



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



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

**Vol. 8, No. 6, (#90)**

**October 1, 2008**

From our Director:  
Men of the BCC,

Thank you for a wonderful guest night. I felt that the guests enjoyed themselves and you sang well and were welcoming as usual to any guests that we have. Last week does not have to be the only guest week. Guests are welcome at any time to any rehearsal.

Thanks for all of your hard work and effort these past few weeks. The music is starting to come together and some rather difficult music is coming along very nicely. As we get closer to our show and we get more and more anxious, let's not forget the reasons that we do this.

Let's remember our usual singing concepts and our striving to be the best that WE can be. It's all about the music, the fellowship and the audiences that we love to sing for!

### **AROUND THE PATCH**

The Big Chief Chorus sang four songs for a candlelight vigil September 11 at the **Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial** site on N. Telegraph. The names of

Michigan's heroes from police and fire lost over the past year were unveiled to memorialize their service, as well as several newly discovered long-departed police and fire officers. The web site is at:

<http://www.michiganfallenheroes.com/support.html>

Jack Teuber reported that we were on local TV that night briefly before they switched to the statue and the candle lighting. "Our blue blazers looked good. The singing ("America the Beautiful") came through with a good sound."

The Board has approved a **discount program** for our upcoming show on November 1st. The discount program will **ONLY** apply to registered non-profit groups, organizations and to individuals residing in Senior Living Complex. The discount applies for ten (10) or more ticket sold, with one (1) free ticket to the group for each ten (10) sold. The discount price will be \$10 per ticket for 10 or more tickets sold.

**David Allen** has had to pull back on his chorus commitments due to work conflicts.

### **Special Waterford Christmas Choir Invitation** (via Ross Ensign)

Elizabeth Spry, a friend of Roger's and one of the great directors in our area is forming a Waterford Christmas Choir. It's a free opportunity with only two rehearsals prior to presenting a Holiday Concert in conjunction with the Waterford New Horizons Concert Band on Sunday, December 7. The music will be provided and you can purchase it after the event if you desire.

Glad to have **Ted Prueter** and **Al Monroe** back with us. Al had two stents inserted in a cardiac artery and is undergoing three months of cardiac rehab.

**Art Carinci's mother** passed away September 2. "Betty was 95 years old, a beautiful person, and she attended many of our Fall Shows." (Pete Mazzara)

Thanks to Wayne Cheyne for once again organizing a great **Guest Night**.

Through September, we have **performed** 81 times for 4787 people.

### **QUARTETS**

On Sunday, September 14, our CELEBRATION BARBERSHOP QUARTET (Teuber, Brede, Moss, and Dabbs) sang at a family gathering of eighteen people at Kay Barberi's 89th birthday party, Watkins Lake. Kay was married after WWII where, as an army nurse, she met Carlo Barberi, a US soldier. Though born in Boston, Kay's parents were Irish so the quartet's presentation of "My Wild Irish Rose" and "The Irish Blessing" were well received along with the other songs. The whole group joined in "Happy Birthday," "God Bless America," and the "Do Lord Medley." An added benefit was nephew Dennis

Barberi's agreement to visit the BCC on Guest Night. Dennis is a long time member of the Pontiac Theatre IV stage productions.

## MEMBERSHIP (at 64)

**Renewals:** Terry Jamison (3), Gil Schreiner (4), Bob Brain (4), Doc Mann (9), Neil Braun (19), Bruce LaMarte (37), Bill Dabbs (38)

**Pending:** David Allen, Art Carinci, Mel Parrish

**Birthdays:** Art Carinci (18<sup>th</sup>), Walt DeNio (27<sup>th</sup>), Bill Nevaux (27<sup>th</sup>), Roger Holm (29<sup>th</sup>),

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

Al Fish writes about the Fall Pioneer convention in Battle Creek, Oct 17-19. "So far we have Holland, Michiana Metro, Windsor, Detroit-Oakland, South Bend-Mishawaka (CARD), Traverse City, Wayne, Macomb County, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Grosse Pointe, Something Big!!, and Four Decades (senior and regular), Interstate Chord Company, Resisting-A-Rest (senior only), Moxy, Showtime (senior and regular), Brigadeers, Singing With Dad, Four To Go (senior and regular), Frankjeffology (Friday night only for unpublished score and eval), Shades of Grey, Iaintimology (Friday night only for unpublished score and eval), and Billchuckology (Friday night only for unpublished score and eval) signed up."

