

THE AUSTAL TIMES

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AUSTAL
USA

RECOGNITIONS

CREW OF THE MONTH & RISING STAR

THE CREW OF THE MONTH AWARD SHINES A LIGHT ON THOSE SPECIAL MOMENTS WHEN A CREW GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND. IT'S A WAY TO CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING TEAMWORK AND INSPIRE EVERYONE TO KEEP GIVING THEIR BEST—BECAUSE EVERY EFFORT HELPS PRODUCTION SHINE!

THE RISING STAR AWARD RECOGNIZES NEW TEAM MEMBERS WHO ARE STANDING OUT THROUGH STRONG PERFORMANCE, TEAMWORK, GROWTH, AND LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.



DEPARTMENT: ELECTRICAL
LOCATION: FINAL ASSEMBLY
SUPERVISOR JUAN BATREZ-PUENTES

This crew meets and exceeds production targets while keeping safety at the forefront. Their teamwork and accountability reflect the high standards we value.



DEPARTMENT: PIPE
LOCATION: FINAL ASSEMBLY
SUPERVISOR CHRIS HAMM

This crew stands out for stepping in to help others complete tasks. Their support strengthens the yard and reflects the teamwork that helps keep operations running smoothly and safely.



DEPARTMENT: FABRICATION
LOCATION: FINAL ASSEMBLY
SUPERVISOR: BRANDON AULD

We recognize this crew for exemplifying the skill and resilience that are the hallmarks of our yard, raising the bar for excellence with every project they touch.

SHANNON VISE

LOGISTICS ANALYST III



Shannon consistently seeks opportunities to learn and grow and contributes ideas that help improve processes and operations. She applies new knowledge thoughtfully and demonstrates a strong commitment to quality and continuous improvement. We are proud to recognize Shannon for her contributions and look forward to all she will continue to accomplish.

MARO MARTIR PEREZ

STRUCTURAL WELDER A-CLASS



Maro consistently brings a positive attitude and strong work ethic to every task. He has shown rapid skill growth, great attention to detail, and a willingness to learn. His professionalism and reliability make him a strong contributor, and his positive attitude helps uplift the entire crew! We are proud to recognize Maro as a Rising Star and appreciate the impact he makes each day.

CELEBRATIONS

DRIVING DANVILLE: MEET OPERATIONS MANAGER JARED SPRINGER

Jared Springer, who is the Operations Manager at the Additive Manufacturing Center of Excellence in Danville, VA, has distinguished himself as a driving force within our manufacturing operations, consistently pushing the envelope on delivery schedules and finding innovative ways to accelerate throughput while maintaining the standards of safety and quality. In leading a highly complex operation, he applies skillful coordination and a results-oriented focus to ensure teams remain focused, aligned, and responsive to shifting priorities.

Jared's team has repeatedly exceeded the expectations of our Navy customer, strengthening trust and reinforcing our reputation for technical excellence and on-time performance in support of mission readiness. Beyond operational success, he serves as a role model for our emerging manufacturing professionals, demonstrating the work ethic, accountability, and commitment to continuous improvement that define a strong and sustainable career in our industry.



SAN DIEGO STAR: RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE OUT WEST

We would like to recognize Joanna Tien, Production Technical Assistant, for her quick learning ability and her significant contributions to improving the security badging process at the San Diego Office.



Joanna has streamlined the badging process by improving communication between Austal and the Navy, as well as with her team members. She has also played a key role in enhancing impound operations by providing feedback for process improvements, strengthening customer communications, and participating in mapping and memorializing the impound operations and invoicing processes.

As part of these improvements, Joanna developed a much-needed FAQs resource form for impound vessel customers, which has significantly helped guide the impound vessel owners. In addition, Joanna helped develop a vessel tracking system to better monitor impounded vessels, with this information being shared with the Port of San Diego and with Austal Mobile office to support improved coordination and visibility. Joanna's active participation and feedback during the Impound Operations Value Stream Mapping improvement project further streamlined workflows and elevated the overall level of customer service within the impound vessel operation.

CELEBRATIONS



LCU BEACHING TRIALS

LCU 1710 (H-670) concluded its Builders Sea Trials (BST) on Saturday, February 14, 2026, successfully executing its fourth and final scheduled underway event. Under operational command of Susan Brigitha (Austal – Trials Master) and Jeff Dixon (Austal – Chief Mate), the vessel departed Austal for the Beaching Demonstration at the Middle Bay Port in Mobile at 6:05 a.m. with 39 riders on board.

Led by Grant Becker (Austal – Test Manager) and Aaron Jordan (Austal – Project Manager), preparations for the beaching demonstration commenced promptly upon departure. At 8:50 a.m., the vessel secured the anchor and completed the transit to the beaching area. The first of five successful beaching demonstrations completed at 10:35 a.m., culminating with execution of the final de-beaching at 1:10 p.m. as the anchor was secured and the vessel began the transit back to Austal.

