

# BLUE DEVILS

## “Devil’s Pride”

Booster Club Newsletter

October 2009

First of all, a correction to last month’s newsletter.

We mentioned the Booster Club had donated \$12,000 towards the cost of the Championship Rings for the marching members. Well, we must have been writing with our hearts and not our memory as the actual amount was \$7,500. However, at a subsequent meeting and looking over our checkbook, we were able to add an additional \$2,500 – now we are up to \$10,000. We are fairly confident that between our upcoming fundraisers (ball games) and generous donations we will reach our goal of \$12,000. We understand the rings are absolutely fantastic and can’t wait to see them at the Awards Banquet in November.

### **Speaking of the Awards Banquet, we repeat:**

The Awards Banquet will be at the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel on Saturday, November 28. The cost is \$40/person and is open to family, friends and fans. Paid reservations are requested by Friday, November 20 as we are required to give the hotel a guaranteed number a few days prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Checks should be made payable to the Blue Devils; we will not have access to credit card capability for the dinner reservations. If you have any questions, please check with Sonja Williams at [williamssonjab@hotmail.com](mailto:williamssonjab@hotmail.com) (Be sure to indicate Blue Devils in the subject line so the message is not automatically deleted), 925/683-1598 (cell) 925/934-9500 (work) or P. O. Box 4184 – Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

### **Welcome to the Blue Devils Staff:**

We welcome two new staff members for the coming season:

**Cameron (Chip) Crotts** will be helping with the brass line. Chip marched with the Phantom Regiment and then came to the Blue Devils as a soprano soloist in 1991-92, receiving the “Performer of the Year” award both years, and has worked with Spirit and Phantom. Chip has an extensive and very impressive background working with the Disney Company and many well-known artists and holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Jazz Studies from the University of Texas in Austin.

**Ricky Odello** will be joining the Corps as a Percussion Instructor. Ricky has quite a background with the Blue Devils as he first started in 1989 as a member of the “C” Corps at the age of 3, progressed through the “B” Corps and marched with the “A” Corps from 2003 to 2007 and was also a member of the Sacramento Freelancers Winter Percussion Ensemble in 2002 and 2007. After aging out of the Blue Devils, Ricky earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English Literature and a minor in Education at the University of Santa Cruz. Ricky says he uses a teaching philosophy that embodies the methodical approach and leadership qualities he learned while marching with the Blue Devils.

A better look at the background of these two talented people can be found on the Blue Devil web site (see next article).

**FYI and Things We Just Learned:** Probably everyone else knows these things, but we just learned them and thought we would pass on the information (just in case).

1) It is possible to learn all about our various instructors by going onto the Blue Devils site (bluedevils.org) – go to Programs – A Corps - Staff – click on the instructor's name and a short biography will pop up. We have some very interesting people on staff.

2) If you go on the DCI site home page (dci.org) and scroll down to where the various logos are, there are some interesting short videos; i.e., Pearl and King have short videos regarding the Blue Devils and "Mars."

### **System Blue Happenings:**

First of all, a little bit about System Blue: "In order to be successful in a Drum Corps, Marching Band, Indoor Guard or Indoor Drum Line, you must use the best products in the world and have the skills to take advantage of their quality. Having an inferior product and being talented – or using an excellent product with poor technique – will have disappointing results. The Blue Devils have created an all-encompassing program to bring all these elements together to produce top level results." The System Blue products have been researched, developed and performance tested by the World Champion Blue Devils. The educational materials have been developed and refined over the past 50 years from producing the most well respected and successful group of its kind in the world. The Blue Devils have taken the many years of intense experience and proven system of success and have packaged them in a series of educational materials for performers, instructors and designers to use. System Blue conducts live events utilizing these materials and methods and offering the opportunity to meet and learn from the best. Auditions for the 2010 Blue Devils Corps will be held in conjunction with the various System Blue clinics to be held during the coming months as reported in last month's newsletter. The cost for the clinic and the audition will be \$100.

**And We Welcome Allan Murray and Pat Seidling:** The Blue Devils/System Blue are very fortunate in the addition of Allan Murray and Pat Seidling to the Blue Devil family. Allan will be coming on board as the System Blue Product Development Manager and will be working with the BD staff on research and design and will be managing our relationship with our partner companies (Pro-Mark, D'Addario, DrillMasters, Conn-Selmer) and in building future partnerships. Allan was formerly with DEG Music as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Dynasty USA/DEG Music Products. Pat will be joining the organization as the System Blue Live Events Manager and will be working with the BD staff and management in the organization of educational live events throughout the year. Pat formerly served as the director of the Phantom Regiment and has worked with the Madison Scouts and Southwind and has been active in developing a competitive marching band activity in Brazil and has worked extensively with marching bands across the USA. In 2003 Pat received the Dr. Bernard Bagg's award for Outstanding Leadership. Pat was the gentleman who "saved the day" for us last year by arranging for the Corps to stay at Ball State University when our housing site decided to back out of their agreement. We welcome these two gentlemen to the organization and look forward to a long and exciting future. To learn more about Allan and Pat, check out the Blue Devil site – great articles on their backgrounds.

