

An SCDOT Wedding

David Wertz marries on new Cooper River Bridge



By Rob Thompson

While some employees may love their jobs and other feel 'married' to their work, David Wertz took it one step further.

Wertz and his fiancée got married at his current worksite -- and what a spectacular worksite it is.

Standing in the middle of the two 572-foot towers and perched 210-feet above the Cooper River, David Wertz and Angela Lee McInnis said their "I do's" on the new Cooper River Bridge in front of a crowd of

family, friends and co-workers on May 29.

David is the assistant resident construction engineer in the Charleston Community Bridge Office and has been working on the new bridge project for the past three and a half years.

Angela works for the Department of Defense.

For the past couple of months, she's been in federal law enforcement training in Brunswick, GA. This left her little time to plan and organize a wedding, so David came to her rescue.

David told her he'd take care of everything, and like a true engineer, he organized everything -- flowers, location, wedding party and reception.

While the wedding party waited at the center of the bridge, Angela arrived in sporty silver Audi convertible.

After exchanging their vows, the couple walked down the aisle to the convertible and drove off, wedding veil blowing in the wind, through the expansive white cables of the east tower of the cable span bridge.

It was a picture perfect ending to a wedding ceremony that he and his bride will never forget.

Their wedding reception was held at the South Carolina Aquarium on East Bay Street in Charleston.

David and Angela went to high school together in Charleston, and started dating after college. Angela has a nursing degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and a law degree from Loyola University in New Orleans. Angela has accepted a position with the Department of Defense in San Diego.

David has a BS in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and an MBA degree from the University of South Carolina.

After the new bridge is completed, David will be leaving SCDOT and moving to California to join his new bride in San Diego.



ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

David Wertz and his wife, Angela, sign their marriage license after marrying on the new Cooper River Bridge. David Wertz is the Assistant Resident Construction Engineer in the Community Bridge Office in Charleston.



Miss South Carolina kicks off safe driving platform

Miss South Carolina 2004 Ann Ashley Wood participated in a safe driving demonstration at Michelin's Lauren's Proving Grounds. The course covered car handling in wet conditions, the importance of tire pressure and general safe driving tips. Wood is working with SCDOT and using the information to educate new drivers as she speaks to high school students across the state.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR

ABOVE: Wood puts on a helmet before experiencing controlled hydroplaning on a wet track, at left.

BELOW LEFT: Anthony Beigay is one of the professional drivers who gave driving instructions to Wood and some SCDOT employees at Michelin's facility.

BELOW CENTER: Peter Tarpley videotapes Wood for a safety video.

BELOW: Wood speaks to drivers' education students at Chapin High School.

