



CHARLES PEPKA

CEO, RENTON COIL SPRING

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Charles "Chuck" Pepka is a distinguished engineer and CEO at Renton Coil Spring (RCS). He combines visionary leadership with deep technical expertise to propel the company's innovation in the aerospace and performance racing industries. His strategic acumen and commitment to quality have driven significant advancements in titanium spring technology, enhancing both product performance and industry standards. With a passion for fostering a culture of excellence and innovation, Pepka not only advances Renton Coil Spring's capabilities but also solidifies its status as a leader in manufacturing critical, high-performance components.

Starting his journey with RCS at just 14 as a tool-and-die apprentice, Pepka's deep-seated passion for engineering has fueled a career marked by improvement and expertise. A quick study, he earned his stripes as a tool-and-die manufacturer, spring designer and after earning his AA degree at Seattle Central, he re-invested his time back into Renton Coil Spring, learning every aspect of the spring-making process from in-depth material analysis to manufacturing process optimization.

Under his stewardship, Renton Coil Spring has become synonymous with cutting-edge research and development in Titanium as an aerospace spring material. His collaborative R&D projects with Boeing and McDonald Douglas in the late 1970s revolutionized the use of Beta-C Titanium, culminating in his co-authorship of the "Titanium Beta-C AMS 4957" standard—a cornerstone in aerospace spring material sciences.

Chuck's early involvement with the Spring Manufacturers Institute (SMI) at the age of 21 laid a foundation for his future roles as a technical committee member for over twenty years and eventually as President of the organization in 1998. Known internally as "The Technical President," his tenure at SMI was marked by significant contributions, including the development of the institute's official spring design program, which remains a standard in the industry today.

A distinguished author, Chuck is the definitive voice in spring technology with numerous technical papers including "Titanium Alloy Springs" for the Institute of Metals, "Titanium Elastic Properties and Applications" in Springs Magazine, and a Boeing Materials Technology Summary Report on "Fatigue Performance of Ti-38-6-4-4 Compression and Extension Springs." Additionally, he was a regular contributor in Springs Magazine with a column called "Back to Wahl" from 1990-2000.

His research and insights have not only fostered advancement but have also set new benchmarks for safety and performance in spring design. Boeing Company's recognized subject matter expert for spring design and manufacturing, he has crafted pivotal test plans and continues to push the envelope in engineering standards. He currently holds nine patents and is in development on a program for high-frequency fatigue in springs.

Renton Coil Spring currently has parts on over 42 commercial aerospace programs, 14+ military programs, 7 spacecraft and 23 executive jet programs. Expanding beyond aerospace, Pepka ventured into the motorsports and performance sectors as well as exploration, bringing his expertise to new challenges and markets with customers including Nascar and Formula 1 Racing Teams and Space-X & Blue Origin.

Finding a gap in academic engineering course offerings, Chuck also developed a curriculum for basic and intermediate spring design classes and has guest lectured over 50 seminars through SMI, Boeing, and various universities.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Pepka is a successful sailor embodying a spirit of adventure that complements his technical prowess. A competitive regional sailor in Washinton for over twenty years, Pepka's team also participated in the 1982 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Sailing trials. Furthermore, an avid pilot from the age of seventeen, Chuck has his private pilot's license, and multi-engine, instrument, and jet-type ratings.

Charles Pepka's career is a blend of technical mastery, visionary leadership, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge, making him a distinguished figure in the engineering world. His work not only advances the capabilities of Renton Coil Spring but also contributes significantly to the broader field of aerospace and mechanical engineering.