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AUGUST 2022

VOL. 37 • NO. 8



Florida Air Conditioning Apprenticeship Graduation Dinner

Florida Air Conditioning Apprenticeship and PBACCA would like to invite you to join us in celebrating the 2022 Graduates

Date: Thursday, August 4th, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m. Cash Bar

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Place: The Lake Worth Beach Club

One 7th Ave North Lake Worth, FL 33460

Dinner will be served Buffet Style

The Dinner cost is \$52.00 per person.

Cash Bar opens at 6 p.m.-Dinner served at 7 p.m.

You must RSVP to Rhonda @ 561-315-8187 to attend Make Checks payable to: FACAA

Another way PBACCA Serves You!

JG 4, 22

PBACCA Presents

GENERAL MEETING Thursday, August 4, 2022

Apprenticeship Graduation

Call Pam at 561-585-3880



--PBACCA 2022 OFFICERS--

President: Tony Kiser EDS Air Conditioning & Plumbing (561) 586-7090 • Cell (561) 628-8084 akiser@EDSAirconditioning.com

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Executive Director: PAM RIPPLE 585-3880 • Fax-585-3347 e-mail: pripple@pbacca.org

LEGAL COUNCIL: John Hockin - Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. (561) 626-8880

FINANCIAL ADVISOR: **Donna M. Sotillo, CPA**Sotillo & Company • (561) 547-5730

President's Perspective



Tony Kiser

Greetings HVAC community!

I hope everyone enjoyed a fun and safe holiday weekend celebrating Independence Day. I always like to say from the 4th of July to Labor Day are the "dog days of summer." While the majority of Floridians are hibernating inside to beat the heat, we in the HVAC-R industry are sweating it out in our bread-and-butter season. From this side of the summer holidays, we are fast approaching the return of the K-12 school year, and that means it

time to brush up on driving safety. The morning traffic will increase, children will be walking and biking to their community schools, buses will be loading and unloading, and school zones will be enforced. Be aware of your surroundings. Remember to plan to give yourself that extra time in the morning so you can arrive safely

Entering August also means it is time for the annual PBACCA apprenticeship graduation on Thursday, August 4th. Ever since I became involved with the PBACCA Board, I have always looked forward to this night. Each and every graduate has demonstrated their commitment over this four-year period, and most have had to sacrifice something in their life to earn this important trade degree. It is difficult to describe the pride evident on the graduates' faces after their years of hard work in this state-recognized program. I encourage all companies out there to recognize your mechanics that are graduating—it is a BIG DEAL.

As always, PBACCA has some excellent events on the horizon and we are happy to welcome new supporters. There are many ways to contribute to PBACCA, whether it is sponsoring drinks at a general meeting, volunteering your time at events, or joining the PBACCA Board to give back to your trade. Remember, as HVAC-R contractors and the industry at large, we can get out of the organization only what we put in.

In unity

Tony

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Palm Beach Air Conditioning Contractors Association (PBACCA) is an independent association serving the needs of the HVACR industry in Palm Beach County. PBACCA is not affiliated with the national group Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA). The mission of PBACCA is to assist and better enable PBACCA members to acquire, serve, and satisfy their customers.









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School Starts September 7

Classes are held

Monday & Wednesday nights starting at 6:30 PM

TECHNICIAN'S CORNER

The mini splitting headache!

Mini split.... To some of you that may be a bad word. To others hearing the words mini split will induce a panic attack. But for those technicians that have accepted the fact that mini-split systems are here to stay, my friends, you are ahead of the game. My name is Tim Murphy and I've been an HVAC contractor for nearly 30 years. During which I spent a lot of time servicing and installing mini splits systems. I started working in the HVAC industry right out of high school and learned quickly the importance of research and asking a lot of questions. Having never been to a trade school I spent the beginning of my career working for my parents blowing stuff up at my dad's expense. Working for the family business had several advantages and some disadvantages as well. One of those advantages was learning from my pops. Though I was able to gain a wealth of useful information from my father I also picked up some bad habits. Thankfully, I was able to overcome those bad habits by learning from my mistakes and researching for answers. Like most technicians I fumbled my way through service calls often blowing Transformers, Fuses, and the occasional drilling a hole in a condenser coil. All these years later I can look back and laugh because as dismal as those mistakes were, I learned several valuable lessons from my early years. And like most service technicians in the HVAC industry, I learn much better with the "hands-on" approach. Nowadays I work for Tropic supply providing tech support, job site support and training for contractors. In order to provide tech support over the phone I've had to step up my troubleshooting game. So, when asked to write an article, I thought to myself what's something that I can share which could be useful for those technicians new to mini splits systems but will also benefit the old school technicians that try to avoid mini-split jobs. With that in mind I decided to talk about the importance of a correct refrigerant charge and the role it plays when trying to diagnose a mini split system. What I'm about to share with you will apply to just about all the mini split brands out there and hopefully save you a few hours of frustration.

