

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland, Oregon

Year of “More Smiles per Mile” continues in Rhode Island

PORTLAND – A performance-packed year continues for **The Beat Goes On Marching Band (TBGO)**. The group is preparing for America’s oldest Independence Day celebration, some 2,500 miles from home.

The band will fly cross-country to Bristol, Rhode Island to march in that city’s Fourth of July parade. The port city of 23,000 has been marking America’s birthday since 1785. In addition to the Bristol parade, the band will also perform on July 3rd at Plymouth Rock, Mass., in the shadow of the Mayflower II. Once the musical gigs are over, the band will sightsee in Boston, Plymouth and Rhode Island.

“My husband and I love to travel and explore new places,” says TBGO trumpeter Judy Lugar, one of nearly 100 musicians making the trip. “We want to connect with the history of the Boston/Bristol area.”

“What an opportunity for an Oregon band to travel to the cradle of America!” says TBGO music director Steve Tolopka. “Oregonians have fun on the Fourth of July, but to share the experience in one of the original 13 colonies is something special.”

The band, made up of adults aged 18 to 82, has been performing this year on the West Coast since February. Still, it rehearses frequently to stay in the musical equivalent of fighting trim. Their final rehearsal before heading to Bristol is this Sunday, June 29, from 1:30 to 3:30pm at the Garden Home Recreation Center, 7475 SW Oleson Road in Portland. The rehearsal is open to the media. Photography, video and audio recording, and interviews are encouraged.

The Bristol trip is the second of three long-distance excursions for TBGO in 2014. It began with a performance at San Francisco’s Chinese New Year’s Parade in February. Come September, the band travels to Shanghai, China for a series of performances at that city’s annual tourism festival. Between Bristol and Shanghai, the band will perform throughout the summer in Newberg, Astoria, Hillsboro and Portland.

“I like all of the band’s performances, but the trips are the icing on the cake,” says drummer Alvin Payne. “We’re not getting any younger, so when the trips come up, you have to go for it. After all, I can’t be carrying a bass drum down the street when I’m 90 years old ... well, probably not!”

For more on the band’s travel and performance schedule, go to its Website at <http://www.thebeatgoesonmb.org/perform>.

THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND: More smiles per mile!

Want to come out and play?

Email: director@tbgo.org

Website: <http://www.tbgo.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheBeatGoesOnMarchingBand