Welcome to the New Year

The new year starts in January and it is a reminder that each day starts with the promise that something new and unforeseen will be presented to us. In our industry, each day brings the potential for a cross connection incident that will be brought to our attention - whether by a meter reader, alert tester or member of the media. It is an issue that is always in the back of our minds, and that we all strive to prevent. We don't have the proverbial crystal ball and that means we must be vigilant in every aspect of cross connection control.

We all share the responsibility of educating the public about cross connection control and the need for backflow prevention. Since our industry is constantly changing, it is critical to stay informed.

In the upcoming year, our Chapter newsletter will focus on issues of interest to testers, program administrators and others involved in cross connection control. For example, Bill Gedney of Southern California Water Company has promised an article on the cause and consequences of a mainline contamination. There will also be “hands-on hints” in each issue to help testers prepare for recertification (see page 3).

If you are not currently an ABPA Southern California Chapter member, please consider joining.

In this issue of the newsletter, we are pleased to welcome new advertisers Blair Martin (Mid-West Gauges), Flomatic Valves and Tokay Software. And a big thank you to returning advertisers BAVCO, Delco Sales (Watts Regulator), O’Connor Sales (Febco) and Engsoft Solutions (XC² Software) for continuing to support our Chapter.
Calendar of Events

May 4-8, 2002  ABPA International Conference, Savannah, Georgia
Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2002  Western Regional Backflow Conference, Las Vegas

ALSO COMING IN 2002
4th Annual Backflow Industry Product Fair at USC
Southern California Chapter 9th Annual Conference
Field trips, tours, seminars and more - check your next newsletter for more info.

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.

Our members include both new and experienced plumbing contractors, backflow prevention assembly testers, regulators from health departments and water suppliers and others with an interest in maintaining water quality standards.

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 and contributions are tax deductible). One applicant per form - please make copies for additional applicants.

Name: ___________________________ Title: ______________ Company: ___________________________
Address: _______________________ City: ______________ State: ______ Zip Code: _____________
Phone: _________________________ Fax: ______________ E-mail: ___________________________
Hands On Hints

Even if you're recertified 3, 4 or 5 times, the nerves and the sweat glands still get a major workout during hands-on testing. If you prepare ahead of time, relax, don't be in a hurry and don't use "short cuts", you will probably do just fine.

We're all familiar with the Double Check valve test procedures and the requirement to hold the gauge at the proper height. The procedures, at this time, do not specify the exact moment when the gauge must be placed at the proper height. There is however, a critical moment during the test when the gauge must be placed at the proper height. That critical moment is before the #1 shutoff valve is closed. It can be done anytime before closing the #1 shutoff valve, but if the gauge is not at the proper height when the #1 shutoff valve is closed, the proctor must consider that an error.

The logic behind this is fairly simple. If you close the #2 shutoff valve and that valve is leaking, the gauge will remain virtually unchanged because the inlet valve (#1) is still open, supplying constant pressure. As soon as you close the #1 shutoff (#2 shutoff valve is still leaking), the differential reading on the gauge will begin to drop. If you position the gauge at the proper height before closing the #1 shutoff valve, you will get an accurate differential reading for the check valve. If the gauge is not at the proper height when the #1 shutoff valve was closed, the differential reading on the gauge will be inaccurate.

By the way, the critical moment for positioning the gauge at the proper height while testing the PVB is exactly the same, i.e. before you close the #1 shutoff valve. One thing to keep in mind is that proctors are required to view your actions and determine whether your actions could have caused erroneous results. Whether or not your action actually did cause erroneous results is not the issue.

The proctors I know and have worked with are all hoping you do well. We know how upsetting it can be when you make a mistake, especially when it's due to nerves or being in a hurry. So slow down, relax, stay away from the double cappucinos and remember, no one ever died from failing the Hands-On Test.....Yet.
The Southern California Chapter had a very active year. Following are some of the highlights from the tours, conferences and other activities.

The 8th Annual Southern California Conference held in August was a resounding success. There were over 170 paid attendees and vendors at the conference which was held at the Grand Pacific Palisades Resort in Carlsbad California. Thanks to Chapter member Bill Laird for coordinating this event.

In March, Chapter members were able to participate in a free behind-the-scenes tour of the Long Beach Aquarium. After this interesting tour, members were invited to view all of the interesting exhibits. Thanks to Chapter member John Hamm for leading the tour.
Chapter members and other participants from five Southern California Counties attended a tour of the San Elijo Joint Powers Association Reclamation Facility in May.

Thanks to Chapter member Scott Carr for arranging the tour of his facility, which takes municipal wastewater and turns it into a product that can be used for non-potable uses.

The Southern California Chapter was well represented in attendance at the Western Regional Backflow Conference (WRBC) in Las Vegas this year. Chapter members Jim Purzycki and Paul Schwartz were actively involved in developing and conducting the Conference.

At left, Ernie and Pauline Havlina and Terry Schneider: Legends at Work. Below, Chapter member Sergio Ochoa looks over the many fine items that were available at the Silent Auction.

The 2002 WRBC will be held from September 30-October 2, 2002 at the Orleans Hotel. ABPA members will once again enjoy discounted registration fees.

Organizers of this popular event are already working on the technical sessions and other major happenings. For more information about the WRBC, contact any Chapter Officer or County Director, or check the ABPA web site at http://www.abpa.org.
Are You an ABPA Member?

Here is a list of current Southern California Chapter members. Our quarterly newsletter is sent to members only. Don’t miss out! If you have questions about your membership status, contact any of the County Directors or Officers listed on page one.

Mike Adkins  Wade Gibson  Anthony LoPresti  Paul Schwartz
Michael Ahlee  Altin Ginn  Thomas Luczak  John Sediak
Thomas Allingham Jr.  Lorenzo Gonzales  Chuck Ludke  Francis Shea
Bruce Allyn  Steve Gore  Fred Lue  Donald Sherman
Michael Alvarado  Richard Guyer  David Margrave  Tom Shrewsbury
Gabriel Asenas  Eleni Lailu  Kenny Martinez  Jed Spicer
David J. Aszman  Bill Hall  George Mathews  Jamie Spicer
David Atkinson  Dana Hamilton  Robert Mattson  Denise St. Laurent
Buster Backflow  Val Hamlin  Danny McBride  Edward Starner
Keith Barks  John Hamm  Matt McCroskey  Fred Stauffer
Steve Barlog  Eric Hancock  Max Mendoza  Patrick Sylvester
Mark Barnes  Greg Harris  Jerry Mendoza  Gilbert Trester
Robert Beeson  Tim Haub  David Mexico  Utility Svcs,
Tim Bennett  Ernest J. Havlina  Larry Mirda  Matt Velardes
Patty Bevers  Frank Hawthorne  Fred Molina  Sal Vernola
John Bietsch  Robert J. Hayward  Larry Morehouse  Jerry Vilander
Richard Bird  Debra Healy  Jim Mosa  Jerry Ward
Dave Black  Calvin Helm  Lee Mulcahey  John Watkins
Ken Blair  Charles Henry  Mike Murray  Clark Wells
Richard Blake  Ramiro Hernandez  Jim Morehouse  Erhard Wierschen
Bryan Brigham  Tom Higham  Rob Myers  Phil Wilson
Connie Brown  Emmett Hill  Steven Nakauchi  David Winn
Fred Brown  James Hodges  Robert Noffsinger  Steve Wolverton
Alex Bucher  Robert Hoffsiniger  Lucinda Norried  Fred Yamashiro
Pete Buddhu  Joe Holdren  Antonio Nunez  David J. Young
David Bushor  Troy Holland  Sergio Ochoa  A.R. Zeff
Dennis Butler  Ken Hudgens  Charles Perry  Ray Zierman
Chris Camacho  David Hutchins  Peter Peters  Gregg Zimmermann
Richard Carlson  IAPMO  Pieter Pijl  Scott Carr
Scott Carr  Kevin Islander  Chuck Pollock  Doug Chandler
Doug Chandler  Pam James-Adams  Bob Purzycki  Henry Chang
Henry Chang  Blake Jones  Jim Purzycki  Eugene Cooper
Jim Cook  Ginger Kaufman  Casey Quinn  Dean Cornell
Eugene Cooper  Michael Kidd  Fred Reyes  David Dawson
Dean Cornell  Brian King  Ron Ridenour  David Dawson
David Dawson  Mike King  Jose Rivas  Jenette Denning
Jenette Denning  Orvil Kirk  Patricia Robinson  Jim Detrick
Jim Detrick  Hector Kistemann  J. Arnold Robinson
Richard Dierking  Steve Klapp  Joe Saenz  Tom Dix
Thomas Dix  Bill Kucher  Ron Sagona  David Duran
David Duran  Bill Laird  Al Saia  Randy Engle
Randy Engle  Frank LaPietra  George Samanc  Jeff Flynt
Jeff Flynt  J.J. Lee  Barry Sauter  Angelo Gallo, Jr.
Angelo Gallo, Jr.  Glenn Leeks  Mike Schierer  Eric Gibson
Eric Gibson  Linda Liinangi

If your name is not on this list, this is your last FREE copy of the Southern California Chapter Newsletter.

JOIN ABPA NOW!!
An effective cross connection control program is an essential part of maintaining a potable water distribution system. This is especially true when a water purveyor has both potable and recycled water within its service area. Recycled water is highly treated sewage, and as such is considered a health hazard.

Strong communication between the personnel that work with the potable water and recycled water is absolutely imperative. If these two groups do not have strong positive communication with each other, the integrity in both areas suffers. Good communication between cross connection and recycled water staff will ultimately provide a stronger cross connection control program that will allow a greater level of confidence in the recycled water program. Although the potable side of the house is not always excited about the utilization of recycled water, there should not be a communication block between the two programs.

The cross connection control section personnel should be kept informed about the location of recycled water use sites. One way to accomplish this task is to copy requests for recycled water meters to the cross connection control section. They will then be able to address the issue of backflow prevention assemblies at any potable meters on the recycled water use site. The recycled water section should ask the cross connection control section if they have any concerns about the site.

The relationship between the cross connection control staff and the recycled water program should be a model of open communication and mutual understanding. If these criteria are met, both programs will be more successful at completing the ultimate result: Safe water and useful reutilization of resources.
Chapter News

The Southern California Chapter Officers/County Directors held a Board meeting on October 17. Many items were discussed, including the successful Western Regional Backflow Conference recently held in Las Vegas (see photos and info on 2002 Conference, page 5). Plans and activities for 2002 include a Chapter members-only field trip to Legoland, Pharoah’s Lost Kingdom and the Del Mar Race Track.

Other plans include our Chapter’s 9th Annual Conference, tentatively to be held in the Oxnard area. We are also working on a Tester Update Seminar to be held in San Diego County and the Fourth Annual Backflow Industry Product Fair (BIPF).

Training opportunities include Tester Exam Preparation and Certification at University of California, Riverside from January 9-March 13, 2002. For more information, contact Deidre Stowell at (909) 787-3806 x1631. Other training information is available at the ABPA web site at http://www.abpa.org.