

# “We purchased our first WizardPDS® drop-in Channels™ System in 2008. And a second system in 2009.”

“Faced with a dwindling housing industry and shrinking margins in tough economic times, Richco Structures needed to look for ways to reduce costs. This led us on a search for the best way to streamline our set up process. After carefully considering our options we purchased our first WizardPDS drop-in Channels system in 2008. And a second system in 2009.

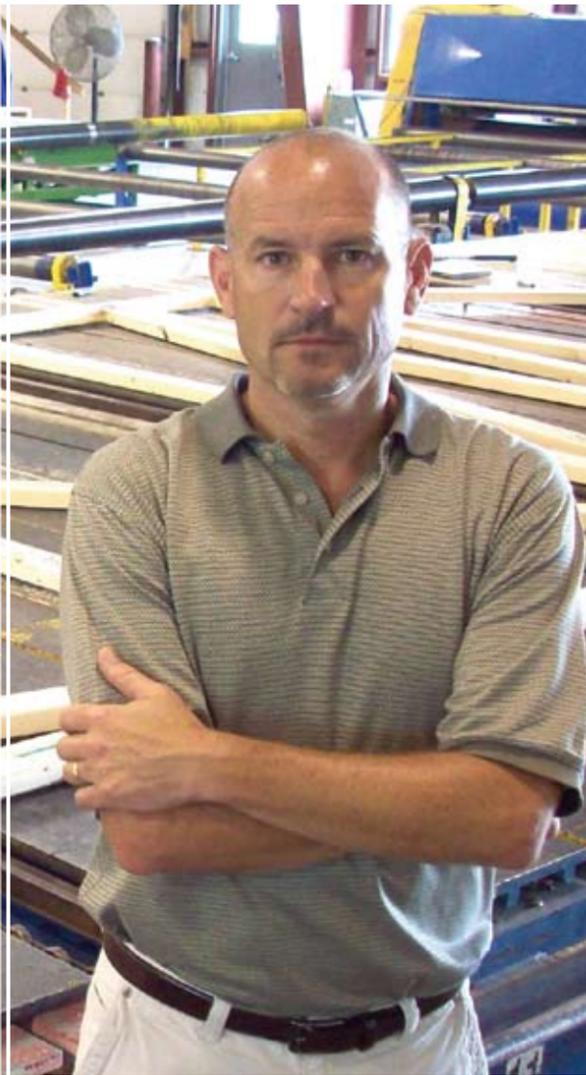
Because of the attention to detail by the Wizard Team prior to installation, the retrofit went in exceptionally well. And using the drop-in channel meant we could save money by using existing tables in lieu of purchasing an entirely new table layout.

The Wizard systems have lived up to their billing when it comes to reliability and accuracy. Ask our maintenance team and they’ll tell you they aren’t bothered with routine maintenance or calibration. An occasional lubrication and walk by sighting on chord planes tells them all they need to know; spot on pin placement every time.

The Wizard systems integrated seamlessly with our design software and line operators quickly learned to appreciate the ease of use and accuracy. Probably most valued by the assembly crews is the elimination of 10–20 minutes per setup spent on the tables placing jig hardware.

We have changed our scheduling philosophy to shift most of the production, especially the set-up intensive jobs, to the WizardPDS lines to save on labor costs. This caused a remarkable increase in productivity.”

*Rich Pearce  
Plant Manager  
Richco Structures – Haven, WI  
Division of Richardson Industries*



## Editor's Message

### BCMC Build Brings Excitement

by Steven Spradlin

What a year it's been! We've all faced ups and downs as the economy begins to slowly emerge from the slump. Housing starts seem to be up one month and down the next. We've seen the new homebuyer tax credit be extended and expanded. Lumber and steel prices have spiked and then crashed. Yet there are still questions no one can answer: Will we see the economy double dip? Where will interest rates go? What will Mark Vitner say in his Economic Forecast at BCMC 2010? I'm optimistic that a year from now we'll be back to a robust, sustainable level of business.

I'd like to thank a couple specific people for making my year as president seamless. I've had the opportunity to work with group of talented peers who serve on the Executive Committee and the Marketing, Management, Membership, Legislative, Engineering & Technology and QC Committees. I couldn't have done it without their input and direction. I'd also like to thank the companies who maintained their membership with SBCA. Our organization is only as strong and diverse as the individuals who are willing to give their time, talent and treasure. Thank you to the very capable Qualtim, Inc. staff under the direction of Kirk and Suzi Grundahl for keeping me on the right path to help our industry.

