

IPSSSA Houston

Newsletter for the Houston Chapter of the Independent Pool & Spa Service Association

New Law Covers Commercial Pools

A brand new federal law has just been passed that affects all new and existing commercial swimming pools and spas. The law is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requiring access for the disabled

to all commercial swimming pools.

According to Pool & Spa News, "The law mandates that any commercial pool containing more than 300 feet of linear pool wall perimeter must have at least two means of entry that are wheelchair accessible." One of the accessible entries must be either an "automated lift or sloped entry." The second can be another lift, sloped entry or one of a number of other options.

Smaller commercial pools (less than 300 perimeter feet) need have only one wheelchair accessible entry, that being a lift or sloped entry. "Spas need one entry, which can be either a lift, a transfer system or a transfer wall."

The law also requires "regular maintenance on pool lifts and similar products,

which can be performed by a service tech."

This is another opportunity for IPSSA members, and this part of the law should be brought to the attention of commercial facilities, as they may overlook this detail. If you perform such maintenance, be sure to keep detailed logs and records of dates and services performed.

All of these requirements will go into effect in April of 2011 for newly constructed commercial pools, but should be done for ones built before then, because all existing commercial pools must be in compliance by April of 2012.

For the complete news story from Pool & Spa Magazine, go to:

http://www.poolspanews.com/2010/102/102n_ada.html

IPSSSA meets
every month at



2475 Kirkwood
near Westheimer

Next Meeting 7:00pm
Tuesday, November 9



IPSSSA
Houston
Vol.15, Issue #11, November, 2010

E-mail Pool news to mike.cedro@yahoo.com
Contact Jim for meeting speakers at 281-474-7665

Southwest Pool & Spa Show

Everyone needs to plan now to attend this show. It's bigger than last year with free classes by vendors. Pumps, heaters, business, electronics, controls, 9 free one-hour classes. Remember: this show is half ours (IPSSA/Texas). Plan now. You need two days to see this one.

The Southwest Pool & Spa Show will be February 15-19 at the Arlington Convention Center. For information go to:

www.swpoolandspashow.com

See y'all there!

Fines Assessed (Really!)

Attention members. National is handing down fines for poor attendance. We are required to keep accurate minutes and attendance records, and our by-laws have specified the requirements for members. If you have not been faithful with your smiling presence, you may be getting an additional amount in your monthly statement, and your membership, insurance, discounts and other benefits hang on you being current with the home office.

Why the meeting:

- *To help keep you informed and on top.
- *To network your company.
- *Maximum attendance draws more speakers, distributors and vendors.
- *If you are working and using IPSSA & its benefits, you owe it to the chapter.
- *It is required in our by-laws.

Published monthly and mailed to all area pool, spa, and pool/spa service companies. Written and edited by Mike Cedro except where noted. For advertising information, e-mail mike.cedro@yahoo.com

IPSSA/Houston Officers

President.....Jim Jacobsmeyer
sunchasepools@att.net 281-850-4559

Vice President.....David Queen
david@sparklingpoolserviceinc.com
281-807-5442

Secretary.....Sterling Jones
sjones@cpool.com 281-256-6630

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Appliance Installer's Exam

Stearns Pools & Spas, Inc. is pleased to announce that our two senior repair technicians have taken and successfully passed the Appliance Installers exam. We are very proud of Paul Stroud and David Tripp and congratulate them!

-Lisa Martens

IPSSA/Houston is also proud to an-

nounce that our Ed Mack of Clearwater Pool Service has also passed his exam on his first try. Of course, he says he spent a lot of time in the book before taking the test, which is the best advice you can get. Get the book. Take a prep class. Pass the test. If you have not done it yet, you absolutely have to get this taken care of. It's

just not possible to do pool repair service without it.

We can do this. It's the law. No matter what rumor you may have heard about it not being enforced, it is! It is illegal for you to even agree on the phone to change a pool light bulb. Several have already been fined that way.

Remember: IPSSA scholarship will pay you back for the prep class!

Coming Events Houston Pool & Spa Calendar

November 9- IPSSA/Houston Meeting

7:00 pm at Fuddrucker's, 2475 Kirkwood just North of Westheimer.

Board Meeting preceding.

November 10 - Free Raypak Training

at La Quinta Beltway & Harwin.

8:00am until noon.

November 11- APSP Monthly Meeting

at Dave & Busters (Richmond):

6:00 pm; 713-944-4444 or

michael@millerpools.com



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Algae NOT A Plant?

It seems that every few years the scientific community changes its mind about what is truth in the universe. Everything gets laid out in the text books as the infallible gospel, and we accept it all on blind faith like sheep until a new prophet comes out of the desert with a new revelation, telling us they were all wrong before, but now we can believe what they tell us with total confidence, until the next time, when they find out that they weren't wrong, just mistaken.

I work every day with a second year college student, a Chemistry major. We have had many many deep and enlightening discussions on science, physics and chemistry. He tells me that algae is no longer considered a plant. It's in its own phylum, mainly because it both eats and photosynthesizes. Of course, this does not change how we deal with algae, but to me, the constant about-faces of our scientific holy men really puts into question their validity. How can we rely on their intellectual integrity, when they had so vehemently defended that they could not possibly be wrong before, but now amend their version of the truth?

OK. I understand the discovery of new information, but the issue here is the absolute insistence that they are right, followed by the "revelation" that they were wrong!

Now my scholarly friend tells me that a virus is no longer considered a life form, since it does not meet all of the criteria of life forms. "Now cut that out!"

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Help Wanted

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