



Singing every Thursday at 7:00 PM, Community
United Methodist Church of Olathe



Visit us at our official web site:

<http://barbershopsingingmontrose.yolasite.com/>

January (2) 2012
Vol. 28 Number 2

Unexpected Christmas Present

In spite of the snowy weather and icy roads, Santa Lee Taylor buckled up and drove his Subaru sleigh from Durango to Montrose just to visit with Chapter President Larry Wilkinson and a couple of hangers-on board members*. Let it be said that being elected over and over, well just one over, as PRESIDENT OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT did not go to Lee's head. Heck, he is a pretty decent guy. No, he is really a decent guy, a guy with whom one would like to share a beer and sandwich. Which happened after a very productive and informative session at President Larry's home. Not the beer and sandwich. Wait, we did have Subs for lunch but that was before the beer stuff.

Lee said he was taking the pulse of RMD chapters, and was pretty sure he found ours. Was it healthy? Not sure, but we're not dead, and that is a good sign. We did our darned to convince him we are a special group, but he had none of it. But he at least knows we exist, and are proud of it. Then 3 members** met Lee at a local watering hole called The HorseFly Brewery for a brew. No horse, no fly, just beer. And a sandwich.

Then, and only then, did Lee put on a tie to join the chorus for some fine caroling at the Valley Manor health assistant facility, also known as a nursing home. Guess

that term is offending to some, like nurses. Or maybe to mothers with babies. After entertaining a group in the dining room, a small VLQ split off the do some serious and painful caroling in the Alzheimer's ward, being very careful to avoid being locked in due to their age and strange actions. Yes, you have to know the combination to get in and to get out. Some were surprised when Barny showed up for our regular rehearsal later. But he did, no worse for the wear.

So did most of the carolers, show up that is. And so did Lee. The regular rehearsal room was filled with Christmas stuff so we did a limited rehearsal in the sanctuary. The energy seemed waning from the caroling, and Christmas was on the horizon so MaryAnn sent us home early. It was a wise decision.

Big thanks to Lee for visiting us and letting our members see you and discover that the RMD is in excellent hands. Your Christmas present to our Chapter is much appreciated. Of that, you can be sure.

* Those would be Dennis Olmstead and Bill Sutton

** Those would be Gary Wilson, John Taylor, and Bill Sutton

If you were not present the week before, we all donned red hats and bright (very hot) sweaters so we could sweat in the 90° heat of the San Juan Living Center. But it was worth it. We were treated with wonderful pie and mulled and spiced wine as our payment for singing. Then we had a great practice after in Olathe. Some days are just better than others.

Splinters from the Board

CANYON CHORDS is the official monthly publication of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus known as the Montrose, Colorado, chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Opinions stated in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Chapter, the Editor, or possibly even the stated author.

2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS

(Term expires 12/31 in year shown after office)

PRESIDENT (2013)

Larry Wilkinson

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Larry Wilkinson

SECRETARY (2012)

Chuck Frush

TREASURER (2012)

Rex Pierson

PROGRAM VP (2013)

Larry Cooper

MEMBERSHIP VP (2012)

Kevin Cohenour

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2013)

Dennis Olmstead

MUSIC VP (2013)

David Stannard

PUBLICATIONS VP (???)

Bill Sutton

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Open

CHAPTER HISTORIAN (appointed)

Tom Chamberlain

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (1 yr terms)

Bob Brethouwer

Tim Davis

Del Dyck

John Taylor

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

MaryAnn Rathburn

Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

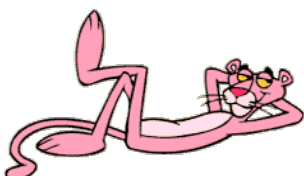
Carol Morrell

SERGEANT OF ARMS

Bob Brethouwer

SUNSHINE GUY

Rex Pierson



Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does

Our new Administrative Officer Carol Morrell jumped in the pool and got more than her feet wet. After some sneaky maneuvering by the Board, Carol ended up being the sole contact and scheduling person for Singing Valentines. If you have ever done this, like Larry W and Vern, you know what a big job this is. Way to go Carol. We'll see how happy you are about it on February 15.

Bob wants a 6 hour special rehearsal for Show songs on March 3, if Larry W can find a place. This is assuming, of course, that Bob may have a final and complete list of songs available. Don't hurry, Bob. Lots of time.

After discussion (there were lots of discussions) the option of offering a box of chocolates in lieu of a real Rose with a singing Valentine was sort of squelched. That may make Barny a little ruffled as he as already ordered a singing Valentine with a box of chocolates. Maybe Larry W can take care of this little snafu.

No final date on the FREE visit from John Coffin before the show. Bob will let us know when he knows.

David S, I think, sort of said he would be the HOD representative at some possible RMD meeting in Estes Park at the HEP school. For some reason, it will cost us \$10 for David to attend if he goes anyway. One of the RMD mysteries of raising fees.