Picture this. You just received a call from a homeowner or dispatch. The customer complaint comes through as one of the following. #1) The system seems to work fine at night, but it just doesn't cool as well as it used to and can't keep up in the heat of the day. #2) I had this mini split system installed a few months ago to cool the bedrooms and one room just doesn't seem to cool. #3) When I turn the system on heat mode the indoor fan never comes on (not so common in SFL). In all three of those scenarios, you will most likely "not" have any error codes to help point you in the right direction. Or you may get some odd error codes that just don't make sense to you. What's important to know about mini split systems is that they are, what some may call, a critical charge system. What do I mean by critical charge? Well in this scenario let's just say that critical charge means: a proper charge is critical to the performance of the mini-split system. Just knowing that little bit of information can help you tremendously. On a mini split system, the refrigerant charge can affect performance drastically. Unfortunately, I've witnessed both installers and service technicians attempt to add freon using their gauges when they feel the system is low on freon. The problem with this method, when it comes to charging a mini split system, is that you don't really know what the system is doing. You don't know how fast the compressor is going, you don't know how open the expansion valve is, and most importantly you don't know the algorithm that's been programmed into the unit by the engineers that designed the system. So how could know what to expect? While there are some methods that don't require the use of a scale to charge as mini split, using the weigh in method is by far the fastest and easiest method.

TECHNICIAN'S CORNER Cont.

Now before we will go over the scenarios from earlier let's lay down some ground rules. In each scenario the systems were sized properly, there are no error codes, and a side from regular checkups they have had no issues. So, let's start by asking ourselves, what do these three scenarios have in common? Well, let me tell you. The common denominator here is "diminished capacity". Even in the 3rd example? Yes! I'll explain why in a minute, but before I talk about Scenario#3 let's look at scenario's #1 & #2. In the 1st scenario it's obvious the system is unable to handle the heat load. But the customer provided some key information by telling us the system cooled fine when it was installed. In scenario #2 we see poor performance and low Delta-T in only one zone. In both examples the systems are down in capacity and unable to cool the home comfortably. Now going back to scenario #3 where the indoor fan is not turning on in heat mode. Here we have what seems to be a failed part and may cause some technicians jump to the conclusion the fan motor is faulty, but slow down! When switching a mini split to heat mode the evap coil must reach a pre-set temp before the fan will kick on. This is done to prevent cold air cycling through the conditioned space before the system starts to heat. Without a proper charge that evap coil may never reach the pre-set temp needed to cycle the fan on in heat. The system that gradually starts to get worse over time, the system that can't cool all the zones and the system unable to heat the room were all caused by improper charge. When faced with these kind of service calls the best plan of attack would be to reclaim and weigh out the charge. Once you do that, compare the weight of the refrigerant removed with what is required by the manufacturer by referencing the data tag. If you follow proper procedures than it should be obvious to tell whether the system was low or not. Once you confirmed the system is undercharged. Perform a pressure test on the system to check for leaks. But do a proper high-pressure test. After talking with several techs in the field, I've noticed that installers and technicians are not pressure testing at a high enough pressure and are not finding leaks. Several manufactures will recommend pressure testing up to 600psi of nitro. Now of course you should always refer to the installation manual for the most current info, but in most cases 550-600 psi is recommended. So, you've did a proper leak test, and you found a leak! Now repair and pressure test again, follow that up with a proper vacuum and decay test before you weigh in a new charge. If you were still unable to find a leak, then consider the following. 1) Was an additional charge needed due to extended pipe lengths and not added? 2) Are the line sets sized correctly? Or 3) How many times were gauges connected to the system? You may not realize this, but a manifold can rob the system of up to 7 oz of refrigerant every time you connect to the system. In turn removing refrigerant over time and undercharging the system. I mention this because an undercharged mini split will not always be caused by a leaking flare connection. So be diligent and patient when diagnosing mini splits that show signs of under charge.

Now of course there are a thousand or so hypothetical scenarios we can come up with, but my goal here is to prepare you for the next mini split service call. Realizing how important a proper charge is, along with using quality tools and good techniques, will bring you one step closer to becoming a mini split expert. Oh, and I can't forget to mention, listen to the customer! While they may throw a lot at you or not make much sense at times. They just might provide you with the best clues on where to start looking. I can't tell you how many jobsites I've been on where the homeowners are basically telling the tech exactly what he needs to know. So, listen to the complaint, use your tools to confirm your suspicions, and then utilize proper techniques to repair the system. Hopefully I gave you some insight that will build your confidence when working on mini split systems and help save you time. If there is one final bit of advice, I could leave you with. It would be, don't sike yourself out on calls where you get for reading. flustered. Just step back, phone a friend, and focus on the data you've collected. You got this! Thank you for reading.

Sincerely, Tim Murphy





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Florida Air Conditioning Apprenticeship
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For more information, call Pam Ripple with PBACCA at 561-585-3880.







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Palm Beach Air Conditioning Contractors Association is excited to announce that their Twentieth Annual Golf Tournament will Be held at the Beautiful Wellington National Golf Club, Wellington, Florida
On Friday, November 18 2022, 1:00 p.m.



Wellington National Golf Club is the proud host of a 2021 Puerto Rico Open Golf Championship Qualifier, a 2021 Honda Classic Qualifier, and in 2022 will host a U.S. Open Regional Qualifying site as well.

