AUGUST 2026

Fin Facts

Bi-Monthly Robinson Fin Machines Newsletter

WATTS OF WISDOM

If you don't try new things, you won't learn new things.





WHERE'S THE FIN?

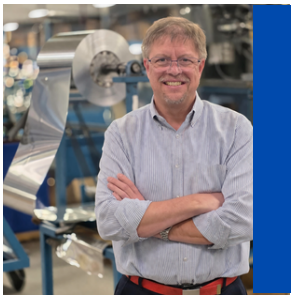
If you've ever been camping before (*especially backpacking*), you know that preparing hot food is one of the comforts of home. ***Enter Jetboil***, an all-in-one, gas-fueled portable cooking system. A Jetboil unit is composed of an integrated burner and insulated cup that connects to a small butane heater to boil 8 ounces of water at a time.

The burner is powered by Jetboil's ***"Flux Ring" technology***, which was made possible with our fin! An aluminum plain flat folded fin with a 0.5" flow is curved into a circle and ultrasonically welded to the bottom of an aluminum cup, forming a small heat exhchanger. When the heater is ignited, the flame heats the bottom of the cup. As heat dissipates to the edges, the fin captures it and forces it back to the center to warm the cup instead of allowing it to escape into the air.

By integrating fin into the design, the heat efficiency was **improved by 70%**. 8 ounces of water can be heated from air temperature to 212° F (*boiling*) in ***two minutes***, while using ***half the fuel***. We do not currently make the fin for the Jetboil units, but by partnering with RFM for the original design, this innovative product took the camping world by storm.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP...

David Haushalter, Vice President



Thanks to everyone in the building for pitching in and doing things that are outside of the "***normal***" routine. It is so much nicer in the fin room being able to move around and not trip over coils! The machine shop is really taking shape and everything should be in place and operating in the next week. We are still making progress on the new welding room and paint booth. Once that is complete, it will be a massive effort to **finish the new material inventory system** and get it fully functional. All of the input and thoughtful insight have been much appreciated. **It is only because of the team that has been assembled that allows us to continue to progress as a business**. I am proud of the work that you are doing and appreciate your dedication to serve our customers with high quality fins.

Newsletter Highlights

Did you bring some fin on your last camping trip?

A message from VP, David Haushalter

A Day in the Life of the Machine Shop

Check out the newest equipment coming to RFM later this year

Get involved in the Football Spirit at RFM

Celebrate Teresa McKee's Retirement

RFM Robinson Fin Machines

A *"DAY IN THE LIFE"* OF MACHINE SHOP

The Maintenance / Machine Shop Department plays a critical role in keeping RFM operating efficiently every day. ***Their skills, knowledge, and dedication ensure that employees have the tools, equipment, and support needed to be successful***.

This team is responsible for building and repairing the fin machines we operate every day. With the capability to **build two fin machines each year**, their expertise has delivered machines to customers all over the world. However, in the past several years, the focus has shifted towards building machines primarily for in-house use.

Beyond fin machines, the team manufactures a wide range of essential tools and equipment, including: hand shears, gear cutters, drop gauges, slitter carts, sizing tables, among countless others needed for production. Additionally, the team handles a variety of tasks throughout the facility. From painting, electrical work, plumbing repairs, welding, or servicing equipment, they are always ready to tackle whatever needs to be done. ***During the winter, they're even arriving early to clear snow to keep RFM safe and accessible***!

This team plays a critical role in keeping our operations running efficiently, reducing downtime, and supporting our continued growth.



Their hard work often takes place behind the scenes, but **their impact is felt throughout the entire organization every single day**.

Recent Challenge?

With the new expansion, the team has had to relocate all their equipment into the new facility. This massive undertaking required extensive planning, coordination, and teamwork. Moving heavy machinery while minimizing disruption is no small task and they have worked tirelessly to ensure a safe and efficient transition.

ASK US ANYTHING **Submit a question to leadership.**

CHECK OUR STATS FOR JUNE AND JULY

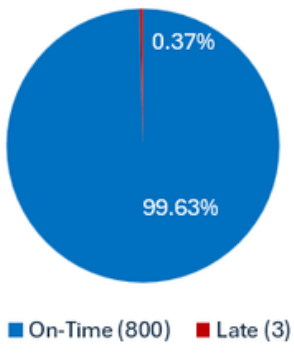
July Rework

In July, we received one rejection from Collins Aerospace related to an incorrect fin count for part number S7100593-21. A total of 451 pieces were returned to RFM for further evaluation and re-inspection. The returned parts were carefully inspected to verify compliance and 450 pieces were confirmed to be within spec. The one nonconforming piece was identified and replaced with a conforming part. This issue was addressed promptly to ensure that the customer received parts that met all applicable specifications and quality requirements.

