

Meet Rob Gourley: Inventor, Mechanic, Master of Technologies

Rob began his work more than thirty years ago in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. With the 1970s gasoline crunch, scientists were looking for alternative sources of energy.

His newly crafted energy cell – what was supposed to convert liquid water into a burnable gaseous compound – did something rather amazing...It exploded. Undaunted by this experiment, Rob continued his technology pursuits.



Rob Gourley in Kauai, Hawaii

Robinson B. Gourley Jr. is an Edison-mold Master Mechanic, a great empirical bench inventor with today's technology savvy. Rob's inventions in the fields of water purification, power production, engine performance and human health are all inspired through problem solving.

Rob was adopted into a family with a rich legacy of inventors in upper State New York. The family businesses included Syracuse China, which produced everything from durable restaurant china to vitreous fine china, and Pass & Seymour, which made electrical porcelain insulators that improve the safety of electric power transmissions. There was also the work of his paternal grandfather, who owned a lumberyard in Highland Park, Illinois. The lumberyard was one of Rob's favorite playgrounds.

His father, Robinson B. Gourley Sr., was an electrical engineer who instilled in Rob at a young age to question everything and "don't assume others know the answer."

"I was raised by 'benign neglect' and was allowed as a little tike to explore with little adult supervision."

Rob told us in an interview. "They were happy when I came back home for dinner."



A natural mechanic, at age 15, Rob had "rescued" two abandoned Mercedes-Benz 190DCs from the local junk yard that had been presumed beyond repair. He had them running within a few hours, making him the owner of two European cars before he was even old enough to drive.

Sarasota Suncoast Grand Prix 2012

At 16 years old, Rob built a VW-based dune buggy with childhood friend and current author, Morgan Wesson, who said, "By the time Rob was a teenager, his knowledge was already beyond that of a professional mechanic. He understood fuel-injected Corvettes better than anyone and loved drag racing and anything that was fast and furious. There is none with his genius for power trains."

Rob's formal training included studies at the prestigious Proctor Academy, followed by two years at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston (focused on Mechanical Design) where he studied under famed physicist Niels Bohr.

It was Wesson that encouraged Rob to move to the Virgin Islands in the late 60s, telling Rob, "You'll love it! It's like living in paradise, but everything is broken!" What Wesson was referring to was the lack of qualified mechanics to handle the amount of marine work. And, for Rob, fixing things that were broken was his specialty – particularly those tricky situations that left everyone else stumped. Wesson's family also owned real estate in the Caribbean, and property management was a challenge for the owners who lived in New York. Rob left soon after, securing work repairing boats (including commercial vessel conversion), trucks and anything with an engine, as well as assisted in running a dive shop on St. John. He also helped manage his friend's properties, overseeing all facets of their design and development.

"There are two kinds of mechanics," Rob Gourley told us. "those who replace and those who repair. Most mechanics know how to replace bad parts, but a true mechanical engineer will weld, construct and repair a problem with the tools he has available. There are not too many true mechanics in this world." His friend Morgan Wesson, added: "Rob started as a young guy on a backward island with mechanical attributes to grow and survive. As Rob beautifully points out, you learn the most fixing things with few resources."



**Gourley Scraping Barnacles
(Auto Transit, 1994)**

In the early 70s, Rob left the Virgin Islands, after having lived there for seven years, to start a new adventure in the ultimate bitter cold frontier... Alaska. The Oil Crisis hit in 1973 and Americans lined their cars up around the block trying to buy gas at local stations. The crude oil discovery in Prudhoe Bay led Rob there. He became a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers as a welder, mechanic and heavy equipment operator. Rob worked for General Motors in Anchorage, Alaska while waiting to be dispatched to Prudhoe Bay. He was hired by Mukluk Freight Lines during the second wave of engineers brought to Anchorage before the Alaskan Pipeline construction of 1974 began. In subsequent years, he worked with Crowley and the Alaska Petroleum Contractors.

Responsible for maintaining the generators in their camp, Rob recounted one of the many times that one of those generators froze. "It was 80 below there. You had two hours to get power back up or die. There was no one there to help you. The nearest town was 500 miles away. The main concern was bacteria and freezes in the jet fuel generators. We eventually redesigned and installed emergency backup fuel systems, but prior to that time, it was dangerous." Not everyone could handle the excessive cold, lengthy dark days and the constant threats of living on such an unpredictable and unforgiving terrain.

