

# FORMTEK-MAINE







# News Feed

## Factory News: Manufacturing Day



We celebrated **Manufacturing Day** on Thursday, October 3rd. In what has become an annual tradition for us, we open our plant to approximately 150 attendees from the local high schools, technical schools, family, friends, and the general public. The main purpose is to encourage students to pursue education and careers in manufacturing. They get to see our fabricators and assemblers in action and can ask questions. The complimentary doughnuts and beverages are a favorite for both visitors and employees alike.

Tours were hosted by members of our manufacturing, engineering, and sales departments, showing them our fabrication department, machine shop, and assembly.



This year we added new features for a more informative tour. Signs at each station showed a picture of each piece of equipment with its specifications. We even had give-aways for all tour participants. The machine shop had ornaments of various designs cut on our new Messer plasma table. The union joined in with a table of IMA stickers and promotional literature.



Coleen Bean (Bruce Bean's sister, pictured above right with Kelli), the Treasurer of the Clinton Historical Society brought a display including news clippings, photos, and a history of Cooper Weymouth in Clinton. We had a great day and look forward to next year.



## Factory News: New Employees

### New Employees:



Damien Gilley  
Machinist

### Promotions:



Brady Shields  
QC Inspector  
Promoted from Machinist

## Factory News: Trade School Presentation



Our Plant Manager Jake Miller visited the Central Maine Community College in Auburn, ME last week to reach out to local students looking into careers in precision machining. He's been visiting CMCC for the last few years to recruit machinists, fabricators, and assemblers for Formtek-Maine.

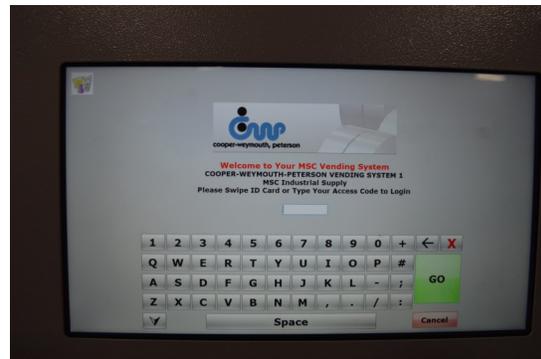
This year approximately 20 first year students and 12 second year students attended. Currently we've got 2 students working here on the **Formtek-Maine Machine Tool Intern Scholarship Program**, created to develop machinists for future employment in our manufacturing department.

For more information on Central Maine Community College, visit their website at <https://www.cmcc.edu/academics/programs/programs-of-study/precision-machining-technology/>



## Factory News: Tooling Vending Station

Our machine shop recently added 2 tooling vending stations to help manage inventory and ensure availability of tooling when it's needed while reducing excess inventory on the shop floor. It also allows tracking of tool usage and reduces procurement time.



For more information, contact **MSC Industrial Supply** at 800-645-7270, email them at [solutionsinquiries@mscdirect.com](mailto:solutionsinquiries@mscdirect.com), or visit their website at <https://www.mscdirect.com/solutions/vending-solutions>

Our Newsletters can be found at:  
<https://www.formtek-maine.com/newsletters.html>

## Press Release: 36" Wide Press Feed Line for Thomas Built Buses

Formtek-Maine has recently shipped a press feed line to Thomas Built Buses, a leader in pupil transportation located in High Point, NC. The line was purchased to replace existing equipment in their plant to process cold-rolled steel up to 0.125" thick at 36" wide in coils weighing up to 15,000 lb.



The system is controlled with our standard B&R servo feed control platform and our **"Consolidated Control" package** at the straightener for the straightener, hold-down peeler station, threading tables, uncoiler, and coil car. The full-color touchscreen HMI includes our "auto-ready" feature and a host of on-screen functions: digital roll position readouts, step-by-step thread-up instructions with illustrations, a maintenance schedule with diagrams, a lubrication schedule, and diagnostic fault messages with recommended remedies.



The system includes a 15,000 lb. stock reel equipped with a 2-pressure brake system for regulated pressure in run mode and full-pressure for e-stops, automatic brake tension control to adjust brake pressure automatically as the coil depletes, coil O.D. capacity up to 72", and bolt-on coil arm spacers to provide an auxiliary expansion range beyond the standard 17.5" to 22.5".

