. As crane operator and rigger, the operator assumed total control of the lift.
2. Before the lift was made, Mr. LaRue apparently had looked at the slings from a close distance and testified that he saw a red thread. Apparently this information was not conveyed to the crane operator. While one of the Manlifts was being lifted from the ground onto a flatbed truck, two of the nylon web slings parted in the eyes on the crane hook. The Manlift being lifted fell to the truck bed, flipped onto its side and the basket on the Manlift boom struck Mr. LaRue, who was standing a short distance from the crane and lifting operations.

3. The attorney for the crane company did not mention the highly degraded and damaged condition of the slings which existed prior to the lift. Furthermore, he did not mention that the responsibility of inspecting the slings prior to this lift was that of the person acting as the crane operator and rigger.
4. Mr. LaRue was not straightening the equipment when he was injured; he was standing a short distance away while the crane operator was straightening the equipment.

## NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL CODE STATUS

By  
J. Barry Epperson,  
General Counsel and Chairman,  
Government Affairs Committee

Every five years the Bureau of Census reviews the North American Industrial Codes (NAIC) formerly Standard Industrial Codes (SIC).

The purpose of such reviews is to recognize new and emerging industries and changes in the demographics of traditional industries; and to publish statistical data about new and existing industries.

Industry categories, ranging from broadest to most narrow, are designated at the top by two digits representing the twenty industry sectors in North America. At the other end of the spectrum a six digit designation identifies "National Industries", of which there are 1,179 in the U.S.

Each periodic Bureau of Census review is commenced by publication of requests for public comment in the Federal Register. Following the comment period, the results of the additions and adjustments to the Code are published by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In 1994, the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) of AWRP, at the direction of its board of directors, responded to the initial NAIC request for public comment. The GAC attempted to classify the lifting, rigging and load securement industry as a single two tiered industry, i.e., manufacturing and fabrication, utilizing many materials and focusing on the unique art of sling fabrication. The Bureau of Census apparently translated this presentation into a four digit classification, i.e., 3496, composing an "Industry Group" of which there are 317 in the NAIC. 3496 is defined as "Slings, lifting; made from purchased wire-mfg".

In anticipation of the next revision in 2002, the GAC reasserted the AWRP position, i.e., that the lifting, rigging and load securement industry constitutes one integrated industry. The results were negative.

Once again in 2003, with input from AWRP members, the Government Affairs Committee submitted the attached, revised white paper to the Bureau of Census. Prior to submission of the paper, the GAC lobbied the Bureau of Census as extensively as possible, resulting in the cultivation of several valuable contacts in the Washington, D.C., office.

Recently, we spoke with John Murphy, Assistant Division Chief for Classifications Activities and Chief of the Economic Classifications Policy Committee at the bureau of Census who provided the following information:

