

Arnie Bazensky Remembered

Arnie J. Bazensky passed away March 29, 2023. He was a Past President of OSSC 2005-2006, served at just about every Board level position, and supported the OSSC for many years.



Arnie started his career in the manufacturing industry at U.S. Divers Company in Southern California, the industry leader at the time, working from the original “Aqualung” patents of Jacques Cousteau, the famous oceanographer.

Trained at the University of Southern California in rubber chemistry, Arnie served as Chief Rubber Chemist for the Shamrock Rubber Division of U.S. Divers for 5 years. During his tenure, he developed a series of silicone elastomers for use in scuba diving facemasks and breathing regulator components, an industry first. The use of silicone rubber is now a standard within the diving industry. He also worked with the engineering department, on their equipment evaluation team, testing new diving equipment designs. He left U.S. Divers for a career in advanced composite material science, working for U.S. Polymeric in Santa Ana, California. During the 3 years spent there, Arnie worked with some of the first “stealthy” advanced composites, which are now used on our latest stealthy military aircraft, in addition to golf clubs, bicycles and fishing rods.

Arnie joined Swedlow Inc. in 1976 to join the staff of the R&D Laboratory and specialized in the development of test procedures for the silicone elastomers used in advanced cockpit transparencies, including the B1B and B-2 Stealth bombers. After 12 years at Swedlow, and upon completion of his business degree at the University of Redlands, he switched from the technical field to technical sales, joining the world’s oldest and largest specialty glassmaker, Schott Glass, where he remained for decades before retiring. He was one of the key members of the Schott team responsible for supplying glass to many of the large mirror projects undertaken by the University of Arizona.

Arnie spent much of his adult life involved in volunteer work and served as an Advisor on the Laser Electro-Optics Advisory Committee at Irvine Valley College since the early 1990’s. In addition, he was the current President-Elect for the American Precision Optics Manufacturer’s Association (APOMA).

On the personal side, Arnie was an avid scuba diver, fisherman and soccer referee. He split his volunteer work there between the American Youth Soccer Organization as a National Level Referee and Instructor, and as the Team Leader for the Chaplain Program at the Unity Church of Tustin, where he also served on the Board of Directors as President.

Arnie was outgoing and friendly and could light up a room with his presence. He was great at making connections and introductions, with an innate sense of connecting those with needs with those who specialize in providing services. He made all, young and old, feel valued and welcome. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and worked with him.

Our deepest condolences to his wife Pam and daughters Lauren and Monica.