

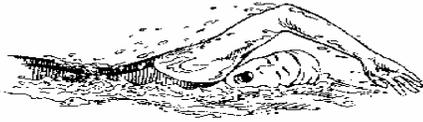


Water Digest

San Diego Chapter

www.Spa.and Pool.org

January 2000



Board of Directors

Albuquerque Pool Ban Builders Miss the point

On December 16, 1999 the Albuquerque Journal ran an editorial on the pool ban in Santa Fe county. The tone of the editorial was so incredible to me that I thought that it was worth sharing.

“Santa Fe County's ban on private swimming pools drew attention last week from some pretty big fish. New Mexico's House Speaker and a heavyweight lobbyist both from out of town have joined what seems to be an effort by pool-and-spa builders to get the pool ban overturned.”

“The county's pool ban was part of a water-saving ordinance the commission adopted in 1996, a particularly bad drought year. The ordinance also mandated water-saving fixtures for new buildings and drip irrigation and xeriscaping for outside landscaping. It also limited the size of lawns.”

“Contrary to what some spa-and-pool business owners seem to think, the ordinance doesn't ban hot tubs. Nor does it appear to ban small garden ‘water features,’ as one landscaper has complained. ‘Temporary wading pools,’ which we assume means summertime pools for kids, also are permitted.”

“Clever pool builders, who have spoken up at public hearings on a new ordinance rescinding the pool ban, are now touting outdoor pools with mandatory evaporation-limiting covers, of course as “water storage.” You can use pool water to quench a house fire, they say. Or you can quaff it in a water emergency maybe Y2K.”

“They're missing the point.”

“The aim of the pool ban isn't really to conserve water. There weren't that many private pools built in Santa Fe before the ban because the climate doesn't encourage it.”

“Another drought-related Santa Fe custom, requiring customers to ask for a glass of water in a restaurant, doesn't really save water, either.”

“What both these measures do is make people stop and think about water's availability. And that's the first step toward really saving it by cutting back on our everyday water use and saving and recycling wastewater.”

Sound familiar? Can any SD NSPI members find holes in the logic? Why not unjustly bankrupt an entire industry just to remind people to conserve water?

PRESIDENT

Phil Grider
The Pool Dentist
1340 Bulrush Court
Carlsbad, CA 92009
Phone: (800) 215-7665
Fax: (619) 994-2475
Cell: (619) 994-2475

VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Church
Quality Pool & Spa Company
15476 Markar Road
Poway, CA 92064-2313
Phone: (619) 549-8797
(619) 679-9042
Fax: (619) 679-8900
Mbl: (619) 991-5994

SECRETARY

Mike Ramey
Blake Sales Associates
4229 Cielo Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92056
Phone: (760) 941-3812
Fax: (760) 941-3782

TREASURER

Tom Casebier
Fletcher Hills Financial
7837 La Mesa Blvd.
La Mesa, CA 91941
Phone: (619) 668-0770
Fax: (619) 668-0344

PAST PRESIDENT

Kenny Judd
Mission Pools
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Escondido, CA 92025-2594
Phone: (760) 743-2605 (2606)
Fax: (760) 743-0384
Pgr: (619) 418-9891

DIRECTORS

Mike Galloway
Wateridge Insurance Service
10525 Vista Sorrento Pkwy., #300
San Diego, CA 92121
Phone: (619) 452-2200 x 193
Fax: (619) 452-6004
Pgr: (619) 998-7328

Rob West
Trendwest Pool & Spa
P. O. Box 20624
El Cajon, CA 92021
Phone: (619) 442-6889
Fax: (619) 447-1815

A. J. Wilson
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10224 Baroness Avenue
San Diego, CA 92126-1153
Phone: (619) 695-3461
Fax: (619) 695-3461 (?51)
Pgr: (619) 417-1709

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Rick English
English Consulting
1445 Twenty Eighth Street
San Diego, CA 92102
Phone: (619) 338-9197
Fax: (619) 338-9167
Pgr: (619) 331-8389

Presidents Letter

Greetings and Happy New Year

I hope everyone is having a wonderful time during the holidays.

We survived the millennium change. Somehow I didn't think that those old Intermatic clocks would crash. There is something to be said for low technology.

This is going to be a great year for the industry. Your NSPI is planning to help make it even better.

On the local level we have the IPPSA table top show this weekend. Many folks in the San Diego pool industry feel that this show gives them more valuable information than national shows. You don't need to get a plane ticket or a hotel room. Just drive to Mission Valley. Since it's free, you can't beat the price.

On a regional level, the region meeting is scheduled for Friday February 11th at Humphries in Shelter Island. All members are invited. You can hear and see about the industry all over the region. Please come spend a day and see the regional activities and take advantage of the educational program sponsored by the Region.

If you would like to attend then contact Ellen at the Region Office (619) 464-8623. Breakfast and lunch are included as part of the program.

Back to the local level. The next Chapter General meeting will feature Vance Gillette. Vance is vice president and general manager of pool systems for Teledyne Laars/Jandy Products. That's on the calendar for Tuesday March 14th. The price, if you register, is free.

Lastly, we are making some great improvements to the San Diego NSPI pool award competition this year. The date will be Friday, September 29. We'll start off with a golf tournament in the afternoon. Our spouses and others will join us later that day for the awards banquet.

At the banquet, you will see a multimedia presentation of the pools.

We have also made it easier to enter. First, no slide will be required. (We'll scan the pictures.) Second, you can enter any pool that you have built or remodeled. It doesn't matter when you built it as long as it has not been a winner in the past.

This will give you the summer to take pictures of pools with their lush landscaping in full bloom.

There is no excuse now! Fire up the film, pose the pool and submit that sucker.

Phil Grider, NSPI San Diego President



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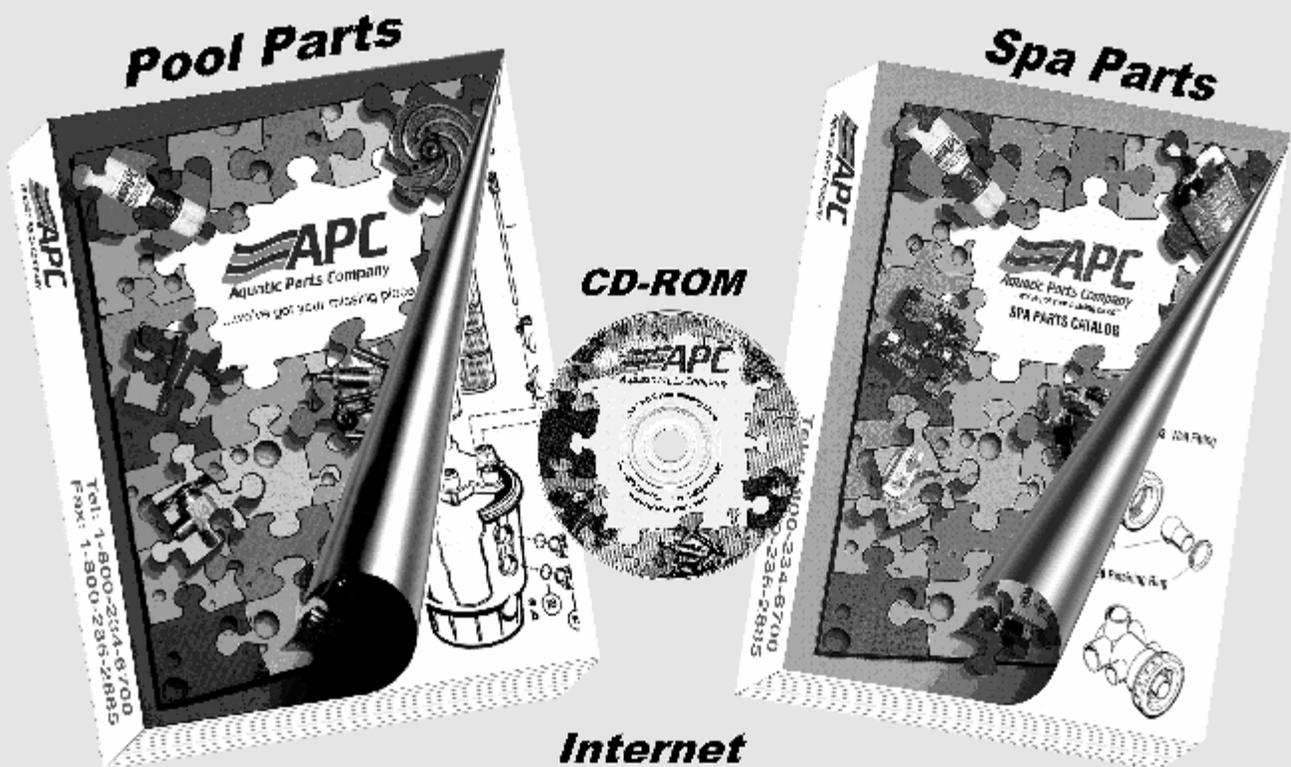
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Water Pik Technologies Begins Trading on NYSE

