

W P A

Western Pyrotechnic Association

Newsletter

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Holding own elections

From the President

By Kief Adler

As you can see from this letter, yours truly has been re-elected as your President for another two years. My first two years helped to secure a second pyro event (Do It!), brought us almost double the funds paid to us from Lake Havasu, brought a successful end to our lawsuit and helped bring a new spirit of camaraderie to the WPA. I decided to run for a second term to help ensure that these policies would be maintained and that I can "retire" in two year's time with an even bigger smile on my face. I love being your president!

After last year's unbelievably successful Winter Blast, who ever thought that we could top it, yet we did! If you missed Winter Blast 2002, you missed the best one ever. No glitches, no problems and incredible fireworks! I can not say enough words of praise to this year's Winter Blast staff as a whole, and to Russ Laurie and Don Oesterle for co-chairing the event. Their management style brought us a well run operation with everyone cooperating to make things happen on time, and on target. As Russ and Don have already signed on for Winter Blast 2003, I can hardly wait for next year!

Fireworks America put together a terrific public display on Saturday night, an incredible feat since they were handed this task six weeks before the Blast! Kudos to Joe Bartalotta and Kevin Bruckner for making it happen for us. Premier Pyrotechnics blew all of us away on Sunday night. It was great to see a large display like this again at Sara Park. Premier also provided our sound system for both venues and it rocked! Hopefully, we will be able to count on Matt Sutcliffe and Premier for many years to come.

Bluebook Films came over from England to film Winter Blast for a documentary that they are putting together for the Discovery Channel. Look for this in the fall. They were a fun group to have with us, even if they did drive some of us a bit nuts with their requests for special effects and such. All and all, they showed us a great deal of respect and were impressed by what they saw.

Do It 4 has already been scheduled and once again we will return to the Avi Hotel in Laughlin, NV on October 17-18-19 to rock the Colorado river and rattle the hotel's windows. This is a totally different event from Winter Blast but just as enjoyable. This year's fireworks vendor will be Kellner's West and we look forward to their first Do It with us. Registrations will be sent out with the next newsletter so start making plans to attend.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to endorse a fellow member, and good friend, for the President of the PGI. John Steinberg will be running for a third term as president of the PGI this August and I urge all of you who are PGI members to support him in this effort. John's never ending energy, drive and an intense desire to promote all things pyro has helped to push the PGI forward and has made it a driving force in pyrotechnics. The PGI has always been a great supporter of the WPA and I see no better way to repay the favor than to see John re-elected as it's leader. If you are not a member of the PGI, you should be. If you have never been to one of their conventions, you are missing something incredible. Go to their convention this summer in Fargo and VOTE if you go.

Thanks for your support and have a great Fourth!

Vice Presidents letter

Don Oesterle

Winterblast 13 is now just a fond memory, but a whole summer full of firework shows and Do-It is just around the corner. Russ and I have already started planning next year's Winterblast. By relocating and expanding the manufacturing area, as well as numerous other improvements, we expect next year's event to be even better than this year's. By starting the whole process earlier, we hope to limit the last minute work rush to only those unanticipated problems that always tend to show up. We are always looking for ways to improve the site and the whole Winterblast experience. We have reviewed all of the surveys that were mailed in to us. Some ideas were well thought out and will be incorporated into future Winterblast. Some ideas, however, just gave us a good laugh. The entire BOD has met and discussed plans on making a large purchase of equipment for Do-It. The few people who are there to help set up and tear down after Do-It, know how much of a hassle it has been to retrieve and return all of the equipment to SARA Park in Lake Havasu City. With the Club's recent purchase of another shipping container, and the generous offer by the Boyd's to store it on their property, we will be able to put on Do-It much more smoothly. We have begun to compile a list of equipment we need to purchase and construct, so this summer we will be very busy. If anybody has any suggestions or recommendations for improving Do-It or Winterblast (that weren't already mailed in to us) please feel free to e-mail Russ or myself with them. Our E-mail addresses can be found at the WPA website at WWW.WPA.PYRO.ORG. I hope everybody has a safe and satisfying summer of fireworks, and I hope to see everybody at Winterblast next year.

Treasurer's Letter

Russ Laurie

Well members here is the latest on the world of finance, according to the WPA anyway. There has been a few changes already; we have changed banks from Washington Mutual to B of A. We are currently in the black with about \$ 30,000.00 in our account. We are still owed some money from Mojave County and Blue Book films. And are expecting those checks soon. But overall we are in good standings and have enough money to see us through until DO IT. Our clubs taxes have been filed and we don't except any problems with the IRS or the State Franchise Tax Board. As the costs of running these events keeps raising we are forced to raise our prices to you. So plan on paying a little more to attend our club events. We are not talking a bunch of money either \$5.00 to \$10.00 per event, not much more to pay for such a great time. Well that's it for now see ya all at DO IT!

Communications VP's letter

Dimitri Timohovich

Welcome to the second WPA newsletter for 2002. I hope everyone had a terrific Winterblast. I've heard many positive comments about it. I wasn't able to attend this year since I was on the crew for the Winter Olympic Games and had to spend two and a half months in Utah this last year. Boy its good to be home.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. If you have been reading the WPA list lately you already know that this issue is a very important one for all members who have an opinion on the Public Display and the closing of Sara Park for it.

Continued on next page...

Communications VP's letter Cont...

Dimitri Timohovich

Don't forget to respond to the survey regarding this matter.

I especially want to thank my wife Beckie for her hard work in putting this newsletter from all the bits and pieces I've been sending to her.

Well with all that said, I wish everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July and see you at Do It 4!

Secretary's Letter

Jill Salverson

"What do you mean, you want me to write something for the newsletter? I work in video! I don't write!" So, here I am, staring at a blank computer screen trying to think of something to write. Strange job to take on for someone who doesn't write. Seems like all I do is write...Entries on to the database, addresses on envelopes, e-mails, new membership letters, more e-mails. This is a very busy job, and I mean job. A lot of time and effort go into each of the board positions. And, I love it. I enjoy and appreciate the e-mails, even if we aren't always in agreement, it's good to hear your views. I enjoy welcoming new members. I'm even getting to be less of a computer duncie, but by no means an expert.

Thank you for your patience while I've been climbing the mountain of membership cards. I think I am finally caught up. If you haven't received yours yet, please e-mail me so I can get yours out to you. I apologize for the time it has taken. Also, if you're having problems with your WPA list or digest access, I can help with that, too. I look forward to the upcoming activities in the WPA and hope I can be of help to you in the future.

SF Bay Area VP

Steve Wilson

Got E-mail?

