



## FEATURED PROJECT: Joliet Bulk Barge & Rail

Block Electric recently completed a fast-paced, six month project at Joliet Bulk Barge & Rail that was at times challenging because of the harsh winter and extreme weather conditions. With 90 percent of the job being outdoors, the installation of a crude oil unloading terminal in Joliet, IL

was difficult at times, required weekend work and peaked with manpower of 35 electricians.

"I would personally like to thank all our electricians and supervisors for a job well done," Project Manager Doug Henline said.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## President's Message



I did not think that winter would ever end, but spring has finally sprung. As our area struggles to shed the throes of winter, we are living in some pretty exciting times. Work has finally picked up, at least in Cook County, and Will County is also moving in the right direction. This has been a long recession, but we as a company started to see signs of recovery in 2014. That has also carried over into 2015 and we are charging full steam ahead.

Thanks to all of you, we keep making progress and our backlog continues to grow. We just completed a very busy first quarter of 2015. Everyone is involved in keeping us rolling so all I can say is, "Thank you, and let's keep moving forward". It is no coincidence that we continue to move forward. Customer Delight is the thing and that's what our team does best! So, let's keep up our "Delight", keep our backlog strong and our customers happy.

Our busy first quarter included Joliet Bulk Barge & Rail, a crude oil unloading facility in Joliet. This project is featured in this newsletter. I am very proud of our team for successfully completing this project during a very difficult weather period. Once again, the professionalism and ingenuity of our team here at Block Electric shown bright.

Please continue to work safely at all times. Safety needs to be a mindset of everyone and practiced every day. Safety should never take a holiday.

—JACK BLOCK







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**—Doug Henline,  
Project Manager**

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*“I would personally like to thank all our electricians*



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# Joliet Bulk Barge & Rail

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The job was supervised by Henline and General Foreman Chad Fowler, as well as Foremen Chris McCormick, Adam Mellen, Tom Kale and Gary Crutchfield.

The Joliet Bulk Barge & Rail project consisted of a 300 acre site, with 120 Train Car Unloading Stations known as the Safe Racks. The crude oil is off loaded from each train car and metered and stored in above ground storage tanks. Then the oil is pumped from the storage tanks and sent four miles away through a 20 inch pipeline to an interconnection with the Mobil Pipeline Company's Site, known as the MOJO. From there, the oil has direct access to the Exxon Mobil Oil Corporation's Joliet Refinery.

Block Electric installed two 15kv services from Commonwealth Edison's transformers through utility metering cabinets and Vista Gear to a 15kv medium voltage switchgear. The 15kv switchgear fed five 15kv outdoor transformers.

The transformers then fed 480 Volt and 4160 Volt Motor Control Centers in the Boiler House.

Most of the areas were rated as Class I Division 2 areas, with some Class I Division 1 areas.

Other work completed by Block included:

- The installation of approximately 9,000 feet of cable tray outdoors on elevated pipe stanchions.
- The installation of 180,000 feet of armored tray cable for motors, control stations, instrumentation, lighting and heat tracing throughout the plant.



■ The installation of approximately 500 Explosion Proof light fixtures throughout the safe racks, pipe stanchions, metering skids, pump areas and tanks.

■ The installation of 87 street lights and poles for the roadway lighting throughout the plant.

■ The installation of a Fire Alarm System for the Boiler House

■ The installation of Fiber Optics between the three buildings for the Fire Alarm System and the HMI's.

■ The installation of Electric Heat Tracing on process piping along with the water lines for the Safety Showers.

■ The installation of PLC's and UPS systems in the Boiler House for the plant instrumentation.

■ The installation of a plant wide emergency Alarm System

■ The installation of a Boiler Building.

General Contractor Ragnar Benson Construction, led by Dave Bergstrom and his staff, were "top notch to work for", Henline said. "It is always a pleasure to work with quality individuals and companies, and that usually leads to a successful project."

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## Spotlight On: Chad Fowler

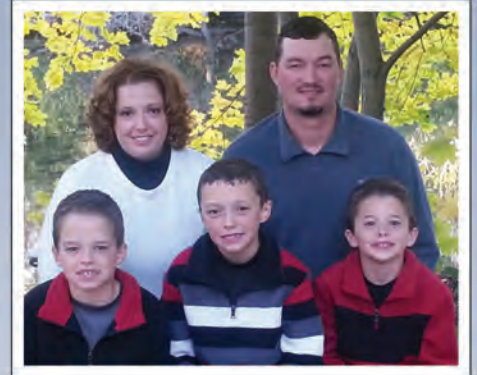
### GENERAL FOREMAN

Block Electric General Foreman Chad Fowler is an avid outdoorsman and values time spent with his family. He and his wife Tonya have been married for almost 13 years and have three boys: Colten, 11; Cayden, 10; and Caleb, 8.

When he's not working, Fowler spends as much time as he can hunting, fishing, camping, and coaching his kids at several of their sports teams. "At their current age my kids are also starting to take a deeper interest in the outdoors so we get to spend a lot of good time together," he said. "I enjoy any time that we have together doing the various activities they are involved in such as band, soccer, baseball, basketball, or just time together at home."

Fowler credits his job at Bunge Foods, an edible oil refinery and packaging facility in Bradley, IL, for opening his eyes to the opportunities available through his trade. "It was there that I first learned about the career opportunities available through the trade," he said. "I was already a part time student at Kankakee Community College for electronics and decided to apply for the apprenticeship. Certainly glad that I made the career change."

According to Fowler, the most unusual part of his job is the wide variety of people he comes in contact with from day to day, whether it's the people he works with, his customers, or the engineers. "The fact is that it is not enough anymore to just be good at what you do," he said. "It also takes being able to relate with a wide variety of people to



*Pictured: Block Electric General Foreman Chad Fowler; his wife, Tonya; and their sons Colten, 11; Cayden, 10; and Caleb, 8.*

coordinate what is often a common goal."

"I would say that a singular customer experience does not stand out," he continued. "Something I have taken from experience is just being aware of what you are doing at all times and how it might be viewed by the customer is of the utmost importance in the current construction climate. I think it is important that our customers see that even if the job is not going as planned, we are the contractor that is out there searching for a solution and sometimes thinking outside the box to keep things going in the right direction. It makes a statement when you are staying positive and trying to work with our clients as opposed to them constantly saying it may not be possible."

During his years at Block Electric, Fowler said he has had the pleasure of working with "some of the best guys in the field." He has worked at Silver Cross Hospital with Doug Henline, Chris McCormick, Ron Stefaniak, and Leo Keigher; at CSL Behring with Jim and Chris McCormick; and at Harrah's and Toyal America with Joe Parthun. His most recent project is Joliet Bulk Barge & Rail.

"I have enjoyed working with everyone at the Shorewood office," he said. "There is a great group of guys there and I can't thank them enough for the experience I have gained from working with them."

#### Thank you to the following crew members who worked on this project:

Chad Fowler, Chris McCormick, Adam Mellen, Tom Kale, Gary Crutchfield, Bob Beuck, Miguel Chagoya, Matt Crutchfield, Mike Danielewski, Martin Deaville, Alex Giese, Joshua Hess, Jeff Holmes, Mike Johnson, Mike Kammers, Martin Kief, Brian Lacke, John Lantz, Eric Mathieu, Tim Matile, Mike Mautino, Larry McCormick, Kristin Miller, Joe Parthun, John Quigley, Nick Santorineos, Tim Schafer, Bob Schaffnit, Dave Senko, Kevin Sheridan, Lucas Simpson, Ron Stefaniak, Dan Stellato, John Thatcher, Joe Vignocchi and Bill Wills.



## FOCUS ON SAFETY: “I thought it would work”

Isn't this a pretty common reply when you ask someone what happened? But it is only the tip of the iceberg. The first question should be, “Why didn't it work?”

