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Editor's Message

See Ya, 2009. No Really, You Can Leave Now!

by Steven Spradlin

A look back on the main events of 2009

Hesitate to say good riddance to a year that has been so personally rewarding for me. But from a business perspective, I can't wait to be done with 2009. No love lost. But before we put the year to bed, here are some industry highlights to look back on.

1. BCMC. Despite a bad year for business, nine people from my company made it to Phoenix, from our office manager to truss and wall technicians to salesmen. Guess what? They all took away something different. Here's what a few of them said:

"I now have a much better understanding of what SBCA is and what they do for our industry."

"I found the green building session very informative; I learned how points differ between rating systems."

"I enjoyed the show as a salesman. The discussion groups were really eye-opening in that we all seem to be sharing the same issues in these tough economic times. With +80% of the market stick framed [in Arkansas], we can use more brainstorming communications with peers to find ways to improve market penetration."

"I enjoyed the opportunity to go through the different booths and see the advances that are being made in our field. I also took advantage of a couple of seminars and found them very informative. However I was surprised more people didn't take advantage of them."

"The green building seminar was very informative. This has not taken off in our area as quickly as it has in other parts of the country. So it was a great opportunity to see what those who have more exposure to these issues have experienced."

"I'm a wall panel designer. I was very impressed with seeing the software advances. It was nice to see what we can look forward to in the future. I had never been to a BCMC before, but it was very enjoyable."

If you missed the show, turn to page 22 for the highlights.

2. Business Solutions Groups. They're ba-aaack! Join a group today and connect with companies just like yours across North America. In this very tough year, many of you told us you could use a peer group to exchange ideas and discuss trials or successes. Fill out a simple survey and you'll be matched up with a small group of non-competing manufacturers. For the first time ever, members of these groups will be invited to a Summit at the BCMC Show in 2010. And it's free! Sign up at www.sbcindustry.com/bsg.php.

3. TTT Metric Level I. In person and online, SBCA has offered Truss Technician Training for years. But it was originally written with standard measurements. Now we have a version for folks in Canada and elsewhere in the world (basically everywhere) where metric is used! Go to www.wtcatko.com/TTT1Metric for more information.

4. CEUs. Our goal is to have all design specifiers and building/fire officials come to SBCA for their continuing educational needs. Why? Because then they get the most current, up-to-date information on our industry! This year we have added to our large collection with Component Technology Workshops that include Overviews of Lumber, Metal Connector Plates, and Cold-Formed Steel Trusses. Check out all our CTWs at www.ttw.sbcindustry.com/TTWall.php.

Continued on page 8



You can join a Business Solutions Group for FREE! Fill out the survey at www.sbcindustry.com/BSG & you'll be added to a group.

at a glance

- The nine people from my company took nine different things away from BCMC 2009.
- Stay connected with free Business Solutions Groups courtesy of SBCA.
- SBCA's Component Technology Workshops are a great way for design professionals and building/fire officials to get the most current information about our industry.

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Editor's Message

Continued from page 7

The articles in this issue are about looking at our manufacturing processes from many different angles. Technical Q&A on page 10 addresses ripping truss chords, a practice that can significantly reduce lumber strength. Look for SBCA member Bill Bolduc's primer on fabrication tolerances on page 18—hopefully his words will inspire you to define your plant's tolerance.

Finally, what do you do when a 100-year-old silo loses its roof? Our cover story answers the question, spotlighting a creative truss application brought to us by framer-turned component manufacturer Jason Blenker, Blenker Building Systems. Check it out on page 14.

I'd like to end 2009 with a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to **SBC** advertisers and BCMA exhibitors. Your support of our industry allows us to keep bringing services and programs to companies like mine.

Best wishes for a healthy, safe and joyous holiday season. Join me in ringing in 2010! **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.

*SBC staff would like to wish you & your family a safe & joyful holiday season!
Happy New Year!*



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International Code Council Code Development Hearings Update

The International Code Council (ICC) held its Code Development Hearing and Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD October 24 – November 11. During this process, the various ICC committees heard roughly 2,500 proposals for updates and changes to the codes. The proposals being heard will form the updated ICC codes for 2012.

SBCA staff monitored the process closely and provided testimony on several code proposals. In addition, SBCA Executive Director, Kirk Grundahl, served on the ICC's Structural Code Committee. The following proposals have a significant impact on the our industry:

Residential Building Code Proposal 13 (RB13)

Summary: Restores the scope of the International Residential Code (IRC) to include buildings up to 110 MPH. (Previously, the IRC scope was limited to buildings up to 100 MPH in hurricane-prone regions.)

Status: Approved by the Residential Building Committee

Residential Building Code Proposal 96 (RB96)

Summary: Adds the Cold-Formed Steel Building Component Safety Information (CFSBCSI) booklet as a reference in the steel floor and roof sections of the IRC.

Status: Approved

Residential Building Code Proposal 110 (RB110)

Summary: Adds language that allows sheathing joints on braced wall panels to be connected to separate studs, which are nailed together. Previously, the abutting sheathing panels were required to be fastened to a common stud.

Status: Approved

Residential Building Code Proposal 153 (RB153)

Summary: Modifies an applicability section for trusses to be more in line with the scope of the IRC and the steel truss section of the code.

Status: Approved

Residential Building Code Proposals 154 & 156 (RB154 and RB156)

Summary: Both of these proposals delete the 175 lbs. trigger for uplift connections. They allow toe-nailed connections for up to 200 lbs. (RB154) or 230 lbs. (RB156). Both proposals default trusses to the truss design drawings for uplift values.

Status: Both approved

Residential Building Code Proposal 31 (RB31)

Residential Building Code Proposal 31 (RB31) was introduced by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), which would require one-half inch gypsum on otherwise unprotected ceilings (unfinished basements) and provide an exception for conventional lumber. The modification was unilaterally supported by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and would have created a competitive advantage for solid sawn lumber over components. Fortunately, SBCA was successful in convincing the IRC Committee to disapprove this proposal.

The proposals approved by the ICC committees during the Code Development Hearings will be heard at the 2010 Final Action Hearings. The items approved at the Final Action Hearings will then be incorporated into the 2012 I-Codes. **SBC**

correction:

The August 2009 Technical Q&A article, "Calculating Truss Uplift," contained information taken from a Technical Note on Cold-Formed Steel Construction published by the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (TN L200-09). However, we neglected to credit CFSEI or the primary author of this work, Sam Hensen, P.E., (Simpson Strong-Tie Co., Inc.) for their work. We apologize for the oversight and thank CFSEI and Hensen for calling it to our attention.

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS™

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