



# E-LETTER

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

**APRIL 2008**

## **PDCA DICEP SCHEDULED**

In 2007, the Pile Driving Contractors Association began working with local PDCA chapters to jointly conduct the Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles (DICEP) conference. In 2008, national PDCA and the Gulf Coast Chapter of the PDCA will host the 9th Annual DICEP conference on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, in New Orleans, LA.

DICEP presents lectures from an engineering perspective and is primarily designed for civil, geotechnical and structural engineers. However, the conference is also intended to provide a positive learning experience for contractors and other firms or individuals who support, conduct business or are associated with the pile driving industry.

The 2008 DICEP conference will focus on design, installation, cost efficiency, varying material selection and advantages for using driven pile in deep foundation solutions through a series of lectures presented throughout the day.

The PDCA should finalize the conference logistics, including the site selection by early May 2008. Watch for more information on this important PDCA conference in future E-Letters, *PileDriver* magazine, and on the PDCA website, <http://www.piledrivers.org/>.

## **PDCA ANNUAL DUES DEADLINE**

The PDCA Annual dues are due now. The PDCA currently has 89% of Contractor I and II's and 90% of Associate I & II's renewed in 2008. Our 2008 goal is a 95% renewal rate for both membership categories. The PDCA can make this goal a reality if every Contractor and Associate member who has not submitted their 2008 annual dues would do so before April 30, 2008.

April 2008 is the deadline for dues renewal for two important reasons. One, it is the latest any company – renewing or new – can be included in the 2008 PDCA Annual Directory. For all Contractor and Associate membership categories, the 2008 annual directory has your company listed by membership category and includes your company name in alphabetical order, your complete contact information, the type of work performed, and the states / counties in which you work. For Technical Affiliate members, your membership listing in the directory includes your name, City, State and telephone number. The directory is distributed to over 2500 companies and is a valued tool for the industry and a marketing benefit for member companies in the PDCA.

The second reason for meeting the deadline is all renewing companies remain active on the PDCA

website's "Member Search" feature. The "Member Search" allows anyone to retrieve 100% of your company or individual information (based on membership category). The search feature provides information on your company by allowing someone to search for your company by company name, membership category, work performed, and states in which you work.

Of course another reason to renew your dues is not only to take advantage of these PDCA benefits, along with the other benefits and services provided through membership, but to also support the only organization that specifically promotes the driven pile industry. PDCA's membership grew by 29% in 2007, and there is a good reason for this growth – the PDCA provides value for the dollars you invest in this association. Help us continue to do good work on behalf of your company and the industry by renewing your dues in 2008. For duplicate invoices or dues information, contact the PDCA office toll free at 1-888-311 PDCA (7322).



The Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA), the Geo-Institute of ASCE and ADSC The International Association of Foundation Drilling will join together to present the largest Geotechnical Engineering and Geo-Construction Congress ever held – the International Foundation Congress and Equipment Expo '09 (IFCEE '09). This Congress will focus on foundations and will include related geo-engineering and geo-construction technologies including foundation engineering, ground modification and earth retention. The IFCEE '09 provides a premier setting as well as providing a vital element in helping you meet your marketing goals!

The IFCEE '09 will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Lake Buena Vista Palace Resort from March 15 – 19, 2009. This conference will attract over 2500 people in the geotechnical engineering and geo-construction related fields. The conference will include a mega indoor and outdoor exhibit area as well as lectures on the top issues in geotechnical engineering and geo-construction.

The PDCA has submitted Session titles on the following topics:

- Driven Pile Case Histories Emphasizing Economics
- Driven Pile Advantages in the Environment and Sustainability Issues
- New Technology in Driven Piles
- Use of Driven Pile in Major Infrastructure Projects
- Pile Issues and Current Specifications
- Design, Manufacturing and Installation of Centrifugally Spun Concrete Cylinder Piles
- New Technology in Pile Driving Systems
- QA / QC: Driven Pile Advantages: "A Driven Pile is a Tested Pile!"
- Sheet Pile Structures
- Driven Pile Vibrations: Fact and Fantasy
- Driven Pile for a Large Interchange Replacement – Then and Now – A Panel Discussion on the Marquette Interchange, Milwaukee, WI.

These are just a few examples of the Sessions. Under each Session, there is the potential for five Technical papers addressing issues related to the Session's title. Technical Papers can be submitted

to the IFCEE '09 prior to April 30, 2008. Technical Papers require the submittal of an Abstracts (300 – 500 words) by April 30, 2008, followed by an 8-10 page technical paper submitted by November 3, 2008.

