



Workshop Abstracts - 2023

Life Support

BAWL Commissioning & Startup (Wet)

This unique workshop is designed for newcomers to the LSS industry. The attendees will get hands-on experience with all the exciting facets of the initial setup, startup, and commissioning of the Big Automated Water Loop. This workshop will provide a comprehensive system startup experience including, but not limited to: Flange assembly, solvent cement welding techniques, pipe fusion practices, protein skimmer assembly and tuning, introduction to automation, problem solving and troubleshooting. During the BAWL build-out this workshop will cover a variety of topics including:

- Flange Assembly
- Cement Welding
- Fusion Welding
- Commissioning
- System Start-up
- Pump and Motor Rebuild
- Water Quality
- System Controls

Laser Alignment of Pump and Motor Coupling – CECO Environmental – Fybroc Brand (Wet)

This presentation and alignment simulation will provide a brief tutorial of shaft alignment identifying the various types of misalignment, differences between shaft and coupling alignment and descriptions of the various methods of alignment including straight edge, dial indicator and laser. Utilizing a pump/motor coupling simulator the various methods of shaft alignment will be demonstrated highlighting the issues not identified by straight edge and/or dial indicator measurements. Finally, the laser alignment tool will be used to illustrate the condition of a motor “soft foot.”

Maintaining Larger Pumps – CECO Environmental – Fybroc Brand (Wet)

This workshop will train and provide the attendees with the opportunity to perform the typical maintenance/repairs required on large non-metallic pumps. Subjects covered will include the various types of pump lubrication, changing pump oil (how much and how often), setting and/or replacing mechanical seals, axial adjustment of impellers, methods for removing threaded impellers, removal and/or replacement of INPRO shaft seals and finally a brief discussion and presentation of centrifugal pump cavitation.

High Rate Sand Filter Training - AALSO (Wet)

A general introduction of the High Rate Sand Filter; how it works, and a brief explanation of the parts of the filter. A Discussion and demonstration about filter operation and automation, different kinds of valves and valve sequencing, how to operate a filter manually when the automated controller fails. Different types of media available, mixed media, media grading and quantities. The importance of filter design to media performance. The advantages of deep bed filtration and the influence of filtration rate on performance of different media. A discussion and demonstration about filter backwashing; why we do it, when to do it, and how often. The importance of backwash velocity and bed expansion in backwash and routine maintenance for the filter bed.

Industrial Sumps: System Operation and Maintenance - MRC America (Wet)

The purpose of this BAWL workshop series is to provide an operational industrial “iSeries” sump with accompanying peripherals alongside the BAWL loop to demonstrate the following protocols:

- How to plan for and initiate basic sump maintenance with staff. Topics include filter socks change outs and cleaning, ongoing sump care, and long term unit upkeep
- Operation and maintenance of an Integrated UV system. Topics include lamp and sleeve changes, quartz sleeve care, proper flow/wattage selection, and ballast maintenance
- Moving and static bed bio-chamber selection, operation, and service
- Automatic roller mat system operation and service
- Fractionator technology comparisons and maintenance. This will cover both Beckett style and Needle wheel injection technologies and their associated care

Additionally, workshop attendees will be provided with a service template and checklist to follow up with staff members ensuring routine maintenance is achieved and accounted for on their own systems. Topics from this workshop will coordinate alongside the MRC “dry” sump workshop as well discussing initial sump design with integration into new systems or retrofitting old ones.

Plate Heat Exchanger Preventative Maintenance – Delta Hydronics and Aqua Logic (Wet)

Hands-on discussion of plate heat exchanger components, basic design and general maintenance practices. Workshop will cover the principals of equipment sizing and aquatic application considerations. Workshop attendees will break down a small plate and frame heat exchanger, remove the plates, change the gaskets and reassemble the heat exchanger.

UV Sterilizer Maintenance – RK2 (Wet)

Hands-on workshop where participants will remove, clean and replace quartz sleeves. Participants will learn and physically replace O-ring seals, contacts and bulbs on a UV sterilizer and will learn about life expectancy of various bulbs along with recommended frequency of maintenance.

Bio-Filtration Workshop- Longhorn Organics (Wet)

To provide hands-on learning of various types of bio-filtration systems commonly used in the aquatics industry. Demonstrate functionality, maintenance, and testing procedures best practices.

Operation of Actuated Valves for Strainer and Filtration - Hayward (Wet)

Illustrating the benefits of automating systems; highlights of actuation maintenance and configuration, and basic operation of basket strainers and bag filters. The skid based system will contain a variety of products including valves, filtration, strainers, actuation, and control products for an operational education experience.

Ozone Contact Workshop- International O₃ (Wet)

Conduct hands on training on the following:

- Balancing of mazzei injector using a clear ozone contact vessel, injector with inlet, outlet and ozone line pressure gauges, and ozone generating unit.
- Demonstration of gas turbulence and contact in a pressurized ozone contact vessel.
- Proper contact balancing to avoid gas carryover will also be part of the workshop.
- Proper ozone generator back pressure and balancing.
- Discussion of attendee system challenges.

Small Pump Rebuild – MDM Inc (Wet)

Many people are unaware that small pumps can be rebuilt much in the same respects as their larger “cousins”. Workshop attendees will have the opportunity to cycle through each of the above manufacturers and completely rebuild these pumps from impellers and shafts, to seals and even changing motor’s.

ORP Maintenance & Calibration, and available Flow Measurement Technologies as well as proper in-line installation of salinity, temp, & Dissolved Oxygen- GF Signet (Wet)

For ORP - Course will be focused on proper removal from live line, cleaning, conditioning, recommended frequency & calibration of ORP systems. For Flow- Will discuss available flow technologies Paddlewheel (mechanical) , Magnetic (no moving parts), and ultrasonic (non-intrusive). Going over features advantages and benefits of each. For the balance we will cover proper installation of salinity (avoiding dead spaces and bubbles) , Temp sensors in larger lines and options for mounting Dissolved Oxygen sensors.

Ozone System Training and Maintenance –Ozone Water Systems (Wet)

Participants in this class will be shown a running ozone system. There we will cover ozone generation with a demonstration of all of the components of an ozone system and the integrated safeties. This includes oxygen, ambient ozone monitors, ozone destruct, backflow prevention, e-stop, pump control, ORP, dew point and more. After presenting the ozone system as a whole we will focus on Oxygen Concentrator PM Service, Ozone Generator tuning and PM service, and Ozone Destruct PM service.

Basic Drum Filter Maintenance - Integrated Aqua Systems, Inc.(Wet)

Integrated Aqua Systems, Inc. is offering a hands-on workshop on the operation and maintenance of gear wheel driven drum filters using a HEX drum filter installed and operational on the BAWL. Attendees will receive basic instruction on the theory of operation, key parts identification, backwash sequence and proper start-up of a drum filter. Practical sections will include basic maintenance tasks required to operate and maintain drum filters to their design specifications including panel maintenance, lubrication, basic controls set up, troubleshooting.

Advanced Drum Filter Design Considerations & Maintenance - Integrated Aqua Systems, Inc. (Wet)

Integrated Aqua Systems, Inc. is offering a class with instruction on design considerations, proper selection, application and maintenance of gear wheel driven drum filters using a HEX filter installed and operational on the BAWL as a working example. In addition to a brief overview of basic drum filter operation and maintenance, attendees will receive an overview of different drum filter types, control systems, options and design applications. Practical sections will include basic controller setup and programming required to operate and maintain drum filters to their design specifications.

Protein Fractionator Technologies, Installation, Maintenance – RK2 Systems, Inc.(Wet)

Workshop designed to provide an overview of protein fractionator technologies, highlighting the various benefits and limitations associated with each process. In addition to having participants learn assembly and cleaning protocols, we will cover how ozone works in conjunction with protein fractionation and close out the session with the group working through various troubleshooting scenarios in real time.

Measurement and Evaluation of Ultraviolet Light Sources - Reef Brite (Wet)

This workshop focuses on understanding UV light sources, their differences, and their safe use around humans and animals. Participants will measure for the presence of both UVA and UVB, as well as UV index to determine safe ranges of exposure. Participants will also take underwater absolute irradiance measurements for the presence of UV.

Automated Control Systems Workshop – RCK Controls (Wet)

This workshop will run throughout the day as in informal discussion/observation and will not be a slot in which an attendee can register for. The intention is to provide an opportunity for an attendee to interact with the controls end of the BAWL as you finish a workshop or are between activities. The automation supports many of the actual workshops so there is usually something going on. Folks from RCK and ABB will be on hand to provide an overview of how an Automated Controls System (ACS) can help save time, energy consumption, reduce mechanical stress and provide different types of alarms for times when the LSS is not functioning within parameters. B.A.W.L 2020 will be run through a control system and attendees can witness live feedback from various points throughout the system including flow, pressure and level. The loop pumps will all be run off VFD and the folks from ABB will be on hand to discuss soft starting pumps, control through a VFD and maintenance items on a VFD. **Please Note: This is an Informal Workshop and is not specifically scheduled, but is open and always available to visit at the B.A.W.L. control booth**

Variable Frequency Drives; Troubleshooting- ABB (Wet)

Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) are common in most municipal water systems. This presentation will cover basic problems and nuisance trips which may be encountered with VFDs. Safety comments and wiring tips will be covered as well.

Attendees should gain:

- An awareness of safety considerations.
- Grounding considerations.
- Common approach questions for resolutions.
- Typical fault and nuisance fault message utilized for VFDs.
- An awareness that VFDs are self-protecting devices.

10 Hour OSHA General Industry Course - Stiles Inc. (Dry)

Designed by OSHA to provide awareness training on topics such as: Introduction to OSHA, Walking and Working Surfaces, Electrical, Hazard Communication, Personal Protective Equipment, Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, Fire Prevention, Material Handling, Hazardous Material (Flammables and Combustibles), and Permit Required Confined Space Entry. People completing both days of training will be mailed an OSHA 10 General Industry Card distributed by the Department of Labor.

CPO Certification Blended Training* – Joel Yankie

The CPO® certification program includes pool and spa chemistry, testing, treatment, filtration, maintenance, automatic feeding equipment, and government requirements. Participants will achieve a better understanding of the operator's role in pool care, management, and risk reduction. Many state and local health departments accept the CPO® certification program. This two part course begins with prior completion (before the AALSO Symposium) of an online curriculum that follows the 18 chapters in the NSPF® Pool & Spa Operator™ Handbook, which is also provided. Students must bring a Pool Operator Primer™ Record of Completion to the classroom on Thursday and successfully complete the Pool Operator Fusion™ class to obtain a CPO® Certification. The CPO® certification program requires an in class open book written examination. Upon successful completion of this course and exam, participants will receive CPO® certification from NSPF in the mail and is valid for five years.

ASME B31.3 Solvent Cementing Training for PVC & CPVC – IPS Workshop (Dry)

This workshop will cover the basics of solvent welding PVC pipe, causes of failed joints and cement & primer selection. There are two parts to this class. There will be a Powerpoint Presentation in a classroom and a hands on class where each student will make a sample under our supervision. The sample will then be tested in our facility. If the sample passes the hydrostatic testing, the student will be issued an ASME B31.3 Bonder qualification card stating that they have successfully completed the training.

The ABC's of VFD's – ABB (Dry)

Although Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) are common in water and wastewater treatment plants for collection and distribution systems, the value they provide and how to properly select and use them are often not fully understood. This presentation will demystify VFDs, providing a better understanding as to where and why you would use them.

Attendees will leave with the ability to:

- Be aware of safety considerations.
- Identify applications that can benefit from VFDs.
- Understand the inherent value they provide.
- Recognize what needs to be considered to appropriately size and select VFDs.
- Be aware of proper installation considerations for a successful solution.

Basic Ozone Safety - AALSO (Dry)

This classroom style workshop will cover basic ozone safety topics such as:

- What Codes Govern Ozone
- What ambient air thresholds are allowable by code.
- What PPE should be used when entering an ozone-laden space
- Ambient monitor calibration frequency.

We will discuss recommendations for ozone generator rooms, emergency stops, transmitter locations and ambient alarm set points. Participants will be encouraged to share experiences and interact with the intent of gaining a better understanding of ideal ozone installations.

Pump Sizing – MDM Inc (Dry)

A focus on all moving parts from mechanical seals and impellers to motor bearings and shafts, you'll gain the knowledge and skill set required to add value by keeping your pump systems functional while reducing downtime. Additional discussions on proper installation, VFD interface, duty point sizing, and optimal curve placement to duty-point via motor rpm control (turn-down or ramp-up) will be provided.

Blueprint Reading - Satchell Engineering & Associates (Dry)

Learning to read blueprints is an essential skill for designers, contractors, engineers, operators and building owners. In this lecture and hands-on class, you will learn the vocabulary and language of blueprints. Topics covered include drawing scales, P&ID's, plan, elevation and section drawings, architectural symbols and legends. This course will help you understand how a set of blueprint drawings are put together and how to read them.

Ozone System Design and Integration – Satchell and Associates, Ozone Water Systems (Dry)

Participants in this class will be given a presentation on the key components that make up an ozone system, engineering factors that are considered when selecting various components, different ways of contacting ozone with water and various air prep systems.

Airsep & Plasma Block Ozone Generator Maintenance Troubleshooting and Repair- International Ozone (Dry)

Conduct hands on training on the following:

- Routine service procedures on self-contained Airsep units.
- Troubleshooting of low oxygen levels from self-contained Airsep units.
- Troubleshooting of oxygen flow swings from self-contained Airsep units.
- Disassembly and cleaning of plasma blocks, YES you can do this yourself.
- Discussion of attendee system challenges.

Analog Sensor Troubleshooting and PID Tuning - RCK Controls Inc. (Dry)

This workshop will cover analog sensor troubleshooting and feedback system tuning. Attendees will be presented with common issues and troubleshooting techniques for analog sensors in the LSS space. Attendees will also be presented with basic PID theory and will have a hands-on opportunity to tune a PID feedback system.

Actuator Workshop – Asahi America (Dry)

What's inside an Asahi America Inc actuator? Participants will be able to see the inside of Asahi's Series 92, Series 94 and Series 83 and actuators and learn what each component does. Limit switches, failsafe components, brakes and positioner boards will be identified and explained. Also, the new Series 19 actuators will be demonstrated and what changes and features these units possess. Learn about how actuation can save you labor and better maintain water quality.

Proper Valve Selection – Asahi America (Dry)

Proper valve selection is key to gaining proper performance systems. Participants in the class will examine different valve options and learn about each valve's key properties and how they affect fluid flow performance. Valve disassembly and examination of the internals of each valve will also be conducted. In the end participants will understand valve characteristics and be able to apply these to their systems.

Valve Repair/Disassembly/Reassembly – IPEX (Dry)

Hands-on disassembly and troubleshooting of many commonly used IPEX valves, parts identification, standard features, recommended spare parts, installation and setting of Gear-Operators, and complete tear down and rebuilding valves. How to properly diagnose failure conditions, symptoms of failures. Review of flow direction requirements where applicable along with some light actuation issues and troubleshooting. Workshop attendees will have the opportunity to cycle through a series of valves.

LSS Fluid dynamics and Material Choices - IPEX (Dry)

This workshop will discuss flow calculations, with a focus on the use of thermoplastics in this application. Attendees will explore how material choice can affect system operation and efficiency. This session will also expand on the topic of Chapter 18 of the AALSO Field Guide, applied mathematics for life support, and review important flow characteristics of valves.

Butterfly valve repair/disassembly/reassembly - Hayward (Dry)

The workshops will focus on basic butterfly valve installation, and will include hands-on training to remove and/or replace the valve liner, shaft seals, shaft and disc, and the re-assembly of the same. The program will also discuss different valve/liner materials and when (or not) to use them.

Intro to Ally Skills - Minorities in Aquarium & Zoo Science (Dry)

The advantages of having diverse teams, in any profession, greatly stem from having a wider spectrum of backgrounds, life experiences, perspectives, and ideas. This diversity in thought directly leads to more thorough preparation and greater innovation. To build more diverse teams, intentional actions are required at all career levels. "But what can one person do?" Each person's individual actions make a difference, whether they be at the individual, departmental, institutional, or industry level. With many people learning and practicing specific skills on taking individual allyship actions across all levels, more BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color)-friendly work environments with more inclusive hiring and retention practices can be cultivated. In this Intro to Ally Skills workshop, participants will learn what allyship is and what it isn't, learn about minority perspectives, and practice skills on how to act as an ally. Minorities and non-minorities from all career levels are invited to participate.

Light Testing, Evaluation & Comparison - Reef Brite (Dry)

The workshop would be based on using light measurement devices to test, evaluate, and compare light sources for facility use.

Demystifying Electrical Control Panels - Ozone Water Systems (Dry)

Participants in this class will go through an electrical diagram from our BAWL ozone skid. We will review all aspects of an electrical drawing for one of our control panels. We will discuss symbols, voltages and troubleshooting tips.

Water Quality

Basic Water Chemistry - Testing Techniques - ? (Water Quality)

This workshop will provide basic information, tips, and tricks on performing the common water quality tests that are crucial to the operation of a zoo or aquarium system. This 45 minute workshop will demonstrate and provide hands-on training for common testing like Nitrogen Cycle (Ammonia, Nitrite, and Nitrate), Chlorine, Bromine, Phosphate, Copper, pH, Temperature and Salinity by use of a variety of testing methods. The focus of this workshop is to compare testing methods with cost and accuracy.

Proper Calibration & Maintenance of DO, pH & Conductivity Sensors - YSI (Dry)

This workshop will go over the proper way to calibrate the parameter DO, pH, ORP and Conductivity. It will include hands on calibration with the proper worksheet and information needed for calibration records. This will also go over when it is recommended to calibrate and what standards to use for your application.

Water Quality Lab Safety - Karen Tuttle Stearns - Aquarium of the Pacific (Water Quality)

This lecture will provide an overview of Laboratory Safety. This 45-minute lecture will cover basic laboratory best practices in safety standards like laboratory hazards, personal protective equipment, storage of chemicals, chemical spills and laboratory green practices. The focus of this lecture is laboratory best practices.

Exam Prep

Life Support Levels 1 and 2 Certification Exam Prep - LSS Certification Committee(Exam Prep)

This workshop will cover the format of the certification exams, and focus on the math and calculations found in the AALSO Field Guide.

Life Support Level 3 Certification Exam Prep - LSS Certification Committee (Exam Prep)

This workshop will cover material for the Life Support Level 3 exam through an example problem and will allow time for discussion.

Water Quality Levels 1 and 2 Certification Exam Prep - Water Quality Certification Committee (Exam Prep)

This workshop will cover the format of the certification exams, and focus on the math and calculations found in the AALSO Field Guide.

Water Quality Level 3 Certification Exam Prep – Water Quality Certification Committee (Exam Prep)

This workshop will cover material for the Water Quality Level 3 exam through example problems.

Certification Exams

Life Support Level 1 Exam:

The life support operator certification acknowledges general operator proficiency with tasks ranging from basic routine operations to advanced applications and theory, covering topics such as: sand filtration, biological filtration, chemical filtration, cathodic protection, turbidity, safety, pump curves, troubleshooting, pool volume calculations, filter surface area calculations, and pool turnover rate calculations.

Eligibility: Current AALSO members who are any one of the following: actively employed in the animal care industry, provides goods and services to the animal care industry, students from aquarium based programs, or working in a related field and looking to transition into a life support or water quality role. It is possible to take both the level 1 LSS and level 1 WQ exam during the same symposium.

60 minutes for LSS level 1

25 Multiple Choice Questions

- 15 Operational Questions
- 5 Safety and Regulatory Questions
- 5 Mathematical Calculations

Life Support Level 2 Exam:

The life support operator certification acknowledges general operator proficiency with tasks ranging from basic routine operations to advanced applications and theory, covering topics such as: sand filtration, biological filtration, chemical filtration, cathodic protection, turbidity, safety, pump curves, troubleshooting, pool volume calculations, filter surface area calculations, and pool turnover rate calculations.

Eligibility: Current AALSO members who are any one of the following: actively employed in the animal care industry, provides goods and services to the animal care industry, and students from aquarium based programs. In order to sit for the level 2 exam, you must have passed the level 1 exam with a score of 70% or higher. Please note, you are unable to sit for a level 1 and then proceed to a level 2 exam during the same symposium.

60 minutes for level 2

25 Multiple Choice Questions

- 14 Operational Questions
- 4 Safety and Regulatory Questions
- 7 Mathematical Calculations

Life Support Level 3 Exam:

The life support operator certification acknowledges general operator proficiency with tasks ranging from basic routine operations to advanced applications and theory, covering topics such as: sand filtration, biological filtration, chemical filtration, cathodic protection, turbidity, safety, pump curves, troubleshooting, pool volume calculations, filter surface area calculations, and pool turnover rate calculations.

Eligibility: Current AALSO members who are any one of the following: actively employed in the animal care industry, or provides goods and services to the animal care industry. In order to sit for the level 3 exam, you must have passed both the level 1 exam and the level 2 exam with a score of 70% or higher. Please note, you are unable to sit for a level 2 and then proceed to a level 3 exam during the same symposium. If you are sitting for a level 3 exam, you are not eligible to sit for an additional exam during the same symposium.

90 minutes for level 3

Water Quality Level 1 Exam:

The water quality technician certification acknowledges general operator proficiency with tasks ranging from basic laboratory techniques to advanced applications and theory, covering topics such as: laboratory safety, laboratory equipment and measurements, quality assurance and assessment, nitrification, denitrification, basic microbiology monitoring, understanding stoichiometry and chemical reactions and dilutions.

Eligibility: Current AALSO members who are any one of the following: actively employed in the animal care industry, provides goods and services to the animal care industry, students from aquarium based programs, or working in a related field and looking to transition into a life support or water quality role. It is possible to take both the level 1 LSS and level 1 WQ exam during the same symposium.

60 minutes for level 1

25 Multiple Choice Questions

- 10 Water Quality Testing Theory Questions
- 5 Safety and Regulatory Questions
- 4 Analytical Equipment Questions
- 5 Quality Control/Quality Assurance Questions
- 1 Mathematical Calculation

Water Quality Level 2 Exam:

The water quality technician certification acknowledges general operator proficiency with tasks ranging from basic laboratory techniques to advanced applications and theory, covering topics such as: laboratory safety, laboratory equipment and measurements, quality assurance and assessment, nitrification, denitrification, basic microbiology monitoring, understanding stoichiometry and chemical reactions and dilutions.

Eligibility: Current AALSO members who are any one of the following: actively employed in the animal care industry, provides goods and services to the animal care industry, and students from aquarium based programs. In order to sit for the level 2 exam, you must have passed the level 1 exam with a score of 70% or higher. Please note, you are unable to sit for a level 1 and then proceed to a level 2 exam during the same symposium.

60 minutes for level 2

25 Multiple Choice Questions

- 8 Water Quality Testing Questions
- 6 Chemistry Questions
- 4 Safety and Regulatory Questions
- 9 Mathematical Calculations

Water Quality Level 3 Exam:

The water quality technician certification acknowledges general operator proficiency with tasks ranging from basic laboratory techniques to advanced applications and theory, covering topics such as: laboratory safety, laboratory equipment and measurements, quality assurance and assessment, nitrification, denitrification, basic microbiology monitoring, understanding stoichiometry and chemical reactions and dilutions.

Eligibility: Current AALSO members who are any one of the following: actively employed in the animal care industry, provides goods and services to the animal care industry, and students from aquarium based programs. In order to sit for the level 3 exam, you must have passed both the level 1 exam and the level 2 exam with a score of 70% or higher. Please note, you are unable to sit for a level 2 and then proceed to a level 3 exam during the same symposium. If you are sitting for a level 3 exam, you are not eligible to sit for an additional exam during the same symposium.

90 minutes for level 3