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RAMCA RODEO CRANKS UP

One of most exciting attractions to the annual Field Day of the Past celebration is a new addition – the RAMCA Equipment Rodeo! The event is intended to promote heavy equipment operators as a much sought after skill, to provide financial support to students attending the Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program in southside Virginia, and to increase RAMCA's visibility in the greater Richmond area.

The September 20th event featured an equipment competition consisting of four equipment categories: backhoe, excavator, skid steer, and an equipment loading procedure. Operators competed for prizes and recognition. Strong support from RAMCA's heavy equipment dealers and other RAMCA members who either sponsored this event or volunteered to assist in managing the competition helped ensure that the rodeo was both memorable and successful.

Special thanks to Rodeo Committee Chairman Ken Powell (James River Equipment Virginia) along with Nick Hall (also with James River) and RAMCA President James Martin (J.H. Martin & Sons) for taking the lead role in bringing this event to fruition. Check out the RAMCA website for photos taken at the RAMCA Equipment Rodeo.

HENRICO REJECTS RECYCLED CONCRETE AS FILL

Henrico County has rejected the use of recycled concrete as bedding or backfill on utility projects due to corrosive potential to ductile iron pipes. The official notice of this decision is attached.

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RAMCA GRANTED EXPANSION OF ASPHALT INDEXING IN HENRICO

In response to the ever-increasing cost of liquid asphalt, RAMCA last year requested that Henrico County adopt some form of indexing to help both the County and their contractors deal with what has become an unknown, and potentially explosive, cost factor in road construction and repair work.

As a result of those meetings the County approved a limited application of indexing, primarily geared to FOB type work but as the price of this product continued to escalate, it was clear that fairness and reasonableness required a broader solution. Two months ago a committee from RAMCA met with senior County officials from the Works, Utilities, and Purchasing Departments.

RAMCA reviewed the current facts and circumstances surrounding the unprecedented spikes in the cost of liquid asphalt, as well as the need to adopt some broader form of indexing that would be beneficial to all parties. RAMCA even suggested adopting a retroactive feature to any new indexing system adopted by the County.

The result of that meeting has led to the County adopting, effective immediately, the VDOT monthly liquid asphalt index for all new Public Works contracts. For Public Utility projects the County wants to do a trial run by applying the VDOT indexing feature to a contract that will be let in the next 30 to 60 days. Based upon their analysis of how inclusion of the new indexing feature worked on that contract, the County will decide whether to adopt the indexing provision on all future utilities contracts.

RAMCA considers these actions important victories for our members. Your association will, however, continue to monitor this situation in an effort to ensure asphalt indexing is widely adopted by all relevant departments of Henrico County.

OCTOBER MEETING TO FEATURE OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

RAMCA's October General Membership Meeting will feature both an administrator and an instructor from the Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program located in Blackstone, Virginia. As the only remaining state-supported operator training program in the state, the program has the potential to provide a credible source for meeting the equipment operator needs of RAMCA contractor members for many years to come. Our speakers will provide an enlightening look at who enrolls in the program, what they learn, and how you can benefit from this training opportunity.

CONTRACTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS DISCUSSED

The Associated General Contractors of Virginia (AGC of Virginia) recently contacted RAMCA and a number of other important contractor associations around the state to discuss their idea to require that the State Board for Contractors law be amended to require a continuing education requirement for all Class A Contractors seeking licensure renewal. AGC argues that adding such a requirement to the law would serve to upgrade and professionalize the contracting profession in Virginia, and that many of the other related, regulated trades and professions in Virginia (engineers, architects, surveyors, realtors, etc.) already have adopted a continuing education requirement.

RAMCA, however, remains unconvinced of the need to add this requirement. First, there has been no showing that the present law, rules and regulations are not sufficient and adequate to protect the health, safety and welfare of Virginians. Second, while virtually all of the professions that currently have the continuing education requirement are sole practitioners with no oversight, contractors are subject to inspections at many levels on each and every project. Inspectors oversee and must approve almost every aspect of a construction project from the E&S requirements at the site clearing stage to the final CO inspections associated with building occupancy. Given these facts, RAMCA remains skeptical of the need to adopt a bureaucracy and increase costs, both of which must occur if continuing education of contractors becomes a reality.

RAMCA greatly appreciates the approach being taken by AGC on this matter. They have made an effort to seek input from the larger construction community, and they further indicate that absent strong support from the various contractor groups, they probably would not be comfortable proceeding with this concept at this time.

RAMCA VP TESTIFIES ON BEHALF OF INDUSTRY AT SCC HEARING

RAMCA Vice President Steve Rhyne (Rhyne Contractors, Inc.) recently was asked by the State Corporation Commission to testify at a hearing intended to improve the performance of one of Virginia's largest contract locators of underground utility lines – Utiliquest. Mr. Rhyne testified as to the process involved in calling in a Miss Utility ticket, and the potential problems that can arise when the process fails to perform as required by law. His comments were presented on behalf of all excavators in Virginia, and RAMCA thanks Steve for his willingness to step up to a rather big plate, and represent the concerns of our industry. Great job Steve – THANKS!

RAMCA'S SUMMER GOLF OUTING RATED SPECTACULAR BY MEMBERS

RAMCA's annual end-of-summer ritual, the Jack Bargamin Memorial Golf Outing, was held on September 11th at one of the most beautiful and unique golf courses in the area – Mattaponi Springs. The word most often mentioned by players at the post-tournament buffet was "spectacular" and many attendees urged RAMCA to return in 2009. RAMCA members, as always, played well. The flight, longest drive and closest to the pin winners were:

First Flight

First Place – HD Supply Waterworks

Keith Young

Joe Saunders

John Haurand

Preston Mitchell

Second Place – William T. Cantrell, Inc.

Liston Laine

Adam Gray

Bill Cantrell

Eric Rowland

Longest Drive – Bill Cantrell

Closest to the Pin – Eric Rowland

Second Flight

First Place – Griffin Pipe Products

Brian Cowan

Ed Overman

Jeff Tyler

Mark Collins

Second Place – 623 Landfill

Mark Bingham

Danny Smith

Rob Kinstle

Eric May

Longest Drive – Rob Kinstle

Closest to the Pin – Wilson Whitehurst

Golf Outing Results, Cont.

Third Flight

First Place – James River Equipment

Nick Hall

Tim Feather

Tony Stone

Steve Stone

Second Place – Branscome Richmond #1

Brian Conrad

Allen Maxwell

Andy Rader

Bill Such

Longest Drive – Jay Gillette

Closest to the Pin – Nick Hall

Fourth Flight

First Place – Ferguson Waterworks

Tommy Wagner

Chuck Bookman

Kelly Shively

Matt Hulett

Second Place – Branscome Richmond #2

Steve Wright

Kenny Horak

Taney Osterbind

Wes Partin

Longest Drive – Tommy Wagner

Closest to the Pin – Taney Osterbind

RAMCA would also like to thank the many Hole Sponsors for their support of this event, along with our Beverage Cart Sponsor – J. G. Gomer Equipment Co. and our Grand Prize Sponsor – Blakemore Construction Corp. And a special thanks to Carter Machinery for assisting with all signage at the event. Please refer to the attached sponsorship sheet to view all of the firms whose financial support helped make the RAMCA summer golf event a success.

LEGAL SEMINAR TO UPDATE CONTRACTORS ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

So much in Washington goes unnoticed, yet has a profound impact on the business of RAMCA members. And then of course there are the court cases in the various circuits around the country that also dictate emerging employment practices here in Virginia. Want to get the down and dirty quickly on these important trends and new requirements? RAMCA member Sands, Anderson, Marks, & Miller is hosting a one-hour breakfast session designed to bring you up to speed and have you back at your desk by mid-morning. The session is entitled *Workplace Impact of Recent Legislation and Court Decisions* and it will be offered the morning of October 2nd at The Place at Innsbrook. For more information go to www.SandsAnderson.com/events and click on the seminar

DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER IMPROVES MAPPING ACCESS

Many RAMCA members have a need for maps identifying the location of electric facilities buried on parcels of land or job sites that are being evaluated for development or in some phase of development. Dominion Virginia Power processes hundreds of requests annually from architects, engineers, developers, excavators, etc. seeking to determine the location of these facilities. Multiple departments within Dominion Power currently can or may provide this information today.

In an effort to provide an improved and more consistent level of service to their customers, a new link has been established on www.dom.com to help facilitate the processing of these requests. In addition to the enhanced customer service for the architect and engineering firms, excavators will be better equipped with more accurate and timely information. This information can be used in addition to facility locates through Miss Utility (call 811) and/or other 'marking' agencies.

The paper request of today will be replaced with an electronic request form via email from the internet. This change is supposed to improve Dominion's ability to not only manage the service they provide, but also to inform their customers of the data requirements and format necessary to process requests in an efficient manner.

Effective immediately, all customers requesting facility location maps can access the web and submit requests electronically. All requests should be sent to mailbox:

facility.locate.request@dom.com

The mailbox will be monitored daily and the requests will be processed within 5 working days. Customers will receive an electronic reply with a .pdf attachment from Dominion identifying only the assets pertinent to the requested location.

Should you have any questions or for additional information contact: Cathy Vick, Underground Damage Prevention Manager, Dominion Virginia Power 804-775-5306.

RAMCA Officers

President
James H. Martin, Jr.
J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors

Vice President
Steve Rhyne
Rhyne Contractors, Inc

Secretary/Treasurer
J. Michael Todd
Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary & Shreaves

Immediate Past President
Dave Cosby
Sovereign Paving, Inc.

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Contractors

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McLane Construction Company

Johnny Glazebrook
Branscome Richmond.

Buddy Hummel
Henkels & McCoy

Richard E. Smith
RJ Smith Construction

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James River Equipment VA, LLC

Hardy Josephson
Luck Stone Corporation

At Large Directors

Lee White
Draper Aden Associates

Wilson Whitehurst
Whitehurst Paving

Staff

Executive Director
Mark I. Singer

Office Manager
Judy Frederick

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 9th General Membership Dinner Meeting
Marriott West/Innsbrook
Program – Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program
- October 13th RAMCA “Broken-Clay” Pigeon Shoot
- November 13th General Membership Dinner Meeting
Marriott West/Innsbrook
Annual Business Meeting and Election of Board of Directors



Register your team for the upcoming “Broken-Clay” Pigeon Shoot. Please note the event date has changed to October 13th.

Entry form is included in this newsletter.