Anyone interested in submitting a technical paper can contact the PDCA office at 1-888-311-PDCA (7322) or go to the IFCEE '09 website, [www.ifcee09.org](http://www.ifcee09.org).

### **PDCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS**

If you were in Phoenix, AZ from February 20 – 23, 2008, for the PDCA's 12th Annual International Conference and Equipment Expo you would most likely agree with this stories headline.

In 2008, the PDCA went to the Arizona Grand Resort for our 12th annual conference. The PDCA had its best attendance to date, with more than 200 attendees, 41 Contracting companies and 40 exhibitors. Another first for the PDCA's annual conference was integrating all the PDCA Committees meetings into the conference's daily agenda, allowing all conference attendees to participate in the committee meetings to get a feel for what the committees do and the important role they play in the PDCA.

PDCA presented relevant and topical lectures throughout the three day conference on several case histories including a fast-track project rebuilding a railroad trestle near Sacramento, CA by Foundation Constructors; Driving Pile in the San Francisco area by Abe Engineering, Traffic Bridge Transformation – A ODOT project over the Meander Reservoir by Great Lakes Construction; Advanced Skills in Driving Sheet Pile in Extremely Difficult Soil Conditions presented by John White, American Piledriving Equipment; Sunfish Pond Design-Build Solutions by Bermingham Foundation Solutions; the Carousel Mall Expansion Project in Syracuse, NY by Cianbro Corp. and Challenges Facing the Pile Driving Contractor by George Goble, followed by a panel discussion on the same topic.

The PDCA also held its second annual golf tournament, attracting over 60 players to the Phantom Horse Golf Club on South Mountain, held a Harley Night Annual Dinner with appropriate dress, a casino night and dancing to the sounds of Canyon Walls.

PDCA is especially grateful to Mike Justason (Bermingham Foundation Solutions), Education Committee Chair and his committee members for putting together such a unique and qualified group of speakers for the conference.

PDCA is also thankful for the tremendous support it received from Mike Elliott (Piling Equipment, Inc.) and the Market Development Committee for putting together a great conference. Mike accompanied the PDCA to many potential sites in Phoenix prior to selecting the Arizona Grand. Mike returned to complete negotiations between the PDCA and the resort, and he arrived early to help set up the entire program. PDCA would also like to thank Susie Elliott, Mike's wife for all her help throughout the conference. Suzie, we couldn't have done it without you.

### **THANKS TO ALL THE SPONSORS**

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PDCA of California Chapter

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Companion's Program – Sponsored by  
Ford Pile Foundations, Inc. and Piling, Inc.



PDCA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament  
Phantom Horse Golf Club on South Mountain

**THANKS TO ALL THE EXHIBITORS (LISTED BY BOOTH NUMBER)**

Naylor Pipe Company  
Timber Piling Council  
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International Construction Equipment  
Instatel  
DYWIDAG Systems International, USA  
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Pile Dynamics, Inc.



### **PDCA NOMINATES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Members of the Pile Driving Contractors Association have cast their ballots and nominated the new

2008 PDCA Officers and Board of Directors. The following individuals have been named to the 2008 Board.

The Officers are: President - Van Hogan (Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co., Inc.), Vice President - John King (Pile Drivers, Inc.), Secretary - Don Dolly (Foundation Constructors, Inc.), Treasurer - John Linscott (H.B. Fleming, Inc.), Immediate Past President - Mark Weisz (C.S. Marine Constructors).

The Directors are: Rusty Signor (Signor Enterprises), Irv Ragsdale (Clark Foundations), Mike Elliott (Pile Equipment), Richard Gilbert (Skyline Steel), Pat Hannigan (GRL), Buck Darling (Herbert F. Darling), John Parker (Parker Marine), Dave Chapman (Blakeslee Arpaia Chapman, Mike Justason (Birmingham Foundation Solutions).

PDCA Chapter Representatives to the Board of Directors are: Mid-Atlantic Chapter – Michael Jahnigen (Sun Piledriving Equipment), South Carolina Chapter – Sonny DuPre (Cape Romain Contractors), Gulf Coast Chapter – Michael Kelly (Gulf South Piling & Construction), California Chapter – Charlie Gibson (Manson Construction).



