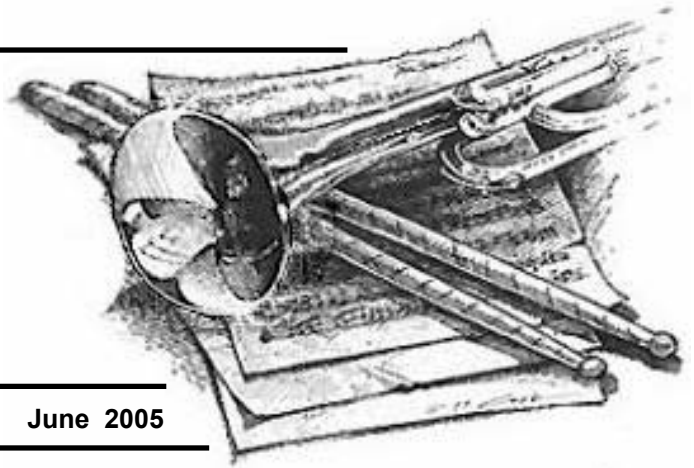


Surfer's

Drum & Bugle Corps Alumni Association *Southeastern Connecticut*



Volume 2 – Number 2

June 2005

NAVAL ACADEMY VISITS WITH THE 7TH

On April 16th, shortly after lunch, the 7th Regiment received a motivational gift that will go a long way into preparing their routine for this summer's 2005 show. Under the directorship of Jeff Weir, the Naval Academy Drum and Bugle Corps from Annapolis, Maryland stopped by Bennie Dover Junior High School to share a few hours of fun and music at a 7th Regiment practice camp. Jeff, who also is the Drill arranger for the 7th, noted that the Naval Academy group was on their way for a parade in Massachusetts.

Activities started with the Naval Academy D & B and the 7th in sectional practices, after which both full corps joined together and played selections from the 7th's upcoming 2005 show. To view a full compliment of 33 photos of this memorable day, visit on the web... www.7thregiment.org. A barbeque dinner followed the dual practice, in which the SAA Alumni and volunteers prepared and served about 150 dinners. The evening was capped off for the 7th Regiment, the SAA, and the volunteers as they were once again treated to musical selections by the Naval Academy D & B, after which they boarded 2 coach buses and headed for Massachusetts. A **BIG** "Thank You" goes out to Jeff and all the Naval Academy D & B members for providing the 7th Regiment with a memory that will last a life time.



The 7th Regiment and the Naval Academy Drum & Bugle Corps together enjoying one great jam session... (Look at all those Contras...!!!)

Drum Corps – The Best one can Be...!

Surfer's Alumni Association

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New London, CT
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Visit your Web Site...

www.7thregiment.org

This site has all the news and activities going on with the Surfer's Alumni Association and the 7th 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...

Old School, New School . . .

As people get older, they often measure things of today against those of times past. We see this in fashion, in sports, in communities, and yes – in Drum & Bugle Corps.

I have only had the chance to discuss this with a few other Alumni, and one thing is for sure, D & B has changed. Like most things that change, they really can't be judged as being better or worse. Most of the times, they are just different, and this I believe to be the case with D & B.

Before DCI and the disappearance of what I call the local city D & B (at one time Connecticut had 50 junior corps competing), things were much different. The structure of a corps was simpler, the show they put on was predictable – musical scores contained an "Off-the-Line" number, followed by a short drum solo, then usually the "Color Presentation" score, followed by a short song, then a "Concert Piece", another drum solo or such, and ending with an "Off-the-Field" tune with a short "Fanfare". And, the musical numbers played were usually very recognizable.

Back in the 60's (and probably the 70's), local kids joined-up and learned to play, some without ever being able to read notes on paper. That won't happen today – D & B requires an incredible amount from the kids. They excel in their music comprehension, and are asked to perform very difficult marching maneuvers, and are very showmanship in all their presentations. Yes – D & B today is very different than the past.

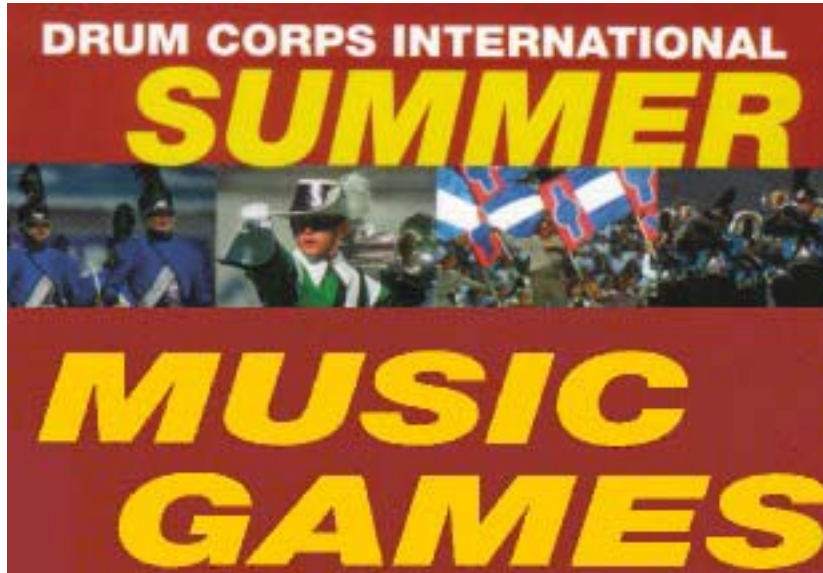
When I watch a DCI show today, I often don't see a beginning or ending to their routine – they just start and end in the middle of the field, and very seldom do I recognize the music that is played. And what was wrong with paying tribute to the "Stars and Stripes"? I often wonder did DCI save D & B, or did it eliminate the experience for many with its rules and regulations? Are there still regional circuits for all size corps? Why not?

And just as we make the comparisons today, 30 years from now, the current 7th members will do the same – will it be different for them? I know for myself, the D & B experience provided me with some of the best times and special moments of my life... and even though times have changed, the beat of a drum, or blast of a horn will always awake those great feelings.

2005 DCI "DRUM CORPS ALONG THE THAMES"...

The Surfers Drum and Bugle Corps Alumni Association, Inc and the
7th Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps once again will host:

The 3rd Annual "**Drum Corps on the Thames**" - - We're doing it again in style!!!



Corps in performance will be:

Citations, Burlington, MA

East Coast Jazz, Malden, MA

Jersey Surf, Berlin, NJ

Les Stentors, Sherbrooke, QC

Raiders, Wayne, NJ

Spartans, Nashua, NH

Spirit of New Jersey, Newark, NJ

Cadets of New York City

St. John's, Branford, Ontario, Canada

Targets, Springfield, MA

And the... **7th Regiment**, New London, CT

Time & Place:

Saturday, July 23, 2005

St. Bernard High School, Uncasville, CT

Gates Open at: 4:00 PM

Advance Tickets \$10.00 – Tickets at the gate \$15.00

To order Tickets: Call 860-442-DRUM or djohnson34@snet.net

You can also order by way of mail: Send a check or money order to:

Surfers Alumni Association, P.O. Box 64, New London, CT 06320

Please include the number of tickets you are purchasing, along with your name, address, & phone number when ordering by mail. Make checks payable to the Surfers Alumni Association.

SPOTLIGHT



**Jeff Weir
Drill Arranger**

I caught the drum corps bug one Thanksgiving afternoon while flipping through the channels on TV. I saw the 1987 DCI broadcast on PBS. I had just graduated from Montville, and finished one season as a trombone player in the UConn Marching Band. While I was certainly a fan of DCI, I hadn't considered marching drum corps until my senior year at UConn ('90-'91), when a bunch of friends in the band said they were auditioning for Cadets. They literally dragged me onto the train with them. I made the cut on baritone, but unfortunately all my friends got cut (because they were mostly drummers and guard, and those two sections at Cadets are VERY competitive). So there I was, stranded. My parents paid the tour fee as a college graduation present (easily the best present I ever got...), and the rest is history! The DCI experience changed my life forever. So much so, that four short years later, I found myself given the opportunity of a lifetime as director of the U.S. Naval Academy Drum & Bugle Corps.

Professionally, I have been writing drill for various high school programs around the Northeast, most notably Montville since 1989, and Southington since 1992. I was a marching instructor and drill designer for the Windjammers Drum & Bugle Corps at the Coast Guard Academy, and the assistant band director at Montville from 1991-1995, and got the chance to work with Rich DeCapio while at MHS. At Navy, I write and teach the drill, arrange and teach most of the horn charts, and arrange some of the pit charts. I also advise the student leadership staff in logistics and professional skills, and maintain long term vision and planning for the corps.

I'll be writing the drill for 7th Regiment, and helping out conceptually with the show. I hope to get up there a few more times to help instruct, as well. I can't even describe how excited I am to be working with 7th Regiment. A junior corps in my old backyard? and Rich is on staff? Seems too good to be true. I also think my wife is going to kill me, because since working with 7th Regiment, my cell phone bill is through the roof talking to Rich about show ideas! Since no junior corps existed in southeastern CT when I was there, I want to do everything within my power to help 7th Regiment and its members succeed. Perhaps the drum corps experience can do for one of these kids what it has done for me.

