

Ole!!



**The Newsletter of the
Hawthorne Caballeros
Alumni Association/
Drum & Bugle Corps**

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May/June 2025

Alumni Corps Rocking 2nd- Stage Show

By Chris Sortino

Well, the Alumni Corps did it again. That's two stage shows in a row that the corps did a fantastic job; first York, then Robersonia. For this early in the year, the corps sounded in mid-season form.

For this 2nd show, I took my annual ride on the corps bus. The other thing that was a little different, I was substituting on timbales. This situation is rare, but it does happen every once in a while.

When we arrived at Robersonia, we had time for a quick bite for lunch and then a short warm up with the drum and horn instructors. We had some more time to relax before the show, then we started to prepare by putting on

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Note From The Editor

First Field Show Of 2025

By Chris Sortino

How did this come about so fast? It seems like just yesterday we were learning new music for the 2025 season.

First show, Shelton, CT. Home of the Hurricanes, if I remember correctly. DCI gave us a practice field on the same property as the contest field. What they didn't tell us was that the field was about a half mile away and uphill. Rain was threatening throughout the entire practice time and the heat was there for sure. We rehearsed for about 3 hours getting the drill in shape for the evening's show.

We were told by the sponsor that we would open the show. Usually that's not a good thing but with the heat we endured at rehearsal, we

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.....stage shows!

the “Magical Suits” for the performance.

When the curtains opened, we were stunned to see how small the audience was. Afterwards, we got the official count which was 81. I for one, was stunned. I guess the sponsor made their money from the program book and advanced ticket sales.

Being the professionals that we are, we put on a show as if the entire auditorium was full. This is what we felt good about

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...first field show!

wanted to get it over with as soon as possible.

After walking up the hill to the stadium, the corps met at the truck then walked up another smaller hill to the stadium entrance.

Once inside the stadium we began to get excited to perform. After all, this is what it's all about! Feeling the crowd reaction to something that we have created and worked to perfect.

I must say from the first note to the last, the corps sounded pretty good. Sure it wasn't perfect, but we were out there again for another year.

The crowd was smaller than expected, but they were very appreciative and loud for their size.

My personal experience during the show was somewhat uncomfortable and a bit comical. First of all, in “Land Of Make Believe,” one of my cowbells got loose from the mounting post and was sitting on top of my smaller drum head. I had to wait until we turned away from the

crowd, put my sticks in my stick bag and took two hands to tighten the clamp that holds the cowbell. Problem number one solved.

Problem number two. My sash decided to start falling down. The only thing holding it up was my drum harness. It felt like it was going to hit the ground. Between drum parts, I pulled it up whenever I could while trying to hide it from the crowd.

Needless to say, I couldn't wait for the performance to be over.

Despite of all this, the corps did a nice job. All we have to do now is make it better.

I forgot to mention the participating corps in the show.

Exhibition Corps

*Caballeros Alumni Corps

*Skyliners Alumni Corps

*Crusaders Senior Corps

Competing Corps

*Caballeros

*Buccaneers

*Bushwackers

*Sunrisers

*Hurricanes



Cabs Alumni & Elks Hit The Boards

By Chris Sortino

The Alumni Corps was at Wildwood for the second time in 6 weeks for the annual State Elks Convention Parade.

The Corps stayed in downtown Wildwood as we have done every year since we started participating in the parade, after a long absence.

This year was a little different than years past. Due to the terror attack during Mardi Gras in New Orleans a few months ago, the parade was held on the boardwalk.

Before we left the hotel for the beginning of the parade, we played a few songs for the Lake Hopatcong Elks members staying with us. We used this opportunity for a warm-up before the parade.

We loaded up the buses and headed over to the start location to report to the parade officials.

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HELP WANTED!

We are looking for help operating our truck.

Drivers: Looking for up to two additional qualified drivers. These people will need to show capability to drive our truck in city streets, such as Hawthorne, and park our truck next to the competing corps' trucks and trailers. This requirement is to assure our insurance company we certify our new drivers.

We can always use help with water bags and lightweight equipment when required. Applicants don't need to be members but associated with members.

Anyone interested in helping us can contact Bob or Kenny at any rehearsal.

Alumni Association News

The Alumni Association is a separate organization from the Alumni Corps. It was incorporated in January 1977 and exists for the benefit of the competing corps and, as of 2008, the Alumni corps as well. Membership is now open to anyone who has belonged to the Hawthorne Caballeros (not current marching members) or the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Corps, just by paying the annual dues. With thanks to all who paid the \$10.00 annual dues for the 2023 and 2024 years, we were able to award one deserving member of the competing corps, who was struggling to pay their 2024 dues, a \$500 payment toward their dues.

Dues for 2025 are now due, so please see Larry Mastroberardino or Greg McNeff with your \$10 so we can continue to support both corps. Out of town? You can mail your \$10 to Greg at 143 Mohawk Ave, Hawthorne, NJ 07506.

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.....Elks Parade!

So, here we are at the beginning of the parade on the boardwalk where we wait for an hour and a half before we move. When we do move forward it's for a few feet at best. We still haven't been to our step off point yet. Why we were told to line up so far behind our starting location is beyond me.

We finally get to our kick off spot when we hear an announcement come over the PA system on the boardwalk. "Due to lightning from an impending storm, the parade has been suspended." I didn't know if that meant suspended for an hour, suspended forever?

We were told it was until the threat of lightning was over. So we waited under a shop awning for way over an hour while the rain came pouring down. Some corps members were inside a burger and fries place across the

other side of the boardwalk. Some were inside an arcade and games business. Our group was under the protection of an ice cream shop, drums and all.

Finally, we got the call to begin as the rain stopped. The parade moved fairly well. The spectators were sparse along the route because of the intermittent rain, I would suspect. There was a pretty good crowd at the reviewing area. We played "Land Of Make Believe" and really rocked it. The crowd loved it and so did the judges. We took Best Musical Unit Award home for the Lake Hopatcong Elks.

In my experience, when you win, it makes up for all the pain and inconvenience. It somehow makes it all worth it.

Trivia Question

Q: What years did the Ca-balleros play "1812 Overture"?

A Note From The Editor

I've been wondering about something lately. Since we started the Alumni Corps 31 years ago, we have been very fortunate to have the cream of the crop join both talent wise and personality wise. They seemed to fit in.

We were, and are the perfect alumni corps in so many ways. But I've started to notice something that I guess is normal. We are all getting older. The shows are getting fewer, and the crowds are getting smaller.

There was a decent number of alumni corps around here, and now there are only three. Is this the normal progression of things, like life? What really hit me was 81 people in the audience in Robesonia. Was it because it was the day before Mothers Day? I don't know.

Just wondering!

Saturday, May 10 *

**Buccaneers Alumni
Show**

Robeson, PA

Sunday, May 18 *

Drill Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Roland Park

South Brunswick, NJ

Monday, May 26 *

Memorial Day Parade

Hawthorne, NJ

Saturday, June 7 *

Elk's Parade

Wildwood, NJ

Sunday, June, 22 *

Drill Rehearsal

12:00-5:00

Roland Park

South Brunswick, NJ

Saturday, June 28 *

DCI Field Show

Shelton, CT

Saturday, July 12 *

Grand Prix

Clifton, NJ

Saturday, July 19 *

Alumni Field Show

Milton, PA

Alumni 2025

Schedule



Saturday, July 26 *

DCI Field Show

Roxbury, NJ

Friday, August 1 *

DCI Alumni & I&E Show

Williamsport, PA

Saturday, August 2 *

DCI Field Show

Williamsport, PA

Saturday, October 25 *

Halloween Parade

Nyack, NY

Sunday, November 9 *

Veterans Day Parade

Clifton, NJ

Sunday, November 16 *

Rehearsal-Full Corps

12:00-5:00

Post 199

November 22 *

Parade & Stage Show

Plymouth, MA

Sunday, December 7 *

Rehearsal-Pot Luck

Post 199

T.B.D.