## Haven't gotten a Troubadour lately?

From Michael Baribeau, Troubadour Editor, <http://PioneerDistrict.org>

The **print version** of the **Troubadour** is just about ready to go to the printers so should be in the mail to members soon.

Due to costs Pioneer has cut the number of issues per year down to two, while maintaining the online eTroub issues monthly.

Below is a link to an unabridged printable pdf file of the last seven months totaling 77 pages. I need to edit the print version down to 24 pages for an abridged version but will have it out ASAP.

<http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/08/2008Summer.pdf>

**"Rochester Chapter's Heart of the Hills Chorus** will present it's 33rd Annual Show "Let's Celebrate the Holidays" on October 25. You can hear and laugh at HOT AIR BUFFOONS in case you missed them at International competition in Nashville, or at the Buckeye Invitational, (or at any other recent performance), and also enjoy Pioneer's own SOMETHING BIG! Doran McTaggart will preside. Saturday, October 25, 7 pm, at Rochester High School, corner University and Livernois in Rochester Hills. For tickets call Walt Kaupilla, 248-853-6622, [walmart@yahoo.com](mailto:walmart@yahoo.com) "

From Roger Lewis:

I checked with Harmony Foundation yesterday morning on the status of the **memorial contributions for Russ Seely**. We're still a little short of the \$1,000.00 in memorials that will put Russ' name on the memorial board displayed at the HQ office. If you were planning to send a check in memory of Russ, now would be a good time; he certainly deserves to be recognized in this way.

Photos of Russ are at:

<http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/07/gpc/pics>

and articles at:

<http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/07/gpc/>

From: Jim Kunz, Pioneer District President

The Society Operations Team (OT) will soon be releasing a **Fall 2008 Survey**, inviting all members of the Barbershop Harmony Society to visit a web site and provide feedback regarding a variety of topics related to barbershop singing and the society. The invitation will be sent via email, to the email address on file in eBiz for all members of the Society. The email will direct you to SurveyMonkey.com, which is the service that's hosting the survey and supporting data collection and analysis activities. The survey should be available through October 10th.

I hope you're all able to participate in the survey. The questions should be easy to answer and will help your Society Operations Team and Board plan how they can best support your barbershopping needs.

## AROUND THE WORLD

Legendary BBS director, singer, and arranger Freddie King died this past month. He was a retired music teacher in Baltimore County and a longtime director of the award-winning Dundalk Chorus of the Chesapeake, the Sweet Adelines' Dundalk chapter, and baritone of ORIOLE FOUR. Many were the testimonials to his talent and humor, including this photo of Freddie showing off his legendary, magnificent choppers at Harmony College 2002.



## Big Chief Jeopardy, #21 (Did you get these?)

1. **Answer:** He became Manufacturing Engineering Director of the Corvette platform after serving as electronics systems officer on his

Tonkin Gulf ship as it supported Swift Boat sampan interdiction.

**Question:** Who is Bob Brain?

- Answer:** He owned a drugstore in the old Waldron Hotel where many chapter meetings were held. He originated the Music Man trophy, and was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 1975. His quartet, the DETROITERS, reached the International Finals in 1946. **Question:** Who was Rawley Hallman?

**Big Chief Jeopardy, #22** (Try these.)

- Answer:** He has a Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine and did a residency in biomechanics and sports medicine.
- Answer:** He was in the first graduating class of Pontiac Northern, became a journeyman pipe fitter, and then was part of a traveling quality systems team.

(The appropriate **Questions** can be found in back issues # 55 & 65.)



### ASK THE DIRECTOR

Anonymous asks: What do you do about dinner on Tuesday nights? Do you make it home first, eat out, or skip it?

Tom answers:

Tuesday night dinner is usually not so usual. It can consist of going home to a delicious dinner prepared by my lovely wife, or it may be one of the following options depending on the Blue family schedule and/or my crazy schedule:

- a quick drive thru any convenient fast food establishment
- a left-over lunch
- a dinner out with my family
- a quick bite at Arby's (if I am flying back from Muskegon with John Cowlshaw)
- a quick snack provided by some meeting that I had to attend
- water and a candy bar
- any snack food left in the car by my children

So you can see, the director's palate is quite varied and interesting to say the least. Only occasionally do I arrive at the BCC rehearsal completely famished as I usually have enough reserves in this body to make it home.

### MEET DOUG METZGER

Doug was born in Saginaw, Michigan 55 years ago. His dad was a management trouble-shooter whose work required frequent relocation – Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, California, and back to Michigan. Doug attended thirteen schools in twelve years, but graduated from Saginaw

MacArthur High School. In 1979 Metzger senior retired from fixing poorly managed facilities to start his own company, The Print Shop, in Waterford.



Such frequent relocation limited Doug's extracurricular activities, but he still was able to play baseball (outfield and pitcher). And in his 5th grade school, in Fishers, Indiana, he joined the high school amateur radio club and became the youngest kid to get an FCC license, broadcasting as WN9SKO. ("CQ, buddy.")

He also had music in his blood. His dad had been a musician in the Navy band, and his mom sang on the radio in Toledo, OH. Doug sang in the elementary school chorus, but after that, the moving around was too frequent.

Doug attended Michigan Tech and graduated from MSU with a multidisciplinary degree in business and law.

He started working as a manager at Minnesota Fabrics, then for Inland Steel in purchasing and as a district sales manager. For fifteen years he was a residential realtor in Farmington Hills.

His mom had also worked at The Print Shop. After her passing, ten years ago, Doug stepped in, and has been very busy, with his younger brother, managing the shop, and making sure it stays strong in these challenging times.

Doug met Lynne at MSU. They have two sons, Chris (27) and Andy (21). Lynne is in charge of the internship program in dietetics at Ford Hospital.

Last year, long-time customer Roger Holm invited Doug to join the Christmas chorus. At season's end, Doug had no trouble deciding to stay on in our Lead section. With a little more experience under his belt and a little more time in his busy life, he'd like to explore quartetting. Time, you say? For instance:

Golf. Doug plays in a golf league and has had a 9 handicap.

Mechanics. Doug pulled a decrepit '51 GMC truck out of a chicken coop eight years ago to give his sons mechanical experience. They completely disassembled it and re-assembled it sufficiently to drive it through the neighborhood last year.

Sailing. Doug owns a 16-footer and has "single-handed" on all five Great Lakes.

Aviation. Flying lurks appealingly in the shadows. He built and flew radio-controlled airplanes. His father-in-law was a WWII pilot and took them up often in his PTK-based plane. Twenty years ago, he took a discovery flight in a Cessna that he plans to follow up on.

Soccer. He coached for fourteen years, which led to his becoming a referee and then playing in the men's C-League.

Antiques. Doug and Lynne are strongly into buying and selling antiques. For example, he just bought an 18th century English carriage clock, and a cast iron witch's cauldron. His wife specializes in Hitchcock furniture, seriously enough to take a day off work to buy six pieces at a recent Ohio auction.

Whew! We're glad you have time for the BCC, Doug!

### **Youth Movement in barbershop**

Director Tom has given us two good links. An article "Barbershop - In Perfect Harmony - Though more than a century old, four-part harmony stays in tune with today's world" is available at:

<http://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/content/article/7370345.shtml>

A book, *Pitch Perfect – The Quest for Collegiate A Cappella Glory*, by GQ senior editor Mickey Rapkin, "is a behind-the-scenes look at the bizarre, inspiring, and hilarious world of competitive collegiate a cappella. It takes readers inside the a cappella subculture and explores what the proliferation of these amateur—but phenomenally accomplished—groups says about us, our quest for fame, and our taste in music. The story unfolds over the 2006-2007 school year and concerns three groups, each at a crossroads: the legendary Tufts BEELZEBUBS, the upstart HULLABAHOOS from the University of Virginia, and the ladies from University of Oregon's DIVISI."

### **Is Coffee bad for Singers?**

Tea and pop contain about 50 mgs of caffeine per serving. Coffee about 100 mg per cup. Jane Brody, the well-respected Personal Health columnist for the New York Times wrote "Sorting out Coffee's Contractions" in her column August 5.

Hydration. It was long thought that caffeinated beverages were diuretics, but studies reviewed last year found that people who consumed drinks with up to 550 milligrams of caffeine produced no more urine than when drinking fluids free of caffeine.

Heart disease. Heart patients, especially those with high blood pressure, are often told to avoid caffeine, a known stimulant. But an analysis of 10 studies of

more than 400,000 people found no increase in heart disease among daily coffee drinkers, whether their coffee came with caffeine or not.

Hypertension. Caffeine induces a small, temporary rise in blood pressure. But in a study of 155,000 nurses, women who drank coffee with or without caffeine for a decade were no more likely to develop hypertension than non-coffee drinkers.

Cancer. Panic swept this coffee-dependent nation in 1981 when a Harvard study tied the drink to a higher risk of pancreatic cancer. Coffee consumption temporarily plummeted, and the researchers later concluded that perhaps smoking, not coffee, was the culprit.

