



Greater Kansas City Chapter National Tooling & Machining Association

Volume 24 - Number 4, July, 2011

Chips 'N Comments

Chapter Helps With SkillsUSA National Contest



Above: NTMA Chair Grady Cope & Travis Crossland address the meeting. Below: Part of the crowd at the meeting.



The Metropolitan Community College-Business & Technology Campus (MCC-BTC) hosted the SkillsUSA/NIMS Precision Machining Technology Championship on June 23rd. High school students, technical college students and their instructors from all over the country came together in Kansas City to put their technical skills to the test.

Numerous NTMA member firms provided volunteers for the judging of the event and to assist with the Battlebots exhibition put on by the NTMA. Members providing volunteers included: Crossland Machinery; C&R Mfg.; Haas Automation; R&D Tool & Engineering and the MCC BTC.

A competition dinner was held on Wednesday evening at the Golden Ox in KCMO.

2011 Upcoming Events

- July 29-30 .. KC-St. Louis Branson Meeting
- Sept 8* Shop Meeting @ Clay & Bailey
- October 12-16... National Fall Conference
- October 25* Educational Program
- December 3.. Christmas Party @ Plaza III

** denotes date change from previous issue*

Summer Meeting In Branson July 29-30

Our annual summer meeting with the St. Louis Chapter has moved to Chateau on the Lake in Branson. Join us for this informational, yet relaxing weekend getaway. Friday afternoon and Saturday are packed with informative seminars to examine future business transitions, evolving economic conditions and global growth opportunities. See the Events page of the website or contact Torree for more information.

For Reservations or Information about meetings/events contact: Torree Pedeson
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Lindsay Machine Works Celebrates 17th Anniversary

Lindsay Machine Works (LMW), Independence, Missouri, is celebrating its 17th year.

With a focus on precision machining and short production runs using CNC and conventional equipment, the company began in a 4,000-sq.-ft. facility. Today, its Independence shop has 17,000-sq.-ft. and is well situated for further expansion.

LMW is awaiting delivery of its 11th piece of CNC equipment. In addition to CNC turning and 3-axis milling, the firm offers large-capacity 4 & 5-axis machining. Even during the national economic downturn, LMW steadily continued to grow by servicing its customers with swift turnaround, superior workmanship and competitive pricing.

LMW works to form a partnership with its customers by offering turnkey solutions and managing projects from start to finish

LMW's large conventional lathes handle parts up to 39" x 120" while its vertical turret lathe can handle up to 57" O.D. Other services offered include surface grinding, heavy milling (travels up to 96" long) and large horizontal boring. LMW's full-service welding department includes Tig, Mig and stick welding, while a plasma cutter, shaping and light duty bending equipment assist in fabrication. One of the firm's core services, emergency repair, continues to be in high demand.

Industries served by the company include: transportation, medical, food processing, construction, defense, plant operations,



Above: Part of the crew at Lindsay Machine Works.



Above: An example of Lindsay Machine Works' work.

environmental, wastewater treatment solutions, printing and many more.

Owners Mike and Susanna Lindsay, long-time industry veterans, foster a team environment. LMW has added four employees this year. Its machinists combine for over 100 years of industry experience.

The firm's latest investment is a state-of-the-art Starrett Galileo AV350 QC5000 CNC vision and probe inspection system. It has significantly improved LMW's quality assurance program. Additional investments in software, web development and production equipment are planned for 2011.

Lindsay Machine Works can be contacted at: (816)257-1166; (888)404-4058; Fax (816) 257-2559; 4023 N. Cobbler Rd., Independence, Missouri; PO Box 488, Liberty, MO 64069; sales@LindsayMachineWorks.com; www.LindsayMachineWorks.com.

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Van-Am Tool & Engineering Celebrates 30th year, Installs Laser, VMC, Robotic Welding Cell & Completes Addition

Van-Am Tool & Engineering, St. Joseph, Missouri, is celebrating its 30th anniversary, has recently installed a new 6,000-watt Amada laser cutting system, a new Hurco vertical machining center, a third robotic weld cell, and has completed a 21,000-sq.-ft. building expansion.

The 30-year-old company is a complete source for full service tool and die, metal stamping, machining, metal fabrication, laser cutting, and manufacturing.



Above & Below: Interior and exterior views of Van-Am Tool & Engineering's 21,000-sq.-ft. addition. The firm now has 82,000-sq.-ft. of space.



Above (l-r): Van-Am's Preston Punzo and Ivan Russell

The new 6000-watt laser cutting system is capable of cutting material up to 1¼" thick with 80" x 160" sheet capacity and has an auto loading/unloading system. This new machine is in addition to two existing 4000-watt Amada laser systems.

The new Hurco VM20 machining center is in addition to six other CNC mills within the company. This new machine is located in the company's toolroom and utilized for producing die components as well as production CNC machine work.

The 21,000-sq.-ft. addition includes a full-depth back-in truck dock as well as new offices and warehouse space.

"This new equipment and expansion are part of our ongoing efforts to expand our capacity and improve our operations," stated Van-Am's Preston Punzo.

Van-Am's services include: complete design and build of progressive, transfer, louver, blank, form, and draw dies; die maintenance and repair; short



or long run production stamping; general and custom machine work (manual and CNC); wire EDM; design and build of jigs and fixtures; design, build, and repair of special machines; laser cutting and precision CNC press braking; custom fabrication and welding; robotic welding and plasma cutting; vibratory finishing; assembly; packaging, and warehousing.

Van-Am now operates in an 82,000-sq.-ft. facility and serves customers nationwide in a wide range of industries, including: agriculture, automotive, construction, electrical, petroleum, government, HVAC, pharmaceutical and transportation.

"We use technology to stay competi-

tive and improve our efficiency and turn around," stated Ivan Russell, Van-Am's owner and president. "Combine that with a great group of employees, our focus on the customer, and it's easy to see why we have been successful."

Van-Am Tool & Engineering can be contacted at: (816) 233-6622; Fax (816) 233-9422; 5025 Easton Road, St. Joseph, Missouri 64507; vanam@vanam-tool.com; www.vanam-tool.com.



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Wise Chips:

***“Watch The Little Things; A Small Leak
Will Sink A Great Ship.” Benjamin Franklin***

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Marketing Opportunity

In order to make more activities of the chapter financially self-sufficient, business-card size ads are being accepted to offset the cost of the Chips 'N Comments newsletter.

This is a great opportunity for members and associate members to gain exposure for their goods and services to more than 200 members and prospective members, as well as support the NTMA. (See examples inside).

Business card ads cost \$125 per issue (three minimum). The newsletter is published 5 to 6 times a year. Members and associate members receive priority for the limited spots that are available.

For more information, contact Torree at:

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