from Aqua Magazine

Having split from its parent company, Allegheny Teledyne, Water Pik Technologies is now operating as an independent, publicly held company. Water Pik \tilde{N} which includes pool industry manufacturer Teledyne Laars/Jandy Products \tilde{N} began public trading of its stock on the New York Stock Exchange in November under the symbol PIK.

Shares of Water Pik stock closed its opening day of trading at 73/8 points, and was hovering around \$9 a share at press time.

Water Pik says it plans to focus on being a leading supplier of pool products, heating systems and health care products, with corporate headquarters in Newport Beach, Calif. Meanwhile, **Teledyne Laars/Jandy Products** is operating within the company as **Laars/Jandy Pool Products**, maintaining offices in Moorpark and Novato, Calif.

"We're excited to be on our own, steering a new course for the future," says Michael P. Hoopis, president and chief executive officer of Water Pik Technologies. "We have a top-flight consumer-oriented management team in place whose goal is to expand this business by doing what we do best \tilde{N} delivering innovative products that provide outstanding value to consumers."

The Pittsburgh, Pa.-based Allegheny Teledyne announced late last year the spin-off of its consumer division as a separately operated company under the name Water Pik Technologies. According to company statements, the move allows Allegheny Teledyne to focus on its core businesses as a diversified specialty metals company.

Tom Grucky
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Remember Murphy's Law ("Whatever can go wrong will go wrong")? The 20th century gave birth to that chestnut, along with such classic screwups as the Titanic, the Hindenburg, and the Union Carbide chemical disaster at Bhopal. Following, a small sampling of other catastrophes:

- ◆ 1940-A design flaw causes The Tacoma (Wash.) Narrows Bridge to collapse in high winds.
- ◆ 1952-The DeHavilland Comet, a commercial jet aircraft, debuts. Seven of 21 copies promptly crash, owing to faulty design.
- ◆ 1959-The Malpasset Dam on the French Riviera, built too close to unstable ground, bursts, killing hundreds.
- ◆ 1958-62-"The Great Leap Forward," China's botched technological revolution, causes widespread famine; 30 million die.
- ◆ 1970s-The glass-clad John Hancock Tower in Boston sheds its 500-lb. windows, a major construction embarrassment.
- ◆ 1986-The space shuttle Challenger explodes just after liftoff.
- ◆ 1986-In the Soviet Union, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant suffers a partial meltdown.
- ◆ 1994-Juan Pablo Davila, trading commodities via computer in Chile, accidentally types "buy" instead of "sell." To rectify his mistake, he starts a frenzy of buying and selling, losing .5% of his country's GNPs. His name becomes a verb, "davidar," meaning "to screw up royally."

DATA: ANNALS OF IMPROBABLE RESEARCH

Printed in Business Week

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When I first heard the word "ergonomics," I thought that it was the sound that my stomach makes after a hearty Mexican dinner. Then I started seeing the word more often. After reading a bit about it, I realized that it would impact some of our members. Specifically anyone with ten or more employees.

