

Gases & Welding Vacation Destinations: In The Bleachers

Who wants to take their work along with them when they're on vacation? Well, if you work in the welding and gases industry, it may be hard to avoid! This summer in GAWDA Edge, we're highlighting vacation spots where a gases and welding professional will feel right at home, even while kicking back and leaving the office far, far away.

In honor of last week's midsummer classic, the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, GAWDA Edge this month is taking a trip to the



ballpark for the second spot in its series of gases and welding vacation destinations.

Stadium Food Facts

Concessions provider Aramark offers the following list of foods consumed on Opening Day by the 55,000-plus fans at the home of the New York Mets, Shea Stadium, one of 11 parks serviced by the company.

- 22,570 hot dogs
- 4,750 soft pretzels
- 3,700 bags of peanuts
- 3,380 sausage and pepper sandwiches
- 3,360 orders of chicken tenders
- 2,780 bottles of water
- 1,930 bags of Cracker Jack
- 1,720 gallons of soda
- 1,630 pounds of French fries
- 1,370 slices of pizza
- 1,000 bags of cotton candy
- 890 orders of nachos
- 790 hamburgers
- 710 bags of popcorn
- 20 gallons of ice cream



At first glance, it may not appear that gases and welding distributors would have too much to do with the goings-on at a baseball stadium, at least not once the structure is built. But major league stadiums host a minimum of 81 games per year, more if the team that plays there makes it to the postseason. At each of those 81 games, fans guzzle down beverages that are kept fizzy with the help of compressed carbon dioxide.

Food services provider Aramark handles all food concessions at 11 Major League Baseball stadiums and estimates that 21,435 gallons of soda were consumed at those 11 parks on Opening Day alone. Figuring in the other 19 ballparks and each of their 81-game seasons, a conservative estimate puts the consumed soda count at more than 4 million gallons across the country throughout the course of a season.

That's a lot of reasons for GAWDA companies to step up to the plate, and NuCO₂ (Stuart, FL) has done just that. The company has done business with numerous sports and entertainment venues since the early 1990s. Chief Operat-

Where else can the intrepid traveler go for an exciting welding-and-gases-related vacation?

Visit www.gawdaedge.org to read Part 1 in GAWDA Edge's three-part series, Gases & Welding Vacation Destinations: *Under The Sea*, and learn all about the art of SCUBA diving in some of the world's most exotic locations.

ing Officer W. Scott Wade says, "A stadium is certainly not one of the major usages of CO₂ in the United States, but servicing a stadium requires us to be much more reactive than does a normal restaurant or industrial application that is running five or seven days a week."

Stadiums sit idle much of the time, meaning the frequency of delivery is completely dependent upon the activity at the location. Wade and his colleagues are required to perform more on-demand delivery versus forecasting. "We get feedback from the venue of what their program's going to be, because a stadium also does rock concerts and various other events that drive different levels of attendance," Wade says.

For a typical stadium delivery, NuCO₂ delivers 450-lb. or 750-lb. tanks that are then ganged together at a location and attached to a central one-inch trunk line. Separate lines then are run to the actual concession stands using half-inch or

quarter-inch lines, though those are usually plumbed by the union people at the stadiums.

Wade says stadiums are trending toward larger storage capacity. "The stadiums are getting bigger and there's a need for greater capacity of CO₂ on site. There are different demands based on the size of these venues. Plus," Wade says, "the teams are trying to attract people to be at the stadium for longer periods of time, so the usage rates are really increasing."

Good news for the gases and welding industry. Next time you head to your seat to take in a game at the local ballpark, don't forget to think about the role the industry played in carbonating your drinks!

What are other great spots for a gases and welding-related vacation? Join the discussion by [clicking here](#).



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