



Ken Field

Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services

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Do You Want a Test or a Guess?

If you made a beautiful pottery sculpture but didn't fire it, what would happen? If you built a house but didn't put anything on the roof, how would that go? All that work would be for nothing. In a short time both would be worthless. If you have someone service your gas or oil boiler and they dismantle everything and clean it up and reassemble it and then flip the switch and leave it is no different than the two previous scenarios.

The single most important part of any combustion appliance maintenance is the verification and adjustment. Maybe there isn't any adjustment needed but without operating the system and testing combustion with a calibrated analyzer, anyone is just guessing. It can go any number of ways if adjustment is not in range. One way is up to a 10% loss in efficiency and possible production of carbon monoxide. Another way is production of soot that starts to build up first and makes a mess of your house and then reduces efficiency by insulating the heat exchanger. Neither is the outcome you want after paying for someone to perform maintenance on your system but it is more common than you can imagine. That's why a printed record of combustion adjustment should be attached to the furnace. Proof for the homeowner and also for the next technician who comes for service to see what the last results were.

Two jobs I was on this past week were a good example of what I'm describing. One had an oil system and had to use the reset almost every day to keep the system operational. After several visits by their regular company they could no longer get a return call or another appointment to continue to address the problem. Several new parts had been installed on previous calls but none of them fixed the problem. As soon as I performed a combustion analysis the problem was apparent and I made the necessary adjustments and printed a record and attached it to the furnace. Problem solved. Another job had a basement covered with soot, a black air filter and a homeowner pulling her hair out. It was a 2 year old furnace that had recently been serviced. That company did send someone once after the soot started but it was no better when they left. I found one adjustment far from the required setting and once I brought that into line and used the analyzer it was perfect. There was no other combustion record to be found so I printed one and attached it to the furnace. Without testing you're just guessing.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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Women's club of Pen Argyl

The Women's Club of Pen Argyl met on Tuesday, April 2 at the Phoebe Wind Gap Manor. We were pleased to welcome 5 new members.

Our spring Mr. Pastie sale will be in effect from May 22 to August 22. Coupons for pasties are available for \$7.50 from any club member.

A monetary donation of \$250.00 was made to the Pen Argyl High School

Working with Families First, a \$200.00 donation was made to Backpack Friday which aids local Families.

A program was presented by Triple M Treats of Bangor.

Women's Club would like to thank the Slate Pub for hosting our recent fundraiser.

We will meet again on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 12:00 noon at Wind Gap Park for a program by Zorro, Slate Belt Regional Police's K-9 dog and his handler, Officer Josh Lowe. Any woman in the Pen Argyl, Wind Gap or Plainfield Twp. who would like to join us may call 610-863-7371.

Blue Mountain Community Library

The Blue Mountain Community Library will host our annual spring Silent Auction fundraiser between Monday, April 15 and Saturday, May 4, 2024. There are 14 items including small appliances, cookware, purses, and more. All items are displayed on the first floor of the library. Stop in to place your bids! The winners will be notified on Monday, May 6, 2024.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Rt 209, Brodheads-ville will be having a Community Sunday Supper on April 14, from 2:30 to 3:30 in McCawley Hall. Please come and enjoy a home cooked meal and some fellowship with your neighbors. Please call the Church office at 610-681-6137 if you have any questions>

Senior Luncheon on Monday April 15, from 12:30 to 1:30, in McCawley Hall. Please come and enjoy a home cooked meal and some fellowship with your neighbors. Please call the Church office at 610-681-6137 if you have any questions.

Community Sunday Supper on April 28, from 2:30 to 3:30 in McCawley Hall. Please come out and enjoy a home cooked meal and some fellowship with your neighbors. Please call the Church office at 610-681-6137 if you have any questions.

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