Chieftain Picnic

Many thanks to Walt and Margareth Bachmann for hosting a fine picnic Friday! And thanks to Walt DeNio for organizing it, and to him and Bill Auquier for all the grill work on the Brats! And more thanks to all for the outstanding variety of great food! A good time was had by all! (Roger Holm)

I counted 22 Chieftains attending, plus many squaws (ouch!). There was too much food to do justice to. The Brats were mighty fine. There was some rather spontaneous singing, and Doc Mann introduced Local Color MDII ☺

AROUND THE PATCH

Twenty-three Chieftains assembled at Pine Grove Saturday, July 30, to sing at Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society’s Ice Cream Social and Fund-raiser. Under the warm sun on the Moses Wisner estate, the chorus sang a 14-song repertoire in two sets under Fred McFadyen’s direction. Attendees ate Coney dogs and ice cream and cake as they wandered the grounds, viewing crafters, antique cars, historical re-enactors (including Abraham and Mary Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Major General Israel Bush Richardson, Harriet Tubman, and Moses Wisner), children’s games of old, and a book table celebrating Oakland County’s past. (This whole year is a sesquicentennial year for Pontiac, which was incorporated as a city on March 15, 1861.) Inbetween sets, NATURAL-E and LIMITED EDITION quartetted to the 130 or so people present. Thanks to Jeff Doig and Lance Shew and their helpers for setting up the risers and sound system.

Tom Blue spent two weeks in his fourth year at Blue Lake. He had his largest chorus and the most boys. The family joined him, daughter Anna leaving early to spend a week in West Virginia on a work project. Thanks to Freddie for assuming primary directing responsibilities during that time.

August 16 rehearsal was an especially big turnout. Fred DeVries was back. Jeff Hicks, a strong and experienced Lead was a guest. LOCAL COLOR I (Mann, Jamison, DeNio, DeVries) sang.

Terry Jamison is moving to Texas to be in a better medical system, facilitated by his sister; he was hospitalized three days this month. He also hopes for a better job market.
**John Northey** had knee surgery Aug 18, after selling a case of Entertainment Today books, for which D.O.C. gets $5 a book.

**The Zav-man** has returned. The surgery was a little more involved than anticipated.

**Howard Lynn** has returned, despite treatment for a skin cancer.

**Gene Downie** has been able to return to the chorus. His fine Lead has been heard in at least one quartet. **Michael Oberstadt** also returned for a practice

**Ross Ensign** will be handling the program production for our Fall Show once again, with **Roger Holm** handling the ads.

**Ray Sturdy** became famous during Harmony University, and perhaps is now also singing in **CODA HONOR**.

**Dave Myre**’s mother-in-law passed away.

**Quartet News**

**NATURAL E** had three gigs in August. On August 16, the quartet sang for a birthday at Brinker’s Plumbing in Waterford for the dozen or so employees there. Then they sang for a young birthday lady (in her 90s) in Milford. A highlight was Fred McFadyen sitting down next to her and singing “Danny Boy.” There were about 75 people present.

On Aug 21, **NATURAL E** sang at Historic Bowers Farm’s Corn Roast, over about a 2-hour period, to perhaps 150 people. Made several new friends!

**LIMITED EDITION**’s Cable TV appearance should be available in September at [http://blip.tv/oakland-connection](http://blip.tv/oakland-connection)

**Northbound Sound**

NBS sang for the last time Aug. 7 at the Lapeer Church of Christ for their Sunday Funday Carnival. We were scheduled to sing at 3:30pm but that was when a big storm came through. So we ended up in the church auditorium and sang to about 75 or so people while the storm passed. In that audience was Jeff Hicks, an eight-year barbershopper some time ago. He had a great time with us and we look forward to seeing him again.

I’m getting some loose ends tied up and should be ready to head south any time after Labor Day. I’m looking forward to attending the SWD district convention at the end of September; it’s not far from where I will be in Victoria, Texas. They have a $70 at-the-door fee (compared to the Pioneer district’s $40. Be blessed that the Pioneer district has worked hard to keep the cost down.)