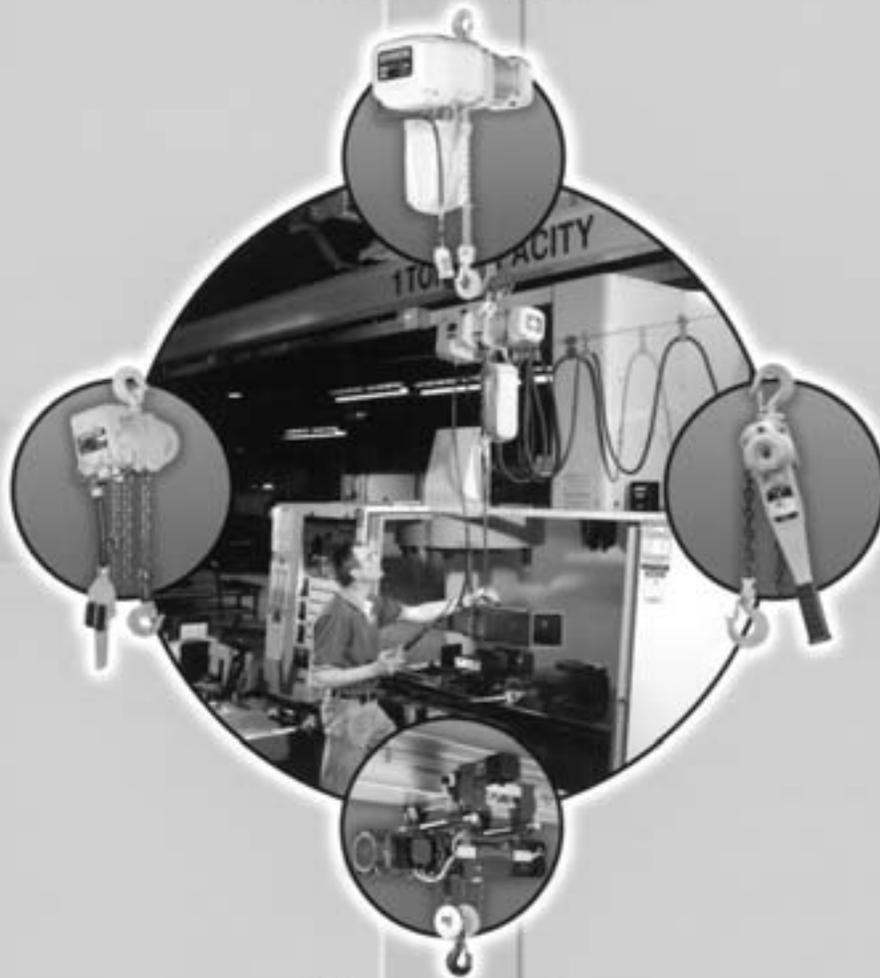
1. The AWRP proposal has been docketed under Case Number 07-0066 and is officially under consideration.
2. The Economic Policy Committee plans to submit its recommendations to OMB by mid-2004 for publication in the Federal Register.
3. After comments and final revisions the new five-year NAIC will be published. This event should occur by mid-2005.

You may wish to view the following website:  
[www.census.gov/eped/naics/](http://www.census.gov/eped/naics/)  
or contact Barry Epperson at [jbarrye@aol.com](mailto:jbarrye@aol.com).

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March 5, 2004



## Finance Committee Update

Dear AWRF Members:

The AWRF Finance Committee is made up of the four officers, the Chief Executive and one Board member. Our additional member is Mr. Craig Hayward of Indusco. At the conclusion of our Fall meeting in Colorado, we began the task of closing the books on 2003. During the course of 2003 several key steps occurred. Certain financial accounts were transferred from our historical bank in Lehigh Valley, PA to a new bank located in Michigan. These included the Scholarship Fund account, the Meetings & Conventions account, our Reserve account and the Management Transition account. The General Operating account continued to be held in Pennsylvania until all the bills for 2003 had been received and paid. This account has since been moved to Michigan as well.

The Association operated within the allotted budget for the year ended December 31, 2003. Prior to the commencement of the Board of Directors meeting, which took place February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, the Finance Committee developed the budget for 2004. This process requires the input of many people. All the committee chairpersons must present their committee budget requests, the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Membership Committee Chairperson must decide upon a dues income figure as well as the other minor income categories we have and lastly the budget for operating the Association must be developed. The process is exactly the same as our members undertake when putting their annual business plans together.

The Finance Committee presented a balanced budget for 2004 to the Board of Directors on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The Directors unanimously approved the budget. Most members don't realize how much hard work goes into this process so just think of your own businesses. Thank goodness there are so many dedicated volunteers to our Association because without them we would never have gotten to where we are today.

