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August 2019

Vol. 35 Number 8

Singing every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM at the United Methodist Church of Olathe.

Luau on Leon Street

JohnnyBob did it. He said he would and he did. But he had help. So a huge THANK YOU is tendered to John and Liz for a wonderful and delicious barbecue and potluck in their incredible back yard. The yard was decorated in the Hawaiian style and John met every entering guest with a Taylor smile while making sure they all got lei-ed. I'm not sure that is correct but there were lots of talk about it so let's stick with it.

Tables were set, drinks of all kinds, some in ice chests, some with corks, awaited consumption. Brats and burgers fresh from Calloway's sizzled on barbecues with Coop doing what Coop was born to do.

Then the feminine side of the male group showed up with food to die for, or to live for depending on what one's objective is. The desserts fill the definition of both sides.

After some serious visiting time mixed with dedicated eating and drinking, the chorus assembled under a covered kind of stage intended to prove to the audience that we are not show ready, especially with the songs we chose to sing. Apparently a table filled with wine and beer had an effect on the imbibers as there were several comments saying we sounded (pretty) good in spite of our personal observations.

Then, as it grew dark on a beautiful afternoon, we were treated with MaryAnn, Marty (on guitar) and JohnnyBob in a singing trio with so much talent one could only watch in awe. We, being me, wonder why John has not yet sung with a Barbershop Quartet to further exhibit his excellent voice. He should. He is missing the pure excitement of hitting an emotional chord with three other guys, a chord that one never wants to end. Really, it can happen. Singing in a quartet is not even close to singing in a chorus. All you guys should give it a try.

It was great to see some of our old members, no pun intended but kind of a double entendre whatever that is, show up to share time with us.

As if to alert us that it was about to go home, a small army of mosquitos arrived for their own supper. Dang little buggers always know where I am and where they can find all the blood they want just to aggravate me. So, being sensitive and rather delicate I chose to force them to follow me to the car and try to beat me in before I shut the door. Some are pretty talented.

Again, a super big thank you's to John, Liz, Coop, MaryAnn, Marty, and to all those who could tear themselves away from another exciting evening of TV to join us in a much needed evening of food and fun.

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.

2019 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

PRESIDENT (2019)

Larry Cooper

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Taylor

SECRETARY (2020)

Chuck Frush

TREASURER (2020)

Rex Pierson

PROGRAM & EVENTS VP (2019)

Tim Lund

MEMBERSHIP VP (2020)

Open

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2019)

Open

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE VP (2019)

Grady Weiszbrod

COMMUNICATIONS VP (???)

Bill Sutton

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Bob Brethouwer

Dan Baer

Phil Plumb

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SERGEANT AT ARMS

Bob Brethouwer

SUNSHINE GUY

Rex Pierson

CHAPTER HISTORIAN

Tom Chamberlain



Silverton Festival almost broke

According to Festival Chairman, the cost of this years event has pretty much depleted the Festival bank account. Problems are attributed to a disappointing audience attendance and a smaller than hoped number of performers. Cooper said at a Board Meeting that several ways to combat the

diminishing income of the event are considered. One of them is to collect \$3 each from all attendance performers above the \$20 registration fee. Some other ideas being considered are to increase the method of advertisement to improve and perhaps reduce the cost of the venue rental.

Summer doldrums?

Of particular concern of the Board is the continued dwindling attendance of weekly practices. As might be expected, Board members held and voiced a myriad of opinions and theories contributing to the apparent apathy.

Some of the reasons point to a possible lack of fun compared to the past, with several solutions.

One, of course, is to get more members, younger if possible, with the definition of 'younger' being less than 50. Or maybe 60, depending on who is defining it.

Another is to incorporate a variety of interesting and instructive segments at each practice session, ranging from HEP music theory, history of barbershopping, to woodshedding. More interesting meetings should

provide information on barbershopping, what it means to our particular type of singing, how it differs from conventional harmony, and how interpretation coupled with creativity create a unique and sometimes personal touch to our songs. Singing a song exactly the way the composer intended does not allow for much innovation. Barbershop harmony thrives on it. Many of newer members are not aware of what Barbershop really means.

