WPA

Western Pyrotechnic Association

Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 1 - January 2002



The Western Pyrotechnic Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 837 Verdugo City CA 91046
Web site: http://wpa.pyrotechnics.org

2001 OFFICERS

President
Kief Adler
Phone: (818) 991-8605
E-mail: kief@pyro.org

Vice President
Don Oesterle
Phone: (818) 773-9485
E-mail: Don@pyro.org

Secretary
Beckie Timohovich
Phone (818) 662-9721
E-mail: Beckie@pyro.org

Treasurer
Kathy Baird
Phone: (626) 350-1808
E-mail: kathy@pyro.org

Publications VP
Dimitri Timohovich
Phone: (818) 662-9721
E-mail: rvtemt@attglobal.net

Area Vice Presidents

Northwest - John Childs
(Phone: 253) 531-1658
E-mail: Jecpyro@juno.com

Northern California - Steve Wilson
Phone: (707) 485-5122
E-mail: pyrobert@saber.net

San Joaquin - Lynden King
Phone: (916) 686-5054
E-mail: fred@elkgrove.net

Los Angeles Area - Paul Salverson
Phone: (818) 348-1048
E-mail: Psalverson@mvfinc.com

San Diego - Rudy Schaffner
Phone: (760) 356-5426
E-mail: rudy@holtville.net

Arizona / Nevada - Judd Herberger
Phone: (480) 945-4517

Rocky Mountains - Charley Wilson
Phone: (303) 673-8285
E-mail: cwilson@celsvr.stortek.com

Eastern / Foreign - Tom Perigrin
Phone: (740) 448-3014
E-mail: tip@pyrosafety.com

Hawaii - No representative available
Holding own elections

The members of the Board of Directors of the WPA would like to extend their sincere condolences to any of our members who experienced a loss following the tragic events of September 11, 2001.
Our thoughts are with you, as are the thoughts of the entire world.

From the President **By Kief Adler**

Welcome and a Happy New Year to you all! With the holiday's behind us, I am looking forward to another long, fireworks laden weekend in Lake Havasu with all of my pyro friends. Once again, many of your fellow members have spent much of the last year preparing for this year's Winter Blast and I can promise you one hell of a show. Don't miss Winter Blast 2002!

For those of you lucky enough to attend Do It #3, you were part of our biggest Do It ever. From the seminars to the Afterglows, everything went off as promised. We owe a world of thanks to Dimitri Timohovich and Joe Pfeffer, Do It's co-chairs, as well as a host of others who should be listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Yours truly was presented with a beautiful plaque for getting Do It off the ground, but I would be remiss in accepting it without acknowledging Greg Boyd for laying the groundwork for the event with his pre-Do It "Pow Wow. Hard to believe that three of these great events are already behind us! Add the third weekend in October to your vacation calendars and join us this year.

Elections are coming up, once again, in February. Kathy Baird, who stepped in upon the resignation of our last treasurer will not be running again. Kathy has done an incredible job over the past 3 years and will be missed by all of us on the Board. She is leaving tough shoes to fill but, I'm sure that one of you can fill them! The other open position this year is mine. Although many of you have asked me to run for another term as President, I can honestly say that I have not yet made up my mind. I appreciate the overwhelming support that I have enjoyed for the past two years, but it may be time for me to take a break. Although I have enjoyed my years as your President and love being part of the Board, I find myself torn on many issues that the club faces and need to see these resolved before making my decision. Regardless of my final decision, I welcome the challenge of another candidate for President and hope that there will be at least one!

Continued on page 6.

Presidents Letter Continued from Page 5

One year ago I wrote "...I am amazed by the hours of time it takes to help run this organization. Not just my time, but the entire Board of Directors, the countless volunteers for Do It and Winter Blast , all come together with one goal in mind: the dedication to help make this one of the best pyro clubs in the world. Volunteering doesn't have to mean giving up your fun at Winterblast or Do It either. Two hours of volunteering for safety duty helps us keep things running smoothly and places you on the front lines, smelling smoke with the rest of your friends. Remember this when you are asked to volunteer a few hours. You might be giving up two hours but the rest of us are giving up one hundred times that so that you can enjoy yourself. I'm happy to give of my time. All I ask in return is that you give a little of yours back to the club so that all of us can enjoy a good time." These words still ring true and is the primary problem that I see with our club: too few of us are willing to run the show. I want to remind all of you that it takes give and take to make any relationship work, and the relationship of the member to the club takes the same commitment. If each of you attending a club event were to give us two hours of your time, we would have more volunteers than shifts! This is YOUR club as well as mine. Give a little, get a lot more. Maybe this should be the theme for next year's Blast.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Lake Havasu! Meanwhile, stay green.

