



NEWSLETTER  
2008



### Welcome to the Class of 2009

The Pride Alumni Band Association would like to welcome the Class of 2009:

Nate Allison  
Rachel Barber  
Mary Beth Clemons  
Shelby Cox  
Michael Crabtree  
Jenna Dougherty  
Satah Ferrise

Rachel Fisher  
Julia Foti  
Adam Freeman  
Amanda Ganslein  
Jenny Grimes  
Kaleb Irvine  
Haley McClure

Sarah Messner  
Kalley Miller  
Britany Neiger  
Megan Nitzsche  
John Olinger  
Shannon Pacetti  
Anne Poling

Abby Rea  
Denise Sheppard  
Jennilee Subak  
Ted Surdel  
Marah Thaxton  
Emily Ziehm

Please join me in welcoming our 2009 seniors into "The Pride"!

### **MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

As President, I'd like to start off by thanking the alumni committee for really putting together an incredible program for 2008. Your committee has become a very well-oiled machine at this point with the tenure and dedication of the officers and committee members.

This past year saw the largest group of alumni ever, who turned out for the Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day parade. We numbered almost 50! We also saw one of the largest groups for the Stow Fourth of July parade.

While our numbers were smaller for the Italian American Festival, our sound was huge. (most likely because we were playing under the parking deck while it rained). We were joined by the 2 CFHS Directors, Brandon Duvall and Dustin Harris.

We were very fortunate to see many of our recent 2006, 2007, and 2008 graduates join us for several of our events this year (they actually outnumbered the "more senior" alumni at our 2 parades. This is a great trend and we need to see it continue!

I'm also very pleased to announce that due to our 2 successful fund-raisers this past year, we have established a \$500.00 Pride Alumni Scholarship that will be awarded this spring, 2009, to a graduating senior in conjunction with IMP. The Pride Alumni has also established a Pride Award to recognize outstanding Pride members. Mr. Tom Cunningham is the first recipient of this award due to his many years and contributions to the Pride Alumni.



We cannot continue to do this without you! 2009 is the year to get re-involved and re-acquainted with the Pride! This organization exists for you and because of you! Please review our 2009 calendar on the back page and make plans to attend some of these exciting events to show your continued pride and dedication!

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Bowers, President  
The Pride Alumni

### **THANK YOU!**

Please help the Pride to thank CIC who came through with rental instruments, Reiter Dairy who supplied cold drinks for the band show, Doug Flinn at Acme, Terri Reinhold- IMP President, Brandon Duvall and Dustin Harris who always allow us to come home and use the band room, Mr. Dick Swinehart- Band Manager Emeritus, Jim Stanley- our new Pride photographer, Marsha McKenna at the Falls City Press, Anne Fassnacht at PRIME Business who supplies our t-shirts and finally, thank you to all who attended this years' events.

The Alumni would also like to thank the Forsheys for once again having the Mustang available for both parades. Also, thanks to Tom Cunningham for manning the water truck, Emily Kate Fassnacht for leading the banner onward and our ever-present Alum-Youth for passing the water bottles – Jason Madigan, Stephen Fassnacht and Kyle Spessard.

## 2009 Officers

Congratulations to your 2009 Officers: Mark Bowers ('85), President; Phil Frederick (89), Vice President; John Walk ('72), Treasurer; Sue Madigan ('69), Secretary

### Pride Alumni Band Association

#### 2008 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 01/01/08	\$ 1,507.06
Income:	
Italian Festival	500.00
Stow Fourth of July Parade	500.00
Rock'n on the River	4,600.00
Membership dues, pizza & merchandise sales	827.00
Expenses:	
Rock'n on the River	(80.00)
PO Box rental	(56.00)
Donation to IMP	(600.00)
Postcard Reminders + Postage	(333.40)
Food & supplies (Sunday dinner)	(363.63)
Hall rental (Monday party)	(175.00)
Food & supplies (Monday party)	(303.35)
DJ (Monday party)	(175.00)
Pizza (pizza party w/Tiger Band)	(276.00)
Shirts (sales to members)	0.00
T-shirts (for graduating seniors)	(300.00)
Gift certificates (director, announcer)	<u>(304.06)</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/08	<u>\$ 4,967.62</u>

### Entertainment Committee Another Year Another Party (Phil Frederick)

Another show has come and gone, as well as the parties that go with them. I would like to thank all that attended and hope to see you next year. Sunday was the return of Fiesta chicken. I don't know about you, but it sure beats hot dogs. On Monday, it was ACME subs at the American Legion. And Tuesday was a definite success with Rocco's pizza for the current and alumni bands. I would like to thank Mel from Sounds Unlimited for providing the music and karaoke for Tuesday. And thanks goes out to the Boulevard Tavern for dealing with a bunch of rowdy band members and to Reiter Dairy for the white tea. .