Health Benefits. Probably the most important effects of caffeine are its ability to enhance mood and mental and physical performance. At consumption levels up to 200 milligrams, consumers report an improved sense of well-being, happiness, energy, alertness and sociability. This probably extends to singing, also.

### **PrintMusicFinale and Notepad**

The news from **Finale** means that you really should think about downloading **Notepad 2008** now before the free version disappears, or you'll have to pay for it.

On the other hand, if you think you would never play around with it, add a note, change the tempo, or anything like that, but simply open and play files that someone sends you, then you can wait for the **new Finale Reader**.

Once again, the site is: <http://www.finalemusic.com/NotePad/>

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: September 10, 2008. Excerpts from Secretary Bob Butcher's minutes.**

Members present: Cheyne, Shantz, Holm, Teuber, Mann, Myre, Clarke, Butcher, and Schreiner.

There was discussion about who are "active" members and who should be considered "inactive" members. Inactive: those not in attendance at any chorus function for the last ninety days.

Dick Johnson's Treasurer's report lists current balance of the treasury at \$16,874.02.

Wayne reported on preparations for Guest Night. He also emphasized the importance of getting new people involved in the Christmas Chorus program.

Jack Teuber's report included upcoming events, Fallen Heroes Candlelight Memorial, and the Orion Township Library. A possible performance was rejected for the Art in the Village event, in Clarkston on September 20. Another event was considered, A Taste of Rochester, on October 20. Due to a conflict with the Pioneer District Convention this event was rejected. The Chorus has been invited to participate on December 6, 2008, in a singing "float ride" sponsored by T&C Federal Credit Union Holiday Extravaganza. This request was

the result of a full page ad sold by Walt DeNio. Further investigation will be conducted.

The Music Committee will meet September 28 to discuss the 2009 music program.

The possibility of making a donation to the Lyme Disease Foundation was discussed and turned down, the Board agreeing to keep any donation toward a benevolent fund a private, personal matter.

Jack Teuber will advertise the Woodshed contest on the PIONET website.

The tuxedo issue was discussed further (white wing collar shirt, black bow tie to go with the new chorus tux (class A) uniform).

After much discussion, it was agreed that the sale of raffle tickets will be abandoned for the Fall Show.

A proposal to give a discount for ticket prices to groups of 10 (ten) or more was discussed, and later passed.

The after show cast party tickets are ready per Bruce Brede. The liability and licensure limitations have made serving liquor a near impossibility for the cast party.

The Board adopted Policy and Procedure #10, pertaining to a member's eligibility for benefits. When a person makes an effort in good faith to pay his membership fees, he is to be considered eligible for benefits.

Dave Shantz and Bob Butcher will contact Frank Santarelli at BHS to inquire about accident and disability insurance. This added policy will cover chorus members in the event of an accident during a performance. A request for a motion to purchase additional accident insurance through the BHS was carried unanimously.

The Board recognized the efforts of Jeff Doig and Dave Shantz for their outstanding job developing and coordinating the biographies with the Chapter web-site.

A new grant program was discussed to include area High Schools to help are high schools develop a pilot program for youth to advance a cappella music in the Barbershop style. Wayne Cheyne has agreed to chair the committee, with members Tom Blue, Gene Downing, John Cowlshaw and Dave Shantz.

Walt DeNio and Greg Moss are the nominating committee for the next election of officers for the Board.

There was discussion about advertising in local papers for the Christmas Chorus.

There was much discussion about inviting women to sing in the Christmas Chorus sing-outs. But it was decided unanimously to keep the Christmas Chorus a "MENS" Chorus.

The Board decided to invite "In-Voice" to sing in our 2009 fall show.

The Board chose John Cowlshaw as BSOM, August, 2008, for his production of part-specific learning CD's

The next Board meeting will be held on October 8, 2008 at Wayne Cheyne's home.

### **Barbershop Theory** (from Joel Rea, on Harmonet Lite)

Years ago I wrote a long post on the subject of "that really smart Greek guy" Pythagoras, and where he went wrong. He divided his string into halves (octave), fourths (double octave), and other octaves, as well as into thirds and so discovered the Perfect Fifth.

Once he derived his Circle of Fifths, he at first concluded that he had discovered the secret of creation itself. But even he realized that his Circle of Fifths didn't actually work, that no sequence of Perfect Fifths would ever exactly equal any sequence of Octaves.

