

December, 2007, Vol 18-1

Western Pyrotechnics Association Newsletter



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WPA Newsletter, Volume 18, Issue 2

December, 2007
Volume 18, Issue 2

Western Pyrotechnics Association

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WWB Just Around the Corner!

By Tom Calderwood, V.P. Publications

I'm sure you'll hear about it from others, but WWB is right around the corner! If you haven't yet registered or re-up'd your membership, NOW is the time!!! We have included the hotel list since YOU are responsible for your own booking. (We're not using the LHC Travel Bureau). Now that that is out of my system:

On this newsletter we get to read about a "Pyromaniac's Diary" from Ryan Parks and his experiences at Do It. We also have a good article from Blue Parish on her dos and don'ts of attending a WWB event in the desert. Both folks have some great insights and information for us all.

We have a reprint from a PGI article concerning the PGI's use of Gillette, Wyoming for their annual convention. As this is about as far west as PGI will be coming for a while, this should be an interesting read for us all.

Doug Mawhorr is our attorney for the club and has a paper called "The Long Arm of the Law: Judicial Jurisdiction of Foreign Persons" This is concerning how far out the U.S. Federal Government can reach when dealing with litigation involving foreign persons. Heads up to all you owners/purchasers/shooters.

I've also included an interesting article from the Kosankes about stars blowing blind. (This article has a fantastic picture of a shell *right* after explosion!) I know that a lot of folks fret over the amount of prime to use. If you do, or if you have problems with stars that either blow blind or don't stay lit, then this article is for you.

All of the cover pictures are from the 2007 Do It event.

Hopefully you will all enjoy these articles and will be able to get some valuable information from them. I'll see you at WWB! - Tom

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My Last Article as President

By Russ Laurie

As they say all good things must come to an end and so must my terms as your president. It has truly been a challenge, but a good life experience being a WPA President. There were many times of turmoil and tribulation, along with great highs and some somber lows. Like any endeavors in life we take on, sometimes things go smoothly and sometimes they don't. So it is with the WPA - it's no different.

When I first joined the BOD, Do IT was a little Manufacturing event at the AVI Resort and Casino along the Colorado River, hence the name DO IT by the River. It has now evolved into something much bigger and better. It is a great Pyro event to gain knowledge, experiment, build to hearts content, and have a great time with your fellow Pyro's.

Winter Blast has come to be a truly awesome event and I can say that I'm proud to have had my name associated with it. We made some great strides in lots of ways to improve the experience for both the members and the staff. We opened up Class B sale to the members; we made safety improvements not only to our members shooting sites but to the Manufacturing areas as well; and we have brought in some unique firework displays for everyone's enjoyment.

The club has had to make changes as well, not because we wanted to but because the government forced us to. Did we like these changes forced on us? No, but we incorporated them into our pyro lives so that we may to continue to enjoy our beloved hobby.

The heart and soul of the WPA is our volunteers. Without you we would not be able to put on such awesome event as we do. I want to thank all the staff that have worked and will continue to work long, hard hours at every event so that the rest of the membership may come out and enjoy themselves. The list of names is long, but the faces are pretty much the same year after year, event after event. You know who you are and I know that you don't expect a big fuss made over your volunteering, but I just want to say THANK YOU !!!

To the members of the BOD who I have had the privilege to work with over the past 4 years, I couldn't have done it with you. Through thick and thin we have stuck together and worked hard to provide our membership with what we felt was the best for the club. I have to admit some things were not the most popular or the easiest, but we did what we felt was best for all of you. Thank You to all of my BOD members past and present.

In closing, I just want to take this time to thank a few people who I feel have greatly influenced my Pyro career. Don Oesterle, who persuaded me to join the WPA and come to my first WWB some ten years ago. Richard Cole, who showed me that triple redundancy is not the only way to go on a shoot site, but it is essential to the making of a great pyro show. Kief Adler, though Kief and I have not always seen eye to eye he has made me look at things from a different point of view, his, mine and the rest of the worlds. I learned a lot from ya

Kief, really! Fireworks America, for the opportunity to work on some really awesome shows and last, but not least my wife Sheri for putting up with me over the past 20 years and especially the past years that I've served on your BOD, I know that I have not always been the happiest guy in the world especially after some of the heated BOD meeting that we had, Love ya hun!

Over the years, I have got to know some really great people and have developed some lasting relationships that without the WPA I would never have made.

Thank You All.

Special notes to Russ from the rest of the Board. Russ had no idea we did this.

Farewell to a Friend

By Pete Wood

As most of you have read by now, our current President, Russ Laurie, will be stepping down at the end of his term in February. Russ has volunteered his time and energy during past years (too many for me to remember) and has led the club through some incredibly tough times and decisions. Because of his dedication and determination, the club has prospered and benefited due to his involvement on the Board of Directors.

While Russ's exit from his current position will leave large shoes to fill, I am confident that there exists this same passion and spark for this, which Russ and we all hold so dear, in a new candidate(s) to take his place.

I know we all wish Russ the best in his future endeavors and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Russ all the best in whatever he decides to tackle next, and to thank him for all he has done for me, for us and for the WPA. Thank you Russ!

In closing, just let me say that I'm sure that we'll be seeing Russ involved at one level or another as the club moves forward in the coming months and years - and we'll all be the better for it!

Take care Russ and know it's been a pleasure to work alongside of you during the past couple of years. Thanks for everything and best of luck!

- Pete

A BIG Thank You!

By Ann Huffman

I would like to take this time and give Russ Laurie a GIANT THANK-YOU!!! for all his work over the past several years as President of The WPA. This position is NOT an easy one. A lot of important changes have had to take place while Russ was President. I know from working with him a lot of long hard hours were put into all decisions in order to keep the club going not only now but in the future. Russ was always very concerned about the impact of these decisions not only on the club, but the members feelings also. These were not easy things to do. I have very much enjoyed working with Russ over the past several years. I have found him to be very helpful and open minded in his decision in regards to the members and the future of the WPA. It is rumored that he does have a WPA tattoo over his heart. I will miss not having him on the board and working along side him. I understand his new job and family keep him very busy and Russ is the type of guy who wants to give his all

not only to the WPA, but to his job and family also. I hope to see him involved in other areas of the club. You will be truly missed.

- Ann

Dude!

By Tom Calderwood

Dude! Good on ya! You get to retire and actually enjoy some of the madness that is WWB, Do It, and WPA! It's about freaking time! I mean, how long have you been doing this? How many years? How many times have you been a chair/co-char/event chair? It's HIGH TIME you get to get dirty and just light stuff. Or build stuff. Or just watch stuff! How many times have you just wanted to light off something like a Saturn Missile Battery, if nothing but to tick off Bill McGregor?

Folks, I really hope you understand that in order to fill the position of President, you not only sacrifice any hope of playing at our events but you have to live/breathe them as well many, many months around it. AND worry about finances. AND worry about the legislations, AND worry about every niggly thing that comes your way. Russ has been able to do that, and do it well.

We've been through good times and bad, we've agreed and disagreed, and yet you're a good friend throughout it all. All I can say is thank you, and dude—good job.

- Tom

Secretary's Musings

By Rita Oesterle

Thanks to all of you who have already sent in both your WPA 2008 membership and Winterblast 2008 forms. If you attend, your new card will be in your packet at registration. If you cannot attend, I will send your card out after the event.

DO IT 2007 was good. We started the policy of having every member sign the new Waiver of Liability onsite. This will also be done at Winterblast 2008.

Regarding the clean up fee. If your spouse/partner is going to stay and do the cleanup with the member, then you will need 2 clean up fees (\$20). The mandatory \$10 clean up fee only applies to the member.

I am looking forward to the main fireworks show which will be put on by ACE Fireworks. Everyone who has been to one of their shows says that are very good.

Some on you are calling me about RV parking. Those questions and to reserve a spot onsite at WWB go to Kief.

Some questions are about hotel rooms. The policy now is that you call the hotel yourself and tell them you are registering for the WPA Winterblast convention. The Quality Inn and will be the host hotel as usual. A full list of other hotels is further back in this newsletter.

I hope all of you had a Happy Holiday with at least 1 fireworks show. I hope next year is full of health, happiness and lots of fireworks for each and every one of you.

Rita Oesterle

Secretary

WPA BOD

The Treasurer Speaks

By Ann Huffman

I would like to take this time and wish everyone a Very Happy and Safe Holiday Season. Thank you to all of you who came to Do It and those of you who could not attend but paid monies just to keep the event going. A BIG Thank You to all who worked so hard at the event. I can't even begin to list the names as it appeared to be everyone who attended the event! What a great turn out from the members. You all owe yourselves a big pat on the back. Also to the one member who made up the difference out of their own pocket to give us the numbers and monies we needed to have the event. He is truly an Angel in my book.

It is that time of year again for membership renewal, so please get your memberships in for 2008. Winterblast is just around the corner and the BOD, Convention Staff and their Site Chairs are working very

hard to get ready for it. This year's WWB will be great, so mail your registration in early to get the discount.

In February of 2008 we will be holding elections for WPA Club President and Treasurer. I would like to take this time to announce that I will be running again for the club's treasurer position. I have enjoyed my last couple years as your treasurer and would love to continue to do so. Please, everyone be sure and attend our General Meetings, this is where YOU can voice yourself. Also attend and participant in the Yearly Auction. It's a blast in it's self and you never know what maybe there. Also this year the Trade Show is going to be at Sara Park. What better place can you shop and shoot fireworks at the same time. Bring that Christmas money you get from your Aunt and buy some really cool stuff! Hope to see all of you in 2008 at Winterblast. Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year to all.

Do It 2007

by Pete Wood

First, I want to apologize for not uttering a single word or thank you to all involved in this year's DO IT, since returning from Havasu in October. Despite a late start in forms and paperwork, the revising of manufacturing policies and the uncertainty that these issues might have on the event itself, we pulled it off! Thanks to all who rallied around this event, despite all obstacles, and came together to make this DO IT another great one for the record books.

I don't believe I've heard one complaint, other than a few "I wish I had gone" remarks, and if there were any, they were miniscule in the overall scope of the event. There's always room for improvements and if any of you reading this, have any suggestions on what you might like to see more / less of at future events, please feel free to contact me. I'd love to hear them.

The weather was picture perfect, with Temps starting out in the mid to high 90's and mid 60's at night. As the event progressed, the daytime highs actually dropped to the high 80's. No rain, tornadoes, locust or snow. I attribute the good weather to the fact that Lynden wasn't there this year. ☺

We had a great turnout for the clean-up effort on Sunday and to all that showed up and participated, I want to personally extend my heartfelt thanks for doing so. It made relatively short work of a very tedious task. Let me also thank those of you who turned out on Wednesday to help with the unloading of containers and distribution of materials. It was most appreciated! Of course, no clean up would be complete without it's end of event burnpile. This year we actually had a team that put some thought (a lot of bang) and much work into creating a burnpile for the pyro at heart. Rob F. and Gary L. headed up this project and put all their pent up frustrations into entertaining those of us that stayed (not to mention vaporizing Barney once again). It was a complete success and provided a fitting farewell for all of us to remember.

We had a good turnout in most volunteer positions and the magazine ran smoothly. I think most of you that stored product will agree. While this wasn't the final version of magazine record keeping, I can assure you that Kief is diligently working on creating a simple but acceptable system to comply with our friends in the BATFE.

Armageddon had to be the best I have seen to date. It actually came off according to schedule, lasted for the estimated time and was choreographed like no other before it.

Greg Finke and George Cacilhas worked their butts off for what seemed like the entire event. The end result mirrored the effort put into this production. Great job guys, and if I have anything to

do with it, it's yours for next October. One stipulation though – It's got to outdo this years! Thanks to all that helped them set this display up. It was truly a team effort. I would like to thank Michelle Sykes for her contribution to the Armageddon show, with the opening of Tropical Fish fountains. I know how much work you put into that Michelle and the results were awesome! Michelle is also our resident Fire Dancer and PyroGoddess extraordinaire! Got a pyro question? She'll have an answer or point you in the right direction.

We had a new seminar Chairperson this year. Allen Lillie stepped up (actually was dragged kicking and screaming like a small child) and despite a slow start to his requests for seminars, Allen did a great job. I'm not surprised though, as he has a strong driving force in his court and her name is Colleen. The pair of them have more energy than any other couple I know of and all the time with smiles on their faces. Great people – great job!

Thank you so much.

To our illustrious manufacturing chairperson, Bill Ryan: Get a haircut you hippie! Bill can literally fit 10 pounds of s#@t in a 5 lb. Sack. He had his area staked out and ready to go for those manufacturing. I don't know how he fits them in the space he has to work with. Bill works tirelessly on this position throughout the year – not just a few weeks before each event. He truly loves what he does and it shows. It's great to have you on board my friend. Thank you so much for all you do for the club.

Registration crew – Rita, Ann and Don, you guys just seem to open the registration building, set up and then it all flows like water. Seemed smooth and fluid this year but for whatever reason, I want to thank you all for manning those tables and providing the registrations and packets for all of us. I would also like to take this time and personally extend a big thank you to Don Oesterle for creating, editing and updating all of the forms that the club provides for the website and the mailings, in regards to policies, event registrations, vendor registrations and membership applications. There are many others as well, that Don and his magical software are responsible for. So thank you Don, for all of this you do to help me look like I actually have a clue as far as forms, computers, software etc.. (I don't – that's why I asked Don to bail me out).

Safety and Security Chairs. Greg Dandurand (Safety) (and I remember you telling me you WANTED to be on Staff!) Silly boy! You did a GREAT job Greg and the lines wouldn't have moved as much product as they did without your leadership. Don't know if you even got to light a fuse, but hey! That's why you (didn't) get paid the big bucks! Thanks Greg and hope you'll consider the position again for next year.

Richard Haase – Security – Everything ran smoothly thanks to you Richard and the few instances that you had, you resolved quickly and professionally. It was a pleasure to work with you (and all the others) on this event. If you want the job next year, it's yours. Thanks for all the hours you put in. We all appreciate it.

Fire Chair – Ken Keagy – Doesn't seem to matter if it's raining or snowing in Havasu, we still manage to keep you hopping putting out all of the "planned" pyro fires that pop up.

You bring your own equipment and supplies and then donate countless hours of your time putting out fires instead of putting "up" any fire. Gotta admire your efforts Ken. Thanks so much from all of us.

Afterglows – Maureen Dwinell – Bravo! Extraordinaire! Fantastic! Are just a few of the comments I heard (and uttered myself) for the quality of food we had this year. I don't know if you threatened members or how you did it. I don't care. Just DO IT again next year, PLEASE??? It had to have been the best afterglows that I remember.

Last, but not least, Bill MacGregor, DO IT Co Chair. (aka – fool of the flaming bike of death). Bill has to be one of the most devoted members I know of. Despite back injuries, despite hauling his insides around on the outside, despite being a key player in Burning Man (and then having to rebuild it within hours after some moron torched it prematurely), Bill is the first one on site and he and I are the last to leave. If anyone knows how these events work and what it takes to put them on, it's Bill. My choice of a Co-Chair was the right one and I hope Bill will continue on as he has in the past and continue to heal. He was an essential cog in the wheel of this event and a great help to me, not to mention a close personal friend. I couldn't have done it without you Bill! Thanks for being there. Let's talk about next year (hint, hint).

Ok, I've now created another 3 pages for Tom C. to fit in this newsletter, and I'm sure the price of postage increased as well. I just want to once again thank everyone who participated in this past DO IT for their help and support. If I have missed anyone, I apologize, but I'm old and forgetful. It was all of us who made this event the great one that it was, so everyone, give yourselves a round of applause.

Long live DO IT – Long live the WPA!

Pete Wood
WPA VP 2007
DO IT Chair 2007



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The Future of the PGI

By Aaron Enzer

Reprinted with permission from Aaron Enzer and the PGI

The PGI Board is currently faced with one of the most challenging questions that they have had to face: Do we hold the 2008 Convention in Gillette, Wyoming? The reason that this question is even being asked is because the lowest hotels rates that have been negotiated are higher than we have ever paid. The high hotel costs will cause some members to choose not to attend, and with reduced attendance, it will be difficult for the PGI to avoid suffering a financial loss at our 2008 convention. On the other hand, if we move the convention it will likely be further to the east, which will make some members happy, but will also lead to other members from the western US being very upset.

This question was a topic of discussion while I enjoyed the company of two PGI Board members, John Steinberg and Karl Maerz at the NFA convention last week. John was seeking input on this tough decision, so I offered that he should ask for the input of the members in the form of a questionnaire that could be included with the Bulletin. There is no decision that will make all of the members happy, but at least the Board can get some much needed input from the membership. Please support your Board and understand that they will be making the decision that they feel is in the best interest of the PGI. A questionnaire regarding the Gillette convention is enclosed with this Bulletin. Please complete it and return it to Robin Cleveland, who will tally the results and forward them to the Board for consideration. (*Questionnaire not included in this WPA newsletter. -ed.*)

You will also find both a 2008 membership renewal form and a (new) membership application enclosed with this PGI Bulletin. The renewal form is obviously for you to renew your membership for 2008. I asked the Board to include the membership application so you could give it to someone you know that is not currently a member of the PGI. I am sure that every member reading this knows at least one person that loves fireworks and is not a PGI member. Please find at least one person and have them use this application to join the PGI. Every year I bring at least one new member into the PGI and to the PGI convention and it is always very rewarding to hear about their "first convention." It is like taking a child to a candy store for the first time. There is so much to see and do and so little time as the convention week flies by. (*PGI Membership forms: <http://www.pgi.org> - ed.*)

Both of the above issues are in regard to the near term future of the PGI. However, what about the long term future of the PGI? The PGI is nearing 40 years, but what is the PGI going to be like in 5 years, or 10, and will it even exist 40 years from now?

As I have been talking to many different members of the PGI I have learned that there are many views as to what the PGI was, what the PGI is, and what the PGI should be. The ideas on what the PGI should be vary widely, and although many of these ideas are compatible, some are not. Whatever you feel the PGI should be, it is a wonderful organization to be part of and an organization that is well suited to protect the future of the fireworks hobbyist.

So how do we protect the future of the fireworks hobbyist? Unfortunately, it comes down to politics, which is a game that takes money and votes to win. Money can help us to be heard in the form of lobbying, being able to afford litigation to defend our rights, and advertising campaigns. The votes come from having a large membership base that is able to unite behind a single unified message that gets heard repeatedly by the legislators who can, in the stroke of a pen, save or destroy our hobby.

I recently had a conversation with a PGI member that does not think that the PGI should be taking on the task of trying to speak to representatives, soliciting money for lobbying, or working to convince regulators that the fireworks hobbyist should not be the focus of their scrutiny. I respect this view; however, I feel that the PGI is the best suited organization to be engaged in protecting our fireworks freedoms though this course of action. To what degree we can and will prevail has yet to be determined, but we will never be left wondering what might have happened if we had fought to preserve our hobby, because we will fight to protect it.

I, along with many other members, am very thankful for the many hours that a small group of our fellow PGI members put into this effort. Are they doing the right thing? Only time will tell. No matter what your view is of the current situation, PLEASE support the hard work and nearly endless hours that are being donated to protect our eroding freedoms. Your support is needed in the form of gaining more members within the PGI. And a larger PGI will provide the type of financial support that only a larger organization can, and with financial support we will be able to afford to lobby and get the regulatory protections we need to save the fireworks hobbyist.

It is time for the fireworks community to unite so that future generations will truly know what it is like to see the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, and know that their freedoms are still there.

Thank you for supporting your fellow PGI members.

Tips and Tricks to Improve Your Experiences At WPA Events (or Things I Learned The Hard Way)

By Blue Parish

I was lucky to have my Mom come with me to WinterBlast back in February, but unfortunately she could not attend Do It with me this year. As a result, I found myself racing out the door without eating breakfast, staying out too late, wearing inappropriate footwear, postponing lunch, dropping the F-bomb everywhere and jumping off cliffs whenever my friends started doing it. Being organized and prepared can really help to improve your experience at a WPA event, but I was ditching the day they passed out Common Sense. So I've learned a few things along the way, and I figured if I put them in the Newsletter, my Mom will read them and remind me when I forget them all come February. Look Ma, no hands!

- Start your day with sunscreen! Even if you don't burn, you can try to avoid the farmer tan and raccoon eyes that had the rest of us laughing at you behind your back. Look for sunscreen that is recommended by pediatricians – it tends to be milder and doesn't sting your eyes when you sweat. I really like the Coppertone Waterbabies products
http://www.coppertone.com/products_water.aspx

- Even though there are a million things to do and to get done during the day, do not forget to eat and drink plenty of water. It's easy to get overwhelmed quickly by the climate if you don't stay aware, so try to drink water or sports drinks even before you feel parched. The better you are at keeping hydrated, the more beer you will be able to drink at afterglows (or stay up late writing postcards to your mom, like I do).

- Wear a hat to keep the sun from cooking your brains, and so that you don't have to waste time fixing your hair.

- Even though there are dozens of empty boxes everywhere you look by the end of an event, it can be difficult to track them down on the first day. Toss a few broken-down empties in the car with the rest of your supplies.

- If you are ordering supplies that will be delivered to the event, take the time to get exact change together for each order, and place it into separate envelopes. Jim and Becky will really appreciate it, and it might stop you from accidentally emptying your wallet on Tropical Fish fountains before remembering to pay for your BP order.

- Bring extra batteries for flashlights and cameras. And don't forget backup batteries for your scale!

- Nitrile gloves are better than latex when it comes to protection from hot glue burns. They also seem to hold up better to handling masking and strapping tape. Costco sells them in three sizes.

- If the wind interferes with your scale at your manufacturing site, bring a sturdy, empty box with tall sides and place your scale in the bottom for better measurements.
- A portable camping chair can be more comfortable than sitting on folding chairs during seminars, or while being a Safety on the C line.
- If you have an extra torch, bring it because I will ditz out and forget mine. Every time.
- Spring-loaded shop snips will save your hands if you're doing a lot of cutting. This model can be found at Home Depot for under \$15. Be sure to use a blade instead of scissors/snips if you need to worry about sparks!
<http://www.kk.org/cooltools/archives/001032.php>
- Do you lose your mittens if they are not attached through your sleeves with a string? I have this problem with my safety glasses. Get a sunglasses string/croakie to use for your safety glasses. And why not trick out your hard hat while you're at it? Useful extras include attachable sweatbands and LED headlamps. Or choose one-of-a-kind styles such as the cowboy hat or Willie Nelson Portrait. Try a Google search for endless

(continued next page)

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Things I Learned The Hard Way—continued

By Blue Parish

options, or check out some of these:

http://www.labsafety.com/store/Safety_Supplies/Hard_Hats/Hard_Hat_Accessories/

<http://www.abcsafetyglasses.com/adapters-and-accessories.html>

<http://www.professionalequipment.com/hard-hat-accessories/>

<http://www.tasco-safety.com/hard-hat-head-protection.html>

- Don't choose a WPA event to break in your brand new boots. If you are prone to blisters like I am, get a roll of athletic/sports tape from the drugstore – it seems to stay put better than the actual blister products, and is a lot cheaper. Put a square over any anticipated blister area BEFORE you get the blister. Keep a roll of the tape with you during open shooting, and use it the minute you feel a new blister coming on.
- OK...I hate to say it, but you will be so happy that you wore a fanny pack during open shooting. This fanny pack would of course be filled with several pieces of spare visco, scissors or a knife, and a roll of tape for replacing those fuses that fell out. In the dark. Somewhere. While you're at it, you might as well throw in wire cutters/strippers, some extra e-matches and a roll of athletic tape for your blisters. A bottle of water is great if you can fit it. If you're too cool for a fanny pack, you know you can always find me out there somewhere with extra visco and tape for you. I'll be the one with a fanny pack and Willie Nelson airbrushed on my hardhat (saving up for it now).
- Don't forget that if you spend the whole night at one of the lines, you might miss Michelle Sykes doing fire dancing somewhere closer to the manufacturing area.

Start saving for February now. You can be the hero who rescues the event from patches of Dark Sky by racing back to the C tent and purchasing five more cases of Saturn Missiles.

Hopefully these tips will help you to have the most fun ever at Winterblast next year. I'm sure plenty of you have your own tips and tricks also, so please stop by my manufacturing tent and share them with me! And no matter what you see going on there, promise you won't tell my Mom.


- Blue



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The Long Arm of the Law: Judicial Jurisdiction of Foreign Persons

By Douglas K. Mawhorr

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ABSTRACT

A problem often encountered in fireworks related litigation is obtaining jurisdiction over foreign persons, companies or other entities. This paper will explore the federal court rules, statutory authority and case law authority of an American federal court's ability to obtain and enforce its authority over foreign litigants. In defending individuals and companies in the fireworks industry, it is often necessary to involve foreign manufacturers, wholesalers or brokers in the litigation. In order to bring the foreign entity into the American court system, certain minimum requirements must be shown to the court in order for its authority to be legitimately exercised over the foreign entity.

By reviewing federal court rules, federal statutes and federal case law, one can determine the requirements needed to be shown to a court to allow it to exercise its authority. Federal court rules require that before a court can exercise its judicial authority over a potential foreign litigant, the foreign litigant must be properly served with a summons and copy of the complaint being filed against the foreign litigant. Proof of the service must then be filed with the court. Federal statutory law requires that a litigant's due process rights be protected and maintained by strict compliance to rules for providing notice of the pending lawsuit. Federal case law states that certain minimum contacts by the foreign entity within the court geographical jurisdiction must be shown to exist and that haling the foreign entity into court will not offend notions of fair play.

INTRODUCTION

The United States judicial system requires that if a person is being sued (a "Defendant"), he must have notice of the allegations that are being lodged against him¹. In this way the Defendant will have a fair opportunity to defend against the allegations. U.S. Federal trial courts are separated into numerous "District Courts." There are 94 federal judicial districts, including at least one district in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Three territories of the United States, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, also have Federal District Courts. The United States Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Rules") require that a person who brings a complaint (a "Plaintiff"), to provide notice to the Defendant of the complaint.² If, after notice, the Defendant fails to answer or otherwise defend against the allegations, the Plaintiff may obtain a judgment based upon the Defendant's failure to respond to the allegations.³ This "Default Judgment" carries the same weight and legal effect as if the allegations in the

complaint had been fully litigated and a court had rendered and issued a judgment.⁴

Example: If an American Fireworks Wholesaler is sued because of its importation, sale and distribution of fireworks by a Consumer who alleges they were injured by the fireworks, the Consumer must serve the American Fireworks Wholesaler with a copy of the complaint and a summons. After receiving the complaint and summons the American Fireworks Wholesaler must respond to the complaint and summons within the specified time deadline. If the American Fireworks Wholesaler does not timely respond, the court will enter a judgment for the Consumer and against the American Fireworks Wholesaler. The Judgment will be based upon the default of the American Fireworks Wholesaler to respond to the Consumer's allegations. This Default Judgment carries the same weight, force and effect as if the case had been fully litigated and the rendering a decision with all the facts and arguments presented to it.

Judicial jurisdiction is defined as a court's statutory authority over litigants who appear before it or have been haled to appear before the court⁵. In order for an American Plaintiff to sue a Foreign Litigant, defined (for the purpose of this paper) as a person or entity whose primary residence/office or location is outside the geographical and political boundaries of the United States, the Plaintiff must complete a two step process. The steps are determined by the Rules and court decisions that have interpreted the Rules.

The first step is to obtain service of process upon the Foreign Litigant. This is accomplished by providing or "serving" the Foreign Litigant with a summons and a copy of the complaint ("Service Papers"). The second step is to show the court that it has personal jurisdiction over the Foreign Litigant. This second step is accomplished by satisfying a two part test.

The court must be shown that it can and should exert its authority over the Foreign Litigant. Courts are particularly careful, especially when dealing with a Foreign Litigant, to ensure that the exercise of its authority does not violate notions of fair play. In accomplishing the first part of the personal jurisdiction test, the Plaintiff must show the court that the Foreign Litigant has enough contacts and ties within the court's geographic boundary, such that the Foreign Litigant should not be surprised to be haled into the court. In part two of the personal jurisdiction test, the Plaintiff must show the court that the exercise of its authority comports with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

(Continued next page)

The Long Arm of the Law—continued

By Douglas K. Mawhor

Example: American Fireworks Wholesaler must show that Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer specifically designs, manufactures, sells, exports, and distributes its fireworks within a U.S. Court district. By taking these actions, Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer places its product in the Americans stream of commerce and may have sufficient contacts with the U.S. to allow a U.S. Court to exert its authority over Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer.

Once the court has been satisfied that the Defendant has been properly provided Service Papers and that it can exert its authority over the Defendant, the case can proceed in the normal course of federal litigation.

DISCUSSION

Service of Process: Overview

Service of process, which provides the Defendant with the Service Papers, is for foreign entities controlled by either the Rules⁶, the Articles of the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters⁷ (“Hague Convention”), or the court rules of the country where the foreign litigant is located (“Foreign Rules”). Therefore, a multi-step analysis must be done to determine which method must be followed for the Service of Process to be effective and give the U.S. court personal jurisdiction over the foreign litigant.

