



E – LETTER

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

OCTOBER 2009

>>>>>> REMINDER <<<<<<

The Pile Driving Contractors Association 14th Annual Conference and Expo

**The Coeur d'Alene Golf and Spa Resort
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

May 6, 7, 8, 2010

PDCA READY FOR DICEP CONFERENCE

The PDCA is ready for the 10th Annual Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles conference. This year's conference will be held at the Walnut Creek Marriott, Walnut Creek, CA on Thursday, November 19, 2009. This year's conference is cosponsored by the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California (SEAONC) and the ASCE San Francisco Section.

This year's theme will be "Increasing useable pile capacity to reduce foundation costs; and Optimizing dollars per ton of pile bearing to reduce project foundation costs".

Presentations include the following topics:

High Capacity Steel Piles: Installation and Dynamic Testing
Driven Pile Cost Comparison for Two Large Wisconsin DOT Bridge Projects
35 Years of West Coast Piling Experience – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
Dynamic and Static Testing to Improve Economics of Driven Pile
Strength Gain Over Time

Speakers include Robert Minor, Van Komurka, Mike Holloway, Byrl Williams, Richard Short, and John Guochon.

PDCA is offering table top exhibits for any company interested in showcasing their products or services. The \$250 cost to exhibit includes the exhibit table and full access to all conference programs and activities. Exhibitor space is limited, so interested parties should contact the PDCA immediately for reservations.

The conference registration will include all presentations and material, 5 PDH's, all day access to exhibitors, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and AM and PM breaks.

The brochure and registration information can be found on the PDCA website www.piledrivers.org, and going to “DICEP” under “Hot Topics” or the course tab on the right side of the home page.

PDCA OFFERS “DRIVEN PILE INSPECTORS” COURSE

The Pile Driving Contractors Association is pleased to announce the presentation of a PILE DRIVING INSPECTORS course. The PDCA will present this one-day course on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at the InterContinental Hotel, New Orleans, LA. Participants will receive a “Certificate of Attendance” worth 8 CPD hours for LA Engineers or 8 PDH’s for others.

The curriculum will include the following topics:

The Inspectors Role	Site Investigation Methods	Pile Types
Pile Driving Hammers and Installation Equipment	Louisiana DOTD Standard Specifications	Construction Plan and General Notes
Contractor’s Submittal and Review Process	Current LA DOTD Practices	Test Pile Program
Establishing the Pile Driving Criteria	–	Record Keeping in Pile Driving Monitoring
Common Problems – LA DOTD Experience	Design and Construction Test Pile Program – LA DOTD Procedures	General Discussion – Q&A

This course is designed for those who inspect pile-driving operations during construction of foundations and major structures.

Who Should Attend: Suppliers of hammers and piles, Contractor’s Superintendents and Foreman, Geotechnical Engineers and Structural Engineers; as well as anyone in charge of pile-driving construction inspections.

Presenters: Mohamad Hussein, P.E., V.P. GRL Engineers and Partner, Pile Dynamics, Inc.
Ching Tsai, PhD., P.E., Engineer 6, LA DOTD.

The course registration fee includes all course material in a three-ring binder, the presentations on a CD (which will also include the FHWA Design and Construction of Driven Pile Foundations, Vol. I & II – a \$60 value), expanded continental breakfast, AM and PM breaks with refreshments, and a buffet-style lunch.

The cost of the program: Before October 30, 2009 - \$300.00
 After October 30, 2009 - \$350.00
 Students - \$150.00

For more information or to register, go the PDCA website, www.piledrivers.org and click on the “Pile Driving Inspectors Course” announcement under “Hot Topics” on the home page.

PDCA OF THE NORTHEAST CHAPTER ORGANIZING

The PDCA helped facilitate an Organizational Meeting for the development of a PDCA of the Northeast Chapter on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at the Upper Montclair County Club in Clifton, New Jersey. The meeting was hosted by PDCA members Linde-Griffith Construction Company. PDCA wants to thank David Price, Kevin Shannon and Chris Shannon (Linde-

Griffith Construction Company) for their support in helping the PDCA coordinate the meeting and their sponsorship of the dinner.

The meeting was attended by 41 contractors, suppliers and manufacturers from the Northeastern US, which indicates tremendous support for the development of the chapter. The chapter's geographical area consists of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine and will be the 6th PDCA chapter in the US.

The meeting began with introductions, followed by a presentation about the national PDCA, other PDCA chapters, and the collective and collaborative benefits of a national PDCA and chapter relationship.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the meeting participants agreed that a chapter was in the best interest of the contractors and industry in the northeastern U.S., so the discussion progressed to the tasked of forming the new chapter. The group was asked to nominate and vote on a slate of officers. The results of the nomination and election were Kevin Shannon (Linde-Griffith) President, Chris Shannon (Linde-Griffith) Vice President, Pat Lanni (Skyline Steel) Secretary, and Randy Kelly (Atlantic Wood Industries) Treasurer. Following the elections, other attendees volunteered to serve on an Organizational Committee to help with the formal tasks of starting a new chapter, which includes establishing Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation (the state to be determined), financial matters, and establishment of membership fees and a membership application just to start.

