



**BIG CHIEF CHORUS**  
**SMOKE**  
**SIGNALS**

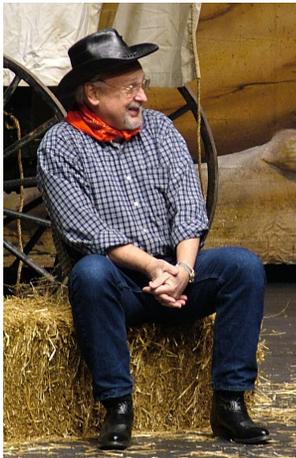


**Pontiac/Waterford Chapter**  
 Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

**Vol. 10, No. 5 (#113)**

**September 1, 2010**

**Good Bye, Wayne Cheyne**



Wayne Cheyne succumbed to the complications of prostate cancer on August 1.

Wayne joined our chorus in April, 2002. His gentle, amused eyes, his confident bass voice, and his wise counsel, we remember well. He designed our Guest Nights each fall in a wonderful way, combining musical modalities with BCC responsibilities. He was our Vice President for Chapter Development for several years and also was our point man for three Valentines seasons.

The service was held Thursday, August 5, at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home in Milford, with Bill Holmes officiating. Despite the 11 a.m. hour, thirty-five chieftains gathered, certainly

speaking to the affection that we felt for Wayne and Joan. Freddie McFadyen led the chorus in the singing of “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” and “Precious Lord” and closed with the “Irish Parting Prayer.”

Wayne’s wife, Joan, has strong links to members of the BCC community and intends to stay in touch with us. Her email address is [jbcheyne@oaklandcc.edu](mailto:jbcheyne@oaklandcc.edu).

One can donate memorially to the Michigan State University Scholarship Fund or the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Smoke Signals interview with Wayne was in the May, 2007 issue, Smoke Signals #73. To go there directly, click on: [http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/smoke\\_signals/2007/Issue%2073-May%202007.pdf](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/smoke_signals/2007/Issue%2073-May%202007.pdf)

Speaking personally, I had a special link to Wayne because we both were born in 1938, both in Grand Rapids, and we both had undergone treatment for prostate cancer. I survived, Wayne died. Such is the inscrutable way of the world.

**AROUND THE PATCH**

**August performances**

Aug 3	BCC	Pier Park	Picnic	28	175
Aug 5	BCC	Lynch’s	Funeral	35	90
Aug 21	Lim. Ed.	Gaylord	Bush League	4	40
Aug 21	St.Al.	Gaylord	Bush League	4	60
Aug 28	Lim. Ed.	Milford	Pig Roast	4	100
Aug 29	NBS	Rochester	Church Picnic	4	400
<b>2010 Total to Date</b>			<b>87 performances</b>	<b>5431</b>	

**BCC Annual Picnic, August 20**

(From Dave Myre)

Eileen and Bob Marshall once again opened their lakefront home for the BCC picnic. Bob even provided nice weather and a great breeze off the lake, and there was no rain in sight.

Forty-three people signed on and all showed, plus a few others.

Lew Mahacek and Diana came and we were all glad to see Big Lew again, and he sang the night away.

Joan Cheyne also came and everyone was glad she did. She seemed to enjoy all the goings on.

Freddie led us in several rounds of singing, and much quarteting occurred.

While Walt DeNio was attending to Jan, I filled in on the grill with help from Pete and Hermine Mazzara; they made my job easy.

Everyone seemed to get enough to eat. Thanks to all who brought a dish to pass. Everything looked and tasted fantastic! Can't wait till next year!!



From Wayne Oberstadt's video

(Plus this addition from Jack Teuber and Zaven Melkonian)

Thanks to Chef Dave Myre for his delicious preparation of the evening's main fare, Brats and Hot Dogs!! It is rumored that Dave picked up his culinary talent courtesy of the United States Army. Great job Dave!! It was good to see Bob Wallace, a newby to the BCC and his lovely wife along with Bob's neighbors from across the lake, Pete Peters and his wife, Helen Jane, who renewed her friendship from years ago with Joan Cheyne. One of the more pleasant surprises was seeing Lew & Diana Mahacek back in our gang. Even better was the fact that Lew jumped right in with the various groups and sang right along without missing a note!! Everyone agreed that this was one of the best.

**Tom Blackstone's mother** died in Louisiana, August 20, after a long illness.

Long-time member **Art Carinci** was present at Wayne Cheyne's funeral.

**Al Monroe** and **Fred DeVries** dropped in at chorus practice, Tuesday night, Aug 24. Also guesting was Colonel Frank Johnson, MD, from Bozeman, MT who visited with his cousin, Susannah, and rang some chords with us and with pickup quartets.