As an area VP I would like to urge each and everyone of you to use e-mail to stay in touch in the WPA. Having e-mail is the fastest, most efficient way for us to notify you of upcoming meetings and events in your area. It is also an excellent way for you to keep abreast of WPA progress by subscribing to the WPA mailing list, either in digest or list mode. Yeah, there can be some unnecessary chatter on the list, but when something important happens, you'll be one of the first to know. It is also important that we have your CORRECT e-mail address in our data base. If you accidentally hurried through while filling out your last membership renewal, it is possible that we may have an incomplete or otherwise incorrect e-mail address for you. In that case, you are not getting all the news you could be getting. Check with you area VP if you have changed your e-mail address in the last year or suspect you may have written down something that our able secretary can't read!

Sometimes (and more often than not) events come up faster than our volunteer staff can get a postcard out to you. Be all you can be in the WPA - get e-mail soon and get the correct address to us.

Being a gentleman, and respectful of the wishes of the esteemed President of the WPA, I will not contest the results of an election to this high office based on an illegal nomination. Nominations are to be made by members of the area represented. While my back was turned, as I looked with dismay at Joe Domanico, who had just declined his own nomination (made entirely legally by yours truly), Mr. Adler threw my hat into his ring! Well, that being said, I cheerfully assume the duties of this office and commence my one-year term with this missive to all east Area WPA members.

First, let's try to plan a time to get together. I do not have to be present. Any groups of east/foreign area WPA members who wish to assemble are certainly welcome to do so. We cover a huge area! For those near the mid-Atlantic east coast, let's try to find a place to gather over Memorial Day Weekend or over the Labor Day holiday and then, once more, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. All suggestions for meeting places and times can be sent to me and I will have them published in the WPA Newsletter. Of course, pay attention to the notice Bulletin at the PGI convention. Last year a bunch of us WPA'ers got together at the PGI event and I am certain we will do so again this year in Fargo. I will defer to my deputy, Kief Adler, to arrange the Fargo WPA gathering as I am a bit distracted by other pesky duties at the PGI convention. Thanks, Kief. I only wish to publish this first, inaugural column, in the PGI Bulletin as well as in the WPA newsletter for a reason that will soon become evident to my faithful readers.

The PGI convention is a wonderful event, not to be missed. But what does a smoke starved pyro do in the dead of winter?? Why, attend Western Winterblast, of course. If you haven't been, this is a great event and getting better all the time. It is very different from and complimentary to, the PGI convention. I can't say which is best. They are two different events. I wouldn't miss either one. The WWB is a smaller, more intimate event. There is more open shooting and fewer displays are offered. There is a wider range of manufacturing available during the event. It is of shorter duration and held over a holiday weekend, making it easier for some to take off the time to attend. It is held in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, home of the original London Bridge. Yes, indeed, the one and only original. My wife did not believe me when I told her it had been dismantled, shipped and reassembled stone-by-stone in the middle of the desert. Perhaps I shouldn't have told her so many tall tales prior to this true and accurate one!

Las Vegas is the easiest city to fly to, another plus for a little non-pyro vacation upon arrival or before departure. One of the things I most cherish is the fellowship of my Western pyro buddies, many of whom I only see once each year, when attending the WWB. So, to all my PGI friends, if I've gotten you the least bit interested, sign up as members of the WPA. The WPA web site is <http://wpa.pyrotechnics.org>. The mailing address is The Western Pyrotechnics Association, Inc., P.O. Box 10116, Canoga Park, California 91309. The president is Kief Adler at kief@pyro.org. This is a wonderful pyro club and a great bunch of folks. It is well worth joining and the WWB is well worth attending.

I hope to see many of the WPA members in my area over the next several months. I hope to see all my old friends and many new ones at WWB, 2003. And I hope to see a lot of my PGI friends at the next Winterblast, too.

Western Winter Blast 13 is a wrap, with an awe-inspiring Public Display furnished by Fireworks America. If you've never been to the blast, it is a great time to see old friends, meet new friends, party and do all things pyro in a controlled and safe setting. Lake Havasu City served as the congenial and terrific Host City for the 12th time, and the weather this year was warm and mild. You could tell there was a cross section of America in the 900 guests. The East Coasters were enjoying the 50 degree evenings in shorts and flip flops and the West Coasters were bundled up in parkas and long underwear to withstand the cold snap. Temps in the day were high 60's and low 70's and 50's and high 40's came in the night. It was clear and the skies dark, leaving the fireworks to be just gorgeous.

With just 5 weeks to Winter Blast, the original show vendor had to withdraw for personal reasons. It fell to Fireworks America and Joe Bartolotta to mix the tape and do the choreography. Joe came up with "A Salute to American Heroes," a tape that began with John Wayne's America and ended with Sandy Patti's National Anthem. More than one hard core pyrotechnician had tears in their eyes at the end, with an awe-inspiring display crowning a tape full of appropriate voice-overs dropped in by Ron Dixon. Certainly we need to award Joe the Golden Space Bar for the choreography. It was awesome. The show opened with Australian Fountains, Spanish Candles and an impressive barrage of Spanish Golden Kamuros. It was filled in by Japanese Kaleidoscopes, Domestic Crossettes, Salutes and Brocades produced by Tom Matrocce, Rudy Schaffner and Gary Hansen and powerful products from seven different Chinese factories. Products donated from Kellner Fireworks, Starr Fireworks, Lantis Fireworks and Pyro-Spectaculars supplemented the product list. Hearts broke right on cue, comets and mines roared skyward and the sky was filled thousands of feet in diameter fired from 8 fronts and 22 different mortar emplacements. Many nice compliments were received, the best coming from one lady who said she had never cried at a fireworks display before, as well as the cheers from the hundreds of attendees.

Many hands make light work. 1800 guns were set in two hours by this able team, and the guns were loaded and tested in 6 hours on show day, including last minute donations from other pyro companies. This was followed by a 2-hour strike on Sunday, from the first nail being pulled to the truck door coming down. Generally, this many hands make mistakes in wiring. AWESOME job gang. About 10 cues were pullouts. Out of 824 wiring connections, that is amazing. Ken Wagoner was Button Man running the field controllers with Heather while Antonia and Linda Bartolotta led the cheering section. Rob Clark headed up video and electronics while Donna and family loaded shells. THANK YOU so much for a great job and to all who crewed for us!

When I found out that Sal Peluso was coming I called and asked him to build an old fashioned Devil Wheel. You don't see them often, but using 30-year-old components he put one together that we fired at the track on Friday night, complete with pyro-screens and the whole Enchilada. It was awesome! Sal didn't think it was his best effort, but hey, pyro components don't keep forever. The Discovery Channel was there filming but only caught the tail-end of the first wheel. They were so impressed that they asked him to build another one to fire on Sunday night to they could film it. A quick trip to the vending tent brought fresher materials and Sal did it again. He produced an effort even he was proud of. The rest of us just picked our jaws off the ground. Great job Sal.