Kief Adler

Vice Presidents Letter By: Don Oesterle

Greetings:

I hope everybody has recovered from his or her holiday celebrations, and that everybody's holiday firework shows went well. The WPA Board members and the Chairs of Winterblast 2002 have all been working extremely hard on getting everything ready for our big event. Hardly a day goes by without us getting numerous telephone calls or e-mails with some question pertaining to registration, hotels, display time and location, or food; so it looks like Winterblast is on everybody's mind. We are expecting a great turnout this year, and the public display might be the best one ever! With such a large event, it follows that we will need lots of volunteer help to ensure everybody remains safe and has a great time. Please be generous with your volunteer time; it will be greatly appreciated.

Following the terrible events that happened last year, it seems the country has a newfound, or renewed patriotism. From the American flags being proudly displayed on automobiles, homes, businesses, and clothing to the red, white, and blue decorative lights being proudly displayed on people's homes, it appears that the country is experiencing a unity that hasn't been felt for a long time. All this outward American pride makes me feel great that the country is coming together. It just makes me a little sad that it took such a tragic series of events for people to realize how great a country it is that we live in. Hopefully this enthusiastic spirit will continue long into the future.

Show your American Pride, proudly display your flags!

I'm looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at Winterblast, so until then, be safe and patriotic!

Don Oesterle

Secretaries letter By: Beckie Timohovich

Dear Members,

I am glad to say that another year has passed. Over the year the files have gotten more and more in order, and with a new organization system things will be easier to find. I hope to continue to serve the club for the remainder of my term until February 2003.

I am sorry that I will not be able to join the rest of you at Winter Blast this year. I will be working in Salt Lake instead. Please light off a few shells for me and have a great time.

I will see you all at 'Do It' next year or the following Winter Blast.

Yours truly,
Beckie Timohovich.

Communications VP's letter By: Dimitri Timohovich

Well we made it to 2002, our club's 13th year! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. What a year it was and I'm expecting an even more challenging year to come. Thanks to all who have made my job easier in past events, and thanks to those who have made it more challenging, although I'm sure your ears were ringing many times from the various curses I was spewing. But all jokes aside, 2001 was a great year (even with certain world and local events) and I am looking forward to another year of service with much enthusiasm.

As some of you have heard, Beckie and I will not be attending Winterblast this year. We were fortunate to be selected as members of the pyro team for the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. We will be on location from last January till mid March and regretfully will be working on the days the Blast will be held. I am sure that this Blast will be a great one and have every confidence in the people running the event. Have a safe and fun one. I expect to hear the salutes all the way up in Salt Lake at least one night of open shooting.

Again, I always welcome new material for future newsletters from our members. Please feel free to e-mail or call me with any questions or concerns regarding this or any upcoming issues. And remember, support our vendors, they work hard, sometimes at a loss to make sure our members get the best prices possible at our events.

Stay Green
Dimitri Timohovich

Treasurers report

			Jan - Dec '01
	Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income			
	Donations		
		legal fees	2,000.00
		Donations - Other	16,000.00
	Total Donations		18,000.00
	Interest Income		73.27
	Membership & WB Registration		
		2001 Dues & WB Registration	81,300.50
		2002 Membership	5,265.00
		WB2002 Registration	9,187.00
	Total Membership & WB Registration		95,752.50
	Special Events & Activities		
		Advertising	50.00
		Do It	
			tables 25.00
			Do It - Registration 9,371.00
		Total Do It	9,396.00
		Vendor Table Fees	6,001.00
	Total Special Events & Activities		15,447.00
	Total Income		129,272.77
	Gross Profit		129,272.77
Expense			
	Convention		
		Badge Holders/Lanyards Etc.	2,977.66
		Catering	8,400.84
		delivery	300.00
		Display	15,366.75
		Incentives	
			reg comp 142.00
			Room Comps 1,854.23
			Shirts, Mugs, Pins 4,805.38
			Incentives - Other 721.33
		Total Incentives	7,522.94
		Licenses and Permits	5.00
		Medical/Safety	1,404.46
		Miscellaneous	330.85
		Printing	57.89
		Registration Supplies	1,260.16
	Rentals		
		Communications	1,040.00
		storage	1,720.00
		tent	6,416.25
	Total Rentals		9,176.25
		Seminars	641.95
	Site Preparation		
		Janitor	275.00
		lighting	1,500.00
		porta pot	262.50
		Signs	165.85
		sound sys	825.00
		utilities	261.93
		Site Preparation - Other	2,569.05
	Total Site Preparation		5,859.33
		site use fee	1,641.35
		Sponsorship	-1,000.00
		Vendor	
			flee market 2,750.00
		Rentals	
			Transportation 213.55
			Total Rentals 213.55
			Security 2,036.00
		Total Vendor	4,999.55
		Convention - Other	0.00

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Treasurers Report

Continued from Page 8

Total Convention		58,944.98	
Convention 2002			
	public display		7,500.00
Total Convention 2002		7,500.00	
Do It			
	auto rental	434.85	
	food vending		202.22
	radio rental	262.50	
	security		2,038.73
	Site Prepare		3,196.52
	Supplies		776.39
	T-shirts		2,885.39
Total Do It		9,796.60	
General Operations			
	Bank Service Charges	35.00	
	Communications		
		Internet	450.00
		Telephone 556.30	
		Total Communications 1,006.30	
	Dues and Subscriptions		100.00
		Insurance	
			Liability-D&O 16,034.60
			Tripster 600.00
			Total Insurance 16,634.60
			Licenses 25.00
			Miscellaneous 113.86
	Office Equipment		2,296.03
	Office Supplies		337.88
	Officer Stipends		3,191.16
	Printing and Postage		
		PO Box rental	120.00
		Postage and Delivery 702.71	
		Printing and Reproduction	4,900.00
		Printing and Postage - Other	414.44
		Total Printing and Postage	6,137.15
Professional Fees			
	Accounting	450.00	
	Legal Fees	6,913.81	
	Total Professional Fees		7,363.81
Supplies			
	guns		1,983.72
	Newsletter	2,831.04	
	Racks		1,375.00
	Total Supplies		6,189.76
Taxes			
	Corporation Filing Fee	150.00	
	Federal		3,419.76
	State		-119.87
	Taxes - Other		18.93
	Total Taxes		3,468.82
	Total General Operations		46,699.37
Uncategorized Expenses			0.00
	WPA merchandise		193.50
	Total Expense		123,334.45
	Net Ordinary Income		5,938.32
Net Income			5,938.32

Sad News... Tom Cloud — By Paul Salverson

Tom Cloud died Friday December 28, 2001 about 8:00 P.M. from Congestive Heart Failure and a massive coronary.

Teri reported that Tom looked and felt better than he had for several years following the surgery. Last Thursday, Tom was rushed to the hospital with severe low blood pressure, and died the following day. Kathy Baird said 'He was a kind, giant of a man. It was a shame that his "heart muscle" wasn't as big and strong as his "soul heart" that he showed the world.'

In his honor a special super string of firecrackers that were made for the PGI last year will be lit in his honor at this years upcoming Winter Blast in Lake Havasu City, AZ. Matt Sutcliffe of Premier Pyrotechnics Inc has also agreed to dedicate the salute finale portion of Sunday's display to Tom, as Tom loved a good salute (chest thump) as well. He and Richard Cole would try and out do each other on who could make the loudest KABOOM. There was a "ground salute contest" a few years back on who's salute was the loudest. I don't remember the final outcome, But I think Tom snuck in some PTEN in his if I am not mistaken. When Tom was feeling the withdrawal symptoms of not getting to smell enough pyro smoke, he used to tell me that he would close all the windows in the house and light some lady-fingers in his fireplace.

Tom was responsible of overseeing a giant firecracker string (over a million I think) that we had several years ago when we were at "spectator point" for the first time. We thank God he entered our lives if only for a much too short of time. Below is an E-mail that I received from Tom just 10 days after his surgery.

Hey Paul,

The reason I wanted to email you was to let you and Jill know that I'm fine after open heart surgery on 12/11/01.

I went into congestive heart failure on 12/07 at the shop, man did that liven things up LOL. I'm a bit sore but otherwise in fine shape and the future looks good heart wise. At any rate I'll have a neat looking scar for show and tell.

One valve was repaired and the aortic valve was replaced with a mechanical one, it has a neat clicking sound to it. Megan says that "daddy sounds like a watch". Looks like going to WWB this year is on the back burner for awhile.

Regards to all this holiday season,

Tom

From the Desk of Winter Blast Chairman 2002 — By: Russ Laurie

I would first like to say that I hope everyone had a safe and happy holidays despite what happened on September 11th.

As you read this newsletter and the holidays are just a blur Winter Blast 2002 is fast approaching. We here at Winterblast central are busier that ever planning and getting things together for what is building up to be the biggest Winterblast yet. Not only will we have great Public Display on Saturday night with a new sound system but we are also having a special display for members and a few VIP's on Sunday night at Sara as well. Our Trade Show will be held at a much bigger facility with tons of parking and it's right across the street from the host hotel. There will be an all you can eat pancake breakfast on Saturday morning in the parking lot of the Trade Show just to get you started. This is just one of the new items, ideas to make this years Blast a memorable event. So I hope to see everyone their at this years Winter Blast.

Sincerely
Russ Laurie

Winter Blast Volunteers? — By: Brian Erfurth

Winterblast is coming....Have you signed on to volunteer yet? Were you planning to? We need and greatly appreciate your time. Without volunteers, Winterblast just wouldn't be the same. At least not the way we would like it to be. In the past, the shortage of volunteers to cover the work shifts has made it difficult for everyone to have a "BLAST", the one we all look forward to. It doesn't matter what your qualifications are; your time is needed and greatly appreciated.

Volunteering is a great way to meet some fellow pyros. For a fun and rewarding Winterblast experience, offer your time and sign on for some work shifts. We will have work vouchers for those that volunteer their time. The volunteer with the most hours worked will win a terrific prize, also there will be 4 other top prizes for those who worked lots of hours and the remaining tickets will be placed in a drawing for five additional gifts. We'll have a blast!

If you have any questions or comments or would like to sign on early, contact me at Brianerf@jps.net

Thanks a lot and see you there.

Brian Erfurth
Work Crew Chair

Letter to the PGI Board — By: Kief Adler

The following letter was sent to the Board of Directors of the PGI on behalf of the membership and Board of the WPA:

January 5, 2002

PGI Board of Directors
18021 Baseline Avenue
Jordan, Minnesota 55352

Dear Directors:

It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this letter to you on behalf of your fellow directors of the Western Pyrotechnic Association.

For almost three years now the WPA has been fighting a lawsuit brought by a former member of the club. As you are well aware, Lexington Insurance, the club's liability carrier, initially denied coverage and declined to defend this case. The board of the WPA felt that we could not allow a frivolous lawsuit such as this one to proceed, nor could we accept Lexington's decision. In brief, we decided to fight for our rights and were delighted when the PGI agreed to help us do so by granting us two individual grants of $2000. Our years of patience and persistence have paid off and, with the help of our attorneys, Doug Mawhorr of Brooke and Cloyd and Dan Spielfogel , our local California counsel, we have prevailed. I am overjoyed to report that Lexington Insurance has agreed to defend the case for the WPA and to reimburse the WPA for 100% of all legal costs accrued to date! In a further stunning development, the case was dismissed completely by the courts when our former member was convinced to drop his case against the WPA by his own attorney!

It should further be noted that our pursuit of justice would not have been possible had Brooke and Cloyd not agreed to continue with our case on a contingency basis. Additionally, Dan Spielfogel agreed to bill the club at one half his regular rate. Our (hard) hats are off to both of these legal firms. Salute!

The enclosed four thousand dollar check represents the total of the two grants made by the PGI to the WPA to help defray our legal expenses in the matter of Palmer vs. WPA and WPA vs. Lexington Insurance. By the issuance of this check, the WPA is acknowledging a debt paid in full. Let it be known by all who read this letter that the PGI stands as a true friend to the WPA, and to pyros worldwide. On behalf of the Board and the membership of the WPA, I offer you our most sincere thanks as well as our admiration.

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The PGI has shown itself to be true to its word in providing assistance to pyrotechnic brotherhoods.

Winter Blast, our annual convention, will be coming up in February. I know that some of you will be in attendance this year. Please accept the thunder and light of our Public Display as a display of our great appreciation. Thank you for helping us fight the good fight.

Pyrotechnically yours,

Kief Adler, President
Dimitri Timohovich, Vice President
Donald Oesterle, Vice President
Kathy Baird, Treasurer
Beckie Timohovich, Secretary

BOD Meeting Minutes October 2001 — By Beckie Timohovich

WPA 2001 BOD meeting
Attendees:
Kief Adler
Dimitri Timohovich
Donald Oesterle
Beckie Timohovich
Russ Laurie
Brian Erfurth
Jill Salverson
Paul Salverson
Rita Oesterle
Dallas Oesterle

1:03pm Meeting called to order.
Kief motioned to vote and approve all minutes that have been posted in past newsletters.
Seconded by Don Oesterle
All in favor.
1:07pm Ground Salute committee meeting is to be held on the 24th of Sept. Kief updates with what is going on so far. The BOD as it stands now that we choose to not fully support the use of ground bombs. We would like to see them used as a demo only at Winter Blast and possibly only use them at 'Do It'
1:10pm Dimitri should plan on bringing supplies for ground bombs
1:12pm Lawsuit update off the record.
1:13pm Suggestions for new life member
1:14pm Web site links were reviewed by Don Oesterle, everything is current and up to date.
1:15pm New Post office box has been purchased and its new address is P.O. Box 837 Verdugo City CA 91046.

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BOD Meeting Minutes September 2001 Continued from page 13

1:16pm Proposal for the WPA to purchase a new laptop for use in registration of WPA hosted events and for all Secretaries files and the database. Considering a Dell Inspiron 4000 series. Beckie will get the last of the information necessary and hopefully email details and get final BOD approval for the BOD to agree upon and begin the purchase of the system.

1:20pm BOD meeting adjourned.

BOD Meeting Minutes October 2001 By: Beckie Timohovich

Attendees:
Kief Adler
Don Oesterle
Beckie Timohovich
Dimitri Timohovich
Joe Pfeffer
Catherine A. Barber

7:45pm Meeting Called to Order
7:45pm Motion to approve previous minutes
Motion made by Dimitri
Seconded by Don Oesterle
All in approval.
7:46pm Motion to approve flying the American flag at all WPA events.
Motion made by Dimitri
Motion Seconded by Kief Adler.
All in approval.
7:47pm Ground salute Committee progress.
Kief Adler motions that we disband the Ground Salute Committee in light of recent events and doe to discussions between BOD and the WPA members that we not allow the Ground Salutes at any of the WPA events, Except those demos with prior BOD approval.
Don Oesterle Seconds the motion.
This would be an indefinite decision.
7:52pm Lawsuit update.
The lawsuit against the WPA brought forth by Mr. David Palmer has been dropped. We are waiting for the final paperwork to go through and we will receive our financial award.
7:57pm Website update.
Only one site should be removed from our website for old content. Thanks to Don for a job well done.
8:03pm Meeting Adjourned.

BOD Meeting Minutes November 2001 By: Beckie Timohovich

Attendees:
Kief Adler
Don Oesterle
Beckie Timohovich
Dimitri Timohovich
Kathy Baird

8:33pm Meeting called to order.
8:33pm Kief motions that we approve the minutes of the previous meetings.
All approve.
8:34pm Kathy does treasurers report. All is well.
8:35pm Kief reviews 'Do it' and 'WWB' Budgets.
8:37pm Ground Salute committee update.
The committee has been disbanded, however the BOD can approve a demonstration when it is needed or deemed appropriate.
8:42pm Lawsuit update.
Lexington Insurance needs one last approval before we receive our financial reimbursements for legal expenses.
8:43pm Computer purchase.
Kief Motions that we purchase the laptop.
Dimitri Seconds
All vote in favor.
8:47pm Member offers printing services in exchange for membership dues this year.
Kief motions that we leave this up to Beckie's Discretion.
Dimitri seconds it.
All vote in favor.
8:49pm Safety rules and how they are enforced.
Enforcing the rules at WWB and Do It should be more closely watched. Different degrees of infraction require different punishments. We should come up with a type of infraction and a consequence that will accompany that.
Beckie proposes that the safety and security staff for this years Winter Blast should come up with a list of infractions and a list of repercussions for the BOD to discuss and review. They should also come up with a proposal on how to handle rough situations.
Staff meetings before each open shooting period to discuss the previous days events and the events for the day of.
Kief Motions that we table the discussion until the WWB Crew can come up with a proposal.
All vote in favor.
9:15pm Discovery Channel.
A crew for the Discovery channel would like to visit Winter Blast to get more of an idea of how fireworks are manufactured. If this was a for profit venture we should receive a piece of the venture. There would be no pay according to the contact that Kief has. This could pose more problems for the club than it could benefits. *Continued on page 16*

BOD Meeting Minutes November Continued from Page 15

Kief suggests that we disapprove the visit of the Discovery Channel crew to Winter Blast.

All agree.

9:19pm Do It Review.

Positive feedback was felt over all. Dimitri decides to table the discussion until he has his final numbers.

9:20pm Membership cards

Kief motions that we accept the bid for the 2500 membership cards but not receiving the laminations.

Kathy seconds it.

All vote in favor.

9:26pm Update on issues from 'Do It' off the record.

9:47pm Meeting adjourned.

BOD Meeting Minutes December 2001 By: Beckie Timohovich

Attendees:
Kief Adler
Don Oesterle
Dimitri Timohovich
Kathy Baird
Beckie Timohovich
Russ Laurie

8:17pm Meeting called to order

8:17pm Kief Motions that we approve the previous meetings minutes

Don seconds the motion

All vote in favor.

8:20pm Russ and Beckie update the BOD on Winter Blast.

Maybe look into paying the labor ready workers on a per day rate as opposed to an hourly rate to help ensure the expedition of the daily clean up.

We need to hire 'Mule' type vehicles, which will raise costs.

Sound will be a higher expense.

We will also add a free years membership for a prize for the Volunteer Encouragement Policy.

Matt Sutcliffe, of Premier Pyrotechnics, will do sound. He will supply sound for Spectator Point, Sound for Sara Park for his display on Sunday and sound for the PA system.

Premier Pyrotechnics will be doing a small, members only, and display on Sunday, which will close down the 'B' shooting lines.