Details of the 8<sup>th</sup> "**Spring**" **Singing Retreat** have been announced by Pete Mazzara. You should all have a copy of the schedule and the distribution of duties. The address is the **Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center**, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, MI - (989) 821-6200. Count on travel time of about 2:45 from Waterford, MI.

"[We have a] **singout** for *The Silver Seniors* at the First Presbyterian Church in Pontiac on Tuesday, November 2nd. The tentative schedule has us warming up at 12:00 noon and singing at 12:45 PM. This is a luncheon meeting, but this time we will only sing when the last bite has been swallowed. Our uniform will be the long-sleeved yellow shirts, black pants and belt, black shoes and socks. This will be a great opportunity for the BCC to **sell some tickets to our show** on the following Saturday."

Zaven M.

Roger Holm and Bruce Brede have begun working on our **Christmas program**.

Gentlemen

There are some who feel we should already begin looking toward a **theme for our 2011 BCC Show**. Given the age of our chorus, I humbly suggest the Music Committee consider "The BCC Takes a Sentimental Journey." I'm confident we would choose appropriate songs.

Pete M.

Chieftans:

Jeff Doig has upgraded our website to include Learning Aids. At <http://bigchiefchorus.org/>, scroll down "Favorite Links" to Members Page, where you soon will find mp3 recordings and the sheet music for our upcoming show. Due to copyright restrictions you need a user name and password to access the **Members' Page**. So, First: Submit to Jeff a User Name and a password with eight (8) symbols letters and numbers to get past the gate. Example: joebrown could be: joeb1957

Get started today.

Thanks, Jack T.

The arrangement of "**Route 66**" by John Cowlshaw and Tom Blue has now been officially authorized by Troup London Music, and our arrangement will soon be listed in the Barbershop Harmony Society catalog.

BCC Executive Board **elections** will be October 5. Consider running for office, when the Nominating Committee (Greg Moss, chair, Eric Domke, Lance Shew) approach you.

### **Quartets**

LIMITED EDITION sang at Dar and Kay Johnson's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party at White Lake Oaks on Friday evening, July 30. Bill Maxfield helped arrange the quartet's participation in the wonderful party organized by Dar and Kay's daughters. Among the crowd of about 100 friends and relatives were a table

of teen-agers, who sat attentively, perhaps even mesmerized, that Dar's oldest friends could ring such chords. Dar joined the quartet on "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." A special event was the quartet's first public performance of "Kiss the Girl." The reception was so warm, that the quartet left telling themselves, "This is what our singing is all about."

LIMITED EDITION and STATEWIDE ALERT competed at Bush League, August 21. See stories below.

LIMITED EDITION sang at Charlie Perry's 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Pig Roast on Saturday, August 28. The fest featured a 104 lb porker that had been thawed in Charlie's bathtub, flayed, pressed between two racks, and laid across a cinder block "oven" for seven hours. Also featured were dishes brought by the 100 guests as well as 20 cases of fine *Chuck and Ike's Haiku Brew*, made by Charlie and his son Isaac. The quartet sang "Kiss the Girl" to daughter-in-law Andrea, as she kissed her 20's goodbye, and several other songs.

NORTHBOUND SOUND sang Sunday afternoon, August 29, in the Rochester park, for a Lutheran Church Annual Picnic.

#### MEMBERSHIP (at 67)

**Renewals:** Zaven Melkonian (11), Dick Johnson (62)

**Pending:** Ross Ensign

**September Birthdays:** Bob Stephenson (1<sup>st</sup>), Charlie Perry (6<sup>th</sup>), Greg Moss (8<sup>th</sup>), John Cowlshaw (10<sup>th</sup>), Neil Braun (13<sup>th</sup>), Jim Clafin (16<sup>th</sup>), Dick Johnson (24<sup>th</sup>), Dave Myre (29<sup>th</sup>)

**Medical:** Bob Legato had two stents inserted. Jan DeNio had a knee replacement on August 17, and has now returned to Lourdes. Mary Teuber has had a hip replacement.

**In Memoriam:** Sep 12 2006, Art Ripley, Smoke Signals #67  
Sep 19, 2003, Chris Miller, Smoke Signals #30

**Barbershopper of the Month:** Jeff Doig, for his work on the Web Site.

#### AROUND THE DISTRICT

Those continually creative CHORDIOLOGY guys have come up with another brainstorm – "Ology Cat" Songs

You may recall the "Ology" quartets that have competed for the past few district conventions. That's where you and another voice part competed (for score only) with two members of CHORDIOLOGY quartet filling your "quartet." The idea being, of course, to get guys who have never sung in a quartet on the contest stage to do so.

