



Chapter Corner

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

California Structural Building Components Association

At the June and September chapter meetings, members of the California Chapter discussed several marketplace issues. Regarding sealed plans, California engineers' seals expire every two years, so plans often need to be re-sealed with an un-expired seal; the use of electronic seals to deal with this issue was discussed. On a related code note, the UBC used to require the labeling of design loads, spacing and related truss information on the bottom chord of each truss. This is no longer needed per the IBC/IRC. SBCA staff is in the process of developing a *Tech Note* on this issue to help members in advocating for this change in the code. On the subject of risk management, a member noted that his company was in litigation over a jobsite issue and the JOBSITE PACKAGE was proving its value directly. For its educational efforts, the chapter is working with the Oceanside, CA Fire Training Center on its request for a live fire demonstration. The members also discussed the state of the economy, in California and nationally, and considered actions that members can take now to help weather this period.

Mid South Component Manufacturers Association

In August, the Mid South Chapter continued its practice of holding its

meetings in conjunction with a member's plant tour. Attendees were welcomed to American Truss Company in Hammond, LA, where they were shown new ideas in mechanical automation not seen in the market today as well as an innovative approach to waste disposal that allows for the elimination of dumpsters.

During the meeting, members were urged to remain active and contact their legislators on important issues, including the health care reform bill. Plant tours were endorsed as an excellent way to put a human face on the industry. In addition, a status report was given on the law passed in Mississippi requiring signage on new commercial buildings utilizing truss construction erected since July 1, 2009. The law is ambiguous in its definition of trusses and signage, so interpretation is being left to the State Fire Marshall.

To support BCMC, the members signed onto the BCMC Housing Stimulus Rebate begun by the Arizona Chapter, donating up to \$2,000 for this cash-back program for component manufacturer attendees.

Missouri Truss Fabricators Association

Missouri Chapter members held a short meeting before their September golf tournament. The newest Board member, Jim Humbert (Advantage Framing Systems Inc, Olathe, KS) was welcomed following an electron-

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ic ballot. High on the agenda was the St. Louis County Building Code Review Committee hearing two days earlier. Chapter members attended this hearing to represent our industry as a proposal was heard that all lightweight construction, including metal plate connected wood trusses and I-joists, have fire rated 5/8 sheathing applied underneath. The Committee decided to table the proposal until after the ICC code hearings in October, where the same issue will be debated.

This fall, the chapter has been working with staff to prepare a fire performance of trusses presentation for the Johnson County Building Officials Association that will include background on this current code change proposal issue. The presentation will emphasize that SBCA strongly believes in a key engineering and building code principle of providing structural building component solutions that safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare while serving the general public's best interest to have affordable and environmentally responsible built construction. As the building code states, this also includes, "to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations."

SBCA's general policy in this regard is that, unless there is sufficient comparative data provided to show increased life-safety risk, any regulation created shall be structural element independent so that trade is not inappropriately restricted and a level competitive playing field is assured. This general policy clearly pertains to enhancing fire performance and fire safety characteristics through the application of a gypsum wallboard membrane or sprinklers.

This is why we believe that if a regulation is put in place that requires a single layer of gypsum wallboard to be applied to a floor system, the wallboard application requirements should be applied uniformly to all types of floor structural elements uniformly.

In addition, our overall preference is to allow the International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC) to prevail by providing the foundational requirements for building safety—the IRC/IBC process is the proper consensus forum for debating code complying requirements. At this time there is no requirement to provide any type of minimum fire resistance rated assembly for any structural element within the living space of residential construction by the building code.

SBCA – Arizona

This year, Arizona Chapter members have been working on several items. Following the City of Peoria's request for SBCA input with regard to adding solar panels to roofs and building permit requirements, the chapter and staff have been working on code and solar panel technical issues. The goal is to find solar industry technical contacts, gather all current application facts available, and develop a formal industry recommendation/plan of attack to deal with installation issues.

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In response to the position taken by Arizona School Trust to prohibit the use of wood trusses in new school construction, the chapter is working on developing a series of educational programs and plant tours for this group, architects and engineers on structural building components.

To encourage SBCA members across the country to come to BCMC 2009 in Phoenix, the chapter initiated the BCMC Housing Stimulus Rebate program, pledging \$5,000 to this component manufacturer rebate program and urging its fellow SBCA Chapters to accept the challenge. Proving its support of BCMC, the Arizona Chapter also won the 3rd Annual BCMC Chapter Contest, which recognizes the chapter with the highest percentage of member locations attending the show.

SBCA Canada Chapter/ Chapitre Canadien de la SBCA

Following an online meeting with **SBC Connection** in August, the Canada Chapter held its annual face-to-face meeting on October 1 at BCMC in Phoenix, AZ. This forum allowed members and nonmembers to interact on the beneficial work that can be accomplished by the chapter. The use of English/French JOBSITE PACKAGES (PAQUET DE CHANTIER) has continued to increase since their introduction a year ago. In addition, a new version of Truss Technician Training (TTT) Level I, featuring metric measurements and references to the 2005 National Building Code of Canada, is now available. All companies interested in developing additional tools for Canadian component manufacturers are encouraged to become more involved with the chapter.

SBCA – Montana

Following a series of monthly meetings to start up the chapter, SBCA's newest chapter, SBCA – Montana, has settled into a quarterly meeting schedule. Since its kick-off meeting in January, the chapter has elected officers, finalized its bylaws and begun collecting dues. The organizing members set as their task list: getting clarification from building officials on snow loads; resolving transportation and permit questions; educating building officials, end users and installers on components;

and educating architects and engineers so that more projects specify trusses.

The chapter's priorities at this time are membership recruitment and educational outreach. The members are actively reaching out to their local building officials to let them know a chapter has been created that will be ready to assist them and share pertinent information with them. They have already sponsored BCSI booklets for Brandt Salo at the City of Helena for a presentation to the local NAHB chapter, and now the chapter is making plans to participate in the Fifth Annual State of Montana Building Education Conference in Bozeman, MT next spring.

Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas

The Texas Chapter held its final golf outing of the year at Austin's River Place Country Club in September. The weather was good, but the company was great. Pictures of the event, including the Deadass Last winners, are posted in the photo gallery on the chapter's website, www.tmatchapter.com.

Once again, Texas Chapter members made one more push in the final month of the Annual SBCA Membership Drive to bring home the win. The #1 Recruiting Chapter trophy, on display at BCMC, will be returning to the Texas Chapter for another year. Texas has won the competition seven times, having lost only to the South Florida and Ohio Chapters. In addition, chapter members Jack Dermer (American Truss Systems, Houston, TX) and Norm McKenna (MiTek Industries, Spring Branch, TX) swept the #1 Component Manufacturer and #1 Associate Member Recruiter categories. This was Jack's third win and Norm's fifth, and both received individual trophies in addition to bragging rights. **SBC**

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