

Rock Solid — Reaching New Heights While Having Fun

CryoGas International's Summer Market Report

Every summer, CryoGas International looks at the lighter side of our industry. This year, we introduce you to a few interesting people behind company scenes — some rock and rollers from Air Products and a rock climber from Air Liquide.

DISCOVER "THE DIFFERENCE"

Dozens of corporate rock bands may exist throughout the world, but few have achieved the success of The Difference, an award-winning rock band formed in 2000 at Air Products.

In October 2001, The Difference won the title Best Corporate Rock Band in America at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's first Battle of the Corporate Bands. Since then, the Band has lived up to its namesake, an Air Products corporate motto that says that the company's people, through their integrity, passion, and understanding, set it apart in the marketplace, by making a difference over the last nine years.

The Difference has played more than 200 charity and corporate events and recorded four benefit CDs, raising over \$500,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, American Heart Association, Special Olympics, local charities, and other organizations. Band members and their day jobs include: Sal Nicrone, band leader, drums and vocals, Office Support Services; Ed McKendry, lead guitar and vocals, Marketing Communications; Joe Hilgar, bass guitar, keyboards, and vocals, Purchasing; Jim "JT" Meyer, lead guitar and vocals, Sales; Terry Wetzel, sound technician, Administrative Services. Sadly, the band has lost two of its members to cancer, Steve Eck and Barry Grow.

Nicrone points to one extra special show last spring when the Band entertained mili-

tary personnel, their families, and staff members at Washington, D.C.'s Mologne House, a hotel for recovering and convalescing soldiers that is part of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"That was our way of saying 'thank you' to some of the men and women who have served and fought for our country," says Nicrone. "It's an incredible experience for us to help charitable organizations raise money by providing free live music at their events. That alone is reward enough, but it's pretty exciting to play with talented musicians who support each other, and to have the complete support of Air Products and our fellow employees."

To date, The Difference has recorded four charitable albums — "Rockin' for Charities" (2001), "Anything at All for Charity" (2003), "Grow" (2005), and "Songs I Always Wanted to Do with a Band" (2007). Upcoming live shows include an August 7 gig at Musikfest, a major US music festival in Bethlehem, PA.

REACHING THE SUMMIT

Christopher Guest, a native of Vancouver, Canada, is a 20-year veteran with Air Liquide. He currently works for Air Liquide America Specialty Gases in Atlanta as the ALNET Distributor Sales Manager for the Southeast Region. Chris recently achieved a childhood dream — successfully scaling Mt. Everest — nine years after a knee injury prematurely ended a previous attempt.

This successful attempt had its share of dramatic moments, which Chris highlighted in a brief email shortly after completing the ascent. "On Friday, May 22, 2009 at 7:40 a.m., (Chinese Time) ... I reached the top of Mt. Everest! "I climbed with my two Sherpas over 8 hours from Camp 3 (27,300 feet) using headlamps and arrived on the summit at sunrise! ... Ascent was fast and with no incidents — until an equipment malfunction occurred 200 feet below the summit ... I managed to



Air Liquide's Chris Guest on the summit of Mt. Everest.

get it fixed (scared me quite a bit) and continued on to summit! ... 10 minutes on the summit and descended quickly back down to Camp 3 (6 hours to descend) ... Experienced life & death situation when hit by horrendous storm on way to Camp 2 from Camp 3 causing me to run low on O₂. Managed to find to bottles at Camp 2 and literally survived the night ... suffered cracked ribs on descent of Everest ... so I am not looking forward to 17-hour flight from Delhi to Atlanta!"

Chris has been climbing for more than three decades. His adventures in high mountain ranges include expeditions to the Himalayas, — one in 1984, shortly after he graduated from university — the Andes, St. Elias, Rockies, and New Zealand's Southern Alps. Last June he climbed the highest mountain in North America, Mt. McKinley (20,320 feet).

Why does he do it? Chris says, "I climb because nothing is more satisfying than overcoming a challenge to accomplish a goal; because clinging to a several thousand foot - 50 degree ice face brings new meaning to the word "focused"; because the view from the mountain's summit reminds us how truly fortunate we are to experience the beauty of this planet; because the most significant accomplishment in life is conquering one's own fear, and because the bond created when you trust your life to the partner at the other end of the climbing rope, lasts forever."

CGI is always interested bringing the lighter side of our industry to our readers. If your company have interesting stories to share, please send them to editors@crygas.com, along with photo and caption. ■



Air Products' rock band, The Difference, performing at Musikfest, a music festival held in Bethlehem, PA that attracts more than one million visitors annually.