

# Hydronic News



of Southern California  
& the State of Hawaii

Vol. 30 February 2026

## Dawson Company Hosts Inaugural Golf Tournament for Water

Proceeds to benefit the Chris Long Foundation, a Waterboys initiative



On Friday, September 26, 2025, Dawson Company hosted our 1st ever Golf Tournament for Water at the beautiful Industry Hills Golf Course at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry, CA. Proceeds benefited the Chris Long Foundation, a Waterboys initiative helping to bring clean drinking water to underserved communities around the world.

### THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!!!

GOLD SPONSORS THANK YOU!	MATCHING SPONSOR THANK YOU!	SILVER SPONSORS THANK YOU!
TEE SPONSORS THANK YOU!	BREAKFAST SPONSORS THANK YOU!	

A huge thank you to **Xylem Watermark** for being our matching sponsor, pledging up to \$10,000 towards the cause. We are also deeply grateful to our Beverage Sponsor: **Metraflex**, and our Gold Sponsors: **American Business Bank**, **FLI**, **Flowtherm Systems**, **Fujitsu**, **Lochinvar**, **Lucas Horsfall**, and **Wallace Eannace** for making this day possible. Additional thanks to our Silver Sponsors, Breakfast, Lunch & Tee Sponsors and all who donated raffle prizes or came out to participate that day.

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# Project Highlights

## EMWD Project: Simplifying Installation with Hydrovar X Smart Pump

By: Scott Taber, Outside Sales

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Dawson recently had the opportunity to work with the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) on a unique and forward-thinking project. For those unfamiliar, EMWD is a major public water agency serving Western Riverside County and Northern San Diego County, in California—comparable in scale and responsibility to LADWP water department in the Los Angeles area. EMWD is the water, wastewater service and recycled water provider to nearly one million people.

As part of their ongoing energy efficiency and reliability efforts, EMWD purchased one of our Hydrovar X Smart pumps along with an expansion tank for their co-generation system. A setup that uses natural gas turbines to produce electricity for their operations and cool their buildings.

Here is how it works: Natural gas is used in the turbine to produce mechanical energy, which drives an electric generator, while the resulting exhaust heat is captured in water and sent to the Absorption chiller.



An Absorption chiller system contains a refrigerant and an absorbent (a chemical compound like lithium bromide). The heat causes the refrigerant to separate from the absorbent. The refrigerant vaporizes, providing the cooling effect in the evaporator. The refrigerant vapor then condenses and is reabsorbed by the concentrated absorbent solution, completing the cycle. The water is then returned from the chillers to the turbines. This circulation is done by the Hydrovar X.

During the installation phase, EMWD ran into a challenge, they could not find a place to put the VFD (Variable Frequency Drive). This system cannot work without the flow changing with the system. A constant speed pump would be dangerous. That's when the Hydrovar X proved to be the perfect solution. Not only did it solve their space and placement issue, but it also made installation significantly easier for the electricians on-site. There are no wires to run from the VFD to the pump, everything is already done for them.

In starting up the system, EMWD discovered another major advantage: the Hydrovar's user interface. Compared to other VFDs they've used in the past, the Hydrovar X stood out for its simplicity and intuitive controls. This made system operation and adjustments much smoother for the maintenance team.

In the end, the EMWD project was a great success, combining efficient co-generation technology with the flexibility and ease of Hydrovar X. It's always rewarding to see a customer not only solve their installation challenges but also gain long-term operational benefits from the products we provide.

For more information please reach out to Scott Taber at:  
[staber@dawsonco.com](mailto:staber@dawsonco.com)





# Project Highlights

## Hale Koa Hotel HVAC Modernization - Hawaii

By: Brandon Piriakarnjanakul, Outside Sales Representative

Dawson Company recently supplied equipment for the Hale Koa Hotel HVAC Modernization project in collaboration with Alakai Mechanical, led by Project Manager Kevin Sasuga. The Hale Koa Hotel—an Armed Forces Recreation Center owned by the U.S. Department of Defense—maintains year-round full occupancy, which required the HVAC upgrades to be carefully phased. Work in the central plant was completed in three stages, supported by temporary air-cooled chillers to maintain uninterrupted comfort for guests and staff.



