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CONTENTS «

Mostly Diligent by Jason Green, Executive Director	
Highlights from OAWU'S Summer Classic in Seaside, Oregon	4-0
Stormwater Alternatives by Jeff Crowther, Wastewater Technician	
Igniting the Spark by Tim Tice, Projects Manager	8-9
System Survey by Heath Cokeley, Programs Manager/Circuit Rider	10-1
Water Loss Control, Part II by Scott Berry, Operations Manager	12
Life by Hans Schroeder, Circuit Rider	14
To Be An American by Mike Collier, Deputy Director/Sourcewater Specialist	16–1
Working With Submersible Pumps	
by Ed Butts, CPI • Originally Published in Water Well Journal	18-2
System O&M Manuals Required	22
Need to Review Water or Sewer Rates? OAWU Can Help!	22
Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Conferences	2
Jeff Swanson Memorial Scholarship	24
DEQ Transitions to NetDMR	24
OAWU Expanded Services	24
Quiz Corner	2
WaterPro Online Community	2
NRWA Fleet Program (Ford & Chrysler)	20
OAWU Training & Events Schedule	2
Thanks to OAWU's Sponsors	2
Membership Application Form	29
Membership Roster	

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Please take a moment to view their ads.

To Engineering & Consultants	13
American Flow Control	11
American Leak Detection	25
Bancorp Insurance	17
BioLynceus	22
BMI	
Branom Instrument Co	26
Cascade Columbia Distribution Co	
Engineering AmericaInsid	le Back Cover
Ferguson Waterworks	13
H.D. Fowler	25
Lakeside Utilities (EZ Street Cold Asphalt)	20
Neptune	

Oregon DEQ: Clean Water State Revolving Fund	9
Oregon Meter Repair	25
Owen Equipment	13
PACE	22
Pittsburg Tank & Tower	26
Public Works Supply	15
Sherwin-Williams	13
Special Districts Association of Oregon	15
The Automation GroupInside Fron	t Cover
The Ford Meter Box	15
TriPac Fasteners	13
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H2Oregon is the official publication of the Oregon Association of Water Utilities, and is published quarterly for distribution to representatives of rural and municipal suppliers. Issues are mailed free of charge to member and nonmember rural water/wastewater associations. Articles and photos are encouraged with payment in complimentary copies.

H₂Oregon is published for the Oregon Association of Water Utilities by

Mt. Angel Publishing, Inc.

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2 • H2Oregon Fall 2016

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OAWU's mission is to provide service, support and solutions for Oregon water & wastewater utilities to meet the challenges of today & tomorrow.

Mostly Diligent

by Jason Green, Executive Director

My father and I shot pool regularly each week, sometimes more often—I miss that. A dozen or maybe 20 games on one of those quality tables with good slate and fast felt in a room off from the garage and temperature kept pretty constant. If he was on, as was usual, I might have one turn to end the game. This was all fun competition, which meant it was serious and no interruptions and little small talk. Old Country Western on the radio and maybe a head nod or an occasional word, that's it—hours of winning and losing. Neither of us were considered great shots, let alone consistently great shots, but with regular practice, we were fair competitors. There were the occasional amazing shots, maybe a glance and grin, followed by the other's congratulatory snarky comment. Coming from a dairy farming upbringing and timber faller background, Pop had collected a number of interesting quips and congratulatory comments—capable of being instantaneously dropped at will. He was mostly pretty good at keeping these to himself around company, but just the two of us, all bets were off. You'd hear several, and some that momma would have used plenty of soap on too. His definition of competition included anything from who woke up first, finished breakfast first, first fish, buck, bird, best shot, who split the most wood—biggest armload, who got the least amount of sleep, cribbage, etc.- you get the picture. Life was about competition and you didn't get anywhere without a plan, hard work and competing—he was driven and shared that with whomever he came in contact with.

While recently watching a movie, these memories came to mind as I heard repeated one of Pop's back-handed compliments, "Even a blind sow finds a truffle (or an acorn) once in a while!" It must have been a good shot! The congratulatory comment suggesting it was pure sloppy luck, but as in most cases, diligent work, dedication and practice with a bit of attention to detail precedes most "luck." This then led me to think about the many water and wastewater utility operators and managers I have met over the past 30 years. A complimentary word, a head nod, a handshake, a vote of confidence from a co-worker, the boss or board. Encouragement along the way are little gems that give a bit of boost and most of us appreciate it as its generally rare to hear in any form. For those of us in the water and wastewater industry, whatever our position—15, 20, 30 years or more, is a long time to consistently keep sharp, learning, serving your utility or city customers. For those less crusty in our profession and just getting started, you must grapple with the fact that in order to be good in this business and build a solid reputation, it takes years of dedication, practice, application, sometimes fortitude and much diligence in every area. Learn where you can, be humble—watch and listen to others, learn people skills, attend classes and conferences, read! Hang in there and just maybe you will hear something like a backhanded compliment directed your way with a bit of grin and twinkle in the eye that suggested you're just a lucky buck, but underneath it all, you well know it was one of those gems of a compliment regarding a good job you did! Or, maybe its you that makes the back-handed compliment. Don't be shy about it, especially encourage those younger or less experienced. A person loses nothing in themselves by teaching, sharing, encouraging or shedding a bit of the limelight on others.

My best to you.



OAMV's Summer Classic 2016

The weather for this year was fantastic and the activities were great. Monday's pre-conference provided great classes and a few extra CEUs to those who attended. The conference was kicked off by an opening session given by OAWU's Executive Director, Jason Green, and a legislative update by Mark Landauer.

Tuesday held the evening outdoor barbecue with a meet and greet social, exhibitor prize give-away, followed by a bonfire on the beach.

Wednesday continued with a full day of classes; some took the afternoon off to participate in the annual Golf scramble at Gearhart Links.

Thursday concluded the conference at noon with some final words and the highly anticipated raffle drawings and cash prizes.

Thank you to this year's Silver sponsors, H.D. Fowler, M&H/Kennedy Valve, and EJ; and to our Bronze sponsors, RH2 Engineering Inc., BergerABAM, and CoBank.