Our hats are off to the Winter Blast Team who produced an excellent convention. Kief Adler, Russ Laurie, Don Oesterle, Lynden King, Francis Marquez, Richard Cole and their entire team of volunteers put on a well-organized, fun and safe convention.

So here we are in May, is the sound of Winterblast still ringing in your ears? Well it is for those of us that worked so hard to bring our members Winterblast. Winterblast 2002 was, by most accounts, the best Blast in a long time, or ever. That's great, and it wouldn't have happened without the hard work and dedication of my support staff and volunteers; I take my hard hat off to you all. We made some site upgrades this year, which we hoped all of you enjoyed. We're planning to add some more upgrades to the next Winter Blast as well. So if you have an idea of something that you would like to see added to next year's Winter Blast, just let us know, and we will see what we can do.

Hard work and dedication to something we all love—pyro—that's what makes the WPA a great organization to be part of. The diversity of its membership, the knowledge and experiences that are out there in our membership is undeniably awesome. Winter Blast has grown into a mega production, a large and integral part of that being the Public Display. There is no doubt that the club's founding fathers never envisioned what our club has become today. Some members have voiced an opinion stating that our event's public display is just a cop out to the City of Lake Havasu, while most of us see it, as it should be, a great fireworks show!

As you know, things are not getting any cheaper these days, and so the cost of operating an event like Winter Blast has also risen. So unfortunately, we must pass this increase on to our members. The \$10.00 increase that will be added to next year's Winter Blast registration is not a big price to pay for the fun and memories that will last a lifetime. Hope to see you all at Winterblast 2003.

Open shooting at Sara Park for Winter Blast 2003 Kief Adler

Several members have made it known that they would rather stay at Sara Park on Saturday night during the Public Display to continue shooting. In order for this to happen, we need to be able to staff the event, get permission from the City to leave Sara open and "live" and find out how many are interested in seeing this happen.

I am, therefore, asking any members who are interested in staying at Sara Park during Saturday's public display to either send me a post card or an email to tell me the following:

1. I would like to stay at Sara on Saturday to shoot _____ (what? Shells, rockets, class C or all of these)
2. I would like to stay at Sara on Saturday to help with staffing _____ (where? We need security, safeties, etc)
3. I am a vendor and would like to remain at Sara to vend _____ (what?)
4. I don't want to shoot, help or vend. I am only interested in watching what everyone else is doing. (this is so we know how many to expect)

You can send a post card to me at PO Box 1080, Agoura Hills, CA 91376 or email me at kief@pyro.org. Yes, you can send a letter instead of a post card.

If you want to see this happen, make sure you write or email.

Recently, a few very vocal members have expressed a desire to keep SARA Park open during the public display fireworks show on Saturday night. These few people that want to keep it open don't understand how many people it would take to keep SARA Park open during the Public Display. A minimum of 6 safety volunteers, 6 safety staff, 4 security staff, 2 paid security personnel, the First aid Chairman, at least one Board member, and either the Blast Chairman or Co-Chairman must be on-site when the Park is open for shooting. What about the class C vendors? Do you think they would actually give up the opportunity to see the show just to sell a few dollars worth of firecrackers? We doubt it. We have the list of members who worked volunteer shifts, and we are certain that the majority of these people who want to keep SARA open during Saturday's show never even volunteered to work one shift, were not there for setup, or cleanup, and just expect everybody else to do the work so they can come to play. Being the Blast Co-Chairmen this year took an enormous amount of time and effort. Numerous people have commented that we did a great job. Neither of us got to light even 1 fuse to anything this year, but that's not why we were there. The only real enjoyment we got was being able to watch Fireworks America's excellent public display on Saturday, and Premier Pyrotechnic's Sunday tribute show. Thank you Kevin Brueckner, Joe Bartolotta, Matt Sutcliffe and all of your crew. It is impossible to keep everybody happy, but we need to remember that the WPA has changed since its inception. And today, the vast majority of the membership does not come to Winterblast to manufacture, but to shoot and watch fireworks, including the professionally choreographed public display. It is probably the best show the majority of the membership sees each year. We have heard many people comment about the lack of product that went up during open shooting this year. The little bit of product that went up Thursday night was few and far between. If people are complaining about the limited shooting time, maybe they should take one more day off work and come to Winterblast on Thursday. We are also willing to extend Winterblast 1 day by opening on Wednesday, and getting a chemical vendor there earlier and providing access to buy chemicals during the day. We are also planning for a larger manufacturing area, and another "B" rocket line to help get product in the air in a safer, more efficient manner so those who want to see individual rockets go up will have that opportunity. Daytime testing will also be allowed at next year's event to help those who manufacture. We love watching the "B" rocket line. We realize that an enormous amount of time and effort goes into building these items. They are spectacular when they perform as designed, and even more spectacular when they don't go exactly as planned, but both ways are fun to watch. Do-It by the River is a perfect venue for those who want to manufacture; and it is much less expensive to attend. Manufacturing is allowed all day, daytime testing of product is not only allowed, but also encouraged. Open shooting does not close for anything either. Neither Russ, nor I will ask or force any vendor, volunteer or staff member to work during the public display. In our honest opinion, this is an unreasonable request being made by those who refuse to be there to work themselves. However, we are not inflexible, if there is a sufficient number of members who want to be at SARA Park shooting product during the public display, and we have enough trustworthy people to volunteer to work the safety and security positions, then there should be no reason to deny those members the additional 5 hours shooting time.

This article reflects opinions of the membership sent to us privately, and discussed with us in person. It is respectfully submitted on behalf of the dozens of people who worked very hard so the majority of the club members could just come to have fun.

Thank you WWB 2002 staff and volunteers, we ARE watching out for you all.

Don Oesterle and Russ Laurie - WPA 2002 & 2003 Blast Chairmen

"When?" You'd think somebody lit the fuse while holding on to an 8'er, then turned to their neighbor and said "So, like, now what?" In the time I've spent lurking around the WPA list, I haven't seen as much talk on a single subject as was vented for a couple of weeks during the (now famous) What-If-We-Keep-Sara-Park-Open-During-Public-Display debate. Here's what I found out during the exchange of words:

Our members love pyro.

Members (and community) love to watch the public display.

People work hard on the public display, and love it when it all comes together.

A few people work hard keeping Sara Park open for shooting (and set up, and clean up, and registration, and food, and classes, and vending, and.....) so that the rest of us can light fuse. Quite a few folks love to build their own stuff. We're all passionate about our feelings.

I chimed in on the debate to vent one of my frustrations during the last WWB - trying to get all of our product in the sky before the rocket line shut down. I observed that we were rushing things so that everyone could light their fuses. When you're dealing with rockets (or any form of pyro for that matter), when you rush things you can make mistakes. We made sure to watch each other's backside (as was proper) and had lit the last fuse 30 seconds before the line shut down on Sunday. BUT - I was concerned that we were asking for trouble.

One idea that was floated on the WPA list was to keep shooting at Sara Park open during the Saturday Public Display. I thought this was an interesting idea because it would allow for extra time (and a safety margin) to shoot, but presented me with a quandary. I love the public display. I think that the time and effort put into these shows is phenomenal. We only get to see shows like this on T.V., much less get right up close to one. ("You want salutes, huh? Couple thousand OK?") But I also love to build rockets. Living in a fire-danger area (which, according to our legislation, covers all of California - including the water ways) I rarely get the chance to work in this forbidden craft. I voiced my opinion that if I were to come to WWB, I would rather build and shoot than to watch the Public Display.

This was a love/love/hate thing. I loved both, but I really love building and shooting, and would hate to miss the Public Display. During the 'great debate', I wound up being misinterpreted, mad, frustrated, embarrassed, and found out the following: Our members REALLY love pyro. Preferences are expressions of personal opinions, and when you say that you prefer something over somebody else's preference, they can get really upset. More work goes on behind the scenes than I ever knew. The WPA staff goes the extra mile EACH AND EVERY WWB to make sure we can get all of our yah-yahs off.

The folks who work on the Public Display do this as a labor of love, and when I said I prefer something else over the PD, it was like unrequited love.

If you ask two people for their opinion, you'll get three answers.

What I did find out (once all the shouting was over) is that the concerns I had were not solely my own - they were already voiced by others. The WPA staff was already evaluating what to do next year to alleviate this situation. They are looking into a larger manufacturing area, adding a manufacturing chairman, as well as looking into a second rocket shooting area. The end result was that our members can get their yah-yahs off on the rocket line, we could do it safely, AND (here's the best part) I also get to watch the public display. The best of all worlds, and (I think) a much better solution than shooting during the display.

I think that this really expresses the spirit and purpose of the WPA. The world of pyro is a varied craft, and trying to fulfill everybody's wishes is a near impossible task. Yet that is exactly what our staff is trying to do. Just think about the debate - shoot fireworks or watch fireworks. Sheesh - just the fact we can even light a sparkler without the authorities breathing down our neck is great! Where else can we even think about this discussion? I haven't been around since the early days, and I sometimes take it for granted that the privileges given

to me by the club have always been there. The regs and the rules are constantly being changed to help all of us out. I guess I just have to learn some patience.

Yeah, I'm looking forward to this year's Dolt In The Desert, but I'm also looking forward to launching 100 rockets in one bouquet AND seeing the PD at the next WWB.

While I'm at it, here's something else I found out: When given the opportunity, some authors on the list can write long tomes to express themselves.

("It's not easy being green..." - Hey, I didn't know Kermit was a pyro!)

The following opinions are in response to a heated discussion that occurred on the WPA's email list recently.

Even though it is a minority of members who would like to keep Sara Park open during the public display, I feel they have a right to enjoy the Blast their way and I promise to have the Board take up this issue and see what we can come up with. At the same time, I also want to wait until the response from this newsletter comes out in order to get some feed back from the members regarding this issue. Please look elsewhere in this newsletter for a request from members about keeping Sara open. If there is a way of keeping Sara open with a responsible staff in charge, I see no reason why this can't happen, at least on a trial basis, for next year.

Regarding the public display, I believe that we do indeed do the display for the members and not just to placate the city of Lake Havasu. If not, why do the overwhelming majority of members support and attend it? OF COURSE we get money from Havasu for this and they do dictate where we can have the display due to public safety concerns. Is this (changing sites) a pain in the butt? Absolutely. But if this is what we have to do in order to get the full support of the City, so be it, in my opinion. Let's face it: finding a place to host a WWB without giving something back is going to be tough. We don't exactly have a long list of Cities beating down our doors and asking us to please come and disturb the peace in their towns. If we could find a way to hold the PD back at Sara, everyone would be happy, but it doesn't look like this is going to happen. Does

the PGI move their public displays? Of course not. Why? Because they have HUGE sites with lots of space and parking... and they get to sell tickets to the public to help pay for the event, that's why.

Want to give up the PD? Let's hear from you. If the members would rather not have one, I'll run it past the city, tell them to keep their money, and we'll stay at Sara. I'm happy to approach the City on this, but I can't imagine them going for it. By the way, I am currently talking with a Canadian company about doing next year's PD. The product will, most likely, all be Spanish. We've never had the Canadian's do a show for us and how many of us have seen this much Spanish product before? Could be great, don't you think? Aren't new and innovative ideas in pyro something we all want to see? I believe so.

It has been suggested that we move a B rocket and a B shells site to the Point on Saturday? Now there's a logistical nightmare! Are the vendors going to pack up and setup? Do we have the manpower to setup shooting sites? We had one WWB at the Point and it was insane (fun, but insane). There simply is not enough room to do both events there. And I have already approached the City on this who said no to open shooting at the Point and yes to keeping Sara open during the PD.

It has also been suggested that the PD be on Sunday night. It used to be, and we moved it so that we could end the Blast with open shooting, not with a short day, a PD and an Allerglow. On the other hand, if you want it returned to Sunday night, let me hear from you. It has been suggested that we add another night of open shooting, Wednesday, and it has been stated that this puts a burden on shooters to take another day off. Now who has their priorities screwed up? PGI has a 7 day event and they do not seem to have a problem with attendance. If your passion is building and shooting fireworks, why in the world wouldn't you take the extra time off? If you're a hunter, you find time to hunt. If you're a fisherman, you find the time to fish. When I was into high powered rockets, I found the time to attend the launches. Winterblast used to be 3 days when I joined. A fourth was added so that we'd all have extra time to light fuses. We are offering an extra night to come out and shoot, JUST for hobbyists. Personally, I think that many of you need your vacation schedules re-arranged, but that is my opinion, once again.

In response to those members who wanted more time to play with fireworks, we added a second pyro event, Do It by the River. It is open shooting with no displays all day for three days. EVERYTHING, including the afterglows, are in the same place and the hotel is just a long walk from the shoot site. Want more time to play and test with NO lines? Go back to #6 and re-read the priorities part. Even the PGI, with all of it's members, doesn't offer a second event.

I have read (on the email list) that the WPA has gone away from it's originally stated goals, but I'm not sure if that is true. We still promote the art of pyrotechnics, still teach (now twice a year) and still offer an outlet to learn and participate. At the same time, by not limiting it's growth, the membership has changed in character. There are two choices here: go with the flow, or restrict future (and possibly current) membership. If we want this, then we should discuss it at the general meeting. Regardless of purpose, it is also important to remember that not everyone is going to be happy with the club ALL of the time, nor ALL of any of our events.

