



BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

Vol. 6, No. 12, (#72)

April 1, 2007

**Here we go to Higgins Lake, to Higgins Lake, to Higgins Lake.
Here we go to Higgins Lake, for vo-cal en-ter-tain-ment.**

AROUND THE PATCH

The Big Chief Chorus sang to an enthusiastic audience of about 125 at Canterbury on the Lake for their **Saint Patrick's Day** celebration, Friday, March 16. Fred McFadyen directed us, as Tom Blue was up north judging high school choruses. **FOUR WHEEL DRIVE** sang a couple of songs, Freddie told a joke and led the audience in some sing-along Irish favorites, and we all headed downstairs to their "Bubble and Squeak" for green beer, green punch, chips, and popcorn.

We're working on our two **contest songs**: "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Let the Rest of the World Go By." In addition, Director Tom is leading us through new songs: "Amazing Grace," "Country Roads," "Precious Lord," "Lida Rose," "Wells Fargo Wagon," and "MacNamara's Band."

Late-breaking news: Al Fisk will not be able to join us at our Spring singing retreat; his father-in-law passed away and the funeral is Saturday.

Terry Jamison has been demonstrating a good eye for the clock and a fine directorial hand in his new role as Chorus Manager. As of March 20, we have 35 men signed up to sing at **District** in Traverse City.

Wayne Cheyne reminds us of the importance of **membership renewal**. Almost half our memberships expire in the first quarter, and all who expect to sing in competition must get renewed. (Nine hadn't by Mar 25. See below.) The Bari section has been strengthened by **Dave Shantz's** return.

Thanks to **Ted Prueter** for arranging and distributing our **new music binders**; and to **Gene Downie** for his continued work generating **Chorus Directories**.

From **Prez Zav**:
Men,

It's not too early to be thinking about the 51st Annual Woodshed Contest that Pontiac will host at the Pontiac Country Club, 4335 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford. Please try to clear your calendars for Friday, April 6th, and do your darndest to be there and be a part of it. Russ Seely and the **SILVERDOMES** have agreed to attend and judge the participating quartets. That alone is worth the price of admission, which, incidentally, is **FREE!!** There will be a cash bar, but snacks will be provided at no charge. (This year, we have been given the OK by The Pontiac Country Club to bring in snacks to compliment their cash bar.) Please make every effort to be there. Oh, by the way, for those of you who have never attended, it's a stag affair.

From **Ron Clarke**:
Men,

After last night's survey, the **new class C shirt** will be the yellow button-down (please do not use the word maize in my Spartan presence). (The second choice at half the count of the yellow was the dark wine.)

I will take shirt sizes at rehearsal. Look on your dress shirt for the correct size. I need both a neck size and a sleeve length.

If you were not at rehearsal Mar 27, please e-mail your shirt size to me as soon as possible. I will try to have most of the shirts for those going to contest but no guarantees. Cost of the shirts will be \$25

Please be advised that the BCC can not be held responsible for what the girls will do to you when they see you in your new shirt!

In his first year of competition, **Jack Teuber will be awarded** in Traverse City in the **Public Relations** category. He will be joined by an award to **SMOKE SIGNALS in the Bulletin** category. Two awardees in one chapter!

More **COTS wisdom** from Roger and Zaven: "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE introduced Jay **Giallomarado's warm-up exercise** to the chorus, March 13. Copies are available by email by request.

The **Big Chief Chicks** met on March 17 for lunch at A Matter of Taste. Next up? April 19 afternoon, gathering to make button broaches.

QUARTET NEWS

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE sang March 10 for a surprise birthday party for the wife of one of Jeff Doig's co-workers. Their grand home in Milford held a large group of friends and relatives, and the quartet sang Happy Birthday as well as much of their repertoire.

On Saturday, March 3rd the CELEBRATION Quartet entertained at the 80th birthday celebration for Tony Stiehl. Tony has been a life-long scout for the Detroit Tigers Baseball Organization. In recognition of Tony's baseball involvement the Waterford VFW Hall was decorated with baseball balloons and paraphernalia. A front row guest in the audience of 120 well-wishers was long-time Tiger announcer Ernie Harwell. Ernie and the guests responded enthusiastically to CELEBRATION'S rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Tony and Gloria Stiehl were very cordial recipients of the quartet's performance, which included a Valentine's dedication to them. Many cameras were flashing as the focus turned to the couple. Thanks to Bill Dabbs and the St. Joseph Hospital Volunteers who made this appearance possible. (Submitted by Jack Teuber)

After three years, JACKPOT has ceased as an registered quartet. Bill Nevaux, John Cowlshaw, Zaven Melkonian, and Tom Ford got together as a pickup quartet during the 2003 Christmas season, calling themselves HOLIDAY SPIRIT. They were received so well by the chorus and their audiences that they decided to sing together on a more permanent basis. Renaming themselves JACKPOT, they sang together until Tom moved from the area. Terry Jamison replaced him in July 2006. However, competing interests limited their practice time. The quartet sang a variety of music: Barbershop, Show tunes, Jukebox, Seasonal songs, up beat and ballad - all in the A Cappella Style.

Understudy **Tom Tailford** has been singing Bari with B NATURAL and has re-registered with the chorus.

MEMBERSHIP (at 56)

New: Tom Blue, Cory Flatoff . Welcome, guys!

Renewals: Bob Butcher (2), Terry Jamison (2), Dave Myre (2), Fred DeVries (5), Geg Moss (5), Wayne Cheyne (6), Al Monroe (7), John Cowlshaw (8), Jim Owens (8), Jeff Spires (8), Bill Holmes (9), Gene Downie (10), Tom Tailford (11), Chuck Murray (12), Jeff Doig (15), Bob Marshall (17), Dan Valko (18), Mike Frye (20), Tom Blackstone (21), Stan Mersino (23), Howard Lynn (31),

Pending: Bachmann, Carinci, Holm, Dar Johnson, Legato, D. Monroe, Parrish, Shantz, Smith

April Birthdays: Jeff Spires (16th), Wayne Cheyne (25th)

**Barbershopper of the Month – Jan – John Cowlshaw
Feb – Bob Butcher**

Medical: Lew Mahacek underwent successful removal of cancerous lesions. Bob Brain's sister is terminally ill.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Nine choruses and eleven quartets had registered by Mar 23 for the Pioneer District competition at Traverse City's Grand Resort Hotel. Over 350 rooms had been reserved. All the Hospitality Suites have been reserved so the party on Saturday Night should be "SWINGIN'!!" It promises to be a great convention. In addition, the Joe Barbershop Chorus is going to be outstanding once again. The Mr. Mark Hale (director of the MASTERS OF HARMONY, MICHIGAN JAKE member, Music judge, coach, etc.) will be present to direct "Sweet and Lovely" and "Nellie." Last spring there were 200 guys on stage with Jay Giallomarado! Can it be matched? Half-hour rehearsal starts at 10:15 Saturday morning.

The 7th Annual **Harmony Happening** will be at Mt. Pleasant High School April 28. Dr. David Gillingham, CMU Prof. of Music and director of the Mt Pleasant chorus, and our 2005 District champs, PARTY OF FOUR, will work with the high school guys all day long and prepare them for the evening show. <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/YIH/YIH.htm>

Don Adams, longtime member of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, has passed on after years of declining health. He had served twice as Chapter President as well as being the only member of the Chapter to twice earn Barbershopper of the Year award.

AROUND THE WORLD

METROPOLIS sang last month at Lansing's show, as well as several years ago on our show. Now, their humorous show –"DON'T HATE US BECAUSE

WE'RE FUNNY" is available on DVD from a digital film of a live performance at BB King's in Los Angeles. They are currently touring The Netherlands, Toronto, Ontario, Tokyo, Japan, Scarborough, England, and Ireland (Kilarny, Limerick and Cork). <http://www.harmonize.com/metropolis/metrocds.htm>

Kyle Patton from the Huron Valley Harmonizers relays a request from a most unusual barbershop chorus:

"Gentlemen, our chorus has received a request from overseas for some of our good old hobby. The Huron Valley Harmonizers will be taking up a collection of sheet music for the **Baghdad Barbershop Chorus** as well as CD's and convention DVDs. If you or your chorus have anything you would like to donate please let me know. We will be looking for things at convention, and I will look into putting a collection box in the barbershop shop so you could buy a CD and drop it in the box. Please let me know if you are interested."

LIVEWIRE: News from the Barbershop Harmony Society
http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/nl_livewire_home.hcsp

Harmonizer – Jan – Feb, 2007 – Of particular interest:

Pg. 7 – Mid-winter champion quartets – Seniors & Buffalo-Bills Era.

