



THE LONG BLUE LINE

THE OFFICIAL TROOPERS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 1 • Winter 2007



LEGENDS NEVER DIE

Troopers Return to Competition for the 2007 Season

By Thoro Constantinedes

If there was a new documentary about the Troopers, it might be titled “The Troopers Are Coming...Back!” After a year of hard work, the Drum Corps International touring schedule once again has the Troopers competing in DCI’s Division I.

The story behind the return started when our governing body, Drum Corps International, revoked our membership and removed us from touring status in October, 2005. The resulting shock was felt throughout the Trooper family, and caused many to doubt the future of our great corps.

But positive change was quick to come for the corps when the corps Board of Directors asked Mike Ottoes, a Troopers alumnus and Cheyenne businessman, to take the organization’s reins as executive director.

Under Ottoes’ leadership, the Troopers began a thorough assessment of our business operations, processes and staffing. Ottoes developed a comprehensive business plan for the corps, which was adopted by the Board of Directors in December. Working closely with Stack & Associates, a local CPA firm, the corps financial controls were modernized and several years of delinquent tax returns were filed within the next four months. By filing our returns so quickly, we ensured that DCI would allow us to return to activity in 2007.

The Board of Directors of the corps also rapidly re-invented itself by adding new members and electing a new president. Milward Simpson, currently Director of the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources and a Trooper alumnus, joined the board in October. Milward was elected President of the board the following December. He was joined in November by fellow alumni Thoro Constantinides, a Colorado business consultant, and Kathy Gerdom, a Casper human resources professional.

In January, 2006, prominent alumnus, former drum major and the second director of the Troopers, John Masterson, returned to the organization by joining the Board of Directors. John recently returned to Casper from Cheyenne, where he served the Governor of Wyoming in several prominent appointments, and is a special counsel for a regional law firm, Rothgerber, Johnson and Lyons. Another former drum major, Tom Walsh, soon followed John as a board member. Tom brings impressive business and leadership experience, and is Vice President, Enterprise Market for Thomson Tax & Accounting.

The most recent new member of the Board of Directors is Chris Nicholas, who is Associate Director of Bands at the University of Wyoming, and directs the University’s marching band. Chris joined the board in July, 2006 and will be instrumental in establishing the corps in the regional music education community.

- 2 Welcome

- 3 2007 Schedule

- 4 A Drum Major’s Thoughts

- 5 Honorary Troopers

- 6 Blast From The Past

- 8 Awakenings

continued on page 3

WELCOME TO THE "REBIRTH" OF THE LONG BLUE LINE NEWSLETTER

We are very excited to start up this publication once again. What a year it has been for the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps. It has been filled with ups and downs, with some days feeling like we were getting nowhere, but most days it's amazing how many great things are happening. It is hard to describe the outpouring of affection and support the Troopers have received. Without a doubt, the Troopers are one of the most beloved corps in the activity. The momentum the Trooper family has created over the past year is awesome, and we are just getting started!



All of us who love and support this organization have similar emotions and memories that we want to pass on to future Troopers. Ultimately we want to give the members of the 2007 Troopers one of the best experiences of their lives. We want them to understand that "to be a Trooper is what means the most", and we want them to know the Long Blue Line is made up of great people that personify honor, loyalty, and dedication. With the support of the Trooper family, the drum corps community, and fans all over the world, our dream of returning to the field will soon be a reality.

As we get closer and closer to the 2007 season, we would like to reach out to alumni, parents, fans and supporters to help make the return of the Troopers one of the most memorable in the history of the activity. We need help at all levels: from volunteering some time at the Trooper office, if you are in Casper, to helping out at camps. We need help with recruiting and sponsoring of members. We need help with fundraising for new instruments and uniforms, and of course we will need help on the road next summer. Being a part of this comeback is something very special, but it takes an enormous amount of resources to make it happen.

Finally, as you read through this issue of the Long Blue Line, please remember that to put this organization back on the field takes a huge effort from many very dedicated people. We want to thank everyone who has been a part of the success we have achieved over the past year. For those who want to be a part of the return of this legendary drum corps, please come join us. With your help, the dream is alive and well!

Resume Hut!

Yours in Honor, Loyalty, and Dedication

Mike Ottoes, *Executive Director*

Fred Morris, *Corps Director*

TROOPERS CHOOSE



Yamaha Corporation of America, Band & Orchestral Division, has recently formed an official relationship with The Troopers. The Troopers purchased a complete line of 64 brass instruments, and in doing so joins The Cavaliers, The Cadets, the Bluecoats and The Crossmen as another top performing corps in Drum Corp International (DCI) to march Yamaha Brass.

Negotiations with Yamaha have been ongoing since the fall of 2006. The Troopers took delivery of most of their brass inventory on January 15th—in time for their next audition camp. Xeno model trumpets will arrive in February.

"One of our goals is to provide each of our students with the best instruments for them to perform at the absolute highest level," states Mike Ottoes, Executive Director of the Troopers. "Because of their superior sound quality and craftsmanship of Yamaha brass, we believe we can achieve this goal."

The Troopers are the only competitive junior drum and bugle corps in the state of Wyoming. The corps, founded in 1957 by Casper contractor Jim Jones, represents Wyoming in numerous performance events during the year and participates in the Drum Corps International Summer Music Games tour during the summer months. The corps has won eleven national titles in their long history and have placed in the DCI top twelve 9-times.

For more information, write:

Yamaha Corporation of America,
Band & Orchestral Division
P.O. Box 6600, Buena Park, CA 90622

or contact them via:

Telephone: (714) 522-9011
E-mail: infostation@yamaha.com
Web: www.yamaha.com/band.



continued from page 1

After Ottoes realigned the corps operations, the corps administration was able to immediately improve the financial position of the corps by applying core management and business principles. By carefully examining costs, a number of changes were made to our operations, including the elimination of the bus leasing business. Coupled with the opening of a new bingo hall, the Bingo business showed sudden improvement and is currently providing 50% more income for the Troopers than in prior years. A debt repayment plan that originally foresaw the complete retirement of debt by June of 2007, is now on track to be complete by March, 2007.

Over the summer the corps decided to bring back the Trooper Cadets. Scott Reinsbach, yet another alumnus of the corps, volunteered to organize and lead the new mixed brass and winds marching group. The Cadets saw great success over the summer. At each event the members' performances were warmly received. In addition to keeping the corps in the Casper community's eye, they also provided a great deal of excitement to the administration and board of directors. The membership of the Cadets was comprised almost entirely of local Casper musicians, and we believe that the Cadets are a great opportunity to continue rebuilding our corps from the ground up.

The sheepwagon visited three major drum corps events this summer. Souvenir sales were brisk, even exceeding 2005 sales levels at the Denver Drums Along the Rockies, DCI San Antonio, and DCI Championship events. Sales were boosted by new apparel designed by Troopers alumnus Shannon Brown. Numerous corps members, fans and prospective members visited the sheepwagon at those events to wish the corps well and express their support for our return.

A major milestone was reached in July, when Fred Morris was hired to be the Corps Director. Fred brings extensive business and drum corps experience to the Troopers. Fred is responsible for the competitive operations of the corps. He immediately began to promote the Troopers within the drum corps community and aggressively pursue a top-notch design and instructional team for the corps. Fred's new design and instructional teams include staffers from numerous successful drum corps, including the Cavaliers, Bluecoats, Blue Devils and Capital Regiment. Each announcement of a new designer or staff member has generated significant buzz in the drum corps world, and there is a very high level of excitement surrounding the corps.

Recruiting has been successful, with the corps heavily represented at the Wyoming State Marching Festival, Colorado State Marching Championships and the Idaho District III Championships. Numerous other recruiting activities are underway, and we are excited to welcome a large number of new and returning members to our re-born organization.

When our future looked dim, we decided that "Legends Never Die." Soon the slogan will become reality, and the Troopers will be back.




2007 SCHEDULE

(Tentative—Subject to revision)

June 14	Casper, WY
June 15	Casper, WY
June 19	Sioux Falls, SD
June 20	Omaha, NE
June 22	Racine, WI
June 23	Toledo, OH
June 24	Belding, MI
June 25	S. Milwaukee, WI
June 28	Evansville, IN
June 30	Kalamazoo, MI
July 2	Centerville, OH
July 4	Parades in Chicago, IL
July 5	Columbus, OH
July 6	Buffalo, NY
July 7	Allentown, PA
July 8	Schuykill Haven, PA
July 9	Hershey, PA
July 10	Charleston, WV
July 11	Louisville, KY
July 14	Atlanta, GA
July 15	Jacksonville, AL
July 17	West Monroe, LA
July 18	Baton Rouge, LA
July 21	San Antonio, TX
July 22	Denton, TX
July 24	Wichita, KS
July 25	Lincoln, NE
July 26	Great Bend, KS
July 27	Cheyenne, WY
July 28	Denver, CO
July 30	Ogden, UT
July 31	Boise, ID
August 4	Stanford, CA
August 5	NorCal TBA
August 9	Pasadena, CA—1/4 Final
August 10	Pasadena, CA—Semis
August 11	Pasadena, CA—Finals

A DRUM MAJOR'S THOUGHTS

By Mark Crimm, Troopers Drum Major



A year of drum corps has passed without the Troopers on the field, and it would appear that the activity continued on. Contrary to some beliefs, drum corps doesn't need the Troopers to exist. Or does it?

I know that for me personally, a year not on the field with Troop was a journey that I wasn't quite ready for. Starting in November, something about one weekend a month just felt wrong. Winter gave way to spring, and as finals ended at the University of Wyoming, I began to ask the question many age-outs can most likely relate to. "What do normal people do during the summer?" Luckily, I don't have to worry about finding another summer activity for another summer.

So back to the original problem regarding whether or not the drum corps world still turns without the Troopers. Although there were still touring drum corps, all-days, and finals, the ranks of division one weren't complete. Going to finals this year was not what I had originally hoped for my second season as a drum major, but it was rewarding in an entirely different way.

Hanging out at the sheep wagon with Mom and Dad Gilbert was an experience I will not soon forget. For part of the weekend I wore my drum major uniform, complete with spurs. The response from the fans, as well as members of other drum corps was amazing. I've never had so many pictures taken by people I didn't know. Complete strangers, with tears in their eyes, told me the stories of their first Trooper experience.

I know that the corps means a lot to many members of the Long Blue Line, but most of the readers of this article wouldn't believe how many people this corps has truly touched. I felt unworthy to be in the uniform I was wearing while these people told me about the miraculous shows that they had seen in the 70's. Then those same people would tell me that every year they go to finals and buy tickets to quarters to see one corps. The Troopers.

It wasn't just the fans of the past corps that humbled me by their words. Members of corps from the Boston Crusaders, to the Blue Knights, to Memphis Sound said they couldn't wait until we were back. It means a lot to hear fans tell you that they love you, but to have members of corps that currently place better than us, many of these members younger than I am, tell me that this summer

wasn't the same knowing that the Troopers weren't there was something that I will carry with me to every show this season. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Blue Knights Contra section. What they did finals night at retreat made me respect them like I have never respected another corps. Laying their horns in the shape of the cross sabers was truly an act of class. That is what the spirit of drum corps is all about.

With all of that support and love in mind, it would seem that there was no other option but for the corps to return to the field next year with as much pride and dignity as ever presented by the Troopers. With the support of DCI, the fans, and the thousands of members that march in other corps, we will be ready to take the field in June. We will hold our heads high and say that we are the Troopers, now and always. There is no denying the legacy that Jim Jones left behind, and there will be no denying the return to glory for America's Corps. I look forward to being on the field for one final season, but mostly I look forward to being on the field as a Trooper. For many of us, this is where we were born. For some of us, this is where we will die. For drum corps, this is where it began.

2007 STAFF

Scott Koter, *Program Consultant*

Doug Thrower, *Brass Arranger*

Tom Rarick, *Percussion Arranger*

Mitch Rogers, *Visual Designer*

Scott Atchison, *Brass Caption Head*

Brian Stevens, *Percussion Caption Head*

Greg Tsalikis, *Percussion Instructor*

Matt Haines, *Visual Caption Head*

For more information and to read individual biographies, please go to:

www.troopersdrumcorps.org



NEW T-SHIRT

Take advantage of a special offer!

