



E – LETTER

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

PDCA RELEASES NEW WEBSITE

The new PDCA website is officially up and running. The site is still located at www.piledrivers.org. The PDCA website is intended to provide you with easy access to all PDCA information. The site includes all the basic information on the PDCA, but also includes sections such as “Members On the Move” (also presented in your monthly E-Letter), Picture Gallery – so send us your interesting pictures – jobsites, equipment, etc., and Publications, where you will find past issues of *PileDriver* magazine, E-Letters, Specifications and Presentations. Advertising opportunities are available on the PDCA website and will help your business reach its target audience hundreds of times each day. Companies interested in advertising on the PDCA website can do so by contacting the PDCA office at 888.311.7322 or by email at execdir@piledrivers.org for a quote. As time goes on, the PDCA will continue to add to the site while fixing the minor quirks, but in the meantime go to the site and see what PDCA has to offer. Also, let us know what you think – change for the better is good.

PDCA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The PDCA members have voted and the 2007 PDCA Officers and Directors have been elected. The 2007 PDCA Board of Directors will be introduced to members and guests during the Annual Dinner at the PDCA 11th Annual International Conference and Exposition in Nashville, TN and will officially assume their duties during the 2007 1st quarter Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the conference. The PDCA 2007 Board of Directors are:

President Mark Weisz C. S. Marine	Vice President Van Hogan Ed Waters and Sons	Secretary John King Pile Drivers, Inc.	Treasurer Trey Ford Ford Foundations
Director John Linscott H. B. Fleming	Director Rusty Signor Signor Enterprises	Director Pat Hannigan GRL Engineers, Inc.	Director Mike Elliott Pile Equipment
Director Irv Ragsdale Clark Foundation, LLC	Director Don Dolly Foundation Constructors	Director Richard Gilbert Skyline Steel	Director Warren Waite Pileco, Inc.

Immediate Past President
Harry Robbins
Palmetto Piledriving

Representing the PDCA Chapters on the Board of Directors are:

PDCA of South Carolina Chapter Sonny Dupre Cape Romain Contractors	PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter Mike Jahnigen Sun Marine Maintenance	PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter Paul Tassin Foundation Materials, Inc.
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PDCA RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

The PDCA would also like to recognize the following Board Members who have served the PDCA in an exemplary fashion over the past several years. Their long-time commitment on the Board of Directors is a testament to their dedication to the PDCA and the pile driving industry.

Randy Dietel
Piling, Inc.

Garland Likins
Pile Dynamics, Inc.

PDCA 11TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION



The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Conference Center, Nashville, TN, is the home of the PDCA 11th Annual International Conference and Exposition. The PDCA is extremely excited about the upcoming conference and is sure that all participants will find the 2007 conference the best that PDCA has assembled yet.

Pre-Conference Course: The PDCA will sponsor a pre-conference course, titled “Deep Foundations: Design, Construction, and Quality Control. The purpose of this course is to present modern techniques for the design, installation and verification of deep foundations.

- Find out the latest subsurface investigation methods for deep foundation design
- Understand the design process for deep foundations
- Learn the new standards and procedures for the design and installation of deep foundations
- Learn the use of wave equation analysis as applied to both the design and installation of driven piles including driving problems
- Understand the various capacity determination methods including both static and dynamic methods

This course is designed for pile driving contractors, suppliers, geotechnical engineers, construction engineers, owners, structural engineers, or any professional involved in design, construction, inspection, testing and specification of deep foundations.

Conference Programs: The conference will include six to seven technical presentations, a hammer manufacturer’s forum, and an industry roundtable on “Evolving Specifications and Design Criteria and Their Impact on Driven Pile Costs.”

Social Programs: The conference will include several receptions with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, an expanded continental breakfast each morning, AM & PM Breaks and the Annual Dinner. The Annual Dinner will feature a Country-Western theme and dress, a buffet dinner, open bar, a band for dancing and entertainment, and a line dance instructor (for the carefree and brave).



The PDCA’s 1st Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Gaylord Springs Golf Links – a Larry Nelson Scottish-links designed course that was host to several Senior PGA tournaments. The course’s scenery is spectacular with the Cumberland River on one side and limestone bluffs on the other. Participants will be treated to 72 holes of golf for all levels of play. The tournament will include golf, cart, drink tickets, proximity prizes, lunch, and awards. Callaway clubs are available for rent as indicated on the Registration Form.

Finally, the PDCA will have a night at the “Grand Ole Opry”, one of the true icons of American entertainment. The Grand Ole Opry showcases the best in country music from new stars, superstars and legends live on the Opry stage.

Companion’s Program: – **Sponsored by Piling, Inc.** The Companion’s Program continues to evolve into a very special program for companions, spouses and guests. The 2007 Companion’s Program is one you won’t want to miss. The PDCA has lined up a great program, including a continental breakfast each morning in the Presidential Suite with white glove service, a tour of the Ryman Auditorium (original



home of the Grand Ole Opry), lunch at the Wild Horse Saloon – a Nashville must, with a line dance instructor (to give the ladies a jump on the guys at the annual dinner), and a trip on the General Jackson Showboat, featuring music theater show, along with a elegant lunch on the 300-foot paddlewheel riverboat on a slow cruise down the Cumberland River. Relache, the Spa at Gaylord Orpyland is a world-class spa, with a state-of-the-art fitness center and salon featuring 12 enchanting treatment rooms dedicated to pampering, peace and renewal. Access to the fitness center is included in the conference fee.

Exhibitor: The PDCA will have space for 39 exhibitors in 10’ x 10’ booths. The Exhibitors will be located in two Ballrooms’ with over 12,000 square feet of open floor meeting space. All Continental Breakfasts, AM and PM breaks, luncheons, and receptions during conference programs will be located in the Exhibitor’s Ballroom, allowing all exhibitors to meet, socialize and promote their products during the conference. All technical programs, forums and roundtables will be in a connecting ballroom with the exhibitors. The exhibitor’s exposure to conference participants could not be greater.

Sponsors: The PDCA is seeking multiple sponsors for the following programs:

- ◆ Annual Dinner and Band
- ◆ Luncheons
- ◆ Receptions
- ◆ AM & PM Breaks
- ◆ Continental Breakfasts
- ◆ Golf
- ◆ Companion’s Program

The PDCA would like to thank our current Sponsors:

Piling, Inc.
GRL Engineers, Inc.
Pileco, Inc.

Companions’ Program
AM & PM Breaks
Annual Dinner and Band

PDCA MAKES STRONG SHOWING AT GEO WORKSHOP



The PDCA was a co-sponsor and participant at the recently held workshop, “Trends Affecting the Geo-Community: What Does the Future Hold.” The conference was conducted by the GeoInstitute of the ASCE and GeoCouncil and held at the ASCE headquarters in Reston, Virginia from December 5 – 8, 2006. With preliminary success, the workshop attempted to address nine relevant trends issues affecting the Geotechnical industries and associated businesses.

PDCA Executive Director and Members from L to R: Stevan Hall, Ed Kavazanjian, Mark Weisz, Dan Brown, Van Hogan, George Pisciak, Billy Camp

Workshop participants were divided into working groups, with each group responsible for one of nine topics. The nine topic areas were Accelerated Construction, Innovative Contracting, Asset Management, Context-Sensitive Solutions, Safety, Risk Management, Cost Analysis, Research, Development and Training, and Extreme Geo-Hazard Event Mitigation. Each working group was responsible for discussing and analyzing their specific external trend, describing the effects on current and future practice, developing proactive strategies and guidance, and ultimately assembling an action plan that was specific.

The “with preliminary success” comment made earlier is based on the apparent success of the overall workshop and the final presentations by the working group chairs. The ultimate success of the workshop will be predicated on the successful implementation of the action plan associated with each topic. Conference calls are scheduled later this month to discuss strategies for the most effective way to implement the action plans.

PDCA MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

“Members On The Move” now appears regularly in the PDCA E-Letter and on the PDCA website as an added service/benefit for PDCA members. If your business has an announcement that you would like to see appear in “Members On the Move”, forward the information to the PDCA via email at exec@piledrivers.org. PDCA may edit the information if necessary and is not responsible for its content.

American Engineering and Testing, Inc.: American Engineering and Testing, Inc. (AET), a St. Paul-based full-service laboratory and engineering consulting firm, opened its sixteenth office in Bonita Springs, Florida. Strategically, the new office serves as a base of operations in southwestern Florida for forensic services, petrography, and testing of concrete and other cementitious construction systems.

PDCA OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER HOLDS ENGINEERING PROGRAM

The PDCA of South Carolina is always thinking of new ways to promote driven pile to companies, owners, developers or individual associated with the driven pile industry – and especially to Engineers. Tuesday, November 28, 2006, was no exception. The PDCA of South Carolina Chapter held the first of three programs designed to educate all of the above on the Quality Control and Quality Assurance that goes into each step of manufacturing driven piles. The first program focused on precast/prestressed concrete piles. The South Carolina Chapter, with support from Palmetto Pile Driving, Tekna, and Parker Marine had 71 individuals from all engineering and construction disciplines (61 from engineering firms alone) attend a half-day seminar held at Palmetto Pile Driving’s office and yard on that Tuesday.



The program started with a video presentation on the benefits of driven pile followed by a Power Point presentation, both provided by PDCA President and President of Palmetto Pile Driving, Harry Robbins. Following the morning introductions and presentations, the group walked down to the fabrication area where Scott Nigels, Field Operations Manager for Palmetto Pile Driving provided a tour of the yard, fabrication process and lifting and loading techniques of piles. Scott provided in-depth explanations regarding the manufacturing of piles relative to the precast concrete casting beds, how pre-stressing strands are pulled through the headers, the specific spacing of the spiral wire and its attachment to the strands, placement of in-bed items and the curing and accelerated curing of the piles. Palmetto Pile Driving had casting beds set up and in place to receive concrete, which allowed the attendees to see an actual pour, how the piles are cast and finished with quality control and assurance as a focus for each pile manufactured.

Since Palmetto Pile Driving was shipping piles to a project that same morning, the attendees were also able to see the proper way to lift piles and placement on the trucks for transportation. The program concluded with some good southern BBQ and lots of discussion about this unique program.



The South Carolina Chapter program will continue with QC/QA programs with timber and steel pile. On Friday, January 26, 2007, the Chapter will hold its second program on timber pile at Cox Utilities/Carolina Poles facilities in Eutawville, S.C. For more information, contact PDCA of South Carolina President, John King at Pile Drivers, Inc., 843.763.7736.

Palmetto Piledriving Field Operations Manager, Scott Nigels organizes everyone for a tour of the manufacturing yard.



Casting Beds with Spiral Strands in place



Precast/Prestressed Piles being lifted onto Truck for transportation to another driven Pile project



Seventy-one attended the program which concluded in a BBQ lunch

[PDCA SCHEDULES PDA SEMINARS](#)

The PDCA, in conjunction with Foundation QA will hold three seminars at the Crowne Plaza – Orlando Airport, Orlando, Florida in March 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, March 7, 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, March 8-9, 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.

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, March 10, 2007, and will include both first and second tier tests for certification.

You can find obtain more information about these programs and a Registration Forms on the PDCA website, www.piledrivers.org. For more information, contact the PDCA office at 888.311.7322.

PDCA BEGINS PREPARATION FOR PROFESSOR’S INSTITUTE

The PDCA has held the Professor’s Institute at Utah State University in Logan, UT since 2002, with three courses over the years. This year’s forth intensive week-long program is designed to instruct engineering educators in all aspects of driven pile installation, design and quality control. This program blends practical, real work construction knowledge with academics. The Professors Institute has been attended by more than 60 university and college representatives who teach driven pile applications in an academic environment.

This program is extremely important to the pile driving industry. To quote a PDCA member, “This may be the single most important program PDCA offers!” Why? Because this program reaches the professors and educators who teach driven pile advantages and benefits to those students who eventually turn into the engineers that decide which deep foundation system will be used on a project. The more educators know about the driven pile industry, the more they can adequately convey its attributes to the students.

The Professor’s Institute would not be possible without several components coming into play.

First, PDCA could not hold this program without the assistance of Joe Caliendo, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Utah State University. Joe helps organize the entire program with PDCA, as well as arranging the lodging, classroom, and meals for the attendees.



Secondly, the PDCA owes a great debt of gratitude to Build, Inc. As mentioned earlier, part of the program is practical, real work construction and this aspect of the program (touted as the attendee’s favourite part), would not be possible if not for Build, Inc.’s participation. Build, Inc. supports the program by bringing their field crew, hammers, piles and enthusiasm to the program and

driving pile for the attendees to watch, learn and enjoy. Thanks, Build, Inc. for your support over the last five years – we couldn't have done it without you.

Third, it takes a lot of money to make this PDCA program happen. The program is funded entirely by the PDCA and contributions from our members. With the exception of travel and lodging (inexpensive and on campus) all participant and logistical costs are covered by the PDCA. Ultimately, the PDCA needs to raise a minimum of \$25,000.00, and even with that amount the PDCA will have to supplement the program financially. In the PDCA Membership Renewal invoices, there was a line item for all members to make a voluntary contribution to the Professor's Institute. Some have taken advantage of this simple way to help fund the program, but we need everyone to consider making a contribution.

