A Message From Our President

by Glenn Nohara

It is hard to believe, but we are starting the sixteenth year of “The Koga Report.” This quarterly publication was started in 1990 by our Chairman Malcolm Koga to communicate with all our employees about events in and around our company and as a marketing tool for our key clients to keep them informed about our current activities and capabilities.

We recently reaffirmed that these two points should still be the primary focus of this newsletter. In an effort to continually improve the quality of our publication, starting with this issue, we made some formatting and layout changes. The most notable change is the use of four color print, which allows us to show our project photos much more clearly. We have added a section which will highlight one of our projects in greater detail and a section that will cover one of our teams or special points of interest. Also, added is a section on Safety awareness and education. We have shortened the island reports to bullet points and pictures, as well as eliminated the estimating report. Keeping Up with Mal and Koga Bits & Pieces remain unchanged.

We hope these modifications will make it more enjoyable for you to read “The Koga Report.” It has been our pleasure to bring you news of our company for the past fifteen years and we look forward to continuing this for many more years.

Until the next Koga Report, keep working safely and thank you for being a part of our Ohana.

Project Highlight

The Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa

by Kyle Sakaitani

The Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa, the newest addition to the Kona Coast at the tip of Keauhou Bay on the Big Island opened its doors in October 2004 to the theme of its place name “Keauhou” which translates to “new era” or “new current”. The developers, Koa Hotels, partnering with property owner Kamehameha Schools, began renovation of the once local landmark Kona Surf Resort (built in the early 70’s) back in December 2003, enlisting the services of CM&D to manage construction, and Dick Pacific Construction as the general contractor.

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. was hired by Dick Pacific to complete the sitework. The focus of the project’s exterior work was the new two-level “fantasy pool” that extends from the center atrium and out along the cliff-side overlooking the ocean. The pool features a 200-ft slide, waterfall, and pool bar.

Looking back on this inherently difficult project, the detailed pre-construction planning that was done and the open communication that existed amongst the other trades became the most important factors that determined a successful and safe outcome. The Foreman assigned to this project, William Azevedo, along with the other crew members: Bryan Grace, Tommy Young, Paul Mendonca, Guy Loa, Cheston Loa, & Blane Ahsing, plotted out the sequence and methods of construction in advance, and kept in constant contact with Dick Pacific and the other trades working side-by-side with each other in the tight conditions that existed. Our weekly team (TQM) meetings became an integral part in “navigating” ourselves through the “jungle” and providing some time to step back and evaluate our course of action to determine if adjustments or changes in direction were required. As with all projects, we learn from our mistakes, make the changes, and become the wiser for it. This resulted in minimal disputes, quick resolutions to conflicts in the field, and good relationships amongst the trades.

The creation of the Keauhou Sheraton Bay Resort & Spa, is definitely a project that we can all be proud to say that we were a part of, and now can also be enjoyed with our families. Sometimes we get so caught up in the day-to-day battles, we lose sight of what really matters the most, the journey.

Work safe and remember, there’s always a better way.

by Glenn Nohara

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Keeping Up With Mal

We recently returned from a trip to China where we attended the Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin. But this article is about the New Year, so I’ll leave the “National Geographic’s” routine for another edition of our newsletter.

So, we wish you a Happy New Year and hope that the year 4703 brings you good health and prosperity. What? The year 4703? Well, although the western year is 2005, the Lunar Year is 4073 and the year of the Rooster. To explain, here is the information that we got from the following websites:

http://www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/calendar.htm

“The Chinese Lunar New Year is the longest chronological record in history, dating from 2600BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac. Like the Western calendar, The Chinese Lunar Calendar is a yearly one, with the start of the lunar year being based on the cycles of the moon. Therefore, because of this cyclical dating, the beginning of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February. This year it falls on February 12th. A complete cycle takes 60 years and is made up of five cycles of 12 years each.

The Chinese Lunar Calendar names each of the twelve years after an animal. Legend has it that the Lord Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from earth. Only twelve came to bid him farewell and as a reward he named a year after each one in the order they arrived. The Chinese believe the animal ruling the year in which a person is born has a profound influence on personality, saying: This is the animal that hides in your heart.”

http://www.c-c-c.org/chineseculture/zodiac/Rooster.htm

“People born in the Year of the Rooster are deep thinkers, capable, and talented. They like to be busy and are devoted beyond their capabilities and are deeply disappointed if they fail. People born in the Rooster Year are often a bit eccentric, and often have rather difficult relationships with others. They always think they are right and usually are! They frequently are loners and though they give the outward impression of being adventurous, they are timid. Rooster people’s emotions like their fortunes swing very high to very low. They can be selfish and too outspoken, but are always interesting and can be extremely brave. They are most compatible with Ox, Snake, and Dragon.”

So there, let’s make 4073 or 2005 a good one and that’s it for this edition of “Keeping up with Mal.”

Koga Bits & Pieces

Congratulations to the following Koga Ohana members!