As part of the modernization effort, Dawson Company provided six pumps, including:

CWP-3: VSX-VSCS 6x8x13-1/2A, 100 HP

CHWP-3: VSX-VSCS 5x6x13-1/2A, 75 HP

CWP-1 & CWP-2: VSX-VSCS 6x8x13-1/2A, 100 HP

CHWP-1 & CHWP-2: e-80SC 8x8x13.5B, 75 HP

Beyond equipment supply, Dawson Company supported the team by advising on installation best practices and helping streamline procurement. We provided guidance on mounting methods to match factory recommendations, and worked with the engineer and contractor to reduce pump lead times by removing outdated wear-ring requirements—ultimately keeping the project on schedule without compromising performance.



For more information please reach out to Brandon at: [bpiriakarnjanakul@dawsonco.com](mailto:bpiriakarnjanakul@dawsonco.com)

## Miles Tsubota works in our Hawaii branch



Miles Tsubota brings over four decades of industry expertise to his new role as Hawaii Service Manager at Dawson Hawaii. A licensed electrician with 40 years of hands-on experience in control systems and 15 years in the pump industry, Miles has built a strong reputation for technical excellence, leadership, and customer-focused service across Hawaii and beyond.

Throughout his career, Miles has successfully led complex projects involving system commissioning, equipment start-up, diagnostics, and performance troubleshooting. His in-depth knowledge of control technologies and fluid-handling systems has also made him a valuable resource in both technical sales and service strategy.

In his new role at Dawson Hawaii, Miles will oversee service operations across the islands, ensuring seamless support for our clients while mentoring the next generation of service professionals. His unique blend of field expertise and team leadership makes him a strong addition to the Dawson Company team and a trusted partner to our customers in Hawaii. We are so happy to have him as part of the Dawson family!



We are so excited to share that Dawson Company is now an ESOP — Employee Stock Ownership Plan. This is a big milestone for all of us here at Dawson and a great step forward for the future of our company.

In simple terms, becoming an ESOP means that the employees now have ownership in the company. Every one of us — from sales and service to engineering and administration — now has a personal stake in Dawson's continued success. As the company grows and prospers, so do we!

This move reinforces what's always made Dawson special: we're a team that works together, supports one another, and takes pride in delivering top-quality solutions to our customers. Now, that sense of ownership isn't just something we feel — it's something we truly have.

It's exciting to think about what this means for our future. With everyone pulling in the same direction, every project, every customer interaction, and every innovation we bring to market contributes directly to our shared success. It's another great reason to be part of the Dawson Company family!



### Celebrating Milestones and Dedication at Dawson Company

At our Annual Company Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Arcadia, CA on October 17th, we were proud to honor two of Dawson Company's dedicated leaders for their exceptional years of service and contribution.

**John Sieger, Senior Vice President of Sales**, was recognized for **25 years** with a milestone plaque and engraved watch, while **David Hernandez, P.E., Executive Vice President**, celebrated an impressive **30 years** with a milestone plaque and a \$3,000 award.

Their commitment, leadership, and passion have played a vital role in shaping Dawson Company's success and culture over the decades and their crucial time spent here has continued to help us all grow and benefit from their wisdom.

**25 YEARS**



**John Sieger**

Senior Vice President of Sales  
Hire date: 9/18/2000



**30 YEARS**



**David Hernandez, P.E.**

Executive Vice President  
Hire date: 7/17/1995

We extend our sincere thanks to John and David for their many years of service, dedication to the team, and unwavering commitment to outstanding leadership. Their impact is felt across Dawson Company, and we are grateful for the example they set and the legacy they continue to build.



# Inside Dawson

## Plumbing System Design Seminar

Taught By: Dawson Company's RJ Santiago, Nick Ekdahl & Kendal Smith

Dawson Company welcomed engineers, contractors, and industry professionals for one of our 2025 seminar sessions, focused on practical strategies for efficient plumbing system design, water heating, and recirculation best practices. Attendees left with real-world takeaways they can apply immediately to improve performance, reliability, and long-term operation.

