

Marquis of Granby Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps

Newsletter

September, 2009

RECENT EVENTS

What an awesome muster! It started off Friday evening with an incredible Tattoo filled with some of the most beautiful fife and drum music I've ever heard. What an honor to have such a talented selection of corps come and perform for us.

The next day looked a little iffy with regard to the weather forecast, but that was quickly overshadowed by the beautiful field, a great collection of corps, a fantastic performance by all of you, and a wonderful group of alumni who were happy to be there.



Down in Salmon Brook Park, we could hear you as soon as the parade stepped off up at the high school - and you sounded fantastic all the way through!



We have received so many nice compliments on what a great job you all did, and a lot of support from the community at large for what you do. The maneuver was inspiring, the solos were the best I've heard them and just everyone did their very best and it showed. Words like "dignified" and "powerful" keep coming up, and I hope you all are as proud of yourselves as everyone else is! Especially nice were all of the compliments from the invited corps who showed up to support us despite the rainy outlook, and who made a point to let us know that they were having a great time and thought we all did a fantastic job.



Check out the web site for tons of photos from the day!





The Big E – remember way back in September when we were at the Big E? Seems like a long time ago! Three strong performances and a night of fun on the Midway, finished off with those Big E Cream Puffs. Good deal, great time. Mrs. Lampert is looking for photos from the Big E this year so if you have any, please share!

The Windsor Muster – I hear that this was another first rate event by our friends in Windsor, but since I missed it I need pictures of this too!

Founder's Day Parade – The announcer's comments sort of said it all, "and here comes the perennial favorite of the parade...the Marquis of Granby Ancient Fife and Drum Corps!" Now if we can just get them to pronounce our name correctly... Great job, everyone!



Bristol Mum Festival Parade – The parade when we all became reacquainted with the "dump drums" command. I have to say when things are a little challenging, you all tend to step up your game and really shine. **This year The Marquis received the First Place Award for Junior Music!** Congratulations once again to all of you for a job well done.

Upcoming Performances:

The parade season is wrapping up and we have just a few more before we hunker down for the winter and plan for another fantastic 2010 season!

October 10 – Granville Harvest Fair – the new Noble & Cooley Drum Museum has hired us to build awareness of fife and drum and draw crowds to their museum during the Granville Harvest Fair. This will be similar to what we did in Williamstown, MA. We'll head up there at 10:30 am from the church and at Noon will deliver a performance in the town green, then march down to the museum (which is just around the corner) and hopefully people will not be able to resist following us there. Once at the museum, we'll do another short performance and speak a bit about the history of fife and drum. Additional performances will be at 2 pm and 3 pm, before we head back home. Also taking place during the day will be a Marquis "Colonial Bake Sale" in a booth located right in the center of town. Marquis members will take turns helping with the bake sale, selling fruit, and handing out recruitment flyers, as well as speaking with potential recruits and showing them the Musket Drill. You will be in uniform all day, which helps to identify you as a member of the corps and encourage people to come talk to you - giving you the opportunity to tell them why we're there! Please bring money for lunch and any souvenirs you would like to purchase. There will be time for you to explore in small groups during the day.

October 11th – New Haven Columbus Day Parade – We'll leave at 10:30 am from the American Legion. Come in uniform and bring a change of clothes, as well as \$5 for lunch (Lost Acres.) There is a new Marquis policy for catered meals – the family limit for meals will be \$10 for any event. Additional siblings or parents who are chaperoning will

receive their meals free after the \$10 per family limit is met. College students still eat free. We put this in place once we realized that families with multiple kids who were also chaperoning were racking up a fairly high food bills on weekends where we have more than one parade, and that is certainly not something we want! We hope the new policy is more friendly towards your family budgets.

November 8th – Enfield Veterans Day Parade – We will leave at 11:15 am from the American Legion. Come in uniform and bring a change of clothes and \$5 for lunch. More details in the November newsletter.

November 11th – Springfield Veterans Day Parade – The bus will leave Granby at 11:15 am sharp, departing from the American Legion. Please bring a change of clothes and \$5 for lunch. Mrs. Lampert recent spoke with the Superintendent of the Granby Public Schools, who has agreed this will be counted as an “excused” absence for all members who bring in a note from me, and from their parents, indicating where they will be that day. I will email out the note from me in pdf form the week before this parade. For any Marquis families who do NOT wish to have their child miss school that day, the absence will not count toward a member’s overall attendance rate if they are not present, but WILL help to boost it up if they are there (in other words, if you missed a parade, you can use this day to make up for it and boost your attendance rate back up.)

November 14th & 15th – First Church Performance and Host Coffee Hour – This is our annual effort to say “thank you” to the congregation of First Church for letting us use their facilities year round for our practices and other meetings. The Marquis has used this space for 40 years now, and is it very important for us to remember to stop and periodically say thanks! We know the congregation really appreciates especially our efforts on this weekend, and look forward to what has become an annual event. So, on Saturday, November 14th we will gather at the church kitchen to make cookies and other goodies to serve the following morning, and on November 15th the Marquis will perform a few tunes during the church service, and then host the congregation’s coffee hour directly after that. Every Marquis member is expected to participate, and if there is a reason you can’t be there please let Mrs. Lampert know as soon as possible. More details will be in the November Newsletter. Last year there were members of the church who were out trying to clean up leaves on the same day we were making cookies, so some of our members helped with that and it was much appreciated. Not sure if that will be the case this year or not.

Thanksgiving Eve Performance – We have traditionally performed at the Granby town-wide Thanksgiving Eve church service, but the Board has recently voted to remove this event from the calendar, as it was proving to be just too difficult to coordinate and was conflicting with many of our family’s holiday plans.

