



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC
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APEGBC South Central Branch
&
University College of the Cariboo

The 2nd Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Contest



Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Where can I buy popsicle sticks?**

Popsicle sticks can be purchased in bulk from various hobby stores. One example is *Michael's* in Kamloops.

2. **Can I use jumbo popsicle sticks or even make my own?**

No. The rules call for the use of “standard” popsicle sticks. Jumbo or custom made sticks are not permitted.

3. **Can I enter more than one bridge in the contest?**

Yes you can enter as many bridges as you like. We only ask that each one be separately registered.

4. **Are you allowed to cut or split the popsicle sticks?**

No. The rules call for the popsicle sticks to remain intact. They must not be split or cut to length. Judges will be checking these details before your bridge is tested at the same time your bridge is weighed in and verified to use 100 or fewer popsicle sticks.

5. **Can epoxy based or “Crazy Glue” type adhesives be used?**

No. The rules call for white glue such as Elmer's, Bondfast, or any of a wide assortment of white woodworking glues available from any hardware store. Judges will be checking that only approved adhesives have been used when your bridge is weighed in.

6. **Is it possible to have a closer look at the “Bridge Buster” machine before judging on March 5, 2005?**

Yes. If you would like to have a look at the machine before the contest you can contact Anne Redford (371-5853 aredford@cariboo.bc.ca) or Ben Giudici (828-5108 giudici@cariboo.bc.ca) in the UCC Electronics and Engineering Department to arrange a viewing time.

7. **How accurately can the “Bridge Buster” actually measure the forces being applied to the bridge?**

The force is calculated by measuring pressure being applied by a pneumatic cylinder. The pressure is measured with a sensor that is certified to +/- 0.1% accuracy. Accounting for small air leaks and something call “sticktion” in the pneumatic cylinder, we reasonably confident forces can be measured to within +/- 1%. This means a 500 lb measured failure force is 500 +/- 5 lbs.

Please check back. More questions and answers will be added as they come up.

Happy Bridge Building !!!!