

BLUE DEVILS

"DEVIL'S PRIDE"

Booster Club Newsletter

September 2008



COMING SOON - 2008 "A" CORPS AWARDS BANQUET:

Why: To honor the fantastic 2008 Blue Devils "A" Corps

When: Saturday, November 29, 2008

Where: Marriott Hotel – Walnut Creek, CA

Cost: \$40/person

Information: (e-mail) williamssonjab@hotmail.com

(indicate Blue Devils in subject line)

or call Sonja Williams (925) 934-9500 day #,
458-2965 evening #, Cell: (925) 683-1598

RSVP: Reservations need to be made prior to Friday,
November 21

Checks may be made payable to Blue Devils and sent to Sonja Williams- P. O. Box 4184 – Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Reminders will be in future newsletters, of course.

PHOTOS OF DCI CHAMPIONSHIPS WEEK

Pretty much all photos in this month's newsletter were taken during DCI Championships week in Indianapolis/Bloomington by one of our volunteer cooks on Devils Food this summer, **Hans Kloppert**, who also edits your monthly Devil's Pride Newsletter.

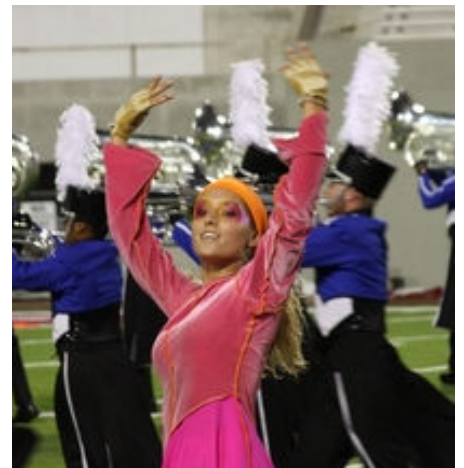
WHAT A WEEK FOR RICK ODELLO !

Not only being inducted into the 2008 DCI Hall of Fame and Director of one of the very best Open Class Corps during the

2008 Championships, our own Rick Odello received the 2008 Open Class Director of the Year award. This award is determined by all Open Class directors and is voted on just prior to the start of Finals Week.



We agree with the statement that was made by David Eddleman: "Rick is one of the most honorable guys in our business, and he's always available and willing to lend a helping hand. If you need something, you can count on Rick."



BLUE DEVILS TO BE HONORED BY CONCORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Blue Devils and its founders will be honored at the Concord Historical Society's third annual Black and White Gala to be held November 21 at the Concord Hilton. Many historical items, pictures and plaques noting the Blue Devils' place in the city's history will be featured in the new museum.



Anyone interested in more information may contact Linda Chambers at (925) 682-8720 or e-mail to lindacham@juno.com.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2009

WINTER GUARDS:

Auditions for the Open Guard (college & high school age) will be held on Sunday, October 12. Rehearsals for the "A" Guard (8 years though 8th grade) will begin Tuesday, October 7.

Further information may be obtained on the BD site (bluedevils.org) or by calling Annette Odello at (925) 229-3015 or (925) 689-2918 Ext. 3116.



DO WE HAVE TALENTED STAFF MEMBERS OR WHAT???

(Information taken from the Sibelius e-Newsletter)

In 1998 our own David Glyde was hired to coordinate and design the music for the Opening Ceremonies at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, which featured a 2,000 member marching band with performers from more than 25 countries.

David was also asked to repeat this musical role for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing as a member of the Artistic Team for the 2008 Olympic Orchestra. In addition to all the Olympic duties, David has for several years served as one of our talented percussion instructors.

Before joining the instructional staff, David was a member in the Blue Devils percussion line. **Yep, we're pretty proud of David.**

SOME CORPS CHANGES

After 3 years of leading the Santa Clara Vanguard, Jeff

Pearson will be stepping down as Program Manager and Corps Director. During his tenure at SCV, the winter guards and corps have won many honors, including the 2008 DCI Open Class Championship in Indiana.

As Program Manager, Jeff fostered the growth of the Vanguard Performing Arts programs as well as the inception of junior and adult dance companies. No replacement has been announced as yet. In the interim, Jeff Fiedler and Kathy Serksnis will be handling the operational duties for SCV.