Most mechanics were expected to work four weeks on with two weeks off. However, for Rob, the diversity of his work, along with his expertise, kept him on call for most of the fifteen years he lived there. He worked without break for more than sixteen weeks, oftentimes pulling double shifts.

Rob's Arctic work was a mix of hyper-reality TV shows, running a *M.A.S.H.* unit for large machines and moving those same machines across frozen ice fields like *Ice Road Truckers*. He also hooked for the cargo helicopters (Sikorsky S-64 Skycranes) in a remote all-white landscape. "It was total isolation waiting alone and listening for the chop-chop sound of the returning helicopter. The gravest danger was the polar bears that cover their black noses with either their paws or snow while stalking their prey. Polar bears are truly the Ghosts of the Arctic," said Rob. "We were known as the 'golden hair boys'." He laughed. "There were five of us, all with blond hair and blue eyes. We lived with the helicopter pad right outside our windows. Whenever the helicopter landed, we knew it was because there was something broken that needed fixing, and we were the only ones who knew how to do it."

Rob's continued work with the Lockheed C-130 Hercules cargo guys was even scarier when it came to close calls. On one occasion, the pilot landed on the wrong drill site and made a sudden decision to depart. He dropped the fuel transfer pump, hoses and even the poor load master (a member of the flight crew who was stationed at the plane's tailgate). Fortunately, he survived as they slid down the icy runway.

The landing fields in the Arctic are frozen lake beds, and the snow is drifted to the edges to create a stadium-bowl form. Rob was on the bulldozer traveling up toward the bowl edge when a Herc came roaring across the tundra and missed Rob by inches. "I saw the eyeballs of the pilot" Rob recalled. "The pilot later told me that a miss is as good as a mile."

Rob left Alaska and eventually returned to the U.S. Virgin Islands in the 80s. He worked on the marine engineering, design, permitting by the U.S. Coast Guard and construction of commercial passenger vessels (*Venture Pride*), commuting between St. John and St. Thomas.



Lovango Cay in U.S. Virgin Islands



Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S. VI 2012

In his spare time, Rob built native stone houses. Rob's stone house built on Lovango Cay was identified in a local Sarasota paper as the "Greenest House in the Nation" several years ago. Wesson purchased the lot next to Rob's and told us "I was only willing to live in this remote, off-grid paradise, if Rob was my next door neighbor making sure everything runs."

Rob and the small stone house located on the seaweed line survived multiple hours of pounding surf from Hurricane Hugo, which devastated the islands in 1989. "We survived the Hugo beast with surge waves coming through the house." Rob said. "In the midst of the raging storm, I re-

secured the container filled with equipment with chains to avoid having it capsize into the angry surf at midnight.” Once again, Rob was the lone wolf using his wits and luck to survive.

In the mid 1990s, Rob relocated to Sarasota, Florida to assist a friend in an automobile performance business. There, he met chemist Ted Suratt, who was the inventor of Enginewity Technology. He also met professional biologist and land use planner Dana Pumphrey on the tennis courts of Bath and Racquet in Sarasota. Their courtship went beyond the tennis court and Dana ended up assisting Rob on his Navy vessel conversion in Palmetto, creating *Auto Transit*, a vehicle and passenger ferry which serves the Virgin Islands to this day.

Dana and Rob married in 1997. Rob became the president of Dana Marine and Construction Inc. in the latter 1990s, a “green” building company before green innovation was widespread. He used insulated modular blocks filled with rebar and concrete for hurricane-hardened, energy-efficient buildings such as a new shopping center recently completed in Cruz Bay, V.I.

Rob’s company also repaired large commercial boats, including the *Key West Ferry* and the former *Marina Jack Dinner Boat*. Rob used a sledge hammer underwater to drive spikes into a new marine railway and hauled large-sized vessels out of the Caloosahatchee River in Ft. Myers for repair.



Marine Railway at Ft. Myers Marina (1990s)

In the mid-2000s, Rob went back to experimenting with the water form of energy and collaborated with Suratt to make a revolutionary discovery of SG (Suratt-Gourley) Gas. Rob designed a gas generator using a low voltage and high amperage, which is not traditional electrolysis, to reliably produce the optimum SG Gas. The cornerstone of this discovery is Rob’s low-heat producing device that is scalable for small and industrial applications and creates an economical high volume of gas and sufficient pressure to flow into burn chambers of power plants. The device can also run on solar power. Wesson observed that “Rob’s fascination with water under the extremes of cold and heat and his choice to do so much on water, one way or another, are ironic or simply his fate.”

