



# UPDATE

S U M M E R , 2 0 0 2

## PORTAL CRANE PRODUCT SUPPORT TEAM

### Parts

Joey Liverett -  
Portal Parts Specialist  
24-hour line:  
800-633-1136

*Please have the serial number/  
location of crane/part number/  
contact name, phone, fax, and  
address.*

### Service

Ronnie Jones, Service  
Manager  
Birmingham, AL  
(205) 943-5734  
(205) 941-3324 Fax  
24 - hour line:  
(877) 943-5734

Jerry Long, Regional  
Manager,  
Service & Sales  
Tupelo, MS  
(662) 844-4276  
(662) 844-4735 Fax

Ed Anderson, Regional  
Manager, Service & Sales  
Lilesville, NC  
704-848-8777  
704-848-8617 Fax

**Nu-Life Rebuilt Parts/  
Motor Rewinds**  
Tommy Atkinson -  
Rebuild Coordinator  
(877) or (205) 943-5734

More Portal Information  
[www.portalcranes.com](http://www.portalcranes.com)

## PORTAL CRANE USER MEETING SEPTEMBER 4-5-6, 2002 BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA – DON'T MISS IT

The 2002 annual P&H Portal Crane Users Meeting is set for September 4-5-6, and you are strongly encouraged to attend this valuable meeting. You will have the opportunity to discuss and solve many problems that limit your uptime and cost your company significant dollars. Just one problem solved or idea to improve uptime or safety will make your time investment worthwhile. This year we will focus on training, PM and safety issues for maximizing performance of your log crane system.

Attendance lists and discussion topics from previous meetings are also available upon request to further illustrate the value of these meetings.

**See you in Birmingham!**

**REGISTER NOW! SEE INSIDE...**

### FROM THE EDITOR

Dear P&H Portal Crane Customer:

This is the 32nd issue of portal Crane systems **UPDATE** which represents another step in the P&H commitment to serve our customers.

In this and every issue of the **UPDATE**, you will find useful crane service tips, parts and crane modernization information, and other items of interest to portal crane users.

We hope this sharing of knowledge and experience will help you in your efforts to manage your yard efficiently.

Sincerely,

Gary Otto & Chuck Stoneman  
Product Managers  
Portal Crane Products and Services

### TRAINING BOOSTS PRODUCTIVITY

This year's user meeting will have a very important theme: **TRAINING**, and how vital this is to the ongoing successful operation of the crane system. While companies invest heavily in new equipment and technology, often the task of properly training company personnel to operate the equipment is neglected. In most cases, operators are trained when the crane is new, but as time goes on and operators turn over, no formal training is performed for the new operators. This situation allows poor operating habits to be transferred from old operators to new ones as they "show the new guy how to do it". This on-the-job training is very common as it is least costly initially, but the long term costs can be great.

There are countless stories of repeated damage and excessive wear and tear on the crane caused by poorly trained operators and resulting in higher operating costs. Hoist ropes, sheaves, hoist drums, brake shoes and brake wheel are just a few examples of components that are strongly affected by operator proficiency. These increased costs are hard to get a handle on, but become very significant as time goes on and the high maintenance costs continue. There are also the employee morale

see "TRAINING" on page 6

## MORRIS CORPORATE UPDATE

With Chapter 11 firmly behind us now, we have emerged as a stronger and more efficient organization ready to meet the needs of our valued customers with products and services tailored to what you need to get optimum performance from your crane equipment. We are dedicated to customer responsiveness and offering competitive equipment and services. Call on Morris/P&H for all your crane and hoist needs.

## CWF/TAPPI PORTAL CRANE USER GROUP UPDATE

The CWF/TAPPI Portal Crane User Meeting was held May 6-10, in Vancouver, BC this year with 14 users in attendance. The 4 day event featured presentations from a wide variety of suppliers and users on a broad range of portal crane topics. All of the presentations can be downloaded from the User Website shown below, as well as the plans for next year's meeting to be held in Gulf Shores, AL.