### **Other new and exciting happenings:**

2010 will be seeing the Blue Devils on the field with some new instruments. Our talented horn line will be playing on King horns and we will be partnering with Conn-Selmer and will be playing on King Ultimate Marching Brass exclusively. Conn-Selmer is the largest manufacturer of band and orchestral instruments and accessories in the US and is a subsidiary of Steinway Musical Instruments. The Director of Marketing for King said "The Blue Devils' commitment to excellence in both the performing arts and music education makes this a great opportunity for both organizations." Conn-Selmer said it was proud to welcome the reigning World Champions to its "King of the Field" roster .... and in the percussion field ....

In 2010 all divisions of the Blue Devils organization will be using Pearl and Adams instruments exclusively. Marketing and Product Manager for Pearl Rudy Govern said Pearl is proud to have the Blue Devils and Scott Johnson as part of their family of artists. Scott Johnson said Pearl was a great company to work with and they're known for quality products and he is looking forward to their renewed partnership.

The Blue Devils have used the Dynasty instruments for the past 10 years, and Dave Gibbs expressed his thanks to the company and to Mark Schafer for all their support during this time.

### **TOUR WILL SOON BE UPON US:**

Directors of the top 12 World Class corps, DCI staff and representatives from other corps met recently in Chicago for their annual meeting to firm up the schedule for the coming year's DCI Tour. "As next year's schedule continues to be refined and finalized, the much anticipated 2010 Drum Corps International Tour is scheduled for release to the public just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday." Mark Arnold (Blue Knights and Chairman of the DCI Board) explained: "Getting together in this setting provides us with the opportunity to figure out exactly when and where we'll be touring, so we can start crunching numbers on fuel and mileage, how we'll structure our travel and rehearsal schedules, and what that's all going to cost us" The scheduling process is a team effort of hundreds of people and there is a multitude of things our administrative/instructional staffs have to take into consideration that would boggle the mind of the hardiest of souls, plus the fact plans were actually being discussed for the 2011 season! We certainly appreciate what our staff goes through to make sure the Blue Devils are well represented throughout the competition season.

### **CONTRATULATIONS JUBAL:**

We were very excited when we received the news that the Jubal Drum and Bugle Corps from the Netherlands had captured the top honor at the 2009 Drum Corps Europe Championships with a score of 90.15 as well as the best in the brass and percussion categories. Jubal competed against 20 corps from Germany, Italy United Kingdom and the Netherlands. To make things even better, Jong Jubal took the gold medal in the Cadet Class, thus giving the Jubal organization two championship flags to hang on their walls. (We know the excitement of having 2 gold medal corps don't we?) Our newsletter editor, Hans Kloppert is very involved with this group and we extend our sincere congratulations to both Hans and to the Jubal organization. This is the competition won by the Blue Devils in 2005 performing "Dance Derby of the Century."

**That Time is Coming:**

2009 is fast coming to a close and the time for renewing your Booster Club Membership will soon be at hand. Even with the cost of everything continuing to go up and up, your Booster Club dues will remain at \$20/family. A letter from our Membership Chairman Katie Wills should be coming to you in the near future.

**OUR NEXT BOOSTER CLUB MEETING:**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009  
I-HOP Restaurant  
Martinez, CA – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

---

We are very saddened to learn of the recent passing of William “Corky” Corkran. Corky was one of the Blue Devil bus drivers during the late 1970s and early 1980s. His daughters, Carolyn, Kelley Anne and Constance (“Suds”) were members of the Blue Devils. We extend our sincere sympathies to his wife, Janet, and children Carolyn, Kelley Anne, Constance, Chris and Steven.

2009 Officers

President	Mary Cloyd
Vice President	Yvonne Moss
Secretary	Sonja Williams
Treasurer	Pat Worley
Membership	Katie Wills
Sunshine	Penny Ross/Norma Merrill

Blue Devils Hall

4065 Nelson Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520  
(925) 689-2918 Fax: (925) 689-0384  
bluedevils.org



*Jubal of Dordrecht, the Netherlands*