Additional events scheduled included ballast cooling and generator engine auxiliary cooling demonstrations, each completed in tandem with the beaching events.

LCU 1710 (H-670) returned from Builders Sea Trials Day 4 at 2:50 p.m. and moored starboard side to the pier at Final Assembly berth 2. No injuries or notable issues otherwise were reported during this underway period.

The successful completion of Builders trials represents the culmination of months of focused effort, collaboration, and technical expertise across multiple teams. Production ensured the vessel was constructed to the highest standards; Engineering translated complex designs into reliable, high-performing systems; the Program and Projects teams provided critical coordination and oversight to keep timelines and objectives on track; and the Tests and Trials team rigorously validated every component under real-world conditions. Equally important, our Production Support teams played a key role behind the scenes - providing the resources, planning, logistics, and problem-solving needed to keep work moving efficiently and safely.

Together, their dedication and teamwork made this milestone possible and set the foundation for continued operational success. Even more notable, is that this success comes after nearly four years of navigating through first-of-class design and programmatic challenges.

Special thanks to all of the teams who worked with so much grit and determination to accomplish this milestone, including Program Manager Brandon Hanson and Project Manager Aaron Jordan, as well as the Fabrication team led by Dane Tomberlin, the Electrical team led by John Luck, the Pipe team led by Jerry Harrell, the Fitout team led by Greg Rumbley, the Machinery team led by Herb Sprinkle, the Engineering team led by Daniel High, and the Tests and Trials team led by Susan Brigitha.

Additional notes:

- Austal partnered with (obtained approval from) the Alabama State Port Authority for use of the beaching location mentioned above.

CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATING NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK (FEB 22-28)

Systems & Strategy Experts

Brandon Hirsch | Mechanical Engineer IV (Not Pictured)

Engineering is as much about the finish line as the drawing board. Brandon's work on GELO and MELO milestones showcases how a proactive, systematic approach to problem-solving ensures that complex systems transition seamlessly from theory to reality.

Andrew Hokanson | Electrical Engineer II

Bridging the gap between design and execution is a vital engineering feat. By applying lean principles across the OPC and T-ATS programs, Andrew demonstrates how cross-functional collaboration minimizes disruption and keeps production moving efficiently.

Thomas Davis | Electrical Field Engineer III

True engineering excellence involves anticipating hurdles before they appear. Thomas's ability to provide meticulous technical support for T-ATS highlights the "team-first" mentality required to sync engineering requirements with the realities of the shop floor.

The Design & Precision Specialists

John Ulrich | Mechanical Field Engineer III

Technical accuracy is the bedrock of safety and efficiency. John's focus on precision in drawing modifications serves as a masterclass in reducing rework, proving that "getting it right the first time" is the most effective way to support field operations.

Aubrey Shaw | Mechanical Designer III

Navigating complex design challenges requires a balance of speed and quality. Aubrey's ability to meet stringent deliverable benchmarks while maintaining high ethical standards reminds us that integrity is just as important as technical skill in the design process.

Brandon Pomilio | Naval Architect I

In maritime engineering, stability is everything. Brandon's growth into a key contributor for critical stability calculations on the OPC, T-ATS, and EMS programs illustrates the importance of deep specialization and continuous professional advancement.

The Field & Structural Innovators

Daniel Burke | Mechanical Designer III

Adaptation is a core engineering trait. Since joining the team, Daniel has modeled how high-quality internal communication between Engineering and Production creates the alignment necessary for project success.

Ladarius Hunt | Electrical Engineer III

Leading a unique program like AFDM requires immense autonomy and resourcefulness. Ladarius demonstrates how ownership of the engineering process and proactive scheduling are key drivers in delivering complex electrical systems.

Christian Bellew | Naval Architect II

Subject matter expertise is built through years of dedicated service. Christian's work on heavy weather mooring and vessel incline experiments highlights the vital role of maritime engineering in ensuring safe and successful vessel operations.

Nate Burse | Structural Engineer II

Innovation often means applying specialized knowledge to new frontiers. By applying shock and vibration analysis to submarine module construction, Nate represents the future of structural engineering and the constant evolution of the field.



THE EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE

The Experience Exchange shines a spotlight on our crew. We hear from a tenured teammate about their years of dedication, experience, and insights they've gained.



2002



2026

25 YEARS OF CRAFTSMANSHIP: A JOURNEY WITH SCOTT CALVERT, AUSTAL USA'S FIRST EMPLOYEE TO CELEBRATE A SILVER ANNIVERSARY

When Scott first rode past Bay 6 during its construction in the early 2000s, he viewed it through the eyes of someone who was not yet a shipbuilder. "That's pretty cool," he remembers thinking, unaware that the moment would lead to the beginning of a defining 25-year Austal career (and counting). Hired by Austal's first CEO as part of a lean team of roughly 45 people, Scott was there to help lay the literal and figurative foundations of the shipyard.

