



SO-RC K. Bruce Blanchard USCG Auxiliary / Pipe Major
CWO Kevin P. Gilheany USCG (Ret) / President
CDR Andrew W. Anderson USCG (Ret) / Secretary-Treasurer

United States Coast Guard Pipe Band, Inc.
Suite 300
200 South Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33131-2332

Newsletter

Volume II; Issue 1

August 26, 2006

Newsletter: This newsletter is intended for internal use within the band.

Coast Guard Festival 2006: PM Steve Young

I wish to thank all participating band members for their efforts during this year's Coast Guard Festival. It was a great success and as always the crowd loved us. Thank you so much for attending and doing your part for the band.

Timing was perfect for the heat wave that hit California. It reached us just in time for the Festival. I thought it was hot but the Florida contingent was loving life. PC Steve Rogers even had to put on his SDB jacket. Oh, wait! That was for the CG Aux memorial...S3 looked very professional during the ceremony, an excellent representation of the CGPB.

Nathan Gardiner and Art Tenney did a bang up job on the echo taps. Where my wife was standing she couldn't see Art and felt taps as being somewhat eerie but cool. I would take that as a compliment for a job well done. Amazing Grace was as magnificent as usual with PS Steve Cochran and yours truly performing the solos. A new event was the Coast Guard Walk of History in front of City Hall. If memory serves me well (or not) PS Steve Cochran, PC Jeff Burton, Art Tenney, Nathan Gardiner and Dan Titus were the selected band members to play for this new venue. I've heard nothing but positive feedback on this.

If you weren't there this year, try and make it next year. It is a great time and don't forget to bring your family. It is worth the trip just to enjoy the festival!

Pipe Major: It is my great pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors has appointed Bruce Blanchard as the Pipe Major of the U.S. Coast Guard Pipe Band. Congratulations to Bruce, we wish you all the best in your new position, and we will

support you in any way we can. We would also like to thank Steve Young for his great service as Pipe Major and wish him the best as well. Thank you, Steve.

D1 Regional Coordinator: It is also my great pleasure to appoint Dr. Michael Doria as the Regional Coordinator (RC) for the First District. Mike is in the CG Reserves and has been with the band from day one and is very eager to begin his duties as RC. It is our hope that Mike will use his contacts in the New York area to form a mini-band for that area and also to help the New England members form a mini-band for the Boston area, as well as a mini-band at the CG Academy. Good luck, Mike, you have a big job ahead of you.

Historical Event: This year's Grand Haven event took on some historical significance. For the first time we had the pleasure of having BMC Mike Mone, USCG RET marching with us. It was Mike's picture that I saw in a Coast Guard publication back in the mid-1980's, that inspired me to become a CG piper and dream of one day having a CG Pipe Band. Mike had no idea that by putting on that kilt with his uniform and playing the pipes way back then, that he would have caused all this to happen. Thanks Mike.

Military Etiquette: As you all know we perform at the pleasure of the Commandant, and it is a great privilege indeed. We must continually self-police ourselves in order to ensure that we stay "squeaky clean" and are represented by all members in the most positive light. This is absolutely essential to ensure the long-term success of the band.

Some band members are "military" members and some are not. However, we are all members of a military pipe band representing one of the armed forces of the United States. Therefore, we must adhere to proper military etiquette requirements whenever we are representing the band, whether in uniform or not. For example, once you arrive at Grand Haven for a Coast Guard Festival you are representing the United States Coast Guard until the moment you leave, whether you are in a uniform or not.

When a senior official makes his/her way towards an area where the band has assembled, it is the responsibility of the band leaders to greet the official. Military etiquette dictates that a junior will only address a senior with the proper greeting of the day such as, "Good evening Admiral." The junior should not extend his hand for a hand shake to the senior. If the senior extends his hand for a hand shake the junior will return the hand shake. Should the senior initiate a conversation with the junior, the junior should engage in light conversation that does not concern personal, career or business issues. Remember the old Japanese proverb, "The tongue is only three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet high." Let's be careful not to kill the band with our tongues.

Auxiliary: It is traditional that the Coast Guard relies on the Auxiliary for all kinds of assistance and it's no surprise that the Pipe Band is turning out no different. Thank you to all the great Auxiliarists who contribute to this band in many way. I would like to say a special thanks to Steve and Betty Rogers, who, at the drop of a hat, are piping and drumming at the memorial services for the two Coast Guard divers who died recently during a dive in the Artic. This is the important stuff, and I am personally very grateful to Betty and Steve for their service.

Semper Paratus