The meeting wrapped up with a Friday AM tour of the TSI port facility where three (3) 178 ft span, 40T P&H container handling portal cranes are in round-the-clock operation in the inter-modal yard.

Portal User Group Web Site:

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

## WWW.PORTALCRANES.COM GOES ON-LINE

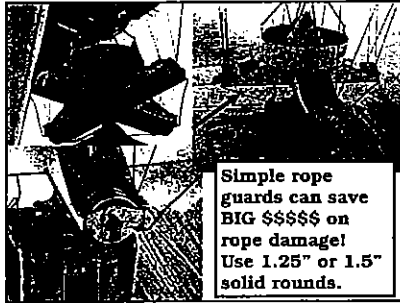
The new P&H Portal Crane web page has gone live and can be viewed by either going to [www.morriscranes.com](http://www.morriscranes.com) and selecting the Portal Crane page, or simply go direct to [www.portalcranes.com](http://www.portalcranes.com). Find the latest in product news, Update newsletter index, all back UPDATE issues, product support information and case studies.

P&H Portal Crane Web Site:

[www.portalcranes.com](http://www.portalcranes.com)

## MAINTENANCE TIPS

Remember: If your maintenance tip is featured in the Portal Crane Systems **UPDATE** with a photo, you will receive a portal crane jacket. Ideas only will earn a portal crane T-shirt. Submit your ideas to Gary Otto, and tell us your jacket or shirt size.



Simple rope guards can save BIG \$\$\$\$\$ on rope damage! Use 1.25" or 1.5" solid rounds.

### Dynamic Storm Brakes offer:



- Risk Control
- Increased Uptime
- Maintenance Aide  
Now available: A limit switch conversion kit to replace the mechanical up/down switch on the brake, with a pressure switch in the powerpack enclosure. Increase reliability!

(continued on Page 3)

## HURRICANE SEASON UPDATE:

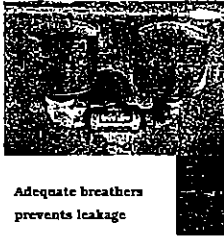
As the hurricane and strong thunderstorm season approaches, take precautions to avoid wind damage to your crane. Keeping your tracks clean, brakes in 100% condition and your tie-downs ready to go is the minimum that should be done. P&H Storm brakes are also a plus for protection. Don't park your crane with the grapple anchored in the pile, but rather pull it up to high position, since a lightning strike could ground through the cables and weld the strands together, thus destroying the wire ropes, or if blown out of position, the grapple could drag over equipment causing damage. Monitor local conditions and be prepared.

## HOLDING BRAKE ALERT

For those users with DC and Variable Frequency hoist drives, be on the alert to inspect your hoist holding brakes very thoroughly. It was very common with older control systems to gauge the condition of the brake by simply looking at the brake lining wear or brake drum condition. With VFD and digital DC controls, the brake does very little stopping and mostly holding, thus the wear is negligible, even though the brake assembly could be totally worn out and unable to produce full braking torque. Also be sure to keep the rain covers in place over the brakes since they rarely get hot enough to cook out any moisture in the linings. P&H service bulletin ED-12-12 thoroughly covers the complete care of P&H Shoe brakes and the P&H rebuild center in Birmingham can overhaul/exchange any brake assembly for like new performance at considerable savings over new equipment prices.

# MAINTENANCE TIPS (continued . . .)

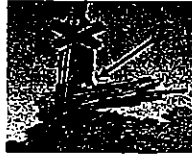
## GEARCASE PM



Use 2 on large gear boxes!

Adequate breathers prevents leakage

## Grapple PM

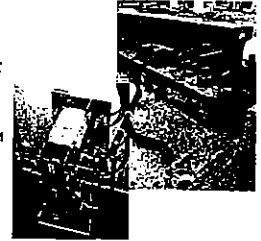


- Install side doors to protect hydraulic system components
- Keep in 100% condition with regular PM
- Grease at least on a daily basis
- Make sure the tines have blunt/rounded tips. 1-1/2" - 2" OK
- Change hydraulic oil 2 times/year



## PROTECT YOUR CONTROLS

- Filter incoming power
- Filter load side of the controls
- Make sure the entire system is properly grounded!