The reason is actually quite simple: going up Octaves means multiplying [frequencies] by powers of 2 (2x, 4x, 8x, 16x, etc). Going up Perfect Fifths (actually, Octave + Perfect Fifth), to the Third Harmonic, means multiplying by powers of 3 (3x, 9x, 27x, etc.).

No matter HOW far you extend both sequences, you will NEVER find an ODD number that EQUALS an EVEN number! Never, ever, EVER!!

But the Circle of Fifths FAILS. It's actually a SPIRAL of Fifths. It doesn't connect back. So, non-Perfect intervals derived from it likewise fail to match up with the pure harmonics. In the case of the Major Third, the Pythagorean version winds up with a ratio of 81/64, not 5/4 (80/64), a 81/80th difference known as the Sytonic Comma or Comma of Didymus. It's too sharp.

The Barbershop Seventh, of course, is wildly different from its nearest Pythagorean equivalent.

Pythagorean intervals produce interesting harmonics, but DIFFERENT from those produced by the pure Harmonic intervals used by Barbershop. It's the tuning used in European styles such as Gregorian chants (Perfect intervals only), Chorales, Madrigals, etc. They produce a more lush, "strings-like" effect instead of the "ringing chords" effect of Barbershop. It's a great sound indeed in its own right, but it's not Barbershop, and it will never be Barbershop. The very laws of physics determine this.

Pythagorean tuning within chords is actually contradictory to Barbershop. As the research of Dr. Jim Henry (GAS HOUSE GANG, CROSSROADS) and others have shown, Barbershop harmony does NOT derive from European harmony (the melodic structure DOES, of course), but rather from African tribal chants, brought here by the African slaves. They didn't have any mathematical understanding, but simply did what sounded best, and that was true harmonics.

[Note from editor: If you'd like to play around with these ideas, there is a quick, free download at: <http://www.nch.com.au/tonegen/> which will allow you to hear any pitches or chords that you wish. Choose three pitches, such as 264, 330, and 396 to hear a barbershop triad. Then try 264, 334, and 396 to hear a Pythagorean triad; you'll hear a "beat." Returning to the barbershop triad, try adding a 4<sup>th</sup> frequency at about 463 to get a 7<sup>th</sup> chord that will "ring." If you're just a few cycles/second off – say, 458 or 468, it won't sound as good, and you'll hear a beat, instead of that wonderful ringing.]

....Practice safe sects!

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlshaw

## LETTERS TO THE CHORUS

John:

Thanks for your work on the Smoke Signals - yes, please continue sending it to me.

If you are interested, CHORDIOLOGY visited the MidStatesMen chorus of the Gratiot County chapter at Alma last week as part of their outreach program for the District (no charge, paid overnight stay) and coached (and sang for) us, made a big hit and if we are smart we will remember what they taught us - it made a significant difference in the performance of those two songs (part of our September 27 show package, "Malt Shop Memories"). Chordiology will be a featured quartet at that show and will probably sing a couple of songs with us as a chorus. C4 also preached about the use of Audacity as a learning tool (as they have been doing for a while and as they did at Nashville in a special presentation). So far two of us at Gratiot County have signed up for the "Contest Chordilogist" program - no guarantees that we will be good enough to sing with C4 but the learning experience will be, well, educational.

Thanks,  
Bill (Kocher)

A few groaners:

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.  
(He acquired his size from too much pi.)
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island,  
...but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in  
.....Linoleum Blownapart.
4. Time flies like an arrow.  
Fruit flies like a banana.
5. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
6. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger.  
.....Then it hit me.
7. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
8. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
9. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was  
...a small medium at large.
10. A backward poet writes inverse.
11. In democracy it's your vote that counts.  
....In feudalism it's your count that votes.
12. Don't join dangerous cults:



...and I don't remember who to attribute this fine photo to.

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Dick Johnson, & 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

Interim Treasurer: Dick 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)

Sep 30, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks Activities Center
Oct 7, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School
Oct 8, W	Board mtg, Wayne Cheyne's home
Oct 10, F	52 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Woodshed contest, Pont. Country Club
Oct 12, Su, 2 pm	Orion Twp Library, 825 Joslyn Rd., 48326
Oct 14, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School
October 17-19	District Convention - Battle Creek
Oct 21, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School
Oct 28, T, 7pm	Pre-show rehearsal, Waterford Mott?
Oct 30, Th, 7pm	Pre-show rehearsal, Waterford Mott?
Nov 1, Sa	64th Annual Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show
Nov 4, T, 7pm	Christmas Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School
Nov 11, T, 7pm	Christmas Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School