We are accepting preorders for a new tshirt design celebrating the theme of this year's show—"Awakening: Rebirth of a Legend."

This comfortable, navy blue shirt is a high quality 6.1 oz. ultra cotton heather ringer tee which will stand up to lots of use.

To preorder, go to the online Sheepwagon at:

www.troopers.safeshopper.com

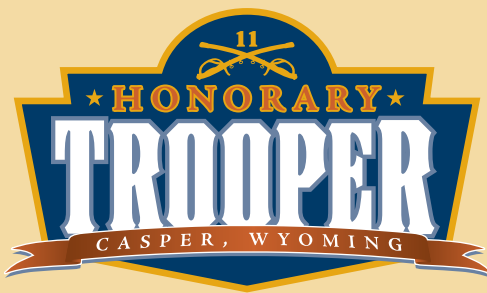
and be one of the first to receive this striking new shirt.

PREORDER PRICE: \$12.50*

(regular price \$15.00)

*Limited time offer

TROOPERS LAUNCH HONORARY TROOPERS PROGRAM



The Troopers have launched a new Honorary Troopers booster program. This program has been a part of the Troopers souvenir operation since the early 1970's. It has remained nearly unchanged since its beginnings. With the new program, the Troopers will offer six different membership levels within the program all with increasing membership benefits.

Funds raised through the Honorary Troopers program go directly to the corps' annual operating budget which helps supply uniforms, top-quality instruments and equipment, rehearsal facilities and so much more.

Honorary Trooper memberships make great holiday or birthday gifts. To become an Honorary Trooper yourself or to give the gift of membership to a friend or loved one, visit our online sheep wagon to activate your membership right away. Complete membership details can be found on the Troopers website at www.troopersdrumcorps.org

FAN LEVEL: \$50

Membership Includes:

- Subscription to the Long Blue Line
- Listing on the Troopers Website
- Honorary Troopers Window Sticker

MEMBER LEVEL: \$100

Membership Includes:

- Subscription to the Long Blue Line
- Listing on the Troopers Website
- Honorary Troopers Window Sticker
- Troopers T-shirt
- Membership card with 5% discount at sheep wagon and online purchases.

VETERAN LEVEL: \$250

Membership Includes:

- Subscription to the Long Blue Line
- Listing on the Troopers Website
- Honorary Troopers Window Sticker
- Troopers T-shirt
- Troopers Mug
- Member card with 10% discount at the sheep wagon and online purchases.

SECTION LEADER LEVEL: \$500

Membership Includes:

- Subscription to the Long Blue Line
- Listing on the Troopers Website
- Honorary Troopers Window Sticker
- Troopers T-shirt
- Troopers Mug
- Member card with 10% discount at the sheep wagon and online purchases
- Troopers Polo shirt
- 1 ticket to Drums Along the Rockies

DRUM MAJOR LEVEL: \$1,000

Membership Includes:

- Subscription to the Long Blue Line
- Listing on the Troopers Website
- Honorary Troopers Window Sticker
- Troopers T-shirt
- Troopers Mug
- Troopers Sweatshirt or Polo Shirt or Wind Shirt
- Member card with 15% discount at the sheep wagon and online purchases
- 2 tickets to Drums Along the Rockies

SABER LEVEL: \$2,500

Membership Includes:

- Subscription to the Long Blue Line
- Listing on Troopers Website, Long Blue Line, and in the Casper Star
- Honorary Troopers Window Sticker
- Troopers Mug
- 2 Troopers sweatshirts or Polos or Wind Shirts
- Member card with 15% discount at the sheep wagon and online purchases
- 2 tickets to Drums Along the Rockies
- VIP access to Trooper events and facilities

NEW UNIFORM DRIVE

As we look toward our 50th year, many preparations are underway. One of them is to provide the 2007 corps with new uniforms. This is where you play a vital role. We need your help!

The current uniforms were purchased in 1996 and have endured countless contests, parades, corps exhibitions and performances across the country. While the uniforms may look fine from a distance, most are beyond repair because of worn and faded fabrics, torn and broken zippers, missing buttons and snaps, and years of alterations, mending and cleaning. The average life expectancy for a modern uniform is 5-6 years. We have clearly surpassed that expectation.

The goal of this appeal is to raise the needed funds, approximately \$30,000, to allow delivery of the new uniforms in time for the 2007 drum corps season!

At this time, the new uniform design is still being decided upon. However, you can expect the new uniform to provide a contemporary and exciting look for the Troopers, while maintaining that sense of tradition that the Troopers are well known for.

Please, contribute what you can to this effort. Know that 100% of your contributions will be set aside for this very important fund drive.

You may make your contribution online via credit card or you may mail your contribution to:

TROOPERS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

Uniform Fund

PO Box 375

Casper, WY 82602

COMPUTER WALLPAPER

Is something missing from your computer screen?

Go to the Troopers website, and click on "Media Vault" to download some great wallpaper for your computer desktop.



TROOPERS.... V.F.W. CHAMPS

Aug. 19, Miami, Florida - At Miami's Orange Bowl tonight, another notch on the corps' championship ladder was cut by the Troopers of Casper, Wyoming. The Troops finished an evening of pure drum corps magic with a score of 87.45.

An interesting prelim action saw the twelve finalists within about 3 points from first through twelfth spot. One of the more interesting finishes was that of the Boston Crusaders who seem to have found the groove. Whatever the formula, the "Cru" finished a strong second slightly under a point behind Casper. A look at the prelim and final scores will show a big change in the finish of the Cavaliers who went from 11th in the prelims to 3rd in the finals.

This "Million Dollar Pageant of Drums" provided 7 midwest and 5 eastern finalists and the scores show a tight prelim and a wide open finals action. A full report will be found in next week's issue of D.C.N.

The scores:

FINALS - V.F.W.

1. Troopers 87.45

2. Boston Crusaders	86.75
3. Cavaliers	85.55
4. Blessed Sacrament	85.45
5. Blue Stars	84.90
6. Kilties	84.55
7. Madison Scouts	82.80
8. Argonne Rebels	82.55
9. 27th Lancers	82.50
10. Garfield Cadets	82.20
11. Blue Rock	81.40
12. Black Knights	74.00

PRELIMS - V.F.W.

1. Troopers	90.50
2. Blessed Sacrament	90.30
3. Boston Crusaders	90.00
4. Blue Stars	89.85
5. Kilties	89.05
6. Blue Rock	88.80
7. Madison Scouts	88.65
8. Garfield Cadets	88.60
9. Argonne Rebels	88.25
10. 27th Lancers	87.25
11. Chicago Cavaliers	87.05
12. Belle. Black Knights	84.20



EXTEND STREAK - The Troopers of Casper, Wyoming added the V.F.W. National Crown to their growing list of championships that include the North American and C.Y.O. Nationals. (Photo by Rich Kosztyu.)



Rocky Mountain News
 THE U.S. PULP IDZ
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1970

TV LISTINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 13

THE CASPER TROOPERS COME TO TV
 - See Page 10



Blast for Casper

The Casper Troopers have done more to put Casper and central Wyoming on the map than anything that has happened since Teapot Dome 40 years ago. But in a more constructive way, we hasten to add.

A lot of folks west of the Mississippi never heard of Casper before the colorful Troopers blasted into their town and took a top prize in the local parade contest. Right now they're headed for Racine, Wis., to vie for a \$1,200 top prize.

Reports flowing back from many cities and towns underline the favorable impression made by the Troopers—all of which is top advertising for Casper and Wyoming.

A national publication, Drum Corps News, calls the Casper Troopers "the most well-organized junior corps in the country."

"It is only when a corps from such a barren area (drum corps wise) does something on such a large scale that they receive acclaim," the publication comments.

"The Troopers are a corps with a lot of 'guts.' Who else but someone like Jim Jones, Corps manager, would ever have thought of an organization like this springing up from the no man's land of drum corps?"

Sometimes it seems the Troopers get more recognition in some distant city than in the old home town, where people tend to "take them for granted."

But they have solid support from businessmen, patriotic groups and many individual boosters, and they work hard to raise funds to finance their long trips. What better way to put the town on the map?



