



RUBBER ROLLER GROUP

ROLL CALL NEWSLETTER

volume 35

March 2024

Our Chairman Says....

Hello to all *International Roller Manufacturer Association Members* –

This will be my final newsletter article as a sitting member of your Board of Directors. Seem fitting that my final meeting will be held near The Alamo. This is a bittersweet moment for me. It has been a challenge (COVID) and a pleasure (every meeting) to be a part of this fine organization and watch it grow beyond what even our founding members, the original Steering Committee, envisioned. We are on the cusp of rebranding the RRG and I think this new form will serve us well for many years ahead. Our President and future Board Chairman Matt Umentum will deftly guide us through this process and communicate our progress as we establish the IRMA.

I can still remember walking across our parking lot here in Michigan and taking a call from Mike Brown at Pinnacle Roller asking if I was interested in joining the Board as a Manufacturer's Representative. Having only attended one or two meetings, I thought the timing was odd, but my limited experience was only positive, so I blindly accepted. Shortly after, Rick Harwood of Harwood Rubber made a similar call asking if I was willing to move into the role of Vice President. This request seemed innocent enough and I again blindly accepted. While Rick didn't inform me up front that the VP "carries the water" for our annual meeting, he was quick to provide me with historical information, contacts, forms, and an excellent overview of the process in building out a successful meeting. I felt proud about my service to the membership in this capacity and moved onward and upward. This progression is not unknown to our Life Members. They lived it and I think will smile while reading my article possibly having traveled the same path and taken the same calls along the way. My final stop as Chairman was extended by the COVID disruption. I think it is important to remind our members that the current Board all agreed to longer terms to ensure the RRG would remain a viable enterprise for manufacturers and suppliers for years to come.

Tyler suggested that the theme of my article be focused on the evolving world of compounding, mixing, strip building, and completing a world-class finished roller. Having been in the industry since a very young man, I can truthfully say not that much has changed in three decades, except for names and faces. My hope is that the next generation of leaders change that for the betterment of our industry. And the RRG/IRMA is the rightful home in which we establish and act on a vision to modernize and innovate that thing we do with our professional lives.

I am honored to join our past board members, presidents, chairpersons, and now life members to support the group as I always intended – by blindly taking the call, agreeing to serve, and taking true joy in every moment.

Thank you Mike for calling. Thank you Rick for helping me to be the best version of a VP. Thank you Robbi for being the constant within this ever-changing Board. And finally, thank you for letting me serve.

Please do register for this meeting while renewing your membership. Again, if you need any help, please contact Robbi Miller at contact@rubberrollergroup.com

See you in San Antonio!

Vail

Note from our President—Matt Umentum

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Shakespeare famously wrote in Romeo and Juliet, “A rose by any other name would smell just as sweet”. Many marketers would disagree because a name will not only accurately convey who you are but, more importantly, who you want to be.

During our last gathering in Las Vegas, the subject of changing our name from the Rubber Roller Group was broached. Moving on from RRG could bring more prestige, attract more international members, and bring additional interest from other roller coating businesses not involved in rubber. In Las Vegas, we said this could be a gamble but to propel our group through the next fifty years, the payoff could be huge.

We concluded the meeting by charging the board to continue the conversation and the investigation.