- Bonfire beverages sponsored, again this year, by Ferguson Waterworks.
- The Annual golf scramble was at Gearhart Links, which hosted 15 teams (almost 60 golfers).
- Thursday, during closing session, OAWU gave away over \$1500 in merchandise and \$200 in cash prizes.
- This year's OAWU raffle for a 50" flat screen TV was won by Roy Bicknell, City of Hermiston.
- The Jeff Swanson Memorial Scholarship raffle for a Henry .357 went to Rory Martin, Oak Lodge Water.
- The winner of a full registration to the OAWU Sunriver Conference in March 2017 was won by Dave Davis, City of Warrenton.

Mark your calendars for next year's Summer Classic in Seaside, August 21-24, 2017. See you there! •





OAMV's Amoual Colf Secamble

Seaside, Oregon - Gearhart Links Golf Course - August 24, 2016

The sun was out the entire day, it was pleasantly warm and we had very little wind throughout the day; it was a perfect day to hit the links for this year's scramble. The staff at the Gearhart Links Golf Course were accommodating, friendly, and professional helping to make the day even more enjoyable.

Fifteen teams challenged the course this year, making for a great competition. No one was safe from the errant drive, misjudged chip shot, or the mocking one received when their shot landed two fairways over; we must also admit that there were many great players and many awesome shots on the course again this year. The day was very pleasant and the banter helped build camaraderie throughout the scramble.

Special thanks to this year's sponsors: The Ford Meter Box, M&H/Kennedy Valve, EJ, HD Fowler, and Lakeside Industries for their support of the attendees and association.

The three winning teams were:

1st place: Bryon Boyd, Rob Jackson, Dan Bradley, and Dave Seifert 2nd place: Steve Wabschall, Greg Howells, and Chris Stark 3rd place: Scott Motsinger, Don Miller, Jeff Crowther, and Hans Schroeder

The winners of the golfing competition games were:

Longest Putt #1: Steve Wabschall Longest Putt #2: Jeff Crowther KP Men's #1: Bryon Boyd

KP #2: Don Lovas

KP Women's #1: Janice Chandler Longest Drive Men's #1: Dan Bradley Longest Drive Women's #1: DJ Ezell

Longest Drive #2: Bill Huntley

Special thanks go out to Jeff Crowther (Circuit Rider), Hans Schroeder (Circuit Rider), Mark Russell (Office Manager), and Mike Collier (Deputy Director), who helped make sure the scramble went off without a hitch.



















Mark your calendars for OAWU's next Summer Classic at Seaside, August 21–24, 2017.

It is a great location to enjoy while you earn CEUs and network with the associate members and your peers.







Stormwater Alternatives

by Jeff Crowther, Wastewater Technician

As treatment plant operators in small cities and jurisdictions, we find that not only do we need to operate our water and wastewater systems, but we must also take care of the City's stormwater infrastructure. In doing so we may need to improve existing public stormwater systems and/or provide guidance to private developers to treat their runoff onsite or prior to discharging it to the publicly owned system.

Stormwater management has been a hot topic in public and private sectors for the last few years, and as such, you have probably heard many tips, warnings, and rumors about the subject. Each jurisdiction may have specific guidelines to help us decide what approach we should take for stormwater management on our projects, whether they are a public or private system. If you don't have criteria to follow check with your City Engineer or a neighboring system for what they require.

One of the things many of us assume is that we should collect stormwater in an underground piping system, as soon as possible, in order to convey the water to its ultimate destination of a creek or river. This isn't always the case, many jurisdictions are finding it is useful to utilize roadside stormwater swales to convey the water, while also treating that water for pollutants before discharging into the state waters. These roadside swales both treat and detain Stormwater. Since the stormwater is conveyed on the surface the installation can be done without trenching the roadway.

You may also have heard the term LIDA being used recently. This stands for Low Impact Design Approaches. These approaches are being used by many jurisdictions to reduce the impacts of stormwater treatment, as well as, guide designers in the most environmentally sensitive approach. LIDA guidelines can be found for many scenarios, but the basic idea is to send water in small amounts from an impervious area to treatment locations within a project site, and not utilize a large regional facility away from the site. Typically these facilities treat no more than 15,000 square feet, but multiple facilities can be included on every project. These treatment facilities can be swales, rain gardens, or a variety of other treatment types. The approach also highlights reducing the impervious area using products such as pervious concrete, pavers, or roof gardens.

As you can imagine, the specific approach we take will depend on our project and our jurisdictions capacity to accept and treat stormwater run-off. If you have a public project that you will need to fund, USDA has programs available. Contact your local USDA representative for more information. •

Read H2Oregon *online* at OAWU.net!



Igniting the Spark

by Tim Tice, Projects Manager



Lo and behold, another proposition for operators of water and wastewater systems has come. With everything we are tasked to do throughout the day, week and month; keeping an eye on every pitch can be difficult. I am unsure if any of us can routinely say that we are ahead of schedule. Too much to do, without enough time to do it.

As an association, we have been assisting operators in areas of technical services, managerial options, and financial concepts. Much of our effort goes into providing a service that helps the operator at their job.

Starting this past July, the association received a program that will allow us to present "Energy Efficiency" for your consideration. A new Circuit Rider program, offered through USDA-RUS, will provide an opportunity for you to consider energy savings at your facilities. What does it involve?

Let's answer the question after some startling facts about electricity and utilities. Often accounting for 30-40 percent of total cost of operations, energy is one of the largest single budget line items. Of all the energy consumed in the USA, water and wastewater facilities account for approximately 3-4 percent of energy. Equivalent to 56 billion kilowatts, or \$4 billion dollars is consumed to provide drinking water and wastewater services. ²

Having a new program such as this has the tendency to smack one in the head and make it seem overwhelming, but the program procedures provide the necessary items that will help us help you, and they are:

- Identifying current energy source and rate structures
- Identify the primary energy consuming devices
- Compare those devices with equipment upgrade options
- Pose alternative process methods
- Looking at the return on investment and available funding options

Our part will be to gather data from you through an on-site visit, review the energy bills for the past 12-24 months, determine if the efficiency ratings match with current devices and present a report outlining the findings. One key component is the comparison of cost to upgrade and the return on investment.

An unexpected benefit of this program, for you and your utility, is aligning your energy improvement goals to the overall management strategies in the operations and maintenance plan and policies.

To simply paint the picture for you, I encourage you to review the past few months of electrical billing for your utility. If you multiply the 3-month average by 15 percent, a figure emerges as "potential monthly savings", and for some it will be quite significant.

Another point of consideration is the return on investment, which can be as early as 12 months, but more than likely 3-5 years. Everything that will be learned from an energy efficiency

review it not yet known, but, like many of the rate studies we perform for utilities, some of the information can be enlightening.

As a pilot program just two years ago 240 energy assessments were completed, which identified a total of \$2,615,809 worth of annual energy savings for those water/wastewater utilities. The energy efficiency assessment process has identified annual savings per utility ranging from \$0 to \$201,958, with an annual average savings of \$10,899 per utility system.³

If you feel this is an opportunity you wish to benefit from, please



call the office, get on the list and let us schedule a visit to your facility. We will not add an overwhelming number of tasks to your already busy schedule, but we *will* tell you the next pitch and place it in your wheelhouse for an easy home run.

The best that life has to offer! •

References

- 1 https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/ energy-efficiency-water-utilities
- 2 https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/ water-and-energy-efficiency
- 3 http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/ WEPAnnualProgressReport2015.pdf





System Survey

By Heath Cokeley, Programs Manager/Circuit Rider

I have found many people will get nervous when they find out they have a System Survey coming up. No, I don't blame them for that feeling, as I always had some anxiety when I had one coming up at my old system, but I think just taking some time before the survey to prepare the things that a State or County person will need makes this process a bit less painful. To try and help with that I have listed the main things they will want to see first.

The first 9 things on the list are for all water systems. Numbers 10 and 11 are only for community water systems. I have added a few notes after some of these items for extra help.

Remember, the things needed to complete this survey will change with system size and complexity, so if you have a surface water treatment plant you will want to review the Drinking Water Program web site for additional information at: public.health. oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Operations/Pages/osp.aspx.

- 1. **Written Coliform Sampling Plan** The new total coliform rule took effect April 1, 2016, so make sure yours is up to date.
- 2. **A map of the distribution system** You should have one with your Coliform sampling plan that shows all the test locations as well as repeat locations.
- 3. **Operation and Maintenance Manual** and other written procedures. If you don't have one of these or are looking to write a new one OAWU puts on a one-day training and provides an electronic template to help systems write their O&M Manuals.
- 4. **Emergency Response Plan** All systems should have an ERP and make sure it is up to date, especially the emergency contact list which may prove to be the most valuable part of this plan.
- 5. **Chemical dosage records** if treatment is applied.
- 6. **Proof of NSF Standard 60 certification** for each chemical added to the drinking water.
- 7. **Chlorine residual monitoring records** if the system is chlorinated. Even if you only apply chlorine for a residual maintenance program you still need to be taking at least two chlorine readings in the distribution system a week. With larger systems and surface water systems more frequent readings are required.
- 8. **Results of any tracer study** to verify disinfection contact time, if applicable.
- 9. Photos or other documents that provide enough detail to determine the current condition of storage reservoir features such as: access hatch in open and closed/locked positions, air vents that show all screening is secure with no gaps, and any other openings into the tank interior such as telemetry ports and cathodic protection. All of these items should be checked annually, which would be a good time to take pictures for the survey.
- 10. Cross-connection control program plan, records, and latest Annual Summary Report.

11. Written protocols for under-certified operators

if applicable. If you do not have this form filled out the State has a very simple template on the Drinking Water Program web site under Written Protocol for Operators.

What I would always do before a survey is lay all these plans out on a table before the state or county staff came to the facility and number them with the corresponding number on their list. This would help to expedite the survey.

At least in my experience, the state and the county staff that come out to complete these surveys want to see the system do well. If everything is up-to-date and you meet all the requirements for the Outstanding Performer Criteria, then you won't need to do another system survey for 5 years. That will not only save the water system time and money, as these surveys cost based on the systems size and complexity, but it will save the state and county staff time as well. •



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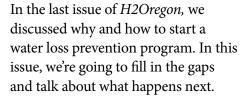
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Step number 1 was recognizing that there is a problem. We've read the production and customer meters and determined that the disparity between what is being produced and what is being consumed by metered usage is outside of the tolerances that we, our board or council, or the Water Resources Dept. are comfortable with.

Step 2 was embarking on a logical and methodical journey to locate the source, or sources, of leakage.

The next step is where some decisions need to be made. Is it a job we want to tackle with existing staff? Is it something we should hire a contractor to do? Are there concerns about safety or risk to property damage? Does it need to be resolved right now or is it stable enough to allow us time to better plan the logistics and resources that will be needed for a more controlled non-emergency repair? In the water industry, the word emergency is spelled with dollar signs, so any time we can plan and achieve the results we desire in an acceptable time frame, we should do it.

I always like to keep the history of a system in mind when making these decisions. Is this current leak in an area where there have been several problems over the years? If so, perhaps it's time to stop reacting to and start resolving the problems. Plan a pipe replacement project that will eliminate the problem area altogether.

Deciding whether to emphasize detection and repair over replacement depends on site-specific leakage rates and cost. In general, detection and repair result in an immediate reduction in lost water; replacement will have a longer lasting impact because it eliminates the root cause of leaks.

One of the most important factors in a leak detection and repair program is the need for detailed and accurate records that are consistently completed and easy to analyze. There are three sets of records pertaining to water loss that I like to keep:

- Monthly reports on unaccountedfor water comparing cumulative consumption and production.
- Leak repair forms that detail the location, type of leak, all pertinent information regarding the pipe size and composition, and the cost of repair.
- Updated maps of the distribution system showing the location, type, and class of each leak.

