



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



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

MAY 2016

FUN IN ESTES PARK

In case you missed Parker, Rocky Road, and Coop at Thursday's practice, you might not know that they were having fun in Estes Park at the YMCA. Coop sent this picture of Parker at the Friday night Afterglow. Wow! Everyone should have this much fun!

THE ADVENTURE

By Parker Wilcock

I've been in Barbershop for about two years, and have done quite a few things because of it. None of those experiences come close to the amount of fun that I had at Estes Park.

First off, there was sooooo much that I learned while I was there! The classes were INSPIRING! Each one better than the first.

Also, having a Class - A quartet come and sing with us is more than dream come true. Listening to every chord lock in and ring is can give goose bumps to anyone.

However, though these were fun and all, they don't come close to the platooning! Meeting three other people than preforming fifteen minutes later. THAT, was the most fun I've had all year.

And to top it all off, I have never had so much fun, with so many people, in so little time. If this is what



2016 Estes Park RMD Harmony College

April 22-23

Submitted by Rod Ragsdale

Vern and Tim drove over on Thursday, and Dave, Parker and I left at 6:00 Friday morning (well, we were supposed to, but it seems Parker's little brother screwed things up by messing with his alarm clock...). You'll have to ask Vern and Tim what they did that morning, but we drove.. and drove.. and drove.. at least it allowed us some more time to work on our Platoon songs.

The Platooning began at 1:00, which gave us about 12 ½ minutes to relax after we got there. Most of you know what Platooning is, but for the uninformed, we learn our part to several songs, and then we are mixed and matched with singers from all over the region to form quartets. We come up with a name, go practice for 15 minutes or so, then we all come together to perform. Sometimes, we are told in advance what song we are doing, and at other times, we draw a piece of paper with the name of the song and then we perform it. One of the Rocky Road members won a star shaped chunk of wood with gold paint on it, but we won't talk about that because the last time he won a "metal" in Platooning they gave him a hard time. Besides, he wouldn't want to brag...

We competed until dinner, and then we were entertained in the auditorium by the Youth Quartet Competition. Good stuff. Afterwards, we continued Harmony Platoon Under Glass/ Beer and Brat Party. Our own Vern Dockter was recognized for the great work he did in organizing the Platooning with a prolonged standing ovation from the participants. Well deserved, I might add... Somewhere in there we lost track of Parker, except for when he popped up with a different quartet... Suffice it to say, he was having fun! The fun continued for quite a while, but I was oblivious to it. I hit the sack long before he did. That makes for a long day!

The next morning after breakfast, we had a general session in the auditorium where we were introduced to two new songs and two different directors, Farris Collins and Adam Scott. The balance of the day was filled with a variety of classes, and coaching was available as well. A particularly interesting session was the "Director's Round Table," which was a Q & A panel made up of expert directors. They discussed anything and everything about chorus, from how to have more effective practice sessions to the performances themselves. A lot of fresh ideas and different perspectives were discussed.

Dinner. Show of Champions-winners of the previous night's competition, and Michigan Jake, the 2001 Barbershop Harmony Society Championship Quartet. You would never know they hadn't performed together for 9 years if they hadn't told us. They received a standing O after every song... a much better than average Afterglow (in which Parker popped up again an undetermined number of times... when they announced a quartet called, "Parker's Zeros," I thought it wasn't very nice... turns out it was, "Parker's Heroes.")

On Sunday we came home via Denver, stopped for a mini-concert at my mom's (I could sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" in a minor key and she'd think it was great...), then went to Littleton for another mini-concert for some long-time friends of Vern's. We didn't do "Twinkle," but I think they enjoyed it none the less... A long ride home, but we would turn around and do it again! Come with us next year! By the way, Parker said he had a GREAT time.

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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Splinters from the Board

Notice: These are NOT the official minutes and merely present a tongue in cheek observation of our Board Meetings. Official minutes may be obtained from Secretary Frush Or not.



As promised at the April board meeting, this meeting was dedicated to final planning and execution for the June Shows in Delta and Montrose. Coop did an admirable job of keeping the topic from wandering too far astray in spite of the efforts of others.

A motion was made and passed to forgo the normal pot luck before the Ridgway Park concert. The hope is that a fun place will be chosen and alerted that most of us with wives/sweethearts in tow will show up for more singing, food and libations when we are done entertaining. One example might be the Horsefly Brewery. This should save all the work of wives preparing the food for a pot luck.

Programs and supporter/donations took up a good amount of discussion time. One depends on the other but the other is not progressing as quickly and the one requires. Which means, we need a list of donors before a program can be done. As such, program guy Thrasher set a deadline of June 2.

