

BLUE DEVILS

“DEVIL’S PRIDE”

Booster Club Newsletter



The Blue Devils

December 2009



AUDITIONS FOR THE 2010 CORPS

We had the chance to stop by the final day of Pleasant Hill auditions for the horn line and color guard during the banquet weekend.

We watched the horn line potentials doing some of the marching drills and were only able to watch some of the rifle work of the guard.

It is hard to believe the instructors are able to pick out who will be called back and who will not as there are so many kids trying out at the same time.

We do not have actual numbers of how many have auditioned, but we know there were more than we could count!

It was nice to see so many of our veteran members helping during the auditions. Interesting how they all had such an air of professional confidence about them.

It's really exciting to watch some of the potential members walk away with great big smiles on their faces as they were told they

were on call-back status. However, it is terribly hard to watch those who don't make it.



Scott Chandler with some of the kids that had made the trip all the way from Japan

While some kids have tears streaming down their cheeks with disappointment, we have found the majority of them say the weekend was well worth the time and effort as they learned so much.

As in the past, knowing what they need to concentrate on, many will be back next year for another chance.

Vacancies due to 2009 age-outs:
Euphoniums: 8
Mellophones: 7
Trumpet: 5
Tuba: 5
TOTAL BRASS: 25

Bass: 2
Pit: 4
Snare: 3
Tenor: 1
TOTAL PERCUSSION: 10

Guard Males: 6
Guard Females: 8
TOTAL GUARD: 14

2009 AWARDS BANQUET

Oh, what a night this was! With the attendance close to 270 (*highest ever in our history of working on the awards banquets*), the room was filled with excitement and laughter. How great it was to see almost the entire Corps in attendance as well as so many members, friends and fans. What a show of support.

As each Corps member entered the ballroom, the gentlemen were given a white carnation boutonniere and the ladies received a white rose bouquet – each came with a loving hug and a thank you.



Balloons... lots of balloons!

Norma Merrill provided a big “13” for the podium, table decorations consisted of floating candles, yellow and white roses, various pictures of the Corps, miniature chocolates and a bouquet of balloons anchored by blue velvet holders and our traditional silhouettes were displayed on the

walls dressed in this year's Corps and Guard uniforms.



A very nice letter to the 2009 Corps members by Norma Merrill was placed at each setting.



Photos, flowers,... all tables looked pretty

We got to watch just enough snippets of the "Inside the Blue Devils" DVD on a huge 10' screen to make it imperative we purchase one in order to see the whole thing! We did – and it was well worth it. Lots of memories.

The DVDs are available on the Blue Devil web site or by contacting Gail Schultz at gschultz@bluedevils.org.



Happy faces at one of the tables

Just for the fun of it, members of the Booster Club performed a very short rendition of "Happy Days Are Here Again" on the kazoos – which brought forth looks of amazement (?), shock and laughter.

It was fun to see so many of the audience actually giving the group a standing ovation while laughing their heads off.



Tuba player Daniel Ortiz made sure the attendees had a few good laughs!

Each of the section instructors were introduced by members of that particular section. Each year proves we have a bunch of would-be comedians in our group. They were so much fun as they sort of roasted their instructors.

The instructors then announced all the various awards winners.

Following are a few of the major categories:

Director's Award:

Dennis Arocena and Joe Ricard

Blue Devil of the Year:

Andrew Rogers (*Drum Major*)

PERCUSSION:

MVP: Chris Slater

Performer of the Year:

Sarah Cheon

BRASS:

MVP: Daniel Ortiz

Performer of the Year:

Pat Absalonson

GUARD:

Performer of the Year:

Mitchell Hautea

Outstanding Performers:

Anthony Garcia &

Alexandra Munoz

MARCHING:

MVP: Chris Anderson



Pat Absalonson

Our fantastic tuba line was absolutely outstanding all year and the members really cleaned up in the various awards.

We know it had to have been difficult to determine the awards as this year's Corps consisted of 150 outstanding members in every category.

Our 25 one-year age-outs received a small plaque and our 24 multi-year age-outs received the traditional plaque with the war eagle, silver chain anchored by the shako buttons.

Each of the 49 plaques had a silver nameplate engraved with "Blue Devils," the member's name and year(s) marched on a blue velvet background. The Hall of Fame recipients each received a framed certificate.



Everyone looked absolutely beautiful !

At the end of the evening members received a copy of the yearbook that was provided by the Booster Club – and that oh-

so-well-earned championship ring.