Now CHORDIOLOGY has had a new idea. Probably based on their participation at the Harmony Brigade, where 120 singers all knew the same ten

songs, they suggest that the Pioneers develop a district-wide repertoire of songs beyond just the basic "Polecat" songs. If everyone knows them, everyone can form pickup quartets at District events and sing songs beyond the basic Polecat songs. Chordiology has arranged with the Society to pay the fees to distribute, free to the end-user, practice tracks for two songs to anyone in the district.

Here's this year's OlogyCat songs.

Stock number 203126: Taking A Chance On Love

Stock number 201317: I Didn't Want to Fall

Chordiology purchases the learning tracks and the mechanical licenses. Send an email to [OlogyCats@chordiology.com](mailto:OlogyCats@chordiology.com) Request a voice part for one or both songs, and they will send you the tracks.

If you want sheet music, simply call 1-800-876-SING and order it from Harmony Marketplace. Order the music by stock number, as there are often many arrangements for the same song.

(Lansing has opted to participate in this program as a chapter, and will be ordering sufficient copies of both songs for all chapter members.)

#### Windsor Sun Parlour Chorus show

The Sun Parlour Chorus of the Windsor Chapter is hosting their 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Show on October 2 at the Ecole Secondaire L'Essor located at 13605 St. Gregory's Road in Tecumseh Ontario. "Not many other chapters can boast of having an annual show for 66 years running."

#### AROUND THE WORLD

##### Preservation

Grady Kerr has begun a wonderful e-journal on the history of Barbershop. It's free. Click on:

<http://www.gradywilliamkerr.com/GradyWilliamKerrPreservation.htm>

Then, click on #1, 2, or 3 in the middle of the page.

Barbershop Harmony Society has its own section on YouTube. Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38> For example, the uptune performed at Philly last month by Gold-medal **Westminster Chorus** is now available on **YouTube**. It's currently linked to the Society front page at: <http://www.barbershop.org/> Be sure to enlarge it and have your volume up.

A flurry of emails has arisen on [bbshop@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bbshop@yahoogroups.com) in the last couple weeks over the value of singing "The Old Songs" and "Keep the Whole World Singing." Dave Knapp started it off with this e-mail: "For nearly 60 years, as far as I can tell, our BHS Chapter has opened our meetings with "The Old Songs" and have unfailingly ended them with "Keep the Whole World Singing." I, for one, am sick of singing them, mainly because (1) the guys aren't warmed up to properly sing "The Old Songs" and (2) after two and a

half hours of intense work on proper vocal production, we sing “Keep the Whole World Singing” and all that work goes out the window.” Whatdya think?

## HARMONY COLLEGE

Harmony College was attended by Ray Sturdy, Dave Shantz, and John Cowlshaw. This week-long event is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, at Missouri Western State University (about 6000 students) in St. Joseph, MO. (This is just north of Kansas City, and singers shared the campus with the Kansas City Chiefs.)



This year’s Harmony University was attended by about 450 singers and 50 faculty. About a quarter of the attendees were directors (many women among them), who attended the Harmony Directors College. About another quarter were quartet foursomes, who spent the week in Harmony Quartet College, being critiqued by quartet coaches. The rest of us were just barbershoppers, including some Sweet Ads, who chose from an array of courses designed to make us better singers, more knowledgeable quartetters, with more understanding of what makes the harmony so good. Etc.

**(From John Cowlshaw)**

What did I learn?

It only takes six hours to fly there! (Steve Warnaar from Lansing joined me.)

“Support is the active resistance of exhalation.”

Lots of vocal exercises, and images for better singing (such as imagining that one’s vocal folds are in the forehead)

“Baritones should be seen and not heard” is no longer the accepted advice. When Bari’s stick out, it may be, not because they’re singing too loud, but because they’re not using full resonance to match the timbre, the resonators, of the Lead. Bari is a secondary Lead, and need to match his color and texture.

[www.Barbershoptags.com](http://www.Barbershoptags.com) has a list of tags, audio versions, and also how to teach tags.

Two wonderful sites for learning music theory, particularly identification of chords, are: [www.Musictheory.net](http://www.Musictheory.net) and [www.Teoria.com](http://www.Teoria.com)

Understanding requisite pitch and volume of Roots, 5<sup>th</sup> s, 3<sup>rd</sup> s, and 7<sup>th</sup> s.

The importance of duetting in quartets.

Quartets need to develop a model, a self-image, to efficiently filter out unsuitable songs and choose songs.

Here is a link to a selection of photos from Harmony College, for those of you who have been there, or want to get a feeling for what it’s like. If you don’t have an account on Snapfish, it’s easy and free to register.

