



American Welding Society®
DETROIT SECTION



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@ ONE EYED JACKS
SATURDAY, DEC. 6,
2 TO 5PM
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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.



Affiliated With

AWS Detroit Section Presents

Holiday Party @ One Eyed Jacks

Saturday, Dec 6th, 2025 2pm to 5pm

CLICK HERE TO RSVP BY DEC. 4TH!

<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/30090>

Tickets for \$65/person



Get ready to jingle, mingle, and swing into the holiday season at One Eyed Jacks Bar and Grill! Join us for an unforgettable Holiday Party packed with epic fun, delicious food, and the best vibes in Southeast Michigan. Whether you're looking to connect with friends, make new professional contacts, or just have fun, this is the place to be!

- Games Galore: Battle it out over vintage arcade games, rack 'em up at the pool table, tee off at a state-of-the-art golf simulator, or toss some bags on one of the cornhole lanes. There's something for everyone to flex their competitive side!
- Mouthwatering Eats: Feast on legendary pizza, and a pub favorite taco bar from the kitchen. Save room for decadent holiday desserts to satisfy your sweet tooth!
- 50/50 Raffle & Giveaways: Try your luck in our 50/50 raffle for a chance to win big, plus score awesome giveaways throughout the night!
- Vibes & Connections: Mix and mingle with friends, colleagues, and new faces. It's the perfect spot to spark new professional connections or just soak up the holiday spirit.

Why You Can't Miss This: From the high-energy games to the bold flavors and lively atmosphere, this holiday party is your chance to celebrate the season in style. Bring your crew, your holiday cheer, and maybe even your A-game for cornhole or golf!



Chairman's Message
Donnie Crist

Hello AWS Members and Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and was able to enjoy some well-deserved downtime with family and friends. For those who participated in the 2025 rifle season, I hope it was both successful and a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors our state is known for.

As we look ahead to December, we are excited for our annual AWS Detroit Section Holiday Party, organized by Erin Lalinsky. The event will be held on **Saturday, December 6th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at One Eyed Jacks**. If you haven't reserved your tickets yet, please do so—registration details can be found in this edition of the newsletter. Thank you, Erin, for your hard work putting this event together.

Please also mark your calendar for our **next Technical Meeting on January 8th, hosted at R&E Automated**. Serra Laser will present on handheld laser technology and will have the IPG Photonics LightWeld trailer onsite following the presentation. This will be an excellent opportunity to experience the equipment firsthand. Additional meeting details and registration information are included in this newsletter. Please take a moment to thank R&E Automated for opening their facility to our section.

I would also like to remind everyone that the **AWS Detroit Section Scholarship application window opens December 1st and closes April 1, 2026**. Full details are included in this newsletter. Please encourage any students enrolled in a Welding Engineering program, Welding Engineering Technology program, post-secondary welding certification program, or a related field with significant welding content to apply. This is a great opportunity to support the next generation of welding professionals.

Thank you for your continued support of the AWS Detroit Section. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Warm regards,
Donnie Crist

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- » *Institutional Grants (endowment based);*
- » *Scholarships through Application (endowment based);*
- » *Scholarships through aptitude (HSWC);*
- » *Vocational Support (case by case but budgeted each year), Institution (e.g. supply gas and materials), Local Contest (e.g. travel expense), International Contest (e.g. travel expense);*
- » *Student Memberships (evaluated each year);*
- » *Student Chapter (evaluated each year);*
- » *Technical and Educational Opportunities.*

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AWS-Detroit Technical Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026

5:30 to 8pm

R&E Automated Systems

11650 Park Ct, Shelby Twp, MI 48315

Please join us for the **January Technical Meeting**, hosted by R&E AUTOMATED, featuring a presentation followed with on-site demonstrations by Ryan Shevlin and David Sesdoyro from SERRA LASER.

David will discuss the IPG Photonics LightWELD, a handheld laser welding and cleaning system designed to be faster, easier, and more precise than traditional methods like TIG welding. It combines welding with pre- and post-weld laser cleaning to deliver consistent, high-quality results across a wide range of metals. Ryan will talk about ease of use not being from a traditional welding background.

David and Ryan will have the IPG Photonics LightWELD trailer on location after the presentation for hands-on demonstrations. The LightWELD trailer has two LightWELDS and two wire feeders to accommodate steel and aluminum wire welding applications. To RSVP, please visit www.eventsquid.com/event/30454



AWS – Beyond The Process: Welding for the Holidays

By Jason Nicholson

It's common for most businesses to pick up in November and December. There's usually a rush to fill orders, overtime money for holiday presents, and sometimes there's a bonus check if the company hits its goals. After the New Year holiday, the first couple of weeks or even first quarter of the year can be slow. Why does this cycle seem to happen every year?

