



INTERNATIONAL SAW AND KNIFE ASSOCIATION

Cutting Times

Summer 2017

ISKA RECEPTION IN LAS VEGAS



There was excitement before, during and after the ISKA reception, with turnout

much higher than expected. Approximately 150-160 ISKA members and their guests mingled at the 1923 Bourbon Bar located inside Mandalay Bay on Friday, July 21 from 7 -10 pm

Since Las Vegas casinos purposely aim to get one lost among the shops and slot machines, ISKA Board members greeted guests in front of a 1920s vintage automobile, the only stand out way to find the Bar. Then, if you missed recognizing the greeters out front, a host vouched it was “the place to be” and opened a secret bookcase which entered into the speak easy with dimly lit decor inside. To kick off the event, the Board asked members to vote in new Board members, and



thank the sponsors of the reception. We are grateful to HMT Machine Tools, Inc., J. Schneeberger, Peerless Saw Company and Molemab Abrasives USA for contributing toward the cost of the event. Their support is incredibly helpful to pull off events where members get a chance to mingle and meet with networking that continues on long after such an event.

As more learn about what each member’s core capabilities are, the more business gets referred around the country. For example, during the AWFS on the show floor, Eric Barr was at the ISKA booth when another member brought over a woodworking company owner



seeking tool sharpening in Georgia that he met a few aisles over. “These connections are what make ISKA a great organization, thanks to the common goals and respect among its members,” Eric said.

IN THIS ISSUE

AWFS Booth Highlights	1
PREZ SEZ	2
Board Meeting Update.....	3
ISKA Reception Photos	3

AWFS Recap.....	4-5
AWFS Booth Photos	6-7
Roster Update / New Members	8

The Prez Sez...

While the ISKA Membership elected me President, everyone who knows my spouse and co-owner of Expert Die, Dawn, knows that the title should read Mr. and Mrs. President. Dawn is my inspiration for great ideas and helps me with execution of those ideas.

I am glad to be a part ISKA which is a great organization. Over the years I have made great friends and gained unmeasurable knowledge from other members and educational seminars that I have attended through ISKA. I encourage every member of ISKA to be active, get involved and grow your network with other members.

Paul Muscat has done a great job as our Past President and I have big shoes to fill. We sincerely thank him for his contributions and leadership.

As my first task as new President, I am excited to announce that we will be adding a question and answer forum to the ISKA website for members. This forum will be for members to ask questions and receive suggestions from other members. ISKA has members with years of experience and a wealth of knowledge and they are willing to help others within our industry.

I look forward to serving you in 2018 as your President. If you have an idea or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out to Dawn or me at Tel. 706-277-4854, Ebarr@expertdie.com.

Thanks,

Eric Barr, Expert Die, GA
President, ISKA

Wait a minute, it's over already?!

What a great two years it has been. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to interact with the membership and work alongside a very talented board. The association has afforded me, as it does all participating members, the chance to learn about both technical and operational topics in a fun, collegial atmosphere. The connections I have made through ISKA have not just made us a better company, but I think have made me a better steward of our business.

It has been a privilege to serve ISKA. I look forward to my future participation. The association is in great hands with the current board and our new President Eric (and Dawn) Barr.

The Barrs are a great team that runs a great business and ISKA is fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable folks to move the Association forward.

Thank you to all of my current and past fellow board members for all your hard work and sacrifice in service to the association, and to all the members who been so supportive of our efforts.

All the best,

Paul Muscat, Skarpaz Tooling Systems, Inc.
Past President - ISKA



Board Meeting Update

The Board meeting was called to order on July 21, 2017 by Paul Muscat at 12:45 p.m. in Las Vegas, Nevada. The 2016-2017 Directors and Officers in attendance were:

President - Paul Muscat

Treasurer – Jim Ziemer

Secretary – Jordan Chynoweth

Education / Convention Chair- Dan Zickel

Membership Chair – Eric Barr

Newsletter / Roster Chair – Judy Brenner

Past President – Tim Rief

Also attending: Steve Bergerson, Dawn Barr and Gary Nicely of Hot Knives, LLC. Any member is welcome to request a copy of the financial report and complete minutes of the meeting. Contact the Secretary for a copy.

