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News

Joining together to promote resistance welding excellence

Summer 2005

NOSTALGIA FROM WITHIN

RWMA...New Millennium – Era of Change...

By Pat Adams

The 21st Century opened with great change to the world as we had become accustomed. World events and a down-turn in the economy have created a new perspective on our future. In the first five years, RWMA has seen its membership decline from 100 to 79.

The New Strategic Plan to reorganize the entire organization of RWMA was implemented at the Spring 2003 meeting. As the membership of our organization evolves, this new structure will facilitate project completion and more timely communication to our members. The format of our Spring meeting has shifted to provide more contemporary information for our members and less time devoted to committee work. The committee work has been refined to provide concentrated efforts on completion of tasks or projects. This effort started with a realization that the RWMA needed to change to remain relevant to its membership. It is paramount that we respond to the realities of our position in the industry and continue to adapt to the expectations of our members.

The RWMA Board voted at its 9/28/04 meeting to approve, in principle, a merger with the American Welding Society. The proposed merger will strengthen our organizations and allow our members to continue to promote the resistance welding process for years to come, but also to open new doors of opportunity and relationships.

Our trade association management firm, Fernley & Fernley, Inc. has guided and assisted the association through our significant history of 70 years. The Management Liaison, Sue Pine, and the Executive Directors have created a strategic partnership with their professionalism and commitment to RWMA.



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Message from the President

Looking Forward

By Larry Moss

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for making our Spring Meeting in Grand Rapids a great success! The discussions, meetings and speakers all were very beneficial. Our gala reception and dinner on Thursday night was great. It was wonderful to see all of the past members and officers that made the RWMA a success for all of these years. To reminisce, reacquaint and even meet new friends. I want to thank Roman Manufacturing for their help in hosting the meeting in Grand Rapids. As I'm sure you know the RWMA entered into a new era during our Spring Meeting. During our Full Member Meeting on Friday morning April 1st, the membership voted overwhelmingly to merge with the American Welding Society and to combine our activities and operations as of June 1, 2005.



Full member meeting

This decision was a culmination of more than a year of hard work by our Merger Task Force, Strategic Planning Committee and the Board of Directors—each had been charged to evaluate our association's future in an ever changing industry. I'm sure I speak for all of the association and especially for those long term members that this process has been an emotional roller coaster in determining the future for the RWMA. I truly believe the right decision has been made and look forward to our relationship with the AWS. Ray Shook and his team at AWS have been extremely helpful in this process and I know they too are excited about our future together. As a new team, we can grow the RWMA to greater heights than ever before in promoting the resistance welding process.

I would especially like to take this time to thank Sue Pine and her staff at Fernley and Fernley for their outstanding cooperation and guidance through all of this. Throughout our many meetings and discussions their professionalism in helping us to do what was best for the RWMA shone through, even knowing that the decisions being made would dissolve our ties with their organization. Thank You.



RWMA Members sharing good times.

Shortly, we will be sending out correspondence to you to keep you informed of the changes and the guidelines and the requirements for membership. We are working hard to have the transition of this merger as seamless as possible. Let us look forward to this new beginning!

Sincerely,
Larry Moss

Congratulations to Don Sorenson! He was awarded a \$100 gift certificate to Best Buys as an expression of "Thanks" for all the hard work in creating the RWMA DVD. All members will be receiving this DVD sometime midsummer 2005. Look for it in the mail!

**Congratulations to Robert Hofman
2005 Elihu Thomson Resistance Welding Award recipient**

Nashville Hosts

2005 Spring Welding School

The Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, TN was the place to be for the RWMA 43rd Emmet A. Craig Resistance Welding School—it was the site of yet another successful educational experience! This year, a total of 33 students participated in the school, which was held March 15th and 16th, 2005. As usual, the presenters did an outstanding job in spreading the word of their technical expertise.

And speaking of presenters, don't forget Tim Foley's presentation on the basic principles of welding and opportunities in the industry, and Bob Matteson's maintenance procedures of proper weld schedules and preventative maintenance programs. And, how can we forget Kurt Hofman's lively presentation on maintaining electrical power components and conductors from the weld control to the electrode! Bill Brafford's powerful problem, evaluation and solution techniques for running a smooth production process was a benefit for all, and Bruce Kelly wowed attendees with the operation, adjustment and maintenance of pneumatic, hydraulic and electrical control components.

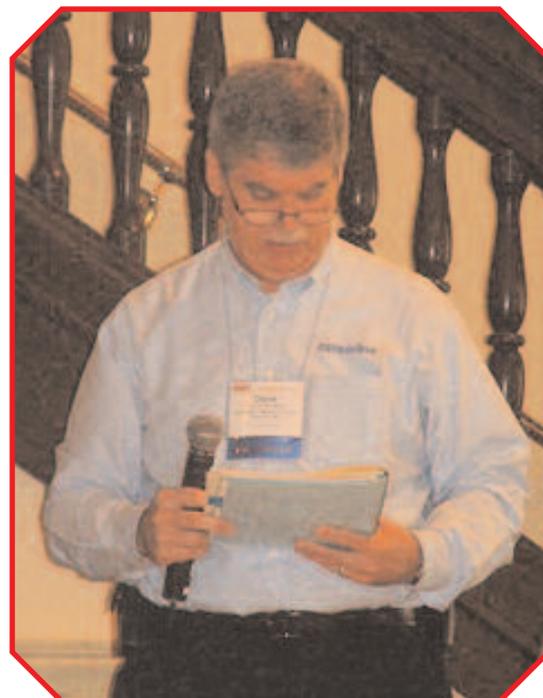


2005 Spring Meeting Photo Gallery

See pages 4 and 8 for more photos



Harry Patton and Bruce Kelly talking welding.



*Dave Beneteau,
Chairman of the Board*

AWS WELDING SHOW

The roaring sound of a Miller Electric's 75th anniversary chopper ridden by President-Elect James Greer was the sound off of the annual convention held in Dallas Texas April 26 – 28, 2005. The AWS Welding Show features many welding stars and legends that speak of their experiences, dreams and aspirations in welding and for the future.

The AWS Welding Show displays the newest equipment, accessories and information; RWMA was proud to feature a booth within this show. RWMA saw many faces, answered many questions and presented information on a variety of topics including technological advancements. More importantly, with the assistance from its lecturers, RWMA helped reinforce the focus of education and excellence and therefore was successful in achieving its goals at this year's AWS Welding Show.

[Please see The New RWMA on pages 5 & 6 for details on the transition to AWS]

The Recipients of the 2005 Scholarship Award goes to

**James R. Cuhel
&
Raymond Angus**

Both of Ferris State University

Photos from the 2005 Spring Meeting



Harry Patton and Diana Darrah



Bob Matteson and Roger Hirsch

THE NEW RWMA

In a September 2003 Strategic Planning Committee meeting, the relevance of RWMA was challenged. Then RWMA President, David Beneteau framed the discussion by asking the Strategic Planning Committee to answer the following question: What is the continued relevance of the RWMA and its scope?

Here are some historical facts:

- RWMA was founded to create standards for machinery. All machines today are custom-built. Since RWMA doesn't make standard machines anymore, there are no teeth in the standards anymore.
- RWMA is documenting older technology and not the cutting edge innovations.
- RWMA is not attracting End-Users, who are looking:
 - to make informed purchasing decisions,
 - to find standardization for the equipment they purchase,
 - to learn about the latest innovations,
 - to improve costs by seeking the lowest price, and
 - to have answers and training of employees on-site
- RWMA Machinery membership has been declining for a variety of reasons:
 - Financial difficulty,
 - There is little return for investment,
 - Dues are too high, and
 - Many view themselves as part of the automotive industry
- RWMA doesn't provide leadership on issues like product liability.
- RWMA doesn't secure money from the federal government to finance training or education.
- RWMA's present strengths are customers, volunteers and cash.
- RWMA should provide End-Users with information on how to buy a resistance welder. What to look for? What to ask for with spare parts?

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RWMA Spring Meeting Speakers

RWMA would like to thank all of its wonderful speakers at the Spring Meeting.

KEN KUK, C.Mfg.E.

Ferris State University

Ken presented trends data on factors that have influenced U.S. Welding Higher Education and introduced discussion topics that will affect the future of the industry.

STEVE SWANSON

JSJ Distribution

Steve explored the impact of a major demographic group on the United States economy and delved into practical applications and implications for businesses.

TOM MAGUIRE

U.S. Department of Commerce

Tom shared his insights with manufacturers in formulating and implementing an export marketing plan.

RICK ADAMY, CPA/ABV, ASA, CB

Adamy & Company, PC

Rick spoke about business valuation methods used for succession planning and the purchase or sale of a business.

