

HIGH DESERT PIPES & DRUMS



of Albuquerque, New Mexico

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A New Mexico Non-Profit Foundation

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YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED - THANKS

Sorry I haven't written for so long but the events of REAL LIFE were overwhelming, and the time involved and the cost of printing and postage for the newsletter were getting prohibitive. BUT, I'm now going to try using the miracles of modern technology, and create an e-newsletter. For supporters without email, I can still use "snail-mail" upon request. You are receiving this now, because you have requested information of the band. Please feel free to forward this - and if you do not want to receive any future e-news, just reply to hdpdnews2003@aol.com and you'll be removed - PROMISE!. Hope you enjoy the band NEWS.

The band, has been busy growing and evolving. Loads of exciting things happening with new faces, and old faces, and the usual faces - just getting older. A few old faces who have returned are **Bob** Hindman, after a stint building roads down south, **Daniel** Appel, back from Science Camp, and the ever-busy **Scott** McLelland, and **Al** Watters, now that his bad leg has healed. **Jeff** Haughton, the world champion bass drummer from 2001 has returned to UNM and the band, after a stint in the military. Temporarily AWOL - **Felipe** Rael, who is currently on active duty and stationed in California, and **Tammy** Dwyer, who is working out in California also - We're looking forward to their return, hopefully next spring. Also gone for the summer is **Amanda Argubright** who is busy working with the Grade 1 LA SCOTS Pipe Band as a tenor drummer. New additions to the band include, a contingent from Los Alamos - **Lynn, Paul**, (pipers) and daughter **Patsy** (snare), the medical contingent, **Andrew**, high school student **Suzanne** (piper), and **Lorraine**, piper and biologist, and that quiet guy **Perry** (piper). These are added to the old faces of **Bill, Mason, Patricia, Kent, Jim, Faith, Mary Beth, Dave, Ross, Katy, Gabe, Megan, Marcy**, (and the person I'm sure I've forgotten) to make the band the extremely diverse and unique group it has always been.

Students are too numerous to mention - YEP - We still teach every Thursday evening from 6-7pm at the Menaul School. You'll usually find us in the Cafeteria (alas, no food however). On-going classes are available in snare, tenor/bass, and chanters.

THANK YOU from...

City of Albuquerque

“Your assistance with providing three band members to perform at the National Conference of Weed and Seed on May 27th was very much appreciated. Finding members of the band to perform during a weekday was difficult enough, but a weekday following a holiday was most impressive. The City of Albuquerque, the National Office of Weed and Seed, and the hundreds of Conference participants were pleased and moved by the performance.

Performances by the High Desert Pipes and Drums add so much to solemn, celebratory, and cultural events in our community. Thank you for your contribution to the National Weed and Seed Conference.”

Sincerely, Jeanne Postlethwait, Community Planner,
Department of Family and Community Services.

IN MEMORY OF....

Annie Chamberlain, of Clydebank Scotland, was a great supporter of the High Desert Pipes and Drums from the beginning days of the band, until January 2003, when she passed away after a short illness. Her brother, Pat Wright, has long been a mentor to the band, and Annie shared his enthusiasm by promoting the band in Scotland. Her son-in-law, Angus, has been the band’s official chauffeur on all our trips to Scotland. Clydebank will not be the same without oor “Grannie Annie.”

Mary Beth Goforth has been a member of the High Desert Pipes and Drums as a piper almost since it’s inception. Her husband **Ron Goforth**, died suddenly in May and our condolences and prayers go out to her and her family,

On Monday, July 14th, the band gathered at O’Neill’s Uptown, and the family of **Jeff Houska**, who passed away in December 2002 following a tragic motorcycle accident, presented his beautiful Naill bagpipes to High Desert Pipe Sgt Mason Parsons, in an emotional tribute. The High Desert band had a silver commemorative plate added to the drone stock in Jeff’s memory. Jeff had been a long time supporter of HDPD, and will be greatly missed. His presence will now be felt in the pipe section, with Mason playing his pipes, and also in the drum section. His daughter, Katy, plays in the snare section, and was the world champion bass drummer with HDPD in 1999, and snare drummer with HDPD in 2001.

The City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Police Department opened the **JAMES JOSEPH DYWER MEMORIAL APD Police Mini Substation**. on the corner of Tramway and Montgomery. HDPD was honored to play at the opening ceremonies. James was one of the most inspirational members of our band, and is the first APD police officer, who did not die in the line of duty, to have a station named in his honor.

CONGRATULATIONS to

Patricia Langan, who went off to Piping Hot Summer Drummer, at the end of June, and returned with a Trophy and Scholarship as best student.

Drum Sgt Ross and Suzanne Stenhouse, who are off to Scotland for the wedding of their son Todd. Daughter Kimberly will provide the piping.

To all the HDPD solo pipers and drummers, who competed at the Rio Grande Celtic Festival in May, and Rio Rancho Highland Games in June. As usual, large numbers of our players took medals.

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In the JUDGES OPINION

-- critiques from the **Rio Rancho Highland Games** **June 28 and 29, 2003**

These are presented in order to show the band members what areas to work on for improvement, so that our supporters can better understand the mechanics of the art of a

bagpipe band, and to keep us humble.

