

# Twirl Mania

NewsBag Newsletter

International Championships

The Twirler's Championships

May – June 2013



News

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**Championships** February 14-17, 2014 NEW ENTRY DEADLINE: **DECEMBER 1, 2013** at the WALT DISNEPWorld. Make Plans Now Don't' miss another Great Year of Twirl Mania

Send your articles and photos to: Twirlmania@aol.com to share with twirling athletes and families around the world!



CALENDAR of EVENTS	The TwirlNations International Clinic 2013 International Cup Almere, Netherlands		
Euro Twirl 2013 July 1-7, 2013   Helsingborg, Sweden Schedule of Events	MORED BATCH TWIRLING FEDERATION		
Canadian Baton Twirling Federation (CBTF) Canadian Winner/Championships & Canadian Open July 3-7, 2013   Garfield Heights, Ohio <u>Schedule of Events</u>	Date: Saturday, August 10th, 2013 Clinic will begin 30 minutes following t International Cup competition.		
Canadian National Baton Twirling Association (CNBTA) National Championships July 5-7, 2013   Garfield Heights, Ohio <u>Schedule of Events</u>	(Approximate starting time to be announced in late June).\$40.00 US for everyone who pre-registers online via WBTF Store \$50.00 US or €40.00 EU if registering		
Twirling Unlimited (TU)TU InternationalsJuly 12-14, 2013   Canton, OhioSchedule of events	<ul> <li>on-site at the International Cup</li> <li>Introducing the Clinicians</li> <li>Dale White, USA: Legendary twirling coach of many World Champions and the coordinator of the Twirl Nations Clinic!</li> <li>Catherine Moua, France: A twirling "ICON"World Champion team member with MAGICAL SKILLS - a baton STAR!</li> <li>Alexandra Royer, France: Coach and mentor to the "Champions"Unparalleled STYL-ING and CLASS!</li> <li>Alexandre Claveau, France: World Champion team member of the "French Force" of twirling EXCELLENCE!</li> <li>Kyle Keiser, USA: International coach of thousands - Learn STYLE WITH KYLE!</li> <li>Mike Harris, USA: "Mr. Creativity" - UNIQUE choreography!</li> <li>Ginnette Groome, USA: The GREATEST in multiple-baton - Learn from the BEST!</li> <li>Arisa Tanaka, Japan: Reigning World Silver MedalistTECHNIQUE WITH CHARISMA!</li> <li>Seishi Inagaki, Japan: WORLD CHAMPION and Cirque du Soleil starthe KING of baton twirling!</li> </ul> Most all of the classes will be repeated each hour to give everyone the chance to experience each instructor and their material. The clinic is three hours beginning 30 minutes following the competition.		
United States Twirling Association US National Baton Twirling Championships July 13 -18, 2013   Daytona Beach, Fl <u>Schedule of Events</u>			
World Twirling Association (WTA) National Championships July 19 -21, 2013   Garfield Heights, Ohio <u>Schedule of Events</u>			
Drum Majorettes of America (DMA) DMA Nationals July 20-24, 2013   Carrollton, Georgia <u>Schedule of Events</u>			
America's Youth On Parade (AYOP) NBTA's National Championships July 23 -27, 2013   South Bend, Indiana <u>Schedule of events</u>			
7th International Cup 2013 August 7-11, 2013 Almere, The Netherlands Schedule of Events			
Check for more National or International Championships @	WORLD BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION		

TwirlMania.com "World Wide Links"

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# TWIRL MANIA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

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\*All Festival Tickets include admission to the *ESPN Wide World of Sports*® Complex for 4 days, Parades, Showcases, Performances, & Awards Extravaganza, plus tax.

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## Deepest Sympathies



Jack DeVenney, a well-known figure in Wetumpka, died at his home early Tuesday. He was 88.