[http://www2.snapfish.com/comcast/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=2480092020/a=150021325\\_150021325/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND\\_NAME=COMCAST/](http://www2.snapfish.com/comcast/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=2480092020/a=150021325_150021325/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=COMCAST/) A sample is included at the end of this bulletin.

## MY WEEK AT CAMP – Ray Sturdy

My Mom sent me to camp this summer. Barbershop camp. She said it was going to be like summer school. Boy, did I get an education.

It wasn’t like any school I ever remember. Five hundred singers all descending on the campus of Missouri Western State University twenty miles north of Kansas City. I didn’t have to memorize the names of the last twenty years of gold medal quartet winners because we ate breakfast, lunch and dinner with most of them all week long. They were our faculty. And I met most of the people whose names always fill the last two page of the Harmonizer. What a tremendous group of counselors.

When we got off the bus from the airport on Sunday afternoon we all lined up, got our course materials, and were given the keys to our dorm room. (I’m happy to report that college dorm rooms are just as nice as they were fifty years ago.) Then we ate our first meal and gathered for a keynote address from Ron Black who told us that barbershop is a fun facet of life and, as we pursue our hobby we should, as we do with our lives, look for “Peak Moments” to remember and treasure. He said they come to us at all times, and they aren’t necessarily right after you’ve won a contest or a medal.

We started Monday off with breakfast and an 8:45 am warm-up. I felt very comfortable all week because the warm-ups we did were very similar to the

exercises Tom Blue takes us through every Tuesday night. We attended the classes we had selected all day long and finished up Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at about 9:30 pm. Then we had to go over to the dining hall to stuff ourselves with ice cream so we could sing tags till midnight.

On Thursday we had a picnic dinner followed by a little show put on by the freshman class. At registration, all the newbies were assigned to different groups and, at the picnic, each of the groups competed (musically, that is) for a special prize. I'm proud to say that John Cowlishaw, Dave Shantz and I were all in the same group and won a stunning second place finish. And we each have red ribbons to prove it! (OK, so there were only three groups.)

Friday evening featured a special performance by each of the quartets that had come to camp for the week and Saturday night we had a special show featuring CROSSROADS and three choruses that had been preparing all week. During the Saturday night show, the peak moment that Ron Black had foretold occurred for me when, during a presentation of the "Finian's Rainbow Medley" by the Honors Chorus, Gene Cokeroff stepped out from the wings to sing the "I hear a bird..." solo interlude. That did it for me. I wanted to find out which afterglow he was going to so I could go sing "The River of No Return" with him. (Gene, now into his 80's, was the original tenor in the SUNTONES, who won the Gold in 1961 and sang together for another 24 years.)

The Harmony University prospectus welcomed all barbershoppers, chorus directors, quartet singers and music educators, promising that they would come away from the experience reinvigorated, rejuvenated and recharged, eager to spread the barbershop experience to barbershoppers back home. For me the whole weeklong experience was, in a word, inspirational. Hey Ma! I want to go back next year!

### **Harmony College 2010: Some Reflections - Dave Shantz**

This was my first experience as a member of the annual Harmony College student body and the week was worth every penny! Three experiences were particularly outstanding.

The first was participating for an hour each morning in a "general session" of all students. At each of these six sessions the whole group worked on one of the six songs we had all learned prior to coming to campus. I had a real "goose bump moment," that first morning, when all five hundred of us opened up with the first few bars of the first song. It's probably the closest I'll come to experiencing what it must be like singing with the Vocal Majority! I really enjoyed the chance to work with six different A-level directors and see their various approaches to working with a chorus.

The second highlight of the week was the great coaching I received in my two vocal techniques classes. It was rather surprising to hear how much a person's singing could be improved when, with the coach's help, they were able to apply the techniques taught in the classes! (Tom is absolutely correct, when you breathe with your belly; provide more support on high, low and soft notes; raise the soft palate to provide more resonance; maintain a "tall" mouth/lip shape; locate the sound more in "the head" than "the throat/mouth" and keep the jaw relaxed and dropped, the improvement in the quality of the sound produced can be dramatic!) When we were coached singing in randomly generated quartets, or when we were singing in sectionals, our voices also sounded more "similar" and a greater degree of "unit sound" was achieved as we all began singing with better vocal technique. It was really quite remarkable!

The final highlight of the week was the experience of actually singing in tune in the "Tune it or Die" class. The class of about forty worked on a series of exercises to improve our ability to "tune chords." Perhaps the most "goose bump" moments of the week were in that class when the instructor would have us hold and tune a chord until he was satisfied we were all actually in tune. When we were able to achieve that goal you could literally hear the chord achieve a greater degree of auditory "clarity" that was truly amazing! On occasion, you could also hear overtones created both above and below the notes we were actually singing. (I think that's what is meant by the phrase "ringing chords"?!)!