December 12th – Old Saybrook Torchlight Parade. Please let Mrs. Lampert know if you are interested in attending this event! It is a nighttime, torchlight parade and is a little bit of crazy fun. The parade is holiday themed, and our corps would march wearing coats rather than uniforms, along with our tricorne hats. Drummers are permitted to string Christmas lights on their drums, and fyers are encouraged to wear cheap gloves with the fingers cut out. If you are all up for it, we will get you the music to a couple of easy holiday tunes to add to the repertoire for the evening. Let me know by the end of October if you want to go!

Happy Birthday to Our Corps Members born in October!

Sam H (Oct 6th)
Clayton L. (Oct 17th)



Oops! Belated Birthday Greetings to Brianna H. (Sept 24th)

October 21st – Parent's Meeting Agenda

- Muster Feedback
- Fruit Sale Update
- Hand out updated Roster
- Clarifying the new attendance policy
- Vote on 2010 Summer Trip Destination Options
- Gather final registration forms, dues.
- Open issues?

The next parent's meeting after this will be in January!

2009 Performance Schedule – only a few performances left!



Date	Event	Event Type	City	State	Depart
Saturday, October 10, 2009	Granville Harvest Fair	Performance	Granville	MA	10:30 AM
Sunday, October 11, 2009	New Haven Columbus Day	Parade	N Haven	CT	10:30 AM
Sunday, November 08, 2009	Veterans Day Parade	Parade	Enfield	CT	11:15 AM
Wednesday, November 11, 2009	Veterans Day Parade	Parade	Springfield	MA	11:15 AM
Sunday, November 15, 2009	First Church Performance & Co	Other	N Granby	CT	
Saturday, December 12, 2009	Old Saybrook Torchlight	Parade	Old Saybrook	CT	

Marquis Hotline: 860-604-5070
(call for last minute updates to attendance changes)

<http://www.marquisofgranby.org/Calendar.html>

Essay Contest Winners!

Congratulations to our Marquis "What's In It For Me?" essay contest winners ! First place goes to Colin W., who receives a \$100 credit to his Enrichment Account. Our second place winner was Hannah J., who received a \$75 credit to her Enrichment Account. Both members are well on their way to paying for their 2010 Marquis summer trip! Essays are included below in place of our monthly History lesson. Great job!

The Marquis of Granby - What's In It For Me? by Colin W.



My experiences in the Marquis are like nothing I could ever dream of...

I have the experience of playing a unique kind of instrument. I love playing the bass drum. I could not learn to play the bass drum as well as I do in school because I am taught by two of the best drum teachers in the U.S. I have been in the Marquis for a little over a year now and I am already in the playing line. I get to march and play with other bass drummers, snare drummers, fyfe players, and great drum major too.

Another great part of being in The Marquis is that I get to travel to other cities all around New England and even outside of New England too! Each year we are going to go on a trip someplace fun where we can perform and learn about history and new places. One day we might even go to England.

In the Marquis we go on mystery trips. Mystery trips are when we all go some place fun such as laser tag. We get on the bus and have no idea where we are going until we get there. The surprise is just as much fun as the place we end up. We also go on Musters! Musters are when a bunch of fyfe & drum corps perform together. They usually have tents where you can buy food, drinks, and cool souvenirs! Sometimes we can even stay overnight at Musters. We get to sleep in tents with some of our friends. Fortunately, I was just at a Muster called The Nathan Hale Muster. It was so much fun. Did I mention that the cool souvenirs are really cheap too?

Practices can be a chore because they are every week all year long but they teach me how to be a great musician and also how to be dedicated. I also learn how to be a good listener and how to be disciplined. When we march we are not allowed to smile, talk, or look around. This is hard to learn but it is kind of fun too. People who watch us march and perform smile and clap at us. It feels good but we have to make sure not to smile back.

So being in the Marquis is great for me. I have learned a lot about music, marching, war and uniforms in the days when George Washington was alive. In the Marquis I have made lots of friends! I also made friends with the music teachers too! All three instruments in our corps are challenging to play but when you get the hang of it your siblings will be jealous. My parents were so proud of me at my first parade! But the best part is they still are.



The Marquis of Granby - What's In It For Me? by Hannah J.

When I think of that questions, not just one answer comes to mind, but three. And all three are answered by being in the Marquis.

1. The Friends. Building relationships with new and old friends is one of the things that I have enjoyed the most. when your freeing in the rain and you need someone to huddle with, or you need someone to go with you to a muster tent, or just someone to talk with, your friends will always be there to fill that spot.
2. The Experience. Going out and performing in front of hundreds of people may not sound like a great experience, but it is. It builds up confidence and banishes stage fright and dare I say, it gets fund once you get used to it. I think that the field trips are the most fun and I don't think I would ever get the opportunity to go on some of the trips and attend the events without being in the Marquis. The music is part of the experience too. You get to learn an instrument that you would have a hard time finding a teach for. You learn to play songs of different time periods in history and some of them have the wierdest names. Wether the fife or drum, both you would never come to know, learn, love, or play as you do in the Marquis.
3. The Life Lessons. I have learned and experienced leadership skills and life lessons through the Marquis that I most likely wouldn't have learned anywhere else...setting goals and accomplishing those goals, even when it's difficult, are life lessons that I will not forget.

So if you add up all the life lessons, skills, and opportunities, I think the Marquis is something that I wouldn't want to pass up on. Because the music, experiences, friendships, and the lessons learned will be useful some day.