A Navy veteran who served in World War II. DeVennev filled several roles in the Wetumpka community. He was an organizer of many city events, a business owner along with his wife, and a baton twirling teacher. "Not many people had the talent and drive that he did," said his wife, Shirley.

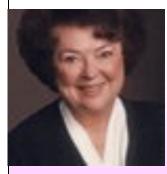
She said she received many phone calls and visits Tuesday from those who knew him. "He affected their lives so much," she said.

The boat parade during Christmas on the Coosa, the city's Crate Race, the New Year's Celebration and the Pearl Harbor remembrance all were events started by DeVenney. Mayor Jerry Willis honored him a few years ago for his contributions to the city. "He was a great Wetumpkian through and through," Willis said. "He will be greatly missed."

The DeVenneys moved to Wetumpka, Shirley's hometown, in 1970. They opened A Touch of Class in 1978, a store specializing in bridal and prom wear.

In a 2009 interview with the *Montgomery Advertiser*, DeVenney said Wetumpka had "much to offer," with "so much history." "I think it's a wonderful, beautiful little town," he said.

The couple also taught twirling in Wetumpka for more than 40 years, training both national and international champions. When DeVenney was in the Navy, twirling was a popular male activity, and DeVenney excelled at the craft, his wife said. In 2002, the couple was inducted into the National Baton Twirling Hall of Fame. Shirley DeVenney said her husband became well-known and well-liked in Wetumpka. "He fell in love with the city, and the city fell in love with him," she said.



Judith E. Sartell, age 83, of Janesville, died on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at Mercy Hospital & Trauma Center, Janesville. She was born in Janesville on May 9, 1930, the daughter of George and Gladys (Kilmer) Austin. She graduated from Janesville High School in 1948, and married Don Sartell on Dec. 19, 1953. Judy served on the Mercy Hospital Institutional Review Board for a number of years and was a volunteer with the Hospital Auxiliary for 47 years. She was a member of Rock Prairie United Presbyterian Church, Janesville, an ardent sponsor of the Riddles Elephant Sanctuary in Arkansas, the Rock County Humane Society, the Ronald W. Reagan Society, the George W. Bush

Presidential Center, the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, the General George S. Patton, Jr. Museum Foundation, the Mount Vernon Foundation, The Gettysburg Foundation, the Milton Historical Society, the Janesville Historical Society, and the Janesville Women's Club. Judy participated along with her husband, in important international festivals in England, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Mexico, Hawaii, and South Africa. She and her husband were special guests of the Grand Opening of the Bobby Vinton Theater in Branson, MO, and were personal quests of NBC Executive Director, Arch Robb, for the Thanksgiving parades in New York. She was also entertained by the Vice President of Television in Austria and had dinner with him at one of Beethoven's former homes in Vienna. While dating, Judy and Don frequented dance clubs. Movie pioneer and co-founder of Paramount Pictures, Jesse L. Lasky and his wife, Bessie, loved Judy and enjoyed entertaining her at Paramount Studios. Her most treasured memory of her Hollywood days is when Cecil B. DeMille took her hand and kissed it and when Bob Hope stopped a scene to bring her a chair and sat with her. Singer Bobby Vinton and his wife, Dolly were two of Judy's closest personal friends. During the past three years, Judy has been treated three times a week in dialysis. Her activities were curtailed by spinal stenosis, but that did not diminish Judy's love of life and her love for family and friends. Don always called her "an angel on earth." Judy was editor for one of Don's books, Margie, the Marching Majorette, and a proofreader for many of his other books. She is survived by her husband, Don Sartell; 2 sons, Jeffrey (Charlotte) Sartell and Christopher Sartell both of Janesville; grandson, Austin Sartell; niece, Nancy (Mike) Quasius of Appleton; and nephew, Jon Sartell of Waukesha. She was preceded in death by her parents; and daughter-in-law, Barb Sartell. 10



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Lynnette's Twirlerettes recently competed in a National Baton Twirling Competition, known as the fourth annual Blue Sapphire Classic, recently on the Penn State Main Campus. This was competition which is a fundraiser for future baton twirling scholarships for Penn State's feature twirler. Teams and individuals participated from many states as well as across Pennsylvania. The girls placed first in "Beginners Small Twirl Team" and tied for first in "dance-twirl."