Sincerely

Michael Wallace  
AWRF Treasurer

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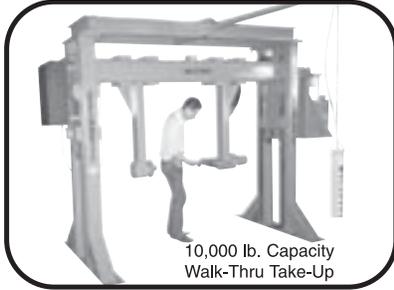
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# REEL & COIL HANDLING SOLUTIONS

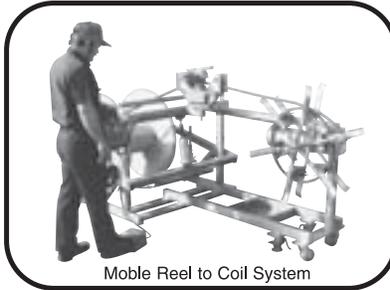
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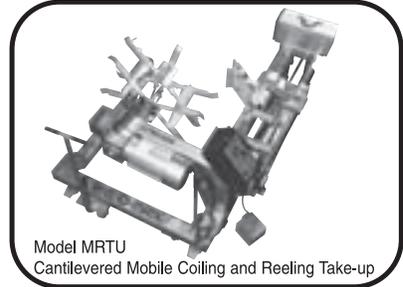
Mobile Shaftless  
Self-Powered Take-up



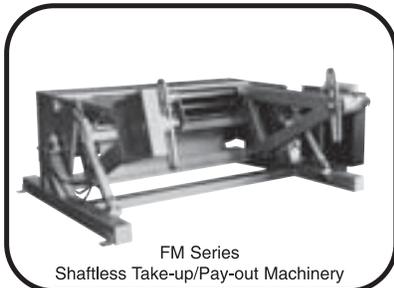
Shaftless Rim Drive Take-up



HSS 751 with Coiler



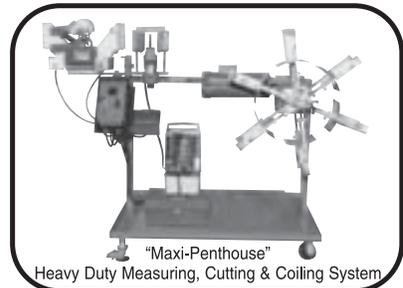
Model MRTU  
Cantilevered Mobile Coiling and Reeling Take-up



FM Series  
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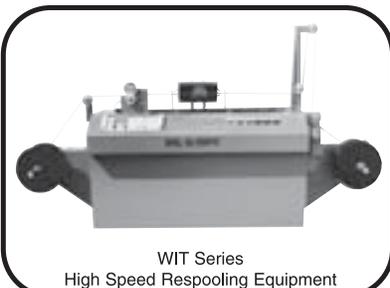
B-12 High Speed Re-Spooler  
(Shown with optional Spark Tester)



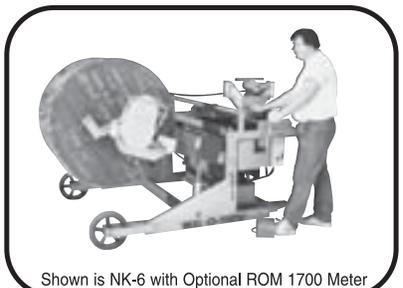
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# TECHNICAL & TESTING ACTIVITIES REPORT

February 19-20 Conference at Phoenix

In accord with a plan approved by the Directors to reduce the start-up burden on the new association office at Walled Lake, MI, all members were invited to send delegates to a conference. The aim was to enlist a new group of volunteers who would assume task-related functions as an expedient way to merge the former Technical and Testing Committees. Unfortunately, only 18 delegates showed up, an insufficient response to allow progress with the new plan. President Metz decided to reconstitute the former committees. Don Pellow (Pellow Engineering Services, Leawood KS) has agreed to serve as volunteer chairman for 2004. Don now has recruited a dozen members for his committee and has called a meeting to be held July 26-27 at Kansas City, MO..

ASME B30.9 – 2003 Safety Standards for Sling is now available.

The new volume, which has been almost completely rewritten, and was reviewed by AWRF at the Monterey meeting, received ANSI approvals last year and was published in mid-March. If you want to purchase a copy, contact:

ASME, 22 Law Drive, Box 2900, Fairfield,  
NJ, USA 07007-2900  
Toll Free: 973-822-1167, Fax: 973-882-1717,  
Email: infocentral@asme.org

Technical presentations for 2004 General Meetings announced.

