



Truck Loading Etiquette

Tony Gutierrez, 2008 Band Director

Every year I write about what I call "Truck Loading Etiquette". This term describes how we as an organization load and unload the LGB&D truck.

For out-of-town gigs, our designated truck driver will normally arrive at the departure site (usually the NC State University Club) at least one half hour before departure time. The truck driver is only responsible for loading and unloading LGB&D equipment and making sure it is properly secure before departure. Musicians with instruments are responsible for loading and securing their own instruments. If for some reason a personal instrument is damaged during transport while in the truck, the LGB&D may reimburse the member for repairs.

For all gigs, once at a customer site, every member is responsible for helping unload the truck. The truck driver is in-charge of and responsible for selecting which equipment is unloaded first such as music stands, music, lights, LGB&D banner, LGB&D standard, audio equipment, drums, instruments, and dance props. It is everyone's responsibility to help move equipment from the truck to the stage as quickly as possible to insure that we are setup and ready to perform by the contracted time.

When it comes to helping set up audio equipment, ask the audio person first if you may help. Our audio people do appreciate help and will help direct you. Mike cables are very sensitive to abuse by improper twisting and handling.

Once the performance is over, all members are again responsible to help tear-down equipment on stage. We ask that you pack as quickly as possible and return it back to the truck for loading. The truck driver should be waiting at the loading location to help direct which items get loaded and secured first. Equipment is loaded very specific order. The faster we can load the truck, the sooner we can depart. Members who don't help by socializing with the customers or each other are always noticed by other members who are moving equipment.

Last Minute Trip to Little River SC

Leslie Deak & Josiah Cocks, Dancers

It was with great pleasure that Josiah and I joined the LGB&D for another travel adventure. After attending an Oktoberfest in the Virginia suburbs a couple of weeks ago, I was bitten by the Gemütlichkeit bug. I consulted with Josiah, our quartermaster and schedulers, and the airlines, and soon I had a trip!

Since I'd planned soooooo far in advance, the flights were a little expensive. But I was excited to try a new gig--as much as we joke about the disaster that was the Ocean City, Maryland gig in 2001, we really did have a great time together as a group. I wanted to try this Little River gig, as it showed a lot of promise. As soon as I started seeing all our friends (old and new), I knew the trip was worth every penny (and every one of those 60 minutes in the car rental line).

I was lucky to be able to earn my keep by doing some background key procurement and supply fetching. It was a special treat to be able to socialize with some of the early arrivals--Jack, Wanda, Rob, Josiah, and I enjoyed a nice dinner at the lovely Joe's Bar & Grill near Barefoot Landing on Friday evening.

Things proceeded smoothly on Saturday morning, and the second wave of Fake Bavarians arrived just in time to relieve tired lips and feet. While the stage was a little high, the setting was nice. The food and drink were generous and yummy, and the crowd, while slow to warm and early to leave, were enthusiastic during our performance. I especially appreciated one particular couple in the front who continually motioned at me to speak louder when introducing dances, as they were rather interested in the performance.

Welcome Our Newest Member William Robinson

Congratulations to Bill Robinson our newest member of LGB&D band. Bill was voted in by the Board of Directors. For those who don't know Bill, he lives in Monroe NC but joins us when he can to play his trombone or double-bell baritone. Read what he has to say about the LGB&D when he played at Little River SC later in this newsletter.

Kindergruppe Update

Joyce Loring

We are having some fun again this Oktoberfest season with the kids. We are missing the Roth boys, but others have joined us and we have two more who are planning to participate. Right now we are focusing on getting ready for our first two performances of the Oktoberfest season, Winston Salem and St. Raphael.

If there is anyone in the band who has a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor who is interested in this group, please have them contact me or just meet us at St. Francis of Assisi in the cafeteria on Monday nights at 6:30. Our classes are only 1/2 hour and we have LOTS of fun! The ages of the children range from 5 ~ 10 years old.

We are excited to be doing four Oktoberfest gigs this year!!!

~Joyce



LGB&D Kindergruppe strike a pose at practice.

Last Minute Trip to Little River SC (Continued)

Leslie Deak & Josiah Cocks, Dancers

Though 11-7 is a long time to play, I think the band worked well amongst themselves to spell one another for sets, and the dance group did several shorter shows that seemed to fit the bill. The best part of ending early was the gobs of time we had together as a group without having to rush off home, to another performance, or to collapse into bed after another late night.

Lots of us crazies went to the beach, and many of us into the water at the insistence of one of our Best Instigators. I think we all stayed up way past our bed-times, but it was again worth it to be able to talk about all kinds of things we never have time to address.

