



Chapter Corner

For more information about WTCA Chapters and how to become more involved, contact Anna L. Stamm (608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com) or Danielle Bothun (608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com). Contributions to Chapter Corner, including pictures, are encouraged. Submissions may be edited for grammar, length and clarity.



Chapter Spotlight

The Iowa Chapter's Carbeck Challenge

by Anna L. Stamm

Since 2002, the Iowa Chapter has challenged all WTCA Chapters to match its annual contribution to the Carbeck Structural Components Institute and many chapters have done just that, including Arizona, Illinois, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Northwest, Southern Nevada, South Florida and Texas. The initial contributions started at \$1,000, but in 2006, Iowa upped the ante to \$1,500, Northwest countered with \$2,000, and Southern Nevada raised the bar with a \$5,000 contribution.

Even with the downturn this year, Iowa is committed to continuing its annual Carbeck contribution and urges all chapters to do the same. For 2008, Iowa has pledged \$2,000.

Now more than ever, Carbeck is gaining recognition in the fire service community for its exceptional educational material. Several requests come in each month via the Carbeck website (www.carbeck.org) for copies of the "The Fire Performance of Wood Trusses" CD. Interest in truss plant tours is gaining momentum too, with several scheduled each month. Some of these tours are combined with actual fire demonstrations, too.

Furthermore, Carbeck's educational material continues to expand. Soon there will be another educational presentation which you may review and forward, based on (and made possible by) the Iowa Chapter's Live Fire Demonstration – Test Burn and Truss Plant Tour, held in conjunction with WTCA and the Fire Service Training Bureau in Ames and Story City, IA last August. There were over 100 attendees including the engineering research group at Harvey Mudd College (in Claremont, CA). The data it obtained from instrumenting the floor assembly demonstrations will be used in a new Truss Technology Workshop (TTW) presentation as well as several technical articles. The Iowa Chapter generously sponsored this event, too!

For chapters that have contributed in the past, we don't need to tell you about the value of Carbeck. To chapters that have not yet invested in Carbeck, please discuss an annual contribution at your next chapter meeting. The value of providing accurate information on the performance of our products to fire professionals across the country cannot be overstated. More information leads to better understanding, and it can only help protect and grow the market for structural building components. **SBC**

Chapter Highlights

Colorado Truss Manufacturers Association

The new Colorado Chapter website, www.ctmachapter.com, is live. A standing invitation to join the chapter for a meeting is posted: CTMA meets quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday of March, June, September and December at the Four Points Sheraton in Denver unless otherwise noted. Join the chapter and your first dinner is free! A copy of the chapter's membership recruitment brochure is posted on the homepage, too. The industry news ticker from SBC was included also to give visitors a taste of current headlines. Chapter members have been encouraged to review the site and pass along any additional requests.

The Colorado Chapter is pleased to announce that 2008 marks its 10th anniversary! A special logo was designed for review by the members at the chapter's March meeting: CTMA (1998–2008) Ten Years and Growing Strong. This will also be posted on the chapter's website once it is approved.

In 2008, CTMA is looking forward to being the host chapter for BCMC on October 1–3 in Denver. While you're checking out the Mile High Performance of exhibitors, be sure to stop by the WTCA booth to chat with CTMA members. The chapter is looking into sponsoring a coffee break during the show's educational sessions, too. You're also welcome to attend one of this year's quarterly chapter meetings on June 10, September 9 and December 9.

Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association

The Southern Nevada Chapter's January meeting featured several updates from the chapter's Code Committee. Committee Co-Chair Rich Menge, PE, reported that there are no new changes to the IBC/IRC 2006 code, and that the Clark County TG12-06 issue remains unresolved as to two wet seals being required for revisions whereas only one wet seal is required on the original submittal. The chapter will continue to seek clarification on TG-12. Committee Co-Chair Bill Bolduc, PE, informed the group that Clark County's old ICC Evaluation Services reports, Legacy 1994, are outdated but remain on file and are at the discretion of the building official when applicable. Also among the updates: the Structural Engineers Association of Southern Nevada (SEASoN) has been inactive for about a year so it may be disbanded. An update was provided regarding ANSI/TPI 1 consensus development work on Chapter 2, which is being rewritten to clarify design responsibilities of permanent bracing among other key responsibility items; changes in the draft document may be viewed online. The new California building code is basically the same as IBC 2006, but some additional documentation may be required when shipping product into that state. The Nevada Engineering Board remains opposed to electronic seals.