## Safety Ideas:

Add non-skid tape to ladder rungs.

Add non-skid tape to critical flat areas.

A quick and easy way to enhance the safe access and egress for your crane.

## Wire Rope Replacement Tip:

After wire rope replacement, do not immediately full load the ropes.

- Start with 1/4 load
- Then 1/2
- Then 3/4
- Then full load
- 125% load test only after above is complied with



## Log Bunk on Sill Beam

### Increases Crane Productivity

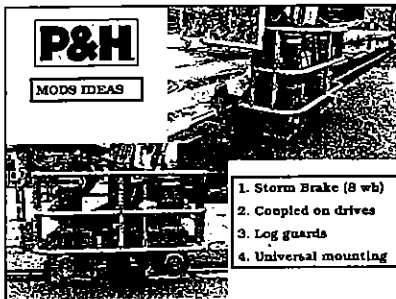


## WHEELS AND RAILS

Use Rail Cleaners!  
Clean off grease & dirt!



## MODS IDEAS

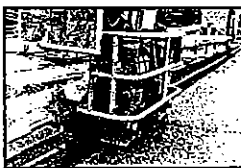


1. Storm Brake (8 wh)
2. Coupled on drives
3. Log guards
4. Universal mounting

## Drum Disc Brake Owners:

Disc brakes require initial and at least annual burnishing of the brake pads.

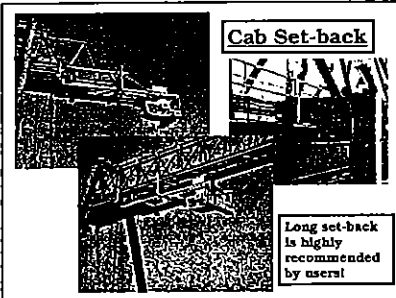
Failure to properly burnish the brake pads could result in poor braking when really needed. Check your owner's manual or call your brake supplier for details.



MODERNIZATION IMPROVES PERFORMANCE

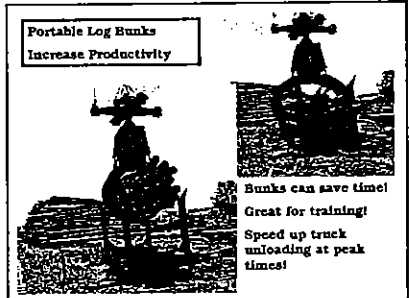
GO TO [WWW.PORTALCRANES.COM](http://WWW.PORTALCRANES.COM)  
TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THE TYPES OF MODERNIZATIONS AVAILABLE

## Cab Set-back



Long set-back is highly recommended by users!

## Portable Log Bunks Increase Productivity



Bunks can save time!  
Great for training!  
Speed up truck unloading at peak times!



## Span Bar Replacement & Modem Replacement

The Communicator Module for the SLC A-B PLC



## Gantry Drive Upgrade



Coupled on drives!

## TV Monitors reduce strain and also reduce truck damages



One user reports using his spare camera and transmitter to put a in-cab monitor cam with display in the maintenance shop!

Use digital camera with shock mounting base.



## REASONS TO ATTEND THE USER MEETING

There are many reasons for you to attend the user meeting. Here are just a few:

- Learn about the latest crane safety issues
- Get the latest training information
- Meet Portal service personnel
- Learn about crane runways
- Meet people who do what you do
- Find out about the latest technology
- Talk to the grapple experts from Mack
- Learn trouble-shooting techniques
- See various log stacking methods and procedures
- Meet the portal parts personnel
- Share your problems and solutions with others
- Learn how ergonomic cab designs help productivity
- Get lots of maintenance tips and ideas
- Ask lots of questions/get good answers

Those who have attended previous meetings either come back or send other mill personnel the next year. The meeting is attended by woodyard management, maintenance, planing, production, and operator personnel. P&H has service, parts, sales and management personnel present to make your time invested worthwhile.

