



E – LETTER

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

DECEMBER 2008



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE!

PDCA COMPLETES NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The PDCA 2008 Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Mark Weisz (CS Marine – Vallejo, CA) and supported by PDCA members, Van Hogan, John King, Don Dolly, John Linscott, Buck Darling, Mike Justason and Stevan Hall completed a day and a half long strategic planning session on November 19 and 20, 2008, at the InterContinental Hotel, New Orleans, LA prior to the PDCA's 9th Annual Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles conference.

The strategic planning session was facilitated by Kelly Hall, Pinnacle Leadership Group, Paradise Valley, AZ. Kelly began with prep work for the committee members, which included each committee member thinking about the driven pile industry and its environment; and thinking about the PDCA. The first day of strategic included a review of the prep work, defining the current culture and structure of the PDCA, identifying critical issues, a vision statement exercise and association values exercise. The second day focused on a mission statement exercise and concluded with integration of strategies and objectives into a cohesive strategic plan.

The end result of the planning process is a functioning, articulate and well-communicated strategic plan for the PDCA to follow for the next 3 to 5 years. The PDCA Strategic Plan will serve as a living document and be the focus of the Board at all future Board meetings. Through the Strategic Plan, the PDCA now has an updated Vision Statement and Mission Statement with key priorities and areas of focus for the next several years, which include Membership, Organizational Structure, Financials, and Program Development.

PDCA would like to thank Mark Weisz for his leadership as the Strategic Planning Committee Chair and thanks and congratulations to the committee for completing what will no doubt be an important document for the PDCA.

The PDCA's new Visions Statement

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

PDCA will do this with a focus on our core values of:

- "One for all, all for one"
- Communications
- Cooperation
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Members / HR
- Professionalism
- Safety
- Sharing of Knowledge and Expertise
- Skill
- Strong Work Ethic

The PDCA's new Mission Statement

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

- Provide a forum for pile drivers to speak with one voice
- Provide educational opportunities and technical support to our members
- Educate public and private entities as to the benefits of driven piles
- Facilitate improvements in material and equipment technology
- Represent the pile driving industry before various organizations and government agencies
- Build relationships and disseminate information through networking opportunities
- Be the association of choice for Pile Driving Contractors and those associated with the Pile Driving Industry



PDCA Strategic Planning Committee
Front (L-R) Mike Justason, Mark Weisz, Buck Darling
Back (L-R) Stevan Hall, John King, Don Dolly, John Linscott, Van Hogan

9th ANNUAL DICEP CONFERENCE BIG SUCCESS

The PDCA's 9th Annual Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Piles conference was a big success with almost 100 engineers, contractors and suppliers in attendance. The success of the conference can be attributed, in part, to the successful collaboration between the Gulf Coast Chapter of the PDCA and PDCA national, showing once again the important role local chapters play in the promotion of driven piles and the national PDCA.

The PDCA was finally able to hold the DICEP conference at the InterContinental Hotel in New Orleans, LA after it was postponed due to threats by Hurricane Gustav and Ike. The one-day conference, with its primary focus on the engineering aspects of driven piles, featured five one-hour presentations on the advantages of using driven pile versus other deep foundation options. Topics included design, quality control and cost; case histories showing the advantages of driven pile foundations; recent technologies and engineering advances in the pile driving industry; and design innovations and new project applications for driven pile. The conference was also an opportunity to meet with fellow peers and industry leaders and visit with the exhibitors present at the conference. Presenters included Van Komurka, Wagner Komurka Geotechnical Group, Mike Justason, Bermingham Foundation Solutions, Paul Bullock, GRL Engineers, Inc., Dale Biggers, Boh Bros., and Don Theobald, Gulf Coast Pre-Stress.

The program also featured keynote speaker, Subhash Kulkarni, Kulkarni Consultants at the conference luncheon. Subhash spoke to the audience on issues of ethics and the engineering community, relating several personal experiences that required him to make ethical decisions on engineering practices while under pressure from owners, developers and others to compromise.