PDCA wants to thank the following companies who have already made a contribution:

Boh Bros. Construction Co., Cajun Constructors, C. S. Marine Constructors, DeWitt Construction, E.C. Korneffel Company, Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co., L.G. Barcus and Sons, Inc., Loftus Construction, Inc., M.J. Lee Construction Co., Max J. Kuney Co., O'Quinn Marine Construction, Palmetto Pile Driving, Richard Goettle, Saddlebrook Construction, Shoreline Foundation, Inc., Sun Marine Maintenance, Atlantic Wood Industries, Chapparral Steel, GRL Engineers, L.B. Foster, MG&B Services, Mississippi River Equipment Co., Mississippi Valley Equipment Co., Northwest Pipe Co., Pile Dynamics, Inc., Pipe and Piling Supply, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, Robishaw Engineering, Rollform Group, S&ME, Specialty Piling Systems, Inc., Berenyi, Inc., Dente Engineering, Kolhn, Crippen, Berger, PND Engineers, Robert Miner Dynamic Testing, Southern Earth Sciences, and Staytowers Group.

Special Recognition for Contributions Over and Above

Piling, Inc. Mandal Pipe Company



The 2005 Professor's Institute Graduates



Hands-On Experience, thanks to Build, Inc. makes for a complete program



Classroom instruction is an important part of the Professor's Institute

PDCA SEEKS PARTICIPATION ON COMMITTEES

Membership in the PDCA means different things to different members (companies and individuals). Most, if not all recognize the importance of "giving back" to the industry that has been good to you and allowed you to make a living, which is one very important reason for belonging to the PDCA. But membership can and should be more than just "giving back".

All PDCA members, whether companies, company employees or individuals can get a lot more from the PDCA by being involved in a greater capacity than just paying your annual dues. The old saying, "You get out of something, what you put into it" is true.

In 2007, the PDCA wants your involvement and input to make us a better organization. A perfect way to do that is to get on a PDCA committee. Not only will you help the PDCA become a better organization by personally providing your input and expertise when committee members need to make decisions on issues, developing a specification or planning an event, but you will be surprised at the return on your investment of time. The PDCA is also about networking and committees are great to accomplish this with very little effort. Committee meetings are generally short – no more than 1-2 hours at the most, conducted via conference call with web technology for greater participation and instant feedback, and conducted on an occasionally or as needed basis. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the following PDCA committees:

Membership Development: One of PDCA most important committees. It is responsible for assisting staff in the retention of existing members, recruiting new members, and member mentor support.

Technical: The Technical Committee is the liaison between PDCA and Federal, State and local government when it comes to specifications and codes. They review and update both public and private specifications and codes and make revisions and recommendations to the appropriate agencies.

Education: The Education Committee is responsible for identifying general themes and presentations for all PDCA events, such as the Annual Conference and Professor's Institute, identifying and selecting presentation topics, contacting potential speakers, and establishing and implementing seminars and workshops.

Marketing: This committee is responsible for developing new ideas that will assist the PDCA in marketing not only the association to target markets, but also developing ideas and strategies for promoting driven piles as the preferred method for deep foundations and earth retention systems.

Environmental: This committee is responsible for identifying both good and bad aspects of driven pile as related to environmental issues and formulating strategies to minimize or eliminate the bad, while promoting the good. This committee has been working on the Vibration and Noise Database over the past two years and is producing solid evidence to dispel the vibration myths associated with driven pile. They have more work to do and need your help.

Communications: The Communications Committee is responsible for producing the *PileDriver* magazine's editorial content, such as Member Spotlight, Project Spotlight and other miscellaneous articles. The committee is also responsible for the PDCA website and E-Letters content.

The PDCA will establish an **Events Committee** in 2007. This committee will eliminate the event associated responsibilities which were previously under the Education Committee. The Events Committee will be responsible for focusing on selecting all PDCA event venues, facilities, dates, and other organizational aspects. Site visits are not mandatory, but volunteers are welcomed.

If you are interested in participating on a PDCA Committee, please contact the PDCA office at 1.888.311.7322 or email us at execdir@piledrivers.org. The committees will be better with your participation and you will be better for participating.

PDCA ANNUAL DUES

The PDCA sent company invoices for your 2007 Membership Renewal in November 2006. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact the PDCA office for a duplicate statement. All renewing members who have paid their dues by February 28, 2007, will be included in the new PDCA Annual Directory. The directory will be professionally produced in an entirely different format this year, so don't miss the opportunity to have your business included because you paid your dues too late.