At the Savannah meeting May 3-4:  
High Performance Yarns for Round Slings  
Warning Tags for Slings

At the San Diego Meeting October 18-19  
Temperature effects on Alloy Chain and Wire Rope Slings  
Edge Protection and Wear Pads

Ultraviolet Radiation Study by WSTDA is completed.

Charles Lucas (Crosby Group) gave a preliminary report at the Montreal meeting about a three year test conducted by WSTDA to assess the effects of ultraviolet rays on the strength of nylon and polyester slings. At the Savannah meeting, John Smith (Murdock Webbing) summarized the final results of this test. A research laboratory in south Florida conducted the test, involving 432 slings, under the supervision of Dr. Jan Pegram, North Carolina State University. The test report, which contains 54 graphs and 12 pages of basic data, is being sold by WSTDA. Details can be found at the WSTDA website ([www.wstda.com](http://www.wstda.com)).

Don Sayenga, Technical Advisor

# SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



April 30, 2004

To: AWRF Members

Regarding: 2004 AWRF Scholarship Program

I would like to inform the membership that your Scholarship Committee has been working hard and has completed the mailings of the information packages to all of the members earlier this month. The packages contain all the information for anyone who wishes to participate in the program. Please encourage your fellow workers to participate if they have anyone who qualifies. This is an excellent program and is one of the benefits of belonging to the AWRF.

Remember, all applications must be postmarked by June 11, 2004 and delivered to the AWRF office. At such time all of the applications will be evaluated and the committee will announce the winners sometime in July.

Good luck,

Mark Kowalick

Scholarship Committee Chairman

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## SAFETY COMMITTEE



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Associated Wire Rope Fabricators considers the Safety Committee as one of the most important committees of the association. The AWRF expresses great interest in safety and is asking for our members input on what topics or projects they may have in the safety area.

The Swager Guide is one of the successful projects that was completed by the AWRF. This is the quality of information we want to provide.

Suggestions can be e-mailed to [dan@yarcable.com](mailto:dan@yarcable.com) or please call Dan Merrill at 901-575-3457. Also, please feel free to e-mail Jeff Gilbert at [awrf@att.net](mailto:awrf@att.net).

Thank you.

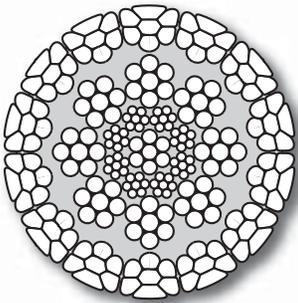
Dan Merrill, Chairman  
AWRF Safety Committee



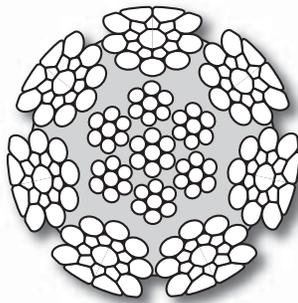
**CASAR**



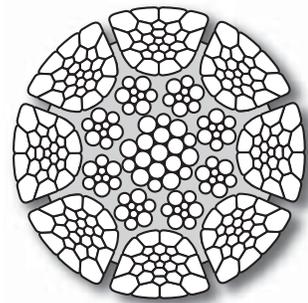
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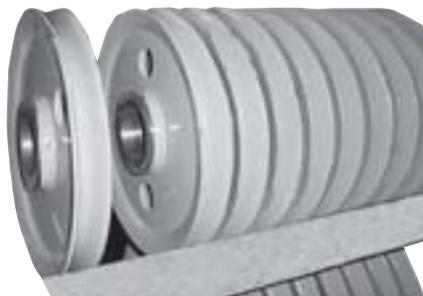


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# Highlights Savannah Ge



**Don and Carlene Receiving lifetime membership in AWRF by AWRF Vice President Bob Cushman, Cascade Rigging.**



**Don and Carlene receiving Award from AWRF Treasurer Mike Wallace — Loos and Company.**



**Bruce Yoder, tournament chairman passing out awards at our Fun Day Event.**



**Farewell**



**Frank Becker Retiring Chairman of the Technical Committee receives recognition award for 19 years of continuous service from President Mark Metz.**



