NORTHWEST: WTCA staff attended the chapter meeting on May 12, and there was an excellent discussion about design responsibilities. The chapter has made contact with lobbyists of the Building Industry Association in Washington state.

NORTH FLORIDA: The chapter will focus on fire safety issues in the next few months, as well as the "Truss Technology Workshops" throughout Florida.

WISCONSIN: A meeting was held on May 14. The chapter has held eight trade school courses this year, which have been very successful.

WEST FLORIDA TRUSS ASSOCIATION: There was a CEU program in May for the Building Official Association of Florida (BOAF). The chapter has also been approached by the Sun Coast Chapter of SBCCI, which is putting together a program on design responsibilities. All the local counties and towns have adopted the ANSI/TPI standard.

CENTRAL FLORIDA: On May 2, the WTCA Board of Directors voted to accept the Central Florida Component Manufacturers Association as a chapter of WTCA. (WTCA is excited that all local associations in Florida are chapters, giving us a unified voice in Florida's truss industry.)

ARIZONA: WTCA staff attended a meeting of the Arizona board of directors on April 15. The chapter's main focus will be education of code agencies, dealing with fire safety issues and putting on a risk management seminar.

ILLINOIS: On June 5, WTCA staff spoke to the North Illinois Training Association, which trains individual village and town firefighters. This group was interested in hearing the truss industry's point of view on fire performance of trusses.

MICHIGAN: The chapter has formed a subcommittee of five fabricators, an engineer and an attorney. The subcommittee will develop a standard package of job site information. The chapter will also sponsor a seminar for state fire marshals.

GEORGIA: At the May 21 meeting, the chapter will review SETMA activities. Some major truss manufacturers sustained major damage from a tornado, and six or eight truss manufacturers picked up the slack.

NORTHEAST: There will be five fire seminars in Connecticut this year. The Northeast Chapter had a booth at the Journal of Light Construction show, which was successful.

WTCA's Truss Technician Training Update

Dear Kirk:
I want to thank WTCA and extend my appreciation to you and your staff for putting together what I feel is a very key tool for our industry, the Truss Technician Training and Certification. As an owner, it is always a challenge to justify sending truss technicians out of the office, as well as the expense, on unknown training. Let me tell you what it has done for A-1 Roof Trusses, Inc. and its personnel.

1. Both members of my staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt it was the "single most" beneficial action A-1 Roof could have done for them.

2. It has bolstered their confidence, knowing they are truly at a professional level, versus being a "Cutting Bill Wiz."

3. This program opened their quest for more knowledge and enlightened their thirst for quality.

4. The program has now set a level for all of our technicians, who now want to be certified and tested.

5. We finally have a standard where, as a company, we can measure and compare technicians and their ability. This will enable A-1 to identify our weak points and improve them, while still supporting our strengths. This places A-1 Roof Trusses, Inc. that much further ahead of our competitors.

Our entire staff feels this minimum investment will pay great dividends, long into the future. A sincere, "thank you" to all your excellent staff and, of course, to you and Suzi for a magnificent job, well done.

John Herring, President
A-1 Roof Trusses, Inc.
West Palm Beach, Fla.

---

Dear Jim:
I enjoyed participating in the Level II Truss Technician Training program last week.

I learned a lot from the experience, as I'm sure everyone else did. The class was perfect in content and intensity. Everyone participating, from the engineers to the attendees with just one year of experience, received something from the class.

Congratulations, Jim, on doing an outstanding job. I'm sure that the next levels will be even more interesting and challenging.

Steve Kennedy
Dear Kirk:
I have been reading, with interest, about some of the changes and initiatives that the WTCA is undertaking. The association is to be applauded for taking the bull by the horns and getting things done. One project, in particular, has caught my interest. The Truss Technician Training Program is the greatest gift the association can give its membership! Qualified take-off personnel are the hardest to find in the engineered wood industry. Congratulations to all the people that put the program together. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Phillip W. Barkey, President
LRC Products, Inc.

Number of Certification Exams Scored by WTCA: 345
Number of Level 1 Certified by Exam: 170
Number of TTT Level 1 Class Participants: 130
Number of Level 1 Certified: 88
Total Industry Level 1 Certified: 258
Number of TTT Level 2 Class Participants: 55
Total Number of TTT Level 2 Certified: 43
Total Industry Level 2 Certified: 69
Total Companies Sending Students: 74

TRUSS TECHNICIAN TRAINING COURSE SCHEDULE CHRONOLOGICALLY

July 15 - 18
Level II
Boca Raton, Fla.

August 5 - 8
Level I
Providence, R.I.

November 4 - 7
Level II
Nashville, Tenn.

November 11 - 14
Level I
Boca Raton, Fla.
TRUSS TECHNICIAN TRAINING FOR SALES PEOPLE:

WTCA has created a one-day condensed TTT program for sales people. Please call us for more information regarding this program and setting one up in your region. A question that is repeatedly asked of us is, “Can WTCA’s TTT program develop a new hire into a good Truss Technician?” The answer is a solid “absolutely and effectively.” Call us and find out how other members are creatively using this program to hire new truss technician staff.

Beadles Lumber Company Goes to MSR

For years, Beadles Lumber Company, Moultrie, Ga., has looked for the best way to take advantage of a vastly superior raw material. Located in the heart of the Longleaf and Slash rich Coastal Plain, its timber yields some of the finest Southern Yellow Pine in the country. A high percentage of the extremely dense, straight-grain lumber consistently offers truss quality strength characteristics.

Going on-line with MSR Lumber fit neatly in conjunction with the start-up of Beadles new planer mill in June of 1997. Through the XLG (X-ray Lumber Gauge) every piece is non-destructively measured and then strict #1 and better visual override criteria is utilized. Next, rigid quality tests are performed daily and closely monitored by SPiB.

Production of MSR will be around 10 MMBF in 1998 with the heaviest volumes in 2-by-8 and lightest in 2-by-4. Currently, production includes 2400F in 2-by-4, 2-by-6 and 2-by-8, and 2250F in 2-by-10 and 2-by-12 in 8 inch through 20 inch. Paper wrap is available at no charge. For more information contact Joe Castelberry at 800/763-2400, or by fax at 912/985-0344.