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High Desert Pipes and Drums

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September, 2003

THEY'RE BA-A-A-A-CK

Although the band didn't go to Scotland, there were enough band members roaming the pubs of Scotland to send cold chills through the locals - Hopefully that was a good thing, in light of the heat wave!!!! (There was Bill and Mason, Kent, Amanda, Ross, and new member Chris McFarland plus former band members Stuart Clements and Tim Borgman)

From P.M. Bill Horn:

Dear Band - I want to thank the board for approving the allocation of funds to send Mason and me to Scotland. Speaking for myself, I learned more this time than all the other times I went combined. The things I learned at the Piping Centre were awesome. The insights I got by playing the in Mesa Pipe Band were just as big. I learned a few really hard lessons. Since I was a band piper, and not the P.M. I couldn't tap my foot. Hard to do? Heck yeh!! I can see that everyone must learn to have that meter in their head, so they can keep on the beat. Using a metronome will help this, and a solid drum section keeping that meter is a must. I learned some new techniques for teaching, and Mason and I learned different ways to tune the band, which we'll be trying out until we find the right process that suits our band. Thanks to the band for everything. This band can rock everywhere we play. I am excited to get going.....Bill

From Mason Parsons:

"Hey Band, First of all, I wanted to tell you all that I had an awesome time in Scotland, and thank the board for giving me the opportunity to go While out there I received eight hours of private instruction from world class pipers, including Gordon Walker and Roddy McLeod, and learned a great deal about techniques for solo and band playing. I attended three different recitals as well, those of Bruce Gandy, Gordon Duncan, and Jack Lee, which were fantastic. I also got to sit in on several band practices, including one of SFU's, which gave me lots of ideas on the methodology of tuning and rehearsing. Finally I was able to watch an unfathomable number of bands competing in all grades in three different competitions, and of course, drink beer. All in all, it was a really great experience, and by the end of two weeks, I couldn't wait to get back to my own band. See you all on Thursdays "- Mason

From Kent Argubright:

"Hi, everyone. Sorry I only got off one email from Scotland. The Blaster virus hit the student computers at University of Stirling and they were offline for a while. Anyway... it was HOT! Climbed up the mountains at Stirling and Wallace Monument ...then found out it was 32C! Ouch!

Had a lot of great adventures this time. It was very weird not playing at the Worlds, with all the HDPD members around! Stu (Clements) was his usual nutty self. Mason was quiet DUH! Bill was getting yelled at by his Pipe Major and Timmy's (Borgman) band won at Perth and got 5th in the Worlds with the drummers getting best bass section.

Chris, Bill, and Mason got taken back to their apartments in the back seat of a Strathclyde Police car! Chris has it all on video. Actually it was a 'complimentary' ride.

Our whole family missed the bus at Iona! Nothing worse than standing on the road in Fionnphort, Isle of Mull and watching your tour bus drive off three blocks away. Town with one pub and 10 B&B's all full and twenty six miles down a single lane road, with two way traffic to the ferry at Craignure. The ferry scheduled to leave in 65 minutes! Anyway, we got a guy to pack all 6 of us in his land rover and drive like a bat-out-of-hell to get us to the boat on time! What a ride! ---Doc

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IT'S THE LAW -Under the New Mexico Charitable Solicitations Act Section 57-22-6 NMSA 1978 - all organizations soliciting donations within the State of New Mexico are required to register with the Attorney General of New Mexico, and provide updated financial information annually. The High Desert Pipes and Drums have complied with this regulation for many years, and are currently in compliance. In a collaborative public-private partnership between the NM AG's office and the operators of GuideStar.org, information on all New Mexico charitable organizations and other registered charities are available via this internet website.- including the High Desert Pipes and Drums!

<p>UPCOMING EVENTS:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 15 - Recording session with Kenny Riley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 19, 2003 - O'Neill's Pub - ½ WAY TO ST PATRICK'S DAY HDPD plays at 9pm --- also appearing Siler & Clark</p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 4-5, 2003 --WUSPBA championships, Las Vegas, NV</p>

Results from Longs Peak Highland Festival - Estes Park, Colorado --- Sept 4th -7th High Desert placed 2nd in Grade IV March Medley, and 3rd place in the Grade IV Mixed Medley, against some excellent competition. Colorado Skye, who are having a rockin' year, placed first in both competitions. We have one remaining competition opportunity this year to beat this band - at the WUSPBA CHAMPIONSHIPS in Las Vegas in October. The momentum is building and hopefully will peak in one month!!!!