You will be amazed how often the answers are, “I didn't have the right tool,” “The tool broke,” or very often, “The tool slipped.” Here are some tips for hand tool usage that may help avoid injury.

**The right tool for the right job.** Not enough can be said about using the right tool. It is the most common cause for hand tool injuries. One common reason for not using the right tool is not wanting to take the time to get it. Think about how much time you will lose when you go to the doctor. Common misuses include: prying with screwdrivers, hammering with wrenches, chipping or scraping with screwdrivers, using pliers as a wrench, using cheater bars instead of penetrating oil and using claw hammers to strike chisels instead of peen hammers.

**Maintain tools properly.** Knives and saws must be sharp. If they are not, too much force has to be applied and a slip-type injury may result. Hammers and chisels must be dressed properly to avoid mushrooming. Wear eye protection when using striking tools. Screwdriver tips must be properly dressed. Replace loose or cracked hammer handles before the heads fall off. Keep tools clean at all times. Greasy handles slip easily. Lubricate moving parts to prevent wear and help parts more smoothly.

**Secure the work.** Place your work on a table, work bench, saw horse or in a vise before you start working on it! Most tools used for cutting, scraping or filing require both hands. If your

work is in one hand, your chances of harming yourself are much greater.

**Body positioning.** While using wrenches, always pull towards you; never push. This will avoid the wrench slipping and your hands striking something. If you must push on a tool, keep your hands open. The palm of the hand can take much more abuse than the back of the hand. When using wrenches or pry bars, always position your feet so that you maintain your balance if you slip.

**Tool storage.** Have you ever looked for a tool and not been able to find it? That's one reason for storing tools properly. Another reason is to make sure the tool doesn't get damaged. When you set a tool down, make sure blades are pointed safely away. Don't set tools on top of things; they might fall on something or someone. When carrying sharp tools make sure they are sheathed.

### Block Scholarship Application Deadline is April 30

The deadline for scholarship applications is April 30. Application instructions are in your Team Member Handbook. Submit all applications to: Mr. Len Borhart, Borhart Spellmeyer & Co., 1752 Capital Street, Suite 400, Elgin, IL 60124.

## Block Electric employees celebrate anniversaries

Congratulations to the employees below for their years of loyalty, service and dedication to Block Electric.



**Doug Henline**, who joined Block on Nov. 14, 1984, recently celebrated his 30 year anniversary.



**Tim Vanderhyden**, who joined Block on Dec. 19, 1989, recently celebrated his 25 year anniversary.



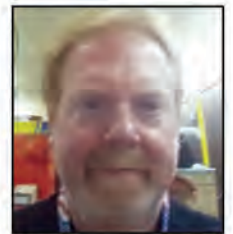
**Gary Crutchfield**, who joined Block on Feb. 8, 1995, recently celebrated his 20 year anniversary.



**Gary Jones**, who joined Block on Feb. 5, 1990, recently celebrated his 25 year anniversary.



**Dave Scott**, who joined Block on April 12, 1995, recently celebrated his 20 year anniversary.



**Jim Strege**, who joined Block on Nov. 14, 1994, recently celebrated his 20 year anniversary.



**Block Electric Company**  
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*Customer Delight  
Since 1920*

**The Block Connection**

Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## 5th Annual American Cancer Society Walk and Roll

The 5th Annual American Cancer Society Walk and Roll is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 at Soldier Field, Stadium Green, 1410 Museum Campus Drive, Chicago. Registration begins at 8:30 am, with step-off at 10 a.m.

Come together with Block Electric and

thousands of walkers, skaters, cyclists and volunteers to honor cancer survivors, raise awareness about reducing cancer risk, and raise money to support the lifesaving services of the American Cancer Society. Your participation allows the American Cancer Society to continue

to help people facing cancer today and find cures to end the disease tomorrow.

Together we truly are saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

**Thanks again for your support for this great cause!**

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