**BCMC Build 2010 demonstrates this theme of community. We should all take pride that we're coming together as a community to give this gift of housing to a deserving Charlotte family.**

One of the things I love about our industry is we always seem so willing to put our trials behind us and help people who need it more than we do. BCMC Build 2010 demonstrates this theme of community. We should all take pride that we're coming together as a community to give this gift of housing to a very deserving Charlotte family. It's been many years since the industry came together for this type of project. The *Framing the American Dream*® project took place in 1996. And though we aren't competing against stick framing this time, we will be showing the community and Habitat that our products offer without a doubt the best available framing solution.

My company has committed to send several managers to help run the build on site. I can only hope it isn't as hot during BCMC Build as it was when we did *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* in July 2005. (It was a steamy 95 degrees!) If you are not yet involved in this exciting new BCMC event, I encourage you to do so in the next several weeks. We still need donations and volunteers! Check out the attendee promo on page 22 for more details.

Finally, best wishes to incoming President Joe Hikel of Shelter Systems Limited. We are in very capable hands! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president over the past year. I wish everyone in our industry a prosperous and productive 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](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).*

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Thank you for a great year!

#### at a glance

- Thank you for your SBCA membership!
- Our industry is unique in that we are willing to help people who need it more than we do.
- BCMC Build 2010 will take place September 27-28 in Charlotte.

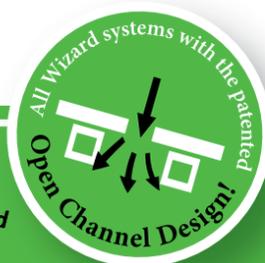
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# SBCRI Testing IRC Wall Panel Provisions

Revolutionary braced wall testing is happening at SBCRI! Determining the true performance of braced wall products used as braced wall panels is a critical step in understanding building design and performance. In the last several months, SBCRI has begun examining how braced wall panels perform in braced wall lines in an actual building. The results thus far indicate our industry will be able to influence more efficient value engineering in these designs.

SBCRI is testing braced walls within a standard comparative equivalency test structure (see pictures below): a 12x30' single story code complying building. This structure is built consistently, allowing staff to accurately compare load path and assembly resistance. The structure can be built to any building code specification and up to two stories high!

In the coming weeks and months, SBCRI will provide all the baseline analysis we collected from our more than \$300,000 of testing and analysis. We will compare our test results to the analysis methods used in the RISA/WoodWorks partnership, which is promoted as providing a full range of wood design features.

SBCRI's proprietary partners' goal is to complete full value engineered shear wall design for residential/commercial structures using a proprietary "testing calibrated" version of RISA software as the engineered design foundation. We will be providing summaries of the braced wall line testing and test results that support our RISA engineering calibrations as results are vetted and finalized.

Keep checking the website: [www.sbcricri.info/techIRCnotes](http://www.sbcricri.info/techIRCnotes) for the latest test report and findings from SBCRI. **SBC**



Views of the 12x30' IRC-compliant structure in SBCRI. Braced wall panels are placed in various locations along the structure, loads are applied, and the products' performance is measured.

[www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info)



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From production equipment to software, MiTek is dedicated to helping our customers succeed. MiTek continues to offer affordable solutions to boost your production efficiencies. Schedule an equipment automation demonstration at the **BCMC show in Charlotte** by visiting our website at [www.mii.com/scheduledemo.com](http://www.mii.com/scheduledemo.com). And be sure to review the schedule of educational seminars we will be conducting in our booth, and schedule time to attend these sessions at the show.

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The MiTek Software Suite offers you tools to run your business effectively and consistently improve your performance and productivity. **MVP™** provides a bird's-eye view and metrics of all the production activities going on in your plant. As a Plant Manager, not only can you see all of the jobs, but you can schedule and manage the process for all of them right from your desk. The hub of the MiTek Software suite is **MBA™**. It provides the richest feature set of any centralized business management tool available to the industry. With **ShopNet™** you can streamline the entire wall panel production process and improve communications throughout your operation.

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