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It has been suggested that we find a new site for Winter Blast. The contract with Havasu is an easy one to break within 3 months of a Blast. That means that the next one is a done deal, but not the one after that. I would LOVE a new site, but don't have the time to find one. If you're into it, find it and present it to the Board. I am more than happy to discuss it. I have spent quite a bit of time with one our members trying to get back to Mesquite, but it hasn't panned out. Go find us another area. On the other hand, maybe what we need is more, and smaller, events in different locations. Northwest area, Colorado, New

Mexico, Nevada, whatever. If you can find a site, again, I am happy to discuss it and help with it.

While we're all hot and heavy about this, let me reiterate a few things... manufacturing was never quite legitimized at WWB. It's only been the past few years that we have encouraged it and created a space for it. Not to beat a dead horse, but we also added Do It to give everyone more pyro time. We added a separate student shell site to take the load off open B, we added a hospitality area this year to make our members more comfortable, we've been buying more equipment. There's more, but this piece is already too long. What I'm trying to say is that we have been trying to accommodate everyone and make things more comfortable for all of you, the member, but you can't please everyone. At the same time, although volunteerism was at a high this year for a change, the majority still doesn't do anything and getting 20% of you to the General Meeting is near impossible. THAT is where these discussions should be taking place. I'm happy to lead this club, I am happy to hear from the membership on any issue and I would be happier to see more of you offering to help, and to attend the business meeting. I'd be ecstatic to see more than one person run for office for a change, too.

Want to make your voice heard? Send an email to WPA-Board@pyro.org or Kief@pyro.org. You can write me/us a letter using the club's address (found elsewhere in this newsletter) if you don't have email. And, most important, you can attend the Business Meeting at Winter Blast. Give me 2 hours of your time once a year to see what's going on and make your opinion heard. Above all else let's remember one other thing. We all have one common love, and that's fireworks. Let's work it all out and then let's enjoy them, together.

Opinions...

Steve Wilson

One of the hot topics these days about the public display at the Blast is about how best to serve the needs of everyone involved. Since we started doing the public display on Spectator Point, a whole host of different things have occurred. On the positive side the citizens of Lake Havasu City get a display in town unlike anything else they see all year long. This also relieves the congestion on Highway 95, helping out the Highway Patrol and other emergency services.

The benefit for the WPA is that they get a kickback from the city basically equal to what we've been paying for our public display, about \$15,000 lately. Good public relations are also realized.

The downfall of moving the display is that we are forced to shut down our whole operation at SARA Park (the primary reason we go to LHC), stop open shooting, and cause our 1000 or so attendees to relocate 7 miles north, losing time in the process in transit, parking and bumbling around in the dark. One year we tried doing the whole convention at the point and it was a logistical nightmare, particularly when it came to distances for large shell shooting and also in terms of amenities. They just aren't many amenities at Spectator Point! There are however some beaches, one facing Rotary Park, suitable for shooting class C and a cove facing away from the public display setup, perfect for rocket and small shell shooting. Back to this later.

I have always contended that the Western Winter Blast is for the WPA members and not the local public. Historically, when we started the Blasts, the name "public display" (and many other things) were just copied over from the PGI. Our first "public display" in Mesquite NV was virtually unseen by the local public. It was a weekend finale put together primarily as two separate segments by Fred May and Ron Dixon. We were darn happy to have the displays, but public? I only saw a few cars that pulled over on the side of the interstate, no doubt puzzling over why fireworks were going off there in mid February, in the near freezing drizzle!

Over the years in Havasu the locals figured out what we were doing 7 miles out of town and decided to come and watch. Within a few more years SARA Park on Sunday night was the hot ticket.

But my recollection is that we started doing this event for our members who wanted (hell, needed!) to

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come to the Blast to buy, make and above all, shoot the stuff they made. Guys who come and build rockets on site (did you check out manufacturing this year?) are just getting their snort dialed in by Saturday night. Except now we're telling them they gotta finish up and shut down early on Saturday... Doh!

One plan to remedy this situation is to keep a skeleton crew on board at SARA and let those who want to, continue as usual. Another suggestion is to add more nights of shooting by starting a day earlier. I'd like to propose another idea: Move some open shooting to Spectator Point before and after the public display. In this way, the people of LHC would get more fireworks, and we wouldn't have to leave anyone behind, possibly missing some extraordinary display products. This is how we could pull this off:

We start Saturday morning knowing full well that SARA Park will close at 5 PM. However, all day Saturday we let our members who want to shoot that night load a portable magazine (leave the tent sales open all during this time too). At 4PM the doors are shut on the legal magazine which then takes everything north to the secured beaches of Spectator Point. At 5PM SARA Park (where test shooting has been allowed all day) is closed. Period. The members go to dinner, hit their hotel rooms and/or look up Barbecue Bill's which has conveniently also moved to Spectator Point. Earlier in the afternoon a workshop on site set-up has coincidentally prepared modest but complete areas for shooting C, rockets and smaller shells. At 5 PM open shooting begins right on schedule, without missing a beat. Anyone with larger material (8" shells plus) or material suitable for exhibition has already registered and prepared to shoot their items in concert with the Exhibition Chairman and the Public Display Coordinator. Everyone who shoots Class C picks up after themselves. All shooting is halted during the public display and resumes when it is over and deemed safe. At 10:30 PM, or so, all shooting stops and we have a beach bonfire to burn our trash, finish the rest of Jay's wine and boogie to Chris N. Thernum and the Pyrokers.

There are several spin off benefits that I see coming out of trying this. To pull off the movement of fireworks to another location and discharging them there a few legal hurdles that must be met. The good news is that this is all stuff our members need to know anyway. Obtaining EX numbers, transporting explosives, filling out a bill of lading and log book, and setting up safe shooting areas are all things we could learn and do as we execute such a plan.

One of the things I've learned over the years is that fireworks and fireworks displays are portable. In fact, the sooner we work as an organization to prove this, the sooner we will have fireworks events accepted in more places. Consider for the moment how you could benefit your local Lion's Club or YMCA around the 4th of July if you could show them how to set up a PGI or WPA style class C (safe and sane) shooting area. Our ability to legally manufacture, transport and discharge fireworks safely is fundamental to the future of fireworks.

So under the open beach shooting scheme, I believe, everybody wins. No shooting is lost, the vendors actually gain sales opportunity, the people of Lake Havasu get MORE fireworks, and the goals of the organization are fulfilled.

Did I miss anyone... oh the Anvil Guys!

.....let's send them to Rotary Park so the locals can get an up-front experience. :-)

Opinions...

Ron Dixon

To PD or not to PD... that is the question ?

Ah yes, the Winter Blast is over and time to ponder those good times. One of the best attended times were the afterglows. Word has it, that if you want to buy the next keg, then you get the microphone and can make a little speech before they crack that thing. Sounds like a pretty good deal if you want everyone to listen to you for a moment.