I gathered the information in business week and "The Role of the Ergonomics Team" by Regina M. Barker, MS, CPE

Ergonomics deals with repetitive or awkward tasks. The term is most often associated with carpal tunnel syndrome. It can extend to cover back pain, neck pain and a host of other maladies. Ergonomics is not a precise science.

OSHA submitted a 310 page proposed list of rules and regulations to congress around Thanksgiving. If a worker at a particular firm gets hurt, according to the new rules, then that company would be required to have an ergonomics program, with lots of reports to file.

It probably makes sense to avoid this by taking some simple, common sense, steps before you someone at your firm gets one of these injuries. When one of your employees gets a carpal tunnel injury, you can expect them to be off the job for 25 days. That's longer than if they had broken a bone!

Some of the tools that are used to prevent this type of injury are specially designed ergonomic keyboards and chairs, anti-glare screens, etc.

Look at the cost of these items. It is probably less than \$500 per employee. Think what a 25 day loss of that employee would cost you. Now, think of what creating the proposed OSHA program would cost.

It makes the \$500 look like a good deal.

The OSHA guidelines currently call for employee involvement and recommend "safety and health committees that receive information on ergonomic problem areas, analyze them, and make recommendations for corrective action." The guidelines also require "ergonomics teams or monitors with the required skills to identify and analyze jobs for ergonomic stress and recommend solutions." What the guidelines do not suggest is how to form the teams, train them in job analysis, and empower them to make necessary workplace changes.

"Employees (and their designated representative) must have: a way to report signs and symptoms of WMSDs [i.e., work-related musculoskeletal disorders] and WMSD hazards, and to make recommendations about appropriate ways to control them; prompt responses to their reports and recommendations; access to information about the ergonomics program; and ways to become involved in developing, implementing and evaluating: job hazard analysis and controls; training; and the effectiveness of the program and control measures."

Here is a potential problem that can be avoided by some proactive moves on our part.

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10:00 - 10:50	Hayward Cleaners Pool Vac Navigator Frank Ruggerio Hayward Pool Products	Compool Controls Repair & Installation Tom Schoendienst Compool	Business Mgmt. Roundtable for the Service Industry Steve Swanson-The Pool Co. Dave Hawes-H&H Pool Serv.	
EXHIBITS OPEN 12:00-5:00				
12:00 - 12:50	Kreepy Krauly Repair Kreepy Krauly	Purex Mini-Max Heater Repair Dale Coates Purex/Triton	Solving & Preventing Pool Stains Mike Walker Jacks Magic	
1:00 - 1:50	Baracuda Sweep Repair Mike Felechner			
2:00 - 2:50	Polaris Pool Sweep Repair Polaris Pool Systems	How to make more \$\$\$ David Courey Pool Surfacing 2000	Plaster Pool Start-up David Grider Nobel Tile	
4:00 - 5:00	IPSSA WATER CERTIFICATION TEST			



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Jan15	San Diego Table Top	Scottish Rite Temple 619-464-0211
Jan 25-27	Atlantic City Pool and Spa Show	Atlantic City, CA
Feb 2	3rd Annual Region 6 Table Top	University of Redlands 909-766-5725
Feb 11	Region 11 meeting	Humphry's, San Diego
Feb 11	Jandy Controls School	San Diego
Feb 12-13	Teledyne Laars Heater School	San Diego
Feb 24-26	Western Pool & Spa Show	Long Beach Conv. Center General: 800-787-7727 Exhibitors: 800-746-9772
Mar 14	NSPI Chapter Meeting with Vance Gillette	San Diego Marriot
Mar 16-20	Pool & Garden Trade Show and Exhibition	Brussels, Belgium
Mar 28	HOTT Show 3-8 p.m.	Poenix Club, Anaheim 714-573-9906
Sept 29	San Diego Golf Tournament and Pool Awards Dinner	Carlton Oaks Country Club

