

# Santa Clara Valley IPSSA Newsletter



**Next General Membership Meeting  
Thursday, November 16, 2017**

santaclaraipssa@gmail .com / scvipssa.org

**SCP: 2036 Martin Ave.  
Santa Clara, CA 95050**

**6:30 pm**

**Volume #26, Issue #11**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone! We're into the holiday season again. Hope everyone had an exciting Halloween!

Now we enter a time to reflect and be thankful for all that has come our way this year. There's been a lot of activity in our lives, much good, some challenging and sometimes there's the sorrowful moments. However, through it all we are living during an amazing time, in an amazing country and we have amazing opportunities to make a difference in people's lives.

Likewise, we are touched by others and through it all the exchanges can not only be rewarding, but life changing. We can be grateful for having this freedom to live, laugh, work and enjoy the benefits of our labor!

So I and the other members of your IPSSA board, would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

A BIG THANK YOU to our chapter supporters who have been so generous and gracious in all their efforts and everyone who has helped make the meeting a pleasant experience after a hard days work! It's ALL definitely a team effort and jobs well done! Thank you everyone!

Reminder, we are NOT meeting any longer at the San Jose Clubhouse. It was nice for the summer, but for practical and financial reasons we have changed locations.

The IPSSA meeting location has been changed beginning November to:

SCP Distributors  
2036 Martin Avenue  
Santa Clara, Ca. 95050

Our Thanksgiving dinner will start at 6:30 and the meeting immediately following. Hope to see everyone there and help extend our thanks to our chapter supporters!

Keep an eye out for the Christmas meeting. We are planning a surprise and will need an RSVP (member plus one) and our meeting night may change just for this Christmas Dinner. Don't miss this one!

Look forward to seeing you this Thursday 11/16/17.

Tom Allen



Join us for a  
Thanksgiving  
Celebration!

**Santa Clara Valley IPSSA Meetings**

**See you at SCP at 6:30pm**

**SCP**  
**2036 Martin Ave.**  
**Santa Clara**  
**95011**



## Cal Poly Pool Plaster Conclusions Shown to be Wrong

By Kim Skinner

Beginning in 2004, a series of plaster research studies were released by the National Plasterers Council (NPC), which they instigated and financially supported, and which were undertaken by the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. In these studies the researchers concluded that aggressive water conditions were the cause of "spot etching" and other plaster surface defects. The conclusions, and the quality of the research, have long been contested within the industry, yet the studies are still referred to by NPC plaster consultants as authoritative, at times to the detriment of innocent pool owners and service technicians.

In 2015, chemist Dr. Marcelle Dibrell peer reviewed Phase II of the Cal Poly research. She determined that the conclusions drawn by Cal Poly were not supported by their research, and that they did not prove what the researchers said they proved about plaster spotting.

This year Dr. Stan Pickens, also a prominent chemist in the swimming pool industry, independently reviewed Phase I of the Cal Poly research. Dr. Pickens was a member of the APSP Recreational Water Quality Committee for two decades, and served as its Chairman from 2014-2016.

Addressing the Phase I report, Dr. Pickens concluded: "While it is apparent that the study was a major undertaking, there are many problems with design study imbalance, flawed sample preparation, failure to control critical variables, and apparent lack of understanding of chemical principles relevant to water balance and sample preparation. These deficits call nearly all of the results and conclusions into question."

Dr. Pickens also reviewed Dr. Dibrell's critique of Phase II. In his review he states, "Dibrell's conclusion that the experiment provided no reasonable explanation for the cause of 'spot etching' is a reasonable one, since the reported etching did not correlate with the calculated LSI, and since general etching is not the same as spot alteration." He adds "The occurrence of 'spot etching' in pools that – according to the data – were generally either balanced or scaling does call aggressive water into question as a cause. It *appears* that the Cal Poly researchers were predisposed to find aggressive water as the primary cause of spot etching, regardless of what the data showed." He also includes the fact that Dr. Dibrell could have pointed out many additional deficiencies in the Cal Poly Phase II report, but notes that "perhaps [she] was too polite to point out the glaring deficiencies in the Cal Poly data."

