



Editor's Message

Greetings from Arkansas. It's Time to Reconnect!

by Steven Spradlin

An introduction from the
new SBCA President.

Anyone know any good redneck jokes? I come from Arkansas, home to many redneck jokes. People don't realize most of them are true!

My introduction to the component manufacturing business began in April 1987, when my then 17-year-old brother Mark thought it was a good idea to invest in a truss company instead of going to college. He had seen his two older brothers spend about four years in college and thought of a better idea. With the help of my father, he purchased a bankrupt component manufacturing company from a local bank. He and my father worked to get the business started while I was in college. When a fire burned the entire facility to the ground in 1989, Mark decided to rebuild and eventually asked me to work with him. We worked together for 15 years until he decided he wanted to become a developer. Over time, I purchased the company from him and have continued on with the business, Capital Structures, ever since.

Several years ago I visited Dan Holland (a wise man and Past SBCA President) to learn about wall panel manufacturing. Dan suggested that I go to an Open Quarterly Meeting of (then) WTCA. He thought that the fellowship I would engage in with other component manufacturers would be very beneficial to the growth of my company. I took his advice and the rest is history. Dan was right. I have found my involvement in SBCA to be an invaluable tool in the development of our company and an integral part of what Capital Structures is today. SBCA has a wide variety of business development tools that are very useful to all component manufacturers (CMs) in our industry. Funny thing is that any member or non-member can benefit from these tools that have been developed for our industry by an association that has listened carefully to our needs over the last 15 years and translated those needs into programs. We must, as association members, encourage all CMs (especially those just starting in the industry) to embrace our association and understand that our programs are created through members specifically for members. Helping everyone see all the benefits of our programs and services only makes us stronger!

But reaching everyone with SBCA's message is no small feat. The sheer volume of information available from the association is such that it cannot be learned from a website alone anymore. We have to get out among our membership and help them more fully understand what is available. It is my opinion that this can only be done with boots on the ground knocking door to door in our current business climate. Owners and managers can no longer afford to be away from their businesses as in the past. Times have changed and our association will have to conform and adapt to current market constraints accordingly. This leads me to two distinct goals I have for my upcoming presidency.

The first involves providing the resources for more interactivity and connections between our membership and association. SBCA has always had a strong chapter and member focus. At our peak in 2006, we committed over \$700,000 to member and chapter support services. Given the current economic situation and other SBCA priorities, we are now providing member and chapter outreach services with an annual budget of \$330,000. With this reduction, we will all have to be more creative to find ways to provide the same level of services our membership and chapters had in 2006.

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at a glance

- ❑ New SBCA President Steven Spradlin owns Capital Structures in Fort Smith, AR.
- ❑ Spradlin started going to SBCA meetings at the advice of a past president and found it helpful to interact with fellow manufacturers.
- ❑ An important goal for this year is to test stick frame performance in SBCRI.
- ❑ Thanks to all of our loyal **SBC Magazine** advertisers and those who supported this year's BCMC Show.



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Editor's Message

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For instance, we are looking to use **SBC Connections** more frequently to interact with each other. Eight new **SBC Business Solutions Groups** consisting of non-competing manufacturers are using **SBC Connection** quarterly to exchange business ideas, tactics and strategies. We intend to continue coming up with cost-saving ways to connect to each other throughout the year.

My second goal is to fully engage the capacity of our testing lab, SBCRI, in understanding the real performance of stick framing versus components and how these two distinctly different methods of framing stack up to each other given the performance requirements of the IRC. We suspect that the code requirements for stick framing are not being followed as intended by the code writers and "traditional practices" are still being accepted in certain parts of the U.S, whether code-compliant or not. We have already seen this to be the case in the local markets my company serves and have prepared an educational program based on our findings. With SBCRI, we have an opportunity to provide test data on stick frame performance as it is applied in Arkansas and as it should perform if built as required by the IRC. Once we have determined this and provided a direct comparison to the equivalent component framing, we can fully understand how to level the playing field for these two methods of framing. I am confident that we can use this information to make inroads into increased component market share.

