

HIGH DESERT PIPES & DRUMS

of Albuquerque, New Mexico

Federal ID# 85-0422682

PO Box 6705
Albuquerque, NM 87197

Phone: 505 944-2448
FAX # 505 344-0313



A New Mexico Non-Profit Foundation

www.hdpd.org

April 20, 2005

YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED - THANKS

IS THE BAND GETTING SHORTER OR AM I JUST GETTING OLDER?

It is a bit of both. The High Desert has always been an interesting mix of ages and backgrounds. As we continue into our TENTH year, the High Desert Pipes and Drums has added its youngest performing members ever - Joseph, Shawnee, Helen, Dominique, Elijah, and David in the pipe section and Thomas and sister Claire in the drum section are a welcome addition. The student classes also have a number of kids (ranging in age from ten to sixty) – and we look forward to adding them to the High Desert family.

A previous group of “kids” – from the 1999 World Championship group – have matured and are now fully fledged tax-paying citizens. Mason, Pipe Sargeant, graduated from UNM in December with a major in Astro-Physics. Tim (aka Timmy), Pipe Corporal, obtained his degree from Colorado State University in Fort Collins Colorado, and has returned to save New Mexico from fire and the bark beetle, and add his teaching skills to the High Desert. Both Mason and Tim are graduates of Sandia High School. Chris, a graduate of Highland High School, went to Florida, received a degree in Engineering, and has come back to Albuquerque to work and rejoin the band.

Megan and Melissa, tenor drummers, are students at UNM. In the snare section, Patsy and Daniel are both graduating High School this May. Katy, Drum Sargeant, is working and has been performing in several theatrical productions.

After a stint in the Reserves, Jeff, bass drummer, has been accepted to Physician Assistant training. Andrew, one of the most recent additions to the competition band, has received a mentorship in Neuro-Surgery at UNM. Lorraine, a biologist, is always on the lookout for burrowing owls, and Chris (the Red), a geologist, watches for environmental contamination and crossing noises. Tim (Sir), an APD officer, is returning to the band on the bass drum

In the “Getting Older” section of the band – Bill, Pipe Major and founder continues to bend glass and anyone’s ear who will listen, about the band. Al still rides a cycle from

Los Lunas to practice. Paul commutes from Los Alamos. Dave is our source of legal-eze, Jim (Jeum) doles out encouragement and compassion to the struggling students. Kent (Doc), a neonatologist, continues to get taller, and will soon become a father-in-law with the upcoming wedding of his daughter Amanda (a former HDPD tenor drummer). Patricia is not getting older – but her children are – and have added three grandchildren to the Christmas list. Marcy, tenor drummer, and hairdresser, is also in the “not getting older” category (We gals have to stick together!!)

The High Desert is proud of its diversity of ages and backgrounds. It is the music which binds this unconnected group of individuals together. Bringing these individuals together is the CHALLENGE – and these individuals making it work is the REWARD. The band learned to crawl and walk in the previous ten years - This is the year we learn how to run!

MANY THANKS:

To **Jim and Barbara Carnes** for a generous donation made to the High Desert at a recent band practice following the band’s WIN at the games in Mesa Arizona. Jim and Barbara have followed the band’s progress since its inception and were impressed by the quality of playing and the obvious revitalization that we are experiencing this year.

To **Rebecca & Greg Sullivan** for another generous donation to the band. Rebecca and Greg Sullivan are also long-time supporters. Rebecca writes:

“A lot of the power in my pen stems from the inspiration I receive from James Dwyer whom many were fortunate to know and love. ...I frequently pass the police substation which bears his name. Few of you know that I was not too fit a few years back and I thought if James (piper, patrolman, husband, and ironman triathlete) could get on his bike and patrol the streets of Albuquerque with the pain of ...cancer, I could surely fet out of bed before dawn and exercise on some machines and lift some weights. Before I knew it, I had gone from 27% body fat, down to 12%. ...I am now a nationally ranked triathlete and have my sights set on summitting Mt. Rainier...after I compete May 1st at the St. Croix Half Ironman.... The Lord our GOD works in mysterious ways....I have come to realize that HE wants me to recognize something very important to James which moved him to soar and to keep it alive!! That’s YOU!!!. HE wants me to keep company with the best and be inspired by the best and to seek family for support. **YOU ARE AAAAALLL THAT and MORE!!**. The band has been a constant in my life and has never failed to move my soul. Rebecca Sullivan – Wishing you Harmony for 2005”