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nBalance is calling upon the NPC and Cal Poly to retract these invalidated studies in light of Dr. Dibrell's previous review and this current critique from Dr. Pickens.

In addition, onBalance is calling upon the NPC to acknowledge that the million-dollar Cal Poly study (and other NPC-associated studies) have not only failed to prove aggressive water is the cause for plaster spotting, but also failed to show that aggressive water chemistry causes gray mottling discoloration, calcium nodules, craze cracking, and spalling/flaking as has been suggested by plaster consultants. They have failed to do so because it simply isn't true.

Dr. Pickens looked at another interesting publication. Apparently at the same time Dr. Kachlakev of Cal Poly was telling the pool industry that they had proven the cause of "spot etching," he and Dr. Pal (the project's chemist) and Dr. Rothstein (the project's petrographer) went to the International Cement Microscopy Association (ICMA) annual conference and presented their material to their petrography peers. But in that setting, they admitted that they did not nail down the cause of "spot alteration."

Dr. Pickens' peer reviews may be viewed at <http://www.poolhelp.com/home/onbalance-research/onbalance-research/cal-poly-npic/>

Note: This winter, onBalance is constructing their own plaster demonstration pools. They will be investigating parameters including aggressive vs. balanced water chemistry, various levels of calcium chloride set accelerant in pool plaster, and the effects of low-level chlorination vs. regular super-chlorination on organic vs. inorganic color pigments. They assure the industry that this type of testing can be done without the failures found in the Cal Poly process.

*Comments are welcomed.*





How do you get a cow out of a pool?

## NC man finds an 800-pound cow in his backyard pool. It was swimming.

*By Mark Price*

It was a little chilly for swimming, but the cow didn't mind.

### Catawba County Rescue

Jenna Arsenault, the county's Chief Animal Control Officer, said the agency got a 911 call at 10 a.m. Wednesday to the 2300 block of Arrowhead Drive, and arrived to find the young female bovine (yes, some heifers have horns) defiantly staring from the pool. The home is in a cul-de-sac, not far from Fred T. Foard High School, and the pool was only partially fenced in.

"It was actually swimming around at one point," Arsenault said. "There were no stairs for it to get out." Authorities believe the cow got into the pool by accident and was lucky not to have drowned. "It's surrounded by landscaping and cows tend to graze, so we think she was grazing and walked across the pool cover, thinking it was solid," Arsenault said.

Into the water it fell and stayed, until a team of 10 people managed to get a lasso around its horns, she says. The group, which included members of the Claremont Rescue Squad, eventually got the animal's two front legs stabilized on the concrete, and

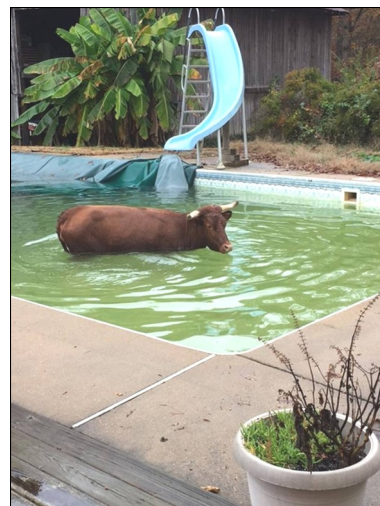
then everyone pulled.

The cow was safely back with its owner by 1 p.m.

"In my seven years here, this is the first one we've gotten out of a pool, but we have had some unusual rescues," Arsenault said. "We've had them stuck in ditches, and we got one with its horn caught between two trees."

Burt Thornburg, who owns the pool, told the Observer's news partner [WBTV](#) that he looked out the door and thought something fell into the pool.

"I come running outside out here and there was a set of horns up underneath the cover," he told WBTV. "I started grabbing the cover and ripping it off and uncovered a cow."



