BOBBY CLEVELAND CURRENTLY IN 1ST PLACE IN POINT STANDINGS

With seven races already completed for the 2007 season, Bobby Cleveland, riding his Ogura clutch machine, is in 1st place in both the IMO and BP divisions. Three 1st place finishes in the IMO races have given Bobby the top position so far this season. In the BP division Bobby has continually been among the top placed finishers in each of his races, which has allowed him to stay at the top of the point’s totals for the BP standings, currently leading the field of 26 drivers. By the time the next newsletter comes out the season will be over. If you would like to follow Bobby’s progress throughout the summer please go to www.uslmra.com.

PLANT #1 ACHIEVES 30% PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE

Plant #1 for Ogura produces precision spring applied brakes for Servo motors and robotic applications. Many of these production runs are relatively small in total quantity and as Ogura adapts to change brakes to meet the customer’s design, the variety of modifications continue to increase.

The increased demand for flexibility and variety caused bottlenecks on Ogura’s main production line for spring applied brakes. To relieve this manufacturing bottle neck all departments, including quality control and shipping met to determine the best changes to make. The net result was the elimination of the production line and the setup of individual manufacturing workstations. The change over to the new workstations took about 2½ months to complete. These individual stations allow many different types of spring applied brakes to be assembled at one time. They also avoid the long set up for individual product runs since all components are now stocked within or around each workstation.

The new station storage shelves have been redesigned to allow more visual checks of component parts. The stations are all set on rollers to allow them to be easily reconfigured or moved if need be. Another bottleneck between outgoing inspection and shipping was also corrected. Outgoing inspection was serving as a staging area for finished product. To eliminate this, a wall was removed between outgoing inspections and shipping to provide better product flow, so now nothing is staged in final inspection.

All productivity increases were achieved by keeping the same amount of personnel, so overhead was not increased, but response to the customer’s needs was increased.

OGURA IN THE NEWS

Kiryu, Japan

Traditionally April is the start of the fiscal year for many Japanese companies. April is also the month when Ogura Japan brings on its new hires. This year 61 new employees (13 engineers, 37 technicians and 11 clerical workers) were hired. Each new employee will go through a year long training program to adapt to their new position.

New Ad Released

Because of the recent success with the Kawasaki 250 Jet Ski using the Ogura Supercharger, an ad was recently run in Diesel Progress promoting the high efficiency Ogura Supercharger.

SIXTY ONE NEW EMPLOYEES HIRED FOR OGURA JAPAN

Kiryu, Japan

Mr. Yasuhiko Ogura, Senior Manager and the 61 new employees

Have a safe and happy Summer from the staff of Ogura Industrial
Tokyo, Japan

Ogura Industrial exhibited the full clutch and brake line from Ogura at the Hannover Fair in April. Approximately 400 potential customers obtained information from Ogura for either an application they were working on or an interest in distributing Ogura’s products.

The show also gave existing customers an opportunity to stop by, say hello and, in some cases for the first time, meet some of the U.S. staff who were present at the show. Besides meeting new customers and seeing existing ones, the show also provided an opportunity to meet with various trade magazines and online engineering reference sites.

Ogura supports many of these drivers and was fortunate to sponsor current world champion Toshihiro Arai who drew a good crowd for the round table discussion. As Ogura has done in the past, they held a round table discussion with some of the Drift racing drivers. Ogura supports many of these drivers and was fortunate to sponsor the current world champion Toshihiro Arai who drew a good crowd for the round table discussion.

Drift drivers draw a good crowd at the Ogura booth

Engineers from Phillips stop by to discuss a new application with Fred while Junichi assists another potential customer

The featured product at this year’s show was the new light clutch and the new quiet carbon clutch. Both products are designed to give operators more new pedal feel and smoother engagement than traditional racing clutches. These clutches were recently written up in some of the Japanese automotive racing magazines, so there was a strong interest from the attendees.

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Tokyo, Japan

This year marks the 25th year of the Tokyo Auto Salon. 319 exhibitors brought in more than 250,000 visitors to the show. This year Ogura unveiled the new automotive trade show booth.

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AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS EXHIBITED AT TOKYO AUTO SALON

OIC EXHIBITS AT THE HANNOVER FAIR

Hannover, Germany

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APPLICATION STORY

I USED TO HAVE A DOG... NOW ALL I HAVE IS A CHAIN

OK so it’s not true, but you could see it happening. This is why Bercomac of Quebec Canada set out to design the best ATV Snow blower attachment in the world, they were concerned with the health and safety of the owner operator as well as their pets and offspring.

There are plenty of Snow Blower attachments available for ATV’s (All Terrain Vehicles), but they all had several drawbacks.

The attachments were difficult to install and remove when needed (many left theirs attached all year round basically eliminating the ATV for any other use). They were weak and didn’t have enough power. They were dangerous to operate for the operator and others who were around (wood, wool, akikkkkk).

Bercomac set out to offer the public a product that addressed all these issues with real power and true safety. The 48 inch wide blower is a convenient self contained attachment to the ATV that uses its own engine and gas tank. It takes no power from the ATV engine. This machine clears a path 50% to 100% wider than typical walk behind snow blowers, effectively cutting clearing time in half while increasing safety and reducing operator fatigue.

This Bercomac ATV attachment uses Ogura’s GT2.5 MC04 PTO Clutch Brake mechanism to dynamically control the 23 HP Kohler gas engine’s output to the auger and fan. In this application, the clutch connects the engine’s output to both the blower (fan) drive and the auger gear box input via a B section belt. This belt drives the fan at 1,050 to 1,100 RPM and the gear box, drives the auger at a powerful 150 RPM. This combination of belt and gear reduction offers smooth performance and high torque. For added safety, the machine has an electric engine start and electric (clutch) auger and fan engagement together with a kill switch all built into the saddle.

If the operator leaves the saddle, the Kill switch disconnects the clutch and, at the same, time kills the engine. The spring set brake helps to slow the auger to a stop in less than 5 seconds. If all else fails, there are dual impact shear bolts that shut down the machine in the event of an impact to the auger. This is important with this machine because of its “fun factor” and family wide acceptance and use.

For your winter cottage or long driveway, these machines are a cost effective and SAFE solution to hiring snow removal contractors. Bercomac uses Ogura’s quality GT2.5 MC04 PTO Clutch Brake mechanism to help make this machine a fun and convenient tool for the whole family. And with such documented safety features, it’s just one more good excuse for dad to go out and buy that really necessary ATV...Woof.

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