A huge thank you to our presenters — Nick Ekdahl, CPD, GPD, Kendal Smith, and R.J. Santiago, CPD, GPD — for sharing their expertise and making this class such a valuable learning experience.



*RJ Santiago, CPD, GPD, Nick Ekdahl, CPD, GPD & Kendal Smith*

For this years classes please check our website, visit <https://dawson-company.coursetorm.com/> or scan the QR code:



## Seal Beach Clean-Up Day

On Saturday, September 20, Dawson Company employees, along with their families, friends, and two volunteers from Xylem Watermark, joined forces with Save Our Beach for their monthly cleanup event. From 9:00 to 11:45 a.m., our group rolled up our sleeves with gloves, pickers, and bags in hand to clear the shoreline of debris—collecting plastics, styrofoam, paper waste, and even a few unexpected items like couch cushions that had washed ashore.

By the end of the morning, the beach was noticeably cleaner and more beautiful, thanks to the dedication and teamwork of everyone involved. After a busy and rewarding effort, we celebrated with lunch together—sharing stories, laughs, and a sense of pride in knowing we made a real difference for the environment and the community.

A heartfelt thank you to all Dawson employees, families, friends, and to our partners at Xylem Watermark for helping us protect this beautiful coastal space.



[www.saveourbeach.org](http://www.saveourbeach.org)

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# Inside Dawson

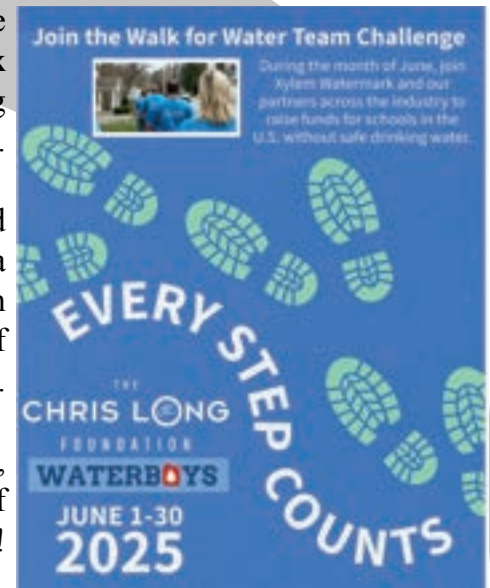
## Dawson Company Steps Up for Clean Water — and Wins Big!

Throughout the month of June, Dawson Company participated in the 2025 Walk for Water Challenge, joining forces with **Xylem Watermark** and the **Chris Long Foundation's Waterboys initiative** to help bring clean, safe drinking water to schools and childcare facilities in need.

This year, 32 participants from Dawson including employees and extended family, formed three teams and walked their way toward a meaningful cause. Nationwide, more than 900 walkers took part in the month-long challenge, each contributing to a remarkable total of 261 million steps and over **\$39,000 raised** for clean water projects.

A huge congratulations goes to Dawson's own "Hardcore Hustlers", the national winning team, who averaged an incredible maximum of 20,000 steps per person per day for 30 days — totaling 6 million steps!

In recognition of their efforts, a **\$500 donation** was made on their behalf to **Orphanage Emmanuel** in Guaimaca, Honduras. Every step truly made a difference. Thank you to everyone who joined, supported, and walked for water — proving once again that teamwork and determination can help change lives!



## Dawson Company Brings Hope and Clean Water to Orphanage Emmanuel



This summer, **David Hernandez, P.E.**, Executive Vice President of Dawson Company, traveled with his family and church group to Orphanage Emmanuel in Guaimaca, Honduras — a 970-acre refuge that has provided safety and care for abandoned and abused children for over 30 years.

During their visit, the group rebuilt parts of the orphanage's fish farm, cared for livestock, prepared meals, and spent meaningful time with the children. "Their happiness was so refreshing," David shared. "It was pure joy to simply play, laugh, and take them for ice cream."



In partnership with Xylem, David also helped coordinate the donation of six Goulds Water Technology submersible pumps to strengthen the orphanage's clean water system — vital infrastructure serving hundreds of children and staff each day.

