



# E – LETTER

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

**OCTOBER 2007**

## **12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PDCA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION**

The PDCA has selected the Pointe South Mountain Resort in Phoenix, AZ as the site for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition. This year's annual conference will begin on Wednesday night, February 20, 2008 with a welcoming reception and conclude Saturday, February 23 with a themed annual dinner.

The Pointe South Mountain Resort is a Four-Diamond all-suites luxury resort located in a desert oasis at the base of the South Mountain Preserve. The largest all-suites resort in Phoenix; Pointe South Mountain Resort also boasts an 18-hole championship golf course, athletic club and spa, and a unique dining experience at six restaurants.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition will feature contractor-focused presentations, exhibit hall, industry roundtable, committee meetings, companion's program, Phoenix tours, receptions, themed dinner, breaks, golf and tennis tournaments, plenty of social and networking time and a whole lot more!

Presentations will include case studies on pile driving projects utilizing value engineering and compressed construction schedules to meet demanding owner requirements; unique driving platforms to expedite construction and minimize site logistics; advanced techniques in driving sheet pile in difficult soil conditions; transportation policy and funding changes as a result of the Minneapolis bridge collapse; and other programs designed to offer you insight to the advantages of driven pile for deep foundations and earth retention systems not offered by other foundation methods.

Exhibitors will be invited to display throughout the conference in 44 - 8' x 10' booths, utilizing approximately 7500 sq.ft. of exhibitor floor space. All continental breakfasts, AM and PM breaks and receptions will be conducted in the exhibit area, increasing conference traffic to exhibitor booths. PDCA is offering an Early Reservation program for exhibitors who want to reserve booth space early this year. The Early Reservation program can be used by filling out the form located at the end of this E-Letter.

The Companion's Program will return this year with an exciting program for all spouses and guests. The Companion's Program will include a visit to Cosanti, in Paradise Valley, the residence and sculpture studio of Paolo Soleri who makes the famous Soleri Bronze Bells. The Companion's Program will also feature a shopping trip to Old Town Scottsdale with its eclectic boutiques, galleries, specialty retail shops and cultural attractions, lunch at the Quilted Bear restaurant, and a visit to the Desert Botanical Gardens. When in Phoenix, you can't leave without some kind of spa treatment, so on Saturday morning the ladies will be treated to a Tea Breakfast with accompanying manicures and pedicures provided by the resort's spa technicians – the first stage of primping before the Annual Dinner that night.

The PDCA will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at the Phantom Horse Golf Club on South Mountain located onsite at the resort. Coming off a recent makeover, Phantom Horse is one of the most unique courses in the state with a traditional front nine and desert back nine. The layout of the course is different from many others in the area. Each hole bares a different name representative of both the layout and the surrounding area.

For those who don't play golf, the PDCA will conduct its first tennis tournament. The tennis courts are located onsite at the resort and just a few steps from the resort's water park.

Did someone say, "Harley-Davidson" and poker? Yes, the Annual Dinner will be a casual affair with a Harley-Davidson theme and a poker night. So come dressed in your jeans, riding boots, do-rag, vest and sunglasses. After the reception and buffet dinner (with an open bar, of course), plan on dancing to a local band and playing blackjack, roulette, craps and Texas Hold 'Em with chips provided by the PDCA.

Mark your calendar and don't miss this exclusive driven pile conference. Registration information will be available soon on the PDCA website, [www.piledrivers.org](http://www.piledrivers.org).



### 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DESIGN & INSTALLATION OF COST-EFFICIENT PILE CONFERENCE A BIG SUCCESS

The PDCA's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles (DICEP) Conference was held on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, MD with over 105 registered for the program. This year's conference was hosted by the PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter in conjunction with PDCA national. The PDCA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Officers and members did a fantastic job to make sure this conference was an exceptional value and great experience for all participants.

This year's DICEP was a uniquely focused one-day program primarily for engineers featuring various presentations designed to emphasize advantages of driven pile through discussion regarding quality assurance, quality control, cost savings, reduced project construction time, and various material applications. The program included presentations on local projects by speakers from the surrounding area and national speakers with presentations impacting our industry on a broader level, but all providing an interesting perspective on the advantages of driven pile.