**Presentation of Crystal Nambe Bowl to Carlene Sayenga for all her efforts in planning, organizing and directing the Ladies Tours — Presented by Jeff Gilbert, Executive Director and his wife Barbara.**



**Ten year  
Billy W  
Lee Fra  
Brad F**

# ts of the neral Meeting



l banner for Don and Carlene Sayenga



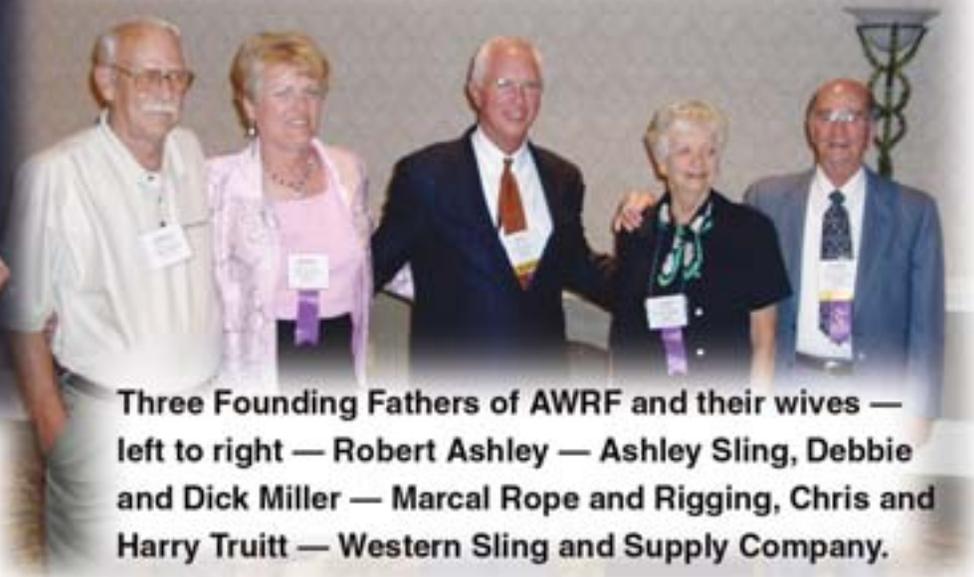
As in the Presidents of the United States, John Adams and John Quincy Adams and George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, we have our own Father and Son Presidents of AWRF. Left to right — Current President Mark Metz — Industrial Splicing and Sling, Stan Truitt Past President (1991-1992), Past President Harry Truitt (1977-1978) — Western Sling and Supply Co., Jeff Gilbert, Executive Director and Past President.



20 Year Membership Awards — Left to right — Doug Worswick, Denny Worswick — Certified Slings, Gar Knight and George Bennis — Commercial Group.



ar membership awards — left to right —  
hittaker — Pewag Chain,  
zier — Pacific Industrial Supply Co.,  
owler — D&M Wire Rope.



Three Founding Fathers of AWRF and their wives —  
left to right — Robert Ashley — Ashley Sling, Debbie  
and Dick Miller — Marcal Rope and Rigging, Chris and  
Harry Truitt — Western Sling and Supply Company.

## **AWRF TECHNICAL & TESTING COMMITTEE CHAIRS - 2004**

Our incoming Technical & Testing Committee Chair, Don Pellow (Pellow Engineering Service), has announced his selection of Sub-Committee Chairs for this year. Anyone wishing to serve on one of these Sub-Committees should contact the appropriate Committee Chair.

**WEB SLINGS –**

Knut Buschmann – Uniropo Limited, Mississauga, Ontario

**LOAD SECUREMENT –**

David Johnston – Columbus McKinnon Corp., Amhurst, New York

**SLING FITTINGS & ASME B 30.26  
REPRESENTATIVE -**

Charles Lucas – Crosby Group, Tulsa, Oklahoma

**CHAIN & CHAIN SLINGS –**

Tony Mazzella – Mazzella Lifting Technologies, Cleveland, Ohio

**WIRE ROPE & WIRE ROPE SLINGS  
AND ASME B 30.9 REPRESENTATIVE -**

Larry Means – Kulkoni, Inc., Houston, Texas

**CORDAGE & CORDAGE SLINGS –**

Dan Merrill – Yarbrough Cable Service, LLC, Memphis, Tennessee

**BELOW THE HOOK LIFTING DEVICES –**

Ron Raymond – J. C. Renfroe Sons Inc., Jacksonville, Florida

**ROUND SLINGS –**

Dennis St. Germain – I & I Sling, Inc., Aston, Pennsylvania

**BLOCKS, TACKLES & OTHER FITTINGS -**

Ken Sellers – Gunnebo-Johnson Corporation, Tulsa, Oklahoma

**TESTING –**

Howard Will – Caldwell Group, Rockford, Illinois

**TECHNICAL ADVISOR -**

Don Sayenga, AWRF, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

**AWRF GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL &  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS -**

Barry Epperson, Epperson & Johnsen, Tulsa, Oklahoma

**AWRF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY -**

Jeff Gilbert – Walled Lake, Michigan

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## Preservation Committee



April 2004

The Preservation Committee, in its second year and has been over-whelmed by the wonderful donations and treasures we have received. To honor these donors, we would like to award them with a marlin spike. The marlin spike is a long, pointed tool used in separating the strands of a rope in splicing. The word is first attested in the early seventeenth century, per Random House's website. Hand spliced wire rope is becoming more and more a lost art; it seemed appropriate that this should represent our committee.

## Please welcome the following to our Marlin Spike Club!

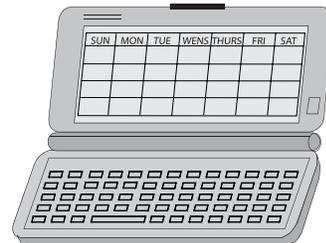
- Kathy Petrick— Samsel Supply Co.
- Wayne Kirland — Wirerope Works
- Barney Dugan — F&M Mafco
- John Sullivan — Loos & Company
- Jack Gibbons — Metro Wire Rope
- Don Pellow — Pellow Engineering
- Denice De Ricco — Cadco Rigging Products
- Ron Spacone — Cooper Tools
- Chuck Richards — Detroit Wire Rope
- Don Sayenga — Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
- Jeff Gilbert — Associated Wire Rope Fabricators

*Thank you for your generous donations!*

# News About Our Members and Our Industry

Richard P. Ramsey, 85, died February 12, 2004, at Madison, CT. He was born in Sewickley, PA and was a graduate of Penn State. After an early career as a pilot for the Pan American airline, he spent the remainder of his active life working in the wire rope industry. Dick was well known as the Chief Engineer of Universal Wire Products, then based in North Haven, CT. His enthusiastic participation with the Wire Rope Technical Board in connection with the texts of the Wire Rope Users Manual and the Wire Rope Sling Users Manual was highly respected by his peers, and after his retirement he continued as a consultant for the industry over a period of many years. He was also very active with the American Society of Senior Wire Rope Engineers until recently when his health began to deteriorate.

## A.W.R.F. CALENDAR



### 2004

- May 20** Wire Rope Technical Board Meeting  
Kenwood, Maryland
- May 24-27** ASME B30 Committee Meeting  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- September 13-14** ASME B30 Committee Meeting  
Minneapolis, Minneapolis
- September 23-25** SC&RA Crane & Rigging Workshop  
Fairmont Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
- October 17-20** AWRF FALL GENERAL MEETING  
Westin Horton Plaza,  
San Diego, California

### 2005

- April 17-21** AWRF GENERAL MEETING  
Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort  
Scottsdale, Arizona
- September 25-28** AWRF FALL GENERAL MEETING  
The Boston Park Plaza Hotel,  
Boston, MA

