

# CARAVAN

## Q2, 2025

**86 years of NOMADS  
spirit at exciting  
new venues.**



Dear Nomads Members

We're thrilled to invite you to more exceptional gatherings as we celebrate 86 years of fostering innovation and collaboration in the energy industry. This quarter, we're not just changing our venue again; we're revolutionizing the way we connect, learn, and grow as a community. Prepare yourself for an unforgettable quarter that promises insight, inspiration, and a bit of NOMADS magic.

Remember, NOMADS is more than just an organization. We are a network of visionary creators and innovators committed to sharing knowledge and experiences across the globe.

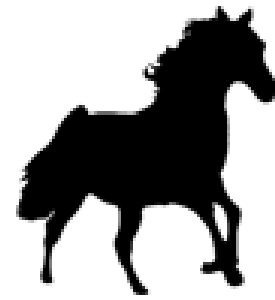
Join us as we continue to journey together, leveraging our collective strengths to transform the future of the energy industry.

# Call for Sponsors!

Golf Fundraiser for the Scholarship Program  
Blackhorse Golf Club  
Friday 31st October 2025

Registration is OPEN!

[www.nomads-international.com](http://www.nomads-international.com)



**BLACKHORSE**  
GOLF CLUB







## Q2

- facility tour at Venturetech
- happy hour at Hotel ZaZa sponsored by Ex Industries
- fireside chat-style dinner with Dominic Sun, Port Houston



## Meet the Board

### PRESIDENT:

Maxine Aitkenhead

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Sang Karle, Askara Group

### 1ST YR REGENT:

Cornelius Jones, Shell

### 2ND YR REGENT:

Tom Shrader, Hahn Equipment

### SENIOR REGENT:

David Beard, Xerxes

### BUSINESS ADMIN:

Natalie Strabala, Power-Flow

## Team Leads

### TREASURER & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Raul Bueno, Cornerstone Valve

### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND GOLF

### FUNDRAISER:

Mike Snodgrass, Basic Equipment

### SECRETARY AND EVENTS:

Nick Mair, Ex Industries

## Our ask of you!

- register and bring a guest to our events
- encourage someone in your network to join NOMADS
- volunteer for our events

# Member Story

**"Our success is the sum of very small actions, done well; day in and day out."  
- R. Collier**



Since 1989, BASIC Equipment has been a trusted partner to the energy industry — delivering turnkey modular refineries, custom rig packages, and precision steel fabrications with unmatched quality and pride.

From the beginning, BASIC was built not just on grit and expertise — but on personal commitment. "There were three of us when we started — James Smith, my wife Renee, and me," recalls founder and CEO Thomas E. Balke (Tommy). "James was a dear friend of 41 years and a true oilfield hand — we shook hands over margaritas at Cyclone Anaya's and launched the company with a dream and a plan." "We lost James to COVID in August 2021," Tommy reflects. "But his legacy lives on in every weld, lift, and handshake."

James brought deep industry roots — from drafting at SR Oil Tool in high school to roles at Stewart & Stevenson, Blocker Drilling, and POOL Drilling. He later served as GM at a pipeline supply company before co-founding BASIC. "We hunted, fished, played softball — and always said we'd go into business together. In 1989, we made it happen."

Supported by his son Tray Balke, the company's longest-serving team member, BASIC are a dedicated workforce, they've expanded BASIC's reach into the power and wastewater sectors — markets experiencing rapid growth. "Oil & gas remains a cornerstone, but we're excited about the future," says Tommy.

Renee, Thomas's wife, played a foundational role — maintaining a full-time executive assistant position in the Galleria for major natural gas traders while managing health insurance and the family's finances. "She kept our books in the early years and joined full-time as CFO in 2005," says Balke. "It wasn't always easy working together — she quit three times that first year! Thankfully, I was able to beg her back each time."



Today, BASIC's 37-acre facility integrates engineering, fabrication, and logistics — a hub of industrial capability and teamwork. As market needs evolve, the company has expanded into the power and wastewater sectors, embracing modularization, hydrogen-ready solutions, and EPC synergies. Through all the growth, BASIC remains grounded in values: quality, ownership, and resilience.

BASIC Equipment: Serving the energy industry with excellence — since 1989.

[www.basic-equipment.com](http://www.basic-equipment.com)