Assistant teachers who competed are, from left: Aislinn Toolan, Lexi Talerico, Jen Jablonowski, Rebekah Thomas and Arianne Kasheta.

Visit lynnettestwirlerettes.com for ore information.

May 15, 2013

**View VIDEO** 

The Competitive World of Baton Twirling By Hilary Lane

BUFFALO, N.Y (WKBW) - You have seen dancing, juggling, and gymnastics. Now roll all three into one and you'll have baton twirling.

Baton twirling first began as a mostly a majorette-based activity over a hundred years ago. It has now emerged as a super competitive sport: showcasing agility, gracefulness, and hand eye coordination.

"They need to be in shape. They can't just practice, they need to train," said Kelli Russell, baton twirling coach located in Williamsville.

Russell is one of the most sought after baton coaches in the country. She was once a national champion and talent winner at the Miss America Competition in 1979.

In the Russell family, baton twirling runs in the blood.

Kelli's oldest daughter, Chelsea, won her first international championship at the age of 9. She was also the University of Iowa's Golden Girl. The position is highly competitive and comes with a full 4 year scholarship to college.

Younger daughter, Bailee, is a regional winner.

"It's so much fun" said Bailee. "I really enjoy myself when I am performing." However, both girls say the sport isn't always fun.

After all, it's not easy to spin around and catch a 20 inch metal stick under your leg or behind your back.

"There are some days when I feel like I can't do this anymore," said Bailee. It takes long hours in the gym, some train as much as 7 days a week.

Another challenge for the Russell girls, having a mother who also doubles as a coach.

"When we are in the gym I am not there to compliment you, I am there to make you better," said Kelli.

In order to prepare for local, regional, and national competitions, Kelli holds practices for her students at the University of Buffalo gym several times a week.

One of the biggest reasons to practice, to prevent drops.

"Of course it is great not to drop but that is utopian and there are drops that happen," said Kelli.

The ultimate pay-off for all the hard work is pulling off the routine of your life in front of the judges, and then seeing your name on the championship wall right beside the number one spot.



#### **BBTF** Nationals

On May 25 – 28, 2013, the **BBTF (British Baton Twirling Federation**) held their **2<sup>nd</sup>** Annual National Championships where they celebrated the sport of Baton Twirling with over 500+ athletes. Amongst them were two International Judges, both were from the US, Ashlie Rolfe and Gina Hutchinson. They were selected by BBTF's Technical chair and Director/creator of the Twirl Mania Internationals Championships, Joyce Perrone. During the four day event Ashlie and Gina had the opportunity to judge athletes in their solo and group competitions, teach at the athletes workshops, and speak at the coaches and judges conference. Overall, the BBTF National Championships was a success thanks to their committee members Pete and Gill Babb, Lillian Yeoman, Emma Brennan and more. We look forward to seeing some of these athletes February 14-17, 2014 where they will attend the 2014 Twirl Mania International Championships held at the Walt Disney World® Resorts & ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex.



Please send us your Contest, Camp or Event dates to:

twirlmania@aol.com

to be included in the Twirl Mania NewsBag Newsletters



Emily Babb a teenager from Barton Peveril is winning classes in baton twirling stateside after she took up the family tradition.

Emily Babb started baton twirling at the age of four when she joined the Spencerettes, a corps her grandparents founded in <u>Eastleigh</u> in 1969.

Earlier this year the 18-year old former Wyvern pupil competed in the Twirl Mania International Championships in Florida for the eighth time, winning one of her classes and finishing third overall in the novice section of competition.