Seated L to R: Pat Hannigan, Rusty Signor, Mike Justason, John Linscott, Past President Woody Ford, John Parker, John King. Standing 1st Row L to R: Mike Elliott, Michael Kelly, Technical Committee Chair, Dale Biggers, Van Hogan, Past President Harry Robbins, Past Treasurer Trey Ford. Standing 2nd Row L to R: Safety Committee Chair, Greg Lewis, Richard Gilbert, Mark Weisz, Don Dolly, Past President Randy Dietel, Buck Darling.

### **PDCA SELECTS COMMITTEE CHAIR OF THE YEAR**

Each year, the outgoing President is responsible for selecting the PDCA Committee Chair of the Year. As the 2007 President, Mark Weisz had his hands full in making this decision. Each PDCA Committee accomplished a great deal in 2007. The Market Development Committee, Chaired by Mike Elliott produced a great annual conference in Nashville. The conference attracted the highest

attendance to an annual conference to date. The Technical Committee, Chaired by Dale Biggers continued to produce and update specification documents for the industry, worked on revisions to the Design Specification and attended several important meetings with AASHTO. The Education Committee, Chaired by Mike Justason developed a short version of the FHWA Pile Driving Inspectors course and coordinated with the Geotechnical Society of Edmonton (Alberta, CA) to jointly present the program. While the program itself was not conducted until January 2008, it attracted 85 participants and earned revenues for the PDCA in excess of \$7,500. The Communications Committee, Chaired by Van Hogan continued to produce the PileDriver magazine and the E-Letters. The PileDriver magazine attracted more advertising than any previous year, adding to the number of articles in the magazine and earning the PDCA significant revenue. The committee contracted with Lester Publication to produce a formal Annual Directory for the next five years. The Environmental Committee, Chaired by John Linscott took the Vibration Database from inception to near completion, overseeing work by The Citadel, who is responsible for collecting and entering the data. The Citadel continues to acquire vibration data and enter it into the database for the industry to use as a benchmark for pile driving vibration projects under varying conditions.

In 2007, the Membership Development and Member Retention Committee, Chaired by John King increased contractor membership by 29%. This growth in contractor members exceeded the 125 total contractor member goal set by President Mark Weisz early in 2007 and had the PDCA ending its 2007 year with 135 total contractor members. John King was instrumental in accomplishing such a noteworthy task. John personally called on contractors, sent email, letters, and membership applications, and then he followed up until the companies joined. John's effort paid dividends on the Associate Member side as well, with a 31% increase. But membership development is not the only thing the committee is responsible for. They also address retention and John was relentless in getting renewals, ending up with approximately 95% of all companies renewing in 2007. For this reason, John King (Pile Drivers, Inc.) was selected by President Weisz as the 2008 Committee Chair of the Year. Congratulations, John! Job well done!



President Mark Weisz presents John King with a plaque for "2008 Committee Chair of the Year"

### **PDCA SEEKS PARTICIPATION ON COMMITTEES**

Membership in the PDCA means different things to different members (companies and individuals). Most, if not all recognize the importance of "giving back" to the industry that has been good to you and allowed you to make a living, which is one very important reason for belonging to the PDCA. But membership can and should be more than just "giving back".

All PDCA members, whether companies, company employees or individuals can get a lot more from the PDCA by being involved in a greater capacity than just paying your annual dues. The old saying, “You get out of something, what you put into it” is true.

In 2008, the PDCA wants your involvement and input to make us a better organization. A perfect way to do that is to get involved in a PDCA committee. Not only will you help the PDCA become a better organization by personally providing your input and expertise when committee members need to make decisions on issues, developing a specification or planning an event, but you will be surprised at the return on your investment of time. The PDCA is also about networking and committees are a great way to accomplish this with very little effort. Committee meetings are generally short – no more than an hour to an hour and a half at the most, conducted via conference call with web technology for greater participation and instant feedback, and generally conducted on an occasionally or as needed basis. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the following PDCA committees:

**Membership Development Member Retention:** One of PDCA most important committees. It is responsible for assisting staff in the retention of existing members, recruiting new members, and member mentor support.

**Technical:** The Technical Committee is the liaison between PDCA and Federal, State and local government when it comes to specifications and codes. They review and update both public and private specifications and codes and make revisions and recommendations to the appropriate agencies.