PDCA would like to acknowledge and thank the following Exhibitors for their support and participation at the conference:

**American Piledriving Equipment**  
**Brayman Construction Corporation**  
**Cox Industries**  
**ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC**

**Bayshore Concrete Products Corp.**  
**Coastal Precast Systems**  
**DWYIDAG Systems International**  
**Essve Tech, Inc.**

**EXCEND  
Monotube Pile Corp.  
Pile Dynamics, Inc.  
Skyline Steel Company  
Sun Piledriving Equipment**

**Koppers, Inc.  
PDCA of Mid-Atlantic / PDCA  
Pileco, Inc.  
Sunbelt Rentals**

PDCA would also like to acknowledge and thank our conference sponsors:

**Clark Foundation, LLC  
PDCA of South Carolina Chapter**

**EXCEND  
Sun Piledriving Equipment**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL HIGH STRAIN DYNAMIC PILE TESTING (HSDPT) COURSE OFFERED**

The PDCA, in conjunction with Foundation QA will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual High Strain Dynamic Pile Testing seminars at the Sheraton Buckhead – Atlanta, GA, October 2007.

The first seminar, titled, *“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About PDA Testing . . . But Were Too Afraid to Ask”* will be held Wednesday, October 31, 2007. This seminar 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.

The second seminar, titled, *“PDA Test Interpretation and CAPWAP Analysis Skills Development”* will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 1 and 2, 2007.

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.

Course participants will be required to bring their own laptops with the PDAWIN program pre-loaded. Data sets will be provided for analysis during the course.

The third program is the *“High-Strain Dynamic Pile Testing (HSDPT) Certification Examination”*. 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.

This program will be administered on Saturday, November 3, 2007, and will include both first and second tier tests for certification.

Testers wishing to prepare for the examination can contact Melanie McKie at [melanie@foundationqa.com](mailto:melanie@foundationqa.com) to obtain a self-paced PDA Training Program. Information on the training program can also be found at [www.hsdptregister.org](http://www.hsdptregister.org) or on the Foundation QA website, [www.foundationqa.com](http://www.foundationqa.com)

You can obtain more information about these programs and Registration Forms on the PDCA website, [www.piledrivers.org](http://www.piledrivers.org) or by contacting the PDCA office at 888.311.PDCA (7322).

### **PDCA TO OFFER PILE DRIVING INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION COURSE**

The PDCA Education Committee, in conjunction with the Geotechnical Society of Edmonton will offer a Pile Driving Inspectors Certification Course in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in early 2008. The Education Committee first considered providing the course as a result of a dire need by the pile driving industry in and around the Edmonton area for certified pile driving inspectors. The Province of Alberta has seen dramatic increases in the use of driven piles, placing a premium on pile driving inspectors of which there is a critical shortfall. The PDCA plans on holding a one-day condensed program in early 2008, with instructors from both the U.S. and Canada. Anyone from the U.S. interested in attending the course must have a current passport, which is taking up to ten weeks to secure these days.

### **2008 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD APPROVED**

The PDCA Nominating Committee, appointed by PDCA President, Mark Weisz (C.S. Marine) presented the slate of nominees for the 2008 PDCA Ballot to the Board of Directors during the Board of Directors meeting in Ellicott City, MD on Friday, September 28, 2007.

The Board of Directors approved the nominees for the ballot, which will be sent out in early November 2007 for a vote by the PDCA membership. The ballot will consist of the following nominees:

President	Van Hogan	Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Company, Inc.
Vice President	John King	Pile Drivers, Inc.
Secretary	Don Dolly	Foundation Constructors
Treasurer	John Linscott	H. B. Fleming
Past President	Mark Weisz	C. S. Marine
Director	Rusty Signor	Signor Enterprises
Director	Irv Ragsdale	Clark Foundations, LLC
Director	Mike Elliott	Piling Equipment, Inc.
Director	Pat Hannigan	GRL, Inc.
Director	Richard Gilbert	Skyline Steel Company
Director	John Parker	Parker Marine
Director	Buck Darling	Herbert F. Darling, Inc.
Director	David Chapman	Blakeslee, Arpaia, Chapman
Director	Mike Justason	Birmingham Foundation