The Organizational Committee met via conference call on Thursday, October 1, 2009, to begin work on these important matters. Once the Organizational Committee gets the chapter fully formed, there is likely to be a nomination and election of a Board of Directors. Anyone interested in participating on the Organizational Committee or serving on the Board should contact Kevin Shannon, Linde-Griffith at 973-481-1106.



PDCA BEGINS DISCUSSIONS ON AN UPPER MID-WEST CHAPTER

The PDCA was recently approached by Rich Northfield and Bob Mraz from Lally Pipe and Tube about working with the PDCA to establish a PDCA chapter in the upper mid-west. The new chapter would consist of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The region could extend to include Missouri, Ohio and Iowa. This would be the 7th PDCA chapter in the U.S.

PDCA is working with Bob Pine, Lally Pipe and Tube, Tinley Park (Chicago area), Illinois on identifying current PDCA members in those areas, as well as potential new members to help support a new chapter.

Anyone interested in helping with developing the idea or formation of a Mid-West chapter should contact the PDCA office at 888-311-PDCA (7322).

PDCA ELECTED TO THE TREATED WOOD COUNCIL

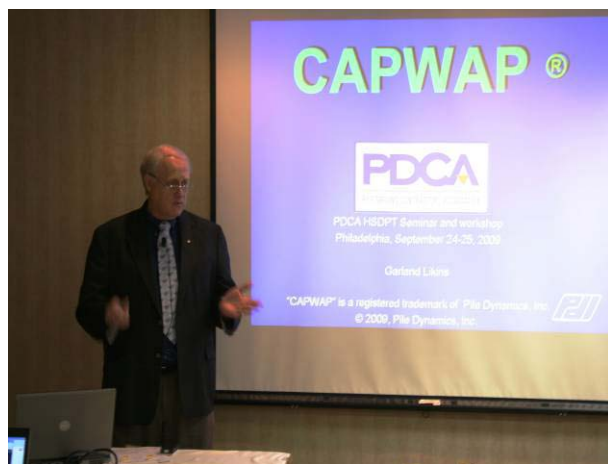
The PDCA has been elected to the Treated Wood Council as an Association member. The PDCA was accepted as a member during the TWC's meeting on September 22, 2009. The mission of the TWC is to serve all segments of the treated wood industry in the fields of government affairs. PDCA will participate in the TWC's Government Affairs Committee. Participation on this committee will help the PDCA disseminate important information that may impact members of the PDCA who specialize in or supply timber products to the pile driving industry.

PDCA CONDUCTS PDA WORKSHOP AND HSDPT CERTIFICATION EXAM

The PDCA, in conjunction with Foundation QA and Pile Dynamics, Inc. presented a successful PDA Test Interpretation and CAPWAP Analysis Skills Development Workshop and High Strain Dynamic Pile Test Certification Exam at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia Center City, Philadelphia, PA.

Twenty-five individuals for both the public and private sectors participate in the workshop, which was held on Thursday and Friday, September 24 and 25. Seventeen individuals took both the Part A and Part B segments of the High Strain Dynamic Pile Test Certification Exam on Saturday, September 26.

Melanie McKie, Foundation QA wrote a very informative article for the Q-3 2009 edition of PileDriver magazine on the HSDPT certification program. The article, found on page 82 of the magazine explains the examination process and certification levels.



Garland Likins, GRL Engineers (L) presents CAPWAP presentation to PDA Workshop students (R) in Philadelphia

PDCA COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMENDATIONS TO ON FEES TO BOARD

During the June 18, 2009, Board of Directors meeting, the Board established an Ad Hoc committee to review the PDCA dues structure with a specific focus on the Technical Affiliate membership category. The Committee, Chaired by Van Hogan (Ed Waters and Sons Contracting) included John King (Pile Drivers, Inc), Dave Chapman (Blakeslee, Arpaia, Chapman), John Linscott (H.B. Fleming), Mark Weisz (C.S. Marine) and Stevan Hall, PDCA Executive Director. The committee finalized their recommendations on September 28, 2009, and will present their findings to the Board for review and vote. Any changes in the membership category will be announced in the November PDCA E-Letter.

