

The Story of WOO

By Andrew Nixon, Christa Harper, and Carol Ewald

I am of the personal belief that the magic of WOO is in everyone waiting to be released. For some it's just below the surface waiting for a special catalyst to help a person discover their power of WOO. Thankfully for most folks this is an easy thing to accomplish with the proper introduction to WOO. There are an unfortunately few that their WOO is buried so deep, that they may never be able to discover the pleasure of WOO. Though I think I have always felt the magic of WOO within me, it was on the night of May 1st, 2004 at Phins to the West that the full power of WOO was released from inside and I was overcome with a feeling that I don't think I had previously realized existed. I wasn't alone in this discovery as there were three others that were blessed with the magic of WOO that evening and they will always hold a special place in my heart...Christa 'The Stalker' Harper, Carol 'MaMa' Ewald, and my WOO brother Mark 'Crime Dog' McGuffin. It's hard to describe the bond among folks that discover the magic of WOO together. My bond with them is one of the strongest I've known.

It all started at Phins to the West. It was the second night of our phlocking. Christa remembers looking around the table wondering why everybody was just sitting there quietly. Then she realized that there wasn't a drink in front of a few people. She decided to mend the situation and buy a couple Coronas and blue things. When she came back to the table, one of the Coronas was politely declined by Janet who, of course, doesn't drink anything but Coors Light. This left two Coronas all for Andrew. After slamming the first one, he started to liven up. He says that the alcohol did not affect his behavior but we'll let the dancing Tiki God decide that. After dancing on chairs and slamming down yet another Corona, out came a WOO! In response to that WOO came another one from a table next to us. Of course Andrew had to match that WOO With another WOO! The WOOing war went on for quite some time with, I believe, Andrew coming out the big winner. As infectious as WOO is, the rest of us at the table started picking it up throughout the night. By the end of the night, the power of WOO was created and it is our duty to spread it to as many people as we can.



The discovery of WOO is different for everyone. For some like the four of us it is instantaneous and once it happened we were WOOing just as easily as taking a breath of air. I have since discovered that the ability to WOO isn't innate and actually has to be learned by some folks. I have come up with a few helpful lessons for those in need.

Lesson 1 (How to WOO): The most important thing to remember when it comes to WOO is that each WOO should be a single syllable...it can be a short WOO! or a long WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!! And multiple WOOS are acceptable, But, as Christa and Carol can attest to, the WooOoOOO stuff isn't cool. You need to start each WOOO! WOOOOO!!! with a "W". I think Christa put it best when describing how to WOO to Jack. Deep breath, reach deep down inside....then let out a WOO!

Lesson 2 (WOO Etiquette): It is generally considered good practice to only emit one WOO! (of any length depending on the situation), then one should wait for at least one responding WOO before emitting another WOO. And one should always respond in kind to a WOO! as to not leave the original WOOer hanging. Though it is acceptable to provide a closing WOO at anytime after the original WOO! There are subtle different intonations in opening WOOS, Closing WOOS, and various other WOOS that will come with experience. Also, it is considered bad manners to step on another person's WOO, they should always be sequential and with practice you will learn to start the subsequent WOO just as the previous WOO has ended.

Lesson 3 (Practicing WOO): There are many WOUnderful ways that WOOSTERS keep the power of WOO flowing around them during the day, using words like WOOTastic, WOOrific, and there's nothing better than introducing WOOS as much as possible during the day in situations where WOO didn't previously exist. Without anything more than simple WOO usage, I have opened up the world of WOO to several colleagues at UCSB. You are limited only by your imagination when it comes to the magic of WOO.

Lesson 4 (Advanced WOO): For those of us who have advanced on our journey of WOO there are other advanced non-verbal, non-written methods of spreading WOO. There are times when you'll find yourself unable to spread WOO in the traditional fashion. There are other options. The first comes in handy if you have a damaged WOOer (see Lesson 5). It is simple sign language. I think most folks can probably figure out how to sign WOO even if they've never had a sign language lesson. The second method is use of telepathic WOO. Two people strong with the magic of WOO have the ability to transmit WOO telepathically. Some without faith may doubt this method's validity, but I have personally sent and received WOO telepathically and can testify to the power of this method. In many ways it's even stronger than the traditional methods of WOO, because it requires such a strong bond between those involved. There is one final method of WOO transmittal and that is unspoken WOO, which cannot be described in words.

Lesson 5 (How to Repair a Broken WOOer): After a night of debauchery, it is possible to strain your WOOer. After Migration, Carol's WOOer was definitely damaged and all she could manage was a whispered, scratchy WOO. Here are a few tips from her, in case you find yourself in the same situation.

1. Don't use it for at least 24 hours. Although it is considered bad form and totally against the Rules of WOO Etiquette not to return a WOO, most will understand. The universal "choke" sign may be an acceptable signal of a broken WOOer.
2. Ice....the ultimate healer for WOOers and headaches.
3. Listerine and throat sprays make you feel like you're doing something although they have no effect whatsoever. There is nothing carried at the pharmacy for WOOS in distress and unless your pharmacist is a Parrothead, he will ask you to leave.
4. Aspirin will help the inflammation and will also provide an added benefit to relieve the possible hangover.
5. Alcohol, of course, has a definite numbing ability except keep in mind that's how you broke it in the first place.
6. Lastly, most insurance plans will not cover a broken WOO.

Christa and Carol proudly displaying their WOO badges that were autographed by Tina Gullickson at Migration



Christa and Carol got a WOUnderful send off on their way to Migration