

ropecordNEWS

THE CORDAGE INSTITUTE

Dedicated to the Advancement of Rope and Cordage Products

Vol. VXII, No. 1

SPRING 2008

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CORDAGE INSTITUTE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The first Technical Committee Meeting of 2008 went very well. There were well attended and productive meetings of the Braided Ropes, Coatings, High Performance Rope, Life Safety Applications, Reduced Recoil Risk Rope, Roundslings, and 3 and 8-Strand Ropes Subcommittees.

The subcommittee meetings were followed by an interesting presentation by Rolf Bergrath and Scott Archibald from MAGEBA, which introduced the Technical Committee to the various techniques and equipment available for coating fiber ropes. Information is available on their website www.mageba.com. During the full Technical Committee Meeting, progress reports were provided by all active Technical Subcommittees.

Based on the recommendation from the Board of Directors and Technical Operating Committee, a Third Party Certification Committee was formed with Chip Deschenes of New England Ropes Corporation appointed as chairman. The committee will meet during the Technical Committee Work Groups Meeting at the Annual Conference in May to discuss the possible development of such a program.

Members with an interest in a Third Party Certification Program are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, Florida.

The Technical Committee Meetings will be followed by a Welcome Reception & Dinner sponsored by the Associate Members, a Technical Seminar on Friday, May 16th, and the Business & Industry Meeting on Saturday, May 17th.

The program will include plenty of networking opportunities, industry-specific technical presentations, a roundtable discussion on the Globalization of the Cordage Industry, and a presentation by John Spence on Excellence by Design, which will lay out, step by step, precisely what an organization or individual must do to achieve uncommon success. You don't want to miss it!

ANOTHER CASE OF MISREPRESENTED IMPORTS

Once again, a product has been brought to my attention. This time it is polyester Roundslings. The first report was given to me in January 2008, and it is complete with the results of thirty breaks. In this case, all of the slings were purchased from three different American suppliers. All of the thirty slings were tested in accordance with WSTDA-RS1 Standard Procedures for Testing.

Testing was performed on a machine with current ASTM E4 certification. None of the slings tested had the manufacturers name or trademark on the tag as required by the ASME B30.9 Sling Standard and the WSTDA for polyester Roundslings. All of the slings were eight feet in length and comprised of four different vertical working loads. Two 2,600 lbs rated capacity; thirteen 5,300 lbs. rated capacity; ten 8,400 lbs. rated capacity; five 13,200 lbs. rated capacity.

Five of the slings failed to reach the minimum break strength, and three other had cover breaks below the minimum break strength requirement. The failure rate was 26.6% or more than one out of four.

In February, another supplier asked to have a four foot 5,300 lb. rated capacity polyester Roundslings tested to verify the strength. The salesman for the importer stated that the sling was made to European standard of 7:1 WLL factor. The actual B30.9 requirement is 5:1.

All of the slings tested did not have sufficient information on the tag to identify them as imported from China. As a result, the U.S. Roundslings manufacturers will be held accountable. It is important to alert the end user of the Roundslings to be aware of the potential hazards.

If you are aware of other products that are being misrepresented contact: Dave Richards, Technical Director, at drichards@ropecord.com

Visit us online at:
www.ropecord.com

NEW MEMBERS OF THE CORDAGE INSTITUTE

Manufacturer Member

Wound-About, Inc.
Westfield, NC
www.woundabout.com

Reseller Members

Continental Western Corporation
Jefferson, LA
www.cwestern.com

The Lehigh Group
Macungie, PA
www.lehighgroup.com

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Cordage Institute Annual Conference
May 14-17, 2008
Saddlebrook Resort, Tampa, FL
www.ropecord.com

**Web Sling and Tie Down Association
Annual Meeting**
May 18-21, 2008
Hyatt Regency Newport, Newport, RI
www.wstda.com

Eurocord Annual Conference
June 18-20, 2008
Hilton Sorrento Palace, Sorrento, Italy
www.eurocord.com

**Associated Wire Rope Fabricators
Products Information Exhibition**
September 14-17, 2008
Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, IL
www.awrf.org

International WorkBoat Show
December 3-5, 2008
Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA
www.workboatshow.com

ROPETECH, INC.