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- RWMA is in a position of strength because there are no other associations for machine joining processes like Lasers, Friction Stir, Ultra Sound, Plasma, Button Lock, etc. There are no associations for machine integrators, assemblers or custom automated systems manufacturers.

After deliberation, the Strategic Planning Committee reached consensus that with the current membership and customer profile and RWMA's focus on the resistance welding process, RWMA cannot survive in its current form.

It has been a defining process since this decision in September 2003, however, by quorum and majority vote by the membership, the dissolution of RWMA was approved at the Board of Directors' Meeting in March 2005.

So, what does this mean to the Association? Read on...

The New RWMA Will:

- Be an independent standing committee of AWS, in the same way that WEMCO is, with its own governance structure;
- Continue to use the same logo, serve the same mission, and offer the same branded programs and services as RWMA did for 70 years. For example, it will host Spring and Fall meetings, sponsor the Emmet A. Craig Resistance Welding School, support the development of resistance welding standards and technical bulletins, and offer scholarships;
- Benefit from the financial strength, marketing reach, and clout of the American Welding Society, with nearly 50,000 members. AWS is at the cutting edge of the materials joining industry. Its Welding Show, award-winning Welding Journal, publications, products, and seminars are just some of the many new benefits RWMA members will receive from this alliance.

So, what does this mean to RWMA members? Read on...

Members of RWMA Must:

- Renew your RWMA membership as a Regular or Associate Member. Annual dues for both categories of membership is \$400. Individual memberships in RWMA are no longer available;
- Plus, join AWS as a Supporting (\$375 annually) or Sustaining (\$800 annually) member. Go to www.aws.org to learn about the benefits of AWS membership;
- Qualifying RWMA Members will be able to participate in Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO) activities in Year One;
- NOTE: AWS is waiving its Supporting and Sustaining Member initiation fee during the period from June 1 – December 1, 2005.

Prospective Members of RWMA Should:

- Join now so that you do not have to pay the AWS initiation fee of up to \$775;
- As explained above, total cost of the memberships in RWMA and AWS are \$775 or \$1,200, depending on the level of AWS membership and benefits you select.

On June 1, 2005 RWMA will combine with the American Welding Society to benefit its members, and to enhance its ability to promote the resistance welding process.

Visit the AWS website at www.aws.org

Contact Mary Ellen Mills at AWS at (800) 443-9353 ext. 444 or by email at memills@aws.org

Welcome to new RWMA Members!

Associate

Loraine Murphy

Gilbert Industrial , Inc
33 Lomar Park Drive
Pepperell, MA 1463
Associate - North American Rebuilder

William Geissel

Phelps Dodge Specialty Copper Products
48-94 Bayway Avenue
Elizabeth, NJ 7202
Associate - Suppliers

Mack Stiles

JBM Incorporated
2651 Scottish Pike
Knoxville, TN 37920
Associate - Users

Dennis Gundlach

Jefferson Industries Corporation (JIC)
123 N. Burnett Road
Springfield, OH 45503-4901
Associate - Users

Rick Elkins

Stalcorp L.P.
1217 West Main Street
Thorntown, IN 46071
Associate - Suppliers

Regular

Jim Kirkhoff

Joyal- A Division of AWE, Inc.
3939 Vanguard Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46809
Regular - Machinery

Ken Guddal

Marken Manufacturing
2081 E Center Circle
Plymouth, MN 55441
Regular - Machinery



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This is the final issue of RWMA News. Please contact AWS regarding future publications.

Larry Moss	President
Mike Simmons	First Vice President
Roger Hirsch	Second Vice President
Dave Beneteau	Chairman
Joe Daumeyer	Newsletter Chair
Rick Doyle	Executive Director
Suzanne C. Pine	Management Liaison

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The opinions expressed in any articles by outside consultants are their own views and not necessarily those of the RWMA.

2005 SPRING MEETING Memories



Dietrich Roth, Christine and Howard Johnston



Left to right: Mike Simmons, Pat Adams, Sandy Lee, Sue Pine, Bill Brafford, Dave Beneteau



Pat Adams, Susan and Tom Snow

*Thank You for supporting
the 2005 RWMA Spring Meeting*

**ANSONIA COPPER & BRASS
CENTERLINE (WINDSOR) LTD.
ENTRON CONTROLS, INC.
SCHREIBER ENGINEERING
UNITROL ELECTRONICS INC.**



Executive Director, Rick Doyle (left) of Fernley & Fernley and President Larry Moss



Mike Simmons and Sandy Lee