




BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

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August 2, 2005



The 67th annual convention and competitions of the Barbershop Harmony Society in Salt Lake City are over (July 4-10). Our new international quartet champion is REALTIME. It was only their second international quartet competition, but REALTIME survived three rounds of competition that began on Wednesday with 52 quartets from the U.S., Canada, Sweden, and England. "REALTIME's championship performances were models of musical artistry," said Society President Rob Hopkins. "What a great quartet! The Society's first truly international quartet champion—with members from Canada, Australia, and the U.S.— REALTIME earned standing ovation after standing ovation. And they made it look easy!" Their final score was 90.6%.

Quartet members hail from Vancouver, British Columbia, and Lynden, Washington, making them one of the few CanAm quartets in competition. They are: tenor Tim Broersma, lead John Newell, and Mark and Tom Metzger,

baritone and bass, respectively. Newell is an Australian currently living in Vancouver.



From their website: www.realtimequartet.com

Our district quartet, INFINITY, with BCCer Bruce LaMarte, finished with a score of 75.4 % in 44th place. In the college quartet competition, our INSIGNIA placed 11th out of 20 with a score of 68.3%.

In chorus competition, Pioneer District's representative, THE MACOMB COUNTY HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS was pleased with its score of 74.1 %, which placed it 23rd. MASTERS OF HARMONY, from Santa Fe Springs, CA won their fourth gold medal in the last 10 years with an amazing 93.6 %.

Several Big Chiefs were in Salt Lake City, including Fred McFadyen, Chuckles Murray, Bill Nevaux, and Tom Ford. Thanks to **Tom** for providing the following report:

What a beautiful week - weather wise and for barber shopping. It is impossible to realize the true quality of final competition until you have witnessed it. There were so many excellent groups that it is hard to describe. The detail that is used for the different performances was magnificent. If you thought some of the Big Chief Chorus moves are hard, try doing cartwheels and flips, moving about the stage repositioning boxes, marching amongst a band, being a group of mimes, or pirates! The costuming was spectacular as were the groups that performed. While doing all these things the quality of the music was not lost. The music still has top importance in presentations. "Ed Sullivan" would have been proud to have any of the groups on his show. This year there was a new addition as 12 extra choruses were able to compete as "wild cards". Six were able to advance themselves to the finals. Even the wild card choruses were high quality. Stop and think - some of the wild cards were up against other quality courses but only one from each district would qualify for competition. With wild card competition there was room for others. Most of the groups were from the U.S. but others there were Canada, Sweden and New Zealand.

There was an awesome show added on the final Sunday. The Gold Medal Chorus - past champion quartet winners - sang with the Mormon Tabernacle

Choir. Together there was upwards of 1000 voices singing at the same time. Guest quartets were this years quartet winners Realtime, Acoustix, and Power Play. All shows were held in the LDS Convention Center in downtown Salt Lake City. There were gigantic organ pipes above the stage where competition was held. Seating was no problem as the hall (get this) seated 21,000 people. Needless to say there were no sellouts.

This is the 4th time the competition has been held in Salt Lake City and the governor has named the first week in July "State Barber Shop Week" in Utah.

Next year, the midwinter convention will be in Sacramento, and the summer convention will be within driving distance – in **Indianapolis**. The Conseco Field house holds 11,000 seats, and you can choose your seat now. The Barbershop Harmony Society has teamed with etix.com (<http://www.etix.com/ticket/online/faq.html>) to make purchasing convention registrations a snap.

AROUND THE PATCH

The Big Chief Chorus had two **singouts** in July. On Friday, July 15, the chorus sang at Clarkston Depot Park for about 500 Clarkston folk as part of a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored summer festival; the chorus shared billing with an excellent swing band. On Tuesday, July 19, the chorus sang for about fifteen of Bill Pascher's colleagues at Clarkston Sunrise Assisted Living. The July 13th Clarkston newspaper featured two articles one on the chorus singout and one on Bill Pascher.

What a wonderful **practice** we had on July 26. Forty-four singers filled Lookout Lodge at Waterford Oaks Park – not bad for a chapter of 58 members. Bruce Brede reported that, for the first time in memory, every single Lead was present. Furthermore, we sang with good blend and good accuracy – a tribute to Dick Johnson for leading the past two rehearsals, and to Roger Holm for alerting us each week as to the songs to be preparing, according to Director Jim's excellent spread sheet. Good to see guests Gil Schreiner, John Northey, Lyle Howard, and Don Place.

A thanks to Tom Tailford's church for donating a **Ricoh** copy machine to the chapter. It's a large unit with multiple paper drawers and a few reams of paper.

Karen Ensign is recovering from a broken hand.

The chapter is looking for someone to take over the **Gene Hanover exercises** from Ross Ensign.

Ex-BCCer **Chuck Barrett** is getting a total knee replacement August 15th (after attending Harmony College and hoping to see a BCCer there).

