

Inside this issue:

Winners 2015 Annual Wheel of Chance Spin	2
Snowboarders love the trails and rails	2
Did You Know?	3
February Anniversaries	3
February Birthdays	3
Rex Riddle	3
Ladies Lovin' Leap Year	4

Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with birthdays in February see Birthdays on page 3), there will be **free coffee** from the vending machine starting early AM on February 22 through early AM on February 23.

ENJOY! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!**

Improvement Idea Winner By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Congratulations to Robert Feldman, third shift Electrician, for being the Improvement Idea winner for January. Bob's idea was the only one submitted in January but it was considered a really good idea, so it got all the votes. Thank you Bob for letting us know your idea for improvement here at Rex.



Bob's idea is to install a heat lamp bulb with a fixture and switch onto the hydraulic pump that locks the door on Furnace 550. The hydraulic fluid gets cold and doesn't close the door tight enough. The heat lamp will help keep the hydraulic fluid warm so the equipment can work properly.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, February 22 at 3:10 pm in the Induction area. Bob will be drawing the name of one employee for the "Monthly Employee Appreciation" spin. Come to the spin to see if your name is chosen. Then you will be the lucky person taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

Can you think of an idea for an improvement here at Rex? Just write it down on a piece of paper and drop it into the box outside the Production office door. You could be the next winner taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY IMPROVEMENT IDEAS
Wednesday, February 17, 2016, noon

Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Manager



Sarah Mansuetti, December Improvement Idea winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.

Our Improvement Idea winner for December was **Sarah Mansuetti, Director of Quality Assurance**. Sarah won a \$150 award on her spin. There were five Improvement Ideas submitted in December. In addition to Sarah's winning idea, **Terry Copenhaver, Chris Kent, Trevor Levonski, and Ray Souder** submitted one idea each. They all received a "Thank You" pin and \$5 lottery ticket.



From left: Terry Copenhaver, Chris Kent, and Ray Souder receive their Thank You pin and lottery ticket from Scott Wagner for submitting Improvement Ideas in December.



Greg Bruno, Monthly Employee Appreciation winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner.

The lucky winner of "Monthly Employee Appreciation" was **Greg Bruno** who won a \$100 reward on his spin. Five names were drawn from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees. **Keith Bannon, Dave Brough, Trevor Levonski, Mike Ludwig and Frank Rapine** each received a \$5 Instant lottery ticket. **Bernadette Hoffman** was the **Rex Riddle** winner and she, too, received a \$5 lottery ticket. Several employees at the spin were celebrating an anniversary and received an anniversary gift from Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.



Bernadette Hoffman, Rex Riddle winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner.



Lottery ticket winners from left: Mike Ludwig and Frank Rapine accept their tickets from Scott Wagner. Other winners not pictured were: Keith Bannon, Dave Brough and Trevor Levonski

For refreshments, we all enjoyed fruit and cookies and free coffee. Please come to next month's spin to see if your name is the one picked to be the Monthly Employee Appreciation winner. Then you will have an opportunity to take a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.



From left: Chris Kent (4 yrs) and Frank Rapine (11 yrs) accept their anniversary gifts from Scott Wagner. Others celebrating but not pictured: Dave Brough (42 yrs), Joe Carr (3 yrs), Ray DeHaven (9 yrs), Sharlrey Dubisette (9 yrs), and Mike Santiago (18 yrs).

Winners of the 2015 Annual Wheel of Chance Spin



Johnathan Rex, General Manager, with help from Scott Wagner, Plant Manager, drew the winning names for the Annual Wheel of Chance Spins.

The 12th year of our Improvement Idea Program produced 66 good ideas submitted by 24 employees. Many thanks to all the employees who submitted their ideas. Our Rex Annual Wheel of Chance Spin rewarded three lucky winners from that group. There was only one chance at a spin and rewards ranged from \$250—\$1,000.