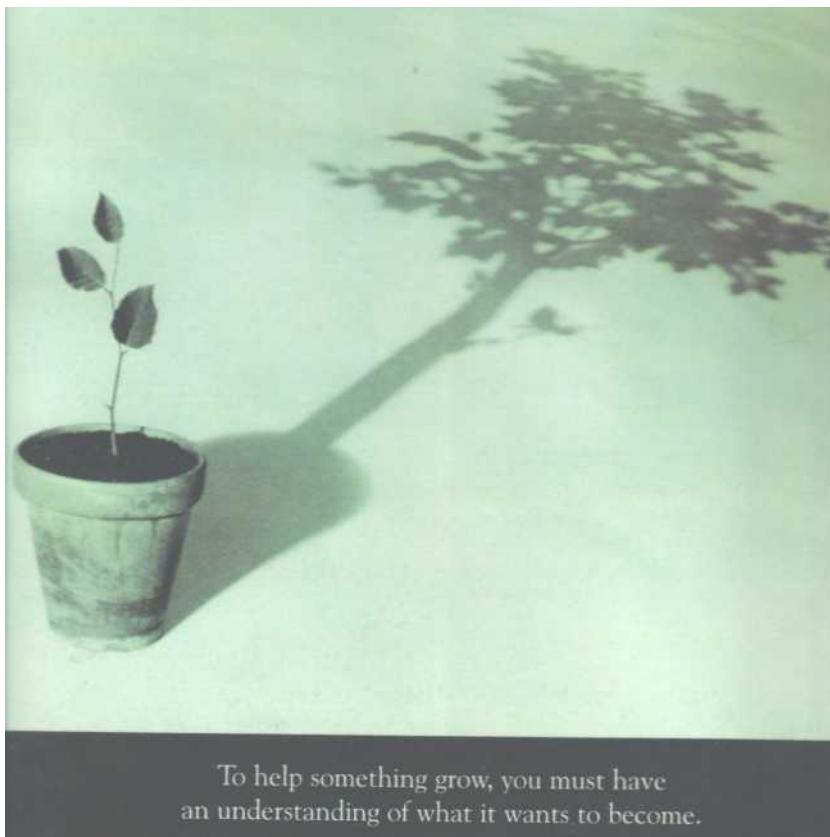
The board has more work to do as far as securing possible website domains and other legal minutia, but we are moving forward to bring a proposal to the entire body for a vote. We expect to have a fully vetted proposal ready for your eyes when we meet in San Antonio in May.

A change from the Rubber Roller Group to the International Roller Manufacturers Association or IRMA could help convey a more professional trade association with a wider net. We feel the new name will attract a greater variety of manufacturers and suppliers and it will help us become a society that will be sustained far into the future.

Think about the name change and be ready to cast your vote in San Antonio.



Matt Umentum



Our Vice President — Tyler Sinclair says Get Ready for Unforgettable Experience

Dear Esteemed Members of the International Roller Manufacturers Association (IRMA),

As the anticipation mounts and the countdown begins, we're thrilled to extend a warm invitation to you for the upcoming 2024 IRMA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas! From April 28th to 30th, join us for an eventful gathering that promises insights, innovation, and invaluable networking opportunities.

Accommodations: Take advantage of our exclusive room block at the Drury Plaza Hotel for a special rate of \$159 per night. Secure your accommodations promptly to lock in this fantastic offer, as rates outside our block can be up to double!

Speaker Highlights: While our headliner remains a mystery for now, rest assured that we have an exceptional lineup in store for you. Prepare to delve into the latest advancements in HNBR rubber technology, glean insights from a prominent HR Manager on hiring and employee retention strategies, stay updated on critical safety matters with an OSHA officer, and gain invaluable wisdom from a second-generation CEO on cultivating a thriving work culture.

Supplier Speaker Corner: Get ready for a lineup of industry experts at our Supplier Speaker Corner! We're thrilled to welcome Craig Bramble from ACE Elastomer, Barry Dodgson from North West Roller Services, and Pete Kubala from Proscio to explore cutting-edge roll grinding technology. But wait, there's more! Priyesh Biswas from Lanxess will unveil insights on urethanes that are sure to leave you buzzing with excitement.

Golf Outing: Attention golf enthusiasts! Get ready to tee off and network on the greens during our golf outing! Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time swinger, this is your chance to enjoy some friendly competition and make memorable connections. And who knows, maybe you'll even discover your "hole" new strategy for success! Don't miss out—pack your clubs and prepare for a swingin' good time!

Sunday Evening Reception: Kick off the meeting in style at our Sunday Evening Reception from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Indulge in appetizers, drinks, and lively conversations as we gather to reconnect and forge new connections.

Important Updates: Exciting developments are on the horizon! We'll be voting on our trade association's name change, reflecting our commitment to evolution and growth, big thanks to our President who has been the driving force behind our name change. Additionally, it's with a tinge of sadness that we bid farewell to our esteemed Chairman, Mr. Vail Harding. Behind the scenes, his dedication and hard work have been instrumental in shaping our organization. Let's raise our glasses to Vail and express our heartfelt gratitude for his unwavering commitment to our cause.

