

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA 16801
Permit No. 99

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.
2131 Sandy Drive
State College, PA 16803
814-234-4272
www.prips.org

Return Service Requested



Information from the Aquatics Branch of The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc.

Topics:

- Virginia Graeme Baker Act is now in effect!
- 2009 Swimming Pool Management Workshops
- PRPS Annual Conference Aquatic Sessions include VGBA update
- New Workshop Lifeguard In-Servicing Sign up today!!

Current Aquatic Branch Officers:
President: Daphne Klahr
dsebelist@westreadingborough.org
Past President: Dave Hutner
dhutner@nauticom.net
Recording Secretary: Georgiann Davis
gdavis@bmsd.org
Representative: Lisa Black
lblack@penntwp.org

This branch is looking for interested individuals to become involved if you are interested and would like more **information, contact:**
Daphne Klahr at Borough of West Reading
610-374-8273 X 243 or
dsebelist@westreadingborough.org



Important Information about Virginia Graeme Baker Act

On December 19, 2008, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA) took effect. The VGBA is being administered and enforced by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to promote the safe use of pools, spas and hot tubs by imposing mandatory federal requirements for suction entrapment avoidance. The CPSC has the authority to close pools or spas found to be non-compliant and may also assess criminal penalties, including fines or imprisonment, under Section 21 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (Act) 15 U.S.C. §2070(a).

This Act requires that all public pools and spas, both new and existing, be equipped with certified drain covers on every suction outlet. Also, those pools and spas that have a single drain, other than an unblockable drain, must employ one or more of the following additional options: safety vacuum release system (SVRS); suction limiting vent system, gravity drainage system; automatic pump shut-off; or drain disablement.

It is important to consider all aspects of the VGBA, and apply them at your facility. You may wish to contact a professional pool vendor or pool design professional to confirm you have addressed all VGBA requirements.

The PRPS website www.prips.org has a collection of articles and specific information regarding the VGBA please visit the website to read up on additional information.

A list of Frequently Asked Questions specific to Pennsylvania can also be found at the following website. www.health.state.pa.us.

When it comes to public safety we can never be too safe. Some past research information states that there is an annual average of 283 drowning deaths (2003-2005) and 2700 emergency room-treated submersion injuries (2005-2007) involving children younger than 5 in pools and spas. From 1997 – 2007, there were 74 reported incidents associated with suction entrapment, including 9 deaths and 63 injuries. This particular VGBA is aimed at reducing the deaths and injuries by hopefully making the mechanics of pools safer. Educating the public and pool industry will make this information more important and all pools will be informed.

PRPS Annual Conference Aquatic Sessions

SUNDAY, March 8, 2009

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
What is Breakpoint and How Do We Reach It?
Lee Bryan, CPO, Pool Operation Management
We have all heard of free available chlorine, combined chlorine and total chlorine but what is Hypochlorous Acid? When do we do Breakpoint and how is this different from shocking a pool.

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
Pool Maintenance
Trevor Sherwood, Owner, Pool Operation Management
Bring your questions this session will provide an overview of the health and safety of swimming pools including mechanical maintenance of equipment, water chemistry, and filtration.

MONDAY, March 9, 2009

10:45 am – 12:00 pm
Pool Safety Inspection
Trevor Sherwood, Owner, Pool Operation Management
This session will provide training on how to perform pool safety inspections, discuss new safety concerns including entrapment issues and the Virginia Graeme Baker Act.

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm
Risk Management Basics for Pools and Beaches
Shawn DeRosa, JD, Risk Management and Aquatics Specialist
Managing an aquatic facility, particularly a beach, requires special knowledge and an attention to issues that do not arise in other recreational programming arenas. The Virginia Graeme Baker Act will also be discussed during this session.

TUESDAY, March 10, 2009

8:30 am – 9:45 am
Predatory Pedophiles and Public Pools
Shawn DeRosa, JD, Risk Management and Aquatics Specialist
We know people that prey upon children live lawfully in our communities and we suspect that they may even swim at our pools. What steps should recreation providers take to minimize the chance of a sexual predator using the pool as a means of getting close to children?

10:30 am – 11:45 am
Healthy Swimming: Prevention and Guidance for Recreational Water Illnesses
Malcolm E. Eubert, CPRP, Rec. Director Blue Mtn. Rec. Commission
This session will provide updated recommendations for Public Aquatic Facility Operators in addition to Contamination Protocols from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm
Everything Aquatics!
Tammy Agesen, Recreation Coordinator, Lancaster Co. Parks & Rec.
Todd Roth, Aquatic Supervisor, Centre Region Parks & Rec.
Ever wonder how others run their pools? What are the best practices when it comes to aquatics and aquatic special events? Come and share in this roundtable for everything aquatics.

Check out the website www.prps.org for the full registration guide and information.



2009 Swimming Pool Management Workshops

This workshop provides pool management instructions and the information needed to sit for the Department of Agriculture Pesticide Examination. This workshop focuses on the core and category 24 Swimming Pool information.

Dates and Locations

SPRING SERIES

March 7, 2009
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
West Chocolate Avenue & University Drive

March 23, 2009
Lower Southampton Township
Park & Recreation Department
1500 Desire Avenue
Feasterville, PA 19053

March 23, 2009
Cranberry Township Municipal Center
Council Chambers
2525 Rochester Road
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

FALL SERIES

September 14, 2009
Cranberry Township Municipal Center
(Location address same as above)

September 21, 2009
Lower Southampton Township
(Location address same as above)

Central PA Location: TBA

Cost for the Swimming Pool Workshops
PRPS Members ... \$ 80.00
PRPS Non-Members ... & 90.00

Our website www.prps.org has the full brochure and registration information.



Sign-up TODAY Aquatic Training

Lifeguard In-Servicing
Workshop
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
.4 CEU's awarded

Date: Wednesday - May 6, 2009
Location: Upper Merion Township Building
175 West Valley Forge Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Date: Monday - May 11, 2009
Location: Stuart Community Center
415 Franklin Street
Carlisle, PA 17013

Date: Tuesday - May 19, 2009
Location: Boettcher House (In Landis Woods Park)
2369 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601

Date: Thursday - May 21, 2009
Location: PRPS Office
2131 Sandy Drive
State College, PA 16803

Date: Tuesday - May 26, 2009
Location: Marshall Township Municipal Building
525 Pleasant Hill Road
Warrendale, PA 17601

www.prps.org



*This Newsletter and Programs are sponsored by
PA Recreation & Park Society, & the PA
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources*

A program of the Camelback Waterpark

Aquatics Center of the PA Institute for Recreation & Parks

Lifeguard In-Service Training Workshop

Course description:

The American Red Cross has stated that in-service training is "especially important for seasonal lifeguards who can lose knowledge and skills during the off season. However, the PA Bathing Code does not require aquatic facilities to conduct regular lifeguard training. With the level of responsibility given to today's lifeguards, and the statistics for accidents and near drowning, all facilities should hold mandatory in-service trainings for all lifeguards. This workshop will offer resources for obtaining activities that address situations lifeguards face on a daily basis. During the workshop participants will form small groups and create at least 1 training session completed they can take back and implement at their facility.

Topics that will be covered:

- Why it is important to provide in-servicing
- Components of a training program
- What staff should attend these in-services
- How often and long should the training be
- How to network with community services
- Meeting all different skill levels
- How to keep your staff interested
- How to plan, practice and present this information to your employees

Resources that will be included:

- Professional Organizations
- Training DVD's
- Magazines
- Books
- Websites
- Games and Activities

Meet the Instructor:

Tammy Agesen, currently holds her A.F.O., and Certified Pesticide Applicators License along with being the Recreation Coordinator at Lancaster County Parks and Recreation Department. Tammy has a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Wyoming along with 11+ years of experience in Recreation Management Administration, 5 of those years with a strict focus of Aquatics. She currently manages and supervises over 60 staff with 35 of them being lifeguards. She is married with 3 children, Andrew 17, Alexandria 13, and Isabella 10. Her house hold, spare time and recreation activities include watching her child being involved with many sports. They all like camping, ice skating, and hiking. Her life would not be complete without her 2 cats and 2 rabbits. Tammy has presented at many Annual PRPS conferences and she has a wealth of knowledge to share about this topic which she is very passionate about.

Return registration form to:
PA Recreation & Park Society
2131 Sandy Drive
State College, PA 16803-2283 or FAX: 814 234-5276
Phone: (814) 234-4272 - Fax: (814) 234-5276

2009 Lifeguard In-Service Workshop REGISTRATION (one form per person)

Name _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____

Day Phone: (____) _____
Fax _____
Special Assistance Required _____

- PRPS Member Non-Member
 Please send PRPS membership information

* For PRPS non-members, you are invited to Sign up for the PRPS Training Network to receive announcements of PRPS training programs.

Email: _____
(Please print clearly)

Interest: (please check all that apply)
___ Community ___ Trails ___ Aquatics
___ Park Management ___ Therapeutic Recreation

Locations:
5/6/09 King of Prussia 5/11/09 Carlisle

5/19/09 Lancaster 5/21/09 State College

5/26/09 Warrendale

Payment Information

- PRPS Member \$ 39.00
 PRPS Non-Member \$ 49.00

Total \$ _____

___ My check is enclosed. Please make check payable to PRPS
___ Bill my Agency/Organization at the address listed to the left: If it's not the correct address please list below.

Signature: _____

___ **Bill my credit card:**
___ MC ___ VISA ___ AMEX ___ DISC

Cardholder's Name: _____
Card Number _____
Exp. Date _____
3# code on back of card _____

Cancellation Policy

If a cancellation is made two weeks prior to the first day of the workshop, the registration fee less a \$20.00 processing fee will be refunded upon return of any course materials sent to the registrant. Persons cancelling after two week cut off will receive a PRPS credit certificate adjusted for the cost of course materials, meals, and other cost incurred by PRPS. All cancellation requests must be made in writing and mailed faxed or emailed to PRPS. In the unlikely event of the cancellation of this course, PRPS's liability is limited to 100 percent refunded of registration fees and does not include penalty fees on transportation, deposit for hotel accommodations, or other incurred expenses.