

THE BASELINER

2004 Base Line Data Fishing Tournament

As another summer's heat engulfs us, another successful Base Line Shoot Out has come and gone. Thank you to all the anglers who participated in this year's fishing tournament and the volunteers who helped make it possible. This year's event brought onlookers and participants from San Antonio, Houston and as far away as Longview. Although only in it's infancy, this tournament has already turned out to be a real eye opener, separating the talkers from the anglers.

This year's competition consisted of fifty-two anglers divided amongst sixteen teams. After all the interrogations of

the arriving competitors, it was time to chow down on some of T.J. and Paul's fajitas along with delicious beans and potato salad provided by Phyllis Grimes, Teresa Russell and Barbara Ralls. Once bellies were full, it was time to get the weigh-in under way. Seven of the sixteen teams came in proud of their catch ready to weigh-in, while others were a little more timid and hid from the ridicule. What started out as friendly competition,

turned into an outright fish off with the help of certain anglers boasting of their to be "guaranteed" stringers. The competition was tough right from the start, with Team Barely Legal weighing in a 27 ⁷/₈" redfish and a 22 ³/₄" trout helping to bring them a total stringer weight of 29 lbs. 5 oz. They set the standard only to be toppled by Team Back Lashers weighing in a total stringer of 33 lbs. 13 oz. with help from their 27 ¹/₂" redfish and 25 ¹/₂" trout. Back Lasher's three solid redfish and nice trout gave them a temporary lead. After teams Laguna Kahuna, Mullet Thumpers, and Cajon Fin weighed in a mere 26 lbs. 3 oz., 15 lbs. 13 oz., and 14 lbs. 8 oz. respectively, it was time for the Morales boys to liven things up a little with a stringer weight toppling the scale at 45 lbs. Team Morales stole the show with their unbeatable stringer and stories of how the day's fishing tran-

spired. Three Babes and a Pimp came up with a nice 23 ¹/₂" trout, but was 9 oz. shy of the Morales' big trout of the day.

There was a total of \$520.00 in side pot money given away. Team Mullet Thumpers took the prize for largest redfish weighing in at 7 lbs. 13 oz., giving them the Biggest Redfish trophies and \$180.00 of Side Pot money. Team Morales finished with Biggest Trout & Biggest Stringer making them the over all Tournament Champs. The Morales team received their trophies and will have their team name and members added to the Tournament Champion's Trophy at the Base Line Data office on Lang Rd. Oh yea, they also

walked away with the remaining \$340.00 Side Pot money. NICE JOB GUYS!



After all the smoke cleared, it was time to give away \$500.00 worth of door prizes ranging from a \$90.00 rod and reel combo to ice chests, fillet knives, folding chairs, cutting boards and even a fish fryer that Team Tankiees won.

Thanks again to the volunteers, who instead of being out on the water fishing, contributed by helping with setting up, cooking, and clean up once all the weigh-in ceremonies were completed. Without their help, this year's tournament weigh-in could not have gone as smooth as it did.

P.S. Sammy, you may have to watch your back a little closer when leaving the dock in the mornings from now on. I know I am not the only person prepared to stalk-out a new honey hole.

Thanks,
Christopher Beardsley

2004 BLD SHOOTOUT PICTURES



Pictured above from left to right are: Steve Morales, Noe Morales, and Sammy Morales holding their trophies for the largest trout and largest stringer.



Pictured above are Gail Adams, Elva Loomis, Pam Russell, Billy Russell, Paul Westbrook, Tresa Beardsley, and Bill Beardsley.



Smile for the camera. Pictured above from left to right are: Jimmy Dooms, Cristen Dooms, Misty Ralls, Kavender Ralls, Amy Holder, and Brian Holder.



Receiving door prizes from top to bottom (L-R) are: Terry Files, Noe Morales, Billy Russell, Kavender Ralls, John Ralls, Cristen Dooms, Brian Holder, Bill Beardsley, Barbara Ralls, Elva Loomis, Lindsay Ralls, and Carter Meyer.



To left are Russell Hogg and Fred Cimo (Team Mullet Thumpers). Both received trophies for largest redfish. Last year the team one largest stringer

Base Line also had a jumping gym for the kids to play in. But it looks like more than just kids took advantage of the fun. Pictured to the right are Barbara Ralls, Brooke Westbrook, and Kavender Ralls just hanging around.



VISION 2004

The following Base Line Data, Inc. Visions for 2004 will be posted each month in the Newsletter along with the personnel assigned responsibility for their accomplishment and their current status of completion:

- 1) Create a link whereas, students can sign up for our classes on our WebPages (www.bldata.com) and pay on-line for the classes. This information will create a spreadsheet where we can measure the amount of students enrolled in our classes. In addition, a schedule will be added to notify our students of upcoming classes. Finish developing the verbiage and pictures for our web page for each course that we teach.
- 2) Create an area on our web page where a student can fill out the necessary application forms for the API and CWI examinations and allow them to be able to print these applications and also submit them to Base Line Data, Inc. for review.
- 3) Continue to offer the community preparatory training for API-510, API-570, API-653, NACE and CWI certification. Continue to offer the industry Non-Destructive training in Ultrasonics, Magnetic Particle, Liquid Penetrant, Radiographic Film Interpretation, Visual Testing, Eddy Current and Leak Testing. Schedule training in RBI, UltraPipe, PCMS, AutoCAD, MicroStation and other computer skills needed for the business.
- 4) Create a link where clients needing Welder and Welding Procedure Testing can go to our Webpage (www.bldata.com) and identify how they want these tests performed. Create an interface whereas clients can come on-line and check on the status of their welders who are testing and also print out the necessary certification paperwork. Other welding services can be identified on the same link.
- 5) Create a link where potential inspectors can fill in needed information and sign up for upcoming jobs at our Webpage (www.bldata.com). This information will populate the resume database. In addition, resumes should be able to be attached for populating our resume file in F/shared.
- 6) Build a new training facility for Welder Training and a Mechanic Shop for vehicle repair.
- 7) Develop four larger classrooms to accommodate our increase in students.
- 8) Send ten qualified inspectors for their ASNT-SNT-TC-1A Level III certifications.
- 9) Continue to work on lowering our operating cost.
- 10) Fence in our property @ 515 Commerce.
- 11) Add new Technology and training. New Eddy Current Equipment with "Near Field" and Remote Field capabilities. Add New Carbon Positive Material Identification equipment with "Windows" capability. Upgrade our normal inspection equipment.
- 12) Develop a new Turnaround Business Manager and continue to increase our Turnaround Business Unit. This can be accomplished by more effort and a higher interaction with our clients.
- 13) Get more people certified for EquiStar and other clients in Eddy Current, IRIS, RBI, UltraPipe and Ultrasonics.
- 14) Develop more technicians in AutoCAD, MicroStation, Field sketching, P&ID walkdowns, UltraPipe, Documentation and Technical Report Writing.
- 15) Get more people trained in NACE Session I, II and III principles.
- 16) Get more people trained in Ultrasonics Shearwave, Eddy Current, Magnetic Particle, Liquid Penetrant and Radiographic Film Interpretation.
- 17) Complete our Mock-Up training block for Tanks, Pressure Vessels and Pipe Inspection. Continue to develop our plan whereas over 200 pieces of information can be taught and tested for future inspection needs.
- 18) Continue to train all "Baseliners" in different types of hardness testing equipment, such as Laboratory Bench equipment, Portable Brinnell, EquiTip, Time, Barcol and Durometer units.
- 19) Continue to train all "Baseliners" in Innov-X, Metorex and SpectroPort positive material identification. Train people in the use of Ferrite Testing and Ferritescope. In addition, all employees shall be taught the use of the Unified Numbering System, ASTM, ASME and other material specifications.
- 20) Continue to train all "Baseliners" in the welding processes of GMAW, FCAW, GTAW and SMAW. All new employees for the Certified Welding Inspector examination will have some welding experience.
- 21) Develop a Marine Fitting school for the Offshore Industry. Course will address issues that affect the acceptance of Marine Structures.
- 22) Increase our sales by \$2,000,000 gross business with a fair and reasonable profit margin.
- 23) Train all employees on the use of Digital Cameras and how to download these pictures into reports.
- 24) Develop the "Direct Deposit" program where it also encompasses "Contract" employees.
- 25) Implement the "ATM" credit card approach to address per diems, emergency expenses, etc.
- 26) Upgrade all databases to visual basic.
- 27) Implement in-house electronic timesheet for interfacing with the Mass 200 Accounting Program.
- 28) Implement off-site electronic timesheet for interfacing with the Mass 200 Accounting Program.
- 29) Improve Overall Marketing Strategy and have a structured marketing meeting every month.
- 30) Train all technicians on how to set up an electronic UltraPipe circuit and create analysis reports.
- 31) Continue to foster respect among co-workers and emphasize the importance of a "team and family" concept!
- 32) Work on creating a line item list of manufactured products such as the specialty vacuum box testing units.
- 33) Create a rental business unit of Non-Destructive Testing Equipment.
- 34) Work on acquiring TEA certification and VA acceptance of our training courses.
- 35) Create a new ASNT class for Leak Testing and start training all Base Line Data, Inc. employees for certification.

How is Your Posture?

My boss is always telling me how I am messing up my posture: He calls it driving the racecar.

I sometimes sit slouched over and forward at my desk, it's a strange position, but I find it to be quite comfortable, however I have noticed that come the end of the day my neck and my back hurt. So I did a little reading on posture and apparently Mike is correct. I am doing damage and if it's not corrected now, I am in for much more pain and discomfort in my later years. Below is some information that I think gives interesting and informative insight on proper posture. Tesha Kattner (Pasadena)

You know that balancing your tires and keeping your car's wheels aligned improves the handling of your car and increases the longevity of your tires, right? Believe it or not, keeping your own body aligned and balanced improves the way you move, reduces fatigue, and increases the longevity of your body parts, too! Watch people walking by your office or around the campus and you will probably see a lot of them hunching along, staring at the ground with eyes down, head forward and shoulders rounded.

Take a walk down the hallway and glance into a few offices. You'll probably see many people slumped over their keyboards, reaching to the side for their mouse, or leaning sideways on armrests. We realize that you are probably deep in thought, but you are adding unnecessary miles onto your body. Posture is largely a matter of habit - being aware of your habits is the first step to correcting poor posture.

Awkward postures increase gravitational forces that pull on your neck and spine. Not only are you stressing the fragile bone structures of your spine and associated ligaments, but also the muscles must act like guy wires to hold your body in these positions. Resulting muscle tension and fatigue is the cause of a great deal of pain for many people.

Over the years, awkward posture increases the strength of the muscles, which pull you out of alignment and weaken the muscles, which hold you upright, so that a slumped posture with rounded shoulders, hollow chest, and drooping head feels more and more natural to you. Not only that, but internal organs are often compressed, interfering with their necessary functioning.

Did you know that your head weighs 10-18 pounds? As much as a bowling ball! A neutral posture where the head is aligned with the hips, while sitting, standing, or walking, means that this bowling ball (your head) is perfectly balanced on top of your neck. Each inch that you tilt your head away from this perfect balance adds approximately 10 pounds to the load of your head, due to gravity. In addition, extending your arms adds to the load. So if you are in a slumped position with your arms extended, the load on your body can add up to 150 pounds! If you think you are more relaxed when you are slumping, think again. Your body is working overtime; no wonder you end up with tight shoulder, neck, and back muscles!

Posture is very important whether you are at home or on the job. It's a valuable component of preventing or managing back pain while performing any activity.

Standing posture

Maintaining the natural curve of your spine when standing will allow you to have "good posture." So what does that mean? Your spine looks a little bit like an S from the side and that is the curve you want to keep.