The coil car has 24" high lift platform to allow loading or unloading of coils with an O.D. ranging from 72" to 26". The coil car is also equipped with a 180° rotating top to allow loading coils from the side of the coil car or for adjusting orientation of the leading edge.

The powered straightener includes our hold-down peeler station on the entry side of the machine. The hold-down peeler unit is comprised of handwheel-adjusted edge guides, a peeler table with extendable peeler blade, and a straightener-mounted hold-down

arm with powered wheel and a breaker bar to back-bend the leading edge for ease in hands-free thread-up of coils. The straightener is equipped with automatic central lubrication for ease in maintenance and includes our powered high lift head feature for powered straightener roll adjustment and a 4.5" roll opening for cleaning the straightener rolls between jobs.

The threading tables support the material strip across the looping area for ease in thread-up of the line. In the lowered position the table surfaces act as barriers to guard the operator from the material in the looping area.

The ServoMax feed has powered passline height adjustment, a powered telescoping stock support table, handwheel-adjusted edge guides, programmable pattern capability with 10 lengths per job and 6 programmable outputs, and an end-of-stock detector. We also mounted the customer's Unist stock lubricator to the feed cabinet.

The entire press feed line is enclosed in perimeter guarding for operator safety. The perimeter guarding includes a 7 ft. tall fence-style barrier with electrically-interlocked access door for operator access. Light curtains are utilized across high access areas that wouldn't lend well to access gates, such as the coil loading area at the stock reel and the looping area. All are tied-ins to the E-stop chain.

The line was installed at the end of June, commissioned in July, and is now in production.



Fall 2024

## Press Release: 24" x 0.125" x 6,500 lb. CWP CoilPak Press Feed Line

Formtek-Maine displayed one of our 24" wide CWP brand CoilPak press feed lines in our booth at the Fabtech show in Orlando in October. The line was sold through SEYI-America for Phoenix Stamping of Fort Worth, TX.



The CoilPak system is comprised of a ServoMax feed, a threading table, and our model CRS combination stock reel and powered stock straightener. The system is wired for UL compliance.



The ServoMax feed is equipped with 460/3/60 voltage, automatic central lubrication, and an adjustable height cabinet. The unit includes our standard B&R control platform.

The threading table supports the material strip across the looping area for ease in thread-up of the line. In the lowered position it acts as a barrier to guard the operator from the material in the looping area.

Our model 24-CRS combination reel/straightener ties one of our C series straighteners and a 4R series stock reel coupled together to conserve space and for ease in installation. The C series straightener is equipped with dial indicators, automatic central lubrication, a 75 fpm modulating drive with laser loop control sensor for smooth payout on demand. The stock reel includes hydraulic powered mandrel expansion, a pneumatic actuated hold-down arm, a maximum coil O.D. capacity of 72", and our bolt-on coil arm spacers to provide a wider I.D. range for the reel, from 13" to 21".

The equipment was purchased as a duplicate to the line Phoenix Stamping ordered from Formtek and Seyi in 2023. The line shipped directly to the customer following the show.



**METALWORKING  
MACHINERY  
SYSTEMS, INC.**

**Hall Machinery**

FOR ALL YOUR  
MANUFACTURING NEEDS

Bill Hall started his career working as a press operator and MIG welder at Wayne Manufacturing in Laotto, Indiana. In 1998 he decided to go into business for himself and opened Hall Machinery with his wife Jody to sell presses and press accessories. His first product offering was Unist lubricators. He has expanded his line card over the years to include DuraLite industrial lighting, Air Quality Engineering mist collectors, Green Valley Mfg. die carts and stations, Behringer Saws full line of saws and machining centers, Roemheld Hilma hydraulic and magnetic clamping systems, Magnum hydraulic presses, and Komatsu mechanical and servo presses.

Metalworking Machinery Systems had represented our equipment since June of 1989 when Nick Fisher signed on to sell CWP equipment. In October of 2020 Nick retired and signed the company over to his protégé and later partner of 26 years, Mike Foley. Tragically and suddenly on February 5<sup>th</sup> of 2021, just a few months after he purchased Metalworking Machinery the 59 year old Mike Foley passed away.

In June of 2021, Bill purchased Metalworking Machinery from Mike's wife Trinda in a profit-sharing agreement and joined the Formtek-Maine family.

