



American Welding Society®
DETROIT SECTION



SEPTEMBER 2025 Inside This Issue

- 1 STUDENT NIGHT THURSDAY, SEPT. 4TH, 4:30 - 8:30 PM @ WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY 5105 ANTHONY WAYNE DR, DETROIT
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SAVE THE DATE - AT A GLANCE -

- Sept. 4:** Student Night at Wayne State Univ. St. Andrews Hall
- Sept. 8-11:** FABTECH 2025 Chicago
- Sept. 25:** Annual Golf Outing
(More info on pg 6)
- Oct. 12-17:** CWI Seminar
(More info on pg 11)
- Oct. 18:** CWI Exam
- Oct. 23:** October Technical Meeting co-hosted by Wayne State Univ. Welding and Metallurgical Engineering AWS Student Chapter

Check out the latest videos published by the American Welding Society on its YouTube page.

AWS Technical Nights are open to everyone! We encourage that members bring students and non-members to learn more about our organization and industry.



AWS-Detroit Student Night

Thursday, September 4, 2025 • 4:30 to 8:30pm

Wayne State University / St. Andrews Hall

5105 Anthony Wayne Dr, Detroit, MI 48202

As Summer slowly winds down, our thoughts turn to the upcoming academic year. As part of this transition of seasons, the Section proudly honors the Awardees of our **Scholarship Program** at our Annual Student Night. Please consider this an invitation to attend Student Night this year as we celebrate one of the most significant aspects of our Section's Mission: The education of the next generation of welding professionals.

(Scholarship Winners listed on page 2.)

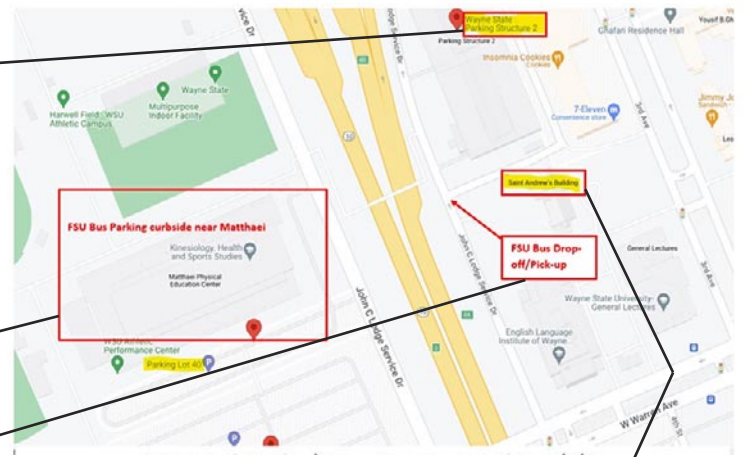
To RSVP, please visit: eventsquid.com/event/29542

Parking:

Parking Structure #2 (Free)
Anthony Wayne Drive
Tell Attendant you are there for AWS-DETROIT STUDENT NIGHT. ([CLICK HERE](#) or on the map for the location of Parking Structure #2)

FSU Bus Parking: Curbside near Mattheaei Building

FSU Bus Drop-off / Pick-up



St. Andrews Hall



Chairman's Message
Donnie Crist

Hello AWS – Detroit Members and Friends,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your AWS Detroit Section Chair for the upcoming season. I'm excited for the upcoming Section year and to continue building on the incredible foundation laid by those who came before us. This season brings with it a fresh mix of events, initiatives, and opportunities to connect, learn, and grow — and I look forward to working alongside both our returning leaders and the new members of our Executive Board who bring fresh ideas and energy to the team.

continued on page 4

Congratulations to the Detroit Section 2025 – 2026 Scholarship Winners:

This year the AWS-Detroit Section has awarded welding scholarships totaling over \$65,000. These scholarships are made available to Michigan residents and/or students enrolled in a welding or welding related programs at a college or university in the State of Michigan, and the following counties in the province of Ontario; Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton. The candidates all submitted an application, including transcripts of their academic achievement, a brief letter about their background, their goals and ambitions, and any additional factors that would help the Section Scholarship Committee determine eligibility for an award.

The 31 recipients of the 2025 – 2026 Scholarships will be attending

- Ferris State University
- Lansing Community College
- Oakland University
- Schoolcraft Community College
- Washtenaw Community College
- Wayne State University

The scholarship recipients are all invited to attend our September Technical Meeting as a guest of the Detroit Section so that they may receive recognition of these awards.

