

# JOURNAL

## Reno—The New Data Center Hub

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# Reno—The New Data Center Hub

## Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Service Technicians Local 350, Reno, NV

Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Service Technicians Local 350, Reno, NV, craftsmen and women have worked on the smallest service jobs to the largest industrial projects in one of the largest jurisdictions in the country. Chartered on October 13, 1906, Local 350's members have been developing Northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe Basin for nearly 115 years. Six of those years have been under the leadership of Local 350 Business Manager Chris Doris. Brother Doris has been a member of Local 350 for 32 years, beginning his career as a helper at the young age of 16. Under the experienced leadership of Business Manager Doris, the Local 350 membership continues to grow, meeting the demands of rapidly expanding Northern Nevada. The Local 350 jurisdiction covers a vast majority of Nevada, from the Oregon/Idaho border to the north, and west to the Tahoe Basin, east to the Utah border, and south to Tonopah, NV. The jurisdiction covers the following counties in Nevada: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Northern Esmeralda, Northern Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and White Pine. In California, Local 350's jurisdiction includes parts of Alpine, El Dorado, Mono, Nevada, and Placer counties. Local 350 currently has 746 members, and of those members, 116 are apprentices, 514 are active journeymen, 87 are retired members, and 29 are life members.



The *UA Journal* team was onsite in February 2020, prior to the pandemic, and before there was a requirement to wear a face mask on a jobsite.









Jacob Villa (J, LU 228, ACCO)



Stevan Nikolic (Ap, ACCO)

## Mustang-STY

Reno, known as the “Biggest Little City in the World,” has recently become a magnet for high-profile technology companies as a building site for their data centers. Not far from Tesla’s Gigafactory and internet-infrastructure company, Switch’s data center is the construction site for a well-known, large search engine company’s data center, under the name of Mustang-STY. The search engine company bought 1,210 acres in the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center (TRIC) to build a series of data centers. The project began in March of 2019 and is predicted to be a seven-year project. There will be 10 data centers built over the next seven years, if the schedule stays on track. The data center includes four central utility buildings (CUBs), which are the central nervous systems for the data center campus. Each CUB supplies three data centers, so when the project is complete, there will be 10 data centers and four CUBs. When the *UA Journal* team was onsite, work was being done on the first CUB, which has since been completed.

ACCO Engineered Systems is the mechanical contractor on the job, and it had 50 craftsmen and women onsite. ACCO is currently the largest full-service mechanical contractor on the West Coast and has top-notch fabrication facilities that prefabricate over 160,000 diameter inches of welded and grooved HVAC, plumbing, and process piping per year. The

General Superintendent on the job, David Keeling, who is a Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 447, Sacramento, CA, member, has worked for ACCO his entire career. Brother Keeling explained how they are getting the materials they need onsite from ACCO’s fab shops, stating, “ACCO’s hub is in Pasadena, CA, and then there’s a much smaller shop in Sacramento. We had the large-bore, and the bigger materials come from Pasadena, and the smaller materials come from Sacramento. So, we’re able to bring materials in from two places with the union label on them.” Todd Heckendorn, the General Foreman of the piping crews, said that ACCO’s ability to prefabricate a lot of their pipe has made a huge impact on the success of the project. He said, “They’ve done a great job utilizing their fab shops. When materials come in that are 40- or 50-foot sections—and it’s not small pipe, a lot of it’s 16 or 24 inches—it fits really well. ACCO’s ability to prefabricate piping spools start to finish has worked out well.” General Foreman John Chambers reiterated ACCO’s top-notch fabrication work, stating, “We’ve put in a lot of pipe—18-inch condenser water pipes. The dry coolers are 18,000 pounds apiece, and there are 48 of them. They were lifted with a crane and placed without a hitch, with no safety incidents whatsoever. Everything has been well-designed, and the prefab has been hitting somewhere in

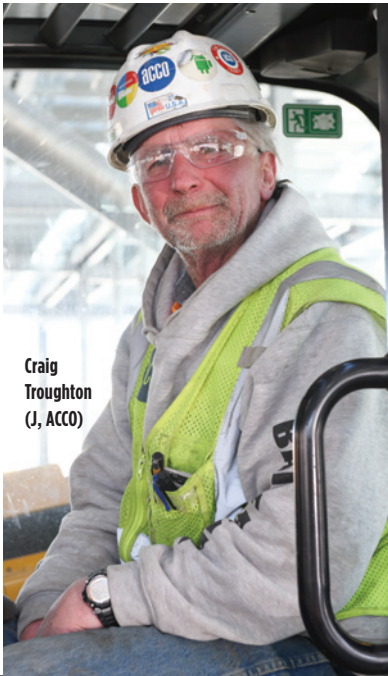
*“We’ve put in a lot of pipe—18-inch condenser water pipes. The dry coolers are 18,000 pounds apiece, and there are 48 of them. They were lifted with a crane and placed without a hitch, with no safety incidents whatsoever. Everything has been well-designed, and the prefab has been hitting somewhere in the 95 percentile range. It’s been really accurate, which is phenomenal.”*

— John Chambers





Chris Doris (BM, LU 350), George Rose (St, ACCO), Freddy Sheehan (BA, LU 350), David Keeling (S, ACCO), Todd Heckendorn (GF, ACCO), Ken Harrison (GF, ACCO), and John Chambers (GF, ACCO)



Craig  
Troughton  
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Jordan Osterberg (J, ACCO)

Luke Hendrickson (Ap, ACCO)





Jacob Rippenkroeger (J, LU 228, ACCO)



Tony Abell (J, ACCO)



Forest Johnson (Ap, ACCO)





George Rose (St, ACCO) and John Chambers (GF, ACCO)



Ron Boomhower (Ap, ACCO)



Ronnie Carroll (J, ACCO), Rolando Mejia (Ap, ACCO), and Jason Thorpe (H, ACCO)

*Of the 50 members on the Mustang Data Center project, they have roughly three journeymen to one apprentice, and several pre-apprentices. At the time the UA Journal team was onsite, the pre-apprentices on the job were firewatchers helping the welders.*

the 95 percentile range. It's been really accurate, which is phenomenal." These 18-inch pipes, which are carbon steel, were impressive. There are three of them at 360 feet each. The condenser water pipes are for the dry coolers, which helps with the cooling process of the entire system. Business Manager Doris said, "They're putting in big expansion loops in the middle. It's a neat piping job." General Superintendent Keeling said, "We have four of what they call the module cooling units, which are the chillers. There are seven for this one building. They want to build four, so just for the four buildings, there will be 28 chillers."

The high deserts outside of Reno are home to herds of wild mustangs. These majestic wild horses posed a challenge on the jobsite. General Foreman Todd Heckendorn said, "One of the first challenges was the wildlife onsite. There's wild mustangs all over this area, and we really didn't want to disrupt the herd, so trying to make sure that they got out of the area while more construction workers came in was a challenge." Brother Heckendorn expressed that their team of people on the job worked well together, which helped the job move along smoothly. He said, "Reno's a small local, and

our local has managed to provide manpower for the job pretty well. The travelers who have come in to help us out have been fantastic. We've gotten some great talent from the travel hands, and their ability to come in and mix with our local members has worked out well." Of the 50 members on the Mustang Data Center project, they have roughly three journeymen to one apprentice, and several pre-apprentices. At the time the *UA Journal* team was onsite, the pre-apprentices on the job were firewatchers helping the welders.

The members on the Mustang-STY project were humble and clearly proud to be working for a great union contractor. General Foreman John Chambers said, "It's about creating a culture where people want to come to work and enjoy coming to work and nurturing that culture where it breathes. It's about teaching the apprentices the ways of pipefitting and plumbing, so that they can continue in the trades and become proficient journeymen and proficient union members." Brother Heckendorn added, "The local is growing. Jobs like this in areas like this business park will help our local and this community grow substantially."