The Membership attending the ISKA Reception voted in favor of the new Board Member slated positions for 2017-2018: Eric Barr became new president of ISKA. Jim Ziemer will continue as Treasurer, Jordan



Chynoweth will continue as Secretary, Dan Zickel will continue as Education / Convention Chair, Tim Rief will become new Membership / Roster Chair, Judy Brenner will continue

with Newsletter / Media responsibilities. Paul Muscat is now Past President.



At the Board Meeting, the Board approved the Secretary's report on minutes of the Feb. 2017 meeting. The Treasurer reported the financial report. It

was agreed the membership dues will remain unchanged at current levels. The Membership Chair reported the regular membership totaled 90, plus 68 Associate members (those who are suppliers to the industry). We also agreed the position of Roster Chair will be combined with Membership Chair, more in line with knowledge of membership changes (renewals / drops, etc.) The board discussed the advantages of providing

a physical Roster book rather than just offering an online version. Most board members stated their handbook is located near them for easy access. The Education / Convention Chair reported ISKA will have a booth at the IWF in Atlanta, GA, and the Board discussed options for future seminar topics. The Board agreed to survey membership regarding newsletter email distribution and educational topic interests as well as recreational interests. The Board agreed the web site iska.org will promote its forum online for member Q&A technical and general questions, as this was successful in the past.



Continued on page 7

Reception Party



AWFS Recap

Rolf Hermann enjoyed visiting the ISKA booth to help greet members and even so some of his customers and friends stop by. He updated us on what J. Schneeberger, based in Switzerland, is offering the year. Lately, the



Peter Allen, Vollmer, and Rob Razsa, Equipment Ltd.

best seller is its Aries 5 axis machine used to sharpen compression tooling, and other rotary tools. It can turn around a sharpened tool in 8 to 10 minutes. Customers can visit their facility in Elgin, IL for orientation on their machine purchase and absorb the basics of operating the machine. Then once the machine is delivered, the company reps will come to their facility for 5 days or more to ensure smooth operation. “What stands out about the Aries is the small footprint of required floor space, at only 7 ft x 3 ft wide, it has made it a popular selection. The cost is around \$75,000 although an entry level model can be had for around \$150,000. Tool sizes that fit in its flexible pallet range from 1/4” to 3/4” with 25 tools in one pallet. Another pallet can fit up to 40 1/2” inch tools.



Dan Zickel, Eric Barr and Bill Zickel

Peerless Saw's Ken Lloyd said the company culture has transformed now in its 2nd year after the ESOP transition. “All of the 55 employees have come to understand their role is significant to our collective bottom line. The company took on debt after the company was sold as an ESOP, which it is paying down. At the same time, the company invested in equipment. “We are investing in the future, with a promising outlook,” Ken said. Peerless supplies many saw shops, tooling companies with saw bodies, carbide tips and silver flux. The booth showed a video of its huge laser cutter sparking with precision in

its plant. The 20 foot x 30 foot long laser cuts saw bodies with high pressure nitrogen, creating a cleaner, brighter cut. It's so bright, operators wear shades! “The plant is busy operating 3 shifts a day, five days a week,” Ken said.

Vortex enjoyed a large booth displaying its many tools sold directly to cabinet shops. Their show special was a sale on all solid carbide router bits, including the XP brand which stands for eXtreme Performance. Of the 30 employees, 3 are dedicated to sharpening tools and saw blades. Matt Serwa, co owner, said sharpening shops that resharpen XP tools need to keep within tight tolerances. “We've seen many ruined, and if in doubt, they can send it back to us for re-sharpening,” Matt said.

