

# BLUE DEVILS "DEVIL'S PRIDE"

Booster Club

February 2008

## **FEBRUARY CAMP:**

Since everyone almost froze to death at the January camp, we were extremely grateful for the pleasant weather in February as a great deal of the weekend was spent on drill rehearsal. We had approximately 100 members in attendance at this camp and look forward to when the guard finishes with their Winter Guard commitments and joins the rest of the Corps. Quite a bit of work was done on the opener ("Dream Catcher") and the ballad ("I Will Wait For You"). The Corps members seem to be pretty excited about the music and we have been blown away by how good they are sounding so early in the season.

Early make-up of the Corps:	Baris/Euphs: 28	Mellophones: 11	Tubas: 12	Trumpets: 26
	Bass: 5	Pit: 11	Snares: 9	Tenors: 5
	Guard: 40	Drum Majors: 3	TOTAL: 150!!	

The percussion line will be using Pro-Mark drumsticks, mallets and percussion accessories this year as the Blue Devils and Pro-Mark have joined forces as BD concluded Pro-Mark would be the best match in terms of product quality, production, capability and personnel. Dave Gibbs said, "The Blue Devils have a system of education and performance excellence that will now be available in collaboration with Pro-Mark. This relationship will be the first of its kind and Pro-Mark is uniquely equipped to partner with our organization. The Blue Devils and Pro-Mark plan on sharing our combined 100 years of experience and system of excellence in a new and exciting series of products." More information on this move can be found on the BD web site or at [www.promark.com](http://www.promark.com). Lots of interesting discussion on the BD forum on the subject.

We were able to watch some of the drill rehearsal but could not really figure out what the final objective is going to be. Between the poem the show is to be based on and some of the drill sequences, our curiosity is definitely high. Since the members are so up on what they are learning, we know it is going to be an interesting year and can't wait to see how the show comes together. We got caught up with early runs to the BART train Sunday evening and were not able to hear the Sunday evening ensemble. However, we were told it was extremely well done for a second camp.

Again we thank everyone who helped out with transportation to and from practice and to the BART station after practice. This is one less thing these kids have to worry about and they are extremely appreciative. Thanks also for all those helping out with Devil's Food chores. We have been told that we will most likely have our refrigeration unit operational by the April camp. Hope abounds!!

Our next camps are scheduled for March 7-9 and March 28-30. Devil's Food will be parked behind the BD Hall in Concord. If you can help out, we would love to see you.

**FAST ACTION REQUIRED:** The "B" Corps will be holding its fabulous Crab Cioppino fundraiser on Saturday, March 29 at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds in Antioch. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 and dancing from 8:00 to 11:00. If you have attended this event before, you know how much fun is waiting for you. Since the dinner sells out fast, call (925) 625-2132 (Frank Milina), 625-0594 (Nancy Branson) or the BD Hall to make your reservation as soon as possible. No tickets will be sold at the door.

**2008 "COUNTDOWN":** The "Countdown" will be in theaters across the U. S. on April 24 and will feature six full-length corps performances from among the 36 world Championship finalists of 2005, 2006 and 2007. On-line voting will start Wednesday, February 27. As in the past, no corps will appear more than once. This is going to be a little different this year in that fans will be able to try judging and scoring the various corps to select the "2008 Countdown Champion." Using a downloadable score sheet, fans will be able to enter the local participating theater and keep track of their ranking and rating of the performances. Afterwards fans can visit the DCI site to enter their scores. Additionally, fans will be able to get an exclusive preview feature of several DCI World Class units and a countdown to the start of the 2008 Summer Tour. Results will be announced on Wednesday, March 26 with tickets going on sale through FantomEvents.com on Friday, March 28. According to DCI: "During the weekend following the cinema event, the final tallies of the fan judging results will be announced in a special free DCI.org broadcast sponsored by the DCI Fan Network." More information will be available from DCI in the future. Check out the DCI.org site and VOTE.

**FAMILY DAY/"PRECISION WEST":** We were informed Family Day and "Precision West" on Saturday, June 21 may be a combined event this year with our "picture day" early in the morning. At the present time we have no information on how the day is actually planned since the show will be "Precision West" and not the regular "Family Day" free admission show normally held for the families of the Blue Devils and the community and consisting of performances of the three BD corps. More information to come as we find out the information. At this time, we are not definitely sure as to where "Precision West" will be held as DVC is contemplating resurfacing of the field.

### **A BIT OF HERE AND THERE:**

**BDEntertainment:** Because of BDE's continued relationship with the NBA, NFL, e2K Entertaining and the SF 49ers, BDE was selected to be a headliner group at the 2008 Pro Bowl. Eight talented percussionists were selected from a cast of over 500 members of BDE to make the trip to Hawaii where they were very busy with quite a number of performances at various events and the game.

A few events featuring members of BDEntertainment have included 16 drummers and 12 flags joining other New York performers in forming a "mini-parade" and sidewalk drum lick in connection with the celebration of DIRECTV opening the NASDAQ earlier in the day in December. In November there was the opening of the local Arts Center in San Ramon, CA where they shared the stage with San Francisco's famous Beach Blanket Babylon. BDE also welcomed the Utah Jazz as its latest NBA partnership, so look for the "Jazz Beat" performing at the home games in Salt Lake City. BDE has also partnered up with the Sacramento Kings and the Golden State Warriors. Our drummers also delighted spectators at the season opener at Stanford last September.

The **Seattle Cascades** will stay in the Northwest for the year fielding an exhibition unit and will not be competing in the national DCI summer tour -- their focus being to provide regionally focused drum corps experience for returning and new members. The corps has experienced some serious financial problems in the past have been able to eliminate some of these. By taking the year off, it is felt this would help to eliminate the debt problem and provide a chance to update much of their equipment. We wish the Cascades the best of luck and look forward to seeing them in competition in 2009.

The **Glassmen** have announced a return to the concert stage for a performance with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, April 12 to commemorate the Toledo Symphony's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**DON'T FORGET:**

Call the Blue Devil Hall for tickets to the Stanford and DCI Semi and Finals shows. Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The small block of rooms at the Omni Hotel is also going pretty fast. We are still working on the possibility of a brunch in Indianapolis the morning after Finals. We will try to get information to you as soon as possible in case you will be going to Indiana and would like to attend. Family members, friends and fans are always welcome to join us at the brunch. **FYI:** The Corps is scheduled to stay at the Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis.

**ANY INTEREST IN WORKING OR JOINING A GROUP?**

--**En Garde** (Southern California) was recently advertising for someone to help out with their color guard. For more information contact Sam Signorelli at [homfencing@hotmail.com](mailto:homfencing@hotmail.com). En Garde is designed to serve those who cannot afford the time or financial commitment of regular corps. This is a great opportunity for anyone of just about any age to be able to participate in a musical outlet. Did you know there are 6 junior corps alone within a 50 mile radius of the Los Angeles area either operating or in the start-up phase plus 3 senior corps (SoCal Dream, En Garde and Kingsmen)?

--A search for an Executive Director is currently underway by the Las Vegas Marching Arts for "**Silverado**" who hopes to be fielding a competitive corps in the summer of 2010. This is a young start-up organization looking for someone with experience, history of staff management and strong desire to bring a competitive corps to the metro Las Vegas area for the first time in history. The Director would also hold creative and managerial control of the program. If you or anyone you know might be interested in pursuing this position, please call Randy at (928) 767-4895.

--The **Bluecoats** are seeking applicants for the newly created part-time position of Promotions Coordinator.

--Coming - "**Odyssey**," a new, future performance troupe comprised of 24 brass, 10 percussion and 8 dance/prop specialists. This will be an all-female troupe. Michael Boo reports they are billed as a "poetic journey of music and motion through city streets, on a train, the ocean and the sky." The production will start rehearsals in California in September and will premier in major cities in Japan during December and are scheduled to return again in 2010. At this time they have a current schedule of 47 performances in the US. Staff members include Ray Linkous, Scott Chandler, Wayne Downey, Karl Lowe, David Glyde and Jim Wunderlich (recognize any of these names???). Members are being sought "who are not shy about expressing themselves and have no problem asserting their power and authority as performers." If you know of anyone who might be interested in auditioning for this group, check out Odyssey's Web site: [BrassOdyssey.com](http://BrassOdyssey.com).

**Membership:** We are very pleased with the renewal responses we have received, but we have not heard from everyone. You don't have to be "local" to be a very important member of our Booster Club. We value and appreciate your continued support. Membership is \$20 per family per year. Just a reminder: Katie Wills' address is 1036 Bermuda – Concord, CA 94518.

**OUR NEXT MEETING:**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2008**  
**I-HOPE Restaurant – Martinez, CA**  
**7:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

**2007 Officers**

Mary Cloyd  
Yvonne Moss  
Sonja Williams  
Treasurer  
Katie Wills  
Penny Ross/Norma Merrill

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Pat Worley  
Membership  
Sunshine

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