



WPA

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2003

The 4th of July is behind us and it is time to look forward to our next event.

Do-It by the River is a small event where you can relax and have a good time with manufacturing and lighting fireworks. Flying Phoenix fireworks is our product vendor this year and I am sure they will bring out the quality of products we are used to seeing from them. You will be able to purchase and fire up to 12 in shells on the club's license, as well as a variety of cakes, candles, fountains, and other types of fireworks. Firefox is our chemical and supply vendor. They always have an excellent selection of high quality items. Pre-orders are encouraged to ensure that you will get everything you want.

I'm sure Armageddon will be bigger and better than ever. And the afterglows will never leave you wanting for more. There will be seminars to add to your pyro knowledge, and you never know what other things will be going on.

Of course we will also need your help by volunteering some of your time for setup before the event, Safety and other jobs during the event and, for the first time, we are trying a new thing with Clean up. We are charging each member \$10.00 at registration. We will add all the money together and split it between all members who stay until everything is done. We appreciate the many members who stay to help clean up, but there are a lot who leave early and don't offer to help. This way we can thank those members who stay to help. Sounds like another party to me.

So please come and join us at the AVI Hotel in Laughlin, October 16, 17, and 18 for the 5th Annual Do-It by the River

Kevin Bollinger
Do-It 5 chair

As I come near the end of my fourth and final year as your president, I confess that I am rejoicing in the knowledge that I will soon be relieved of my duty to write these little blurbs. It's not that I don't enjoy communicating with the membership, it's just that I hate trying to come up with something to say 4 times per year!

Be that as it may, a stroke of perseverance, and a little luck, has netted some clarification from the ATF on the use of employee possessor forms and club members. Although this letter was published in the last newsletter, it's possible that you didn't see it unless you located your grandfathers magnifying glass. Basically, what the letter said was that only those in charge of class B need to complete the forms as the rest of you will be "supervised" by them (the safeties). This is a great relief and I was happy to see that the ATF realized that pyrotechnic clubs need to be exempted from their normal rules. Kudos to those in Washington that saw the light.

Currently we are still dealing with lawyers in an effort to force our former insurance company to refund our premium from last year (that is, the part that wasn't used). We are also still trying to secure a refund on our umbrella policy through the Texas receivership that is looking after these claims. Don't hold your breath on either case... this is going to be a long, slow process. Meanwhile, we are still forced to pay the outrageous premiums being charged by Lloyds as they are the only company willing to insure clubs at the moment. As of this writing, however, the National Fireworks Association is in the process of forming a new, self insured type of company and we will be watching these developments carefully.

This newsletter should contain your Do It registration form. If you've never been, you need to go. It's amazing to me that this will be our 5th Do It and it is truly a great event for those of us who love pyro. With cheap hotel rooms, on site afterglows with micro brews, constant manufacturing and "testing," this is hog heaven for true pyros. Sell something on Ebay and come and join us.

The Fourth is now behind us and I'm sure that each of us has his or her own way of celebrating. Whether we are putting on the displays, watching a show or lighting class C for the neighborhood, it's all good. As much as I enjoy being a show operator, I have a special love for the show that I put on for the Fourth. I like to remind my crew that this one is special: that we are celebrating the birthday of a great nation. It gives me a sense of pride to be a part of that celebration and I hope that you all share this with me, too.

Stay safe, stay pyro proud and I'll be looking for you at Do It.

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WPA Vice President

Well, we made it. Another 4th of July season has passed and all that remains are the fond memories, outstanding photographs, and charred hillsides.

I hope everybody had a safe and uneventful holiday, and that everybody either worked on a public display show, or at least got to see one. My crew and I shot 3 shows that weekend in 105 degree heat. Now I know why Winterblast is such a huge success – cooler weather in February!