Last week I was rummaging around through some old, very old, WPA papers and I came across a couple of interesting documents. One was two pieces of orange paper, stapled at the top, and copied on both sides. At the top it said "Western Pyrotechnic Assn. Newsletter November 1989". Imagine that. It went on to say "The next meeting of the WPA (yes, the entire WPA) would be on Saturday, November 4 in San Diego. The meeting will start at

Continued on page 16...

12:00 noon and will be held at a restaurant called Bekker's Bar B Que". This place seats maybe 30 if you are lucky.

I read on and noted the next article said "W.P.A. to Incorporate. Something about Mark Wray hard at work putting together the necessary 'Articles of Incorporation'. Hammmm. I obtained a copy of those Articles of Incorporation and read what they said: "Such purpose for which this corporation is formed are pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes and are to (1) promote and encourage the safe, legal and artful use of pyrotechnics, (2) promote the legal production and sale of high quality pyrotechnics, (3) channel the creative energies of talented people into design, productions and display of high quality pyrotechnics through training, demonstration, sharing of knowledge and the example of the membership. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation."

WOW, that says a lot. Maybe just maybe we all should read this just one more time.

I recall that newsletter of 1989 and the rainy WWB I at Mesquite. I also recall taking the check book from San Diego Fireworks and covering the Public Display, the rental of the trucks, the use of the mortars and racks, the certificates of insurance, the firing systems, the ready boxes, the permits, and oh yes, the wire, tape nails and all that was required to make the first three blasts a success. You recall in my opening paragraph I made mention of "if you buy the keg, you get to make the speech"? I think the kegs would have been cheaper and much less risk. So, I guess I qualify to make a speech.

Another thing I recall about Mesquite was the pouring rain while all of us, and I mean all of the membership dropped shells and wired them into the firing strips. Old Fred May was putting the last few turns of medical tape on his Wizard Brand #1 shells, just before they went into the mortars. When it came time for the display, all the membership were in our cars with the windshield wipers going full speed and the window cracked just enough to hear the music. When the 1812 Overture hit the last three bars, the horns honked and a bunch of soggy guys were running around giving 'high fives'. WOW!

As the lyrics of a 60's song says 'What a long, strange trip it's been'. From a handful of ebullient members, standing in the pouring rain dropping shells for the first Public Display, to last year where the WPA rented 400 chairs for the membership only seating, to this year when the WPA rented 500 chairs for the membership only seating, and it still was not enough. This does not count the 'Tailgaters' that were assembled in the parking lot of the Nautical Inn, which took every available space from the convention center to the 'WPA Only' gate. Largest crowd to view the PD in a long, long time.

There is a message here that is loud and clear, if our cardrums still work after standing next to Big Dick and his ground salutes. The message is that the Public Display has been an integral part of the Winter Blast from the start. The message also is that Third Article of Incorporation (3) states we are going to "channel the creative energies of talented people into design, productions and display of high quality pyrotechnics". The real meat of the article is in the last sentence, which states "this corporation shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation."

Clearly the flaming emails that have attempted to polarize the WPA into the extremes of 'To PD, or Not to PD' are "not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation".

As most of you know, I owned and operated San Diego Fireworks from 1981 through 1994. Prior to that and after that I performed thousands of displays for California Fireworks Display and later Pyro-Spectaculars, Inc. I have a special place in my heart for the public display. I also have a special place in my heart for those that create pyrotechnic devices through their

Continued on next page...

creative juices and limited resources. As the owner of a display company, I could not spend time and resources in the research and development of new and innovative products. Many of the new products we added to our product line, were products that were created by members of the WPA. These products were exciting and added the fresh look we needed to be competitive in the market place.

The Public Display also provides a genuine opportunity to meet new members and potential licensees that all display companies desperately need on the Fourth of July. The opportunity to observe neophytes working around the complexities of a large public display gives valuable insight into the individual that cannot be obtained elsewhere.

Yes, there is some compensation from the City of Lake Havasu for having the PD at the 'Point' in lieu of SARA Raceway. Frankly it makes a lot of sense for the WPA and the City. No more near fatal accidents on I-95, no more extensive labor by the Sheriff to control traffic, more people can get a better view of the display from all over LHC, and yes, the City puts some money in the coffers of the WPA. I guess that is in case one of you fails to step up and buy the next keg, LHC has it covered for you. Ah yes, one more reason for having the PD at the Point, it allows open shooting to continue while the PD is safely being set up and loaded far away from home made bullets. I do not think it is fair to the company that produces the PD, normally donates thousands of their own dollars in addition to the WPA budget, to have open shooting going on concurrently and distracting from the PD. Conversely, I do not think it is fair to the person that has spent hundreds of hours placing those ten pasted layers on their 8" shell, to not have the opportunity to display this creative masterpiece to the entire membership, and have its' moment in the sky.

Open shooting is a vital part of the Winterblast. The Public Display is a vital part of the Winterblast. The challenge for the officers is to schedule a forum for each to have their uncontested moment in the sky. Each is a vital chartered purpose for which we exist.

After seeing how well the Officers of the WPA have handled challenges to our club in recent months, I have all the confidence in the world that they will find a mutually beneficial solution to this one as well. As Rodney King said "Why can't we all just get along?"

Ron Dixon

Lifetime Member, WPA

Congratulations...

Don Oesterle

Congratulations to Dallas and Rita Oesterle.
This June they will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

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Bobbie Piety

P.O. Box 572

Saratoga, CA 95071

"...true "experts" in the industry could be found just about everywhere one would turn..." Actually the only thing in common with my title and this article is the weather. Let me tell you, the weather in Lake Havasu City was just like summer in the great Pacific Northwest. The weather was absolutely fantastic!

What this article is about surrounds my first visit to the WPA Winter Blast. Bill Zuber had hounded me for the last two years to join WPA and attend this event. Jon Hubbard who made his first trip last year joined in on Bill's urging. Bill, Laura, and Jon all made the trek to the 2001 Winter Blast plus Fall's "DO IT" event and had nothing but the highest accolades.

My wife Robin and I made the decision to see what all the hoopla was about. You must first realize primarily one brand X individual that I no longer work for or associate with governed my upbringing in the pyrotechnics. I don't mean to make this sound like a slam, but it sets the reasoning on why I had so much apprehension about making this trip.

What you don't know is, I was brought up in this industry believing the PGI, WPA, and even the APA was made up of idiots, pyro crazy maniacs, and people with ego's as big as their lousy attitudes. This indoctrination didn't stop there; those descriptions would fit the resumes of the owners and crews of companies we competed against in the NW venues.

So understanding my mindset, anybody that's been there, will realize my first shock was observing the great attitude of pyro's and the company representatives attending this event. The people were great and the attitudes were beyond reproach. The entire event seemed well organized, safety was ever present, and most of all the opportunity to learn, see, and do was everywhere.

If I were to dig for elements of disappointments, this would be the list I'd compile.

