2011 Spring contest

The Pioneer District Spring Convention was held at the Soaring Eagle in Mt Pleasant, MI. The performance venue was just the right size, filled nearly to capacity by the end of the day Saturday. The other rooms were rather small and few of them, so some adjustments had to be made. The chorus photos were taken on the stairway, for example. By and large, however, people seemed satisfied. And the host team – Mt Pleasant – did a fine job.

In the chorus competition, to put it bluntly, we were jolted. We had focused on our two contest songs this whole calendar year. We knew we were singing better, and we felt confident we had carried that improvement through during our performance on stage, Saturday afternoon. The Presentation judges obviously didn’t agree.

Music Judge John Burri liked our choice of songs, and our “evident plan.” “Heart of a Clown” demonstrated a very smooth delivery. But too much scooping, sliding, slogging into phrases; too dark, not enough ring, and Tom was having to work too hard.

Singing Judge Phil DeBar found the Leads flat on their thirds, and said panting would help – respect the pitch and the tonality. Attacks were too glottal. Decide which word to stress in each phrase. The tenor line got lost in some places. He enjoyed the Intro to “Heart of a Clown.” Sing more open and with energized releases. The chorus has to take more responsibility for the singing, too much is on Tom.

For the second Spring in a row, we had the most men on stage. But it is discouraging to be back in Plateau Three. It was also a bit discouraging to be 13th out of 16 choruses, but had we achieved last year’s score this year, we still

How does the scoring work? There are two judges in each of the three categories – Music, Presentation, and Singing. Each of those six judges give up to 100 points per song. Therefore the maximum possible number of points is 1200. Last year we scored 706 points (58.8%). This year we scored 657 (54.8%). But the difference was primarily in Presentation, which plummeted.

Here is our data in percentage points, over the last four years:

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We listened carefully to the Presentation judge, Connie Keil, but did not come away with an understanding of our score. Our dramatic crescendo on “change your ways” cost us, because it was uneven. Our metronomic “as the clock struck twelve” was perceived as static confusion to the following phrase. Other than that, it was a general comment that our performance included “distractions” that limited its emotional impact and entertainment value.

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Singing Judge Phil DeBar found the Leads flat on their thirds, and said panting would help – respect the pitch and the tonality.
would have been 11th out of 16. So it wasn’t so much our placement as our score. After all, we’re happy to see more choruses singing better.

The quartet competition was exciting. Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir, Ebb N’Flow, and Chordiology all sang very well, and were within 1.9% points of each other at the finish line. But it will be Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir that represents the Pioneer District in Kansas City for International Quartet Champion. (See my interview with Tracy Ulrich, below.)

The other two quartet competitions were not as exciting. Ebb N’Flow (competing in two separate categories) blew its one competitor out of the water in the collegiate contest, and will be going to Kansas City with the district’s high hopes for a fine placement there. The Senior Quartet competition only had one entry, Showtime.

The impact of Harmony Brigade was apparent. Twelve of the thirty-eight songs sung by the eleven quartets were from the 2010 GLHB song list. One of those songs, “It’s Only a Paper Moon,” was sung five times.

A few other points:

The Harmony Foundation raffle raised nearly $1,600 for the cause. And hundreds of conventioneers watched the MountainTown Singers’ show Friday night to contribute to their travel funds.

All together, over 500 items of soap, shampoo, lotions, etc. were donated to the Marines thru the auspices of the Monroe North Chapter. They’ll be used by the 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, being sent to Afghanistan.

John Cowlishaw’s few convention photos are at:  
http://www5.snapfish.com/comcast/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=3422841028/a=3636342028_3636342028/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=COMCAST/  (Be sure to copy the whole URL.)

Michael Baribeau’s many quartet (but no chorus) photos are at:  
http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2011/04/110416finals/PHPShow.php

The official photo of our BCC chorus is available from Jack at just $5 a pop.

Chieftains took our competitive results with equanimity and good spirits.

• Hey John - I’d add a little to the report on the convention experience. Our performance produced a large number of very positive comments from a number of experienced chorus watchers in the audience and other spies who saw us on the video setup outside the auditorium. And it felt pretty good to a number of the singers, too, so, if it didn’t seem to fit the current power point scoring setup, it was their loss. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to sing with 42 other guys who were working hard to do their best!

  Ray Sturdy

And this, from a newbie, to remind some of us old-timers, how really special this barbershop activity is:

• Guys, As a first timer to barbershop competition, I was impressed by the hospitality and hard work that the host chorus and all the other volunteers put into our event in Mt. Pleasant this past weekend. After the Sunday morning service I was able to talk informally with some of the members of the host group just before they had their wrap-up meeting and I let them know how much we appreciated their efforts in making the spring event run smoothly, and in helping to “hook” me on attending next time.

  It was a real pleasure to hear so many choruses and quartets from around the area sing their hearts out for the prize, and I believe that there were actually two prizes.

  One was the obvious prize— the physical award for victory of competition, resulting for some in a slot in Kansas City this summer.

  But the other, more enduring prize for me was the result of months of work and fellowship. It was standing on a stage singing with Big Chief to the best of my ability.

  It was also the camaraderie of hundreds of men wandering the hallways of the hotel, smiles on their faces. it was walking in the hotel door and hearing “My Wild Irish Rose” coming from somewhere around the corner, seeing familiar faces in the crowd, looking at the goodies in the barbershop store, picking the brains of fellow singers, eating a great dinner at Ruby Tuesday’s, then afterwards singing love songs to a surprised group of teens from the town of Shepherd dressed for prom night.

  It was laughing at the eminent Mr. McTaggart’s old and new jokes as M.C., hearing some great music sung well, practicing with other men and Bill Biffle in the rehearsal room and gleaning this good man’s tips on warm-up and sound, and then being part of the "mike testing joe barbershop chorus" under Mr. Biffle’s direction on stage.

  Not to be dismissed was the prize of the bracing weather that encouraged my lungs to breathe deeply and gave a healthy ruddiness to the cheeks, and lastly, the well-won memory of a good time with great guys.

  Thanks again for being barbershoppers,

  Bob Stephenson
AROUND THE PATCH
For the 5th year in a row, Smoke Signals has been judged the best bulletin in the District. We can all be proud.

Our Fall 2011 show is “Phantom of the Barbershop.” Both of our guest quartets, FOREFRONT and OVERTURE, are recent Gold Medalists.

4 MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOIR has been tentatively penciled in as guest quartet for our 2012 show.

Jim Troeger is the Detroit Auto Repair Examiner. Check out his columns at his web site: http://www.examiner.com/auto-repair-6-in-detroit/jim-troeger

Dick Johnson’s daughter-in-law was assaulted during a robbery of her home by two big guys in hooded shirts. She’s sore, but no broken bones. The trauma has left her in shock.

On Friday, April 22, BFCM was invited to sing by Karyn Thompson as a surprise to her husband Bill, during a renewal of wedding vows ceremony at Victoria Wedding Chapel. BFCM is comprised of Tom Blackstone (Tenor), Mike Frye (Lead), John Cowlishaw (Baritone) and Zaven Melkonian (Bass), the same group that sang as VINTAGE at Jim Clafin’s funeral. What added to the unusualness of this moment was that Mike Frye was also the minister. BFCM sang “Let the Rest of the World Go By” and a medley of “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” and “Heart of My Heart.” Tears were shed.

LIMITED EDITION sang a ten-song set for the 50 women of Beta Sigma Phi at Twin Lakes Country Club, in Rochester Hills, Thursday evening, April 28.

BCC 2011 Performance Total: thru April: 58 gigs to 2798 people.

MEMBERSHIP (at 65)
Renewals: Fred Pioch (4), Tom Blue (5), Dar Johnson (6), Dave Shantz (7), Al Monroe (11), Bob Legato (12), Jim Owens (12), Jeff Spires (12), Walt Bachmann (13), Wayne Oberstadt (17), Tom Blackstone (25), Austin Quinn (30), Howard Lynn (35), Len Barnes (56).

Overdue: Jeffrey Kafer, Robert Kleeman, Jim Macdonald, Joe Poole, Paul Smith
Bye-Bye: Lew Mahacek
May Birthdays: Gene Downie (4th), Bill Dabbs (17th), Michael Oberstadt (31st)

AROUND THE DISTRICT
The North Oakland Concert Band (Annette Kline-Music Director and Conductor) will join with the Adams High School Symphony Band to present an Annual Spring Concert, Fascinating Colors, Sunday, May 1, 4pm Rochester Adams High School

Bush League – Aug 19-20
First call for Bush League. Check out details at http://harmoniemeisters.org/

MountainTown Harmony Explosion
(from Joe McDonald)
Fellow Barbershoppers,
Please mark July 30 on your calendars. The event is the MountainTown Harmony Explosion camp celebration and it features the two camp choruses. The boys will be led by Joe Cerutti and the girls by Erin Odell. They will combine for a fantastic joint number as well. In addition to these fine choruses come enjoy the performances of our own EBB N’FLOW plus the fantastic PRESTIGE quartet and SAI Region Five champs, SHADES OF JADE. Don’t miss this celebration of young singers in Mt. Pleasant on July 30th! Ticket information will be announced at a later date.

The Town and Country Chorus 70th annual spring show.
For the price of a two hour drive to Hillsdale (oh, well, and $14 per reserved seat ticket), you could hear VOCAL SPECTRUM, the 2006 International Champion Barbershop Quartet and EBB N’FLOW, at the Hillsdale Town and Country Chorus show, Saturday, May 21, 3pm and 7:30 pm. http://townandcountrychorus.com/
The Music Man

Two local theater companies are planning to produce Meredith Willson’s *Music Man* during the coming year.

**The Encore Musical Theatre Company** in Dexter, MI will be performing it July 7 thru July 31, Thursdays at 7pm, Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 3pm. There will be two Thursday matinees on July 21 and July 28 at 3pm.

**Grosse Pointe Theater** will present *Music Man* for nine shows Sept. 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2.

Endeavor Launch has Pioneer District Connection

Astronaut Drew Feustel, one of six astronauts primed to blast off in the space shuttle Endeavor on April 29 for a 14-day mission to the International Space Station, is the stepson of Bud Burrill, long-time member of the Battle Creek chapter, former member of the HARMONY HOUNDS and currently tenor in the Lansing-based PATCH CHORDS.

AROUND THE WORLD

2011 Kansas City International Convention

*CROSSROADS* has released its 2nd album, entitled *That Lucky Old Sun*, price $15. The 13 songs include: “Jive, Let Yourself Go, Via Dolorosa, Sweet Adeline, Too Close for Comfort, Hey There, Bread & Gravy, First Day in Heaven, Blue Bayou, That Lucky Old Sun, Can't Buy Me Love, All People That on Earth do Dwell,” and Bonus Track: “Guard Me, Oh Lord.”

*CROSSROADS* performed at last summer’s Harmony University and we Chieftains were blown away. They could well be the strongest quartet singing today. You can check out that statement for free by clicking on the clips at [http://www.crossroadsquartet.com/](http://www.crossroadsquartet.com/)

**Time.com Features Barbershop on Video**

Time Magazine published a video documentary this past month of the Dundalk chorus and its participation at the International in Philadelphia. [http://www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,902907776001_2065035.00.html](http://www.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,902907776001_2065035.00.html) Some people have had trouble with that link. If so, try this: [http://www.cyber-nook.com/BHS/Time_Barbershop_Glee.htm](http://www.cyber-nook.com/BHS/Time_Barbershop_Glee.htm)

The producer was Craig Duff, son of Willard Duff, a 50-year barbershopper with the San Antonio Chordsmen.

**Photos of all our champions**

Our Barbershop Harmony Society has published a video on YouTube with photos of all the Barbershop Quartet champions, while Boston Common sings in the background. Check it out at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWnNKPPBdhX&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWnNKPPBdhX&feature=player_embedded)

**Have you ever considered going to Harmony College/University?**

Here’s a advertisement that may help you decide. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jvWkC3B5Dg&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jvWkC3B5Dg&NR=1)

**Society CEO Ed Watson** has announced his retirement July 15


**Other Barbershop Competitions**

You might not be able to compete, but it is still nice to know that there are so many barbershop competitions going on, world-wide.

**WHO**: Duketown Barbershop Singers  **WHAT**: International Barbershop Meeting Festival  **WHERE**: Hertogenbosch, Netherlands  **WHEN**: September 23-24, 2011

**WHO**: BinG! Barbershop in Germany  **WHAT**: First ever international MIXED barbershop quartet competition  **WHERE**: Dortmund, Germany  **WHEN**: Sunday, March 4, 2012.

**WHO**: World Choir Games  **WHAT**: First time World Choir Games held in the USA  **WHERE**: Cincinnati, Ohio  **WHEN**: Barbershop Competition July 11 - 13, 2012 (the week AFTER our International contest in Portland.)
I reached Tracy Ulrich Monday evening at his home in Petoskey, a week after their victory at Pioneer District convention. I started lightheartedly.

JC: Did you have fish for dinner?
TU: Hah, No, in fact I had pasta.

JC: Do you enjoy fish?
TU: Yes, I do. Matter of fact, the fish you see on the cover of On the Fly…Again, right after the photo-shoot, we grilled it up over at Kurtis’s house; it was delicious.

JC: Are you pretty excited to have won?
TU: Yes, it’s almost surreal.

JC: FMFTC has been together thirteen years, but wasn’t there a change of personnel?
TU: Yes, I was Tenor for the first five years. Then our baritone Bill left us. I said, if we can get Mark Wilson as Tenor, I’ll switch to baritone. Mark was out of quartetting for five years, but he had gone to International three times with FIREPOWER, the only one of us that has.

JC: Tell us the early history. How did FMFTC actually get started?
TU: That’s a funny story. I was invited to audition as Tenor in a quartet down in Traverse City. I rode down with their bass Neil Nugent who liked what he heard so much that he jumped ship from that quartet to sing with Kurtis and me.

JC: Did you start as a comedy quartet?
TU: We had thrown some names in a hat, and Neil suggested FMFTC and the concept. Kurtis liked it, but I was thinking, this is a good concept but we don’t have any fishing songs. Neil said, “Well, I’ve been working on a couple,” and I’m thinking, “Two songs does not a show make.” But it just developed. Once we agreed on the concept, we dedicated ourselves to developing our show.

JC: It looks like your early contest songs were straight, like “Aura Lee,” rather than parody.
TU: Oh, yah, we were doing straight stuff, or half and half; our first paying show was 15’ of straight stuff, and 15’ of hunting and fishing stuff, cuz that’s all we had – 15’. It developed over time. We went to contest with straight stuff, or half and half, which totally confused the judges. It took a while. It’s constantly evolving, constantly being critiqued and upgraded all the time.

JC: How big is your repertoire at this time?
TU: About forty of the hunting and fishing songs, and about fifteen Gospel. We probably easily could do a hundred songs.

JC: So at Christmas and Valentines, do you go sing straight stuff?
TU: Ahh, we don’t get asked to do that a whole lot. The places that hire us out usually want us to do “our stuff.” Though at Christmas time, we do pull out “The Grinch,” which always goes over well.