Watermark has established a matching donation fund to further support Orphanage Emmanuel's essential needs. To contribute and double your impact, please visit:

<https://mywatermark.benevity.org/community/fundraiser/10917>

Together, we can help bring comfort, stability, and opportunity to children who need it most!





# Inside Dawson

## Dawson Golf Tournament Fundraiser for Water (continued)

Together this successful event raised \$20,000 for the Chris Long Foundation, helping to bring clean drinking water to underserved communities around the world. Thank you to all who contributed!

[www.chrislongfoundation.org](http://www.chrislongfoundation.org)



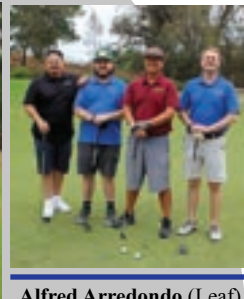
**Ric Serafin**, Dawson President & CEO and wife **Cecile**



**Jim Chaters** (Clivet),  
**David Hernandez**, P.E. Executive VP,  
wife **Eyleen** & **Jorge Choy**, Sales



**Mike Petterson** (CHC), **Dan Holmes** (CHC),  
**John Sieger**, Dawson Senior Vice President &  
**Albert Delrosso** (FlowTherm)



**Alfred Arredondo** (Leaf)  
**Matt Warner**, BDG  
**Rex Wang** (Leaf)  
**Eric Decker**, PE, CPD VP



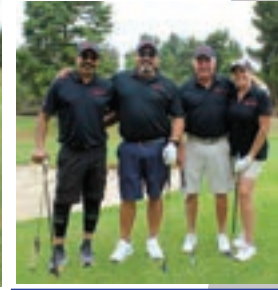
**Matt Kring** (Hydronic & Steam Equipment Co., Inc)  
**Cyrus Blackmore** (Blackmore & Glunt, Inc.)  
**Scott Blackmore** (Blackmore & Glunt, Inc.)  
**Steven Blankenship** (Sr. Director of Sales Xylem Inc.)



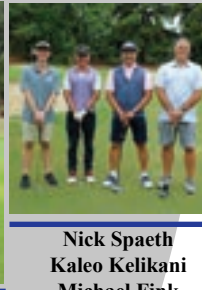
**Adam Hersh** (Wallace Eannace)  
**David Everhart** (Bornquist)  
**Jim Burns** (Mulcahy)  
**Darryl Clark** (Wallace Eannace)



**Eddie Magallon**(Enterprise)  
**Kim Palacios**, Sales  
**Tanaya Bright** (Enterprise)  
**Jen Neumeister**, Sales



**Luis Baiza**, Warehouse Manager  
**Jose Ruizsparza**, Operations Mgr.  
**Lance Turner** & **Susan Campbell** (FLI Transportation)



**Nick Spaeth**  
**Kaleo Kelikani**  
**Michael Fink**  
**Steven Monteros**  
(NIC Partners, Inc)



**Erick Delgado**, Sales  
**Joe Vasseur**, Sales  
**Craig Myers** (IMA Corp.)  
**Will Richards** (WJR Partners)



**Mark Mata**, Service  
**Mark Spears** (Lochinvar)  
**German Martinez**, Sales  
**Rick Palomar**, Service Mgr



**Mike Sovik**, **Mark Hagander**, **Tom Grace** & **Eric So** (Lucas Horsfall)



**Nick Ekdahl**, Director of Training  
& Education, **Dan Kish** (Metraflex)  
**Austin Radous** (Metraflex) &  
**B. Allen Schneider**, Outside Sales



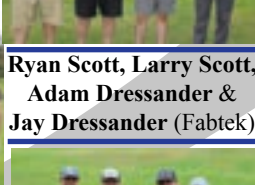
**Kendal Smith**, BDG  
**Ramon Camacho** (PBS)  
**R.J. Santiago**, CPD, GPD, BDG  
**Ivan Thomas** (P2S)



