



# E – LETTER

THE OFFICIAL E-MAIL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE PILE DRIVING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2007

## PDCA PROFESSORS' DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE

This year's PDCA Professors' Driven Pile Institute, at Utah State University in Logan, UT, is well under way and only about two weeks away. All 25 professors who teach graduate or undergraduate engineering



courses in deep foundations from various universities and colleges across America have been selected to attend this year's PDPI. In 2007, such prestigious facilities such as UCLA, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, The Citadel, Georgia Institute of Technology, Auburn, University of Texas, Texas Tech, Northwestern, and the University of Maine are among just a few that will be represented at the intensive week-long program designed to instruct engineering educators in all aspects of driven pile installation, design and quality control.

This program is extremely important to the pile driving industry. To quote a PDCA member, "This may be the single most important program PDCA offers!" Why? Because this program reaches the professors and educators who teach driven pile advantages and benefits to those students who eventually turn into the engineers that decide which deep foundation system will be used on a project. The more educators know about the driven pile industry, the more they can adequately convey its attributes to the students.

## PDCA FUND-RAISING DRIVES ON

The PDCA could not be more proud of its members for stepping up and contributing to the 2007 Professors' Driven Pile Institute. When asked to give, you did, and you did in a big way. Prior to the distribution of this E-Letter, the PDCA collected over \$35,000.00 – well on our way to our \$50,000.00 goal. There is still time left, so if you have not contributed, please consider doing so soon.

PDCA would like to express its sincere appreciation to the following companies who made a contribution to the Institute.

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**PDCA MEMBERS PROMOTE DRIVEN PILES**

Once again, PDCA members are out promoting the benefits and advantages of driven piles. Sometimes this is accomplished in conjunction with the PDCA and sometimes they do it on their own. Regardless of the resources they choose to incorporate in promoting driven piles, their efforts are paying big dividends to both their company and industry.

The Professors' Driven Pile Institute has been called one of the most important PDCA program conducted. One reason is the professor's exposure to the varied and positive aspects of driven pile over other deep foundation systems; and the professor's ability to take this knowledge and incorporate it into their engineering courses, thereby passing the information along to future engineers who will ultimately specify foundation selection for their projects. The more they know about driven piles, the more inclined they will be to use them.

Given this reality, it only makes sense to not only educate our professors, but also our engineers, owners, developers, agencies and other end users or specifiers about driven piles. And that is just what some of our members are doing.

You may recall in the January 2007 E-Letter the article about the PDCA of South Carolina Chapter holding the first of three programs designed to educate engineers and others about the Quality Control and Quality Assurance that goes into each step of manufacturing driven piles.

Now Rusty Signor, Signor Enterprises, Austin, TX has conducted a similar program. However, Rusty's program was not in conjunction with a PDCA chapter or PDCA national – it was conducted solely by Signor Enterprises to promote driven pile and the company's capabilities. Rusty had a project that required him to test some piles, which prompted him to contact a relatively conservative engineer who was writing a book and had previously requested pictures of driven pile from Rusty. Rusty thought the engineer would like to take some of his own pictures and that's how it all started. Rusty decided to invite several more engineers to the site to see first-hand how "a driven pile is a tested pile!"

On a perfect spring day for driving and testing pile, Rusty ended up with 35 engineers, representing more than a dozen companies watching him test piles and talk about the advantages of using driven pile as a complete deep foundation system.

GRL Engineers, Inc. made a technical presentation to the engineers and conducted the pile tests, while his local Project Engineer was free to answer additional technical questions.

Rusty also had a decibel meter, which turned out to be one of the engineer's favorite toys, but also proved that driving pile is no louder than other standard job related machinery, such as a chainsaw at a distance of approximately 200'.

As the engineers arrived, Rusty handed out material that included information on previous vibration test results, previous stress test results using a jacking system, PDCA information, an article on floating slab damage due to periodic lowering of lake levels, and an article on piling v. pier dynamics. Most of the engineers were observed reading the material during normal down time between driving procedures.

Rusty concluded that one of the most important outcomes of his program was the varied questions asked by the engineers; and that the resulting answers came from not only Rusty, his engineer and GRL, but also from the other engineers. Engineers have also contacted Rusty requesting written test result, which he is only too happy to provide and others have indicated that as a result of this demonstration floating slabs will no longer be a viable foundation system in this area.

Another success story takes us back to Charleston, SC, where PDCA members continues to promote driven piles and see engineers change deep foundation systems from ACP to PSC based on aggressive marketing and value added benefits.

The Beaufort Memorial Hospital Addition and Parking Garage is just another example of how plans can change. Originally designed with ACP, Mr. John Parker, Parker Marine was able to work with the contractor and their engineer and get it changed to PSC pile. Parker Marine had previously worked with the contractor and engineer on the Roper Hospital in Charleston on a similar project, changing it from ACP to PSC pile.

Once again, Parker Marine was able to price the project, prove the economical value of PSC over ACP, and prove the integrity of the driven pile product to the engineer and owner. When area vibration was voiced as a concern, Parker Marine indicated they had already included pre-drilling in the pricing, which would minimize any vibration. Parker Marine's position on vibration was supported when the engineer confirmed the vibration could be easily monitored by the geotech already on the job.

This project now planned with approximately 535 12" x 50' concrete piles.

These are just two examples of how PDCA members can promote driven piles to engineers and owners. You have the ability to change projects from other deep foundation systems to driven pile because you have the advantage of quality control, quality assurance, and economical factors that all speak to the benefits of driven piles. You also have the resources of the PDCA.

### **CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER**

The Pile Driving Contractors Association in conjunction with the PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter has scheduled the 2007 Design and Installation of Cost Efficient Piles (DICEP) Conference for Thursday, September 27, 2007. The conference will be held at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland, just southwest of Baltimore, MD.

Maryland and the Turf Valley Resort were chosen for several reasons as the 2007 site of DICEP. First, it is a great way to announce the new Mid-Atlantic Chapter's existence and to market the resources of the chapter and its members to engineers and other during this important conference. Secondly, the Turf Valley Resort is also within close proximity to the D.C., Virginia, Maryland metropolitan areas making travel and attendance for local engineers fairly easy. The resort is also close to the Baltimore-Washington International airport with shuttle service provided at no charge for those traveling from out of town.

This year's DICEP conference will continue to have an engineering focus with topics that deal with driven pile projects. The difference between this year's DICEP and previous conferences will be the single day program versus a multi-day venue. The conference will continue to provide relevant and topical information to participants with a full-days program of events. The DICEP will also continue to host sponsors at the conference making this not only an educational program for participants, but also a marketing opportunity for vendors.

Currently, both the PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter and PDCA national are seeking speakers for the program, which will consist of 6 one-hour presentations over the course of a day. PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter has already secured two engineers who are prepared to speak on local issues and projects. The Chapter will be responsible for adding one more local engineer to the program. PDCA national will seek three speakers to provide presentations on driven pile from a national perspective. Anyone interested in making a presentation at the conference should contact the PDCA.

Besides the Mid-Atlantic Chapter hosting a great conference, the selection of the Turf Valley Resort is one that you do not want to miss. Turf Valley Resort is a 25 year old facility located in the rolling hills outside of Baltimore, MD. Turf Valley's boasts elegant touches to let guest know they are cared for, but overall, the resort remains casual, so guest can feel comfortable and at ease. The DICEP conference will be resort casual, as usual.

The resort also has plenty of diversions if you plan on arriving early or staying late. The resort has two championship golf courses, three tennis courts, two swimming pools and a basketball court. Located on more than a 1,000 acres, the resort also has plenty of open space for a good walk.

### **PDCA MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW**

The PDCA would like to welcome the following companies as new members of the PDCA. Please acknowledge their support of the PDCA and welcome them with a quick phone call or email.

#### **Contractor Members**

##### **Halverson Construction Co., Inc.**

Vern E. Halverson  
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Springfield, IL 62702  
Ph: 217-753-0027  
Fax: 217-753-1904  
Email: [vhalver@aol.com](mailto:vhalver@aol.com)  
[www.halversonconstruction.com](http://www.halversonconstruction.com)  
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Fax: 707-427-8901  
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##### **Dmitri Pile Driving, Inc.**

Dmitri Drezins  
PO Box 904  
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Fax: 504-277-8442  
Email: [dmitri@dmitripiledriving.com](mailto:dmitri@dmitripiledriving.com)  
[www.dmitripiledriving.com](http://www.dmitripiledriving.com)  
Pile Driving, Timber Piles, Treated Lumber & Timbers

##### **C. A. Hull Company, Inc.**

Michael Malloure  
8177 Goldie Road  
Walled Lake, MI 48374  
Ph: 248-363-3813  
Fax: 248-363-2399  
Email: [mmalloure@cahull.com](mailto:mmalloure@cahull.com)  
[www.cahull.com](http://www.cahull.com)  
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##### **Brayman Construction Corporation**

Stephen B. Macon  
Tom Puzniak, Jr.  
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Email: [s\\_macon@braymanconstruction.com](mailto:s_macon@braymanconstruction.com)  
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##### **Corman Imbach Marine, Inc.**