Before going to Harmony College I knew something about "how to sing" (thanks largely to Tom's work with us), but I still thought that "singing well" was largely a function of how much natural talent you had. I now have a much better appreciation of the importance of learning the basic techniques, practicing them regularly, and using them every time one sings. How much better a person can sing if they learn the basic techniques, practice them regularly, and use them every time they sing!

### **BUSH LEAGUE**

#### **(From Jeff Doig)**

We, LIMITED EDITION, are very pleased with our performance and placement at this year's Bush League.

To start things off Tom Blackstone received some tragic news Friday night that his beloved mother had passed away. She had been ill and in a hospice for some time. But Tom stuck it out and left right after lunch Saturday, just before the evals and coaching.

Our quartet sang first in the competition and although we weren't wild about that position, we thought we did pretty well. This was the first competition for our quartet and our bass Charlie Perry's first time on a competition stage.

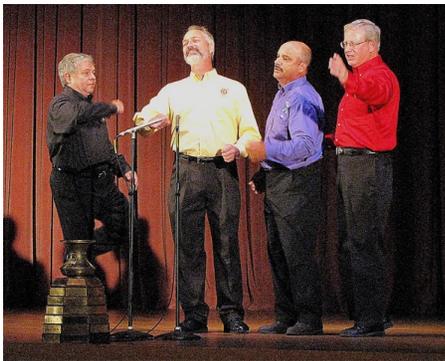
After watching the other eleven quartets we weren't sure where we would finish. But as it turned out we scored 364 points with an average score of 60.7 %. That was enough to put us in fifth place.

I feel that this achievement from a quartet that took on this task without any outside coaching and being its first time out to score 60.7 is quite an accomplishment.

Again I'm extremely pleased with our performance.  
NOW WHAT DO WE DO???



LIMITED EDITION, Photo by Michael Baribeau

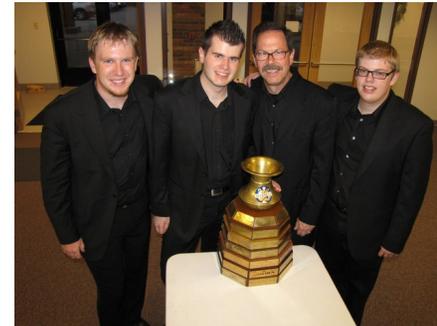


STATEWIDE ALERT, Photo by Jeff Doig

**(From John Cowlshaw)**

Bush League 2010 was a smashing success. With two late entrants, a total of twelve quartets arrived in Gaylord, MI for a Friday eve Q&A with "The Party," competition Saturday morning at the Evangelical Free Church Auditorium, four hours of coaching Saturday afternoon, and the Saturday evening show sponsored by the Gaylord Harmonie Meisters.

The members of THE PARTY, aka PARTY OF FOUR, were generous with their coaching and their personal stories - of their formation, their philosophy, their practice, and their experiences at the last two International competitions. Lead Toby Shaver writes their parodies, Bass Wally Krause plays the role of happy simpleton, Tenor Kevin Morey is the pessimist, always pushing the quartet upward, and Bari Mark Spear is the newest member, bringing his talented wife into the critical mix.



Winning GROWLERS, by Michael Baribeau

This 63rd annual Bush League competition was won by THE GROWLERS, three Central Michigan University students from EBB N' FLOW (including Doc Gillingham's son as a very effective Lead), plus oldster T. R. Gerard (from SOMETHING BIG!) filling in at Bass. They were given the historic Gaboon trophy by last year's winner, Kalamazoo-based Small Town Sound, another quartet of three young'uns (and a father). Hearing these two young quartets gave one encouragement about the future of barbershop.

LIMITED EDITION (Blackstone, Doig, Cowlshaw, and Perry) was very pleased with its 5<sup>th</sup> place finish, especially with the first-ever experience of breaking the 60-point barrier (into B-land!). Praise rolled in for freshman bass, Charlie Perry. And the coaching by Al Fisk, Kevin, and Toby was very valuable.

Tom Blackstone, Ray Sturdy, Joel Klein, and Michael Baribeau chose the difficult task of appending only three rehearsals to their Brigade experience to form STATEWIDE ALERT. Despite this brief history, they picked up some good judging numbers and finished in 10th place.

