



E – LETTER

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

JANUARY 2009



HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!

On behalf of all of us at the PDCA, we want to wish all of you a healthy, safe and prosperous 2009.

“Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man.” Benjamin Franklin

PDCA – A STRONG 2008

As Executive Director of the PDCA and on behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors, I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the member firms and individuals who supported the PDCA throughout 2008.

The PDCA accomplished a lot in 2008. Most importantly, we continue to grow as an organization, which allows PDCA to better represent our members and this great industry. In 2008, we saw a 90% retention rate in Contractor member renewals. In 2008, the PDCA’s contractor membership base grew by over 14% and the associate membership base grew by over 15%. Collectively, these two statistics (retention and new members) indicates that our members are finding value in their PDCA membership.

In 2009, the PDCA will present the 5th Professors’ Driven Pile Institute in collaboration with Utah State University, Logan, UT. Thanks to the generosity and support of PDCA members, the PDCA raised over \$51,000 to help offset the cost of this program. PDCA could not be more proud of our member who contributed to the program and our sponsors who help make this program a continued reality.

PDCA Committees continue to break new ground and move our industry forward.

The Technical Committee, Chaired, Dale Biggers (Boh Bros., New Orleans, LA), received approval and implementation of the PDCA revisions to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Installation Specifications, Section

4:Driven Foundation Piles by AASHTO. The committee also concluded final discussions with T-15 on revisions to the LRFD Design Specifications. PDCA revisions will be considered by T-15 and forwarded to Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures, the Standing Committee on Highways and then final approval and implementation by AASHTO.

The Education Committee, Chaired by Mike Justason (Birmingham Foundation Solutions, Hamilton, ON) conducted two firsts in 2008. The committee did a joint PDCA educational program with the Edmonton Geotechnical Society, titled "Pile Driving Inspectors Course". The PDCA Education Committee also coordinated with FHWA on our first FHWA Webinar presented by Mike Justason on "Advances in Pile Driving Equipment" and received approval by the ASCE to do webinars through their organization. Garland Likins, (GRL Engineers, Inc., Cleveland, OH) is working on the first ASCE/PDCA webinar.

Other PDCA events proved equally successful beginning with the 12th Annual PDCA Conference in Phoenix, AZ, which topped attendance of all previous conferences. The Market Development Committee, Chaired by Mike Elliott (Pile Equipment, Green Cove Springs, FL) made sure that the annual conference not only provided interesting presentations, but also (and most importantly) was a fun program with plenty of time for socializing, networking and leisure time. The 9th Annual Design and Installations of Cost-Efficient Piles Conference in New Orleans, LA was also a big success with more than 100 engineers attending. PDCA is grateful for the assistance provided by the PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter under the leadership of Mike Kelly (Gulf South Piling and Construction, Jefferson, LA).

PDCA held a Strategic Planning session, mapping PDCA goals and objectives through 2012. The Strategic Planning Committee, Chaired by Mark Weisz (CS Marine, Vallejo, CA) did an excellent job of putting together a realistic plan that will be a living document for the Board of Directors to use over the next three years.

PDCA was invited to be a Managing Partner and Organizational Partner with the GeoInstitute of ASCE and ADSC for the International Foundation Congress and Equipment Expo '09. This is the first time the PDCA has been involved in a program of this magnitude or one that will provide as much exposure to as many engineers, contractors, suppliers and manufacturers.

The PDCA hopes you recognize the value of these 2008 accomplishments and the positive impact they have or will have on your business and industry. Thanks again for making these accomplishments a reality through your generous support and continued participation.

PDCA BEGINS 2009 WITH A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

In November 2008, the PDCA's Strategic Planning Committee met in New Orleans, LA for a full day and a half planning session. The Committee, Chaired by Mark Weisz (CS Marine, Vallejo, CA) concluded the planning session with a realistic plan the Board will use as a guide for the PDCA's future development and growth.

The Planning Committee concluded the session with a new Vision and Mission statement and four areas of key strategic focus with associated Objectives and Strategies for each.

The four areas of strategic focus include Membership, Organizational Structure, Financials, and Program Development. Just a few of the Objectives identified under each of these areas includes Increased services and benefits to members, Increase member participation and ownership in the PDCA, Promote the formation of new PDCA chapters while supporting growth within existing chapters, Provide adequate cash assets for programs, Broaden educational opportunities for engineers, contractors, and owners, Improve market share for driven pile, and Advance PDCA as an association.

The PDCA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will meet after January 1, 2009, to discuss the plan in detail and assign individual(s) or committees to be responsible for each action item with specific dates for deliverables. The plan will constantly be reviewed by the Board of Directors and updated as necessary. Anyone wishing to see a complete copy of the PDCA Strategic Plan can do so by contacting the PDCA office at 888-311-PDCA (7322).

PDCA – NEW VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vision Statement

PDCA's vision is to promote driven piles through education and continuous improvement of methods, materials and equipment.

Mission Statement

PDCA's mission is to promote driven piles and provide exceptional support and services to our members.

PDCA ELECTS 2009 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The PDCA members have returned their ballots and elected their representatives for 2009. The 2009 PDCA Officers and Directors are as follows:

Officers

President – John King, Pile Drivers, Inc., Hollywood, SC

Vice President – Don Dolly, Foundation Constructors, Inc., Oakley, CA

Secretary – Rusty Signor, Signor Enterprises, Austin, TX

Treasurer – John Linscott, H.B. Fleming, S. Portland, ME

Immediate Past President – Van Hogan, Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co., St. Augustine, FL

Directors

John Parker, Parker Marine, Charleston, SC

Gene Merlino, M. G. Forge Construction Co., Wayne, NJ

Pat Hannigan, GRL Engineers, Inc., Arlington Heights, IL

Mike Elliott, Pile Equipment, Green Cove Springs, FL

Herbert "Buck" F. Darling, Herbert F. Darling, Inc., Williamsville, NY

Richard Gilbert, Skyline Steel Co., Atlanta, GA

Dave Chapman, Blakeslee, Arpaia, Chapman, Branford, CT

Irv Ragsdale, Clark Foundation, LLC, Bethesda, MD

Mike Justason, Birmingham Foundation Solutions, Hamilton, ON



2009 International Foundation Congress and Equipment Exposition '09 Program

The Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA), the Geo-Institute of ASCE, and the ADSC: The International Association of Foundation Drilling will be conducting the largest geotechnical engineering and geo-construction Congress ever held from March 15-19 in Orlando Florida.

The Keynote presenter for the Congress will be the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Major General Don Riley, the Deputy Commanding General, and Deputy Chief of Engineers. Major General Riley is the second in command of the U.S. Army Corps of engineers which has over 31,000 employees and manages a yearly budget of over \$30 billion. One of the Congress's main themes will focus on the condition of the U.S. infrastructure. Major General Riley is at the forefront of defining and addressing a plan to deal with what is clearly one of the most pressing issues confronting the United States.

The Congress will bring together the world's leading designers and constructors of foundation systems presenting state-of-the-art-and-practice papers and panel discussions in 21 separate technical tracks presented in 57 sessions. Subjects will range from design theory through construction practice with special sessions for construction professionals focusing on best business practices including Contracts and Risk Management, Safety, and Equipment Purchase and Maintenance. PDCA is sponsoring several short courses, as well as presentations and panel discussions. The prestigious Terzaghi and Peck Lectures will be presented as well as annual awards from the three co-sponsoring organizations. The PDCA, G-I, and ADSC will conduct their Annual Members Meetings during the week long Congress.

The PDCA is pleased to announce that all exhibit spaces, both outdoor and indoor have been sold out. The Exhibit area is a part of the IFCEE '09 you do not want to miss. The equipment exhibition will feature construction equipment from around the world displayed in an outdoor setting. Every conceivable type of foundation installation rig, tooling, cranes, and like equipment will be on display. The indoor exhibit hall will house providers of design services, materials, testing equipment, as well as construction services.

Fifteen Cooperating Organizations from around the world will be on hand to share information about their respective programs. These organizations include the Association of Engineering Geologists, ASFE, American Rock Mechanics, the Canadian Geotechnical Society, Geotechnical Society of Singapore, the Deep Foundations Institute, Florida Department of Transportation, the FHWA, Japanese Geotechnical Society, National Association of Geosynthetics, OSHA, Russian Geotechnical Association, the Structural Engineers Institute of ASCE, and USUCGR.