Sales Analysis

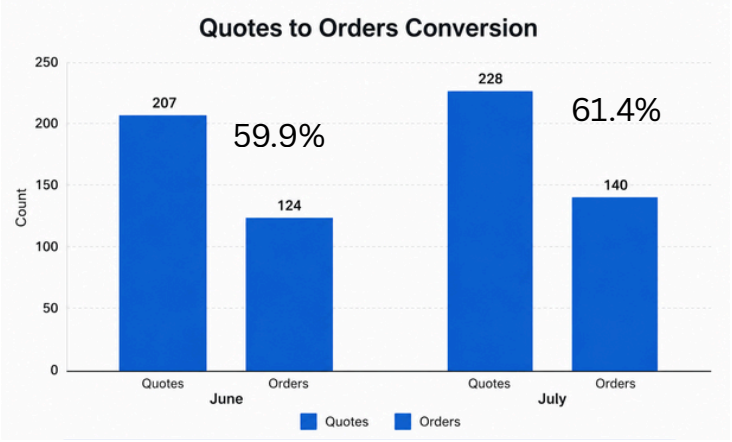
Sales are steady. Our lowest sales month was January, followed by May. June and July are around our average monthly sales performance. This year, June sales were **higher than they've been the last two years** and July was almost identical to the previous two years.

Delivery Performance



RFM Objectives

- 98% of Shipments On-Time or Early
- 60% Quotes to Orders
- 1% or less rework
- 25% or less scrap



NEW & NOTABLE

By the end of the year, we should have a new piece of equipment in place at Robinson Fin: a large slitter. It will operate similarly to the slitters currently positioned at the back of the machine, slitting down raw material to a specified width. However, this slitter will allow us to ***efficiently recoil the drop and preserve it for reuse***. This will reduce our material scrap rate and increase the flexibility of the material we have in stock. Eventually, we would like to run an internal slitting operation to maintain our stock of in demand widths.

This slitter was custom ordered and designed for our use and is currently in the final production stage in the United Kingdom. A few weeks ago, **Nathaniel reviewed and evaluated its performance in person**. There are a couple of features to improve before it will be shipped to our facility. Once it arrives, the manufacturer will commission it and provide in-person training.



IN THE KNOW

Did you know that the first employee suggestion box was introduced in 1880 by Scottish shipbuilder William Denny. He created a formal system that encouraged workers to submit ideas for improving shipbuilding processes and even rewarded successful suggestions with monetary prizes. This innovative approach not only improved operations but also demonstrated ***the value of listening to employees***, an idea that continues to shape workplaces today.

At RFM, we believe **some of the best ideas come from the people who do the work every day**. Your suggestions help us improve safety, quality, efficiency, and the overall workplace. **Every idea** is appreciated, reviewed, and recognized because continuous improvement starts with employee involvement.

Have an idea you'd like to share? ***We'd love to hear it!*** Submit your suggestion anytime at: https://www.robfin.com/suggestion/

TEST YOUR RFM KNOWLEDGE

Enter your response here for a chance to win some RFM swag!

You can find fin manufactured at Robinson Fin in:

- Hewlett Packard Printers
- Mars Rover
- Silent Blenders (*used at bars*)
- Helicopters
- All of the Above

A NOTE OF ADVICE

Slow is smooth. Smooth is fast. Repetition of a routine is key.

- LAKOTA BREECE

Be Well at RFM

August is **National Wellness Month**. Wellness is the intentional process of making choices and engaging in activities that lead to optimal health. Optimal health is not just being free of disease; it is about ***coping with stress, having supportive relationships, and feeling your best in your body***. Here's some tips for prioritizing wellness:

- **Manage Stress**: take time to breathe and ground yourself in the present moment.
- **Stay Hydrated**: bring a reusable water bottle and fill it up throughout the day.
- **Practice Self-Care**: take time for yourself - whether it's rest or a hobby you love after work.
- **Schedule your Appointments**: preventative care catches illness sooner and keeps you healthy. *Scheduled medical appointments are excused per the RFM leave policy*!
- **Exercise Regularly**: even just 30 minutes of movement per day can make a difference.

Upcoming Community Events

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
Weekly	Saturday Market on Main (Kenton)	Corner of Main St and Ohio St	Weekly 9am - 12pm	FREE
August 15	Back to School Mom to Mom Sale	Hardin County YMCA	9am - 12pm	$1.00 for ages 8+
August 18	Monthly Community Meal	St. John's Fellowship Hall	5pm - 6:30pm	FREE
August 22	Summer Concert Series	Kenton Historic Courthouse District	6pm - 9pm	FREE
August 22	Dog Days of Summer **Free pup cups to all dog attendees*	Hardin County Dog Warden's Office	12 pm	FREE
August 22	Made in Ada Wilson Football Festival	Ada Depot Park	5pm - 11pm	FREE
August 22	Classic Car Show	Kenton Nursing and Rehab	6pm - 8pm	FREE
August 29	Veterans vs Supporters 5K	Veterans Park Kenton	10 am	$10.00
Sept. 8 - 13	Hardin County Fair	Hardin County Fairgrounds	7:30am - 10pm	$10.00
Sept. 19	Harvest & Herb Festival	Main Street, Ada	9am - 4pm	FREE
Sept. 26	Annual Family Fun Day	Dunkirk Community Park	2pm - 6pm	FREE
Sept. 26	Hardin County Farm Tour	See Link	Business Hours	FREE

Community Spread

With the NFL season beginning September 9th, there are a couple of ways to get involved at RFM.

