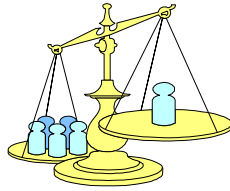


# SPOTLIGHT ON WEIGHTS & MEASURES

## SONOMA COUNTY SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



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### WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES

Sonoma County hosted the Coast Deputy Sealer's Group Meeting on March 17, 2004 in Santa Rosa, St. Patrick's Day. The Division hosted the Scale Seminar, a part of the Coast Deputy Meeting. Lunch was provided by one of the inspectors arranging a Corned Beef and Cabbage Buffet luncheon. There were 16 counties invited to participate in the seminar. Several service agencies were asked to participate and display the latest in electronic scales for the inspectors. Stu Degner, Wine Country Balance, led the seminar and gave an excellent history of the electronic scale, and showed examples of the evolution of the load cells. Tomas Cruz talked a half hour about Point of Sale scales and touched on heavy capacity scales. In the afternoon, Hobart showed their latest electronic computer scale. Their service agent was able to give the inspectors insight in examining the scale for accuracy. To close out the seminar, Dan Parks from California Division of Measurement Standards talked about the role of the Division in Type Approving the new electronic scales. The seminar was greatly appreciated by the inspectors. Technology is changing all the time and continual training is needed in order to keep up with the changes. The seminar

Prices in gasoline are going up and up. However, there were only two complaints regarding dispenser accuracy. Both complaints suspected the dispensers were overcharging on delivery, however, the inspectors found the dispensers to be accurate when tested.

Two of the inspectors attended a Basic Watt-hour Meter Testing Class in Sacramento at the end of March. The class was presented by Paul Jordan, who is the South District Division of Measurement Standards Representative. The class was a two-day seminar and was held in the Sacramento Division Office. Basic concepts of electricity were covered, and there were some hands-on testing of the general electric meters used in the majority of the field for sub metering.

Sonoma County Weights and Measures sent a notice to mobile home parks reminding them to bring in gas vapor meters, water sub meters, or/and electric meters that were close to/or greater than ten years old for inspection. The law requires these meters be tested every ten years for accuracy. The Mobile Home Parks responded quickly. A total of 150 water sub-meters were tested in

was a great success and it was concluded that it should be an annual affair.

## Weighing and Measuring Devices Cont.

March, 68 electric meters and 100 gas vapor meters tested.

Also with the beautiful weather in March there were 748 gas dispensers tested. The inspectors were kept very busy.

### QUANTITY CONTROL

Several complaints came into the office on scanning overcharges. One complaint was about a department store. There were 30 items randomly selected to scan and three overcharges were identified. There were two undercharges also found. However, the specific item the complainant was overcharged on scanned correctly when the inspector selected it. A Notice of Violation was issued for the overcharges. The other scanner complaint was investigated and all the items selected scanned correctly. It could not be determined whether the complaint was valid and the store had corrected the overcharges or the complainant had been in error on the particular items he purchased. It was found one of the items he selected had many different flavors and only one of the flavors were on sale.

### CONSUMER CORNER

How can I save money with household energy?

Did you know that if you have solar energy in your house and it exceeds the use of your PG&E meters they would pay you! The California Energy Commission is offering cash rebates on eligible renewable energy electric-generating systems through its Renewable Program. What generating

systems are eligible? Photovoltaic (PV) Solar cells that convert sunlight directly to electricity,

Small Wind turbines, fuel Cells, and Solar thermal Electricity systems.

### CONSUMER TIP

Here's a little Gas Pump Humor!!!  
You think a gallon of gas is expensive?  
Check this out. Puts things in perspective!

Diet Snapple 16oz: \$1.29, \$10.32 per gal  
Lipton Ice Tea 16oz: \$1.19, \$9.52 per gal  
Gatorade 20oz: \$1.59, \$10.17 per gal  
Ocean Spray 16oz: \$1.25, \$10.00 per gal  
Brake Fluid 12oz: \$3.15, \$33.60 per gal  
Vick's Nyquil 6oz: \$8.35, \$178.13 per gal  
Pepto Bismol 4oz: \$3.85, \$123.20 per gal  
Whiteout 7oz: \$1.39, \$25.42 per gal  
Scope 1.5oz: \$0.99, \$84.48 per gal

And this is the real kicker:  
Evian H2O (water), 9 oz  
\$1.49.....\$21.19 per gallon

\$21.19 FOR WATER, and the buyers don't even know the source. Yes, and the name Evian, is Naive turned around, and the Canadians are selling it by the millions of gallons to the US. So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, Whiteout, Pepto Bismol or Nyquil!!!!

Just a little humor to ease the pain of your next trip to the pump!