



## Molding at Home

It can be cold in America. When you hear that the wind chill is reaching -40°F (-40°C) it is hard to imagine. Given the fact that we test rotomolded parts at -40°F and that your ears will drop off if you leave them exposed at that temperature for more than a few minutes, it's no wonder that my friends in more tropical locales can't wrap their minds around it. And until the recent dump of more than two feet of snow in one day, this year has been different – we've had a very mild winter due to climate change or global warming or government hoax or natural variation, take your pick. Whichever you subscribe to, it can really make you think about where you want to live. I love our local spots that we can walk to, even on a snowy day. Bowling may not be the popular pastime it once was but the atmosphere at Bowl-a-Rama is pure Americana. It's like sitting in an episode of Cheers around the central bar with familiar faces surrounding a little island of bustling bar-staff – different from Ireland's snugs and blazing fires but still worth the effort. However, I'm hearing the siren call of warmer winter resting spots to spend extended time – future winter editions of this article could be coming to you with a Corona in hand from the beach...

### The Year Ahead

There is much to look forward to in the world of rotomolding in 2016.

If we survive the slowdown in China, the fact that Europe is unsteady and the US continues to stroll out of recession and may roll into another, we'll be lucky. If we



Classic Americana – Winter at the Local Bowling Rink (& Pub)

start burning more oil to keep demand up and restore some sanity to pricing, we might see some stability. If oil prices do keep falling, we may see PE prices that we haven't seen in a decade but perhaps not before planned capacity increases start being questioned or the suppliers start closing facilities. If, on the other hand, we do like rotomolders always do and adjust to demand by being flexible, we will not only survive but continue to thrive.

And a sign of that thriving activity is the fact that the number of rotomolding events and conferences continues to grow as local associations support their members: Things kicked off with the Indian StAR Association's annual event in Goa on February 1-3. Always an

interesting group, especially now with the impetus of strategic infrastructure growth planned by the Indian government. In addition, they have regular regional meetings to continue the spread of information at a grass-roots level. Goa is also a great spot to visit for those looking for nice beaches and ancient culture in close proximity.

The Nordic Association holds a competition every year to see where the coldest place in the world to have their meeting is. This year Gothenburg in Sweden was selected on Feb 9-10 with a plant tour and talks from a range of suppliers.

ARM holds their annual Spring Executive Forum in warm locations.

This year is no exception with Las Vegas chosen for Feb 28-Mar 1, although given this year's weather patterns you might expect snow in the desert. Vegas is fun but I always seem to be tied up around this time of the year.

A visit to South Africa would not be complete without safari, so if you are planning to attend ARMSA's Rotation 2016 event in Johannesburg on March 9-10, make sure to allow a few extra days to head out to Sabi Sands. One of Orla's favorite places in the world, we'll be back again soon.

Poland has been growing strongly and there is now a very healthy rotomolding group who are due to hold their next meeting in May, somewhere near Krakow.

The annual Hands-On Rotomolding Workshop will be held at Penn College on May 10-11. This packed two-day event deals with practical molding issues from

material preparation through process control to part testing and well as live multi-layer molding demonstrations. Well received by a growing number of molders, this will be the 8th event in this series and still going strong.


Technical aspects of the process will be highlighted at the SPE TOPCON event to be held at Independence, Ohio on June 5-8. Now in its 17th year, this group works hard to act as the bridge between the plastics technical world and the gritty reality of rotomolding.

Australia has one of the most active associations and combines tours of molders with conferences. This year is no different with Rototour 2016 coinciding with the Rotomould ARMO Conference on June 19-21 on the Gold Coast in Australia. I haven't participated in the tours but I understand that they are sober

affairs with bible studies included to break up the long bus journeys.

A particular highlight of the year will be the 40th Anniversary Fall Meeting of ARM, finally bowing to pressure to hold it in New Orleans, Louisiana on Sep 24-27. Long held to be a dangerous location due to fun activities which might distract molders from the business at hand, I'm sure that we can pay attention long enough to keep the board happy.

And, while I don't have exact dates or locations yet, the Chinese, Italian, British, Mexican and German groups will all be holding their annual events at suitably serious locations.

So, no matter where you are in the world, there's something happening for you to attend and participate in the global rotofamily. Hope to see you at an event near you! 



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