



E – LETTER

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

AUGUST 2007

PDCA COMPLETES 4TH PROFESSORS' DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE

The PDCA has completed the 4th Professors' Driven Pile Institute and once again the end result was a successful program for students and PDCA, alike.

The PDCA Professors' Driven Pile Institute (PDPI) has been recognized as one of the most important programs the PDCA offers! Why? The answer to that question is not so much in the short term, but the long-term benefits derived by both the driven pile industry and PDCA. The concept behind the PDPI is similar to many train-the-trainer educational programs that strive to maintain superior levels of instruction, thereby providing an optimum learning experience for the students.

By their own admission, many, if not all of the faculty that attend the PDPI do not have adequate field experience, or even pile design or engineering experience, which does not allow them to present a more comprehensive understanding of deep foundations to their students – especially in the area of driven piles. The PDPI allows professors who teach foundation engineering courses to gain a thorough understanding of all aspects of driven piles as it relates to deep foundations and earth retention systems, thereby educating a new generation of engineers specifying driven piles as the preferred method for deep foundations and earth retention systems upon their graduation and entrance into their profession. One professor wrote, “Those professors who don't have any field experience, but teach deep foundation engineering courses must attend this course. This will be a great service to students, perhaps an obligation.”

The PDCA held the PDPI from June 18-22, 2007, at Utah State University in Logan, UT. Eighteen “students” attended this year's PDPI program. The professors attending the PDPI were treated to five days of intensive lectures and field exercises, which exposed them to pile design and design considerations, pile types, static analysis of pile groups, dynamic measurements, load tests, pile driving equipment, wave equations, computer workshops, soil and pile set-up, cost components and field events including static and lateral load tests, pile driving, dynamic testing and re-strikes.

Conservatively, once this graduating class finishing teaching their deep foundation courses in 2007-08, the PDCA will have provided the means to teach approximately 6,750 engineering students about driven piles. This accomplishment is an asset to our industry and the PDCA, and continues to solidify the PDCA's commitment to promoting driven piles and as a leader in providing educational programs designed to enhance our industry's product and image.

The PDCA would like to acknowledge the Utah State University, College of Engineering for their continued partnership with the PDCA in this important program. USU not only provides support for the program, but also provides a beautiful campus for classroom and field demonstrations, as well as administrative and logistical support that is vital to the success of the program. A special “Thanks” to Scott Hinton, Dean, USU College of Engineering; and Loren Anderson, Jim Bay, and Ken Jewkes of

USU for their support and contributions to the program. PDCA is especially grateful to Joe Caliendo, who worked so closely with the PDCA on the program and was a driving factor in the program's ultimate success.

PDCA wants to thank all the instructors who provided their valuable time, knowledge and services to teach the students. Your contribution is invaluable!

PDCA would also like to thank our 2007 Sponsors. It was through their generosity and commitment to the PDCA that this program provided a level of quality unmatched in any other industry program. PDCA especially wants to acknowledge **Build, Inc.**, **Skyline Steel Company** and **L.B. Foster/Chaparral** for their generous contributions and participation.

2007 PDCA PROFESSORS' DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE SPONSORS

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8TH ANNUAL DESIGN & INSTALLATION OF COST-EFFICIENT PILE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The PDCA has scheduled the **8th Annual Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles** or DICEP Conference. This year's conference will be hosted by the PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter in conjunction with PDCA national. The PDCA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Officers are doing everything they can to make sure this conference is an exceptional value and great experience for all participants.

DICEP is 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 conference, while specific to civil, geotechnical and structural engineers, will also provide practical information for contractors, developers, owners, and government personnel.

The 2007 DICEP conference will be held in Ellicott City, Maryland (just outside of Baltimore) at the Turf Valley Resort on Thursday, September 27, 2007. The program will include 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.

Conference topics include presentations on the advantages of driven pile that result in substantial benefits in time savings and cost reductions compared to alternative solutions; a project that includes 18 retaining walls and 13 bridges with some new concepts that saved the state of Tennessee \$13M in costs; a project that incorporated technological advances in precast concrete piles and splices; competitive advantages of using high capacity prestressed concrete piles; engineering challenges and project considerations of driving 42" steel pipe for a marine harbor; and more.

Vendors will also be invited to exhibit during the conference, but space is limited and exhibitors are restricted to table top displays. PDCA only has room for 15 vendors to exhibit and 6 slots have already been reserved since this E-Letter was composed. Companies interested in exhibiting should contact the PDCA office immediately to reserve a table.

For more details and registration information on the conference, visit the PDCA website at www.piledrivers.org or you can go directly to the DICEP Registration form from the following link: <http://www.piledrivers.org/pdf/DICEPBrochureII.pdf>.