Still another solution advanced was to increase our public visibility, presence, at more planned singouts especially during the summer. If members have a more organized reason to attend weekly practices, perhaps the excuses will disappear.

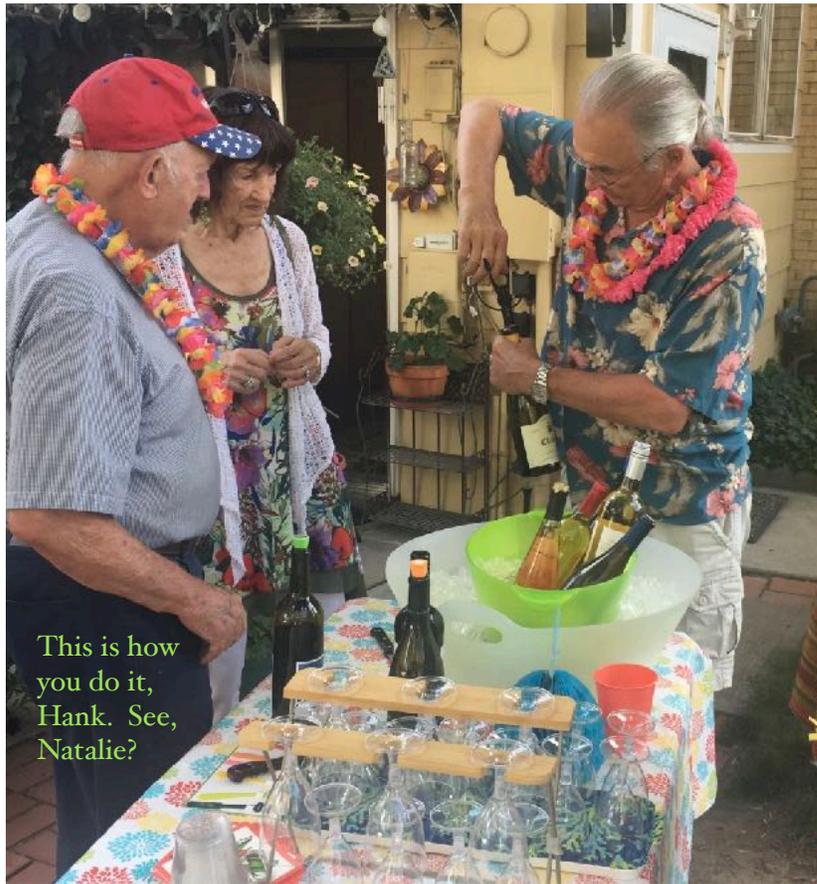


My goodness, all that wine. I can't make up my mind. Could I have one of each?



I know I shouldn't but Kay is busy talking to MaryAnn so ..





This is how you do it, Hank. See, Natalie?



Sam Kevin
Ken Cotter

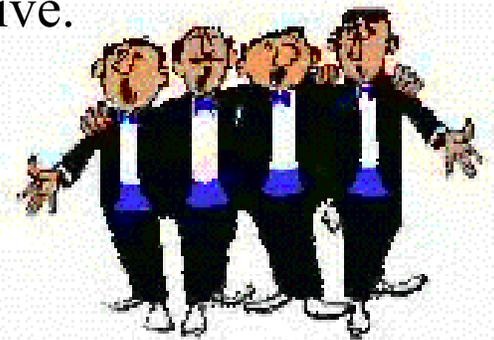
August 21
Sept. 10

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



Nice hat Coop.
Where did you find it?

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



BARBERSHOP

ROCKY ROAD

Contact: Vern Dockter

970-210-1793





Here's the deal. I move my arms and you guys pretend to sing. I think it will work.