RFM PICK'EM LEAGUE

An RFM only Pick'em league will be *available to anyone interested*. There is a one-time fee of **$5** to enter the league and whoever picks the most correct games at the end of the season will be rewarded with the ***entire pot***. Please see **Lawrence Miller** for any additional information and to sign-up. Payment and league sign-up by **September 4th**.



RFM FANTASY FOOTBALL

An RFM Fantasy Football League will be available to anyone interested. Please see Tyler Bevington for any additional information. Must join the league by **August 26**.

Do you have something to include in the next newsletter? Fill out this form by September 30.

















SUMMER COOKOUT

JULY 24, 2026

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Summer Cookout and helped make it a success! We had **195 attendees**, with 133 people taking a Facility Tour. The favorite event by far was the dunk tank, with Lawrence getting dunked the most (*over **one dunk per minute** on average*).

A ***HUGE*** thank you to our volunteers: Shannon, Erica, Lisa, Tara, Deven, Ashley, T, Lawrence, Snider, Josh, and Eden. We could not have done it without you!

Thanks to those of you that filled out the feedback form and shared your ideas for the next party. ***We can't wait to celebrate with you all next summer***!

Upcoming Events @ RFM

Closed - September 7 (Paid)

Fair Food and Company Wide Meeting September 11



Some Father & Son moments at RFM

PULSE CHECK

Fill out this quick survey to let us know how you feel at RFM.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES & LIFE EVENTS

Upcoming Birthdays

Matt Winegardner - August 4
Sarah Wheeler - August 6
Travis Nichols - August 8
Tammy Rizer - August 15
Erica Edler - August 23
Tammy Armstrong - August 25
Wendy Blum - August 26
John Guzman - August 30
Dylan Ward - Sept 8
Robert Lawrence - Sept 8
Tara Rans - Sept 10
Heather Thacker - Sept 11
Molly Weikart - Sept 12
Kassie Bushong - Sept 14
Chase Shumard - Sept 15
Lindsey Martino - Sept 20
Jennifer Hays - Sept 21
Jared Mullins - Sept 24
Melissa Collins - Sept 24
Megan Kyser - Sept 29

Upcoming Work Anniversaries

Sarah Wheeler - August 5 (2 Years)
Brooklyn Diehl - August 5 (2 Years)
Aric Overly - August 11 (1 Year)
Tonya Purcell - August 12 (2 Years)
Tammy Rizer - August 16 (4 Years)
Jenson Shepherd - August 17 (4 Years)
Lindsey Martino - August 20 (7 Years)
Erica Edler - August 23 (**15 Years**)
Chase Shumard - August 25 (1 Year)
Melissa Corwin - August 30 (4 Years)
Nancy Nunez-Taylor - Sept 3 (1 Year)
Ethan Wirbel - Sept 5 (3 Years)
Troy Brown - Sept 9 (2 Years)
Jon Stephens - Sept 15 (**33 Years**)



RELAY RACE

Last Saturday, four RFM employees [Lawrence Miller, Chase Shumard, Ethan Wirbel, and Carter Nuss] participated in the Kenton Cross Country Team Relay Race. They were the ***first Company Team to finish*** the relay and they won "Most Interesting Baton". Great job representing RFM!

RETIREMENT HIGHLIGHT - TERESA McKEE

Teresa McKee retired after **19 years** at Robinson Fin! She was hired in 2007 and spent her career in a variety of support positions from the Fin floor to EDM.



Teresa was extremely organized and adaptable. She was ***exceptional at sizing parts***, and could size and correct cutoff issues as she burned, improving the efficiency of the EDM process. She brought a lot of expertise to the team, especially on California Brazing and Drake jobs.

Everyone will miss Teresa's camping stories, especially those fueled by a bit of moonshine! She was always ready to kick off the next adventure.

Thank you Teresa for **19 years of dedication, effort, and commitment**. From all of us at RFM, we will miss you and wish you the best in retirement!

RFM Robinson Fin Machines

Contributors: Alex Frampton, David Haushalter, Erica Edler, Lisa Carter, Shannon Barnes, Sherri Haushalter, and Tara Rans