

Assabet's Metal Fabrication Students Experience Hot Fire in Pipe Welding

On January 25, 2007, Assabet Valley students got an excellent opportunity to watch, listen, and practice pipe welding with two of the best pipe-line welders in the North East.

Mr. Mark Rudis, a union pipe fitter/ pipe welder out of Rhode Island and Mr. George Burmilla, a union cross country pipe liner welder out of Massachusetts, gave up their pipe welding jobs for a day to visit Assabet's students as guest speakers to discuss career opportunities, salaries, apprenticeship programs, and required technical skill levels to become a pipe welder. Both George and Mark gave excellent pipe layout and pipe welding demonstrations to our students in several types of pipe welding techniques and processes. Our students were introduced to up hill welding techniques using both SMAW 6010, 7018 and GTAW processes as well as down hand welding using electrode sizes 6010 1/8" ,5/32" and 3/16 "

Both Mark and George started the day out by sharing with our students their own personal experiences as their too developed their skills in welding and metal fabrication in the pipe welding trades.

Mark Rudis, a " U.S. Navy Seabee" and a power house pipe welder, started off his demonstrations by introducing Assabet students to proper pipe alignment and a good sound fit up in preparing a GTAW (TIG) root pass, Fill passes and a final cover pass. Assabet students experienced first hand, the level of care in preparing a pipe bevel, and fit up for a tig root. Mark expressed the need cleanness, neatness and accuracy in GTAW welding Mark's skill level in " **walking the cup**" technique was very impressive to both students and shop teachers.

Mark Rudis then continued his next demonstration with a 6 inch sch. 40 pipe joint using 010 (5 -Plus)for his root and 1/8 "7018 fill and cover passes. Once again, Mr. Rudis's demonstrated attention to detail in his preparation of his pipe bevel and fit up. He welded his pipe as if it was going to be inspected using an ASME section 9 code requirements. The students experienced a level of craftsmanship using guidelines and requirements with a welding code.

George Burmilla, a cross country pipe liner and impressive down hand welder demonstrated his skills to our students by flame beveling his 12 inch pipe nipples, grinding a proper land for a down hand root pass and cleaning up a joint before fitting and tacking and welding. The students got an opportunity to see pipe clamps, tacking and grinding techniques, before welding. Mr. Bumilla, welding his pipe coupons to API's 1104 welding code.

The photos of our days event says it all. Our students experienced a day of flying sparks, red hot molten metal and good old fashion " American Craftsmanship." It is men like Mark Rudis and George Bumilla that make a difference in young peoples lives by taking the time out of their busy schedules to spend a day with vocational welding students and passing on their knowledge and skills to the next generation of welders and metal workers. Our hat's are off to folks from around the country that are willing to help others learn an honorable trade of welding.

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