JONES GRINS: Jim Jones, director of the Casper Troopers, presents the VFW National Championship traveling trophies and permanent Color Guard trophies to the citizens of Casper during the welcome home.



Troopers Win Over Cavaliers

BATAVIA, N.Y.—By the narrowest of margins—less than a tenth of a point—the Casper Troopers defeated their rivals, the Chicago Cavaliers Tuesday evening to take their second straight championship in the St. Joe's Drum and Bugle Corps contest.

The Troopers ended with 79.85 points while the "Cavvies" had 79.80 points in the final judging. It was the second straight win on the current tour for the Troopers over the "Green Machine" from Chicago. They defeated the Cavaliers at Toronto Sunday by 1.55 points.

St. Joseph's Drum and Bugle Corps of Batavia was third Tuesday night with a score of 78.20 while two California corps were fourth and fifth. The Anaheim Kingsmen had 75 points and the Velvet Knights 67.65.

Wednesday night the Troopers competed against 14 corps in the annual Catholic Youth Organization invitational meet near Boston. They were aiming for their third straight win in the CYO meet.

On Aug. 18, the Troopers take part in the day - long National VFW competition at Miami, Fla.

NATIONAL JUBILEE

Friday AUGUST 19th 8 P.M.
Nations Greatest Corps in A Mammoth Salute To Drum Corps Week

- SEE
- CASPER TROOPERS - WYOMING
 - WARFIELD CADETS
 - ST. LUCY'S CADETS
 - CHICAGO ROYAL-AIRS
 - TROOP 12 INDIANS

- N.Y. SKYLINERS
- SUNRISERS
- REILLY RAIDERS
- ARCHER EPLER MUSKETEERS

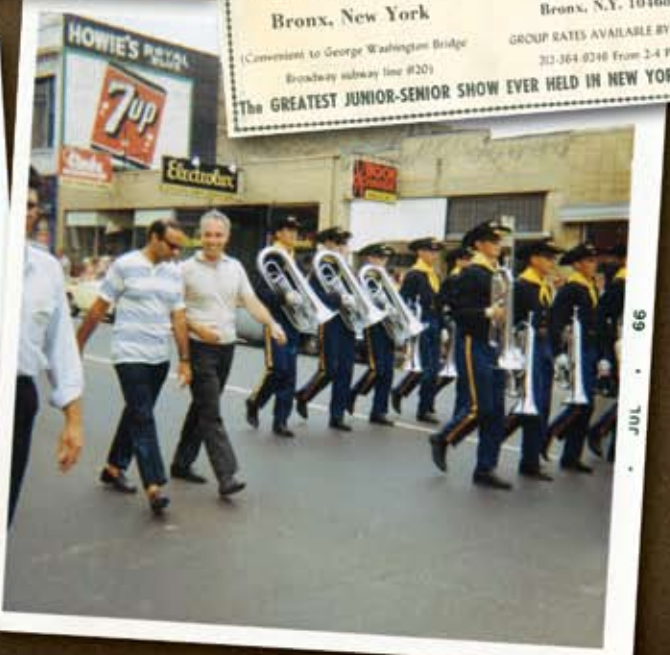
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TROOPERS ANNOUNCE 2007 PROGRAM

The Troopers design team of Tom Rarick, Mitch Rogers, Doug Thrower and Scott Koter met recently in Indianapolis, IN with corps director Fred Morris to put the finishing touches on the 2007 show.

The Troopers are proud to present its 2007 program, "Awakening" featuring the music of Joseph Curiale, Dave Brubeck and Gordon Goodwin. The appropriately titled offering will allow the corps to celebrate its rich heritage while paving the way for the future as America's Corps.

To date, over 350 membership applications have been processed. First round of auditions took place in Laramie, Wyoming November 24-26th where students were able to meet the outstanding team of caption heads including Scott Atchison on brass and Brian Stephens on percussion.

The second camp was held in Cheyenne December 28-30th as well as the third camp on January 18-20th.

Watch the Troopers website for more exciting show and staff news in the weeks to come including information about the 2007 color guard and designer Benny Lopez.

801 East E Street | Casper, WY 82609

DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

TROOPERS

