

THE BLACKSBURG  
COMMUNITY BAND

# The Score

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## *From the President*

Hello Band

First I would like to thank all of our band members for showing up and helping make a great 20<sup>th</sup> year of making music for Blacksburg. Without your help we wouldn't be where we are today as a community band. Our 20<sup>th</sup> year Spring concert was a huge success, as was our holiday concert. I would also like to thank the board members, they go the extra mile for the band and it is always a very thankless job. From the last elections we lost one board member and to me she was always the one who went the extra 10 miles to help the band. So everyone, next time you see Kendra, please thank her for her many great efforts. Also let's not forget Ed and the hundreds of hours he puts into this band. We would never have accomplished all we have without Ed's help. Thanks Ed.

I also want to mention and thank our new board members. Rene Jacobsen is

stepping into our Vice President position, Debby Good Wiedmer is stepping into our Treasurer position and we also are welcoming two new members to the board. Susan Brooker-Gross will be our new secretary and Rachael Tracy is a new Member-at-Large. Don't forget about our new member positions that have been introduced at several rehearsals. These are very important to the band so let's see if several people could step up and help the band. We are looking for an operations manager and an equipment manger; these are 2 positions that will help the band run more smoothly and help Ed out greatly. If interested contact Ed or me to describe the functions and duties.

Our Kroger card program has been an added extra bonus for the band. I cannot stress enough my thanks to all the members that use their cards. All I can say is keep



using them and help others understand their value and their help for the band. The benefits of the card assist us to purchase music and instruments and will help us fund our travels outside of the Blacksburg area. Again thanks to all.....

Looking forward to this upcoming year of music with the band and hope everyone is planning on being there and helping us out.....

Remember please don't hesitate to contact me with comments or questions.

See you soon,

Dixon



# *Welcome new and returning members!*

## **February 2010**

Patrick Feucht—trumpet

## **January 2010**

Julee Farley—flute

Ken Hurley\*\*—baritone, trombone

James Parton—trumpet

Elizabeth Pressman—flute

Gwendolyn Wade—flute

Gretchen Whitlock—flute

## **November 2009**

Chelsea Craige—flute

Jessica Mogren\*\*—flute

## **October 2009**

Christy Trago\*\*—flute

## **September 2009**

Julia Mays—clarinet

Amanda Jones—trombone

## **June 2009**

Jay Durner—trombone

\*\*returning members

## *Coming performances*

April 11, 4:00 p.m. , Annual Spring Concert , location TBA

May 20, 7:00 p.m., XYZ (tentative), Blacksburg United Methodist Church

May 31, 10:45 a.m., Memorial Day Ceremony (tentative), Warm Hearth Gazebo, Blacksburg

June 2, 7:00 p.m., Warm Hearth Evening Concert (tentative), Outside Karr Activity Center, Warm Hearth, Blacksburg

July 4, 2:00 p.m., Blacksburg Independence Day Parade, Blacksburg Main Street

July 4, 6:00 p.m., Blacksburg Independence Day Celebration Concert, Caboose Park, Blacksburg

July 20, 7:00 p.m., Radford Summer Concert Series, Bisset Park Gazebo.

August 7, 11:30 a.m., Steppin' Out, Main Stage, Downtown Blacksburg

October 7, 7:30 p.m., Joint Concert with Roanoke College (tentative), Olin Hall, Roanoke College



# *The budget report*

Board members met February 8 to review the 2009-2010 budget. Budgeted items include new and replacement music (\$1500), concert expenses (\$1200), and operating expenses (\$1000). Including various “pass-through” expenditures (for example, band gear), the budgeted expenditures come to \$7625. Anticipated revenue is largely from donations—from band members, from the Town of Blacksburg, fund-raising activities, and from various organizations that support the band (AARP, Ruritan, City of Radford). Anticipated revenue for the year is \$7850.

Equipment needs for the band include:

- Percussion instruments (xylophone, gong)
- A trailer for taking equipment to concert and rehearsal venues



Decisions on

“next purchases” will be made at the March board meeting (March 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Recreation Center. All band members are welcome to attend.

## *Blacksburg High School*

Blacksburg High School has graciously hosted the Blacksburg Community Band for more than twenty years. After the record-breaking snowfall of early 2010, the gymnasium roof collapsed, and the re-opening of the school has been postponed indefinitely while engineering studies of the cause of the collapse and the safety of the remainder of the building is assured. Members of the Blacksburg Community Band share the loss in such destruction to a long-time host, and wish all involved patience in dealing with interim solutions.

