

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



Visit us at our official web site:
<http://barbershopsingingmontrose.yolasite.com/>

July 2011
Vol. 27 Number 7

What do they really think about us?

Are we afraid to ask?

One of our serious members, Tim by name, dropped me an e-mail this morning. Wow, I hadn't thought about things like this, so I went to the latest HARMONIZER and read the article Tim was talking about.

The article made me, like Tim, wonder what our community really thinks about a bunch of older guys getting together once a week to sing pretty well/good most of the time. It made me cogitate, thanks to Tim's request, about how we can find out, and if we really want to find out? He went on to say "I wonder if we did something like this would it bolster our membership, improve some singouts, etc. The question as a member is: where would I start..... Letter to the editor or go to city council meeting?"

We, the Black Canyon Chapter of Montrose, may never be nominated for the community Medal of Merit as the Sault Ste Marie, Ont., was, and may never need to solicit letters of support. No matter, it wouldn't hurt (or it might) to know how others really see us.

There is always a niggling fear whenever we gather and sing uninvited at some public place that some, or more than some, may actually resent our intrusion on their private time. The hope, of

course, is that we add to their experience with positive energy and good sounds. But how are we REALLY perceived? Is it always appreciated if we drop in a Country Bar and sing Barbershop? I doubt it. Are we considerate of other patrons? Or are we so involved with our hobby that we arrogantly believe everyone will appreciate us? It's an open question and, I think it is time we find out the answer. I think this is a serious opportunity for a positive/negative link to our own public.

My suggestion is that this issue be considered and dealt with soon by our Board Members. I feel some logical procedure should be identified to allow us to accurately take the pulse of the community. But the Board will need your help.

To get this started, I would like each of you to think about us, the impressions we give to others when we sing, our impact on the community, and finally, how in the heck we can get honest input that will help us.

So, if you have an idea, get with our President Larry, or drop me a note on e-mail. I think we have an excellent opportunity to make our hobby more accessible and enjoyable ... not just to us but to the general public at large.

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.

2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

PRESIDENT (2011)

Larry Wilkinson 240-1801

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Vern Dockter 210-1793

SECRETARY (2012)

Chuck Frush 249-0543

TREASURER (2012)

Rex Pierson 323-6670

PROGRAM VP (2011)

Don Barnett 249-3241

MEMBERSHIP VP (2012)

Kevin Cohenour 964-4775

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2011)

Dennis Olmstead 249-4099

MUSIC VP (2011)

David Stannard 249-8029

PUBLICATIONS VP (???)

Bill Sutton 874-9280

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Open

Carl Schultz 240-0462

Vern Dockter 874-3971

CHAPTER HISTORIAN (appointed)

Tom Chamberlain 249-9105

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (1 yr terms)

Bob Brethouwer 209-1804

Dan Baer 240-9677

Don Wieszbrod 874-7817

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

MaryAnn Rathburn

Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Carol Morrell

SUNSHINE GUY (appointed)

Rex Pierson 323-6670

It's the third Tuesday of June, so we met and talked and made some motions. Most Board Members were there, which is a good sign.

Rex thinks we should have a banner. So we talked about it lots, then Larry and Dennis volunteered to function as a 'committee' to explore costs, benefits, and other fits with the issue.

Jason, of the Jason/Bethany pair, alerted us via an update that there will be the usual \$20 registration fee for Silverton. Since most of the Board members are more than just faulty and no one could remember what we did at the last meeting, a Motion (maybe another one) was made and passed to obligate the Chapter to pay the registration for every member who chooses to attend. What a deal.

The good news is that we have a Guest Quartet under contract for our 2012 Show. The bad news is that when we arbitrarily changed the date for our show to April 28, we lost the opportunity to have DelRose Chapter appear with us. Conflict, you know.

Rex, as he always does, furnished us with a detailed financial report answering questions most of us would never have imagined to ask. The graph, available only to our members on our website, will show you how we are doing. I'm not telling.

Speaking of memories, Barney reminded us he purchased some Hawaiian shirts for the new guys, or the guy who has outgrown his original shirt. None of us could remember, but think we did, that members would need to pay for their shirts out of their own pockets. Who do you pay? I dunno, either Barney or Rex or maybe me?

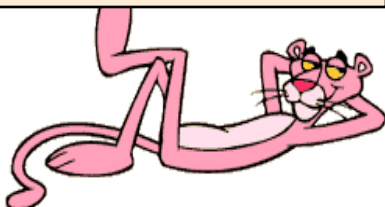
Our next meeting will begin at the HorseFly Brewery to benefit the Library, and then wander to the Wilkinson house for the real meeting. Sandwiches and adult beverages are always available at the HorseFly place. Date? July 19, I think. I assume we will all be Silvertoned out by then

Speaking of Silverton, the songs we will do on our Chapter part of the program are:

Play a Simple Melody
White Cliffs of Dover
When I'm 64

Yesterday

Both Stannard and Chuck gave a strong positive maybe for Blue Denim. Only speculation on the new quartet. Fourmata? Hmmm, could be.



