

MARCH 2024

VOL. 39 • NO. 3

PBACCA 2024 2nd Clay Shoot at the OK Corral Gun Club Okeechobee, FL

PBACCA hosted their 2nd Clay Shoot on February 10th, at the OK Corral Gun Club in Okeechobee, FL. Registration started at 8:45am, and 136 shooters participated.

There was a safety meeting just before the tournament began at 10am. At 12:30pm a delicious BBQ Lunch was provided. After that were the Raffles and Award Ceremony.



1st place - Austin Sheltra, Jeff McCraine, Ryan Quinn, and Clint Mehrer of PRP Construction, with Kelly McCann of PBACCA



2nd place - Jason Tota, Steven Tota, Carig O'Hara, and Hunter Tota of Evergreen Insurance, with Kelly McCann of PBACCA

The Event Title Sponsor was Sea Coast Curbs & Adapters. CMI Air Conditioning was the gun sponsor. Yeti cooler prize sponsored by Lowen Air Conditioning.

Clay Shoot Winners were: 1st place, Austin Sheltra, Jeff McCraine, Ryan Quinn and Clint Meh-rer of PRP Construction. 2nd place, Jason Tota, Ste-ven Tota, Carig O'Hara, and Hunter Tota of Ever-green Insurance.

Cole Langel of Seacoast Adapters won the gun raffle. Curtis Sammons of Carrier Enterprise won the Yeti cooler raffle. Best Youth was Ricky Sheltra of PRP Construction. Best Female Shooter was Trish Calogero of CMI Air Conditioning. Best Male Shooter was Michael Pipkens of Henderson Insurance. Last Place Award went to Andre Legette of Trane Technologies.

2025 is already in the planning stages and will be setting the date very soon.



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**Another
way
PBACCA
Serves You!**

APRIL 4, 24

PBACCA Presents
General Meeting - Guest Speaker Doug Wise of PBC Bldg. Div.
The Beach Club 1 7th Ave. North Lake Worth Beach
Thursday, April 4, 2024
Call Pam at **561-585-3880**

APRIL 4, 24



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President's Perspective



Kelly McCann

Spring is upon us and we are “spooling up” for summer. Training is still going on from our manufacturing partners, vendors, as well as a PBACCA Sponsored event on March 8th. JB Carr is conducting a class and certification on the new A2L refrigerant. Our next general meeting is scheduled for April 4th at 6:30pm. We have invited Palm Beach County’s Building Official, Doug Wise as our guest speaker. He is scheduled to discuss some of the code changes expected to arrive with the new A2L refrigerant mandate. Topics include new construction projects that start in 2024 but will not be complete until after January 2025. Registration for this meeting is open and we still have room available so consider joining us at the Beach Club in Lake Worth (beachclublakeworth.com). If you have specific topics you would like addressed, please feel free to submit them to us beforehand. We want to ensure your questions and concerns are addressed.

On Saturday February 10th we hosted our 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Event at the OK Corral in Okeechobee. A big Thank You to all of our sponsors! It was a great turnout; I believe most of us had fun with the clays; although, there are some things to work on for next year’s event. We’ve already started working on those improvements. We hope to see you all for our 3rd Annual Sporting Clay event.

Regards
 Kelly McCann

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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.

PBACCA General Meeting

April 4, 2024

“The Beach Club” in Lake Worth Beach.

Program Speaker : Doug Wise PBC Building Division Director/ Building Official

Code Changes Applicable to the A2L Changes



PBACCA April General Meeting Presents: Doug Wise, a discussion on new codes for A2L Refrigerant

Please join us in welcoming Doug from PBC Building Department for a discussion on the upcoming A2L refrigerant change.

Doug Wise, CBO, CFM, MCP - Is the Building Official of Palm Beach County and a Past President and Honorary Life Member of the Building Officials Association of Florida. He is a past Chair of the International Code Council (ICC) Sustainability Membership Council Governing Committee, and currently serves on the ICC Codes and Standards Council and Building Membership Council Governing Committee. In 2011, Mr. Wise was recognized by AGC Florida East Coast Chapter for improving coordination between the public and private sectors. He also received the Bob Graham Architectural Awareness Award from AIA Palm Beach in 2013.

Although the change is mandatory on January 1st, 2025, many manufacturers will be making the new product available starting in a few months. Topics include new construction projects that start in 2024 but will not be complete until after January 2025. code in this application; air handlers installed during the rough phase, but the condensers are not installed until the final phase – the potential mis- match. Your PBACCA is proud to host this event and we are looking forward to seeing you there!

Reservations are required.

