

SKNLIK

Your link to lifelong learning

Small Engine Repair

by Wally Fulton,
South Suburban College



Students Tom Grant and George Chalos

Have you ever waited two to three weeks to get a lawnmower or a snowblower repaired? The reason, according to the Equipment and Engine Training Council, is a "huge shortfall of qualified technicians." The EETC and South Suburban College are partners with JobLink to provide classes in small engine repair that lead to industry certification.

The center currently offers two classes for servicing most air-cooled engine-powered lawn and garden equipment. These classes, taught by Mike Daly, prepare students not only to repair their own equipment, but also to become qualified technicians by passing the EETC Certification exams on two-cycle and on four-cycle engine repair at the conclusion of each class. Such nationally recognized certification qualifies for entry-level technician positions at repair shops, lawn-care services, and golf courses, for example.

The two-cycle class takes 12 weeks. Students learn to repair small outdoor equipment such as chain saws, weed whips, and some small lawnmowers and to refine study skills and test-taking strategies in preparation for the exam. The four-cycle class runs 16 weeks and covers repair on most lawnmowers and snowblowers and also includes test-taking preparation. Students may

also bring in their own equipment for repair during the open lab classes.

These certification exams measure the students' basic knowledge in technical skills, fundamental theory, failure analysis, troubleshooting and general repair. The exams are given here at JobLink at the conclusion of the classes; each person who passes will receive an EETC Certificate and shoulder patch.

The EETC also offers courses in Electrical Systems and Drivelines and Hydraulic (for riding mowers and other small tractors). Someone with all four certificates would be well qualified at many dealerships and small engine repair businesses. These two courses will soon be available at JobLink for the first time. This fall Mike will be offering Electrical System Certification. Additionally, he plans to offer Tractor Transmission Certification in early 2003.

Students Begin Work on Safety Village

by Charlie Kestner,
Plant 1 Machine Shop

This summer, JobLinkers will again build something useful. Students participating in the Quad Town Safety Village Class will build knowledge and carpentry skills that will help them now and in the future.

Yet, far more than that, they will build a structure that may help save a child's life. JobLink's students, under the guidance of the instructor, Joe Spanier, will construct one of the first buildings at the Quad Town Children's Safety Village.

The village, located on Route 41 in Schererville, covers roughly two city blocks. It will



be a small-scale replica of a typical town featuring small-scale structures to match its intended small-scale users – children.

Laid out in city fashion, with crosswalks, traffic signals and other streetscape features, the village will be used to teach street safety to kids. This is a joint project of the towns of Dyer, Highland, St.

John and Schererville and is financed by donations from local businesses.

JobLink students will construct a replica of an Oil Express, which generously donated all the materials necessary for the building. Classroom instruction will take place in a room provided by the nearby Home Depot.



In cooperation with The School City of Hammond



ISPAT INLAND INC.

Subsidiary of ISPAT INTERNATIONAL N.V.



Institute for Career Development



Local 1010



From Diane's Desk

Diane Lentz
JobLink Coordinator

What future scenario stresses you out? Is it a scenario you can avoid if you plan for a brighter future? A great many of us think about those worst scenarios but don't act on them because we doubt ourselves or our abilities. This brings to mind two quotes I would like to share with you.
"You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them." Michael Jordan
"We all have ability. The difference is how we use it." Stevie Wonder

Now how can JobLink help change your fear of the stressful scenario?

Inland job change- Come to JobLink to prepare for an upcoming test for a new job opening. Use the on-line Telsim program to brush up on skills from your home, or work with our in-house teachers to brush up on areas where the cobwebs have taken over. **Can't keep up with rising costs- need part-time employment-** There are a number of certificate programs that will position you to work part time at many venues. The resume class will help you prepare a resume. **Have a great idea for a new business, but terrified that it will fail-** Come to JobLink and take the Starting a Small Business continuum of courses to see how good that idea is or how you can begin your business on a small scale in order to test the waters. **Retirement-** Look at the JobLink continuums to make a "map" of courses you might need to take to reach a goal. If we don't have a plan that works for you, ask us to help you design one just for you. **Technology is leaving you behind-** Start with Keyboarding; take Intro to Computers & Intro to Windows. In a very comfortable learning environment without any threat of testing, you can enter the world of computers. From then on, that world will be at your fingertips.

So avoid those stressful scenarios! Look at the next JobLink course schedule and make a plan. Believe in yourself, we certainly believe in you. We're here to help you succeed and to cheer on your success when you attain it.

...Viewpoints...

Steve Wagner
Local 1010 Representative



All of us will be asked to help convince our government to pass legislation regarding retirees' health care for several hundred thousand steelworkers across the nation. Hopefully, this brief article will give us a better understanding of why our government should address our health care legacy costs.

The American steel industry is in crisis. Thirty-two American steel companies have filed for bankruptcy. Twenty-one steelmaking plants are idled or shutdown representing the loss of 25 million tons or 19 % of this nation's steelmaking capacity. Steel prices have fallen to the lowest levels in twenty years. Even after numerous warnings, our own government delayed in responding to the crisis and that made matters considerably worse.

In the United States, up to now, we have made a public policy choice in favor of employment-based health insurance coverage rather than guaranteed national health insurance. This means that when an employer goes bankrupt or liquidates its operations, absent a social safety net, workers are at risk of losing their health insurance and access to

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Joe Medellin
Management Representative



Earlier this year, I assumed responsibility as the company representative on the Joint Local Committee for JobLink from my predecessor, Larry Rodimel. As the new company representative, I must say I have been most impressed with JobLink and those responsible for its effective administration, including Diane Lentz and Steve Wagner. It has become clear JobLink has a responsible and dedicated staff, whose primary goal is to ensure services and programs are made available to steelworkers like you to meet your needs with regard to basic skills, technical skills, or personal growth and development.

By way of my background, I started at Inland in 1972, working in the Plant 1 Galvanizing Department, Bar Mill, and 100" plate mill, in a series of positions, including production jobs (leveler, corrugator, hand shear, tractor operator, crane operator, hourly labor supervisor) before moving into Human Resources where I have been since 1975. This experience has provided a mill perspective helpful to my current role on the Local Joint Committee. And it has also reinforced

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Student Editor: Tom Zmigrocki Student Staff: Joe Orellana, Joe Woessner and Joe Zaragoza.
Contributing Editor: Marcia L. Taylor
JobLink Subcommittee: Diane Lentz, Joe Medellin, Steve Wagner

My Story: A Long and Winding Road

by Joe Zaragoza, Process Automation



It all started in late November of 1969; it was my turn to work at “Mother Inland”, and it was time to fulfill the fam-

ily destiny. I was a college freshman at Purdue Calumet. I needed to make some money to pay for school. So it was off to the Inland employment office.

My first assignment was #3 Open Hearth, labor, learning the art of the shovel and broom. What an awesome place to be - fire and sparks were erupting everywhere. Well, I wasn’t getting too close to that; my job was to sweep, shovel, and dispose of dust, dirt, and waste. Yes, I was now a weekend warrior. That first assignment lasted about six months, after that it was off to the mighty 80” Hot Strip for a couple of tours. As a part-time employee you weren’t laid off, you were terminated when things slowed down and rehired when business picked up again. My final part-time assignment sent me to the 44” Hot Strip, an old but dependable part of the Inland family.

I found myself graduating from Purdue in Industrial Management and expecting a job in the executive suite. Not quite - after interviewing for several management trainee positions, my best offer was in downtown Chicago for 300 big ones a month. I made more than that pushing some dirt around. So I picked Inland. But as a “College Graduate”, I couldn’t see a future rearranging dirt piles. Lo and behold an opening for an electrical apprentice was posted and that sounded like a good idea. So an apprentice I became, and Old “College Boy” was going back to school for three years.

I was a 25 year- old Journeyman Electrician thinking, “It don’t get any better than this. I don’t need to do anything else- I’m set for life.” A year or so later reality set in, the steel industry was in trouble, and I was being laid off. No problem - I’ll be reassigned as

an electrician somewhere else in the mill. Not so. After a few months of hitting the bricks and collecting unemployment, I was recalled to Inland and got my job back! Not quite,! It was decided I needed to be retrained in the fine art of broom and shovel use for a laborer job at #1 & 2 Cold Strip Mill. I could now plug in my broom since I was a qualified electrician, but strangely the broom didn’t start sweeping by itself. To add insult to injury, my pay, already cut by half, was further eroded. Now I was making the same as if I was at home collecting unemployment and sub pay, but I still had to pay for gas and the cost of my lunch. I was losing money every time I came to work. After about eight months of this, I got recalled to the 44” again. We ran about six months

As a 25-year-old journeyman, Joe thought, “It don’t get any better than this ... A year or so later ... I was being laid off.”

and shutdown again. I hit the street with a thud .

This time I had an opportunity to waiver labor pool and stay home. I couldn’t just sit around and collect unemployment and sub, so I found a job. Great! I was told I would be plant electrical engineer for a small gas mixing plant in Illinois. I found out I was actually a production worker who just happened to have electrical background which I could use to repair equipment when it broke. But my main duty was to put out product. Since it was a salary job, if the production quota wasn’t filled during regular hours, we got the privilege of coming out on the weekend to finish up at no extra pay. Help! What did I get myself into?

Salvation was a phone call away; a month later the electrical department called me about a temporary assignment. The phone didn’t even reach the receiver when I quit that job. So it was back to Mother Inland. This time as a

rent-a-electrician. Since the 44” had not officially closed, I had no home base - I was in limbo. Meanwhile, I was studying to attain a degree in electrical engineering technology.

All of these negative experiences led me to strive to gain new useable skills so this scenario would never again occur. The future of my electrical career was dark. I was to go to this new group being formed that came to be known as the “Bull Gang”. Not a pleasant thought. Fortunately, I had a friend in process automation who told of an opening in his department.

After passing a ridiculously hard entrance examination and transferring over, I found myself in the role of senior apprentice again, all the while attending Purdue at night. What a coincidence—I finished my apprenticeship and my degree simultaneously. Just in time to be assigned to the “Choke” Plant where electronics were not used. Barely surviving the experience, I applied for an opening in the computer hardware group. I was accepted and have been there ever since (the story’s not over yet). After all the intense training and schooling I had endured, I found I was missing something.

A friend suggested I check out Joblink. I just finished building a deck and I needed some deck furniture. So I took a deck accessories class, and I was hooked. There were so many directions my interests lead me and so many courses to take.

This story now covers over twenty years. So I had to start planning for retirement and a new career. I went back to my technical roots, getting an AutoCAD Operators Certificate, A+ Certification and Network Cabling Certification, as well as Cisco Networking Certification. All this was planned to transition me from retirement to a new career. While I was doing this an unexpected opportunity happened; I had a chance to teach Cisco, A+, and Network Cabling for South Suburban College. That has allowed me to change my career goals and pursue the teaching option as my 30 year anniversary has come. It looks like my retirement will be satisfying

JobLinkers to Participate In Photo Exhibit

by **Marcia L. Taylor, JobLink**

Images of steelworkers and the steel mills will soon be exhibited at the Face of Steel Exhibit in Pittsburgh sponsored by the Institute for Career Development. JobLink organized a photography class for novices and pros alike to capture the varied faces of the steel environment.

The class was a hit—photographer and instructor Bill Staniec, formerly of the Inland Communications Department, discovered real enthusiasm and creativity in his students. Many of them have submitted entries to the show and are expected to make it.

Additionally a number of the students combined their writing skills with the photographs to blend their thoughts with visual images in the Photos to Writing Class. Plans will be made to display this photo show in Northwest Indiana. So, we'll keep you posted.

If you feel like you missed out in this first ever JobLink photography class, do not despair. Next fall Bill will be offering a basic photography class. Check our



course schedule for this and other fall offerings.

On the left is just one example of a photo that came out of the class. Bill Staniec took this studio set photograph of Augustine Lara with a digital camera. Lara, one of the class participants, is dressed here in full hot metal regalia with an attitude to match. He and other students joined Bill at JobLinkin taking posed studio shots.

**Visit JobLink on the web:
www.joblink2000.org
to see more photos and
writing from this class.**

Staff News

Who's Doing What at JobLink?

by **Joe Orellana, MMD**

Mike Daly is the affable Small Engine Repair Teacher at Joblink, that at 33 years of age, is undaunted by the steely looks of veteran steelworking grunts that attend his classes. These folks have seen it all, so much so that they can spot a phony from a mile away. And Mike's easy going nature and "shoot from the hip" style has made him a person to respect. His genuine way alone makes him someone you should know.



Daniel Daly, Mike's grandfather, immigrated from Ireland to the US between 1916 and 1918. He settled with his wife on the East Coast, where they lived in Summerville, Massachusetts. Later Mike's grandparents moved to Indiana, where his grandfather worked at Inland Steel. He was a Roll Grinder, and served in various other positions, before retiring with more than 30 years of service.

Mike's father was also an Inlander who left with 36 years of service. His parents were living in Gary at the time Mike was born. In 1971, the family moved to Crown Point where Mike grew up. Then in 1998, Mike decided to try living on his own and moved to Portage. Although he's not currently married, Mike hasn't ruled out marriage entirely.

Mike's passion for small engine repair began at a very young age. It seems he started tinkering with outdoor

equipment since he was seven or eight. Lawn mowers were small and they didn't take up a lot of room in his parents' garage. He stayed with it and expanded his expertise so that he's able to share what he's learned with other people.

I asked Mike how he felt about teaching people that were quite a bit older than he. Mike responded with emphatic earthiness:

"Well, it gets to be kind of interesting at times. Usually the first day of class is the most challenging. I look to see if I know any of the students attending the class. Then, when I look into their faces, I can't help but wonder what they might be thinking, 'look at this whippersnapper standing in front of me, I probably know twice as much as he does.' That's true in a lot of respects, but then I think, they're taking the class for a reason, and this way of thinking helps to get the class going. Also, I feel good that I can give back to a generation of people that I've learned so much from. Bringing this thought process forth is calming and I don't really feel intimidated by them.

