



# Original HOBO BAND INCORPORATED

## NEWSLETTER

• MAY 2007 •

*Serving the Greater Hobo Population Since 1946*

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### Hobo Minutiae

Here we go again. I normally refrain from responding to the email wars for several reasons:

- Emails, like diamonds and landfills, are forever.
- It is easy to say things when you don't have to face the recipient.
- You can always deny seeing the last email.

For those of you who might have missed the exchange one Thursday night, total elapsed time of about 15 seconds, it went something like this:

#### **The History:**

We played the theme song from *Sanford and Son*. At the end of the piece, which had some interesting rhythms in it, a comment was made. It was the standard wise crack. "I hope we didn't pay for this yet".

The director responded that he did not appreciate the comment and just because we found something difficult to play we shouldn't be so quick to dismiss the piece.

The offender apologized even though the comment was made in jest and I am sure the commenter had no problem playing the piece as he is a fine musician.

End of story.

Next thing you know I am getting emails about how members should be allowed to object to the music we are playing, something about "ugly rock" and first amendment freedoms.

#### **The Reality check:**

- The Original Hobo Band is incorporated in the state of New Jersey and recognizes each of its voting members as an equal shareholder.
- The music rehearsed and performed by the band is selected by the Musical Director. All complaints should be directed to him.
- The Music Committee consists of the directorial staff, the librarians, and two members at large. If you have objections you can voice them to a committee member or any officer as you have done.
- The directors are advised to use the music committee for these selections or be prepared to take comments from the floor if they act unilaterally on music selection.
- Comments and opinions of the director are not necessarily those of the management.
- If we forbid wisecracks and comments during rehearsal then I will have to find something else to do with my Thursday nights.

—Rich

# UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Check the Web site (<http://www.originalhoboband.org>) for the latest engagement updates.

## MAY

**Saturday 5/12/07, 9 am Step-off**  
**Harrison Twp. Parade, Mullica Hill**  
 Woodland Ave. & Rt. 45, 1 mi.  
 Ends at Ella Harris Park

**Saturday, 5/19/07, Pennsville, NJ**  
**10 am Step-off**  
**Fornaro's Shopping Cntr., 175 N. Broadway**  
 Ends Rt. 49 and Wm. Penn Ave., HS vicinity

**Saturday, 5/26/07, 12 Noon Step-off**  
**Marcus Hook, PA Memorial Day Parade**  
 10th & Walnut to Delaware & Market <1 mi.

**Monday, 5/28/07 11 am Step-off**  
**Medford Memorial Day Parade (dress B&W)**  
 Starts Memorial School, ends War Memorial

## JUNE

**Friday, 6/1/07, 7 pm**  
**Cumberland County College Band Festival**  
 Vineland, NJ

**Sunday, 6/03/2007 (No Rain Date)**  
**Malvern Memorial Parade, Step-off 1:30 pm**  
 Starts Malvern Fire Station King St. & Ruthland Ave, Malvern, PA. Ends Memorial Park (Memorial Avenue) approx. 1.5 miles  
**(Debut appearance—big turnout, please!)**

**Saturday, 6/9/2007 (no rain date)**  
**Separation Day Parade, New Castle, DE**  
 10:15 a.m. Lineup, 11 a.m Step-off  
 7/10 mi., stop-go. Perform at Reviewing Stand)

**Friday, 6/22/2007**  
**Marlton Park Summer Concert Kickoff,**  
 Woodstown, NJ  
 7:00 downbeat

## JULY

**Tuesday, 7/3/2007**  
**Independence Day Parade,**  
 Gloucester City, NJ. Step-off 6:30 p.m.  
 Broadway at CVS Drug Store

**Wednesday, July 4th, 8:45 a.m. Step-off**  
**Wenonah 4th of July Parade (no rain date)**  
 Mantua & Marion Aves.

**Saturday, 7/07/2007**  
**Rain Date: Sunday, 7/08/2007**  
 Brigantine Parade & Concert  
 Parade: Step-Off 4 P.M.  
 Concert Downbeat: ± 5:30 P.M.  
 Parade Lineup: 14th & Brigantine Avenue  
 Concludes: 26th Street Recreation Complex  
 Concert at Recreation Complex  
 12-block parade, 2 hour Concert

## AUGUST

**August 25, 2007 (no rain date)**  
**City of Cape May Bandstand Concert**  
 Downbeat: 8 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER

**Sunday, September 30, 2007**  
**Rain Date Sunday, October 7, 2007**  
**Bordentown 325th Centennial Parade**  
 Lineup at 1 p.m.  
 Step-off ± 1:30 p.m.  
 Finish 3-4 p.m.  
 (2 miles plus—wear comfortable shoes)

## PITMAN SUMMER CONCERTS

**June 21 in the Grove**  
**July 12 at Sunset**  
**July 31 at Sunset—Youth Bands I & II**  
**August 2, Sunset—Youth Band III + Hobos**  
**September 6 at Sunset—Harvest Concert**

Remember to check the Web site for changes to any of these events. Click on the [\[MAP\]](#) if you need driving directions.

**GOT A GOOD HOBO STORY?**

Send it via email to the  
 Corresponding Secretary/  
 Newsletter Editor.

[<nagable@comcast.net>](mailto:nagable@comcast.net)

# Hobo Signs

One of the effects of the Civil War was the creation of the Hobo. Thousands of men who had left their homes for the battlefield had become restless after four years of the excitement of war. They became drifters and used railroads as their primary means of transportation. They could ride for free, hanging onto or riding in any part of the train.

The busiest hobo junction in the United States was Mattoon, Illinois, where the north-south and east-west tracks of the Illinois Central Railroad crossed.

The hobos were very resourceful in choosing where to hide when hitching a ride. Some rode on the rods used to support the cars, some in battery boxes under the passenger coaches and freight cars. This was illegal, of course, and they had a method of calculating the odds of being arrested (the railroads had their own policing agents). For example: on the Illinois Central, between Chicago and Cairo, Illinois, the odds were 254 to 1 in favor of evading capture. The mileage between the two cities (363) is multiplied by the number of tracks (2), multiplied by the average number of runs (35) divided by the number of miles guarded by one agent of the railroad (100). The result is 254 to 1 (you do the math).

The hobos had their own way of communicating with their fellow travellers. They would need to know where it was OK to stop and rest, sleep, eat, and where to find food and fresh water. They would use hand-drawn chalk figures placed at locations where they could be easily seen by someone who knew where to look—sidewalks, fence posts, tree trunks, anywhere they could be recognized.

**The picture on the following page shows 20 such hobo signs. See if you can match the number of the sign number with the letter of the identifying phrase. Answers will appear in next month's newsletter.**

# EVENTS OF INTEREST

The radio show "From the Top" which is broadcast locally Saturday afternoons on WRTI, 90.1 FM has recorded a show at Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday evening, April 10th. It features upcoming young musicians from the area and around the nation.

Phil Blackman and Doug Cotter are playing in the pit for Orff's "Carmina Burana" on Friday, April 27 at Sterling HS.

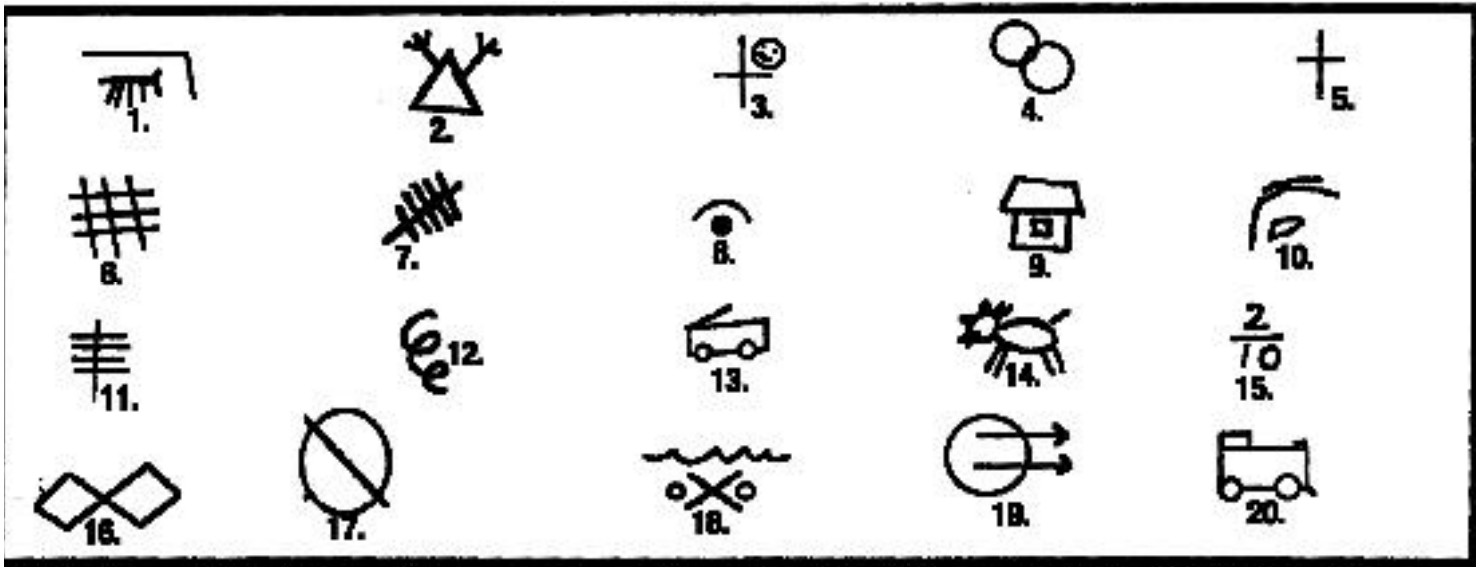
At 7 pm Saturday, April 28th the Salem County Brass Society will perform at a scholarship concert along with the A Cappella Pops at the Union Presbyterian Church in Carneys Point, NJ. Admission is free. Members from the Hobo Band are Phil Blackman, Doug Cotter, and Bob Hitman.

