



Region Seven Monthly Newsletter

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Director -- "On Tap"

Thanks to all of you who attended our May 17th BORD meeting at the Shelter Pointe Hotel in San Diego. This was a time to show off the San Diego Region's character and professionalism. We were able to reduce the meeting time from 5 to 4 hours and still discuss all important items on the agenda. Special thanks to John Sileox of the San Diego chapter for his presentation on drowning prevention which was very well received. He and his group have worked hard to publish an excellent brochure and have come up with many good ideas to publicize swimming pool water safety. I wish the group success in their endeavors.

Our region still has about 4,000 water watcher tags, and this is the time of year that these tags should get out to your customers. Please contact me and let me know how many your chapter needs. They cost 70 cents each and come in bags of 50.

We held our Region 7 meeting after the BORD meeting in May. Geoff Matthews coordinated the refreshments and did a wonderful job. The minutes of the meeting are included. Unfortunately the Carlsbad and Rancho del Mar chapters did not send a representative and according to our rules will be fined \$100 each.

Our next scheduled water chemistry exam will be at the IPSSA R7 picnic on August 3rd. I will give the exam at 11:00 AM. Please let any of your members who need to take the exam know about this. The next R7 Board meeting will be on July 22nd and the location will be announced at a later date. I will hand out nomination sheets for the BK Taylor award then and we will vote on the new recipient at our next meeting in October. Since I am in my last year as R7 director, I would like you all to think about my replacement. We will vote for a new director at our October meeting also.

Orange Co. Barrier Law Threatens Industry

Taken from IPSSAN May, 2003

For the swimming pool industry it seems that no governmental problem ever stays solved. In 1997 a state law, sponsored by the Calif. Spa & Pool Industry Education Council (SPEC), went into effect establishing a state-wide standard for residential swimming pool barrier requirements. SPEC struck a deal with the

barrier advocates to put the uniformity requirement in effect. No state legislation imposing barriers on home owners could go into effect without SPEC's approval. Various child drowning prevention advocates sat down with SPEC and agreed that if the industry would draft & lobby a uniform barrier bill through the legislature the barrier promoters would agree not to push for any further fence laws at the local level. On Feb. 7, 2003 Orange County pool builders received a shock when they learned that from then on the only barriers allowed between pools & residences would be a separation fence. The county Board of Supervisors had also quietly & without public notice adopted a severely amended version of the UBC's appendix pool barrier provision. The only public announcement of any pending action was the agenda item for routine adoption of the new UBC. None of the effected industries had any indication of what was being done. The county's version gives it building officials the leeway to approve other devices providing, in the official's subjective judgment, the device affords protection equal to the fence. Learning of the Orange County action, SPEC immediately organized a coalition of the areas' three largest Boards of Realtors & its Building Industry Assoc. SPEC hired a lobbying firm with extensive experience in working with the board of supervisors. In researching the boards action SPEC learned that county staff had failed to make legally required "findings", that the amendments to the state-approved UBC were for local "climatic, geological or topographic conditions." No other grounds are allowed for UBC amendments. Further, the findings must be filed with the California Building Standards Commission before they can legally be put into effect. SPEC has written to the Board pointing out that the amendments cannot be enforced until and unless the required findings have been made and filed. The county was requested to cease enforcing the barrier provisions of the UBC. They are still awaiting action. Clearly if the Orange County barrier law is not reversed, the restrictions could easily spread to every other city and county in California. The additional cost for fencing a pool will have a seriously negative effect on pool sales.

Coming Events

R7 Board Meeting: July 22nd Location TBA

R7 picnic: August 3rd DeAnza Cove 11:00 AM

BORD meeting: August 16th (TBA -Probably Ventura)