New competition piper, Lorraine McInnes, got her feet wet in Estes (figuratively speaking) in her first band competition as a HDPD'er. Patsy Langan, back from her Summer Drummer workshop, put her new skills to task in the snare section. These new players are a great asset to the competition circle,

Megan Maestas was named Tenor Drummer for the games, and won the Grade II tenor competition. Andrew Carlson took 2nd place in the Grade IV solo competition, which is quite an accomplishment for his first year of competition.

Student News: Thursday night chanter and drumming classes continue to be well attended, and what a lot of potential!!!!!! It has been @ two years since we implemented the use of The Piping Centre Tutor for the chanter students, and the results are impressive. Congratulations to the new students who passed STEP ONE last month- Ken McCormick, Elijah Hammond, Joseph and Shawnee Kanteena,

Even more exciting are the new proud owners of a set of bagpipes. We welcome Chris Burrus, Chris McFarland, Robin Hopkins, Jared Baldwin, and David Shiffler (and hopefully his Dad this month) to the back breaking, headache invoking world of the bagpipes. This group ranges in age from eleven (our youngest piper ever) to ___?___ and has a 2 foot range in height - continuing the diversity which makes our band so unique.

These folks have made it to the most difficult part of piping. This is the phase when PERSERVERENCE and over-the counter pain-relievers are the key to success. And so that these folks do not have to suffer alone, we have started a “B” section on Thursday nights from 7- 8:30 which focuses on the performance tunes for beginning pipers and drummers ---Our version of Group Therapy!

DID YOU KNOW ?.....Scottish History with a personal twist:

For Jim and Daniel Douglas: IN 1520 onlookers to a violent street fight had to clean up the mess in what was referred to as the incident of “Cleansing the Causeway” in Edinburgh’s High Street. This fight, between the Hamiltons and the Douglasses, resulted in the Hamiltons being chased out of Edinburgh.

For Banker Ross: IN 1597, the interest rate for money lending in Scotland was set by Parliament at 10%. Corporal punishment for all who failed to comply.

For Firefighter Jarred: IN 1624 Edinburgh City Fathers issued an order that thatch was forbidden in the construction of house roofs, due to the risk of ‘fire and falling.’

To Bill: 1719, Bellhaven Brewery, the oldest surviving brewery in Scotland, was established.

To road builder Bob: In 1726, William Roy of Muirhead was born. He is the surveyor who in 1784 started the first trigonometrically survey of Britain.

AND again for Bob, since we’re so glad he’s back: In 1756, John Loudon McAdam was born in Ayr. He had amassed a fortune during the American Revolution and then acquired control of the British Tar Company and introduced hard-wearing road surfaces. The term “tarmacadamed” refers to the use of graduated stone set in bitumen. He is therefore, by default, the inventor of the infamous “pot-hole.”

For the survivors of past Scotland trips, where the coach always stopped in the center of Glasgow so you could all get a sausage roll: Glasgow Square, named in honor of George III, was originally laid out on the lands of Deanston in 1780, as an expensive, residential development on the then western fringe of the city.

To Bill: 1805, at Todrigg Farm, near Kilmarnock, the birth of Johnnie Walker - yes- THAT Johnnie Walker.

To Dr. Kent: in 1847 James Young Simpson, from Bathgate, discovered the anesthetic properties of chloroform and advocated its general adoption. He faced great public opposition on moral and physical grounds. Queen Victoria gave birth under anaesthetic in 1853, and it became the rage.

To Medical Student Jeff: in 1929 Alexander Fleming of Loudoun, Ayrshire, announced his discovery of penicillin. He was knighted in 1944.

To resident Andrew: 1912 marked the death of Lord Joseph Lister, pioneered the benefits of disinfecting operating theaters and wards, primarily with carbolic acid. He was Professor of Surgery at the University of Glasgow.

Information obtained from Allan Morison’s “Whaurs yer Wullie Shakespeare Noo?”

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THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT