RPA
Radiant Panel Association

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RADIANT PANEL REPORT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIANT PANEL ASSOCIATION

From the President:

DOROTHY BIGGS

When reminded that I needed to write an article for the newsletter, I spent considerable time summarizing my thoughts to convey the sentiments of the board and the focus of the RPA. I'm convinced that we have a highly dedicated team of people that are focused on growth, industry relevance, and quality.

The dedication to finding a director with vision, who would be focused on taking the RPA to the next level, was paramount and would prove to be easier said than done. With these goals in mind, we needed to make sure our candidates had a keen sense of the organization and it's membership.

After a lengthy search for a director Ted Lowe became the obvious choice. We knew that with Ted's many years of experience in the business as a contractor, board member and manufacturer he would have an understanding of the RPA needs on many levels.

Ted expresses a clear vision for the future of the RPA. The need for a closer partnership with our members was clearly defined and a top priority. He is aware that programming and education must continue to evolve with industry.

Since Ted has joined the

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Warmboard used in 25% of Solar Decathlon Competition homes

APTOS, CA – Warmboard Radiant Subfloor was selected and used by an impressive 25% of the entrants in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2009 Solar Decathlon competition. Chosen for its superior thermodynamic properties, and the efficiency and comfort that they provide, Warmboard was proud to be the most commonly used heating panel in the competition.

Warmboard was utilized in five of the twenty competing entries: Team California (Santa Clara University / California College of the Arts), Ohio State University, Iowa State University, University of Kentucky and Team Missouri (Missouri University of Science and Technology / University of Missouri).

Over the past two years, the 2009 Solar Decathlon challenged twenty university-led teams from the U.S. and as far away as Puerto Rico, Spain, Germany, and Canada to design, build and operate the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered home. Students competed in ten areas, ranging from architecture, engineering and comfort to how well the homes provided energy for space heating and cooling, hot water, lighting, and appliances.

The competing schools designed and built exciting applications beyond the Warmboard radiant heating system. All used photovoltaic panels, but some used air to water heat exchangers, liquid desiccant dehumidifiers, cutting edge home operation and monitoring systems, and even radiant cooling with Warmboard installed in the ceiling of the team California home.

Team California finished third overall and took first place in both the architecture and communications contests and second place in the engineering, appliances, and entertainment contests. The results were announced on Friday, October 16th, on the final day

October 2009 Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in DC.

of the competition being held on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

When talking to the Team California team about why they selected Warmboard, Tim Sennott, Thermal Lead, states, "Warmboard's solution to radiant floor installation provided the Refract House and several other Solar Decathlon teams with an easy to install, low-mass radiant floor panel. It was a great fit with the home's overall design goals, construction needs, and radiant floor and ceiling system design."

Tony Gasparich, President and COO of Warmboard Inc. said, "It is exciting to be involved with another Solar Decathlon and immersed in the latest technologies and sustainable building design. Warmboard is honored to be included in five of the competing teams' homes, including Team California's Refract House, and we are particularly proud of all the students' achievements."

Warmboard has a successful history at previous Solar

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Call for System Showcase entries

Have you ever completed a project that you were really proud of? You know, the one where you couldn't stop talking about it to anyone who would listen. Well now is your chance! Submit your projects in the System Showcase at the RPA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Building Radiant. The conference will be held in Reno, Nevada May 5-8, 2010.

What's the System Showcase? It's a program that recognizes the effort and hard work of RPA members in the industry through a competition where members submit their best projects in the following categories:

- 1 - 5 Radiant Zones, new residential
- 6 -15 Radiant Zones, new residential
- 16 + Radiant Zones, new residential
- Retrofit-Adapting radiant to an existing system or structure
- Commercial-Installed radiant in a commercial property as the primary

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Solar Decathlon continued from page 1

Decathlon competitions. In 2005, Warmboard was selected by the University of Colorado in Boulder to contribute to the heating system for their home. It was a thrill when University of Colorado won the competition and took first place. In 2007, Warmboard was selected by five schools including University of Maryland, MIT, and University of Cincinnati. University of Maryland took second place overall and was the top placing U.S. team among seventeen U.S. entries.

Recognized as the key component of an efficient and highly responsive radiant system, Warmboard continues to gain market share. In a world that is progressively shifting to use alternate energy resources, Warmboard's ability to be used in multiple applications from standard water heaters to solar to geothermal systems, will continue to keep it on the cutting edge of green, energy efficient technology.

Changes to the RPA Web site continued from page 2

SO WHAT'S NEW?

- Homepage: A button on our homepage which takes a visitor to the search engine for "Find a Contractor".
- A scrolling banner for manufacturer, distributor, contractor, and associate, "Gold Members". Just click on a scrolling name and it will link you to the company website.
- Banner ads for members who wish to get their name out in front of visitors to our website.
- Increased level of security to prevent fraudulent entry into webinars through exclusively issued passwords.

WEBINARS:

- Jobsite Safety & OSHA
- "Green": Topics to help the contractor understand the expectations and implications of today's market.
- Streaming versions of previously held webinars will be uploaded onto the website for viewing. Access to gold members is free while there is a nominal fee for members and non-members.
- Full screen, secure mode viewing of pre-recorded webinars.

WHAT'S COMING?

- Streaming Classes: Radiant I and II
- Bookstore: New items are added as they become available.

We are very excited about the changes to our website and invite you to visit **www.radiantpanelassociation.org**

Somewhere in a land far, far away…

Somewhere in the High Plains of Northeastern Wyoming, two contractors have teamed together to create a unique Viega Climate Mat installation.

The jobsite, located 33 miles down dirt roads from Gillette, WY, is a long trek from civilization. That is why contractors, Bob Larsen with Bob's Plumbing & Heating and Steve Hansen with Absaroka Plumbing & Heating joined forces to tackle the project together. The remote location even required the contractors to sleep on location in a jobsite trailer. (With limited cell phone access this project was setting the stage for a great indie film.)

All joking aside, Larsen and Hansen had a lot of work ahead of them. The 17,000-square-foot project is a shop, break room, airport hanger and personal residence for an oil tycoon.

Once Larsen and Hansen got the bid, they immediately started researching heating methods. Lucky for Viega, they saw an advertisement for the Climate Mat system in a trade magazine. There were no doubts in their minds — this was the heating system they were looking for. They had a lot of area to cover and they needed to do it quickly.

A total of 22 Viega Climate Mats (16 in110-foot lengths, and the other six in 80-foot. lengths) were ordered. The product arrived on the jobsite as scheduled. In as little as 14 hours, the Climate Mat installation was complete.

"Unrolling the mat was easy," said Larsen. Both Larsen and Hansen were pleased with the shipping, packaging, and installation of the product and said they would definitely install the Viega Climate Mat system in a future project. To learn more about Viega and their Climate Mat offering contact the company at www.viega.com or at insidesales@viega.com or call 1/800-976-9819.