Detecting and repairing leaks is only one water conservation strategy. A program for testing and repairing customer meters, as well as, production meters is another step toward ensuring that we are working with good numbers. •

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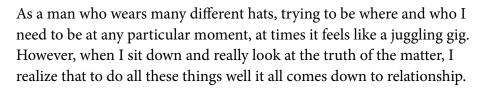


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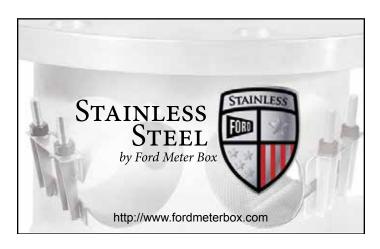
I have to remember where my priorities stand and then hone in on those things first. I have to remember just who gave all to me in the first place, and that would be God. I must take the time to give my effort and time to a God who leads and directs me. Showing gratitude is one great way to do just that. Then, I have to focus on my wife for she is the one who stands by my side through life, then I have kids that I support, an extended family, and friends as well. I have a job that requires me to be and do certain things at certain times and it is important to do these tasks well. All of these things can be a bit overwhelming if I don't keep my priorities in order.

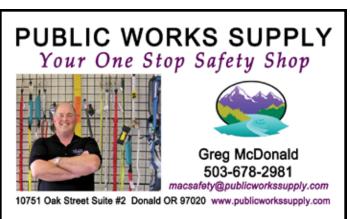
Relationship to me is loving well. *Love* is an action word. There are times when just saying it isn't enough if there is not action behind it. It may be as hard as getting into my bank account and taking funds, I wasn't planning on using, to do something I wasn't really counting on doing. But, it was a need and I had to show some action by helping. Sometimes, someone just needs an ear, sitting and listening is a huge tool that shows someone I care. Sometimes it is just meeting a need that someone simply cannot. To be available either by a good word thru a text, to pick up a phone and call, to sweat a little on someone else's behalf, to go sit and have coffee and listen, to show gratitude where it is deserved, to help out someone who's struggling, to go beyond what is asked of me in the work force, it all adds up to doing love well. I may not do it well all the time, but if I always go back to remembering what really is important then this is how I need to live.

I take pride in doing my job to the best of my ability and being a provider. I am learning that being authentic and meeting people right where they are, whether that is in my own home or on the job, makes me much more productive and makes what I do matter. To just stroll along and get by isn't enough, but I know that as I go along just showing up and being present right in the moment is where it is at and where I can be the most effective. I don't have to go looking, I just need to live in the moment of what comes my way and do it well. Love with action and, in return, create relationships.

I think to sum all my thoughts up in one phrase would be: "Loving your neighbor as yourself" is the best way to describe a day in the life of a real man. ▶











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To Be An American

by Mike Collier, Deputy Director/Sourcewater Specialist

With the current election looming, I tried to take a moment to consider what it means to be an American. I quickly realized that it means many different things to each person, but maybe the idea that it can mean so many different things is actually the point of what being an American is. We have the ability here (in our country) to have our opinions and point of views, we can voice these things (if we do so in a legal manner) and know that we are safe from our government attempting to stop us.

After some more careful consideration I decided it would be best to look at what America's originators thought an American was, as seen in the Declaration of Independence. In the Declaration it basically states that to be an American we believe that all men are created equal, and that we have a creator (God) that gave us certain rights—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These rights are for all and give the foundation for the American Dream, being able to pursue our goals and work without the government, or others trying to stop us—we all have an equal chance to become whatever we want to be (for some it may be easier than for others, but we can all pursue our goals).

It then goes on to say that to protect these rights we entrust a government that gets their power through the consent of the governed, the governmental system can be changed at any time by the people to protect and pursue our safety and happiness (but not for something transient or on a whim). Our Government is to listen to the people in order to pursue the public good; our government is to represent us as a whole; we are to protect ourselves from outside and from within our borders. We have the belief in a justice system with a trial by jury; we should be able to live without continual harassment; our military is ran/controlled/governed by the people. We, as a country, are only under our own jurisdiction — we don't answer to another power; we should not be inhabited by another military power without our consent; we believe in free trade; no taxes without consent (we as a group determine taxation); we live in the land area known as America and consider it our home. We will protect each other with our lives, fortunes, and our sacred honor (we take this respect for all seriously)—and we rely on the protection of divine providence (this is God's will for us—to be self-governed).

Through all the statements throughout the Declaration I think the most profound, or statement that should form what we consider to be an American more than any of the other statements, is "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor." Let us review and take apart this statement some; as we, as Americans, can often take things too seriously, or use multiple small things to divide us as a people.

An American is willing to defend his/her people against others with everything we have and we respect other Americans—we take this respect of all others that live within our boarders seriously. So in other words, when push comes to shove, we will defend each other, kind of like a family would.

We can also consider another document that historically Americans cling to and that is our pledge of allegiance. We, Americans—have allegiance to our flag, one nation under God, Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all—it does very much-so give a synopsis of the Declaration of Independence. We believe our rights are non-deniable, as they come from something outside of this world—God. We can't be divided—we mutually respect each other. We are free to pursue our goals in life (as long as the overall group has determined they are legal goals).

And we believe in justice, through our mutual honor for one another, we will not do something to intentionally harm each other and if we do then we, as a people, will pursue justice.

As we continue toward the pursuit of a new President and other public offices, please remember that we are all Americans and it may be worth considering the words that our forefathers put down on paper to make this great nation and once again give each other our Sacred Honor.



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Working With Submersible Pumps

Last month I introduced the first of a series of articles intended to help you and the service personnel on your staff recognize problems as well as suggested corrective actions for various types of pumps. The first article was oriented toward vertical turbine pumps. This month I continue this series with the most common problems and corrective measures associated with submersible pumps.

In future installments, I will outline the most common problems and solutions associated with centrifugal pumps, examine the intricacies of electrical troubleshooting, and explore enhanced methods of problem solving that may just help you save valuable time and energy when that next pump problem occurs.

Background and Types of Submersible Pumps

Submersible pumps, commonly referred to as submersibles or more simply as subs, basically refer to any pump designed for operation (continuous or intermittent) while partially or fully submerged in a fluid of some type, generally water. Submersible pumps are most commonly associated with dynamic pumps, specifically using a centrifugal type of pump, although positive displacement pumps have also occasionally been used as submersible pumps.

