HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 85TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CORDAGE INSTITUTE

The 85th Annual Conference of the Cordage Institute was held April 27-30, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency on the famous River Walk in beautiful and historic San Antonio, Texas. The busy and productive conference included a Board of Directors Meeting, Technical Committee Meetings, the Annual Technical Seminar, and the Annual Business and Industry Meeting.

The membership elected Steve Hudson with Pigeon Mountain Industries to a two-year term as President of the Cordage Institute. Sparky Christakos with Gladding Braided Products was elected Vice-President and Bob Ecker was elected Secretary. Jack Kruesi with Bevis Rope, Luis Padilla with Teijin Twaron, and Bob Thompson with Fiber-Line were elected to their first terms on the Board of Directors. An introduction to each of the new Board members will be included in the next issue of Ropecord News.

In addition, John Stidd with Cortland Cable Company, Sim Whitehill with Whitehill Manufacturing, and Tom Yale with Yale Cordage were elected to two-year terms on the Board. Bob Knudsen with Kuraray America continues in his position as Associate Representative to the Board.

The busy program for the Technical Seminar included nine interesting and informative presentations including new member presentations from: Paul McDonald with Guelph Twines, Bill Pearson with Pearson Industries, and Chris Phillips with Performance Fibers. The other presenters were:

- “Extreme Cold Temperature Tests Using Liquid Nitrogen”, Knut Buschmann, Unirope, Ltd.

- “The Technology Connection to Synthetic Cable Solutions”, Richard Campbell, Applied Fiber Manufacturing

- “High Angle Dangle – Rope Work at Height”, Loui McCurley, Pigeon Mountain Industries

- “Slings Used in Iraq”, Scott Ullery, U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center

- “Coatings and New Applications”, Bob Thompson, Fiber-Line


The Technical Committee meetings were very productive, with work being done on the Technical Information Manual and several standards up for review. It was reported that eleven ballots had been sent since the last Technical Committee Meeting, with all receiving the required forty percent return.

It was reported that CI 1502, Reduced Risk Recoil Rope Test Method received a 45% return on the most recent internal ballot, and no negative votes were received. A few editorial changes would be made to the document to address comments, and it would be sent out for external review.

Elizabeth Huntley with Whitehill Mfg. completed her two-year term as Chair of the Technical Committee, and was presented with a plaque at the Annual Dinner for her hard work. Bill Fronzaglia with New England Ropes, who previously served as Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee, would take over as Chair following the conference.

At the Business & Industry Meeting, Rafael Chou with Samson Rope Technologies was elected to a two-year term as Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee. Mr. Chou previously served as Chair of the High Tech Constructions Subcommittee.

Dr. Richard Chaplin of Reading University in England presented “Torsional Interactions Between Mooring Line Components” and Economist John McDevitt presented “Economic and Trade Outlook for the Forthcoming Year”.

Pictures from the conference are included on pages four and five. The 2006 Annual Conference of the Cordage Institute will be held May 10-13, 2006 at the Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island, Florida, near Jacksonville.
OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2005 REACHES 20-YEAR HIGH WITH 51,320 ATTENDEES

New technologies and new ideas to sustain the growth of the offshore industry overflowed at this year’s Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) bringing a record 51,320 attendees to Houston for four days. The conference was held May 2-5, 2005 at Reliant Center at Reliant Park in Houston, Texas.

“Industry leaders gathered in sessions focused on the future of financing the offshore oil and gas industry to meet the world’s increasing energy demands and on recruiting personnel to replace the aging workforce”, said Rod Allan, OTC.05 Chairman. “Those who participated in these sessions took part in creating history – some of the industry’s brightest minds discussed ideas that will define the course of the industry during the next decade.”

Allan added that an array of new technologies was presented for the first time. The Spotlight on New Technology program highlighted 14 innovative technologies that are already making the industry more successful.

The 51,320 participants represent OTC’s highest attendance since 1985 arriving from 110 nations around the world. The exhibition at OTC this year included 2,087 exhibiting companies, totaling more than 410,000 net square feet, filling all available indoor and outdoor space.

There were 2 member companies with exhibits; Cortland/Puget Sound Rope and Whitehill Manufacturing.

Chris Leech and Steve Banfield with Tension Technology International presented a paper “Computer Model to Predict Long-Term Performance of Fiber-Rope Mooring Lines.”

Several other rope manufacturers were present including Marlow, Oliviera, Quintas-Quintas, and Scan Rope. More information can be found at www.otcnet.org.

