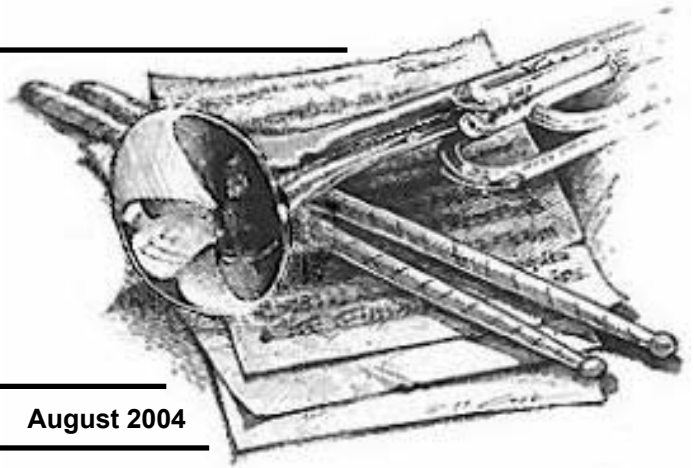


Surfer's

Drum & Bugle Corps Alumni Association *Southeastern Connecticut*



Volume 1 – Number 4

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Drum Corps returns to Connecticut...

After nearly two decades, June 29, 2004, saw the return of a competitive junior drum corps from Southeastern Connecticut. Sporting new uniforms and playing to a sold out crowd, the 7th Regiment took the field for competition for the second time in the corps short history. The stands were filled with former members of past Connecticut corps, including the Surfers, Sword Excalibur, Fire-ettes and Fletcher Raiders.

The audience was buzzing with excitement and anticipation from the moment the corps entered Delaporta field until the drum major, Kate Socha, saluted the crowd. Performing "Beethoven's Last Night," the corps performance was highlighted by fine brass and percussion work as well as a poised color guard. From start to finish, the corps performed a solid program and was rewarded with a rousing standing ovation.



Overall, the 7th Regiment's performance answered a lot of questions that have been asked since it was first announced a drum corps was forming in Connecticut.

Can it be done? Yes it can... Will the 7th Regiment be competitive? Yes they will. And they are... How successful will the 7th Regiment be? That remains to be seen, but the future looks bright indeed.

As the inaugural season of the 7th Regiment draws to a close, what can be said of the 7th Regiment that has not been said in print, or on-line, or in the stands? Scores and placement aside, this corps has enormous potential. Clearly, the best is yet to come.

- Michele Swain

Inaugural Season is Complete...

Surfer's Alumni Association

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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...

So how was the first year?

The uniforms are now packed away, the show schedule is empty, and now it's time to reflect...

Wow – what a season! I bet the 7th members now understand what the SAA Alumni's were all talking about, that the drum corps life is something you have to experience to understand! There is no bigger thrill than to be on that field in uniform, playing your hearts out!

How will the 7th members return to their friends and schools and explain how all those grueling practices, hours of rehearsals, and the dedication to corps can become one of the greatest times of their life? It's not easy to do, but I bet several will try, just as SAA members did in the past.

Everyone involved with the 7th and the SAA should be very proud of the accomplishments of this first season. And yes, there were many bumps in this road as frictions arose from time to time. But they too, are part of the experience.

All the good, as well as the tough times, melt together to form the 7th Regiment Drum Corps Pride. Everyone involved, from the players to the management, from the Director to the equipment truck driver, and even the newsletter staff are all volunteers, with a single focus in mind... the betterment of the corps. With pride will come respect, and a willingness to work and play together as the corps becomes the sum that is larger than any of the components that make it up.

The future growth of the 7th Regiment lies with each and every one who has chosen to be part of this corps. Each will have a part to play, and must respect the position and opinions of others to ensure the success that is to come. It is important to always keep this activity fun, but at the same time to show respect and self-discipline when things are not going quite right. You are all part of this future.

So, if you think this first competition season was special, stick around for a while and see what a bright and exciting future lies ahead!

As this newsletter completes the first year of issues, I would like to thank the SAA for giving me an opportunity to be involved, to give a little back to the corps, and to once again communicate with all my old friends... Carl B.

For the Record.... Official 2004 Corps Scoreboard...

The 7th Regiment competed in 6 competitions in June/July of 2004. One other competition in Pennsville, NJ was rained out. The SAA is so proud of these kids, who in a very shortened practice season, put it all together and went out and experienced the thrill of competition – and for bringing the dream of Drum Corps back to Southeastern Connecticut!

June 26, 2004 Malden, MA	
<u>Division II</u>	Score
Spartans	70.60
East Coast Jazz	68.25
Jersey Surf	65.60
<u>Division III</u>	
Citations	49.35
Targets	46.80
Spirit of NJ	43.15
7th Regiment	39.10

June 30, 2004 Uncasville, CT	
<u>Division I</u>	Score
Cadets	83.15
Crusaders	78.45
Carolina Crown	76.50
Spirit of JSU	73.15
Crossmen	72.90
Glassmen	72.65
<u>Division II</u>	
East Coast Jazz	73.35
<u>Division III</u>	
Targets	41.70
7th Regiment	37.45

July 3, 2004 Springfield, MA	
<u>Division II</u>	Score
Spartans	75.30
East Coast Jazz	75.10
Jersey Surf	65.60
<u>Division III</u>	
Cadets of NYC	55.75
St. Johns	52.15
Citations	46.10
Targets	43.35
Spirit of NJ	42.10
7th Regiment	37.25

July 10, 2004 Brick, NJ	
<u>Division II</u>	Score
Spartans	77.60
East Coast Jazz	74.25
<u>Division III</u>	
Raiders	61.95
Cadets of NYC	56.05
7th Regiment	46.10
Targets	(No Show)

July 16, 2004 Everett, MA	
<u>Division II</u>	Score
Spartans	81.30
East Coast Jazz	80.10
<u>Division III</u>	
Les Stentors	57.50
Citations	51.65
Targets	49.25
7th Regiment	42.90

July 17, 2004 Southbridge, MA	
<u>Division II</u>	Score
Spartans	83.70
East Coast Jazz	83.15
<u>Division III</u>	
Les Stentors	58.40
Citations	57.40
Targets	52.25
7th Regiment	48.60
Spirit of NJ	48.25

The 7th Regiment showed their determination to improve as the season went on – giving their best show of the year during their last performance. As many SAA members know, when starting out, it is more important to focus on improvement from show to show, rather than thinking about trophies. Trophies have to be earned, and as this corps continues to improve and grow, there is no doubt that the sweet taste of victory will come...

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



JEFFREY DOZIER
7th Regiment Director

My life in Drum Corps began in 1971 when I went to a Surfers practice to watch my brother Tim. I liked what I saw, especially the brass line and thought it would be interesting to learn how to play a horn, so I joined up.

I stayed with the corps up to 1977, later to change one uniform for another as I joined the Navy and had a very successful career for 26 years. The roots of this success was learned early on in my years in drum corps and enabled me to retire as a Master Chief, the highest enlisted rank, I had learned what team work was, and this was evident in every command I was given.

Drum Corps taught me to be a team member, to work hard, to work with others to accomplish a goal, never settling for a status of “just okay.”

So many years had past, and once again I found myself going to a Drum Corps rehearsal to see what was happening and immediately wanted to become part of the organization. I wanted to give back to Drum Corps for what it had given me so long ago. With my drum corps experience and Navy skills, I looked forward to my new job as Director of the 7th Regiment.

Being the Director of the Corps carries the responsibility of ensuring that the Corps has every tool available to them, within reason, to help them be successful. To establish obtainable goals for the corps, and to see they are met. And to understand that the Directors responsibilities are a learning curve and this past season came with a lot of lessons!

Milestones were set, and if not for the support of the SAA (Surfers Alumni Association), there would be no 7th Regiment. Without the SAA Board of Directors passing the DCI Evaluation successfully, there would have been no competitions this past season. All the work, all the preparations, all the rehearsals, and on the night of June 26, 2004, in Malden, MA – the Corps performed in their first competition.

Drum Corps will always run through my veins, as will the memories of my years in the Navy, but most important was on August 19, my wife Jackie and I celebrated our 26th year anniversary.

BIG Thank you to Holly DeFelice from Meriden, CT...

Holly DeFelice, a 12 year old from Meriden, CT, won the 50/50 raffle at our June 30th DCI Uncasville show. She in turn donated \$100 of her winnings to the 7th Regiment.

Everyone associated with the 7th Regiment and the Surfers Alumni Association extend a **BIG “Thank You”** to Holly for her generosity. Holly is a member of the Crimson Tornadoes Drum & Bugle Corps located in Central Connecticut. The corps has members from the age of 8 to 21. They offer quality music education and performance skills. Visit their website at...

<http://crimsontornadoes.org>

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW...by M.L. Swain

The last time DCI was in Denver was the last time I was in Denver. It was nice to visit Denver for championships again after so many years. During the final night of competition, there was a screen presentation that featured classic drum corps moments. Looking at the video, I realized how much drum corps has changed since 1977.

In 1977, I was fortunate enough to be chosen along with two other friends from the Whalers to go on tour with Sword Excalibur. Basically, we were kitchen helpers. While on tour, I was picked to be on the honor guard for competitions. Speaking of change, today junior corps no longer march honor guards in field competitions.

In 1977, championships were at Mile High Stadium. Back then, there were several competitive divisions, Division A, B and all-girls. Today, Mile High Stadium has been replaced with the strikingly beautiful Invesco Stadium. Corps are divided into Division I, II and III, depending on their size.

In 1977, corps uniforms were more original and unique. No two corps looked alike. Some corps wore cadet-style uniforms while others wore cavalier-style uniforms with capes. The all-male Kilties from Racine Wisconsin actually wore kilts. Aside from the Kilties, some of my other favorite uniforms were the 27th Lancers, Schaumburg Guardsmen, Blue Stars and Bayonne Bridgemen.

In 2004, almost all of the junior corps wear the standard cadet-style uniform with a few minor changes. Some corps have bars or bands across the front, whereas other corps have geometrical shapes, designs or sashes. Which begs the question, is there only one designer for drum corps/band uniforms? Corps like the Cavaliers, Santa Clara Vanguard and Crossmen still wear the cavalier style uniform (without capes of course) with the stylish Aussie hats.

In 1977, most drum corps drills were symmetrical. Corps lined up, stood at attention in the middle of the field, the drum major saluted, the gun fired and the show began. Back then, corps shows consisted of an "off-the-line," a drum solo, a concert standstill in semi-circle formation, a ballad, a re-entry, and a finale. Basically, corps played a wide variety of music including pop, rock, classical, jazz and Broadway selections. There were hardly any show themes.

A corps could play "On the Town" for an "off-the-line," "Fantasy" by Earth, Wind and Fire for concert, "How Deep Is Your Love" by the Bee Gees for a ballad, and "Star Wars" for a finale.

In 2004, a symmetrical drill is atypical and almost never performed. Corps still stand at attention, and drum majors still salute. However, there's no gunshot just a "You may take the field for competition." Today, drills are fast moving and dynamic. When I view a Cavaliers drill from high in the stands I feel as if I'm looking at a piece of art. It is simply that good. Corps shows are more complex today. It's like watching an 11 minute Broadway play. Corps programs generally have themes. These themes are explained in depth in the souvenir programs in case you don't understand what the corps is playing or trying to convey. As a spectator, I'm in awe at the level of ability of the kids on the field today. I'm even more amazed at the show designers and instructors who develop these shows. I confess I don't recognize some of the songs corps play today, but I didn't back in 1977 either. And that's the good thing about drum corps. It's an activity where one can to continue to learn and gain exposure to various types of music whether as a performer or spectator.

In 1977, most color guards were comprised of girls (with the exception of the all-male corps) and utilized two pieces of equipment, the flag and the rifle (which almost always was adorned with reflecting tape). Except for the Blue Stars, whose guard wore shorts, most guard wore skirts and black riding boots. In 2004, color guards are usually co-ed and wear a wide variety of costumes. They utilize flags, rifles, sabers, hoops and various other pieces of equipment to create visual impact. However, the most significant change in the guard is the incorporation of dance. For some corps, the majority of guard program consists of dancing so much that it is not uncommon to hear some in the audience whisper "Please pick up a flag. This is drum corps."

In 1977, not only were there all-male corps such as the Kilties, Madison Scouts and Cavaliers, but there were several competitive all-girl corps such as St Ignatius, Les Chatelaines, the Jean-ettes, Arabella, and the Fire-ettes from Norwich, CT.

(Continued on back page...)

Surfer's Alumni Association

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THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW. . . *continued*

Today, there are only two competitive all male corps in existence-the Madison Scouts and Cavaliers. Sadly, there is only one competitive all-girl corps-the Bandettes from Canada.

In 1977, the BIG CONTROVERSY was the Garfield Cadets singing "AMEN" at the end of their show during Jesus Christ Superstar's "I Don't Know How to Love Him." Back then they received a penalty because vocals were not allowed in competition. In 2004, the BIG CONTROVERSY was not only sound amplification but also vocals being allowed in field competition. Both Carolina Crown and Boston Crusaders used vocals in their performances much to the chagrin of many drum corps fans and purists.

In 1977, the Blue Devils from Concord, California won the coveted DCI championship title. In 2004, the Blue Devils almost won the DCI title but were overtaken by the Cavaliers of Illinois, who performed an innovative James Bond themed program.

As the years go by, one thing I've realized is that drum corps keeps evolving and changing. And for the most part, this is a good thing. While the number of corps that competed in DCI has substantially decreased over the years, the hope is that with the growth of Division II and III, more corps will be able to form, grow and thrive.

Come visit a 7th Regiment Practice!
Details available at the 7th Regiment website:
Go to... www.7thregiment.org



7th Regiment Drum Major
Kate Socha salutes . . .
the first year of competition