Warm Hearth has provided us with practice space when the high school was closed for more routine reasons, and continues to be a gracious “back-up” while another routine rehearsal location is being sought.

**Jay Durner** actually started to play the trombone by mistake. Yup—In fourth grade he told his parents that the three-keyed instrument that he wanted to sign up for was the trombone (he meant the trumpet!!!), and when presented with a monstrous brass thing that was bigger than he was, he decided to just pretend like it was what he wanted all along and took it home. From what we are hearing from the trombone section these days, this was no mistake at all.

Jay's the first person who sent me not only the responses to my list of questions but also a resume and brochure! Once you look at his impressive dossier, you understand why. He is no stranger to community bands and upon moving here from New Jersey last summer knew that he wanted to find a local band to get involved with. Jay Googled "Blacksburg Community Bands" and we'll all be happy to know that our site popped up first. From the website, he found a phone number for someone (maybe Dixon), asked if they needed trombone players, was told they did. Jay was at the next rehearsal in the last week in June and has been coming to practices and concerts ever since—and guest conducting as well!

Jay is not your average player who dug his dusty horn out of the attic to start playing again. For the last 22 years, Jay was the music teacher for the Delaware Valley Regional High School in Frenchtown, New Jersey, where he built the high school band program from a class of 9 original members to an award-winning band of 80 members. He is also no stranger to community bands, having served as the Community Band Director of the Pioneer Band of Allentown Pennsylvania for the last **30 years!!!** Under Jay's direction, this community band celebrated an organized concert tour of Germany for their **100-year anniversary**. In addition to this and other concerts performed in Europe, the Pioneer Band has performed for presidential candidates and held concerts both on the Ellipse in Washington D.C. and in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, all conducted by Jay. Jay will make his conducting debut with the Blacksburg Community Band for our Spring Concert. He is also the newly appointed Musical Director for the Summer Musical Enterprise.

In addition to all of his accomplishments in music, Jay is a newlywed with six adult children between him and his wife. They also have 5 grandchildren! Having moved to the area at the end of June they are busy building a house in the Blue Ridge Mountains outside of Floyd. He is currently acting as a permanent sub teacher at Auburn High School.

Let's all welcome Jay Durner to our band. As you see from his sweatshirt in the picture, he has already gotten into the Hokie Spirit! Now he just has to get a band shirt and coat to complete the picture.



*By Debby Good Wiedmer*

## *Band Officers*

**President:** : Dixon Smiley [smileyd@vt.edu; 639-4507]

**Vice President:** Renee Jacobsen [rjac@bev.net ; 552-9120]

**Secretary:** Susan Brooker-Gross [srb144@vt.edu; 552-5275]

**Treasurer:** Debby Good Wiedmer [goodd@vt.edu; 961-0338]

**Members at Large:** Amy Hall [safetycake@jetbroadband.com; 382-1963]

Alan McDaniel [alanmcd@vt.edu; 951-8677]

Rachel Tracy-[rachel6@hotmail.com; 552-0017]

**Past President:** Leslie Palacios [allabouttheleslie@gmail.com; 320-1390]

### **Section Leaders**

**Flutes:** Mary L. Walters [marywalt@warmheartha.org; 951-5076]

**Clarinets:** Carl Derfler - [lassus@aol.com](mailto:lassus@aol.com); 381-0211

**Saxophones:** Karl Sanzenbach [kasanz@juno.com; 961-5532]

**Trumpets:** Bill Murphy [bsmurph@earthlink.net; 552-8742]

**French Horns:** Ingrid Burbey [iburbey@vt.edu; 951-7710]

**Trombones:** Amy Hall [safetycake@jetbroadband.com; 382-1963]

**Low Brass:** David Kibler [kiblerdf@vt.edu; 951-4504]

**Percussion:** Alan McDaniel [alanmcd@vt.edu; 951-8677]

### **Other Personnel**

**Music Director:** Ed Schwartz [ed.schwartz@vt.edu 382-3707]

**Associate Director:** Steven E. Brown [browns@vt.edu; 381-1371]

**Music Librarian:** Leslie Palacios [allabouttheleslie@gmail.com; 320-1390]

**Fund Raising:** Harriett Cooper -[chayabrona@verizon.net; 552-3446]

**Historian:** Mary Walters [marywalt@warmheartha.org; 951-5076]