"I used to watch my mum teach the Spencerettes and really wanted to join in.

"It wasn't long before I got the bug and now I compete regularly at home and in the United States.

"Twirling is a great combination of gymnastics and dance that becomes something really different once you add a baton.

"In the UK I compete at intermediate level, but twirling is so much more advanced in the States that I'm classed as a novice when I enter competitions over there," she said adding that she hopes to spend more time training in the US during her gap year.

Alessandra Stone, 15, and her sister Angelina, 13, are national champion baton twirlers from Fresno -- Not a big surprise since their mother is former world champion twirler Yolanda Castellanos-Stone. Yolanda won her title in 1982 in Tokyo at age 18.

Yolanda now coaches the sport and brought her 30-member team Dazzling Diamondettes to Minarets High School recently to participate in the Northern and Central Valley Baton Competition.



More than 100 baton twirlers from as far as San Francisco, Sacramento, Porterville and Salinas competed

throughout the day in four divisions -- novice, beginning, intermediate and advanced.

Stone, along with Karla Hubbell of Fremont, are co-coordinators of the event.

Yolanda said twirling usually gets mixed-in with cheerleading, but feels twirling is a sport of its own and is doing all she can to increase the awareness of the sport.

"These kids work very hard and it's very gratifying to watch them compete and succeed," Yolanda said. "It's not about winning -- The rewards of competing in baton twirling are making life-long friends with other twirlers, having girls feeling good about their accomplishments and gaining confidence in themselves."

"Twirling is great because it offers all levels of competition so the beginners compete with other beginners," Hubbell said. "These events provide a competitive experience with minimal stress on the girls."

Two girls from Madera County participated in the event -- Kilee Thornton, 12, of Coarsegold, and Shyann Mattes, 15, of O'Neals.

Thornton, who has been twirling for four years, said she loves everything about baton twirling.

"I love the competition, the costumes we wear and the chance to travel," Thornton said. "Our coach is amazing -- In addition to teaching us the skills or baton twirling, she choreographs all our routines."

Thornton and Mattes are planning to participate in a national competition in July in Dayton, Fla. It will be the first time for both twirlers to enter a national competition and they will compete in team and individual divisions.

"When I get out of school, I'll start practicing for nationals about 20 hours a week with the team and an additional six to eight hours a week on my own," Mattes said.

The twirlers are judged on variation and difficulty of baton work, footwook, correlation with music and overall technique.

And the sport is not just for girls -- Hubbell's 18-year-old son Kurtis, has been twirling since he was three. Twirling competitions have allowed him to see parts of the world he would not have seen if it was not for competitive twirling, including Canada, Italy, Ireland and Holland. And along the way, he has collected his share of gold medals for his twirling skills.

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#### St. Helens Baton Twirling Academy

PORTLAND — Two twirlers from the St. Helens Baton Twirling Academy competed at the Footlights and Friends Baton Competition at Portland Lutheran School on April 13. Twirlers from six different twirling clubs from Oregon and Washington were represented at the competition.

Molly and Seth Straub competed in several different events. Molly, 9, earned a first place in beginning basic strut and second in beginning presentation.

Seth, 7, earned third in beginning basic strut and beginning presentation.

For the first time they competed in beginning pairs, where they executed a no-drop routine and were awarded first place. They also participated in apparatus, where they performed with ribbons. The Academy's next event is the Oregon State Championships and Open Competition on April 27 in Portland. The Twirl Academy is coached by Donna McAtee, U.S.T.A. coach and master judge.

#### Diamonds' sparkle once again

THE hours of painstaking practice and dedication certainly paid off a Glenrothes-based dance troupe last weekend when they achieved their best performance results ever at the National Baton Twirling championships.

Members of the Dardas <u>Diamonds</u> Baton Twirlers saw off rival teams from across the UK to bring home no less that seven British titles along with 15 silver and 11 bronze medals in both the individual and team disciplines at the weekend of completion held in Crawley, England.