+++++

SCOTLAND 2005 – has been postponed until 2006. With a weak dollar, and too few dollars in the band kitty, the Board deemed a trip of this size as financially out of reach this year. The good news is that - postponing the trip gives more students an opportunity to work hard – and GET IN THE BAND. The band’s musical focus this year is to compete in as many WUSPBA events as possible in Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and California. We are also working on finishing the CD, and building the performance aspects of the band by performing at some great local venues such as O’Hare’s Bar & Grille, Uptown Sports Bar, and Gecko’s.

How I Spent my Summer Vacation

by Suzanne Lumb

Two years ago, while visiting my Grandmother in England, my family and I were visiting old churches in Coventry's neighboring villages. At one of the churches, a funeral was taking place and I saw a piper waiting outside of the building. As soon as I saw him, I dragged my mom with me to go and talk to him and know more about piping in England. We had a good, long talk before the mourners came out and he had to play, but while talking to him, he invited me to visit his band. I went for the only practice I could attend before going back to America. I had a great time and met all of the other pipers, played tunes and all that good stuff, then went home to Albuquerque, New Mexico. (What? Mexico?). Before I left, the piper (Jim Tudhope) gave me his address so I could write to him if I ever came back.

Last summer, I was going to my grandmother's house for six weeks. I wrote Jim and said I was coming back and asked if I could practice with his band. I got his reply saying that I could play with them. Also that practice would be every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday night from 7:00 to 10:00. OK...cool! When I arrived at my grandmother's house, I called Jim and made arrangements with him for transportation. I showed up for the first time at practice and Jim's son-in-law, Guy, from Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band was showing off. Jim introduced me to him and I had a one-on-one lesson with him. Then Jim walked up to me afterwards and said, "Yer coming tae th' competition on Saturday, right?" I say "Heck yeah!"

Saturday came and the competition was in Birmingham. We practiced together in the soccer field and when it was time for the band to compete, I kicked back and listened to them. I got to play with them during Massed Bands. *Triumph* took first in grade three and third in grade four. After the competition, I went with Jim to his house and he gave me all sorts of sheet music and new reeds for chanter and drones.

The next weekend was the traditional Coventry Carnival. That is just a parade with some clowns, floats, police, and of course, a pipe band. The carnival was supposed to last all day. We started off tuning and going through some practice drilling to make us look smart. The parade started, and knowing it was going to 3 ½ miles long, I was a bit anxious to get it over with, but I was a good sport about it. We took two breaks and when the parade finished, we headed straight over to the closest pub. Yes, I did have a drink or two.

After a few days I got a call from Jim asking me to go over to his house so he could put in a new bag for my pipes. I went and he started working on my pipes. I didn't really know what to do but watch him and help his wife out in the kitchen doing odd jobs. He later decided to put a new mouthpiece on and fix a cracked tenor drone stock. Then he finished and I taught him ho to play "John Keith Lang" and went home.

The next weekend came and we had another competition in Kennelworth. Basically it was the same thing as Birmingham. The weekend after that was the All England

Championships in Ashbourn. We had to take a bus there and it took around 2 hours to arrive. There were so many bands there it was crazy! We took our time getting ready and got more instruction on how to play some of their tunes. When it was time to go on (I didn't know the tunes well enough to compete with them) Jim had to kick a piper out because his reeds were acting up and it was impossible to fix them at the time. But, after the closing massed bands, the awards were announced and we got first place in grade four in all of England. We went home and celebrated until 11:30 PM

Three days later, it was time for me to go back home but they wouldn't let me leave until they gave me a cap badge and a tie for keepsakes. It was a very rewarding experience for me and I learned so much from *Triumph* in such a short time. I am eternally grateful to the band for taking me in as one of their own.

+++++

What Do You Do When Not Practicing?????

Daniel Douglas (tenor drum) put together an experiment that examined how exposure to UV light affects resistance of some common bacteria to antibiotics for his school science fair. Dan took first place in the "Medicine and Health" category as well as taking the premier researcher award. Altogether he won over \$ 350.00 in prize money and an invitation to the regional science competition. Congratulations Daniel!!!

Helen & Claire Primozic (pipes and tenor drum) participated in the statewide NCFCA speech competition during the first weekend of March. Helen placed first in Expository (with a speech on bagpipes!) and third in Persuasive. Claire placed second in Humorous Interpretations. Both are hoping to attend the regional speech tournament in May.

Daniel Appel (snare drummer) presented research in February on "Enzymatic Electrodes for Biofuel Cells" in Washington D.C. for the American Jr. Academy of Science. In March his science project qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, and in April he is presenting research at the Jr. National Science and Humanities Symposium in San Diego.

Trevor, a new chanter student and his wife had a wee baby girl 8 lb 8 oz named Ava. Trevor has already ordered a little Wallace kilt to show her support of the band. – and has promised to raise her as a snare drummer.

Patsy Langan, Russell McFarlane, Suzanne Lumb, Daniel Appel and Dominique Coffing will all graduate high school this year.

Melissa Maestas will join sister **Megan** as a UNM student this summer

Mason Parsons, graduated in December from UNM – becomes a UNM graduate student

Piping students, **Stephen Chester, Rich Grainger, Kevin Ferguson, Carmine Russo and Crystal Barringer**, have become the merchandising contacts for the band – and did a phenomenal job at the St Patrick's gigs in selling T-shirts, hats, begging. They are henceforth dubbed **Le Cirque de Sa-Le**.

What do Mexico City, Mexico – Albuquerque, New Mexico – and Glasgow, Scotland have in common? Pat Wright – the following article is from the Glasgow Herald, October 26, 1977

THE BRAINY DRAIN TO GLASGOW

“Adding another brick to the House of being Fully Informed, we learned yesterday that the eighth wonder of the world is the drains of Mexico City. A banker, and a Clydesdale one at that, says so. So it’s true. Professor Hugh Sutherland, dean of the faculty of civil engineering at Glasgow University, agrees.

He describes the drainage system, completed two years ago as unique – a word not often used by professors, especially of engineering. Professor Sutherland explains: “Built on deposits of volcanic dust, over 7500 feet above sea level and surrounded by mountains of 14,000 feet, drainage for the city (*Mexico City*) was a gigantic problem.”

The eighth wonder took a wee while to happen. According to the professor, the modern works were based on a system devised nearly 500 years ago by the Spanish colonists. They drove a tunnel through a mountain to the coastal plains. We have also learned that the volcanic deposits cause some odd sorts of things to happen. For instance, that buildings can settle into the ground by as much as 15 feet.

All of these remarkable footages are now available in detail at Glasgow University. How that happened is also a mite complicated, since it involves a Mexican engineer, an itinerant Glasgow banker, and a Scot who lives on the Rio Grande.

Four volumes which describe the drains were brought here by Pat Wright, Scottish-born president of a welding supply company in Albuquerque, as a gift from Luis Camacho, the Mexican engineer, to his friend Bill Beaton, the Clydesdale’s general manager, and a regular visitor to the Americas. In his turn, Bill Beaton has given the books to the university.

Handing them over to Professor Sutherland, the banker said: “Mexico City is the mecca for civil engineers. As Glasgow University has the oldest chair of civil engineering in the English-speaking world, it is appropriate that the detailed information and diagrams should be made available to its students.”

And that, we reckon, is a whole wall of bricks into the House of being Fully Informed.”

HIGH DESERT PIPES AND DRUMS CD is not a myth or urban legend. In fact, there are a number of great tracks already completed. Mason & Stuart performing “*Hellbound Train*”, Paul Langan solo, Mason’s original composition, Bill Horn and Pat Wright on “*Flowers of the Forest*“, the band 4/4’s and Mixed Medley. We are looking forward to the completion of a new recording studio which will allow easier recording of the band tracks. High Desert has always tried to present its members with new challenges – and recording a CD has been quite an education!! Stay tuned!!!!!! (Actually tuning has been the biggest challenge – you can fool the ear – but not the sound engineer and the tape)

High Desert Pipes and Drums Bored of Directors

In elections held in December at Sandia Preparatory School, the active members of High Desert elected the following to serve for the year 2005:

Bill Horn – President (Pipe Major)
Suzanne Lumb – Secretary

Al Watters – Vice-President
Patricia Sharp – Treasurer

Members at Large: Chris Burris, Megan Maestas, Lorraine McInnes

Appointed positions:
Pipe Sergeant – Mason Parsons
Pipe Corporal: Tim Borgman
Drum Sergeant: Katy Houska

Board Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at Sandia Prep

A Tribute to James

by Patricia Sharp

The *James Dwyer Trophy* was presented to the Best Grade IV Band of the Rio Rancho Highland Festival for the first time in 2001. Commissioned by the High Desert Pipes & Drums and Murray Henderson, this engraved solid silver trophy from Scotland, will be an annual tribute to the life and contributions of fellow piper James Dwyer. The High Desert Pipes and Drums, placing first in the March Medley, and first in the Mixed Medley, were the winners of the Overall competition, and became the first recipients of the *James Dwyer Trophy*.

As a new piper in 1997, James showed what determination and commitment could accomplish and he joined the competition circle of the High Desert Pipes & Drums. Traveling to Scotland in 1999, James was a member of the first US band to win a Grade IV World Championship- the High Desert Pipes and Drums. James was the first APD officer to compete with the High Desert and his influence has brought many of his fellow officers to chanter lessons. His kilted proposal of marriage, on one knee, in front of Airthrey Castle in Scotland, earned him the “most romantic guy in the band” label. A martial arts expert, an accomplished athlete, an APD motor officer, a bagpiper; James faced each challenge head-on. James faced the diagnosis of cancer with dignity and determination – and set the standard for living each day to its’ fullest.

In August 2001, despite intense pain, James again traveled with the High Desert to Scotland and competed with his band at the World Pipe Band Championships. On September 19, 2001, at the age of 33, James ended his valiant two year battle against cancer. Those who knew James will remember his smile, his laugh, his love, and his caring and concern for others, his quiet determination, and his dignity. In his short life, James touched the lives of thousands of people, and he will be much missed and always remembered.

If you look very carefully, when the High Desert Pipes and Drums form a circle, there is always a wee space between two of the musicians- a space for *James Dwyer*, always a member of the High Desert Pipes and Drums.

Upcoming Events

April 21 , 2005 – the homeschooled members of HDPD will be performing for opening night festivities at the Annual Home School Convention

April 23, 2005 – **Fort Collins Indoor Invitational, Fort Collins Colorado-competition**

May 28, 29 - Highland Games in Pomona California – competition

June 12, 2005- Drum Workshop – 10 am to 12 pm – Sandia Preparatory School- open to any and all interested drummers – snare, tenor and bass instruction
for information contact: Katy 944-2449 (leave message) email hdpdnews2003@aol.com

September 2005 – **Long's Peak Celtic Festival, Estes Park Colorado – competition**

October 2005- Rio Rancho Games, Rio Rancho, New Mexico - competition

What is the definition of a gentleman in Scotland? A person who can play the pipes but
DOES NOT

Why do pipers march when they play? To get away from the noise

THE END OF AN ERA: A special note of thanks to Rob and Laura O'Neill for ten years of great gigs and tremendous support for the band. **O'Neill's Pub** and **O'Neill's Uptown** hosted some of the best gigs the band ever played. There were nights at the **Pub** when the floor boards bowed so much we expected to end up in the basement – and the roar of the crowd drowned out the pipes (not an easy feat). Both locations are now closed - but what a decade we had!!!! So Rob, remember when you reopen, the band will be standing in line with pipes, drums, and pint glasses in hand!!!!

OUR THOUGHTS AND LOVE to Kailey Douglas, infant daughter of Jim and Robin and sister of Daniel and Mackenzie. She will be undergoing open heart surgery at Stanford Medical Center in California next week Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

The High Desert Pipes and Drums is a New Mexico Non-Profit Corporation and a 501(c)(3) Public Foundation. Donations to the High Desert Pipes and Drums are tax-deductible. A receipt will be mailed for all donations received.

Thanks to our long time supporters and welcome to our new band members, students, and supporters. If you would like to receive this newsletter via email – please send your name and email address to hdpdnews2003@aol.com. If you received both an email newsletter and hard copy, please email me also. - Patricia



St Patrick's Day Parade 2005 - They don't all have jackets, but they are in step!!!

Lots of new faces – and some old ones – A SIZABLE FORCE