**Condolences**  
Our heartfelt condolences to Bill Lamb, Original Hobo Band Webmaster, on the passing of his father in Myers Beach, Florida.

*MAY birthdays*

Miles, Jr., Ernie	May 2
Avril, Ed	May 6
Kille, Ed	May 13
Smick, Bryan	May 14
Edwards, Bruce	May 16
Flowers, Bill	May 24
Nicastro, Louis	May 25
Sheppard, Mert	May 27
Coles, Ed	May 30

# Hobo Signs



Match the number of the sign to the meaning below. Answers in next month's issue.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| A. Policeman's house _____             | K. You'll get cursed out _____   |
| B. Man with gun _____                  | L. You can sleep in loft _____   |
| C. Thieves in vicinity _____           | M. Jail _____                    |
| D. Religious talk gets free meal _____ | N. Police _____                  |
| E. Good place to catch a train _____   | O. Fresh water, safe camps _____ |
| F. Good road to follow _____           | P. Trolley stop _____            |
| G. Beware of dog _____                 | Q. Hit the road quick _____      |
| H. Kind lady _____                     | R. Judge lives here _____        |
| I. Authorities on alert _____          | S. Well-guarded house _____      |
| J. Doctor _____                        | T. Keep quiet _____              |

—Thanks to Rich Bimmer

# DOO-DAH PARADE

## OCEAN CITY, NJ, APRIL 21, 2007



*Are ya gonna talk to me or blow yer nose?*



*Them basses.*



*Father and son 'bones*



*Where's the parade?*



*Bill and his buddy*



*"Don't come any closer..."*



*Hey! It's a family affair!*



*Big horn, little horn*

*Original*  
**HOBObAND**  
INCORPORATED

SINCE 1946  
CONCERTS • DEDICATIONS • PARADES  
P.O. BOX 31, PITMAN, NJ 08071  
(856-589-0506)

<http://www.originalhoboband.org>

STAMP  
HERE

ADDRESS LABEL  
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***OFFICERS FOR 2007***

**PRESIDENT:** Rich McKee

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Jill Wiese

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Bob Schultz

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Nate Gable

**TREASURER:** Henry Ryder

**DIRECTOR:** Siegfried ("Sig") Johnson

**FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Phil ("Brother Phil") Blackman

**SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Steve ("Super Steve")  
Wagner

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Alan Weinstein

**ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER:** Bev Williams

**LIBRARIAN:** Leah Cole

**FIRST ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN:** Frank Cole, Sr.

**SECOND ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN:** Bob Hitman

**TRUSTEES:** Walt McCleary, Larry Moore, Pete White, Matthew  
Murray, Bill Lamb

***YOUR ASSISTANCE  
REQUESTED***

Brother Phil and Alan Weinstein need your help with the Hobo promotional video. We are looking for creative ideas to show our group or some of them in a manner that will be remembered and associated with our theme of "Hoboism!"

***FOR YOUR INFO:***

The newsletter can now be downloaded from our "Hot News" page on the website:  
<<http://originalhoboband.org>>