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

You're never too old to learn (or do) something stupid.

Warming-up: Tips from the top

By Scott Hansen, Masters of Harmony
From the Santa Fe Springs *The Master's Voice*
Lifted from Voice of Rushmore.

Warm-ups are important. They set the tone for the rehearsal that is to come. Each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. as the Masters of Harmony gather, we say goodbye to the worries of the weekday world and welcome the opportunity to meet with other men to make musical magic.

A common misconception exists that vocal warm-ups are for warming up your individual voice. Not so. The warm-up's primary purpose is to warm up the ensemble, not the individual singer.

The two most important aspects of warming up the ensemble are the mental and the aural. The mental warm-up involves the process of casting away concerns of the day and focusing our attention on the task at hand. As we are warming up, these thoughts may cross my mind:

- *Am I in proper singing position?*
- *Am I focused on the director?*
- *Have I made a commitment tonight to maintain personal discipline?*
- *Am I using the same vocal placement throughout my range?*
- *Is there any physical tension in my voice?*
- *Are my vowels shaped properly?*
- *Am I connecting all of the word sounds to create a seamless melodic line?*
- *Is my face reflecting the emotions I am singing about?*

The second aspect of the warm-up is the aural tuning of the ensemble. As anyone who has sung in a quartet is aware, all four singers may be completely warmed up without the quartet itself being warmed up. Time and attention are required to match our voice to the voices around us. As we are warming up, the director is listening to the sound of the chorus and the various sections and making suggestions to fine-tune the ensemble. While he is doing this, we are fine-tuning our own individual instruments, much as an orchestra does before a performance, paying particular attention to how our voice fits with the voices of the men behind and beside us.

So beginnings are important. Warming up the ensemble is about melding the minds and voices of the chorus into musical excellence. You can't do that without all your brothers in harmony, and we can't do that without you



Barny	June 23
Larry Wilkinson	June 28
Delbert Dyke	July 8

*We don't stop singing because we get old,
we get old because we stop singing.*

*No one is in charge of
your happiness but
you*



**Chapter Registered
Quartets**

Blue Denim

Contact: Chuck Frush 249-0543

FOURMATA

Contact: Bill Sutton 874-9280

Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick' ?

Honest and constructive criticism ... Listen to this underground author

At Ridgway State Park the chorus and quartets did a good job of entertaining the audience. However, it sure would be great if each member would shut up when the Director is giving instructions prior to the performance.

It's almost impossible to hear when 12 out of 18 are talking and not paying attention. MaryAnn asked us to make our evening more entertaining by not talking between songs. Some of the chorus didn't hear her because they were too busy yaking among

themselves during the warmup prior to going on stage.

There was talking between songs which shows a lack of professionalism on our part. We can be professional and still have fun.

It seems we also have someone trying to upstage the MC at each performance. If you want to be the MC just let the Program VP know and I feel confident that he will allow you to MC a show. Then you can have the stage and make all those cute remarks which you feel are necessary when a song is being introduced.

We never really grow up; we only learn how to act (or should) in public.



25th Anniversary
Silverton
Barbershop
Music Festival
July 16th
with
John Coffin
Festival Director

Silverton Barbershop Music Festival



**It's a new
Kansas City.**
Kansas City International
Convention July 3-10, 2011
www.barbershop.org/kansascity

International Contest Schedule

Collegiate Quartet Finals: Tuesday, July 5, 5:00 p.m.

Quartet Quarterfinals: Wed., July 6, 10:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

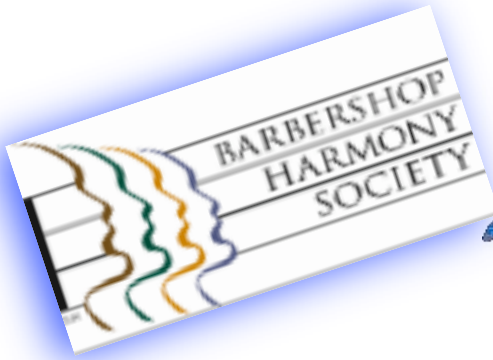
Quartet Semi-finals: Thursday, July 7, 11:00 a.m.

Chorus Finals: Friday, July 8, 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

Quartet Finals: Saturday, July 9, 7:30 p.m.

Teach the Children to Sing

Stamp
here



CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

"Flourishing and growing as individuals, as a chorus, and as a chapter by singing in an atmosphere of musical excellence and by promoting harmony in our lives, our relationships, and our community."

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Delta, CO 81416

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COPY

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The President's Corner with Larry Wilkinson

Larry would like you to know he has received a final revised contract from The Crew and by the time you read this, will have signed it and returned it. That means THE CREW will officially be our Guest Quartet on our 2012 Show, which, by the way, has been named by Show Chairman Brethouwer as "AN A CAPPELLA MOMENT" with 24 guys and a gal.

Clever, huh? Now all we need is a theme to go with the name. And some songs.



The Crew