Two quartets were composed of a pair of past champs and a pair of newbies. Generous of Pete Burns and Steve Pauling of FERMATA NOWHERE to bring along two newbies in LAKESHORE FOUR, and similarly Neil Nugent and Marty Chirgwin joined two newbies from Traverse City to form another competitive quartet.

## **Brian Beck's all-purpose exercise**

Dave Shantz presented this exercise to the chorus, August 24, after quoting Brian's claim that "Five minutes a day of this exercise will greatly improve your singing."

Draw jaw down with a hand clasp, as you voice: Haw-Haw-Haw-Haaawww.

Here's the bang for your buck:

Abdominal breathing will be emphasized

Jaw down, soft palate up will be practiced.

Lips tall, bugle-like, will be practiced

Breath elongation will be enhanced.

## **"Breath support is the active resistance of exhalation." (Alan Gordon, Bari of Gotcha!)**

If you want to experience this, inhale fairly deeply and then pant like a dog. Your mouth is open, your glottis is open, and the whole breath control is in your abdominal breathing muscles. From that configuration, go ahead and sing. Try it, you'll like it! And you'll sing with management of your breath.

## **Harmony Explosion**

Even though there were just 18 young men enrolled in H.E. 2010, many of them would tell you that it was a life-changing experience. Thus, it was a huge success. Their performance at A Cappella Blast was captivating, entertaining, fun and motivating. They seemed a little uncomfortable receiving a "Standing O", but they deserved it.

On behalf of the H.E. committee, thank you, Pioneer, for your support. Whether it is a Leadership Academy 50/50 (the next one is January 8 BTW) or the guys passing the hat at a HOD meeting, or the countless hours put in by volunteers organizing a Harmony Explosion or a Rockin' Barbershop, (November 6 BTW), it all demonstrates that you care about kids, and barbershop music.

A couple of special thank you's.

Ron Black. "The Man" spent his third consecutive barbershop week away from home to be with the kids. His experience, dedication and manner made the campers' experience a once-in-a-lifetime deal.

Paul Ellinger. "The Rock" Ya gotta look far and wide to find a bigger fan of barbershoppers. He served as the MC for A Cappella Blast on Thursday but he is 24/7/365 barbershop guy and we appreciate it.

Prestige. "The Stars" Wow! Spectacular singers, but beyond that, quality people. Just a few years into barbershop and already making a profound impact on the next generation of barbershoppers. The H.E. kids loved them and some even sang Prestige songs with them (that says that you have arrived doesn't it?)

D.O.C. and others. Your choice to send money to help the campers proved once again that barbershoppers have huge hearts! Smart too. Young singers are great investments.

We are already planning for next year. We are assessing the positives and the negatives of this past event. Harmony Explosion 2011 will be bigger and we hope we can make it as special as this one has been.

Pioneer Ho!

Sing-cerely,

The Harmony Explosion 2010 Committee,

Joe McDonald, MTS Chapter president and Committee Chair

David Gillingham, MTS Director and Camp Director

Craig Johnson, MTS member and MTSRSO Chapter President

Ryan Collins, MTS member and CMU student

David Bechard, MTS member and CMU Student

## **STORM FRONT**

### **(From Preservation, The Official Publication of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Historical Archives, Vol 1, No. 2)**

Congratulations to our new quartet champ, STORM FRONT of Denver, Colorado. They won the gold medals during the Society's 72nd Annual International Convention held in Philadelphia, PA July 3rd, 2010. The quartet consists of Jeff Selano, tenor; Jim Clark, lead; Darin Drown, baritone and Syd Libsack, bass. They won judges by winning the audience with their creative presentation, perfectly timed comedy and their marvelous singing. They are the complete package. Seasoned competitors, this was their ninth appearance on the International contest stage. Back in 2002 they first won the Rocky Mountain District championship. It was also that year they first qualified for Int'l and came in 19th at Portland. The name "Storm Front" came from a wish list of choices following their very first rehearsal in March 2001. They picked it, in part, from the iconic Billy Joel album of the same name. The current version of STORM FRONT took shape in 2007 with original tenor David Ellis (Mr. Cindy Hansen) being replaced by Jeff Selano of Riptide fame. Dave now sings with BOILING POINT, who won the Rocky Mountain District championship in 2009. They were also competing in Philly and came in 28th. Jeff lives in Dallas, Georgia and Syd lives in Jefferson, Georgia (Atlanta) so getting together with the other two in Denver was a challenge. That said the quartet was VERY busy this year consciously deciding to put in an extra effort over past years. From January up to Int'l they were lucky to have booked shows almost every other weekend, making each time together an extra long rehearsal session. No one reaches this level without help. The two principal coaches for SF are Chad Guyton (FOUR VOICES lead, 2002 champs) and Rick LaRosa (FRED, lead, 1999 champs). Chad concentrated on their "singing" and Rick on "presentation" with both overlapping often. On several

occasions they were able to have BOTH on hand for some of these weekend sessions on the road.

The material they perform is a true collaborative effort with everyone involved. Many of the songs used this year were determined as early as last fall and tweaked throughout the last 10 months. This allowed them to show up in Philly more prepared than any previous year. One of the special highlights of this year's contest was how well connected the audience was to the quartet when on stage. The quartet style is to not just sing well but also be entertaining through comedy. We all know how much harder it is to be good AND funny.

The audience reaction to SF was truly monstrous. They seemed to receive the most enthusiastic responses of the week. You wouldn't have known that from the stage. Coming off following the "Jukebox Saturday Night / Car" set some members of the foursome admitted they had trouble hearing themselves sitting in that configuration. Initially they didn't feel good about that performance. As it turned out it was the highest scoring set of the entire contest by ANY quartet\*. They won by 57 points.

**Birth of the beat** (Music's roots may lie in melodic exchanges between mothers and babies)

At scientific meetings, psycho-biologist Colwyn Trevarthen often plays a video of a 5-month-old Swedish girl giving her mother a musical surprise. Blind from birth, the girl reaches for a bottle and laughs appreciatively as her mother launches into a familiar song about feeding blueberries to a bear. As in baby songs everywhere, Trevarthen says, each line of the Swedish tune runs about four seconds and each stanza lasts about 20.

In a flash, the girl raises her left arm — an arm she has never seen — and begins conducting her mother's performance. The baby, named Maria, moves her arm just before many of the song's lines begin, leading her mother by about one-third of a second. In some cases, Maria synchronizes her hand movements with the rise and fall of her mother's voice. Mom's face glows in response to Maria's playful directions.

"Babies are born with a musical readiness that includes a basic sense of timing and rhythm," declares Trevarthen, of the University of Edinburgh.

To read more, go to:

[http://www.sciencenews.org/view/feature/id/61561/title/Birth\\_of\\_the\\_beat](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/feature/id/61561/title/Birth_of_the_beat)

### Premiere

The new **Music Premiere 2010-B** is now available at Harmony Marketplace. The packet contains six individual singable songs representing a nice diversity (most are contestable), plus a demo CD demonstrating each of the six songs for \$14.99. Learning CDs are available for separate purchase for each song.

Songs in this edition are:

Among My Souvenirs  
 Bring Back Those Good Old Days  
 I Don't Know Why  
 I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter  
 Who Put the Bomp (in the Bomp Ba Bomp Ba Bomp)?  
 Have a Little Talk With Myself

### Show Song List

Test yourself. How are you coming in mastering our Fall Show repertoire?

- (a) Can read the notes and sing the music accurately, with paper
- (b) Know the notes and words; am off the paper
- (c) Mastery of the song

	(a)	(b)	(c)
America The Beautiful	___	___	___
Get Your Kicks On Route 66	___	___	___
Oklahoma!	___	___	___
Let The Rest Of The World Go By	___	___	___
Ridin' Down The Canyon	___	___	___
Under The Boardwalk	___	___	___
This Is My Country	___	___	___
It is Well With My Soul	___	___	___
Keep The Whole World Singing	___	___	___

### OUR HISTORICAL LEGACY - SPEBSQSA moves to Michigan. (The second of an ongoing series on the history of barbershop and of our chapter)

(Quoted from Robert T. McDermott's 1992 *History of the Pioneer District*)

Soon after the first barbershop singers meeting April 11, 1938, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the strains of four-part harmony were heard all over the Midwest, especially in Michigan. The Pioneer District (known as the Michigan District until 1968) had its official beginning on June 8, 1940, the first organized district in the Society. However, our first chapters had already begun organizing in 1939.



Barbershopping grew fast in Michigan in the 1940s, with the rest of the Society looking to the state for leadership. In 1942 the Society named Carroll P. Adams of Detroit as its national president. In 1943 Adams became national secretary. While the rest of the district was busy singing and enjoying and not paying much attention to the administrative problems created by the rapid growth of the Society, Carroll was well aware of them, and he proceeded

to bring some order out of chaos by organizing an efficient national office. In the process, Carroll moved the Society, lock, stock and barrel to Detroit and established headquarters there and made Michigan the center of barbershopping. It was because of his vision, enterprise and hard work that Michigan became the leader in all things barbershop.

The headquarters were in Detroit, on Fenkell Avenue, until they were moved to Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1957.

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING July 21, 2010 (Excerpts from Minutes)**

Present: Teuber, Holm, Dick Johnson, Domke, Mann, Clarke, Pioch, Ensign

Treasury stands at \$10,485.