PDCA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The PDCA is proud to announce we have launched our new website. On Monday, September 28, 2009, the PDCA had it new site up and working. The site's overall appearance has not change too much, but there are some unique features that will be activated over the next few weeks. One of those features is the incorporation of a "home page" for all of our PDCA chapters. Chapter will be able to access their page through a User Name and Password to upload notices of meeting events, special programs, calendar reminders, photo galleries, and membership information. The site will also allow for secure online registration of events and membership renewals and feature an enhanced online store. Visit the site at www.piledrivers.org and see the changes. Visit often to see the new features and find useful chapter, industry and member information.

PDCA PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The PDCA Project of the Year Award committee met on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 to discuss revisions to the popular PDCA Awards program. The PDCA Project of the Year Award has grown in popularity over the past several years. In an effort to make the process as equitable as possible for all entries, the PDCA Project of the Year Award committee reviewed the submittal process and criteria for the 2010 Project of the Year Awards, which will include all projects completed in 2009. The PDCA will have the brochure developed with all revisions and in the mail by early January 2010. Project submittals deadline will be March 5, 2010. Winning projects will be awarded during the 2010 PDCA Annual Conference and Exposition in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in May 2010.

CHAPTER UPDATES

PDCA of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter: The PDCA of the Mid-Atlantic chapter will host its quarterly dinner meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2009. Silas Nichols, Office of Bridge Technology, FHWA. The chapter is working on a joint dinner meeting with the ASCE and GeoInstitute of ASCE. More information on this program will be on the PDCA website once available.

PDCA of South Carolina: The PDCA of South Carolina chapter met on September 1, 2009. During that meeting the chapter and national PDCA presented Tom Wysocky with his Past President's pen. The next dinner meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, Charleston on Tuesday, December 1, 2009. John White, American Pile Driving Equipment is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

The chapter just concluded a Crane Operators recertification course conducted by the Crane Institute of America on September 26. The course was attended by 16 operators from 4 different companies. The chapter has offered this program since 2005.

PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter: The PDCA of the Gulf Coast chapter will hold its quarterly dinner meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2009. The dinner meeting will be at Messina's Restaurant, 2717 Williams Blvd., Kenner, LA. The meeting will begin with a social at 5:45 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. The chapter is discussing the possibility of having a representative from Task Force Hope as the guest speaker. Task Force Hope focuses on establishing a Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRR) with a goal of completing a 100-year level protection by June 2011 for the Greater New Orleans area.

PDCA of Florida Chapter: The PDCA of Florida Chapter will conduct its second dinner meeting on December 12, 2009 in the Tampa area. The meeting time will 6:00 PM with a location and venue to be announced at a future date.

California PDCA Chapter: No word yet on the exact date, but the California chapter will probably be holding their traditional annual luncheon sometime during the first week in December. For all the California PDCA chapter members – start working on your jokes now or prepare to pay your fine.

PDCA of the Northeast Chapter: The northeastern US area held an organizational meeting on September 22, 2009, that was attended by over 40 individuals. Still in organizational mode, the PDCA of the Northeast held a conference call meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2009 to discuss and prioritize responsibilities associated with getting the chapter up and running.

NEW MEMBERS

The PDCA wants to welcome the following new members.

Contractors:

Bauer Foundation Corp.

Al Neumann
13203 Byrd Legg Drive
Odessa, FL 33556
Phone: 727-531-2577
Fax: 727-530-1571

www.bauerfoundations.com

aneumann@bauerfoundations.com

Bridge Buildings, Bulkheads, Deep Excavation,
Earth Retention, General Contracting, Highway &
Heavy Civil, Pile Driving
All States

George Harms Construction Co. Inc.

Tom Hardell
PO Box 817
Farmingdale, NJ 07727
Phone: 908-618-6305
Fax: 732-938-2782

www.ghcci.com

thardell@ghcci.com

Waiting on service information

Misener Marine Const., Inc.

Robert Musselwhite
5600 W. Commerce Street
Tampa, FL 33616
PH: 813-839-8441
Fax: 813-831-7498

www.orionmarinegroup.com

bmusselwhite@misenermarine.com

Bulkheads, Docks & Wharves, Marine, Pile Driving
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, VA

Morris Shea Bridge Co., Inc.

Richard Shea III
609 South 20th Street
Irondale, AL 35210
Phone: 205-956-9518
Fax: 205-956-9579

www.morrisjshea.com

rshea@morrisjshea.com

Bridge Buildings, Bulkheads, Deep Excavation,
Docks & Wharves, Earth Retention, General
Contracting, Highway & Heavy Civil, Marine, Pile

Driving, Other
All States, Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Trinidad,
Tobago

Technical Affiliate:

William Kirchgessner
27 Joshua Drive
PH: 201-786-3354
Fax: 201-447-0658
wkirch@optonline.net

Student:

Bassim Nawaz
University of Colorado at Boulder
2300 S. Rock Creek Pkwy 6-201
Superior, CO 80027
www.cu@boulder.com
bassimnz@gmail.com

DRIVEN PILES ARE TESTED PILES!