1. I didn't join in and go there sooner!

2. I learned the stable of pyro's I was a part of, isn't the best trained and most knowledgeable in the industry. However some real top of line people are missing great opportunities to learn there isn't a war going on in the industry and there is really much more to learn. That sums up my disappointments, and absolutely none of those were the fault of the WPA. Now the highlights of the WPA event to get this article back on the happy note it was intended!

Some true "experts" in the industry could be found just about everywhere one would turn. Ready to talk the trade, share their expertise, and flat out tell some great stories. If you want to watch fireworks, come 5:00 pm you can view to your hearts content until the close of open shooting. Whether your interest is in sparklers and snakes or rockets and 12" shells, its all there! You'll need a masseuse to get the kinks out of your neck for trying to watch it all.

Then the "Afterglow"! Picture a room packed to standing room only of pyro's and all you can eat or drink. Is there really anything else that needs to be said? A level of camaraderie unmatched and for me it was a total shock since I had been told by my past mentor that he had almost gone to blows many in that room.

The trade show took me back to my infancy...drooling, lots of drool. I'm sure Magic Fire and Pyromate companies needed paper towels to clean up after my lingering around their tables. It was again an opportunity to mingle with the professionals. Robin and I both spent time listening to Ron Dixon share his knowledge and could have blocked up his booth all day. Definitely a place your checkbook and plastic could become depleted of any monetary value in a hurry.

If you're eager to learn, classes will whet your appetite from rolling stars to Ohms Law and just about everything in between. Very giving professionals donate their time and knowledge in support of our pyrotechnic industry. I was in awe of the knowledge base that was in attendance. All these years prior to this visit, I was convinced I was affiliated with the pinnacle of intelligence. Boy Howdy, was I humbled in a quick hurry.

If I was asked the question "Will you go again?" my answer will be "Robin and I made reservations the morning we checked out!". In fact we made reservations for our kids, Randa and Kyle, who also shoot shows and convinced them this event is a must!

Oh...yeah the London Bridge was cool too! Plus they have an "In and Out Burger" there, and for an old So Cal kid that Double Double is hard to beat.

I like the nice big THUMP of a salute at the end of a whistle rocket's screech. But I get this weird feeling in the pit of my stomach when I'm mixing a batch of flash in the desert. Even though I'm wearing cotton and using anti-static spray I still get zapped by a static spark when I slide across my car seat and touch the door frame. I've heard that those little sparks have more than enough energy to set off flash.

So I was relieved but a bit skeptical when the WPA banned the open mixing of flash in the manufacturing area. How good would the flash be if 7 parts of potassium perchlorate and 3 parts of aluminum were added separately and then mixed after the device was sealed? Imagine how humiliating it would be to have a weak THUMP. Imagine how much less rich my religious life would be without a tub of mixed flash prompting spontaneous prayer. I decided to go along with the program and shake those rocket headings after they were assembled.

To help with the mixing I ball milled the potassium perchlorate with 0.5% Cabosil (fumed silica). This makes the stuff flow almost like a fluid. I had finally run out of the German Black a friend had given me about 20 years ago. It was the old fashion stuff from Westech. I found the new Indian Black Aluminum was the only aluminum that equaled my old German Black in reactivity. (But I haven't tested them all either). I didn't do anything to that stuff. It seemed to mix well on it's own

But you know how it goes at Winter Blast. I had been building and kibitzing all day and now it was time to cleanup and I hadn't finished my rockets. Worse yet, I needed to set up the Ghost Mines demo (WWB 2001). A buddy of mine came by and asked if I needed help. What a Godsend! He took on the task of sticking and fusing my rockets. He even carried them over to the "B" rocket line magazine for me.

After the Ghost Mines were shot, I rushed over to try some of those rockets. I love whistle rockets and mine were doing a good job of flying and thumping. After I had lit about three it dawned on me that I had never mixed the flash powder in their heading. Just the modest amount of handling had been sufficient to mix the flash. I took the next one and shook it and rolled it then shook it a little more. From that I got a slightly louder bang, but not by much.

So now I have given up all notion of mixing flash. The whistle rockets I shot at "Do-It" and all I shot at Winter Blast this year all had "un-mixed" flash. No more looking into that gray tub of flash. I sleep better at night. If I want to get scared, I'll go see a scary movie.

It's that time again brother and sister pyros. Time to set our sites on the 3rd weekend in October, 17th thru the 19th, for Do-It IV. I missed Winter Blast this year and I just can't wait to light some visco and smell some burning whistle mix. Properly prepared (wet mix) and contained in a rocket motor of course.

I think last years Do-It was the best ever and I have been to all 3. Kudos to all involved for pulling off a great event. I would really like to see some new faces come to this years Do-It. If you have not been to one of these, you really must come and check it out. It is a much more relaxed and intimate pyro get together. You can walk to the hotel. It is right next to the Colorado river. \$19.00 rooms, .99 breakfasts. And to top it all off, our hotel is a casino! How can you go wrong?

This years Do-It is shaping up to be the best yet. A BIG thank you to Ann Hill and Jay Brown. They have stepped up and offered to provide food this year. Ann and husband Mike provided the eats for us the last 2 years and I can still taste the polish dogs. This year they hope to bring us a greatly expanded menu. I can't wait.

We are also planning better afterglows. Anyone out there that wants to sponsor an afterglow, we want to hear from you! Thanks to Russ Laurie who has agreed, after some prodding, to be the co-chair of the event. I am sure that this will not be as hectic for you as I heard Winter Blast was.

The last couple of events has seen volunteerism at it's best and I am counting on our membership to keep up the tradition. Without volunteers, we don't have an event. Without safeties, no one shoots. We don't get the site setup and, God forbid, we don't get the site cleaned up. It will only cost you a few hours of your time but it will be well worth it!

So, remember to mark your calendars for the 17-19 of October. We have booked a block of rooms for those dates. We also have some rooms blocked for the 16th for those coming in early to help setup.

You can call the Avi hotel and casino at; 800 284 2946 and give them booking #7253 for the WPA. Rates will be the same as last year. \$19.00 Wed -- Thurs. and \$40.00 on the weekend. Do not forget to check out our website for more info as it becomes available.

Check it out at: Wpa.pyrotechnics.org

If you have any questions, you can email me at: pfeffer_insurance@email.msn.com, or Russ at: Russ@pyro.org

*****FIREWORKS VIDEOS FOR SALE*****

#38. The 2002 Western Winter Blast XIII at Lake Havasu, Arizona. Includes Bruce's terrific 20 and 60 pound rockets, open shooting, Saturday in town and Sunday on site demos. Two hours. \$15.00. #37. The 2001 NFA Expo, Omaha, Nebraska. Three days of new class C and some B fireworks. 3 hours. \$15.00. #36. The 2001 PGI Convention at Appleton, Wisconsin. 8 hours. \$25.00. Send for list of 38 videos. Eldon Hershberger, 15707 Allen Avenue, Belton, Mo. 64012. 816-331-5297. GGG47@aol.com.