The history of submersible pumps coincides with the parallel development of electric motors designed to operate under submerged conditions. The original submersible pumps date back to the early decades of the 20th century, when they were developed and used primarily for deep oil well pumping. They were not very reliable but they offered an alternative, especially in very deep oil wells, to the pump jacks that were in common use back then.

Early submersible motors, in accordance with their initial use, were oil cooled and lubricated, but most submersible motors used today in water well applications are water cooled and lubricated. As motor technology gradually improved, submersibles gained rapid favor and popularity as well pumps used to pump water from deep water wells during the late 1940s through the 1950s. Continued improvements in submersible pump and motor technology and increased reliability during the late 1950s through the 1960s resulted in the virtual exclusive use of submersible pump units for deep water well applications that continues to this day.

In addition to their widespread use as well pumps, submersibles are also currently used

as booster and dewatering pumps in many projects. Improvements in submersible motor and pump technology have increased the average life of a unit, under optimum conditions, from only three to five years in the 1950s up to 15 to 20 years today.

The term "submersible pump" can actually refer to several different types of pumps designed for distinct and specific jobs. The two most common types of submersible pumps have completely different applications, but many of the common problems and solutions apply to both styles.

A "submersible sump or sewage pump" is a type of pump designed to transfer raw sewage, storm water, or effluent from one location to another, while a "multi-stage submersible" is typically designed to deliver potable water at high heads from one location to another.

Multi-stage submersibles, like centrifugal pumps, are generally circular in construction in small enough dimensions that enable easy installation in circular sumps or wells. They are available in bowl (pump) diameters of 3 inches up to more than 18 inches. They are most commonly used in water wells and currently represent the most popular method of water pumping for domestic, irrigation, and commercial water systems. Multi-stage submersibles, also referred to as "deep well submersibles" are often associated with their nominal diameter when classifying a pump for a specific application (a 4-inch submersible pump refers to a deep well submersible pump with a nominal outside diameter of 4 inches). The most common motor diameters available today include 4 inches, 6 inches, 8 inches, and 10 inches, although larger slowspeed units are manufactured for industrial and municipal applications.

Typically, the diameter of the motor for a deep well submersible matches the diameter of the pump with the motor affixed to the pump directly below the inlet (Figure 1). The motor, like the pump, is designed for continuous operation in a totally submerged condition, with operational water heads often exceeding 1000 feet.

A submersible type of sewage or effluent pump resembles more of a conventional centrifugal pump and standard motor in its construction. This type of pump is also designed for continuous operation in a submerged environment. However, many

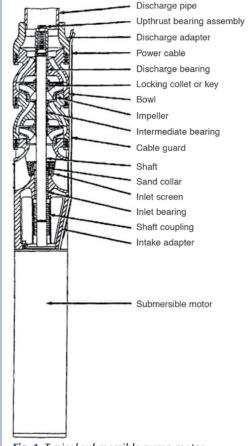


Fig. 1 Typical submersible pump motor construction and terminology.

submersible sewage pumps, due to motor construction using oil cooling and lubrication, can also operate in an open or partially submerged condition. This type of operation is never permitted for a deep well submersible pump because of its inherent water cooling and lubrication design.

Although the submersible style of pumps includes sewage and effluent pumps, I will limit my discussion to the multi-stage centrifugal type of submersible pumps. Remember, though, that much of the information that will be covered also applies to the sewage and effluent style of submersible pump. Many of the problems and solutions that were outlined in the table on vertical turbine pumps (VTPs) in last month's article will also apply to submersibles. In fact, many of the larger diameter deep well submersible pumps use the same bowls, impellers, and other items as a comparable vertical turbine pump. Indeed, larger (equal to or more than 6 inches diameter) submersible pumps are often referred to as submersible turbine pumps

by Ed Butts, CPI Originally published in Water Well Journal

because of this similarity. The basic difference between the units is the operating speed (submersibles generally operate at 3400 to 3600 rpm, while VTPs usually operate at 1800 rpm) and the fact that the driver (motor) is now located under and directly connected to the bowl assembly.

The current popularity and widespread use of submersible pumps is due to lower cost, easier and cheaper installation, elimination of a long lineshaft as required by a VTP, less noise, and the ability to pump higher volumes of water at higher heads from a smaller well casing size than a comparable size VTP. The real difference between the units is the potential problems and solutions related to the electric motor. Because submersibles use no other driver method than an electric motor, as well as the fact that the motor operates in such a hostile electrical environment, problems associated with electrical issues will be much more relevant and common with a submersible than a comparable VTP. Most submersible pumps smaller than and equal to a 4-inch diameter pump are used primarily for domestic and individual residential water supply while the majority of larger submersible turbine pumps are designed for irrigation, commercial, municipal, and industrial water systems.

Because the majority of problems with submersible pumps are with these larger applications, we will concentrate our troubleshooting techniques and recommendations on three-phase submersible turbine units, although most of the troubleshooting information also applies to smaller single phase submersible units as well. The following information, therefore, is intended to provide you with enough information to successfully diagnose most problems with just about any submersible pump unit.

Troubleshooting Submersible Pumps

A submersible turbine pump is really not any more of a complicated machine than a vertical turbine pump. Diagnosing problems related to this class of pump usually depends upon a troubleshooter with a common sense approach as well as adequate knowledge and experience with troubleshooting pumps and motors, especially electrical troubleshooting. As with a VTP, the cause of operational problems generally depends on the age of the pump. New pumps will exhibit problems usually due to installation or design errors, while service issues with older pumps will

usually be the result of metal fatigue, wear due to sand or other abrasives, inadequate or unbalanced power supply, cyclic heating/ cooling of the motor, or extreme overheating. A problem with any random submersible pump, as with most pumps, will generally fall into one or more of three primary categories: (1) mechanical; (2) electrical (motor, drop cable, or starter); (3) hydraulic.

