



PERA INSIDER

Bi-Monthly Updates

Industry News

Member Spotlights

ISSUE: May 2026

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 2

Welcome Aaron LaRose!

Aaron LaRose comes to PERA after over 15 years of experience working alongside the executive team at SRC Automotive holding increasingly challenging roles within operations and sales before being promoted to Vice President of Sales in 2017. Starting as a Sales Account Manager, Aaron worked his way up the corporate ladder to Vice President of Sales and Marketing to General Manager achieving year-over-year growth of 6-8% annually. He has been heavily involved in all aspects of SRC Automotive's growth working with many OE manufacturers.



Prior SRC Automotive Aaron gained experience running automotive repair facilities and working in automotive E-Commerce. With bachelor's degrees from Missouri State University in Marketing & Finance he comes in with a very strong financial understanding.

In his free time Aaron and his wife Anna enjoy taking their Jeep off-road and their classic cars to events all over the country and admittedly is a Corvette Nut.

PERA President Juan Luis Bernal says "It is an honor to welcome Aaron as our future Executive Vice President. His solid reman experience and vision will strengthen the future of our organization. We are confident his leadership will be a key in successfully guiding the Association's path for many years to come. I'd also like to thank Joe for all his efforts to make PERA a strong association that reinforces the values and collaboration between all members!"

TODAY'S INSIDER:

1 - WELCOME AARON LA ROSE

2 - NEW MEMBERS

3 - MISSOURI PROTOPLEX

4 - PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

5 - PRODUCT NEWS

12 - WEBINAR SERIES

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Steve Baker, VP of the Great Game of Business says “I’ve had the opportunity to know Aaron LaRose at SRC for 15 years, and I can’t think of a better person to help lead the future of remanufacturing through PERA. Aaron understands that remanufacturing is about more than parts and processes — it’s about people, stewardship, and building an industry that creates opportunity for future generations. PERA is gaining a thoughtful, principled, and highly capable leader. I’m excited to see the impact Aaron will have in helping advance the remanufacturing industry in the years ahead.”

Cindy Herndon

Due to a serious automobile accident, Cindy made the decision to resign her position as PERA’s incoming Executive Vice President to concentrate on regaining her health. We wish the best for Cindy and for a speedy recovery!

New Members

Please add the following new members to your 2026 directory

RaceSert Manufacturing

PO Box 96190

Portland, OR 97296

Co. Email: info@racesert.com

Website: <https://racesert.com>

Carl Strom, President cjstrom@racesert.com

Josh Eckstrom, General Manager

Kara Eckstrom, General Manager

(503)789-4288

cjstrom@racesert.com

jekstrom@racesert.com

kekstrom@racesert.com



Products: Permanent thread repair kits for engine blocks, cylinder heads, transmissions and other components including drilling jigs.

Joe Baker Equipment Sales

1000 Devils Backbone Rd.

Portland, OR 97296

Website: <https://joebakerquipsales.com>

Tammy Baker, President

(513)266-7244

tmbaker@gmail.com



Products: Equipment for various manufacturers; Berco replacement parts & chucks.

The 2026 Membership Directory

The 2026 membership directory has been mailed. The dues contact at your company should have received 2 copies. If you don’t know who that is, contact me and I’ll pass it on. If you need any extra copies, let me know as well: joepolich@pera.org or 817.243. 2646.

The Missouri Protoplex

Note: The Missouri Protoplex will be at our convention in Springfield

Engine remanufacturers operate at the intersection of precision and pressure. You restore worn cylinder heads, salvage cracked blocks, hard-face wear surfaces, and source legacy parts that nobody makes anymore — all while customers expect OEM-quality results on tight timelines. The Missouri Protoplex was built for exactly the kinds of challenges your members face every day.

A New Resource for
Engine
Remanufacturers

Located on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus in Rolla, the Missouri Protoplex is a 116,000-square-foot advanced manufacturing innovation hub where industry and academia work side by side. Made possible by a \$300 million gift from S&T alumnus Fred Kummer and his wife, June, the facility opened in April 2026 and is already home to four anchor industry partners with employees and equipment on-site, plus active research contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense.

