

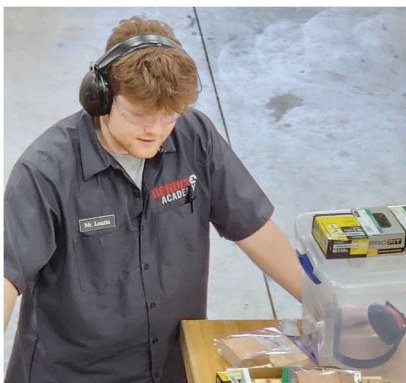


TOOLMAN TIMES



Why Mentoring Matters: Makers of Mechanical Self-Reliance

[Click here to read more!](#)



At Bendix Academy, toolmanship is more than using tools. It's building confidence, restoring self-reliance, and passing on practical wisdom from one generation to the next. In this issue, we spotlight two

outstanding mentors who embody this mission: 22-year-old flight instructor Jude Louria and seasoned toolman Roger Ashley.

Jude grew up fixing creaky doors and rebuilding engines, discovering along the way a passion for helping others learn by doing. Now, as a mentor at Bendix Academy, he helps students increase their toolmanship knowledge and confidence in their own abilities.

Roger, whose toolmanship journey began on a Michigan farm and led to a career in automotive safety and aerospace, shares a lifetime of hands-on knowledge with students today—restoring vintage tractors, donating learning vehicles, and teaching skills that can't be Googled.

Their stories remind us: knowing how to repair, build, and problem-solve isn't just useful—it's transformative.

Toolmen like Jude and Roger are shaping the future, one project, one lesson, and one empowered student at a time!



[Visit BendixAcademy.org](https://www.bendixacademy.org) for to read full-length articles with more photos and videos!



Restoring Mechanical Self-Reliance



Mr. Trainor and Michael work with a large socket wrench.

By **Todd Trainor**, Founder of Bendix Academy

There was a time—not long ago—when mechanical self-reliance was a defining trait of the American household. Whether it was patching a roof, fixing a bicycle, or diagnosing a broken engine, people once carried a quiet confidence in their ability to solve practical problems with their own two hands. But somewhere along the way, that foundational skill began to slip away.

Too many young people today feel helpless when something breaks. At Bendix Academy, we're reversing that trend by restoring mechanical self-reliance—the ability to understand, fix, and build the world around you.

Through our Toolmanship Mentoring program, students are paired with mentors who live and breathe mechanical self-reliance. These intergenerational relationships nurture skill, confidence, and purpose—

preparing students not just to take care of themselves, but to serve others.

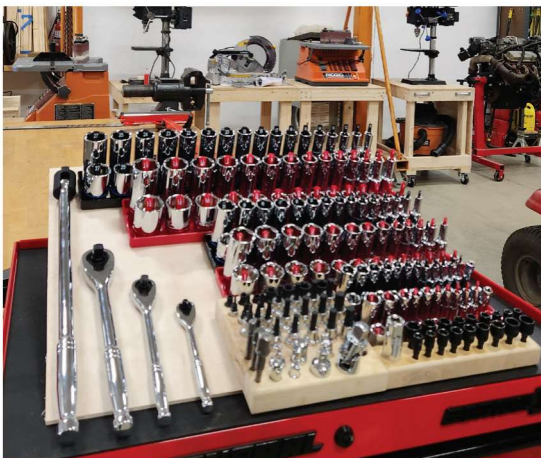
We believe mechanical self-reliance is not a lost art—it's a teachable one. And the urgent demand for our program proves it.

We're working hard to expand into more communities, so more young people can gain the confidence, discipline, and hands-on ability that builds strong citizens and strong futures. Toolmanship is more than using tools. It's becoming useful.

Learn more about how Bendix Academy is working today to restore mechanical self-reliance by visiting BendixAcademy.org.



From Shop Class to learning Toolmanship Skills today, visit BendixAcademy.org for photo galleries and videos!



Essential Lessons: Learning the sizes, shapes, and uses of socket wrenches

TOOLMAN TIPS:

Cabinet Door Conundrum

Got a crooked cabinet door that just won't sit right? This quarter's Toolman Tip shows how a simple screwdriver—and a little know-how—can right that door, right away. At Bendix Academy, we teach students to approach everyday problems with confidence and mechanical skill.