Consultant to the Cordage Industry



Innovative Product and Marketing Solutions
Accident Investigation • Expert Witness
D. Philip Skaer II, President

10712 Scioto Lane
Austin, TX 78747

Tel: 512-291-0343
Fax: 512-291-0345



TENSION TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

Consultants in Flexible Tension Member Systems
www.TensionTech.com

JOHN FLORY

4 Tower Lane, Morristown, NJ 07960
Phone: (973) 267-0871
E-mail: flory@tensiontech.com

Synthetic Fiber Rope and Cordage
Specifications and Standards
Research and Development
Accident Investigation

Rope System Engineering
Rope and Yarn Testing
Mooring Analysis
Expert Witness

WALTER PAUL, PH.D

CONSULTING IN DESIGN AND USE OF

FIBER ROPE
E-M AND E-O-M CABLE

WIRE ROPE
REINFORCED RUBBER HOSE

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
EXPERT WITNESS

170 Siders Pond Road
Falmouth MA 02540

Phone/Fax: 508-540-4697
E-Mail: wpaul@cape.com

ropecordNEWS

Library of Congress: ISSN 1063-746X
Editor: Dave Richards, Technical Director
The *ropecordNEWS* is published by the Cordage Institute. The Cordage Institute is a trade association serving the interests of the rope, cordage, twine, netting and allied industries. The Cordage Institute does not endorse or receive remuneration from the contents.

Contribution and comments are always welcome.
Rates for advertising are available from the Institute:

Cordage Institute Headquarters:

Robert H. Ecker, Executive Director
994 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 1019
Wayne, PA 19087-1866
Tel: 610-971-4854 - Fax: 610-971-4859
E-mail: info@ropecord.com

APPLIED FIBER



The Synthetic Advantage...

With today's advanced fiber technology, synthetic cables can now be made to outperform steel in nearly every regard. These fibers can be used to produce a cable assembly with greatly enhanced characteristics as to lightness, strength, flexibility, fatigue resistance, and corrosion resistance.

Was Not Resolved...

The historical drawbacks of synthetic cable have little to do with the fiber or cable itself, but rather the lack of end fitting, and of process technology. Cables could only be terminated with unwieldy mechanical fittings or hand splices. Both of these methods are hindered with non-repeatable length tolerances and limited adaptability to steel cable hardware and attachments. Furthermore, traditional mechanical fittings develop poor termination efficiency and are very high in cost. Hand splicing has problems with minimum assembly length and long, bulky splice areas. The end product using either method was simply not compelling enough to gain a real advantage.

Challenge us! From robotics to bridges, aerospace to automobiles, Applied Fiber is centered on developing customer specific alternatives to traditional steel cable or chain. We welcome your inquiries.

Until Now:

A practical solution now exists. **Applied Fiber** has the productive capacity to design and produce high strength synthetic cable assemblies with terminal connections that are versatile, compact and compatible with steel cable hardware. The entire production process is measured, controlled, and documented to ISO 9001 standards to create finished assemblies of unmatched quality and consistency. The technology minimizes or eliminates the historical drawbacks of synthetic cable assemblies.



THE FINE ART OF RIGGING

How Two Fine Artists Ended Up With A Successful Rigging Company

In 1960, Eugene Katlin, founded Miami Cordage. He started as a distributor of fiber rope, twine and cordage for Miami's marine industry, especially mega yachts, as well as other pleasure boats. In the mid-1960s he began to distribute aircraft cable for mobile home tie downs, then a new requirement. Then in the 1970s, he turned to rigging incorporating turnbuckles, eye-bolts, and various rigging apparatus.

Katlin started in a 3,000 sq. ft. facility, evolving through a number of moves, into larger and larger spaces until he reached 25,000 sq. ft. However, in May, 1980, the facility was burned to the ground along with a number of other buildings in the McDuffie race riots. He started again in his garage.

Daughter, Kandi, who had previously worked for her father after graduating from high school and attending college, returned to the family business, with her husband, Rollin. They made a number of changes. They purchased sewing machines to make their own web slings, purchased a hydraulic swaging press, and bought a series of machines from Italy to manufacture fiber rope.