Step One

Rule 4(f) requires that notice of the lawsuit be provided so that a litigant can defend themselves against the allegations in the complaint. The Rules state that notice is accomplished by giving a litigant the Service Papers via personal service, certified mail, or third party mail provider at their home, place of business or where they can be normally found. However, the Rules allow for other means of obtaining Service of Process if the Service Papers are to be served in a foreign country on a Foreign Litigant.

The Rules require that a determination be made as to whether or not the country in which the Foreign Litigant resides is a signatory of the Hague Convention.⁸ If the Foreign Litigant’s country of residence is a signatory to the Hague Convention, then the requirements of the Hague Convention will control and provide the procedure that must be used to accomplish Service of Process upon the Foreign Litigant. The following countries are signatories to the Hague Convention: Canada, People’s Republic of China, France, Germany, India—only very recently, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. This is only a partial list.

If the country where the Foreign Litigant resides is not a signatory to the Hague Convention, the Rules require that the Foreign Litigant

be given the Service Papers as required by the Foreign Rules where the litigant resides.⁹ The countries of Australia, Brazil, Burma, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam are not signatories. Additionally, none of the countries on the continent of Africa, continent of South America, the Middle East or Central America are signatories.

Step Two

Once the court has determined that the Service of Process has been properly obtained, the court must then determine if it is appropriate for it to exercise its authority over the Foreign Litigant. This determination is based upon a long line of court cases that have determined that if a Foreign Litigant has enough contacts within the geographical area of the court (“Court District”), it is then appropriate for the court to assume jurisdictional authority over the Foreign Litigant. The court is required to examine the specific facts that demonstrate a Foreign Litigant’s contacts within the Court District.

The Hague Convention

As stated above, notice is provided by serving a Defendant with a summons and copy of the complaint as required by the Rules. However, the Rules allow for other means of serving the notice when the summons and complaint are to be served on a Foreign Litigant. Rule 4(f).

Service of process on Foreign Litigants is controlled by Rule 4(f). In Rule 4(f)(1), courts are authorized to recognize and conform to the Hague Convention.¹⁰ Failure to abide by the requirements of the Hague Convention may cause a court to dismiss an action, when the statute of limitations has run, for failure to obtain service of process and thus jurisdiction over the foreign defendants.¹¹ However, cases should not be dismissed unless and until the Plaintiff has had a reasonable opportunity to comply with the requirements of the Hague Convention.¹²

The Hague Convention was entered into force for the United States on February 10, 1969¹³. The Hague Convention provides an important means of dealing with problems of service in a foreign country. Use of the Hague Convention procedures, when available, is mandatory upon American litigants if documents must be transmitted abroad to effect service¹⁴. Thus, when service is to be effected outside a Court District of the United States, the methods of service appropriate under an applicable treaty shall be employed if available and if the treaty so requires.

The Hague Convention furnishes safeguards against the abridgment of rights of parties through inadequate notice. Article 15¹⁵

(Continued next page)

provides for verification of actual notice or a demonstration that process was served by a method prescribed by the internal laws of the foreign state before a default judgment may be entered. Article 16¹⁶ of the Hague Convention also enables the judge to extend the time for appeal after judgment, if the Defendant shows a lack of adequate notice either to defend or to appeal the judgment, or has clearly shown they have a very good defense to the allegations in the complaint. The Defendant must show the court it has good facts and good law that supports its position in the lawsuit.

The Hague Convention does not specify a time frame within which a foreign country's Central Authority¹⁷ must affect service, but Article 15 does provide that alternate methods may be used if a Central Authority does not respond within six months. Generally, a Central Authority can be expected to respond much more quickly than that limit might permit, but there have been occasions when the signatory state was dilatory or refused to cooperate for substantive reasons. In such cases, a Plaintiff may take advantage of the provisions set forth in Rule (f)(3).

The Hague Convention, for example, authorizes special forms of service in cases of urgency if Hague Convention methods will not permit service within the time required by the circumstances. Other circumstances that might justify the use of additional methods include the refusal of the Central Authority to serve a complaint seeking punitive damages or to enforce the antitrust laws of the United States. In such cases, a U.S. Court may direct a special method of service not explicitly authorized by international agreement, if not prohibited by the agreement. Inasmuch as the United States Constitution requires that reasonable notice be given, an earnest effort should be made to devise a method of communication that is consistent with due process and minimizes offense to foreign law. A court may in some instances specially authorize use of ordinary mail.¹⁸

Procedure Under The Hague Convention

The procedure¹⁹ for use of the Hague Convention requires that an inquiry be made as to whether or not the foreign country in which a Foreign Litigant resides is a signatory to the Hague Convention.²⁰ If the foreign country is a signatory, then the Service Papers must be translated into the official language of the foreign country. Next, the translated Service Papers must be sent to the Central Authority. In addition to the translated Service Papers, the Plaintiff must also send a Proof of Service form to be completed by the Central Authority after Service is made on the Foreign Litigant. The Central Authority will then send an executed and certified Proof of Service to the Plaintiff. Upon receipt of the Proof of Service from the Central Authority, the Plaintiff files it with the U.S. Court.

Upon receipt of a filed Proof of Service the U.S. Court can examine the next step of obtaining personal jurisdiction over the Foreign Litigant. The Plaintiff must show the U.S. Court that it can and should exert its authority over the foreign litigant.

Minimum Contacts

Due process requires that a Foreign Litigant have "certain minimum contacts" within the United States and specifically within the Court District such that the maintenance of the suit does not offend "traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice."²¹ In the case of specific jurisdiction, due process requires that a Foreign Litigant have established its contacts with the Court District by purposefully availing itself of the privilege of conducting business there.²² This "purposeful availment" requirement ensures that a Foreign Litigant will not be haled into a jurisdiction solely as a result of random, fortuitous, or attenuated contacts.²³

In other words, the Foreign Litigant's conduct and connection with the Court District should be such that it should reasonably anticipate being haled into court there.²⁴ This nexus is significant because it provides "a degree of predictability to the legal system that allows potential defendants to structure their primary conduct with some minimum assurance as to where that conduct will and will not render them liable to suit."²⁵

The type of contacts that must be shown a U.S. Court to allow it to exercise its authority over a Foreign Litigant in a specific case are: design of a product, intentional widespread distribution of a product, foreseeable and intended distribution of the product within the United States to U.S. consumers, and that these actions were taken for the benefit of the Foreign Litigant.²⁶ In addition to these contacts, more "Traditional Contacts" will also allow a U.S. Court to have jurisdiction over Foreign Litigants. Traditional Contacts include: ownership of real estate within the Court District, maintenance of an office within the Court District, the registration or incorporation of a business entity within the Court District, and specific acts or conduct²⁷ done within the Court District.

Example: Specific Contacts: Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer enters into an exclusive manufacturing and distribution agreement with American Fireworks Wholesaler. Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer designed a special line of fireworks that it only sold to and shipped to American Fireworks Wholesaler. American Fireworks Wholesaler was the sole seller and distributor of the special line of fireworks within the United States. American Fireworks Wholesaler collaborated with Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer on a U.S. wide advertising campaign for the special line of fireworks. Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer was paid \$100 for every case American Fireworks Wholesaler imported into the United States.

These "contacts" would allow a court to exert its authority over Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer in matters that specifically involved the special line of fireworks or matters related to its business relationship with American Fireworks Wholesaler.

General Contacts: Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer decides to open an office in the United States. It determines that it is less expensive to purchase a small office as opposed to renting office space. In or-

(Continued next page)

der to purchase the office, Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer must register with the Secretary of State where its new office is located.

These types of “contacts” would allow a court to exert its authority over Beijing Fireworks Manufacturer for any matter with the court can hear.

These types of contacts ensure that a Foreign Litigant’s contacts are not random or fortuitous, but rather they are purposeful. If a Foreign Litigant’s contacts within a Court District are the Traditional Contacts then the court can exercise its personal jurisdiction in any type of litigation case involving the Foreign Litigant. If the contacts are not of the Traditional Contacts, then the court’s jurisdiction is limited to only litigation cases that specifically involve the contacts.

Notions of fair play and justice are satisfied by limiting the court’s jurisdiction based upon the degree of contacts. By limiting the court’s jurisdiction based upon a Foreign Litigant’s contact, then a Foreign Litigant can better anticipate when it could or might be haled into an American court based on its conduct and activity.

CONCLUSION

If a Plaintiff has properly served the Service Papers on a Foreign Litigant, provided proof of service to the Court, and shown the Court that the Foreign Litigant has the necessary contacts to the Court District, then the court can exert its authority over the Foreign Litigant. While the idea of serving a summons and complaint on a person is simple, it becomes extremely complicated when such service involves a Foreign Litigant. While it is complicated and can take many months to complete, it is possible. If a Plaintiff can give a court the ability to exert its authority over the Foreign Litigant, the Plaintiff can substantially reduce or eliminate his liability for any alleged damages. Therefore it can be extremely important and beneficial for a Plaintiff to work his way through the convoluted process and get service upon a Foreign Litigant.

REFERENCES

¹ In order for litigants to defend themselves against claims by others they must have notice of the pending claims or lawsuit. *Worthington v. Commodity Credit Corp.* 157 F. Supp. 497, 500 (D.C. NC 1957), rev’d on other grounds 263 F.2d 178 (CA4 NC 1959), cert. den. 359 U.S. 1012 (1959), 3 L. Ed. 2d 1036, 79 S. Ct. 1148.

² See Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 4

³ See Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 55

⁴ See Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 54

⁵ 28 U.S.C. 1330 et al.

⁶ Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)

⁷ 20 United States Treaties 361

⁸ Rule 4(f)(1)

⁹ Rule 4(f)(2)(C)

¹⁰ *Harris v. Browning-Ferris*, 100 FRD 775, 777 (M.D. La. 1984).

¹¹ *Vorhees v. Fisher & Krecke*, 697 F.2d 574, 575 (4th Cir. Md. 1983).