Today Bill and his son Eric sell equipment and perform installation services for their over 1,700 customers, while his wife Jody handles accounting and payroll. He loves the challenge of solving problems his customers bring to him. He enjoys visiting customers from different industries in many different states. During one of their recent cross-country trips, they added Clinton, Maine as a destination and visited our facility.



Installing a CWP feed line on a Magnum hydraulic press



Eric and Bill Hall

In their off-time, they love spending time with family on their pontoon boat. They love NFL football and try to attend at least 3 games every year.

Bills chooses to continue to represent Formtek-Maine because of the quality and durability of our equipment. They appreciate our excellent support, both before and after the sale, as well as the feedback and technical knowledge we provide our customers and dealers. In Bill's own words, "I really enjoy going to work every day". I don't think you can ask for better than that.

Advertising:

Formtek-Maine has been making progress in our advertising by increasing the frequency of our ads and expanding our visibility by advertising with different publications. This year we posted ads and press releases with Metalforming Magazine, The Fabricator, Metal Center News, and Modern Metals and its sister publication FF Journal. I'm currently working on a full article with Kate Bachman from Metalforming Magazine and Simpson Strong-Tie highlighting the 4 press feed lines they purchased from us over the last few years. The two ads we published this year were a Flexible Fabrication ad featuring the lines we've supplied to Imperial Brown and our High-Speed ServoMatic feed. The magazines, issues, and page numbers are listed below, as well as links to those pages on the digital versions of the publications.

Please note that the **FF Journal eBook** was just released this week and includes an embedded video of the IPI flex-fab line.

April	Metalforming Magazine	pg. 15	<a href="#">High-Speed Feed Metalforming A</a>
April	The Fabricator	pg. 26	<a href="#">High-Speed Feed Fabricator A</a>
September	The Fabricator	pg. 88	<a href="#">High-Speed Feed Fabricator S</a>
September	Metalforming Magazine	pg. 12	<a href="#">High-Speed Feed Metalforming S</a>
June	Metal Center News	pg. 17	<a href="#">IPI Flex-Fab Metal Center News J</a>
June	The Fabricator	pg. 62	<a href="#">IPI Flex-Fab The Fabricator</a>
August	Modern Metals	pg. 40	<a href="#">IPI Flex-Fab Modern Metals A</a>
October	Modern Metals	pg. 39	<a href="#">IPI Flex-Fab Modern Metals O</a>
September	Metal Center News	pg. 57	<a href="#">IPI Flex-Fab Metal Center News S</a>
November	FF Journal eBook	pg. 66	<a href="#">IPI Flex Fab FF Journal eBook</a>



I've also written and published a number of press releases this year (my goal is 6 a year) and Modern Metals/FF Journal and Metal Center News were kind enough to publish them for us. I will include this list in all in future issues of the newsletter so you will know when and where to look out for our content.

July	FF Journal	<a href="#">Mead Metals Press Release</a>
July	Modern Metals	<a href="#">Mead Metals Press Release</a>
July	FF Journal	<a href="#">SEYI/Phoenix Stamping Press Release</a>
July	Modern Metals	<a href="#">SEYI/Phoenix Stamping Press Release</a>
September	Metal Center News	<a href="#">SEYI/Phoenix Stamping Press Release</a>
July	FF Journal	<a href="#">Simpson Strong-Tie Press Release</a>
July	Modern Metals	<a href="#">Simpson Strong-Tie Press Release</a>



Regional Trade Shows:

**PMA New England Member Appreciation**

May 30, 2024, Cranston, RI  
Formtek-Maine sponsored Cocktail Hour for the event.



**PMA Twin Cities District Golf Outing**

June 3, 2024, The Refuge Golf Course, Oak Grove, MN  
Formtek-Maine co-sponsored a hole with Crane Production Systems



**Automotive Parts Suppliers Conference (APCS), Pontiac, MI**

September 11-12, 2024, Pontiac, MI  
Kevin attended and Formtek-Maine sponsored lunch at the event.



**Metal Stamping Conference, Nashville, TN**

January 28-29, 2025  
Sheraton Music City, Nashville, TN  
Mike Roy will be attending with either Tevin or myself (we're still fighting over it). Formtek-Maine is attending as a premium exhibitor. This provides us with an exhibitor table and includes a quarter-page ad placed in MetalForming Magazine's December issue.