Pg. 14 – Dealing with performance nerves

Pg 20 – Harmony University schedule of events

Pg 22 – VOCAL SPECTRUM – their story

Pg 32 – Next July's International – Schedule of events

Pg 40 – Current District Quartet Champions (FERMATA NOWHERE on pg. 42)

Sound and Music (the 12th in a series by Bruce Brede)

"OFTEN I WONDER ... if there were something more I could do to prepare myself for Contest.

It is well known that, during the prior week, Tiger Woods practices on the tournament course to anticipate and eliminate glitches that might occur during the actual competition. It is less well-known that he practices the course mentally as well. He feels himself at the first tee with his caddy and clubs, then plays each hole perfectly stroke by stroke...first a 300 yd drive down the middle, a perfect iron approach and one or two near perfect putts for a birdie. Hole by hole, stroke by stroke including assessing the distances and addressing the ball each time. He must feel that this mental rehearsal works for him.

For the 1980's and 1990's U.S. Olympic Programs, Dr. Dennis Whatley, Ph. D. in Psychology, directed the visual motor rehearsals of the US sprinters. They were wired with sophisticated biofeedback equipment and asked to run their race mentally starting with adjusting the blocks, getting set, anticipating and hearing the gun and then running the race full out. The results showed the same muscles fired with the same intensity and in the same sequence during both the

actual and mental races. The mind did not seem to be able to distinguish between thinking about doing it and actually doing it. Furthermore, the runners reported "feelings" that their mental race had been physically run and won. The phrase was coined that, "if you've been there in the mind, you've been there in the body."

What if I, several times during the week of Contest, mentally felt myself entering the stage at Terry's instruction, taking my place on the risers with a smile, feeling sole responsibility for my "1 by 2," then taking my first singing breath at Tom's direction? Then I start singing and following Tom's direction...I breathe, emote and reset while singing my part perfectly, doing my very best. Then what a joyous feeling hearing the applause and bowing before exiting the stage.

Would this "visual motor rehearsal" lead to a better personal performance? What do you think?"

MEET TOM BLUE

Tom was born in Pontiac where he attended Webster Elementary School. His dad worked at Fisher body until his retirement and now lives in Holly. His mom works in the medical field as a breast care specialist. After his folks' divorce, Tom moved as a ten-year-old to Oxford where he graduated from high school in 1983.



Tom began playing the clarinet in 7th grade. By 10th grade he had become the school's drum major, and, under the influence of the school's music director, Lew Wilson, Tom had decided on a career in music education. He also sang in

the high school chorus and a little bit of barbershop. It was during this time that he taught himself to play the piano.

Tom's family was active in the Free Methodist church. That helped shape Tom's decision to attend Roberts Wesleyan College, a small college in Rochester NY, that was founded by B. T. Roberts, the socially progressive first bishop of the Free Methodist Church. Here, Tom played the clarinet in a wind ensemble and the opera orchestra, and sang in the college chorale. This chorale made several recordings and toured extensively, on one occasion singing at Carnegie Hall.

After graduating with a Bachelors of Music Education in 1987, he took his first job, as the choral director at Rochester's West Middle School. There he taught until this past fall, when he was appointed Director of Choral Activities at Rochester Adams High School.

At West School, his choirs consistently earned superior ratings at district choral festival and participated in the state choral festival since the festival's inception. Under Tom's leadership, the West Middle School eighth grade choir took an annual tour of Chicago and Northwestern University and performed a Renaissance "wassail" every December. The West Middle School seventh grade choir performed at the Michigan State Capitol, The Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village and Meadowbrook Hall with repertoire focusing on different world cultures and languages. For several years the sixth grade chorus performed two musicals annually including such favorites as *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *H.M.S Pinafore*, *The Nutcracker*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Oliver Twist*, and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

At Adams High School the choirs have maintained their standard of excellence and have grown to include a fourth choir beginning in the fall of 2007. Recently, the choirs have been invited to perform with the Michigan Opera Theater singing in Tchaikovsky's ballet, *The Nutcracker*. The choirs have also been invited to sing with the Rochester (Michigan) Symphony in the spring of 2008 in a performance of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*. The choirs have just collaborated with the school's instrumental department on a production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. The choirs are planning a future collaborative effort with Rochester College.

