



Easter Sunday  
April 8th

# IPSSA Dallas Newsletter

Independent Pool and Spa Service Association - Dallas Chapter

## From the President:

Well April is upon us, it's been a fast 4 months since I took over, just to give you an update on the progress. First off we have added about 15 new members, 4 new chapter advertisers, and raised over \$1000 from the auctions to go toward membership drives and outreach programs. Thanks to all the members for purchasing items, and vendors for donations of products.

As to the meetings, well my hat's off to Bob. I know it takes a lot of work lining up all the vendors, keeping the meetings fun and fast passed, starting on time and ending on time. I know he has some great surprises lined up for upcoming meetings. Outreach committee, I have talked to Walt and he has told me of some of the plans, and he will be announcing some of them at the next meeting. Safety committee, well I just glad to see Brett out of the hospital, and not flashing the nurses anymore. But just to let you know what he has planned, for starters is a TV campaign along with Ft. Worth chapter going over the water watcher tags program and other safety concerns around the pool. Onto upcoming ,we will be having more membership drive BBQ'S at S.C.P along with Ft. Worth chapter,

The information Ingrid got at the last meeting will be used to put together an IPSSA book of members along with your pictures, and IPSSA Dallas ID's to be used at new places, so we don't have to give out the membership list.

Speaking with Paul at Hayward he has some surprises lined up for Dallas and Ft.

*("Presidents" Continued on page 7)*

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## April 24th General Meeting

Raypak is scheduled to be our primary sponsor this month. We look forward to hearing from Jon Gartner concerning their heaters. Also in attendance will be Natural Chemistry, Hayward, Pentair, and SCP. Be sure to come prepared with all of your questions. What better way to help your business than one-on-one time with a sponsor.

Bob will gladly answer any questions you might have that are business or computer related.

Remember the meeting format has changed:

**5:15-6:45pm** Various Reps at each meeting

**6:45-7:00pm** Basic Chapter Business

**7:00-7:45pm** Primary Sponsor followed by more Chapter business.

**7:45-8:00pm** Auction of donated items

**8:00-8:15pm** Speak with Primary Sponsor

**8:30-8:45pm** Clean up

Be sure to come prepared for the Auction by bringing your checkbook, credit card, etc.

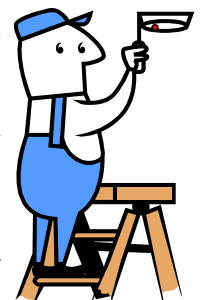
**Dinner will begin at 5:15 pm so come early!**

## Dallas Chapter Service Project

*By Walt Ransom, treasurer*

This spring we have a great opportunity to participate in a service project that I think will work well with all of our members. Working with the Dallas Fire Department and the City of Dallas Injury Prevention Center, we as a volunteer organization can help place smoke detectors in zip codes that historically have had high instances of injury or fatality due to fire. The next opportunity for us to work will be Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm.

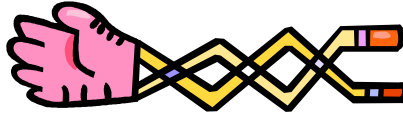
They are looking for roughly 32 volunteers to split up into teams and install these smoke detectors. It involves almost no special skills (pool techs' polished skills notwithstanding) and looks to be very clean work. No paint on the pants or sawdust in the hair. This is a way for us to bring some real hands-on help to our community with a relatively low level of commitment and stress. It also will not drain the coffers of our chapter. Spouses are welcome to participate so lets think seriously about signing up for this project. We will be asking for your commitment at our April members' meeting so put this one on your calendar.





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**WELCOME**  
Say hello to our newest IPSSA-Dallas advertiser. In case you missed the March meeting, Del Ozone was the primary sponsor. If you should have any questions about the Ozonator, contact Jeff Jones.

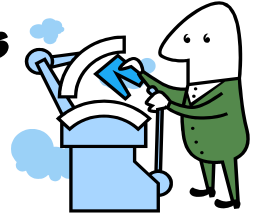


**NOTE:  
FROM THE BOARD**

Any request for a donation of Dallas Chapter funds must be approved by the Chapter Board of Officers before it can be presented at a Members' Meeting. If you have any questions concerning this area, please contact one of the board members.


Also, there are three committees in need of guidance by one of our members. They are as follows: **SAFETY, EDUCATION, and NEW MEMBERSHIP**. If you are interested in participating with one of these committees, contact Lance Rust at (214) 882-5414.

**Keep Willow Falls Clean!**



**Remember!**

It is important that we leave the clubhouse clean in order to avoid a \$300 fine. Please remember to help clean up once the meeting has concluded. The more hands that help the quicker the work is done!

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**TPSS ORGANIZES FOR 2008**

The date is set aside, the venue is booked, the theme is appropriate, and now all we need is to get the word out. The 2008 Texas Pool and Spa Show board is gearing up for a show like none before it. Start polishing those boots and dusting off those cowboy hats because we are "Gettin' Down in Cowtown" on January 9-12, 2008. What better place to do this than at the Ft. Worth Convention Center. More details will follow as they are made available.

Start thinking of how you can help in the upcoming months. If you are interested in committing your time to this worthwhile project, please contact Tim Long at (972) 978-9322 for details.



**"Gettin' Down in Cowtown"**

**Address Change**



Has your address changed since the last issue? If you are not currently receiving the newsletter at the address listed, let me know by sending your correct address to Debbie Long at [poolzazz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:poolzazz@sbcglobal.net).

**At the March Meeting:**

The meeting started off with lots of pizza provided by Del Ozone. Jeff Jones, Del Ozone rep, explained the different products, how ozone works, and why it is effective in swimming pools. If you have any additional questions, give him a call.

The Auction was fantastic and lots of people participated. Hayward provided a 1 1/2 horsepower pump, Del Ozone provided an Ozonator, SCP provided two service kits with seals and o-rings and a couple of pipe cutters, and Waterway provided several valves. The best part is that the money will be specifically used to fund Chapter membership drives and to fund a Chapter Outreach project, which Walt has outlined on page 1 of this newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the meeting fun and informative.

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# WELCOME

We want to take this opportunity to welcome **Roland Hicks, All Tech Leak Detection**, to the IP-SSA-Dallas Chapter. Mike was voted in at the last Members' Meeting. If you have not introduced yourself to him, please do so at this month's meeting. Take the time to make Roland feel at home.



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### EASY Chicken Parmesan

By Debbie Long



Chicken (boneless thighs or breasts)  
Basil 1 jar Spaghetti Sauce  
Mozzarella Cheese Pasta (of your choice)

I use the boneless/skinless because they cook faster. The amount of chicken is up to you.

Place chicken in a baking dish and sprinkle with Basil. Bake chicken at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. Add the Spaghetti Sauce and Mozzarella cheese. Cook about 15 minutes more. Cook pasta according to directions on package.



Serve with salad and garlic bread for a complete meal. ENJOY!



# Product Review:

## **Big Check to AquaChek** By Tim Long

My test kit box was broken... again. I have been using the same test kit with reagents for the past decade and every year without fail I have to replace it. Why? I have to buy a brand new kit just because the plastic box breaks. Dumb huh?

So this year, with a crumbling box, I entered SCP determined to make a change. The idea of change had been planted a couple weeks back. I was talking with a fellow Dallas IPSSA member. He had tried the new Digital reader from AquaCheck and told me I should give it a try. So I did!

I bought the reader last week. It cost a little over \$40. It is small, fits in the palm of your hand and requires 2 AA batteries (not supplied). The reader only comes with 25 test strips in the package, so I also bought an extra supply. A replacement bottle of strips cost around \$5.50 for 50 strips.

The test itself is simple. You must turn the reader on by pressing the top button and enter the testing mode by pressing the bottom button. The reader flashes the "on" message on its LCD display indicating it's ready. At that point you have 10 seconds to dip the test strip, which has three individual pads, in the water, shake off the excess water, and place the strip into the readers test strip slot. Within 10 seconds you have a reading for free chlorine, pH and total alkalinity. And for those of you like me, whose memory is beginning to fail, there is a middle button which lets you scroll through the last ten test results. Amazing!

The results of the test prove even more amazing, in that they differ quite dramatically from the results of my previous test kit, in several significant ways. First, the chlorine reading is given out beyond "10" ppm. Second, the pH goes below "7.0" and above "8.3". I checked a spa this morning, where the customer had excessively corrosive water. The reader indicated the water was only "6.5". Finally the total alkalinity reads well beyond the "200" range. But how accurate are the readings?

Not being a scientist with access to laboratory equipment, I can't say for sure. I can only get a general sense of the accuracy based on my experience in the field and the similarity of the readings to the test results of my previous test kit. I keep a log of my readings on all my service accounts for each of my visits. The chlorine and pH readings of the new reader compared to the previous test kit seem very similar. However the new reader indicated a much higher alkalinity than I expected. In fact the total alkalinity reading was different by over 100 ppm on many of my pools. Which is more accurate? I don't know. Hopefully some genius will tell us! In the mean time, I plan on using my new reader. Why? Because using this reader removes a lot of variables. First, in my old test kit I had to keep a large number of extra reagents. It was easy to loose track of how old the reagents actually were. With this reader I simply buy a new test strip bottle once a week, which reduces the number of things I have to remember. Second, I don't have to worry if I am holding the reagent bottle correctly, or if some debris is blocking the reagent nozzle, both problems would change the amount of reagent in the test sample, changing the results. Third, I am not dependent upon the available light to read the test results. The reader uses its own light source.

The key to the reader's success, according to Jami Pittman, local Dallas representative for AquaChek, is the removal of the human element. One need not compare the color of the test strip to a chart. The reader does this automatically. However the results can be affected negatively. Jami gave 4 suggestions for the reader's results. First the strips need to be kept dry, stored at room temperatures and used before they get out of date. Second, when performing the test remove the excess water by flicking the wrist, or the reagents will bleed from pad to pad changing the results. Third, place the strip into the reader from the top pad down, lowering the strip like a hinge. This helps keep the reagents from bleeding

*(Continued on page 11)*



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## From the VP of IPSSA Dallas Chapter

**Robert (Bob) Iovinelli**



Thank you Dallas Chapter Members & Sponsors for another successful Member Meeting in March 2007. The Spring rush is upon us, I hope everyone is booked solid. Remember this is the time of year if you are booked more than 5 days out, you are not charging enough for your services. Don't be afraid to charge what you are worth. There was a significant amount of cut throat pricing by the Big Guys last month. Now they are booked at those ridiculously low prices so now we can come in & make a decent profit. They cant get to the job for 2 or more weeks & customers don't want to wait, they want the pool ready for Memorial Day. See you at the next meeting & don't forget to bring your checkbook for the silent auctions. Some of us got some sweet deals last month.

- Same place Willow Falls Clubhouse (put address here)
- Same day, FOURTH Tuesday of every month.
- Time change: Pre-meeting 5:15pm Food will be provided by main Sponsor.
  - ◊ Clubhouse opens at 5:15pm. Up to 4 Sponsor will set up tables to talk to Members about their products until business meeting starts at 6:45pm. See Newsletter or Website for list each month.

[www.ipssadallas.com](http://www.ipssadallas.com)

- ◊ Business meeting starts at 6:45pm over between 7:00pm & 7:15pm
- ◊ 7:00pm - 7:15pm main Sponsor will start their Presentation
- ◊ 7:45pm-8:00pm Auction donated items. Bring your checkbook or credit card. Items not sold will be auctioned at next meeting
- ◊ 8:00pm-8:15pm Opportunity to speak to main Sponsor
- ◊ 8:30pm-8:45pm clean up clubhouse & leave.

Thanks for taking the time to read this article & do not forget to send your questions to [ipssadallas@hotmail.com](mailto:ipssadallas@hotmail.com).

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*("Presidents" Continued from page 1)*

Worth members. I'll let him tell you about this at upcoming meetings. By the way in speaking with Paul he told me about Randy Dornan, our Hayward sales rep. He fell crushing his jaw, and breaking out some teeth, please keep him in your prayers as he has a long recovery ahead of him.

In closing I would like to give Hayward a great thanks. When I took over I had all these plans for the membership, all it took was one call to Paul and he has come through. Randy was helping at the last membership barbeque, Brad Stoker worked over 10 hrs doing the product installation demonstration, and Alyssa has been at every meeting with product to donate for the auction. My thanks also needs to go out to the team at S.C.P, Mike Moss our IPSSA Dallas sales rep along with Dean and Doug, have been working hard to help with the membership drive by telling people at the counters what IPSSA is all about, helping provide a place and the traffic for our barbeques, and all the product donations, for the auctions.



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# Scholarship Funds Available

IPSSA has a scholarship program available "to all self-employed swimming pool/spa service technicians and their immediate families" in the Texas area.



The deadline for January has just past but you can still make plans to apply during the May 1st - July 15th deadline. All applications during this time will be considered for a scholarship in August.

Some of the areas available are:

- Certified Pool Operators (CPO)
- Aquatics Facility Operator (APO)
- Contractor license schools
- Manufacturer sponsored courses
- Community college course in:
  - Bookkeeping
  - Accounting
  - Computers
  - Chemistry
- Trade school courses in:
  - Plumbing
  - Electrical
  - Mechanical
- Whatever will help your business!

If you are interested, applications can be found at [www.ipssa.com](http://www.ipssa.com) or by contacting the IPSSA executive office at 888-360-9505

# Membership Drive



The drive is on to get the name of IPSSA out! Lance has done a great job of lining up some fantastic barbeques for us to share. The last one was held at SCP in Plano and served up a variety of brisket, ribs, and chicken along with baked beans and potato salad. Members from the Ft. Worth chapter arrived to lend a hand in spreading the word about this great organization.

If you missed this one, do not fret, there are more in the planning stages. Watch the newsletter for the times and places.

**SEE YOU AT THE BARBEQUE!**



*Stopping to enjoy a lunch of barbeque on and talk to IPSSA members.*



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1. The National Spa and Pool Institute recommends that the cyanuric acid level be kept between:
 

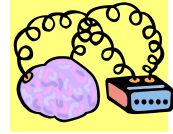
a) 10-30 ppm	b) 30-50 ppm
c) 50-70 ppm	d) 70-100 ppm
2. Copper ions will inhibit algae growth in pools and spas.
 

a) True	b) False
---------	----------
3. pH rises when you add:
 

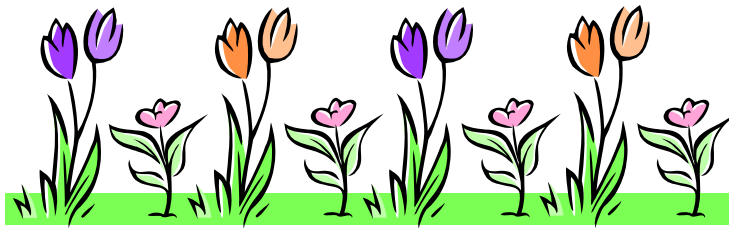
a) Soda ash	b) Liquid chlorine
c) Calcium hypo	d) All of the above
4. Which mineral is the most abundant in a concrete pool and is the one most likely to be dissolved by corrosive water?
 

a) Zinc	b) Magnesium
c) Aluminum	d) Calcium
5. A chlorine generator produces chlorine from a mixture of water and what?
 

a) Calcium	b) Hypochlorite ions
c) Sodium carbonate	d) Salt



*Answers on page 11*



*April Showers bring  
May Flowers!*

## POOL LEAKS



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(Continued from page 5)

from pad to pad. Finally, you should also use a cotton swab and fresh water to clean the test strip slot from time to time.

Jami told me the reader was actually developed for the home owner, but was aware of several service companies in the area who were using the kit. The reader seems ruggedly built with a high impact plastic. There is a gasket seal where the device comes together insuring a "water resistant" performance for all but the battery compartment. For a device built so well, I would have thought the battery compartment would be sealed. Some water got to my batteries and corroded the connection causing my unit not to function. But this was easily fixed on my part by cleaning the batteries and keeping the reader in my pocket when it is not being used.

The instructions to the homeowner, who should acquire the unit, are simple. The reader itself actually indicates if the results on each test are "OK", "HI" or "LO". The package comes with a manual typical for such homeowner devices. The information is scant, mostly charts, not near enough in my opinion. But what homeowner reads such manuals anyway?

AquaChek has a professional model in the plans for the future. Jami stated there is no release date as of yet, since it is still in development. Hopefully this professional model will read other parameters, such as cyanuric acid and calcium hardness. If it does, it will be a great addition to their line, provided they seal the battery compartment.

## **Next Monthly Meeting**

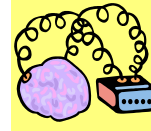
# **May 22, 2007**

Willow Falls Clubhouse  
13603 Brookgreen Drive  
@ Coit (NE) Corner

## **Brain Drain**

ANSWERS:

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. D
5. D



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 Garland, TX 75049-6803

For newsletter information please contact  
 Debbie Long at the following:  
 Phone: 972-270-6888  
 Fax: 972-270-8511  
 E-mail: poolzazz@sbcglobal.net

If you would like this newsletter to be sent to another address, please contact Tim Long and give him your new address.

**We're on the Web:**  
[www.ipssadallas.com](http://www.ipssadallas.com)  
[www.texaspoolandspashow.com](http://www.texaspoolandspashow.com)

## Upcoming Events

April 8th		Easter Sunday
April 10th	6:30 pm	IPSSA Board Meeting
April 14th	All Day`	Region 9 Meeting, Austin
April 22nd		Earth Day
April 24th	5:15 pm	IPSSA General Meeting



Outreach project scheduled see page 1 for more information.

**Location of Group Meetings:**  
 Willow Falls Clubhouse 13603  
 Brookgreen Drive @ Coit (NE)  
 Corner



**SAFETY**  
**ABOVE ALL ELSE!**

**IPSSA-Dallas Officers 2007-2009**

Lance Rust, President	214-882-5414
Bob Iovinelli, Vice President	972-422-0347
Michelle Moore, Secretary	972-772-0095
Walt Ransom, Treasurer	972-679-9908
Tim Long, Past President	972-978-9322
Eustaquio Portillo, Sergeant at Arms	972-278-3917

**IPSSA-Dallas Committees 2007-2009**

Lance Rust, Membership	214-882-5414
Bob Iovinelli, Sick Route, Advertising & Education	972-422-0347
Brett Moore, Safety	972-772-0095
Walt Ransom, Outreach	972-679-9908
Debbie Long, Newsletter	972-270-6888