

Vol. 6, No. 9, (#69)

January 1, 2007

Christmas Season

Thanks to Bruce and Roger for arranging our singouts, to Ted for preparing our Christmas music books, and for Dick, Freddie, and Bill for directing. And for all our guest singers – may they join us again. Our season concluded December 19 at the OverTyme Grille.

2007, Looking Ahead with Bruce Brede

Well, it's a brand new year and time to plan for 12 months of optimum barbershop enjoyment. Here are some monthly reminders:

- January: While snow-birding, can I visit another Chapter's rehearsal and sing some polecats with them? Find their rehearsal nights on our Barbershop Harmony "Home"/"Find"/"Find a Chapter" site, that is, <http://secure.spebsqsa.org/members/locator/locator.aspx>
- February: How can I participate and help with Valentines gigs (Feb 10-14), a major fund raiser. Can I sell gigs, sing in a quartet, drive/ride as a

"fifth wheel" with a quartet, man the phones for reservations, prepare itineraries/maps, etc?

- March: Am I learning my Contest songs? Have I signed up for the Higgins Lake Retreat(Mar 23-25)
- April: Have I signed up for Contest (Apr 13-15) and am I ready to perform?
- May: Do I want to go to International in Denver over the 4th of July? Have I registered? Do I have my group rate hotel room and airline tickets or is my car ready (about 2600 miles round trip)?
- June: As an alternative to International, or in addition to, do I want to go to the Buckeye Invitational (Aug 16-19) in Columbus (about 450 miles round trip)? This event has many informal contests and former quartet/chorus winners. Compared to International, it's cheaper and is less formal with a chance to sing with other barbershoppers.
- July: Off to Denver (July 3rd)
- August: Off to Columbus (August 15th)
- September: Am I thinking about who to invite to Guest Night later this month? Two months til Showtime, Nov 3. Have I volunteered to help with my time and talents? Do I have a plan for learning my songs: e.g., training CD, sectionals, regular Tuesday rehearsals, quartet and OTR song selections, etc?
- October: Have I invited someone to join us at Christmas rehearsals beginning Nov 6?
- November: Showtime and Cast Party. Are my songs and costume ready? Are my Chapter responsibilities completed? Am I getting my Chorus, quartet and OTR Christmas songs started?
- December: Am I ready to support all the Tuesday night Christmas gigs, the Bus Tour (Dec 15) and the other special Christmas singouts?

AROUND THE PATCH MEMBERSHIP (at 55)

Renewals: Ted Prueter (6), Bruce Brede (10), Walt DeNio (10), Mike Keith (26), Bill Nevaux (32), Marv Wilson (51)

Pending: Bill Auquier, Len Barnes, Ron Clarke, Andrew Lesnew, Tom Newman

Bye-Bye: Donald Carrier, Tom Ford

January Birthdays: Len Barnes (3rd), Bob Marshall (10th), Bob Butcher (25th)

Medical: Al Monroe is recuperating from knee surgery nicely.

In Memoriam: Jan 30, 2004, John Smith

Dick Johnson was surprised at the final event of 2006, when a **recognition plaque** was presented to him. The beautiful plaque was designed and framed by Bill Holmes, with a photo by John Cowlshaw, and read:

“He has been so busy in his professional life - and retirement - touching many people, as business officer, treasurer, program designer, harmonizer, leader and friend. He makes an impression by example. He reveals that generosity, tirelessness, honesty and integrity are effective qualities that lead to achievement, purpose, self-fulfillment and happiness. Some people dream of success while others wake up and work hard at it. The Big Chief Chorus is grateful for his leadership.”

Jack Teuber's letter to the editor honoring Bill Pascher was published in the November 30 Oakland Press.

The BCC **Director Search Committee** (Holm – Chair, Moss, and Cowlshaw) has considered 29 names, pursued five, and is currently asking three potential candidates to visit us in January. The search is ongoing. We welcome suggestions and leads that any of you may have to other potential candidates.

QUARTET NEWS

On Saturday December 2nd, our CELEBRATION Barbershop Quartet toured four of our Show Program sponsors with Christmas caroling. They presented a six-song program each at Copperstones, Everybody's Cafe, Pete's Coney and the Big Apple. The combined audience of about 160 diners was enthusiastic and was obviously in a holiday spirit by the time the quartet had finished. All Chapter members are encouraged to review their Show Program and try to patronize those businesses who financially support the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

C.O.T.S. (from the Pionet)

January 6 and 7 brings all of us a great barbershop learning opportunity; **Chapter Operations Training Seminar**. In the past this was aimed primarily at bringing chapter officers up to speed, with all the latest information from International. For about the past five years, however, they've offered enrichment classes for ALL barbershoppers. I urge you all to give this great opportunity full

consideration. Best Yet, it's LOCAL -Okemos Holiday Inn Express, so there's no need for that expensive hotel bill (unless you really *want* to get away).

Bob Rancilio is stepping down as editor of Grosse Pointe's "Pitch-Pipe." He and I have been exchanging and appreciating each other's bulletins for almost six years. Bob doesn't feel he can do justice to the job of editor when he is snow-birding during the winter months.

Pioneer District Pres **Raleigh Bloch's** email address is now:

rblochjbloch@aol.com

From Chuck Murray:

The Windsor Sun Parlor Chapter's "Uncle Sam Night" takes place in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on January 19th, 2007 (not Jan 20, as reported in the Troubadour).

To get into and back from Canada, some new rules may be in effect at that time for border crossing. You will probably be best to have a US Passport in possession for this event.

Many US Post Offices are gearing up for the "rush" by Americans to get their passports, some are taking the needed photos, and even so, the wait may be longer than expected. Plan ahead!

Get your US Passport now!

Get your over ride to Windsor later!

From Pete Mazzara, Chair 2007 Singing Retreat:

Men:

Are you going on the **BCC Singing Retreat** March 23-25, 2007?

Check the list below to see if you are willing to do that retreat task (or another).

Please let me know ASAP.

2007 SINGING RETREAT TALENT

Coach – Al Fisk

Director – Dick Johnson

Assoc. Director – Fred McFadyen & Bill Holmes

Section Leaders: Mike Keith - Tenor

Jeff Doig & Bruce Brede - Lead

Roger Holm & Greg Moss - Bass

John Cowlshaw – Bari

Warm-Ups – John Cowlshaw & Greg Moss

Music Team – Roger Holm & The Fab '7'

Tag Singing –McFadyen, Holmes, Johnson & Cowlshaw

Risers – ?

Snacks – Jack Teuber & Dave Myre

Bar – Howard Lynn

Group Photo – Dave Myre, Howard Lynn, Neil Braun, Bill Dabbs

Walking & Quartet Leader – Bruce Brede

Jokes – Bill Holmes

“Ready To Sing” Talk – Greg Moss & Bruce Brede

Agenda Time Keeper – Art Carinci

Sound Recorder – Jeff Doig

Set Up & Clean Up – Ted Prueter

Jack Teuber’s Year-End Report to Pioneer District officers received compliments from Al Bonney, Raleigh Bloch and Brian Dunkel:

The Pontiac-Waterford Chapter continues to add new members, but we have also had losses. Art Ripley and Bill Pascher have moved to the Eternal Chapter. Our chapter and the Big Chief Chorus strive to attract new members by performing every month in public. We were able to meet that goal.

The Big Chief Chorus had 42 public performances in 2006, with 16 performances during the month of December. Our Christmas Chorus includes men that are not members but often join in January. This is our greatest recruiting tool, as well as our annual Guest Night in September.

Our greatest and most enjoyable membership participation are those public appearances by our chorus and quartets. The CHORUS AND / OR ITS QUARTETS sang-out 124 times to a total audience of 47,637. Our QUARTETS sang at 49 locations for Valentines and the high-light of the year was singing the National Anthem to a gathering of 35,624 at COMERICA PARK. GO TIGERS!!!

We also sang at two high schools and 3 elementary schools as well as sending SINGING VALENTINES TO 4 different schools.

We are a performing chapter that enjoys what we do. Please join us on March 30, 2007 for the 51st ANNUAL WOODSHED CONTEST at the Pontiac Country Club.

Technical Corner

Things I SHOULD HAVE LEARNED about Barbershop singing
From Paul Howe’s Nov 28 WoodShedder Weekly

1 ALWAYS sell the song!

2. Always engage the “system” before singing. (Posture- balance on feet, legs, back, shoulders, diaphragmatic breathing, neck and head position, “tall” mouth, etc.)
 3. ALWAYS sell the song!
 4. You (almost) never have to sing softly, but you ALWAYS have to sing PRETTY.
 5. ALWAYS sell the song!
 6. Any time you are on the risers or singing as a group (quartet, mini-chorus, or even just gang singing) it is a PERFORMANCE! Sing accordingly! About the only time it’s not a performance is when you’re sight reading a song, or singing in the shower. Even then, the rules of good singing apply
 7. ALWAYS sell the song!
 8. Sing with your ears! The only correct way to sing is with a unit sound. The only way to do that is to listen at least as loud as you sing.
 9. ALWAYS sell the song!
 10. Always harmonize with the melody (or counter melody)
 11. ALWAYS sell the song!
 12. A NOTE (or pitch) IS NOT AN AREA!
 13. ALWAYS sell the song!
 14. Pretend you’re singing through a megaphone mouthpiece. (Form a circle with your thumb and first or second finger. Place it around your mouth and open your mouth to fill the opening. Don’t try to open too wide, or close it down too small.
 15. ALWAYS sell the song!
 16. The sound should be forward - just behind the nose and teeth - not a nasal sound, and definitely not a deep, ”swallowed” sound.
 17. ALWAYS sell the song!
 18. Barbershop singing is a hobby. It’s supposed to be fun! You should LOOK like you’re having fun when you sing. So, at least pretend you’re enjoying yourself.
 19. ALWAYS sell the song!
 20. Always give 300% - 100% of your effort, 100% of your attention, 100% of the time!!
- There’s probably LOTS MORE things that I’ve forgotten to mention. (At my age, memory is just one of many things that doesn’t work very well any more.) Oh, yes, did I mention - **ALWAYS sell the song!**
(With apologies to Raymond Schwarzkopf, Bruce O’Dell, Jack Slamka and others.)

Selected Vocal Warmup Exercises

1. Four-square Breathing

Stand with soft knees, arms hanging loosely.

a. Breathe slowly into your belly; your chest shouldn’t rise.

- b. Hold your breath.
- c. Let your breath out on a soft, descending “ahh.”
- d. Lock your breath and pump your belly.

Repeat several times.

2. **Zhoom-bubble**

Starting on a easy low pitch, say “zhoom” as if chimp-hooting (eyebrows up, eyes wide, mouth vertical, upper lip off the teeth, weight on balls of feet. That’s the “doh” or 1 of the key. Now continue by bubbling on pitches 3-5-8-5-3-1. Then go up a half tone and repeat.

MEET GREG MOSS



Greg was born in 1948 and raised in Mayville, a town of less than a thousand, fifty miles north of Waterford, where his dad owned the Chevrolet dealership that his grandpa had founded. The family lived on the edge of town, and included an older sister, Carol, who has just retired from social work; her husband has served as a Methodist minister in Western Michigan.

Greg played the trombone in the school band and sang in the Methodist church choir; in fact the whole family did. He was on student council and in the National Honor Society. His family participated in Youth for Understanding, an exchange student program, and Greg spent the summer before his senior year in Osaka, Japan. He still knows a little Japanese and would like to return to complete his hike up Mt. Fuji.

Upon his graduation he matriculated at the University of Michigan in Engineering, but soon changed majors into the School of Education, where he graduated with a major in Math and a minor in Business Administration.

Vietnam was just winding down, so when he joined the Air Force he was sent to Oklahoma City Air Force Station (next to Tinker Air Force Base) as a Management Analyst. He prepared monthly reports for the Commander on the operational readiness and efficiency of communications systems for all the bases

in the southern half of the U.S. Two years later he went to Shepherd Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, as an instructor in Management Analysis. During these years he started graduate work in Business Administration and completed his MBA from Midwestern State University.

He had met Bev when they were both student teaching at Birmingham Lahser High School, and they were married in 1971. After the Air Force, they moved back to Redford where they both undertook teaching careers, Greg in junior high math and Bev in English.

But Greg soon decided he preferred teaching adults, so he took a job as Training Specialist with the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.

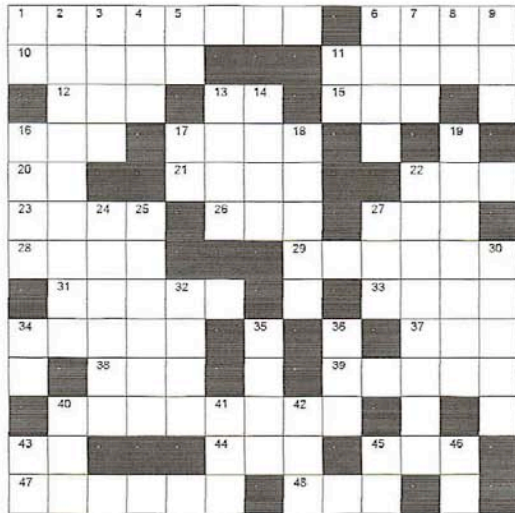
In 1981 he left the not-for-profit sector and worked for MCI, Ex-Cell-O, and BASF. In 1990 he started his own business, Midwest Training and Consulting, which capitalized on industry’s shift from in-house training to contracting for training services. He was active in the American Society for Training and Development and served as president of the Detroit chapter.

When the work world shifted again, from small contractors to large, he joined Triad Performance Technologies in Farmington Hills, and then, in 2004, Innovative Learning Group in Royal Oak, where he now designs and develops training programs. For example, this fall he has been designing training programs for warranty administrators at Volkswagen and Audi dealerships and their corporate departments.

Greg had never stopped singing in church choirs and he met Roger Holm two decades ago in Trinity United Methodist’s choir. Since Greg and Bev had enjoyed our barbershop shows, Roger invited him to visit the BCC. Finally, at Christmas season, 2002, Greg obliged, and subsequently joined the chorus, singing under Chris Miller at our second contest. His participation in CELEBRATION (with Bruce, Jack, and Bill) began with the Valentines season of 2004. Greg has also served as bass sectional leader and leads us in Brett Manning’s vocal training program. His musical tastes extend to classical, musicals, and popular music from the ‘60’s and ‘70’s. He and Bev also sing in the Royal Oak First Presbyterian Church choir, a move prompted by their superior music program and singing trips to Europe. Bev has also sung with the Jackson Chorale for twenty years.

Greg and Bev moved into their present home in Waterford over twenty years ago, where they live with their dog, Brandi, and a cat, Sophi. With no children, they have time for many activities. They have hiked and backpacked for a week on Isle Royal and into the Porcupine mountains, and traveled considerably in Europe. Greg also collects antique scales, does photography, and plays racquetball at Highland Lakes. Bev’s professional life had moved from teaching to accounting and then, after becoming a Master Gardener six years ago, into her own business, Garden Rhythms, which does garden design, installation, and maintenance.

Big Chief Chorus Holiday Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Freddie, Lyle, Dick, and Roger
- 6 Where "the West was Sung"
- 10 What Leads should do with a tune
- 11 Big Chief boat
- 12 Depot (abbr.)
- 13 Band for good music
- 15 Atom ____
- 16 The new SPEBSQSA
- 17 Temperature of Big Chief "water"
- 20 Doig expertise
- 21 ____ League
- 22 Early Piper
- 23 What chords should do
- 26 Org. of Brit. Astronomers
- 27 Zaven's other loyalty
- 28 ____sacral joint
- 29 Annual ____-fest
- 31 Automotive industry tool
- 33 Overtyme Grille beverage
- 34 Drawn on dry plaster, not wet
- 37 Whiskey
- 38 Graphic symbol for Jesus
- 39 Foreign
- 40 Jack, Bruce, Dick, and Roger
- 43 Katrina state (abbr.)
- 44 66, among others
- 45 Purse
- 47 Without musical key
- 48 Navy coat with gray pants (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 More than 2006 years ago
- 2 New site of Barbershop headquarters
- 3 Carinci and Ripley
- 4 ____-la-la
- 5 They bracket VVWX
- 6 Singing podiatrist
- 7 Pioneer province (abbr.)
- 8 Toward
- 9 High voice part (abbr.)
- 11 Country of 7 DOWN (abbr.)
- 13 How many wheels in your quartet?
- 14 A rolling Greg gathers none
- 16 Garbage note singer
- 17 Short-distance radio comm. syst.
- 18 City where Tibetan barbershop chorus practices
- 19 Ohio's ____ Invitational
- 22 Site of our biggest audience
- 24 Vitamin B3
- 25 World champs, 2004
- 27 Half a Bill
- 30 Where a chorus might compete
- 32 What Lansing was at Fall Pioneer Conv.
- 34 Yes, senior
- 35 ____-dominant
- 36 Our Gal
- 40 Pole ____
- 41 www.bigchiefchorus.org
- 42 Nucl. Reg. Com. predecessor
- 43 Scale note
- 45 Small pellet
- 46 Birthplace of BCC

(Solution at end of bulletin)

From Al Bonney, Pioneer District Spring Convention: (excerpted from Pionet)

Plans are underway already for a GREAT convention in the Spring. NOTE THE DATE SHIFT FROM OUR USUAL DATES: April 13 - 15, 2006 - at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. Go to

<http://www.grandtraverseresort.com/home/index.cfm>

to have a look at this fabulous facility and note these GREAT deals just for us:

- Room rates of \$79 or \$99 depending on where you want your room
- We have put a NEW reservations form on the Pioneer Web Site at <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm> to make your reservations DIRECTLY with the Resort. If you have made your reservation and have a confirmation no need to do anything more, but if you have not made your reservation yet, please use this new form or call the hotel directly at 1-800-748-0303.
- Please call Tammy Palmer directly at 231-534-6679 if there are Chapters who want to reserve a "block of rooms".
- The TC Chapter is hosting the convention this spring and has selected "SEVENTH HEAVEN" as the theme. Does it get any better??
- The Resort has 11 WONDERFUL suites for chapter hospitality
- The Grand Traverse Resort has fabulous and extensive facilities and the entire convention will be held within the resort. The contest will be in the Governor's Hall that has seating for over 1500. While it is a flat floor like Kalamazoo, we are confident that the sight lines and comfortable seating will suit everyone.
- While there will be a "Family" hospitality room near the Barbershop Shop, some of the gals may also be interested in the free shuttle to the casino.

BCC BIOGRAPHIES

In nearly six years of Smoke Signals, I have published 59 "biographies." They are all available on our web site, courtesy of Jeff Doig. Here is the list:

Name	Issue	Name	Issue
Bachmann, Walt	48	Mazzara, Pete	29
Barnes, Len	43	McFadyen, Fred	63
Bartilson, Dave	52	Melkonian, Zaven	57
Brain, Bob	54	Miller, Chris	14
Braun, Neil	51	Miller, Chris	30
Brede, Bruce	21	Monroe, Al	65
Carinci, Art	15	Murray, Chuck	16
Cederleaf, Bert	65	Nevaux, Bill	34
Clarke, Ron	67	Newman, Tom	60
Collins, Bruce	30	Otto, Bill	64
Cowlishaw, John	42	Owens, Jim	59

Dabbs, Bill	49	Parrish, Mel	40
DeNio, Walt	31	Pascher, Bill	4,5,6,7
DeNoyer, Don	14	Pascher, Bill	64
Doig, Jeff	41	Pascher, Bill	68
Downie, Gene	53	Ripley, Art	33
Ensign, Ross	44	Ripley, Art	66
Hallman, Rawley	64	Sanborn, Chase	64
Harrington, Louis	64	Schreiner, Gil	60
Hiner, D.J.	62	Scott, Carleton	64
Holm, Roger	45	Shantz, Dave	47
Holmes, Bill	22	Smith, John	34
Jamison, Terry	66	Spires, Jeff	38
Johnson, Dick	28	Sunnyside	1
Keith, Mike	17	Teuber, Jack	46
Lesnew, Andrew	58	Troeger, Jim	36
Lynn, Howard	50	Valko, Dan	56
Marshall, Bob	24	Wisdom, Bob	57
Mahacek, Lew	26	Woodward, Bob	8
Mann, Doc	55		

Dreamgirls has just been released. It is the cinematic version of the Broadway show of twenty-five years ago, based loosely on the story of Berry Gordy and the Supremes. As the New Yorker (stingy with its compliments) says, “The sigh you will hear across the country in the next few weeks is the sound of a gratified audience: a great movie musical has been made at last.” Barbershoppers will love all the vocal music, and how well it integrates into the plot, as well as the acting of Eddie Murphy, Jamie Foxx (who also played Ray Charles in *Ray*), the beautiful Beyonce Knowles, and Jennifer Hudson (of *American Idol* fame).

Letters to the editor:

Hi John,

How did the show turn out? I tried to get off work to see it but it just didn't work out. Please thank the chorus for the tickets for me.

Let me know where you will be singing Christmas songs and I will try to be there. I would love to see and hear all of you again.

Nancy (Miller)

Big Chief Chorus Holiday Crossword Puzzle, Solution



Note: All un-attributed articles and photos are by John Cowlshaw

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Dick Johnson, (248-363-5173)

Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Lyle Howard, & Bill Holmes

President: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)

Past President: Pete Mazzara

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bill Holmes

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large – Ron Clarke, Dar Johnson, Dave Myre, Gil Schreiner

Chorus Manager: Art Carinci

Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter

CALENDAR

Jan 2, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Jan 6-7, Sa,Su	C.O.T.S.
Jan 9, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Jan 16, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Jan 19, F	Uncle Sam Night, Windsor
Jan 20, Sa, 3:00	Singout, American House, Rochester Hills,
Jan 23, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Jan 30, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Feb 6, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Feb 13, T	Singout, Rochester Adams High School (Tentative)
Mar 23-25, F-Su	Spring Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake
April 13-15, F-Su	Pioneer District Convention, Traverse City
July 28, Sa, 7:00	Goodrich Summer Concert Series, Goodrich Village Park