The chapter was also looking forward to its participation in EduCode, a conference held by the Southern Nevada Chapter of the International Code Committee (SNICCC). The event was directed toward building

officials in Clark County but permission for Nye County officials to attend was being sought. The chapter was allotted an all-day session on understanding trusses from the ground up and arranged for Jim Vogt, PE, of WTCA staff to teach the seminar. Members expected that it would help building officials determine what merits their attention on an inspection and what does not.

Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas

The Texas Chapter welcomed international author and educational speaker Bryan Dodge to its winter membership meeting. Recognizing that the most valuable assets a company has are its employees, Bryan delivered a presentation designed to help members enhance their productivity and well-being. The chapter thanked him for an excellent evening.

At the meeting, the 2008 chapter officers were introduced to the membership. Paul Johnson moved to the role of Past President and Gary Walls took on the job of President. Garry Tebbens moved up to Vice President, Donald McDavid took the Treasurer's position and David Marquez became Secretary. The complete list of Board members is posted on the chapter's website at www.tmatchapter.com.

For the fourth year in a row, TMAT won the #1 Recruiting Chapter category in the WTCA Annual Membership Drive and kept the traveling trophy. Having also won the title in 2002, the chapter's name is engraved five times on the marble monolith. Members have until August 31 to meet their recruitment goals so that TMAT can capture the title for another year and not have to surrender the trophy to another chapter.

The 2008 TMAT meeting dates have been set. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with a golf tournament at River Crossing Golf Club in Spring Branch on April 17. The summer membership meeting will be held on June 19 and the fall golf tournament will be held on September 18.

Wisconsin Truss Manufacturers Association

The Wisconsin Chapter held its first quarterly meeting of 2008 on February 13, with a nice turnout. Chapter President Steve Johnson opened the meeting and welcomed new and existing members. The treasurer's report and the past meeting minutes were approved. Next, the chapter discussed old business items such as a couple of outstanding letters with the State of Wisconsin code council, new code updates, membership list cleanup and the Green Bay fire fighter death and corresponding meetings and training from that incident. New business included upcoming WTMA-sponsored training programs. This is an exciting time for our membership to be involved in the organization promoting our industry as a unified group with great exposure for our members. WTMA will be presenting training in Baraboo for the Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors on March 13, in Madison for the Madison Area Builders Association on April 30, and for the Arnold & O'Sheridan Consulting Engineers on July 9. WTMA welcomed potential new members Steve Szymanski of Truss Systems and Dennis McCarthy of Best Built Construction Components. The next meeting will be held in Madison on May 8 at WTCA with the goal of having a speaker from the WI Code Council update members on the latest code changes and then tour the new SBC Research Institute testing facility.

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Please see our website for further details and past meeting notes at www.wiwtca.com.

Wood Truss Council of Michigan

At their January meeting, Michigan Chapter members agreed upon a comprehensive plan for educating the marketplace. WTCM will prepare binders of WTCA publications for building designers. Members will be able to hand-deliver or ship the customized binders to the architects, structural engineers and designers that they contact. The customized binders will contain copies of the JOBSITE PACKAGE, Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Handbook, the design responsibilities document, and of course a list of WTCM members. A cover letter will explain that assistance is only a phone call away, so building designers will be encouraged to contact chapter members for more information. The chapter agreed to cover the cost of 325 binders; if requests significantly exceed that amount, members may be asked to help subsidize the cost. A survey was distributed to collect member input on contact lists and quantities, so the results will be discussed at the chapter's next meeting on April 10.

The members in attendance also agreed upon a memorial for long-time Chapter President Phil Luneack. A scholarship fund will be established at Alma College in his name and the chapter will contribute to funding it. If you would like more information on the scholarship fund, please contact Anna at WTCA.