Riverside Tool Corp. continues to enjoy the exposure from last year's finalist at the Woodworking event for its Super Sander. Sales are growing, according to Eric Farver. Engineer Grant Sassman further tweaked the Super Sander design and its effectiveness. Distributors of Riverside Tool's raised panel profilers are seeing demand grow. A set include the foam core and first set of abrasives. The booth has samples of the smooth wood created using the Super Sander comparing to other wood using a different tool. The visual evidence and smooth touch was quite noticeable.

Vollmer had 3 machines at their booth on display: the V Pulse 500, the CP650, and the V Grind 360. The Pulse is its new wire erosion for PCD production of new tools or PCD tool sharpening of router bits and profile bits.

The CP650 is a 4 axis machine that can sharpen carbide circular saw blades saw blades up to



Chuck and Pat Crush; Brian Crush, Kathy Beckavitch, Rolf Hermann and Jim Baad



Jeff Goltz and Jim Ziemer

650 mm. It's Vollmer's entry level machine starting at \$45,000 for a water-cooled model; and around \$60,000 for oil-cooled version. There are more safety features on the latter enclosed model, with closed switches, explosion flap. There are sensors on the machine to shut it down should oil overflow.

The V Grind 360 is a 5 axis machine, oil cooled machine to sharpen carbide or HSS drill bits.



RKO's Carey Wiesner, daughter Abbey, and Paul Hardenburger, Everlast Saw

can give them statistics on the turnaround," said Peter Allen, Managing Director.

Great Lakes Custom Tool Manufacturing, enjoyed plenty of booth traffic, as it sells its shaper cutters and molders to woodworkers both through distributors and direct sales to end users, according to Debbie Kowalski. About 30 percent of its business mix is re-sharpening, with a focus on PCD tools. The turn around is about one week as it goes through an entire process to refurbish as like new. The company has 87 employees in WI and 11 employees at the AAA Metal-working Tooling in Idaho, where the focus is only on metal-working rotary tools.

Colonial Saw revealed its new ABM loader, set up as a 3 station with options for up to 5 stations and 40 to 50 saw blades fitting per pin. It was shown with a top and facer. One could set up a complete cell if you add a side grinder to the other side of the station loader. The robot Premium Loader has 8 axes with a probe and easy user graphical interface.

They also displayed a 4-axis ABM LC 25 CNC router and compression bit sharpener. "We quote turn-key

Vollmer will help a customer determine the pay-back period for an investment in one of their machines, compared to competitors. "Customers sometimes send us a tool and we



Peter Allen, Managing Director, Vollmer



Skarpaz's Paul Muscat with Mike Lindsay, Eastside Saw

The Ultrasonic cleaner was also an attraction, as was the NU5A 5-axis laser drill bit sharpener.

Southeast Tool displayed just a portion of its new bits, some 200 items. The company promoted its four different coatings, the MOAB brand, known as "the mother of all bits!" There is also a basic, a pro, and a plus coating for applications ranging to cut through melamine and laminate materials. "The coatings can extend tool life by 30 to 40 percent," said Cody Hicks. Sharpeners should be aware the flat of the tool is to be re-sharpened, and leave the coating inside untouched. The company is seeing increased demand for its increased product line after Forest City Tool and Morris Wood closed in 2014.

Grasche USA shared booth space with **Ceratzit**. The partnership is in its 3rd year, said Grasche's Richard Comer, co-owner with Justin Mecimore. "This is a long term commitment to service the US market more efficiently. Ceratzit claims it is the world leader in carbide supplies. The brand REDBOX is managed in Luxembourg with a US presence in Michigan. "These chrome grades offer a better range of grades for various applications, the company said. There are cost savings promoted on the Ceratzit web site, with weekly shipments of carbide to Grasche.

