



Engineers' News

February 2023

Vol. 85 No. 5

www.FortWayneEngineersClub.org

February Tour



When: Thursday, February 16th @ 5:00 PM

Address: 2842 US-30 BUS, Columbia City, IN 46725

Website: <https://www.reelcraft.com/>

Info: The majority of Reelcraft hose reels deliver fluid and air, with the others designed to coil welding cables, extension, and power cords. Our reels are used to transfer anything from air, water, transmission fluid, grease, oils, antifreeze, diesel fuels, welding gases, liquid pesticides, fertilizers, detergents, solvents, chemicals. Reelcraft has proven itself as a highly innovative company in developing new products for a wide range of markets.

Reelcraft's dedicated workforce, together with the implementation of programs such as Lean Manufacturing, have contributed to Reelcraft becoming the industry leader for manufacturing reels in the United States and worldwide. Reelcraft's Quality Management System has been ISO 9001 accredited since 1996 and is ISO 9001:2015 certified by Intertek. Quality is built into processes throughout our entire organization, including the design, manufacture, and assembly of our hose reels, cord reels, and cable reels.

January Tour Summary

On Thursday January 19th, the club toured Trelleborg Sealing Solutions' manufacturing facility at 2531 Bremer Road in Fort Wayne. Trelleborg is a very large company headquartered in Sweden with many different engineering and manufacturing facilities around the globe. Their Fort Wayne facility was founded in 1956 by Bill Shamban (later known as Busack & Shamban) and purchased by Trelleborg in the early 2000's. This facility focuses on making Turcon® PTFE (more commonly known as Teflon®) seals and bearings. Here they make a very wide range of seals sized from nearly microscopic seals for medical syringes to massive 15' diameter seals used around the turrets of tanks. The process of making their base product is fairly simple. They mix fillers into PTFE powder and compressed under extreme pressure into a tube. From there it is placed into an oven and baked into solid plastic around 700°F. Once that process is finished and the part has cooled, they can shape the seal in various ways, primarily on a CNC lathe into whatever the customer needs. The cooling of these plastic tubes can be a challenge since the tubes tend to sag after leaving the oven. So, they developed an ingenious system of cages on rollers to help the product maintain its cylindrical shape until they can be handled. In addition to round seals, they can also make extruded rails and PTFE sheets. The very large seals tend to be low volume and are usually welded together with heat and pressure.

To read more, click [here](#)

Items of Note

FWEC member Rod Vargo is Chair of the 28 year-old and all-volunteer [Utility Advisory Group](#), which formally advises Fort Wayne City Utilities and often City Council. Your comments are welcome at rodvargo@comcast.net

Volunteer Positions within the Club

Membership and Contact Chair: Open
Northeast Indiana DiscoverE Chair: Open

Let us know if you're interested!

Volunteer

General Club Info

Fort Wayne Engineers Club dues are \$0. Donations are welcome but strictly voluntary. In recent years, club funds have helped support Discover-E, the Regional Science and Engineering Fair, annual bridge building contests in schools, academic awards, networking events, mentoring, our website, and facilitating free tours.

Please see [FortWayneEngineersClub.org](https://www.fortwayneengineersclub.org), [LinkedIn](#), or [Facebook](#) for updates on current Club activities, other news, and past newsletters.

Those participating in activities or hosting tours through FWEC do so strictly at their own risk, including disease exposures. Participation in club events is voluntary, free, nonprofit, and solely for the benefit of participants and the community at large. Anyone with an interest may participate unless restrictions are specified for specific events, such as minimum age or minimum safety attire.

Interested in hosting a tour?

Contact us today!

Host a Tour

FWEC Roster for FY2022-2023

President: Nate Berndt

Vice President: Nathaniel Wisel

Secretary: Marna Renteria

Treasurer: John Magsam

First-year Board Members: Ryan Stark, Ed Woodward

Second-year Board Member: Mike Magsam, Rod Vargo

Third-year Board Member: Dave Gordon, Bert Spellman

Editor of Engineer News: Pending

Membership and Contact Chair: Open

Northeast Indiana DiscoverE Chair: Open

Job posting and resumes listed

The club accepts both job openings from around the area, as well as resumes from those seeking employment. Please submit these to the following email address: Info@FortWayneEngineersClub.org

Advertise in the Engineers' News

The FWEC provides advertising space within the Engineers' News. Advertisements are only \$10 per issue and limited to ½ page of content.

Advertise Your Business

January Tour Summary Continued

Their business is roughly a 50/50 split between aerospace and industrial applications. Some of their major customers include John Deere, Caterpillar, Komatsu, as well as every major aerospace manufacturer. Medical manufacturer's also use a large number of their seals in the drug making process and this business really took off during the pandemic. Seals for shock-absorbers are also a major sales item. Cleanliness is very important to their manufacturing process and that was obvious in how clean and well organized their facility was. They also have a focus on safety and do all they can to keep their roughly 300 employees working without injury. As with any manufacturing facility, they are focused on quick change over times (ideally 20 minutes) and lean production. They have roughly 40,000 active part numbers and shipped 20,000 different parts last year alone. In addition to the thousands of seals they already make, they have a very quick – 5 day - turn-around for prototype products, so it's easy for them to expand to whatever the market might demand. Thank you to our host Neil Oberley for staying late and doing a very nice job explaining the whole process. The seals they produce truly keep the world moving and it was a treat to get to see how they were made.







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