¹² *Vorhees v. Fisher & Krecke* at page 576.

¹³ See 28 U.S.C. § 1696

¹⁴ See *Volkswagenwerk Aktiengesellschaft v. Schlunk*, 486 U.S. 694 (1988), noting that voluntary use of these procedures may be desirable even when service could constitutionally be effected in another manner.

¹⁵ Hague Convention, Article 15:

Where a writ of summons or an equivalent document had to be transmitted abroad for the purpose of service, under the provisions of the present Convention, and the defendant has not appeared, judgment shall not be given until it is established that –

a) the document was served by a method prescribed by the internal law of the State addressed for the service of documents in domestic actions upon persons who are within its territory, or

b) the document was actually delivered to the defendant or to his residence by another method provided for by this Convention and that in either of these cases the service or the delivery was effected in sufficient time to enable the defendant to defend.

¹⁶ When a writ of summons or an equivalent document had to be transmitted abroad for the purpose of service, under the provisions of the present Convention, and a judgment has been entered against a defendant who has not appeared, the judge shall have the power to relieve the defendant from the effects of the expiration of the time for appeal from the judgment if the following conditions are fulfilled –a) the defendant, without any fault on his part, did not have knowledge of the document in sufficient time to defend, or knowledge of the judgment in sufficient time to appeal, and-b) the defendant has disclosed a prima facie defense to the action on the merits.

¹⁷ A Central Authority is the government entity designated by the foreign government to facilitate Service of Process within that foreign country.

¹⁸ *Levin v. Ruby Trading Corp.*, 248 F. Supp. 537 (S.D.N.Y. 1965)

¹⁹ This procedure is found in the Hague Convention at Articles 3, 4, 5, and 6

²⁰ See Status Table of 14: Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters

²¹ *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310, 316, 90 L. Ed. 95, 66 S. Ct. 154 (1945), quoting *Milliken v. Meyer*, 311 U.S. 457, 463, 85 L. Ed. 278, 61 S. Ct. 339 (1940)

²² *Logan Productions, Inc. v. Optibase, Inc.*, 103 F.3d 49, 52 (7th Cir. 1996)

²³ *Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz*, 471 U.S. 462, 475, 85 L. Ed. 2d 528, 105 S. Ct. 2174 (1985), quoting *Keeton v. Hustler Magazine, Inc.*, 465 U.S. 770, 774, 79 L. Ed. 2d 790, 104 S. Ct. 1473 (1984)

²⁴ *Burger King*, 471 U.S. at 474

²⁵ *Hyatt Intern. Corp. v. Coco*, 302 F.3d 707, 716 (7th Cir. 2002), quoting *World-Wide Volkswagen*, 444 U.S. 286, 297, 62 L. Ed. 2d 490, 100 S. Ct. 559 (1980)

²⁶ *Tungate v. Bridgestone Corp.*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23488 (U.S. Dist. 2002)

²⁷ These “acts or conduct” would include driving a motor vehicle involved in an accident, conducting a fireworks display that involved an accident or some other physical act that causes damages within the U.S. Court’s geographical boundary.

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Diary of a Pyromaniac

Do It by the River: October 11-13, 2007

by Ryan Parks

The alarm clock went off at 5:00am and I hit the stop button, rolled over a couple times and finally heaved myself over and out of the bed. I walked out my bedroom door, headed to the kitchen and turned on the coffee pot. Then I flicked on the living room light switch and woke up my buddy Kevin Nakamura, who was sleeping on my couch. "Get up, bro - it's time to DO-IT !!"

After a pot of coffee, a couple showers and some exciting pyro chat, we gathered our clothes and gear and packed up my black PT Cruiser. It was time to head out to the Promised Land - Lake Havasu, AZ - for the WPA's "Do It by the River".

When we arrived, several members were gathered at registration, signing forms, grabbing badges and strapping on temporary wristbands.

So Kevin and I made our way in line to the registration and greeted Rita Oesterle and the other members volunteering there. With smiling faces we signed the waivers, grabbed the badges and wristbands and made our way back to the car.

We pulled into the manufacturing gates at about noon and found out that set up had already been taken care of. My kudo's to all the members that had done so early this year. I think I arrived at the same time last year, and there was still work to be done. So onward we went into the manufacturing area and parked.

Kevin and I shared a manufacturing tent with Clint Lee and Jack Karamanlian, so we parked just alongside them. Clint is also a good friend of mine, and Jack is a guy I am proud to pyro with. They were already there. We got out of the car and greeted them, again

with smiles on our faces. The 95 degree weather struck down on our necks and we got to work taking folding tables and chairs out of the back of my car into and under the tent. A couple bottle of waters as well. Remember folks, when you come to these events, bring your water - the heat can be killer.

We set up our gear and took a brief stroll around the site. We talked to Bill Ryan (head of manufacturing), checked out Kirk and Bob's tent, and found our friends Gregg Finke (Armageddon chair) and George Cacilhas, who were already busy planning out Saturday's Armageddon show.

Oh... may we all take a moment to bless Jim Landis (and Becky) of Flying Phoenix for giving us all the gift of pyro product, 1.3 & 1.4. Without them we wouldn't have much of an event. And for somebody like myself and most of my friends that are members, without them and the WPA, we would not be able to buy and shoot 1.3 product. Which is by far, a highlight of my trip each year.

After a short time of Jim (and I believe someone from the ATF) going through paperwork, we were given the OK to get our purchase lists out and start pulling product. Oddly (and greatly) enough, Clint, Kirk and I were all on the same pallet, which was the first one. We were the first to get our product! Jack and I hopped on the trailer with Jim and devied up the product into three separate stacks. Three nice stacks I might add. Cakes, and shells and stars, oh my!!

After all was separated and cash exchanged, we checked the product into the magazine and used the new paper checkout system, which was simple and flawless (I believe Jim came up with the new program). Last year we were a bit out of sorts and up in the air, this year it went smoothly. Thanks to everybody that made that system work. Once checked in, we checked it out and made our way to manufacturing. DO-IT had begun.

With just a short time to go before the nights festivities were to begin, Kevin and I went to work. We sat at our tables and started to put leaders of visco on four inch shells (we each bought a case). Most of the leaders were about four inches long. Being that Kevin was a new-comer to the event and to 1.3 product in general, I explained to him the process of putting on the leaders and the safety of it, as well that on average most regular visco fires at a rate of 2.5 seconds per inch. If we wanted to hit multiple shells without chaining we need several inches of visco.

After we finished up fusing our shells we went on to consumer 1.4 cake boards.

I believe the past couple years me and my friends have been attending the WPA events, other members have become surprised and at the same time, impressed with our consumer product creations - as if they were foreign to them. But being that most members don't usually deal



with consumer fireworks, and are on a professional level of pyrotechnics, it is understandable. That's the great thing about the events, you will always see something different, and perhaps something you have never seen before.

After the WPA introduction by staff members including Pete Wood and Greg Dandurand (regarding rules, safety, stickymatch and other questions), the eighty something members got in line, strapped on their permanent wristbands, put on their hardhats and glasses, grabbed their torches and made their ways down to Pyro Heaven.



At the C-Line: Kirk, Bob, Kevin, Clint, Jack and myself started burning up the night. Kirk was blowing off 25-shot consumer shell. I lit off a Death on the Nile 500gram cake (one of my favorite consumer cakes from Flying Phoenix, made by Winda). Kevin lit off a board of 200 gram cakes

with names like Fire in the Night (Shogun), Super Duper (Lightning Bolt) and Angel Rising (Winda). The small crowd of members at the line were happy and they started in with their own shooting. Everyone was happy. We were all painting the sky. I lit another 500 gram cake by Winda called Jumping Skier that was impressive with alternating willows and crackling flowers that covered the sky.

After blowing a small load of consumer fireworks, Kevin and I made our way down the trail over to Bill Ryan and the rocket area. There I gave Kevin a three inch Lidu salute on a stick, with a Vulcan motor. After a few years of organized shoots in consumer fireworks, Kevin has some experience, but this was to be his first class b product shot. He walked up to the poles, stuck the rocket in the first row and lit it. Woosshhhh - it flew high in the air at an angle, then backwards a bit - and then BOOM!!! Cheers came about in the area and Kevin walked back towards me with a little skip in his step and a smile the size of a watermelon slice. He had just joined the pyro elite and he knew it. From that moment on Kevin was a proud member of the WPA. "Wait till you hit the shells," I told him. Onto the B-Line we went.

Kirk, Kevin and I hit the B-Line at about 8:30pm with an hour and a half left to paint the sky while Bob stayed back over in the C area to video tape our shells in the air. If you ever plan to shoot

video for yourselves, it's nice way to do it. The view is perfect from the distance between the two areas. Kirk went first and shot off several four inch salutes (the new rules this year are no salutes over four inch, and no salutes at all after 9:00pm). Then I guided Kevin over to the guns and showed him how to properly load the shells "Don't put your head over the tube. If you see smoke coming out, put the shell in a different tube. Make sure your hardhat light is on so you can see." He loaded three of them up, hit them one at a time with his torch and backed away. Up in the air they went. A gold willow, a red ring with crackle and a silver palm. "Wow." It just kept getting better for my friend Kevin. I went up to the line and loaded four shells and hit them all at once, backed up and enjoyed the stars. The sky was clear and the pyro enveloped all of Sara Park. It was beautiful. We took our turns with the other members, exchanged pyro tricks and theories while waiting beyond the blast boards. Eventually 10:00pm rolled around and we all made our way back. Brian (our club driver hauling everybody to and from one area to the next in the Budget rental truck, thanks man) gave us a ride up to the magazine where we deposited what was left of our stash and checked them back into the mag.

From the magazine we headed across the way over to the After-Glow party. A fair amount of people were already gathered around, and with hunger in our bellies and thirst on our tongues we got in line for the evening's chow and grabbed a plate. I thanked Bill McGregor for the beer, Allen & Colleen Lillie for helping with the food. Maureen Dwinell (head of Afterglow) came over our way and made conversation with us for awhile. She could spot Kevin as a "virgin" (her words) right away and asked him how he felt about the club and the night just past. "I loved it", he said. "And hey I'm not a virgin, I consider myself a first year veteran." We all laughed. He would fit right in. We chatted a bit with Pete Wood (VP), Michelle Sykes and several others as the night grew late.

Friday - Oct. 12, 2007

We pulled into Sara Park and right up to the product magazine and grabbed the rest of our stuff including six, eight, and ten inch shells. We check them out and headed to manufacturing. Once there, we set our equipment back up and started at it. We made consumer boards with fine product from Flying Phoenix including 200 gram cakes like Willows (Black Cat), Armageddon (Winda), Endless Quest (Winda) and Golden Beast (Winda). All those cakes are highly recommended for willows, brocade and crown effects.

After several boards were made we strolled over to Kirk and Bob's tent where Kirk was making home-made mines with left over consumer tubes he had. He had purchased the stars from Flying Phoenix, they were yellow and blue. Bob was tying up chains of shells and Bill Ryan was chatting alongside him about the fine weather we were having.

After that we went across the way to Gregg Finke. He was making his own big shells, that looked to be six and eight inchers, with a table spread of goodies and tools. We caught up a bit on pyro news and mutual friends we had.

Once back to our own tent, Kevin and I started putting leaders on

our bigger shells and e-matches on the eights and tens. Jack was putting together quite a display on a plywood board that must have been 4x4 feet. He had numerous consumer cakes on there and it looked monstrous. Clint was out and about touring the manufacturing area.

After Kevin and I had put our leaders on and finished up our consumer boards we stole Bob away from Kirk and his passionate workings and we went back in to town for lunch.



Friday night was awesome.

We hit the C-Line and fired away board after board. Kevin was happy once again as once his boards were lit, the members at

the line and the safety's all gave words of praise. He made some nice little displays. I lit off my willow and brocade board which was a pretty site. Kirk blew off some of the home made mines, which were really impressive. The spread and the height level was amazing. I told myself I would learn to make those the following day. A lot of people were lighting of fountains like Tropical Fish (which is a unusual fountain with neon droplets of fire, best lit when raised high above the ground). Firecracker rolls were being strung up and fired, spinners were flying around, and off in the distance we could see shells from the B-Line tearing up the sky. All the while, crazy screams were coming from the Rocket-Line, numerous red and green tracers flying about it, and salutes popping ears and shaking stomachs everywhere. It was fantastic.

A short time after that we went to the mag and checked out our big shells. Then we trekked them over to the B-Line in Brian's truck. The lines were busier this night, which was to be expected. So we waited patiently for our turn to fire em' up. First we lit the rest of one of our cases of four inch shells. I was hitting them three and four at a time, and Kevin had gotten the hang of it from the previous night, and did the same. We finished them up. I had another half a case but i saved it to donate to Armageddon the next day. The line on the left was going rather slow (there are two lines in the B-area), so we made our way over to the one on the right. There we met up with Greg Dandurand and loaded up our eight inch and ten inch shells way out in the boonies with the e-firing unit. Kevin clicked the switch on a giant color changing kamuro (Lidu) and I hit off a long duration purple brocade with a sunflower center. It was nice. The cheers went up and the "ohhhs and ahhs" were appreciated. Then next we lit off our ten inch shells which were red willows with one thousand horsetails. They were perfection. It was just for a moment, but that moment was bliss. Bob took video of the big boys and we kept in contact via walkie-

talkie. After those shells we started to hit our six inch shells, including a red lantern parachute. I thought Kevin would be amused, and I think he was. Greg D. and I were both a little concerned as the wind was picking up, but once lit it was ok. It traveled quite aways but burned out before it hit the ground. I remember Greg saying "You know bud, you light it - you fight it." referring to any fires that were to be started. Throughout the night there were several very small ones, but nothing to write about. I was impressed with that because last year I remember alot more during the event. A couple times on the other line some guy was lighting rather large ground salutes. Kevin ducked his body behind a blast board for the first one. I think it scared the crap out of him. It was funny, but understandable - those things will rattle your bones when you're only a rocks throw away from them. So we blew our shells of brocades to crossettes (stunning), kamuro's, red and green dahlia's and more till we just didn't have anything left to shoot for the night. Gregg Finke came over to the line and fired a few eight inch shells he had made. I was really impressed with the breaks and the fullness of his creations. There was a shell he made and lit off that was a green and gold glitter, with a crackling gold tail on the way up, that was one of the bet shells I have ever seen shot. It was perfect. Clint and Jack showed up a bit later and fired off some shells. I saw Jack lighting off cases of six inch shells at a time. One after the other. The night was coming to an end and everybody was getting rid of their product for the night. Off in the distance Kirk was trying to light off the girandola's he bought, but to no avail - I think he lit one upside down and the other's just weren't working probably. He donated the rest to Armageddon.

10:00pm rolled around and firing seized. Kevin and I took a ride back to the magazine with the safety staff from the B-Line and Brian, our driver.

Afterglow on Friday night was the best. And many members made it known it was the best Afterglow in the existence of the club. George had fired up several big tri-tip steaks and the lineup for the night was tri-tip sandwiches. It was scrumptious. Veggies, chips and dips were once again present. This time there was two different kinds of beer - light and dark. There was a myriad of pies on the tables; apple, cherry, blueberry, pumpkin and whatever else you would think of. It was outstanding. Thanks to Maureen and George for putting that together, and anybody else involved.

The chow was good and the beer was soothing. We wrapped up



our conversations and made our way home to the hotel.

Saturday - Oct. 13, 2007

When we got into manufacturing we cruised over to Kirk and Bob's tent and remained there for most of the early day. Kevin and I had planned to shoot most of our product by Friday night so that we could enjoy Armageddon to the fullest (last year, I was stuck with a lot of product due to misplanning and buying too much). So as for Saturday, we didn't have much prepping to do and we chose to help out Kirk and Bob with their manufacturing.

I had a goal in mind to learn how to make the home made mines that Kirk had made the previous day. He sat me down with a dozen unused cardboard consumer tubes, a can of black powder and two bags of yellow and blue stars. First he showed me a drilled hole in the bottom of one tube and then he placed a piece of visco in it. Then he poured in a bit of black powder for the lift, then we placed a circular cut out from a paper cupcake holder as a divider, placed a handful of stars on top of the paper divider and then we taped a cupcake holder on top to seal it in.

I borrowed a drill from Bill Ryan and drilled holes in each of the tubes, just tight enough to fit a piece of visco in the bottom of the tubes. We made the fuses about four inches long. Kevin and I worked on the dozen tubes and had them all made within a half hour or so. It was simple and fun. Then we decided to go full bore and tape four at a time onto a small piece of plywood and make little mine-finales.

After the mine making we helped out Kirk with some consumer boards and some shell racks. Kevin loved making the boards. I made a board with some left over cakes I had as well.

After only a couple hours of manufacturing I took Kevin up to the racetrack to see the prep going on for Armageddon. We got up there and the track was full of pyro bliss. There were cakes everywhere. Kenny Chee and Michelle Sykes were working the front line wiring up fountains, wires and e-matches. Michelle was working on a row of Tropical Fish fountains and Kenny was rigging up a line of 200 gram consumer cakes. Gregg Finke was orchestrating his masterpiece and writing everything down on a clipboard and envisioning his display. George Cacilhas was hard at work wiring up the back rows. We could see hundreds of cakes, consumer and professional. The back had some huge brocade cakes set up, the middle lines were full of Thuderkins and Shimmering Gold cakes, and there were shells getting loaded into racks. I chatted with Gregg and introduced him to Kevin, excitement was in the air. Gregg seemed to have everything under control considering a lot of the product was donated at the last minute and he had to figure out what to do with it and where to put it. Michelle yelled out for some help on the front fountain line and I helped put up a pole into position. Kevin made his way around the track amazed at all the product. After I put up the pole, I snapped off several photographs of the layout - front to back and side to side. It looked like it was going to be a great one. Gregg was pretty happy with all the donations that had come in and he thanked us for ours. Just out of our small group alone we had donated eighteen four inch shells (Kevin and myself), a 100 shot blue chrysanthemum

cake (Kirk and Bob) and several cases of six, eight and ten inch shells (from Clint and Jack). Many other members donated generously. Our club is a grateful one and a kind one, I'm honored to be a member.

Kirk and I made our way back to meet up with Bob and Kevin. We arrived about 4:30 and made our way back to their tent in manufacturing. There, we cleaned up a bit and prepared for the night's shooting. We placed some consumer product in the ready boxes at the C-Line and then set up some chairs and a table so we could have a place to sit later and a place for Bob to film.

The sun began to drop and I decided to take Kevin over to the Flying Phoenix product tent where Becky Landis was selling consumer cakes, shells and firecrackers. I bought one of their new Cowboy brand products for 2007 called the All Stars of the Night. It was a nice little 500 gram cake and rather inexpensive. I like to try every product I can get my hands on, and despite the fact

there was over twenty five items in that tent, I had tried every single one except this one. I thanked Becky and we made our way to the C-Line.

A larger crowd stood at the line, more so than the previous two nights, and people were already firing off little cakes, fountains and spinners as we approached. I took a seat where we had placed our chairs and drank from a bottle of water. I watched the other people shoot their stash for awhile and just soaked in the beautiful skyline of Lake Havasu city. There were shells flying off in the B area and rockets soaring in the rocket area and cakes busting right there in front of me.

The smell of pyro was in the air, smoke trailed in and out of the area, members were walking back and forth to the rocket lines and the world just seemed like a better place at that moment. Everything was pleasant. Friends, family and pyro, it doesn't get much better than that.