VECTRAN HIGH-PERFORMANCE FIBERS BUSINESS UNIT ACQUIRED BY KURARAY AMERICA

Kuraray America Inc., a subsidiary of Kuraray Co., Ltd., has acquired the Vectran business unit from Celanese Advanced Materials Inc., a division of Celanese AG, on April 25, 2005. The new organization will launch as the Vectran Division of Kuraray America Inc., located in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Kuraray Co., Ltd. operates over three billion US dollars in sales worldwide and employs approximately 6,700 people. For more information, visit www.kuraray.co.jp/en/

MTS OCEANS 2005

Presently there are 7 papers to be presented during the Ropes and Tension Members (R&TM) Sessions.

Session I - September 22, 2005, 10:15-11:45
“High Modulus Fibers Bring New Strength To Ropes” by Gale Foster, Foster & Associates
“Long Term Performance of HMPE Mooring Lines” by Mark Huntley, Whitehill Mfg.; Greg Davis, Honeywell; and Peter Weber, SeaRiver Maritime
“Fibre Ropes for Station Keeping – Engineering Properties and Qualifications” by Michel Francois, Bureau Veritas

Session II - September 22, 2005, 1:45 – 3:15
“Evaluation of New and Used Fiber Ropes” by Henry McKenna, Tension Technology International
“Emerging Technology: DPX Jacketed Mooring Lines” by Jonathon Miller, Danielle Stenvers, Rafael Chou, and Justin Gilmore, Samson Rope Technologies
“Design Modifications to Increase Fatigue Life of Fiber Ropes” by Forest Sloan, Kuraray America, Inc; Sam Bull, The Cortland Companies; and Randy Longerich, Puget Sound Rope
“The Importance of Properly Representing Line Stiffness In Mooring Analysis” by John Flory and Dr. Ractliffe, Tension Technology International

Full information on MTS Oceans 2005, including registration details and a complete schedule, can be found at: www.oceans2005.org.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Cordage Institute Summer Technical Meeting
August 16-17, 2005
Embassy Suites - Philadelphia International Airport Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

Oceans 2005 MTS/IEEE
September 19-23, 2005
Washington, DC
Information at www.oceans2005.org

Cordage Institute 2006 Annual Conference
May 10-13, 2006
Amelia Island Plantation
Amelia Island, FL
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THE CORDAGE INSTITUTE’S
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Associate Member Welcome Reception & Dinner Sponsors

New Member/First Time Attendee Orientation
Standing: (left to right) Jerry McGinnis, PlymKraft; Brian Waring, Honeywell; Chris Leech, Tension Technology Int’l; David Sundin, Honeywell; Knut Bushmann, Unirope Ltd.; Jaco Fok, DSM Dyneema; Luis Padilla, Teijin Twaron; Bob Knudsen, Kuraray America (Co-Host); Bill Pearson, Pearson Industries; Scott Ullery, US Army Natick Soldier Ctr.
Kneeling: (left to right) Zak Lutz, W.L. Gore & Assoc.; Rick Bucher, W.L. Gore & Assoc.; Richard Sleight, PlymKraft; Tina Ingle, Invista (Co-Host)

Knut Bushmann,
Unirope, Ltd.
at Technical Seminar

Richard Campbell,
Applied Fiber Mfg.
at Technical Seminar

Loui McCurley,
Pigeon Mountain Ind.
at Technical Seminar

Scott Ullery,
US Army Natick Soldier Ctr.
at Technical Seminar

Bob Thompson,
Fiber-Line
at Technical Seminar

Chris Leech,
Tension Technology Int’l
at Technical Seminar

Richard Chaplin,
University of Reading
at Business & Industry Mtg.

John McDevitt,
Corporate Economist
at Business & Industry Mtg.
Steve Hudson (right), newly-elected President of the Cordage Institute, presents Sim Whitehill (left) with a plaque for his contributions as President.

Sim Whitehill presents Elizabeth Huntley with a plaque for her contributions as Chair of the Technical Committee.

Sim Whitehill presents plaques to (left to right) Dennis St. Germain, Tina Ingle, and Doug Jacques for their contributions on the Board of Directors.

First Place Golf Team: (left to right) Connie Truesdail, Dick Truesdail, Dave O’Neal, and Bob Thompson.

Second Place Golf Team: (left to right) Forrest Sloan, Jod Destazio, Luis Padilla, and Steve Swiackey.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rope Trick Performer at President’s Night Dinner, with Carol Owen.
US Sailing Partners with New England Ropes as Sponsor of US Sailing Team...US SAILING, national governing body for the sport, announced that it has selected New England Ropes as the Official Cordage Sponsor to the US Sailing Team, the US Disabled Sailing, and the US Youth World Team. The new partnership looks ahead to 2006 and beyond to supply the top sailors in the country with the latest and highest quality of ropes. As part of the agreement, New England Ropes will outfit all team-members with a custom line-package, developed with input from the athletes and coaches. “We are very excited to be chosen by US SAILING as Official Cordage Sponsor, and we look forward to getting every sailor on the US Sailing Team geared up for international competition,” said Kevin Coughlin, Market Manager for New England Ropes. “New England Ropes recently introduced a line of dinghy and one-design ropes that will help the team achieve top results.” For more information on US SAILING, visit www.ussailing.org.

Gulf Energy Bridge™ Deepwater Port – The Worlds First Offshore LNG Receiving Terminal...In February, the Gulf of Mexico made history when the tanker Excelsior started unloading its cargo 116 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Excelerate Energy’s Gulf Gateway Energy Bridge Port is the nation’s first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in 20 years and the world’s first offshore LNG receiving terminal. Known as an Energy Bridge™ Regasification Vessel, the Excelsior vaporizes LNG on board and delivers high-pressure natural gas through a subsea pipeline connected to shore. A Submerged Turret Loading System™ (STLS) comprised of a submerged turret boub, chains, lines and anchor, a flexible riser, and a small mete platform and risers. MTS Luncheon presentation, 4/28/2005

Single-Braid Splicing...“The strength and neatness of the eye splice make this worth learning” quoted from an excellent article by Bob Pingel in the June 2005 issue of SAILING Magazine. This is a very well done article with photographs that are very easy to follow. Discovery of the “Splicing Wand” created by Brion Toss Yacht Riggers is worth the price of the magazine. For more information contact: Brion Toss Yacht Riggers at www.briontoss.com, New England Ropes at www.newenglandropes.com, Samson Ropes at www.samsonrope.com, Yale Cordage at www.yalecordage.com.

Elite Sailors Supplied with World Class Rigging...Samson was a major contributor of running rigging to the eleven boat Congressional Cup fleet at the 40th Congressional Cup held April 11-16 at the Long Beach Yacht Club in Long Beach California. Samson partnered with its local distributor, Sailing Supply, to supply the lines for the eleven Catalina 37’s. All the hard work it takes to rig each boat was contributed by Bahia Rigging, who also maintains the boats on an ongoing basis. As well as the Congressional Cup, Samson will be at a variety of events during the year, including Key West Race Week, US Sailing Alter Cup at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Block Island Race Week, Waikiki Cup, Mallory Cup and the Waikiki Yacht Club youth programs.

Another Busy Hurricane Season Forecast...With Florida still reeling from last year’s destructive hurricanes, a noted hurricane expert said he expects another “active” storm season this year and 73-percent chance of a major hurricane making landfall in the United States. Prof. William Gray, a researcher at Colorado State University, predicts 13 named storms, including seven hurricanes, will sweep across the Atlantic this year. He also says there is an above-average risk that a major hurricane – Category 3 or higher – will make landfall in the Caribbean. Gray, who along with his team has been issuing forecasts for 22 years, boosted by two the number of storms predicted for this year from an earlier forecast in December. On average there are 9.6 storms including 5.9 hurricanes during the season from June 1 to Nov. 30. Last year there were 14 named storms, including nine hurricanes. Four of those hurricanes – Charles, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne – made landfall in Florida, causing an estimated 100 deaths and $20 billion in damage. Trade Only, 4/1/05

Cordage Institute Standards Referenced In Revised Federal Specification...The Institute of Heraldry, Fort Belvoir, Virginia recently revised Federal Specification DDD-F-416F “Flag, National, United States Of America And Flag, Union Jack”. The revision cites CI-1500 – Test Methods For Fiber Rope, CI-1303 – Nylon (Polyamide) Fiber Rope, 3-strand and 8-strand, CI-1304 – Polyester (PET) Fiber rope, 3-strand and 8-strand, CI-1321 Nylon (Polyamide) Fiber Cord/Rope, solid braid, and CI-1322 Polyester (PET) Fiber Cord/Rope, solid braid. If anyone is interested in a copy of DDD-F-416F, you may contact Dave Richards at drichards@ropecord.com.
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