In closing, mark your calendars and make your travel arrangements—we can't wait to welcome you to San Antonio! Your participation and engagement are what make our annual meetings truly exceptional. Thank you for your continued support, and here's to another successful gathering at the end of April!

Warm regards,

Tyler Sinclair

Ready for beautiful weather and a round of golf?



RRG 21st Annual Golf Tournament

-Steve Chase, Treasurer

We are excited about the location of the 2024 Rubber Roller Group Golf Tournament. April 30th will be our 21st golf tournament. We will be holding the golf event at The Quarry Golf Course, San Antonio. This will be a repeat location as we have held the event at this course in our past RRG event in San Antonio.

The tournament will be on Tuesday afternoon after the closing of the meeting. The Quarry is located in the remnants of an early 1900 cement quarry. There are holes with fun elevation changes offering a challenge for the average golfer. The course is 6,740 yards ranging along 100 years of history and 100ft quarry rock walls among rolling Texas hills country. Expected tee off will be around 1 PM. Cost of the event is \$135/player. Included in your entry fee will be lunch before the event. Rental Clubs are available through the course if you would require them. This can be arranged ahead of time by contacting the course at (210) 824-4500.

As in past years, we encourage our suppliers to help host this event with sponsorships. We offer the following ways for sponsorship:

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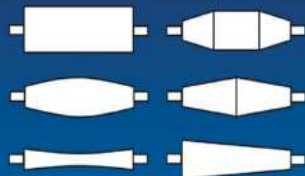
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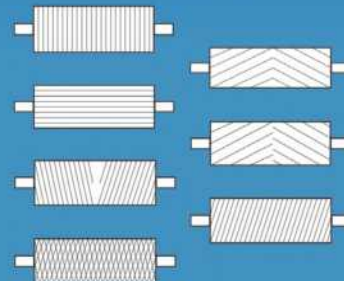
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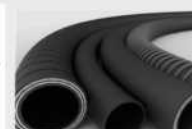
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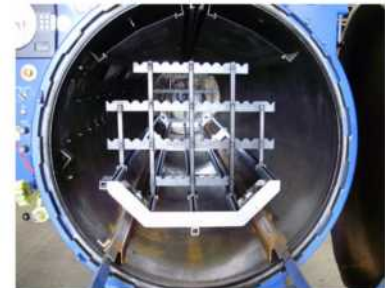
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Technical Handbook for Elastomeric Roll Covering

The Rubber Roller Group's "Technical Handbook for Elastomeric Roll Covering" was assembled by the efforts of over 35 key individuals with years of knowledge and hands on experience.

With over 250 pages, this handbook will provide great benefits to roll manufacturers and users for training and reference for years to come. It is full of charts, graphs, illustrations and photos. There are 29 chapters written by roll manufacturers and suppliers to this specialized industry.

If you wish to have a copy of this exceptional technical handbook, please complete the invoice on the website and submit! Everyone needs a copy!



Just a taste of our SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

Victor Ramon is the Compliance Assistance Specialist (CAS), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for the San Antonio Area Office.

As CAS, **Mr. Ramon** provides outreach and compliance assistance resources to a variety of groups free of charge. These groups include small businesses and other employers, trade and professional associations, union locals, and community faith-based groups. Mr. Ramon has worked as a Compliance Safety and Health Officer, Assistant Area Director, and currently as the CAS for the San Antonio Office. Previously he was a civil service employee with the Department of the Air Force, where he had also served 13.5 years active-duty military. He has an Associate Degree in Applied Science-Biology Ecological Controls, Associate in applied Science-Safety, and Bachelor of Science in Business Management.



Talking Points:

OSHA's mission has always focused on worker safety and health. The agency is committed to maintaining a balanced approach to reaching this goal – through Compliance Assistance and Enforcement. During this session OSHA will cover the inspection priorities, types of inspections, national and regional emphasis programs, top 10 citations in the industry, and OSHA civil penalty amounts.

Embrace Change– Insight from a industry veteran

Has the roller industry changed since you have been involved in this industry?

What is the biggest change you have seen?

While some would say very little has changed, I would say there have been huge changes.

When I started in the roller industry in the early 1980's, roller plants were regional and plentiful. I don't have true statistics but would guess there might be only a quarter as many plants in the USA as were in my beginning. Many plants have closed, been bought out or merged with larger companies.