Ensign explained about the members-only section on our website. Roger explained the legalities.

Discussion of show flyer and tickets. Agreement to add "active military personnel free."

Roger discussed selling ads; DeNio and Brede will present selling tricks to the chorus.

Doc led discussion of membership.

Agreed to \$5 per man fee for bus to Grosse Pointe picnic.

Roger led discussion on retreat. Agreement on remuneration for Blue and Gillingham.

Appointed Greg Moss to head nominating committee.

BSOM chosen – Jeff Doig

#### **Letters:**

Fellow barbershoppers in the BCC. We lost an avid barbershopper last week, but his inspiration lives on! He always wanted to help the chorus grow, and assumed the position and responsibilities to make that happen. The BCC is now at an all-time high in membership! Thanks, Wayne, and others!

Chordially,  
Chuck Murray

It's great to keep track of the guys, some seem like family. It was nice to see so many new members.

Fred DeVries

I look forward to working with you guys!

Dave Gillingham

Hi Pioneer Friends;

Last night I attended a tribute to the late Dr. Jim Hall from Alma who died tragically in a plane crash over Lake Michigan last week. In attendance at the

Masonic Home in Alma were members of the Lansing Capital City Chordsmen, the MountainTown Singers and, of course, the Midstatesmen Chorus, the "hometown" chorus for Dr. Hall for the past 30 or so years. Many quartets were also in attendance including the iconic "Patch Chords" as well as an historic reunion of the "Blue Ribbon Coalition". And who will forget the moving rendition of "It is Well With My Soul" by "Side Kicks"!!

The night was a wonderful alternation between quartet singing, chorus singing and personal tributes to Dr. Hall. I was personally moved by the multitude of stories about Jim Hall, some very funny and some extremely moving. All of us who knew Dr. Hall were touched by this man's encouragement, support, love and personal care over the years. It was overwhelming to see all of us come together in such camaraderie, seeing and talking to friends from other chapters who we don't normally see....even at conventions. The evening ended with all barbershoppers singing the Waesche "Gospel Medley" and "The Parting Blessing", two of Dr. Hall's favorite songs.

We were all treated to a CD of the Midstatesmen chapter quartet, "Suitable Union", in which Jim sang tenor. It was recorded in 1982. I played it twice already in my truck as I traveled home last night and as I drove to CMU this morning. It brought back warm memories of when I sang with the Midstatesmen chorus under the direction of Jeff Rayburn and when this quartet was wowing and entertaining audiences. Our own Dick Everest was the bass and how "spot on" he was and he STILL IS!

The Pioneer District will greatly miss Dr. Jim Hall. But, we can all celebrate the fact that he made barbershopping better for all of us and left the world a much better place in which to live.

In harmony,  
Dave Gillingham

#### **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: F. McFadyen, D. Johnson, B. Holmes, & M. Frye

President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)

Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)

VP: Chapter Dev: Bill Holmes

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: by committee of Melkonian et al

Secretary: Bill Auquier

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large – Wayne Cheyne, Ron Clarke, Erik Domke, Fred Pioch

Chorus Manager: Bob Greenwood

Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray,

Prueter, Moss, Cowlshaw, and Brede

Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw, (248-891-4498)

**CALENDAR** (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 30-45' earlier,  
 Aug 31, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks  
 Sep 7, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes  
**EIGHT WEEKS TO SHOWTIME**  
 Sep 14, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks  
 Sep 21, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes  
 Sep 24-26 Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake,  
 Sep 28, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks  
 Oct 5, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Exec Bd. Elections  
**FOUR WEEKS TO SHOWTIME**  
 Oct 12,19,26 Chorus rehearsals  
 Oct 15-17 Pioneer Fall convention, Grand Rapids, Forest Hills Fine  
 Arts Auditorium  
 Oct 23, Sa Rochester Chapter show  
 Nov 2, T, noon Gig, Pontiac Presbyterian Church  
 Nov 6, Sa, 7pm **BCC 66<sup>th</sup> annual show, *Get Your Kicks on Rte 66,***  
 Nov 6 Rockin' Barbershop Youth Workshop  
 Nov 10, T 2010 Christmas chorus forms  
 Nov 29, M Waterford Twp Christmas Tree Lighting  
 Dec 2, Th Oakland County Retirees Luncheon  
 Jan 9, Su Orion Twp Library  
 Jan 16, Su MLK Kettering HS, with the New Horizons Band  
 Jun 3,4, 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

**PHOTOS FROM HARMONY COLLEGE**



Ray in Warmup class



Food room



Gathering in Fours



Late night tagging