

Steve Kwiatkowski Civitas Award 2005

Notable among Civitas Award winners for never having owned a house in I'On, Steve rented three homes here over a period of six years, each of which was always a hub of civic and social activity. Steve wielded a martini and small talk with the hidden power of a true master and brought out the best in people. He awakened members of the I'On Community to the hidden profit available in bringing business and the community together, reminding everyone that the real measure of wealth is how happy you make yourself and others.

Steve was a consummate team builder. Under his leadership, I'On Biznet began with the Capitalist Dogs business fair in fall 2003, which brought dogs and business together. Biznet quickly became a powerhouse of innovation and engagement, holding May Melodies (a May music festival), supporting the first Stewcook, founding the I'On Yacht Club, running the Markets on I'On Square for several years, holding the first I'On Bike Races in Spring 2005, I'On Radio (AM Broadcast and Internet Streaming audio), publication of the Weekly events summary "Whats Going I'On, publication of a community directory which generated revenue for community projects, and many, many other projects.

Steve had a particular talent for using technology to enhance civic life, based on his experience in his high tech computer business providing ordering systems for customers, mechanics and service department managers at auto shops and dealership. Steve pushed the use of newer internet technologies, including the community's first use of streaming video, groupware, and distributing community information on paper, online and on broadcast AM radio all at the same time.

Steve's true gift was connecting people in the new community. The last major project in the community he supported was publication of I'On at Ten, Life in the New Village, a photographic chronicle of the community's first ten years, published in Dec. 2007. Steve continues to have many good friends in the community and is always welcomed upon his occasional returns with open arms, and we hope a good apple martini.

From Steve K on Steve K:

Here's a short outline of stuff that I was involved with...Jack can probably add the timelines and probably more details...we lived in I'On from 2002-2008

You can see some of the early websites on <http://archive.org/web/>

- <http://ioncommunity.com>
- <http://ionbiznet.com>
- <http://ionyachtclub.com>

- <http://ionradio1640.com>

In all cases, I was just part of the group/team of friends and neighbors in I'On and most of it was just to have some fun J

www.ioncommunity.com newsletter/website

We first moved into I'On in 2002. In late 2002, early 2003 my first real community involvement was with a group of folks that were producing a monthly newsletter and paper directory for I'On that were looking for some technical help in producing an electronic version...this lead to the development of the first ioncommunity.com website that was then transitioned over to the AtHomeNet platform in 2003...I remained involved with the website group throughout

- I'On Community Directory. This was a project associated with the ioncommunity.com website...formerly a paper sheet directory in 2003 became the I'On Community Directory, professionally produced, and funded in part from advertising monies paid by BizNet members.

I'On Biz Net: 2003 – 2006

In 2003 a few business folks were getting together on a monthly basis and meeting in a boardroom above Grace Salon. I and a number of others decided that there was a lot that could be done for the I'On community by organizing the large number of business entrepreneurs that lived in I'On, so we formed I'On BizNet, I became president, and remained in that role through 2006, so 3 ½ years. The group grew from 6'ish to over 100 during that time period and became the catalyst for a lot of the activities that we created and that I was involved with.... in no particular order:

- Monthly network meetings/socials that moved from the small boardroom, to the 3rd floor of my house to the Creek Club as the membership grew
- I'On Community directory: part of the group that devised the directory, managed the business element of the directory and raised money through advertising
- Welcome Baskets: supported by gifts from I'On BizNet members to all new residents
- What's Going I'On weekly newsletter of events
- Access to the Creek Club for other groups and residents: an initiative organized with other I'On groups
- I'On Flag: project to create the official I'On Flag
- May Melodies, and Business Fairs and Markets throughout the year...including a Dog Show a few years just for fun
- Exchange visits with other communities and foreign exchange visitors through the SC World Trade center

I'On Yacht Club: along with a group of other I'On friends: 2004 forward

- organized sailing and other water-based activities and events in I'On lakes such as Pond Polo, remote control boating, and water polo
- received donated sailboats and kayaks, and organized access to them in the EastLake boathouse
- established reciprocity with the HobCaw Yacht club, and supported I'On

teens racing in Hobcaw sailboat races in the harbor

- participated in the annual Charleston Parade of Boats on behalf of I'On

I'On Radio 1640 AM: along with a group of friends: 2005 forward

- local live and recorded radio programming for the I'On community
- live in the I'On community on 1640AM and streamed over the internet 24 hours a day

I'On Bike race annually: 3rd Saturday in April

- became one of the top regional bike races, and combined with races on Sunday at Hampton Park, the South Carolina annual bike race championship

First Friday Cocktails

- although not an organizer, always showed up J

That's about it in terms of highlights...some other 'stuff' along the way, but those are the main things that come to mind...of course let me know if I can supply any more details for you.

My best,

Steve