Reservation deadline Monday April 1, 5:00pm

Thursday April 4, 2024 “The Beach Club”

One 7th Avenue North, Lake Worth, FL 33460

5:30-6:30 p.m. Check-in. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

No cost for meeting: Food/Drink orders from the menu, pay for food/drink.

RSVP to Pam at priple@pbacca.org

Thank You to Our Meeting Sponsor

Mary Kilian: Employee Benefits Account Executive at Acentria Insurance Contact Pam for more information: priple@pbacca.org or 561-585-3880



PBACCA February General Meeting

PBACCA hosted its first general meeting for 2024. Our meeting was sponsored by the Sales Manager for Heresite Protective Coating, Dan Lusk and Protech Coating - Andy Sanchez. Andy was also recognized for his contributions to our association as the 2023 PBACCA Member of the Year. Andy started his business Protech Coatings just 3 years ago; however, he has well over 25 years of experience. He does a great job of applying protective coatings such as Heresite to HVAC equipment and was just certified to apply Rhino Pro Bed Liner's. As we all know starting a new business from the ground up takes effort, time and dedication, please keep Andy in mind for your coating needs.

Our guest speaker was Dave Anderson, Product Manager for CE, Carrier Enterprise. Dave spoke to our group about the upcoming changes in refrigerants and the nuances of that change. He informed the group on some of the reasons why these changes are coming, what the timelines were, reasons behind the current R-410a price increases, what makes the new A2L compliant equipment different as well as some installation practices we need to be aware of when installing the new equipment. Although Dave is with Carrier Enterprise, he provided good information from an industry perspective.

It was great to see everyone in person as it was an exciting night full of good food provided by the Beach Club in Lake Worth and a wonderful social hour. The presentations were informative and to the point. We hope to see you all at the next General Meeting on April 4th at 5:30. As a reminder we are always looking for board members. If you are interested in serving on the PBACCA board, please let us know. It's a great way to be involved and make an impact in our industry.



2023 Member of the Year Andy Sanchez of Protech Coating with Meeting Sponsor Dan Lusk of Heresite Protective Coating



2023 Member of the Year Andy Sanchez of Protech Coating with PBACCA President Kelly McCann



It was great to see everyone in person as it was an exciting night full of good food provided by the Beach Club in Lake Worth



Guest Speaker Dave Cook Product Manager for CE, Carrier Enterprise

TECHNICIAN'S CORNER

Introduction to A2L Refrigerants

By Kelly McCann



In 2025 the EPA is mandating a change to our industry. Our industry must meet a new Global Warming Potential (GWP). According to the EPA's website, "Beginning January 1, 2025, certain technologies may no longer use high GWP hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) or HFC blends. Prohibitions apply to the manufacture, distribution, sale, installation, import, and export of products containing restricted HFCs and on the installation of new systems that use restricted HFCs." In our industry the limit is a GWP of 700.

What does this mean to us? We need to learn and become certified on this new refrigerant. Most manufactures have chosen to use R-454b while Daikin has been using R-32 for a few years in overseas markets and has introduced this to their US market. Both new refrigerants are classified as A2L, slightly flammable. The designator "A2L" is from ASHRAE Standard 34-2019 where the "A" refers to low toxicity, while the "2L" means lower flammability. I've heard some misconceptions about the flammability issue. Being slightly flammable does not mean "propane." These new A2L refrigerants are not propane, nor are they explosive. The definition of 2L, slightly flammable refrigerants are mildly flammable with a maximum burning velocity of less than 10 cm/s. While we need to be safe, we shouldn't be afraid the new refrigerant is going to be explosive. In fact, we could hold a flame to R-32 or R-454b and it would not ignite right away. It should be noted that many appliances that have sealed systems already have an A2L refrigerant in them.

We can expect equipment manufacturers to start distributing their new equipment this year, most likely around the 3rd quarter. As with any equipment change, this means we get to learn new model numbers. The model numbers are nomenclature to identify what the equipment is. This new equipment will have specific enhancements to address the new refrigerant. Warning labels will be present, service valves will have different threads than R-410a and a refrigerant monitor will be in the blower section, or air handler. This device may vary by manufacturer but is expected to bring the blower on when a refrigerant leak is detected. The idea is to dilute any leaked refrigerant. I've also heard talk about our vehicles requiring flammable placards, this will not be required for service vehicles. There is a requirement but not for the small quantities carried in a typical service vehicle.

It is possible that we will need to carry multiple refrigerants in our vehicle. From an air conditioning perspective, we will have to carry R-410a, R-454b and R-32. My "Spidey Senses" went off and reminded me to address the question about topping off an R-32 system with R-454b (or vice-versa). R-454b and R-32 are not compatible, so we wouldn't want to use one in place of the other. This also means we will need separate sets of manifold gauges, even though each of these refrigerants use POE oil, there will be different service valve fittings.