Success in Silverton

The consensus of most of those who made the mountain trip to Silverton is that the Barbershop Music Festival was, generally, a success. As some, or most, or all of you know, this was the 33rd meeting and collaboration of chapters from Durango, Grand Junction, and Montrose. The first events were held in the old Court house upstairs. The public was then allowed to come in to see the results of the HEP type sessions. Of course, the room was small and only 20 to 30 could actually attend. Then the Courthouse burned down and the rehearsal location was moved to the High School Gym. As popularity grew, Barbershoppers from New Mexico, Denver, and other foreign places joined in for

the fun. Folks were allowed to sleep in the gym for several years and often treated to singing all night long.

Without records it is impossible to remember all the Festival Chairmen; all were from one of the 3 founding Chapters. Pete Peterson from Durango was an early and popular Chairman. With his snow white hair and dapper countenance, Pete was a familiar sight of the sessions. Then Carl Schultz also from Durango took the reins for several years, followed soon by Delta's Jason Ward. I do think Carl also chaired the event after they moved to Montrose, but it gets a little foggy. Coop has been chairman for the last two years.

In the early days several members chose to camp at the then deserted ski area. Sallie and I took a motorhome and hosted those who were camping in tents or smaller trailers. I remember many morning sharing outside breakfasts with Lotvedts, Chamberlains, Reschke, Clarence Beck from Gunnison, and others. After breakfast we would all walk to the gym for a day of coaching followed by a jam packed gym to see the evening performance.

One year it was reported we had close to 90 MEN on stage. Those were the good old days.





Another Parable

The President of a small farming corporation noticed that the crop was not growing as it had before, and appeared to be dying. The situation was brought up at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting hoping for a solution. One of the members suggested the problem was weeds crowding out the crop needed to be eliminated. Discussions ranged from pulling them to spraying them with a weed killer but side discussions ranged from trying to figure out what kind of weed was causing the problem and what would be the best ways to solve it. Possible problems of plowing them up were countered by possible problems of using one of the many available weed chemicals. Besides, should they be hand sprayed or sprayed from an expensive spray plane or even a helicopter? The discussion raged on until another board member suggested the problem might be insects, which prompted

another round of discussion considering most of the same options and pit-falls. A third member suggested finding a type of insect that eats other insects especially the ones who might be destroying the crop. Or maybe one who also eats the weeds. Further discussions noted the possibility of some kind of interactive between insects and weeds and perhaps a bird influx which is dropping weed seeds and maybe even bug larva during its normal body functions. By the end of a two hour board meeting, the President thanked them all for their help and insight and adjourned the meeting. All members agreed it was a truly productive meeting which accomplished a lot. No actions were taken. The crop is still dying. No one asked the farmer who takes care of the farm.

Some More History

In 2012 a Chapter poll was taken to help the Program VP decide which songs to sing on the numerous summer singouts. The choices 7 years ago are not the same as today, but they do reflect a general Chapter member agreement on which songs they like and which they don't.

In addition to the song preference poll, another poll was taken to help us decide how important summer singouts were viewed by the Chapter and how many of them should be planned. Following is a summer schedule based on the poll results.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES 2012

- MAY 26: Sing at Ridgway State Park, 7 pm
- JUNE 14: Chapel of the Cross in Cedaredge, 7 pm
- JULY 12: Sing at Montrose Main in Motion from 6 pm to 8 pm
- JULY 21, Silverton Harmony Festival, 7 pm
- AUGUST 16: Sing at Montrose Main in Motion from 6 pm to 8 pm
- SEPTEMBER 1: Sing at Ridgway State Park, 7 pm

Similar polls had been conducted prior years with similar results. Of course there are lots of new songs to be considered and new members with new ideas. Summer is about gone and the number of singouts dropped to almost zero. Is it time for another poll or two? Just asking.

Song poll 2012

The average score of 3.00 means most members can take or leave the song
The average of 4.00 or above means the majority like or really like the song

If I was to evaluate the results, I would consider dropping or curtailing the singing of songs with an average under 3.50.