American Leak Detection	Bill Webb	408-729-5325	ald114@garlic.com	Leak Detection
Baby Barrier	Ben Fiscalini	408-806-2223	kpkicking@yahoo.com	Removable Pool Safety Fence
BCS Rep	Rodney MacDowell	925-222-8557	rodmacsales@gmail.com	Thornburg Enterprises
Blake Sales	Ron Eger	360-970-3233	ron.eger@blakesales.net	Manufacturers Rep
Burkett's Pool Plastering	Jason Steenburgh	209-595-6016	burkettjsaason@gmail.com	Pool Remodeling
ChemQuip Inc.	Steve Strauss	510-274-2916	steve.strauss@chemquip.com	Distributor
Davin Cahn Associates	Nate Womack	415-830-1201	nate@devincahn.com	Zeobrite
Easy Care	Jacklin Kitchen			
Elm Distribution	John Kies	916-853-2600	john@elmdistribution.com	Solar Panel Distributor
Fiber Clear	Mark Dunlop	800-594-5120	fiberclearpoolandspafiltration.com	Filtration
Gull Industries	Mike Kennedy	408-293-3523	mike@gullsolar.com	Solar Panel Manufacturer
HASA, Inc.	Brian Rivera	925-997-3640	brivera@hasapool.com	Pool & Spa Chemical Manufacturer
Hayward Industries, Inc.	Paul Cruddas	415-515-9982	pcruddas@haywardnet.com	Pool Equipment Manufacturer
Leisure Supply	Matt Anderson	408-727-8100	maanders@kellersupply.com	Distributor
Life Saver Pool Fence	Mark Hinkle	408-779-7922	mark@garlic.com	Removable Pool Safety Fence
Natural Chemistry	Pat Smith	916-899-0915	psmith@naturalchemistry.com	Chemical Manufacturer
Paramount Pool & Spa	John Andersen	925-595-7516	Janderson@1paramount.com	Pool Equipment Manufacturer
Peninsula Leak Detection	Ryan Arterberry	650-716-9777	ryan@peninsulaleakdetection.com	Leak Detection
Pentair Pool Products	David Lagrimas	209-627-6356	Dave.Lagrimas@pentair.com	Pool Equipment Manufacturer
Pool Covers, Inc.	Cheryl MacLennan	707-386-9106	cmacLennan@poolcoversinc.com	Swimming Pool Safety Covers
Precision Leak Detection	Kevin Brady	925-776-7588	pldinc@comcast.net	Leak Detection
Purity Pool Products	Rich Gross	530-472-3298	rich@puritypool.com	Pool Equipment Manufacturer
RayPak Inc.	Rick Witt	916-715-3470	rwitt@raypak.com	Pool Heater Manufacturer
SCP Distributors	Kyle Beddo	408-327-4900	Kyle.beddo@poolcorp.com	Sales Center Manager
SCP Distributors	Tommy Bryant	408-327-4900	Thomas.bryant@scppool.com	Assistant Sales Center Mgr
Scuba Pool Repair	Drew Andersen	408-866-1945	drew@scubapoolrepair.com	Underwater Pool Repair
SunTrek Industries, Inc.	Scott Miner (cell)	925-260-2008	scott@suntreksolar.com (925-372-8983)	Solar Pool Heating, Electricity, Hot Water
Tom's Tile Cleaning	Tom Allen	408-307-3196	ta@tomstilecleaning.com	Tile Cleaning/Glass Bead Blasting
United Chemicals	Jeff Moscoe	707-533-5136	J.moscoe@unitedchemicalscorp.com	
W R Meadows	Patrick Raney	916-806-8924	praney@wrmeadows.com	Deck-O-Seal Manufacturer
Zodiac Pool Systems, Inc.	Nick Woodsen	925-357-7731	Nick.Woodson@zodiac.com	Pool Equipment Manufacturer
Zodiac Pool Systems, Inc.	Jade Nicol	408-250-7000	Jade.nicol@zodiac.com	Pool Equipment Manufacturer



If you zoom into the circled area you will see Black Soot. Heater showed ROL error message.

Roll out switch is out again?

Had to take apart and clean exchange unit of soot. Added an air stack to prevent this from happening.

Thank you Rick from RayPak for helping out!

**IPSSA Santa Clara**  
**scvipssa.org**  
*(largest chapter in Bay Area)*