



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

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A Cluster Brain Freeze

Do you even wonder how a flock of blackbirds can move as one when the entire flock changes directions? How in the heck can every bird know what the rest are going to do or why? How can hundreds of birds act as one? How do they communicate with each other on an intellectual plane we may never understand?

Or do you even wonder how a herd of cattle can stampede and move in unison? Or how can a pack of lemmings rush over a cliff, all seemingly attached to each other? Why? Are humans subject to such unexplainable actions?

Well yes, we are. At the DelRose/Sweet Adeline Show the ability of the chorus to act as one when there was no reason to do so was clearly illustrated.

It was our turn to entertain the audience. We were on stage in the desired positions. The pitch was blown. Our Director raised her hands. We tuned as expected. The proper and always used director's cue to begin singing was given, and as she began to direct, the chorus stood there doing absolutely nothing. No sound, no false start, nothing. Amazing. How in the heck could 25 guys who have started hundreds of songs the same way did nothing? We all have been trained to start a song when it is directed to be started. MaryAnn was flabbergasted. So was the chorus. It must have been some primeval instinct that causes mobs to loot and destroy when they know better.

While it was kind of funny, it is also scary. Was this a reminder that we all are subject to that dreaded 'mob mentality'? Are we all born-with curse that can dictate our actions? Can logically thinking and common sense be overturned at any time for no reason? Wow, this is heavy stuff.

But the Sweet Adeline/DelRose Chapter was not heavy stuff. It was fun! The program was well planned and scripted and the guest women quartet was very talented; excellent sound coupled with a talent of writing and presenting funny musical parodies. We struggled when we should not have, but we were good enough to get positive reports from folks in the audience. And that is what it is all about. The Afterglow is a mystery to the editor as President Taylor and yours truly headed for CB's Tavern for a needed beer and sandwich.

Dennis O. reports that the food at the AG consisted of two pots of excellent soup with 3-inch cut subs from somewhere. The drinks were some colored sugar/water stuff pretty much always served at these types of affairs. Of course there were the obligatory relish plates with a variety of green and yellow things with stuff in which to dunk 'em. The gals also furnished platters of home-baked cookies and some pies. The attendance may have reached 50 or so based on the Dennis estimate of folks seated around tables. According to D., the cost vs. value was fair. but could be improved by returning several times for more cookies or pie.

For more reports, see MEMBERS VIEW following the Splinters page

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.

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Tom Chamberlain

"There are mighty few people who think what they think they think."

Robert Henri, American artist (1865-1929).



Splinters from the Board

Notice: These are NOT the official minutes but merely present a tongue in cheek observation of our Board Meetings. Official minutes can be read if you ask the Secretary nicely.

All good things must come to an end and the last meeting of the 2015 Board Officers did that at the December 8 meeting. President Taylor dropped his gavel (figure of speech) for the the last time as the unfinished business of the year was casually mentioned and gently pushed onward to January when the new guys will get a shot at them.

You may be wondering about the Annual Installation Banquet. Rightfully so. It will be held in the banquet room of Davetos at 6:00pm on Tuesday, January 12. There will be a buffet featuring Tortellini Alfredo with chicken, Chicken Marsala with pasta, and Meat Lasagna. Of course salads and breadsticks will be available. Tickets will be sold between the time you read this and January 12. The cost will be \$12 per person. Last minute door attendance is discouraged and may cost you more than you will like. This is an effort to try something 'new' to take the work off the wives and let them enjoy the evening with us. Rex will have the tickets. See him and buy them.

Once again the virtues of CARA and the opposing efforts needed to gather and submit the data was tossed around the table like a water balloon. Don't be too rough with it or it might break and soak you. So nothing was decided except that there will be no change ... at this point. The future of doing all the work is currently being dumped on Vern with collateral dumping on Dennis and Chuck. How long will this continue? Depends.

The June show was also massaged a little. John Taylor has contacted the Center for Spiritual Living about a Saturday matinee show the week before our scheduled show. The chances of success are good. A starting time has not been set but probably will be from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Quick estimates guess that about 150 seats are available. John will contact local nursing/senior facilities about some kind of group rates.

Singing Valentines was discussed. Since it will fall on Sunday, lots of concern about the number of requests and viability of even doing it next year was a hot topic. Of course, no decision was made.

Incoming President Cooper will schedule a Board Retreat in January. More information will be given to the board.

My therapist said that my narcissism causes me to misread social situations. I'm pretty sure she was hitting on me.

Members view of the DelRose show and afterglow

I enjoyed the Sweet Adeline afternoon Show, and their AG complimented the show nicely. The timing was good. . . It was time to eat. . . and the hearty soup/sandwich selection with plenty of trimmings hit the spot. There were also plenty of delicious dessert choices.

The singing started after most of us had eaten, and a goodly number of our Black Canyon Chorus members had left. Rocky Road provided the first two numbers. They were well received by the audience, and featured their Silverton Train song for their second selection. There was then a query about the possibility of the whole remaining Black Canyon Chorus getting up and singing, but a large number of us had already left, so we did not sing.

The Sweet Adelines kept the rest of audience entertained with a quartet, a chorus, and an impressive mass chorus that consisted of over 20 women. They sounded really good. Most of our guys had already left when the Guest Quartet followed their great song set with a singing skit that was really pretty special, with nun outfits that capped off a very entertaining evening. Just the food was well worth the \$7.50 price of admission, and the guest quartet afterglow performance was icing on the cake. For an afternoon Show, the Afterglow worked quite well, and there was lots of regular audience attendance. I don't remember a larger turnout. I do think we missed an opportunity to coordinate keeping enough of our chorus there to sing in the afterglow. I doubt if most of those who left early would have needed to stay more than an extra 20 minutes to add a significant presence to the Afterglow. We should remember to include and schedule the Sweet Ads right after eating at our afterglow, and make sure they all know how much we would appreciate their staying to perform and participate in the fun.

Cheers, Chuck Frush

There are so many things to say that are better left unsaid.

I have a fear of speed bumps, but I'm slowly getting over it.

And the cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good, spit it out!

It was okay I guess. Seems like it was just sort-of "anti-climatic". The food was good and they did have more people stay for A.G. this year. It was a choice of two kinds of soup and a piece of "subway-type" sandwich and some dessert choices. I doubt that the food cost could have been much cheaper by having someone else prepare it....and it was good! Didn't have much singing. I don't like the venue from the standpoint of acoustics....I couldn't hear most of the program....maybe my hearing is getting bad in my old age?
Rex



John Taylor

December 14

Carl Schultz

December 30

Tom Chamberlain

January 8

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

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

Ran into Barny and Lurene at Jimmer's Barbecue place and got his verbal perspective on the Show and Afterglow. But since I didn't write any of it down and it was a day or so ago, I don't remember what he said except that it was all positive.

Denny's has a slogan, 'If it's your birthday, the meal is on us.'If you're in Denny's and it's your birthday... your life sucks!



Everyone has a right to be stupid.
Most Politicians just abuse the privilege.

ROCKY ROAD

Contact: Vern Dockter

970-210-1793

Carol Singing, pie eating, and wishing everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS

The time-tested tradition of singing Christmas Carols and wishing Merry Christmas to all the folks living in senior living centers or nursing homes began December 3 at Brookdale Sunrise Creek. The



holiday dressed bunch of songsters entertained a good number of folks in the facility's lovely dining room, mostly watching the Director and alternatively looking at the Red books of music provided by Carol. As a result, the tunes sounded like Christmas Carols except for Frosty which was pretty good until it came time to end it. It's kind of like flying where the definition of landing is a controlled crash. Same can be said about ending some songs.

After Sunrise Creek, the guys and gals (both of them) converged on Valley Manor Care Center for some more singing. Many of the residents were still in the dining area, probably eagerly anticipating (tongue in cheek) the entertainment provided by the properly adorned chorus. One observation; it was HOT in there and being dressed for cold weather encouraged beading of small droplets of water to bead on foreheads and other places. Again, most of the residents remained awake and many were very appreciative and supportive of the effort. Good thinking and common sense removed any question about singing Frosty The Snowman again.

However common sense is not particularly common so we sang, or tried to sing, Frosty again at the following week's caroling gig at Homestead and then at San Juan Living Center. But, you know what, the more we tried it the better it kind of sounded until we got to the end. Like I said before landing is not that easy. MaryAnn and Carol were not in attendance so it was a guy's night out, sort of speak. Coop did the job of getting us all started on the same song at the same time and between did the tough job of filling in with words without music.

Rocky Road performed two very difficult Christmas songs, one at Homestead and one at SJLC. As with all difficult songs, some rough spots showed up, but they did a heckuva job.

Most of the folks at Homestead seemed to have enjoyed us. We sure had fun singing to them. As I understand, there was some remuneration for our appearance, which is always good. We had a large turn-out and generally sounded very Christmassy. Then we went to Dr. Bob's pie place to sing some more. For some reason we seemed to have sounded even better at SJLC, maybe because we had some practice at Homestead or maybe because there was excellent pie, mulled wine, and eggnog waiting for us when we were done. Some of the audience stayed alert and some even sort of sang along with us. Hey, that's what it's all about. We had a good time, they had a good time. and Christmas is getting closer every day.

