

The Wave

Official Newsletter of the Southwest Pool and Spa ASSOCIATION

"Professionals dedicated to forging and preserving ethical and quality standards"



Announcing the First General Meeting of 2009!

DID YOU KNOW?

SPSA members have exclusive access to the "Members Only" section of our web-site. This section features technical information and breaking news stories about issues that affect how we do business.

If you are a member company, and do not have your password to this section, please contact John Mortensen at (602) 859-0512.

Special Workshop!

"Economic Observations and Survival Tips for 2009"

Lewis "Buzz" Ghiz, a veteran pool industry professional of forty years, and President of Paramount Pool and Spa Systems, will offer his view on our economic situation and his insights on how to weather the current storm.

For more information about Paramount Pool and Spa Systems, click on the link below.

www.1paramount.com



Buzz Ghiz,
President
Paramount Pool
and Spa Systems

Virginia Graeme Baker Act

Are you doing inspections for public pool facilities to determine whether they are in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act? If so, you should be fully educated about the Act, the Consumer

Public Safety Commission Staff reports pertaining to Virginia Graeme Baker, and the Maricopa County Board of Health requirements for acceptable compliance repairs on public pools.

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www.spsamembers.org

Virginia Graeme Baker Compliance

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On December 12, 2008, Maricopa County released a “revised” version of its November handout. In the December re-issue, the County added that it would require a permit for any suction cover outlet change that requires structural work on the pool. “Structural” work includes increasing sump distances to meet manufacturers’ requirements. So, if you plan to chip down the plaster and/or shotcrete in an existing field constructed sump, you will need to apply for and secure a permit to do the work. You must also *be licensed with the correct license* to perform this work.

The cost of this permit is **\$165.00**. You must secure a permit for each separate body of water on which you intend to do VGBA compliance work.

For example:

You are doing work on a pool, a spa and a wading pool—all at the same facility—you will still need to obtain a permit for each of the three bodies of water. If you plan to submit a permit application to install an SVRS on a particular body

of water, you can include the cover work for that body of water under the same permit application.

IMPORTANT!

If you are just replacing old covers with new VGBA compliant covers, you are short-changing your clients and placing your reputation in jeopardy.

VGBA compliance does not mean that we, as an industry, just replace all the old covers with new compliant covers. Part of being in compliance means that when you install a new compliant cover, you do so within the guidelines of that cover manufacturer’s sump depth and gallon per minute requirements.

If a manufacturer calls for a 3” sump for its cover, and you slap its VGBA compliant cover over a 1 1/2” sump, you are not bringing your client’s pool or spa into VGBA compliance. The same goes for gallons per minute. Floor suction outlets tend to allow for more flow than wall suction outlets. You need to know the pump and pipe size, the cover capability and the sump size to properly do VGBA compliance work.

In addition to proper cover compliance, you must also address the issue of single suction outlets or split suction outlets that are less than 3’ apart (the VGBA standard is more lenient than Maricopa County, but does not have a “grace” period until 2014).

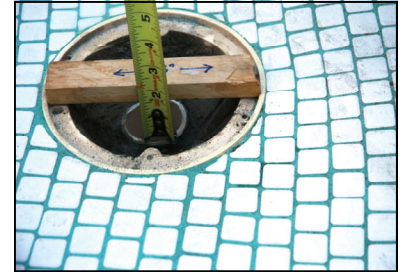
INSPECTIONS

Recently, one company’s “inspector” stood on an HOA’s pool deck and pronounced the pool “VGBA compliant” (even though the HOA had not had any compliance work done in the last 90 days).

There would be no possible way for it to have been in compliance.

Unfortunately, some companies will be embarrassed *when professionals that follow them make proper inspections*. Clients will incur costs they had been told “were not necessary.” This puts a black eye on our industry.

To protect yourself, make sure that anyone representing your company knows *how to inspect, what to inspect, and what the laws are*.



Recommendation:

Take photos of all work you do. (before and after) It appears that the County will be inundated with inspections ...by having well documented photographs, you may help your cause when its time for an inspection.

“If a manufacturer calls for a 3” sump for its cover, and you slap its VGBA compliant cover over a 1 1/2” sump, you are not bringing your client’s pool or spa into VGBA compliance.”

For more information on Virginia Graeme Baker, see the “Member’s Only” section of our website :

www.spsamembers.org

Coming Events!



Buzz Ghiz

SPSA GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday Jan. 28, 2009

TIME: 2-4 PM

PLACE: Crowne Plaza Airport Phoenix

4300 E. Washington Street Phoenix, 85034

SPEAKER: Lewis "Buzz" Ghiz

TOPIC: "Economic Observations and Survival Tips for 2009"

SPSA MEMBERS: *No Charge* **NON-MEMBERS:** \$15.00 *per company*

SWAP MEET at SCP

WHEN: Saturday February 28, 2009

WHERE: SCP Scottsdale Parking Lot

WHAT: A Swap Meet by and for pool and spa people. Individuals or companies may rent a 10' x 10' space for \$15.00.

RULES: Persons can sell off their excess pool and spa related goods. Products can be used or new. No illegal items or items not related to the industry (like clothes, furniture, toys, etc.).



ALL ITEMS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES BY 1:00 PM ON SATURDAY.

A \$ 5.00 DUMP FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR USE OF THE DUMPSTERS.

CONTACT: Mike Long— Branch Manager SCP Scottsdale
(480) 321-6463

If you want an industry-related event posted in our newsletter, please contact John Mortensen at: jrmort@cox.net

IN THE NEWS

Long-time Industry Veteran Dave Hood Passes Away

Many of us who have worked in the valley's pool industry will recognize the name **Dave Hood**. Dave passed away in early December 2008.

Dave worked for many years as a plasterer, then transitioned into remodeling design and sales. He was well versed in many areas of pool construction and was a great tradesman. Dave had a huge heart and an infectious smile. Our condolences go out to his wife, Susan, and the rest of his family.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with or knowing Dave will miss this big "teddy bear" of a man.



Our care should not be to have lived long as to have lived enough. - Seneca-

SPSA BOARD TO CONTINUE SERVICE THROUGH 2009

In a unanimous vote at the November SPSA Board meeting, board members voted to keep the original board in place through 2009. The decision was based on the need for continuity and the ability to complete the formation of basic services for our membership. The board will ask for a ratifying vote from the General membership at the January 28 General Meeting.

FINANCING OPTIONS

Our Treasurer and financing expert, Mike Hermann, is actively searching for viable financing options for SPSA members. If you have questions concerning what is available, please contact Mike at: mike@opyne.com.

PUBLIC WEBSITE

We are working on a professional website to which SPSA members can send customers for information, support and referrals. We should have it up by the 1st of March.

Farewell and Best Wishes to Gary Martin!

A fond farewell and best wishes to Gary Martin. Gary officially retired last week. He was a regional manager for Pool Corp and was responsible for the Arizona operations of SCP, Superior Pool Products and Horizon

Irrigation Supply. Gary was a strong supporter of industry improvement and a friendly, familiar face at industry get-togethers. He was a true professional and a real gentleman. We wish him the best in his new ventures.

For information on restructuring at Pool Corp and SCP, see the article below.

For more information on Pool Corp's companies, follow this link:

www.poolcorp.com

"When a man retires, his wife gets twice the husband but only half the income."

Chi Chi Rodriguez

Congratulations!

New Adventures at SCP and Pool Corp

On the heels of Gary Martin's retirement come some personnel changes at SCP and Pool Corp. On the first of January, Mike Theders, former manager of SCP's Phoenix branch, became the new regional man-

ager for Pool Corp., Randy Block transitioned to the SCP Phoenix branch manager position and Mike Long became the SCP Scottsdale branch manager. **Congratulations and good luck in your new**



When a [person] has equipped [him or herself] by thought and study for a bigger job, it usually happens that promotion comes along even before it is expected.

P.G. Winnett

For suggestions or letters to the editor, please address your remarks to John Mortensen, Communications Director, at jrmort@cox.net or call John at (602) 859-0512