Equipment has changed significantly as technology has improved and the equipment has become smart! I remember becoming excited that automatic stops were added. Now lots of steps are programmed and accuracy is measured acutely! Computer numerical control (CNC) has advanced by leaps and bounds.

Elastomer technology is vast, as well. New compounds have been developed and research and development are actively going on all the time to improve the physical properties. Do you remember when most of the rubber compounds were black?

Logistics have advanced to make the world seem smaller. Remember when anything ordered from overseas came on a "slow boat"?

Even core material for rolls might now be made of composite carbon fibers which are stronger than steel and lighter than aluminum.

The lists of change could go on and on and become very specific. These are reasons why we should all be open to change. Change is good. Think about this as this Group advances toward International Roller Manufacturers Association (IRMA).

Robbi Miller

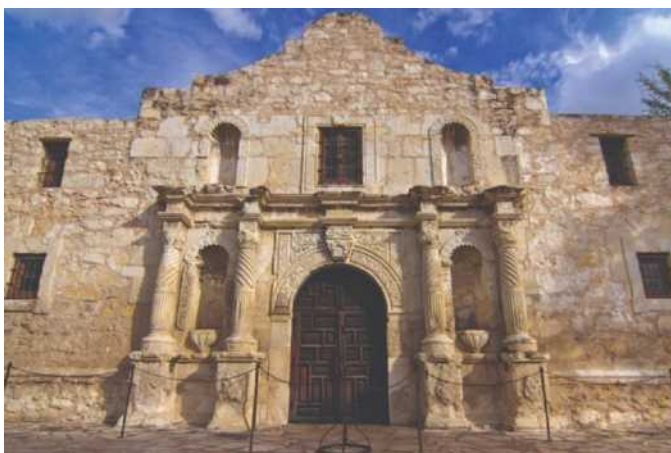


San Antonio, Texas - Our beautiful host city - Lots to do so make your plans now to attend!

San Antonio, Texas is the seventh largest city in the United States. Its unique blend of cultures and traditions gives it an unmistakable charm, but it's the mix of nature, art, food, and entertainment that has made it the state's most popular visitor destination.

Home to the iconic Alamo and the emblematic downtown River Walk, San Antonio offers a wealth of attractions for all types of visitors. Families can explore world-class theme parks, nature enthusiasts will appreciate its proximity to the picturesque Hill Country, and festival-goers can revel in year-round celebrations. Art aficionados will be delighted by top-notch galleries, while museums showcase the city's rich Mexican, Spanish, and Indigenous heritage.

With its vibrant cowboy culture and ever-growing metropolis status, San Antonio provides a distinct flavor that is truly unparalleled.



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Host Hotel 2024 DRURY PLAZA HOTEL—SAN ANTONIO



Our 2024 annual meeting is scheduled for April 28-30 at the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk. It has been many years since we have met in San Antonio. We will start with the Reception on Sunday, the 28th, at 5:30—7:00. The Board is working on the meeting content and timeline and that information will be shared via email as it is available.

Our host hotel is Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk. The rate we negotiated is \$159. Please book your room in our block or we will be penalized if we fail to make the guaranteed count. Please enter this link to make your room reservation.

<https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10068220>

San Antonio Overview

- Seventh largest and one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S.
- Host to more than 39 million visitors a year, including 31.1 million overnight guests
- Home to the River Walk – a 15-mile network of stone paths along the San Antonio River that connect hotels, shops, restaurants, theaters and more
- Has the largest concentration of Spanish colonial architecture in North America, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, that includes five 18th century missions. The city also has the oldest active cathedral sanctuary in the U.S.
- Designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in November 2017, only the second city in the U.S. to receive the designation.
- Home to The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) – one of only three campuses in the country; including a focus on Latin American cuisine
- Known for the Alamo, the number one tourist attraction in Texas and one of the city's five Spanish colonial missions.
- Entertains with top theme parks: SeaWorld San Antonio, Six Flags Fiesta Texas and Morgan's Wonderland – the world's largest ultra-accessible theme park designed for those with special needs
- Offers nationally acclaimed museums including two Smithsonian affiliates
- Birthplace of Tex-Mex – experience it in the city's culture, art, music and cuisine