I have made many friends throughout the district. Now I start on a new chapter in my life, keeping my old friends and out to make new ones. May God shower you with his blessing.

Keep the whole world singing.

Terry

Chuckles adds:

This was at Terry Jamison’s request, as this is Terry’s family church. We were displaced by the huge thunderstorm, which took down tents, and sent the crowd scurrying inside the Church.

Jeff Hicks sang a few BarberPoleCat songs with us. As is turns out, Pastor Jeff Hicks used to sing Lead with a barbershop quartet in the Evergreen District. His quartet was called “The Sound Tradition.” They won the Evergreen’s Fourth Division title in April, 1993. I think we “re-lit his passion and fire” for barbershop singing!

As many of you already know, the Lapeer Church of Christ sing-out may have been the last time we sing with our Tenor, Terry Jamison, as he has announced plans to go to Texas in the near future. Terry spoke from his heart at the August 16th chapter rehearsal, when he reminded the BCC that this is where he started singing barbershop, and he’ll always remember that. We hate to see him leave us!

**BCC 2011 Performance Total:** thru August 31: 72 gigs to 5000 people.

**MEMBERSHIP (at 65)**

New Member: James McMain. Welcome, Jim!

Renewals: Zaven Melkonian (11), Ray Sturdy (13)
**Overdue:** Ross Ensign, Bob Greenwood, Jeffrey Kafer, Jim Macdonald, Charlie Perry, Joe Poole, Paul Smith

**September Birthdays:** Bob Stephenson (1st), Charlie Perry (6th), Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlishaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Dick Johnson (24th), Dave Myre (29th)

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**


The third place quartet was from the Lansing Chapter . . . **SINGULAR** . . . Tenor, Brian Pianosi . . . Lead, Mike Craig . . . Baritone, Steve Whittaker . . . Bass, Larry Wise.

(From Dale Hanson)

**MountainTown Harmony Explosion** (from Joe McDonald)

The MountainTown Singers are pleased to report that MountainTown Harmony Explosion was a great success. The campers and the teaching teams had wonderful things to say about each other on the evaluations. The young chorus singers and the quartets put on a wonderful show on Saturday evening. I counted eleven standing ovations.

It was great to see several of our Pioneer friends in the audience. A special thank you to the chapters that provided camper scholarships. Wayne, Detroit Oakland, Gaylord, Muskegon, Hillsdale, Mt. Pleasant, Huron Valley, Gratiot County and Pontiac-Waterford all provided scholarships, and individuals including Doug and Lynn Weaver and another friend of young barbershoppers did too.

Plans for the next camp are under way as we speak. It was a real joy to share this hobby we love with some great young people over the past few days.

(From Dale Hanson)

Kudos for **Four Man Fishin’ Tackle Choir**

“The three most uniquely entertaining quartets of the [International] contest were probably LUNCH BREAK, MAIN STREET, and FOUR MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOR. The latter sang second to last and came in last, but they certainly owned the stage and gave the audience some laughs in their first International appearance (after having sung together for over 10 years).”

(From *The Beat*, bulletin of the Gold Medal Greater Indianapolis chapter)

Registration for Pioneer’s second offering of **Chuck Greene's "Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings"** on September 24 in Mt. Pleasant is open. However, for Chieftains, it’s the same day as our Fall Retreat.

Pioneer District President Kevin Dunckel has been accepted as a Presentation Judge Candidate! He will now practice scoring and doing evals until May 2013 when Category School invitations are issued. Then, after he passes Category School he will be a Certified Presentation Judge.