Mechanical Problems

Mechanical problems with submersible turbine pumps are typically related to conditions within the bowl assembly. The basic operational principle of a submersible turbine pump is based on a high-speed rotation (3600 rpm) of a multi-stage series of impellers driven via an internal and reasonably frictionless round or hex-shaped "bowl shaft" (usually manufactured from stainless steel). As long as the bowl shaft

remains straight and without excessive wear at the bearing surfaces and the impeller/ wear ring assembly does not exhibit excessive wear, mechanically related problems from a submersible pump will be infrequent. Where problems will arise will be in cases of excessive abrasives (such as sand) in the pumped fluid or from extreme lateral wear of internal components due to operation in a crooked well or while in a bind.

Because most submersibles operate at speeds up to 3600 rpm, wear due to abrasives becomes a much greater factor than with most VTPs, resulting in failure in many cases at rates up to four times faster than a comparably sized VTP. Mechanical problems with submersibles occur most frequently with older pumps due to wear and fatigue. However, mechanical issues with new installations can also happen, usually due to improper install=ation procedures or incorrect design. Although abrasive conditions (such as sand in a water well) and material compatibility issues (corrosion or electrolysis) do not fit the strict definition of mechanical problems, the impact from these conditions often leads to mechanical problems.

Electrical Problems

The driver for a submersible pump is a specially built electric motor designed to operate continuously under water heads as

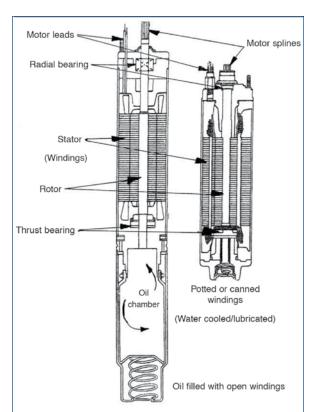


Fig. 2 Submersible pump motor types (4" diameter shown).

much as 1000 feet, while at the same time producing and transmitting the required horsepower and speed needed to operate the pump. Although most submersible motors (Figure 2) in current production use water cooled and lubricated construction, oil cooled and lubricated motors are still available and are often preferred in conditions with warmer water (more than 80ºF) or high levels of sand. Problems associated with the motor are usually related to the motor or electrical system itself, especially the bearings, seals, and windings; the cable used to power the motor; and the type and quality of energy source (i.e., electricity) used to operate the motor. In fact, the quality of the power supply alone often determines the life of the unit, especially the motor. Electrical problems when using an electric motor can be varied and usually affect the motor's ability to operate at all, rather than partially.

Hydraulic Problems

Hydraulic problems with submersible turbine pumps, as with vertical turbine pumps, can be subdivided into the inlet (suction) side and the outlet (discharge) side. Generally, problems with water supply on the inlet side are more problematic and crucial than issues associated with the discharge. Common problems related to the inlet side include inadequate suction pressure or head, inadequate submergence (for well pumps), and

improper sump/well casing configuration. Problems associated with inadequate inlet head, besides causing lower than expected capacity or head, can result in further pump problems such as cavitations and vibration. Hydraulic problems related to the discharge side of the pump are usually in the nature of improper (too high or low) discharge pressure or excessive friction loss.

Specific Problems and Solutions of Submersible Pumps

Toubleshooting submersible turbine pumps is mostly a process of logical elimination consisting of four steps.

- Identify the general problem.
- Subdivide the most likely problem into a mechanical, electric motor, hydraulic, or (in rare cases) a combination issue.
- Pin down the final diagnosis to the ultimate cause.
- Solve the problem.

When this procedure is followed, in the order indicated, the time and effort to identify and correct the problem can be significantly reduced. Typical problems, causes, and solutions associated with submersible turbine

pumps (not necessarily in the order of frequency or likelihood) are outlined in Table 1 (next page).

Although the categories in Table 1 may appear to be redundant for some conditions and include many with a low frequency of occurrence or even some that may be very unlikely, I believe the list is comprehensive and includes most of the possible causes of problems that can occur with submersible turbine pumps.

Because submersibles are so dependent on an appropriate and adequate electrical service for proper operation, problems related to the electrical system are usually more frequent and critical than hydraulic and mechanical problems and require a higher level of service expertise and knowledge. Any person planning to regularly troubleshoot and repair submersible pumps must be adequately experienced in electrical troubleshooting and repair as well. It is also critical that this individual recognize and observe all potential safety concerns and use the appropriate judgment and safety precautions while working with electrical systems, particularly high voltage threephase electricity.

All manufacturers of submersible pumps publish service and troubleshooting manuals that are an excellent resource when dealing with this type of pump/motor unit. Specific information necessary for troubleshooting such as values of winding resistance, allowable minimum insulation resistance, and general guidelines for troubleshooting are included in these manuals and every person working with submersibles should have access to one.

For example, adequate insulation resistance of the motor windings and drop cable represent one of the most critical elements of proper submersible pump operation. A motor can actually operate on resistance values that are seemingly much lower than logic would dictate. However, without access to a service manual, a troubleshooter may not have the knowledge of this allowable value, which could result in an unnecessary motor replacement. Always remember that a complete understanding of these variables as well as access to troubleshooting and service guidelines is the best tool you can have in your mental toolbox.

Until next time, work safe and smart.









