The year started off grand, with a fine turnout for chorus practice, Jan 8.

Then, the presentation of awards
Jeff Doig, Roger Holm, Lance Shew, Howard Lynn,
Jeff Doig – the William Pascher Founder’s Award from Dick Johnson
Roger Holm – the Rawley Hallman award from John Cowlishaw
Lance Shew – the President’s Award, from Jack Teuber
Howard Lynn – the Barbershopper of the Year award from Jeff Doig

Followed by a fine performance by the Chris Miller Honorary Quartet:
Dick Johnson, Gil Schreiner, Roger Holm, Fred McFadyen

And topped off at Heroes Bar BQ & Brew.
Happy to see, or hopeful to see, as the case may be, guests Doug, Paul, Martial, Gavin, Howard, Mike, Bruce, Dillon, Pat, and Gary.

AROUND THE PATCH

On Friday, Dec 28, ten Big Chiefs responded to an invitation from Doug and Lisa Meiners to entertain the family and Lisa’s mom, in town from Long Island. Limited Fredition sang three songs, Bidin’ Our Time sang three songs, and Eric Domke joined both groups for an ensemble performance of three more. Doug joined in on “Jingle Bells” and “God Bless America.”

On January 15, new officers were elected:
- President: Jack Teuber
- VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke
- VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
- VP: Marketing & PR: Open
- Secretary: Charlie Perry
- Treasurer: Dick Johnson
- Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jim McMain, Bob Greenwood

They were installed January 22, Fred McFadyen officiating.

New training tracks are available for “Over the Rainbow.” Although produced locally, and not of the same vocal quality as John Hayden’s, they accurately portray the new re-arrangement.

INSTANT CLASSIC has accepted an offer to be our Guest Quartet on the show, next November 2. They are from the Cardinal District, and were a big hit when we heard them sing at Pioneer District competition last April, scoring a 79.7, and qualifying for both the Collegiate and open competitions at Portland.

Paul, Rosanna, Martial, and Gavin Mouton have returned from a 5000-mile road trip to California, a trip shared with their two dogs!

Michael Oberstadt’s new email address is mwoberst@oakland.edu. You can see his guitar/singing performance during OU Open Mic Night at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6sO20GZ7Z8

2012 Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
The Gil Schreiner quartet (McFadyen, Schreiner, Johnson, Holm) has been active and enjoyable. Who’s next, Chuckles?

Quartets
4GVN is forgiven for ending their run. It was fun while it lasted.

Bidin’ Our Time and Limited Fredition sang at “Taste of Waterford.”

The Big Chief Chorus had a significant presence at the 15th Annual “Taste of Waterford” festival, Thursday evening, January 24, at the Oakland Schools building, at the corner of Pontiac Lake Rd and Telegraph. The theme for the event was ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK. More than 30 restaurants and food services (including Heroes) provided for the 825 guests. There were lots of activities – roller-skating carhops, historic photos on the walls, young dancers, a speed painter (who painted large portraits of Justin Verlander and Marilyn Monroe with lightning speed), raffles and a silent auction. In the midst were Bidin’ Our Time, and Limited Fredition. They greeted arriving diners in the hallway, and then sang a couple songs from the stage. After partaking of some of the goodies, they sang as quartets, with Jack Teuber subbing at Tenor. Although this was a freebie, many, many Valentines cards were handed out, ensuring some Valentines deliveries, and a 2013 Show ad.
BCC 2013 Performance thru January: 1 gig to 825 people.

MEMBERSHIP (at 53)
  Renewals: Len Barnes, Walt DeNio, Mike Keith, Jim McMain, Bill Nevaux, Ted Prueter, Gil Schreiner
  Overdue: Wayne Oberstadt
  Due Feb: Bill Auquier, Eric Domke, Doug Metzger, Bob Stephenson
  February Birthdays: Ross Ensign (7th), John Northey (22nd), Pete Mazzara (23rd)

In Memoriam:
  Feb 2, 2011, Marv Wilson, Smoke Signals #119
  Feb 25, 2011, Jim Claflin, Smoke Signals #120

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Traverse City Convention – April 19 to 21
From Roger Lewis
  The registration forms for the Spring Convention are now on the web site – both convention registration and hotel registration – at http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm
  Good news! -- we’ve negotiated a lower rate by booking some future conventions at GTR. Rates are now $95 in the hotel and $125 in the tower. There are also suites available for your chapter's hospitality room. Contact me at rjlewiscmc@aol.com to reserve a hospitality suite.
  YOU can be a part of the mic testing Joe Barbershop Chorus in Traverse City, April 20, which will sing two songs from the 75th Anniversary Show Package -- "Celebrate Harmony" composed and arranged by Joe Liles, and "You're the Flower of My Heart, Sweet Adeline" also from the show package.
Aaron Bouwman, director of the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus, will direct "Celebrate Harmony" and Steve Warnaar, director of the Lansing Capitol City Chorus will direct "Sweet Adeline".

How do you get the music? Go to www.barbershop.org and click on the 75th Anniversary logo. It will take you to the 75th Anniversary page. On the right you'll notice a small copy of Joe Liles' Song, and you can download both the music and the learning tracks for free! Below Joe's song, you'll see that you can also download "Sweet Adeline" music for free. The learning tracks will have an associated charge, but it's a familiar song.

What else do you need? Bring a quartet or chorus uniform, so the chorus looks great -- like a giant rainbow!

There is a resort fee of $9.95 per night on all rooms. This fee covers such things as: unlimited use of resort fitness center including cardiovascular and strength, training equipment, whirlpools, saunas and indoor pools, Seasonal access to outdoor pools and beachfront facilities, Preferred guest pricing for our golf courses and tennis facilities, WiFi access in all guest rooms, On-property shuttle service to Cherry Capital Airport and Turtle Creek Casino, Unlimited toll-free and credit card access phone calls, Voicemail message service, Daily newspaper upon request, Use of safe deposit box, Golf bag storage, parking.

We're working on a number of new things, too. A winery tour, local exhibitors, maybe a surprise chorus or two that are not part of the contest, or even the Society.

The Traverse City Chapter always rolls out the red carpet for their guests. We're looking forward to a great weekend with lots of new and old friends. See you there.

Quartet Supershow – February 23
(From Paul Ellinger)

What if you had to choose between shows that had each of the following quartets headlining on them: CLASSIC FIT, META 4, CHORDIOLOGY, THE BLENDY BOYS, EBB N' FLOW, and MAJESTYX?

Now you don't have to! For the first time ever ALL of these quartets will be on the same show!!! Each of these quartets are capable headlining a show all on their own, and here they are all on one show just for you!

"But, where and when will this event take place?", you ask.

The event will be held on Saturday, February 23 at 7:30pm, at the 2,000 seat auditorium at Calvary Baptist Church located at 43065 Joy Road, Plymouth, MI 48187. Here's your chance.

You go on to ask, "But how much will tickets for a show like this cost?"

Get this. Also, for the first time ever there will be NO TICKETS! There will only be a love offering upon exiting the theater, so the answer is whatever you feel is reasonable! REALLY! This makes it the perfect show to bring friends and family that haven't seen what it is you do ----- yet!

So, put it on your calendar right now and invite new people to enjoy this great hobby we call barbershop! Invite them to come out and enjoy a night of fun, camaraderie, and a capella the whole family can enjoy!

This is an opportunity to bring new people into Barbershop AND to have a GREAT night out! Any questions, let me know.

PIONEER HO!

AROUND THE WORLD

The Midwinter Convention in Orlando highlighted the Senior Quartet contest, won by BORDER PATROL, from Ontario, and the Youth Chorus Festival, won by THE RECRUITS, a chorus of 42 guys from the Central States District. In all, the Youth Chorus Festival had nearly 500 young men on stage, in the halls and lobbies singing tags all night, and taking in the rich treats of the shows and glows for three days in Orlando. Everywhere one turned, there was the realization that many of these guys are life-long barbershoppers in the making! They had a lot of fun ... and they were a lot of fun to watch!

From Marty Monson's keynote address at the Society Board Meeting during the 2013 Midwinter Convention in Orlando, “When your mouth is open, you are selling. When your ears are open, you are marketing.”

A full report will come out in the February Troubadour

Toronto International Convention
June 30 - July 7, 2013, Toronto, ON
Celebrate the Society's 75th Anniversary...

Music Theory: Major/Minor difference

Often Tom Blue will say something like, “Tenors, make that note a little sharper; it’s you guys that let the audience know it’s a major chord and not a minor chord.” Do you know the difference?

The minor chord has a "sad" feel to it and a major chord has a "happy" feel to it.

If you have a keyboard or piano available, strike the chord composed of C-E-G (major). Then move the middle note down one -half note (minor).

The main point to the structure of a minor chord is that it has a root, a minor 3rd, and a perfect fifth. A major chord has a root, major 3rd, and perfect fifth.

Or think of the opening to the theme from 2001: A Space Odyssey:

Daaahhh ... (root)
Dahhhhh ... (perfect fifth)
Dahhhhh ... (root octave)
Dah-Dahhhhhh ... (major 3rd to minor 3rd)

Listen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWnmCu3U09w
Chord Identifiers
Here are two sites that identify chords.
http://www.scales-chords.com/chordid.php
http://tools.markabout.com/cspell3.htm

Let’s say you plug in E, G, Bb, D. The programs will tell you that is a G minor sixth (as well as some lesser named chords). Unfortunately neither one seems to actually sound it for you.

(From Smoke Signals)

Ten Years Ago
“The loss of the Shuttle Columbia has touched each of us profoundly. Member Wally Plosky just happened to be visiting Kennedy Space Center at the time and wrote: “Just shortly before 11:00 this morning, the American flag at Kennedy Space Center was somberly lowered to half staff. A lump swelled in my throat, my eyes teared, and the weight of today’s tragedy oppressively bore down on me and the other visitors, most of whom only learned of the tragedy after arriving at the Space Center to witness Columbia’s hopefully safe return. Gone were the frivolity, background chatter, and tourist indifference. From Prez Pete: What a wonderful turn out for our February 4th rehearsal, 50 men. We not only received some great coaching from Linda (Liddicoat) and Chris (Miller) but we surpassed our goal of 30 men attending the March Singing Retreat up north.

Dick Johnson is chairing our Search Committee for a new rehearsal venue. We love Crary Middle School, but we are growing and need a permanent home.

Five Years Ago
From Director Tom Blue: Well...It has been a year since my coming to the Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Barbershop Chorus as your director and I guess ... I should sign that contract.

Rochester’s Fire and Ice Fest. As a result of our long-standing relationship with Oakland County Parks and Recreation we accepted their invitation to sing at the Rochester Fire and Ice Fest, Friday, January 25, Freddie McFadyen directing. Brr! The chorus (32 stout men) sang four songs, and B NATURAL sang two, before Brooks Patterson’s arrival gave us reprieve.

It is with deep regret that the Macomb County Chapter announces the resignation of Mr. Jack Slamka as the director of the Guardians of Harmony.

Media

Enjoy Barbershop at Comcast On Demand
Xfinity customers can enjoy the following great barbershop performances now through March 30:
OC Times - "Drivin' Me Crazy"
Gotcha! - "Play that Barbershop Chord", "Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie"
Masters of Harmony - "Alabama Jubilee", "Go Down Moses"
Ringmasters - "Love Me and the World Is Mine"
Main Street - "Old Fashioned Girl/Sweet and Lovely"
Northern Lights - "Cross that Mason Dixon Line"
Tag Time
Tune in and enjoy! From the Comcast menu, go to: On Demand>Music>Music Picks>Barbershop Harmony

Preservation, the online magazine published by the Society Archives Committee of the Barbershop Harmony Society.
Read about the losers for a change! In this just-out January 2013 issue of Preservation Magazine, read about fourteen quartets who came in second, often missing the gold medal by very narrow margins ... the guys who were told many times afterward that they SHOULD have won ... the guys we can all identify with! Access it at: http://tinyurl.com/asgd2a4

BarbershopConnections
There is a fine website at http://www.barbershopconnections.com/ which is a free resource for all barbershoppers! It has VERY extensive lists of:
Arrangers
Learning Track Providers
Events
Choruses
Organizations
It is run by Nicola Stevens, (I think she is a Sweet Ad out of Great Britain). I tried out the Big Chief Chorus (it’s there, one of 1400 choruses listed), and the Pioneer District Traverse City convention, (yup, that too, under events).

**Quartet**

Dustin Hoffman has a new movie out, this one as Director, “a charming confection about a home for superannuated British musicians.” “Four of the residents had performed together in Verdi’s Rigoletto back in the old days, and the idea bubbles up that the foursome might reunite to sing that opera’s famous third-act quartet at a gala, thus the name.”

From the January 15th *Journal of Neuroscience*

“Why musical genius comes easier to early starters”

New evidence comes from brain scans of 36 highly skilled musicians, split equally between those who started lessons before and after the age of 7, but who had done a similar amount of training and practice. MRI scans revealed that the white matter in the corpus callosum – the brain region that links the two hemispheres – had more extensive wiring and connectivity in the early starters. The wiring of the late starters was not much different from that of non-musician control participants. This makes sense as the corpus callosum aids speed and synchronization in tasks involving both hands, such as playing musical instruments.

**New videos at BarbershopHarmony38** - The BHS’s official YouTube Account

[http://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38?feature=watch](http://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38?feature=watch)

Harmony University 2013 - Register now for Harmony University 2013.

Go to www.barbershop.org/hu to find more information.

Youth Chorus Festival 2014 - Register now for next years Youth Chorus Festival. Go to www.youthchorusfestival.com for more information.

**Letters**

From Dave Shantz

I attended the show this past fall and thought you guys did a nice job. The quartets have improved both in quantity and quality I thought!

This past fall I joined the Troy Community Chorus and enjoyed singing a different kind of music and the mix of male and female voices. It took me back to my college days!

My best to you and all guys,

Dave Shantz

From Dick Knapp

Thanks for all your help. I sure have had a good time.

Regards, Dick

**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 - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jim McMain, Bob Greenwood
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, 2013** (Times are Performance Times, Warm-ups 45’ earlier)

Jan 29, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 5, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 12, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 14-16 Singing Valentines quartets performing around town
Feb 16, Sa DOC Shows (Matinee and Evening)
Feb 19, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 22, F, 1:30 Elmhaven Residence, Pontiac
Feb 22, F, 7:00 Clarkston Comm. Band Concert, Clarkston HS
Feb 23, Sa, 7:30 Quartet Supershow, Calvary Baptist Church, Plymouth
Feb 26, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Mar 5, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Mar 9, Sa Wharton Show, E. Lansing
Mar 15, F, 2:30 Lockwood of Waterford
Mar 19, T, 6:30 Canterbury on the Lake
Mar 29, F 55th Annual Woodshed Contest, Pontiac CC
Apr 19-21 District Convention, Traverse City
Jun 29, 3-4 pm Waterford Hist. Soc’s Log Cabin Days
Oct 18-20 District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson

"Barbershop quartet singing is four guys tasting the holy essence of four individual mechanisms coming into complete agreement.” (Meredith Willson)