If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Entertainment Committee, please e-mail me at [tubaguy1989@yahoo.com](mailto:tubaguy1989@yahoo.com). Also, any suggestions on how to make these events better or for more events, please let me or the other members of the committee know.

### **Instrument Rentals and Donations**

(Mike Price)

I would like to once again thank Jim Stahl and CIC for the use of their instruments during the band show. I would also like to thank everyone who borrowed an instrument and once again returned it in pristine condition. As you all know, instruments like piccolos, and tenor saxes are very hard, if not impossible, for the alumni band to find for the band show. If you or anyone you know has an old instrument that is just collecting dust please help us out and donate that unused instrument. To do so, contact Tom Cunningham via email at [terc@neo.rr.com](mailto:terc@neo.rr.com) or Michael Price via email at [zauldag@yahoo.com](mailto:zauldag@yahoo.com). Anything you can do to help us out with our instrument quest is greatly appreciated and will go miles to help us to be able to provide everyone with an instrument for the show. Thank you all for another great show and keeping the instruments in great condition.

### **Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade**

(Karla Hess)

State Road Shopping Center.....Portage Trail to Fourth Street.....Reviewing Stand.....High School.....Oakwood Cemetery

These are the major highlights of the annual Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade. Each year with grace, enthusiasm, and talent, The Pride of the Pride of Cuyahoga Falls High School joins together for our first summer event. We don our gold number shirts, (no matter what our year!), black shorts and tennis shoes to march in front of our home town and our friends and relatives.

We had approximately 50 marchers this year under the direction of Scott Curfman, including several 2008 graduates who decided to march with us! We were escorted by Forsheys in their yellow and black convertible, and were handed water by several young band enthusiasts while playing Tiger Rag down Portage Trail.

The crowds cheered loudly when we passed several intersections and were on their feet as we went by the high school. As we passed the reviewing stand and finished Tiger Rag, we started a very spirited version of JW complete with high knees and flourished instruments with pride! Needless to say, when we got to the cemetery, some of us were very tired and chops were sore, however it was a good tired and always exciting to be in front of the home crowd.

This year was our fifth consecutive year in the parade and we are looking forward to many more! Please join us in 2009. Keep an eye on your mail for the annual postcard and our website: [www.pridealumni.org](http://www.pridealumni.org) for further details about practice times, instrument rental and the parade. Let's keep the Pride of the Pride of Cuyahoga Falls in the Memorial Day Parade for many years to come!

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

(Steve Mietus)

The Pride Alumni Band was once again the star of the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Stow. The turnout was spectacular both in number of marchers and number of spectators. As we marched down the route, we did notice a large number of alumni band members on the curb with soda in their hand instead of in our ranks with an instrument in their hand. Did you notice the hole in the third squad? That place was saved for you! We expect you to be there next year!

OK, now that the sanctimonious recruitment solicitation has been made, here's a quick review of the event. Scott Curfman once again directed the Alumni Band for this spectacular event. The weather was deceptive this year. When we all woke up, it was overcast and looked like we might get a sprinkle or two. Parade marchers like that! But, as we were lining up waiting to step off, the sun came out and it was quite a warm day. Thankfully, it was warm and not blistering hot! The crowd was once again as appreciative as it was large. There was barely a spot along the route without fans standing two or three (or more) deep. All in all, a fantastic turnout for a fantastic event.

Once again, no one actually counted how many times we played *Tiger Rag*, but no matter how many times Mr. Curfman calls it up, we have it in us for that many times plus one! As usual, we “wowed” them at the judge’s stand and made all the other marching units wish they had our zest and appeal. And you can be part of this, too! All you have to do is show up. We need you to fill that hole in the third squad. We hope to see you there next year.

The annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Stow was once again a highlight in the year of the Pride Alumni Band. If you weren’t there, you should have been. There’s only one non-mandatory practice, and then the big event. We want all of you there. Each year we seem to move up a little further in the line up; don’t wait until we’re the second unit in the parade before you join us!

OK, now that the recruitment solicitation has been made, here’s a quick review of the event. Scott Curfman directed the Alumni Band for this spectacular event. For the second year in a row, the weather was extremely cooperative. It was partly sunny, or partly cloudy, depending on your point of view. In any case, there was sun to make the day feel alive, and some cloud cover to give us marchers some reprieve.

The crowd was as appreciative as it was large. With a parade as long as this one is, one might expect a sparse gathering of spectators along the route. This is not the case with the Stow 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. There is rarely a spot empty of fans along the route. Even with the huge crowd, we are able to see those of you who should be marching with us and not watching! That’s OK, we know you’ll be with us wearing your Pride Alumni shirt next year.

Nobody is exactly sure how many times we played *Tiger Rag* this year. At least nobody shared the exact count with me! But rest assured that each and every time Mr. Curfman blew the whistle the Pride Alumni Band stepped up to the plate and played *Tiger Rag* with the same zeal and gusto as we did when we were seniors. Granted, some of us are senior citizens now, but that doesn’t stop us from being the biggest and best alumni band in the nation! And you can be a part of this too. All you have to do is show up! We hope to see you here next year!

### **Italian Festival** (Steve Mietus)

For the second year in a row, the Pride Alumni Band was offered the opportunity to perform at the Annual Cuyahoga Falls Italian Festival. We do receive an honorarium for this event, which goes directly to help the Alumni Band support the Tiger Band. Did you notice the empty chair in the third row? That was the seat we were saving for you! As always, there is no marching for this event, so you can’t use your aging and aching knees as an excuse not to show up! The event begins with a brief rehearsal in the CFHS band room, and then we walk down to the Riverfront Mall for the performance.

Scott Curfman was once again our leader, and once again joined us in playing for the gig. We were also graced with the presence and participation from the two Tiger Band directors, Brandon Duvall and Dustin Harris. This gave us some real zeal to the trumpet and tuba sections. Whether it was by design or luck, our placement at the venue was a blessing. The weather was almost the opposite of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. It was bright and sunny when we arrived, but halfway through the gig, the skies darkened and the rain came down. But, as we were placed directly in front of the parking deck, it was a quick and easy move to get under cover. And while some other entertainment groups called it a day, Mr. Curfman didn’t succumb to the pressure to leave, and we continued our performance under the deck. The audience was appreciative, dry, and somewhat captive (unless they wanted to get wet). But, we played on and as you can imagine, the acoustics under the deck had the sounds of the Pride Alumni Band ringing in the ears of everyone present. As for that empty chair, we expect to see you in it next year.

### **Band Show** (Steve Mietus)

Every year the Band Show gets better than the last, and this year was no exception. OK, that was my opening line to this section last year and the year before, but it still holds true. And if you don’t agree, then you must not have been there. And shame on you!

The event begins, as usual, with the Sunday afternoon practice. Unlike the cold and rain last year, the weather Gods were with us and we had great weather for the rehearsal. We had a great turnout and the rehearsal went without a hitch. There were a lot of happy reunions of alumni members and a lot of revisiting past memories. And the biggest question asked was, “are you the ‘hot dog’ or the pinwheel?” (I, for some reason, always end up as the swing man in the pinwheel.) We even had a member come from out-of-town just to attend the Sunday rehearsal as he had to return to work on Monday. More on that a bit later. The event was followed with chicken and jo-jos being served.

The Monday evening practice was also a huge success. Do you remember the guy, Joe Tresh, who had to return to work on Monday? I told you he came in for the Sunday rehearsal? Well, he had such a great time that he called his boss and asked to have his stay extended for a few days so that he could participate in the second rehearsal and the show itself! Kind of makes you feel a little guilty for being so close and not showing up, doesn't it? If not – it should! A reception followed on Monday night, subs from ACME, at the American Legion hall where I hear a lot more than memories were flowing.