Joining Brent Montgomery and Seth Adams as part of the Blue Stars' percussion section is Tom Aungst. From 1989 through 2008, Tom was the Director of Percussion and Arranger for the Cadets.

After two years as the Percussion Caption Head for the Crossmen, Roland Chavez has decided to pursue other interests in addition to continuing as Director of Percussion for the Ronald Reagan High School.

This is all we know of at this point in time. We have not been informed of any major staff changes in the Blue Devils.

SOME MEMBER THOUGHTS WHILE ON TOUR

Over the last few days this Corps has overcome many obstacles.





There have been people sick (*one of them being me*), heat like no other, sore bodies, and much, much more. But through it all we have pushed ourselves and look beyond the bad side and focused on the good side. We have all pulled together and have really made our show come to life.

Today I would have to say we have experienced some of the worst heat so far this tour. But believe me, it didn't stop us. Our run through was one of our best performances of the show to date.

We did our 12 minute show in horrible heat and a turf field that you could literally see the heat rise off of, but we won the fight. This summer has been the best summer of my life. The people are awesome and there is no other staff like ours in the world.

On the mornings where you wake up and say, "I don't think I'm going to make it," you get to the field and the staff just brings you to life. They really know how



to motivate. We have all become stronger people and a stronger group. We've all become close friends and we are taking the world on together one day at a time.

During the summer all of my friends make fun of me because they get to sleep in and go to the

beach whenever they want. They eat fast food everyday and play video games.

I just tell them that my vision of the perfect summer is on a gym floor and getting to perform a great show with 149 of my best friends in front of thousands and thousands of people. ***I am a Blue Devil - that's what I do.***
- Michael McGee



Yesterday was a day that personally I know I will never forget. It was a day on tour, two blocks and a show -- that does not seem like an unusual day from the eyes of an outsider, but for me, it was one of the most difficult days of my life, as well as one of the most rewarding days of my life.



Due to unforeseen circumstances, we had 7 holes in the hornline, including 3 in The Line (*tubas*) and our mello soloist. The situation was not a pleasant one, and every single form during rehearsal looked awkward and barren.

But we stepped up as a section; we still were the Blue Devils Hornline. Calvin stepped up to play the mellophone solo after merely moments notice, The Line pulled together and had an amazing show. We even were able to take top honors in Brass

Performance (*by 0.2*) when we had lost that caption the night before.



When the show was finished, the entire Corps knew we had just had the best run of the show to date. I had not felt that kind of vibe of a fun energetic show to that extent since Pasadena last August.

Days like yesterday, when looking back at them afterwards, are the days I will remember. I cannot really describe my feelings last night in words, but I felt like I could take on the world and win... and I felt like I did just that.

Lots of hard work still to do, but it does feel amazing to be rewarded for your hard work already done! In so many activities in life, like work, school, etc., you can work really hard all the time and not see or feel any special results or emotions for it - life just continues.



But in this world, in this activity, you get such great feelings and such a great sense of accomplishment as the fruits of your labors become more and more apparent - plus you get to share those emotions with 147 others members ... which is what I will sincerely miss when I age out.



Mars: When I am at Mars and I see the board with "A Don Ellis Portrait" painted on it, all of the trailers with the B square on them, etc., I am struck with the realization of how many amazing shows were created on this field, how many rings were won with sweat and dust on this field in the past many years.



I feel like a little kid again, sitting in the center of the BD horn arc for the first time, just in awe for a moment that I have been given the opportunity to be a Blue Devil - let alone 2 times. - **Dillon Miller**



We feel these comments express the goal of what Former Director Jerry Seawright envisioned when he

took over the Blue Devils... Jerry would have been proud knowing his hard work and dedication have produced an outstanding number of wonderful and productive young adults.



• **I&E Champions**



• **Absurdity or Absurburdee ?**



• **Audio recording with Frank Dorritie**



• **Pete Emmons & Devils Food Crew**

OUR NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008
I-HOP Restaurant - Martinez, CA
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

OFFICERS:

Mary Cloyd
President

Sonja Williams
Secretary

Katie Wills
Membership

Yvonne Moss
Vice President

Pat Worley
Treasurer

Penny Ross/Norma Merrill
Sunshine

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