Pics From The Past



May Birthdays

Bob Bonn
Mary Lou Bonn
Tom Carr
Tony D'Andrea
Bill Hoyt
Richard Jessop
Tyrone Laval
Lizann Lander
Greg Frech



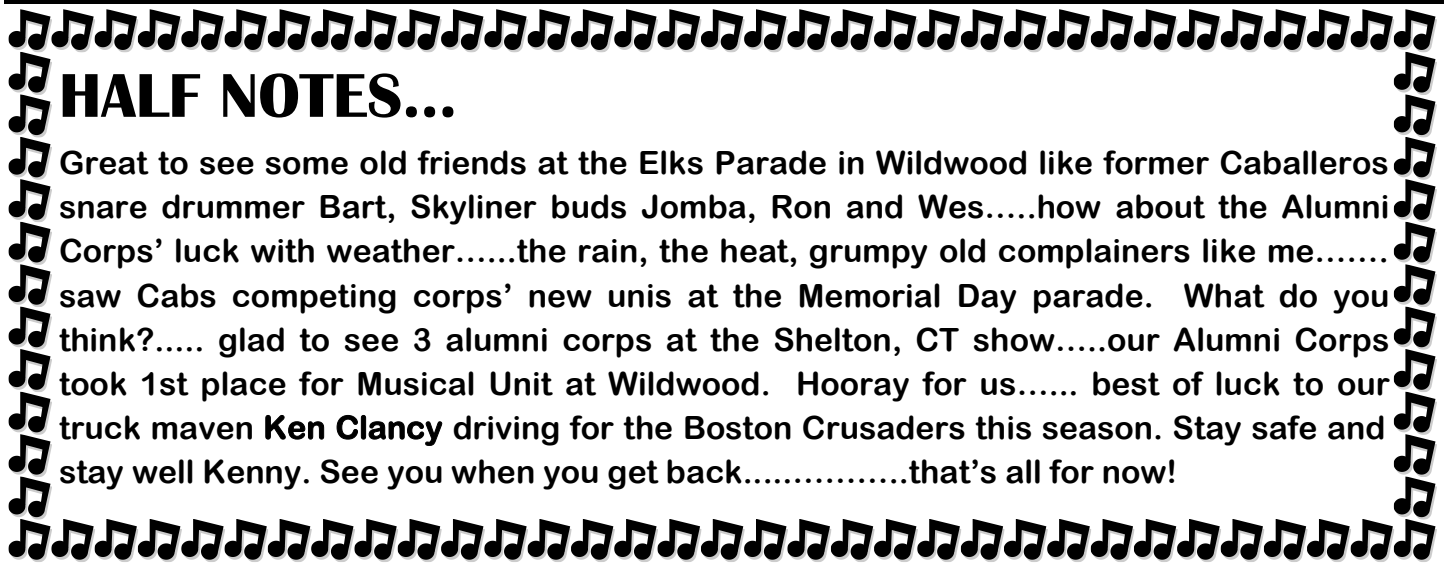
More Pics From The Past



June Birthdays

Laura Bongiovi
Bill Duncan
Marianne Green
Nancy Mingle
Mike Risley
Patrice Schwab
John Smith
Allan Vogel
Barry Wagner
Steve Racłowski
Rich Stanczak
Lou Blancato





HALF NOTES...

Great to see some old friends at the Elks Parade in Wildwood like former Caballeros snare drummer Bart, Skyliner buds Jomba, Ron and Wes.....how about the Alumni Corps' luck with weather.....the rain, the heat, grumpy old complainers like me..... saw Cabs competing corps' new unis at the Memorial Day parade. What do you think?..... glad to see 3 alumni corps at the Shelton, CT show.....our Alumni Corps took 1st place for Musical Unit at Wildwood. Hooray for us..... best of luck to our truck maven Ken Clancy driving for the Boston Crusaders this season. Stay safe and stay well Kenny. See you when you get back.....that's all for now!

A "Bit of Wit" from the Quill of Charlie Bratton...



Ever played quiet tennis? It's the same as regular tennis but without the racket.



Why was music coming from the printer? The paper was Jamming.

I hate how every "Mission Impossible" movie ends with the same stupid twist where the mission turns out to be possible.

What do you call a miniature porcupine that steals money from people? A hedge fund hog.

A teacher said to one of her students, "It's clear you haven't studied your geography. What's your excuse?" "Well," the student replied, "my dad says the world is changing every day, so I decided to wait until it settles down."

Did you hear about the man who fell into an upholstery machine? He's fully recovered.



Articles for the OLE!



The OLE! welcomes all impressions/expressions. Send your input/articles to Cabalumno1@aol.com