We will need five to six of volunteers to help police Spectator Point.

We can cover half the expenses for Randy Pritchard's van for first aid.

We need a second trailer 'bunker' for the 'B' rocket lines. (a Truck was vetoed for the idea that there would be a full tank of gasoline in the vehicle.)

9:07pm Tent information was given for the BOD to ponder.

9:13pm Blue Book Films would like to film a documentary at Winter Blast 2002.

Kief makes a motion to approve the offer from Blue Book films

Beckie seconds the motion

All vote in favor.

9:20pm Treasurers report

Balance is $29,857.00

9:21pm Lawsuit update.

Kief has a meeting with the lawyers for the Lexington lawsuit to receive the funds rewarded to us in the lawsuit. This makes only one more check to collect before we are finally finished with the lawsuit.

9:26pm DO it update by Dimitri.

Final numbers are almost completely in and it appears that the event made almost four thousand dollars profit for the club.

Container to be placed at either Greg Boyd's property, or at the property that 'Do It' is held at.

Kief will look into how much it will cost to have it moved around if needed.

9:41pm Kief Motions to adjourn the meeting

Kathy seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

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Comet Drying Times

By: Mike Workman

A few issues ago, I promised a look at comet drying times as a function of size or diameter of the comet. Given many people are getting close to building again as we approach Winterblast, it may be a good idea to plan the longer lead-time items. Figure 1 shows the drying times associated with two small comet sizes, ¾" and 1 ¾" diameter BP type comets.

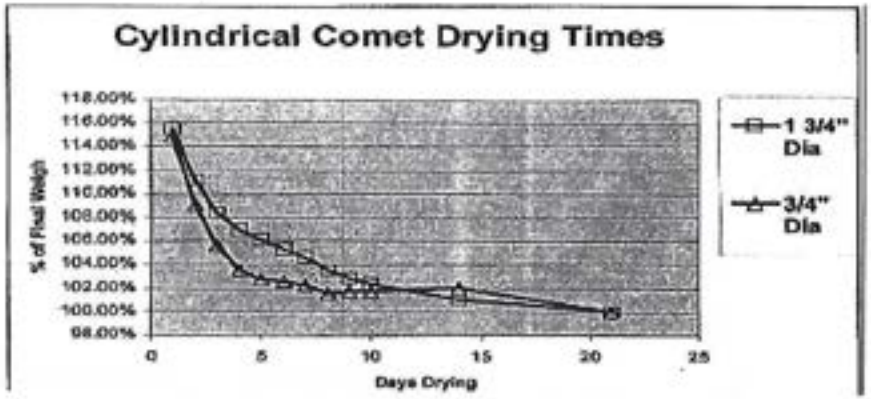


Figure 1. It turned out that on Day 6, it rained. The relative humidity of the drying area was extremely high for about two days (5,6). As can be seen, this affected the rate of moisture loss. The final point was determined by two days of bright sun drying.

There are several important features of this data to look at: First, the smaller comet approaches its final weight much faster than the larger one. But as noted, the smaller comets also ***gain*** weight faster in a high humidity environment. On day 6 we had a rain that raised the RH to nearly 90%. This virtually stopped the drying for the small comet as it began picking up water instead of losing water. The bigger comet is just slowed down because the comet still had more water than it would

have even at very high RH. To determine the asymptotic "dry" value, I baked these comets in the sun for about two days and took their weight.

Many factors determine how dry "dry" is, including the composition, and the binder. BP comets function fine within 2% of their dry weight, while other compositions aren't quite that simple. One thing is for certain; drying time goes up dramatically with dimension. For a cylindrical comet of "length" (along it's axis) L and diameter L, drying time scales roughly as the square of L, or as L^2:

$$T_{drying} \sim L^2$$

Which means a 4" diameter comet will take about 16 times longer to dry than a 1" comet. Although this is a good indicator, it is not exactly born out by the data. The empirical data says that the time constant is about 8 times longer instead of 4 times that of the 1.75" comet. But the conventional wisdom is that big comets take a long time to dry, and this is surely born out by the data. I have found that 3" and 4" comets of the same shape as a 1" comet, just scaled up by 3 or 4 respectively, really do take 9 to 16 times longer to dry. One method for speeding the comet drying is extremely effective: Drill a hole in the center of the comet, say 3/8" in diameter, and place the comet in moving air (make sure the air is moving in the center hole to some degree). Using a center hole causes the larger comets to burn faster and ensure they are extinguished well before hitting the ground.

Comet Construction Tip

I cannot resist sharing a great technique I learned from one of Bill Ofca's papers: Strengthening large comets via jute twine. Take jute twine, and cut 5-10 1" long pieces, and separate the small pieces into their constituent fibers. This pile of "hair" is then mixed into the comet composition, taking care to keep the fibers from clumping together (i.e. keep them separate). This is useful in construction of large 4" comets, as the comet becomes extremely strong and unlikely to break or shatter on launching. I found that the comet is so strong right after pressing that one needs a tool to break the comet apart if necessary, without even drying!

In response to misconceptions of the WPA by certain fire authorities and law enforcement agencies, the Board of Directors wants to make the following 100% clear: the WPA does not condone, nor does it encourage, the illegal use of fireworks. Period. We would like to remind our members that no pyrotechnic product will be allowed to leave any of our events without the proper paperwork and licenses! NO EXCEPTIONS!!

Winter Blast 2002 "Gate" Policy — By Kurt Medlin

It has always struck me as a great irony that we hold the Winter Blast in Arizona because, in part, it is easier to deal with their legislative requirements for holding a fireworks convention that it is California's - despite Arizona's total ban on selling any type of fireworks to the public. Yes, Arizona is a "dry" state – if memory serves, they don't even allow 'Safe and Sane' as a local option. And yet to my knowledge, we have never had a problem getting the officials having jurisdiction to grant us the proper permits needed to sell and shoot class C/G1.4 fireworks for the few days we hold the Winter Blast. I believe the main reason the authorities are comfortable with our activities is because the WPA has always been careful to live up to its responsibilities and take steps to not allow fireworks to leave the Winter Blast without the proper paperwork. These steps have always included both a policy stating what is not allowed past the gates of Sara Park, and a person at the gate reminding people should they inadvertently 'forget' and start walking out with a bag of live product sans the proper permits, etc.

While having a 'gate policy' has not always been a popular practice, it has served us well in terms of keeping the WPA in good standing with both the authorities and the community in general. In the interest of avoiding any misunderstandings regarding exactly what will and won't be allowed out of Sara Park (and hopefully avoiding disappointment on anyone's part), this article will present the "gate policy" with regard to what is sold in the class C vending tent at Sara Park.

Before I continue, I should make it clear that it is not the WPA's intent to stop anyone from legally purchasing live product on site and legally transporting it off site. The key word here is, "legally" and anyone in possession of the proper permits, licenses, and transportation papers appropriate for the material in question, will be allowed to leave with their live product.

To get right down to it, the items allowed out of Sara Park without any paperwork are:

- Black powder in the manufacturer's 1lb. cans labeled for retail sale
- Visco fuse (all diameters)
- Time fuse
- StickyMatch
- Electric matches
- All non-mixed chemicals
- Pyrotechnic comps/mixtures available via mail order without a permit or sold over the counter for consumer use in Arizona
- All inert materials (i.e., paper and plastic products; all printed materials, etc.)

The items not allowed through the gate without proper paperwork are:

- Any class C/1.4G or class B/1.3G firework items. This includes live antique fireworks sold as collectibles
- Bulk packaged black powder
- Quick match
- Stars and live pyrotechnic inserts (whistles, serpents, small insert shells, lance etc.)
- Pyrotechnic comps/mixtures not available via mail order without a permit or sold over the counter for consumer use in Arizona

The basic reasoning used behind the above list is this: Any pyrotechnic thing that normally requires paperwork to purchase and transport outside of a Winter Blast, it will also require the same paperwork to leave the Winter Blast.

One of the above items likely to raise eyebrows and cause disappointment is the inclusion of live antique fireworks sold as collectibles. While this may seem a bit harsh when it comes down to a 60 year old pack of 16 ladyfingers, as long as the local, state and federal authorities make no legal and enforcement distinction between these items and other class B and C items, we cannot make the distinction either.

Like wise, the inclusion of quick match may seem a bit harsh, especially considering Sticky Match is allowed. The distinction basically comes down to whether an item is 1.4g ('Class C' fireworks, quick match, shell inserts, etc.) or 1.4s (visco, time fuse, electric matches, Sticky Match).

Rest assured that the Winter Blast organizers and the WPA Board of Directors are aware that this policy will not prove popular with a number of members and even some vendors. But given the legal problems and associated expenses the WPA has experienced these last few years, we can't responsibly conduct Winter Blasts with policies that aren't grounded in legal compliance. Our past legal problems may not have been associated with what was officially allowed through the gate, but no good purpose would be served by adopting an official-in-writing gate policy containing exceptions allowing the above 1.3g and 1.4g items to leave without the same licenses and permits they require for purchase outside the Winter Blast.

In the interest of full disclosure, here are the general sales policies that each vendor is required to follow in order to vend at Winter Blast:

Vendor Sales restrictions

- Only those who have previously registered with the Vendor Chairman will be allowed to conduct sales.
- Sales will only be made to the appropriate designated attendees.
- Sales will only be made to those who are 18 years of age or who are otherwise accompanied by an appropriate attendee and they must have a proper convention badge.
- A sale, gift or other means of distribution will not be made to anyone who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or who is acting in an irresponsible manner.
- Only class 'C' items will be offered for sale. The Vendor Chairman must clear any questionable items.
- All vendors are obligated to challenge anyone suspected of not meeting the above eligibility requirements.
- Sales will only be conducted in buildings or sales areas designated for this purpose.
- Vendors and/or the Vendor Chairman will have full authority to require anyone causing a safety hazard to leave the area.
- Flea Market Sales will be divided into two categories, those materials of a hazardous nature and those of a non-hazardous nature. The vendor Chairman is responsible for making specific decision regarding whether a material is considered hazardous or non-hazardous.
    - Items of a hazardous nature such as Fireworks, stars, and flammable components will be sold in the class C sales area.
    - Items of a non-hazardous nature such as some chemicals, casings, tools, and literature, may be sold anywhere designated by the vendor chairman.
- All hazardous materials must be in closed containers. Sealed plastic bags are permitted for non-deflagrating materials only.
- All flammable materials in the class C area must be covered with a flameproof tarp, or its equivalent during open shooting hours.

It is the hope of the Winter Blast organizers and WPA Board of Directors that presenting these guidelines now will prevent anyone from coming to Winter Blast and going away disappointed. If you have specific questions regarding what type of paperwork is required to leave with what type of items, you can contact Winter Blast Safety Chairman

Unfortunately, Fred May has asked to be relieved of his duties as provider of this year's Public Display due to personal reasons. Before contacting me about this he had already spoken to Fireworks America and asked them to take it over for him. They have, graciously, agreed. I have spoken to both parties and all is well. I am disappointed that Fred won't be doing the show this year but am confident that FA will do a fine job, as usual. Fred has promised to entertain doing next year's show instead, and has promised to "donate until his bunkers are empty" for this year's show. Both he, and his family, are still planning to attend the event. Thanks to all at Fireworks America for coming through for us on such short notice.
Kief

Have a great time at Winter Blast and don't forget to help out and volunteer!!

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If you missed Do It number 3, boy did you miss out!! Mark your calendars because you are not going to want to miss number 4. We had another successful year with all sorts of B product going up every night. Once again, the club let members use its ATF license to purchase and fire shells and what a success.

A long list of thanks goes out to many members. First off to Beckie for supporting my insanities and jumping right up on the band wagon with me, to Kief for handling the hotel and afterglow affairs. A special thanks to Russ and Don, our safety chairs for a second year running and to Joe, who unknowingly jumped into a co-chair position and stuck with it till the bitter end. Thanks to Mark Matt for bringing a trailer to use as base camp and to Paul and Jill with assistants Laura and Gary for keep registration on top of it all (and thanks Kathy for organizing the shirts). Speaking of shirts, a big thanks to Pyro Novelties for coming up with the design and printing up those treasured mementos. Thanks to Kurt for putting together another great seminar schedule and to all who taught a seminar.

A big thank you to Steve and Danielle Humphries as well as Roy Goode for handling all the electrical issues. Again our guru of communications, Bill Daly, kept us all radio linked, and we thank you. A big thanks to Greg Boyd and his pal Mitch for all the site prep and maintenance they did.

A special and hearty thank you to Mike and Ann Hill for taking over chow duties a second year in a row. Looks like we may have a regular cooking team for up coming Do Its. What do you say gang?

Speaking of food, let's talk about drink. Boy did we have plenty at the afterglows. Thanks to Jay Brown and crew for bring out some delicious wine (and I'm not a wine drinker by any means). But our beer enthusiasts got a very special treat thanks to Bill McGregor and his friends at P H Woods restaurant and brewery, Moreno Valley, Ca. who supplied the black lager & E.S.B. brewed by Hans as well as B.J's brewery, Brea, Ca. would supplied the red ale brewed by John Oliver. Thanks again guys, looking forward to more of those tasty craft brews.

A special thanks are in order for our vendors Western Powders, Firefox and Flash fireworks as they drive a long way to support us, and without them, there would be no event.

Let's not forget to thank the slew of volunteers who helped set up, run and tear down the event. Without you folks, this event would not have been made possible. Your service to the club is greatly appreciated.

Greg put on another great Armageddon, Looking forward to the next, but no more Saturn Missile Batteries. Those have been permanently banned from your possession.

Finally I want to thank everyone else I forgot and to all who attended. It was a great turn out and event. You all made my job easier, that I actually had a chance to get my wife's quad stuck in the mud (but Joe still wins the award for most "stucks" at Do It). Again thank you all and see you at the next Do It!!

Thanks once again!
Dimitri