

DEVIL'S PRIDE

Blue Devil's Booster Club Newsletter

Winter 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The first camp of the 2012 season was held in Pleasant Hill from Friday, January 13, through Sunday, January 15. For several of us, Friday was spent racing back and forth between the BART stations picking kids up and taking them to the rehearsal site. From the look of the number of kids at Friday's rehearsal, we wouldn't be too surprised if the numbers of people auditioning, call-backs and returning vets far exceeded previous years. The room was filled to capacity - and this was just the horn section.

After breakfast on Saturday everyone packed a sack-lunch to take to practice since Devil's Food re-mained at the Blue Devil Hall for the weekend (we only had one driver available for the weekend: Driver Dan) and he was scheduled to take our ever-popular "Niner Noise" drummers to the 49er game.



Then Dave Gibbs and Pete Emmons welcomed everyone and went over the various expectations from each Blue Devil member, various forms that are required, available scholar-ships and the possibility of an upcoming international trip to Taiwan after finals (the entire Corps could go - they need at least 100 members - and is at no expense. WOW. Depending on when the Corps might travel, there

may or may not be a Booster Club brunch after Finals.).

It was nice to see so many parents who came with their son/daughter to check out just what we were all about (later comments were all extremely positive).

Carol Vargas and Sandy Gist were our head cooks for the weekend and welcomed the cooking and cleaning help by several members of the Booster Club.



The drum line is 100% set at this point in time and by Sunday, they sounded as though they had been performing together for a long time. As always, we can expect to have another great percussion section. We are not quite sure what music we were listening to when checking out the horn line. It was very different and we thought it was very enjoyable listening.



It seems as though the talent level of these young people keeps accelerating. As the acceptance of members had not been accomplished yet, we were listening to an extremely large group of players and it was outstanding. Glad we are not the ones having to make the decisions. We always wish we could keep everyone.

We are not sure if the horn line roster was set by Sunday evening, but we will keep a tab on this and let everyone know. The front ensemble and the color guard will be with us later on.



There were several very talented people trying out for the drum major spots. We very extremely disappointed to learn last year's drum major, Joey Galluzzo, would not be returning. From what we have been told, this year there will be 3 drum majors rather than 4, and all will be new.

Sunday – back and forth to the BART stations again. All in all, we felt the weekend was very successful. We always talk to some of the kids not making the Corps at this time to get their reaction to the weekend. Without exception, each one responded they felt the time had been well spent, they had learned so much, now know what they need to work on and will hopefully be back to try again next year. We certainly hope so.

Sonja Williams



FEBRUARY CAMP

What a beautiful weekend weather wise for the February camp. No one got wet, was wind blown or sun burned. We couldn't ask for more than that. Hopefully our March camps will be close to the same.

During the lunch break at the February camp, much to her surprise, eight members of the brass line and former member Ronnie Hirata serenaded Booster Club member Norma Merrill with a beautiful rendition of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" to celebrate her upcoming birthday. We aren't sure who enjoyed this more - the performers or Norma. Happy Birthday, Norma.

The day ended with the Corps' ensemble rehearsal. If what we heard is to stay as our 2012 show, it is going to be very interesting. As we learn more, we will keep you informed.



BOOSTER BITS

A Day in the Life (a composite of a Booster during camp weekend)....

Ah, January camp...a new year....a new group of kids...a new show!



Saturday - Airport 4 AM to pick up those who didn't arrive Friday night. BART 6 AM to pick up 6 kids in a car that only holds 4 – we manage! BART 6:30 AM to retrieve their luggage. Transport to BD Hall and Devil's Food for breakfast and bag lunch – multiple trips. Devil's Food – greet old friends, prepare food, pack lunches, names on bags, monitor drinks, hugs all around, listen to Dave, Pete and drum majors talk, watch filling out of forms.



Transport kids to DVC for practice (again multiple times) Sadly watch part of our crew leave for the day to go work the 49er playoff game – go Niners. Start dinner prep at the hall as we can't take the truck to DVC since our driver had to drive Niner Noise to the game.

Back and forth to DVC to watch, cheer on, support, and agonize over who's in and who's not (we want them all). Transport kids to Devil's Food for dinner (again multiple). Help with dinner and cleanup. Back to DVC (have we said multiple?). Travel to BART for multiple latecomers. Take pictures. 11PM – transport kids back to homes or hotels as necessary.

Fix up leftovers from dinner or sandwiches and snacks. Celebrate with those who made it. Commiserate with those who didn't. Transport early exits to BART or airport as necessary. Learn sign language for non-English speakers. Try to figure out music and show theme.

1 AM? Lights out? Climb over bodies on floor and collapse into bed while eagerly contemplating doing it all again tomorrow on day 2! Whew!

NEW ARRANGEMENT

The Blue Devils have made an arrangement with the Crown Plaza Hotel to provide a discounted rate for Blue Devils coming in for the camps. When available, the hotel provided some shuttle service for the kids, which was great.

Due to the expense of coming to camp when adding in the airfare, BART fare, hotel, cab fare from BART when needed, many of these young people need help in finding a place to stay for the weekends (and

hopefully for all days). If there is any possibility you can provide housing for a couple of kids for the camps, please get in touch with our 2012 Housing Coordinator Rachel Silva (Rachel@bluedevils.org).



DEVIL'S FOOD

Help is ALWAYS needed during camp weekends. If you can help prepare food, feed the kids, and clean up, come to BD Hall on camp days (usually 7 AM on Saturdays and 8 AM on Sundays for breakfast) Contact Sheryl Miles (smiles9136@comcast.net).