Thanks to all who attended and supported BCMC this year. One thing is clear—our association would not be the same without BCMC. It is important that we all make a concerted attempt to support BCMC next year and for years to come. The benefits to the association and its members who attend are infinite.

Thanks to all of our loyal **SBC Magazine** advertisers, as well. It is because of you that the magazine exists and we all reap the rewards of it. Did I ever tell you about the time I was in our local chief building inspector's office and saw several copies of **SBC** on his desk? By the way, he was the president of ICC a year or so ago. If that isn't an example of how our magazine is respected I do not know what is.

I hope all of you have a wonderful month and are looking forward to the end of the year. **SBC**

SBC Magazine encourages the participation of its readers in developing content for future issues. Do you have an article idea for a future issue or a topic that you would like to see covered? Email your thoughts and ideas to editor@sbcmag.info.

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS™

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

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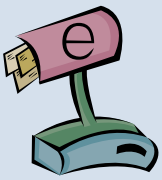
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The mission of *Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC)* is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing structural building components. Further, *SBC* strives to ensure growth, continuity and increased professionalism in our industry, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. *SBC's* editorial focus is geared toward the entire structural building component industry, which includes the membership of the Structural Building Components Association (SBCA). The opinions expressed in *SBC* are those of the authors and those quoted, and are not necessarily the opinions of Truss Publications or SBCA.

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Readers Respond

To the Editor:

I enjoyed the article on snow loads in the September/October issue of SBC. However, I am wondering why you didn't emphasize Section 2.2.2.5 in TPI-1 more to make it clear that the building designer should be specifying the loads to be applied to the trusses—not the truss fabricator. Although I know this is not always the case, it is helpful to be reminded of the intended scope of work of all the participants in the construction project team.

Robert Ruehling, SE • Gang Nail Truss Co. • Visalia, CA

Robert:

Thank you for reading SBC Magazine. I could not agree more with you that it should be clear that truss designers do not specify loads. Per TPI 1-2007 Section 2.3.2.4 (updated from TPI 1-2002 Section 2.2.2.5 as you referenced), the registered design professional should provide all the loads to properly design the component.

2.3.2.4 Required Information in the Construction Documents. The Registered Design Professional for the Building, through the Construction Documents, shall provide information sufficiently accurate and reliable to be used for facilitating the supply of the Structural Elements and other information for developing the design of the Trusses for the Building, and shall provide the following: ...

(d) The location, direction, and magnitude of all dead, live, and lateral loads applicable to each Truss including, but not limited to, loads attributable to: roof, floor, partition, mechanical, fire sprinkler, attic storage, rain and ponding, wind, snow (including snow drift and unbalanced snow), seismic; and any other loads on the Truss;

Sincerely,

Ryan Dexter, P.E. • SBCA Director of Technical Projects

SBCA Joins Fix Housing First in Urging Congress to Extend Homebuyer Tax Credit

The Structural Building Components Association (SBCA) strongly encourages members of the SBC industry to write their members of Congress and encourage them to extend the new homebuyer tax credit. SBCA is a supporter of Fix Housing First, a coalition of more than 2,000 groups advocating for a short-term incentives for qualified home buyers that would halt falling home values, restore consumer confidence, create jobs and lift our entire economy.

The current new homebuyer tax credit is set to expire on November 30. Through Fix Housing First, the homebuilding industry is rallying Congress and the administration to extend the credit due to its success. In October, Fix Housing First brought this message to the House of Representative's Small Business Committee hearing. "I urge SBCA members to visit www.fixhousingfirst.com and submit a letter to their Senator or Representative in favor of extending the tax credit," said SBCA President Steven Spradlin. "It's clear that the \$8,000 incentive for first-time buyers has helped to eliminate excess inventory and increase housing starts." **SBC**

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