

# BLUE DEVILS

## “DEVIL’S PRIDE”

Booster Club Newsletter

December 2008

### WHAT A WAY TO END THE SEASON

The 2008 Awards Banquet was once again held at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek, CA. We were pleasantly surprised at the number of people attending (*approximately 190*) due to the cost of airfares and the economy.

After spending so much time and energy doing all the things necessary to put on an event such as this, we were able to stand back and feel it turned out right.



**Booster Club President Mary Cloyd**

The Corps members all looked so elegant (*we normally see them in practice and casual clothes*).

They do clean up well! As has been our tradition, as each member went through the reception line (*thank you Charlotte Hollenbeck, Maryanne Lynn, Yvonne Moss and Kaffy Cecil*), the gentlemen were given a white carnation boutonniere and the ladies a white rose bouquet. The flowers also came with a big hug from Booster Club member Norma Merrill.

As everyone walked into the ballroom, they were greeted by the sight of a room virtually alive with colors. The hotel made sure we had the Christmas decorations.

The tables were decorated with blue vases with white and brilliant pink (*our 2008 color*) flowers on mirrored bases, miniature candies with a picture

of our “Mr. Risky” and multi-colored balloons secured by beautiful blue velvet holders. Thanks to Ronni Collmer, we once again were able to have our four uniformed silhouettes displayed on the walls at the front of the ballroom.

Most of the evening’s announcements were done by members of the Corps, and it was so much fun watching these young people showing their hilarious sense of humor. Listening to some of the comments, we noticed some people actually holding their sides while laughing.



**Ben Henderson**

**Ben Henderson** introduced himself as “the kid allergic to everything” and paid a special thank you to members of Devil’s Food for taking special care to see there were no problems with his meals over the past years.

It was wonderful seeing **Joe Ricard** and his parents at the banquet. We have mentioned

Joe’s hospitalization in earlier newsletters and it was great having him there.



**Pete Emmons**

Pete Emmons said a special thank you to Mike Wright for his quick actions in helping Joe. It was probably the most touching portion of the evening.

Throughout the evening clips from the new “Inside the Blue Devils” DVD were shown. Once again, **John Christensen** and his crew did an absolutely fabulous job with the DVD.

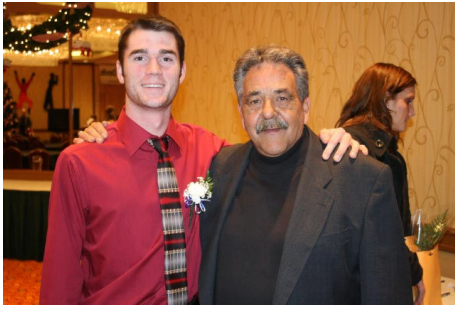
For anyone not personally involved during the year, it gave a very good idea of happenings and feelings. For those who were fortunate to be a part of the 2008 Blue Devils season, it brought back so many wonderful memories.

As in the past, being able to view the DVD on two big screen televisions proved to be the major highlight of the evening. Listening and watching the kids’ reactions to past events was wonderful and made us wish we could have been with them every minute of the tour.

It’s impossible to say thank you enough to Jim Serena for obtaining and setting up the televisions. We often mention that before Jim we all tried to view the tapes (*we didn’t know about DVDs back then*) on one 27” television.

Each year we are so appreciative to Andersons Big Screen Television of Concord for their continued generosity in providing

these televisions for our use at the banquets.



## **Eric Ebert & Pete Emmons**

Your Booster Club was once again able to help present the yearbook to the marching members of the 2008 Corps as a thank you gift for their efforts during the year.

Getting the yearbook completed for final distribution at the banquet is a very hectic and time-consuming job and we are so grateful for all the effort put forth by **Debbie Odello, Gail Schultz** and **Pete Emmons** for making sure it was available for the members.

The various awards for the Brass, Percussion, Color Guard and Marching sections plus the Hall of Fame awards were distributed to the honored members. Jeff DeMello served as our official photographer and took pictures of each member receiving their award from their sponsor and staff member.

The "Most Inspirational" award went to **Joe Ricard**.

Drum Major **Brian Howard** received a "Most Valuable" award for his total dedication to the Corps and for an outstanding job as drum major.

Receiving the "Director's Award" for outstanding participation and dedication was four-year brass vet **Matt Petterson**. Matt also received the "MVP-Marching" award as well.

Receiving the highly coveted "Blue Devil of the Year" award was five-year percussion vet **Kris Wills**. The award is sponsored by Dynasty and comes with a monetary scholarship award. Kris also received the "MVP-Percussion" award. These young

men have been absolute joys to have in the Corps and personify everything the Blue Devil organization strives for as its goal! The awards were well deserved.

Our one-year age-outs received a black framed engraved silver faceplate on a blue velvet background.

As has been the tradition of the Blue Devils for many years, our multi-year age-outs received a framed "age-out" plaque which consisted of a black framed silver war eagle with silver shako buttons on either side anchoring a silver chain and an engraved silver faceplate on a background of blue velvet.