After some confusing discussion about the size and cost of show programs, a motion was made and passed (I think) to print 400, 4 page-double-sided color programs at the cost about \$400. If I understood correctly, that is a pretty good price. Last year we contracted for 400 double sided color programs consisting of two pages for \$89.92. If we could match the bargain we got last year, we should be looking at about \$180, but times do change. Last year's program cost the chapter \$0.23/program vs. about a buck apiece for this year. But it is twice as big. PR guy Thrasher has a big job ahead of him to fill it.

The other John, the Taylor guy, has some great ideas about staging this years show. There was some talk about having other quartets appear. Could be a gospel quartet called, Store House and it could be a sort of pick-up quartet. That has not been decided.

Our traditional Memorial Day concert at Ridgway State Park on May 28 is creating a conflict with the June Show, which should have been anticipated. This happens with a June show. It happened the last time we had a summer show. Perhaps earlier shows should be reconsidered for 2017?

We took a short wander in the wilderness with a suggestion that we need new uniforms. Yes, we do, but this is not the appropriate time to deal with it. Coop dragged us back from wasting time discussing something that can be discussed later.

Larry W. said that Red Arrow has agreed to host our Guest Quartet, Momentous, this year. Rex said he has received a picture and some promo stuff from them.

You know you're getting old when you fall down and wonder what else you could do as long as you're down there.

The Power of Our Music

Bob Shami, Music Director of the **Northland Barbershop Chorus**, tells this story about the power of our music in lives.

A few years ago, my quartet, **Solid Ground**, was asked to sing at an Alzheimer Support Group event where about 30 early-onset Alzheimer and dementia patients and their care partners would attend, perhaps 60-70 people in all. Almost all were husbands and wives. The organizers requested, given that most of the people attending would have been young adults in the 50's and 60's, that we sing music from that era. We specialized in that era so I selected several songs from our repertoire that I thought would feel "warm and fuzzy" to these couples—*You're 16, Happy Together, Wonderful World, Lion Sleeps Tonight, Pretty Woman, Rhythm of the Rain, Only You, Under The Boardwalk, Stand By Me, Lean On Me*—many songs I hoped would have a particular resonance for the patients as well as for their loving spouses in attendance beside them.

The songs we chose were a hit. The reception we received was warm and genuine and the interaction we saw between the patients and their spouses—the loving glances, the holding of hands, the arms around one another, the heads gently touching together, the nods of recognition as we began each song—were wonderful to witness. The number of people who sang along with nearly every song was also fun to see. Knowing that our efforts were so appreciated and effective at reaching these particular people reminded us why we sing in the first place.

That would have been magical enough but there would be more. At a social afterwards, one lady came up to me and clasped my two hands in hers. She said to me *"I wanted to thank you personally and tell you something special. Tonight you made my husband cry, and he never cries. This was the first time he has been able to cry since the diagnosis. I think he is finally coming to terms with what we know is ahead. Those songs perfectly expressed how I feel about him, especially Stand By Me and Lean On Me."* Then she added this last bit that landed like a bombshell: she explained, with a broad smile and a sparkle in her eyes I'll never forget: *"By the way, I'm the Alzheimer's patient!"*

A magical, even life-changing, moment indeed—for her and certainly also for me.



Gosh, no birthdays on my list. Sure wish it would get updated. We have some new guys who probably have birthdays.

*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.



ROCKY ROAD

Contact: Vern Dockter

970-210-1793



More of What O.C. Cash Forgot to Tell Us

by Bill Gibbons From the PROBE website

1. Singing barbershop is the illusion of perfection. I delude myself regularly.
2. Ninety-five percent of all leads are singing out of their range.
3. In defense of his suggestion for new chorus uniforms, my friend claimed “the better you’re dressed, the better you sing.” I gave it a try. I wore a brand new, top of the line, 3-piece suit to the next chorus rehearsal. I still flatted.
4. If you’re having trouble finding the fourth guy for your quartet, consider this: stop looking. Instead, call your three-man group a “mini chorus.” It’s all a matter of semantics. A mini chorus will fly. A three-man quartet is a dumb idea.
5. Show Chairman: No one ever left the theater of an Annual Show saying, “it was a lousy show, but it did come in under budget.”
6. Every chorus requires a contest to sustain its own sense of worth.
7. The less you know about singing lead, the more attractive it is.
8. Contests: The judge’s jokes are always funny.
9. Chorus Directors: If you let the chorus discover your standards, they’ll use them against you.
10. Headquarters Hotel: Never try to adjust your clothing in a crowded elevator.
11. Go figure: If the quartet is stubborn and wins, it has guts. If it is stubborn and loses, it’s dumb.
12. The three other parts can reform, but a bass is forever.
13. There is a pessimist in your chapter who thinks the old days were better. You know who I mean. You also know the optimist who believes that things are getting better. Trust me on this one, they’re both wrong.
14. No member of the chorus is completely useless - he can always be used as a horrible example.
15. The amount of food prepared for an Afterglow, as a percentage of the guest’s requirements, is either 84 percent or 192 percent.



