

## AFO

The 2001 Fall/Winter schedule for the Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) certification program is as follows:

Bradenton November 8-9  
Tallahassee December 6-7

Interested in sponsoring or adding a course in your area? Call Vickie at extension 110 for complete information.

## Q & A

### Test Kit Readings

**Q.** I run several active pools and we test the chemistry often. We keep getting different chlorine and pH readings from our different employees. Everyone wants to keep adjusting the chemical control system to their manual tests, but I'm not sure what to do. As a supervisor, what readings do I trust?

**A.** This used to be a very common problem. No longer. Most test kits used to rely on "colorimetric" or color comparison readings which are only accurate within a narrow range. They are also subject to wide visual interpretations from person to person. Taylor, manufacturers of the world's most popular aquatic test kit, introduced a FAS-DPD titration or "drop-count" chlorine test kit which produces a color change based on the addition and counting of drops. Using this kit the operator uses two scoops of powder to achieve a pink/red color, adding drops of the 2nd reagent (and counting them) until the color goes away. Each drop is equivalent to .2 ppm. Therefore if the color goes away in 22 drops or 4.2 ppm. This revolutionary kit, the Taylor K2006, has become the overwhelming choice of Florida aquatic professionals. Alkalinity and Calcium hardness tests also use titration methods and are rarely subject to interpretation. pH and stabilizer tests are still subject to visual interpretations and may be the largest source of current testing problems. The pH test still compares the color against a color guide while the stabilizer test compares the cloudiness of a sample. Both of these testing methods have verifiable limits. There is another solution using new technology. Check the Palintest article for more information.

## New Products Palintest Electronic Pool Testers

Palintest and CES proudly announce a wide variety of professional electronic test kits. The Pooltest 3 is a compact handheld device that gives instant electronic readings of free and total chlorine (1-5 ppm), pH (6.8- 8.4 pH), and stabilizer (0-100 ppm). It has become popular with supervisors and pool managers that want quick, accurate, and inexpensive digital readings without human interpretation. To use the tester simple fill the vial with pool/spa water, and put one foil-packaged "pill" for each test desired. Crush & stir the pill with the stirring rod and place in the tester for instantaneous digital reading. The tests are easy to use and accurate. This EPA-approved tester is no toy, but comes at a reasonable price. The Pooltest 9 adds 6 tests including Calcium, Alkalinity, Ozone, Copper, Bromine, and other readings. CES uses the Pooltest 25, complete with computer interface, as our in-house laboratory. The 25 also tests Iron, Salt, Sulfate, Chloride, Manganese, Phosphate, Nitrate, Aluminum, and much more. Please contact your CES rep or Fayme (x108) for more information or an on-site demonstration on these popular new testers.

## October Specials

Here's list of a couple of items that are left over from large municipal projects. We need to clear them out, and are offering large discounts.

Two (2) 6" flanged US Filter pump strainer. Replace your worn metal strainers with these compact fiberglass models equipped with quick-release lid clamp, clear plexiglass lid, and stainless steel basket. The last strainer you may ever buy.

One (1) Marlow 5 HP Hi-efficiency circulating pump. Delivers 250 gallons per minute at normal operating pressures. Interested?, we will help check your existing filtration system to make sure that this pump will work in your application. Call for more information.

## Tech Tips - MacBall Covers

The winter season is around the corner and with the colder weather comes tremendous night-time heat losses and big heating bucks. It's time to roll out your MacBall cover to make sure that you're ready for what is supposed to be a colder than average winter. Some of CES's MacBall systems are over 18 years old, and here's a few tips we have learned over the years that will help you get ready for the heating season.

**Fire Drill?:** Pick a slack time and roll out the entire pool cover system on the pool. Check the pool blanket sections for signs or wear, damage, vandalism. Are there sections that need replacement? Can we combine two good sections to make a solid pool blanket?

**Hardware check:** Check the pool winder tubes for easy rolling. Lubricate the grease fittings on the bearings with a grease gun. Check the brake pads to make sure that they are intact and making good contact with the pool deck. Finally, check the wheels to make sure that the winder is easily rolled around the deck. Lubricate the wheel bearings or replaced the wheels as necessary.

**Connectors:** Check the tab and cord sets that hold the blanket sections to the winders. Are they in good shape? Check the rivets that hold the tab sets, are they in good shape?

### What to do:

1) Identify the sections to be replaced. Call CES and we will use the original pool cover blueprints to assure a good fit on the replacement cover. If there is any question, we will dispatch CES staff to verify the dimensions and fit. There is a bit of lead time with blanket orders, so check and order now to avoid delays during a cold spell.

2) After your inspection, perform routine maintenance on the blanket and winder components. Contact us and we will assist with any maintenance that you do not want to do. Whether it is a new rivet, a grease job, or a wheel overhaul, we are happy to assist.

3) Make sure the blanket protector is in good shape. Covering the blanket when not in use is the best way to get extended life from your pool cover system.