The night of the big show arrived and we all participated in the usual pre-show activities. The group picture under the Tiger is always a must. Of course, you must size up the visiting bands, buy your raffle tickets, and get your popcorn long before you take the field. And, as tradition dictates, the Pride Alumni Band takes the field just before intermission. The crowd began to cheer as the Pride Alumni were walking to their places! It only got louder from there. As the last band made their exit and the Pride Alumni stood up, the crowd got louder. When Scott Curfman blew the fist whistle for the drums to rise and the tubas to swing their horns to their shoulders,, we were hoping we would be able to hear the whistles that would get us underway. Barely audible above the cheers of the crowd, those magic four whistles that start the Buddy Rich cadence sounded and we were underway.

After the running cadence came the halt before the fanfare. We were all praying that our announcer, Randy Fillmore, would talk VERY slowly so that we could catch our breath. But, all too soon, the four bass drum beats came and we were moving downfield playing *Tiger Rag*. By the way, did you notice the hole in the squad in the second line? That was the spot we were saving for you!

After *More* (Were you the pinwheel or the hot dog? Or, were you the hole in the squad in the second line?), it was time for the concert number. This year, it was a Bob Feldbush arrangement of *Don't Cry For Me, Argentina*. After another outstanding performance, it was time to go back to the block and finish the rest of the march down field. The cheers from the crowd never lessened and once we did the turn around and bow, the stadium was roaring. But there was more to come. After the words, “One More Time” came over the speakers, the tubas gave those infamous pickups into the finale of *Tiger Rag* and the stadium was once again roaring with excitement. But there was still more!

After the bow comes the running cadence off the field that takes us into the JW cadence. It's always amazing and/or amusing to see the shock in the eyes of the newest alumni members when they learn that the JW was actually named after the writer of the cadence, John Walk. And it amazes them even more when they see John standing there playing it. But, the show sadly come to an end and when it started you were wondering if you still had it in you to make it through the whole show and now you wonder how it went by so fast, and you're ready to do it all over again.

And next year, we don't want to see the hole in the squad in the second line. We want to see you there filling it. Call a friend to join you. We'd love to add another squad to the second line. Even better, we'd love to add an entire new line!





## **AND NOW, THE REST OF THE STORY . . . .**

*We've told you about Joe Tresh, who came for the day and stayed for three. Well, we asked Joe if he would give us his thoughts on the experience. Below, is the rest of the story in Joe's own words*

I'll admit I did it just for this moment. I have hundreds of eyes pointed at me. We are the center of attention in my home town. In front of me, I focus on nothing but a twirling woman in black and gold as I use the edge of a goalpost on the far side to be sure of my place on the long green field.

But who is that goalpost to question my place on this field? My sweat and blood nourished the earth below this green grass. I spent days of my youth filling the streets of this town with music and yes, with noise. I didn't just have pride, I was the Pride.

Here I stand twenty years after my senior year in the Cuyahoga Falls High School Tiger Marching Band. Each musician in each squad has a story about how we've reached this moment - standing at attention, sweating, catching our breath following the doubletime entrance onto the field. We are introduced by the voice on the loudspeaker. Each of us feels the burn of the eyes in the audience as we anticipate the march downfield. As the drums synchronize us with their familiar instructions, we bow-chair and make our way downfield playing "Tiger Rag." This time though, we march as the Pride Alumni Band.

Three days earlier, though, I couldn't remember how to play a C scale, and a week prior I got long-winded just catching a bus. So why did I end up on this field?

I was in town the previous weekend for my high school reunion and had plans to leave on Monday. I thought Sunday afternoon alumni band practice would be fun, even if I would not be around for the performance at the annual Preview of Bands. At the high school with my free rental horn, I headed for the practice rooms. A recent Falls alum brass player showed me the basic fingerings for a C scale, and it was amazing how quickly everything returned to me. Within moments I was playing the "Star-Spangled Banner from memory.

Practice started on time. After going through the music we headed out to the hash-marked parking lot to learn our maneuvers. I still felt like an observer because my flight left in less than 24 hours. At the end of practice and a quick round of J.W., an old feeling returned and I found myself saying, "Let's run it again!" Naturally, I was insane.

Or was it because a strange realization came to me? Things were not as good nor as bad as we remember them being in high school. I realized just how important Band was to me. Playing the trumpet wasn't any sort of natural talent, and I have hardly ever been athletic. Band was something I had to work hard for. Marching maneuvers while playing the horn was something I had to really practice. That work instilled a great amount of pride. How could I have forgotten that?

