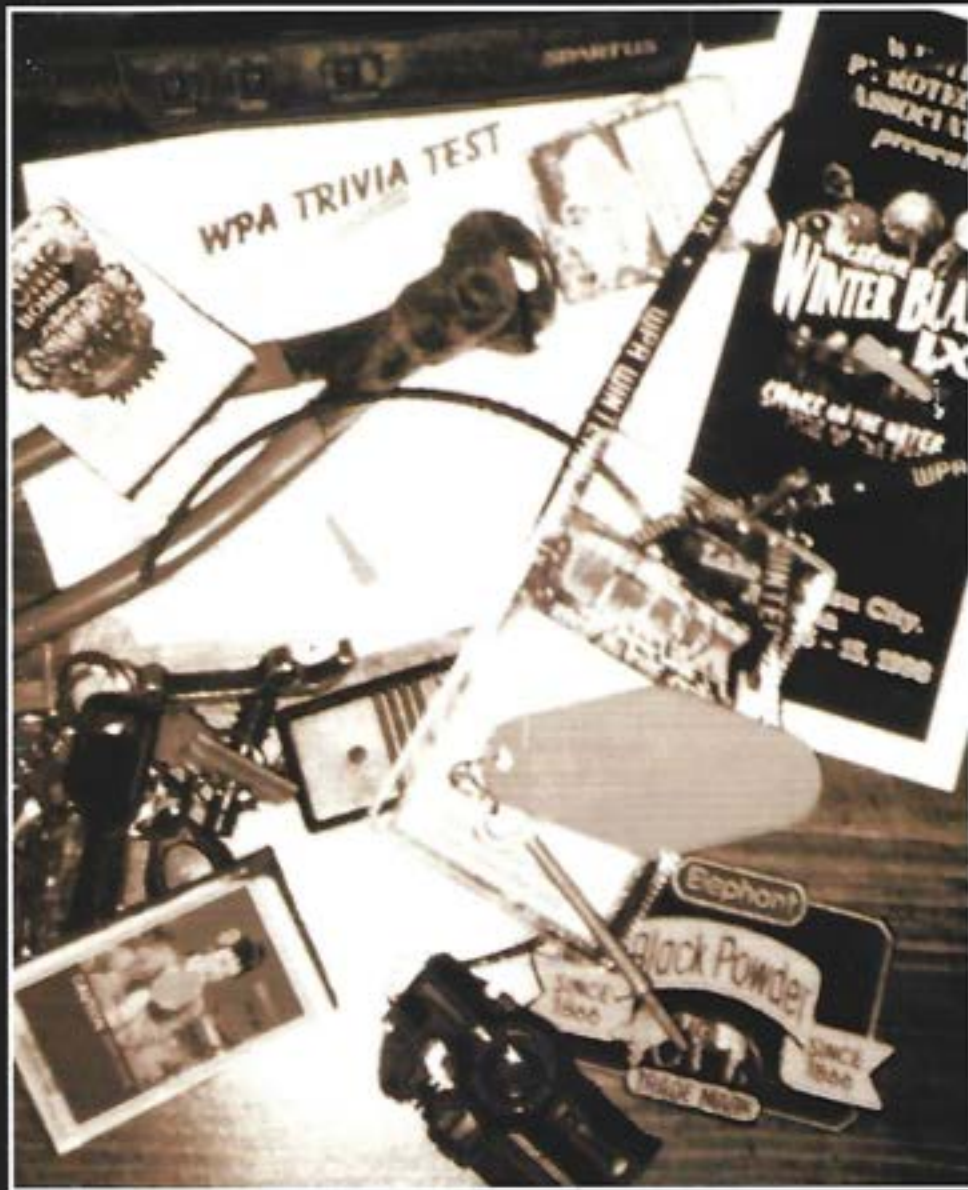


WPA

Western Pyrotechnic Association Newsletter

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Officer's Corner

by Steve W. Wilson, - VP

So the WPA goes on toward year ten now with nine Winter Blasts, a law suit, the rough waters of Winter Blast 8 and the blown 24" gun behind us. If we don't screw things up too much this year we should be sitting pretty again going into the next millennium (boy that's gonna be cliché, soon).

I will dispense with the usual hooaying our last convention in this limited space. Suffice to say thanks to all those who gave their all (or anything) if you attended it was a pretty good event, and if you didn't attend, well, maybe fireworks aren't really in your future.

I'm excited to be serving with this year's board of directors in the WPA. We now have more officer's than we ever had before. I'm especially thrilled to have former PGI President, Bruce Blom on board now as our new „Eastern and Foreign“ area VP. I can't wait for him to schedule a WPA meeting in Malta. I'm there, Bruce, if it ever happens!

With the Winter Blast behind us, many of you will turn your pyrotechnic attention toward the 4th of July. I'll talk to you guys after the 6th of July. Others may actually have the time to consider going to this year's PGI convention in Gillette Wyoming. (If you are not a PGI member yet, you will need to become a member by April 30th in order to go to this year's convention.) Judging from what I see on the internet now, there may be big changes brewing for the PGI: Three possible changes in their Board of Directors, better coordination with regional clubs (like us), 3000+ members, rotating convention sites, new emphasis toward proximate fireworks, etc. Stay tuned on these issues because whatever the PGI is going through right now, we may be doing in ten years or so.

*Yes I said internet. As of about mid March I've been online. Everything I had heard about the net seems to be true. Amazingly enough for such a small part of science/art, pyrotechnics is very well represented online. With new websites popping up and/or improving every day, and no less than five pyro related mailing lists (discussion groups) all running simultaneously, there is no good reason to be in the dark about fireworks, so long as you have a suitable computer and a modem. If you don't have these items, I suggest you make them your next pyro related appropriation. There is plenty of serious pyrotechnic information online. And there is the humorous side too. Here are a few quotes I picked up off the net just the other day:

"In terms of releasing energy, pouring liquid oxygen on charcoal is the equivalent of throwing a live squirrel into a room containing 50 million Labrador retrievers..."
- Pyrotechnics Mailing List 1996

"Simple solution - Sedate the animals. It is not difficult to administer a tranquilizing pill an hour prior to shoot time. I have seen drugged dogs and horses. They are actually quite amusing in this state." :)
- PGI digest

"If this citizen of Lake Havasu is able to prove that fireworks being shot over two thousand feet away from her home caused a crack to appear in her stucco, then I'll eat next year's superstring while it's being shot."
- Mike Carter

"I, um, have never heard of 30,000 carloads of people paying \$10. to attend the final day of a "computer convention".
- Jim Widmann

"Glad to see you decided to join the 20th century before it was over"
- Bruce Blom

Next issue I'll return with answers to the WPA Trivia test and hopefully, the first installment of my newest work, "Observations from the Wood-burning Stove."





Photos of Winter Blast IX fireworks taken by:
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The Following is a letter sent to me by concerned WPA member Wendell Brazina. I will try and respond to these issues following the letter, but this will just be my opinion and may not exactly reflect the views of the WPA as a whole. - Sean Hale.

Winter Blast IX observations

Fellow members,
As a new member please accept the following observations and suggestions as only that. I realize I am lacking the knowledge of the Association's history and past policies so some, if not all, of the following may have already been addressed at one time or another. I also understand that this was a new site with new problems not previously anticipated.

1. First, it appeared to me that about 6-8 members and officers put on the entire event for all the others as if they were being paid to put on (or cater) this show. I feel this not only causes an "overload" for those few members, but also causes a bottle neck in the general overall operation. I realize you had 27 different people listed for 33 jobs, under convention committee and production staff. Of those, only about 14 were positions that required decision making "on the site" during the 3 days of the convention. However, I believe the job of "Site manager" requires too many small decisions covering too many different areas. As much as I dislike enlarging a "governing" group, in this case I believe it is a necessity. To do this, existing areas need to be expanded as well as creating new areas.
 - A. Class 'C' vending area, loading, unloading and parking should be the responsibility of one person with 1 or 2 assistants.
 - B. Flea market management to be one person with 1 maybe 2 assistants.
 - C. Fire safety needs to be broken into 2 categories; 'C' area and 'B' area with one person in charge of each area and each would have 3 assistants. The one person in charge of both areas would be one of the 2 (C or B) area foremen.
 - D. Barge transporting, (if we use barges again) should be brought to the site and loaded there, since they end up at the shooting site anyway. This would eliminate a lot of off site travel and unnecessary confusion.
 - E. Hired help supervisor with 1 or 2 assistants what would be in charge of setup and tear down of vendor's tent, assigning laborers to different areas as needed or requested, also they would keep track of all paper work for the hired help.
 - F. Clean-up supervisor with one assistant to keep trash cans emptied as needed and 'after convention' general clean-up of area.
 - G. Equipment manager to arrange for water truck, fire extinguishers, back hoe, fencing, etc.

These 'managers' or 'supervisors' would then report to the site manager.
In order to get the required 'knowledgeable' help; I would suggest publishing a list in the newsletter of the positions that needed to be filled and offer 'free' convention registration for those individuals (not their entire family) that sign up to help. Also, if area V.P.s could recruit 3-4 or more volunteers from their respective areas, that would be an additional 15-25 workers.

2. The safety, or lack of it, that I saw should really be addressed. The problem seemed to be mostly with the kids, however neophytes like myself were just as uneducated regarding proper safety procedures. I would like to suggest the following: Offer a safety seminar on Fri. afternoon, one or two more on Sat. and one on Sun. morning. These would be required by all kids under 18 and all new members. At the end of each seminar, a short safety test would be taken to verify their awareness of safety procedures and receive a red wrist band which would be required before they could go out on the 'C' firing range.

3. General Meeting
 - A. It would be nice to have a printed agenda for the meeting so the members would know what is going to be covered.
 - B. Meetings need to be run in a more organized "Robert's Rules of Order" manner. At this years meeting I never knew what was coming up, whether I should ask or add something or was my input going to be covered later.
 - C. I was surprised and disappointed that there was never a 'call to the audience' either at the beginning of the meeting, the end of it or both.
 - D. If any action was taken in regard to the member(s) that were caught passing a registration pass over the fence, it was not made public as I believe it should have been. Whether WPA is an Association or a club, it is a group of people that should be all working for the good of the organization. The type of behavior demonstrated by the above mentioned member(s) should be unacceptable by the WPA and should be dealt with in a firm and swift manner. My suggestion is to revoke membership for the entire family. This type of disregard for the WPA and its members both safety-wise and lawsuit wise, cannot and should not be tolerated. The more any group grows in size, the more necessary it is to have rules which are enforced.
 - E. The length of the meeting should not be dictated by the amount of time we have for use of a room.

F. Elected officers should not assume their jobs until one week, one month or some specified time AFTER the convention. Changing leaders both during the convention and during the meeting has no beneficial purpose and only disrupts the flow of operations.

4. I got the feeling that the WPA was afraid to offend or displease anyone, members or vendors. The fact that membership continues to increase and conference attendees come from further distances away, indicates we (WPA) are not about to devolve and fade away. Using that same argument, the smallest cost of attending the conference is the conference registration itself. If we are not going to get the volunteers to share the responsibility of putting on this conference, then let us add \$10-\$15 to the registration fee so we can hire members or outsiders to do these required jobs. When members are paying hundreds to thousands of dollars to attend this function, \$10-\$15 extra is a drop in the bucket.

5. Vendors need to be put on a much shorter leash. They were:

- Driving into the vendor area at any and all times, whether they had product to deliver or not.
- Leaving vehicles parked wherever they felt like it (usually in the way of those trying to get work done)
- Left their vehicles locked and unattended for hours if not days.
- Were not packed up and out of the way on Monday and so tear down people had to not only work around their merchandise, but also the vendors (when they finally showed up) and their vehicles. WPA seemed to be very concerned that the vendors never be denied anything they wanted. This attitude only added to the crowded parking and general 'mass' in that area.

1. Times for set-up and tear down must be set and adhered to.
E. No vehicle should be left, for any time after unloading or loading, in the vending area. If they have to be left, then the keys for that vehicle will remain with the vending area manager.

F. Vendors that contribute \$1000.00 or more (in any form) would have a special pass and could park in the vending area or down below in the boat launch area (just south of vending area). Most of these vendors are not there to do the WPA a favor. If they were not making a profit I am quite sure they would not be there. Some of these people have obviously been sniffing too much smoke.

6. Besides the safety seminars I suggested earlier, I would really like to see one or two seminars dealing with the basics of pyrotechnics for us neophytes who know pretty much nothing. The few seminars I got to were of no help as I really had no idea what they were talking about. We need a place to learn the basics, please!

I hope this has been of some help, as that was its only intent. You people work too hard and put in so much time, you don't get to spend any time with your families and enjoy the show. Don't be afraid to spread the work around, whether that means to volunteers or to hired help.

Respectfully, Wendell Brezina

Dear Wendell,

I first would like to express my appreciation for your concern and observations. You make some very good points, and yes... these issues have all been addressed at one time or another. One thing to keep in mind here is that this is a volunteer organization and we have been trying to put this event on using just our membership. As it is starting to grow, we are starting to feel the growth pains with things like safety being compromised and yes, sometimes not as organized as we would like to be. It seems that the mentality of the club is to try and get as many volunteers as possible. The question remains, should we just charge more and hire more staff? or should we try and keep this more like a "club," the way it was in the beginning. The whole idea of this being commercialized and having big mean safety and security people breathing down your neck is a big turn off for many. Wouldn't it be nice if the WPA didn't grow. After all, we don't intend to make money. Alas, we will continue to grow and policies will be made, and members won't just be that same close group of friends at Winter Blast. YIKES!! Is that really what we set out to do?

As far as the business meeting goes, I agree with your agenda idea whole heartedly. In fact there were many things that were supposed to happen at the meeting that didn't. For one, every officer brought a description of what their duties were. This was supposed to be read to the membership before elections so that prospective officers would know what was in store for them should they choose to expect the nomination. I was the only officer that insisted to read mine before nominations took place. And yes you're right, the meeting probably needed to be much longer as there were many issues that we wanted to discuss but ran out of time. It seems to me that maybe you should be an officer. Then you would see first hand that things don't turn out like you planned them.

Fear not though. The WPA has a great team of officers and regional VP's this year and plans to better organize future Winter Blasts are already in the works. The idea is to have a better, safer, and more organized Blast without the membership feeling like they are being "babysitted" for lack of a better word. On the other hand we WILL expect membership to have respect for our organization. Adults will be expected to directly supervise their children. Members need to keep in mind that we are dealing with potentially dangerous devices and that the entire future of our organization depends on being responsible for your individual actions. If this means making all non licensed members take a safety course to shoot, then maybe that's what we need to do.

--Sean Hale - WPA Publications VP.

The Western Winter Blast - as seen by Marty Walker

Howdy. Just thought I'd pen some thoughts on my sojourn at WWBIX. My name is Marty Walker from Lake Forest, CA. I got interested in all things pyro when I was introduced to Kirby Nellis. After he made the mistake of telling me he was a licensed operator, he said he would get me started in the world of pyro. I only had to promise NEVER to lunge at him again. I started planing for the day when I could become a licensed fanatic, er, operator myself. I've worked on three shows before coming to my first Winter Blast.

This proved to be quite a fantastic experience. Upon arrival, and after paying my \$450.00 registration (what? didn't all rookies pay \$450.00?), I perused the weekend of events to see what I could benefit from the most. Since open warfare, I mean open shooting (silly me!) didn't start until later, I zeroed in on the shooter's certification seminar. Just what I needed! Certification to blow things up! I mean, up into the air! I mean, up in the air to make pretty colors. In front of people. For money!!! I found Kirby that night and told him of my plans, and he walked away mumbling something about WPA's liability insurance rising faster than a 6" shell with a 2-lb lift charge.

The next morning, I found my way to the seminar site. To say it was a little cool is like saying the anvil shots are sorta loud. While Tom Peregrin started the seminar, we huddled together for warmth. (Ever see a bunch of penguins in a blizzard?) Tom passed out and explained the handbook we were to use. How he did this unconscious I'll never know. Anyway, Tom displayed an amazing grasp on the many subjects at hand and was quite thorough in his instruction. We walked away with such phrases in our heads as, "Don't put any part of your body over a mortar you intend to go home with", and "Standing too close to a low break makes for a really exciting show."

Following the morning 3-hour freeze-fest, we took a break and reconvened indoors for 2 other related courses to round out the information we needed. Both were well-presented and informative. We then were supposed to see live demos of low breaks, flowerpots, and then, the coupe-de-grace, fire a shell ourselves. YEEHHAAA!! Much to my dismay, the live demo was cancelled due to bad weather. I couldn't understand why. Is there a problem with a bunch of rookie shooters learning in wind and rain???

Well, Sunday came and we had to actually prove we were paying attention by taking a test. I think we all should have passed by virtue of surviving the arctic winds! After the test, we were able to perform the live demos, with each of taking turns lighting a shell under the scrutiny of Tom. Trouble is, no one let us. We were first told it was ok to shoot over by the 12" mortars. Unfortunately, they were loaded at the time, which made for some really exciting reactions! We then went to the class c shooting area and started again. Unfortunately, there were cars in the area, and someone got on the P.A. and told us to quit until all cars were moved. In spite of all this, we actually did finish shooting before the weekend was over!

All in all, it was a great weekend, and the WPA did a marvelous job selecting the seminars, and the instructors. I would like to thank Tom Peregrin for taking the time to teach us in such a professional manner, and the WPA for first, letting me in, and second, putting on a great weekend of events. We all truly appreciate all the efforts that made WWBIX such a success.

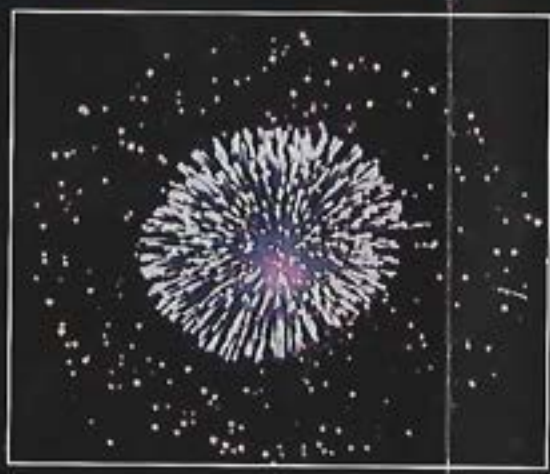
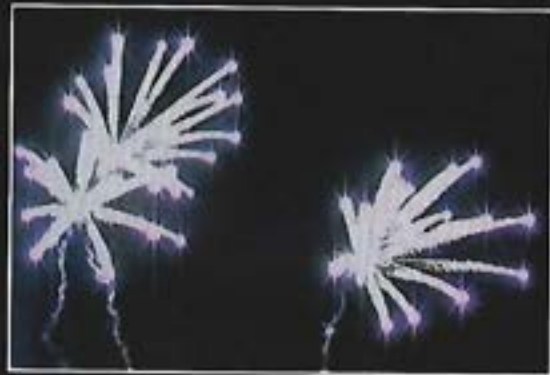


Where's Marty?

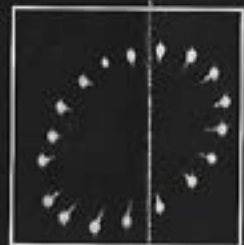


The ominous "Big String" awaits ignition.





Photos of 1998 Winter Blast taken from Hi 8 Video tape made of public display by Keath Nupuf. The video is awesome and is available from him for \$15.00. To order, E-Mail: keath@pyrotechnics.org or call: (818) 993-6173
Tape sold in VHS format



The Big String - by Tom Cloud

What is 75 feet long... Three feet tall and weighs a ton and makes alot of noise?????
This years big string of course!!!!!!

Every one who was lucky enough to see it was very happy they did. It really was a sight to see and hear. We had so much fun putting the string together and the anticipation of lighting it off was just as thrilling. The lucky winner of the raffle to light off the string this year was Robert Harrison. A newbie to the winter blast crowd. He was so excited, we were happy to see



someone with that much enthusiasm be the lucky winner. It is a shame that everyone couldn't have won that bought a raffle ticket, but we can say thank you very much to all of those nice people who did get their tickets. We really appreciate your support. Perhaps the most fun of all was had by our hard core Pyro crew who got to handle the 65 cases of product. We had a Blast setting the whole thing up. Instead of setting it up vertically, we set it up horizontally on the ground. When it went off it sounded like a jet engine going off, It was GREAT!! We couldn't have done our big string this year without the help of many people. Our set up crew (W.P.A members who graciously volunteered their time to come out and help) Chuck and Sharon of Island Fireworks who went to the time and trouble to find 65 cases of product and then provided free transportation to Lake Havasu. Pyro-Spectaculars for providing ALOT of goodies for the head bomb. Ron and Arlene Dixon of 4-D Enterprises for the Sticky Match to light the whole thing up. We would like to thank everyone again for all the help and donations

and for buying those raffle tickets that Teri and I made sure everyone got. We had a Blast and hope all of you did too. Hope you all enjoy the art work that came with your \$20.00 donation. A lot of time and effort was put into it and we thought it was beautiful. Let's do it again next year.



Raffle Winner Robert Harrison (center), proudly poses with 1997 President Glenn Vodhanel (left), and Tom Cloud (right).



Gary Lillich and Cathy Daly



Jim Widmer, Ron and Arlene Dixon, and a couple.



Lighting the oval to fire.



Shot by the Nikon on pyro camera.



Farthest Distance (England)
These guys brought all their friends from Havasu.



Kurt Medlin and his dad prepare some rockets.



The WPA business meeting



Doc Barr giving a blue strobe rocket lecture.



Steve Mogdali and his pneumatic press.



Formula of the month. Steel hand fountains.

This is a quick and very cute little thing that even the women and children can enjoy. Mix 1 part Ammonium Perchlorate, 1 part Hexamine, and 1 part brake drum turnings. Roll a 12" length of 2 or 3 turns 40# kraft and lightly press in the comp. Prestol Instant hand held sparkler that is VERY beautiful. Brake drum turnings are easily obtained for free at any brake shop. Just bring a container and tell them you want them for your roses. Variations are to add copper oxychloride for a blue flame or to add titanium for white sparks. Larger fountains can also be made from this and they burn for a very long time.

--Happy Sparking, Sam Hillsborough

Quick Match: The Effect of Combined Factors on its Performance

K.L. & B.J. Kosanke

In earlier articles in this series on quick match, methods for slowing its burn rate (fire path closure), and the effects of powder loss and humidity exposure were reported. In some respects, these are all potential risk factors for the proper performance of quick match. The current article presents information on the effects of some combinations of these risk factors.

For each test, a 16 inch (40.5 cm) length of quick match, with an additional 4 inch (10.0 cm) length of black match exposed, was burned. In preparation for the testing, the quick match had been stored for more than a month at approximately 35% relative humidity. For each condition examined, three separate test burns were performed. Each burn test was recorded on video tape, and burn times were determined from a field by field play back of the tape. Except where indicated, all quick match was from Val-Et manufacturing.[3]

The constant humidity chambers were simple plastic containers, inside of which two smaller containers with aqueous solutions for humidity control had been placed. The quick match segments to be subjected to the various humidities were placed into the chambers for the desired lengths of time. The relative humidities maintained inside the chambers were determined to be approximately 64% and 78%. (For more complete information on this method of producing constant relative humidity environments, see the previous article in this series and reference 1.) In all cases, unless otherwise noted, the quick match humidity exposure was for at least 5 days.

In the second article in this series, the success of some of the methods used to intentionally slow the burn rate of quick match were reported. Two of the techniques were reexamined for quick match that had been exposed to high humidity. The first technique was to tie a knot in the quick match itself. This was chosen because it had been felt that the stiffness of the low humidity quick match segments had made tying a tight knot difficult, and thus possibly less effective than it might have been. The second technique was to tie a string tightly around the quick match. This was chosen because it is probably the most commonly used method. Burn times from the original tests (dry quick match) and for the high humidity tests are presented in Table 1 ("Knot in Quick M." and "String Tied").

In the current study, it was found that these two slowing methods produced greater delays when combined with exposure to high humidity. This was not surprising; exposure to such humidity was previously shown to increase quick match burn times by about 50%. The additional slowing produced by tying the humidity exposed quick match into a knot was approximately 40%, essentially that which would have been predicted. However, to the contrary, the extreme increase in burn time, approximately 300% (>1.5 s), observed for the string tie method was surprising. This is approximately six times the magnitude of the effect that might have been expected from combining the separate effects. This observation is especially significant because such string ties are commonly used (in securing shell leaders to aerial cylindrical shells, to bags of lift powder, and to finale chain buckets) and because such humidity exposure is not uncommon. It seems clear that short delay hangfires can be produced by nothing more than prolonged exposure to moderately high humidity and tight string ties around shell leaders.

(quickmatch continued)

Table 1. Burn Times of Quick Match in Various Conditions and Exposure to High Humidity.

Condition and Humidity	Burn Times (s/60) ^(a)			Average ^(b) Difference (%)
	Longest	Shortest	Average	
Knot in Quick M., 35%	52	30	44	±0%
Knot in Quick M., 78%	87	41	62	40%
String Tied, 35%	45	21	33	±0%
String Tied, 78%	162	103	137	320%
6" Damaged, 35%	17	13	15	±0%
6" Damaged, 64%	30	18	22	50%
6" Damaged, 78%	32	25	27	80%
2" Washed, 35%	26	20	24	±0%
2" Washed, 78%	74	36	50	110%
6" Washed, 35%	37	34	36	±0%
6" Washed, 78%	∞ ^(c)	68	71 ^(d)	100% ^(e)
String Tied, 35%	45	21	33	±0%
2" Dam., S. Tied, 35% ^(f)	65	30	45	40%
2" Dam., S. Tied, 64%, 2 D.	69	34	52	60%
2" Dam., S. Tied, 64%	∞ ^(g)	44	107 ^(h)	220% ⁽ⁱ⁾
2" Dam., S. Tied, 78%, 2 D.	∞ ^(g)	89	115 ^(h)	250% ⁽ⁱ⁾
2" Dam., S. Tied, 78%	∞ ^(g)	∞	∞	∞
2" Washed, S. Tied, 35%	∞ ^(g)	∞	∞	∞

- (a) Burn times are in VCR fields, each 1/60 of a second.
(b) Given the observed large variations in burn times, the reported average percentage differences must only be seen as very approximate, and are only reported to the nearest 10%.
(c) The infinity symbol, ∞, was used to indicate that the burning did not propagate to the end of the segment.
(d) The average difference in burn times was calculated using only the results from the two tests in which the burning successfully propagated to the end of the segment.
(e) Two inches of damaged black match in the quick match, around which a string is tightly tied, exposed to 35% relative humidity. (Note that listings below also indicate when there were only two days of exposure at the higher humidities.)

In the third article in this series, the effect of the loss of some or all of the black match coating was investigated. In one series of tests, the black match coating was loosened from 6 inches (15 cm) near the middle of the quick match segment. This was accomplished by repeatedly drawing the quick match over a mandril, followed by removal of the loosened powder. The results of the original tests, and the results for identically prepared segments conditioned in the humidity chambers, are reported in Table 1 (labeled as "Damaged"). As expected, there was an increase in the burn times of the quick match segments. However, the amount of increase for the humidity exposed segments was nearly twice that expected for the humidity exposure alone. Also in the third article, the complete loss of short lengths of black match coating was investigated. To accomplish this total loss of powder from a portion of its length, the black match was removed from the match pipe, some of the coating was removed by physically crushing the black match, and then the strings in that area were thoroughly washed and then dried for a week. For the additional testing reported here, the quick match segments that were prepared as before, but were then conditioned by placing them into the humidity chambers. The results for these tests are also reported in Table 1 (labeled as "Washed"). Exposure to high humidity increased the burn times of the quick match segments, and again the increase in burn time was approximately twice that expected for the humidity exposure (not even including the one time that propagation was unsuccessful). The quick match used in these tests were from Primo Fireworks.[3]

In another series of tests, the combined effect of having the quick match segments suffer the loss of some of its black match coating (using the method described previously), tightly tying a string

(combined Continued)

around the quick match in the area where the powder coating was damaged, and subjecting the segments to high humidity was studied. The results are included in Table 1 (labeled as "Dam., S. Tied"). For these tests, the burn time for dry undamaged quick match segments with a string tied tightly around them was cho-sen for reference. Reported in a previous article, when the only factor was partial black match powder loss, there actually was an average 15% decrease in the burn time. However, in the current study, the burn time for the combination of the string tie and coating loss did not decrease, rather it increased by 40%. When the effect of high humidity was included, the effect was so extreme (>200%) and some propagation failures occurred.

Finally reported in Table 1 (labeled as "Washed, S. Tied") are results for another test, wherein segments with 2 inch washed sections were tested after tightly tying a string around the quick match in the area of the washed section. Under these extreme conditions, it is not surprising that there was a consist-tent failure to propagate.

Under the conditions of tests reported in earlier articles in this series, it would seem that high quality quick match can generally suffer any of the individual performance risk factors (closure of the fire path, powder loss, or high humidity) without a serious loss of performance. However, combinations of the risk factors apparently act synergistically to cause much greater losses of performance, sometimes including a total failure of quick match to propagate fire. Of course, one reason this is significant is the hazards posed when aerial shells hangfire or misfire. The next article in this series will examine this in greater detail and will recommend some things that can be done to reduce the chances of such malfunctions.

References

- 1) Val-Et Manufacturing, Inc., RR #1, Box 1117, Factoryville, PA 18419, USA.
- 2) "Standard Practice for Maintaining Constant Relative Humidity by Means of Aqueous Solutions," American Society for Testing and Materials, E 104 - 85 (1991).
- 3) Primo Fireworks is no longer in operation.

Top 10 Things Not to Say to the Fire Marshal Contest Results

In the last WPA newsletter we published the top ten things NOT to say to the fire marshal. The only problem was, we couldn't think of number 10. Instead we left it up to our witty WPA members to come up with number 10. The funniest entry will win a Winter Blast 98 T-Shirt and \$20.00 credit at the next Winter Blast flea market. Submissions will be voted on by the officers BEFORE the names of the contestants are revealed. Since the publications VP is collecting the entries, he will not vote so that there is no chance of favoritism.

1. Do you know of anyone in the area that has mines for sale but isn't real sticky about the paperwork.
2. Would you hold this 6 inch while I light my Cigar
3. The finale was done by Timothy McVeigh
4. Got a match bubba?
5. So, how much of your gasoline do you really need to get home tonight?
6. I've had all these salutes and shells that have been sitting my trunk from last year's show. Is it ok to just shoot them before the show?
7. I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer.
8. You're not gonna check my trunk, are you?
9. Aren't you the guy from the Village People?
10. I was going to be a Fire Marshall but I decided to finish high school instead.
11. Why d'ya care about wind patterns? After all, we're not rocket scientists, heh, heh!
12. Is that your face, or did your neck misfire?
13. Do you mind if we we set off this 5 incher right here, right now?
14. Can you hold my beer while I'm doing the show?

And the winner is number 10 sent in by Jill Salverson. Congratulations Jill you have won a Winter Blast IX T-Shirt and a \$20 credit in the flea market at the next Winter Blast. Our apologies to all you fire marshals reading this, some of these are grossly distastful.

WPA Jackets

Be the first on your block to be hip and cool with these black satin WPA jackets. The back has 6 color embroidery of shell bursts, and the front has your name embroidered in gold. The price of the Base price of the Jackets are \$59.50. Since these jackets are made special, a minimum of six jackets need to be ordered before we can have them made. If you are interested, call Forrest Rhoads at (714) 640-5395.

Or send check or money order to:
Forrest Rhoads
2230 Aralia St.
Newport Beach CA 92660

Make check or money order payable to:
Western Pyrotechnic Association.
Additional charges are as follows:
Your name stitched on front - add \$2.50
XX size - add \$2.50
XXX size - add \$4.00
Please add \$4.00 for shipping per jacket ordered.



WPA business meeting February 15, 1998

Officers Attending: Teri Cloud/Treasurer, Tom Grace/Vice President, Sean Hale/Publications, Steve Rhoads/Secretary, Glenn Vondhannel/President.

The meeting was opened by Glenn VonHannel and after the usual "Welcome to the Winter Blast", we discussed the minutes from the last meeting. The treasures report was given and old business was discussed.

The Law suit was settled. The cost to the WPA was \$20,000, Ryder Truck \$15,000 and Pyro Spectaculars \$5,000.

By-law changes were discussed and adopted. They are as follows: fiscal year ending changed. Gender neutral wording in by-laws and documents. Officers will be elected for 1yr. with the option to stay on without election for an additional year. Other changes are: ID required for membership, Secretary will sign all membership cards, Stipend to officers, \$595.00.

New officers are: Tom Grace/President, Steve Wilson/Vice President, Teri Cloud/Treasurer, Steve Rhoads/Secretary, Sean Hale/Publications.

Are V.P.'s are: North coast/John Childes, Northern Ca./Mark Devon, San Jauquein/David Bogren, Central/Dave Guccione, South/Larry Kasserman, Ariz & Nev./Mike Carter, Eastern & Foreign/Bruce Blom, Rocky Mtn/Bruce Beck.

Resolution: That the board of directors shall, when making decisions that effect the membership as a whole, consider the needs, rights and comforts of it's members and remember that the purpose of the WPA is to promote the betterment of fireworks.

WPA Mailing list

By the time you read this notice, the WPA mailing list should be up and running. The mailing list I am referring to is an electronic mailing list. Basically that means that anybody in the WPA who as something to say can post it to the list via E-Mail. At the end of the day you will receive an E-mail that is a compilation of everyone's posts. You can then respond by maybe answering someone's question or expressing your opinion... ect ect. Chances are, if you put your current E-mail address on your WPA membership application, then you have already received a notice via E-mail about the list. If you did not receive this notice, then E-mail a request to join the list to: sean@pyrotechnics.org. The mailing list will be open to WPA members and a few representatives from other pyrotechnic organizations. Unless you already received a notice by E-Mail, your WPA membership status will be checked before you can join the mailing list.