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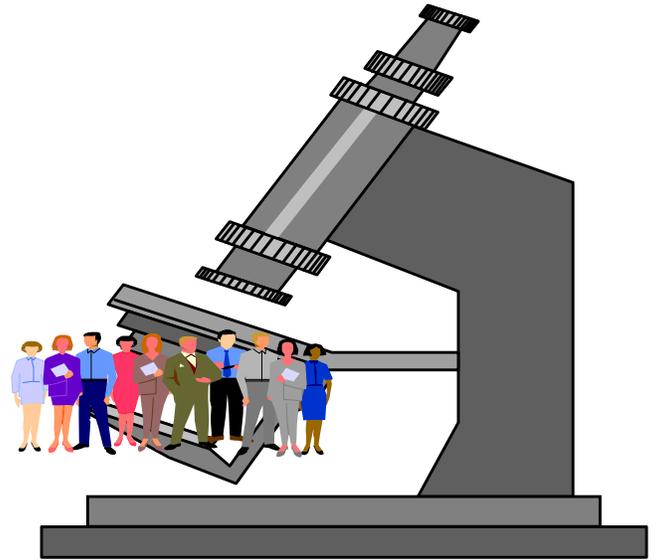
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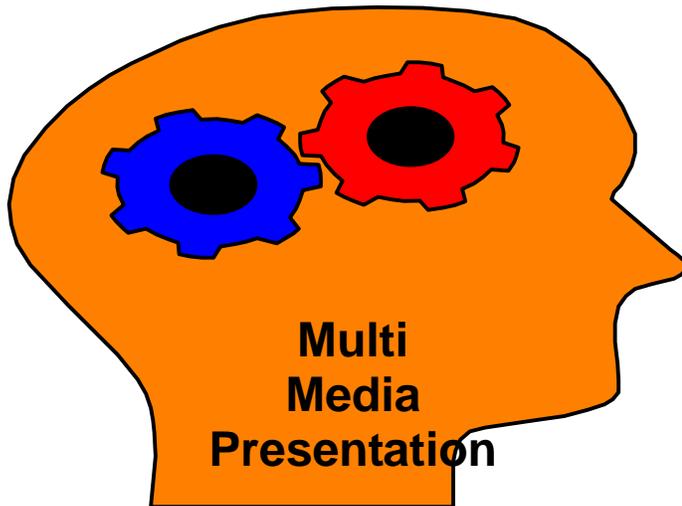
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Toddler Listed as Critical After Rescue From Pool

NORTHRIDGE--A 19-month-old child rescued from a backyard swimming pool by a police officer Monday was in critical condition, authorities said.

The boy apparently wandered out of a house in the 18000 block of Mayall Street and fell into the pool in the yard, said Det. Tony Foti of the Los Angeles Police Department.

"It appears to be completely accidental," Foti said. "The boy was possibly chasing a basketball when he fell in."

The pool was fenced off to outsiders, but Foti

said the boy probably walked out a side door that led to the pool. His family was visiting from out of town for the holidays.

The initial call to police was that the child was missing, Foti said. At about 10:45 a.m., Officer Patrick Cronnin arrived at the house, spotted the boy in the pool and dove in to pull him out.

Paramedics rushed the boy to Northridge Hospital Medical Center. "He was in full cardiac arrest when we got him," said Jim Wells, a Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman.

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We have had an amazing resurgence (in the executive jet plane is business) in the last few years, tied to the globalization of business and growing prosperity," John Lawson, president for sales of business aircraft at Canada's Bombardier Inc (BBDa.TO) told Reuters at the Dubai airshow.

One industry source tells of a client who asked for a swimming pool to be fitted in their jet.

"We had to tell the customer that if they were to have a swimming pool they could only use it while the plane was on the ground, otherwise the movement of the water could displace the aircraft's center of gravity."