2025 - 2026 American Welding Society-Detroit Section Scholarship Winners

AWS-Detroit Section, District 11 Fred Ellicott Scholarship for Arc Welding

Oliver Hess – Ferris State University

AWS-Detroit Section, District 11 Dietrich Roth Scholarship for Resistance Welding

Rebecca Craig – Ferris State University

The Amos and Marilyn Winsand Scholarship, funded by the AWS Foundation

Trevor Townson – Ferris State University

The Robert P. and Mardell D. Wilcox Scholarship, funded by the AWS Foundation

Logan Pethers – Ferris State University

The Mardell D. Wilcox Scholarship, funded by the AWS Foundation

Scott VanNispen – Washtenaw Community College

The Blazok Foundation Scholarship, funded by the AWS Foundation

William Burke – Wayne State University

The Robert L. Wilcox Scholarship

Milad Eeso – Wayne State University

The James W. Mitchell Scholarship

Sean Higgins – Wayne State University

AWS-Detroit Section Awardees

Joshua Bakelaar - Ferris State University
Zachary Baker - Ferris State University
William Burke - Wayne State University
Rebecca Craig - Ferris State University
Katherine Cupler - Schoolcraft College
Jessica Duff - Ferris State University
Madelyn Goodwill - Washtenaw Community College
Sophia Gugel - Oakland University
Jackson Guillery - Ferris State University
Mark Hamilton - Wayne State University
Victoria Hay - Ferris State University
Oliver Hess - Ferris State University
Jefferson Hill - Wayne State University
Makumba Jallow - Wayne State University

Steven Laberdie - Washtenaw Community College
Andrew Musselman - Schoolcraft College
Olivia Peleg - Wayne State University
Jesse Pequeno - Wayne State University
Logan Pethers - Ferris State University
Caitlyn Popp - Wayne State University
Cameron Scharboneau - Wayne State University
Jason Smith - Wayne State University
Michael Smith - Ferris State University
Barbara Staley - Lansing Community College
Benjamin Taylor - Ferris State University
Anthony Valko II - Washtenaw Community College
Scott VanNispen - Washtenaw Community College
McKenzie Waddell - Wayne State University

Congratulations to all awardees! The scholarship process for the 2026-2027 school year will begin in December 2025.



Donald F. Maatz, Jr., AWS-Detroit Section Scholarship Chairman



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"Chairman's Message" *continued from page 1*

We officially kicked off our season with **Student Night** at *Wayne State University* on September 4th. This event is always a highlight, as it brings together the next generation of welding professionals, educators, and industry leaders. Meeting and inspiring these future AWS members is one of the most rewarding parts of our mission. Keep an eye on the **October E-Bulletin** for a full recap of Student Night, including photos and highlights.

I would like to give a special thanks to Don Maatz, Steve Gucciardo, and Mark Jager for their tireless work on our scholarship activities. Their efforts help support and encourage students pursuing careers in welding and related fields — an investment in the future of our industry.

September started the chapter year off to a busy beginning: **FABTECH 2025**, took place September 8–11 in Chicago, Illinois. FABTECH is the largest metal forming, fabricating, welding, and finishing event in North America. It's a fantastic opportunity to network, see the latest innovations in welding technology, attend educational sessions, and connect with professionals from around the world. Whether you were looking for new ideas, exploring new equipment, or simply curious about where the industry is headed, FABTECH is an event worth attending.

Due to Student Night being held on the **first Thursday of the month** and **FABTECH** taking place earlier than usual during the **second week of September**, there was **no formal Section Meeting or Technical Meeting** this month. Instead, we have and will be meeting in **smaller working groups**, organized by the assignments under each Chair. This approach will allow us to make progress on our initiatives and concentrate on orientation for new assignments, while accommodating the busy early-September schedule.

Thank you for your continued support of the AWS Detroit Section. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meetings and events, and I encourage you to invite colleagues, students, and friends to join us. Together, we can strengthen our local welding community and ensure the future remains bright.