**Ken Dubois** (Heat-Timer/Titan)  
**Rich Attard** (Flowtherm)  
**Ryder Bartos** & **Brian Bartos** (Murray Co)



**Joel Lopez** (Fujitsu)  
**Juan Alvarez**, Estimator,  
**Steve Knapp**, Sales &  
**Kevin McNamee** (Fujitsu)



**Ryan Scott**, **Larry Scott**,  
**Adam Dressander** &  
**Jay Dressander** (Fabtek)



**Jimmy Nordberg**, **Danny Renko**, **Robert Romero**,  
**Chris Zessau**(RPM12 Media)



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**Jorge Rojas** (Troy Sheet Metal)



**Alex Castillo**, **John Kruckenburg**, **Jeff Ross** &  
**Franklin Le** (Winsupply of Los Angeles)



**Deanna Scortino**,  
**Caleigh** (CUTCO)



**Ric Serafin**

# Technical Matters

## Ekdahl Explains: Shaft Sealing History

By: Nick Ekdahl, CPD, GPD, Director of Training & Education at Dawson Co.

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### Shaft Sealing History

#### Early Mechanical Era (1800s – early 1900s)

**Problem:** As rotating machinery like steam engines, pumps, and turbines developed, engineers needed a way to prevent leakage where a rotating shaft passed through a stationary housing.

**Solutions:**

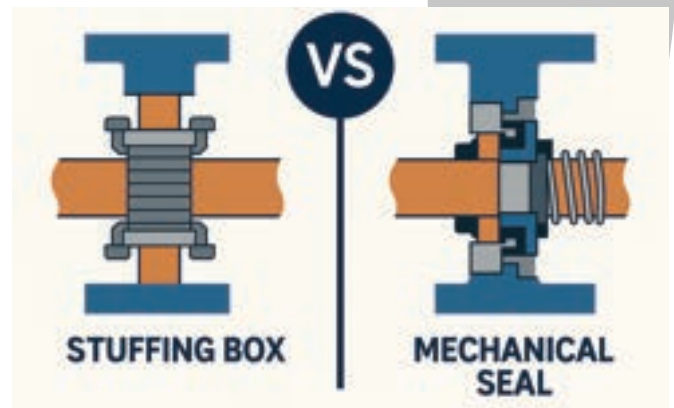
- **Stuffing boxes** were the first practical seals.
  - These used **soft packing materials** (flax, leather, or cotton soaked in tallow, wax, or graphite) compressed around the shaft by a gland follower.
  - Still seen today in simple applications like water pumps and valves.
  - Maintenance-heavy — required frequent tightening and lubrication.

**Typical materials:** flax, hemp, asbestos, and graphite.

#### Industrial Expansion (1920s – 1950s)

As industry modernized:

- Pumps, compressors, and turbines became **faster and more pressurized**, exposing the limits of packing seals.
- **Early mechanical seals** were developed — a big leap forward.



**Key advances:**

- **1920s:** The first commercial mechanical seals emerged, typically using a rotating carbon face against a stationary ceramic or metal face.
  - **John Crane** (founded 1917) and **Burgmann** (Germany) were early innovators.
  - Mechanical seals reduced leakage, friction, and maintenance versus packing.
- Design:** one rotating and one stationary face, pressed together by a spring — creating a thin lubricating film to prevent leakage.

#### Post-War Innovation (1950s – 1970s)

As pumps and compressors became more specialized:

- **Balanced mechanical seals** were developed for higher pressure.
- **Cartridge seals** simplified installation and alignment.
- **Elastomer materials** (Viton®, Nitrile, EPDM) replaced leather and natural rubbers for better chemical and temperature resistance.
- Double and tandem seals appeared for hazardous fluids.

**Industries:** petrochemical, nuclear, and aerospace all pushed for better sealing technology.



# Technical Matters

## Ekdahl Explains: Shaft Sealing History (continued...)

By: Nick Ekdahl, CPD, GPD, Director of Training & Education at Dawson Co.

### Environmental & Safety Era (1970s – 1990s)

Stricter environmental and safety standards — such as the U.S. EPA Clean Air Act — changed everything:

- **Leak-free designs** became critical, especially for volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- **Gas-lubricated mechanical seals** introduced for compressors (non-contacting faces with a gas film).
- **Seal support systems** (API Plan piping) became standardized in refineries.
- **Dry-running seals** appeared for pumps where no process fluid lubrication was possible.