Now we need to start looking forward to our club's next event: Do It by the River 5. Kevin Bollinger has taken the lead for this event, and I am confident it will be very successful. I am saving my strength (and sanity) to be the chairman for Winterblast 2004, so I haven't taken any official position for this event. This is the 1st event in many years where I get to be a participant, and not on staff of some sort. Hopefully I will get to manufacture some Blue Whizzies with Gary Berg to put in Bill McGregor's XXL mortar as well as spend lots of time on the shooting lines making noise (with 10" shells and 4" salutes!). I'm looking forward to see what Flying Phoenix, our B and C product vendor, has to offer us for this event. If it is anything like the excellent quality and selection of product he provided us at Winterblast, it will be great!

I'm looking forward to seeing and visiting with you at Do-It by the River. Until then, be safe.

Don Oesterle
WPA Vice President

WPA Secretary

July 4, 2003 is now in the history books. I hope you got some good pyro photographs. Send the best to Tim O'Neil for future newsletters.

I was helping Don Oesterle at Six Flag's Magic Mountain. Russ Laurie is on his crew, so the WPA board was well represented.

During the daylight hours we can watch the roller coaster riders and hear them scream. Our show starts after the park's nightly parade so we got a 360 degree view of area fireworks for 1/2 hour before ours started. The other shows were good but it was hard to figure out which way to turn to see the best shot.

Many of you have written about not getting the last newsletter. As of this writing, I have not received any extras to send you.

I have kept your messages so you will get one eventually.

Now to DO IT items:

Please write legibly and include your email. Your information is not for public distribution by the club. If your email is included, I will email you a confirmation that the form and \$ have been received. I even tell you if you sent the wrong \$ amount so you have time to send it before the event. (Or if you are due a refund.)

If you do not have an email, then your cancelled check is your confirmation. (Russ is prompt in depositing the checks.) Of course, you can always call me with any questions about the form, or email me at pyromom@socal.rr.com

See you in October.
Rita Oesterle,
WPA Secretary

WPA Vice President

July 9, 2003

From your WPA Treasures to all of you who care about our financial situation, here are the numbers, which reflect the 2nd quarter Profit & Loss

Income \$1,450.00
Expenses \$ 1,548.52
Net loss \$ -93.52

Our present Bank balance is \$ 13,207.89

We have filed our taxes and only had to pay the State of California \$10.00 and we didn't owe the Federal Government anything. With DO IT upon us soon I'll be busy depositing your money in to our coffers to pay the bills, so come on out to DO IT and support the WPA and have a great shooting the things we enjoy so much (FIREWORKS). That's it for now, see you at DO IT.

Russ Laurie
WPA Treasure

WPA Secretary

Do It Special from Flying Phoenix Corp. Riverton, WY. 1.3G items include: all Wizard, Lidu and Thunderbird assorted 3", 4", 5", 8" and 12" shells at competitive prices. 1.75" shells include: single salute, double salute (2-break), assorted color & salute (2-break) and single color w/flash break. 2" Titanium Salute shells, Lidu 3" and 4" ball and canister style salutes. Heavy hitting 3" thru 6" American Titanium Salutes. New items include: 3" Diadem to salute peanut shells, 4" red, white and blue triple breaks (peanut) 4" & 5" Brocade Crown to salute peanut shells. We now carry Vulcan, Shogun and Haga high performance shells. Please call for a list. Introducing the all **NEW Flying Phoenix exclusive "Skies Over Baghdad", "American Defiance & Thunder", "Hail to the Homeland", "Flights of Freedom & Thunder", "Freedom Reigns" and "Nights Over America"** - 2", 2.5" and 3" peanut shell finale boxes. 3" 25shot "Big Willow" peanut finale boxes from Lidu, 100 shot "Timed Rain" from Shogun and fan shaped "Patriotic Cyclic Cauldron" from Wizard. Some of the 2003 introductory year items are 1000 shot fan shaped "Brocade Crown to Salute", 300 shot "Quick Whistle, 100 shot "Quick Whistle w/blue or red flowers, 150 shot "Bismuth Crackling Storm", 98 shot "Land Thunder" and 80 shot fan shaped "Golden Willows", 25 shot Happy Stars, Thunder Kings and Color Thunder King. We also carry 1.3G Rocket Volley Pods from Vulcan. If you don't see an item listed, call and ask if we have it. Please call us to place an order **after September 10th** or if you have any questions. Orders **must be received by Oct. 5th, 2003**. WPA members catalog available thru e-mail, FAX or post. The orders will be delivered free of charge to Laughlin, NV. FLYING PHOENIX CORP., PO Box 31, Riverton, Wyoming, 82501. (307) 856-0778, FAX (307) 856-3336, or e-mail us at flyingphoenix@tcinc.net