In 1988, the couple took over the business from Katlin, becoming majority stockholders. During this period they transitioned into standard lines of wire rope and chain, including lifting slings with two, three and four legged bridles; and a variety of alloy, stainless steel, proof coil, and high-tech chains.

Their big move into wire rope came about 1990 when they purchased Florida Wire & Rigging Works from Ed Quest, one of the founders of AWRP, who had been in business since 1956. They purchased all his hydraulic equipment, and a 200,000 test bed.

At the same time they've gone full bore into wire rope; the Stirrans have to continue to develop their fiber rope business. They manufacture 3 strand rope up to 1-1/4" diameter, double braid rope up to 2-1/2" diameter, as well as 12-strand rope up to 2-1/4" diameter. "We're unique in that we do colored rope, up to 15 colors," says Kandi. "We do short and special runs and produce full range mooring lengths from 6 to 12 inch circumferences." They also import polypropylene and traditional manila rope up to 3" inch diameters. "Manila used to be the rope for all boats before synthetic fiber came along," Kandi says. "Now it's used largely for decorative purposes."

Although the cordage and wire rope are two different strands of the business, they are both a part of the same company. Similar skills are needed and the marine market needs both types of rigging. Sales in one aspect can lead to

the other. But the company now serves a number of other markets as well, including construction, industrial, government, and other distributors.

Editors Note: This is a short excerpt from an article in the December 2007 issue of Wire Rope News & Sling Technology. They are both truly unique in blending the wire and fiber rope into a single company. Miami Cordage is a member of the Cordage Institute.

SAMSON EXPANDS TO MEET DEMAND OF HIGH PERFORMANCE ROPES IN OFFSHORE INDUSTRY

Samson broke ground in February on a 35,000 square foot expansion of its Lafayette, Louisiana manufacturing facility. In addition to the new building, new equipment, and 40 new employees will be added. The new equipment includes braiding systems designed to manufacture long lengths of very large diameter ropes for deepwater offshore mooring tethers, specialty working lines, and deep water lowering and lifting lines. The new equipment will include one of the largest 12 strand braiders in the world, capable of producing up to 192mm diameter ropes in lengths over 3,000 meters. The building and equipment are expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2009.

Committed to support of the offshore industry, Samson has implemented a long-term plan in preparation for this expansion. It included promotion of Michael Greenwood, long-time Samson Commercial Marine Sales Manager, to the role of Director of New market Development. Responsible for leading Samson's expansion into the offshore industry, Michael is focusing his efforts 100% on bringing the offshore community the high performance products and services Samson is known for throughout the world. In order to provide custom engineered solutions and field services, Samson has also expanded its R&D organization, adding application engineers, and field service technicians for on-site design consultation, installation support, and training for rope handlers.

Source: Samson Press Release

I&I SLING ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

Dennis St. Germain Sr., CEO of I&I Sling, Inc. and Slingmax® Inc., announced that Scott St. Germain has been promoted from VP to President of I&I Sling, Inc. He has taken over the duties of the office and continues to work out of headquarters in Aston, PA. Dennis St. Germain Jr. has been promoted from VP to executive VP and continues his work managing the southern division, producing all of the K-Spec® core yarn used by Slingmax® dealers to manufacture Twin-Path® Slings. He will work out of the Greensboro office for the foreseeable future. Both gentlemen are stockholders in

Continued on next page...

the corporation. Scott has been with the company since 2001 and has experience in all aspects of the business. He is a graduate of Kutztown University. Dennis Jr. has been with the company since 1982 and has served in every capacity since joining the business. He is a graduate of Penn State University. He opened the North Carolina plant in 1985, and has been responsible for the production and twisting of core yarn at that facility since 1992.

Jeff Susman continues as the president of Slingmax® Inc. and Robert Capone, CPA continues as CFO of I&I Sling and Slingmax® Inc.

I&I Sling is a full line sling fabricator with six branches along the east coast of the United States. The business was founded in 1963 by Dennis St. Germain Sr. Slingmax® Inc., founded in 1986, is a marketing company with thirty-seven licensed dealers around the world. Both I&I Sling and Slingmax® Inc. are closely held corporations with more than \$20 million in sales.