Sunday morning, our Best Instigator was at it again and led a brisk morning run for several gentlemen. More bonding at its best. The beach house accommodations allowed me to bake some zwetschkuchen in the morning, which we devoured with plenty of good coffee. Our proximity to the beach and individual dwellings allowed people to break out into small groups and enjoy all the area had to offer.

The band sounded great again on Sunday, and all too soon it was time to go home. We made our flights okay, though our tracht is still somewhere between Charlotte and DC.

It was great to meet our new people, and also gratifying to see a guest musician who does double duty with his double-belled horn. I'd never seen anything like it. We miss you and hope to see you all again soon.

Prost!

~ Leslie

Wow, you guys are entertaining!

By Bill Robinson, New Band Member

Wow, you guys are entertaining! Throughout the performances, I could see it in your faces, and hear it in your voices: you guys are having fun, and boy what a difference that makes. The audience quite evidently enjoyed the performances - everyone with whom I spoke at the Oktoberfest said how much they enjoyed the band and dancers, especially the participatory antics. Great, great stage presence, particularly for the dancers [including **Cyril and Burgess**], the directors, and the band members who went out into the audience to play every once in a while. It was a little hard to see, but after one song I remember looking out and seeing a trumpet player - I think it was **Eva**, but I could be mistaken - being helped down from a table after one song. The trumpet players were on tables! That's so awesome!

Great music, too! I lost count of the number of sets we played, and certainly have no idea of the number of songs we played, but throughout the 14 hours of performances the music was well played. There are some awesome musicians in your group.



Group poses during a break at the 2008 Selma NC Oktoberfest with bier stein provided by Matt Petrovick, former accordion player and alumnus of the LGB&D.



Bill Robinson plays trombone with the LGB&D at the 2006 Waldhorn Oktoberfest.

Wow, you guys are entertaining! (Continued)

By Bill Robinson, New Band Member

Motion to move the Fine granted! Honestly, I don't remember the tune, but there's one song where we flew right past the printed Fine. I kept playing because the band did, and made a joke after the song that we should move it. It might have been a bigger deal if the band had moved the Fine **back**, rather than forward. You may want to consider editing the song pages.

Two tent troubles! It was a little unwieldy to be under one tent while the audience was under another - they pretty much saw **Doug** and **Tony's** knees, unless they kneeled down - so I HOPE the Chamber of Commerce goes with just one bigger tent next year.

The sleeping arrangements were pretty nice! I know we had to have roommates, and had to share bathrooms, and had to watch the Georgia game on a tiny TV, but the digs really were okay, and we were only a short walk to the beach. Several members of the group took the opportunity to stroll down to the beach at least once. My compliments to the roommate Kay selected for me - **Ed** - who was engaging to talk to and who didn't snore.

Wayne and Josiah are fast runners! Thanks to those of you who went for a run with me Sunday morning, including **Burgess** and **Cyril**, but special thanks to **Wayne** and **Josiah** for willing to pretty much slow down to a walk in order to run with the rest of us.

Just because I'm pregnant doesn't mean you can touch me! Some of you may have seen the gift that **Leslie** gave **Amy**. It was a shirt with a special message to over zealous fans of pregnant women. Very cute.

How come I don't have a cool nickname yet? **Cyril's** given some of you nicknames, like **Katrina** for **Kathy**. How many times do I have to play with you guys to get a cool nickname?

The double bell. Some of you had questions about my instrument. It's a Conn double bell euphonium, built in 1935. They were fairly common in marching bands in the 1900s. The second bell was supposed to mimic a trombone's sound, but it didn't really do so very well, and they never really caught on. I don't think any manufacturer made them after the 1950's, but I could be mistaken. Today they are mostly just a novelty, although I like mine because I think it's got a great tone [at least the big bell does]. The song "76 Trombones" refers to them in the third stanza: "There were copper bottom tympani in horse platoons/ Thundering, thundering, all along the way/ Double bell euphoniums and big bassoons/Each bassoon, having his big fat say..."

What camaraderie! Perhaps the most special moment of the entire weekend was on Sunday afternoon. We were tired, I think, having completed several sets throughout the weekend, and having slept in strange beds the night before. The dancers were performing one of their special dances when the sound system went out. Without missing a beat, the band members who were standing around watching the performers began to hum the tune, giving the dancers at least something to go by as they finished the dance. No one disputes that our humming was of questionable musical quality, but the goal was accomplished. What a wonderful reflection on how important every part of the LGB&D team is to all of the others.

See you at the Waldhorn.

~ Bill



Eva, Cyril, Jack, and Burke enjoy a break at the Little River SC Oktoberfest.



Josiah and other LGB&D dancers show the crowd how to dance to "Anton" at the Little River SC Oktoberfest.