With my heightened sense of happiness and my euphoric pyro pleasure I looked at my buddies next to me and I thanked them all.

I grabbed the All Stars cake and lit it off. It was a nice cake with beautiful bright colors. I can't quite remember if it was palms or willows, but I do remember I liked it. I was pleased and will probably



buy it again in the future. I grabbed one of the home made mine boards that I had made earlier in the day and took it up to the line. I waited my turn, walked up, bent over, shouted for the people to back up and lit it. "Fire in the hole". I shouted and ran back towards the front of the line. In a few seconds that bad boy went up high in the sky with an amazing thump and a spectacular display of yellow and blue stars. One after another - boom - boom - boom - boom. It was a pretty sight and the people standing around cheered out and several applauded. It is nice to make something of your own and have it turn out right. I smiled and walked back to my chair. Kevin went and lit another. Again, it went off without a hitch. A few more boards were lit, then we took another home made mine board up to the line. I shouted at the people to back up before I lit it, and to my dismay I heard a guy at the line say something like "Will you stop with the backing up shit crap." I lit the board. BOOM !! One of the mines had too much black powder and exploded ground level, stars flying everywhere. The rest went off fine. The crowd ran back, ducked away and some just ran away into oblivion. That's when I turned around and said "I told you to back up." We are all experienced people in this club. If someone tells you to back up or anything similar to that, you should listen. There is a reason for making a statement like that. You never know what's going to happen, especially when the product is self made. Fortunately no fires were

started and no one was hurt.



Kirk and Jack had just strolled back in from the B-Line and the clock was ticking towards the Armageddon show which was to begin at 7:30pm. I was ready to get myself a seat in the grandstands but Kirk had some more stuff to light off and I chose to wait. Last year Armageddon started an hour later than scheduled, so we

figured we might have some time to waste. Kirk fired some cakes and a few mines. All we had left was three racks filled with consumer shells and we marched them up to the line, as everybody started to walk towards the grandstands to watch Armageddon. Kevin, Jack and myself placed the racks on the ground and hit them all at once. Forty seven shells one after the other. It was a nice little going away finale before we hit the seats.

At close to 7:45pm (give or take a few minutes) we made our way up to the grandstands. Before we got halfway I could see the Tropical Fish line of Armageddon has already started. "It started, man." I

yelled. I we all ran towards the racetrack fence. We didn't want to miss any of the show so we ended taking seats on the guard rail just behind the product magazine and just off to the side of the track and where the show was centered.

Hundreds of aerial shells, like prey-finding wolves, howled in the track with echoes bouncing off the guard rails and into the stands. Colors were blissful and blinding like an army of giant rainbows twisted into pyrotechnic branches of an ever-flowing tree. Salutes blew into the sky high and hard and you could hear the car alarms from afar in the parking lot. Cheers from the crowd roared in unison and hands clapped in thunderous applause. Chrysanthemums and peonies, brocades and willows, dahlias and bouquets and all that was glorious just kept firing away. Line by line the choreography of Gregg Finke and his Armageddon show played on, up and out into the sky, painting a wonderful canvas of pyro art.

Shells were fired from the B-Line over the track in synchronicity with the lines inside the track. Three inch, four inch, six inch and then up to eights and tens. All the while a myriad of color changes and different effects scattered Sara Park and all its land. Girandola's flew up in the center like UFO's, salute cakes took the next front, then a dozen 500 gram consumer cakes, then back to the large brocade cakes, that were just breath taking. Gregg's estimation of product was more than 200 cakes, 150 consumer shells and over 80 class B shells.

It was an awesome show. Mr. Finke, you made your fellow members proud.

About twenty minutes after Armageddon had ended we noticed alot of firing from the track. There were quite a few items that must not have been hit during the show. We enjoyed several nice cakes and a few boards and some great shells. The B-line was active again as well as the C-Line and the rocket area. We took it all in, as we knew our pyro vacation was winding down to an end.

When 10:30pm arrived, all firing seized and open shooting at Sara Park was over. Kevin and I once again made our way to the After-glow party and we were pleased to see the giant six foot Blimpie sandwiches spread out on the tables. Jim Landis provided the food and we were all appreciative. It was delicious. Hunger was in the air and all began to feast. Beers and wine flowed, smiles were contagious and hugs were embraced. The event had come to an end and friends were departing with fond memories. Despite the low numbers of attending members, it is my belief that this Do-It was a successful one. Everybody had fun, everybody learned something new and everybody made new friends.

It is an honor to be a member of the WPA. Let us all enjoy our freedom and the rights we have in this country to do what we do. Stand up for your beliefs - because if you don't - no one else will. I commend all of you that take the time and effort to keep this club together. It has become a second family to me and with each year I gain more brothers and sisters.

I thank you all and I hope to see you next year.

- Ryan Parks

Stars Blown Blind

by K.L. and B.J. Kosanke

An earlier draft appeared in American Fireworks News, No. 160, 1995.

Reprinted with permission from K.L. and B.J. Kosanke

When an aerial shell bursts, those stars that fail to burn are often said to be “blind stars”, or more descriptively as having been “blown blind”. This detracts from the beauty of the shell and contributes to debris fallout. The problem can be caused by any of a combination of factors; the most important of which are the degree of violence of the shell burst and the burn characteristics of the stars.

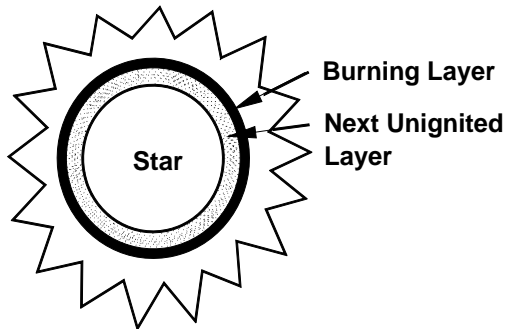


Figure 1. Illustration of a burning fireworks star

In simplest terms, a star will ignite when its surface has been raised to its ignition temperature. The star will continue to burn only so long as the burning surface feeds sufficient energy to the next deeper layer of the star, to raise that unignited composition to its ignition temperature. (See Figure 1.) (For a more complete discussion of pyrotechnic ignition and propagation, see reference 1.)

One way in which thermal energy is fed to the next (unignited) layer is for radiant energy from the flame to be absorbed by the surface of the star and then conducted more deeply into the star. When a burning star is moving through the air, the flame will be deflected down wind. (See Figure 2.) Thus, in this case, the feedback of thermal energy to unignited composition is impeded. Also, the up wind side of the star will be exposed to relatively cold air. This acts to further cool the burning surface.

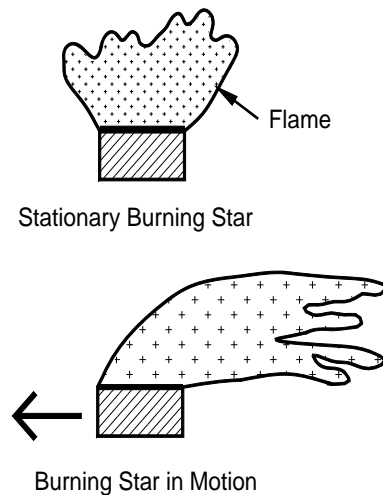


Figure 2. Illustration of the effect of air moving over a burning star

During some recent tests, this effect was captured on film. Figure 3 shows the explosion of an 8-inch aerial shell that had been suspended in a test stand. (The purpose of this test was to determine its time to explosion and the blast pressure produced.) Figure 4 is an enlargement of a portion of Figure 3, showing stars (dark spots) with their flames (light areas) trailing behind.

If the amount of energy being fed back is no longer sufficient to raise the next layer of the star to its ignition temperature, the burning star will be extinguished. Among those factors of importance in determining whether this will happen is the speed of the star through the air. The faster the star is moving, the more its flame trails behind, the less radiant energy is fed back, and the greater the cooling of the star's surface. For a given star size and mass, its initial speed is determined by the violence of the shell burst. Thereafter the star soon slows due to aerodynamic drag forces. Thus, if a star manages to stay ignited during the first brief moments after the shell bursts, it will generally burn completely.

Other important factors determining whether a star will be extinguished upon shell burst depend on the chemical nature of the star. For example, one factor is the amount of heat being produced by

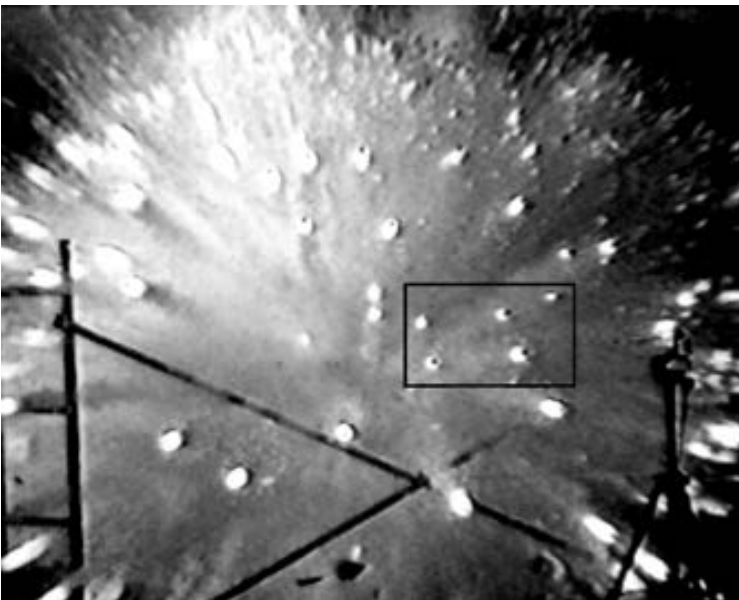
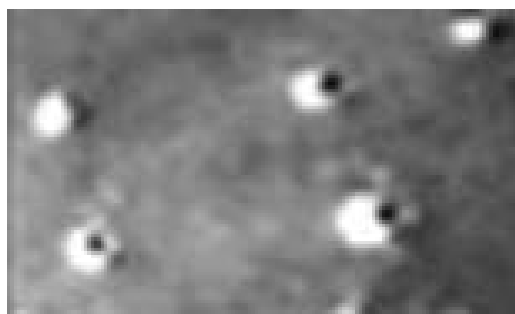


Figure 3. Explosion of a shell in a test stand.

the burning composition; another is the amount of energy needed to raise a composition to its ignition temperature.