Additionally, we should know that legacy A1 refrigerants, such as R-410a systems cannot be retrofitted for use with A2L refrigerants. This takes me back to the R-22 to R-410a transition. The pressure difference between the two and the different oils made it easy to recognize they wouldn't play well with each other. This transition is somewhat different because the pressures between R-454b and R-410a are not that much different and they use the same POE oil.



R-454b is environmentally friendly, safe, energy-efficient, and similar to R-410a since it's a near azeotrope blend; this simply means it has a minimal glide. I know I'm talking about some terms you may not have heard since your EPA exam so as a refresher; an azeotropic refrigerant is a mixture of two or more components that boil at the same temperature. A near azeotropic blend means the blend has different boiling points but they are close to each other. A zeotropic blend is also a mixture of two or more components, but the components of zeotropic blends have different boiling points. The components will evaporate and condense at different temperatures. An example of a zeotropic blend is R410a keeping in mind that R410a is considered a near azeotropic. Lastly, glide, which is defined as the difference between the boiling point of the two components within the refrigerant blend (assuming the blend has only two). As an example, if one component boils at 98°F and the other at 109°F, that would be 11 degrees of glide. To simplify a step further; when referring to the PT chart, you will notice bubble point (evaporation) and dew point (condensation), the difference between these two points is the refrigerant's glide.

The next thing we should consider is our tools, do we need specific tools to work with A2L refrigerants? The good news is that we don't need to replace all our tools to work on A2L systems. Tools that don't interact with refrigerant, such as scales and non-electric hand tools (wrenches, pipe cutters), can be used for both A1 and A2L systems. However, most of the electronic tools, vacuum pumps, recovery machines and testing equipment must be rated for use with flammable refrigerants. When repairing or servicing the refrigerant systems, A2L requires three steps that are already considered industry-accepted best practices: 1. Purge with nitrogen while brazing. 2. Evacuate the refrigerant. 3. Perform leak and pressure tests. A2L service tools are already available, as many manufacturers are planning to start introducing their systems later this year. Many of these tools are already on the market.

When servicing systems with A2L refrigerants, we should remember a few best practices. The first step is to identify the refrigerant in the system by looking for refrigerant labels. Look for red markings on all service fittings and be sure to clearly mark them for the next technician to work on the system. Remember you are probably not the last person to work on a particular unit, let's look out for each other.

With A2L refrigerants, it is recommended we work in a well-ventilated area and use continuous leak monitoring while servicing. Stay safe!

PBACCA is hosting a Low GWP Safety Training and Certification Workshop at Johnstone Supply in West Palm Beach on March 8th at 8am.

2024 Clay Shoot.... A Great Success!



**Chris Litschauer, John Jensen,
Thomas Juday and Andre Legette
of Trane Technologies**



**Norm Syare, Jason Woodworth,
Taylor Syare and Leigh Gil of
Mechanical Air Conditioning**



**John Hunton, Kyle Hunton, Drew
Lapatin and Joe McCoy of
John C Hunton**



**Phil Viruso, Jennifer Gauthier,
Sebastian Caraballo and Fausto
Castillo of Lowen Air**



**Tim Snell, Tim Peterman, Justin
Pifer and Dario Alvarez of
Steven K Denny**



**Steve Sanders, Tristan Sanders,
Ronnie Sharpton and Mark Gray
of Steven K Denny**



**Matthew Daniele and Sam Mazzei of
Ferguson with Cody Bonea of Bia AC
and Cody Yearty of Ferguson**



**Caleb Buchard, Max Demoura,
Stephen nutting and Johnathon
Lawson of Seacoast Adapters**



**Ed Sasso, Sean Kaplin, Aron
Chookolingo and Austin Reyes
of EDS Air**



**Tony Kiser, Ken Ottaway, Jenny
Otowchits and Amanda Roldan
of EDS Air Conditioning**



**Jeff Snead, Lenny Cipolla, Jay
Weiss Jr. and Bradley Sims of
Ferguson HVAC**



**Brandon Langel, Ryon Abramski,
Tyler Langel and Cole Langel of
Seacoast Adapters**

Thank you all who participated



Chris Portalatin, Patrick Fagerquist, Andy Sanchez and Josh Bennet of Decon 7



David Soto, Steve Evans, Coery Mahoney and Joseph Watkins of Cool World



Thomas Sullivan and Andres Ponce of Rectorseal, Ezequel Enriquez and Leo Diaz of Miller Central AC