FIREWORKS VIDEOS FOR SALE

#41. The Western Winter Blast XIV at Lake Havasu City, Arizona. The Public Demo is from 2 angles, one close and one over the water showing a lot of reflections. Video includes ALL Demos, large rockets, large firecracker shoot and open shooting.
2 hours. \$15.00.

#40. 2002 National Fireworks Association's 2002 Expo. Product demo for the upcoming season product.
6 hours. \$15.00.

#39. 2002 PGI Convention at Fargo. All nightly demos and competitions.
8 hours. \$25.00
Send for video list going back to 1988.

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The WPA wishes to express its condolences to our 8 brethren who perished in the accidents this Fourth of July in Florida and Texas. Our thoughts and prayers are with the survivors, the families and the friends of those injured and killed. For all of us that paint the sky, there will forever be an empty spot on our canvas.

15 FOOT CRACKLING MINE FINALE

For reasons beyond my comprehension, peoples is forever calling up here and asking about making their own Chinese cakes. (A "cake" is a multi-tube repeating shot firework that shoots stuff up into the air.) I patiently explain to them that 1) they can buy these things reasonably at just about any fireworks stand, and 2) unless they ARE Chinese, that any cake they make will be distinctly NOT-Chinese. But they persist nonetheless. So here's a little project, sent in by Griffin Behm that can appeal to folks who want the satisfaction of making a repeating shot "cake." This is a perfect starter project for you newbies who have never ever made a fireworks device before, or for you dads who are looking for a project to help nurture your pyro kid's addiction.

This effect is sort of like a min-finale chain. As the effect really only goes about 15 feet high, it might not be suitable for a professional display, but for that backyard fireworks show you do every year, it can go a long way. Or perhaps you just have a craving for a loud pyro device? Either way this is a fun project.

Materials Needed

- 10 3-inch long pieces of 3/4 inch ID paper tube
- 1 1-foot length of 2 x 4 lumber
- Hot melt glue & gun
- Black powder
- 1.4g (Class C) Crackling Balls
- At least 10 inches of Visco fuse
- 1/8" drill bit and drill

Obtaining Materials

Black Powder. If you have access to real BP, then use it. If not, here's the 'poor mans' way to get it. Visit your local hobby show and pick up several C type Estes rocket engines. You will have to squeeze out the comp with pliers. I estimate you will need about 5-6 engines.

Crackling Balls. These are small 1.4g fireworks items sold around the Fourth. They are small green balls that are filled with a cracking composition (called dragon eggs). They are sold in packs of six, so just buy two. If you don't have a year-round fireworks store near you, consider ordering on-line if possible. The great thing is they come with a length of visco attached, meaning it's not necessary to buy extra visco for this project. If you are so inclined, you can make your own dragon eggs using one of the several dragon egg formulas floating around.

Visco. You'll be linking all these shots together, so you will need at least 10 pieces of visco. You could use one long piece (most reliable) or you can just be economical and use the fuses from the Crackling balls.

Procedure

First start by drilling fuse holes in all the tubes. To keep things simple, you might as well just drill an 'in' and an 'out' hole for each tube about 3/8 to 1/2 inch above the bottom of each tube. (The last tube doesn't need an 'out' hole so if you think you're slick, don't drill it.)

Next assemble all the tubes on the 2 x 4. You'll want to make sure all the fuse holes are aligned, as we will be pushing fuse through them in a straight line. Glue (white/Elmer's glue's best; hot melt will work) all the tubes to the board with glue on the base of the tube as well as around each one. You should leave about 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch between tubes. Do this for each of the remaining tubes. When finished you should have a nice arsenal of tubes lined up ready to be filled.