The Protoplex houses more than \$12 million in advanced manufacturing equipment across 50+ machines and instruments, including additive manufacturing equipment, a next-generation foundry, a fatigue testing service center, and others. Several capabilities are particularly relevant to PERA member companies:

- Cold spray additive manufacturing
- Friction stir welding and solid-state additive
- Precision laser micro-welding
- Hybrid additive/subtractive systems
- Legacy and discontinued parts

Additional equipment includes a Yaskawa/Motoman MH180 robot for precision machining and grinding, a Sodick wire EDM, an MTI Wire Draw Cell, and a robotic wire-arc additive cell for high-deposition-rate builds on parts up to 60 inches in diameter.

The Protoplex is structured to meet manufacturers wherever they are, with several common entry points:

- Technical assistance projects
- Shared equipment access
- Co-location
- Workforce upskilling and talent pipeline

How to Get Started

Not sure where your company fits or which technology applies to your work? That's the most common starting point. Reach out to the Protoplex team or to Angelina Billo, the Industry Engagement Office at Missouri S&T to schedule a discovery conversation.

Website: protoplex.mst.edu

Phone: (573) 341-6272

Email: abillo@mst.edu

People in the News!



Asian Engine Parts (AEP) has announced the hiring of industry veteran Mick Jordan as its Director of Sales. Jordan brings nearly four decades of experience in the aftermarket automotive sector, making him a seasoned industry veteran with a strong background in sales and marketing.

As Director of Sales, Mick will advise and assist AEP's sales and marketing department, helping the company grow its market presence and meet customer needs. His role will involve strategic planning, relationship management, and driving revenue growth for the business.

Asiff Dhanani, President and CEO of Asian Engine Parts, stated "We are very happy to bring Mick on board. His extensive experience and contacts in the industry will greatly assist in our efforts to add customers and develop new markets."



King Engine Bearings

Please add Paul Oleandi, Vice President of North American Sales to your 2026 membership directory. His email is poleandi@king-bearings.com and can be reached at 716.264.9480.



The Board of Directors of NPR-RIKEN CORPORATION has approved the acquisition of all the capital stock of Hastings Holding Corp. ("HHC") by Riken Corporation of America ("RCA"), resulting in HHC becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of RCA.

Under the Company's Midterm Corporate Strategy (2024-2026), the NPR-RIKEN group is working to transform its business portfolio in a way that leads to more sustainable growth in sales and profit. In addition to expanding its "next core businesses"* into non-ICE fields, the Company is working to achieve stable profitability through market share increases in its core piston ring business, including the replacement ring aftermarket.

The NPR-RIKEN Group and the HHC Group focus on different customers, applications and sales regions, that will result in a strong, complementary relationship with significant potential for production and sourcing synergies when combined. The Rikon Board believes that this acquisition will enhance the competitiveness of the NPR-RIKEN Group and significantly improve the profitability of its piston ring business, as well as build long-term corporate value through increased market coverage and by raising customers' satisfaction.

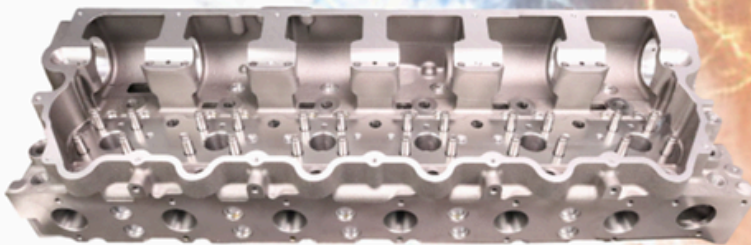
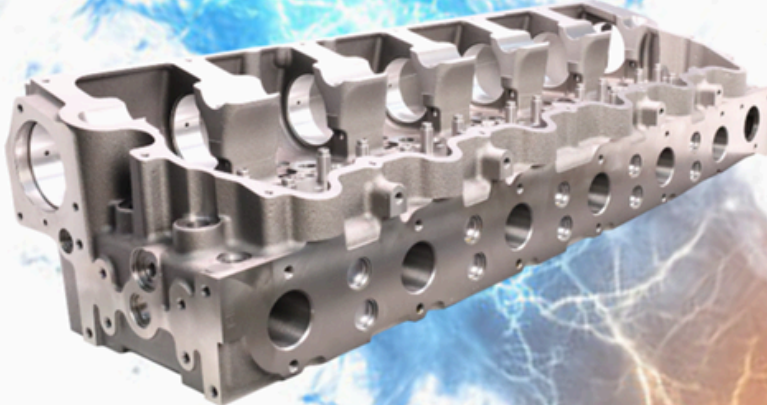
Product News