- Keep your head directly over your shoulders and your shoulders over your pelvis
- Tighten your abdominal muscles and tuck in your bottom
- It will help if you place your feet slightly apart with one foot in front of the other and knees bent just a little bit.

Although this posture may feel strange at first, you will get used to it and pretty soon it will feel natural.

If you have to stand on a concrete floor, wear shoes with good support and cushioning. A rubber mat will ease the pressure and enhance the favorable ergonomic conditions. Use a railing or box to prop one foot up while standing to help take pressure off your back. This standing position takes some practice. Remember to change feet and positions every 20 minutes.

Sitting posture

Posture is also important for sitting. Many of us spend hours in front of the computer, resulting in back pain or neck pain. Much of this pain may be avoided by a combination of:

- Adopting a user-friendly workstation
- Modifying how we sit
- Taking stretch breaks

A consistent, comfortable workstation depends on where the computer screen is situated, where we place our feet and hands, the direction we look and the kind of chair we use.

Here is an easily remembered approach to fitting a seated workstation to the individual worker. To make it work, begin, not with the chair but with the work surface.

- Choose the surface height (standing, sitting or semi-seated) best for the task to be performed. Architects and draftsman may want a higher surface for drawing while computer entry work could be seated or standing, depending on the need to use other tools or references.
- Adjust the seat so that the work surface is “elbow high.” Your fist should be able to pass easily behind your calf and in front of the seat edge to keep your legs from being pressed too hard and your feet from swelling. Two fingers should slip easily under your thigh. If not, use a couple of telephone books or a footrest to raise your knees level with your hips. The backrest should push your low back forward slightly.
- Fit the height of the computer screen. Sit comfortably in your new chair. Close your eyes and relax. Then, slowly reopen them. Where you first gaze as you open your eyes is the place to put the center of your screen. You can raise the height with books or a stand if needed.

Driving posture

Sit with your knees level with your hips. You can either use a rolled up towel or a commercial back support in the seat behind you for more comfort. Sit as close to the steering wheel as you can and feel safe. Reaching increases the pressure on the lumbar spine and can stress your neck, shoulder and wrist.

*** Good posture combined with body mechanics (the way you perform your activities all day everyday) can substantially improve the way your back and neck feel at the end of your workday. ***

Working with idiots can kill you!

Submitted by: Brant Shields

Idiots in the office are just as hazardous to your health as cigarettes, caffeine or greasy food, an eye-opening new study reveals.

In fact, those dopes can kill you! Stress is one of the top causes of heart attacks— and working with stupid people on a daily basis is one of the deadliest forms of stress, according to researchers at Sweden’s Lindbergh University Medical Center.

The author of the study, Dr. Dagmar Andersson, says her team studied 500 heart attack patients, and were puzzled to find 62 percent had relatively few of the physical risk factors commonly blamed for heart attacks.

“Then we questioned them about lifestyle habits, and almost all of these low-risk patients told us they worked with people so stupid they can barely find their way from the parking lot to the office. And their heart attack came less than 12 hours after having a major confrontation with one these oafs.

“One woman had to be rushed to the hospital after her assistant shredded important company tax documents instead of copying them. A man told us he collapsed right at the desk because the woman at the next cubicle kept asking him for correction fluid— for her computer monitor.



“You can cut back on smoking or improve your diet,” Dr. Andersson says, “but most people have very poor coping skills when it comes to stupidity— they feel there’s nothing they can do about it, so they just internalize their frustration until they finally explode.”

Stupid co-workers can also double or triple someone’s work load, she explains. “Many of our subjects feel sorry for the drooling idiots they work with, so they try to cover for them by fixing their mistakes. One poor woman spent a week rebuilding client records because a clerk put them all in the ‘recycle bin’ of her computer and then emptied it— she thought it meant the records would be recycled and used again.”