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6121 Pennington Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21226  
Ph: 410-355-6121  
Fax: 410-354-2747  
Email: [emcgeady@cimarine.com](mailto:emcgeady@cimarine.com)  
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## Contractor II

### **Simcoe Marine Construction, Ltd.**

Jamie Archer  
PO Box 7130  
Innisfil, Ontario, Canada L9S-1A9  
Ph: 705-456-0777  
Fax: 705-456-0888  
Email: [simcoe.marine@yahoo.ca](mailto:simcoe.marine@yahoo.ca)  
[www.simcoemarineconstruction.com](http://www.simcoemarineconstruction.com)  
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### **Western Piling and Caisson, Inc.**

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Grand Junction, CO 81502  
Ph: 970-243-8938  
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Hollywood, SC 29449  
Ph: 843-747-4828  
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Terry Presler  
PO Box 708  
Brewton, AL 36247  
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Fax: 251-867-2579  
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Fax: 314-895-4070  
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Struthers, OH 44471  
Ph: 330-750-1002 / 800-291-7782

650 Seetry Parkway, Suite 1  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
Ph: 610-941-2156  
Fax: 610-941-2155  
Email: [cappcotc@aol.com](mailto:cappcotc@aol.com)  
Steel Pipe Pile

Hennessy International, Inc.  
Linda Castillo  
PO Box 1983  
Buellton, CA 93427  
Ph: 805-693-8880  
Fax: 805-693-8870  
Email: [info@hennessyinternational.com](mailto:info@hennessyinternational.com)  
[www.hennessyinternational.com](http://www.hennessyinternational.com)

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### **Technical Affiliate Members**

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Fax: 843-723-0440  
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Consulting, Analysis, Civil & Design

All member's contact and company information can be found on the PDCA website, [www.piledrivers.org](http://www.piledrivers.org) by clicking on the "Member Search" and selecting the appropriate prompts.

### **PDCA AT GEOINSTITUTE MEETING**

On May 22, 2007, Mark Weisz and Van Hogan of the PDCA met with representatives of several other geo-industry associations at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Herndon, VA for the annual Coalition for Quality in Geo-Construction (CQCG), a coalition of geo-organizations of which the PDCA is a member. The goals of the CQCG are to create a sense of Geo-Community, encourage communications, cooperation and collaboration among its members for the purpose of endorsing common positions and to provide a powerful voice to influence the geo-future and to promote educational and resource opportunities for the geo-community through its member associations.

The meeting was attended by representatives of ASFE, DFI, GI, ADSC AEG and PDCA. To begin the meeting, each group representative introduced their organization and described their structure and purpose.

A review of old business from previous meetings followed. The first item on the agenda was the need for a Geo-Planning Calendar Website. All geo-associations were asked to post their meeting/event dates to this calendar so the dates would be available to all associations for use in planning their meetings and events. It is hoped that this will provide a means of avoiding or limiting overlap of future events. The executive directors of the various groups were asked to coordinate with one another to get this planning calendar up and running.

The Mega-Trends Conference held last December 5 – 8, 2006 at ASCE Headquarters in Reston, VA was discussed next. This conference included the presentation of a series of white papers on 9 major trends affecting the geo-community. The attendees included professionals and academics from a number of geo associations and educational programs. After the presentation of the white papers, the attendees were broken up into work groups to devise action plans to address each trend that was discussed. The action plans were presented to the entire group at the conclusion of the workshop. The PDCA was represented by Mark Weisz, Van Hogan and Steve Hall. After the conference, additional information was gathered to supplement the various action plans. A final report is being prepared and will be made available to participating associations to assist their members in preparing for the changes that are being brought about by these trends affecting our industries.

The next item under Old Business was the development of a list of standard items that should be included in a geotechnical investigation report. The consensus of the group was that the contractor organizations should take the lead on developing this list since they use these reports to prepare their proposals. Scot Litke of the ADSC stated that he would prepare an initial draft of this list and forward it to Steve Hall for PDCA review and comment prior to submission to the rest of the group.

Under New Business, the first item of the agenda was a proper name for the group. The current group evolved from a smaller group originally called the GeoCouncil. After reviewing several options, the group adopted the name “Geo-Coalition”. This group will consist of the groups currently in attendance for the foreseeable future and will meet once a year to discuss issues of common interest and improve communication and enhance cooperation between the groups. Next year’s event will be hosted by the AEG in Denver, CO with a tentative date of May 12 – 14.

Other items of new business included an announcement by DFI that they planned develop a foundation specification that could be referenced by a future version of the International Building Code. Other groups are welcome to participate. Also, the ASFEE announced an initiative to develop and provide a standard certification program for foundation inspectors to replace the myriad certification programs currently required by municipal, state and federal government agencies.

