



Southern California Chapter Newsletter

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Interested in joining ABPA? Contact your County Director listed above or see page 2.

7th Annual Conference Highlights

The Southern California Chapter held its 7th Annual Conference on October 25, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Long Beach Airport. The Conference was the Chapter's biggest and best ever, with over 100 attendees receiving information on current issues in backflow prevention and cross-connection control.

An exciting panel of speakers was on hand, including:

Henry Chang from USC FCCCHR, who demonstrated the field test procedures for the RP, DC, PVB and SVB

Steve Govero from O'Connor Sales, on installation materials and tools for large backflow prevention assemblies

Kathleen Coates-Hedberg, State of California DOHS, with Title 17 and Title 22 updates

Bob Mattson, Padre Dam Water District, spoke about recycled water and your cross-connection control program

Jim Purzycki, BAVCO, covering operation of fire sprinkler systems and the need for backflow prevention.

Paul Schwartz, USC FCCCHR spoke about the USC 10th edition, and also provided an update of the AWWARF National Assessment of the Impact of Cross-Connections in North American Water Supplies.

Exhibitors displayed the latest in backflow prevention assemblies, test gauges and other accessories. Thanks to all our speakers, moderator Bill Laird, the vendors and attendees who made this event so successful.



Calendar of Events



- February 2, 2001 AWWARF Workshop, Las Vegas
Contact: Larry Crane, (213) 740-2032
- March 22, 2001 ABPA Members Only Tour, Long Beach Aquarium
Contact: Steve Nakauchi, (562) 570-4134
- April 22-25, 2001 ABPA 17th Annual International Convention, Kansas City
Contact: Shane Dillard, (979) 846-7606
- May 23, 2001 ABPA San Elijo JPA Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour (Open to non-members)
Contact: Steve Nakauchi, (562) 570-4134

Benefits of ABPA Membership

There is a genuine need for education, cooperation and organization in the changing and growing world of backflow prevention and cross connection control. That need is met by ABPA, a non-profit organization founded in 1984. Our goal is to provide education and technical assistance to ensure safe drinking water through effective cross-connection control. More information about ABPA may be found at our web site - www.abpa.org.

Our members include both new and experienced plumbing contractors, backflow testers, regulators from health departments and water suppliers and others with an interest in maintaining water quality standards. Members also enjoy benefits like:

- ★ **Reduced registration rates** for conferences, training programs and seminars
- ★ **ABPA News:** Devoted to cross-connection control and backflow prevention issues
- ★ **Chapter Quarterly Newsletters:** Addressing local concerns
- ★ **Activities:** Including tours and field trips
- ★ **Technical Assistance** from other members with cross-connection control programs and backflow testing issues

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Complete the application form and return with your payment (check or money order only made payable to Southern California Chapter ABPA) to:



Southern California Chapter ABPA
PO Box 712
Cypress, CA 90630

\$ 45.00 ABPA Membership, includes Chapter and National dues (dues are tax deductible).

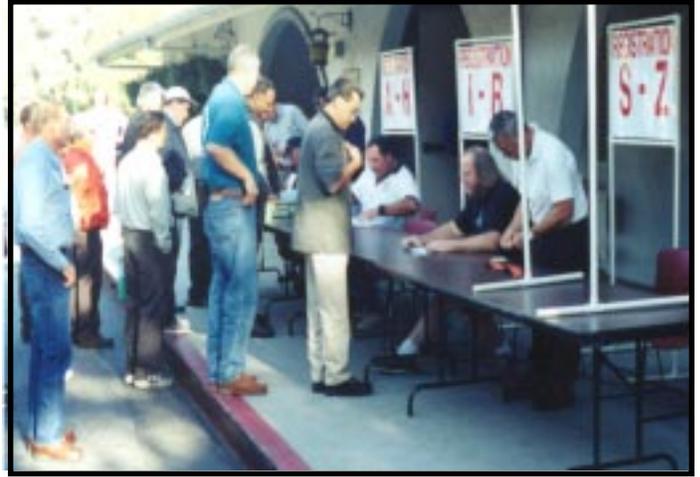
Name: _____ Title: _____ Company: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

One applicant per form - please make copies for additional applicants.

Backflow Industry Product Fair

The 3rd Annual Backflow Industry Product Fair was held on December 5, 2000 and was a huge success, with over 450 pre-registered attendees and walk-ins. The Fair was held at Griffith Park (Los Angeles) in the Friendship Auditorium. The participants were able to meet with vendors of all types of backflow-related products and services.

One of the highlights of the Fair was the opportunity to participate in tours of the USC FCCCHR Testing Lab. Attendees were also able to view a demonstration by Henry Chang on field testing procedures for backflow prevention assemblies, including the SVB. Jim Purzycki conducted an interesting and informative repair seminar.



After the field testing demonstration and repair seminar, all participants were treated to an In-N-Out Burger lunch, compliments of the vendors. Following the lunch, there were more opportunities to learn about backflow prevention products and services from the vendors. Due to popular demand, there were additional tours of the USC Testing Lab offered. At the conclusion of the Product Fair, there was a free raffle drawing held, with lots of great prizes donated by the vendors and the ABPA National Office.

The Backflow Industry Product Fair was co-sponsored by the ABPA Southern California Chapter and the Los Angeles County Cross-Connection Control Inspectors Group. Plans are already being developed for next year's fair.



USC Foundation Lab Technician, David Ritz, explains the data acquisition system during lab tour.



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Western Regional Backflow Conference

The Western Regional Backflow Conference (WRBC) was held in Las Vegas October 2-4, 2000. The Southern California Chapter was well represented in attendance, and the Chapter was also an active participant in developing and conducting the Conference.

Total attendance at the Conference was over 350, making the WRBC one of the largest events sponsored by ABPA. There were also 37 exhibitors, giving attendees the opportunity to discuss backflow-related products and services, network with vendors and obtain current product information.



Highlights at the Conference included a presentation from Ken Rotert, EPA, on “EPA’s Attempt to Regulate Cross-Connection Control Programs”. Ken discussed the EPA’s consideration to include cross-connection control programs as part of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. EPA is analyzing existing information on backflow, but there is a scarcity of data relative to the perceived problem. They continue to collect data, and the EPA will be assessing the potential of adding cross-connection control to future rule-making.

George Bratton reviewed “Common Misconceptions in a Cross-Connection Control Program.” Patrick Sylvester from USC FCCCHR updated the attendees on the status of their AWWARF project. Ken Ashlock, Immediate Past President of ABPA, detailed “How Do I Keep My Cross-Connection Control Program from Disappearing.”

Bonnie Waybright from the State of Oregon presented “The Sting.” This presentation detailed the State of Oregon’s efforts to ensure that backflow testers were performing their field tests properly, and how they rescinded a tester’s certification for false reporting.

Conference organizers received excellent feedback from participants and attendees on the wide range of topics covered. This feedback will be used to make future conferences more responsive to the needs and interests of the members.

An advertisement for BAVCO Backflow Apparatus & Valve Co. The logo features the word "BAVCO" in large blue letters inside a red trapezoidal shape, with "BACKFLOW APPARATUS & VALVE CO." written below it. Below the logo, it says "YOUR BACKFLOW PRODUCTS CONNECTION". Contact information includes "FAX (310) 639-0721" on the left and "(800) 458-3492 bavco.com" on the right.

Las Vegas 2000



Southern California Chapter President Steve Nakauchi (center) with Norm Westerdale and Jackie Hampton.

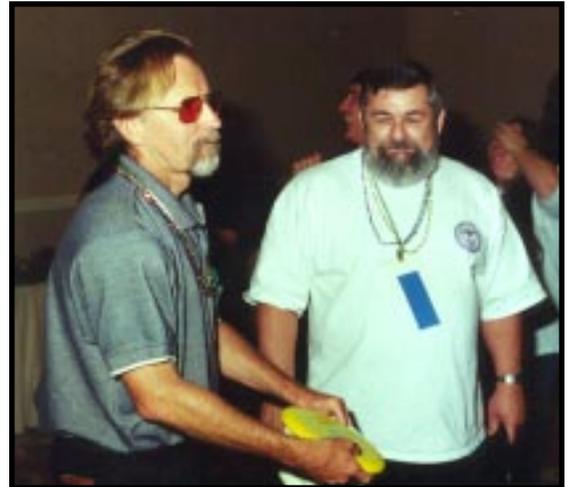
At the luncheon, the exhibitors were recognized for their support of, and participation in, the Western Regional Backflow Conference.



The exhibitors and ABPA chapters also provided generous donations for the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction raised \$912.00 from the 41 donations received. The proceeds from the Silent Auction will go toward the ABPA National Educational Fund. Special thanks to Terry Schneider, who did a terrific job as Silent Auction Chairperson.

Other activities at the Western Regional Backflow Conference included a Frisbee Golf Championship, with participants from seven teams.

Closing day presentations included "Liability - What the Lawyers are looking for" by Ray Ann Brammer; and "Insurance - What is it and What Does it Cover" by a panel of presenters from the insurance industry.



Disc expert John Bird, Colorado Chapter, demonstrates proper throwing technique to Les O'Brien., ABPA webmaster.

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The Western Regional Backflow Conference was a huge success, and the Chapter would like to thank everyone who assisted with organizing the Conference, the panel of speakers and the attendees. Thanks also to the exhibitors for continuing to support ABPA.

Training Opportunities

UC Riverside Extension Winter Quarter Course

January 10-March 14, 2001

Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Exam Preparation and Certification, Riverside California. Classes will be held Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday, March 10 from 8:00 am-5:00 pm. The fee is \$ 395.00. Designed to educate individuals involved with testing backflow prevention assemblies as part of a cross-connection control program. It should benefit those employed by a water agency or an environmental health department, an employer having assemblies, or those who are or who seek to be commercial testers. For more information, contact Deidre Stowell, UCR Extension, (909) 787-3806 x1631.



ABPA member Scott Carr provides Buster Backflow Comic books to future testers at the Del Mar Fair.

Palomar College, Escondido Campus

Classes for the Spring Semester at Palomar College will begin on January 16, 2001. The Backflow Tester class will be held on Thursday nights starting on January 18, 2001. Certification will take place at the end of the semester in May. AWWA certification will be conducted on May 18 and ABPA certification will be conducted on May 19, 2001, 8:00 sharp at the classroom lab. For more information, contact instructor Mike Kidd at (760) 744-0460.

Cuyamaca College, Spring Valley

Classes for the Spring Semester Backflow Tester Training will held from February 12 - March 8, 2001 at the Otay Water District, 2554 Sweetwater Springs Bl., Spring Valley. The class is held Monday through Thursday nights from 6:00 pm-8:50 pm. The fee for this 2-unit class is \$22.00 for California residents. ABPA and AWWA certifications will be conducted at the end of the class. For more information, contact instructor Mike Ahlee at (619) 239-1591 or www.cuyamaca.net.

The Cross-Connection Control Specialist class is held following the tester class on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from March 19-May 19, 2001 at Cuyamaca College for eight weeks (3 unit class). For more information, contact instructor Richard Carlson at (858) 694-2548.

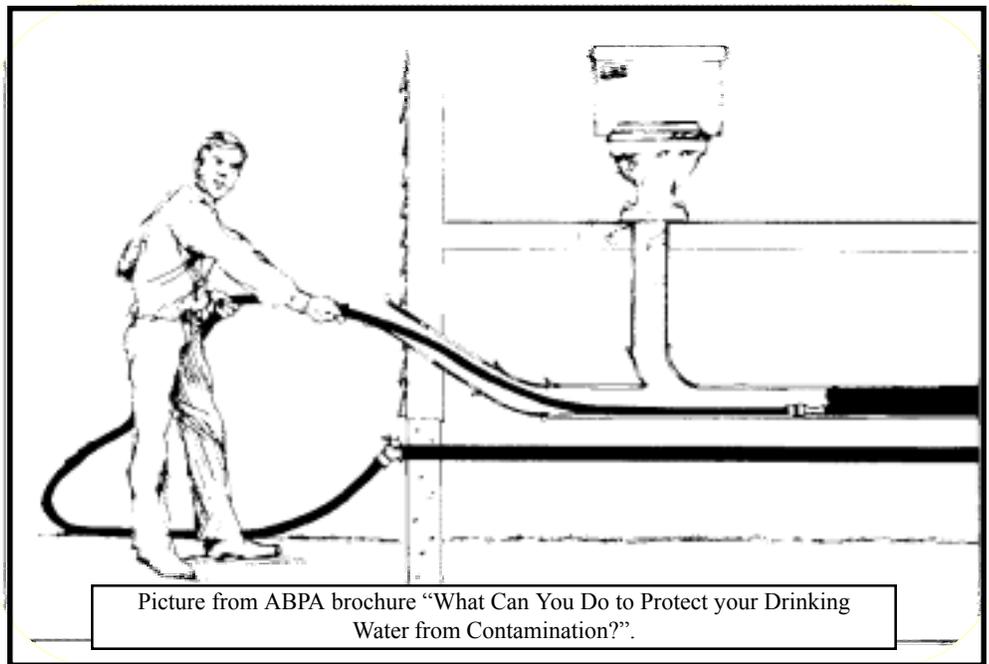
University of Southern California - FCCCHR

The five-day Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester training courses will be held during the weeks of January 8-12; May 14-18; and July 9-13, 2001 by the Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research, Los Angeles. For more information, contact the Foundation at (213) 740-2032 ; Email: fccchr@usc.edu; or <http://www.usc.edu/fccchr>.

The five day Cross-Connection Control Program Specialist training courses will be held during the weeks of January 22-26, 2001 and July 23-27, 2001 at the Los Angeles location; and March 12-16, 2001 at Incline Village, Nevada. For more information, see above.

The reasons or rationale for backflow prevention installations and testing are based on several seemingly simple principles. I say “seemingly simple” because it is frequently very difficult to get these ideas across to the public. Bottom line, backflow protection is the protection of our drinking water systems, the safety of which the public takes as almost a right. The following is a brief recap of these principles.

Backflow is simply a reversal of a hydraulic gradient. In other words, the water or other substances flow the wrong way in a piping system. There are two forms of backflow: backpressure and backsiphonage. There are five methods of protecting against backflow. These are the air gap; the reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly (RP); the double check valve assembly (DC); the pressure vacuum breaker (PVB); spill resistant pressure vacuum breaker (SVB); and the atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB).



There are two forms of hazards to protect against; the contaminant and the pollutant. The contaminant is a health hazard, in other words it can impair your health. A pollutant is a non-health hazard. Today almost everything is considered to be - when reviewing the mcls or maximum contaminant levels of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act - a contaminant. There are now mcls measured in parts per billion. Interestingly, to give you some reference, one part per million equates to one second in 11 days; one part per billion is equal to one second in 32 years - obviously, today it doesn't take much to cause a problem.

How to provide protection against contaminants and pollutants: The air gap provides protection against both contaminants and pollutants, backpressure and backsiphonage; the RP also provides protection against both types of hazards and against both forms of backflow. The DC provides protection against both forms of backflow, but only against pollutants. The PVB/SVB provides protection against both forms of hazards, but only against backsiphonage; the same is true of the AVB.

There is a lot more to the above but space limitations (and an exacting editor) require that this time we go over only the basics. Future newsletters will expand on these issues.

For further information, contact any of the ABPA officers or County Directors listed on page 1. There are ABPA handouts available on Backflow Protection for Garden Hoses; How to Select Backflow Preventers for Irrigation Systems; Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Certification Program Frequently Asked Questions; and Buster Backflow Comic Books.



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Chapter News



What do you think about our newsletter? Starting with this issue, the quarterly newsletter is expanding from four pages to eight pages, thanks to the support of our advertisers and ABPA members. For comments, suggestions and article submittals, contact Steve Nakauchi at (562) 570-4134.

The Southern California Chapter will be hosting the 20th Annual ABPA International Conference in 2004 in the Los Angeles area. Other upcoming activities include a members-only tour of the Long Beach Aquarium on March 22 at 8:30 am, starting with a behind the scenes backflow prevention tour and concluding with an opportunity to view the Aquarium exhibits. **The Aquarium tour will be limited to the first 25 ABPA members to RSVP to Steve Nakauchi at (562) 570-4134.** A tour of the San Elijo Joint Powers Association Wastewater Treatment Plant in Encinitas has been scheduled for May 23. This tour will be open to members and non-members. Plans are also underway for the 8th Annual Chapter Conference which will be held in late summer or early fall in San Diego County.

Bill Laird, Board Member from San Diego County, has contacted LegoLand to arrange a field trip for Southern California Chapter members in September. If the field trip is confirmed, it will be scheduled before the park opens (sorry, no rides). In addition to the use of recycled water on the site, the potable water system is protected by numerous backflow prevention assemblies installed by the owners of Lego Land to protect their customers. It is an excellent example of corporate responsibility in the use of backflow prevention assemblies (however, we have not found any backflow assemblies constructed out of Lego blocks).



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