

Webster Scale Employee Newsletter



MAY 2022
Volume 6 Issue 2

Calendar

- Saturday, May 7th
9-2, Webster
Spring Fling
Rummage Sales
- Sunday, May 8th



AREA GRADUATIONS

- Friday, May 13th
Lake Area
Technical College
 - Saturday, May 14th
Waubay HS
 - Sunday, May 15th
Webster HS
-
- Monday, May 30th
Memorial
Day 
- Webster Scale closed

Drone technology useful in construction industry

Tannor Popham is moving the company forward with drone technology.

Tannor has owned a drone for about two years. Joel had asked him if he could take some photos of the scrapers working on a job site. Since a remote pilot certificate is required for anyone using a drone for commercial purposes, Tannor decided to get certified. He took an online course to study for the FAA Aeronautical Knowledge Test. He took the test in Aberdeen on April 12th to be certified. The test covered the Part 107 regulations which are the rules set by the FAA for drone pilots. The test also required knowledge of airspace classifications, reading sectional charts, airport operations, weather and many other drone flight operations. Tannor will need to renew his certificate every 24 months by passing a recurrent aeronautical knowledge test.

The potential uses of a drone in our industry include site surveys, stockpile measurements, project documentation, general aerial photography and more. Photogrammetry is the process that is used to conduct surveys and stockpile measurements. The drone is able to autonomously fly a site and take photos while recording the GPS position for each photo. These photos can be processed and will produce a 3D surface of the site which will allow for further design work and stockpile quantification.

Currently the site/stockpile measurements require walking the entire area with a GPS rover to collect data. With a drone, the process is simply to select the flight area, configure flight settings and press GO. This will make these operations faster, safer and will provide a more detailed model.

Currently, a company drone purchase is being researched. Tannor anticipates being able to use a drone for not only measuring stockpiles of materials, but also taking aerial photos for advertising purposes. Stockpiles can be measured before starting and then again later to get a more accurate

amount of material being used.

Incorporating drone technology in construction projects will be very useful and less time consuming in a number of ways, as well as providing the photography benefits. Tannor is prepared to make this possible.



DJI Phantom 4 RTK Drone.
(model being considered)



Tannor used his drone to take these photos of the Fort Sisseton grade raise project.



Who's Who

Office Personnel



KEN POPHAM
Drafting, Design
& Purchasing



ANGELA SHOEMAKER
Reception, Inside
Sales & Scheduling



DAWN MONSON
Office Manager



TANNOR POPHAM
Drafting
GPS Systems

Bob Braun - continued good news!

Bob underwent some follow-up surgery on April 26th in Sioux Falls for anticipated repairs from his surgery last fall. His wife Gay reported that the surgery went very well and that Bob is doing well with his recovery at this time.



**Everyone needs
to keep up on
their oil changes!**

Shop 1

Mechanical Repairs

Shop 1 Current Projects:

- #30 Semi-tractor—cylinder head repair, new sleeve piston
- #32 Semi-tractor—replace a one-year-old transmission with another new transmission
- Wirtgen milling machine— used machine purchased, getting it ready for use (*Jonathon Fish has been on this*)



Supply chain issues have made it difficult or impossible to get some of the parts the mechanics need for repairs. One solution for finding parts was by purchasing this **2008 Peterbilt truck (shown below)** to use for parts. Stacy Below shared how so many parts, such as switches, gauges, door handles, radio, plastic parts, as well as the truck computer, can all be recycled and used. Injectors are a big problem right now with none available to buy. Another option being used is to have parts rebuilt by a business that does this kind of work.



Reported by Faith Shoemaker

Since arriving in Lower Brule in March, we have installed 12 pipe runs with the assistance of Morris's pipe crew. We are finishing up on the west side of the job and preparing to move to the east side. Once we get to the east side, it will be the same thing as last year—milling, undercutting, installing pipe and grading. There are 8 pipes on the east side that we must install, and roughly three miles left.

#2104

Mudrat and Cade digging out the old pipe



Mudrat and Dawson in the excavators, both moving dirt.



Mudrat in the excavator with the crew installing pipe—Elizabeth, Cade, Zach, Zippy and Martin.



Steve Burnette in the scraper moving dirt from the pipe installed.



Shop 2

Customizing / Manufacturing



Shown on the left is the headache rack being customized with additional storage boxes added for #46 2022 Peterbilt semi-tractor. The shop crew has also added a pogo stick and a wet kit to #46. Jason will take care of the wiring yet, and then this new truck will be ready to be put into service.



Buck welded together framework for shelving to go into another used trailer purchased for parts storage.





Webster Scale, Inc.
PO Box 127
14012 SD Highway 25
Webster, SD 57274

- Family owned business since mid 1960's
- Full line of scale products, services and parts
- Wide variety of heavy construction services
- Committed to providing superior products and services at a reasonable cost



CONSTRUCTION
SAFETY WEEK

MAY 2-6, 2022
CONNECTED. SUPPORTED. SAFE

Remain Connected

Remaining connected to your loved ones, your co-workers and your community allows each of us to be bonded and know that we are not alone. Connection brings comfort. It brings peace of mind. It allows us to be open and honest about daily experiences—good and bad—and find common ground with others around us. In other words, we are each other's keeper. Staying connected on the job will create a stronger, safer team.

Be Supported

Support is mutual. When you support a coworker or friend they are in turn more likely to support you. This mindset will give each of us the courage to speak up for safety. Our voices are one of the greatest ways to eliminate exposure, but it is not always easy to speak up when we see a potential risk or an unsafe action. Support is also shown within selfless acts for others, which have positive physical and mental effects. A simple gesture of care and concern for a team member or loved one gives the support they may need, whether they are suffering from anxiety, depression or a tough personal situation.

Stay Safe

Safety is and always must remain a top value. The fundamentals of safety are often a company's cardinal rules, which are policies that would most likely result in death or serious physical harm if violated. Each of us has a duty to ourselves and our coworkers to be constantly aware of potentially hazardous conditions. Policies surrounding PPE, fall protection, confined space, and more are what keep us all safe and are the building blocks of a strong safety culture.

Continue Learning

The construction industry is filled with people of all ages, backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Sharing lessons learned on new innovations to a common issue or streamlining a task to make it safer and more efficient will allow us to continually learn, improving our overall safety

Thank You

Your efforts are reducing risks and accidents on our projects. Thank you for working hard and working safely!