



President's Message

Bill Pearson

Hello and welcome to your new and improved Ropercord News.

I trust that you will find this edition full of pertinent information that you will find useful, current, and will add value to your membership.

Over the past year, your Board of Directors has taken a few actions that I would like to bring you up to date on.

The creation of C.I.R.T.S. (Committee for International Rope Testing Standards) is a joint effort between both Eurocord and the Cordage Institute to identify, develop, and promote unified test standards for evaluating high performance rope (HPR) specifications and performance attributes.

The C.I.R.T.S. team is currently focused on tensile strength testing with a goal to harmonize the various currently recognized standards in order to create a unified standard for adoption by ISO.

The Board of Directors has also created a Communications Committee that coordinates the Ropercord News and provides information of general interest to the members.

Both of these committees are currently up and running and making a positive influence as you can see by the revamping of this Ropercord News by the Communications Committee, and the commitment of the members of C.I.R.T.S. to advance universally accepted test standards.

Each company's primary representative recently received a Cordage Institute Membership Value Survey. This survey is intended to give the Board an idea of what is important to the members and how the Cordage Institute can provide better value to its members.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who attended and presented at our Annual Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee this past May. The presentations were informative; the networking invaluable; and for those of us who played, the golf was great. For those of you who could not make it to Nashville, you missed an excellent conference.

Mark your calendars now. Next year, Sunday, June 18, 2017 to Wednesday, June 21, 2017 will be the 2017 Cordage Institute / Eurocord Joint Conference in beautiful Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Mallorca is one of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Barcelona.

It is guaranteed to be an exciting and beautiful venue that we will all enjoy. I look forward to seeing you there!

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Cordage Institute Forms Joint Committee with Eurocord to Develop International Rope Testing Standards

The industry of rope manufacturing is becoming increasingly globalized. The industries we serve have also become increasingly globalized through acquisition and expansion. While European and North American companies, members of the Cordage Institute and Eurocord, have become more international in their scope, Asian companies are also expanding into other parts of the world. These market dynamics, as well as the increasing growth of high performance synthetics, have created new challenges for users to effectively evaluate specifications and performance claims, and for industry manufacturers to present their products effectively. Universally accepted test standards, used by all manufacturers to validate product specifications and performance, will help alleviate these issues. They could provide users with standardized methods for evaluating products to make more effective purchasing decisions, provide association manufacturers with a stronger way to differentiate themselves from non-complying manufacturers, and increase the value of our associations to the global industry. For this reason, Tony Bon (Samson) and Koen Van Goethem (I-Coats) sponsored the creation of the Committee for International Rope Testing Standards (C.I.R.T.S.) on the 19th of January 2016.

The mission of C.I.R.T.S. is to identify, develop and promote unified test standards for evaluating rope specifications and performance attributes. This will be achieved through active engagement with both the Cordage Institute and Eurocord, and the promotion of newly developed test method standards (or guidelines) to third party groups.

The committee's chair is Kris Volpenhein with Samson, and the vice chair is Rigo Bosman with DSM Dyneema. Representatives of Cortland, I-Coats, Lankhorst, Teijin, and Teufelberger also serve on the committee.

In 2016, the C.I.R.T.S. team will be focused on tensile strength testing, with a goal to harmonize the various standards that are currently recognized in order to create a unified standard for adoption by



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Cordage Institute Happenings



Annual Conference Highlights

The 2016 Annual Conference of the Cordage Institute was held on May 16-18, 2016 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee. The full conference program included a Business and Industry Meeting, the Annual Technical Seminar, Technical Committee Meetings, and plenty of networking opportunities. Photos from the 2016 Annual Conference can be found [HERE!](#)

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Progress of Technical Subcommittees

The Cordage Institute's Technical Committee had a well-attended and productive meeting, led by Keith Buzzell - Technical Committee Chair, on May 16, 2016 as part of the Institute's Annual Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee. Seven Technical Subcommittees met throughout the morning and early afternoon, and the following reports were provided when the full Technical Committee convened in the afternoon.

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Fall Technical Meeting Details

The next meeting of the Cordage Institute's Technical Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 12th and Thursday, October 13th. In addition, the Cordage Institute's Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, October 13th.

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Meet the New Cordage Institute Board Members

Below are brief introductions to members who have been elected over the past year to their first terms on the Cordage Institute's Board of Directors.



Beth Huntley

Whitehill Manufacturing

Elizabeth Huntley is currently Chief Operating Officer of Whitehill Manufacturing which has founded by her father, Simeon Whitehill, in 1978. Elizabeth is a mechanical engineer who specializes in the development of high performance synthetic ropes. She has over 25 years of experience in design, manufacture, testing and development of synthetic ropes for a wide range of military and industrial applications.

She has previously served as Technical Committee Chairman of the Cordage Institute and has received a number of distinguished awards including the DeepStar Outstanding Contribution Award from the American Petroleum Institute and the 2015 Best Paper Award at the OIPEEC Conference in Stuttgart, Germany. Elizabeth has published many technical papers regarding synthetic rope applications and recently patented a non-destructive test method for synthetic rope in service.



Laura Murphy

Nexis Fibers

Laura grew up in Rhode Island and received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

She worked for United Technologies researching next-generation fuel cells, and at General Electric developing safety systems for naval nuclear power plants before joining DuPont's Seaford nylon plant as a process engineer. While working there, Laura was awarded a patent for a method for controlling polymer viscosity.

Laura held many jobs working for DuPont in Delaware and Chattanooga, and then working for Kordsa, including shift supervisor, quality manager, area manager, and then Sales and Marketing manager. After Kordsa, Laura worked for Hailide America before joining Nexis Fibers, where she is the Market Manager for North America, South America, and South Africa.

Laura is an avid underwater photographer in her spare time, and is currently trying to improve her golf handicap. She enjoys the occasional glass of Pinot Noir in her suburban Philadelphia home.



Bill Putnam

Yale Cordage Inc.

Bill Putnam is President of Yale Cordage and has 23 years of experience in the cordage industry. He started with Yale Cordage in 1984 as the Rigging Shop Supervisor, then moved to Customer Service, and eventually became a Territory Sales Manager before departing in 1989.

He returned to commercial fishing/lobstering as the owner of Putnam Marine, as well as being the General Manager and Vessel Captain for Chebeague Transportation, Chebeague Island, Maine.

Bill returned to Yale Cordage in 1998, taking on the positions of Purchasing and Offshore Manufacturing Coordinator. In 2001, Bill was promoted to Plant Manager, then Vice President of Operations in 2006, Executive Vice President in 2009, and lastly President in 2012.

He and his wife, Julie, reside in Maine where their personal interests include seven grandchildren, golf, boating, and travel.



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Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group Begins Business

Bekaert, world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coating technologies, and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, the previous owner of Bridon, have successfully closed the definitive merger of their ropes and advanced cords businesses.

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WireCo Announces Investment from Onex

WireCo WorldGroup ("WireCo") announced that an affiliate of Onex Corporation (TSX: OCX ("Onex")) is making an equity investment for a majority interest in WireCo. Funds managed by Paine & Partners, LLC ("Paine & Partners"), which acquired WireCo in 2007, will maintain a significant minority stake.

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Cortland Welcomes New Medical Research and Development Expert

Global medical textile and biomaterials supplier Cortland Company has appointed Jeffrey Koslosky as its Medical Business Development Leader as it targets further growth. Koslosky has more than 15 years of experience in the design, development and manufacture of biomedical textile products and medical devices.

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Gladding Braid Celebrates Bicentennial

Gladding Braided Products is proud to announce its bicentennial anniversary. From John Gladding's modest cordage making facility in the town Pharsalia in 1816, Gladding has grown to be a leading manufacturer of custom products for the government, consumers and manufacturers. Gladding engineers and braids textile fibers such as nylon, polyester, and Kevlar and wire fibers--copper, stainless steel, nickel--into cords, ropes, cables, and other specialty products.

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Industry News



Greenhouse Gas Can Escape the Deep Ocean in Surprising Way

A new scientific journal article reports that carbon dioxide can emerge from the deep ocean in a surprising way - a new piece of the global carbon "puzzle" that researchers must solve to fully understand major issues like climate change.

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Internet Access will be Possible in Remote Ocean Areas - Above 100 Km Off the Coast

Cutting-edge project will provide broadband, low-cost Internet access in remote ocean areas, more than 100 km off the coast, using standard access technologies, such as Wi-Fi and 4G, to support the Blue Economy, including fisheries and maritime transportation.

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Energy Department Awards \$10.5 Million for Next-Generation Marine Energy Systems

As part of its MHK technology research and development efforts, the Energy Department is working to harness the largely untapped renewable energy in waves, tidal, ocean, and river currents that could provide clean, affordable energy to homes and businesses across the country's coastal regions.

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Upcoming Industry Events

Event	Date	Location	Venue
<u>Oceans'16 MTS/IEEE</u>	September 19-23, 2016	Monterey, CA	Monterey Conference Center
<u>WSTDA 2016 Fall Meeting</u>	October 4-6, 2016	Chicago, IL	Hotel Chicago Downtown
<u>Cordage Institute Fall Technical Meeting</u>	October 12-13, 2016	Philadelphia, PA	Embassy Suites
<u>IFAI EXPO</u>	October 18-21, 2016	Charlotte, NC	Charlotte Convention Center
<u>AWRF 2016 Fall General Meeting</u>	October 23-26, 2016	Toronto, Canada	Westin Harbour Castle
<u>International Workboat Show</u>	November 30 - December 2, 2016	New Orleans, LA	Morial Convention Center
<u>2017 OIPEEC Conference</u>	April 4-7, 2017	La Rochelle, France	Mercure Hotel
<u>Cordage Institute 2017 Annual Conference with Eurocord</u>	June 18-21, 2017	Mallorca, Spain	TBA

RopercordNews

RopercordNews is published by the Cordage Institute. The Cordage Institute is an international association of rope, twine, and related manufacturers, their suppliers, and affiliated industries. Articles appearing in RopercordNews are the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Cordage Institute. Members are encouraged to contribute articles and items of interest by emailing them to info@cordageinstitute.com. Rates for advertising are available from the Institute.

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