



**BIG CHIEF CHORUS**  
**SMOKE**  
**SIGNALS**



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

**Vol. 7, No. 10, (#82)**

**February 1, 2008**

**From our Director:**

Men and Friends of the BCC,

Well...it has been one year since my hearing the BCC for the very first time with my father-in-law at the Lake Orion Library. It has been a year since my interview and first time standing in front of you at the United Methodist Church for a rehearsal. 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.

There are many reflections that I have from my initial year as director of the chorus and I would like to start by saying thank you to:

- the **Executive Board** and all the officers past and present for your trust in my leadership
- the **Music Committee** for your collective musical wisdom
- the **Show Committee** for your creative energy
- the **Big Chief Barbershop Chorus** for your
  - ✓ patience as we learn about music and the art of barbershop singing

- ✓ leadership and support
- ✓ kindness and wisdom
- ✓ enthusiasm/ consistency with keeping me updated and on task
- ✓ assistance in directing whenever needed
- ✓ never-ending support and constant encouragement
- ✓ keeping us organized and going, and going, and going...
- ✓ all of the music and folders
- ✓ keeping me thinking about how we can be better
- ✓ retreat experience, as it is there that I got to know many of you
- ✓ in-coming leadership and humorous encouragement
- ✓ “pats on the shoulder” after every rehearsal
- ✓ all those “pitches” and “pitch pipes” when I need them

I would like to say a special thank you to *Dick Johnson* who has been very supportive with thoughtful words of encouragement as I have come on board. Every one of you has welcomed me and my family into the BCC and into your families as well and for that I am very grateful and appreciative. We have been on an amazing ride this year which included such things as

- an annual retreat at the MacMullan Conference Center
- competition and a weekend of barbershop singing at the convention in Traverse City
- summer sing-outs or “summer music tour”
- annual show of “Country Roads”
- Christmas sing-outs to many people and places who appreciated and needed our gift of music

It has truly been my privilege this past year to serve you and to stand in front of you week after week. I enjoy each week as we work on chorus fundamentals, and then to hear your improvement and enthusiasm for singing is a musical note of encouragement. I look forward to the coming year 2008, and it promises to be very exciting and yet not without hard work and effort and continual commitment to where we have already been and what we have already begun to set before us. I anticipate wonderful things musically and that our friendships will continue to strengthen.

As we begin the new year, I ask for your continued support, encouragement and willingness to strive for even better things musically. I would also ask that you consider strengthening your own commitment through continued service to the group, rehearsal participation and some “at home woodshedding” even if it is just going over words. Our success depends on everyone's contributions however great or small. We cannot do this without one another. So as we continue to meet at Crary Middle School and at the “Fridge” let's pack the place for 2008! Do I hear sixty voices in barbershop style?

Tom

### From the Prez:

Gentlemen Songsters, Fellow Harmonizers and BCC Chorus Singers:

We are sounding Brighter, Stronger and Better with each rehearsal. Don't you agree? How exciting to walk away from each rehearsal with such a good feeling of accomplishment.

You know – when all the pieces begin to come together – a Great Director, a Committed Executive-Board who work hard, give their time and energy to fulfill their obligation to this Chorus, Committee Chairmen, Coordinators, Section Leaders and those of YOU who put yourself out to do special things to make this singing experience work for all of us --- We Owe ----

And why and what is it that “we owe?” It is to make the end result of this collective effort so continually interesting and exciting. Because we all Love this hobby of performing music. Making it a fun, joyful and enriching time for each and everyone who in this busy world finds the time each day to practice even just one song. That end result and collective effort brings out a musical sound that says WOW, we sound great ----

Gentlemen --- You “OWE IT TO YOU” ----

Let us all continue to give our little extra time and effort --- The rewards are enormous---

Irwin “Doc” Mann, Lead

Proud to be--President of Your Big Chief Chorus

### AROUND THE PATCH

Thanks to **Doug Metzger** for printing and distributing SMOKE SIGNALS while your editor is in Florida.