Source: *Wire Rope News & Sling Technology*, 12/2007

KURARAY EXPANDS VECTRAN FIBER PRODUCTION

Additional Capacity Propels Growing High-Performance Fiber Division

Kuraray Co., Ltd., a leader in the synthetic fiber industry, has completed expansion of its Vectran® fiber manufacturing facility in Saijo City, Japan. The manufacturing facility in Fort Mill, S.C. has also undergone recent improvements, in preparation for additional capacity set to come on-line in May 2008.

The company said it is increasing production of its Vectran fiber by 40 percent, to 1,000 tons annually. This fiber is the world's only multifilament yarn melt spun from liquid crystal polymer (LCP) and is used in a wide range of applications where strength, durability and dimensional stability are critical to performance and safety.

These high-performance fibers are marketed around the world in more than 50 segments, from ropes and cables, to aerospace, military, industrial, composites, recreation and leisure, and cut resistance. Vectran's uses range from deep sea heavy-lifting systems and helicopter slings to puncture-resistant bicycle tires, inflatable wind-turbine generators, sails and NASA space systems.

"We manufacture a very unique fiber whose combination of properties meets demanding performance requirements where other fibers fail," said Elizabeth G. Stoner, Ph. D., the Vectran division's general manager, based in Fort Mill, S.C. "We see many opportunities to expand the use of Vectran fiber. We are growing rapidly and this capacity expansion is enabling us to better service our customers globally." Source: Kuraray Press Release

DSM DYNEEMA AND SHIMANO COLLABORATE ON HIGH-TECH FISHING LINES TO HELP SPORTSMAN LAND THAT MOST WANTED CATCH

A new generation of sport fishing lines from Shimano featuring super strong Dyneema® fiber from DSM Dyneema have been introduced. The new Aspire fishing lines have an astonishing strength to diameter ratio. They meet specific demands from sportsmen for thinner lines that are less visible to fish, provide better handling, and allow more line to be placed on the reel.

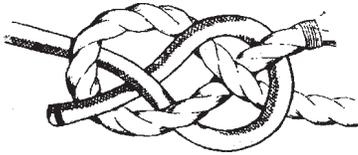
The use of Dyneema® high-modulus polyethylene fiber, makes it possible to create significantly thinner fishing lines, while at the same time enhancing their strength. This combination of thinness and strength benefits sport fishermen in several ways. More line can be accommodated on the reel, giving the fisherman additional line to pay out when playing a game fish. In addition, enhanced strength means less risk of breakage when reeling in larger and more active fish.

The Aspire fishing lines feature an improved coating formulation that improves abrasion resistance and colorfastness compared to other premium brands. This smooth coating delivers improved durability and color retention over the life of the line, avoiding wear and color fading. As a result, fishermen will benefit from enhanced colors that can help their techniques or make it easy to monitor their lines.

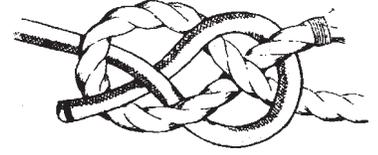
Mr. Pierangelo Zanetta, European Director for Shimano, said, "We cooperated with DSM Dyneema to provide an enhanced product portfolio to our customers. Thanks to DSM Dyneema, our new Aspire fishing lines provide improved thinness and durability for a more satisfying sport fishing experience." Dyneema® fiber has clear, identifiable added value to the end products.

Rolf van Beeck, Marketing Manager Sports at DSM Dyneema, said, "We are happy with the contribution of Dyneema® fiber to the creation of a next-generation fishing line. This is just the latest in our cooperation with Shimano to develop innovations that meet changing market needs. We value this relationship highly and look forward to a successful launch of the Aspire product line by Shimano." Source: DSM Dyneema Press Release

Please submit press releases and information on your company's key promotions and management changes to info@ropecord.com



Knots & Notes



FIBER-LINE, INC. EXPANDS & HIRES

Fiber-Line has expanded its Hatfield location by an additional 50,000 square feet. New employee, Jeff Zink, will handle the Fiber Optic market. Mr. Zink joined Fiber-Line in January, 2008, after working for DSM Resins for 18 years.

