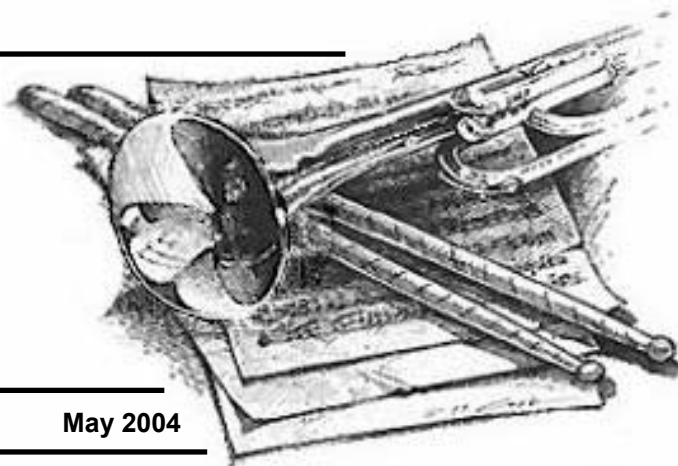


# Surfer's

## Drum & Bugle Corps Alumni Association *Southeastern Connecticut*



Volume 1 – Number 3

May 2004

# Coming Soon...

## 2<sup>nd</sup> DCI Show

and

## 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion Celebration

Nearly four years ago, 200 or so ex-members of the Surfers, Swords, and Whalers, along with many patrons and friends gathered together for the first reunion and the 35 year anniversary celebration of the start of Drum and Bugle Corps in the New London Area. From that gala event a spark was lit, and has turned today, into the reality of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps. The event of 1999 was truly magical, as old comrades of the parade routes and competition fields gathered together to turn back time for one special evening.

Now your Surfer's Alumni Association (SAA) is turning the one-day affair into a weeklong celebration that you will not want to miss! We hope to see everyone back for our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion Celebration and especially those that couldn't make it to the 2000 Reunion! As with any drum corps activity, many people and long hours are required to plan such events – and each coordinator or volunteer wears the trademark "Drum Corps Smile", knowing that all the effort is well worth the results.

### **BREAKING NEWS**

#### **The 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment passes DCI Evaluation!!!**

Known only as "JW" to the editor, the DCI representative from California stopped in to the 7<sup>th</sup>'s camp and reviewed all the aspects of running the corps, the members, the talent, etc. A big thumbs up was given as "JW" was very impressed with everything he had seen.

**Celebration Time !!!**

Full details of the events and ticket prices are in this newsletter, and for paid SAA Alumni members, a "**Super Alumni Member Package Deal**" is available as our way to show appreciation for all the support the membership has given the past few years. For those that may not be able to make all the events, individual event tickets are also available. So... get out and enjoy the past, present, and future of your drum corps life, all in one week!

## **Come One... Come All... it's Party Time...**

## Surfer's Alumni Association

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### Visit your Web Site...

[www.7thregiment.org](http://www.7thregiment.org)

This site has all the news and activities going on with the Surfer's Alumni Association and the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps. Also, plenty of photos and links to other favorite Drum & Bugle Corps sites. Visit the guest book register and look up old friends – and don't forget to sign your name!

*Editorial...*

## Magical Time Machine!

As I was composing this quarters newsletter, I got to thinking about what exactly is the magic of drum corps? Why are there so few other activities in life that have such a vivid impact on oneself as the experience of drum corps? As adulthood rolls on, and the elements of time and distance drives a wedge between what was once real and what was imagined, one may wonder if all memory is just a snapshot of times gone by, or just some figment of the human imagination - of how we wished things had been.

Before the 2000 SAA reunion, it had been thirty years since I laced up some white bucks, snapped on an ascot, wrapped the cummerbund around me, adjusted my shako, and grabbed my drum sticks to get ready for another appearance with drum corps. Thirty years later, my 5 senses had been dulled to the actual experiences, leaving me with no more than memories, like some good book I had read decades ago. The people, the places, the practices, the bus rides, the performances. Were they real? Did I go to all those places? Did I share all those experiences with so many others?

Well, all those questions were answered when I attended the drum and bugle corps anniversary in New London 4 years ago. Putting faces back on the names of those I had shared the thrills of victory and agonies of countless hot, sweaty practices – so many years past. To see an old Surfers uniform, to touch a championship flag that I had a part in, to hear the voices and laughter which had once been part of my life became somewhat mind numbing. Even though my head, which has to live in the present, was having trouble rationalizing these things, my heart was telling me that all those memories of days gone by were true.

This is the Magical Time Machine of drum corps. So many years later, it can serve as a focal point to take you back to a time that most reflect as being the best in their life! And even after thirty years, and placing older faces on the few names you remembered – you can still see in their eyes today, the same excitement and joy you had all shared from the drum corps experience of yesterday.

So, do yourself a favor and don't miss the opportunity to attend some or all of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year events. Let the Magic take hold, let time turn backwards – if just for a day, go back and sample the way it was – not too many things in life can give you such a thrill!



