



PJM Pipeline

Plumbing Lic. #6694 | Fire Protection Lic. #P00713 | HVAC Lic. #19HC00113400

Paul Yahn Places 2nd Overall



PJM Apprentice Reaches Finals in International UA Competition

Congratulations to PJM apprentice **Paul Yahn** for his outstanding performance last month at the United Association's International Apprentice Competition in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The prestigious annual competition, held in conjunction with the UA Instructor Training Program, rewards excellence among the UA's most promising young members in five categories. Paul finished in second place in the HVAC/R Service category after a challenging week-long competition.

Paul, who joined PJM in 2006, advanced to the UA finals after winning two preliminary competitions. He placed first at a state competition against apprentices from UA locals 322, 475, and 274, and again emerged the victor at the regional competition held in Connecticut in June, where he topped a field of forty semifinalists.

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Thirty-two finalists from the U.S., Canada, and Australia spent eight days competing in five categories – Welding, Pipe Fitting, Plumbing, Sprinkler Fitting, and Paul's category, HVAC/R Service – and were judged based on hands-on performance, written tests, leadership skills, professionalism, and craftsmanship. In what he described as a “close battle”, Paul vied against four other HVAC/R finalist in a variety of challenges that included wiring diagrams, VFD wiring and programming, TXV troubleshooting, a copper project, CPR, and troubleshooting rooftop units.

“The competition was great,” Paul said, “and I met a great bunch of UA brothers from around the world. It was an honor to be there.” Though he didn't win the competition, Paul and the other finalists represent the best of the best among an international field of 35,000 apprentices. Making it to the finals is a tremendous achievement in and of itself, and PJM applauds his outstanding performance.

Planning is the Key to RTU Quick-Change

When it comes to replacing a rooftop air handling unit, time is of the essence. A working HVAC system is important to most businesses, and absolutely vital to many, and extended down time during a change-out is unacceptable to any client. PJM knows that thorough preplanning and coordination is the key to a successful installation.



Last month, PJM successfully replaced four existing rooftop units at a large building in Hamilton, NJ in near record time. On a Friday evening, refrigerant was reclaimed and electrical power was safed-off and disconnected from the old units. Workers removed all structural connections and verified that the units were free and clear for rigging. At 7 a.m. Saturday, a 250-ton crane was used to remove the old units and install the four new 35-ton Trane RTUs on their curbs in a carefully orchestrated operation. As the units were secured, other team members moved in to startup, test functionality, and check airflow throughout the facility. All four RTUs were fully operational by 1:30 p.m., much to the client's delight.



As on every equipment replacement or retrofit project at an operational facility, PJM carefully plotted and planned this project down to the last detail to ensure that the installation would go smoothly and system down time would as brief as possible. Voltage and amperage of the new RTUs were verified and curbs were checked and prepared to make sure the units lined up precisely with existing supply and return ducts. As usual, detailed planning paid off with a successful installation and a client who was more than satisfied.

Service Photo Album



When HVAC problems occur, a majority of them are related to electrical or control issues, such as compressor contactors, relays, or individual safeties that have gone bad. A safety trip can be a telltale sign of other mechanical problems, such as high or low static, high head pressure, or failed freeze stat. The important thing is to have an experienced technician who can diagnose and repair the problem quickly and at minimal cost.



Compressors always seem to fail at the worst time, and are costly to replace. The usual life span of a compressor, depending on the manufacturer, is 15 to 20 years. Premature failure is usually a sign of other problems, such as liquid slugging. Always diagnose the cause of failure before replacing a compressor. Otherwise, the same issue is likely to occur again, resulting in another expensive and untimely replacement.

PJM EMPLOYEE PROFILE



**Plumbing Estimator
Eric Kopec**

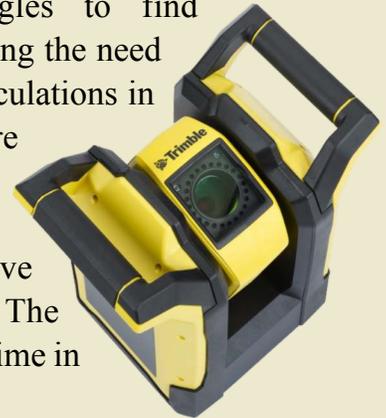
The focus of this month's PJM Profile is plumbing estimator Eric Kopec, who joined us in July 2015.

Eric began working for a mechanical contractor as a 16 year-old high school student. After twenty-six years in the industry, he comes to PJM with extensive experience in plumbing and HVAC estimation. With his highly detailed, accurate, and well-organized QuickPen estimates, Eric has earned a solid reputation at PJM as a consummate professional and vital member of our team.

Eric and his wife, Beverly, live with their three children, Eric Jr., age 12, Nicholas, 9, and Maggie, 7, in Fairless Hills, PA. He is a dedicated family man, spending most of his time with his children at their various sports and activities. He also enjoys watching his favorite sports, baseball and hockey.

Trimble Rapid Positioning System Cuts PJM's Field Layout Time in Half

PJM is now utilizing the Trimble Rapid Positioning system, an invaluable tool used to perform job site layout, accurately measuring distances and angles to find positions, and virtually eliminating the need for a tape measure and math calculations in the field. Product literature promises increased productivity, and, in the short time since we acquired the system, we have already found that to be true. The Trimble RPS has cut our layout time in the field by more than half.



The Trimble system consists of a compact RPT600 Layout Station and a rugged controller tablet. Self-locating technology makes setup fast and simple, and no leveling is required. Team members can see what the instrument sees from anywhere in the area on the controller screen. Trimble Field Link 2D software guides users every step of the way, and we have found it easy to learn and operate. With its incredible accuracy and time savings, PJM has found the Trimble RPS to be an invaluable tool that translates to better results for our customers.

HVAC HAND PROTECTION

Hand and arm injuries, most commonly in the form of severe cuts, abrasions, and puncture wounds resulting from handling rough or sharp materials, account for one third of all construction-related injuries. Fortunately, with job-appropriate hand protection, most of these injuries can be prevented. There are many PPE choices available that are far more comfortable and provide better dexterity and protection than the lightweight cotton or bulky leather gloves of the past.



Different trades require different levels of protection from cuts, punctures and abrasions, and gloves should be chosen accordingly based on specific need. HVAC workers typically handle materials with sharp metal edges and have needs that are very different from workers whose trades make them susceptible to abrasions. ANSI cut protection standards range from a minimal level 1 to level 5; levels 3 and 4 are recommended for HVAC workers.