

A.Y. McDonald



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A Time for Reflection

by Scott Knapp

The holiday season is always a great time to take a minute and reflect, to look back on all that has transpired throughout the year. As we rolled into 2022, we knew we were in for one heck of a ride. Demand for everything was through the roof and supply chains worldwide were reeling from the aftershock of the pandemic. At A.Y. McDonald, we recognized that there was going to be no way to satisfy all of our customers and set out in 2021 to devise a plan to increase our output. We called it WMS (Where's My Stuff)! It's the one thing every customer wanted to know and in an organization where "The Customer is the Boss," that message resonates loud and clear!

The 2021 plan turned into 2022 execution. Beyond massive capital spending and facility expansion, we empowered each and every co-worker to find ways to get more done and satisfy the Boss. To the credit of everyone in the organization, they answered the call and made things happen. Some were simple process improvements while others volunteered overtime beyond anyone's expectations. Creativity also took hold and we found ways to continue critical processes seven days a week with weekend shifts. We also grew our co-worker family by over two hundred people.

WMS

Where's My Stuff?!



Combining all these efforts into an action plan for 2022 was amazing to be a part of. Seeing everyone working together to get more product out the door was something that has made everyone proud to be a part of the team. The one thing that makes this all possible is the fact that you have to care. To the person, everyone cares and caring is one of the things that makes me proud to be a part of our family business. Everyone cares. We care about each other, and we care about the customers we serve and the products that we provide them.

We know that while our efforts were extraordinary in 2022, we still have a long way to go to get back to the "good old days" where any customer can place an order and know that it will ship right away. I'm extremely proud of the progress that we've made to satisfy WMS in 2022 and you can count on the fact that we are not done finding ways to take care of the Boss! We will continue to improve and we will do it simply because we care.



Announcing the New AYU Powered by BlueVolt

In 2017, A.Y. McDonald brought product knowledge right at your fingertips with the launch of the free e-learning platform called A.Y. McDonald University (AYU). The concept of AYU stemmed directly from the customer due to the need for more product training material in the water works, pump, plumbing, and natural gas industries.

BlueVolt

Learn. Sell. Grow.

In honor of the success and support found in AYU, A.Y. McDonald is excited to announce a new and improved platform as we are now partnering with the well-known LMS provider called BlueVolt. BlueVolt holds a strong presence within the industries A.Y. McDonald serves and will offer even more exposure of our courses through their sharing center while also providing additional features on the learner side.



For more information,
please scan this QR code.

Head on over to www.aymcdonald.com now to check out the NEW AYU!

E-SERIES Dura-MAC BOOSTER PUMP LAUNCHED NOVEMBER 2017  INNOVATION CENTER	TELESCOPING METER FLANGE LAUNCHED NOVEMBER 2017  INNOVATION CENTER	A.Y. McDONALD WEBSITE LAUNCHED NOVEMBER 2017  INNOVATION CENTER	ADJUSTABLE METER PIT LAUNCHED JUNE 2018  INNOVATION CENTER	INTEGRAL CORP/SADDLE LAUNCHED JUNE 2018  INNOVATION CENTER	NO-LEAD SADDLE LAUNCHED JULY 2018  INNOVATION CENTER	RANGER FITTINGS LAUNCHED APRIL 2019  INNOVATION CENTER	METER SET ASSEMBLIES LAUNCHED APRIL 2019  INNOVATION CENTER	MAGNETIC LIDS LAUNCHED APRIL 2019  INNOVATION CENTER	Telescoping Meter Swivel Nut LAUNCHED March 2020  INNOVATION CENTER	Specifications Consultant LAUNCHED August 2021  INNOVATION CENTER	Predictive Maintenance Foundry LAUNCHED December 2021  INNOVATION CENTER	AutoDRIVE LAUNCHED December 2021  INNOVATION CENTER	Robotic Painting LAUNCHED July 2022  INNOVATION CENTER	TITAN LAUNCHED August 2022  INNOVATION CENTER
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Come See Us in Person at an Upcoming Show!

A.Y. McDonald may be coming to a town near you. Below is a list of upcoming conferences our experts will be attending from all over the country. Visit the trade shows section of our website to view a frequently updated list of events. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/ay-mcdonald-tradeshows>

Utah Groundwater Association (UGWA) – Mesquite, NV	1/4 – 1/6	Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA) Annual Conference – Traverse City, MI	3/15 – 3/17
Michigan Section AWWA Joint Expo & Operators Day – Lansing, MI	1/6 – 1/8	Ohio Gas Technical Seminar – Columbus, OH	3/16
Michigan Ground Water Association (MGWA) 95th Annual Education Conference – Grand Rapids, MI	1/9 – 1/10	Alabama Rural Water Association – Montgomery, AL	3/19 – 3/22
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Annual Technical Conference (ATC) – Pierre, SD	1/11 – 1/12	WaterCon – Springfield, IL	3/20 – 3/23
Idaho Groundwater Association (IGWA) – Boise, ID	1/25 – 1/27	West Virginia Construction EXPO – Oglebay, WV	3/22 – 3/23
Texas Groundwater – San Marcos, TX	1/25 – 1/27	Pennsylvania Rural Water Show – State College, PA	3/28 – 3/30
2023 IWWA Annual Convention – Altoona, IA	1/26 – 1/27	Colorado Rural Water Conference & Exhibition – Loveland, CO	4/3 – 4/6
Pennsylvania Groundwater Association Trade Show – Grantville, PA	1/26 – 1/27	MEA Gas Ops Roundtable – Madison, WI	4/4 – 4/6
Minnesota Water Well Association (MWWA) Annual Conference – St. Cloud, MN	1/29 – 1/31	Wisconsin Rural Water Show – La Crosse, WI	4/4 – 4/7
North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) Expo – Bismarck, ND	1/31 – 2/2	Indiana Section AWWA Annual Conference – Indianapolis, IN	4/10 – 4/13
2023 Annual MWWA Convention & Tradeshow – Helena, MT	2/1 – 2/3	Ohio AWWA Southern District EXPO – Wilmington, OH	4/11
Nebraska Fire Marshalls Show – Kearney, NE	2/7 – 2/8	Texas Water – Houston, TX	4/11 – 4/14
2023 Pacific Water Conference – Honolulu, HI	2/7 – 2/9	Ohio AWWA Northern District EXPT – Wooster, OH	4/13
Southern Gas Association (SGA) Technical Conference – Oklahoma City, OK	2/7 – 2/9	Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA) Conference and Technical Exposition – Roanoke, VA	4/17 – 4/19
Midwest Water Show – Wisconsin Dells, WI	2/8 – 2/9	Locke Supply Trade Show – Oklahoma City, OK	4/21 – 4/22
Mountain States Groundwater Expo – Laughlin, NV	2/8 – 2/10	California Rural Water Show – Lake Tahoe, NV	4/24 – 4/27
Maryland Delaware Water Well Association – Annapolis, MD	2/8 – 2/10	South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Expo – Rapid City, SD	4/26 – 4/27
Evergreen Rural Water of Washington 2023 Annual Conference & Trade Show – Vancouver, WA	2/14 – 2/15	Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association Conference – Hot Springs, AR	4/30 – 5/3
2023 Annual Convention Nebraska Well Drillers Association – Kearney, NE	2/14 – 2/16	Northeast Gas Association (NGA) Operation Conference and Biennial Exhibition – Grapevine, TX	5/2 – 5/4
Virginia Water Well Association Winter Conference & Exhibition – Richmond, VA	2/15 – 2/16	AWWA Pacific NW 2023 Section Conference – Kennewick, WA	5/3 – 5/5
Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals (IAGP) – East Peoria, IL	2/16 – 2/17	Ohio Rural Water Show – Dublin, OH	5/8 – 5/10
Tennessee Water Well Association Trade Show – Gatlinburg, TN	2/17 – 2/18	Maryland Rural Water Association – Ocean City, MD	5/8 – 5/11
Iowa Rural Water Association Annual Conference – Des Moines, IA	2/20 – 2/22	Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD EXPO) – Lebanon, TN	5/18
Illinois Rural Water Conference – Effingham, IL	2/21 – 2/23	Georgia Rural Water Association – Jekyll Island, GA	5/23 – 5/25
Delaware Rural Water Association – Harrington, DE	2/22 – 2/23	Rural Water Association of Arizona 2023 Annual Spring Conference – Tucson, AZ	5/22 – 5/25
Rural Water Association of Utah (RWAU) – St. George, UT	2/27 – 3/3	Florida Water Resource Conference (FWRC) 2023 – Kissimmee, FL	5/31 – 6/3
Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) Annual Conference – St. Cloud, MN	3/7 – 3/9	Mississippi Rural Water Expo – Biloxi, MS	6/5 – 6/9
Oregon Association of Water Utilities – Sunriver, OR	3/8 – 3/9	Northeast Gas Association (NGA) Gas Operations School – Smithfield, RI	6/5 – 6/8
Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) – Boise, ID	3/8 – 3/10	Energy Association of PA – Camp Hill, PA	6/6
2023 Southern Gas Association (SGA) Spring Gas Conference – Charlotte, NC	3/13 – 3/15	Southern Gas Association (SGA) Natural Gas Connect – Louisville, KY	6/12 – 6/14
Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference – Kearney, NE	3/13 – 3/15	Louisiana Rural Water Expo – Lake Charles, LA	7/16 – 7/21
Nevada Rural Water Show – Sparks, NV	3/13 – 3/17	Ohio One Water Joint Conference (WEA/AWWA) – Columbus, OH	8/22 – 8/24
Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Spring Conference – French Lick, IN	3/14 – 3/16	Arkansas Rural Water Expo – Hot Springs, AR	9/10 – 9/14
		Texas Water Utilities (TWUA) – Corpus Christi, TX	9/18 – 9/21

Innovation News



The Origins of A.Y. McDonald's TITAN™ Bolt QR Code

Featured in this newsletter issue is the TITAN™ bolt, which is an integrated, plastic breakaway bolt head designed to break off at the correct torque, thus eliminating over-torquing when installing a service saddle. The TITAN™ is incorporated on all A.Y. McDonald 2" - 8", single-bolt, single-hinged, Brass Service Saddles, 3/4" or 1" taps that includes models 3891, 3892, 3895, 3896.



The TITAN™ launch stood out for many reasons, one being the QR code located on the instruction sheet that rests inside the saddle itself. Following the link it provides takes the installer to a landing page for the TITAN™ with an instructional video, submittals, and the ability to search for TITAN™ products. As a request that was made at the last Innovation Summit, we heard the customer – our Boss – loud and clear to put more focus on QR codes with A.Y. McDonald products. You speak and we listen!





Industry News

Poll shows 7 in 10 consumers consider tap water safe

Nearly 75% of people perceive their home's tap water as safe and almost 80% trust their water utility, according to a survey conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). This survey helped highlight both the strengths and weaknesses of the water industry as a whole. According to AWWA CEO, David LaFrance, "We have work to do to gain and maintain trust in tap water, especially in communities where historical inequities have existed." <https://www.awwa.org/AWWA-Articles/poll-shows-7-in-10-consumers-consider-tap-water-safe>



New Products



NEW 6136PEP, 6133CTS/6136PEP Drawn Insert Stiffeners

A.Y. McDonald's 6136PEP, 6133CTS/6136PEP drawn insert stiffeners are made of 304 stainless-steel material and manufactured using a deep drawn press process, compared to our rolled stiffener with an interlocking puzzle design. The drawn stiffener design is in addition to our existing line and the 6133T and 6136 stiffeners will still be available. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=insert+fitting&amex=>

NEW 2" RANGER Fitting

In 2019, A.Y. McDonald introduced the innovative RANGER fitting, which not only saves time but also reduces inventory by replacing up to 99 compression connections. To date, many additional size and product options have been added to our RANGER offering, allowing customers to get even more from this solution. A.Y. McDonald is excited to announce the addition of a 2" size, which comes in model numbers 74753-11, 74754-11, and 74758-11. This makes the size range availability for the RANGER Fitting to be 3/4", 1", 1 1/4", 1 1/2", and 2". <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=ranger+fitting&amex=>



NEW Repair Angle Meter Valves

A.Y. McDonald is happy to announce the addition of the repair (standard port) angle meter valves in 3/4" and 1" CTS compression. This valve can be used wherever a longer lay length angle valve is required to make up the difference in the lay length of an existing valve and tubing is removed. The repair angle meter valves contain a 300 PSI rated ball valve with blow out proof EPDM port seals supporting a PTFE coated brass ball for ease of operation and a 90-degree turn operating head. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=74642BREP&amex=>

Featured Products

TITAN TITAN™ Bolt

TIGHT. RIGHT. EVERY TIME.

Started in October 2022, a number of A.Y. McDonald service saddles automatically come with a new innovative bolt that protects the saddle from being over torqued. Better known as the TITAN™, this patent pending bolt includes an integrated, plastic breakaway bolt head designed to break off at the correct torque, thus eliminating over-torquing when installing a service saddle. The TITAN™ is incorporated on all A.Y. McDonald 2"- 8", single-bolt, single-hinged, Brass Service Saddles, 3/4" or 1" taps that includes models 3891, 3892, 3895, and 3896. The TITAN™ bolt works with impact drivers, so no torque wrench is required, leading to a more efficient process than ever before! <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=brass+hinged+Service+Saddles+&amex=>



- YouTube Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plhJ9uNHtx4> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwBhv1ui7So&t=2s>
- AYU Course: <https://go.bluevolt.com/AYMcDonald/s/coursedetail/402596/a-y--mcdonald-s-titan%E2%84%A2-bolt>



Blog

Burying the Myths Surrounding High Copper No-Lead Brass Alloys

When it comes to providing water to a community, there is very little room for error. A.Y. McDonald currently utilizes the C89833 alloy for our no-lead water works products. While some manufacturers are pushing to use a low copper, high zinc alloy (known as C87850) for underground water works applications, there are many reasons why A.Y. McDonald is not ready to commit to this type of alloy. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/burying-the-myths-surrounding-high-copper-no-lead-brass-alloys>



Industry News



NASA Finds a New Way to Monitor Underground Water Loss

After decades of pumping, underground water resources are dwindling. Thankfully, scientists have produced a new method that holds the promise of improving groundwater management – critical to both life and agriculture in dry regions. The research team studied California’s Tulare Basin, part of the Central Valley. <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/jpl/nasa-finds-new-way-to-monitor-underground-water-loss>

New Product

NEW 8000 Series Convertible Jet Pump

Get water from point A to B easier than ever with A.Y. McDonald’s new 8000 Series Convertible Jet Pumps. This solution provides flow of up to 46 gallons per minute and is available in 1/2, 3/4, 1, and 1 1/2 HP. The 8000 Series contains a 1” outlet, 304 stainless-steel insert in the plastic impeller, and is easy to switch between 115V & 230V. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=8000&amex=>



Featured Product: 24000 Series High Flow Submersible Pump

A.Y. McDonald submersible pumps and motors allow for a competitive world class product, a warranty from a company you know and trust, and top-notch customer service. The 24000 High Flow Series offers peak capacity performance for 4” motors in 35 to 80 GPM models. In addition, the stainless-steel pump comes with a horsepower range from 1 to 10. Get your complete submersible solution all from one source when you choose A.Y. McDonald! <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=24000+&amex=>

Blog Submersible Pump Motor Troubleshooting: Winding Resistance and Insulation Resistance

Due to the importance a motor holds on the submersible pump system, if the pump were to malfunction, testing the motor is a good place to start in order to get a diagnosis. Since the pump is located in the well, ensuring the motor is functional is highly recommended prior to the installation. This can be done by measuring and testing the winding resistance and insulation resistance, which determine if the motor is defective. These tests serve as a troubleshooting tactic for both new and used motors. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/submersible-pump-motor-troubleshooting-winding-resistance-and-insulation-resistance>



Industry News

Plumbing Industry Trends to Watch for in 2023

2023

As with other building products and home improvement categories, the response to COVID affected the plumbing industry in various ways, some of which are continuing to take a toll. However, the ever-evolving digital world is also a driving factor for movement in the plumbing industry. Check out the seven key plumbing trends that are predicted to impact the industry in 2023 and beyond. <https://www.thefarnsworthgroup.com/blog/plumbing-industry-trends>

New Products

NEW 72602PF and 72602PFPC No-Lead Pressure Reducing Valves

A.Y. McDonald has expanded our already extensive line of No-Lead Pressure Reducing Valves to include Press Fit end connections. The 72602PF and 72602PFPC are designed to protect a water supply system and its components by reducing water pressure to a reasonable and safe level. This solution is factory preset at 50 PSI outlet pressure with an adjustable pressure range from 25 to 75 PSI. The valve can be installed vertically or horizontally and can be used in numerous water system applications. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=72602PF&amex=>