**Emerging trend:** shaft sealing became an engineered system, not just a component.

### Modern Era (2000s – Today)

Today's seals are precision-engineered, computer-modeled, and tailored for each service:

- **Advanced materials:** silicon carbide, tungsten carbide, graphite composites, PTFE, and engineered polymers.
- **Magnetic drive (seal less) pumps** eliminate the dynamic seal entirely for total containment.
- **Smart seals** monitor temperature, vibration, and leakage.
- **Standardization:** API 682 defines best practices for mechanical seal design, selection, and support systems in rotating equipment.



### Summary of the Evolution

Era	Type	Key Features	Common Use
1800s	Stuffing Box	Soft packing, high leakage	Steam engines, early pumps
1920s	Mechanical Seal	Carbon face, reduced maintenance	Industrial pumps
1950s	Balanced/Cartridge	High-pressure, easy install	Oil & chemical industries
1970s	Environmental Seals	Double seals, gas-lubricated	Refineries, hazardous fluids
2000s+	Advanced/Smart	Dry-running, magnetic, monitored	Clean tech, aerospace, process plants

Questions or concerns please reach out to:  
Nick Ekdahl at [nekdahl@dawsonco.com](mailto:nekdahl@dawsonco.com)



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## Smarter, Greener, More Flexible Hydronic Design with Clivet Heat Pumps



### True Variable Primary-Secondary (VPS) Flow — With Temperatures Up to 149°F

Clivet's platform is engineered for true VPS operation, eliminating many of the flow and control limitations found in conventional heat pumps. With fully inverter-driven compressors and an internal inverter-driven primary pump capable of producing supply temperatures up to 149°F, each unit maintains the precise primary flow and  $\Delta T$  required for stable heat-exchanger performance—without relying on buffer tanks or constant-flow bypasses.

#### Engineering Advantages:

- Primary Loop Stability – Autonomous flow control protects the heat exchanger and maintains performance across wide load conditions.
- Secondary Loop Flexibility – VFD distribution pumps modulate freely to match building load.
- Higher System Efficiency – Reduced pumping energy and minimal hydraulic compromises.

This combination gives engineers the freedom to design compact, responsive, and electrically optimized hydronic systems.

### AHRI-Certified Performance — Confidence in Every Specification

Clivet's products carry AHRI certification, providing independent verification that published capacities, efficiencies, and ratings reflect real-world performance. This gives engineers and owners:

- Reliable energy modeling
- Predictable operating costs
- Compliance with industry and code benchmarks
- Reduced design risk

**When specifying a heat pump system, verified data matters—and Clivet delivers!**

### Smart Defrost Technology — Maximum Uptime, Minimum Energy Loss

The Clivet units feature Smart Defrost Technology, a predictive algorithm that monitors ambient conditions, coil temperature, and refrigerant behavior to determine if—and when—a defrost cycle is required.

#### Benefits include:

- Consistent Heating Output – Only defrosts when truly necessary.
- Energy Savings – Eliminates wasteful timed defrost cycles.
- Improved Reliability – Reduces stress on refrigeration components.

This ensures stable operation even in cold, humid, or low-ambient environments.



RJ Santiago, CPD, GPD  
Business Development Group  
rsantiago@dawsonco.com



Remembering Richard Root

IN MEMORY OF  
*Richard D. Root*



MARCH 28, 1966 - AUGUST 30, 2025

LIVE well  
LAUGH often  
LOVE big  
...like ROOT

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Richard Root (3/28/1966 – 8/30/2025).

Since joining Dawson Company on November 18, 2016 as an Outside Sales representative, Richard brought a wealth of experience and a well-earned reputation from his years selling Lochinvar products. He was the kind of person people sought out—not only because he knew water heaters and boilers inside and out, but because he was generous with his time and support.

Richard’s life was bigger than the job he did so well. He loved golf, fishing and cigars, and he took great pride in being a husband and father. We will miss his presence, his knowledge, and the way he made the people around him better. Richard will always be part of the Dawson Company family.



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