Spin #1 was for every employee who submitted an improvement idea in 2015. Twenty-four employees qualified for this drawing. Their names were submitted for each of their ideas. They were Ray Souder (12), Greg Smith (8), Michael Townsend (7), Jeremy Hayhurst, Nancy Viola and Brian Wingate (4 each), Jim Forbes and Chris Kent (3 each), Ray DeHaven, Tom Felder, Rob Forbes, Frank Rapine and Theresa Scargill (2 each), Ricky Banyai, Greg Bruno, Joe Carr, Terry Copenhaver, Bob Feldman, Vindon Griffin, Rich Harris, Yao Kangni Soukpe, Trevor Levonski, Sarah Mansuetti, and Derek McAlarney (1 each). The lucky winner of that draw was **Jeremy Hayhurst** who won \$1,000 on his Wheel of Chance spin.



Jeremy Hayhurst, second shift Furnace Operator, was Spin 1 winner and won \$1,000 on his Wheel of Chance spin. He is congratulated by Scott Wagner.

Spin #2 was for all the 2015 Monthly Winners. If they won two times, their names were placed in the container twice, and so forth. Ten employees qualified for this drawing. Ray Souder (Jan. and May), Greg Smith (Feb.), Yao Kangni Soukpe (March), Jeremy Hayhurst (April), Tom Felder (June), Jim Forbes (July) Mike Townsend (Aug. and Sept.), Rob Forbes (Oct.), Frank Rapine (Nov.), Sarah Mansuetti (Dec.). The lucky winner was **Tom Felder** who won \$750 on his spin.

Spin #3 rewarded a Grand Prize Winner—the employee who submitted the most winning ideas in 2015. Ray Souder and Mike Townsend tied with two wins each. The winner: **Ray Souder** won \$1,000 on his spin.



Tom Felder, first shift Inspector, was Spin 2 winner and won \$750 on his Wheel of Chance spin. Scott Wagner congratulates him.



Ray Souder, first shift Material Handler, rejoices at his Spin 3 win and \$1,000 award on his Wheel of Chance Spin. He is congratulated by Scott Wagner.

KEEP THOSE IMPROVEMENT IDEAS ROLLING IN 2016!

Snowboarders love the trails and rails

When most of us are complaining about the cold weather, snow people long for snow, snow and more snow. Snow people are primarily anyone who loves to ski or snowboard. Ray Souder, Material Handler, first shift, is one of them – he's a snowboarder.

Ray's favorite local spot to snowboard is Bear Creek in Macungie, PA. However, there are scores of other resorts throughout the Poconos including: Jack Frost, Elk Mountain, Camelback, and Big Boulder to name only a few. Spring Mountain in Schwenksville, PA is even closer.

In this unseasonably mild winter so far, these Pennsylvania resorts got a late start on their busy season. Most just started blowing snow in early January. That's when Ray happily headed to Bear Creek.

Snowboarding, created here in the US, is a winter sport similar to skiing. It evolved from skateboarding and surfing. In the 1960's early enthusiasts developed rudimentary boards experimenting with materials and styles. The basic design is a board, much like an oversized, wheelless skateboard, to which the rider's feet are attached with bindings to prevent the board from sliding away after a fall. No poles are used; racers push off from stationary posts. The size and shape of a snowboard varies according to its intended use and the size of the snowboarder. The average size of a board is 5 feet long by 10 inches wide.

Snowboarding was first included in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Four events, two for men and two for women, were held in two specialties — the giant slalom, a downhill event similar to giant slalom skiing; and the half-pipe, in which competitors perform tricks while going from one side of a semi-circular ditch to the other. This recognition boosted snowboarding's popularity, transforming it from a backyard winter passtime into a legitimate international competitive sport.

Now most resorts offer snowboarders trails and "terrain parks." Terrain parks are areas within the resort dedicated to snowboarders with features such as rails, jumps and boxes specially designed for "aerial sports." These parks are Ray's favorite places to snowboard. Needless to say, you have to be in pretty good shape to snowboard. If you want to try it, be sensibly safe and take some lessons before hitting the rails.





Employees celebrating a birthday in **February** are listed below. Let's wish them a happy day.

- 2 Jim Forbes
- 9 John Moss
- 11 Jim Brough
- 20 Ray Souder

REX RIDDLE 55?

Never ahead, ever behind,
yet flying swiftly past.
For a child, I last forever.
For an adult, I'm gone
too fast.

What am I?

