

We've been busy. It has been an unexpected good start to the year. We've had more than usual activity outside of the US which has certainly helped. Thanks to everybody who has been running hard already this year.

Some of you have probably already seen the new trucks in Lexington. For those of you who haven't, here's a picture.



Larry and Christopher may yet have a career in marketing.

Everyone should already be aware of the tragic death of Mr. Chu due to a severe case of the flu. Several people have expressed a desire to try to help his family by contributing to a memorial fund. Chuck Calvert took the lead on this and I appreciate both his efforts and the interest from Chu's friends. I have had some email exchanges with his wife. Here is an excerpt from the latest email:

*"My husband's death was a shock, and the course of our life changed in measures that are not completely clear yet. I was a full-time house wife who has never worked a day out of home. I will do everything in my power to educate our two sons, but it will not be an easy road."*



I have mentioned to her that some of Chu's friends would like to contribute something for the benefit of his family. I hope to receive information so that we can send money to her in Taiwan. Hotwork is willing to be the middleman to assist individuals who would like to contribute something to help Mr. Chu's family. I will be personally contributing. This is entirely a personal choice but if you wish to contribute and would like Hotwork to assist you in doing so, please let Larry know. We will take your instruction and offset it against expense reimbursements or other payments that you would otherwise receive. Our intention is to transmit the contributions to her by April 1 (assuming that we have bank info to do so).

Here's this month's laundry list of "lessons learned". Some of these lessons have been learned before and it is a shame that they must be relearned.

- 1.) Eurotherm recorder issues – on a recent job in New Caledonia, the client wanted a chart and spreadsheet of the data from the dryout as quickly as possible at the conclusion of the job. This should have been a simple matter since we used a digital recorder on the job. The data was downloaded and emailed to Lexington. People were on standby to create the charts and email them right back. Unfortunately, the data was goobered up. Two main issues were apparent. First, about ten of the channels were renamed in the middle of the job. Second, the recorder clock was reset in the middle of the job. I completely support having detailed channel names and it is important that the recorder time stamp be accurate to the local time. So both of these changes were well intentioned but they must be done before the start of the job – not in the middle of it. When a channel name is changed, the machine doesn't know if you have started measuring a different point or just changed the name of an ongoing series. It assumes every channel name change (no matter how minor) is the start of a completely new measurement series. So it ends the data series under the old name and starts a new data series under the new name. With regard to the recorder time scale, the machine has a "base clock" that is supposed to be set to match Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). You can change the displayed time by

selecting one of the time zones that matches the local time. Changing the time zone does not change the machine's "base clock". It is still recording data in its memory based on its internal clock on GMT. It just displays the data in local time for the timezone that you select. The data then is always traceable to a known time (GMT) and the recorder keeps a message for every instance that the timezone is changed. When the time on the base clock is changed, time is no longer traceable to any known time. When it's changed during a project, it makes it appear as if there was a gap in data collection. Please set up the recorders before the start of the job and avoid making any configuration changes during the job. Select the timezone – don't change the recorders base clock setting.

- 2.) We have had a number of very successful and difficult drains recently. On one drain, we ended up putting a section of "banana" pipe directly on the receiver. We have learned in the past that this is a bad idea. The energy of the jet is depleted by the immediate turn and the glass and water start to separate. The result is that drain rates must be slowed down or else backups will occur. It is important to have at least one straight after the receiver before starting to bend the run.
- 3.) Smashed recorder screens. We have had two recorders arrive back at the shop with broken screens. We have had other recorders arrive that had been packed carelessly (upside down etc). These devices are basically computers and they need to be treated with care. They are extremely expensive to repair and it takes them out of service for an extended time. We have had some loads arrive unsecured with equipment rolling around. Please respect the equipment and take care to pack and secure it. And make sure that it is all on the truck.
- 4.) Vehicle accidents/incidents continue to be an issue. It's been awhile since we've driven a truck into a motel canopy so I am reminding you now to look up. I'm sure that you're anxious to get home but please exercise caution when driving any vehicle – car, truck – owned or rented.



Allen Rumbaugh has retired as of March 1. We wish Allen all the best in his retirement.

I'm not sure that everyone knows that yesterday was international Pi Day. Some people took the celebration to the extreme.





Happy St Patrick's Day.

Tom