Often star priming is only thought of in terms of aiding star ignition. However, it is also an important aid in the continuation of burning during and just after shell burst. (For a more complete discussion of this phenomenon, see reference 2.) When the authors manufactured spherical stars commercially, they learned that the optimal amount of rough meal prime to use was as much as possible without noticeably delaying the visual appearance of the star after the shell burst. Generally this was 10–15% of prime (by weight) for stars larger than 3/8 inch, and 15–25% for stars smaller than 3/8 inch. This was felt to be optimum for two reasons. First, with this amount of prime, perchlorate color stars and even strobe stars would stay ignited even after emerging from hard-breaking shells. Second, rough meal prime (75% potassium nitrate, 15% charcoal, 10% sulfur and +5% dextrin) is the least expensive composition used in making stars. The more of it that could be used without detracting from the star's performance, the less expensive the stars could be made.

Blind stars are often thought of as failing to ignite before the shell bursts. However, as can be seen above, the stars may have ignited, only to be blown blind by the explosion of the shell. Two easy solutions to the problem are to break the shells more softly or to prime the stars more heavily.



Enlargement of Figure 3 showing the flames trailing the burning stars.

References

- 1) K. L. and B. J. Kosanke, "Pyrotechnic Ignition and Propagation: A Review", Journal of Pyrotechnics, Issue 6 (1997). Also appeared in Selected Pyrotechnic Publications of K. L. and B. J. Kosanke, Part 4 (1995 through 1997), Journal of Pyrotechnics, Inc., White-water, CO (1999).
- 2) K. L. and B. J. Kosanke, "Pyrotechnic Primes and Priming", Proc. 4th International Symposium on Fireworks (1998).

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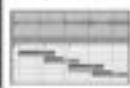
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WPA BOD Minutes August 16, 2007

Call to Order 7:31 pm

Conference Call attendees: Russ Laurie, Tom Calderwood, Rita Oesterle, Pete Wood, and Ann Huffman.

1. Approval of minutes from July 19, 2007 by the BOD.
Motion: Ann Huffman Second: Pete Wood
2. Secretary's report by Rita Oesterle
WPA membership breakdown as of July 19, 2007

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Life Members | 13 |
| Charter Members | 15 |
| Corp. Members | 14 (must also be a regular member so really a double count for these) |
| Regular Members | 546 |
| Spouse Members | 88 |
| Student Members | 34 |
| Total memberships | 710 |
3. Treasurer's report by Ann Huffman

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Bank Balance as of Aug. 16, 2007 | \$47,407.78 |
| Insurance Premium | \$48,323.13 paid |
4. Publications report by Tom Calderwood
Newsletter at printer. Newsletters should be in the mail by the Aug 25 weekend. DO IT registration form will be an insert.
5. A member is to be suspended. He has not made good on WWB 2007 bad check. Another member is being contacted about paying WWB fees.
Letter to be written and sent. Action Tom Calderwood
6. WWB 2008
Richard Cole is going to contact past vendors.
Theme "Light up the Night" approved
Motion: Rita Oesterle; Second: Tom Calderwood
7. DO IT 2007
staff positions

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Chairman | Pete Wood |
| Co-Chairman | Bill McGregor |
| Afterglow | Maureen Dwindell (not a staff position) |
| Registration | Rita Oesterle |
| Co-registration | Don Oesterle |
| Security | Richard Haas |
| Safety | Greg Danderand |
| Communication | Bill Daly |
| Seminar | Steve Wilson (replaced by Alan Lillie) |
| Electrical | Steve Humphrey |
| Manufacturing | Bill Ryan |
| Fire | Ken Keagy |

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Armageddon | none as of this date |
| Black Powder | Craig Kirkland |

New staff members will get new staff shirts same design as used for WWB 2007. Pyro Novelties needs a min. order of 12 shirts.

Action item: Pete Wood

We will need 4 labor ready people for container work. (to be added as a line item in budget)

Artwork for badges

Action item: Tom Calderwood

Black Powder issue discussed. To be continued at next meeting.

8. Chemical Sales at WPA sanctioned events
WPA lawyer, Doug Mawhorr, has been in contact with Pete Wood and Doug has submitted a liability waiver form for the BOD's consideration.
WPA members will not be allowed to acquire chemicals for manufacturing at WPA sanctioned events using the WPA's ATF&E license. Members can use their own ATF&E license for chemical purchases.
Motion: Russ Laurie Second: Pete Wood
Banning the manufacture/possession/use of flash powder at WPA events was approved.
Motion: Russ Laurie Second: Tom Calderwood
No manufactured salutes will be allowed at any WPA event. Only Commercial salutes with the appropriate labels can be used.
Motion: Russ Laurie Second: Tom Calderwood
Rockets can be manufactured at WPA sanctioned events if approved by the manufacturing chair at every event. (flash can be manufactured using binary method for the salutes on the Rocket heads. A maximum gram amount of flash powder (TO BE DETERMINED SOON) for the shell bursts may be mixed in open. NO open flash manufactured except by approved by Manufacturing chair.

THESE RULES WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE BOD AND EXPERIENCED PYROS IN MANUFACTURING. CHANGES MAY BE MADE BEFORE THE DO IT 2007 EVENT. THE FINAL CHEMICAL AND MANUFACTURING RULES WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE, NEWSLETTER AND IN THE DIGEST.

There will be a new liability waiver for all attendees to sign on site at DO IT 2007 Registration.

Adjournment 9:17 pm

Motion: Russ Laurie Second: Pete Wood

Rita Oesterle, Secretary WPA

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#53) 2007 Western Winter Blast XVIII. 3 hours. DVD
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Winter Blast Annual Convention Hotel List for February 14-17, 2008

Compiled by Kief Adler

The following are rates and information submitted by local hotels for the upcoming 2008 convention. Listed in order from Host Hotel to those closest to the Host Hotel:

Quality Inn & Suites (Formerly Ramada and Sunset Inn) HOST HOTEL
271 S. Lake Havasu Avenue
Lake Havasu City, 86403
\$69.00 + tax/night standard room
Add \$10 for room with microwave and refrigerator: suites are \$159
Includes complimentary deluxe continental breakfast
150 rooms available
Rate Code is Winterblast or Western Pyros
(800)528-5169
(928)855-1111
<http://www.choicehotels.com/ires/en-us/html/HotelInfo?hotel=AZ292&promo=gglocal>

London Bridge Resort
1477 Queens Bay
Lake Havasu City, 86403
\$99 + tax/night for 1 bedrooms
\$149 + tax/night for 2 bedrooms
10 1 bedroom suites and 5 2 bedroom suites available
Rate Code: Winterblast WPA
(928)855-0888
(866)330-9231
<http://www.londonbridgeresort.com>

Days Inn
1700 McCulloch Blvd N.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
\$85.00 + tax/night
Includes complimentary continental breakfast
50 rooms available
Rate Code: Western Pyrotechnics
(800)835-2410
(928)855-7841
kgallo@daysinnlakehasasu.com

Hampton Inn
245 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, 86403
\$109 + tax/night Friday and Saturday
\$99 + tax/night Sunday through Thursday
Includes complimentary breakfast buffet
50 rooms available
ask for the pyrotechnics rate
(888)428-2465
(928)855-4071
<http://www.lakehasasucity.hamptoninn.com>

Super 8 Motel
(928)855-8844
\$56 plus tax/night weekdays
\$76 plus tax/night Fri & Sat.
50% deposit required at time of reservation

Island Inn
1300 McCulloch Boulevard N
Lake Havasu City, 86403
\$75 + tax/night
40 rooms
(928)680-0606
(800)243-9955
<http://www.havasumotels.com>

The Nautical Inn
1000 McCulloch Boulevard
Lake Havasu City, 86403
\$89 + tax/night Bay rooms, Cove & Point Suites, and Beach Suites
\$109 + tax/night for Deluxe Suites
Rate or group code #185878
(800)892-2141
(928)855-2141
<http://www.nauticalinn.com>

The following is more of a luxury hotel across the bridge from the London Bridge Resort and across the road from Barley Bros Restaurant and Brewery:

Agave Inn
1420 McCulloch Blvd N
Lake Havasu City, Arizona
11 rooms available
\$149/night
Contact: Megan Hall
928-854-2833
<http://www.agaveinn.com>

Reservations must be made by January 31, 2008. This year, all members will be responsible for their own reservations with the individual hotels. We are NOT using the Tourism Bureau to handle our reservations. Please call and reserve your rooms ASAP to insure the best rates and location. Feel free to use other hotels in the Lake Havasu area if you like, or if the above are sold out. There is a list of area hotels and condos at www.golakehasasu.com. This site also has a good, interactive map to show the locations of the various hotels, if you don't know the area. Plan early, plan ahead, plan to be at Winterblast 19.

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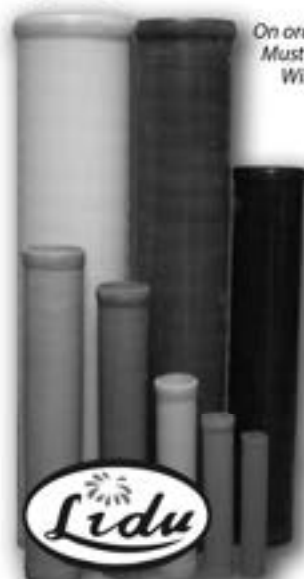


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6 Guns & Rack reg \$21.14

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