Grade 4 - Quick March Medley

Ensemble **Judge: Nigel Forrest** **Score: 62**

Good Intro - march good but some unpleasant sound in lo G coming through. Jig- good break, playing well here, piping slip. Slow Air - nice. Strathspey - more emphasis on pulse needed, especially from drum corp. Ragged snare playing here. Drums not with pipes. Reels: good break. Nice use of bass resonance here. Pipes: very sharp high G's A's - D's rough

Drumming **Judge: Buzz Brown** **Score: 81**

Good intro - march (1) open work not together (2) OK (1) nice break (2) OK
Air - nice score (1) Good break ending roll passage not together (2) OK (1) OK (2) not phrasing together.
Reel (1) nice weaving in tenors here (2) end roll not phrased together
(1) OK (2) OK Good tone from all sections. Must work on weight of accent. Everybody's weight - stick - to drum must be the same. I can hear 3 different weights

Piping **Judge: Ed Neigh** **Score 82**

Slight early E - clean sound coming in. March - Excellent unison and pointing- Curlew- first phrase unison weak, came together, nice tempo, well played. Slow Air - well done, harmony heavy. Strathspey - cut out going in - a bit heavy almost late to beat. 2nd one much better - well played. Reel - good transition, good balance to Strathspey - pipes holding well. 2nd reel well played. Overall - held tone well - music good except first strathspey. Unison weakest in 1st part of jig and in first strathspey. Strong finish! Well played.

Placings :

1st Colo Skye (4) 2nd High Desert (9) 3rd Seven Pipers (11) 4th City of Denver (16)

Grade 4 - March Medley

Ensemble **Judge: Andrew Morrill** **Score 73**

Attack -ok, Intro - good Drones not bang on at start. Bass drum seemed a little flat. Unison could be tighter in snare line. Tenors very quiet. Upper hand of chanter going at end along with D's. Watch blowing to help keep drones and chanters in tune. Good show!

Drumming **Judge: Blair Brown** **Score 79**

Good intro (1) open run not together (2) better here (1) nice bass and tenor here phrasing but tenors not projecting. I think too tight - really hard to hear - good all around tone, (2) rolling passages rough here (1) ok (2) open up flams, to chop stick sounding (3) ok (4) nice ending. Work on weights of accent for a better blend

Piping **Judge: Nigel Forrest** **Score 65**

E not quite together (1) playing not quite in unison in opening tune. (2) Break not bang on together (3) Nice harmony to end. Good finish. Tempo of play a little too laid back. Need to get some life into it. Integration not always there - need to tighten up on this. Chanters no set closely enough. D's, hi G and A particularly off. Drones OK.

Placings:

1st Colo Skye (4) 2nd Seven Pipers (8) 3rd High Desert (12) 4th City of Denver (16)

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MANY THANKS to all who supported our recent "Pipes in the Park" Jumble Sale, on Sunday June 13th at Taylor Park. We raised \$1100.00 for the hoped-for Scotland 2004 trip - and had a great time piping, drumming, eating, and talking. Special thanks to **Katy Houska** and her family for all their hard work getting this put together.

IT's HARD TO BE HUMBLE -when you're in a movie. Several years ago, members of the band spent a day marching around the block in Santa Fe for a SAG production starring **Jeff Fahey** (The Lawnmower Man) and the movie is now a video rental. We did not end up on the cutting room floor - We are even in the closing credits. The production company, Meat and Potatoes Inc, also made a donation to the band.

Maniacts and the High Desert (30 seconds worth anyway) are now appearing at your local video rental store.

Like many MOVIE STARS, we've now moved on to the RECORDING INDUSTRY. We are in the process of **recording a CD**. We've got several tracks done, and will be working diligently in the upcoming months to finish this exciting project. The band always strives to provide unusual and unique experiences for our members, and this has been an interesting journey. Our sound engineer and recording Maestro is **Ken Riley**, who is as passionate about recording and Bill is about piping.

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Moriarty New Mexico on August 2nd with a parade and day in the park. The High Desert Pipes and Drums will be participating in the parade which starts at 10:00 am, followed by a ½ hour performance in the Moriarty Park from Noon to 12:30.

Watch for information about the annual **Poinsettia Sale**. This is done in conjunction with **La Paloma Greenhouse- ARCA**, and has been very successful in the past. **Jim Douglas and Kent Argubright** are coordinating the effort this year - For band members and students, this is an opportunity to earn some of those nefarious Fundraising Points. And for band supporters, a way to help the High Desert, La Paloma, and your favorite HDPD'er.

Although the band is not going to Scotland this year, there are several members of the band making the trip. Pipe Major **Bill Horn**, and Pipe Sgt **Mason Parsons** will be traveling with the Mesa Caledonia Pipe Band (Grade 3, Mesa Az) and Bill will be PLAYING UP as a competition piper. This should provide tremendous insight into competing at a Grade 3 level. Bill and Mason will also be taking private instruction at the Piping Centre in Glasgow. (We use their instructional tutor for the group lessons). Piping student, Chris McFarlane is also going over in August. Kent Argubright is traveling to Scotland to watch his daughter, Amanda, compete with the LA Scots, Ross and his family will be celebrating his son's nuptials. This is a sufficient quantity of HDPD members to initiate a TRAVELLERS ADVISORY. Glasgow is a tough town - but is it a match for this group?

Hope you are all well, and thanks for all your support - Please keep in touch, and we'll try to do the same. If you have any questions about the band, you can contact us through the address, phone number, web-site, or email address shown in the heading. **Patricia**