



## **The Company**

Fireworks America is one of the largest pyrotechnic entertainment companies in the Western United States. The company was founded in 1994 by a group of licensed pyrotechnicians that wanted to create a working environment unlike any other in the industry. Those same individuals knew what it took to produce a top level show and wanted to provide that skill to clients that demanded higher quality entertainment. Although started by small core group, the company has continuously increased in size as other pyrotechnicians saw the difference and came to Fireworks America, where they have the ability to work at a higher level.

## **The People**

Fireworks America's ownership group is some of the finest pyrotechnicians found in the country. Each member brings a different area of expertise to the company allowing for a diversity of knowledge few, if any, companies have in this industry. Among the group are accountants, fire service personnel, engineers, defense contractors, computer specialists, doctors, civil service managers, fireworks manufacturers and private industry managers. Fireworks America probably has more college degrees than any other company in the industry.

## **The Management**

### **Bob Wozniak, President/Board Member**

Bob brings a world of professional management experience to the Fireworks America team. Beginning in 1987 he served as the lead pyrotechnician at Sea World, San Diego, retiring in 2007. He is licensed as both Basic Commercial Display (Aerial Fireworks) and Theatrical Special Effects (Indoor) Pyrotechnician, having performed hundreds of each type of display. During his career he has been a Senior Systems Engineering Manager at Raytheon, a Systems Engineer for Hughes Aircraft and General Motors and was a Systems Engineer/Analyst for the Department of Defense/Department of the Navy.

### **Kevin Brueckner, Show Design, Corporate Secretary/Board Member**

Beginning in 1983, Kevin Brueckner has designed and performed thousands of displays. Prior to founding Fireworks America, he was General Manager for two other display companies. He is a past President of the Western Pyrotechnic Association and Utah Pyrotechnic Association, as well as the author of several industry publications. He currently serves a dual role, both with Fireworks America and serving the U. S. Marine Corps as the lead Battlefield EFX Technician at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms assisting in the training of troops bound for combat theater.

### **Matthew Biolchino, Southern California, Sales Manager**

As a pyrotechnic operator, Matt has been with Fireworks America since it was founded in 1994. Although his formal education and degree are in Automotive Technology, his love for "all things pyrotechnic" has brought him full time to Fireworks America where he has put his mechanical abilities to work on many special effects projects. His experience and employment as a pyrotechnician and pyro trainer at Disney have been invaluable to him and our company as he now oversees show sales and operations over the greater Los Angeles area.

**Jim Acker, Northern California, Sales Manager**

Jim has been a licensed pyrotechnician for over 25 years and came to us after retiring from a 34-year professional fire service career. He resides in Northern California where he manages our sales and operations for that area. He is rated as a Safety Officer and a certified instructor for the California Fire Service and coordinates much of our training to our operators and the training that we provide to local fire departments. Jim was a founder of Advanced Pyrotechnic Systems, a leading edge design group that manufactures Pyrodigital compatible components and other high tech controls and special effects for the entertainment industry. Jim is one of our go-to guys for Pyrodigital design questions and operations.

**Steve Luhnnow, San Diego, Operations Manager**

Steve runs the heart of the company, making sure the materials get to where they need to be on time and in the best condition. Steve has the experience to make it happen when it comes to designing some new piece of equipment for a show or installing the setup needed to run the show. He is also the primary contact between the company needs and the operators that run our shows for us.

**Britney Cutler, San Diego, Office Manager**

For the last 2 years, Britney has been a vital member of our management team. Thoroughly knowledgeable in show requirements, Britney heads up our team that obtains permits, provides insurance certificates and all areas of show support. She is also a point person for billing questions and our financial staff.

**Henry Strawn, Tracy, Operations Manager**

As a former Scene Shop manager of the Tuacahn Amphitheater, Henry has many years experience in theatrical management, set design and construction while specializing in motion and special effects. He has been able to improve the infrastructure of the Tracy Facility while helping the Tracy team meet the demanding logistical schedule of one of the largest fireworks display companies in the West. Henry is a team player with a can do, get it done now, attitude.

### **Ericka Strawn, Tracy, Office Manager**

With a Bachelor's Degree in Visual Technologies, as well as an Associate's in Business Administration, Ericka has many years' experience in management, dispatch, and logistical production. She is task orientated and attentive to detail. During her studies, she was twice awarded with Student of the Semester in her department. Ericka is positive, productive and persistent.

## **The Board of Directors**

### **Ken Wagoner, Chairman of the Board**

Ken is employed full time as a Fire Service Engineer, designing fire suppression systems for large corporate structures. A licensed pyrotechnician since 1989, Ken has worked on some of the largest displays in the Western United States. Ken is also one of the most knowledgeable in the company as to the intricate workings of the Pyrodigital Firing System (computer firing).

### **Jose Marquez, Board Member**

Jose brings a wealth of knowledge in computers and electrical design. He has designed and implemented the production of the electrical firing systems used at Fireworks America. His analytical mind is quite valuable at the monthly board meetings.

### **Gayle Bates, Board Member/Chief Financial Officer**

A retired Firefighter, EOD Technician and Paramedic, Gayle has both Basic Commercial and Theatrical Licenses. Having worked for a myriad of companies, Gayle brings extensive stage experience to Fireworks America.

### **Matt Denison, Board Member**

A former volunteer firefighter for the City of San Clemente, Matt Denison has been a licensed pyrotechnician since the early 1980's. Matt currently shoots several shows in the Southern California area.