H3D has 100 employees, about 45 in Carolina and 55 in Ohio. On display among the tools is the latest X-treme series shear that goes past 50 degrees, offering a cleaner edge and less blow out. They've added more diamond EDMs and milling centers.

pricing," Alex Mohr, Marketing Director, said.

Equipment Ltd. displayed its prototype for a STARK Larr 500 automatic dip waxer to protect circular saw blade edges.

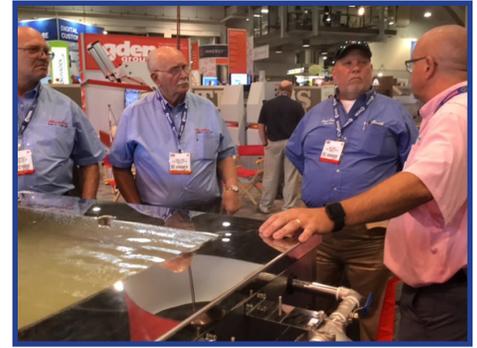
AWFS EXHIBIT ASSOC MEMBERS



Colonial Saw's Jeff Goltz, ABM's Mr. Keşoğlu and his son, Cansev Keşoğlu



Comsurge Tooling, Inc. Exhibit



Rob demos an Ultrasonic cleaner at Equipment Ltd. booth



Mike, HMT's Brian Haas, Eric Gabara, HMT Canada, and Bill Zickel



Cerazit and Grasche USA, at their partnership booth



Great Lakes Custom Tooling Booth



H3D Exhibit booth and visitors



Riley Kufta and Hana's Soho Yuh demo the auto-brazer at the Williams & White booth



Scott at the Mesenheimer booth



Peerless Saw Co. booth team



Charles Spiegel shows he Rip saw at Popular Tools exhibit

AWFS EXHIBIT ASSOC MEMBERS



Abbey Fosoick, RKO / Techniks Booth



Skarpaz's Boo and Paul greet Gary Nicely, Hot Knives, LLC.



Josh Desrosiers at Molemab booth



TIGRA USA exhibit



Chuck, Tammy and Cody Hicks at the Southeast Tool booth



Matt Serwa at the Vortex Tool Co.



Vollmer's Peter Allen and Shannon Fox



Tatjana Gruber at the Vollmer booth

Continued from page 3

Tentative Future Seminar Plans

2018

March – Winter Meeting at South Padre, TX

August – IWF and Annual Meeting at Atlanta, GA
Associate member suppliers may contact Dan Zickel for sponsorship opportunities at IWF. The Board agreed to limit the number of sponsors to 5 companies, each offering noncompeting products and service

November – Knife Grinding Seminar at Colonial Saw.

2019

August – Woodworking Show and Annual Meeting at Las Vegas, NV

2020

March – Possible trip to Grindtec in Augsburg, Germany



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Send our survey back to us!

*Prefer to respond online? Watch your email
for the member survey link.*

*Do you have an ISKA Tech Tip
or news to share?*

*Contact the Editor, Judy Brenner
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ROSTER UPDATE CORNER

The 2017-2018 Roster has been mailed and if you have an update, please contact Judy Brenner at sharpenersreport@comcast.net We can update the ISKA.org web site member list.

Corrections to note in your book:

- Bay Area Carbide - Web site: Californiacoldsaw.com
- Dimar USA (Not Dimar Ltd.)
- Grasche USA, Inc. new address:
240 Performance Dr SE, Hickory, NC 28602-4045
- Lenox Newell Rubber Email is:
Craig.vogel@sbdinc.com
(now owned by Stanley Black & Decker).

Welcome a New Assoc. Member:

Everlast Saw of North America in Kansas. Paul Hardenburger joined after connecting with members at the AWFS this July. Welcome! See the Roster book for contact info or send a welcome message to Paul at: paul@everlastsaw.com

*Have an update? Contact Editor Judy Brenner,
ISKA Newsletter / Media Chair
Email: Creativelakes@outlook.com*