



John Havel from MAHLE Clevite talked about performance engine bearing design and failures to attendees at the Nov. 15 Tech & Skills Conference at the University of Northwestern Ohio.

MAHLE Clevite Conference Recap

Highlights from the AERA Tech & Skills Conference at the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima

BY STEVE FOX PHOTOS BY RICHARD ROOKS

MAHLE Clevite together with AERA sponsored a regional conference held at the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, Ohio, Nov. 15, 2007. Over 80 shop personnel attended this event which featured speakers from MAHLE Clevite, CWT Industries and AERA.

The first session was presented by John Havel from MAHLE Clevite. John was very informative, talking in-depth about engine bearings and some of the causes of bearing failures. In addition, John also discussed performance bearing loading and localized extreme loading on the bearings. Many attendees stated that this was one of the best presentations regarding engine bearings that they had ever heard and walked away with very good information that they can use in the shop. One of the attendees commented that they had been having bearing problems in their shop and for quite a while and this presentation helped them figure out what was causing the problems.

The second session featured Randy Neal from CWT Industries in Norcross, Georgia. Randy's presentation, "The

Power of Balancing = Profits," was very well attended and Randy did a great job talking about profitability — not just with balancing, but in your entire operation. Randy is quick to point out to us not to lose focus on why we are in business. And simply put, it's to "make money".

Randy is a unique individual in that he's technically very bright but also has great business savvy. He's a gem in our industry, a great speaker and motivator who's not afraid to talk about all the issues of running a shop, but never loses focus on why we run a shop.

Many of the attendees had an eye-opening experience listening to Randy's presentation. He discussed not only how you can make your balancing machine profitable, but also the proper way to balance. Randy also touched on a subject that many attendees were unaware of, and that was camshaft balancing. (He has written an article in this issue of Engine Professional regarding camshaft balancing.) Camshaft balancing is definitely something attendees will investigate further when they return to

TECH & SKILLS CONFERENCE RECAP

BY STEVE FOX PHOTOS BY RICHARD ROOKS



their shops. One attendee just bought a balancer and was very impressed with the information offered at the conference.

After lunch, AERA's own Richard Rooks presented the new "Shop Financial Analyzer" software that is free to all AERA members. This software was developed by a shop owner with the express purpose of knowing the financial condition of his shop. Please don't be intimidated by the word "software". Yes, you need a computer to operate this tool, but it is very easy to follow and can make a huge difference in giving you the information you need to help you financially operate your shop. All attendees received a copy of SFA to take back to their shop and use it to examine the financial condition of their shop.

AERA would like to thank everyone who attended, presented, hosted and sponsored this Tech & Skills conference. Special thanks to MAHLE Clevite for

being a great host and providing a great facility for this type of event.

AERA is planning on sponsoring more of these conferences because our top priority is to provide members with technical information. Take a look at the upcoming Tech & Skills Regional Conferences scheduled for 2008 and make plans to attend the closest conference in your area. ■

Pictured above: (top) Phil Esz from Goodson shows his products to attendees; (bottom left) Steve Fox from AERA explaining PRO-SIS to members; (bottom right) Randy Neal from CWT Industries demonstrating his balancing machine.

2008 Tech & Skills Conferences

Last year, AERA began a series of one-day regional conferences that were intended to make travel easier for those who had trouble getting away from their business to attend a national trade show, but still wanted the technical information that AERA trade shows had delivered in the past.

Three conferences were held last year in California, Minnesota and Ohio. These one-day events (held on a Saturday) were sponsored by AERA and hosted by a member manufacturer/supplier. Conference attendees found the technical information and networking opportunities very valuable. Therefore, AERA is pleased to announce that we will continue these one-day regional conferences and currently have plans to hold at least six of them throughout 2008.

The first conference will be held in Miami, Florida, at Maxforce on Saturday, April 5. For more details on these events, visit our website: www.aera.org/conferences.

More conferences are being planned for 2008. Information will be available on our website as soon as schedules have been finalized. Please note that these conferences are open to members and non-members at a nominal charge. We look forward to seeing you this year at a location near you!