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Table 1: Submersible Turbine Pumps—Typical Problems, Possible Causes, and Solutions

1. Pump runs but will not deliver water.

MECHANICAL	
Broken bowl shaft or pump/motor coupling	Repair/replace shaft or coupling
Excessively worn impellers	Replace/repair impellers/wear rings
Impellers loose from pump shaft	Reset impellers to shaft
Plugged inlet or impeller in bowl	Clean inlet or impeller/install screen
Wrong pump	Install correct pump
Hole/break in drop pipe	Replace defective pipe
Impellers pushed above wear ring by motor shaft	Correct impeller settings
Stripped motor spline	Replace motor
Defective riser check valve (blocking flow)	
ELECTRICAL	
Inadequate speed (wrong motor speed)	Install correct motor
Improper electric motor speed (variable speed drives)	Correct motor speed
Wrong rotation of motor	
Motor running on single phase power (three-phase motors)	Restore three-phase power
HYDRAULIC	
Excessive lift (deep well pump)	Change bowl or lower lift
Inadequate inlet head (NPSH)	
Bowl assembly not submerged	

2. Pump delivers less water than desired.

MECHANICAL	
Excessively worn impellers	Rebuild/replace impellers and wear rings
Partially plugged inlet/impeller	Clean or install inlet screen
Leak/break in drop pipe	Replace defective pipe
Broken bowl shaft (between stages)	Replace bowl shaft
Impeller(s) loose from bowl shaft	Reconnect impeller(s) to bowl shaft
Impellers pushed above wear rings by motor shaft	Correct impeller settings
Incorrect bowl assembly (new pump)	Install correct bowl assembly
Incorrect number of stages or impeller trim	Install correct bowl assembly
Defective riser check valve	Replace defective check valve
Inaccurate flowmeter	Verify/repair flowmeter

ELECTRICAL

Motor running on single phase power (three-phase motors)	Restore three-phase power
Inadequate electric motor speed (variable speed drives)	Correct motor speed
Wrong motor speed	Install motor with correct speed
Wrong rotation of motor	Reverse rotation
Low voltage to motorCorrect low voltag	e condition/increase drop cable size
LIVERALILIC	

HYDRAULIC

Excessive lift (deep well pump)	Change bowl or lower lift
Inadequate inlet head or throttled suction supply (NPSH)	Increase inlet head
Inadequate submergence (deep well or sump condition)	Increase submergence
Excessive discharge head (pressure)	Lower discharge head or modify bowl

3. Pump delivers less pressure than desired.

MECHANICAL

excessively worn impeliers and/or wear fings	nebulla impeliers/wear filigs
Partially plugged inlet or impeller	Clean inlet/impellers
Leak or break in drop pipe or bowl assembly	Repair broken joint
Broken bowl shaft (between stages)	Replace bowl shaft
Impeller(s) loose from bowl shaft	Reconnect impeller(s) to bowl shaft
Impellers pushed above wear ring by motor shaft	Correct impeller settings
Incorrect bowl assembly (new pump)	Install correct bowl assembly
Incorrect number of stages or impeller trim	Install correct bowl assembly
Defective riser check valve	Replace defective check valve
Improper design conditionsRev	iew head conditions and modify bowl if necessary
Defective pressure gauge	Replace pressure gauge
ELECTRICAL	

Inadequate speed (variable frequency drives).	Raise motor speed
Wrong electric motor speed	
Wrong rotation	Reverse rotation
Low voltage to motor	Correct low voltage condition/increase drop cable size

HYDRAULIC

Entrained air or gases in pumped fluid	Eliminate air/gas
Inadequate inlet (suction) head	Increase inlet head
Excessive lift (deep well pumps)	Change bowl, increase stages, or lower lift
Pre-rotation of fluid into pump	Install straightening vanes in inlet
Inadequate submergence (well pump or open sump)	Increase submergence

4. Pump vibrates or is noisy.

MECHANICAL

MECHANICAL	
Bent bowl shaft	Straighten/replace shaft between .003 to .005 inch
Crooked well Correct well misalignment, ch	ange pump setting, install smaller bowl or drop pipe
	Rethread drop pipe
Worn bearing surfaces in bowl	Replace bearings/shaft sleeves
Discharge pipe strain	Relieve strain on discharge pipe
Partially plugged bowl or impeller	Clean obstruction
	onance)Raise or lower flow
Impeller(s) not balanced	Balance impeller(s)
ELECTRICAL	
Imbalance within motor (bearings, rotor, etc.)	Replace/repair motor
Electrical imbalance in motor due to power imba	lance Contact power company
Worn bearings in motor	Replace bearings
Motor operating on single phase power (three-p	hase motors)Restore three-phase power
	Repair/replace starter/VFD
Bent motor shaft	Replace motor
HYDRAULIC	
Cascading water in well or vortex in sump	Lower pump or shroud bowl assembly
	Increase inlet head
	Install straightening vanes in pump inlet
Pump operating outside of normal flow boundar	riesCorrect operating condition
Pump cavitating (NPSH problems)	Lower lift, increase inlet head, etc.

5. Pump draws more power than intended.

Excessively tight bowl bearings.....

MECHANICAL

Inadequate lateral clearance between impellers/wear rings	Modify clearances
Bent bowl shaft	Straighten/replace bowl shaft
Crooked well (causing binding of bowl)Correct well misal	lignment, change pump setting, install
	smaller bowl and/or column
Pumping sand or other abrasivesRaise pump setting	g, decrease flow, correct sand condition
Incorrect number of stages or impeller trimming	Install correct bowl
Wrong bowl assembly (new pump)	Install correct bowl
Incorrect design conditionsVer	ify conditions and modify as necessary
ELECTRICAL	

Resonance in piping......Install flex couplings or pressure tank

Defective radial or the	nrust bearing in motor	Replace bearings or motor
Motor operating on	single phase power (three-phase motors)	Restore three-phase power
Low or unbalanced	voltage	Correct low voltage condition
Wrong motor rotation	on	Reverse motor rotation
Excessive or wrong s	speed	Correct motor speed
Loose rotor bars in n	notor	Repair/replace motor
Defective drop cable	or splice	Repair/replace cable or splice
Inadequate size of d	rop cableIn	crease wire size of drop cable as needed
Defective motor star	ter or VFD	Repair/replace starter/VFD
HYDRAULIC		
	mp inletl	nstall straightening vanes in pump inlet

Pre-rotation into pump inlet	Install straightening vanes in pump inlet
Lower operating head than designed	Increase head or modify bowl
Cascading water (causing air entrainment) Inco	rease submergence or correct cascading condition
Excessive flow rate	Restrict flow rate
Excessive inlet head (resulting in lower pump head)	Lower inlet head

6. Pump motor will not start.

ELECTRICAL

No power below main, blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker	Replace fuse, reset circuit breaker
No power above main, tripped line fuse	Contact power company
Tripped overload	Reset overload
Incomplete three-phase power (single phasing)	Contact power company
Loose or burned wire or connection	Repair bad connection
Control system failure	Ascertain cause and correct problem
Defective motor starter	Repair/replace starter
Defective motor	Repair/replace motor
Defective phase monitor or blown fuse to monitor	Replace/repair monitor
Open lead, splice, or wire in drop cable	Repair/replace drop cable

Submitted by Ed Butts. Originally published in Water Well Journal.