Come to the 2002 P&H Portal Crane User Meeting!

## WHEEL DEAL !!!

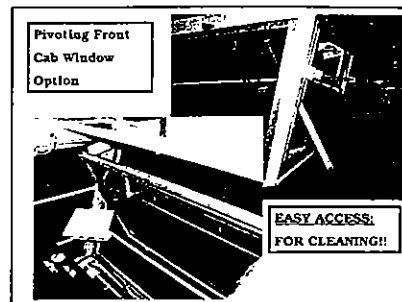
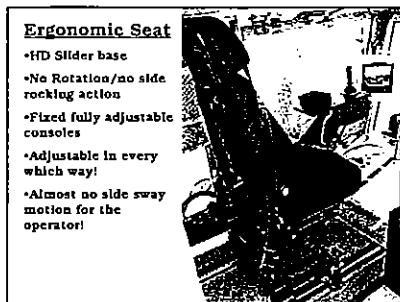
Joey Liverett just "rolled out" a real wheel deal that can save money! Purchase four or more 24" gantry wheels and earn an extra 5% discount on the total order value. This offer is good from July 1st through Sept. 30, 2002. Call Joey at 800-633-1136

## ERGONOMICS TAKE A FRONT SEAT

Many users are now recognizing the need to improve the workplace environment for their workers. This includes the crane cab, where several effective and affordable ergonomic upgrades can be added to dramatically improve the cab work area.

The replacement of the seat and armchair consoles with the P&H Slider base seat and fixed side consoles places the operator closer to his working area and eliminates the unwanted motions typical of the older rotate seat bearing assemblies. The new configuration allows the operator to position the seat in the optimum location for view of the yard, access to the master switches, and back/shoulder/arm support.

Another improvement is the pivoting front window, allowing easy cleaning access and improved overall vision for the operator. This simple design change made a once difficult task very simple and fast.



## SMARTORQUE 2000 CONTROL USERS GROW

Many of the now obsolete Smartorque® V (THOR) inverters as well as the aging original Smartorque scalar drive (Yaskawa HII) inverters have been replaced over the last year with the Siemens/P&H Smartorque 2000 variable frequency control systems. Advantages include long term assured product support from one of the largest control manufacturers in the world, encoderless hoist operation for single motor hoists, user friendly programming and start-up, and operation enhancement features like load float, flux-off delay, and plugging. Free diagnostic software called SIMOVIS allows easy monitoring of drive performance as well as fast troubleshooting when a problem arises.

If you are still operating THOR or Yaskawa controls, you will have to deal with increased difficulty in obtaining parts and service as time goes on. The conversion to Smartorque 2000 has proven to be a smart long term solution for the growing problem.

## ATTENTION P&H STATIC STEPLESS CONTROL OWNERS:

The many advantages of P&H Static Stepless control include excellent operator responsiveness, high torque at low speed, and high duty cycle capability. The main disadvantage is the ability of the operator to go from full speed lowering to neutral without allowing the Magnetorque eddy current load brake to slow the load before the shoe brake sets, usually resulting in very short brake lining life and heat damaged brake wheels. Unlike the newer variable frequency controls that use a microprocessor to slow the load to a near standstill before setting the brake, P&H Static Stepless control relies on the operator to hold the controller in "first point" long enough to activate the Magnetorque. At least until P&H developed an add-on feature for Static Stepless controls called Automatic Decel Control. This module automatically holds the control in first point with maximum Magnetorque braking going on until the motor speed slows to below approximately 25% speed. The addition of this feature has dramatically increased the service life of the hoist brakes for many users and it can for you too. Ask your P&H product support manager for quote on this "too good to be true" feature reduce your operation costs fast.

## INTERFACE CONTROL CARD UPDATE

The p/n 79R649 Induction Master Interface Card is used on nearly every portal crane in existence and is probably the least maintained item on the crane, as it is a very reliable control card.

This card is very important for the proper operation of all your crane motions as it supplies the crane control with the voltage speed reference signal. It should be periodically checked to make sure it is putting out a true zero volts for minimum speed and a full 10.1 volts for max speed. Improper setting can prevent your control from obtaining the full range of speed. A detailed adjustment procedure should be in your control manual. Note: on some gantry motions with PLC, this reference voltage is supplied by a separate source.

The card has two (2) relays (K1 and K2) that sometimes hang up and require replacement. Do not replace with a cheap off the shelf relay that looks like it will work. For long and reliable life, be sure to replace it with a relay with silver nickel contacts or silver bifurcated contacts. Schrak p/n ZT570615 or ZG470615. Alternate source: P&B KHAU-17A16-120 (Newark p/n 90F1129)

## P&H INSTITUTE CLASSES

1. Overhead Crane Inspection  
August 20-23, 2002
2. Static Stepless Class  
August 6-9, 2002
3. Static Stepless Lab  
August 12-15, 2002  
August 17-20, 2002
4. Smartorque  
Call for Schedule

Call The Institute at 262-821-4006 for more information.

WE DO ON-SITE CLASSES TOO!

## MOTAG SOUTH AUGUST 7-8-9, 2002

MOTAG South will hold its 2002 summer session in Atlanta, GA. The meeting opens with a social hour on Wednesday evening and generally has attendance over 150, with a focus on woodyard and chipping operations.

MOTAG is short for "Millyard Operators' Technical Advancement Group." You can register at the meeting by going directly to the Renaissance Concourse Hotel by the Atlanta Airport or visit the website at [www.motag.org](http://www.motag.org) for lots of MOTAG info.

## 13TH ANNUAL P&H PORTAL CRANE USERS MEETING SEPT 4-5-6, 2002

REGISTER NOW!



Morris Material Handling, LLC  
315 West Forest Hill Avenue  
Oak Creek, WI 53154 USA  
Telephone: 262-821-4020  
Facsimile: 262-641-9206  
Internet: [www.morriscranes.com](http://www.morriscranes.com)  
Gary Otto: Cell: 414-573-8062  
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Chuck Stoneman: (604) 294-5551  
cstoneman@morriscranes.com

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## TRAINING UPDATE

The P&H/Morris Institute offers both in-house and on-site training for electrical, mechanical, and most control types as well as operator training for all types of cranes. A simulator has been developed for overhead crane training, and the Institute utilizes the latest training technology to add value to your training investment.

### ADVANCED OPERATING TRAINING

P&H Morris continues to provide advanced operating training for all types of log handling cranes. References will confirm the outstanding value of this unique product support service. Contact Chuck Stoneman to find out how advanced operator training can enhance your woodyard operations.

*(TRAINING . . . continued from page 1)*

problems that grow out of management's lack of attention to the operation aspect of the crane, as crane operators really want to do a good job, but too often lack the training to do it.

The real hidden cost of not performing on-going training is the lost overall productivity of the yard operation. Efficient crane operation can greatly enhance throughput in the yard, reduce damage to materials, and extend component life to optimum potentials. When the crane is not being operated at its fullest potential, the long term cost effect can also be staggering.

The solution for this is to have professional training done when the crane is new and then on a regular on-going basis. An advanced training class every year or two is the norm for many of our users, and the benefits are many. Very often, our trainer will also choose an operator who has the potential to be a good in-house trainer for new personnel, and perform some "train the trainer" type training. This allows owners to have a designated operator to get new personnel up to speed quickly, then they can later benefit from advanced training by P&H professionals.

Training does boost productivity while lowering operation costs. Keep in mind that not only operators need on-going training. Maintenance personnel also benefit greatly from training classes. P&H also provides excellent training by professional instructors on crane inspection, electrical and mechanical crane components and on all sorts of crane controls. A relatively small investment in training can yield significant long term cost savings.