PDCA TO START A SAFETY COMMITTEE

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.

PDCA President, Mark Weisz has received unanimous approval by the Board of Directors to establish a 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.

PDCA BEGINS PREPARATION FOR 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The PDCA has begun making plans for the 2008 Annual Conference. The 2008 conference is tentatively scheduled to be held in the Phoenix, AZ area – currently in discussions with Scottsdale resorts as of this writing. PDCA will conduct site visits the week of July 30, 2007, to finalize our selection, so more information will be available in the September E-Letter and sooner on the PDCA website (www.piledrivers.org). Again, tentatively, the PDCA has chosen February 12 – 15, 2008 as the week of the conference, so mark these days on your calendar and set aside time to come to Arizona for some fun, relaxation and an opportunity to find out what is going on in the pile driving industry across the U.S. and internationally.

The 2008 conference will feature some of the traditional affairs of the PDCA conferences, with excellent speakers and presentations, an enjoyable Companion's Program for spouses, plenty of social time with good food and drinks, and of course a vendor's exhibit featuring the latest technology available in the industry today.

Since we are planning on being in Scottsdale, it only makes sense to hold the PDCA 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. PDCA will select a premiere course for the enjoyment of all our golfing members, but for those who don't play this formidable game, the Market Development Committee is considering a tennis tournament or some other recreational activity that allows for participation by all.

PDCA wants to make this conference our best yet, but we need your help. First, PDCA wants all contractor members to participate in this conference. The PDCA goal is to get 100% participation by our contractor members – after all, pile driving is your business and this is a pile driving conference! Vendors will continue to support our conference if it is supported by our contractor members. Contractors are the reason they exhibit, so participation by our contractor members will go a long way to attract vendors to the conference, which only improves the overall success of the conference. PDCA will also focus on getting a strong contingent of engineers and DOT officials to attend through strategic marketing campaigns and personal invitations.

PDCA is also soliciting **PRESENTATIONS** for the conference. The 2008 program will feature 12 – 14 presentations over the course of the conference. The PDCA Education Committee is seeking individuals interested in making presentations at the conference which offer topical and relevant information on pile driving project successes.

PDCA SEEKS PRESENTATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As mentioned in the above article on the 2008 conference, the PDCA is seeking presentations for consideration at the 12th Annual PDCA International Conference and Exposition in Scottsdale, AZ. The PDCA is requesting interested individuals submit a brief summary of a paragraph or two to the PDCA Education Committee for consideration as potential topics for an expanded presentation during the association's conference.

The PDCA is seeking presentations that support the use of driven piles in deep foundations and earth retention systems. The conference will be attended by a variety of individuals representing a broad spectrum of companies associated with the driven pile industry, but is intended primarily for contractors. Therefore, presentations should focus on project issues and resolutions that will have a direct and positive impact on contractor practices. Examples could include presentations describing how driven piles were selected over other foundation alternatives, cost savings resulting from the use of driven pile, foundation challenges overcome through innovative construction techniques using driven pile, excellence in client services or project management, new materials, exceptional designs or innovative engineering. Additionally, presentation could discuss the quality control and quality assurance aspects associated with driven pile applications making them an exceptional choice over other foundation methods.

All submittals must be in MS Word and submitted in an electronic format to the PDCA office. Submittals must be in the PDCA office by September 30, 2007. The PDCA Education Committee will review all submittals and notify authors by October 15, 2007 if they have been selected to make a presentation.

If selected, presenting authors will be required to submit their presentation to the PDCA in MS PowerPoint, with 3 slides per page and in black and white only no later than December 31, 2007. Alternately, a formal paper can be written and submitted in MS Word. The PDCA will incorporate all presentations or papers into a Conference Proceedings to be distributed during the conference. If you miss the publication deadline, presenters are encouraged, but not required to distribute copies of their full presentations during the conference.

Presentation summaries should be sent to the PDCA, PO Box 66208, Orange Park, Florida 32065; or emailed to the PDCA at execdir@piledrivers.org.

2nd ANNUAL HIGH STRAIN DYNAMIC PILE TESTING (HSDPT) COURSE OFFERED

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

The first seminar, titled, ***“Every Thing 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 to obtain a self-paced PDA Training Program. Information on the training program can also be found at www.hsdptregister.org or on the Foundation QA website, www.foundationqa.com

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The PDCA would like to welcome the following new 2007 members. Find out more about these new members on the PDCA website, www.piledrivers.org “New Members” tab or through the “Member Search” feature on the website.

CONTRACTORS (In Alphabetical Order)

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Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc. – Fairfield, CA
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Bermuda
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Western Piling and Caisson – Grand Junction, CO

ASSOCIATES (In Alphabetical Order)

BriteStar Holdings, LLC – Leesville, SC
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