



Belt Line

A publication of NIBA-The Belting Association

President's Message



Rich Holderman
NIBA President

I am humbled and honored to be addressing the NIBA membership as your President for 2021-22. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the entire community as well as all the presidents and Board members who served before me. Because of their leadership and guidance, our association was able to navigate some very rough

challenges over the last 24 months. As an association, our most significant asset, is our membership. The character and quality of our members has produced a compelling, resilient organization that remained effective and active through some very difficult and unprecedented times. As William Faulkner said, "I believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail." As an association, because of all of you, we did.

I am excited that we just concluded a successful Convention in Palm Desert, a hopeful beginning, of a return to normalcy. It was enjoyable to see old friends and colleagues and meet the new members. It was a welcome sight watching the networking and conversations and witnessing the community reunite.

Over the next year, I look forward, with great anticipation, to the work the 2022 Board and Committees will accomplish. It should be apparent to all; we are experiencing a "youth movement." It is refreshing to see the engagement of the younger members not only on the Board but the Committees as well. Their involvement and dedication ensure a bright future for NIBA.

Over the next month, we will meet to revisit our three-year strategic plan goals with input from NIBA 2021. The Strategic Plan has proven to be a valuable instrument to keep us on track as we navigate societal and industry changes, while maintaining an important link to our mission statement. We will continue to focus on expanding our technical education, continuous advancement of the annual convention, and new innovative programs, ultimately providing more value to our members.

In closing, I would like to publicly thank my friend and colleague, Jonathan Morgan for his efforts and devotion to NIBA. The last year, presented some unforeseen challenges, but Jonathan's leadership and guidance was exemplary and NIBA is better because of it. ●

High Temp Lightweight Process Belting Common Problems and Solutions

by Ed Kennedy,
Technical Service Engineer, AFC Materials Group

This article will examine several common problems associated with high-temperature lightweight process belting. Materials covered include PTFE-coated fiberglass and PTFE-coated Kevlar. We'll identify the most common root cause for each problem and offer at least one solution.

Seam Tears at the Edge of the Reinforcement

This type of failure is common for fiberglass, fabric-based belting materials. A tear at the edge of the seam reinforcement is almost always due to a lack of flexibility combined with small roller diameters. The stiff reinforcement causes the belt to bend excessively on a line at the edge of the reinforcement

Solution: Use a more flexible end reinforcement. Larger rollers will also help. A heavier, stronger end reinforcement will make the problem worse.



Reinforced Edge Splits

Both solid weave and open mesh belts often use an edge reinforcement. When that edge splits as shown below, the most likely root cause is lack of stretch. The edge does not stretch as easily as the body of the belt, so it takes most of the belt's tensile load. The split will open and there will be no other damage to the area.

Solution: Use a film edge instead of a fabric edge to allow the edge to stretch easily. The belt will have even distribution of tension across the width of the belt. A film edge will also improve belt tracking performance.



Seam Separated But Did Not Tear

Some seam failures occur when the warp yarns pull out of the seam without breaking. This is sometimes referred to as a "grass skirt" failure.



Open mesh glass belts, and belts with a Kevlar warp yarn, are prone to this type of failure.

Solution: Use a wider seam or lower the tension on the belt.

Belt Developed Wrinkles

There are many types of wrinkles. When the wrinkles form a series of diagonals, the most likely root cause is an active tracking mechanism coupled with a stiff belt. An active tracking system will usually have a set of rollers that pivot, moving the belt in the cross-machine direction. When the belt is stiff, a soft wave may develop immediately after the steering roller(s). If the wave is still present when the belt goes over an end roller, a hard crease will form. The fiberglass fibers will be permanently damaged by a hard crease.



Solution: Allow more distance between the tracking mechanism and the end rollers. A distance of 1.5 times the belt width is recommended.

A second solution is to upgrade the tracker to include a servomotor to move the rollers. The tracking roller will then make small corrections which will not form waves

Belt Puckered At or Near The Seam

A belt that has been heat sealed to form the seam will sometimes form puckers or wrinkles at or near the seam. This type of wrinkle will form immediately after the heat sealing is complete. Most heat-sealed seams in PTFE-coated belts use a bonding film between the two belt ends. This bonding film is often the root cause of the wrinkle. The bonding film tends to shrink when it cools.