The early days were defined by a "make it work" attitude. Before the MMF existed, Scott and his teammates cut aluminum by hand in a dirt parking lot of Bay 6. "I remember when the MMF was finally built; it was so vast and empty I joked about wanting to drive a go-kart through it," he says. The technical process was equally manual. Since many drawings were based on Australian vessels, the team had to fax questions overseas and wait until the following day for a response. Launching was a different world, too—Scott recalls the era of the train tracks, where stopping or slowing a boat often meant manually throwing a wooden chock into the path.

A Passion for Results

Scott's career path reflects a deep commitment to the "finished product." After five years in Fitout working on crew boats, he moved to Fabrication for five years before returning to his true passion: the final details. He speaks fondly of the commercial era, particularly the Electric Express and Cloud Nine, where he helped install wood trim around the wallpaper—a level of detail that showcased true quality craftsmanship. "I like seeing the finished product," Scott explains. "That's the pleasure of the job, seeing it all come together."

Growth, Resilience, and the Navy Transition

Scott has been a firsthand witness to the shipyard's massive transformation. He recalls standing atop the Mobile Convention Center, looking out over the expanded yard in amazement at the sheer number of people working. "I wondered where they all came from," he reflects. He is also candid about the challenges the company faced, noting that the 2008-2009 recession was a turning point. While his heart is in commercial builds, he acknowledges the vital role of the U.S. Navy. "If the Navy hadn't shown up, we would have closed down," he admits, noting how the government's partnership saved the yard and provided the stability for the growth seen today.

Culture, Camaraderie, and the Next Generation

Beyond the steel and aluminum, Scott remembers a culture rooted in family. In the early years, he would pass around phone cards so teammates could call their wives and families back in Australia. Through his travels for projects in Miami, New York, Canada, and Wisconsin, Scott's philosophy has remained steady. Whether he was watching jet-skiers from the deck of the Biscayne Lady in 2002 or mentoring a new hire today, his advice is clear:

"Come in here ready to listen and learn. Make sure the job is done right the first time. The government is paying us to build it right."

As Scott celebrates his 25th anniversary with the company on February 26, 2026, he describes his journey as "a long, great ride." Though he is a veteran of the yard, he remains humble, emphasizing that in a facility this dynamic, he still learns something new every single day.

REMEMBERING OUR TEAMMATES

We wish to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of members of our Austal USA team. Though we are keeping their names private to honor the grieving process of their families and friends, their impact on so many of us remains, and we wanted to acknowledge the heavy hearts many of us are carrying. Loss affects us all differently, and we encourage everyone to be kind with themselves and with one another. We remain grateful for the time we spent working alongside our friends and coworkers and join their families in honoring their legacy.

We understand that the loss of a friend or colleague can be a difficult and emotional experience. We want to ensure that every member of our team has the support they need during times of loss or other hardship.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP): EAP is available 24/7 to provide confidential counseling and support services at no cost to Austal employees and their families. Whether you need to talk to someone about grief, stress, or general well-being, professional counselors are ready to help. Call Optum's Austal Employee dedicated line - toll free - 1-866-248-4094 any time day or night - or log on to: www.liveandworkwell.com (access code: austal).



Manager and Human Resources Support: If you find that you are struggling to focus or need assistance, please speak with your direct supervisor, your manager, or with anyone on the Human Resources Team. We are committed to providing a steady hand and the support our team needs to navigate difficult times.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

NOMINATE OUR SHIPYARD STARS

We are excited to continue developing our employee recognition programs, which are:

The Rising Star Award recognizes new team members who are standing out through strong performance, teamwork, growth, and leadership potential.

Crew of the Month celebrates teams who go above and beyond in performance, collaboration, innovation, and safety.

Scan the QR codes below to join the conversation or nominate a teammate or crew making an impact.



CREW OF THE MONTH



RISING STAR AWARD

CELEBRATING YOU.

The Austal Times: Your Monthly Employee Spotlight

The work you do every day is incredible. The Austal Times is our monthly spotlight on the people, projects, and "good news" that make us the best in the business.

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT:

Big Wins: Project successes & team achievements.

Top Talent: Awards, honors, & training milestones.

Good Vibes: Shout-outs, volunteer work, & community events.

Customer Praise: Positive feedback from the fleet.



GOT NEWS? SEND IT IN!

Help us celebrate our wins. Send your stories, shout-outs, and photos to:

NewsletterInfo@austalusa.com

Scan to email us directly from your phone!