Now take your visco, and insert it into the fuse holes in a daisy chain fashion. If you have one long length just push it in the first 'in' hole on the first tube and then right through the other tubes until you reach the back of #10. If you're using short individual lengths, make sure that some of the powder core is exposed on all fuse ends. Attach the fuse by pushing it into the 'out' hole of a tube and then pushing it into the 'in' hole of the next tube. So on and so forth.

The next step is to fill the tubes with a lift charge. This is where the black powder comes in. You will probably have to experiment with the amounts, but if you were to use Estes fuel you're going to want to fill the tube 3/8 of the way full with 'rocket comp.' It's a good idea to measure the amount you're putting in as opposed to just randomly filling it. That way all the shots will be of equal height.

At this point add the effect, or the comp from the crackling balls. These will look like small round pellets (stars). You can just go ahead and dump the all the stars from each Crackling Ball into each tube (one Crackling Ball per tube). Now the tube should be pretty much completely full with BP and the effect.

As a final touch, cover all the openings of the tubes individually with foil in order to prevent premature ignition.

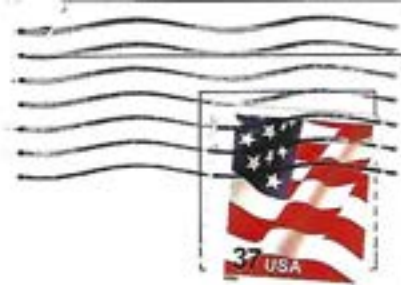
Firing

Place this impressive looking device out in the open somewhere. Fire/light the fuse and step back. You will hear a **Whoosh** and then a loud crackle of sparks. Just as the sparks are fading, another **Whoosh** and more loud crackles will be heard, and another, and another, and another, and another, and another, and another, and another, and then a final one. My! That was exciting, wasn't it!

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WPA
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WPA BOD Minutes June 17, 2003

Call to Order 8:09 pm

Conference Call attendees: Kief Adler, Russ Laurie, Don Oesterle, Rita Oesterle, Tim O'Neil

- 1. Approval of minutes from April 10, 2003 minutes.
- 2. Treasurer's Report

April - June 2003

Income	\$1,450.00
Expenses	1,548.52
Net Loss	- 93.52

Current Bank Balance \$12,982.89
All WWB bills have been paid. One vendor has made arrangements to pay after July 4.
There are some checks, from the club, which have not been cashed.

ACTION ITEM: Russ

Two bounced checks from previous events have not been cleaned up. Kief suggested that they may have to be written off by the club.

ACTION ITEM: Tim and Rita will call the members and ask them again to respond.
WPA's state and federal taxes have been sent in.

- 3. New Forms

Don reported that the DO IT registration will be a paper form as before. Electronic entry is not possible at this time. The form will be posted on our website by mid July.

It will also be sent for enclosing in the July newsletter.

ACTION

- 4. Progress on update

ACTION ITEM: working the issue.

- 5. WPA jackets/gear

Pyro Novelties will have time after July 4th to help us with getting Keith Medura's jacket onto the website.

ACTION ITEM: Kief

- 6. Insurance updates

Doug Mawhorr is in touch with a local lawyer about the liability insurance return of premium. WPA is owed \$3500 to \$4500.

The umbrella policy was never paid. Kief is in touch with the Texas legal firm handling this case.

Those required to fill in the employee form for the ATF should be all members in charge of events, the event chairs, Safety crew and Security.

Kief is handling the paperwork concerning the WPA corporation doing business in Calif.

ACTION ITEM: Kief

- 7. Next newsletter

Tim is to have the copy to American Graphics 2 weeks after July 4. After the copy is approved, it is to be mailed before the end of July. This is a firm date.

ACTION ITEM: Tim

- 8. DO IT CHAIRMAN

Tim O'Neil is stepping down and Kevin Bollinger accepted the position

- 9. BOD write ups for the JULY newsletter are due to Tim immediately after July 4.

- 10. Adjourn 8:49 pm

Rita Oesterle, Secretary