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FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

JAN/FEB 2024

THE NEWSLETTER OF UTAH'S HVACR INDUSTRY

153 SOUTH 900 EAST, #3 • SLC, UT 84102 • WWW.UTRMGA.ORG

RMGA Sweetheart Social February 17, 5:30 - 9:30 PM



JOIN IN THE FUN at **Desert Star's** zany production of **"Pirates of the Caribbean"** at RMGA's Sweetheart Social on February 17th.

Beginning at 5:30 PM, we'll enjoy a **group dinner in the Desert Star theater, followed by the musical comedy** that begins at 6:00 PM (4861 S State Street, SLC, UT 84107).

Cursed Captain Barmitzvah, the Yiddish terror of the high seas kidnaps ingénue Eliza Swine and it's up to stable boy Will Doolittle to save her. Will forges an unlikely partnership with Captain Jack and sets out on a bizarre journey to stop Barmitzvah and his goofy crew of misfit pirates. This hilarious show will really swash your buckle!

Couples (\$80) and Singles (\$40) welcome!

Limited seating; Email or call today to reserve tickets: utrmga@gmail.com or 801-521-8340. ■

ACCA Manual Class Series February 6 - 8, 2024



ED JANOWIAK, ACCA's manager of HVAC design education, will be teaching "Manual in a Day" Design Practices in Manual J, D, and S at Hercules Industries, 475 N Billy Mitchell Road, in Salt Lake City

on February 6, 7 and 8, 2024 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

These classes will help you learn how to perform a proper HVAC design with or without design software. In each of these classes, Ed will discuss what is in each manual and how they apply to the design process.



3 Manuals, lunches and ACCA Certification included, only \$600 for all three classes!

Please confirm your attendance with Amy@utrmga.com. ■

All New RMGA Certification Study Guide and Exam for 2024!

RMGA IS ROLLING OUT a new Natural Gas Technician Certification Study Guide (in a hardbound and digital version), and the Technical College Testing Centers will be offering a revised RMGA

Certification Exam in English and Spanish on February 1, 2024.

The Certification Study Guide is being translated into Spanish and will be available in 2024 as well. ■

Scott Carpenter
scott@legendsmechanical.com
801-599-8563 Utah
208-466-1773 Idaho



**MESSAGE
FROM OUR
PRESIDENT**
SCOTT CARPENTER

Dear RMGA Members & Friends,

*I hope this message finds everyone healthy and well after a great holiday. Looking forward to this upcoming year, I trust that we are all hopefully optimistic that we can find some stability within our industry as well as our country's economy. I know that the upcoming **SEER2 changes** along with our industry's preparation for the **R-454B refrigerant change** leaves many questions and needed changes. I think **the best way to be ready for all of this is with great communication and training.** I think our Association has done a great job with looking to expand our reach and offer training to all who have asked. I believe we can continue this growth and continue to look for other partnerships to expand our ability to move our industry in the right direction. I know this takes a lot of participation so I would encourage all to **get involved at whatever level you can.** I would encourage any input or advice as to what is needed from our association. I want to thank all of you for your efforts and best wishes for a great new year.*

Best Regards,

RMGA BOARD BRIEFING NOV/DEC 2023

In November, RMGA released two board members: Jim Monsen and Ryan Snow, and approved Amanda Sorensen with Resource Innovation as a new board member. **RMGA is actively recruiting contractor board members, and come 2024, additional board members will be announced.**

At both meetings, we discussed the Utah Plumbing and Heating Contractors Association request to incorporate the RMGA Certification Study Guide and Video series into their online program, and to follow RMGA's testing voucher system for Certification testing. In December, the board approved allowing UPHCA to digitize the Study Guide and format it for Canvas. In January, we will continue a discussion about changing our ala carte method of charging for testing materials and the test versus offering an all-inclusive test price that includes study materials.

We also discussed offering RMGA Certification training and testing in Idaho, where a 4-year apprenticeship is currently required for HVAC technicians, but no additional continuing education is required. Our efforts to reach out to Intermountain → →

WELCOME OUR NEW RMGA MEMBER!

THE PLUMBER GUY DBA 1ST AMERICAN PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR

Matthew Savas
4843 Emma Mine Drive
Herriman, UT 84096
801-386-9100

accounting@1stamericanplumbing.com
www.1stamericanplumbing.com



→ Gas, the primary natural gas provider, and Idaho’s DOPL have fallen on deaf ears.

RMGA board members are working with the Utah HBA code committee to develop Energy code amendments for 2024 State Legislative adoption; work is being done to estimate cost ranges for proposed code changes.

And in December, Chris Reisinger with Utah’s Office of Energy Development gave the board an introduction to the 2024 rollout of the federally funded **Home Energy Rebate Program**.

Our next board meeting is on ZOOM, Wednesday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome! ■



RMGA GAS CERTIFICATION CLASSES

CALL 801.521.8340
OR EMAIL
RMGAUTAH@GMAIL.COM
TO REGISTER

You can now request registration on the new RMGA website: <https://utrmga.org/certification>

JAN. IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, January 11
Friday, January 12 &
Saturday, January 13
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

MAR. IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, March 14
Friday, March 15 &
Saturday, March 16
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

MAY IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, May 9
Friday, May 10 &
Saturday, May 11
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

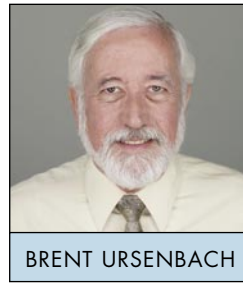
Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

All Certification Classes are \$400. Price includes the RMGA Study Guide, IFGC, online video access, 24 hours of instruction, and 2 attempts at the exam (if necessary). Technicians should attend ALL sessions. In-person attendees should bring lunch or plan to visit a local restaurant during the lunch hour. **Take the Pre-Test to evaluate your readiness for the exam at <https://utrmga.org/pre-test/>**

Partial funding of RMGA training programs has been provided by the Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing from the 1% surcharge funds on all building permits.

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

Condensate Discharge



BRENT URSEBACH

BRENT URSEBACH

HVAC EDUCATOR/
EXPERT WITNESS

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801-381-1449

THE CODES REGULATING condensate drains include the Mechanical (IMC), Fuel Gas IFGC), Plumbing (IPC), and Residential Code (IRC). These codes generally state these drains should be run to an approved location, meaning any place the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), or code official allows. Too often, especially on retrofits, HVAC installers and technicians not familiar with the plumbing codes directly tie condensate drains to any nearby

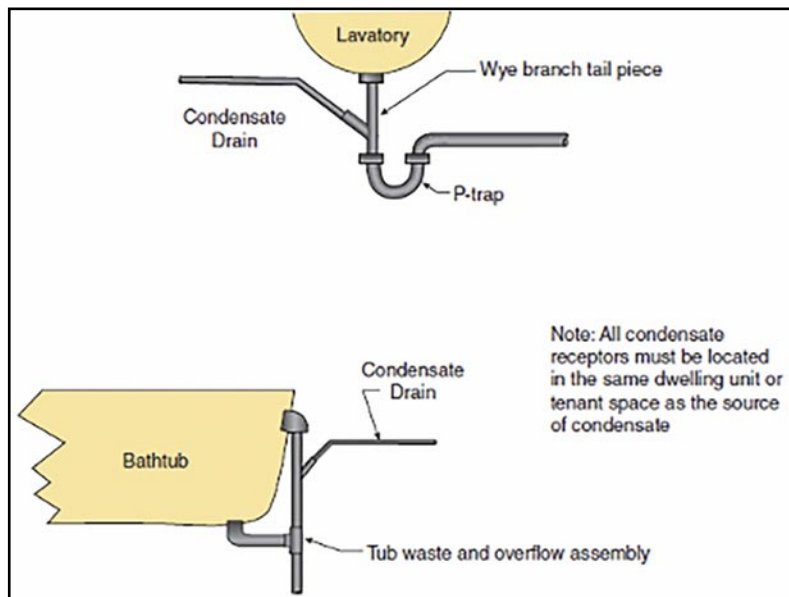
ABS/PVC drain, waste, or vent line. This is a serious violation of the code, creating health risks and unpleasant odor problem. The 2021 International Mechanical Code includes a significant update in a new sub-section, clarifying approved condensate discharge locations. (Note: underlining indicates new code text.)

2021 IMC: 307.2.1.1

Condensate discharge. Condensate drains shall not directly connect to any plumbing drain, waste, or vent pipe. Condensate drains shall not discharge into a plumbing fixture

point of discharge of condensate drains shall be located within the same occupancy, tenant space or dwelling unit as the source of the condensate.

Notice the approved locations



include lavatory tailpieces and bathtub overflows as indicated in these illustrations provided courtesy of the *International Code Council*.

Notice each location is protected with a p-trap which will typically maintain a

other than a floor sink, floor drain, trench drain, mop sink, hub drain, standpipe, utility sink or laundry sink. Condensate drain connections to a lavatory wye branch tailpiece or to a bathtub overflow pipe shall not be considered as discharging to a plumbing fixture. Except where discharging to grade outdoors, the

trap seal through regular fixture use. Connection to other plumbing fixture is prohibited. Watch for, in a future edition, a review of other condensate requirements found in the I-codes.

Best wishes for success in 2024 and thanks for your support and input. —Brent. ■

Risk Management Corner: The Benefits of Equipment Maintenance and Housekeeping



YOUR BUSINESS' SUCCESS lies in your careful decisions — and that includes how you approach the safety and risk management of your workplace.

Staying on top of safety at your business without functional equipment or a clean, organized workplace, the risk for injuries and losses can increase. At the end of the day, maintaining your tools and equipment, along with tackling regular housekeeping, can help in the following areas by:

Equipment Maintenance:

- Increasing profits
- Enhancing employee safety
- Reducing the risk of accidents, especially fires
- Increasing product quality and customer satisfaction
- Avoiding regulatory issues and financial penalties
- Improving energy efficiency, helping to lower operational costs
- Extending equipment lifespan, saving replacement costs
- Reducing downtime and production disruptions

Housekeeping:

- Increasing efficiencies
- Increasing profits
- Reducing Experience Modification (Ex Mod) costs (used by insurers to describe both past injuries and future risks)
- Helping to prevent accidents and injuries
- Reducing fire hazards and claims risks
- Creating a safe and efficient work environment
- Minimizing potential pest infestations and damage
- Enhancing employee morale and productivity
- Improving the company's image and reputation

This article was provided by Federated Insurance. Learn more about these safety measures and other important topics by reaching out to RMGA's marketing representative: Joel Rothmann at jtrothmann@fedins.com ■

Meet and Get to Know:

Q. Tell us about your company.

A. **ABT Mechanical** started in 2012 with Adam Merritt, (the A) and Brent Merritt, my father (the B), and the "T" being our Team. We are a full service commercial and residential HVAC company providing service, replacement, remodel and new construction services, and we also specialize in dehumidifiers for indoor pools and natatoriums. We are based out of Orem but have previously been located in South Salt Lake, and Midvale. We have amazing team members who work really well with each other and work really hard to keep themselves sharp through training..

Q. What is your position within the company?

A. I am the President of **ABT Mechanical** and I wear many hats as most HVAC contractors do.

Q. If you weren't an HVACR Contractor, what would you like to be?

A. I always wanted to be a pilot in one of the branches of service, I think it would have been very challenging but also very rewarding and exciting.

Q. What was your most unusual work experience?

A. In 2021 I was contracted with a manufacturer to provide startups on indoor dehumidifiers, being that it was during COVID most things were still locked down and my kids were still doing their school work remotely. It turned in to a pretty unusual year because we got to travel Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana together doing these startups and having our own side adventures, like hiking delicate Arch, walking down main street in Durango CO, going to Yellowstone National Park and many others which brought our family closer together. My family still looks back on this time as one of their favorite years despite how hard and difficult everything else was. We consider ourselves very lucky for that opportunity.

Q. What are your favorite aspects of your job?

A. I really enjoy the diversity of my job, there are days that I am in the office working at my computer and the next day I could be in the field installing or servicing a piece

of equipment, or I am standing in front of our team leading a training, or giving an estimate to a customer. I like how my days are almost never the same, and that I still get to interact with customers and team members.

Q. Do you have a motto that you live by?

A. "If you're early you're on time, if you're on time you're late, if you're late don't bother." This is somewhat ironic as I was late to our last board meeting, but I truly do strive to be early when things are in my control. I value my time but I also respect and value other peoples time, and being early or on-time is the one of the best ways to show that.

Q. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

A. I would love to travel to Australia, I am a big fan of hot weather and Koala's I think are one of the coolest animals. It looks like a very intriguing place to visit.

Q. What is your favorite hobby and when did you last do it?

A. I have always been an avid

ADAM MERRITT

fisherman, I enjoy the outdoors, and the peacefulness of rivers and lakes. I am lucky enough to share this hobby with every member of my family which makes it even more fun. I haven't been out fishing for a month or so but am looking forward to the ice fishing season.

Q. Tell us about your hidden talent.

A. My wife calls me "the baby whisperer" I have a knack for calming or soothing babies, I am not sure what it is I do that works, but whether they were my children, nieces, nephews, friends babies I have been pretty darn successful at calming/soothing them.

Q. If you won a \$50,000,000 lottery, what would you do?

A. I honestly have put more thought into this than I should especially considering I can count on 3 fingers how many times I have played the lottery. I would first put some away for each of my children, I would then give some to each one of my siblings and siblings in law. With whatever was left over I would find me a nice little cabin with a porch and swing, on a good

size piece of land with a stream/river running through it so my wife and I could enjoy the peace and quiet and each others company.

Q. Do you have a favorite movie?

A. My favorite movie has always been Top Gun but a close second or even tie is Heavyweights.

Q. If you could invite any three people to dinner (dead or alive), whom would you invite and why?

A. In no particular order, I would want to go to dinner with Albert Einstein, I am interested to know what inspired his thinking or interest in science and his process in working through problems never encountered before. My grandfather Jack Merritt, he passed away quite a few years ago and I have always admired his attitude, demeanor and work ethic and I know I would benefit from his wisdom, and experiences. Yogi Berra the Hall of fame Yankees



ADAM MERRITT & FAMILY

catcher, I played baseball all my life specifically catcher and I recently watched a documentary on Yogi and he seems like a wonderful person with a lot of wisdom and experience that I would like to learn from and know.

Q. People would be surprised to know...

A. That I enjoy cooking, and not only cooking old recipes but finding new recipes for new meals and sometimes creating my own.

Adam can be reached at ABT Mechanical DBA ABT Heating & Cooling. Web:

www.abtmechanical.com. ■

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**IT'S OUR BUSINESS TO PROTECT
RMGA MEMBERS**

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