

By THE ORIENTAL BAND SCRIBE

## Timex

THE Parade Season is underway and summer finally made its (rather wet) appearance in the Northeast - both things of which we await anxiously as the calendar turns its pages towards a new year. This year, as last, we have had some very good turnouts at all of the events that we have participated in. Others may have declined in prowess but we, like the infamous Timex watches, just keep on ticking. Over the years that has served us very well as it has fostered a sense of camaraderie amongst us that is quite unique and has given us a sense of collective purpose. We are about as disparate a group as one can find with backgrounds that span a wide spectrum and we are about as unlikely a group as one can imagine but, through it all, the band draws us together to help us better pursue our commitment to the objectives of a common cause and that is what society and civility are all about.

As mentioned before, we have participated in a number of Parades and functions and have enjoyed all of them and we are looking forward to continuing that for the rest of the season. We are particularly looking forward to participating at some new

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venues this year and hope that more new venues will be added in the future - variety is the spice of life and we are a very lively group and manage to spice things up in our own fashion as well.

The Parade Season started on a rather chilly and windy day in Arlington, MA for their Patriots Day Parade. Weather was clearly a factor in the less than normal turnout that was observed but the spirit of the day still prevailed and we hope that we

warmed up some of the spectators with our performance which was well received. Last year Arlington and the reception we received in our old uniforms were instrumental in our changing our uniforms and appearance. This year we did not experience that same issue and have come full circle in our satisfaction that the new appearance is more appropriate for the times.

With logistics straightened out, we turned our attention to the Newton, MA parade only to find that many conflicts made it impossible for us to participate in that event even though some of the logistical problems we have had with the parade in the past had been addressed this year. With the logistical matters addressed, we are hopeful that we may more fully participate in Newton next year though we do wish that they would consider some alternative scheduling for this event because there traditionally are far too many conflicts (usually conflicts brought about by the many academic/school events that occur around this time of year as well) with it.

We also did our traditional Memorial Day doubleheader with parades in Somerville, MA and Wilmington, MA. The Somerville parade always seems to get longer and longer each time we do it even though that is not necessarily the case. We do enjoy doing it regardless of its length and our per-

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