So kick back, relax, and have a

**SUPER CHRISTMAS
and SOBER NEW YEAR.**

Singing in the Delta Parade of Lights

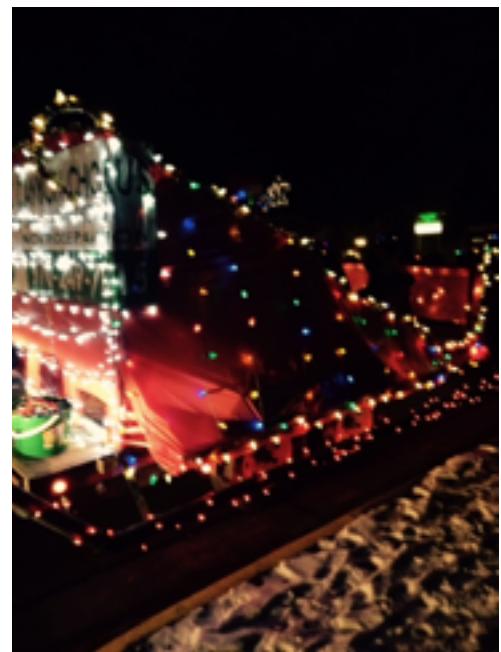
Sure it was kind of cold, and sure it was noisy along the parade route, and sure we sang songs we only sing once a year, and sure we couldn't see the music, and sure we didn't know Frosty, but, what the heck, we sang in semi sync with an underpowered tiny BOSE speaker valiantly attempting to match the tempo and sounds of an excellent quartet, which we couldn't hear either. Judging from the positive reactions from the throngs of kiddies and kiddie parents, we did just fine.

Based on chorus attendance, we may consider changing the name of the outfit to Delta/Cedaredge Barbershop Chorus. Only 4 of the 15 who showed up were from Montrose. All the rest were from Cedaredge or Delta, with one from Olathe.

The float this year was impressive. Coop, John Taylor and John Thrasher created a beautifully lighted Santa Sleigh using some of our risers to build a kind of bleachers for guys upon which to sit. They faced the front to allow MaryAnn to be seen and watched, was overly optimistic. The float was then decorated with twinkling lights by Coop, Snyer, Grady and brother Don with help from Bill Sale, at the staging point for the parade. It was truly a work of art and the guys and gals who helped deserve our sincere thanks.

Carol, who has become the requisite designated driver of choice for her big red truck, again drove her big red truck pulling the float/trailer, and did a darn fine job too, Getting somewhat confused (lost) at the end of the parade only allowed us to continue to sing to nobody on the back streets of Delta as she pondered just where the heck she was. But Delta is small so one can only be lost a short time before something looks familiar. It gave us plenty of time without the pressure of thousands of admiring crowds to get the songs right, or at least better. Besides, the float she was following was probably lost too, or perhaps was going somewhere else. It certainly was not going where Carol thought she wanted to go.

There was some loose talk about celebrating at some local watering hole after, but I don't know. I was ready and willing but the dang car just kept heading for home. Since I was a prisoner, I missed all the frivolities, assuming there were some. An inquiry to Jonnybob might clear it up. (a check later with John informed us that he did not make it to CB's as intended since E., as he calls her, has arranged for him to attend a Sorority party so Coop, Carol, MaryAnn and Sam did the post-parade thing.)





Santa Claus has
the right idea.
Visit people only
once a year.

- Victor Borge





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."

THE CANYON CHORDS
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Keep the Whole World Singing

The President's Corner with John Taylor

Boy, it has been a long two years, or at least it seems like it. I did not realize when I started this adventure of being president, that it was for a two year term. Nor, did I realize that the ex-prez is expected to show up at Bored (Board) meetings and contribute. Bless Larry Wilkinson's strong heart for doing this for so long and so well. I think he actually knew what he was getting into.

My membership card says I've completed 6 years of service and am working on 7. I really enjoy the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus (Thanks, Don Weisbrod, for getting me involved and Gene Bond, for planting the seed years ago.) Thanks to Dr. Tom, Vern, Chuck and others for reminding me of our heritage. Thanks to Bill Sutton, Larry Wilkinson, Rex Pierson, Larry Cooper, Dennis, Carol, Dr. Bob, Rod, Del, Lee, Don and MaryAnn and others for keeping it fun.

It's been a blessing. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as one of your leaders.
Prez Taylor