The Big Chief Chorus started off the **new year** with 42 singers at its first several practices, swelling the Crary Middle School music room almost to its capacity.

90% of our Executive Board members were able to attend **COTS**.

The chapter's **Christmas gift** to Tom Blue was a Michigan State Parks Pass for Tom and his family.

B-NATURAL is scheduled to do a **Valentine promotion on Cable TV**, January 30th.

### 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.

Thanks to Gene **Downie** for preparing the **2008 BCC Directory**.

Save the **closest Crary parking spot for Ted Prueter**.

The **BIG CHIEF CHORUS SINGING RETREAT 2008** is April 4, 5, & 6 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on the North Shore of Higgins Lake. For its web site, go to:

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365-71716--,00.html>

The goals are: Fun, Fellowship, & Good Singing. With financial support from the chapter coffers, the cost is only \$85 (for two nights lodging plus five meals plus coaching). Get your check in by Feb. 19.

**B-NATURAL** “sang for 60 to 70 people at the **funeral** of Nils Rosaen at Christ Lutheran Church. We sang eight songs in the Narthex prior to and after the service and two songs during the service. Nils was 86, and a past barbershopper in Grosse Pointe. According to his daughters, he loved barbershop, so we concentrated on singing old barbershop chestnuts, except for the sacred songs in the service. It went well - as far as we were concerned!”  
Roger Holm

**Eileen Marshall** writes that she “took my Christmas certificate to Spirit on Tuesday night and told them about singing with the Big Chief Chorus and how much fun it was. Several **ladies** told me that they **would love to be included in the Christmas chorus** if the men decide they will include women again.”

### MEMBERSHIP (at 58)

**Renewals:** Walt DeNio (11), Ross Ensign (25), Bill Nevaux (33)

**Pending/Overdue:** Ron Clarke, Mike Keith, Ted Prueter

**Birthdays:** Ross Ensign (7<sup>th</sup>), John Northey (22<sup>nd</sup>), Pete Mazzara (23<sup>rd</sup>),

**Barbershopper of the Month – December - TBA**

### AROUND THE DISTRICT

Fellow Barbershoppers,

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. Jack has given his all to bring the chorus to levels never before attained and for this we are sincerely grateful.

A Director Search Team has been formed and plans are underway for the Guardians to carry on. If you know of anyone that might be interested in pursuing this challenge, please contact me.

Your Friend in Harmony,

Dave Anderson, President, Macomb County Chapter

Windsor Chapter's **Uncle Sam Night** was on Friday, January 18. BCC members included Jeff Doig, Howard Lynn, Chuck Murray, and Jeff Spires. The food included ribs, and the music was fine.

Derek Hatley, from the Grand Rapids Chapter, writes that there is a new Yahoo group to discuss the **technical aspects of barbershop music** and the hardware and software tools that we use to support it. The group is at: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/bbshoptech/> There are already 45 members.

This just in! Pioneer Seniors Quartet RESISTING-A-REST won Silver at the Mid-Winter Convention with a score of 72.9%. The quartet includes Tenor Bruce LaMarte (from our chapter), Lead Tom Connor from FERMATA NOWHERE, Bari Steve Warnaar from SOMETHING BIG! and bass Phil Haines. (In the Senior competition, no quartet member may be younger than 55, and the cumulative age of the quartet must be 240 years or more.)

## AROUND THE WORLD

Members with 12/31/2007 expiration dates can now renew online. Invoices are also being sent. Please pay:

- Online (1st choice) at <https://ebiz.barbershop.org>
- Via email to [Membership@Barbershop.org](mailto:Membership@Barbershop.org)
- Fax to 615-313-7620
- By mail: Barbershop Harmony Society, Membership, 110 - 7th Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37203-3704.

Be aware that international dues are increasing.