Wellington National Golf Club is an <u>Exclusive Member's only</u> golf and country club that features an award-winning golf course Designed by the legendary Johnny Miller. We are truly honored to have them host our 19th Annual Tournament.

The 4-man scramble will start the day with a complimentary Box lunch during check-in, SHOTGUN START at 1:00 p.m., drinks will be provided on the course, a Barbeque Dinner and award ceremony will immediately follow the tournament at Wellington National Golf Club Ballroom. Additional Dinner tickets can be purchased from PBACCA. In addition, there will be trophies for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place and prizes for the longest drive, straightest drive, closest to the pin, and more!

Sign your team up now! Treat your friends, business associates, or your employees to a day of fun! It is suggested that you register early because this tournament will be a sell-out with a waiting list.

Contact Pam with any questions regarding the tournament 561-585-3880 or pripple@pbacca.org



"BEAT THE HEAT" MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Until December 31, 2022: Join PBACCA now for 2022 Membership and receive 2023 FREE

PBACCA is looking for new contractor or associate members and is offering an attractive incentive to bring them in. PBACCA has launched a "Beat the Heat" membership discount campaign. Until December 31, 2022, the association is offering 2023 membership year FREE when you join as a 2022 member. You pay only the 2022 annual membership dues of \$300.00 (contractor) or \$350.00 (associate).

We know that there are hundreds of HVAC/R contractors in the Palm Beach County area, many of who already belong to our association. There are also many contractors who probably have thought about joining, but did not know if they would like it. This "Beat the Heat" membership discount allows you to try out the PBACCA membership...with all its benefits for a very small investment.

This offer is only available to first-time contractor/associate applicants and membership applications must be received by December 31, 2022. For additional membership information, call Pam Ripple at 561-585-3880. Or go to our web-site www.pbacca.org



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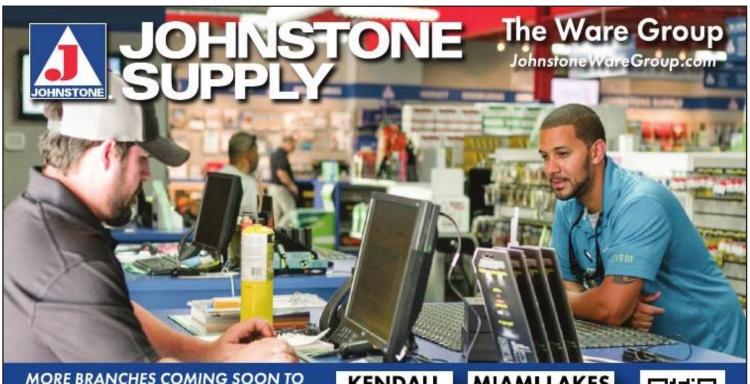
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EventsCalendar

Palm Beach Air Conditioning Contractors Association, Inc.

2022 CALENDAR of EVENTS

Aug 4 General Meeting - 5:30 p.m.-The Beach Club

One 7th Ave. North, Lake Worth, FL

Apprenticeship Graduation

Sept 1 Board Meeting - 4:30 p.m.- Zoom

Oct 6 General Meeting - 5:30 p.m.- The Beach Club

One 7th Ave. North, Lake Worth, FL

8th Annual Food Drive

Nov 3 **Board Meeting** - 4:30 p.m.- **Zoom**

Nov 18 19th Annual Golf Tournament

Wellington National Golf Club

400 Binks Drive Wellington, FL 33414

Dec 1 General Meeting - 5:30 p.m.-The Beach Club

One 7th Ave. North, Lake Worth, FL

3rd Annual Casino Night & 9th Annual Toy Drive

2023 Board Elections



13

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Edward Jones*

Another Reason to Smile

A red light story

A guy is driving along with his friend, and he goes right through a red light. His friend says, "What are you doing?", and he replies, "Never mind, will you? My brother drives like this."

He goes a little bit further, comes to another red light and goes right through it. "What are you doing?" "I told you, will you stop it, my brother drives like this!"

Then further down the road, he comes to a green light and stops. His friend is confused. "What are you doing now?!", and he replies, "Well, my brother might be coming the other way."

Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. Attorneys at Law



JOHN A. HOCKIN

Board Certified Construction Law Attorney

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Become Certified

PBACCA will provide a proctor upon request for onsite testing.

The E.P.A. has established a Mandatory Technician Certification Program. Technicians are required to become certified under the mandatory program. Under the final E.P.A. rule, the sale of refrigerant will be restricted to certified technicians.

For more information on EPA testing call Pam at 561-585-3880.

OUR MISSION: To assist and better enable PBACCA members to acquire, serve and satisfy their customers.

Apprenticeship Corner

Need Qualified Technicians?

The next time you have an opening for a technician, call the local Apprenticeship office at 561-262-7523. They can help you find a qualified apprentice to hire and enroll in the local PBACCA sponsored Apprenticeship Program offered at Palm Beach Community College. You'll be sure your employee is being taught the right skills and acquiring the training to become a productive journey man.

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