NEW 72080PF & 72082PF No-Lead Supply Stops with Press Fit End Connections



Press Fit technology has found its way to A.Y. McDonald's no-lead supply stops and is available in both straight and angled options. This solution is easy to use in tight spaces and ideal for residential and commercial applications. Supply stops are designed to shut off the flow of water without having to turn off the water to the entire house. The 72080PF and 72082PF are chrome plated, dual O-ring design, contain positive quarter turn shutoff, and can be used on both wet and dry systems. <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=7208&subcategories%5B%5D=Supply+Stops+-+Angle&subcategories%5B%5D=Supply+Stops+-+Straight&subcategories%5B%5D=Supply+Stops+-+Tee&styles%5B%5D=Press+x+Comp&amex=>

Blog

Val-Matic Air Valves to the Rescue

Air valves are hydromechanical devices designed to automatically release air and wastewater gases or admit air during the filling, draining, or operation of liquid piping systems for water and wastewater services. The Val-Matic Air Release Valve and Combination Air Valve are manufactured in accordance with rigorous industry requirements given in the AWWA Standard C512. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/val-matic-air-valves-to-the-rescue>





Industry News

U.S. Natural Gas Consumption is Expected to Climb

U.S. natural gas consumption fell between 2019 and 2021 because of lower economic activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite relatively high natural gas prices, natural gas accounted for 37% of all power generation in 2021, nearly equal to the combined shares of the next two largest sources: coal and nuclear. "We expect total U.S. natural gas consumption to rise by about 5% in 2022, a result of more natural gas consumption across almost all sectors," the EIA (Energy Information Administration) reported. <https://www.compressortech2.com/news/us-natural-gas-consumption->



Featured Product(s): Bypass Options



For utility companies, having to shut off access to gas for one reason or another can be a headache for both the customer and the utility. Not only does this require a scheduled appointment but it also leaves the utility company responsible for anything that can potentially go wrong throughout the process. In addition, having to enter a customer's premises has been a true obstacle during the peak of the pandemic and even going forward.

The natural gas meter set includes many parts that work together to safely deliver and measure natural gas to a structure, including the meter bar or valve. Whether it's turning off a customer's service or changing the meter, this may involve manipulating the meter bar or valve along the way. In general, bypass technology applies to gas parts that allow maintenance and service of any kind *without* interrupting gas flow for the consumer. This also means no loss of pilot lights; meter change-outs can be performed anytime; and the gas supply is always ready and regulated to the correct pressure. Below is a list of the bypass options that A.Y. McDonald provides:



- Regulated Hose Kit - <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Regulated+Hose+Kit+-+Kits-RHK>
- Portable Bypass Kit - <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=Portable+Bypass+Kit+-+Kits-PBK>
- Residential Bypass Meter Bar - <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=6410>
- Meter Set Assemblies (MSAs) - <https://www.aymcdonald.com/post/gas-meter-set-assemblies-created-the-ay-mcdonald-way>
- Bypass Angle and Inline Ball Valve - <https://aymcdonald.com/search?query=angle+ball+valve&categories%5B%5D=Natural+Gas+Valves&amex=>

For a summary and visual of all the ways you can bypass your troubles with Bypass Technology, check out A.Y. McDonald's new animated YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXnJkYMN7cQ>

Blog



Natural Gas Fast Facts

As an energy source, natural gas is recognized as The U.S.' most abundant and affordable fuel, making up almost one-fourth of all the energy used nationwide. Compared to other traditional sources, such as coal or oil, it's plain to see why natural gas demand is on the rise. In fact, it's all in the numbers. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/natural-gas-fast-facts>

Hydrogen Takes the Front Seat

Some U.S. gas utilities are toying with the idea of blending the gas with hydrogen, which will significantly lower the greenhouse gases. Current energy crises, increasingly heightened by conflicts around the world, have pushed this idea to the forefront. As great as the blended hydrogen may sound, a number of factors need to be addressed in order to see long term success with this process. <https://aymcdonald.com/post/hydrogen-takes-the-front-seat>

