

Harvesting Knowledge



The season of harvest is upon us. And I don't mean crops, although here in the U.S. Midwest, there's plenty of that going on, too. No, what I mean is knowledge, because in addition to being the end of the growing season, the transition between summer and fall also marks the busiest time of year when it comes to trade shows, conferences and industry gatherings.

At our office we take that pretty seriously, because our whole business is about knowledge. We gather it, we study it, we distill it and we disseminate it. Learning things — and sharing what we've learned — is what we do. And there's no better place to learn things about technology than from the people who design, develop, test and build it.

So we've got a pretty busy schedule lined up over the next couple of months. Our editors and staff will be covering a lot of events, which includes a fair bit of traveling. For example, from Sept. 13–15, I'll be in Munich for the International Conference on Gears, where more than 140 speakers will present papers on the state of the art in every aspect of gear design, manufacturing and use. I have no doubt that some of what I learn there will make its way into the pages of *Power Transmission Engineering*.

Another key upcoming event is Pack Expo, which takes place in Las Vegas Sept. 25–27. We're especially excited about this year's show because the packaging machinery industry is one that continues to change, grow and modernize by integrating more sophisticated motion control and robotics into its equipment. We've already begun to describe some of these changes, and you can read about them in Alex Cannella's Pack Expo preview this issue on page 56.

Associate Publisher Dave Friedman will be traveling to Florida for the NIBA/PTDA Joint Industry Summit, the first time the Belting Association and the Power Transmission Distributors Association have held this event together. Taking place in Hollywood, Florida Sept. 27–30, this event promises to reveal much about the changing nature of the industry supply chain.

And then there's Gear Expo, which takes place Oct. 24–26 in Columbus, Ohio. If you are a buyer of gears or gearboxes, this is a must-attend event. More than 50 individual suppliers of gears and gear drives will exhibit at the show, right alongside the manufacturers of equipment and tooling for making gears. Gear Expo offers one of the most comprehensive educational programs at any trade show, with classroom-style offerings and a show-floor "Solutions Center". In addition, Gear Expo overlaps with AGMA's Fall Technical Meeting (Oct. 22–24), where the latest technical and research papers on gearing are presented every year.

On top of that, we'll be hosting a live version of our popular "Ask the Expert" column at Gear Expo, just like we did at the previous show two years ago. This educational event is designed to present both the basics as well as answers to complex design and manufacturing related problems. We've assembled a team of the most experienced and knowledgeable experts in the gear industry to sit on our panels, which take place on Tuesday, Oct. 24 and Wednesday, Oct. 25. If you're not already planning to go to Gear Expo, you should. We would love to have you come to booth #1020 to learn from our experts. It's your chance to ask your questions about gear design and manufacturing and have them answered in person.

If you can't make it to Gear Expo, you can still participate in Ask the Expert Live. Just send your questions to Senior Editor Jack McGuinn (jmcguinn@powertransmission.com), and we'll ask the experts for you. Also, we will be video-recording the entire event and making it available on our website so that the information will be available to the widest possible audience.

We're doing everything we can to make the most of this harvest season. We're confident that the information we will be able to provide over the coming year will make it well worth the effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Stott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Randy" and "Stott" being significantly larger and more stylized than the rest of the letters.