Greetings from Your Outgoing President!

These past several years as President has been quite an experience, no bad ones just great experiences.

People ask me how I feel after being President for a while...I tell them that I couldn't be happier! The reason that I'm thrilled is that other people are stepping up to the “plate” to lead, be an active voice in the Chapter. A fresh outlook and direction, that is important for any organization to move forward. So I am happy about that and with Bill Laird as President and Mike Ahlee as Vice-President I am confident the Chapter will continue to be active and strong! I encourage all members for your continued support to the Chapter and its Board Members. I will continue to help and support the Chapter as time allows me.

I truly believe that the President looks good because of the hard-working members. The backbone of the organization, the information gathering, the pros and cons of a decision that must be made, the “leg work”, the ideas, commitment, support and just as important....their friendship! Life is wonderful when you have people that work hard and yet have a good sense of humor.

Thank you Board Members for your support and telling me what to do, what to eat and what to say! Thank you Denise for being the editor, talk about work and deadlines. The newsletter has come a long way since you started and the work you have done on the web site is fantastic. Thank you to Pat and Dick for your continued work and of course to Paul, Henry and Jim, what can I say? Your support, advice is beyond words!

Thank you members for being there and your support. Remember to speak up, volunteer, let's take the Chapter to new heights!!

Steven Nakauchi
Calendar of Events

November 12, 2003 Southern California Chapter Annual Conference, Laguna Hills
May 9-12, 2004 ABPA International Conference, Long Beach, CA

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. Chapter members receive a quarterly newsletter, reduced rates at seminars, and can participate in special "member only" tours. Your $45.00 payment includes $30.00 for National dues and $15.00 for local Chapter dues. Join today!

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 $15.00 Chapter and $30.00 National dues (dues and contributions are tax deductible). Already a member of ABPA National? Just submit $15.00 SoCal Chapter dues.

Name: __________________________ Title: ______________ Company: ___________________________

Address: ________________________ City: ______________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______________

Phone: __________________________ Fax: ______________ E-mail: ___________________________
You’re a certified backflow prevention assembly tester and a Cal-Nevada AWWA certified Cross-Connection Control Specialist. What else is there – or are you at the end of the line, reached the summit, no more mountains to conquer?

In the water/wastewater industry there is an increasing commitment to continuing education and contact hour requirements based on the need to stay current in the protection of public health and safety. The same can be said for the Cross-Connection Control arena, and there is another summit on the horizon.

Cuyamaca College in El Cajon, California is proposing a new AA degree program in Cross Connection Control starting with Fall 2004. Degree requirements and electives are not yet established.

However, the proposed curriculum will include a three-unit one-semester course (16 classes) titled Cross-Connection Control Specialist – Recycled Water, also in Fall 2004. This will be part of the Water and Wastewater Technology curriculum at the College. The course is designed to provide specialized training for conducting cross connection control shutdown tests at recycled water sites. A prerequisite for the course will be a current AWWA Cross Connection Control Specialist certification.

The reason for the course is that in San Diego County, which currently has over 500 recycled water sites that also contain potable water systems, a periodic shutdown test is required to demonstrate that the recycled water system has not been cross-connected to the potable water system. Recycled water has its beneficial uses, but drinking is definitely not one of them. Similar testing is done throughout the State.

Currently, in most cases the recycled water purveyor relies upon its staff who have the experience, knowledge and expertise to conduct the shutdown test. With the use of recycled water as part of the California water equation, its use is exploding, as is the need for the testing. The testing requirements may soon put an extreme burden on the purveyors staff.

Regulatory oversight is within the jurisdiction of State Health or local health agencies if delegated, but the purveyors are ultimately responsible for the safe use of recycled water.

In the future, the recycled water purveyors may need to turn to the private sector to help in conducting the testing. Remember when only water purveyors could do the backflow testing? The requirement in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations is that only a Cross-Connection Control Specialist can conduct the test. The problem is that there is virtually nothing in the existing Specialist training relating to recycled water and shutdown testing. Hence the need for the new course.

The Cal-Nevada AWWA Recycled Water Committee has been provided with the course outline/curriculum and may be considering it for a Cal-Nevada certification.
Western Regional Backflow Conference

The 7th annual Western Regional Backflow Conference (WRBC) was held in Las Vegas, Nevada from September 29th to October 1, 2003. The Southern Chapter was well represented in not only the attendance, but also as an active participant in developing, planning and conducting this Conference.

Total attendance at the Conference was over 300, making the WRBC one of the largest events sponsored by the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA). In addition, there were plenty of exhibitors on hand, giving attendees the opportunity to discuss backflow prevention-related products and services, network with vendors and obtain and see current product information. Thank you to the vendors present for supporting our organization!

Highlights at the Conference on opening day included a presentation on “Contaminants - What Can Harm You” from Linda Blish, Southern Nevada Water Authority. She discussed how backflow incidents can harm the public and the drinking water system. Les O’Brien from University of Florida’s TREEO Center’s presentation concerned “Is Your Backflow Program in Need of Check-up?” Les provided many tips and ideas for running an effective program.

The second day Conference highlights included a split session format where one side focused on the Tester, Repair Person and Contractor and the other side focused on the Administrator and Water Purveyor. Most of these sessions were very well received by the attendees.

On the closing day, we heard excellent presentations from experts discussing insurance, the internet, distribution system vulnerability and public education.

ABPA CEU’s were available for attendees who were interested and followed the CEU guidelines, with no additional charge.

The Silent Auction was one of the more popular activities. Thanks to the hard work of Chairman Terry Schneider, over $1,700.00 was raised for the ABPA National Education Fund. Thanks to all who contributed and bid on the wonderful items.

The Vendor Reception featured a surprise appearance by Buster Backflow AKA Bill Laird from our Chapter promoting the May 9-12, 2004 ABPA International Conference in Long Beach. Those in attendance will not soon forget Buster’s enthusiasm - or costume.
There was an ABPA Proctor Training workshop as a pre-Conference activity and an ABPA Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Certification as a post-Conference activity.

At the luncheon, activities included an ABPA business meeting and the vendors being recognized for their support of, and participation in, the Western Regional Backflow Conference. Photo contest prizes were awarded in three categories: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.

More pictures from the Conference are on our web site at http://www.socalabpa.org.

It was announced that there will be no WRBC held in 2004 due to the Long Beach Conference. The 2005 WRBC is scheduled for Sept. 26-28, 2005. Hope to see you all there!
How Does the RP Work? Part Two
Submitted by Jim Purzycki, Los Angeles County Director

This is the second article in a series of articles explaining the workings of backflow preventers.

In our first article we pressurized an RP and saw what happens to each of the three components (1st check, 2nd check and relief valve). In this article we are going to begin to see how an RP reacts when the two hydraulic conditions of backpressure and backsiphonage are applied. Let us assume we have a properly working RP and suddenly apply backpressure to the outlet side of our RP.

In our illustration, the inlet pressure is 100 PSI and the outlet pressure is 85 PSI. Let us apply backpressure to our RP. Backpressure is when a greater pressure is generated on the outlet side of the assembly than the inlet pressure. This condition can happen for many reasons; pumps, thermal expansion, etc. If the starting outlet pressure (85 PSI) increases to 105 PSI and the second check is working, the 2nd check closes and keeps the 105 PSI pressure from migrating into the area (90 PSI) between the 2 check valves.

Even if we have a working 2nd check and backpressure is applied we can get discharge from our relief valve. A condition called disc compression can cause discharge from a properly working RP. When backpressure occurs, this increase in pressure placed on the downstream side of the 2nd check causes the 2nd check disc to embed farther into the 2nd check seat. The volume of water in the body between the 2 checks is being squeezed as the 2nd check disc embeds farther into the seat. Water is not a compressible fluid in these pressure ranges, so this squeezing of this water causes and increase in pressure in the area between the 2 check valves. If this increase in pressure between the 2 checks, which started at 90 PSI in our illustration, is equal to the inlet pressure minus the relief valve loading (100 - 2.0 = 98), the relief valve will open.

In our field test procedures, when we perform our 2nd check test of an RP we are simulating a backpressure condition by bringing the higher inlet pressure (100 PSI) around to test cock 4 (85 PSI). If you remember from your field test procedures, when an apparent 2nd check failure is observed, you are required to open your low side bleed valve on your test kit. This will draw the elevated pressure from the area between the 2 check valves, while the second check disc stays embedded into the 2nd check seat from the applied backpressure. When the low bleed is opened, you are reestablishing the pressure in the area between the 2 checks back to its normal pressure of 90 PSI while the elevated 100 PSI is maintained after the second check. The non-recognition of disc compression when performing a field test is one of the most common failures by a backflow prevention assembly tester. Once the relief valve discharges when testing the second check, you must open the low bleed one more time to determine if the 2nd check is actually working or not. A disc compression scenario may happen and the tester may incorrectly assume the 2nd check is not working. This error has happened more frequently with the inline movable design of check valves in relation to the fixed poppet style.
Let us see what happens when we apply backpressure to a non-working 2nd check. Once the pressure begins to increase on the outlet of our assembly, the 2nd check cannot maintain the separation of pressures between the inlet and the outlet of the 2nd check and the pressure will equalize on both sides. As the pressure increase begins (from 85 PSI in our illustration) the area between the 2 checks will also increase. Remember the area before the 2nd check is where our low pressure is applied to the low pressure side of our relief valve elastic element. As the pressure increases above our starting pressure of 85 PSI and goes to the point equal to the inlet pressure minus the relief valve opening (100 PSI - 2.0 PSI = 98) of 98 PSI, the relief valve will open.

In our next article, we will apply backsiphonage to our RP and see what happens.
Chapter News

The nomination period for Chapter Officers and Directors closed on September 30, 2003. There was no need to mail ballots to Chapter members because there were no runoffs. Congratulations to new Chapter President Bill Laird, new Vice President Mike Ahlee and new San Diego County Directors Jeff Flynt and Bob Mattson. Big thanks to past Chapter President Steve Nakauchi. We’re looking forward to Steve’s continuing involvement with the Chapter.

Rules and a nomination form for the E. Kent Springer award can be found on our Chapter web site at http://www.socalabpa.org. The award will be presented at ABPA’s 20th International Conference and Trade Show in Long Beach May 9-12, 2004. This award was created in honor of Professor Springer in recognition of his many accomplishments in the field of backflow prevention. The purpose of the award is to recognize members of the Southern California Chapter who have made major contributions to our profession. Nominations are due by December 1, 2003.

There’s still time to register for our November 12, 2003 Annual Conference in Laguna Hills. For more information, contact Scott Carr at (760) 753-6203 x32.