

The Tunnel Rats, Inc.

You may be asking, “What is a Tunnel Rat?”

In Hawkeye’s case, there happens to be two sides to the Tunnel Rats.

Pulling Wire and Pulling Truck!

What a fitting name for a local company that Hawkeye uses to install underground electric wiring. More members want underground service and as towns expand, housing developments are becoming a part of Hawkeye’s service territory on a regular basis. Underground electric wiring addresses safety issues and in many cases is required by ordinances.

The Tunnel Rats use state-of-the-art drilling, trenching, and direct burial plowing techniques. They also specialize in high voltage, telephone, and cable TV circuit installations. Their horizontal

directional drilling rig is capable of boring holes for water, electric, and cable lines, using a variety of hole sizes and different techniques. Distances of 2500 feet can easily be achieved. Rock and rough terrain is of little challenge to them, therefore earning the name “Tunnel Rats.” The Tunnel Rat’s equipment and tools are properly maintained on a regularly scheduled basis. Their equipment, signs and uniforms are bright orange which makes them easily identifiable. Their staff consists of master and journeymen electricians and journeymen construction linemen.

The Tunnel Rats, Inc. is a locally owned company with their headquarters in Canton, Minnesota. The owner, Shawn Bangs, a native of Canton is active in the community, athletics and all forms of motor-sports activities (thus comes the other side of The Tunnel Rats.)



Shawn Bangs



Team Tunnel Rat

“Pulling to Keep Kids Off Drugs”

Team Tunnel Rat, based in Canton, MN was formed by Shawn Bangs in 2003 as a drug awareness program for area youth.

In April 2003, the lives of Shawn Bangs, his wife Allison and their daughter Madison turned tragic. Shawn’s father ended his life with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. His father, a recovering alcoholic for 12 years, lost control of his alcohol and drug addictions in 2000.

Shawn and Allison became determined to help fight the war on drugs and alcohol. They needed an incentive that would draw the attention of young people in the area.

Realizing the popularity of auto racing, Shawn selected the growing sport of truck pulling. The response was overwhelming! Young people became proud of being a “Pit Crew”

member and pledging to stay drug-free. Hawkeye along with schools, businesses and community organizations have supported the new approach.

Shawn has been a part of many classrooms this past year. The young people have found a new friend and role model. The students watch a video and listen to Shawn’s presentation about the dangers of using drugs and alcohol. The kids then get the opportunity to see and hear the pulling truck in action. After completing this part of the program, they are members of the “Pit Crew.” The last step of becoming a Rat is signing their names to the wall of the trailer where over 10,000 kids have already pledged to be drug-free. Now they have earned and proudly wear a Tunnel Rat t-shirt. They are Tunnel Rats!



Shawn and his pulling truck will be making a special appearance at Hawkeye’s Family Night on September 8th. Attendees will receive a photo of the Tunnel Rat Pulling Truck autographed by Shawn!

South Winneshiek Elementary School



Crestwood Elementary School

“We feel that providing a positive experience for our youth may give them the courage to decide against using drugs and alcohol at a critical moment when they are exposed to it.”

—Shawn Bangs



North Winneshiek Elementary School



Turkey Valley Elementary School