Almost all manufacturing facilities have a schedule of production inflows, such as orders, and outflows, like shipping and invoicing in one form or another. At the end of the year, there is usually a big push to invoice as much as possible. An increase in sales, invoicing, or production can have a very positive effect on a business. It can be a sign that you have a strong inflow of customers, a very healthy business signal to many people who are in charge or monitor businesses. Often there can be a drive to accomplish sales goals if they have not been met for the year, or to make the sales goals look even better than they already are. For any of these to happen, the teams responsible for physical labor often bear the responsibility of maintaining quality while increasing production speed, time, or both. Depending on the nature of your company this effort can start as early as September or October and last until the New Year.

If you are one of the team members on the shop floor, this can be frustrating. It can mean long hours, low supplies, confusing directions, and less time spent with your family. It can drain you physically and emotionally. Sometimes these negative effects go away when you see your paycheck flooded with extra earnings from overtime, but the "highs" of seeing a "high paycheck" don't usually last long. After a couple of those, most people feel that their spare time would be spent better outside of work.

If you aren't on the shop floor it doesn't necessarily mean that you are immune to these stresses, either. If you are responsible for ensuring there is enough work on the floor, soliciting orders, or procuring material, these situations can be just as demanding at any time of the year. Anyone connected to production can be affected.

Usually, the whole team feels stress from these events. It can be easy to lose sight of that depending on how your communication and connection with other team members stands.

After the holidays, when everything is all said and done, there is usually a lull in the business. This is usually because to have a big push in November and December, production must be pulled in from next year's schedule. This means that usually easy work planned in the first quarter of the next year is moved to the last quarter of the current year. In manufacturing terms this has the nickname of "Cherry

"Welding for the Holidays" continued on page 9



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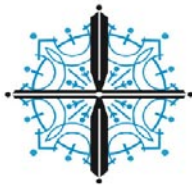
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"Welding for the Holidays" *continued from page 4*

Picking." Its like the old saying "Robbing Peter to pay Paul."

When orders are moved like this, the production workflow is usually captured, and the earnings are often moved to the correct month. Most of the time though, the earnings for where these orders were projected to is still planned to be there. Example: If an order for January is moved into November, that revenue from January is usually not deleted or replaced. This can usually be because planning is forecasted months earlier or even longer. If there is an accounting error here, it is often not realized until near the end of the month or quarter when actual sales do not match projected sales. This can often have a cascading effect from top down in various forms, but most of the time they are not positive. Companies that cannot accurately account for this often repeat these mistakes year after year unless there is serious dedicated learning or a change in leadership.

If you are on the shop floor, what can you do? My best advice is to stay positive and remember that you are the person that makes things happen. When the company is in a bind for whatever reason, you are the team player, the all-star, the hero. Without you doing the best that you can do, the company would have bigger problems. Keep your spirits up and remember that it doesn't matter what role you have, your contribution keeps the company going. During tough times like these, emotions can get high, so try not to take anything personal. If there are drawing mistakes or work instructions issues, ask your supervisor. And most importantly, watch out for your own health and safety. Often in these times safety is sacrificed for an increase in production speed, but if something happens, it is usually you who are held responsible. Don't take shortcuts. If you are sick or exhausted, take a break from work. You cannot provide if you are hospitalized, injured, or dead. What matters most is being with friends and family both mentally and physically when the time counts.

Jason Nicholson, Welding Engineer; CWI, CRAW-T, CSSYB
Nicholsonjason4955@gmail.com

Jason Nicholson is a 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. After serving, He received his AS in Welding Engineering Technology from Delta Community College, then transferred to Ferris State University and graduated with a BS in Welding Engineering Technology. He has worked in a variety of industries from Shipbuilding, Aerospace and Automation, and has worked across the world from Massachusetts to Japan.

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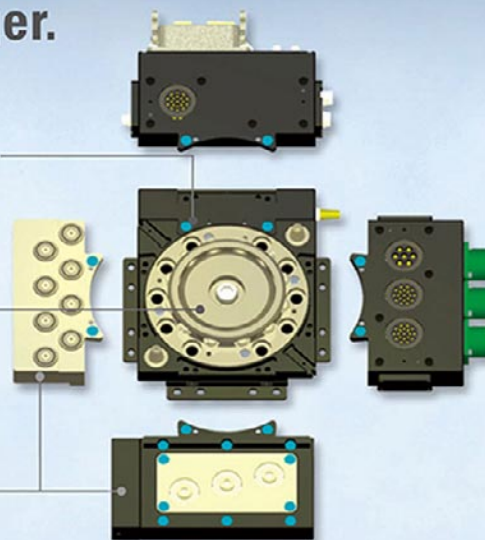
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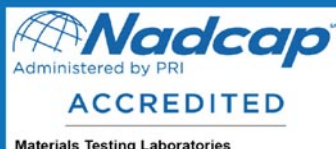


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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2026 – 2027 SCHOOL YEAR

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1. Applicant must be enrolled in a Welding Engineering Program, a Welding Engineering Technology Program, a Post-Secondary Technical Program (Welding Certification targeted program), or a related field of study with a strong welding content.
2. Students are eligible to apply for Detroit Section scholarships if they are permanent residents of the state of Michigan or the following Ontario counties: Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton. Students who are temporary residents attending school in the state of Michigan or the following Ontario counties: Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia Lambton are eligible for non-named scholarships. Preference will be given to students who are permanent residents of the Detroit Section territory, including Ontario counties: Essex, Chatham-Kent, and Sarnia-Lambton.
3. The Detroit Section Scholarship Committee administers the AWS Detroit Section Scholarship program, with the assistance of the AWS Foundation. The Committee also selects the recipients of the Foundation scholarships.
4. AWS Detroit Section Scholarships are paid in varying amounts based on individual awards. If an applicant is awarded a scholarship, the payments are made directly to their qualifying educational institution through the AWS Foundation.

Application Instructions

- The information requested on the application form is self-explanatory. Please fill out the form completely.
- The AWS Foundation inter-active application is available either at www.awssection.com/detroit under the Scholarships tab. Or by going directly to the AWS Foundation scholarship page: <https://scholarship.aws.org/>
- For more additional information about the scholarship program, please see <https://www.aws.org/foundation/page/scholarships>
- AWS membership is encouraged of all welding aspirants.
- In addition to the application form, you must enclose or attach the following:

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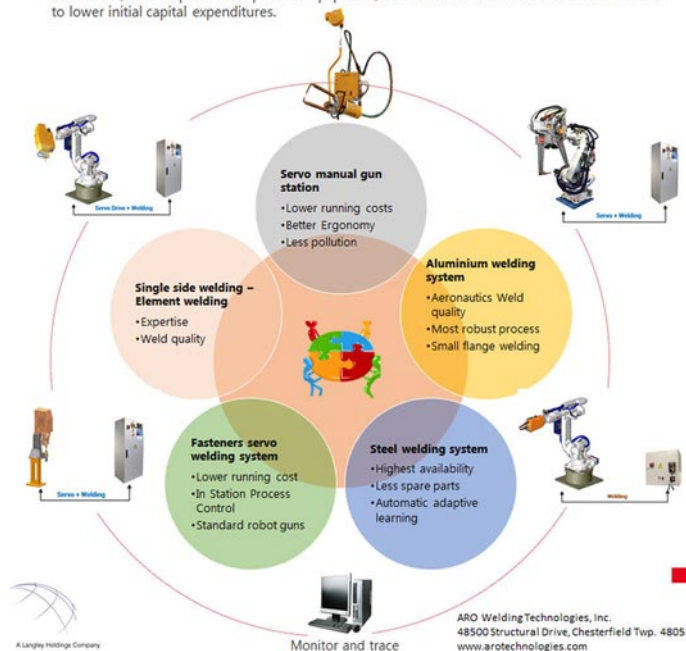
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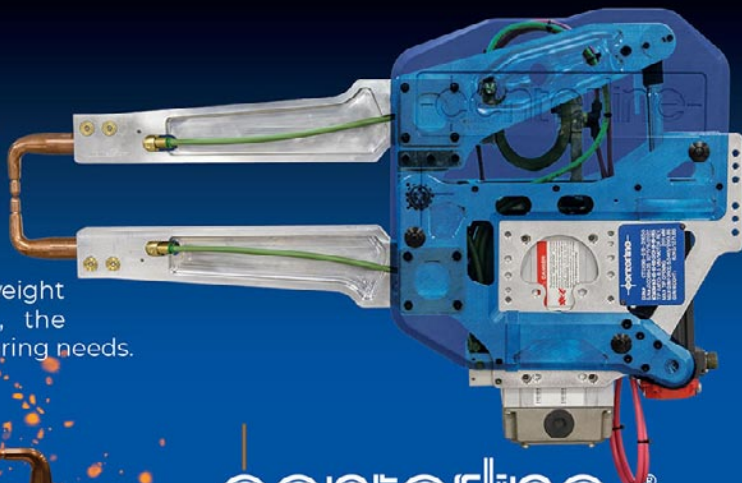
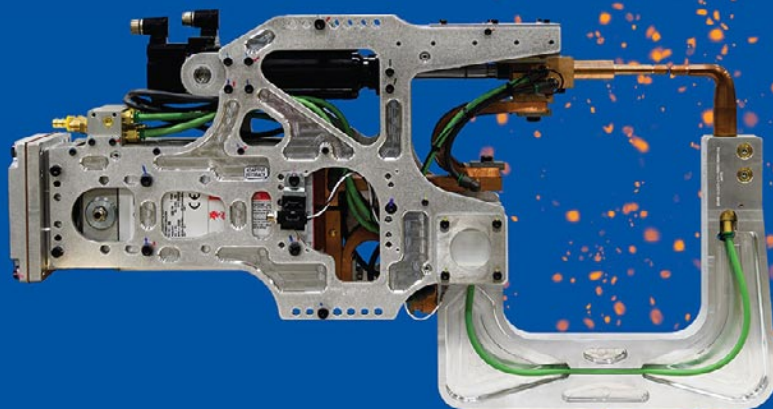
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