The ring is something else – The stone is purple with a raised 13 in the middle; Included on the ring is the DCI and Blue Devils logos, Blue Devils World Champions, Undefeated, 2009, 1930, 13 and the member's last name.

The name is also engraved on the inside of the ring. Obviously, a lot of thought went into this ring to include everything that means so much to the 150 kids who worked so hard all year.



We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to ensure this banquet was as special as the year was. In the office we had our Banquet Chairman Pete Emmons, Gail Schultz and Debbie Odello (and among all their other duties produced a great yearbook).

Working on the banquet were

Kaffy Cecil, Charlotte Hollenbeck, Norma Merrill, Yvonne Moss, Mary Cloyd, Maryanne Lynn, Ronni Collmer, Jim Serena, Tom and Katie Wills.

We would also like to comment on how fantastic it was to work with the staff at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek.

Do we know anything about next year's show? Not really, but we hope to find out some information fairly soon. We can only imagine what is in the creative minds of our wonderful staff and can hardly wait.

Now we are working on the After Finals Brunch to be held August 15 at the Omni Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. Mark your calendars.



Charlotte Hollenbeck – Member Ben Kane – Norma Merrill

We have had several events at the hotel over the years and they consistently make it so much easier for us with their consideration and professionalism.



President Mary Cloyd

CHRISTMAS MEETING/POTLUCK

The December meeting held at the home of Ken and Ronni Collmer was an evening of fun; we would like to thank Ken and Ronni for being such gracious hosts. As always, the potluck was fantastic and the voluntary gift exchange brought forth constant kidding and laughing.

The election of the newly formed Executive Committee was held and 2010 officers will be announced in the next newsletter.

TUBA CHRISTMAS 2009 *(From Ronny Hirata)*

"If you want to get into the dad-gum Christmas spirit, come out and listen to us play Tuba Christmas", is what Ronny told us earlier this month, and he was right!

This group consists of a multitude of horn players who are former drum corps members and musicians from all areas. Over 500 tuba, euphonium, contra and sousaphone players participated, among which 14 Blue Devils and BD alumni.

This is really something to see/hear! Make sure you catch one of the performances next year!

Last week the Tuba Christmas group played at Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside, and



December meeting at the home of Ken and Ronni Collmer



Fourteen Blue Devils and Blue Devils alumni members participated in this year's Tuba Christmas: Daniel Rodriguez, Karl Tonander, Samuel Bluebrass, Ronny Hirata, Amado Segobia, Erron Garrett, Sean Smit, Dillon Miller, Nick Masotto, Tim Leonelli, Daniel Ortiz, Richard Alvarez, Ryan Gregory and Gregory Keith Ramsey II

in Downtown Disney near "ESPN zone."

Check www.youtube.com for some video footage.

More information can be found on www.tubachristmas.com. "It's a lot fun—you get to sing along and it's FREE for the audience." (While attending the Awards Banquet, Ronny presented members of the Tuba Line with specially made mugs honoring the Blue Devils and "The Line.")

SOMETHING REALLY NEAT:

We often mention former BD driver Randy Warner and his Las Vegas Marching Arts activities in the Las Vegas area.



Randy recently received a telephone call from Sgt Burgess currently stationed in Afghanistan expressing appreciation for all Randy is doing on behalf of

young people in the Las Vegas area and then an e-mail picture showing several soldiers (former drum corps members) holding a sign sending best wishes to Randy and the LVMA.

Well, upon hearing this at the Booster Club party, Blue Devils Board of Directors member Brian Ripley donated a copy of the 2009 Inside the Blue Devils DVD to Randy to send to the young man.

Thinking this was something they would really enjoy, Randy has sent out a notice to several drum corps, performing groups and

organizations asking people to donate DVDs.

The Sin City Chamber of Commerce has agreed to pay for shipment from Las Vegas to Afghanistan. As of this printing, Madison Scouts, Pacific Crest, Blue Devils and WGI have said yes to several each.

Randy would certainly welcome hearing from anyone wishing to contribute to this cause or to get additional information:

randy@lasvegasmarchingarts.org

Randy is also partnering with The Chamber of Commerce and the Foundation for Positively Kids to provide the ride of a lifetime to some children who are terminally ill and medically fragile.

They will be riding atop Randy's 1971 Fire Truck in the annual Helldorado Parade in April along with two firehouse Dalmatians. Busy man totally dedicated to the enrichment of young people.



Drum Major Brian Howard with some devoted fans after DCI Finals

OUR NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010
I-HOP Restaurant - Martinez, CA
7:00 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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