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Medical Deductions

- Medical expenses are deductible to the extent that they exceed 7.5% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Included:
 - Transportation to and from the hospital or doctors' offices. The auto rate is 10 cents/mile plus parking fees and tolls.
 - Lodging (but not meals) while away from home primarily for, and essential to, medical care. Limited to \$50 each per night for the patient and a companion.
 - Prescription contraceptives, legal abortions and vasectomies.
 - Nursing home care required because of a medical condition.
 - Capital expenditures for home improvements required for a medical condition to the extent that the costs exceed the increase in market value of the property. Examples: Elevators, **swimming pools**, air-conditioning units, ramps, removal of structures.
 - Health insurance premiums paid with post-tax dollars, including the cost of Medicare Part B coverage.
 - Amounts paid for insulin and prescription drugs.
 - Acupuncture.
 - Treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction.
 - Chiropractic.
 - Cosmetic surgery necessary to ameliorate a deformity from a congenital abnormality, personal injury or disfiguring disease. Removal of lead paint in your home.
 - Telephone equipment for the deaf.
 - Wheelchairs or special chairs for a handicapped person.
 - Contact lenses and insurance.
 - Prescription eyeglasses.
 - Psychiatric treatment, including sex counseling.
 - Television closed-captioned decoder.

Taxes

- Taxes, other than federal income, FICA, estate or gift taxes, are generally deductible.
- State and local income taxes paid
- Real property taxes paid during the year.
- Personal property taxes including ad valorem taxes on automobiles.
- State disability taxes paid through your paycheck.
- Foreign taxes, unless a foreign tax credit is claimed.
- Co-op owners can deduct their proportionate share of the building's taxes.

Interest

- The IRS divides interest into several categories. Personal interest (auto loans, college loans, credit card debt, etc.) is no longer deductible. Mortgage interest and investment interest typically are deductible, subject to the following limits:
 - Mortgage interest expense incurred on acquisition indebtedness of up to \$1 million. This includes debt incurred within 90 days of the purchase or major improvement that is secured by the principal residence and/or one additional residence.
 - Mortgage interest expense incurred on home-equity indebtedness of up to \$100,000.
 - Points paid on acquisition indebtedness on your

principal residence are generally deductible immediately.

- Points paid on a refinance are amortizable over the life of the loan.
- Interest paid for a loan on a boat that has living, sleeping and eating quarters.
- Co-op owners are allowed to deduct their share of mortgage interest paid by the association.
- Interest expense paid on loans held specifically to purchase or carry taxable investments is deductible to the extent of investment income. Any excess interest is carried forward indefinitely.

Casualty and Theft Losses

- Deductible if they result from a sudden, unexpected and unusual cause to the extent that they exceed 10% of AGI and \$100 for each occurrence and cannot be reimbursed by insurance. Included:
 - Replacement cost of trees and shrubs damaged by storms or fires.
 - Automobile accidents if not caused by your willful act.
 - Loss of a bank account due to insolvency of the bank.
 - Fire damage, storm damage (including hurricanes and tornadoes), flood damage.
 - Theft losses.

Charitable Contributions (to qualified charities)

- Fully deductible unless you give more than 50% of your AGI to charity. In that case, there is a five-year carryover rule.
- Cash contributions. Written substantiation of contributions of \$250 or more is required at the time of the gift.
- Fair market value of clothing donated to charity. Special rules apply if the value of the contribution is more than \$500.
- Automobile expenses for volunteer activities computed at 12 cents per mile plus parking fees and tolls.
- Out-of-pocket expenses incurred while in volunteer activities.
- Gifts of capital gains property, such as appreciated stock (subject to 30% of AGI).
- Written substantiation is required for quid pro quo contributions in excess of \$75.

Miscellaneous

- Deductible to the extent that they exceed 2% of your AGI.
- Job-search expenses in the same line of work, including:
 - Travel to and from job interviews, including cab and/or auto.
 - Cost of typing, printing and mailing résumés.
 - Calls to prospective employers.
 - Employment-related education expenses.
 - Tax-preparation fees.
 - Accountants' fees.
 - Investment management and custody fees for taxable investments.
 - Union and professional dues.
 - Costs of job-related uniforms and their upkeep.

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