If the songs are in yellow or red are to be kept current, it indicates more work is needed.

Song	Average
BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC	4.75
HELLO MARY LOU	4.7
GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART	4.55
GEORGIA ON MY MIND	4.45
I'LL FLY AWAY	4.35
BASIN STREET	4.2
SHENENDOAH	4.2
MISSISSIPPI MUD	4.1
ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?	4
HUSH	4
THE WHIFFENPOOF SONG	3.95
SOME ENCHANTED EVENING	3.9
WHEN IT'S SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES	3.85
THE LONGEST TIME	3.75
DREAM, DREAM, DREAM	3.47
MEET ME TONIGHT IN DREAMLAND	3.42
CUDDLE UP	3.4
HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN	3.35
PAPER DOLL	3.35
EMBRACEABLE YOU	2.6

2014 song preference poll

A similar and more comprehensive poll was again taken in 2014 with the results on the right. As noted before, all songs with a score equal to or above 4.00 (identified in GREEN) are songs generally preferred by all Chapter members.

Songs identified in YELLOW are less preferred but generally enjoyed by the members.

Songs identified in RED are songs not particularly enjoyed either to sing or to perform. Of course there are many variables and unending arguments about the poll results, but if considered, it can and will provide some guidance in song performance in the future and an insight into what types of songs are generally preferred.

Notice the difference in scores in both polls and the difference in interpretation of the results.

Remember, this is almost 6 years old. We have learned many new songs since the last poll.

SONG NAME	AVERAGE
GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART	4.40
GEORGIA ON MY MIND	4.35
BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC	4.29
BARBARA ANN	4.24
IRISH BLESSING	4.24
I WANT A GIRL	4.13
HELLO MARY LOU	4.12
I'LL FLY AWAY	4.06
AMAZING GRACE	4.06
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL	4.06
ZIP-A-DEE-DO-DAH	4.00
GOD BLESS AMERICA	4.00
WHEN I'M SIXTY-FOUR	3.94
LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART	3.93
DARKNESS ON THE DELTA	3.88
ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?	3.82
SILHOUETTES	3.81
SHENENDOAH	3.76
I'M SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD	3.76
WILD IRISH ROSE	3.76
THE STORY OF THE ROSE (HEART OF MY HEART)	3.75
MISSISSIPPI MUD	3.71
HUSH	3.71
CAROLINE	3.71
IF YOU KNEW SUSIE	3.71
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE/DO LORD	3.71
UP A LAZY RIVER	3.71
WAIT TIL THE SUN SHINES, NELLIE	3.69
SWEET AND LOVELY	3.67
THIS IS MY COUNTRY	3.65
WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER	3.63
IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME	3.59
YESTERDAY	3.59
THE LONGEST TIME	3.53
COOL WATER	3.53
SHINE ON ME	3.53
IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT	3.50
SWEET ADELINE	3.50
MOMENTS TO REMEMBER	3.44
BASIN STREET	3.41
WHEN IT'S SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES	3.06
DREAM, DREAM, DREAM	3.06
SOME ENCHANTED EVENING	3.00
ALL I DO IS DREAM OF YOU	2.88
TAKING A CHANCE ON LOVE	2.87
MEET ME TONIGHT IN DREAMLAND	2.80
I'LL BE SEEING YOU	2.80
HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN	2.76
MACNAMARA'S BAND	2.71
DON'T BRING LULU	2.65
GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS	2.56
HI NEIGHBOR	2.53
IDA, SWEET AS APPLE CIDER	2.50
TIL THERE WAS YOU	2.50
SOMEWHERE	2.43
SUNRISE, SUNSET	2.38
EMBRACEABLE YOU	2.31
ALL THAT I ASK IS LOVE	2.31
FOR ALL WE KNOW	2.25
JUST IN LOVE	2.14