**OlogyCat songs**

CHORDIOLOGY announces **two new OlogyCat songs**, for use by those who would like to sing with CHORDIOLOGY on the Fall Convention stage, “That Railroad Rag” and “I Believe in Music.”
Northern Rhapsody

Hello all,

Just wanted to inform all of you that Northern Rhapsody is gearing up for our "new year," because we took the summer off. We are starting rehearsals again starting next Sunday August 28, 2011. If you know anyone that is interested in singing with this youth chorus we’d love to see them. Please encourage some young men to check out one of our rehearsals. Northern Rhapsody competed in Las Vegas in the MidWinter convention and scored very well and finished 12th out of 19 choruses after only 11 rehearsals and 17 guys on the risers. We are hoping to do even better this year. This is a great way to get more young men involved in our "hobby." Last year we had many guys in Northern Rhapsody who had never sung in a barbershop group, or in any group for that matter. Many of them have gone on to join their local chapters, which is a wonderful thing, and we're hoping it continues to grow and prosper!

Who: Men under the age of 31 as of January 15, 2012
Where: Central Michigan University Music building Room 157
When: August 28, 2011 @ 2:00pm (we rehearse every other Sunday)

Thank you,
Ryan Collins
Northern Rhapsody
coll1rc@cmich.edu

P.S. There are people who drive long distances to sing with Northern Rhapsody, so car pool options may be available.

AROUND THE WORLD

The August issue of Preservation is now available at
http://www.barbershop.org/preservation-publication.html
It contains:

- News from Kansas City, our 2011 International Suntones celebrate 50 yrs

The August-September Issue of the PROBEmotor is now available online. It, along with past issues, can be accessed at

Famous Barbershopper/Arranger Burt Szabo is closing up shop.
“This message is to announce the last of my $2 original Song/Arrangements. For various reasons, I’m bringing this project to an end. The final song is titled "I'll Put My Dreams Away". A copy of the song/arrangement (suitable for contest) is yours for only a two dollar bill (well, OK - two ones) sent to me at the address below.
Good singing to you all.”

Burt Szabo
525 Conway Rd. #221
Azalea Park, FL 32807
His books of Barbershop Tags are still available as long as they last.

Erin Elkins at BHS headquarters has assembled a helpful legal document entitled “Frequently Asked Copyright Questions, Questions and answers, as they relate to copyright, legal affairs, and licensing for Barbershoppers.”

Report on Harmony University (By Ray Sturdy)

Hey Gang - It will come as no surprise to those of you who watch the Pionet that I got a chance to go back to Barbershop Camp at Harmony University this summer. During the course of events, I got kidnapped early on by Paul Ellinger and I guess the reports of my ransom and rescue travails were widely circulated. Thanks to all who helped. We got a bunch of cash for Harmony Foundation and my old friend Alex Willox would be proud. As many of you know, there’s every flavor of barbershop available in the the weeklong assemblage for those who want to hone their barbershop craft. My kick this year was the opportunity to sing five songs on the Saturday night show with the Honors Chorus, one of the best barbershop choruses around that only meets for one week a year. It was also great fun standing in lunch lines and hobnobbing with all of the barbershop legends in their own time. Not only did I get to visit with Gene (SUNTONES) Cokeroft again this year, but I met his famous wife Iris and son David, who told us all about what it was like to grow up in the home of one of the world's most famous barbershop tenors. The standard format for six days normally starts with a morning warm-up and then someone with credentials teaches a tag. On Wednesday, there was a slight deviation because instead of a tag, we were introduced to one of the best known woodshedding classics of all time. You can see it in three parts on the following YouTube videos.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuzAVTGVdtQ
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJBOZOGX4M4
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LfpJpDSXUk

Enjoy - Ray Sturdy

Harmony University

Paul Ellinger wrote daily blogs from HU that were forwarded to Chieftains by email. He concluded:

“I am glad that people enjoyed hearing about Harmony University, but as many of you know it is 10 times more fun being there as there is just so much there being offered. In fact, each member of Chordiology talked about going back again next year making and making it three years in a row, but not as a quartet. What?! Not as a Quartet?! Why? Well, it’s not because we don’t
learn a LOT as a quartet, that’s for sure. It's because we are only getting to see 1/3 of the amazing things that are happening there during the week. There are so many cool things going on in both director's college and Harmony College that we'd each like to take part in as well. So for next year, two of us are looking at Harmony College and two of us are looking at Director's College. Now having said that, don't think we won't be getting together and singing every night. 😊

“But getting back to this year, I could go on and on about the fantastic experiences, but let me put it this way. I had someone standing in line at breakfast one morning ask me "If you could explain Harmony University to someone in one sentence, what would that sentence be?" And without thinking, I said "For those that want to learn and grow in this great hobby of ours while making new friendships and building upon old ones, Harmony University is one week of Barbershop Nirvana." “

“So if you are looking for an experience like that, then you may have just found your barbershop opportunity.

“That's it from this year's roving reporter on the scene at Harmony University 2011.”

Paul

HU Show (by JC)

For $10, I watched the Harmony University Saturday night show, Aug 6. Darin Drown, a high-school educator and the Bari of Storm Front led the Honors Chorus of 32 singers, where Ray Sturdy, Dave Richards, and Steve Zorn were clearly visible.

De Capo was a highlight, singing “I Get by with my Friends,” “I Need Somebody to Love,” and “Ebb Tide.”

The (large) Harmony University Directors’ chorus had about 75 members, with a sprinkling of women too, and sang “Goodnight my Angel,” and “Yes, Indeed.”

The Reem Family Singers sang “Sold” about 10% faster than Harmony Brigade does. They’re a phenomenon, a dad, and his three sons who average 12 yrs old, but their shrillness got to me by the end of their two songs.

Then the Next Generation Chorus, 45 youths directed by Justin Miller, sang “You’re 16…” and “Shenandoah.”

Finally, Storm Front did a seven-song set, marvelous as always, but a tad lengthy. The HU faculty came on stage to lead “Keep the Whole World Singing.”

Australian Senior barbershop quartet Benchmark made the finals of Australia’s Got Talent and garnered praise for “their amazing job and for representing the Barbershop Harmony Society with great singing and humbleness.”

America Sings

“The last eight weeks have been a great run for barbershop on the cable channel GMC, with over two dozen Barbershop Harmony Society and Sweet Adelines International groups featured on their weekly contest show, America Sings! The Sweet Adelines Harborlites Chorus from Anaheim, CA won the grand prize of $10,000! Vocal Majority came in sixth, and the Spirit of Phoenix placed ninth.”

2012 International Conventions

January 17-22    July 1-8

Big Chief Jeopardy, #43. (Did you get these?)

1. Answer: “TOOT-TOOT!” It was the site of a river gig by the BCC, direct from a recent celebrated engagement on the Cass River at Frankenmuth. Question: What is the Princess Queen, in the Detroit River?

2. Answer: After appearing in six Pioneer District Contests and six International Senior Quartet Contests, winning the Senior Quartet District Championship and two International third place medals, they finally disbanded in 2008. Question: Who is Antiques Roadshow?

Big Chief Jeopardy, #44. (Try these.)

1. Answer: He retired from Chrysler as a tool-maker. He learned to love a cappella as a youth at Clawson Church of Christ (where they sang shaped notes). He joined BCC and Local Color I.

2. Answer: Of Danish descent, he attended Alma College, was a Vice-President of Pontiac State Bank, and then took over the family realty business on Telegraph Rd.

(Clues to the Questions in Issues # 76 and 86.)
Barbershop History

If you haven’t viewed David Wright's brief history of barbershop, you oughta take a look. Might be especially interesting to newer barbershoppers to help them understand what they've gotten themselves into.

Also on this site, a video of CROSSROADS singing "That Lucky Old Sun." (Their actual competition video?)

Also, click on Historical Photos to view a whole lot more goodies.

http://barbershop.org/history/brief-history-presentation.html

Dixieland

John Cowlishaw visited New Orleans this month and discovered the source of Dixie. In its early days the Citizens State Bank in New Orleans issued its own $10 bank note, with the French word “Dix” for “ten” printed on the note’s face. As this currency became widespread, people referred to its place of origin as “the land of the Dix,” which was eventually shortened to “Dixieland.” Through song and legend, the word became synonymous with America’s Southland. (Copied from a sign in the French Quarter)

NBC’s “The Sing Off” returns to the air this fall, Mondays at 8pm, starting September 19. http://www.nbc.com/sing-off/ There has been some consternation expressed that no barbershop groups are included, but it’s still a cappella. How awesome it was to see MAXX FACTOR the first season. Deke Sharon, The Sing-Off producer, creative genius, CASA founder, and the “other” arranger of “Route 66,” went to the BHS headquarters in Nashville and appealed to barbershoppers to apply.

Shawn York, Tenor of OCTIMES, wrote on Facebook, “The guy in charge of finding groups REALLY wanted a champ quartet! Many great quartets auditioned; however, none of us made the final cut. In the end, the executive producers all saw them to be overshadowed by this energetic group from Branson. Maybe next year! ☺

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rrn_GKwQqL0
They are an awesome group and should do VERY well. We are rooting for them as well. Having a quartet do well is good for our BHS image and our cause, even if they are not 'barbershop.' "

Justin Miller, Director of the Westminster Chorus adds: “I agree with Shawn; even though they do not sing barbershop, having a quartet on the show is good for us. Now all we need is a quartet to get comfortable using four mics and doing choreography, all the while singing barbershop (kinda like the SUNTONES used to do)."

The Old and Young of It

Lorin May, editor of Harmonizer, has distributed two videos on the barbershop video channel. http://www.barbershophq.com/?p=1773

The first is of BENCHMARK, the senior quartet who made the finals of "Australia's Got Talent." They're probably singing in the 60s, scorewise, but they made a big impact on the judges and on the audience, singing "This is the Moment" with historic photos behind them.

The second is an 11-minute blog by "Steve" and "James" from 2011 International. What happens when you mix youthful energy with the commotion and bustle of an International? Here it is - fun, discordant, handheld camera, pizzaz. They actually get to sing with a bunch of Goldies, quite a few shots of Tim Waurick, for example, and VOCAL SPECTRUM, OC TIMES, et al.

The Olde Chieftain Tag Time two weeks ago featured “Through the Long and Lonely Night.” I told you it was on Comcast On Demand. But many of you don’t have access to that. So now, with just a computer you can see the same thing online. Plus a second tag. Just Click on http://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38?feature=digest and they should be in the right margin.

Or, to view Barbershop On-Demand through Comcast, go to: On Demand Music, Music Picks, Barbershop Harmony. Enjoy, and tell all your friends about this new exciting way to expose more people to Barbershop Harmony!

Music Premiere 2011B is out with six new songs and arrangements:

“Bye Bye Blackbird” - A classic barbershop song as sung by the SIDE STREET RAMBLERS and arranged by Brian Beck, this number has a fast, slow, fast tempo and a great tag.

“Hi, Neighbor” - Walter Latzko's classic opener has been sung by beginners and advanced quartets world-wide. It's a short, easy, fun piece to learn and sing.

“I've Been Working on the Railroad” - This classic from Roger Payne is an American favorite and has long been a staple for contest and show repertoire.

“No More Sorrow” - Rounding out the bunch is a great spiritual as it was sung by one of the Society's best-loved quartets, the GAS HOUSE GANG. A great tenor feature!

Mike O'Donnell writes that the Korg CA30 Chromatic Tuner (or CA40 Digital Chromatic Tuner) can be used for displaying a singer’s pitch and how much above or below the pitch he is singing. “Most music stores carry...
them or they can be purchased on-line. My former quartet purchased four of them and they were about $15 each as I recall.”

Doug Treff adds: “There is an app for that. If you have an iPhone or Droid, you can get an app that will show you with a meter how close to the pitch you are. I have a Droid, and the app called gstrings will do exactly what you want for FREE. Not sure what the equivalent app for the iPhone is, but I know one exists.”

**Take Me Out to the Ball Game** (From Wayne Oberstadt)

Here are some interesting links for the song.
1. Edward Meeker singing the original lyrics in 1908
2. The Sheet music to the original verse.
3. Some history on the song.
   
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4-gsdLSSQ0&feature=player_detailpage
http://www.8notes.com/scores/6542.asp
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Take_Me_Out_to_the_Ball_Game

**Clarification**

Last month’s *Smoke Signals* quoted the PROBEmoter, “Deac Martin … authored Keep America Singing (later the lyrics were changed and it was called Keep the Whole World Singing) in 1948, a history of the Society’s first ten years.” The “Keep America Singing” that Martin is claimed to have written is probably “a history of the Society’s first ten years,” not the song. It’s confusingly written because of the part in parentheses that DOES refer to the song (which we know was written by Willis A. Diekema of Holland in 1947).

**Letters**

From Wayne Oberstadt:

Thanks John! The David Wright presentation was very enlightening. It’s good to know that our society seems to be keeping the barbershop style intact, without limiting creativity. And CROSSROADS... what can you say... goosebumps!

From Chieftain Jeff Kafer (now in Minnesota):

I have visited with GNU, but decided that I was not really into the competing at internationals right now. That decision cost me a silver medal, but I do not mind in the least. They were kind of doing “assembly line” barbershop ... not really my thing. In part, it has to do with where I am in my head right now, but in part it has to do with where they are. They are a bunch of good individual singers ... and each one knows it a bit too much, if you get my drift. They do not have the warm, welcoming atmosphere that made BCC such a comfortable place to be. I’ve found some of that here and I am optimistic that I will land in a good place eventually. I have visited with a

smaller chorus closer to home, and they actually feel much more at home to me. We’ll see what my barbershop future holds in store.

From William Stutts, Jr.:

Hi John,

I read the *Smoke Signals* and came across one slight addendum for DA CAPO. Here is the Wikipedia definition of the Dealer’s Choice Award [which DA CAPO won this year].

The Dealer’s Choice Award is an award given to the highest placing new quartet each year.

The award was first given in 2009. It was named in honor of the Dealer’s Choice quartet, who won their first time out in 1973.

To be eligible for the Dealer’s Choice award, a quartet must be a “new” quartet, meaning that no two members have competed together before on the International Stage (this does not include the Collegiate competition.) It may not include a prior international quartet champion (full AIC member) nor two or more prior winners of the award.

BTW, I saw that you are going to have FOREFRONT at your show this year. I’m stoked about that and might be able to come up.

From Paul Ellinger:

Hey, I know that there may be other periodicals as well, but without the Troub, thanks to John and Pontiac Waterford for putting this out every month.

From Joan Cheyne:

Thanks, John. I always read the *Smoke Signals* and enjoy it. So glad to be included!

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,

Aug 30, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Ten more to SHOW)
Sep 6, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Nine more to SHOW)
Sep 8, Th, 6:30 Gig, Waltonwood on Main, 1401 N Rochester Rd, 48307
Sep 13, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks Chapter quartets audition. (Eight more to SHOW)
Sep 20, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Seven more to SHOW)
Sep 24, Sa Show Preparation Retreat, Royal Oak Church of Christ, 115 S. Campbell Royal Oak,
Sep 26, M, 3pm Gig, West Winds Nrs Home, 10765 Bogie Lake Rd, Commerce, SSYSBPBS
Sep 27, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Six more to SHOW)
Oct 4, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Five more to SHOW)
Oct 9, Su, 2pm Gig, Orion Twp Library, 825 Joslyn Rd, Lake Orion, 48362
Oct 14-16 Pioneer District Convention
Nov 5, Sa, 7pm 67th BCC Show Phantom of the Barbershop
Dec 1, Th, 1 pm Gig, Oakland Co. Retirees, 991 N. Williams Lk Rd, White Lk Twp, 48386
Jun 30, 2012 Gig, Log Cabin Days

(From Concho Capers)