1. Meeting opened 12:08 pm
Board members in attendance:
Kief Adler, President
Don Oesterle, Vice President
Kathy Baird, Treasurer and acting Secretary
2. Motion to approve minutes of the general meeting, 2001. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.
3. Motion to approve Compensation policy for Winter Blast 2002. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.
4. Introduction of Kurt Medlin (for Steve Wilson) to give a brief history of the Western Pyrotechnic Association and the purpose behind starting the organization. Around 1988 Niels Anderson, Mark Wray and Steve Wilson had begun organizing people in California to give them an outlet for pyros from a "restrictive state" (CA). This would be an organization for collectors, shooters, hobbyists, and professionals to confer.
5. Update on Palmer case: Palmer dropped the case. We were reimbursed 100% from the insurance company for our legal expenses. All legal grant money obtained from the PGI was reimbursed to them. Our thanks to Brooke & Cloyd and Dan Speilfogel for their diligence in this case. A plaque was presented to Doug Mawhoer for his outstanding work on the case.
6. Discussion concerning allowing members to be a reference for other family members on their membership applications. Frances Marquez recommends we allow one reference to be a family member and the other to be a general member. Others did not believe this to be a valid issue for concern.
Bill Daly presented motion: to allow family members as references. Motion seconded.
Motion was passed by a unanimous vote.
7. Kief Adler brought discussion about the possible need for greater control over Winter Blast.
Does the event need a list of governing rules and consequences?
Frances Marquez says there are gray areas that need clarifying.
Another member stated that sales and purchases rules need to be decided on with the vendors and vendor chair. Another idea was discussed about safety rules and the need for these to be made by the safety chair of the event.
Kief suggested this is a staff issue and board problem and the issue will be sent back to the Winter Blast committee.
8. Treasurer's report.
Profit and Loss statement was published in the last newsletter.
Numbers on the current WB are not complete yet, and will be announced in the next newsletter.
Current WB has 909 total (+/-5), consisting of 473 members and 436 guests.
9. Life Members & Awards:
Life membership given to Kurt Medlin. This award was long overdue for the years of dedication and service that Kurt has given the WPA since it's formation.
Kief gave a plaque of gratitude to outgoing treasurer Kathy Baird for a job well done on her 3-year term.
10. Election of new officers conducted by Don Oesterle.
Office of President:
John Steinberg nominated Kief Adler, Kief accepted and ran unchallenged.
Kief was re-elected by a unanimous vote.

Vice President: neither position up for election this year.

Treasurer

Russ Laurie was nominated by Brian Erfurth for the position. Russ accepted and ran unchallenged.

Russ Laurie was elected by a unanimous vote.

Secretary:

Bill McGregor nominated Jill Salverson. Jill accepted and ran unchallenged.

Jill Salverson was elected by a unanimous vote.

Area VP's:

Northern California:	Steve Wilson
Northwestern US	Bill Zuber
San Joaquin Valley:	Lynden King
Los Angeles Area:	Chris Spurrell
San Diego Area:	Joe Madziarczyk
Arizona/Nevada:	Judd Herberger
Rocky Mt Area:	Charlie Wilson
Eastern/Foreign:	John Steinberg
Hawaiian Area:	vacant to date

11. Old Business:

SARA Park racetrack now being controlled by Lake Havasu City and improvements there will be coming.

12. New Business:

- Should we move membership renewals to Aug/Aug - tabled by the new secretary for further consideration.
- New members, especially first time fireworks builders, would like a terminology handout in the registration packet. "Pyro for Dummies" to be written by the Winter Blast staff.
- Frances Marquez sees a need to add a manufacturing chairman to the WB chairs; With appropriate comp package for the position.
- Ground Salute Committee: dropped by the board because of too large a hazard.
- Bill Daly wants the club to consider offering a life membership for about \$500.00. The Board will be looking into this possibility.
- Should the Do-it registrations be lowered by not including t-shirts. Not

Meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm

WPA Board of Directors Meeting **March 26, 2002**

Conference call attendees: Kief Adler, Don Oesterle, Dimitri Timohovich, Russ Laurie, Jill Salverson

Agenda

Call to order: 8:05 pm

1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes. Kief moved to approved previous meeting's minutes. Dimitri seconded. Motion passed.
2. Winter Blast wrap up report—Russ and Don: WWB13 broke even, expecting monies from Blue Book Films and County of Mojave. Minor injuries were incurred in manufacturing. Comments from summaries were positive. Registration went smoothly. Next year, Russ and Don will go over list of staff to help out registration with any confusion. Kief: the reason the Blast will just break even is because of additional equipment and sponsorship of afterglows.

- a. Reimbursement to Lynden King for supplies and damaged equipment. WPA will reimburse Lynden King for damage to hard hats and firing system. \$189.00 total.

3. Treasurer's Report—Russ:

- a. Current Profit and Loss statement: Jan.1 – Mar 21, 2002. Profit: \$17,900 from membership
\$15,000 donations
\$52,900 WWB Registration
Total: \$85,400
Loss: \$2,045 will be made up when Blue Book and Mojave monies come in.
- b. Bank Balance: Russ doesn't have exact numbers, between \$30-\$40K

4. (OFF RECORD)

5. Next Newsletter—Dimitri:

Deadline for next newsletter is May 1, mailings on May 15. Next newsletter will be August. Too late for 1st Do-It registration forms. Registration for Do-It will have to be a separate mailing. 2nd registration forms can go out in August Newsletter.

- a. Discussion regarding the Publications VP being in charge of the WWB program – tabled until future Board mtg.

6. Do It

- a. Can not keep container on site. Greg Boyd has room on his property.
 - b. Need to start building and collecting second site equipment
 - c. Food and afterglows
 - d. New hotel requirements means we will no longer get tables and chairs for free
 - e. Jay Brown proposed to take over after-glow. Ann Hill will do food again.
7. Should we purchase hardhats at \$73.20 for 30? Dimitri to check into vests and hardhats at a lower cost.
 8. Should we purchase Pyro Novelties remaining tools and mugs for use as event gifts at 50% off? (\$306) Don 8 mugs and 28 multi tools. – approved.
 9. Should we purchase non-removable stickers for club possessions? Don to handle. - approved
 10. Do we want to add links for retail FW's establishments to the website? – Kief moved to not approve, Dimitri seconded. – motion to not approve carried.
 11. Request from Steve Wilson to fund major area meeting for \$1500 (reimbursed by sales to members) to view fireworks from the bay by barge? Our insurance does not cover area events. Request denied.
 12. Jill moved to adjourn, Kief seconded. Meeting adjourned 9:02 pm.