New Parts Release 16-615640

CATERPILLAR C15 | Cylinder Head & Valve Train



- **CAST IRON**
- **GUIDES, SEATS, INJECTOR TUBES INSTALLED**
- **PREMIUM QUALITY: MATCHES OE FIT AND FINISH**

HEAD KITS INCLUDE

- (1) - 16-615640 CASTING
- (12) - 10-1911 INTAKE VALVE
- (12) - 10-1912 EXHAUST VALVE
- or upgrade valves to **inconel w/**
- (12) - 10-1911i INTAKE VALVE
- (12) - 10-1912i EXHAUST VALVE
- (24) - 32-04000 SPRINGS
- (24) - 32-04001 SPRINGS
- (24) - 37-2001 ROTATORS
- (48) - 34-746 KEEPERS
- (24) - 38-229-45 STEM SEALS

1854 Air Lane Dr. #10 Nashville, TN 37210 | 615-777-3863

www.QualCast.com

NPR 16-615640

Product News

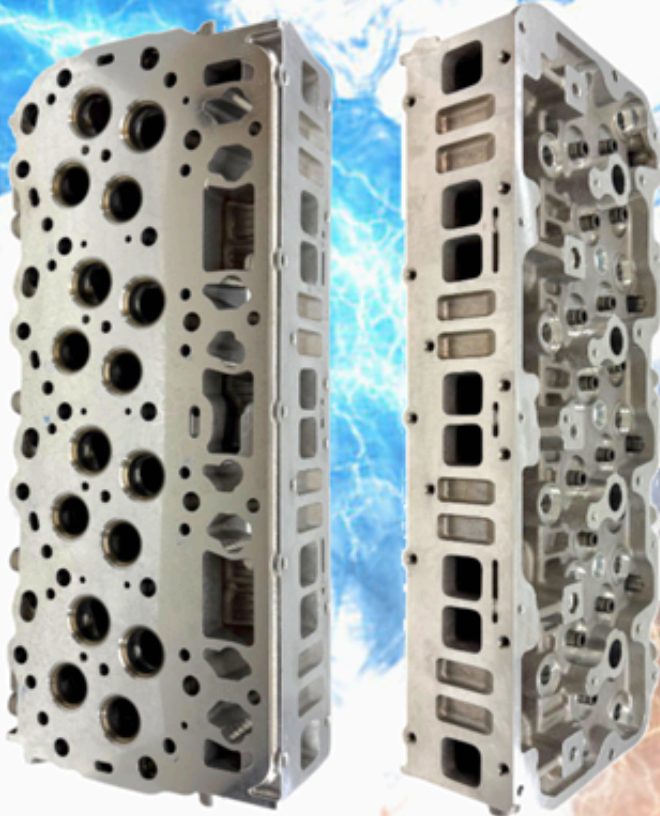
QualCast

QualFast

BLACK LIGHTNING

New Parts Release 16-166527

GM Duramax 6.6L LBZ 32V | Cylinder Head & Valve Train



- CAST IRON
- GUIDES /SEATS INSTALLED
- PREMIUM QUALITY: MATCHES OE FIT AND FINISH

K1 HEAD KITS INCLUDE

- (2) - 16-166527 CASTING
- (16) - 10-2175 INTAKE VALVE
- (16) - 10-2176 EXHAUST VALVE
- (32) - 32-04041 SPRINGS
- (32) - 55-6066 RETAINERS
- (64) - 34-5001 KEEPERS
- (32) - 38-6132-55 STEM SEALS