JC: Neil wouldn’t be singing the part of the Grinch, would he?
TU: Oh, no, we wouldn’t let him do that. (Grinning)

JC: Does Neil write most of your stuff, or is it a group effort?
TU: Well, that’s actually been spread around. Kurtis has written some. I’ve written some. And we all edit. We all contribute to the concept and ideas. Lots of times, Neil will bring raw material to us, and we’ll say, “I like the concept, but this part doesn’t work,” and we have to edit and change. I mean, there are songs like “Something about you” and “Beginning to see the light” that have literally gone thru five re-writes.

JC: Let me ask you some questions about your scores. Your scores in your first four contests were nothing to write home about and in fact fell a bit, but since Fall, 2000 you have sung consistently high scores. Is there one single, big thing that explains that change?
TU: Harmony University (Harmony College then) was a big factor. We’d just come off HU when we won the district championship that fall. We learned a lot there. Bill Meyers, Roger Payne, just a whole bunch of really big names, guys that took the time to work with us. And of course the guy that headed all that up was Jim DeBusman, who’s an awesome vocal coach as well.

JC: After that your scores are pretty steady, little wiggles, a couple percent, including up to your highest score, 72.7%, in Mt Pleasant. Is there one single, big thing that explains that change?
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you a 78, and another judge will hate what you do and give you a 68. Often, we’ve had 10 point or more disparity in some of our judging. And a lot of it depends on whether the judge sits there with his arms crossed and a straight face, or actually is letting himself get involved in the performance. Fortunately, this year, we had a judging panel that allowed itself to get involved in our performance. Additionally, this year we went into this with no expectations. Last year, John, what we did – we actually met twice a week for eight weeks prior to the contest. Now, understand, we just do what we do, let’s just go in and entertain the people, and make it a two-song show. And have some fun. And see what happens.” And I off, with no expectation of winning, allowed us to give our best performance yet.

JC: Back in Fall 1999, before I got into barbershop, you got points for something called “Show.” What was that?

TU: Yah, that was basically an evaluation of entertainment. You had to come out and do a three song show, a mini-show, two of which had to be contestable. Of course, we’re thinking, that’s our element, right? We should score really well; but you still had to score really well on the contest pieces. It was an effort, by our Society, to make quartets more conscious that the public wants entertainment. I think there’s a lot of truth to that. Quartets should be more entertainment-minded, cuz that’s what they’re paying us for.

JC: What are your day jobs?

TU: Neil’s retired. Kurtis is the head of maintenance over at the Charlevoix Hospital. Mark helps run his family business, a small grocery store and gas station in Sumner. And I’m in sales - intangibles, radio, television, insurance.

JC: And you live where? You’re in Petoskey? And Neil?

TU: In Beulah, Kurtis in Atwood, and Mark in Sumner.

JC: Do you guys ever go fishing together?

TU: Actually we don’t. There’s no time, really. We’re so far apart. Sumner is down by Alma. So we meet and practice in Cadillac.

JC: April has been a busy month for you, every weekend except Easter. Thanks so much, Tracy.

TU: You’re welcome, John.

Virtual Choruses and Quartets

Ross Ensign circulated a YouTube story on a Virtual Choir, created by charismatic classical composer, Eric Whitacre. It is a Virtual chorus because 2000 singers e-mailed in their contributions, which were then synchronized to form the chorus.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NENlXsW4pM&feature=youtu.be

Extension of the concept to Barbershop:

Virtual Barbershop Chorus

Posted by: "PETER NUGENT"

Hi everyone.

The idea of creating a Virtual Barbershop Chorus is moving forward. More details on how this will work are available via an introductory video on YouTube. A web site has also been created: http://www.virtual-chorus.com

Click on "projects to see the intro video.

This idea is still in its infancy, but is taking shape. Song choice is still being organized, but I’m looking to get as many singers (Barbershoppers and non-Barbershoppers alike) to register.

Please email me: nooj@virtual-chorus.com if you would like to take part.

Virtual Barbershop Quartets

(This is rather similar to Harmony Brigade, except that it would not require geographic gathering.)

Posted by: John Flynn

How about someone creating a Virtual Quartet? A learning track for a specific song for each part could be posted. Anyone could then record their own part, following the timing of the learning track exactly. An option could then be provided to mix and match the different voice parts into a Virtual Quartet. On one pass you might be singing with any arbitrary other three people. However, you could also see how you sounded singing with three gold medalist. It might also provide a means to create new quartets. If you found you really blended with some other particular singers you might contact them to see if they wanted to form a real quartet. Also, it could provide a means for existing quartets to audition people for a missing part. The quartet might find exactly the person they needed when they would never have come across that person without the Virtual Quartet capability.

Casting Call for NBC’s "Sing Off"

NBC is currently casting for the 3rd season of "Sing Off" and has approached the Barbershop Harmony Society to put the word out to members about auditions! They will be accepting 4-member groups this year, so this could be a great opportunity for barbershop quartets!

This month’s Preservation Magazine features an article on THE CHORDETTES and their history with barbershop. (Don’t we all remember dancing to “Mr. Sandman”?)
Our Historical Legacy –
(The 9th in an ongoing series on the history of barbershop and of our chapter).
From Pioneer District Historian– John H. Baker IV in the March/April 4-Cast

When our district formed on June 8, 1940, it was known as the Michigan District. Because it was S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.’s first district, it was renamed Pioneer District on May 3, 1968. It became a template for other districts which helped formed our society into what we know today. Forty years ago, in April 1971, the Pioneer District House of Delegates, during Spring Convention, voted on a proposal to change the district’s name from Pioneer to Great Lakes. By 31 nays/18 yeas, the proposal was defeated.

Harry Buerer has compiled a list of Barbershop Arrangers’ Websites. They are ranked according to user-friendliness of the sites (not the artistry of the arrangements), but it’s a useful list. See: http://s-quaver.com/topWebSites/barbershopArrangers2011.php

The role of changes in tempo and volume in expressive music

How important are changes in tempo and volume as we singers try to convey the emotional content of a song?

The April 19 NYTimes explored the work of Daniel J. Levitin, director of the laboratory for music perception, cognition and expertise at McGill University in Montreal.

"First [his group] recorded some snatches of Chopin nocturnes by an accomplished pianist. This provided data as to the duration and volume of each note. The note-by-note data was useful because musicians rarely perform exactly the way the music is written on the page — rather, they add interpretation and personality to a piece by lingering on some notes and quickly releasing others, playing some louder, others softer.

"Next they used a computer to create a version using average values so that the music sounded homogeneous (in volume) and evenly paced, with every eighth note held for an identical amount of time, each quarter note precisely double the length of an eighth note.

"They created other versions too: a 50 percent version, with note lengths and volume halfway between the mechanical average and the original, and versions at 25 percent, 75 percent, and even 125 percent and 150 percent, in which the pianist’s loud notes were even louder, his longest-held notes even longer.

"Study subjects listened to them in random order, rating how emotional each sounded. Musicians and non-musicians alike found the original pianist’s performance most emotional and the averaged version least emotional.

“But it was not just changes in volume and timing that moved them. Versions with even more variation than the original, at 125 percent and 150 percent, did not strike listeners as more emotional.

“I think it means that the pianist is very experienced in using these expressive cues,” said Dr. Bhatara, now a postdoctoral researcher at the Université Paris Descartes. “He’s using them at kind of an optimal level.”

“And random versions with volume and note-length changes arbitrarily sprinkled throughout made almost no impression.

“Research is showing, for example, that our brains understand music not only as emotional diversion, but also as a form of motion and activity. The same areas of the brain that activate when we swing a golf club or sign our name also engage when we hear expressive moments in music. Brain regions associated with empathy are activated, too, even for listeners who are not musicians.

“And what really communicates emotion may not be melody or rhythm, but moments when musicians make subtle changes to those musical patterns.”

You can hear the different recordings at the web site.

Editorial – JAD and Quartet Boot Camp

As you hum “Why can’t a woman…be more like a man,” try singing “why can’t PIO be more like JAD?” JAD (Johnny Appleseed) district comprises Ohio and the Western halves of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. At the JAD convention this month, not only did four JAD quartets qualify with scores of 76% or more (ALLIES, THE FRANCHISE, MAVERICK and CADILLAC JACK) but three out-of-district quartets chose JAD to make the cutoff (OLD SCHOOL, LUNCH BREAK, and HEATWAVE).

Some of the difference in plenty is probably size. PIO District has 29 chapters. JAD contains 56.

What could we do to ensure a greater number of top-level quartets in PIO?

A starting point might be to send all of our quartets to the Quartet Boot Camp for “top quality quartet coaching” being sponsored by the Pioneer District Quartet Champion Association (QCA). This one-day event will be held Saturday, July 23, in Okemos. Cost is being picked up by the Pioneer District Quartet Champion Association, and Pioneer District!

Let’s mark our calendars and get our quartets together because space will be limited. Registrations and more information is forthcoming.

Let’s go!

Another thing might be to take advantage of the opportunities offered by Motor City Singers. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHeVd1wOj38 Present or future quartetters can sing with them once a month, and/or can get quartet coaching from its members.
INDEX TO THE 10th YEAR OF Smoke Signals
On-line at http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/

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- Spring shows
- Meet Ray Sturdy
- Repertoire song-matching puzzle
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- Lockwood of Fenton
- Fall Show preview – Get Your Kicks on Route 66.
- 1st issue of Preservation
- “Joy of Singing” mural graces the BHS lobby
- Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

#112, August, 2010
- Oakland Woods gig
- Wixom Senior Ctr gig
- Dr. Jim K Hall’s airplane death
- Report on BHS International
- Our Historical Legacy #1 – Pascher on BCC beginning
- Pitch-training exercises
- The bagpipe analogy
- Tom Blue on the evolution of harmonic variety
- May 19 Board minutes
- BCC restricted web sub-site

#113, September, 2010
- Goodbye, Wayne Cheyne
- BCC Picnic
- Limited Edition at Dar Johnson’s anniv party, Charlie Perry’s pig roast

#114, October, 2010
- Higgins Lake retreat, with Doc Gillingham
- Limited Edition at Bethel, and Milford
- Celebration at Coumbiere
- Walter Latzko dies
- Two-yr chorus rotation plan
- Our Historical Legacy #3 – Higgins Lk retreats
- Editorial – practicing at home
- Movies with barbershop in them
- The Choir
- 6th and 7th chords
- Kafer’s adventure

#115, November, 2010
- Fall show prelude
- Northbound Sound at Heritage Festival
- Quartets at Good Shepherd Lutheran School
- Jamison’s report on House of Delegates
- Meet Duane Roy
- How old is the Big Chief Chorus?
- Willie Mendonsa, Indian barbershopper
- Our Historical Legacy #4 – Historical audios
- Ballooning
- Tom Blue on passaggio
- Broadway musicals
- Trophies, both International and Pioneer
- Aug 23 Board minutes
- Burma Shave signs

#116, December, 2010
- The Fall show – Route 66.
- Nov 2 gig – Pontiac First Pres. Church
- Nov 11 gig – Sunrise House
- Gigs for Natural E and Limited Edition
- A disqualification at District
- Holiday concerts planned
- New BHS district – Carolinas

Northbound Sound at Rochester park
‘Ology Cat songs
Harmony College reports
Bush League reports
Brian Beck’s all purpose exercise
Harmony Explosion
Storm Front, our new champs
Our Historical Legacy #2 – SPEBSQSA in Detroit
July 21 Board minutes
Ringmasters
Goodbye Jeffrey Kafer
Two-cycle belt-breathing
Sinatra on learning a new song
Indiana Harmony Brigade
Flash mobs
Singing and music theory: two sites
Editorial: music overcoming political divisiveness
Oct 21 Board minutes

#117, January, 2011
Jack’s review of 2010 Christmas chorus gigs
Quartet gigs – Northbound Sound, Limited Edition, Celebration, 4GVN
Christmas Crossword Puzzle
Our Historical Legacy #5 – Origin of the Barbershop name
Flash mobs
Autotuning
Editorial – listening to the Fall Show DVD

#118, February, 2011
Officer installation
Awards to Tom Blue and Fred McFadyen
District Leadership Academy – reports
Gigs – Orion Twp Libr, West Haven
4GVN
Candy Nevaux’s passing
Valentines plans, Duane Roy
Premiere 2011A published
YouBarbershop begins publication
Preservation continues publication
Behind the scenes – Bob Greenwood, Doug Metzger
N. Carolina Harmony Brigade
Tom Blue on Adams’ Wizard of Oz
Our Historical Legacy #6 – Sweet Adeline
Theta Music website
Music and dopamine
Editorial – Martin Luther King program
Nov 17 Board minutes

#119, March, 2011
Valentines reports
R. Holm on “Graceful Aging,” Valentines, and contest
Marv Wilson’s passing
BCC Facebook page
Mid-winter convention, Las Vegas
Northern Rhapsody’s report

Our Historical Legacy #7 – Willis Diekema
Baritones
Casey Parker’s passing
Snowbird news
Local Grammy

#120, April, 2011
Jim Claflin’s passing
St. Patrick’s Day
District shows, and WJR
Meet Bob Wallace
Tom Gentry
Our Historical Legacy #8 – The Pontiac Chapter in 1971
Where are they now – missing members

Errata: Roger Holm (not Bill Holmes) had the soft tissues of his dislocated arm tightened Mar 18.

Letters:
Hi Jack,
What an absolute great time I had last night with all of you guys in the chorus. I felt totally welcomed and at ease with all of you. And singing all those songs afterwards in a “family style” pub setting was the icing on the cake! Please tell all you members how special they are.
Needless to say, if any of your members are in our area, please let me know so I can welcome them at our chapter meeting. We meet on Thursday evenings in Leesburg, VA, about 35 miles west of DC.
If my work brings me back to this area, I will definitely be visiting your chapter once more.
In the meantime, let’s "keep the whole world singing"... Tra-La!
Bob Rodriguez
(Bob is a member of the Chorus of the Old Dominion and the quartet Dominion-4. Take a look at their website www.Dominion4.com)

John, Thanks! Your article (April Smoke Signals) from 1971 brought back memories. I couldn't remember some of the guys’ names from back then, but with your help, now I do!
Stan (Lawrence)

All articles and photos are by the Editor unless stated otherwise.
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: Eric Domke
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Bill Auquier
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large - Walt Bachmann, Terry Jamison, Doug Metzger, Fred Pioch
Chorus Manager: Open
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray, Prueter, Moss, Cowlishaw, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR  (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45’ earlier,
LSYSBPS = Long-sleeved Yellow Shirts and Black Pants and Sox

May 3, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
May 10, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
May 17, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
May 13, F, 7pm  Motor City Singers open rehearsal, HFCC
May 24, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
May 31, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Jun 3,4  2nd Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
Jun 4, Sa,7pm  Brigade concert, Okemos
Jun 7, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Jun 14, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Jun 16, Th, 2:30  American House Stone School, 3741 S. Adams, Roch
Jun ,21 T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Jun 25, Sa, 3pm  Log Cabin Days, Fish Hatchery Park, Waterford
Jun 28, T, 7pm  Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Jul 3-10  BHS International, Kansas City
Jul 28-30  Barbershop Harmony Explosion Camp for Kids
Jul 30  Barbershop Harmony Explosion Show
Aug 19, 20  Bush League, Gaylord, with Chordiology
Oct 14-16  Pioneer District Convention
Nov 5  67th BCC Show