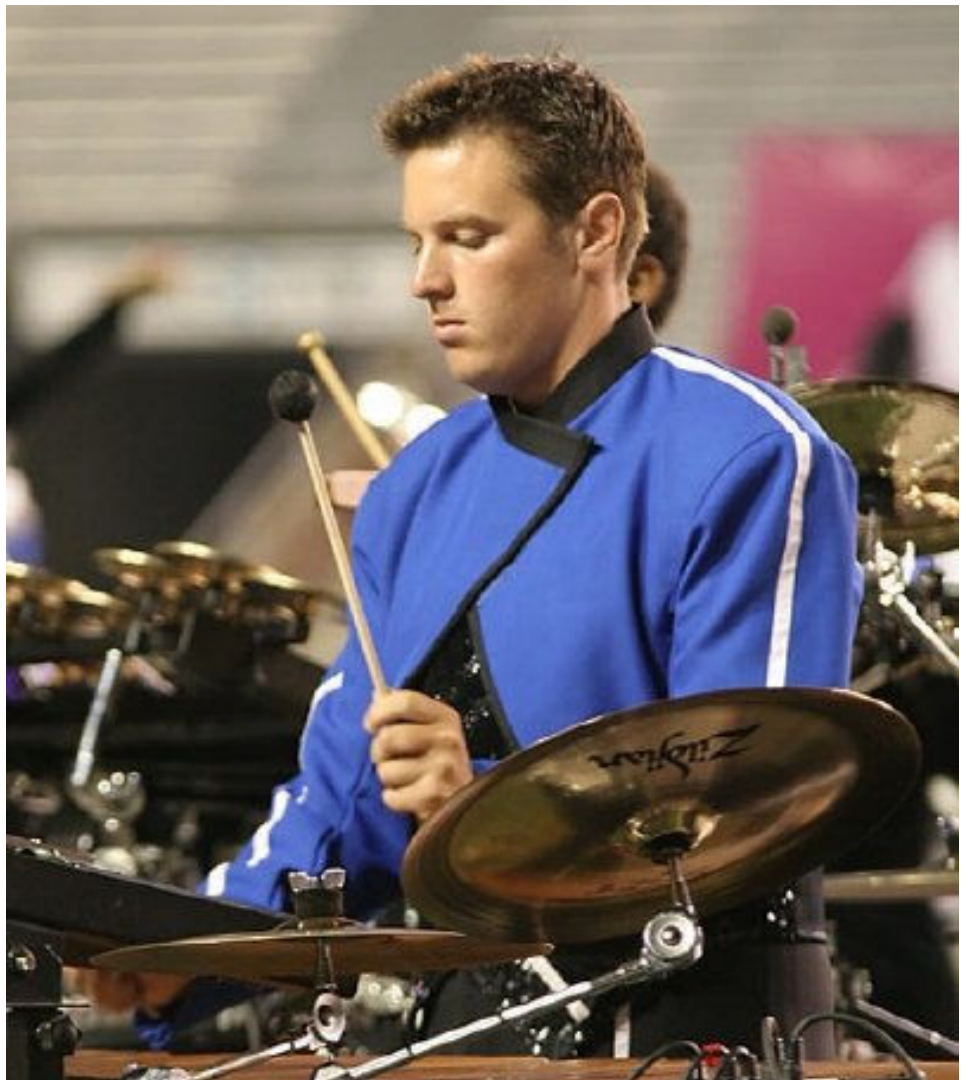
The faceplates for both groups were engraved with "Blue Devils," the member's name and year(s) marched. We extended our congratulations to all the

award winners and our love and respect to all members of the Corps, and we wish our age-outs the very best of luck in their new life after drum corps.

Our age-outs consisted of: 19 one-year, 16 two-year, 8 three-year, 2 four-year and 1 five-year members. It's very difficult to get through the evening without a few tears by those who have had the honor or working with and/or housing these young people.

There is definitely a bond that is very special and unique.

It takes a lot of people to put on the banquet and we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for their time and extra effort. Pete Emmons, the man in charge of everything, is at the top of the list as is Debbie Odello and Gail Schultz.



**Kris Wills**

Right up there are all the Booster Club volunteers – **Charlotte Hollenbeck, Norma Merrill, Mary Cloyd, Maryanne Lynn, Katie and Tom Wills, Yvonne Moss, Kaffy Cecil, Jim Serena, Pat and Jim Worley, Ronni Collmer.**

The **2008 "Inside the Blue Devils"** can be purchased by contacting Gail Schultz at: [gschultz@bluedevils.org](mailto:gschultz@bluedevils.org).



**Ronni preparing the forms**



**Diane Ebert & Yvonne Moss**



**Preparing flowers**



**Yvonne & Sonja**



**The Ballroom**



**Kaffy Cecil**



**DID WE HAVE FUN? - you bet!**

Our December meeting was our annual Christmas dinner & meeting. We thank Yvonne Moss for so graciously having the meeting at her home. After a very short meeting and a most delicious potluck dinner, we all participated in the gift exchange. We do have fun at this meeting.



**Yvonne Moss & Ronni Collmer**



**DO WE PLAN TO HAVE FUN? - of course**

We will most likely be having our annual "Super Bowl" party. We haven't decided on a location as yet, but hope to have this finalized soon.



**Balloons, balloons, balloons...**



**2009 – HERE WE COME**

From what we have been told, there were an unbelievable number of people at the various auditions and the talent level of