For detailed information about the IFCEE visit the Congress website at: www.ifcee09.org, the PDCA website, www.piledrivers.org or contact the PDCA via email at marian@piledrivers.org.

[PDCA ANNUAL DUES](#)

In 2009, the PDCA pledges to continue providing meaningful services and benefits to each member; including proactively representing your industry before national and state agencies and private business, to promote growth in the use of driven piles, to support research and educational programs designed to improve your industry, and to help increase the profitability of our member firms. To help the PDCA accomplish our goals in 2009, we need your continued support and involvement. The 2009 PDCA Annual Dues invoices have been sent and are currently due. Please send your 2009 PDCA annual membership dues payment in as soon as possible. Duplicate invoices are available by calling the PDCA office at 888-311-PDCA (7322).

PDCA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SEES PROGRESS

On Friday, December 12, 2008, members of the PDCA Technical Committee made their final presentation to the AASHTO T-15 Committee regarding proposed revisions to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Section 10 – Foundations, 10.5 and 10.7. PDCA Technical Committee Chair, Dale Biggers (Boh Bros., New Orleans, LA) lead the presentation, which lasted just over 90 minutes. Based on comments from the members of T-15 at the conclusion of PDCA presentation, it appears the proposed revisions were well received and have a good chance of becoming a permanent part of the specifications. If this is the case, the design specifications will make driven pile a very competitive option for deep foundations.

NEW MEMBERS

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PROFESSORS' DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE RETURNS TO USU IN '09

The Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA) will sponsor the fifth biennial Professor's Driven Pile Institute (PDPI) for Geotechnical faculty next June 14 – 20, 2009 at Utah State University. Full time faculty members teaching Foundation Engineering courses are encouraged to apply. All expenses, exclusive of travel to the USU campus will be paid by the PDCA. Classroom instruction will be carried out on campus in the newly constructed Engineering complex at USU, "students" will stay on campus at our University Inn; and the field events will be held at the USU's nearby test site.

The curriculum consists of topics that should be covered in undergraduate and/or graduate level classes in Foundation Engineering. Tentative classroom topics will include:

- Static analysis, axial and lateral, or single and pile groups
- Common pile types and driving equipment
- Geotechnical considerations
- Load distributions (t-z, q-w curves)
- Pile drivability
- Economic analysis
- Pile dynamics and dynamic testing

The tentative “hands on” computer laboratory sessions will include experience with:

- DRIVEN
- GRLWEAP
- CAPWAP
- LPILE
- FB-PIER

The field portion of the workshop involves driving a test pile and performing a dynamic load testing (PDA) SASW field techniques will be demonstrated. Static axial and lateral load tests will also be performed; and “students” will be involved with the data collection. The field data and classroom presentations will be made available to PDPI participants for subsequent use in your classrooms.

PDCA LOGOS

The PDCA encourages its members to display the PDCA LOGO.



PDCA Logos can be used on your letterhead, office stationery, business cards or downloaded for other types of artwork. Displaying the PDCA logo identifies you as a member of a professional trade association and further identifies your commitment to excellence in the deep foundations and earth retention systems industry.

PDCA logo artwork can be obtained from the PDCA office in a .JPEG format, but PDCA can acquire it other formats as well. Contact the PDCA office for more information.

PDCA SHIRTS AND HATS ON SALE

The PDCA has 100% Oxford Cotton, Short Sleeve logoed dress shirts available through the PDCA office and online. Colors are RED, LIGHT BLUE AND BUTTER. Shirts are reasonably priced at \$35.00 for members and \$45.00 for non-members.

The PDCA also has logoed hats for sale. Hats are stone washed in texture, ball cap style, with the PDCA logo embroidered on the front. Caps come in solid colors or cap and brim colors mixed. Hats are priced at \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members.

Contact the PDCA office at 888-311-PDCA (7322) for more information. You can view pictures of all PDCA products on the website at www.piledrivers.org.