## Big Chief Jeopardy, #16 (Did you get these?)

1. Answer: He grew up in Canada, but since he had neither voted in Canadian elections nor “sworn allegiance to the King,” he had dual citizenship. He worked in refrigeration and boilers on a battleship, at Wesley Quaker Maid, Bendix Research Labs, Williams International, and Canterbury-On-The-Lake. Question: Who is Howard Lynn?
2. Answer: This duo includes one Lead who began singing karaoke at the Heart of the Lakes VFW post on Airport Road and his buddy who followed his Irish wife back to Ireland last year. Question: Who are Gil Schreiner and Tom Newman?

## Big Chief Jeopardy, #17 (Try these.)

1. Answer: From a hilltop in French-occupied Germany, his aircraft control squadron controlled all of the air traffic in Europe – from southern Spain to Southern England and Scandinavia. He even rode

- along during one memorable flight into Berlin on a C-54 as MIGs flew at them and under them. (See Issue #51)
2. Answer: “In this age of dictators and government control of everything, about the only privilege guaranteed by the Bill of Rights not in some way supervised and directed, is the art of Barber Shop Quartet singing. Therefore, we have decided to hold a songfest on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club.” (See Issue #61)

## MEET DAVID ALLEN

David Allen joined our chorus less than a year ago, but has already shown his commitment (with almost perfect attendance) and his musical virtuosity (he arranged a barbershop version of “Rockin’ round the Christmas Tree” for vocals and guitar).



David was born in Detroit in 1958, the youngest of three children. His dad was a natural-born salesman, dealing in whole-sale food supplies, his mom a homemaker and hairdresser. His brother Bob is a finish carpenter (Dave occasionally works with him), and his sister Linda retired from Williams International to care for their mother during her final illness in 1999.

David attended Walled Lake Western High School where he wrestled (119 lb class) and sang in the male chorus and choir under Mr. Zerbin. When he graduated in 1976, he enlisted in the Air Force, and served three years in Shreveport LA and Korea as a heating mechanic. Stateside, he joined his dad's candle and incense wholesale company, serving in warehouse and distribution until his dad's death in 1985. Then he worked for Bamal, an auto supplier for six

years, in the warehouse and in quality assurance. When he was laid off, he started nursing training at O.C.C (1991) and became a health care provider, first at nursing homes (particularly Whitehall in Novi), and then in home health care through agencies (the trend for the last fifteen years).

He met his wife Cheryl in 2000 at Pontiac's Unity Church. Cheryl has trained as a medical assistant at Baker College. They married in 2005. They live in a Waterford apartment with their two cats, President Madison and King Caesar. Cheryl has one child and grandchildren.

David started playing guitar in high school. He took a few lessons, but is largely self-taught. He played in various garage and basement rock bands. He has never stopped playing. He has had his Yamaha acoustic guitar for fifteen years, and also has a Greg Bennett electric guitar. He just acquired a banjo, to increase his versatility. He is currently playing with a band (the Basementals) with Mike Keith's son, Brian, on harmonica and vocals, along with a bass player and drummer.

He sang for a season in 1997 with the Edison Glee Club in Warren and has sung in his bands. When David was augmenting his salary with evening agency work as a janitor at Roeper School, Cheryl did an internet search for vocal groups and located the Big Chief Chorus for him, which has replaced his other evening work.

Most of his spare time is devoted to music, but he also enjoys such quiet activities, as pencil drawing, reading (especially suspense) and movies (his favorite is *Lonesome Dove*), and jigsaw puzzles. His happiest time is "since marrying my sweetie."

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The **Jan/Feb AARP** has an article on **Oliver Sacks**. Dr. Sacks has published many interesting articles in *The New Yorker* on fascinating neurological pathologies. He has taken on music in his latest book, *Musicophilia: tales of Music and the Brain*. "I'd always suspected we were a musical species ... [But] I'm actually amazed at how much of the brain is recruited for musical experience. The ability to appreciate music is a defining quality of our humanity." Music as medicine? Parkinson's patients profit from the tempo and rhythm of music, whereas for people with Alzheimer's, it's the evocativeness of music that is primary.

**"Music is in our genes - African cultures that sing alike tend to be genetically similar."** (By Ewen Callaway, in the scientific journal, *NatureNews*)

"A study of 39 African cultures has shown that their genetics are closely linked to the songs they sing. Music, it seems, could reveal deeper biological connections between people than characteristics, such as language, that change rapidly when one culture meets another, says Floyd Reed, a population geneticist at the University of Maryland in College Park, who led the study."

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: January 9, 2007, Excerpts from Bob Butcher's minutes**

President Irwin Mann presided at Roger Holm's residence with additional attendees being: Jack Teuber, Dave Myre, Ron Clarke, Wayne Cheyne, Zaven Melkonian, Dave Shantz, Dick Johnson, Bob Butcher, and guest Chuck Murray.

Doc Mann appointed Wayne Cheyne as the Parliamentarian for all future board meetings.

Dick Johnson presented a written Treasurers Report which reflected a balance of \$23,814 as of Jan. 9. Treasurer Johnson reported there are new forms to be used for chapter income under \$25,000 Also, Nashville is going to require submission of an in-house Audit Review, re-certification of 501c-3 Corporation Renewal, and IRS Tax Returns, prior to May 15, 2008.

Doc Mann presented the following names for bonding under the insurance policy of BHS: Irwin Mann, Dick Johnson, Dar Johnson, Bruce Brede, Jim Owens, and Pete Mazzara.

Wayne Cheyne asked how we can make visitors feel more welcomed, possibly establishing a mentoring program. Wayne also discussed the new dues payment structure. The "Man of Note" discount award program is continuing.

Roger Holm presented the 2008 Music Program of new songs, sing-out repertoire, and an "As Needed" repertoire of songs to be used at Tom Blue's discretion. There also was discussion of whether to have Gene Hanover conduct individual voice training sessions.

Roger Holm will also discuss with Fred McFadyen the continuance of the "Polecat Learning Program" which has been very well received by the chorus.

Roger Holm also brought up for discussion making refreshments available during Chapter meetings/rehearsals, or encouraging chapter meeting "afterglows" at a local bar/restaurant.

There was initial discussion about the guest quartet for the fall show.

There was also discussion of whether the current chapter meeting format is satisfactory, and whether we should continue to include some quartet component in the meetings. There was agreement that the present format is well established and well received by Chorus members.

Roger Holm introduced discussion on two proposed chorus policy changes, related to: #8- Auditioning for Chapter Annual Show Performance, and #9- Providing Music & Learning Aids to the Chapter Chorus.

Doc Mann presented Pete Mazzara's schedule of events to be considered for the retreat on April 4-6 at the MacMullan Center. The chapter will subsidize the cost by \$48 per member. The schedule was approved, with latitude for change.

Dave Shantz introduced discussion about BHS's "Sing for Life" 2008 International Blood Drive & Donor Recruitment Program. It was decided that, due to a lack of facilities, our Chapter would investigate going in with another Chapter, or work with another authorized blood bank.

Jack Teuber presented a tentative Chorus Calendar of Events for 2008.

Discussion of reimbursement and stipends for retreat leaders.

Decision to keep the Valentine sing-out cost at \$45.

Ron Clarke has agreed to continue as the 2008 Fall Show Chairman, with assistance from Jeff Doig, Pete Mazzara, and others.

Decision to have the Fall Show Cast Party at Waterford Oaks. A proposed food menu was presented for review. Both Bruce Brede and Tom Jackson have offered to assist the Cast Party Chairman/Coordinator.

Decision to create a suggestion box.

BSOM for December, 2007 chosen.

Doc Mann brought up for information:

1. Two venues are being considered for summer chorus rehearsal/meetings, the "Fridge" and Waterford Oaks Community Center.
2. Clarification: that the Director is invited to attend all Board meetings, but is not considered a Board member for voting purposes.
3. All Board members requested to consider an adjunct Awards Program, to be discussed at the next Board meeting.
4. He has submitted a survey relative to activities, operation and administrative function of the Chapter requested by Barbershop Harmony Society.