AHSOW news: **Mike Frye** was one of twenty-nine new AHSOW members. He qualified on all three harmony parts + "woodshed" melody. Another was the new CEO of our Society, **Ed Watson**.

The Executive Board is looking for a volunteer to chair the **Officer Induction party** November 18.

The Music Committee is brainstorming on the **theme of the Fall, 2006 show**. How about Disney?

Zaven Melkonian, assisted by Bob Legato and John Cowlshaw, has agreed to chair the **nominating committee** for chapter offices. The election will be Tuesday, October 18.

QUARTET/ENSEMBLE NEWS

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE sang for the Corvette Car Showing at Olde World Canterbury Village on Sunday, July 31st.

MEMBERSHIP (at 58)

Renewals: Mike Keith (5th), Tom Ford (10th), Doc Mann (6), Don Sheridan (44)

August Birthdays: Bill Auquier (24th), Jeff Doig (29th),

Barbershopper of the Month, July – Tom Jackson, for all of his efforts on behalf of the chorus and especially in securing the Lookout Lodge for our summer venue.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

The **Slamka family** – Jack, Kitty and the rest of the POWER PLAY/Slamka family - “put on another **outstanding weekend** of fun, fellowship and song at the family ranch. There were folks from all across Michigan and Ontario as well as people from Ohio, Georgia, and Missouri. (I'm sure I missed some states!) We had lots of RV's, tents, etc. as well as another spectacular turnout for yesterday's dinner/show. We were royally entertained by the kids in the talent show as well as many fine quartets. POWER PLAY closed the evening with a super performance that elicited one standing "o" after another. We are truly blessed to have one another share this wonderful hobby (obsession?) called barbershop.” (Al Fisk) The weekend also included the 5th Annual Power Play Invitational Golf Outing Friday Morning, at the Fore Lakes Golf Club in Kimball, MI.

The D.O.C.-sponsored **Harmony Cruise** on the Michigan Princess sailed down the Detroit River Saturday, July 30th, with over 1000 barbershoppers on board. This despite confusions about parking, after-hours pricing, security measures, the last-minute closing of I-96, and competition from noisy engines.

The **Flint Arrowhead** Barbershop Chorus is currently looking for a **new director**. John Noteware, their current director, has decided to give up the baton but will remain in the chorus.

AROUND THE WORLD

Watch for a national ad campaign in **USA Today** on September 7th and 9th for the following week's **U Can Sing** campaign.

MEET DAVE BARTILSON

Dave was born in West Virginia in 1942 and was raised in Beallsville, a small, depressed town in rural southeast Ohio, about ten miles from the Ohio River. It's a hilly region, calling itself the Switzerland of Ohio. His dad was a salesman who played trombone professionally in dance bands of the 1920's. Dave had a very busy childhood. His home duties included feeding and milking the goats before and after school. He sang in the high school glee club and in operettas and played baritone horn in the high school band, rising to first chair before his love of sports interfered. He co-captained the basketball and football teams.



Dave Bartilson during last year's canoeing trip

Upon graduation he joined the Navy and served for four years as a radioman, on the USS Guadalupe (a tanker) and the USS Lafayette, a Polaris (nuclear) submarine. In boot camp, he played baritone bugle in their drum and bugle corps and in Radioman school, was a member of the award winning drill team.

Upon discharge, he settled in Bowie, MD. He alternated college and jobs (including one at the Goddard Space Flight Center during the 1969 Apollo 11 man-on-the-moon mission). He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1972 with a B.S. degree in Education for Industry.

He entered the hotel business and worked at the Washington Hilton in D.C. When he couldn't foresee a future in this field, he switched into retailing and joined JC Penney. They transferred him to Detroit in 1979, where he worked for five years until downsizing eliminated the Product Service Center.

After classes at a computer school, he joined Ford as a contractor. Six years later he was hired in, and has worked as a Process Engineer in Vehicle Operations in Allen Park for the past fifteen years.

Dave had gotten into tennis in the mid 1970's and began to get very serious about it when he moved to Detroit. He played competitively in the United States Tennis Association, achieving a level of 4.5 on the USTA scale.

He also began bicycle touring.

That all came to an abrupt and traumatic end with a serious motorcycle accident in August 1996. He spent two weeks in the hospital but still lost mobility and range of motion in his right leg.

Dave had always enjoyed being out on the water, so sailing has filled the void. His present (second) boat is a 31-foot sloop on which he cruises from his berth at the Shore Club Marina on Lake St. Clair. His dream is to retire to a sailboat and sail down the East Coast.

When Dave isn't on the boat, he is probably fixing up his rental property in Ferndale. Woodworking is a hobby he aspires to but can't seem to fit into his schedule. And, he hasn't lost his interest in fitness as he swims, still plays a little tennis and is learning in-line skating.

Dave has been an active member of several organizations. In 1980, the year the Republican National Convention was held in Detroit, he was Vice President of the Young Republicans. An active member of the Somerset Tennis Club, he held several positions including Vice President. He also is newsletter editor for Kirk Singles, a group sponsored by Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church.