COACH USES DECKHAND TOOLS

The next time center of Vanderbilt University's football team pancakes his opponent, it may be due in part to the same techniques that deckhands use on the river. Ingram Barge Company, Nashville, recently delivered a 600-foot coil of three-inch diameter 3-strand nylon line to Vanderbilt's strength coach, who is using it to train his football and baseball players.

John Sisk, who brainstormed the idea with Vanderbilt supporter John Ingram, said that they would be cutting the line into 50-foot lengths, weighing approximately 70 pounds each. The student athletes for both football and baseball would then be required to swing the line in various ways. The goal, Sisk said, was to keep the lines moving.

"This kind of exercise works core and hand strength. Hand grip for both baseball and football is essential to how athletes perform," Sisk noted.

Source: *The Waterways Journal*, 2/11/2008

PLYMOUTH CORDAGE

Plymouth Cordage in Massachusetts, was the biggest cordage maker in the world many years ago. The complex has been used for a number of projects over the years, and is now called "The Seaport Cordage."

It is now being transformed with nearly 700 stores, homes, and offices that will have entrance of a small public park. Nearby, there are now sailing projects that can provide many improvements, controlled by Wally Foster.

Contributed by: Gale Foster Technical Director Emeritus

A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR FUTURE SCIENTISTS

Students in grades 6 – 12 can increase their knowledge of marine technology by signing up to receive the MTS Club News. Go to www.mtsociety.org/club and click "join now!"

Source: MTS Currents January/February 2008, Volume 31, No. 1

IT IS WITH SADNESS WE REPORT ANOTHER FINE GENTLEMAN OF THE CORDAGE INDUSTRY HAS PASSED ON

Mr. Robert Snyder entered into rest December 19, 2007, at the age of 93. Bob was a VP with Wall Rope for many years. After retiring he remained very active in the cordage industry. It was a pleasure working with him on and off in the latter 1980's.

Bob was a pilot and flew Navy fighters during World War II; he continued to fly for many years. The last I heard ten years ago was that Bob was the oldest active pilot in the United States.

Bob will be missed.

MANILA CORDAGE COMPANY RECENT PROMOTIONS

Manila Cordage in the Philippines announces the recent promotions of three gentlemen.

Engineer Raymund B. Yango was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Manufacturing Division.

Engineer Felipe T. Cabalit was promoted to Production Manager handling both synthetics and hard fiber mill operations of Manila Cordage.

Engineer Samuel P. Oderon was promoted to Manufacturing Engineering Services Manager. All Engineering Services will be under him.

*Visit us online at:
www.ropecord.com
to order or learn more
about Cordage Institute
Standards & Guidelines.
Some documents are
available for free
downloading!*

We have some new twists on rope, cord and twine manufacturing.



Ring Doubling and Twisting Machine

Pre-Twisting 2 for 1 Unit

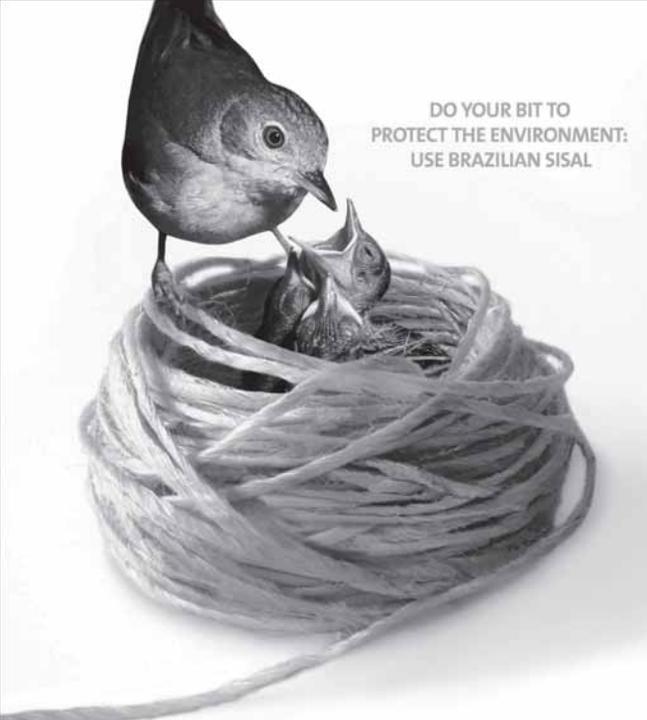
To learn more, contact Randy Wise at 804-794-9615 or rwise@fi-tech.com.

