



# E – LETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

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

The PDCA has scheduled the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles (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 and members 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 9 spaces have already been reserved. 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](http://www.piledrivers.org) or you can go directly to the DICEP Registration form from the following link: <http://www.piledrivers.org/pdf/DICEPBrochureII.pdf>.

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

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 with a welcoming reception and conclude Saturday, February 23 with a themed annual dinner.

The South Pointe Mountain Resort is 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 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!

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).



### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org).

### **PDCA TO START A 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.

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](mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org).

### **PDCA TO WORK WITH SAFETY CONSULTANT**

As mentioned in the above article, the PDCA is working to establish a Safety Committee before the end of 2007 and have it fully functioning by the beginning of 2008.

As the PDCA moves forward on establishing a safety committee we will use Safety Solutions, Inc. as a consultant to the association and the Safety Committee. Safety Solutions, Inc. is a safety management company specializing in all aspects of safety management, training, written safety plans, site specific safety programs, and safety audits.

Safety Solutions, Inc. was founded in 1998. The company provides practical affordable solutions that meet complex regulatory needs in the areas of Occupational Safety Health compliance (OSHA), Department of Transportation (DOT) and Mine Safety and Health (MSHA).

**Jann Orina**, owner of Safety Solutions, Inc. has over 30 years in the human resource/management industry. Jann has extensive experience in writing safety programs, writing policy & procedure manuals and all aspects of administration. Jann is also certified as a HUB with the State of Texas and certified as a WBE/DBE with the City of Austin and TXDOT.

**Jaime Orina, CHSO, WSO-CSM/RSD/CST**, is the General Manager and has over 20 years in the construction/industrial industry. Jaime has hands-on expertise in the areas of safety compliance, assessment of operators, training and education, writing and implementing safety programs, writing and implementing policy & procedure manuals, job-site and facility safety audits, and safety meetings. Safety Solutions, Inc also utilizes an extensive network of Professional Consultants for Certified Training, Leadership, and Construction Management.

Jaime Orina is a Certified Safety and Health Official, Texas A&M University (TEEX) - Certified with the World Safety Organization as a Certified Safety Manager, Registered Safety Director (RSD) and Certified Safety Technician (CST).

Safety Solutions, Inc presently serves as the Construction Safety Manager for the City of Austin Rolling Owner Controlled Insurance Program and presently provides ongoing training and safety audits for the City of Daytona Beach, Florida.

Safety Solutions, Inc. has won several industry association awards for their work in safety.

## **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, ***“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](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 find obtain more information about these programs and a Registration Forms on the PDCA website, [www.piledrivers.org](http://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](http://www.piledrivers.org) “New Members” tab or through the “Member Search” feature on the website.

### **CONTRACTORS**

Underpinning and Foundation Skanska, Inc. – Maspeth, NY  
Marine One, Ltd. – Chesterfield, MI

### **ASSOCIATES**

Standard Concrete Products, Theodore, AL  
Turecki Pipe & Steel, Vancouver, BC, Canada

### **TECHNICAL AFFILIATES**

Jacques Whitford, LTD – Dartmouth, NS,

## **MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

The Pile Driving Contractors Association wants information from our members regarding significant events within their company to place in the "Members On The Move" column in the monthly E-Letter. "PDCA Members on the Move" is intended to recognize and promote PDCA members by encouraging them to submit short announcements 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).

## **CHAPTER UPDATES**

[PDCA of South Carolina Chapter](#) - Tuesday, December 14, 2007, Quarterly Dinner Meeting, Town & Country Inn, Highway 17 S., Charleston, SC, 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.

For more information on the PDCA of South Carolina Chapter, contact chapter President, John King, Pile Drivers, Inc. at 843-763-7736.

[PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter](#) – The PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter recently held its quarterly dinner meeting in Riva, MD. Currently, the chapter is working in conjunction with PDCA national on the Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles conference scheduled for September 27, 2007, at the Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD. More information on the conference can be found at the PDCA website, [www.piledrivers.org](http://www.piledrivers.org).

For more information on the PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter, contact Mike Jahnigen, Sun Piledriving Equipment at 302-539-6756.

[PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter](#) – Thursday, September 20, 2007, the PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter will hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting at Smilie's Restaurant, 5725 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA. The meeting will begin with a social and open bar at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner and a business meeting at 6:45 PM. The speaker for the night's meeting will be Tim Carey, Arch Wood Protection. Tim's presentation is titled, "Timber Piles – An Overview of the History, Use and the Latest EPA Accepted Preservatives. Sponsors for the evening are T.R. Miller Mill and Arch Wood.

For reservations, more information on this meeting, or PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter, contact Foundation Materials, Inc. at 504-467-5648; or Specialty Piling Systems, Inc. at 888-231-6478. Please RSVP no later than September 14, 2007.

[PDCA of California Chapter](#) – The PDCA of California will hold its annual meeting in early December. Final plans will be announced in future E-Letters.

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

***REMEMBER . . . A DRIVEN PILE IS A TESTED PILE!***