

PRINCE CHARLES PIPE BAND NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023



Pipe Major's Corner

This column is going to be longer and a bit more personal than usual. Thank you for indulging me.

As I am writing this, the Pleasanton Games are just around the corner, signaling the approach of the end of yet another contest season. Soon the cycle will start up again – selecting new tunes to learn, putting together competition sets, composing drum scores, deciding which contests to attend, and launching into the new season with excitement and high hopes. Most Junior Band members can count on one hand the number of times they've been through this; then, there are those of us who would have to borrow a bunch more fingers and toes to keep track of the years!

The Band, too, goes through natural cycles, usually with a much longer period of change. Over the 55 years since the Band's inception, my guess is that there have been at least ten different generations of a "Junior Band" comprising kids and young adults – and probably nearly as many different "Senior Band" adult groups, many of whom started out as kids in the Band. So much of this history blends into a continuous cycle of growth and turnover. We're fortunate to right now have a vibrant, exciting Junior Band, which portends a promising future for the PCPB organization.

I can't help but reflect on the cycle of life as well. Long-time supporter Pat Sweetman, grandfather of former PCPB'er Kevin Sweetman, passed away on August 2. Then, just the next day, my mother Marilyn Sutherland died peacefully at the age of 94. She was a kind and generous person and did much of the behind-the-scenes work for the Band for over 30 years. Treasurer, secretary, organizer and steady influence. Many PCPB old-timers also remember her cooking big breakfasts at



our house when Band members would spend the night before or after Band events.

And finally, we mourn the loss but celebrate the life of one of the absolute heroes of the Prince Charles Pipe Band – Kit Warne. The amazing thing about Kit was that he also tirelessly played exceptional roles in Scouts, in the local School District IT program, and with the Book Exchange non-profit. Our family first met Kit when I was only five years old. My older siblings and I looked up to him, learned from him, went on adventures with him and loved him dearly. It almost doesn't seem like he's gone, because he's still so much a part of all of us.

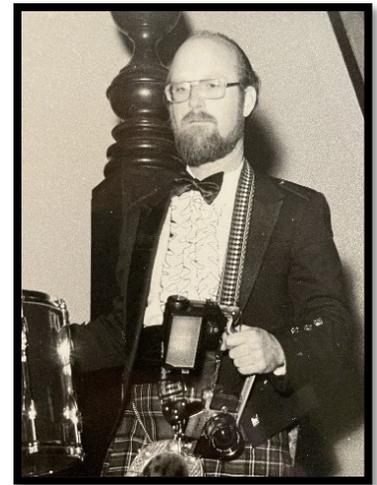
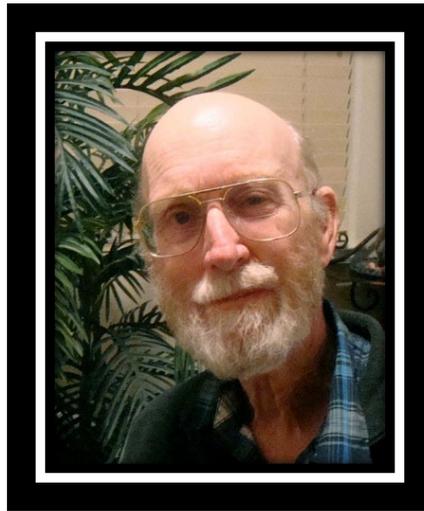
Here's one of my favorite pictures of Kit and me, at the Santa Rosa Games in the mid-1960's:



But with loss comes renewal, and with death comes new life in the never-ending cycle. Sue and I just welcomed the birth of our fourth grandchild, Kamryn Sutherland Yaptinchay, born August 17.

The future looks promising indeed.

Ken Sutherland
Pipe-Major and Board President



Kit Warne

November 12, 1944 – June 20, 2023

The Prince Charles Pipe Band lost one of its heroes earlier this summer. Kit Warne passed away after living with Alzheimer's for the past five years. He was in hospice the final week of his life and his youngest brother was at his bedside when he moved on.

For over 50 years Kit was a beloved member of the PCPB family. He was photographer, chauffeur, chaperone, travel coordinator, equipment manager, Board member, cook, handyman, jack-of-all-trades, mentor, counsellor, coach, older brother, and best friend. The list is much longer but does not begin to describe who Kit was and the lasting impact he had on each and every one of us who had the good fortune to know him. The following comments from Band members and others who knew him helps to paint a picture of Kit and what he meant to so many.

With the support of Kit's family, the Band will host a Celebration of Life on October 21 at the Corte Madera Community Center. If you plan to come, please send your name and email to info@pcpb.org.



Memories of Kit

Kit was a wonderful, kind person who made the road smooth for new and old members alike!

I have the best memories of Kit. He embodied selflessness and was a role model for me growing up in the 80's.

Such an impact over so many years! So glad that so many of us got to share his world.

Kit was an amazing man. Definitely the glue of the band trips. I hope he realized how much he meant to everyone. Goodbye Kit - May we never forget to be an ounce of your helpfulness.

The Prince Charles organization owes so much to Kit. He was always there...driving that red van, setting up tents and whatever was needed to make the band a success. Although I was not in the band myself, I always made a point of stopping by to say hello to Kit.

What a great man. A legend.

More dedicated or loyal or dear would be hard to find. He'll be very missed.

I'm saddened for the loss of an awesome person. He was an amazing part of my formative years,

He always had a smile on his face and infinite patience as he wrangled kids and parents around the world. He was an important part of my life and my kids' lives. And, of course, the red van... 'nuff said. Be at peace my friend.

Kit's unselfishness made many parts of our lives happen. He was always there. Thank you Kit.

For many, many years Kit was the backbone of the band; the man behind the scenes. He was the most dependable, unselfish man you could wish to meet.

I was always so grateful that Kit took candid photos of us all...then put them out for us to choose and take. Wonderful memories of great friends during high school and beyond. Black and white old school photos will always remind me of Kit.

I'm so sad to hear of Kit's passing. The stories of road trips and the memories of all of his legendary abilities at planning, organizing and executing band trips will always be foremost in my mind. He was a kind and calming presence.

Kit was an essential element in the success of the band. The red van, the photography, the care and feeding of so many young kids, and the support for Bill and Jack was never-ending. He was the epitome of best Boy Scout anyone could ask for.

Kit was an important part of our family for decades. His generous and kind spirit helped us all to try to become better versions of ourselves, and I'm so grateful to have had him in our lives. Wonderful memories. Rest well, Kit.

When I joined the band in 1970 Kit would take the Marin kids to band practice in SF. On the ride home we would always stop at McDonalds. A simple memory, but for an 11-year-old newbie Kit made me feel part of the band. All of the years that followed Kit made me feel important. I don't think he ever sent a harsh word in my direction although I probably deserved it from time to time. I always felt Kit got me.

But the simple fact is he got all of us.

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2023 Contest Season Was a Busy One

The Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band and our solo piping and drumming competitors have had a huge presence in contests in California this year. Three Band contests and seven solo competition opportunities, not including the upcoming Pleasanton Games. The “Pipes and Pubs” events put on by the City of Sacramento Pipe Band were a lot of fun.

The most exciting Band contest was our trip to Southern California and the United Scottish Society Games held in Costa Mesa. The Grade 4 entry comprised some top-notch bands, and our Junior Band fared well in two extremely close contests, garnering a 3rd place and a 4th place in the six-band field. Our drum corps earned top honors in each event.

Our piping and drumming soloists continue to distinguish themselves, and most of them are at or near the top of the aggregate standings in each of their Grade levels. Kudos to all our soloists, regardless of individual contest results, for getting out there and representing the core mission of PCPB so well! (Photos courtesy Julia Thomsen)



Upcoming PCPB Performances

Fri Sep 1 – Sun Sep 3	Caledonian Club 157 th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games. Solo piping and drumming each morning. The PCPB Junior Band plays in the Grade 4 contest (“Auxiliary Circle”) at 1:00 pm Saturday and 2:00 pm Sunday.
Sat Oct 21	Celebration of Life for Kit Warne Corte Madera Community Center, 1:00 pm. To attend, send email to info@pcpb.org
Sat Oct 28	East Bay Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Bishop Ranch, San Ramon. PCPB Mini-band to play somewhere along the route.
Sun Nov 5	Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade, Pleasanton
Sat Nov 11	St. Andrew’s Society of the East Bay Annual Ball After-dinner entertainment. Contact standrewseastbay.org for info.