Fi-Tech, Inc. represents Galan, Nuova Protex and Heberlein for the latest technology in rope, cord and twine processing.

Since 1972, Fi-Tech, Inc. has represented U.S. and European machinery manufacturers serving America's Synthetic Fibers and Nonwoven Industries.



Fi-Tech, Inc.
 501 RESEARCH ROAD
 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23236-3090 USA
 PHONE 804-794-9615 FAX 804-794-9514
www.fi-tech.com



DO YOUR BIT TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT:
 USE BRAZILIAN SISAL

Thanks to new technologies, natural fiber is gaining ground in industry, as well as our daily lives. Environmental responsibility is no longer an option. It's a necessity. Made from 100% natural and biodegradable fiber, Brazilian Sisal helps protect the environment and meets manufacturers' new specifications. Sisal is used to make twine, rope and cord, as well as composite materials used together with or replacing asbestos, fiberglass and synthetics. Go natural: use Brazilian Sisal. It's a great way to show your commitment to the future of our planet.



SINDIFIBRAS - PHONE +55 71 3241.7499
sisal@braziliansisal.com - www.braziliansisal.com



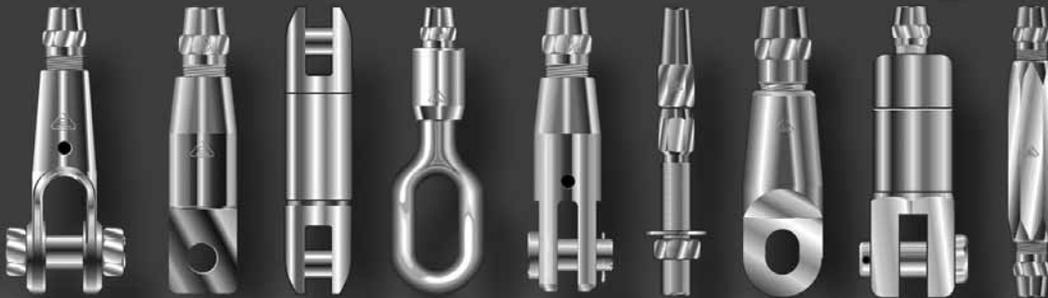
- Reels • Cut Lengths • Fabrications
- Coatings • Splicing • Terminations
- Encapsulations • Hardware and Fittings
- Rope Inspection • Design and Engineering
- Heavy Lift Synthetic Rope Slings
- New Advanced Test Facilities
- ASTM Certified to 800,000 lbs.
- CI 1500 Testing • Tension-Tension Cycling
- Computer Data Generation
- Special Testing Protocols

Southwest Ocean Services, Inc.
 5718 Armour Dr., Houston, TX 77020
 Tel: 800-231-6687 • Fax: 713-671-2515
www.swos.net

CORDAGE INSTITUTE
994 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 1019
Wayne, PA 19087-1866

Return Service Requested

At the End of Your Rope?



Use Electroline Swageless Fittings and Swivels

QUICK AND EASY

- No special tools required for installation
- No heat, chemicals, or pressure involved in assembly
- On-site assembly can be accomplished in minutes

VERSATILE

- Terminates synthetic ropes
- Reusable components
- Various platings and finishes available
- Large variety of designs
- Custom designs available
- For ropes from 1/16 to 1-1/2 inches in diameter

STRONG

- Exceeds rated breaking strength of most ropes
- Manufactured in forged, cast, or machined materials
- Unique dampening zone for increased rope life

RELIABLE

- Over 60 years of proven performance in a wide variety of applications
- Can be conveniently inspected for proper assembly

ELECTROLINE®
Manufactured by **Esmet, Inc.**

1-800-321-0870 • 330-452-9132 • Fax 330-452-2557 • 1406 Fifth St. SW • Canton, Ohio 44702
info@esmet.com • www.esmet.com