We are Saying goodbye to one of our stove / ovens (the one that's old and malfunctions all the time and drives us crazy) Sorry, you won't be missed. Thank God a new double convection oven will replace it. Hmmm, fewer burners. Adjustments, yay!

DEVIL'S FOOD TIP

Wash your hands always around food and eating. Use hand sanitizer. Sneeze and cough in your shoulder then wash your hands again.

BDA IS AGAIN ...

a truly international corps with participants from many countries outside the U.S. Details upcoming when the corps members are finalized.

Upcoming camps:

March 9, 10, 11

March 30, 31, April 1 - Brass only

April 27, 28, 29

May 25, 26, 27, 28

FROM THE VP (Yvonne Moss)



Thanks to the 49er success this year, and the Packers stumble, the Boosters were able to work 2 playoff games where we grossed over \$30,000 in sales at both games! We get 7-8% of that which we then have to divide with the Vanguard helpers. A substantial sum was raised. Way to go Yvonne and all her helpers! Now if we could get B corps or C corps parents to help we could keep all the money reaped in BD and divvy up amongst our own corps. If you would like to help with games contact Yvonne, (mossyvonne52@gmail.com)



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership letters for the BD Booster club are in the mail. Dues are \$20 for the year and all monies go directly to the A corps kids to help the, assist them, and/or reward them in innumerable ways. Contact Katie Wills at ktwills@yahoo.com for an application

REMINDER

Tickets are now available at bluedevils.org for Family Day (Pleasant Hill), MidCal Champions Showcase (Clovis), DCI West (Stanford), Semifinals and Finals (Indianapolis). Also the

Crab Cioppino Fundraiser for the B corps will be March 24, 2012 at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds. It includes a Silent Auction, Dinner, Music, and Dancing and is sponsored by Blue Devils B. Contact BD Hall (Debbie) (925)689-2918 ext. 0

RULES CHANGE

New judging system passes unanimously (from DCI.org)

It's been three decades since there's been such a seismic shift in how DCI drum corps are judged. This coming June, the ensembles taking the field at the start of the new Drum Corps International season will be competing under an entirely new adjudication system. The proposed system passed by a unanimous vote at the DCI Annual Meetings & Conference Weekend Saturday, Jan. 21, in Rosemont, Ill.

Spearheaded by DCI Artistic Director Michael J. Cesario, "This new system simplifies the judging sheets so that they are more easily understood by the drum corps community, It's open to evolve as drum corps explore new developments, including things we may not be able to imagine yet. The rewarding of achievement is the absolute most important element of the new judging sheets. Performance quality is stressed more than ever."

Soon, seminars will be held with required attendance for every one of DCI's judges in order to train them on how to use the new system, which will be premiered at the first DCI Tour event on June 16 in Akron, Ohio.



MALAYSIA

Pete reports that the Malaysia trip was fantastic. 23 members participated and did both clinics and performances. They taught musicians from Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and the Philippines. They were well received and the corps working with the kids was the best part as they all put their best foot forward as teachers and represented the Blue Devils very well. They did 3 days of clinic but also got to visit, among other things, a mosque where they got a taste of the Muslim world and learned again that there are great people everywhere.



FROM GAIL SCHULTZ ...

The Annual Donor Sneak Peak is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th at 11AM. The event will include the introduction of the A and B Corps 2012 shows, a short concert and lunch with the A Corps. Donors of \$100.00 and above are invited. They may bring 2 guests. Invitations will be mailed in mid April.

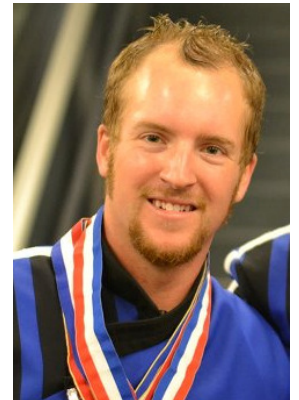


In memory of the acclaimed Dr. W. Francis McBeth, **Charles and Susie Kendrick** (see photo) are pleased to present a full scholarship in his name. His motto was simple. *"Find one thing in your heart that you really love, and do that one thing really well."* The recipient of this memorial award possesses the same qualities as Dr. McBeth—he leads by example, maintains a joyful attitude – a bit of a humorist by nature, strives for continued musical excellence and possesses the heart of a teacher.

The recipient of the Dr. W. Francis McBeth Memorial Scholarship is **Perry Reid**. Perry has been a member of the Blue Devils A corps since 2010 and member of a marching ensemble for nine consecutive years. Beyond the corps, he currently studies trumpet performance at Butler University and teaches at Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis. Perry's personal qualities embody that of the true Blue Devil. He is positive, professional, adventurous, helpful and inspirational. Perry's quest for excellence in the marching arena pervades all other aspects of his life. The Blue Devils are proud to be able to offer this award and look forward to Perry's contributions during the 2012 season. **Congratulations, Perry Reid !**

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Booster Meetings

Meetings – 7 PM the first Tuesday of every month at the IHOP in Martinez – Come join us!

OFFICERS:

- Sonja Williams** - President
- Tom Wills** - Secretary & Sunshine
- Katie Wills** - Membership
- Yvonne Moss** - Vice President
- Kaffy Cecil** - Treasurer

Newsletter coordinator/writer : Tom Wills

Newsletter format editor :

Hans Kloppert - The Netherlands