### **PDCA BEGINS PREPARATION FOR ANOTHER PDA COURSE**

The PDCA, in conjunction with Foundation QA will hold another seminar on ***“Every Thing You Every Wanted to Know About PDA Testing . . . But Were Too Afraid to Ask”***, ***“PDA Test Interpretation and CAPWAP Analysis Skills Development”***, and the ***“High-Strain Dynamic Pile Testing (HSDPT) Certification Examination”***. The courses are tentatively scheduled to be held in Atlanta, GA, November 2007.

“Every Thing You Ever Wanted to Know About PDA Testing . . . But Were Too Afraid to Ask” is a seminar that will provide the participants with a deeper understanding of the principles of PDA testing, and will cover the advantages and limitations of dynamic pile testing. The audience will be guided through this field in a ‘non-threatening’ way, with liberal use of graphics and animation, and by frequent analogy to static load testing.

Dynamic Pile Testing (PDA) is a powerful technique for evaluation of pile capacity and pile construction control. The PDA has been progressively developed to provide the test engineer with real-time assistance and warnings which assist with identification of data quality and pile condition issues. These developments have made PDA testing very simple to perform.

However, what makes the PDA really powerful is being under the control of a test engineer who can properly recognize, understand and interpret the test signals by visual assessment and simple analysis. To perform testing at this level requires training and practice.

CAPWAP is the industry-standard signal matching analysis which is applied to PDA data on completion of the pile testing. It is accepted as the definitive assessment of the dynamic testing signals. However, the analysis does not provide a unique solution, and there are no definitive rules for what is or is not an acceptable analysis.

In this seminar, PDA Testers will have the opportunity to develop their skills in interpretation of PDA test signals, and in CAPWAP analysis.

The PDA interpretation skills development component of the course will directly assist participants in improving their performance in the High-Strain Dynamic Pile Testing Examination and Certification program.

The new HSDPT Certification system is a two-tiered system with 5 levels. The first tier is designated "PDA Tester" - and is awarded either at Basic or Intermediate level, on the basis of their performance in Part A of the examination alone. Part A tests skills in data acquisition and on-site testing. The second tier is designated "PDA Signatory" - and is awarded either at Advanced, Master or Expert level on the basis of their separate performance in Parts A and B. Part B tests skills in data interpretation and engineering knowledge.

### **PDCA – A GREAT RESOURCE**

The PDCA is a great resource for publications, documents, contracts and signage. Contact the PDCA for additional information at 888.311.PDCA (7322) or by email at [execdir@piledrivers.org](mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org).

Currently, the PDCA has the following items in stock for immediate delivery:

**FHWA Driven Pile Foundations Manuals**, Reference Manuals, Volume I: FHWA NHI-05-042 and Volume II: FHWA NHI-05-043 (NHI Reference No. 132021 and 132022). This is the 2006 version of the FHWA Manual. Volume I is 968 pages and Volume II is 486 pages. It is available in CD or hard copy.

Cost: CD - \$100.00 (Members - \$65.00)

Hard Copy (two volume set) - \$120.00 (Members \$112.50)

**Installation Specifications for Driven Piles, PDCA Specification 102-07**. This specification is the first of its kind specifically designed for private work.

Cost: Free

**Pile Driver Training Poster** – Positioning the Rig (Crane), Pile Driving Safety Tips, Hammer, Lead and Piling Signals.

Cost: \$15.00

**Rigging Training Poster** – Information on rigging, including U-Bolt Clips, Endless Web Slings, Shackles, Wire Rope and other rigging products.

Cost: \$15.00

**Welding Training Poster** – Information on Air Arc, Plasma Cutting and TIG, electrodes, and lens shade selections

Cost: \$15.00

### **REMEMBER . . . MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

The Pile Driving Contractors Association has created a forum for our members to announce significant events within their company. The forum, titled, “PDCA Members on the Move” is intended to recognize and promote PDCA members by encouraging them to submit short announcements to the PDCA about civic or industry awards, unique projects, new hires or promotions, anniversaries, new partnerships or anything you would like your fellow PDCA members to know about your company. Announcement will be made in each PDCA E-Letter. Submit your information to the PDCA via email at [execdir@piledrivers.org](mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org).

### **PDCA ANNUAL DUES**

The PDCA sent company invoices for your 2007 Membership Renewal in November 2006. Final statements are being sent this week. PDCA members who have not paid their 2007 dues have been removed from the PDCA website “Member Search” feature and will be dropped from the data base completely if dues are not received by June 30, 2007. Don’t let your membership lapse – get your renewal dues payment to PDCA today.