

# Ready, Set, Go!!!!

By Chris Casteel

Can you feel it? It's almost here! As I write this article, the official beginning of Winter Guard season is less than 2 weeks away! It would seem that with all the excitement of the holidays behind us, I wouldn't be quite so thrilled about the prospect of *anything* for quite some time. However, that is just not the case – I can hardly wait! Oh yes, this is the season we look forward to all year long! This is what all color guards have been working toward since June!! It is time for your guard to shine under the florescent lights of a gymnasium. It is time for your guard to reveal all that training and rehearsal time up close and personal! It is time for your creative vision to become a reality in front of hundreds of color guard fans! Not only this, but it is also time for the WGASC to kick off its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and competitive season!! So Yeah, I am excited, and so should all of you! This new season ahead of us promises to be one for the record books – and how awesome is it that we are all a part of this piece of color guard history?!

Just to be sure that you are acclimated and ready to go, I am including a check list of items that are helpful to remember as you start your season. They are suggestions sent from Scott Bilbruck (WGASC Director of Operations) and Carl Nelson (WGASC Color Guard Coordinator) – Thanks to you both for your contribution to this article!

- ✓ Prior to contest date, check the website for updated schedules and packets.
- ✓ Make sure that all your contact information is current and correct with the WGASC office. You do not want to miss any email information about the season or a contest event.
- ✓ Always give yourself extra travel time to get to a show site.
- ✓ Practice setting up the floor in a timed environment.
- ✓ Find 'Check In' as soon as you get to the show site.
- ✓ If you have never been to the show site before, plan time into your schedule to familiarize yourself and your team with the new environment.
- ✓ **VERY IMPORTANT:** The WGASC is now switching to flash drives for judging commentary. Do not forget to bring your circuit provided flash drive to every show.
- ✓ Turn in your music and flash drive (for judges commentary) as soon as possible upon arrival at a show site.
- ✓ Always complete a sound check with your show CD (at breaks only).
- ✓ Have multiple copies of your show CD available in case of any unforeseen circumstances.

- ✓ Check the Entrance/Exit time line for your group.
- ✓ Support the show host – buy food at the show site.
- ✓ Make sure to inform your parent group that they can purchase tickets for the shows online at [WGASC.org](http://WGASC.org) to save them money.

**Best Wishes to Everyone for a Successful and Memorable 2009 Season!**