

Dear Connecticut Rubber Group Members,

To say that this has been a tough year would be a major understatement. I think that many of us have been directly impacted (in the form of furloughs, shortened work weeks, and even layoffs) by the slowdown in the economy. These facts lead the group to make some tough decisions during the first part of the year. We decided to cancel both the Spring Technical Meeting and the Golf Outing in response to corporate cuts.

By fall, things were starting to look a bit brighter, so we decided to hold a joint Fall Technical Meeting with the New England Rubber and Plastics Group. The meeting included a plant tour of Farrel Corporation in Ansonia, CT followed by an amazing multi-course dinner in Derby, CT at the Twisted Vine Restaurant. It was a great meeting! Some pictures from the event can be found below.

We have an excellent team ready to take over this coming January. This group is more than prepared to face the continued challenges created by the current economic situation. But this industry has faced these issues before, and I know that we will continue to weather this storm. This group, and the rubber industry in general, has always pulled together, both in good times and bad, and I don't think that anything in that area will change.

I would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays, and may you all have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Warmest Regards,

Carrie Burr
2009 Chair, CT Rubber Group

