



# Times



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### Renesas Electronics, 915/1001 Murphy Ranch Rd., Milpitas

With over 20,000 employees in locations around the globe, Renesas is a leader in the research, development, design, manufacture, sales, and servicing of semiconductor products worldwide. Company recently expanded its lease at Murphy Crossing in Milpitas by acquiring an additional 80,000 sq. ft. of office/R&D space, then renovating approximately 150,800 sq. ft. in two separate buildings. Its Silicon Valley location specializes in developing software and electronics for self-driving cars, and the newly completed space includes a premium lobby, sales showroom, fitness center, employee lounge, training lab and self-driving car R&D Garage.



Working together with South Bay Construction, NAE's team provided design, engineering and construction/installation of electrical, lighting and power systems for the Renesas upgrade. Project Manager Tyler Cole, primary Foremen Ronnie Aguiniga and Tony Mejia and with assistance from other NAE Foremen Abiel Topete, Arturo Hernandez, Gholamreza Brahinzadeh, Jani Youhanapour and Miguel Alanis and Leads, Erick Baires, Isaias Ornelas, Oscar Vallejo and Rodolfo Hernandez, led an outstanding team of electricians and apprentices in completion of the labor-intensive, incredibly fast-tracked project. Together with Adrian Arevalos, Arnulfo DeLeon, Charles Miller, David Mestas, Dylan Brubaker, Enrique Morales, Gibran Lugo, Jason Maxwell, Jonathan Galvan, Jose Hernandez, Joseph Gonsalves, Josh Rocklage, Lance Taylor, Matthew Castillo, Okitondo Munganga, Oscar Vallejo, Rene Karimian, Roman Lagunas and Tomas Nazario, the team tracked almost 13,000 man-hours in 90 days, and turned a complex design/build project over to a satisfied client, in record time and within budget.

There were a number of hurdles in completing the T.I. "The design alone was a major feat as we were only given small hand-drawn cutsheets for each of the rooms and labs and it was critical we didn't miss a thing," noted Tyler. "Most labs required us to build stations for placement of all wire mold, plugs, etc., running the conduit to the ceiling while still making it look great. The biggest challenge was our construction schedule – 3 months from start to finish, and Ronnie and Tony did a phenomenal job!"

Congratulations on yet another fantastic job by a stellar NAE team!

Photos: Trevor DeHaas ©

## MEET YOUR NAE TEAM—20+ CLUB



### Mark Yates

At 21 and newly married, Mark was a frustrated truck driver when a friend introduced him to Kurt. That meeting changed his life and he's grown and flourished over the

last 24 years. Mark's been with NAE long enough to go from "I think I've seen your trucks" to "I see you guys everywhere!"

Initially Mark pushed a lot of brooms but he could see the big picture. In addition to developing his skills as an electrician, Mark's number of years with NAE has provided diverse opportunities, and he's learned to deal with people at all levels and walks of life. He's been able to wear many hats and has a deep appreciation for the trade and the possibilities it's provided in his life.

Sweethearts since high school, Mark married Gina in 1993, and they have two children, Haley and Hunter, whom he coached through all their youth sports. Mark first found out he was about to become a dad at an NAE picnic. Kurt was passing out employee ...*Cont'd*



### Jeff Rocklage

Prior to NAE, Jeff spent five years in the Air Force in Civil Engineers, doing construction projects, then left to become a facilities manager; that experience allowed him to perform electrical

work and manage jobs at NAE. A computer buff in his spare time, Jeff had been teaching himself design and software programs on his first Mac. When Kurt saw an opportunity to create a niche in the new design/build process, Jeff was excited to add CADD operations to his duties.

In 1998, when Jeff joined NAE, there was barely a handful of combined field and office staff. As more electricians were hired, he was able to transition into the office and devote his ...*Cont'd*



### Ferid Trumic

Ferid was born in the Brcko District of Bosnia. As a young man, he worked for a power company, but during the atrocious Bosnian conflict, he fled to Germany where he found

work as an electrician. Moving his family to California in the 1990's, Ferid met Gene Cashman at Shane Co. jewelry where Gene was doing some work; he introduced Ferid to Kurt, and Ferid joined the growing ranks at NAE.

Demonstrating a high level of skill as a journeyman electrician, Ferid was quickly promoted to Foreman. He referred a few of his Bosnian friends to NAE and shortly after, Muhammed and then Dean joined...*Cont'd*



### Gene Cashman

Gene doesn't like to talk about himself, but 22 years is a long time, and he's seen a lot of changes. "Back then, BX cable was the industry's best, now it's obsolete. There was no internet, nor was construction computerized. Now we have Title 24 and technology that until more recently was only in science fiction." Gene's advice to those coming into this field: "Just show up! And if you can show up with a good attitude you'll go far!"

# The Back Page

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOSS

Hope you all had a fun and enjoyable summer. Thanks to everyone who turned out for the Santa Cruz Boardwalk event! It was the best attendance we've ever had, and it certainly appeared everyone was having a blast! Overall, it's been a great year. We've had some interesting work this summer, with more to come. I'd like to tell you about a few other plans we've got in the works.