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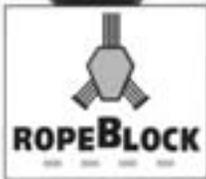
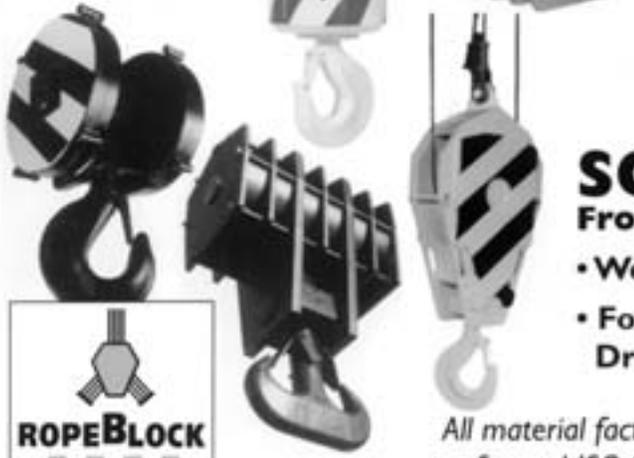
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# BLOCKS

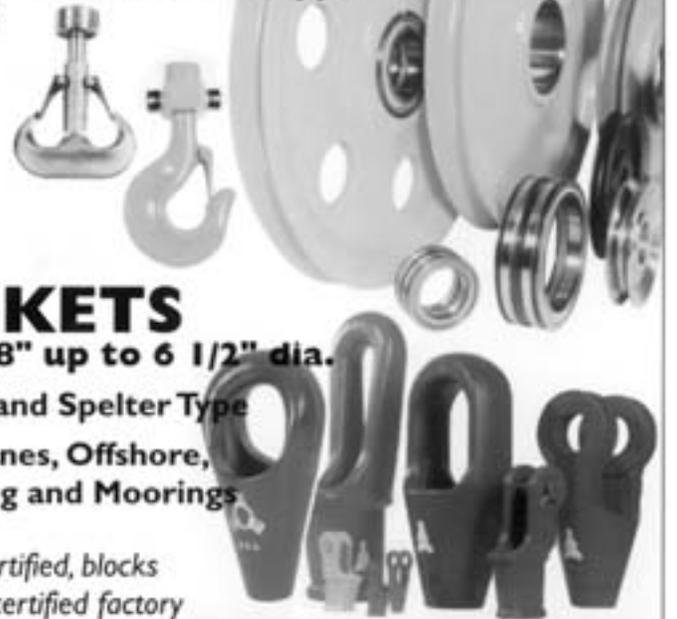
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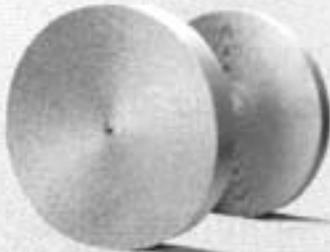
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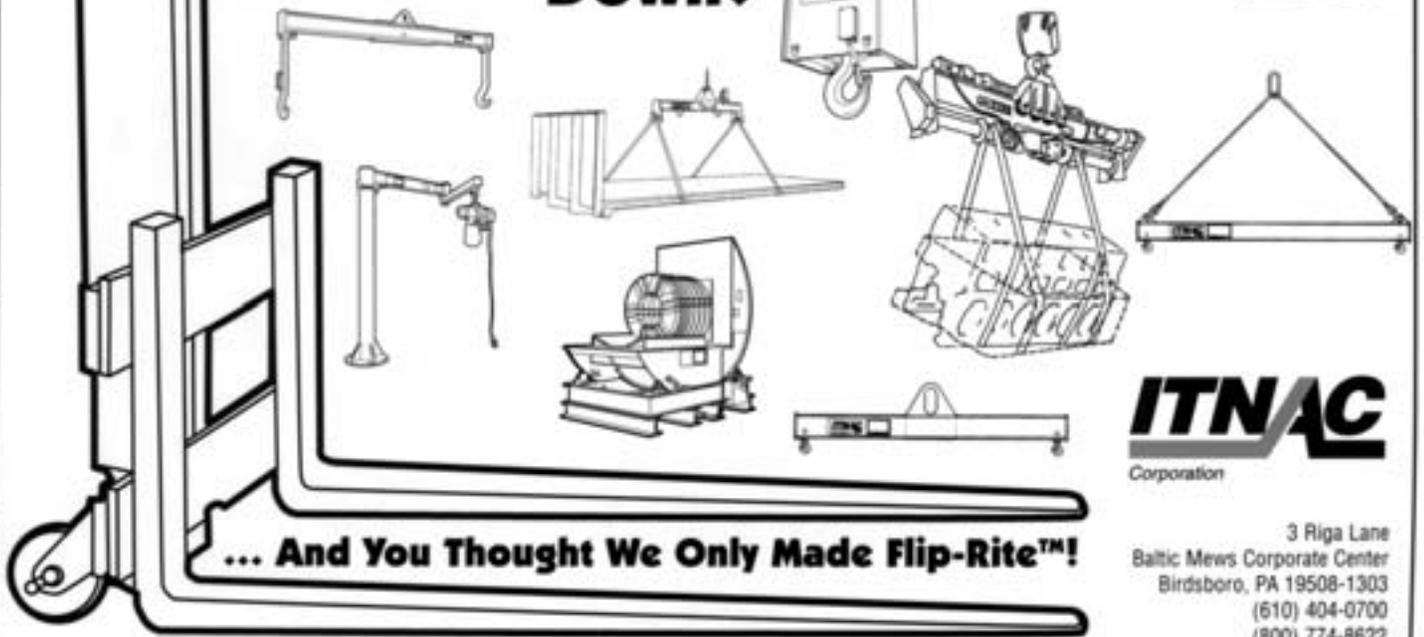
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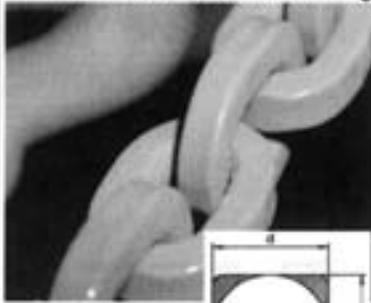
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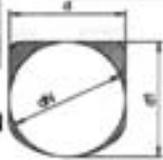