Solution: A thinner bonding film will reduce or eliminate the problem. Smooth PTFE belts can be sealed with a 1 mil bonding film. ●

Post-Convention Message



Jonathan Morgan
Immediate Past President

Hello NIBA members! It was great seeing those of you that attended the annual convention in Palm Springs recently. For those of you that couldn't attend, we certainly missed you and look forward to the next opportunity to get together! I just wanted to offer a short note to thank everyone for your continued support of NIBA, and your support of me as President of this great organization. It has been a wild ride over the last year, to say the least.

As I leave this role behind, I'm proud of what our leadership team has accomplished and for the strides they will make in the future. We always take the feedback received from membership very seriously and do our best to implement changes into programming to meet these needs. This is not always a perfect fit for everyone, but we continue to strive for better ways to engage membership and ensure you are getting the most benefit for your investment in NIBA.

We have certainly tried new things recently, some with great success and others not so much! This learning process is crucial as we go through an ever-changing environment. One big success has been the growth of our online technical education and one big challenge has been the impact of COVID on our in-person events. NIBA 2021 was no different as we had to shuffle the schedule around from our traditional format, mainly due to the last-minute change of venue. This was not without its challenges but I feel we made the best decision for NIBA despite the circumstances.

Our main goal has always been to provide a high-quality experience our members have come to expect at the Annual Convention. As a member, please continue to give us feedback, both positive and negative so that we continue to build the best programs in all areas to better serve your needs!

It was an absolute honor and privilege to serve and I look forward to seeing you at future events. ●



Welcome New NIBA Members!

Ranger Conveying & Supply
Douglas Manufacturing
Capital Rubber and Gasket
Huntsman Corporation
AYJ Transmisiones y Equipos

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Kevin Birschbach

Owner/President
Atlas Belting, LLC.



Tell us about your company

We are a recycling company of used conveyor belting. Our customers repurpose materials for applications other than moving aggregates or bulk goods on a conveyor system. For example, our customers use material for fencing, matting and animals to sleep on.

Describe what you do on a day-to-day basis

Given that Atlas Belting is a small company I basically do everything but the day-to-day manufacturing and invoicing. I am the President and owner and keep the books as well as sales and inventory control. 90% of my day is customer interaction.

What was your first industry job and how did it lead you to where you are today?

I did not start in the belting industry. I was a sales rep for 25 years selling rubber, plastics, and materials to OEMS, distributors and fabricators of bulk materials. I continue to sell recycled materials to some of the same distributors that I sold new sheet goods.

What is the one piece of advice you wish someone had given you before you started in the belting industry?

I wish someone would have told me was to start my career in the belting industry earlier. I started as a one-person shop and now have six employees. I am now a mentor on how to start a business from scratch. I didn't know much about belting, but my accounting background helped me create a successful business on a shoestring budget.

How did you hear about NIBA?

I would not have known about NIBA if Dell Gutknecht from Reichel-Korpfman had not told me about the organization and the benefits. In the early years I could not afford a NIBA membership. Since joining NIBA my business doubled. Now I can't afford to be without it.

How has NIBA impacted you, both personally and professionally?

NIBA has given me invaluable contacts throughout the belting industry. NIBA is so important that I joined the Membership Committee to help the organization understand how to best recruit the "mom and pops" of our industry. There are a lot of off shoots from large belting companies and these individuals can be hard to locate.

In your opinion, what sets NIBA apart from other associations?

I have been a member of several associations throughout my career. Currently NIBA is the only organization I am a member.

NIBA membership is not diluted like other organizations. We are stringent on who is accepted for membership. Other organizations will take anyone who applies and they are members only to buy the customer list and use it as a prospecting tool for non-related items that's has nothing to do with a common interest with the members - like selling websites design, computer integration, or office supplies.

What is the belting industry's biggest challenge?

The biggest industry challenge is the elimination of fossil fuels. Second issue is we are undergoing a consolidation of suppliers. The industries challenge will be to continue to produce new materials and new ways to convey products from point A to point B.

How can NIBA help to resolve it?

I'm not sure how NIBA plays a part in this except to get companies to talk to one another and share information on how to move our industry forward without giving up trade secrets. ●

Give your staff the knowledge they need to grow their careers
— *and impact your bottom line.*

Access belting's best collection of on-demand resources today - exclusively for NIBA members.

**148 on-demand
resources:**

**72 technical articles
29 technical notes
19 presentations**

**19 webinars
6 certificate courses
3 handbooks**

Gain access at www.niba.org/learning-library

A Keynote to Remember



The NIBA 2021 keynote had it all. Blindfolded dance-offs. A “complete-the-lyric” contest. Even an oversized underwear toss. All in the search for new ways to create the ultimate customer experience.

How could that connect to belting professionals?

Jesse Cole’s energy-packed keynote took colorful and shocking stories from his unique baseball team to show how you can create raving fans for your own business.

A few key takeaways include:

Be different

There’s nothing normal about a Savannah Bananas baseball game. From the senior citizen cheerleaders to the personal phone call each ticket buyer receives. And it sets their product apart. How can you break through what’s normal to provide something unique for your customer?

Make everything an experience

People remember experiences and those who provided them. By focusing on each moment in your sales and customer service journey, you can reduce friction points and create a memorable process that keeps customers coming back.

Care

While much of Cole’s talk focused on making the process fun for customers, he also fixated on the core concept of care.

Care about your customers more than your product: You can more easily identify and fill customers’ needs when you see through the lens of their perspective instead of through your product’s and company’s.

Care about your employees even more than your customers: Your employees are the ones building, selling, and maintaining your products and experiences for customers. You create a strong foundation of proactive employees dedicated to your vision when you go above and beyond to show your employees care.

Want to learn more about what Jesse had to say? You can check out his book, *Find Your Yellow Tux: How to be Successful by Standing Out.* ●



Credit Card Processing Program Saves Big for NIBA Members

As a NIBA member company*, you can get an annual rebate on credit card processing fees, as well as free enhanced reporting, loaner equipment and a dedicated member help line.

- NIBA members receive an annual 10% rebate on the net processing revenue SFP generates from the account
- Free loaner equipment
- Free Enhanced Online Reporting
- Dedicated Help Line for NIBA members. Always get a live person when you need it most
- 60 day trial period / 90 Day Pilot Program for Members New to Credit Card Acceptance

Additionally, members have access to a suite of electronic payment tools to help streamline electronic payments.

AP Automation

- Pay vendors from anywhere, at any time

- Reduce the time and money spent on A/P processing
- Enhance your security and control of the payables process

ACH Tools

- Stop waiting for checks
- Accept ACH payments via phone and online
- Accept ACH (like a check) by debiting client’s account with virtual authorization
- Next day funding

Online Invoicing

- Custom branded invoice design
- Huge variety of customizations available
- Quickly and easily provide payment information to customers

Call 866-372-5551 or go to www.sfprocessing.com/NIBA to learn more about this exclusive member benefit. ●



MEMBER-TO-MEMBER NEWS

News submitted by and for NIBA members

NEW PRODUCTS

BRECOflex Co, LLC is launching a new timing belt. BRECOroll provides the solution for slider bed friction. This new innovation has rollers integrated into the belt teeth. These rollers replace the sliding friction with rolling friction resulting in less stress on the belt and the motor.

Habasit introduced compatible profiles and cleats to complement the Habasit Cleanline belts. These TPO products are applicable in food industry segments like dairy, baked snacks, biscuit and crackers, chocolate, pastry, poultry, red meat, vegetables and miscellaneous foods; however, this product line excels in food applications where sticky goods are conveyed in bakery or confectionery processing.

Habasit's FNB-12E, originally developed for food processing, has found many uses in other industries. This tough belt resists cuts, abrasion, oils, and a broad range of chemicals. Its dense, void-free, TPU coatings, and non-adhesive surface supports thorough cleaning. FNB-12E operates reliably within temperatures ranging from 5 - 176° F (-15 - 80° C). Available in seamless widths up to 157.48" (4000mm) to meet the need of wide operations without longitudinal seaming.

Flexco announced the addition of the Flexco® XP™ Staple Fastening System to its line of fastening solutions. The XP Staple Fastening System combines an enhanced applicator tool with the longest-wearing staple fastener and hinge pin on the market to produce a superior belt splice in the toughest mining applications.

MEHLER has launched its latest innovation, the sustainable treatment solution MSA (Mehler Sustain Adhesive). MSA is a water-based RF-free treatment without the critical substances Resorcinol and Formaldehyde.

The Grizzly Screw-Splice™ from **ASGCO** is an extremely strong and flexible rubber conveyor belt splicing/fastening system that screws directly on the conveyor belt, with great accuracy and precision. It uses specifically-designed, self-drilling, self-tapping screws that preserve the conveyor belt integrity by drilling through the conveyor belt carcass rather than cutting holes and weakening the carcass.

The **ASGCO** Magnum® Rubber Cutter offers precision cutting for finger splices as well as the heavy-duty torque required to cut through multiply belts up to 2" (51 mm) thick. Excellent for slitting and finger cutting, this tool is capable of cutting all fabric plied rubber belting and sheeting.

The Novitool® Aero® Splice Press Proactive Maintenance Plan from **Flexco** helps keep your Aero Press running at peak performance. For more information, contact your local Flexco Territory Manager.

ACQUISITIONS

Chiorino SpA (Chiorino) has acquired Safari Belting Systems, Inc. (Safari), a specialized American manufacturer of plastic modular belts and one of the primary belting providers to the largest food processors.

Beltservice Corporation has acquired Universal Belting Resource, LLC (UBR) from Cumulus Companies, Inc., a Merriam, Kansas based holding company. For the foreseeable future, UBR will continue to operate as an independent subsidiary of Beltservice. In time, the efforts of Beltservice and UBR will come together to best serve the needs of distribution.

PERSONNEL

Flexco recently welcomed Travis Vliem to the Marketing Team as a Product Manager. As Product Manager, Vliem is responsible for all things related to the Flexco Elevate™ IoT platform - researching and designing business capabilities and go-to-market strategies, implementing and driving adoption of the program, assisting in researching and developing new sensing and monitoring systems, and capturing and evaluating the voice of the customer in relation to program development.

MEHLER is pleased to introduce Kaylee Smith as Sales Manager North America for its business unit Engineered Fabrics, effective May 3. Kaylee has gained experience as Quality Engineer & Technical Sales Representative for technical fabrics in a US textile company before. She is familiar with technical textiles through her degree in Textile & Product Engineering and Materials Science & Engineering.

ASGCO welcomes Paolo Vega as their new Northern Chile Territory Manager and Industrial Maintenance Engineer. Paolo comes with practical experience in both the Metallic and Non-Metallic mining industry. As an engineer with more than 10 years of experience in bulk ore conveying systems, he has focused on the maintenance and reliability of conveying equipment.

ASGCO would also like to welcome Tyler Acevedo, a recent graduate from the New Jersey Institute of Technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. As an intern before graduating from NJIT, Tyler worked in the concrete piping industry and as a Jr. Mechanical Engineer for a previous company.

FACILITIES

Chemprene LLC, a member of the **Ammega Group**, is investing \$14 million in its 225,000 sq ft manufacturing plant to improve efficiency and increase production capacity. The investments are slated for completion within the next 12 months and include the following: installation of a new Shaw Almex press, state-of-the-art mixing automation system, a new Rotocure, and a modern 4-roll Calender. ●

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Send to staff@niba.org or complete the form at niba.org/members/submit-news

Gem Level Contributors

(cumulative contributions)

Diamond

(Contributions of \$7,500 or more)

AccuPad Inc
Advanced Flexible Composites Inc (AFC)
AFM Industries
American Biltrite
Belt Power LLC
Beltservice Corporation
Chiorino America, Inc.
Continental
Derco BV
ERIKS North America, Inc.
Flexco
Green Rubber - Kennedy Ag
Habasit America
Industrial Supply Solutions Inc
Nashville Rubber & Gasket Co. Inc
Nitta Corporation of America
Passaic Rubber Company
Reichel-Korfmann Co Inc.
Shaw Almex Industries
Sparks Belting Company

Emerald

(Contributions of \$5,000 - \$7,499)

All-State Belting LLC
Ammeraal - an Ammega Company
Behabelt USA
Blair Rubber Company
Conveyor Accessories Inc
Fenner Dunlop Conveyor Belting
Forbo Siegling LLC
Friesens Inc-Conveying Solutions
Quality Belt Maintenance (QBM), Inc.
REMA TIP TOP - NA
Shanghai YongLi Belting Co Ltd
Universal Belting Resource

Ruby

(Contributions of \$2,500 - \$4,999)

Accurate Industrial Inc.
AirBoss Rubber Solutions
ASGCO - Complete Conveyor Solutions
Bullitt County Belting & Supply
Canadian Bearings Ltd
Conveyor Belt Service Inc.
Dunham Rubber & Belting Corporation
F.N. Sheppard & Co
Forbo Movement Systems
Transtex Belting
Great Lakes Belting & Supply Corp
Knoxville Rubber & Gasket Co
Midwest Rubber Service & Supply Co
Power & Rubber Supply
RGA - Rubber & Gasket Co of America
Rubber & Accessories Inc
Sampla Belting
Thaman Rubber Company
Uniband USA
Vaughn Belting Company Inc
VIS USA LLC
Voss Belting & Specialty Company
William Goodyear Company

Annual Go for the Gold!