New Parents
Russell and Gwen Inouye (Project Manager)
Baby Girl – Kaya Kayori Inouye
November 05, 2004  19½”, 6 lbs 14.5 ounces

Byron and Karey Cabal (Roust About)
Baby Boy – Jett Anthony Cabal
December 06, 2004  19½”, 7 lbs 8 ounces

Rudy and Joy-Ann Espejo (Laborer)
Baby Girl – Alyson Espejo
December 13, 2004  19½”, 7 lbs 2½ ounces

Gregg and Lee Ann Ichimura (Project Manager)
Baby Girl – Kelli Ann Kikuyo Ichimura
January 14, 2005  19¾”, 7 lbs 1 ounce

New Grandparents
Mal and Carol Koga
Jason and Kimberly Kubo (Mal and Carol’s Daughter)
Baby Boy – Tyler Jack Kubo
December 4, 2004  22”, 7 lbs 7 ounces

Anniversaries
30 Year 20 Year
Gus Pacheco Glenn Nohara
Clay Asato Kip Furugen
Jits Kunioka Max Manipon
Bryant Akiona Presley Wann
Billy Acosta

Safety

by Dennis Okazaki

At Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc., the New Year brings new and bigger challenges. In Safety, the new buzz word is “Culture”. How does a successful company instill the safety culture in their workers? All too often production drives the project. This is because management can look at the cost report and projections to see how well the project is doing and what the outcome might be. But in fact the hidden cost (insurance, workers compensation rates) which is brought on by accidents can impact the bottom line even more than production.

For the year FY2005 we have plans to:
1. Fine tune our light duty program.
2. Once a month safety training for our employees.
4. Employee orientation for outer islands.

A big MAHALO to all of our consultants for helping us to instill our safety culture. Cliff Maeda, Safety First for training; Steve Loo, Risk Evaluation & Consultation Services for inspections; and Roy Akamine, King & Neel for inspections. It has been and will always be Koga’s goal to strive for zero lost time.

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. wishes that the future year be a SAFE and prosperous one for all.
Koga Jobs

Oahu Current Projects .......... General Contractor/Client
Ala Moana Center
  Block H Renovation ............... A.C. Kobayashi
Aloha Stadium
  Lower Halawa Parking Lot ........ State of Hawai‘i, DAGS
Bishop Museum Science Center ........ A.C. Kobayashi
Hokua @ 1288 Ala Moana Blvd. .......... A.C. Kobayashi
Honolulu Zoo Veterinary Clinic ........ S & M Sakamoto
Kapolei High School PH 2C ........ A.C. Kobayashi
MATOC-03,
  C-17 Beddown North Sector .......... Kiewit Pacific
Military Training Complex Bldg. 117 .. JHL Construction
 Schofield Expand Shopping Center ........ Bodell Construction
 Wahiawa-Whitmore Village
  Interconnection .................. C & C of Honolulu
Whole Barracks Renewal PH2C1 .......... Dick Pacific Construction

Oahu Upcoming Projects .......... General Contractor/Client
Mokauea St. Improvements ............ C & C of Honolulu
Repair Alpha Warf 1 PH 1 ............. Hawaiian Dredging
SIBA Treewell and Sidewalk Repair .. SIBA

Kaua‘i Current Projects .......... General Contractor/Client
Kaua‘i Judiciary Complex ............ Unlimited Construction Services, Inc.
Counter Terrorist Security
  Improvements @ Pacific
  Missile Range Facility ............. Tomco Corp.
Wilcox Hospital
  Diagnostic Center Expansion ........ Shioi Construction, Inc.
Extension of Temporary
  Kapa’a Bypass Road ............... State of Hawai‘i, DOT
Emergency Sinkhole
  Repair @ Wilcox Hospital .......... Wilcox Memorial Hospital

Kaua‘i Upcoming Projects .......... General Contractor/Client
Kapa’a Homesteads
  Well No. 3 Development .......... State of Hawai‘i, DLNR

Big Island Current Projects .......... General Contractor/Client
Keakealani Office Bldg. ............. State of Hawai‘i, DAGS
Villa Linden ......................... Tingley

Big Island Upcoming Projects .......... General Contractor/Client
Hilo Judiciary Bldg. ................. Swinerton
Team Spotlight

Koga Support Operations

Aloha Everyone! Support Operations…okay what is that and what do we do? We are your indirect project support team, equipment mobilization, maintenance and repair, small tools and job site fabrication support team. Although seldom seen or recognized, our Support Operations Team is vital to the day-to-day operations of our organization. Our team supports all projects on all islands, Oahu, Kauai and our Big Island operations.

On Oahu, our team is headed by Uncle Danny Aniya, Equipment Manager, Mechanics Ryan Kimoto and Nic Viduya, Doug Miyasato in Mobilization, and Steve Yoshikawa in Yard and Small Tools.

Our yard and office is located in the Sand Island Industrial Park. We are proud to announce that our new shop support operations building on Oahu is in operation. It has approximately 3000sf of work area and lift capabilities of 5 tons. Mahalo to all that helped in its construction.

On Kauai, we have Warren Miyasato, Mechanic and Marc Johnson, Yard and Small Tools. Our new Kauai yard and office is located in the Puhi Industrial Area.

On the Big Island, we would like to welcome our new member, Mechanic Kevin Saito. Our new Big Island yard and office is located in the Honokahau area. All in all I guess you could say that – We get ‘em ready, get ‘em out there, keep ‘em running and fix ‘em when they’re broke.

Happy New Year and hats off to the entire Koga Team for continuing to put forth your best every day. Till next time… A Hui Hou Malama…

by Tosh Hamada