It was the first time that the national champion-



ships had included team competitions and 3-Baton. In the 'dance-twirl' team event, the 10-12 years category was won by the Dinky Diamonds with the Tiny Diamonds taking silver in the 6-8 years category.

Both the juvenile and junior <u>Diamonds</u> teams took silver in the Club event while Louise Coalman achieved first place for 3-baton with an outstanding zero-drop performance.

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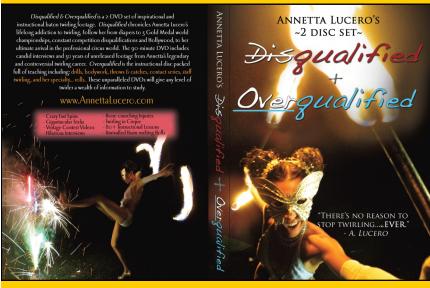


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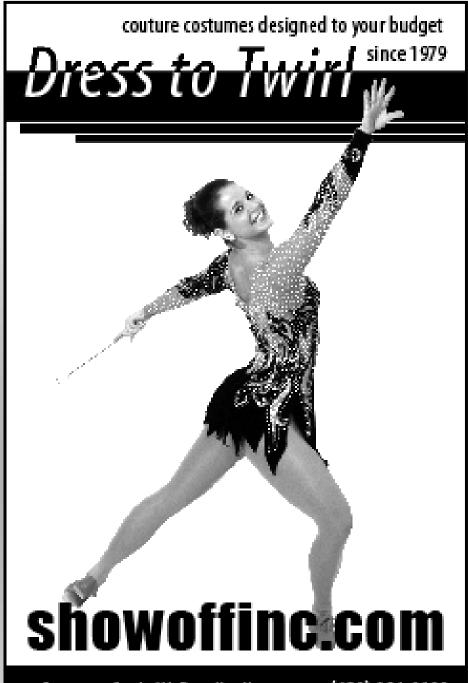
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contact series, staff twirling, and her specialty... rolls. These unparalleled DVDs will give <u>any</u> level of twirler a wealth of information to study. <u>www.AnnettaLucero.com</u>





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Five Cities Twirlers teams and individuals took top awards and one member qualified for national competition at the All West Regional Baton Twirling Championships held April 7 and 8 in Long Beach.

One of the largest baton-twirling competitions in the state, the championships attracted hundreds of twirlers from the All West Region, which includes Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah in addition to California, said Jeanette Searby, director of the Five Cities Twirlers.

Liam Searby scored a first place in Men's Open Twirl and another first in Men's Regional Twirl, making him the reigning All West Region champion for his division of age 6 and younger.

That qualified him for the National Baton Twirling Championships to be held this summer in Indiana, Jeanette Searby said. Liam also placed fourth in the Basic Strut event.

Other solo twirlers who received awards included Isabell Dutra, Helena Miller and Sierra Fairbanks, who placed first, Layla Wallace, who placed second, and Lily Watson, who placed third in the Basic Strut.

Lily also placed third in X-Strut, and Sierra and Isabell placed fourth and fifth, respectively, in Basic Skills.

Sierra also received a second place in Open Twirl Solo and a fourth in Show Routine.

The Calling All the Monsters competition team of Isabell, Lily, Ellie Fuller, Claudia Kennedy and Ireland Corley placed second in the small juvenile dance team division.

The Five Cities Twirlers are now preparing for their last competitions of the season — the California Team Championships, Miss Majorette of California and the Springtime Twirling Festival.

The public can watch the team in action at the Nipomo Relay for Life coming up Saturday, April 20, and the Arroyo Grande Strawberry Festival set for Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26.

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FEBRUARY 14-17, 2014

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Please send in Arial font 11 with proper case.

# Photos should be in a .jpg format and identified with name(s) of person in photo.

#### Information should be verified for authenticity.

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