Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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High Tech Headaches

Almost all of the new heating and air conditioning equipment sold today is equipped with some kind of circuit board to monitor safety sensors and to maximize the efficiency of the unit by regulating the operation of it. When it all works, it's great and that is most of the time. But when something goes wrong, there is no way to pinpoint the problem unless the manufacturer supplies some kind of detailed information for technicians to follow. To make matters worse, there are constant changes to 'improve' the products and what you may have learned last year is now not applicable to the new units. There are ways to efficiently repair this kind of equipment but a few things are required. If the manufacturer has designed an app for our phone we can access much of the information we need through that as long as we have cell service at the site. Sometimes the manufacturer has more detailed information for technicians on their web site and it usually requires registration and proof of being a legitimate contractor. The third is by calling technical support for that brand. Waiting on hold for an hour is not fun and it really delays the repair.

When we do have to call, we try to do it during times when they would be less busy and we also try to have all of the information they will ask for because the people on the phone are usually not the most patient or pleasant. Even with these options we end up stumped on some problem calls. At that point, we use the old fashioned process of elimination. By the time we get to that we have tried everything else and have to choose the most likely part causing the problem. Unlike a lightning strike, a circuit board never looks old or like it is at fault but almost every time we can't find anything else wrong it seems to be the control board. One we repaired recently was shutting down and showing that refrigerant pressures were too low. Our measurements did not agree but it only happened a couple times a week so we bypassed the pressure sensor and it the same error came up which was impossible. The control was faulty and pressure was fine. But it took 3 trips to get to that point and tech support was no help at all. Repairing modern equipment efficiently is a challenge and takes a serious commitment to do it cost effectively. It is also one more reason why some contractors only install what they sell and install.

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

Minsi Lake

Calling all Minsi Lake Photographers!

Wildlife on the Lake Photo Call!

With the recent completion of our Minsi Lake Cooperative Habitat Improvement Project with PA Fish & Boat Commission, there are now 24 turtle basking platforms floating on the Lake! While they're intended for turtles, lots of other wildlife enjoy loafing & basking on them, too! Like ducks, geese, herons, water snakes & even muskrats!

All the plats were built & "autographed" for the project in recent years by youth with Northampton County Junior Conservation School & the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association.

There are 14 low profile plats out there & 10 high profile plats, both types of which were designed by PFBC. Some of the plats are floating on the Lake just offshore & off the jetties, while other are further out on the Lake.

PFBC is very interested to see if our wildlife friends on the Lake prefer one design over the other.

By the looks of the photos posted here, it's obvious we have some of the most talented photographers in the region who practice their craft & hobby at Minsi Lake! Show us more of your stuff!

Let's see how many different kinds of reptiles, birds & mammals use the basking platforms at the Lake & if they appear to favor one platform design over the other! Go!