A motion was made and passed to sell our Singing Valentines again for \$30. There was an addition: Singing for an entire office will cost \$50. And, as a special incentive, Show tickets will be offered for \$8 at the time of the singing Valentine order. What a deal. Carol will take care of it. Poor Carol.

Singing Valentine quartets? Well, we have one for sure if Sam gets back from Liberia or wherever he is., and we might have two if Snyder gets back from wherever he is, and we could have three if the obligatory tenors and baris are discovered wherever they are. .

An ordering form can be filled out on our website. Visit it and see if it works for you.

Rex will do the Singing Valentine Posters this year. I think he knows it.

Bob wants us all to wear a white tie for the show. That may cost the chorus \$15 or more per tie, which sort of nulls the profit from selling 30 show tickets at the door. Wonder if we will look that much better? David S said he would look into a supplier.

A bunch of old guys singing to a bunch of old gals



Conscience
is what
hurts
when
everything
else feels
good.

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

“Basic Group Singing Techniques” by Gary W. Parker

BASIC TRAINING The Warm Up

Warm up the voice just as you would your body before exercise. How much depends on how long the “muscles” have been inactive. Just waking? – you should take a bit longer. Relaxation is essential – strain defeats the purpose of warm ups. Hum slowly to begin, in the middle of your range (remember – no strain!). Expand your range as you warm up, increasing the volume. Use increasingly more open vowel sounds as you progress.

From the *Concho Capers*,
Paul White, editor, El Paso, Texas

Practice safe eating --
always use condiments.

INSTALLATION FEED, BURP, AND SING DEAL

I didn't know Olyn was a poet. Did you? A poet using candles? Wow, what an impressive installation. And how about “Close Harmony?” Those guys get better every year. Just shows what practice will (might) do for you. I told Sam that Fourmata should try it sometimes.

Some feared that the Lion's Pavilion might be too small, too cold, or no parking, but some were wrong. It was every bit as good as the Holiday Inn Express sans bar. As far as I know, no one gave a whit. The food was plentiful and excellent as expected. When one marries the persons we marry, there must be a reason. No, not THAT! I mean cooking, you dummy.

To top off a very nice evening, one of our charter members, one who had not been able to attend for several years, one who has been a BOTY and director, showed up to surprise everyone. Joe Reschke still amazes all of us. Joe, as some of you know, sang in a quartet with Tom Chamberlain, Don Lotvedt, and Bill Sutton in the 80's, back when hair was longer and waists were smaller. Except for Joe and Tom. Well, Tom never had any hair. Joe has always been as skinny as a pencil. And Lotvedt is singing with a new quartet in Heaven or wherever he went. Joe later sang in a quartet with Del Wiesner, Gene Bond, and Sutton. Ah, the good old days. It was great to see Joe after all these years.

Tom Chamberlain walked off with all the accolades he deserves. Tom has been a positive force in musical excellence for the many years he has been

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“Close Harmony”

Lead— Olyn Carlson

Bass— Mark Edwards

Tenor— Carroll Owen

Baritone— Tim Winegardner

To see more pictures, go to our website, click on ‘pictures’ at the top of the Home page, then click on [HERE](#) where it says to click on [HERE](#). If all goes well you should see lots and lot of chorus pictures. If it doesn’t work, let me know, Me, Bill, that Bill.



**Tom Chamberlain recognized as
BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR**

a barbershopper, and that is a large many. Tom, along with Joe, is one of several Charter members still around. Rex is another one.

Back to Close Harmony. They were good and fun, and a real treat for them to allow Fourmata to sing *Goodnight, Sweetheart* with them. As far as I know, we done purty good. That bass guy Edwards has some awesome pipes. Thanks Mark for the pleasure. Let’s do it again sometime.

Rather than eat up all your memory by including lots of pictures that take lots of time to download, they all can be found on Picasa, linked from our website. You can view all of them at your leisure unless you are Larry W who can’t see them. I don’t know why. Must have something to do with Explorer or ??? Give it a try, go to the ‘pictures’ page and click to see more. If you can’t see any more, let me know and I’ll know. Do I care? Sure. Will I fix it? Doubt it. But give it a try.

Barny set up the location with the caveat that we would have to be out of the joint by 9:00 PM, which is sort of late for the rather elderly members. Larry the Prez took the admonition to heart and pushed us to the limit allowing Barny to lock the door at 8:00 PM, time to run home and hit the couch for a 15 minutes nap before bed. I suspect a couple of the kids may have had other ideas, but tough.

T’was a good turn-out, in fact a darn good turn out with correspondingly darn good chow and musical camaraderie All of you guys who didn’t rate a candle and poem this time should step up and help all those guys who did. Half the fun of singing is ...uh, singing. The other half is in the eyes of the wives who have the entire evening alone. If she is not alone while you are singing, the singing half of fun had better be reconsidered.

**Love is grand!
Divorce is a hundred grand.**

**Time may be a great healer,
but it's a lousy beautician.**

Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow a mystery.
Today is a gift.
That's why it's called the present!

**I smile because I am your
friend!
I laugh because there is
nothing you can do about it.**