I turned in my horn and packed my suitcase. That night at the tavern, I was planning to say goodbye to members of the band. I listened as my new friends recalled memories from school that I was not a part of. And I told my own stories as well. We complained, of course, how kids these days are different. People asked why I was leaving, and I told them how my flight back was the next day, and how the ticket would cost me nearly \$500 to move. My flight back, which had been my good excuse for escaping early, became the thing tearing me away

from a new set of friends. Because of my poor planning, it would be another year before I made it back onto that field. I was heartbroken that I didn't plan on staying for the show.

After some research on my mobile phone while sitting at the tavern, I formed a plan. With each successful step toward my staying in town for the show, I called for a toast. The first toast came following a return phone call from my boss, granting me two more days vacation. Toast two came following the extension of my car rental. Toast three was earned with the purchase of a discount plane ticket that would get me home for only \$130 or so, instead of \$500. With the plan complete, we excitedly retrieved my horn from the stash of rentals in the trunk of the band manager's car out back and had one final toast celebrating my return to the Pride Alumni Band. As I called my family with the news that I was staying in town, I knew I still had one hurdle left. I had to learn my music if I was going to march down that field.

I memorized my music, and we made it down that field. We blew our horns. We collapsed our lines and we went wild with the exit. We applauded every band as they left the field. I took in the night and I wondered how I could have ever let myself wait so long before doing this. Memorizing the music, marching double-time and learning maneuvers was the easy part. Leaving was harder. Staying for the show helped me regain a connection to my hometown that I haven't felt since I left high school. I met current students. I marched on the field. I drank at the American Legion. I got my weather from Dick Goddard. I watched an awesome band show under the late summer sky. I had Fiesta pizza in the cafeteria while I wondered if anyone brought some Chilly Willie. I met the original J.W. I wore black and gold. I was home again for the first time.

*By the way, pictures, except the end zone on the front, are courtesy of Joe. Additional photos can be viewed at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30454378@N04/sets/72157607276415163/>*

## **ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI** (Tom Cunningham)

We are trying to put together a history and resource center of the Cuyahoga Falls Tiger Band. If any of you have old pictures, new pictures, programs, slides, video tapes, 8 mm movies, DVD'S, etc., of the Tiger Band, we would appreciate your scanning pictures, documents, trip itineraries, etc., or letting us borrow them to make copies. When the book is finished, we will add it to the collection of available materials to look at or send copies to the local libraries.

Please don't hoard your materials. Share them with anybody and everybody. If sending pictures, please try to include who is in them if you still remember! Send the to: TOM CUNNINGHAM [terc@neo.rr.com](mailto:terc@neo.rr.com). Thank you

## **CURRENT TIGER BAND NEWS** (Visit their website at [www.cftigerband.org](http://www.cftigerband.org))

The Tiger Band is taking donations of all old cell phones, empty ink cartridges, Acme receipts and box tops. These can be dropped off at the band room anytime, or, please make arrangements with one of the Pride Alumni Committee members.







## Events to Remember

### Your 2009 Pride Alumni Schedule

Memorial Day Parade Sun. May 24 Practice 1:00PM @CF High School  
Mon May 25 Line-up 8:30AM @ State Rd / Portage Trail

\*Fundraiser #1 Friday, June 26, Meet at 4:45PM, Event 5-10PM  
Rockin' on the River

Fourth of July Parade Sun June 28 Practice 1:00PM @ CF High School  
Sat July 4 Line-up 9:00AM @ Stow Kent Shopping Center

\*Fundraiser #2 Friday, July 24 Meet at 4:45PM, Event 5-11PM  
Italian Festival Saturday, July 25, Event 12:00PM – 11:00PM  
Sunday, July 26, Event 12:00PM-9:00PM

Preview of Bands  
BAND SHOW Sun Aug 16 Registration 12-2PM Practice 2-5PM  
Mon Aug 17 Registration 5-6PM Practice 6-9PM  
Tues Aug 18 End Zone Photo 6:30PM Show 7:00PM

\* Both Fundraisers are pouring beer at the Front Street Mall. These are NON-drinking events for us, and you must be 21 years of age to serve.

Check out our website at [www.pridealumni.org](http://www.pridealumni.org) for further information on all of the above events.

**Pride Alumni Band Association**  
**P. O. Box 942**  
**Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223**