**Introducing NAE's Plus Club...**It's hard to believe it's been almost 30 years since I earned my C-10 license and opened shop as New Age Electric. Back then I was a staff of one for quite a few months, but over the years we've become a force to be reckoned with! This year marks milestone anniversaries for a number of you (see "Meet Your Team", front). Mark Yates joined NAE 24 years ago and Gene Cashman has been with us for 22. Brother Jeff came on board 20 years ago, the same year that Ferid and Muhamed (who was featured in the 2017 Holiday Issue) joined our workforce. While NAE pins at the annual Holiday party have become my go-to tradition, in order to acknowledge these individuals more deservedly for their extraordinary work and efforts over the years, a commemorative wall feature is being developed recognizing their years of dedication and service. There will be three categories; "20+ Club," "15+ Club," and "10+ Club" (the latter two groups include Jerry Arnold at 19 years, John Kearney and Dean Skerlep each at 18, Mario Peterson, Jason Gonterman and Codey Hughey at 14, Rich Aguiniga at 13. Brian Spangle and Jani Youhanapour at 12, Nick Hughey at 11, and Joe Porras at 10. All of these men, and others, are highly skilled professionals and individuals you can follow in learning to become a master at your craft. Look for these attractive recognition plaques to be on display at this year's Holiday Bash.

**Introducing New Age University...**At the last general meeting we asked all staff for training topic ideas. The response was awesome, and we now have a top line-up of requests. Classes are underway and will be held at 2:30 PM on the last Thursday of every month. The following is a small sample of some requested topics, that will be taught by seasoned NAE Foremen or Project Managers, and offered free-of-charge to all NAE employees. *Skills and techniques:* Bending and Cut-Ins, Wiring 3- and 4-Way Switches, Motor Controls. *Equipment:* Forklift and Grade-All Training. *Terminology:* Common Names of Materials, Labeling and Marking CKTS, Safety Labels, *Specialized Classes:* Blueprint Reading, Ohm's Law, Title 24, Anger Management in the Workplace. *For more information, contact Tyler Cole, Steve Popejoy or Gail Cristobal.*

## SAFETY CORNER

### Protect Yourself Against Heat Illness with Water, Rest, and Shade

While it's been a fairly mild summer here in the South Bay, there've been record-breaking temperatures elsewhere the country and we may still be in store for some hot days. Heat illness occurs when your body can't cool itself. Early symptoms of heat illness include fatigue, heavy sweating, headache, cramps, dizziness, high pulse rate, and nausea/vomiting. Life-threatening symptoms include high body temperature, red, hot, dry skin, confusion, convulsions, and fainting, and require immediate medical help. If you feel any symptoms, tell your coworkers and supervisor immediately. Workers have died or suffered serious problems from heat illness. Protect yourself by following these prevention tips:

- Drink at least one 8-ounce cup of water every 15 minutes during your entire work shift. Do NOT wait until you are thirsty to drink water.
- Avoid coffee and other caffeinated beverages, which can cause dehydration.
- Take rest breaks in the shade to cool down.
- Wear loose fitting, light-weight cotton clothes, a wide-brimmed hat, cap, or bandana.
- See your DR if you have illnesses like diabetes, are taking medicines or are on a low salt diet.
- Tell your supervisor if you are new to working in the heat or have had prior heat illness.
- Be sure to familiarize yourself with NAE's Injury and Illness Prevention Program; for more info contact Chloe Brubaker, Gail Cristobal or Steve Popejoy.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**Foremen's Meeting: First Monday Every Month at 6AM**

(unless otherwise noted)



*Playworks, a nonprofit supporting learning and physical health by providing safe and inclusive play to low-income students, hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Corporate Kickball Tournament in June. NAE sent a team, which played against other area businesses, and all enjoyed an afternoon of team building, exercise and fun. Watch for your chance to join in the fun in 2019!*

**Mark**...awards and picked up a baby bottle, calling it a "New Mouth to Feed" Award. When Mark heard his name called, he ran across the tops of all the tables to the stage, tears of joy welling up in his eyes.

Mark recently founded a baseball/softball travelling league and named it *San Jose Unloaded*. It's for all children ages 9-16 and is part of his "giving back." *Unloaded* provides opportunities for disadvantaged children to play sports, travel like pro ballplayers, and understand that life is about more than just a neighborhood. He welcomes volunteers to help fundraise and get involved!

Mark tells his new apprentices, "No matter your skill level, don't bite off more than you can handle and let the opportunities come, because they will!" 🐦

**Jeff**...attention to creating CADD designs helping to establish the company as an expert in design/build.

After NAE's accounting manager became ill, Jeff took over payroll. NAE continued to grow, and a bookkeeper was hired; she and Jeff moved upstairs, bringing the CADD system with them. By 2007, NAE had grown to 70 employees, and Jeff began overseeing many aspects of the company's financial operations, while knocking out the design drawings that continued to give NAE a competitive edge. Eventually his duties as Chief Financial Officer with over 100 employees required that he turn CADD production over to others.

A devoted cyclist, Jeff rides to and from work most days. He believes in maintaining healthy living, and you'll often find him at the gym practicing Jujitsu or kick boxing. He's also a certified diver, and loves exploring our vast ocean worlds.

Jeff's advice to all employees is simple. "Do the job you were hired for, but be willing to do things that aren't your job; it's all part of your learning experience." 🐦

**Ferid**...the NAE workforce, followed by Damir, Miralem and others in subsequent years.

Ferid met Mevlida, his wife of 38 years, through mutual friends. The couple has two children – a 36 year old son who just blessed Ferid with a grandson, and a 29 year old daughter, both of whom live in Europe. Ferid and Mevlida visit baby Benjamin as often as possible and Ferid looks forward to the day he is able to do whatever his grandson wants to do!

In his spare time, Ferid enjoys getting together with friends over coffee or long walks. At times they reminisce about the early days, moving to the U.S. and finding career opportunities at NAE, which have sustained them through the years. The benefit, however, belongs to us, for the many years of dedication that Ferid, Muhamed, Dean, Damir and many others have contributed, helping to make NAE a local leader. "It's all about teamwork," says Ferid, "everyone working hard and doing their best together as a team." 🐦