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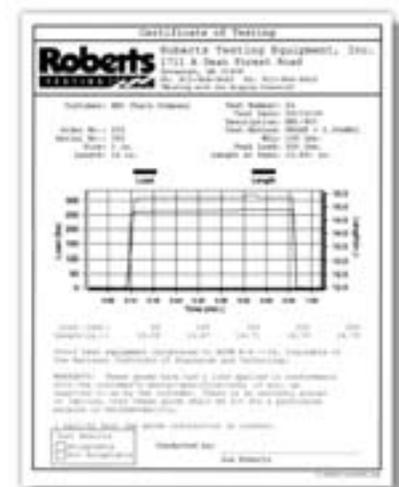
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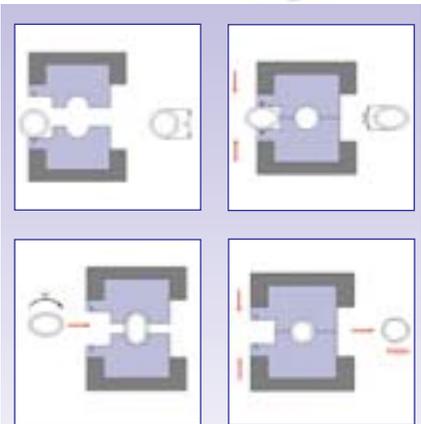
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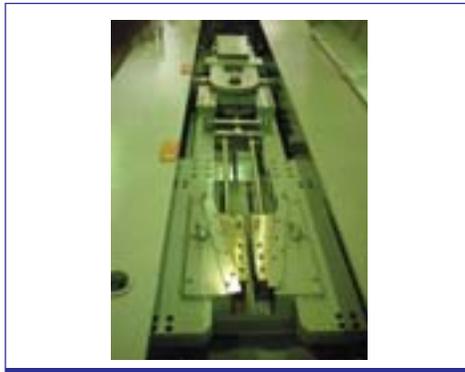
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