Visit our website for the full step-by-step on how to fix your crooked cabinet door and other easy to follow toolman tips like this one, a problem you can fix! Learn more at BendixAcademy.org/tips



TOOLMAN
TIPS



MENTOR'S MEASURE

Jude Louria - Tools, Teaching, Takeoff



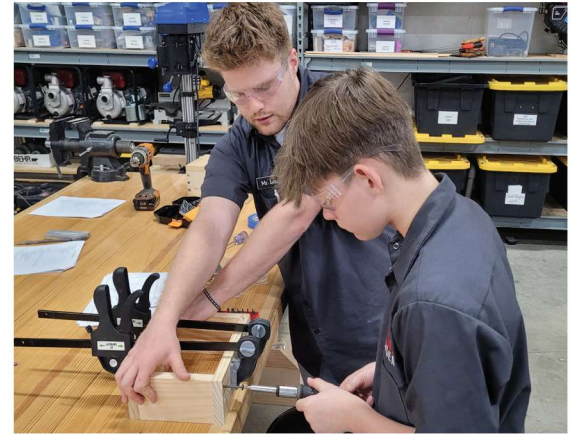
Sharing Bendix Academy Spirit

As a recent addition to our mentor team, Jude Louria represents the heart of Bendix Academy: curiosity, craftsmanship, and the power of mentorship. Raised in a DIY household, Jude learned to fix things from an early age—rebuilding decks, troubleshooting door frames, even crafting a custom shoe rack and puzzle table. Each project built not just skills, but confidence.

By high school, Jude was tackling automotive repairs and designing practical solutions from scratch. That mechanical mindset soon led him to aviation, where he is now a flight instructor even as he continues studies in Airframe and Powerplant mechanics.

Jude sees clear overlap between teaching toolmanship and flight instruction: both require patience, problem-solving, and clarity. As a Bendix mentor, he thrives on helping students reach that “ah-ha” moment when something finally clicks.

He especially enjoys mentoring those who arrive overconfident—because real growth happens when students realize they still have things to learn. Jude continues to learn from mentors in both aviation and trades, refining his own teaching style with every interaction. From flashlight-holder to future instructor, Jude’s story captures the Bendix spirit: hands-on learning, lifelong curiosity, and the belief that building skill builds confidence.



Jude mentoring a student building box

MENTOR'S MEASURE



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Roger Ashley: Legacy in Toolmanship

Roger Ashley’s life is a powerful testament to the value of mentorship and mechanical self-reliance. Raised on a Michigan farm, Roger learned early from his father how to milk cows, fix generators, and keep machinery running—skills that built confidence, resourcefulness, and grit.



Roger in a space suit during his time at Bendix Aerospace

That hands-on upbringing launched a career that spanned farm fields, automotive parts counters, aerospace innovation, and vehicle safety labs. At Bendix Aerospace, Roger helped track parts for the Lunar Rover during the Apollo missions. Later, at General Motors, he worked on crash tests, emissions systems, and even early electric vehicles.

Now retired, Roger restores vintage tractors, donates vehicles to Bendix Academy, and mentors young people the same way he was mentored—through patience, projects, and practical wisdom. His belief in passing on toolmanship is deeply personal: from teaching his grandson to use an air wrench to supporting students learning real-world problem-solving.

Roger reminds us that knowing how to fix things isn't just useful—it's life-changing. His story reflects the very heart of Bendix Academy's mission.



Roger Ashley working in General Motors Safety Lab, 1990s

“Take advantage of every opportunity to work with your hands. Ask questions. Try things. And don't be afraid to fail—that's how you learn. I didn't set out to work on space rovers or test Corvettes. I just kept learning. And when the opportunity came, I was ready.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTION





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In this issue... Why Mentors Matter



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*Thank you for making
HOCKEY NIGHT
such a great success!*

Thanks to dedicated event organizers and wonderfully generous donors, you raised **\$8,000** for Bendix Academy's toolmanship mentor programs, mentoring programs!



*Thank you for visiting our
MAY OPEN HOUSE*

What a great turnout! We were thrilled to welcome so many visitors into the workshop to meet our mentors, see our students in action, and experience the power of toolmanship firsthand.



**Miss our Hockey Night or May Open house?
Sign up to receive notice of upcoming events or
Tour Bendix Academy with you and your group!
BendixAcademy.org/EVENTS/**



Lattes or tools?



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Sustainer's Circle**

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