During this period he has continued his education, receiving a M.M. in Music Education with a choral cognate from Michigan State University. He is currently finishing a Ph. D. in Music Education with a cognate in choral conducting from Michigan State University. He has presented several times at various conferences including the Michigan Music (Midwestern) Conference, Michigan Association for Middle School Educators, Oakland Schools and the Summer Workshop for the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. Tom is also an

adjudicator and clinician for Michigan School Vocal Music Association and represents the JAMS (junior high/ middle school) on the full board of the MSVMA organization. When I interviewed Tom, he had just returned from Standish, where he had spent two days judging high school choirs. He tries to do this several times a year. He says the quality seems to be improving across the state, perhaps because judging is done not only on performance of a prepared piece, but also on sight-reading of a new piece.

He has worked as a church musician as music director, accompanist and as director of the University Presbyterian Hand-Bell Choir. He also conducted a community chorus in Romeo, the Symphonia Chorale, for ten years. This chorus gave three concerts a year and presented Handel's *Messiah* every other year. He also sang in the Gilbert Jackson Chorale.

His hobbies include golf, and lots of canoeing and family camping, especially in the state parks along Lake Huron shore, where, last Labor Day the family heard, by ironic chance, the strains of barbershop coming from the Harrisville barbershop gathering.

Tom and his wife Jana (an English-as-a-Second-Language instructor) have been married for fourteen years and have two daughters, Anna, age 8, and Grace, age 5. They live in Lake Orion in a house on Little Square Lake that Jana's father, an independent contractor, built. By good fortune he heard the Big Chief Chorus perform last summer and pursued a joint concert venture with his high school choruses this past February. That led to a mutual discussion of the directorship, leading to his beginning the directorship this past Jan 30.

Tom urges his students to recognize that music can be a lifetime of involvement, and his belief in the role of music in life is evident when his emails arrive with the tag line: "Soulful human beings create profound music, regardless of their level of musical achievement...The community is nourished by music..." From *The Musician's Soul* by James Jordan.

He brings a passion and excellence to vocal music that will advance the Pontiac Waterford chapter musically without sacrificing its collateral goals of fellowship and fun, singing barbershop harmony.

Frog Breathing

A March 11 NPR radio interview with Jimmy Owens, New York trumpeter and veteran of the bands of Lionel Hampton, Hank Crawford, Charles Mingus, Herbie Mann and Duke Ellington included an interesting description of "frog breathing." I had trouble believing that instrumentalists can play a note for several minutes by breathing in and blowing out at the same time. But apparently it's true (though presumably not available to vocalists).

One website says: "Have you ever heard of frog breathing (also called circular breathing)? The key to it is inhaling through your nose while you are exhaling from your mouth at the same time. To learn, try this exercise. When you are drinking any liquid from a straw out of a glass, try to blow bubbles continuously while you are at the same time inhaling air through your nose. Circular breathing is more widely used in Europe, although it is seen occasionally in America." From www.playmusic.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING February 7, 2007

Excerpts from Bill Holmes' minutes.

Present were: Zaven Melkonian, Dar Johnson, Ron Clarke, Dave Myre, Jack Teuber, Roger Holm, Gil Schreiner, and Bill Holmes.

The Board approved the January minutes as distributed, and received Dick Johnson's treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$20,674.

Dave Myre, assisting Wayne Cheyne, reported two applications for membership.

Roger Holm reported that the Music Committee will choose the Fall show theme as either "Cars" or "Music Man."

Jack Teuber reported on potential sing-outs and received board approval for two in August. Working with Youth in Harmony with Zaven, Jack is in touch with Milford High School about a possible gig for Four Wheel Drive. A YIH songbook has seven songs for \$10.

Decision is pending on whether to enter spring contest in Traverse City.

The Board approved:

- a. The Vision/Mission/Goals plan for 2007
- b. Remuneration for Al Fisk for coaching at the retreat
- c. Monthly salary for the chorus director of \$200/month.
- d. Rehearsals on school snow days unless too severe.
- e. Installation Dinner (Ladies' Night) moved to a Friday in January each year.
- f. Authorized Zaven to choose the BSOM for January.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING March 14, 2007

Excerpts from Jack Teuber's minutes.

Present were: Roger Holm, Gil Schreiner, Ron Clarke, Dave Myre, Zaven Melkonian, Jack Teuber, and Gene Downey.

The Secretary's report from the February meeting was read and approved.

The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$23,607 was accepted.

Roger Holm reported on the new music binders for the chorus. We will focus on contest songs, new music and tags at the upcoming retreat. A discussion of the guest entertainers for the November show followed. The FOUR MAN FISHING TACKLE CHOIR is one of several quartets being considered. Listen well at the Pioneer District convention.

Jack Teuber reported that we have seven sing-outs scheduled at this point. Highlights for the Summer include performances at the Detroit Princess Cruise, White Lake Twp., Michigan senior Olympics, Oxford, and Goodrich. The Valentine Project resulted in 34 deliveries involving 21 men. A profit of \$1304 was realized. We should consider February 14th thru 17th for 2008.

Zaven Melkonian will investigate the necessary procedure to secure a signature card from National City Bank which will authorize Dick Johnson and another appointed chapter member to sign checks for the chapter.

Zaven Melkonian, Dave Myre and Roger Holm are planning for the Woodshed Contest. The chapter will provide snacks to go along with the cash bar. Melkonian and Jack Teuber will publicize the event to the Pioneer District.

Ron Clarke will provide catalogs and bring shirt samples to a future meeting to aid in selecting a new uniform shirt for the chapter.

There was a discussion concerning the most efficient use of our rehearsal time. Roger Holm will be making some adjustments to our rehearsal schedule.

The Chorus will rehearse at Central Methodist Church on April 10th and 17th.

Bob Butcher was selected by the board as the Barbershopper of the Month for his dedication to the Singing Valentines Program. Bob sang in three quartets over a period of four days and helped to make the program a success.

Naked Voice Records, LLC, is "the world's first record label to deal exclusively in the digital realm facilitating the download and streaming of a cappella music. Our Artists music is made available to and through a variety of digital download and streaming music services including but not limited to iTunes, Napster, MusicMatch, Rhapsody, AudioLunchbox, Ecast, SonyConnect, Starbucks, eMusic, and many, many more." That means that if you have set up to use any of these downloading venues, you can buy loads of barbershop for just \$0.99 a song. Naked Voice has pledged to bring the world:

EVERY possible song sung by
EVERY possible competitor in
EVERY possible International contest from
EVERY possible year!

So far they are back to 1997.

[I tried it. I went on iTunes and searched for Gotcha!'s "Til There Was You" from the 2002 international competition, and bought it for \$0.99.]

The simplest way to locate the BHS content on iTunes is to search for "International Barbershop". This will bring you results with just the Society's materials (and not any movie soundtracks, etc.). Since it is getting more and more crowded up there with barbershop selections (something we at Naked Voice Records are proud to say!), you may want to include the year, such as "1997 International

Barbershop". That will just bring up those releases from 1997. You may then sample each track for 30 seconds and purchase only the ones that YOU want. You can also search by Artist, for example "Yesteryear" or "Michigan Jake" or "Louisville Times" and see all that is available from that artist. If you don't have the iTunes software, or the Napster software. it is a free download from www.itunes.com or www.napster.com. Many of the other services have their own free software as well.

Furthermore, with every track purchased you are providing non-dues revenue to the Society which can help defray the costs of conservation of the archive.



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

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Dick Johnson, 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: Terry Jamison

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

CALENDAR

Mar 30-Apr 1, F-Su	Spring Singing Retreat, MacMullan Ctr, Higgins Lk.
Apr 3, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Apr 6, F	51 st Annual Woodshed contest, 7:30, PTK Country Club
Apr 10, T	Chorus rehearsal, CMC
Apr 11, W	Exec. Bd. Meeting, Zaven's home,
Apr 11, W	SPEBSQSA Anniversary (1938)
Apr 13-15, F-Su	Pioneer District Convention, Traverse City
Apr 17, T	Chorus rehearsal, CMC
Apr 17, T	BCC Anniversary (1943)
Apr 24, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
May 1, T	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
May 11, F	Mothers' Day at American House, Rochester Hills, 6pm
Jun 9, Sa	St. Anne's Mead, 7:00pm
Jun 26, T	Frankenmuth Bratfest, 7pm; bus leaves at 6pm
Jul 1-8	BHS International convention, Denver
Jul 8, Su	Detroit Princess Dinner Cruise
Jul 17, T	White Lk Twp & Library, M-59 @ Porter Rd
Jul 28, Sa	Goodrich Su. Concert Series, Goodrich Village Park, 7pm
Jul 29 – Aug 5	Harmony University 2007, St. Joseph MO
Aug 7, T	Michigan Snr Olympics Banquet, Rochester Stony Creek
Aug 9, Th	Oxford Village Park (with Sweet Ads' Great Lake Chorus)
Nov 3, Sa	63 rd Annual Show, 7pm
Dec 1, Sa	Lake Orion Christmas Parade 4:30pm