KB1 BLACK LIGHTNING UPGRADE INCLUDES:

- (16) - 77-122007 INTAKE VALVE
- (16) - 77-129057 EXT VALVE
- (32) - 52-4041 HP SPRINGS

1854 Air Lane Dr. #10 Nashville, TN 37210 | 615-777-3863

www.QualCast.com

NPR 16-166527

Product News



SBI Releases Intake and Exhaust Valve Guides for Ford 7.3L V8 "Godzilla"

SBI Part number 140-3229 is now available for the Ford 6.8L & 7.3L V8 for both intake and exhaust valve guides. These iron guides are 0.3146" on the ID and 2.240" on the length. The OD is 0.5145".

Explore the complete lineup of Ford "Godzilla" valvetrain components from SBI by clicking this link:

[Application Lookup - SBI](#)



Cloyes® Releases 90 New Timing Products

Cloyes just released 90 new timing system part numbers covering more of the vehicles you're seeing every day, including Dodge, Mazda, Nissan, Lexus, Toyota, and more.

It's worth a look at what's new and see it how it helps you get the job done right the first time.

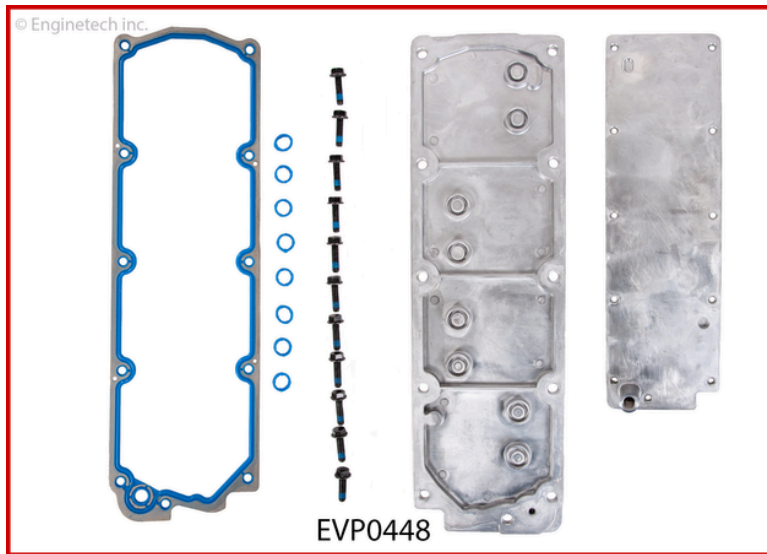
Click to see the full list of this month's new releases click the link below:

[Cloyes-March-2026- New Products](#)

Product News



LS Plate Valley Cover Now Available From Enginotech



Make	Model	User Engine	Year Range	Notes
GM CHEVROLET		5.3L / 325 OHV V8 16V LS Series Vortec GM 3.780" Bore 99-14	07-16	Gen IV LS2, LS3, LS7 (non-DOD / AFM delete).
GM CHEVROLET		6.0L / 364 OHV V8 16V LS Series Vortec GM 4.000" Bore 99-20	07-20	Gen IV LS2, LS3, LS7 (non-DOD / AFM delete).
GM CHEVROLET		6.2L / 376 OHV V8 16V LS Series Vortec Natural Asp. 4.065" Bore 07-15	07-13	Gen IV LS2, LS3, LS7 (non-DOD / AFM delete).
Hummer		5.3L / 325 OHV V8 "LP" GM 95.94mm Bore 08-10	08-10	Gen IV LS2, LS3, LS7 (non-DOD / AFM delete).
Hummer		6.2L / 376 OHV V8 16V "2,8" GM 4.065" Bore 08-09	08-09	Gen IV LS2, LS3, LS7 (non-DOD / AFM delete).
Saab		5.3L / 5326 OHV V8 16V "M" GM 96.00mm Bore 05-09	08-09	Gen IV LS2, LS3, LS7 (non-DOD / AFM delete).
Saab		6.0L / 5967 OHV V8 16V "H" GM 101.6mm Bore 08-09	08-09	Gen IV LS2, LS3, LS7 (non-DOD / AFM delete).