I always try to cheer myself up by singing when I get sad. Most of the time, it turns out that my voice is worse than my problems. .

Abraham Connection fund raiser

with The DelRose Sweet Adelines and the Delta High School choir

I just hope the fund raising was as successful as the singing and the size of the audience. But, according to one who knows, it was. It was a combined donation to help the High School choir and the Abraham Connection. The Delta United Methodist Church was filled, many not familiar faces in that Church, but willing to chip in to help the kids and homeless and enjoy the music.

The DelRose Gals sounded good as usual singing many of our favorite songs. The high school choir was excellent. Their director, Julia, has done a marvelous job bringing their sound near to a competition level. Marco, the high school band leader, provided the piano background for their singing.

One member of the audience complained to me later that we, the BCBC, did not sing as many songs as we should have. He then raved about how good we sounded, which meshes with the way MaryAnn and the rest of us felt. There is no doubt that going over the songs several times before the appearance really helped. The general practice of going over a few starting bars of all the songs is, or should be, sufficient, but it just 'taint so. This final tune-up helped us big time.

It goes without saying that we had a great chorus turn-out, all looking spiffy and sharp in black slacks, white shirts, red ties, and red pocket things.. Heck, I think we put more on the stage, well, not really stage, but we had more bodies singing than the other two outfits. And that is good. Plus, I didn't see any brown shoes or yellow shirts.

Thanks to pre-thinking of President Cooper, a phone call to CB's assured him and us that there would be a kitchen staff available so we could fill our empty tummies after the concert. Therefore, as is more or less traditional, a goodly number of singers including MaryAnn congregated at the CB's Tavern for some vittles, and liquid of choice, often coffee, water, or a pint of that brown/yellow stuff served in a shaker glass. Don't know what a shaker glass is? I didn't either. Look it up. I had to.

Since the joint was empty when we arrived, except for one guy at the bar tossing down tequila wth craft beer as a chaser, we felt comfortable singing and singing and singing. Hey, there was no-one there to complain or be offended. Offending an audience is not the best way to encourage them to become a member. When the guy at the bar left, he did say we sounded great. But I'm sure after all that tequila and beer, anyone would.

There were probably 10 or 12 barbershoppers and a wife or two enjoying a sort of planned afterglow after the glow of a pretty darn good concert. There should have been more but the apparently long drive to Montrose was just too far and some of them didn't want to stay up after 9:00 to celebrate a darn good performance. It was GOOD. We did GOOD. We are on track for a very GOOD show in June.

**I used to wonder
what it'd be like to
read other people's
minds. Then I got a
Facebook account,
and now I'm over it.**

**ON THE INTERNET
YOU CAN BE
ANYTHING YOU WANT.**

**IT'S STRANGE THAT
SO MANY PEOPLE
CHOOSE TO BE STUPID.**



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 Membership VP Corner with John Taylor

It appears that being "Membership Vice-President" is a lot easier than being "President." I thought it was going to be a rough ride to go out into the community and beat the bushes for new members. I got permission from the Board to spend some money in our most venerable and cheapest local publications to advertise for new members.

Well, before I even spent a dime, a load of vocally talented young men from Montrose High School landed in our laps, like manna from heaven, thanks to a performance by Vern Dockter and his quartet, *Rocky Road*, that the students saw and by which they were "properly" impressed.

And two other gentlemen, whom we've been courting for awhile have bitten the bullet and are sending in their dues. Parker is an energetic transfer from one of our Barbershop Harmony Society affiliates in Idaho. Grady is a younger brother of one of our seven year (at least) members, Don Weiszbrod, and has impressed with his musical and technical background. (Incidentally, Don was the guy who got me to sign up for this crazy organization shortly after *he* started.)

Now we are faced with the wonderful problem of finding enough shirts, ties and hankies of the correct colors for our performances for all of our new guys. And, I hear, we may even get a new quartet out of our recent recruits.

I'm holding off on my recruitment ads in the local rags for the time being, until we can see where we're at in the dress up department. (Thanks, Carol, for attending to this detail.) And, thanks to all of you oldies and newbies for showing up at rehearsals and injecting some needed enthusiasm. Hang in there and we'll have one of our best shows AND best choruses ever!