WELD MAPPING

“The Importance of Good Documentation”

Weld Mapping is an important part of good documentation. It generally consists of a spreadsheet displaying a number or alpha character for the identification of the welds and sometimes the piping components. It can cover all welds and piping or just the selected ones that have had some inspection performed. It is usually coupled with an isometric drawing showing where each individual weld or component is located in the assembly. It supports what inspections have been performed on these items and whether they were acceptable or not. A date and inspector's initials are placed in a column to show when and who performed these inspections.

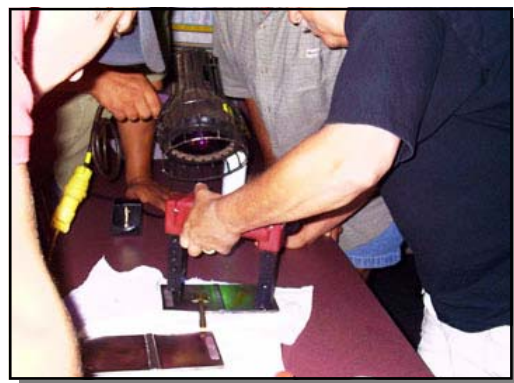
Some of the types of inspections and other information that might be documented on this spreadsheet are MT, VT-root, VT-cap, PMI, RT, UT, PT, Material Verification, Heat Number Traceability, pipe diameter, etc. At times the client may wish to audit to ensure that the required inspections are being performed. This Weld Map will support this audit. **The Weld Map shall be checked to make sure all inspections and repairs have been made before hydrostatic testing the system.** The common problems with weld mapping are listed below:

- The Inspector is inexperienced in good documentation.
- The handwriting is impossible to read. The spreadsheet or isometric drawing must be readable.
- There is missing information on the spreadsheet and it is not being kept current.
- The Inspector does not initial the inspections.
- The identification number or alpha character does not tie in with the documentation isometric drawings.
- The welder who produced the weld is unknown.
- Welds have been found to be unacceptable, but there are no repair records available.

Weld Mapping is a critical part of the Inspection Process. Poor documentation causes additional inspections to be performed or welds needing repairs to be overlooked. If there is time to perform the inspection, then there must be time to complete the documentation. Good Inspectors who know the value of documentation are essential to the quality of the job.

Magnetic Particle & Liquid Penetrant Courses

The following people received their Level I certifications in Liquid Penetrant and Magnetic Particle Testing: Pedro Buentello (MT & PT), David Del Bosque (PT), Adam Guerrero (PT), Joey Dominique (PT), Ronald Rios (PT), Jesse Rios III (PT), Jorge Gonzalez (MT & PT), Mark Langston (PT), and Garrett Seay (MT & PT).



Training:

CERTIFIED WELDING INSPECTION COURSE

The next course begins July 26,-September 8, 2004 Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The location is Base Line Data, Inc., 206 Lang Rd., Portland, TX. The exam date is September 18, 2004 @ the same location. There will be a pre-math tutorial offered on for those students needing a little brush up. If you are interested or know of anyone interested, please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez at (361) 643-3400. **All AWS applications are due by August 2, 2004.**

2004 CWI EXAM DATES AT OUR FACILITY

- July 24, 2004 September 18, 2004
- **All preparatory courses will start approximately 8 to 10 weeks prior to the examination date and applications must be submitted to the American Welding Society 6 weeks prior to the examination date. These courses will be conducted in the evenings.**

2004 API-510 TEST

Applications are due 6 to 8 weeks before the exam. The next exam for the year will be December 1st, 2004. The night time course will start October 4th, 2004 and the daytime class will start November 1st, 2004. All daytime courses will be taught by O.T. Lewis from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and the night time courses will be taught by Larry Yell from 05:30 pm to 09:00 pm. The API Application Deadline for the December exam is September 24, 2004.

2004 API-570 TEST

Applications are due 6 to 8 weeks before the exam. The next exam for the year will be December 1st, 2004. Night time classes will start around October 4, 2004 and daytime classes to start Nov. 15, 2004. All daytime courses will be taught by O.T. Lewis from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The API Application Deadline for the December exam is September 24, 2004.

2004 API-653 TEST

Applications are due 6 to 8 weeks before the exam. The next daytime course is scheduled for August 30th-September 3rd, 2004 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The exam date is September 29th, 2004. **Applications are due by July 30, 2004.** The daytime instructor for the course is Ron Van Arsdale. Please notify us and sign up if you are interested.

JULY AWS MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting will be held Thursday, July 15, 2004 at the Radisson Beach Hotel (North Beach) at 3200 Surfside Blvd. in Corpus Christi, TX @ 7:00 p.m. Speaker TBA. We hope to see you there!

Events/Important Information:

MONTHLY BAR-B-QUE or LUNCHEON

August's Monthly Luncheon will be held August 6, 2004. On the first Friday of every month there will be a company Bar-B-Que or luncheon to celebrate the birthdays for the people of that month. If you would like to participate please call and talk to Jessica.

SCHEDULING INFORMATION

All classes will be held at 206 Lang Road in Portland, TX unless otherwise noted. Please contact J.W. Ralls or Juan Hernandez @ (361) 643-3400, for pricing information and applications on all classes. ****Base Line Data, Inc. applications must be submitted three weeks prior to the start of the classes or examinations.**

Happy Birthday! Mark Langston, Marcus Garcia, Adam Chapa, Mike Humphrey, Michael Roberts (PA), Terry Files, Fred Cimo, III, Adam Guerrero, Chris Black, Nelson Carthel (Odessa), Patricia Simmons, Greg Gleinig, and Sammy Morales.

Congratulations to Rick Garcia for winning a gift certificate to Academy. Rick submitted the articles, "*Here Comes the Inspector*", and "*The Basic Inspection*." Thanks for your contribution Rick.

Congratulations to the following people for obtaining National Certifications in both the API-510 & API-570 taken June 2, 2004: David Fricks (API-570), Paul Westbrook (API-570), Billy Boudreaux (API-570), Darrell Riley (API-570), Justin Voelkel (API-570), Rick Gonzales (API-570), Oscar Benavides (API-570), Michael White (API-510), and Johnny Grimes, Sr. (API-510)

RESPECT

Submitted by: Terry Files

R - E - S - P - E - C - T. Aretha Franklin reminded us how it's spelled, but a lot of us need coaching on how to show it. In both personal and political relationships the failure to treat each other with respect is generating incivility, contempt and violence.

There's an important distinction between respecting a person in the sense that we admire and hold that person in especially high esteem and treating others with respect. While respecting others is desirable, respectfulness is morally mandatory. Thus, people of character treat everyone with respect, even those who are not personally respectable.

The way we behave toward others is an expression of our values and character. Thus, we should treat others with respect, not because they have a right, but because we have a moral duty to do unto others the way we want them to do unto us. Again, it's not because they deserve it, but because doing less would diminish our own character.

That's the message in an old story about a politician who found himself being drawn into mudslinging and name-calling. Once he realized he was lowering himself to his opponent's level, he stopped and said, "Sir, I will treat you as a gentleman, not because you are one, but because I am one."

It can take a lot of self-control to be respectful to people who are nasty, dishonorable or disrespectful to us. Still, our inner sense of integrity should help us resist temptations to "fight fire with fire." As Lily Tomlin said, "The problem with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat."

Michael Josephson

Quotes of the Month

I was a wonderful parent before I had children. I was an expert on why everyone else was having problems with theirs. Then I had three of my own.

-- Adele Faber, American author and parent educator

The best way to teach morality is to make it a habit with children.

-- Aristotle, ancient Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 A.D.)

The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.

-- William James, American philosopher and psychologist (1842-1910)

We Want to Hear From YOU!!! Every employee is encouraged to submit information for publication in the newsletter. Each month a \$50 gift certificate to Academy or the Home Depot will be awarded to the participant with the best monthly article. Information can address: safety, recognition, updates, corporate news, labor relations issues, special events, etc. Please submit information to lralls@bldata.com or Fax us @ (361)643-8442.