The following companies have made contributions to the NIBA Scholarship Fund in 2021

Gold Contributor

(Contributions of \$800 or more in 2019)

AccuPad Inc
AFM Industries
Baldwin Supply Company
Belt Power LLC
Beltservice Corporation
California Industrial Rubber Co
Conveyor Accessories Inc
Derco BV
Flexco
Industrial Supply Solutions Inc
Minet Lacing Technology, Inc.
Nitta Corporation of America
Passaic Rubber Company
Reichel-Korfmann Co Inc.
REMA TIP TOP - NA
Sparks Belting Company
Uniband USA
US Rubber Corporation

Silver Contributor

(Contributions of \$400-\$799 in 2019)

Advanced Flexible Composites Inc (AFC)
Accurate Industrial Inc.
All-State Belting LLC

ASGCO - Complete Conveyor Solutions
Behabelt USA
Belt Concepts of America
Belterra Corporation
Green Rubber - Kennedy Ag
Lippert International
PANG Industrial
Universal Belting Resource

Bronze Contributor

(Contributions of up to \$399 in 2019)

American Biltrite
Cambelt International Corp
Dunham Rubber & Belting Corporation
Esbelt SA
Fenner Dunlop Conveyor Belting
Friesens Inc-Conveying Solutions
IBT Industrial Solutions
Knoxville Rubber & Gasket Co
Mehler Engineered Products
Mol Belting Systems, Inc.
MRO Supply
Power & Rubber Supply
RGA - Rubber & Gasket Co of America
Souhegan Wood Products Inc
Thaman Rubber Company

President's Club

(cumulative contributions \$1,500 and over)

AccuPad Inc
Accurate Industrial Inc.
Advanced Flexible Composites Inc (AFC)
AFM Industries
AirBoss Rubber Solutions
All-State Belting LLC
American Biltrite
Ammeraal - an Ammega Company
ASGCO - Complete Conveyor Solutions
Baldwin Supply Company
Behabelt USA
Belt Power LLC
Beltservice Corporation
Blair Rubber Company
Bullitt County Belting & Supply
Canadian Bearings Ltd
Chemprene Inc
Chiorino America, Inc.
Continental
Conveyor Accessories Inc
Conveyor Belt Service Inc.
Conviber Co Inc
Derco BV
Dunham Rubber & Belting Corporation
ERIKS North America, Inc.
F.N. Sheppard & Co
Fenner Drives Inc
Fenner Dunlop Conveyor Belting
Flexco
Forbo Movement Systems
Transtex Belting
Forbo Siegling LLC
Friesens Inc-Conveying Solutions
Gates Mectrol Corp
Great Lakes Belting & Supply Corp

Green Rubber - Kennedy Ag
Habasit America
Industrial Rubber Specialties Inc
Industrial Supply Solutions Inc
JA Emilius Sons Inc
Knoxville Rubber & Gasket Co
Maxi-Lift Inc
McLeod Belting Co Inc
Megadyne - an Ammega Company
Midwest Rubber Service & Supply Co
Motion Industries Inc
Mulhern Belting Inc
Nashville Rubber & Gasket Co. Inc
Nitta Corporation of America
Norwesco Industries (1983) Ltd
Novex Inc
PANG Industrial
Passaic Rubber Company
Power & Rubber Supply
Quality Belt Maintenance (QBM), Inc.
R/W Connection Inc
Ram Belting Company Inc
RAM Enterprise Inc
Reichel-Korfmann Co Inc.
REMA TIP TOP - NA
RGA - Rubber & Gasket Co of America
Rubber & Accessories Inc
Sampla Belting
San Antonio Belting & Pulley Co Inc
Shanghai YongLi Belting Co Ltd
Shaw Almex Industries
Southwest Rubber and Supply Co Inc
Sparks Belting Company
Thaman Rubber Company
Uniband USA
Universal Belting Resource
US Rubber Corporation
Vaughn Belting Company Inc
VIS USA LLC
Voss Belting & Specialty Company
William Goodyear Company



NIBA-The Belting Association
1818 Parmenter St, Ste 300
Middleton, WI 53562

Save the Date



SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS SEPTEMBER 27-30

The Annual Convention of NIBA - The Belting Association