Are these 7<sup>th</sup> members making new friendships?  
Or are they just huddling together to keep warm during  
the cold New Haven St. Patricks Day parade?

## 7<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT CAMP and Rehearsal Schedules

at

**Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School  
New London, CT**

Tentative schedules posted at the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
website... all SAA members are urged to drop in and  
enjoy the sights and sounds of your corps!!!

## Your... 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps



The 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps photo taken  
in front of Fort Trumbull in New London, Connecticut,  
prior to leaving for their first public appearance at the  
2004 St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Haven.

This in a sense is a historic photo as 140 years ago,  
the original 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment stationed at Fort Trumbull was  
one of the last to leave for the Civil War.

## Off and Running... The 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment

Usually, the first public appearance  
for any group can be a shivering  
experience, but it wasn't the first  
appearance that made the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
members feel like there was ice water  
running through their veins, but rather  
frigid New England, March 14<sup>th</sup>,  
weather during the New Haven St.  
Patricks Day Parade.

Proudly, our new corps took to the  
streets of New Haven, carrying on a  
tradition that in decades past saw such  
local favorite corps as the Emerald  
Cadets, Milford Shoreliners, Trumbull  
Troubadors, Nutmeg Rangers – to  
name a few, and yes – our 3 alumni  
corps from New London.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment wins Best Band Award

A second St. Patty's Day Parade  
took place the following weekend in  
Mystic, CT – where it didn't take long  
for the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment to warm the hearts  
of the judges, taking the BEST BAND  
award! Congrat to all the members!

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> received a  
warm round of applause for their  
rendition of the Star Spangled Banner  
to kick off the SAA/Patriots Basketball  
Fundraiser in Uncasville, CT.

Looking ahead, there are plenty of  
dates penciled in on the 2004 calendar.  
Many of the events are currently  
tentative, with confirmations to come at  
a later date. Full details can be found  
on the [www.7thregiment.org](http://www.7thregiment.org) website.

Parade schedule lists May 16 Jewett  
City; May 31 Westerly-Pawcatuck; PT  
Barnum Parade; and East Haddam.  
Exhibitions planned for the "DCI on the  
Thames" show June 30<sup>th</sup>; Ocean Beach  
July 3<sup>rd</sup>; and the July 10<sup>th</sup> Sailfest in  
New London. Also scheduled are field  
competitions in Malden, MA;  
Springfield, MA; Brick, NJ; Brooklyn,  
NJ; Portland, ME; Southbridge, MA;  
and Pennsville, NJ.

August 2004 and after schedule to  
be announced later - **go 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment!**

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**RICH DICAPPIO**  
Percussion Caption Head

Two friends of mine introduced me to drum and bugle corps when I was 13 years old. I was as green as they come.

I remember Gary Ribchinsky, the drum instructor at the time, trying to get me to play a quarter note on 1 and was driven to exasperation at my inability to accomplish such a minor feat. But I set my mind to it and soon was playing my parts and marching proudly with the Sword Excalibur. I think we had about 15 horns, 1 snare, 2 triples, and 3 bass drums in the final year of Sword's existence. Still I believed in my heart that Sword Excalibur was better than the East Lyme High School Marching Band, who was 125 strong and very talented. I guess love is blind.

When the Sword's called it quits in 1980, I tried out for Fantasia and was not satisfied with their personality or personnel, and later joined the East Lyme marching band, just because I loved playing drums. After Graduation, I was asked to help with the drum line and became Gary's asst. drum instructor for a few years. I have taught a few High Schools locally and am currently working with Montville High School's Marching Band.

In 1984, I prepared to go DCI and tried out with the Bayonne Bridgemen. I had made the tenor line when my employer informed me they had not taken any taxes out of my check for 6 months. So I withdrew from the Bridgemen in hopes of returning the following year. In 1985, I was prepared and tried out for the snare line and made it! We competed in DCI as member corps despite the exodus of most of the staff and members who made the Bridgemen a title contender only 5 years earlier. The Bridgemen finished 26<sup>th</sup> that year, and did not make it out the following year, but I had a great time and learned many things. In 1986, my age out year, I knocked around almost every corps in the northeast and found myself marching with a bunch of Bridgemen age outs called the Bushwackers. My finest moments in drum corps came with the Bushwackers going undefeated in drums and winning our only show in Allentown at Finals.

I lost my Mother in 1988 to cancer and returned to drum corps that year with the Connecticut Hurricanes and enjoyed performing with them until 1992. Drum corps has been one of the greatest influences on me as a person, teaching me about responsibility, pride, loyalty, and friendship. I have come full circle now, returning to my roots, and accepting the position of drum instructor for the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

## Surfers, Swords, & Whalers Trivia...

Okay – how did you do? As promised, the answers from the last newsletter questions:

“Who was the Surfers Drum Major in 1969?”..... **Sharon Hedge**

“Who were the first two contra bass players?”..... **Roosevelt Scott & Kenny Lewis**

“Who was the “Fiddler” on the roof in 1973?”..... **Bruce Cavan**

If you have some trivia questions that you think could stump the readers, send them into the newsletter editor – email and address listed on page 2.

## S.A.A. Fundraisers Hit High Notes...

Topping the list of recent fundraisers was SAA member **Herb Tiffany's** efforts with the New London Firefighters Association. A dinner and raffle brought in a total of \$2,200 to the SAA. Thanks go out to Herb and all the Firefighters!

A close second was the \$2,000 proceeds from the Superbowl Patriots/Locals Basketball Benefit. Program coordinator & SAA member **Ed Hedge** did a fine job, which saw the Patriot players take on the Gridlock Grille, East Lyme Pizza, Franco's Xtreme Laser Tag, and Sons & Dads Slam Dunk teams in 10 minutes quarters. Exhibitions by the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment and the East Lyme Youth Cheerleaders "Championship Squad" rounded out the evening.

The Mystic River "DUCK" race, with SAA member & activity coordinator **Gary Goode**, raised another \$300. Although sales of the little rubber duckys' were slow, a Third place finish was garnered by the SAA, who had purchased the remaining unsold ducks. Thanks go out to Gary for all his efforts with this event and to those that purchased ducks!

**Roger Nelson** – Fundraiser Chairman for the SAA, and coordinator of the "1<sup>st</sup> Annual Giving Tree" activity raised a total of \$1,160 from many donors, who in turn could choose where their donations would be spent. Proceeds went towards purchase of drums, horns, uniforms, and other equipment. A big "Thank You" to those donors who opened not only their hearts, but also their pocketbooks during the past holiday season!

**Lizz Adams** reports that the success of the **CJ Scholarship Fund** will enable the SAA to present this year, two \$500 scholarships to local high school students who will be furthering their education in the Arts. See the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment website for complete details. Another big "Thank You" goes out to all the donors.

Your SAA is actively pursuing fundraising, as it is such an important function for the success of the organization and to the future of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Any ideas, questions, or comments will be greatly appreciated – please send to the attention of Roger Nelson, c/o of the SAA address. A complete list of fundraisers can be viewed at the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment website. Thanks go out to all involved!

## "Celebrate 40 Years"

### Details and Ticket Prices of Events

The SAA has put together a "**Super Alumni Package Deal**" (available to paid members only) at \$40 to cover all the following events. The \$40 package deal is for 1 entry into each of the events. Single event ticket pricing is as noted for members and non-members as well.

**June 30, 2004; 6:00pm – DCI "Drum Corps on the Thames.** A talent loaded show to be held at St. Bernard's High School in Uncasville, CT with the following corps in competition:

**The Cadets – Bergenfield, NJ**  
**Crusaders – Boston, MA**  
**Crossmen – Bergenfield, NJ**  
**Glassmen – Toledo, OH**  
**Spirit of JSU – Atlanta, GA**  
**Carolina Crown – Ft. Mills, SC**  
**East Coast Jazz – Malden, MA**  
**Targets – Springfield, MA**

Single event ticket price is \$20 – tickets can be purchased in advance from the SAA office.

**July 2, 2004 – Social Happy Hour at the Brown Derby** in Uncasville, CT. A Friday night event to enjoy with your drum corps friends, filled with food, beer, wine, and fun times. Single event ticket price is \$7.00.

**July 3, 2004 – 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner / Dance.** Event will be held at the Ocean Beach Port and Starboard. The 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment will give a boardwalk performance. Dancing with DJ and SAA Alumni member – **Greg Goode!** Single event ticket price is \$25. (A special dinner/dance volunteer ticket price is \$22).

**July 4, 2004 – SAA / 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Family Picnic.** Bring your family and friends to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic at Sutton Field in Groton, CT – immediately following the Mystic July 4<sup>th</sup> parade where the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment will be performing. Single event ticket price is \$5.

To purchase your **Super Alumni Package Deal** or for additional information, contact:

Lee Muller at **860-442-DRUM (3786)**  
Or email: [leota\\_a\\_muller@groton.pfizer.com](mailto:leota_a_muller@groton.pfizer.com)

**Don't miss out on these Great Events!!!**

## Surfer's Alumni Association

P.O. Box 64  
New London, CT  
06320

### *Equipment truck purchased for the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment...*



The SAA is happy to announce the purchase of an equipment truck for the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment! Big thanks go out to **Roger Nelson** for all his hard work and support to make this happen! The truck is in great condition and already trimmed out to accept equipment and uniforms.

Also purchased recently were 3 new Pearl snare drums which were desperately needed as the percussion line keeps growing!

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

As the drum corps season approaches, SAA meetings and 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment rehearsals and camps become more frequent – consult the activities and events schedules at the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment website.

Special notice for the following events:

- June 30th** – DCI “Drums along the Thames” show at St. Bernards High School, Uncasville, CT
- July 2nd** – SAA Social Happy Hour at the Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
- July 3rd** – SAA 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner / Dance – Ocean Beach, New London, CT
- July 4th** – SAA / 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Picnic – Groton, CT

**All Meetings and practices are open to Alumni members – stop by and say hello!**