



## ROLL CALL NEWSLETTER    Volume 29    FEBRUARY 2021

### Our Chairman Says....

To the RRG Membership:

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. It had been a difficult 2020 for us all, and hope that in the coming year, we can see things head back toward normalcy.

Having said that, our Board has struggled with a possible Rubber Roller Group meeting this coming May, again in Tampa. There is certainly hope that the vaccine will help bring our economy back, but it looks to be Spring before that will be available for the majority of the US population. The Board is now considering a move to Fall 2021 as a better alternative. This will allow us to see how we progress this year, and give Matt and the Board additional time to organize a terrific agenda. I, for one, really miss our yearly group, and want to find a realistic way for us to get back together. This isolation thing is making everyone crazy (at least I am!) Any suggestions to the RRG Board for our 2021 get together would definitely be considered! Keep your fingers crossed for a much better Spring and a possible Fall RRG meeting!

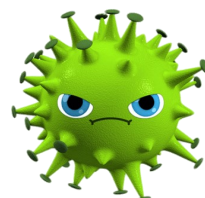
I would also request that everyone please renew your membership with the RRG. Our group, unfortunately, has had very little in the way of revenue, and know that your continued support by renewing your membership would be greatly appreciated!

I, for one, certainly miss the fellowship with all of our colleagues in the rubber industry. My wife and I have certainly limited our contact with friends and family during the Holiday season. Being stuck at home is bad enough, but being concerned for getting Covid certainly weighs heavy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those that have been exposed and are suffering from the effects of this horrible virus, and to the family members around them. We have been touched by friends and neighbors that have seen it first-hand, so wish everyone the best as we step into the New Year.

Keep an eye out for communications from the RRG Board for any future announcements of our 2021 RRG meeting. Keep your fingers crossed that we will all have a chance to get together as a group once again!

Be safe everyone!

Rick Harwood



## A Word from our President

Hello to all Rubber Roller Group Members –

In the time of a pandemic, I find the little things feel a lot more important. That statement has never been more so than being able to “see” your Board of Directors recently on video conference. Even while the topic was again bizarre (“Can we have the 2021 Annual Meeting?”), it felt something close to normal to talk with these fine people. We missed Matt Umentum and could not see Rick Harwood’s smiling face, but otherwise, it was an absolute joy.

As mentioned, the Board meeting was called mostly to check temperatures on the feasibility of hosting a live and in-person event next May in Tampa. As anyone that has helped in scheduling and hosting large meetings like ours will understand, there are a lot of moving pieces involved. I think the group did an excellent job identifying those aspects of the meeting that need our attention and putting together a timeline for action items to be initiated and completed.

What we are confident of is that The Westshore Grand in Tampa is ready to host the group whenever we are ready. This is a wonderful hotel, and I am personally looking forward to our time there. That takes care of much of the planning and negotiating that must be done every year by our Robbi Miller.

The uncertainty for all of us is the future. Will we be looking in our rearview mirrors at COVID-19 in time to finish the agenda, schedule our speakers, and finalize all details in time to get the word out to our membership? That is a question that will linger for the rest of 2020 and into early 2021. I hope for all of us, we have a vaccine, have adopted new norms, and can get back to building relationships within our industry.

To that end, I was disappointed to find that membership renewals were very low for 2020. The popular opinion is that most members renew their membership when they register for the annual meeting. If that is the case, please do not forget about the Rubber Roller Group. We haven’t forgotten you!

If you need any help renewing your membership, please contact Robbi Miller at [contact@rubberrollergroup.com](mailto:contact@rubberrollergroup.com)

My very best to each of you!

Vail

## Plea to our Membership

\*

## Tell our ADVERTISERS Thank you!

Please go on line to [www.rubberrollergroup.com](http://www.rubberrollergroup.com) and print the appropriate Membership Invoice and remit your 2021 membership as soon as possible. We need you to continue to support the Rubber Roller Group so that when we get through this awful pandemic, the Rubber Roller Group will still be viable and we can pick up where we left off.

Another way you can support us is to purchase your copy of the new 2020 edition of the Technical Handbook for Elastomeric Roll Covering. So many contributed by writing new and up to date information. These handbooks are packed full of industry information and make a great training tool for any new hire or a reference for forgotten info. Once again, you can go to the website and print the invoice to order your copy. We have paid for the printing and only recoup that cost when we sell them.



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## Here Fishy, fishy, fishy!

### Join us for a morning of great fishing!

If you enjoy fishing the Tampa area has something to offer you. We will have an unofficial RRG outing Sunday morning before the reception that evening. We will be fishing Upper Tampa Bay with Brian Dopirak. <https://www.clearflatsfishing.com/>

I have fished with Brian and his father Al for years. Captain Al Dopirak is the best guide I have ever fished with. Brian did not land far from that tree. These guys not only know how to fish but how to make your time on the water enjoyable.

We will be targeting Redfish but stand a good chance of also catching snook, jacks, and spotted sea trout. Of course, it is fishing and we could end up getting rained on and skunked. If we do, it will not be because we did not have the best guides available.