Call 800.869.8711 to order or click the link below

Enginotech Catalog

Product News



Melling Has Been Busy Introducing New Parts!

NEW Part # 3-1109SX

Timing Set
(Sprockets Not Included, Does include oil pump drive components)

Lexus/ Toyota 2.4L DOHC
2022-2026

Jobber Price: \$353.00

Download [Product Announcement](#)



NEW Part # 3-1109SAX

Timing Set
(Sprockets Not Included, Oil pump drive components not included)

Lexus/ Toyota 2.4L DOHC
2022-2026

Jobber Price: \$288.00

Download [Product Announcement](#)



NEW Part # M396HV-376S

Oil Pump with Screen

Ford 5.0L DOHC
2011-2017

Jobber Price: \$226.79

Download [Product Announcement](#)

[Watch Video](#)



Product News

NEW! Part # 23309
High Performance
Forced Induction
Camshaft

Chrysler 5.7L, 6.2L & 6.4L HEMI

Jobber: \$415.00

Download PDF
[Product Announcement](#)



NEW! Part # 498514
Performance Rocker
Arm

Ford 5.0L DOHC
F150/ Mustang

Jobber: \$22.28

Download PDF
[Product Announcement](#)



Lexus/Toyota 3.4L DOHC 2018-2026

- Part # 1107 Timing Chain
- Part # 1108 Oil Pump Chain
- Part # BG7068 Timing Chain Guide
- Part # BG7069 Timing Chain Guide
- Part # BT7083 Timing Chain Tensioner
- Part # BT7084 Timing Chain Tensioner - RH



Product News



Comprehensive Air Gaging

The PGA-1000 Air Gage is a fast, precise, and reliable measurement solution that boosts production efficiency and ensures superior quality control.



Is your current air gage no longer supported?

Sunnen has you covered.

Our newest air gage offers:

- dual master models
- dual air channel models with match gaging option, ID, OD, and delta
- single master models
- replacement for popular legacy systems like the Mahr Federal Dimensionair® and the Western Gauge Micro 2
- compatible with your existing probes and rings

Let's discuss how Sunnen can keep your operations supported and running smoothly.

Contact Us to Get Started

**Sunnen Products Company
7910 Manchester Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63143 US
800.325.3670**

2026 Webinar Sponsors



CWT
Industries



MAHLE



2026 Webinar Series

Our 2026 PERA Webinar Series is one of our strongest ever! Each session is free—for both attendees and presenters—and attendance continues to impress. We're averaging 350+ registrations, with several webinars drawing 700–900 participants.

Webinar Schedule

Jan 21: **P1 Manufacturing — Fasteners**

Feb 18: **Brian Tooley Racing — Camshafts**

Mar 18: **Holley — Front Drive Accessories**

Apr 15: **Rotomaster —**

May 20: **Holley — Carburetion Part 3**

Jun 17: **CWT — Crankshafts**

Jul 15: **RMC — Live Demo on Run-In Stand**

Aug 19: **AERA — Harmonic Balancers**

Sept: **No webinar — Convention Month**

Oct 21: **Earl's — Plumbing**

Nov 18: **CWT — Randy Neal**

Dec: **Open — PRi Week**

Thank you sponsors and participants for the success of the PERA webinar program!



***WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!***

- **ARTICLES**

- **PEOPLE NEWS**

- **PRODUCT
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **EVENTS**

***FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER
SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS BY
JUNE 15, 2026 TO:
JOEPOLICH@PERA.ORG***



**PRODUCTION ENGINE REMANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION**