Vol. 12, No. 7 (#139)  November 1, 2012

Camp Harmony welcomes the Chieftains. November 3!

From Director Tom:
Men and Friends of the BCC,
Thanks to all who helped in the organization and planning of our one-day retreat. Several musical and show rehearsal needs were gone over and a better feel for how the annual show will proceed.

Thanks to all of you who made the effort to attend, as much was accomplished and some musical ideas were firmed up. I appreciate each one of you and your willingness to put in the extra time and effort to make our show the best that we can make it.

The responsibility for our success has to now rest on how and what we do to prepare. We must know the notes and words.

Let's all work together to better our intonation, listen, listen and listen.

From Music Chair, Roger:
I think last Saturday’s show-prep retreat was a very productive and fun event! There were 38 of us there (counting Donna and Joe)! Our show is going to be another fun time for us and our audience - one that’s again a little departure in style from the usual barbershop show! Good work everybody, and thanks to all for taking the time to be there Saturday!

Fred Pioch is handling cast-party tickets; they are $8 for us members, and $17 each for guests.

From Prez. Jack:
MEN,
It’s time to consider serving the chapter as a member of the Board of Directors. The board meets once a month, usually on the 3rd Thursday. This is where and when decisions are made concerning Chapter Activities and Events. There are several positions on the Board. We have four member-at-large positions in addition to the President, Two VP’s, Treasurer and Secretary.
Please indicate your willingness to serve.
Jack

AROUND THE PATCH

The chorus gathered at the United Church of Christ, in Royal Oak, for its pre-show retreat, on Saturday, October 13. What better way to spend such a rainy day! Thanks to those who planned it and supplied the food.

Dick Johnson’s grandson Ricky Johnson died October 18, at the age of 31. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, at Faith Church in Waterford.

Bob and Eileen Marshall were major players in “Commotion on the Ocean, A Musical Comedy Variety Show,” at the Troy Community Center, Oct 24 thru Oct 26. Eileen wrote it, and Bob played the role of the Director.

Bob and Eileen Marshall’s new email address is eileen.marshall84@gmail.com

Ross Ensign’s new cell phone number is 248-613-5821.

2012 Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
10/11: Gil Schreiner quartet (McFadyen, Schreiner, Johnson, Holm)

BCC 2012 Performance thru October: Total: 68 gigs to 5463 folks.

MEMBERSHIP  (at 53)
Renewals: Lance Shew (6)
Overdue: Wayne Oberstadt, Charlie Perry, Gil Schreiner
Goodbye: Walt Bachmann, M. Oberstadt, Dave Shantz
November Birthdays: Lance Shew (12th), Doc Mann (13th), Gil Schreiner (18th), Bob Greenwood (20th), Fred McFadyen (24th)

BSOM: September – Jim Owens

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Convention

The Fall Convention of the Pioneer District was held in Battle Creek, October 19-21 at the Kellogg Auditorium, and McCamley Plaza Hotel.

The new Pioneer District Quartet champion is SOUND FX (74.3%). Placing 2nd and 3rd were THE BLENDYBOYS, and BAND OF BROTHERS. SOUND FX (say it fast) is comprised of Pete Westers (T), Jamie Carey (L), Steve Wheeler (Br), and James Masalskis (Bs), from the Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant chapters. The Lead and Bass provide a very robust core to the quartet, and Lead Jamie Carey held a very long post on one of their Saturday night songs, a set of “Mona Lisa” and “A Rainy Night in Rio” that was spell-binding.

Representing us in the Senior Quartet competition at the Mid-winter convention in Orlando will be HARMONY ROAD. (Alan Coombs, William Edmunds, Tom Ennis, and Jim Johnson, from Muskegon, Grand Rapids, and Mt. Pleasant)

Sound FX
Harmony Road

Our chorus representative to Toronto next summer will be the Mt Pleasant MountainTown Singers, whose 74.6% score bested D.O.C. by about 4 points.

Congratulations to two quartets with Big Chief membership. CODA HONOR, with Ray Sturdy singing Baritone, made the cut to sing in the Saturday night finals, and ended 8th, with a score of 62.5%. CLASSIC FIT, with Jeff Spires singing Bari, finished in 10th place and also won the Novice category. We heard their show package when they visited the chapter on October 16.

Coda Honor
Classic Fit

John Cowlishaw’s 74 photos of the convention are posted on Shutterfly, at http://tinyurl.com/9j4uxrs The 74 photos are in chronological order. Apologies for the quality of the quartet photos. Small, brightly lit faces, against a large, black background, from some distance, and without a flash, are tough, even with a Nikon.

Our November 3 show night is bracketed by two events: Canada Night. D.O.C., is Friday evening, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Aidans Hall in Livonia. Call 248-681-9568.

Livingston Lamplighters’ Show, “Sentimental Journey – Our Way.” Sunday, November 4, at 4:00 p.m. Hartland Educational Community Center 9525 Highland Road M-59 (just West of US 23)

MAIN STREET at the Spirit of Detroit Chorus of Sweet Adelines International

The chorus presents its Fall show, 3pm, Sunday, November 11, at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

Featured quartets will be MAIN STREET - 2012 BHS 5th Place Medalists, and NATURALLY - 2012 Region 17 – Champions.

AROUND THE WORLD

Midwinter Convention Orlando
January 8 - 13, 2013, Orlando, FL
Youth Chorus Festival, Seniors Quartet Contest, and more...

Toronto International Convention
June 30 - July 7, 2013, Toronto, ON
Celebrate the Society’s 75th Anniversary...
The early-bird deadline for Mid-winter convention in Orlando is October 31. After that the price rises from $109 to $135. Early-bird deadline for Toronto is: Jan 15 ($189 to $215).

**Media**

**Lowest known Bb pitch pipe in the universe**

Bert Laurence writes


What I find cool is that it is a *** B FLAT ***, 57 octaves below middle C, and has been rumbling constantly at that pitch for at least 2.5 Billion years...

Can a chime for the famous barbershop wind chimes be cut for this tone? How long would the chime be? Inquiring minds want to know!!”

A related tonal trivia. In Jan 2002, Tim Storms reclaimed his Guinness World Record for the lowest musical note produced with the human voice. The record is now set to 0.189 Hz, or G-7, well below normal human hearing: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Storms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Storms)


(From Keith Mc.) ”...and you thought YOUR quartet’s Bass could sing low notes???”

**Pitch Development**

There is a good article on “Pitch Development: Exercising Your "Inner Ear" at [http://www.thomasjwestmusic.com/pitchdevelopment.htm](http://www.thomasjwestmusic.com/pitchdevelopment.htm)

Going further, the pitch needs to be sung to accomplish “Just Intonation.” Just Intonation is free of beats, as this example shows: [http://www.phy.mtu.edu/~suits/majshf.wav](http://www.phy.mtu.edu/~suits/majshf.wav)

Listen to the difference: The first second of this WAV file contains a major triad starting on F# (F# - A# - C#) using the Just scale appropriate for C Major. The last part of the file contains the same triad but using the Just scale appropriate for F# Major. (This is one of the worst case situations).

The full article is at [http://www.phy.mtu.edu/~suits/scales.html](http://www.phy.mtu.edu/~suits/scales.html)

**Basic Vision and Follow-through Doubles Chorus Size & Increases the Fun Factor (From BHS)**

Using many principles from the Operation Harold Hill campaign, as well as a new vision for their chapter, the Redwood Chordsmen chorus of the Santa Rosa, Cal, Chapter has doubled its size in one year. This growth was built on one basic theme: they envisioned a chapter not designed to win contests, but designed to serve the community (1) by singing well and often, and (2) by offering a home to all sincere singers, regardless of their skill level. And, they report they've not only grown, but they are having a LOT more fun! Read more about it the Stay Tuned section of the upcoming September/October Harmonizer.

**Historic photos, #11 – Harmony Knights**

Rochester quartet HARMONY KNIGHTS, singing Valentines, in 1996

Tom Blackstone, Lyle Howard, Ross Ensign, and Tom Tailford. Shortly after this picture, Jeff Doig replaced Lyle as Lead, and the quartet members moved to Pontiac-Waterford.

**Executive Board - September 27, 2012.** Excerpts from Fred Pioch’s minutes.

Members present were Pioch, Sturdy, Johnson, Holm and Teuber.

August minutes were approved. Treasurer’s Report. Available funds $3,315.

VP Growth and Development: Current Membership stands at 54 men. We are planning on having 48 men on stage for the 68th Annual Show. Ray Sturdy suggested that we look into a smaller Guest Book and include “The Old Songs” and two or three standard closing songs.

Holm, Teuber, Brede and DeNio will work on scheduling the Christmas Sing-Outs.

Motion passed to consider an Ad on the Big Screen at the Fall Convention. Ray Sturdy will look into an Ad for the Barbershop Bonanza Week-End with D.O.C. and The Livingston Lamplighters.

Thanks to Fred Pioch (ticket sales) and Mike Frye (M.C.) in handling the Cast Party at Waterford Oaks.

BSOM—Jim Owens was selected for his continued work with the Show Ticket process.

The next meeting - Thursday, November 15, 2012.
Letters
From: Michael Baribeau
Great newsletter [October Smoke Signals] and thanks for the Facebook plug! Btw, I couldn't get the link to work where it says... “There is also a **good article** on the BHS site which gets into specifics of what chapter should consider as they enter the world of social media.” [The link should have been: http://www.barbershop.org/document-center/category/25-marketing-and-public-relations.html#]

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: Charlie Perry
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large - Walt Bachmann, Mike Frye, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy
Chorus Manager: Open
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
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)
Oct 30, T, 6:30 BCC Practice, Mott High School
Nov 1, Th 6:30 Dress rehearsal, Mott High School
Nov 3, Sa, 7:00 68th Annual BCC Show, Mott High School
9:30 Cast party, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Nov 6, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Nov 13, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Nov 20, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Nov 27, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus, Waterford Oaks Activity Center