Plan on joining us Sunday morning. We will leave and hotel for the short drive to meet the guides. The cost for this outing will be \$ 200 per person. That will include all fishing fees, licenses, and water. We will also provide bagels and sour cream, (a Tampa fishing tradition for some of us), some soft drinks and juice, and sun screen.

You should bring a hat, sun glasses, pants and shirts to help keep the sun off, and soft sole shoes to wear on the boat.

For those of you coming into town early we will also try to have a dinner at Columbia's on Saturday night. <https://www.columbiarestaurant.com/> This is truly outstanding Cuban food done right, and it is not expensive. Just as a side note, Columbia's is Florida's oldest restaurant.

If you are coming in even earlier and you want to do more fishing, Tampa has something to test your skills. It may be early for tarpon but not too early to try. Inshore you can fish for Spotted Sea Trout, Snook, Redfish, Flounder, Pompano, Spanish Mackerel, ..... Near shore you can try for grouper, king mackerel, snapper, ..... Off shore you can find grouper, jacks, mackerel, snapper, .....

You can fish from shore, a pier, wade fish, kayak, flats boat, near shore boat, or a charter boat. You can fish with a flyrod, spinning gear, bait caster, or a trolling reel. You can fish on your own, hire a guide, or take a party boat off shore.



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If you do not fish saltwater there is also fresh water fishing. You can find many inland lakes and rivers to fish. Florida is one of the best bass fishing states in the country. If you want to slide in early and drive four hours to Miami, you can fish for peacock bass.

If anyone would like any assistance or suggestions on fishing options for the Tampa area shoot me an email.

Please contact Dan Laur [DTLaur@LaurSilicone.com](mailto:DTLaur@LaurSilicone.com) , or Laur Silicone, at (989)-435-7400 to sign up for either of these nonofficial events. Provide your name and contact information and the number of people. Do not wait for the last minute, as I will likely be heading to Florida early, to fish of course.

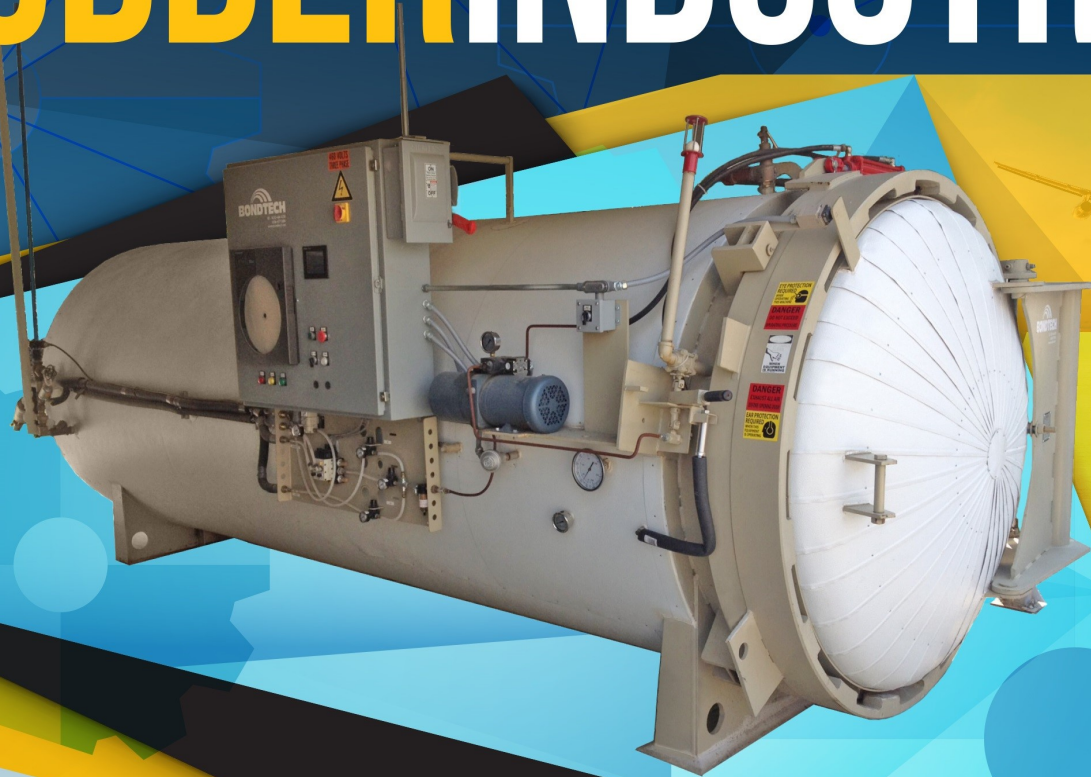


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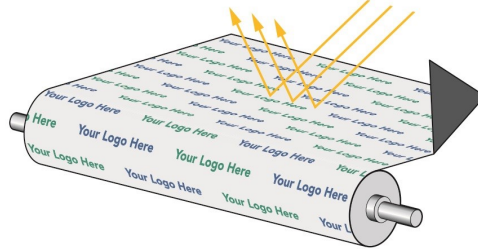
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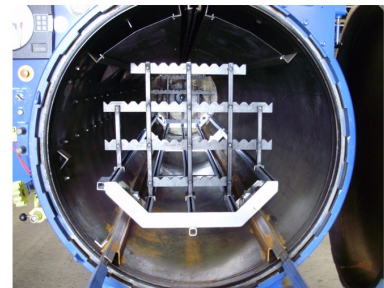
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We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Dan & Kirk

**It was suggested that we add some new articles and we decided to reach out to a few life members and just had a little response. Perhaps this section will grow in the future. Tom Chase was key and the formation of the Rubber Roller Group, Roy Johnson was on the Original Steering Committee and served on the Board-Fred Lanting served on the Board in many capacities.**

#### **From TOM CHASE**

It is great to have this opportunity to catch up with friends from the past and to introduce myself to those who have come into the industry since my departure. Back in the late 1980's, Chase Elastomer had become the largest supplier of rubber compounds to the roller industry, and as part of our marketing plan, we conducted technical seminars. Out of those sessions the idea was spawned to form an organization consisting of roller manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. That organization we now know as The Rubber Roller Group.

In 1996 I dropped out of the scene due to a breakdown of my marriage and family related issues. At that point I moved to the UK to run the operation there, and the US entities were sold. There, I continued my work in developing roller compounds for Chase Elastomer UK. In 2008 the business was sold to Excel, which eventually became Hexpol. I worked for the new owners full time for three years, and then for another 3 years on a part time basis, all the while involved in developing new technology for rollers.

After my contract expired with Hexpol, I set up a development laboratory in my garage and began consulting to the roller industry for various clients in countries like India, China, and South America, as well as in Europe and the UK.

As you know, there is something about this industry that gets into your blood, and it is inescapable! An opportunity presented itself to begin mixing rubber in an existing factory, which, of course, I could not pass up. In January 2019 Chase Industries Limited was set to supply rubber compounds to the industry. Other than for all the stresses involved in running a business, the challenge was enjoyable and the business was a success.

That is, until March 2020, when Covid-19 became an issue. The business was mothballed, and employees were furloughed. But during the ensuing months of down time, I focused in earnest on a project that has had the industry pretty well baffled since its introduction in the 1970's – UV curing of printing inks, and coverings that works well with both conventional and UV inks. Materials like EPDM work well in one, but terrible in the other. PVC and polyurethanes work to a limited degree in both but have long term stability issues. I have come up with a long evasive solution to the problem and am now marketing a new family of compounds. The factory will be back up and running in January and this new patentable technology will hopefully lead the way.

I would welcome hearing from any of you via e-mail – [tgchase@btinternet.com](mailto:tgchase@btinternet.com). While I am on LinkedIn, my profile is totally out of date, but you can connect with me there as well. Thanks for the opportunity to reconnect!

Many of you remember **Fred Lanting**. Fred is a Life Member and retired from Lord Corporation. He shared with me this year a little Christmas cheer of poetry and I robbed a short segment to share with you.

#### **The Mod Scientist**

The clever scientist in mod toupee  
Of fibers that can flatter monkish heads  
Puts on his polyester shirt, his "threads"  
Of suede-like urethane with appliqué  
(Fraternal coat-of-arms) and zippers (Nylon),  
Dons polymeric shoes, acrylic socks,  
And buttons (melamine), a coat that mocks  
Wet leather. Then, to work — inside a pylon  
Of glass and concrete, vinyl-covered walls,  
And carpets of synthetic strands entwined;  
And there, with book and flask and Bunsen, scrawls  
A few equations — formulas designed  
To blend aesthetics with ecology  
And make a Christmas tree of PVC.

I regret to inform that **Roy Johnson** passed peacefully on January 21, 2021 at the age of 86. Roy purchased Mid South Roller in Clarksville, AR in 1980 and later Sun Roller in Arlington, TX. His entrepreneurial drive lead him in a quest for more knowledge in the roller industry. He connected with many of the "greats" in our industry to glean that knowledge. Through those connections he became instrumental in forming and serving the Rubber Roller Group. Not only was he part of the original Steering Committee but he also served a number of years on the Board of Directors.

Roy served in many other capacities. Not just as a Board member to many community organizations, but as a mentor to many. I was one of the lucky ones and I treasure the years lead by his example. One of his greatest attributes, and he had many, was a positive attitude. He shared that when he knew he was approaching a difficult person to deal with that he would whistle a tune. Being cheerful took down barriers before they could be put up and took them to a neutral position because of the cheerful whistle. Just give a little whistle!

Roy will be missed by many.





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## Host Hotel 2021 - Westshore Grand TAMPA



The next Rubber Roller Group meeting is hopefully coming up later in 2021. This destination is a favorite for many reasons. Weather, weather and did I mention weather? Some may say fishing, or night life, food or cigars. Whatever reason you like best is fine! Just mark your calendar right now and plan to attend.

Yes, much is still in the a state of confusion and much is still unknown. We are moving forward with plans for 2021 and want you to join us for the next meeting. More information to come as it is available to us.

We are currently considering dates in September or October. None of like our calendars in limbo, but of course, we have not choice at this time.



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