PDCA Chapter Representatives serving on the Board of Directors as voted on by the four PDCA Chapters include:

Sonny Dupre	Cape Romain Contractors	PDCA of South Carolina
Michael Jahnigen	Sun Piledriving Equipment	PDCA of Mid-Atlantic
Michael Kelly	Gulf South Piling & Construction	PDCA of the Gulf Coast
Charlie Gibson	Manson Construction	PDCA of California

### **PDCA SAFETY COMMITTEE – STILL IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS**

PDCA recognizes the important role safety plays in our industry and our businesses. Workplace safety keeps our employees healthy, at work and productive; safety in the workplace keeps our business competitive and profitable; and a safe working environment keeps us from paying exorbitant fines as a result of ineffective or no established safety policy within our companies.

Understanding and implementing safety requirements, regulations and or policy is one of the first steps in maintaining a safe working environment. Despite the importance of safety, we don't always have the time to monitor safety regulation and changes that effects our industry, unless we are fortunate to have a full-time safety director on staff or a safety consultant on retainer. So what is the solution? The PDCA Safety Committee.

The purpose of the Safety Committee will be multi-tasked, with a focus on monitoring existing and proposed safety regulations impacting the driven pile industry; providing PDCA members with up-to-date information on changes within the regulations that impact member businesses; and to provide resources to PDCA members that will help them implement effective safety policies within their business.

The PDCA is currently seeking individuals from all PDCA membership categories to volunteer to serve on this important committee. Volunteers do not have to be safety experts or come to the committee with any particular safety experience – you just need to recognize the importance of safety and want to work towards providing a valuable service to PDCA members. If you are interested – or know of someone who would be interested in serving on this committee – contact the PDCA office by phone at 888-311-PDCA (7322) or via e-mail at [execdir@piledrivers.org](mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org).

### **CHAPTER UPDATES**

[PDCA of South Carolina Chapter](#) – Correction – in last month's PDCA E-Letter, we announced the PDCA of South Carolina's Chapter dinner meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2007. The actual date is Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at the Town & Country Inn, Highway 17 S., Charleston, SC. The dinner meeting begins at 6:30 PM. Chapter Elections will be held during the meeting. Contact John King, Chapter President at 843-763-7736 to register or for more information.

PDCA of South Carolina will conduct a driven pile demonstration to students and faculty at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC on November 19, 2007. Sarah Gassman, Associate Professor, DCEE at USC is helping to coordinate the program between PDCA and USC. Sarah is a past participant in the PDCA Professors' Driven Pile Institute.

The PDCA of South Carolina has scheduled their 3<sup>rd</sup> Driven Pile Seminar on March 28, 2008, at The Citadel in Charleston, SC.

[PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter](#) – The Gulf Coast Chapter of PDCA hosted their third quarterly meeting Thursday September 20 at Smile’s Restaurant in Harahan, LA. The meeting was sponsored by national and chapter member T.R. Miller Mill represented by Jim McCracken and Dan Cox, and by Arch Wood Protection, a producer of chemical wood preservatives. A “Meet and Greet” cocktail reception was followed by a buffet dinner and presentation by Tim Carey of Arch Wood Preservatives who addressed the group on the history of wood piles and their preservative treatment and an open forum discussion on the latest accepted EPA preservatives and their application for piling and timbers.

Steve Hall, Executive Director of PDCA National provided an update on national activities. Steve indicated the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual 2008 DICEP conference will be in New Orleans.

The meeting was attended by 39 members and guests, representing eight local area contractors, two engineering/testing firms, nine timber and sheeting suppliers, as well as several equipment suppliers. It was agreed that future efforts would be made to try to attract additional representation from the engineering community and that a future program would be tailored to attract greater engineering participation.

Chapter President Paul Tassin closed the meeting with an announcement that the fourth quarter meeting date and place would be announced shortly and that all would be notified. A topic to this meeting will be the election of chapter officers for the coming year.

Information on all PDCA chapters can be found on the PDCA website, [www.piledrivers.org](http://www.piledrivers.org).

### **MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

**Vynorius Piledriving** - Sakonnet River Pile Load Test – Vynorius Pile Driving, Salisbury, MA recently completed New England’s largest static load test. This was part of the second contract for pile testing to evaluate possible foundation solutions for the future Sakonnet River Bridge Project in Tiverton, RI. This test program consisted of one 72” open-ended pipe pile and second 72” pipe pile with a prefabricated metal plug. This test program is being performed to analyze possible foundation systems required for the future Sakonnet River Bridge in Tiverton, RI.

During the first phase of this test program, both piles where driven to a depth of 135’ utilizing an IHC S-600 hydraulic impact hammer with a maximum rated energy of 443,000 ft/lbs. On August 30<sup>th</sup>, 6000 kips of pressure was placed on the 72” pile containing the prefabricated metal plug. A second test on the open-ended pipe pile will be completed in the next week to help evaluate the benefits of the plugged pile versus the open-ended pile. During phase two each pile will be extended and driven to refusal at an estimated depth of 185 to 270’. A third test may be performed at the owner’s discretion.

The prefabricated metal plug, consisted of a 2” thick plate with a 14” center hole cut out, which was installed 50’ up from the pile tip. The plug was installed to create a “soil plug” in the pile at a predictable depth. This condition would create a higher load capacity at a shorter depth than would the standard open-ended pipe. RIDOT would hopefully realize a considerable cost savings utilizing shorter piles with the prefabricated metal plug.

The 6000 kip reaction frame, designed by Geotechnical Consultants, consisted of two 1500 kip reaction beams, 40 150 kip tie-downs and four 17 x 10 concrete pile caps. Terra Drilling Company installed 40 tie-downs in four groups of ten. Each tie-down group was cast into a 17 x 10’ concrete cap. Each cap had four 2 ½” diameter Williams rods extending from the pile cap up to the reaction beams. The reaction beams where set one atop the other to form an X. Four 1800 kip jacks where utilized to created the 6000kips of pressure needed for the test.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**CONTRACTORS**

C.J. Mahan Construction Co., LLC – Grove City, Ohio  
Dissen & Juhn Corporation – Stevensville, MD.  
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. – State College, PA  
MG Force Construction, LLC – Wayne, NJ  
Professional Construction Services – New Orleans, LA

**ASSOCIATES**

Duffield Associates – Wilmington, DE

**TECHNICAL AFFILIATES**

Greg Saiter. P.E. – Georgetown, DE  
Chris Tanner – Draper, UT

**8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF COST-EFFICIENT PILES**

Picture #1	Picture #2
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**PDCA OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING**

Picture #3	Picture #4
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**PDCA OF MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER DINNER MEETING**

Picture #5	Picture #6
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**PDCA OF THE GULF COAST CHAPTER DINNER MEETING**

Picture #7	Picture #8
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Picture #9	Picture #10
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***A DRIVEN PILE . . . IS A TESTED PILE!***

# PDCA 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

POINTE SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESORT  
PHOENIX, AZ

FEBRUARY 20 – 23, 2007

## EXHIBITOR'S RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Exhibitors wishing to reserve an 8'x10' booth at the PDCA 12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition can do so by filling out their company's information below and returning the completed form to the PDCA by fax at 904-264-9531 or mail to PDCA, PO Box 66208, Orange Park, FL 32065. Early Bird registration for the booth is \$1200.00 for PDCA members and \$1600.00 for non-members.

Companies submitting this form will be guaranteed the Early Bird rate as noted above for a booth at the PDCA 12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition, Phoenix, AZ, from February 20-23, 2008 providing the company submits an Official PDCA Conference Registration Form prior to January 11, 2008.

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

***DON'T MISS OUT. RESERVE YOUR BOOTH TODAY!***