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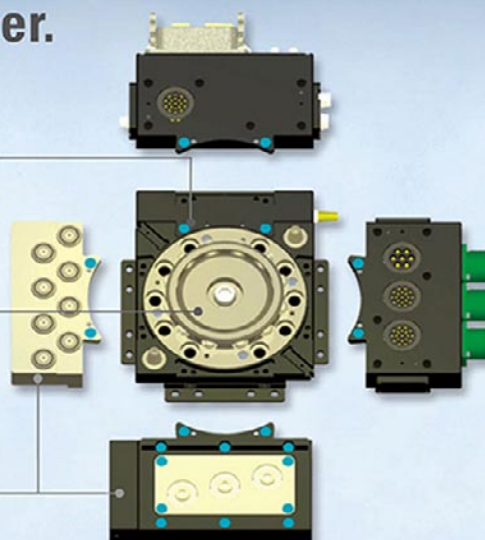
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AWS – Beyond The Process

By Jason Nicholson

I've worked from one end of the United States to the other, quite literally coast to coast. Every place that I've worked at had its own culture. Sometimes these can share regional similarities. At other times, they can be specific to a particular shop or company. Sometimes I find techniques that are intriguing and innovative, and other times I come across habits that go against any traditional logic. In this series, I'll talk about some of the things I've seen that have been central to a location or region, when they might be useful, and when to avoid them.

One of the most unique acts of welding that I have ever seen has been GTAW or TIG welders manually “pulsing” the foot pedal.

The first time I saw this I was at my first Engineering role fresh out college. I was in the heart of New England. Although I was new at the location, I was no spring chicken when it came to welding. I had considerable experience with certification and job experience alike, so I knew my way around the shop and under the hood. However, I did not know that welding could have different techniques that could be tied to a region like a dialect until that point.

The closest I ever got to pulsing the pedal was in High School with aluminum welding. I couldn't figure it out, and through experimentation got a good “stacked dimes” look by welding one spot at a time, but my teacher put a stop to it right away. It was a situation where he really

couldn't explain why it was bad, he just knew you weren't supposed to do it. After that, I hadn't come across anything similar until this point.

The shop swore by the technique. Almost everyone did it. Most of these guys were at least twenty years older than me and had been welding for decades, so it was a habit that had been around for a while.

I asked each welder why they did that. They all responded with similar answers that it would reduce distortion and made consistent beads. This made sense to them, after all, they were using less amperage and welding a constant pattern.

I'd like to make the argument that it's the opposite of what you might want to do.

continued on page 9

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"AWS – Beyond the Process" *continued from page 7*

I was sure when I first saw this that it wasn't good for what we were doing, but I didn't exactly know why. I scoured my AWS manuals at the time and found almost nothing. The closest thing I came across were some YouTube videos about people doing it in their garage. The products we made were for critical defense applications. Garage style welding would not work here; we had to use welding procedures that were qualified and usually application specific. So, to learn more about this I had to observe it and immerse myself in it.

After experimentation and some on-the-job training, I noted that when a welder manually pulses the pedal with their welding hood down, they can't see exactly how far down their foot is going, nor can they read the amperage values on their welding machines. A change in brightness from the torch with the increase and decrease in amperage is obvious, but the amount of change is unknown. If your amperage fluctuates it's possible to have lack of fusion in between the pulses, especially if they don't overlap well. If you are using a welding procedure that requires a specific amperage range, you may also be in violation of that without even knowing.

Using a little less amperage for a short amount of time does not reduce distortion the way you might think. It might only drop your total energy by a small fraction, especially depending on the size of the weld. Even if you have attempted to train yourself to pulse within the amperage limits of the procedure, this does not reduce distortion. It would make more sense to have a custom pulsing wave form and have the power source pulse automatically for you.

Manually pulsing the pedal is also more work. It adds complexity to something that most people have



difficulty with. Think of GTAW welding like drumming. A drummer must use both arms and legs. If you are GTAW welding with a pedal, you are usually using three limbs. If you also use a manually operated positioner, you use all four limbs just like a drummer. Comparing professions in this way is a good way to see the incredible skill and coordination required when welding like this. Now, think about making that more complex for eight hours a day. In the work environment, it is usually best to be as simple as possible. Increased complexity usually increases the chance of errors.

Overall, it might just be easier to use a lower amperage, faster travel speed, or weld with a sequence.

The best argument for manually pulsing the pedal is that this technique can create visually appealing weld beads. This can be great in a home shop or for artistry. If soundness of weld or structure strength is not a great concern, this could be a worthwhile technique. It could also be useful for a beautiful final cap pass over more sound roots and fillers.

After leaving New England, I've never seen manually pulsing the pedal again. I've discussed it with colleagues, and it's virtually unheard of. Most people see dangers with lack of fusion and avoid it. In my opinion, I wouldn't recommend this method. There's much better techniques to get a good "stacked dime" look, make a strong weld, and are easier to do.

If you know of any other benefits or drawbacks of manually pulsing the pedal, reach out to me! I'd love to talk about it.

Jason Nicholson, Welding Engineer
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Jason Nicholson is a Michigan native and Welding Engineer for General Dynamics Land Systems. He started his career in Welding when he joined the U.S. Navy as a Hull Maintenance Technician in 2004. While serving, he attained the Naval Enlisted Code (NEC) – 4955: U.S. Navy Certified Welder. He was Honorably discharged in 2010. He received his AS in Welding Engineering Technology from Delta Community College in 2012. He transferred to Ferris State University and graduated with a BS in Welding Engineering Technology in 2014. He has worked in a variety of industries from Submarines, Shipbuilding, and Automation, and has worked in locations across the world from Japan to Massachusetts.

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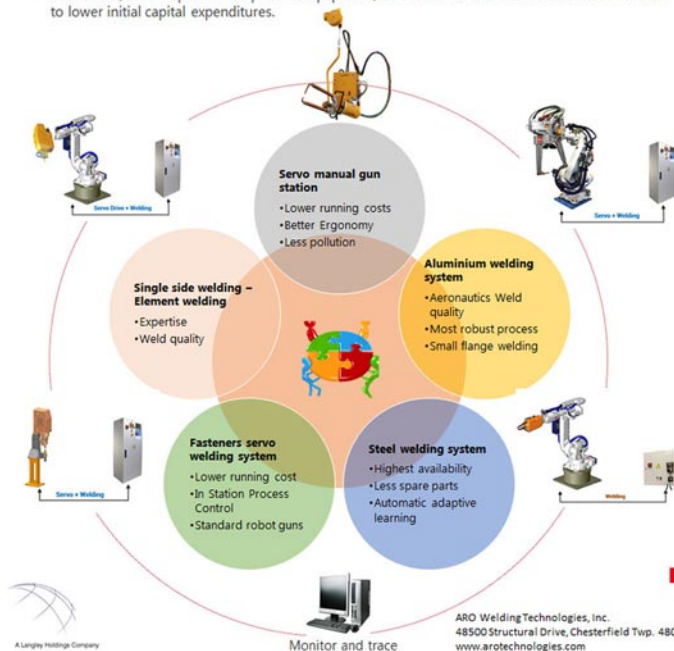
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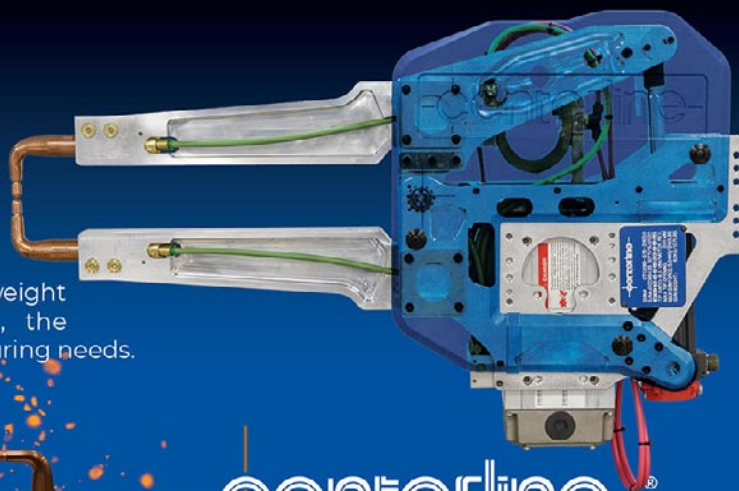
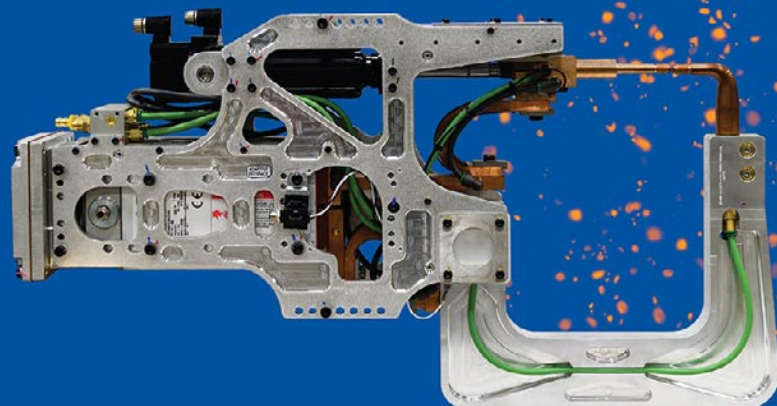
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