Kelly McCann, Cody Hull, Trish Calogero and Bob Benz of CMI Air Conditioning



Jason Severino, Jim Carr, Danny Clay and Justin Hickmen of Complete Comfort



Chris Rhodes, Noah Sakwa, Jacob MacQueen and Jim Lamb of CMI Air Conditioning



Trevor Tonkovich, Mike Kilbourne, Ronnie Lauch and Curtis Sammons of CE



Brian Cook, Scott Sasone, Scotty Sansone and JC Reydel of CE



Marcus Williams, Tyler Rush, Casy Walker and Ian Lowery of Baker Distributing



Scott Wise, Chris Erickson, Bobby Longcorie and Dennis Hardesty of Baker Distributing



Ricky Sheltra, John Handcock, Dave Moore and Hunter Clark of PRP Construction



Thomas Montoya, Albert Oliver and Billy Bowman of Johnstone Supply



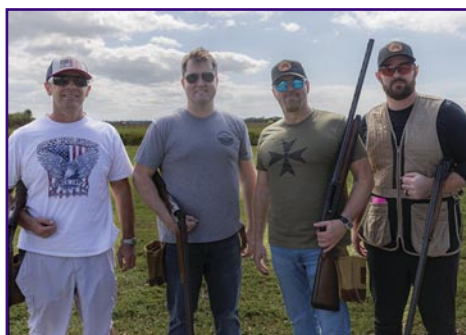
Ryan Soltow, Dan Seslar, Trent Morris and Travis Pabst of Tropic Supply



Arturo Alba, Andrew Rich, Jerry Chadwick, Chase Kolsha, Joe Westbrook and Myles Westbrook of Arco Supply



Rey Rivera, Melissa Jones, Chandler Garr and Enrique Ginnari of Temperature Control Solutions



Michael Pipkens, Trey Mahoney, Chris Merrel and Adam Tsiakomas of Henderson Insurance



Trevor & Leslie Cutter, Michael Kinder & Steve Todd of Mechanical Air Conditioning



Best youth shooter Ricky Sheltra with his father TRAVIS



Best Male Shooter Michael Pipkens of the Henderson Insurance team with PBACCA President Kelly McCann



Best Female Shooter Trish Calogero on the CMI team with PBACCA President Kelly McCann



The 2nd Annual PBACCA Clay Shoot was a full event. Everyone had a great time at the OK Corral

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2024 SPORTING CLAYS SHOOTING SPONSORS





PBACCA presents....Save the Date

HIGH-E-FISHIN-SEA-XXXII



**Palm Beach Air Conditioning Contractors
Association will hold its 32nd annual
fishing expedition Saturday June 8, 2024.
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What can PBACCA do for you?

What meeting topics would you like?

Would you like to be added to email
and text msg? _____

Events Calendar

Palm Beach Air Conditioning Contractors Association, Inc.

2024 CALENDAR of EVENTS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Mar 7 | Board Meeting - 4:30p.m. - Zoom Meeting |
| April 4 | General Meeting - 5:30 pm
The Beach Club One 7th Avenue North,
Lake Worth, Fl. 33469 Speaker Doug Wise PBC
Building Division Director. Meeting Sponsor Mary
Killian of Acentria Insurance |
| May 2 | Board Meeting - 4:30p.m. - Zoom Meeting |
| June 6 | General Meeting - 5:30 pm The Beach Club
One 7th Avenue North, Lake Worth, Fl. 33469 |
| June 6 | 32nd Annual High-E-Fishin-Sea Captains Meeting
Rafiki Tiki 6pm |
| June 8 | 32nd Annual High-E-Fishin-Sea Fishing Tournament
Rafiki Tiki Awards 4-6 |
| July 11 | Board Meeting - 4:30p.m. - Zoom Meeting |
| Aug 1 | General Meeting - 5:30 pm The Beach Club
One 7th Avenue North, Lake Worth, Fl. 33469
Apprenticeship Graduation |

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Another Reason to Smile

At The Gates of Heaven

At the gates of heaven, a new arrival, George, noted that there were two paths, one marked Women and one marked Men. He took the latter path and found that it lead to two gates.

The gate on the right had a sign that said: "Men who were dominated by their Wives." The gate had a long line of men waiting to go in.

The sign on the left read: "Men who dominated their Wives." There was only a scrawny little fellow at this gate.

George, before deciding which gate to go to, went over to the scrawny man and asked, "Why are you at this gate?"

The little fellow replied, "I don't know. My wife just told me to stand here."



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**PBACCA will provide a proctor upon
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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.

***Another way
PBACCA serves you!***