Finally, the chapter changed its regular meeting schedule. Moving the dates ahead by one month, chapter meetings will now be held on the second Thursday of January, April, July and October.

Wood Truss Council of the Capital Area

The Capital Area Chapter's February meeting promised an economic outlook for our industry and the guest speaker was Stephen Fuller, Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and University Professor, George Mason University. Dr. Fuller is Director of the Center for Regional Analysis at the George Mason School of Public Policy and his areas of expertise include economic forecasting, regional economies, urban planning and public management. Chapter members were encouraged to bring additional members of their sales and management teams so that they

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Chapter Corner

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could gather an accurate regional economic outlook to use as a backdrop for business planning. Indeed, the attendees commended Dr. Fuller on his excellent presentation and an afternoon well spent.

Also on the agenda, the members reviewed the chapter's plans for providing educational presentations and copies of BCSI for the Maryland Building Officials Association (MBOA) and the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA). Seminars were being scheduled and several chapter members had committed to delivering the presentations. With assistance from WTCA staff, the chapter was also researching the best ways to become included in the information dissemination processes of MBOA and VBCOA so that we can continually forward important educational and technical information from our industry to the building officials in their jurisdictions. More information and details on the educational presentations would be determined by the chapter's next meeting on April 9.

WTCA—Arizona

The Arizona Chapter was pleased to sponsor two educational events for the Structural Engineers Association of Arizona (SEAoA) in January. Held in Tucson and Phoenix, the lunch and dinner meetings, respectively, drew many engineers from across the state. Featuring Kirk Grundahl, PE. of WTCA staff, the focus of the presentations was “Current Issues with Structural Building Components (SBC)” and they included: ICC code development, ANSI/TPI 1 Chapter 2 Design Responsibilities, Structural Building Components Research Institute (SBCRI) testing facility and system testing, and an open discussion of SBC-related applications, design and/or code issues.

At the brief chapter meeting following the second presentation, the members quickly addressed any outstanding chapter business. The chapter board will investigate the options for doing a mailing to building designers, to offer educational information, publications and an SBC subscription. It was also agreed that the chapter elections would be moved to the next meeting on April 16.

WTCA—Indiana

The Indiana Chapter kicked off the new year with a great chapter meeting in January. Held at Timberland Components in Brazil, IL, which focuses on custom-built wall panels and roof trusses, the members were treated to a tour of the facility after the meeting. Topping the

agenda at the meeting was the chapter's action plans involving the WTCA JOBSITE PACKAGE. In December, a sample JOBSITE PACKAGE was mailed to all component manufacturers in Indiana and the chapter continued to work with WTCA to create an informational sheet for framers. The objective of this flyer is to more effectively communicate the value of the JOBSITE PACKAGE and encourage framers to review the contents and follow its recommendations. Once all comments have been received from the chapter meeting, a final draft will be prepared; the flyer will be made available to all WTCA members.

The Indiana Chapter is also making name for itself when it comes to marketplace education. Members discussed the groups that the chapter is pursuing to offer presentations and/or truss plant tours, and they were encouraged to suggest additional groups that they would like to contact. The chapter's education committee is planning a large event for building officials and the fire service in Indianapolis on July 17 to coincide with the chapter's summer quarterly meeting. Details for this event will be discussed at the next chapter's next meeting on April 17.

WTCA Ohio Chapter Association

This winter, the Ohio Chapter continued providing educational information to the marketplace by fulfilling requests from building inspectors and fire officials from several jurisdictions across the state for copies of BCSI and the Carbeck CD. The chapter also sponsored a presentation and booth at the Northwest Ohio Building Officials Association 18th Annual Joint Conference on February 10–12 in Toledo. Though turnout was lower than usual at the conference, feedback on the seminar, “Introduction to the Structural Building Components Industry: A Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Inspection Checklist,” taught by Stan Koehlinger, PE., remained strong. In addition to the general information on structural building components, the building officials appreciated learning more about bracing. Many good questions were asked at the seminar and the attendees were reminded that the chapter is available to deliver additional presentations for contractors and building inspectors when needed. The chapter expects to return to the conference again next year when it is held in Cleveland.

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