**Education:** The Education Committee is responsible for identifying general themes and presentations for all PDCA events, such as the Annual Conference, DICEP and Professor’s Institute, identifying and selecting presentation topics, contacting potential speakers, and establishing and implementing seminars and workshops.

**Market Development:** This committee is responsible for developing new ideas that will assist the PDCA is marketing not only the association to target markets, but also developing ideas and strategies for promoting driven piles as the preferred method for deep foundations and earth retention systems. They are also responsible for all aspects of the Annual Conference except approval of the educational program.

**Environmental:** This committee is responsible for identifying both good and bad aspects of driven pile as related to environmental issues and formulating strategies to minimize or eliminate the bad, while promoting the good. This committee has been working on the Vibration and Noise Database over the past two years and is producing solid evidence to dispel the vibration myths associated with driven pile. They have more work to do and need your help.

**Communications:** The Communications Committee is responsible for producing the *PileDriver* magazine’s editorial content, such as Member Spotlight, Project Spotlight and other miscellaneous articles. The committee is also responsible for the PDCA website, Annual Directory and E-Letters content.

**Safety:** PDCA newest Committee, the Safety Committee is responsible for monitoring OSHA regulations and making recommendations on appropriate actions. They are also responsible for presenting information to members on safety practices and as a resource to members for safety

policy.

If you are interested in participating on a PDCA Committee, please contact the PDCA office at 1.888.311.7322 or email us at [execdir@piledrivers.org](mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org). The committees will be better with your participation and you will be better for participating.

### **PDCA PRESENT PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The PDCA is dedicated to acknowledging the hard work, ingenuity and commitment that goes into each project where driven piles are used in a deep foundation or earth retention system or utilize to solve foundation problems. The PDCA Project of the Year Award is an esteemed PDCA tradition recognizing excellence in driven pile projects completed by PDCA members in good standing.

Through the *Project of the Year Award*, the PDCA has the distinguished opportunity to continue its long-standing and consistent commitment to recognize those PDCA members who demonstrate excellence in the process of providing solutions, services and products to the needs of the deep foundation and earth retention environment.

In 2008, the PDCA hit another milestone with a record number of submittals. All worthy of the title, “Project of the Year”, because all met or exceeded the criteria outlined in the submittal process. All projects are judged using a 1-10 scoring system in nine different categories. A score of 90 is perfect (times four judges for a total possible score of 360). While no project scored a 360, the top four projects came within eight points of a four-way tie and the others were hot on their heels. Unfortunately, the judges had to pick one project from each category – Project Valued at Less than \$1 Million and Project Valued at Greater than \$1 Million.

In 2008, the PDCA decided to not only announce the winning projects, but also announce two projects for Honorable Mention due to the excellence of all projects and the close scores.

PDCA would like to congratulate the two “Honorable Mention” projects.

Kiewit Constructors, Inc. – Gaylord National Harbor Hotel and Convention Center  
Hal Jones Contractor, Inc. – Bridge Over the Trout River at I-95 Jacksonville, FL



#### **“Project of the Year Award” Project valued at less than \$1 Million**

**Blakeslee, Arpaia, Chapman Inc. – Mystic Seaport Museum Lift Dock Replacement**



**“Project of the Year Award”  
Project valued at Greater than \$1 Million**

**Weeks Marine, Inc. – APM Terminal Wharf Project, Portsmouth, VA**



**PDCA 12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION**



**PDCA OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER HOLDS TECHNICAL SEMINAR**

The PDCA of South Carolina held its biennial Driven Pile Technical Seminar on Thursday, March 27, 2008. The chapter held a dinner for the guest speakers, chapter officers, national PDCA officers

and national staff the evening before at the Boathouse restaurant so everyone could get re-acquainted.

The seminar was held on the grounds of The Citadel in Charleston, SC and began with a continental breakfast at 8:00 AM. The presentations began with Jerry DiMaggio, Principal Bridge Engineer – Geotechnical, FHWA who presented on **Designing Driven Pile Foundations under the AASHTO LRFD Design Platform**, followed by Pat Hannigan, GRL presentation on **Inspection and Monitoring of Driven Pile Foundations**. Mr. Tommy Parker, Parker Marine gave an insightful presentation on the **History of Driven Piles in Charleston, South Carolina** and Mike Justason, Birmingham Foundation Solutions followed with **Construction Noise Abatement**. The seminar concluded with a Geotechnical / Structural panel discussion.

The seminar attracted 125 engineers and contractors from all over the Southeast.