Rob began this work more than thirty years ago in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. During the 1970s gasoline crunch, scientists were looking for alternative sources of energy. His newly crafted hydrogen cell – what was supposed to convert liquid water into a burnable gaseous compound – did something rather amazing...It exploded.

“I dove under a steel table that was two inches thick!” Rob laughed, after the fact. “It scared the bejesus out of everyone because the entire building shook, and the lab filled with black smoke so thick we had to feel our way out. We were all deaf for about two hours.”

Years later, one of Rob’s former Arctic co-workers viewed Rob’s YouTube demonstration on SG Gas and recalled Rob’s first attempt to recreate a hydrogen energy cell. From his warm home in Arizona, Robert Hammond wrote, “I’m impressed. It’s a long way from the explosion on the shop floor to your Bi-Polar Water!”

That was from a single energy cell converting...water.

Rob was looking for an alternative form of energy. Rob’s current theory is that the process for producing SG Gas adds electrons to hydrogen. SG Gas provides cleaner-burning energy and enhances the combustion efficiency of carbon-based fuels. Rob also learned that when it was added to solvents, they worked more effectively. SG Gas is now believed to be the [*fourth state of water*](#).

In a thunderstorm, water that has not been evaporated after a lightning strike becomes polarized. As Rob continued his energy cell research, finding ways to replicate the process safely, and this led to another discovery. The infusion of SG Gas into pure water (less than one ppm dissolved solids) results in a better absorption rate in plants, animals and humans. This was the beginning of research that would later lead to the creation of Watt-Ahh[®], an ultra-pure polarized drinking water.

In 2007, co-inventor, Ted Suratt and Rob went on to submit technology patents for their discoveries on SG Gas and they founded AquaNew, the worldwide licensed manufacturer of Watt-Ahh[®] (2007) and WIT International (2008).

It was a car accident in 2006 that put Rob in touch with legal assistant Melinda Lagasse. It was her suggestion that spurred Rob and Dana Gourley into launching highly purified Watt-Ahh[®] into the market in 2007. Lagasse was hired as their head marketing director with Dana serving as COO and Rob as the company’s CEO.

Soon after distribution to wholesale and retail customers started, the company began getting some surprising phone calls and emails. People who began drinking Watt-Ahh[®] reported that many of their pre-existing illnesses and injuries were dissipating rapidly. Others claimed having better mental clarity, more energy, fewer headaches and quicker recovery from the common cold.

“We’re getting very close to figuring out why,” Rob Gourley said. “We know the water *does* work; but until further research is done, we don’t know completely *why* it works.” Rob and his team have spent the last five years researching what many believe to be a healing water; and, so far, findings from current [studies](#) performed by other credible laboratories seem to agree.

Currently, Rob Gourley is driven to get his healthy Watt-Ahh[®] to the general public, in VA hospitals and eventually, to the world. “We discovered from one of our customers that three gallons of Watt-Ahh[®] added to a dirty koi pond purified it for use. Imagine what would happen if we could treat Diphtheria victims in Haiti by treating their existing water with our Gas.” He told us.



His goals are many: 1) Get people healthy 2) Hydrate topical wounds to alleviate pain and promote better healing 3) Use Watt-Ahh® in agriculture (for better plant growth and heartier animals), and 4) Use SG Gas as an alternative energy source. According to his friend Morgan Wesson, he's likely to succeed. "Rob is resourceful, focused and driven. He is aware of scientific theory and pushes technology into areas where conventionally-trained scientists skirt. Rob doesn't do anything half way."

**Dr. Ned Gvozdic/Rob Gourley at MIT Polarized Water Study, April 2012
(Photo by Morgan Wesson)**

Prepared by Danielle Palli of [Birdland Media Works](#) in collaboration with Dana Gourley of Sarasota, FL. For media inquiries, contact Danielle at 941-526-6789 or danielle@aquanew.com

***Afterword:** Rob Gourley still has the passion for racing engines, with his latest project being a professional offshore super boat (Spectre 36) that recently debuted in the Sarasota Grand Prix festival this summer .*