"Also, I like challenges that pertain to this industry (small engine repair) that I'm familiar with. You get into an open lab section where students can bring things in to work on. Students bring a lawn mower or a piece of equipment that I've never encountered or that I've never worked on before. That's a challenge to me, and I like those kind of challenges."

This is Mike Daly - a man who at childhood learned a very important lesson from his parents: "Always be yourself; always be authentic." Mike not only carries this concept close to his heart, but also projects a positive nature so rare in today's world.

Personal Computing:

EVERLASTING MEMORIES

by Tom Zmigrocki Plant 1 Machine Shop



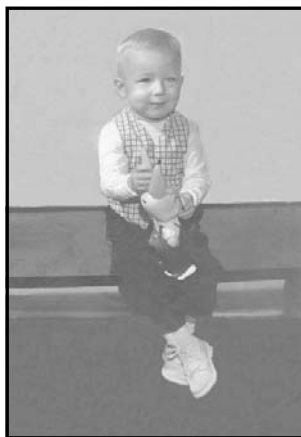
Pictures have a magical way of helping us relive the past, capture the present, and preserve memories for the future. From the first crude photographic instruments and primitive development techniques to today's highly sophisticated cameras and camcorders photography has enriched our lives. It has given the average person a visual means of recording his own personal history. We can now make memories that last forever.

Unfortunately, forever isn't always a long time. Poor lighting, shaky hands, improper focusing, kids, pets, spilled beer, greasy finger prints, creases, torn edges, and especially the deterioration of quality that occurs over time, all take their toll on our beloved pictures.

Today we have a new wave of sophisticated computer software and hardware to help us correct and enhance our pictures. Video and photo editing programs give even the casual computer user the ability to digitally manipulate his photographs. Scanners and high-speed transfer technology make it easy to input our pictures while photo-printers and CD burners allow us to view and save our handiwork.

Most people are not familiar with or have access to the latest software and equipment. JobLink has everything you need to get started learning photo editing. They offer three different classes that are designed to give the average user the understanding and experience needed to master photo editing.

The beginning course introduces you to the basics of photo editing, scanning, and printing. Even if this is the only course you take you can learn to do some remarkable things with your old photographs. The photos below illustrate how to restore a damaged photo to nearly mint condition.



This work was done by Mike Nelson, an entry-level student in Photo Imaging I, not the instructor!

Students continuing on to the intermediate class learn to refine their skills and are introduced to some of the "fun things" photo imaging has to offer. Removing or adding people and objects to pictures, changing colors and backgrounds, or totally altering the texture and look of a picture are just a few of the things you can do.

The advanced course allow students to learn addi-

tional techniques such as Gif animation, photo stitching, airbrushing and colorization of black & white images. Emphasis is placed on creativity and imagination. Almost anything can be accomplished with a little digital magic!

Cont. from pg 2, Wagner

health care services.

American steel's international competitors do not bear a similar burden. In one form or another, foreign producers' (such as Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia) retiree health care costs are offset by government subsidies.

The United States is the only country in the industrial world in which the health care benefits of retirees are not assumed by government to facilitate consolidation in one form or another. Our own government's inadequate enforcement of our trade laws is the principal reason that steelworkers and steelworker retirees' health care benefits are now at risk.

Because our government has allowed this uneven and unfair trade environment to develop and consume our industry, the government now has a responsibility to our steelworkers and retirees and to the steel industry to help craft a solution to this problem.

In order for the health care commitments made to active steelworkers and retirees to be honored, your participation with letters, phone calls, faxes, and rallies will be needed. **Be ready- solidarity is our only chance to succeed!**

Cont. from pg 2, Medellin

my belief that ISPAT Inland is fortunate to have hard-working, dedicated employees striving to ensure we remain a viable and responsible leader in the steelmaking industry.

My faith in this belief has been renewed by observations of employees taking advantage of the learning opportunities offered at Job Link, and their willingness to learn while helping others, as evidenced by the deck building project last spring at the Lake County Association for the Retarded in Gary, Indiana. And within a few weeks, another project of learning and helping will begin at the Quad Town Safety Village for area school children in Schererville, Indiana.

All I can say at this stage of my new role is thank you all for realizing the benefits of continued learning to you and to your community. Keep up the good work!

Joblink Reminder



LOOK FOR OUR COURSE SCHEDULE IN JULY! People often come to us lamenting that they didn't know about a class we have offered. It's all in the directory of classes. READ AND LEARN!!