Dave sparkles with the ladies but has never been married. He did, however, serve as a foster parent for the Mentor Plus program of the Oakland County Court System, mentoring a lad for two years successfully thru high school graduation.

Dave has three successful older brothers, who are retired out-of-state.

Dave enjoys a variety of music. He had a full exposure to barbershop when the 4000-strong S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. 1976 midwinter convention met at the Washington Hilton hotel. So when he met John Cowlshaw on a canoe trip, talk turned to barbershop, and Dave ended up joining the Big Chief Chorus lead section last fall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING July 13, Excerpts from Bill Holmes, Secretary

Present: Pete Mazzara, Gene Downie, Roger Holm, Wayne Cheyne, Bill Holmes, Bruce Brede.

Dick Johnson's written treasurer's report showed a current balance of \$5,888.20.

Discussion of the Fall Show, sponsorships, auditioning groups for inclusion.

Bruce submitted a written report covering all aspects of the Cast Party with an analysis of prior cast parties. The party will be held at the Shepherd's Hollow Golf Club. Price: chorus members - \$5, guests - \$15.

Roger Holm reported the chorus will sing six or seven songs in the show. The band will not play on stage in the Fall Show. The music committee will determine the quartet's input in the show. Efforts are still being made to have a workshop at Clarkston High by 3M and a T. The committee is considering themes and songs for the 2006 show. Disney is one theme being looked at.

Wayne Cheyne will consult with Tom Ford and Walt DeNio regarding the picnic.

Wayne Cheyne reported radio and print material for "U Can Sing/ Guest Night" is being developed and will soon be ready.

The Officer Induction Dinner will be held on Friday, November 18.

The board thanks Lyle Howard and Bill Holmes for assisting during the July 12th rehearsal.

The board also expressed great appreciation to Ross Ensign for his leadership especially during warm-ups.

Pete ended the meeting with the following concern: The chorus members should be attentive and quiet when the leader up front is attempting to lead and convey information and instruction to the chorus during rehearsals.

Jim Troeger vacationed in Florida and had the opportunity "to sing lead with the **Dapper Daps** of Walt Disney World! It was a real treat indeed as we sang "Sweet And Lovely" to my bride and about forty other people who were in the lobby of Tony's Ristorante located near the entrance to Magic Kingdom. I also got my picture taken with the group as they presented me with a membership card signifying my status as an honorary member of the "Main Street Chapter." They have a great sound and do a nice mix of traditional stuff mixed with some tap dancing and other "schtick" as well. Needless to say, this was a most enjoyable capstone event to my vacation. Admittedly, I was a little green with envy as I pondered the fact that these four men have managed to live the barbershoppers "dream" and make their livelihood that of singing barbershop in Disney World... sounds good to me!" P.S. Al Monroe also sang with the Daps on his last trip to Disney World.

At the **New Detroit Science Center**, you can immerse yourself in a total music experience in the "**Amazing Music Studio**." "With more than 30 hands-on activities, you can investigate harmonics, test reverberation time and find out about digital sampling. Try out your talent as a DJ or at a mixing desk. Sing in the Karaoke shower! This exhibition also includes great rock photography and features exhibits on graphic and stage design, making the show ideal for fans of popular culture as well as science and music." Themed areas include: Rehearsal, Composing, The Studio, Listening, and On Stage. Check it out at www.detroitsciencecenter.org "Amazing Music Studio" will only be here on display through Oct. 2, 2005. (5020 John R Street, Detroit, MI)

Note: All unattributed articles and photos are by John Cowlshaw

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Jim Troeger

(248-853-4360)

Asst. Directors: Dick Johnson

President: Pete Mazzara

(313-563-4026)

Past President: Gene Downie

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Chene

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bill Holmes

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Zaven Melkonian

Calendar

July 31-Aug.7 Harmony College 2005, @Columbus, OH
Aug 5-7 Harmony College Weekend Sampler
Aug 2, T BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 9, T BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 10, W Exec Bd Meeting, at Bruce Brede's
Aug 16, T BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 19, F, 6pm BCC Picnic @ Tom and Beth Ford's
Aug 23, T BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 30, T BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Deadline for selling \$15 tickets
Sept. 6, T BCC Rehearsal, return to Crary
Sep 7,9 UCanSing ads in USA Today
Sept. 13, T UCanSing Guest Night @ Crary MS
Sep 14, W, 2pm, Singout, Woodward Hills, 39312 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, Class C uniform
Oct 11, T, 12:30 Singout, Pontiac Musicale, Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Highland Rd, (M-59), Waterford, Class B Uniform
Oct. 18, T Election of Officers 2006
Oct 21-23 Fall convention, Pioneer District
Nov 5, Sa, 7:30 Fall Show – Jukebox Classics
Nov 15, T Christmas Chorus begins
Nov 18, F Officer Induction Dinner