To submit your guess for The Rex Riddle, take a slip out of the folder in the rack in the Production Office, fill it out, and drop it in the box outside of the Production Office door. Guesses will be taken until the morning of the monthly spin. One name will be drawn from all the correct answers to receive a \$5 instant lottery ticket.

Answer to last month's riddle:

Most of us and our kids drink it every day in our homes. If we purchased 100 pounds of it, it would contain approximately 87 pounds of water, 4 pounds of fat, 4 pounds of casein, ash and albumin and 5 pounds of sugar.

What is it? Milk

Yearly Work Anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating their Work anniversaries in **February**

1 to 5 Years

Ricky Banyai (3 yrs)

Mike Evans (4 yrs)

Ray Souder (2 yrs)

6 to 10 Years

Greg Bruno (10 yrs)

Over 10 Years

Jim Koester (21 yrs)

Don Wiggins (20 yrs)

Sandy Zigon (32 yrs)

You will receive your annual gift at the monthly spin.



Did You Know?

Here are some interesting origins of common words we use.

- The term “**doubleheader**”— meaning two baseball games played back-to-back comes from railroad terminology. When two engines in the switching yard were hooked up back-to-back on a single train, the train was called a “two header” or commonly a “doubleheader.”
- The word “**fan**” meaning an admirer or devotee, is short for the word “fanatic.”
- The term “**disc jockey**” was coined by Variety in 1937 to describe radio announcers who stayed up all night “riding” discs, or records.
- The word “**fiasco**” meaning a failure, is derived from the ancient Italian art of glass blowing. If a Venetian glass blower made a mistake while creating a fine, delicate bottle, the ruined vessel was turned into an ordinary drinking flask, known in Italian as “fiasco.”
- Salt, the most widely used seasoning in the world, was given as monthly wages to Roman legionnaires. It was called “salt money” or *salarium*, and it is from this word that our word “**salary**” comes.
- The term “**OK**” is believed by some language experts to be derived from a Choctaw Indian word, “okeh,” which means “it is so.”

Ladies Lovin' Leap Year



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February 29, 2016 is a Leap Year Day. Leap Years happen every four years when an extra day is added to the calendar to keep us aligned with the Earth's revolutions around the sun. That's because it actually takes the Earth a little longer than a year to travel around the Sun —365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds, to be exact.

If we didn't add a day on February 29 nearly every 4 years, we would lose almost six hours every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days in relation to the seasons.

It was the ancient Egyptians who first figured out that the solar year and the man-made calendar year didn't always match up. The Romans were the first to designate February 29 as Leap

Day. A more precise formula (still in use today) was adopted in the 16th century when the Gregorian calendar fine-tuned the calculations to include a leap day in years only divisible by four - 2012, 2016, 2020, 2024, etc.

Babies born on a Leap Day usually celebrate their birthdays either Feb. 28 or March 1. The late singer Dinah Shore and bandleader Jimmy Dorsey were Leap Year Babies as was motivational speaker Tony Robbins.

One of the quirkiest Leap Year traditions allows women to propose to men on this extra day every four years. As the story goes, the tradition of women romantically pursuing men in leap years began in 5th century Ireland when St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about women having to wait for men to propose. Patrick finally relented and set Feb. 29 aside as the day every four years when women had the right to ask for a man's hand in marriage.

This is believed to have been introduced to balance the traditional roles of men and women in a similar way that Leap Day balances the calendar.

The tradition continued in Scotland, when Queen Margaret declared in 1288 that on February 29 a woman had the right to pop the question to any man she fancied. Menfolk who refused were faced with a fine in the form of a kiss, a silk dress, or a pair of gloves given to the rejected lady fair. The gloves allegedly helped to cover up the woman's embarrassment of being rejected.

A modern American tradition, Sadie Hawkins Day, was created by Al Capp in the cartoon strip Li'l Abner. In the famous story line, Sadie and every other woman in town were allowed on that day to pursue and catch the most eligible bachelors in Dogpatch. Although the comic strip placed Sadie Hawkins Day in November, today it has become almost synonymous with February 29.

A Leap Year Poem

**Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November;
All the rest have thirty-one
Save February, she alone
Hath eight days and a score
Til' leap year gives her one day
more.**

