

February 2019

## Timber Line Tidbits

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### Kim's Corner



Please join us at the Colorado Rural Water Show on Thursday Feb 14th, 2019, for the following classes offered by Timber Line:

8:00 a.m. - Operation and Control of VFDs

10:10 a.m. - Blending new and existing communication methods for telemetry.

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### Saying Farewell to One of Our Own....

Lee Smith is Retiring (sort-of)

After three decades of service to Timber Line, Leeray J. Smith, Sr. Field Service Technician, is planning on spending more time with his wife Susan as they enjoy their new home in Grand Junction. Lee started employment with Timber Line in October of 1989. He was the first employee hired by Kurt to help with the Timber Line's expanding business. Lee acquired the nick name of "Burt" as in, "Kurt and (Lee)Burt".



Lee developed his instrumentation and control skills in the US Navy, and then went on to specialize in water and wastewater. Lee has been Timber Line's Senior Field Service Technician and is known for his perseverance in finding ways to update our customer's controls. One bit of wisdom that Lee has shared with our younger staff..."When new operators say that they do not have any documentation for the wiring in their plant, have them help you dig through every old filing cabinet, abandoned desk drawer, or overhead bookshelf. You will almost always find an old Owner's Manual stashed out of sight." Dan Schuelke, Timber Line's current CEO notes, "I tried Lee's method of digging around cabinets, and sure enough I found an old set of control prints. This saved days of trying to recreate wiring diagrams!"

Lee is also known for his ability to tackle "spaghetti panels"...those control panels that have been so neglected over the years that the wiring comes tumbling out the door like spaghetti. Lee manages to methodically rewire, update and document these control panels to current standards, creating an accurate, tidy, and impressive system.

Lee has been instrumental in major updates for water plants in Breckenridge, New Castle, Aspen,

Kremmling and many others. He has made many lasting friendships with Consulting Engineers and water plant Operators along the way. Lee wants to say "THANK YOU" to all of his valued customers who trusted him to sort out problems and start up new systems.

Luckily for Timber Line, Lee has agreed to help with "on-call" and peak-season control work for a few more years, so you may occasionally see his smiling face at your facility. Please join Timber Line in wishing Lee a joyful (semi) retirement!

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## Dan's Download



I would like to wish everyone a "Happy New Year" and say "thank you" for a great 2018. Timber Line is excited to start this new year strong. We have acquired a fair amount of new talent in 2018 and continued to expand our product range including: Sever based SCADA systems, new radio telemetry options to support the growing demand for digital and secure communications, and new Alarm Dialer software options to provide improved reliability, text, email, and Voice over IP notifications.

A growing topic of concern is an increase in the amount of SCADA system hacks where a "Ransom Ware" or a virus was deployed. These attacks can cause a total loss of your SCADA computer and can be very costly to recover from including large amounts of downtime. To help protect your SCADA system TLECC is now supporting and maintaining Anti-Virus software for your SCADA computer. We also offer services and equipment to help increase your network security and provide real time backup to your SCADA computer for quick and easy recovery if the worst should happen. This is a real risk for SCADA computers on the internet even for small water districts. Timber Line can help to minimize that risk.

Timber line strives to stay on the forefront of automation and telemetry technology. What's up and coming? There are several new options for transferring data over cellular networks and the monthly cost of these services is fairly inexpensive and quite reliable. If you have a site or an area with several sites that struggle to communicate but has good cell service, this could be a solution for your system. A growing industry trend in HMI/SCADA computer graphic design has been to go to "Grey Scale" graphics and the only color on the screen is values or indications that require attention. We have not seen a lot of this emerging yet in the Water/Waste Water Industry but we have continued to keep an eye on this trend to see if it becomes the preferred over traditional graphics.

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### ADDED PROTECTION FOR YOUR SCADA COMPUTER

For our districts that have iFix Control Software and who pay for the yearly Global Care support, we will be adding a minimal charge of \$80 to your yearly bill to install Bit Defender Anti-Virus on your SCADA computer. Once installed, Bit Defender will update itself, and should help prevent your SCADA computer from being infected. For our smaller districts, this is a much needed defense in today's environment. No anti-virus is foolproof, so avoiding any unsolicited emails, attachments or links is a good thing. SCADA computers should ONLY be used for SCADA! No emails or documents or web surfing please!

Larger districts with IT departments, will not be charged for the software, but you should make sure your IT department is taking care of an Anti-Virus subscription. If your IT department needs some help, feel free to call Timber Line. If your IT department is also allowed to update your SCADA computer, please make sure you check with us for the white-listed MS updates BEFORE applying them.

We are also in the process of changing our vendor and encryption for remote support. This means that our

technicians will give you a different website connection in 2019. Please call us if you have any questions.

### About Us

Timber Line Electric & Control Corporation (TLECC) was established in 1987 by Kurt Evezich and incorporated in April 1988. We provide instrumentation and control field service to over 150 municipal water and sanitation districts in 5 states, serving clients in the skiing, mining, power distribution, oil and gas, and food processing industries. We're also excited about expanding our involvement in clean and renewable technologies and other promising new industries.

### Our Mission

To find opportunities to delight our peers and customers by making the complex simple.



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