The exhibit room was limited to nineteen table tops, which were all filled by PDCA member suppliers, manufacturers, contractors and others. The conference participants were provided ample time to visit with exhibitors throughout the day.

The PDCA would like to acknowledge the following exhibitors (in no particular order), who helped make the conference a success.

L. B. Foster Company
Birmingham Foundation Solutions
GRL Engineers, Inc.
Essev Tech, Inc.
Koppers, Inc.
Emeca/SPEUSA
Sun Piledriving Equipment
McFarland Cascade

Cox of Alabama
Consolidated Pipe and Supply
Cajun Deep Foundations, LLC
DYWIDAG Systems International
International Construction Equipment
Piling Products
Junttan Oy
Interpipe

The PDCA would also like to acknowledge the following sponsors, who helped make the conference a success.

Conference Luncheon

Herbert F. Darling, Inc.
Foundation Constructors, Inc.
Gulf South Piling and Construction, Inc.
Giken America Corporation

Continental Breakfast

L. B. Foster Company
Geokon
Mississippi River Equipment
Carpenter Pole and Piling

Morning and Afternoon Breaks

Carpenter Pole and Piling
Pile Dynamics, Inc.
Koppers, Inc.
Cox of Alabama
Parker Marine
Pileco
Specialty Piling Systems, Inc.
Consolidated Pipe and Supply



PDCA “PROJECT OF THE YEAR” AWARD

The PDCA is proud to announce the 2009 “Project of the Year” award competition.

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 utilized to solve foundation problems. This esteemed PDCA tradition recognizes 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.

Project entries must feature projects completed in 2008. The PDCA Market Development Committee has expanded the dollar volume and project categories for 2009. Project entries will be awarded in three dollar volume categories this year, which are “Less than \$500,000.00”, \$500,000.00 - \$2 Million, and Greater than \$2Million. Price ranges are based solely on the dollar volume of the piling contract associated with the project. The two entry categories are distinguished between “Land-based” and “Marine-based” projects.

The PDCA is asking each of its members to consider submitting a project worthy of this symbolic PDCA award. Entry Forms can be found on the PDCA website, www.piledrivers.org. The *2009 Project of the Year Award* entry deadline is **December 12, 2007**.

Winning entries will be announced during the IFCEE '09 Conference in Orlando, FL during the PDCA Business Luncheon on March 18, 2009. PDCA will **NOT** reveal the winning entries prior to the luncheon.



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 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 OFFICER AND DIRECTOR BALLOTS DUE

The PDCA distributed the 2009 Officers and Directors Ballot via USPS in November 2008. As in 2007 for the 2008 Officers and Board, the response by PDCA members voting in 2008 for 2009 has once again been very positive, with a significant number of ballots already returned. December 31, 2008, is the deadline for returning your ballots to the PDCA. Official Ballots can be faxed or mailed to the PDCA.

The 2009 slate of Officers and Directors follows:

Officers

President – John King Vice President – Don Dolly Secretary – Rusty Signor
Treasurer – John Linscott Immediate Past President – Van Hogan

Directors

John Parker Gene Merlino Pat Hannigan Mike Elliott
Richard Gilbert Dave Chapman Irv Ragsdale Mike Justason
Herbert “Buck” Darling

PROFESSORS’ DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE RETURNS TO USU IN ‘09

The Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA) will sponsor the fifth biennial Professors’ 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 the 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 stationary, 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.

CHAPTER UPDATES

PDCA of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter – Quarterly dinner meeting Thursday, December 4, 2008. The meeting will be held at Paul’s on the South River, Riva, MD. Presentation by Bill Bonneau, Cianbro Corp. For more information, contact Rob Braden, Skyline Steel, at rbraden@skylinesteel.com.

PDCA of the South Carolina Chapter – Quarterly dinner meeting Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Town and Country Inn, Charleston, SC. The chapter Board of Directors will meet at 5:00 PM, prior to the dinner meeting.

PDCA of California – Annual luncheon meeting will be held on Friday, December 5, 2008, at Hotel Mac, Point Richmond, CA. Contact Charlie Gibson, Manson Construction at 510-232-6319. Bring a joke or money.