



Independent Pool and Spa Service Association

Volume 7, No. 3, March 2006

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Have you put your checklist together?

March should be your safety month, as it is traditionally the beginning of spring. Swimming pools are high priority for your clients and prospective clients. I urge each of you to familiarize yourselves with local swimming pool health and safety codes. Municipalities, County, and State are not all one and the same. Depending on location of the pool, the codes will supersede each other. So make it your business to know codes and carry a set in your work truck for reference while on the job. On your check list, don't forget to have a line item for the swimming pool equipment area. It should be free of trash and debris to avoid a fire from the heat of the motor. Do you have to climb over chemical buckets, garden tools, lawn mowers and worst of all fuel cans for the lawn equipment just to service the pool equipment? Simply speaking with the property manager or home owner will solve most of these problems and likely get you more respect for looking out for the property by preventing fires and accidents that can be costly. Your efforts would likely give you a more professional appearance and make your company an asset to those you serve. Many efforts you make are taken for granted, but when you care about your clients' safety you are suddenly more valuable to them. Good business practices and practical thinking are only a couple of attributes which make your days easier. Efforts are being made in each region to become involved in the safety of our communities. Join your chapter in this effort or volunteer some of your time to coordinate water safety awareness and don't forget about the pets, too! We all need to work together to make a safer community.

Greg Donoho, Region 9 Director
512-754-4901

The Good, The Bad and The Internet

The good aspect of the internet is that if your company is on it with your own website or at least listed on our IPSSA Fort Worth website a potential customer can check out your info – 24/7; at any time day or night, at minimal cost to you, check out what an add in any of the printed "Yellow Pages" would cost. This is advisable if you are looking to expand your business, not much good if you are "maxed out" and have no room for new customers. The bad aspect of the internet is that your potential customers can "shop" equipment pricing (mostly from California companies) that at times is much less than our "wholesale cost" from local distributors – how can they do this? I've heard a lot of explanations but none that make much sense. Doesn't make much sense that a seller would only make \$ 20 on a \$ 1,000 heater, but what do I know? The internet is here to stay, we can rant and rave all we want about it but in the end it would be up to the manufacturers to do anything about it. Some manufacturer reps I have talked to have expressed their "dismay" about the internet prices but these internet companies don't seem to have any shortage of products to sell. I guess it will be up to each of us to determine how to handle this new aspect of our business. I heard such suggestions as "I won't install any internet equipment." "It will cost you double to have me install any internet products." And "No warranty on any internet equipment." Believe me I would like to know a good way to handle this stuff. Maybe we can pressure our distributors to match these prices or form a buyers group to lower our prices by increasing our volume sales. I don't know. We would welcome all feedback you might have. If you have and good suggestions, write us an opinion piece. We'll put it in the newsletter and kick it around. Any comments???

splash@sbcglobal.com



2005 Vendor of the Year 2005 Vendor of the Year

Steve Gossett, Sales Account Manager, SCP Fort Worth branch was presented the "2005 Vendor of the Year" award at the February Fort Worth Chapter meeting by our illustrious Vice President Dave Boyd, South Central Pool Supply continues to "Step Up" in support of IPSSA members. Look for some great news from SCP regarding pricing for IPSSA members. Make every effort to attend our March Meeting!?!?



February Meeting Attendance

The following member companies were not represented in February at our meeting:

- Alliance Pools & Spa
- Aquamaid Pool Techs
- Clear Connection
- DFW Pool Service (3-in a row)
- Kelley's Complete Pool Care
- Ken's Pool Service
- Mikos Pool Service
- Swimmers Choice

If there's any mistake let me know, Splash Gordon's (817) 589-7707 – Chapter Secretary
Our standing rules call for a \$ 54.00 fine for missing two meetings in a row. Upon a third consecutive absence, the board may remove membership. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are counted in attendance at the meeting or to let one of the officers know that you are unable to attend a meeting!
Hope to see you all at the March meeting.

SPLASH



March Birthdays

There seem to be no birthdays this month, please contact me if I missed someone.

ipahl@sbcglobal.net or 817-595-1167



Balanced Water

There's more to taking care of a pool and spa than just keeping the water clean. You also have to make sure the water is properly balanced.

Water that is not balanced -- that is too acidic or too basic -- can cause bather discomfort, cloudy water and damage to the pool and spa surfaces and equipment.

Water follows certain natural laws, just like other things around us. Unsupported objects fall to the ground, and this is called the law of gravity. It is the nature of water to dissolve the things it contacts until it becomes saturated. It is possible for it to dissolve too much and become over saturated, at which point the water loses its excess material by precipitation. This is governed by the laws of *chemical equilibrium*, more commonly referred to as *water balance* (see Table 3.a).

Many operators are already familiar with this subject to some degree. A commonly used tool in determining the degree of saturation in pool water is the Langelier Index. Originally devised for the complicated and variable conditions found in industrial water treatment (boilers, cooling towers, heat exchangers etc.), it has been simplified for use with the swimming pool water. The degree of saturation by the pH, temperature, total alkalinity and calcium hardness found in the pool water.

The pH reading is used directly. The temperature factor (TF), alkalinity factor (AF) and calcium factor (CF) are read from the Table, using the test values obtained from a pool test kit.

The constant (12.1) includes a factor for Total Dissolved Solids (TD), assuming a value of less than 1000 ppm TDS. When the TDS is found to be higher (1000-2000 ppm) a value of 12.2 should be used for the constant.

To determine whether the pool water is aggressive (under saturated) or scale forming (over saturated), the operator would

1. Complete the water testing

Run the Water Balance Test from Online Water Testing Langelier Index - Saturation Table

$$\text{Saturation Index} = \text{pH} + \text{TF} + \text{CF} + \text{AF} - 12.1$$

TF - Temperature Factor

CF - Calcium Factor

AF - Alkalinity Factor

Temp F	TF	Calcium Hardness Expressed As PPM CaCO ₃	CF	Total Alkalinity Expressed As PPM CaCo ₃	AF
32	0.0	5	0.3	5	0.7
37	0.1	25	1.0	25	1.4
46	0.2	50	1.3	50	1.7
53	0.3	75	1.5	75	1.9
60	0.4	100	1.6	100	2.0
66	0.5	150	1.8	150	2.2
76	0.6	200	1.9	200	2.3
84	0.7	300	2.1	300	2.5
94	0.8	400	2.2	400	2.6
105	0.9	800	2.5	800	2.9
128	1.0	1000	2.6	1000	3.0

Continued on page 4

POOL QUIZ

1. If you are using liquid chlorine to sanitize your pools, what is considered the ideal total alkalinity range?

- a. 120 – 140 ppm
- b. 100 – 120 ppm
- c. 80 – 100 ppm
- d. 60 – 80 ppm



2. When balancing pool water, always adjust total alkalinity first.

- a. true
- b. false

3. Which type of chlorine has a near-neutral pH (6.8 – 7.0)?

- a. liquid
- b. trichlor
- c. cal hypo
- d. dichlor

4. Which of the following types of chlorine are made from gas chlorine?

- a. liquid
- b. trichlor
- c. cal hypo
- d. all of the above

5. Ozone is very effective in eliminating algae from pools

- a. true
- b. false

6. Which type of chlorine is the least expensive to buy?

- a. liquid
- b. dichlor
- c. gas
- d. cal hypo

7. Total alkalinity has the ability of water to neutralize acid.

- a. true
- b. false

8. chlorine combines with what compounds to form chloramines?

- a. ammonia
- b. nitrogen
- c. muriatic acid
- d. both a & b

Balanced Water

CHEMICAL BALANCING

The term balancing has many meanings when referring to pool and spa water chemistry and conditions. The following summarizes these various definitions and conditions.

Corrosive vs. Non-corrosive

Two chemical levels exist that determine corrosive conditions. Both conditions are serious and costly if not checked. (1) If pH is lower than 7.0, the water is considered acidic and it will attack and dissolve metals, especially the copper pipes in the heat exchanger located in the pool heater. (2) When the saturation index is a negative value, the water will attack or dissolve the calcium found in the pool-shell plaster or grouting between pool tile.

Irritating vs. Non-irritating

Both the human skin and eyes will react to chemical extremes. There are two conditions that will cause inflammation and irritation to the eyes. The human eye has a pH of 7.3-7.5 and will become extremely uncomfortable when pH is below 7.0 and above 8.0. The second condition is when the combined-chlorine level is above .5 ppm and the chloramines cause the irritation. Both conditions should never occur if hourly testing is accomplished and recommended chemical levels are maintained.

Staining vs. Non-staining

Two conditions exist that cause iron or copper metal staining of a pool shell, especially a plaster surface. Excessive iron content in the water supply may cause a reddish or rust discoloration at the inlets of the pool if a chelating agent is not used to hold the metal in suspension. Copper staining creates a blue or blue-green discoloration of a plastered pool shell. This condition is created when the pH is lower than 7.0 for long periods, and the acidic water attacks the copper tubing found in the heater's heat exchanger. This can become very costly if walls require sanding or sandblasting and if it is necessary to replace a heat exchanger.

Clarity

Water clarity is a result of proper chemical balance, adequate circulation and filtration. Most often, cloudy water conditions are caused by low chlorine, high alkalinity, high pH, high TDS or a combination of these. It is possible to have proper chemical readings and still have cloudy water during high swimmer load if the flow rate of the circulation system is low or if there is poor filtration.

Water Saturation Summary

- Properly balanced or saturated water prevents damage to the pool and equipment. Unsaturated water corrodes plaster walls, fixtures, plumbing, etc., and causes staining. Oversaturated water deposits scale or becomes cloudy. ○ The operator needs to test and control pH, total alkalinity, and hardness in order to maintain balanced water.
- Proper pH control (7.2 to 7.6) ensures: (1) the proper form of carbonate alkalinity for saturation, and (2) the proper form of HOCl for sanitizer efficacy.
- Soda ash is used to raise pH. Acids are used to reduce both pH and total alkalinity, depending on how they are applied.
- Sodium bicarbonate is used to raise total alkalinity.
- Alkalinity of 80-120 ppm is preferred for both pH buffering and calcium carbonate saturation.
- Calcium hardness of 200 ppm, or more, is preferred for proper calcium carbonate saturation and for avoiding soft-water scale found in spas and hot tubs.
- Calcium chloride is used to raise calcium hardness. The best means of lowering hardness is to drain off some of the water and refill with fresh water.

To help you get a handle on what water balance means – and how you can maintain it – let's look, one at the time, at the factors that shape your water quality.

Continued in next month issue

WEBTALK

Let me know if you have any questions regarding the website, www.ipssafortworth.com or this newsletter. If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact me. Or you can download the newsletter right off the web.

It would be great if some of you would participate with the content of our newsletter by turning in an article or two, or you may have some cartoons to keep us entertained with life's idiosyncrasy's.

I would like to hear your opinion regarding our chapter newsletter.

Contact me at: ipahl@sbcglobal.net - or - 817-595-1167 Thanks, Ingrid



Our next meeting is: **Tuesday, March 21 at:**

La Playa Maya Restaurant,
1540 North Main Street

Fort Worth, TX 76106 - 817-624-8411

That's a few blocks south of the Stockyards

We try to arrive around 6:30 PM with the meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

We do our best to be finished by 9:00 PM.

Speakers for our next Member Meeting

Jami Pittman – Stellar Sales and
Cliff Davis WEK & Associates



Officers Meetings

Monday, March 6 – 7:00 pm

Monday, April 3 – 7:00 pm

Chili's Restaurant, 8000 Bedford-Eules Road
Eules, TX 76180 - 817-577-1245



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Expiration Date:

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<p></p> <p>Cliff Davis Regional Sales Manager</p> <p>cdavis@wek.cc 214-350-6900 - 972-877-2341 cell</p>	<p>DUHAMELL ASSOCIATES Manufacturers Representatives P. O. BOX 1285 Arlington, TX 76004</p> <p>Darren Plemons</p> <p>Office 817-275-1242 Fax 817-275-1249 Cell 817-228-2453 Email dplemons@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Jami Pittman</p> <p><i>Stellar Sales</i></p> <p>Office 940-455-2701 Fax 940-455-2702 Cell 214-507-5658 Email StellarSalesJP@cs.com</p>
<p><i>IPSSA encourages its Members to Support and patronize all of our fine Chapter Supporters</i></p>	<p> arrow insurance service</p> <p>Raymond Arouesty</p> <p>800-497-8600 800-833-3433 800-497-2229 Fax</p> <p>www.arrowinsuranceservice.com</p>	<p>Darrell James</p>  <p>Office: (817) 676-9096 Cell: (817) 991-6064</p>

Fort Worth



Chapter



Please check our on-line calendar for other upcoming events!
Contact me to keep the calendar updated -
let me know when there is an event coming up
should be brought to everyone's attention!

IPSSA Fort Worth
P.O. Box 820852
N. Richland Hills, TX 76180
www.ipssafortworth.com

March Calendar

March 6 - IPSSA Officers Meeting



March 17 - St. Patty's Day



March 20 – Beginning of Spring

March 21 – Member Meeting

April 2 – Daylight savings (+ 1 hour)

April 3 – IPSSA Officers Meeting

April 3 + 4 – Polaris Seminar – Irving

April 14 Good Friday



April 15 – Tax Day

April 16 – Easter Sunday

April 18 – Member Meeting



Officers:

Jason S. Bonser – President 817- 605-0194

David Boyd – Vice President 817-337-8585

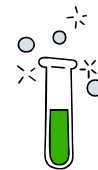
Gordon F. Slagle – Secretary 817-595-1167

Paul Garcia – Treasurer 817-247-5247

www.ipssafortworth.com

Ingrid Slagle –
Website/Newsletter 817-595-1167

Pool Quiz results



- 1.) c – 80 –100 ppm
- 2.) a - true
- 3.) d - dichlor
- 4.) d – all the above
- 5.) b - false
- 6.) c - gas
- 7.) a - true
- 8.) d – both a & b