..Replace/ream bearings

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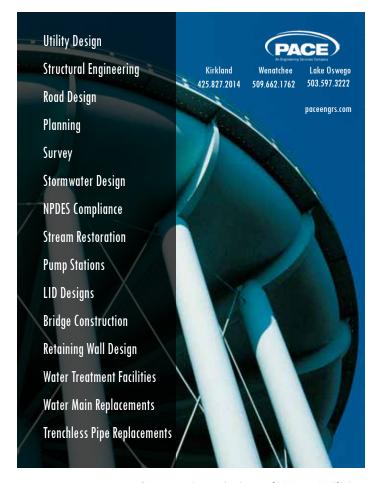
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QUIZ CORNER

- 1. The MCL for Lead is?
 - A. 0.015 ppm
 - B. 15 ppb
 - C. 15 mg/L
 - D. Both A and B
- 2. The MCL for Arsenic is?
 - A. 0.010 ppm
 - B. 10 ppb
 - C. 10 mg/L
 - D. Both A and B
- 3. What is the difference between greywater and blackwater?
 - A. Nothing
 - B. Blackwater has been in contact with feces and other bodily waste and may contain harmful bacteria.
 - C. Blackwater is black and greywater is grey.
 - D. Neither is allowed to dump into city sewer.
- 4. What is the difference between blackwater and brown water?
 - A. Nothing
 - B. Blackwater is black and brown water is brown.
 - C. Brown water is wasted water from things other than the toilet (sinks, bathing, dishwashing, etc.).
 - D. Blackwater can be discharged to streams.
- 5. What device measures the flow rate of gases?
 - A. Parshall flume
 - B. Rotameter
 - C. Float
 - D. Weir
- 6. Which source of water has the greatest natural protection from bacterial contamination?
 - A. Shallow well
 - B. Deep well in gravel
 - C. Surface water
 - D. Spring

- 7. Dynamic head is best described as the
 - A. Velocity of water in a main at full pumping pressure
 - B. Total energy that a pump must develop for pumping to take place
 - C. Total pressure in feet of head, measured at the pump discharge during periods of rest in the system
 - D. Pumping end of any device used to force water into a pressure system
- 8. The BOD loading rate divided by the quantity of microorganisms present in the biological reactors (aeration tanks) is known as:
 - A. Organic loading
 - B. Toxicity
 - C. Hydraulic loading
 - D. Food to microorganism ration F:M
- 9. Which of the following is a typical piece of flow measuring equipment?
 - A. Parshall flume
 - B. Nephelometer
 - C. Downward looking acoustic sensor
 - D. Counterweighted floatlevel indicator
- 10. Conventional activated sludge systems typically operate with a DO range of:

8-01, A-6, Q-8, 8-7, A-6, 10-8 YN2MEKS: 1-D' 5-D' 3-B' 4-Y'







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A. 0-1 mg/L

- B. 2-5 mg/L
- C. 4-7 mg/L
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TRAINING & EVENTS SCHEDULE

Date	Class Title	Location	CEU Information	ESAC#,	Fee/Free
2016					
October 5	SDWA Update	Salem	0.4 Water	2887	FREE
October 5	Confined Space	Salem	0.3 Water/Wastewater	3151	Fee
October 19	Control Valves	Newport	0.7 Water	2863	FREE
November 8-10	2016 Fall Operators Conference	Beaverton	2.0 Water or Wastewater	TBA	Fee
November 29	Water & Wastewater Field Operations & Safety	Salem	0.6 Water/Wastewater	2944	Fee
December 5	Effective Utility Management	Hood River	0.6 Water/Wastewater	TBA	FREE
December 5-8	18th Annual End of Year Operators Conference	Hood River	2.0 Water or Wastewater	TBA	Fee
2017					
March 6	Effective Utility Management	Sunriver	0.6 Water/Wastewater	TBA	FREE
March 7-10	39th Annual Management & Technical Conference	Sunriver	2.0 Water and/or Wastewater	TBA	Fee
July 11	2 nd Annual Mini Expo	Independence	0.4 Water/Wastewater	TBA	FREE
August 21	Effective Utility Management	Seaside	0.6 Water/Wastewater	TBA	FREE
August 22-24	23 rd Annual Summer Classic Conference	Seaside	1.8 Water or Wastewater	TBA	Fee
November 6	Effective Utility Management	Florence	2.0 Water/Wastewater	TBA	Fee
November 7-9	2017 Fall Operators Conference	Florence	2.0 Water or Wastewater	TBA	Fee
December 4	Effective Utility Management	Hood River	0.6 Water/Wastewater	TBA	FREE
December 5-7	19th Annual End of Year Operators Conference	Hood River	2.0 Water or Wastewater	TBA	Fee

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Trained and certified operators are necessary to ensure that the systems are managed in a manner that fully protects public health and the environment. The OARs for certification stipulate that the qualifying experience for applicants for certification as a water treatment plant operator must attain at least half the required operating experience at a public water purification plant that uses complex filtration technology and is not more than one classification lower than the level of certification they are seeking. In other words, if you have only worked for a Class 2 treatment plant, we allow you to apply for a Level 3 certification but not a Level 4 certification. If you move on to a Class 3 plant, then you must have ½ the qualifying experience (at the Level 3 plant) before applying for a Level 4 certification. Reciprocity from state-to-state ensures that operators have the operating experience for which they are certified.

For additional information, please visit http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/Levels1-4/Pages/exams.aspx

More Resources

Drinking Water Data Online

https://yourwater.oregon.gov

Center for Health Protection http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/Program.aspx?pid=4 **Drinking Water Services** http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/Program.aspx?pid=58

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