- - SAA Meeting Schedule - -

The Surfers Alumni Association meets the 3rd Sunday of each month, and whenever additional meetings are necessary – see Alumni Website for such notices. Meetings are held at the Elks Club in New London. Meetings are open to all Alumni paid members and guests by invitation. All Alumni are urged to attend a few meetings if possible – come share in the fun of Drum Corps!



**Alumni Workforce Members: (l to r)
Jimmy Smith, Lizz Adams, Jeff Dozier, Daisy
Johnson, Herb Tiffany, & Tim Rall**

THE SAA HARD AT WORK

Pictured above are but a few of the hard working Alumni members and other volunteers that keep the ball rolling. Unlike the changing face of Drum Corps over the years, this group is mixed with those who have been there before (Daisy & Herb), or those who went from playing to managing (like Lizz, Tim, Jeff, and Jimmy), or 1st Timers like Birse & Phae - just to name a few.

Managing kids and equipment, buses and trucks, horns and drums, uniforms, practices, camps, schedules, etc. – never changes. But the ability and creativeness to raise the funds and find the volunteers to support this great effort is helped by the coalition of workers. The true and tried, as well as all the new ideas are all needed.

Sponsors big and small also play important parts in the success of the corps. With donations from Pfizers, and several different foundations, and local businesses, and many individual gifts, to grants like the Chelsea Groton Foundation – all is welcome, all is needed, to make this activity work. For a complete list of recent donations, make sure you get a copy of the “3rd Annual Drums Corps along the Thames” show program.

7th Regiment Appearance Schedule for 2005 (Preliminary)

JUNE

June 5 Bridgeport CT Barnum Festival Parade
June 11 Warwick RI Gaspee Days Parade
June 12 Charlestown MA Bunker Hill Parade
June 13 Ocean Beach Park Evening Concert
June 16 Westerly RI Evening Parade
June 18 Poughkeepsie NY Parade
June 19 Agawam MA Parade (Tentative)
June 25 Malden MA DCI Contest

JULY

July 2 Enfield CT Parade
July 4 Fitchburg MA 4th of July Parade
July 4 Norwood MA 4th of July Parade
July 9 E Hampton CT Old Homes Day Parade
July 9 Springfield MA DCI Contest
July 10 Wayne NJ DCI Contest
July 16 Lake Compounce Parade & Fun Day
July 22 Everett MA DCI Contest
July 23 New London CT DCI Contest
July 31 Depart to Tour

AUGUST

Aug 1 Sudbury ON Canada DCI Contest
Aug 2 Kitchener ON Canada DCI Contest
Aug 3 Niagara Falls Tour
Aug 4 Ottawa ON Canada Tour
Aug 5 Sherbrooke QC Canada DCI Contest
Aug 6 Montreal QC Canada Tour
Aug 7 Manchester NH DCI Contest
Aug 9 Providence RI DCI Prelims
Aug 11 Providence RI DCI Finals
Aug 13 Foxboro MA DCI Grand Finals
Aug 14 Moosup CT Parade (Tentative)

The above schedule is tentative at this time – we urge all SAA Alumni to try and make a date or two and support your 7th Regiment...!!!

UNITED WAY DONATIONS FOR THE 7TH REGIMENT

You can now have your donations go to the 7th Regiment by checking “OTHER” on your United Way Cards and writing in the 7th Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps...!!!

Surfer's Alumni Association
P.O. Box 64
New London, CT
06320

7th Regiment - 2005 Instructors

DRILL	BRASS	PERCUSSION	COLOR GUARD
Drill Arranger: Jeff Weir	Music Arranger: Jack Gerster	Caption Head: Rich DeCapio	Caption Head: Elizabeth Sosnowich
Visual / Drill Instructor: John Curran	Caption Head: Jack Gerster	Percussion Tech: Andy Mastronunzio	Guard Tech: Fawn Hodgdon
Show Design Team: Jack Gerster Jeff Weir Jim O'Neil Rich DeCapio Tim Fioravanti	Brass Instructor: Kelly Watkins	Percussion Tech: Bob Burt	Guard Consultant: Bethany Wisniewski
	Brass Tech: Edgar Frazelle	Percussion Tech: Jim O'neil	

The 7th Regiment's 2005 Show – "The Wind in the Rigging"

With the seafaring legacy of our New London port city, the 7th Regiment will present a nautical theme, using familiar sailing themes and motifs, intertwined with the three major contemporary works inspired by the seafaring tradition. Music selection include:

Opener: ***Songs of Sailor and Sea*** (*Racing the Yankee Clipper*).. by Robert W. Smith

Ballad: ***Since First We Set Sail...*** by James L. Hosay

Finale: ***The Sea Treaders..*** by W. Frances McBeth