- Provide a Chapter with ideas on how to build a performance resume and to build a larger fan base and roster to pull from to make future events more successful
- Show people how to utilize the FREE yet powerful recording software Audacity to rehearse without having to meet with your chorus or quartet and thus not missing a "beat" (hey, I thought it was cute). Or how to simply utilize it to record yourself singing with a learning tracks and learn your part. (CHORDIOLOGY has used this to sing one part, email it to the next Chordilogist, have them record their part with it and then send it on to the next member, et cetera, until you have a full quartet singing the song. Visit [www.Audacity.com](http://www.Audacity.com) and [http://www.chordiology.com/Blog/Entries/2008/1/6\\_the\\_tyranny\\_of\\_the\\_truth\\_machine\\_\(rob\).html](http://www.chordiology.com/Blog/Entries/2008/1/6_the_tyranny_of_the_truth_machine_(rob).html)
- Talk about multi-track recorders and vocal mics for recording or performing such as the SM-58 or the SM-57 depending what you are trying to accomplish. See Rob for multi-track recorders and Paul for mics.

We can be contacted at [Info@Chordiology.com](mailto:Info@Chordiology.com) or my (Paul) cell phone number is 734-812-5757. Thanks, Happy New Year and here's to a GREAT '08 and beyond!

The guys of CHORDIOLOGY (Cliff, Paul, Rob and Dave)"

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**CHORDIOLOGY** is our new high-energy district champions. Here are excerpts from their latest email:

"COTS! Wow! What a riot! When we were there last night talking with people all we heard was how informative, interactive, and FUN the classes were and that the class leaders were top notch. Oh! And the hanging out and singing afterward, what a BLAST!

"As you may have guessed, CHORDIOLOGY loves meeting and singing with all kinds of people. So what did these four fun-loving, energetic, creative, and arguably small-brained Chordilogists come up with? We thought that we would simply provide some of our ideas as a starting point as to how we may be able to help out:

- Visit a chapter
- Visit a Chapter on a Guest Night
- Work with a chapter's Young Men In Harmony outreach program
- Singing on a Chapter Show
- Join in on a singout that could lead to great press for a Chapter and aid it in bringing in new members
- Give a Chapter some ideas as to how to get outside singing jobs and how they could bring in more outside work than they'd know what to do with.

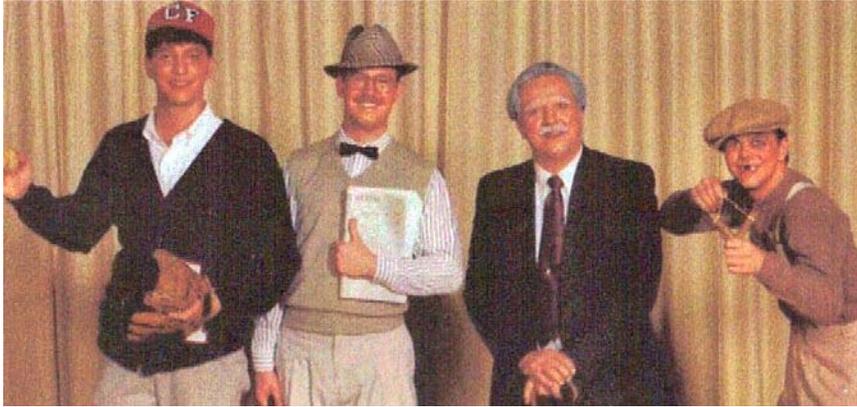
**I'm Okay with That!** (from the Association of International Champions Publication) By: **Kitty Slamka** (wife of Jack)

As POWER PLAY prepares to retire, I cannot help but sit back and wonder "How in the world did all this begin?" They were just babies – not Jack, but the boys!

Well, anyway, Jack joined the Grosse Pointe Chapter in the Pioneer District early in 1972, so, of course, the boys were born into it. It seems like there has always been singing in our home. Jack's family members are all wonderful singers. Thank goodness, because if they had to rely on me for musical talents, it would not have been pretty. I'm OK with that!

I recall the time Michael, at 2 1/2 years old, climbed up on an old Barbershopper's knee, and with two other guys, sang the tenor to Coney Island Baby. At the time, I was holding one-year old Mark, and he really seemed to be taking it all in. The boys were always around when Jack was rehearsing his music so I guess I shouldn't have been surprised that Michael knew all the words and notes. He usually did and does, and I'm OK with that!

I've truly come to believe that when you expose a child to barbershop singing, he is not only taught a craft and some history, but also learned respect at an early age and how to mingle with people of all ages. He is exposed to the highs and lows of success and the not so successful, "OK. You were a Star on a milk crate for the weekend ... now it is Monday ... put out the garbage, Star." I'm OK with that!



A leaner, hairier Slamka-four, from AIC

Any of you that have reared children know you cannot force a child to do what he does not love to do; that piano will sit gathering dust, those drums (thank goodness!) will sit silent in the basement. What if Michael and Mark had wanted to be baseball or hockey players and not singers? I would have been there to encourage and support them all the way. But, while they loved to sing and perform for an audience, they never loved to clean their rooms. (Well, you can't win them all!) For a few years they even let me think I was in charge! I'm OK with that!

The evolution of POWER PLAY began in 1985 with FAMILY FORUM: Jack, Michael, Don and Jack's brother Mike (Don's dad). In 1988, Don left to pursue a college education, and FAMILY FORUM morphed into POWER PLAY with Jack, Michael, Mark and friend Jason. In 1992 Don rejoined the quartet and we were back to an all-family unit once again. Jack and I have another son, David, who is not a Barbershopper. Along with being my relief from the barbershop world, he is an avid supporter and a great big brother. By the way, we are now into the fourth generation of Slamka Barbershoppers ... and I'm OK with that!

Each time they went on stage, all I could do was hope and pray they would give their best performance. I would often watch them perform, and I didn't really know if they were singing the right vowels or diphthongs; all I knew was, "Boy, that shirt needs pressing," or, "What were they thinking when they picked out that outfit?" (Stop looking, for "I'm OK with that!")

Their first CD was a reflection of who they are. "Through the Years" still reduces me to tears. "I Miss Mother Most of All" tugs at my heart strings. "The Best Times I Ever Had...I Owe 'em to my Good Old Dad" tells their story all by itself. Their third CD, "Love at Home," is what we have. "Side by Side" is what

we are. You cannot quit a family quartet, but you can go into retirement. True, it has taken me three years to get a porch light; but I'm OK with that!

Which one will I have to calm down after their final performance? Maybe all of them; and I'm OK with that.

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlshaw

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Dick Johnson, Fred McFadyen, & Bill Holmes

President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)

Past President: Zaven Melkonian

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bob Butcher

Treasurer: Dar Johnson

Members at Large – Ron Clarke, Dave Myre, Gil Schreiner, David Shantz

Chorus Manager: Dave Myre

Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter, Moss, Cowlshaw, and Brede

## CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times)

Jan 29, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Feb 5, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Feb 12, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, (at Central Un.Meth.Ch.?)
Feb 13,14, W,Th	Valentines Day Deliveries
Feb 16, Sa	Power Play Farewell Show
Feb 19, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary (Retreat check deadline)
Feb 26, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Mar 4, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Mar 11, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Mar 14, F,6:30	Canterbury on the Lake (refreshments follow)
Mar 18, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Mar 25, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Apr 4-6, F-Su	Spring Retreat, MacMullan Ctr, Higgins Lk
Apr 5, Sa, 4pm	The Brook of Roscommon
Apr 11, Fr, TBA	OC Parks & Rec, 2800 Watkins Lk Rd
Apr 25-27	Pioneer District Convention – Battle Creek
May (date to be determined)	52nd Annual Woodshed Contest
May 8, Th, 1 pm	Waterford Senior Ctr, 3621 Pontiac Lake Rd.
Jun 28, Sa, 3pm	Log Cabin Days, Hatchery Rd, Waterford
Nov 1, Sa	64 <sup>th</sup> Annual Show