



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



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

**Vol. 5, No. 3, Bulletin #51, July 5, 2005**

### **AROUND THE PATCH**

The Big Chief Chorus had three singouts in June. On June 10<sup>th</sup> we sang at Independence Oaks County Park to a national group of park directors. (See letter below). On June 14<sup>th</sup>, we dodged the raindrops to sing at Civic Center Park as part of Orion Township's summer musical program. And on June 21<sup>st</sup>, we sang at the Frankenmuth Brat Fest. A number of Big Chief Chicks were at Frankenmuth, including Jackie Murray, Hermine Mazzara, Barbara Workman,



MCFADYEN PICKUP QUARTET performing at Frankenmuth Brat Fest

Beth Ford, Bonnie Brede, Lynn Densmore, Barbara Holmes, Karen Ensign, Jan DeNio, Gari Monroe, Joan Chene, and a whole group of Troeger women including wife Jennifer, and barbershop-loving daughters Abigail and Alyssa.

### **KUDOS TO THE BIG CHIEF CHORUS FROM OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS** (via Bill Holmes, Sec)

Tom Jackson received a big "Thank-you" from the Independence Oaks County Park naturalist, Kathleen Dougherty, to convey to the Big Chief Chorus for the recent sing-out at the Park. They received many positive comments from the guests who were from all over the USA. The Executive Director, Ralph Richard, considered the chorus a vital component to the success of the program at the nature center.

THREE MEN AND A TENOR will be featured guests, live in the studio, at superstation WGN in Chicago starting at 9am EDT on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, is the last rehearsal at which to let Zaven Melkonian know that you want tickets to the DOC-sponsored **Barbershop cruise**, July 30.

How are **ticket sales for the Jukebox Classic** going? Remember, we can buy them for \$15 or sell them for \$16 (with coupon) until Aug. 30. (\$10 or \$11 for children under 12)

Jim Troeger's **Repertoire Matrix** lists eighteen songs as "off the paper" with four more by the end of the summer. This requires "homework!"

### **QUARTET/ENSEMBLE NEWS**

B NATURAL and our Dixieland Band FUN ADDICTS performed for the **Red Hat Society**, June 18<sup>th</sup>, for three hours at the Romeo Frontier Village. There were about 350 present.

On Thursday, June 16th, our CELEBRATION BARBERSHOP QUARTET also entertained about a dozen Waterford Red Hat ladies at their summer picnic at the lake. Red baseball caps were donned by the quartet while presenting "Honey Lil' Red Hats"!

Mid afternoon that same day, CELEBRATION presented thirty minutes of song for the assisted living residents of the Mendelssohn Center within the Lourdes Campus. Father's day was being celebrated by the receptive crowd of about 75 residents who by acclamation extended a return invitation.

Bruce Brede points out that Red Hats are a big organization (<http://www.redhatsociety.com>) and could represent a couple hundred or more ticket sales.

Chuck Murray and John Cowlshaw joined Wally Plosky and Jack Frucci in a pickup quartet called "THE MUSTACHIOES" for a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary gig in Plymouth, Sunday, June 26.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE sang to 150 Corvette owners at the GMC Corvette Set's fundraiser for Leader Dogs for the Blind, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Olde World Canterbury Village. After recycling the same three uptunes several times, this chord-worshipping quartet has now vowed to learn more uptunes for such venues.



FOUR WHEEL DRIVE at Canterbury Village

## MEMBERSHIP (at 58)

**Renewals:** Jack Teuber (6), Art Ripley (8), Neil Braun (16), Ross Ensign (23), Fred McFadyen (39)

**July Birthdays:** Tom Jackson (1<sup>st</sup>), Chuck Murray (6<sup>th</sup>), Dave Shantz (7<sup>th</sup>), Bert Cederleaf (21<sup>st</sup>), Art Ripley (27<sup>th</sup>)

**Barbershopper of the Month, June** – Fred McFadyen for his generous contributions as a dual member of BCC.

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

Windsor sendoff was June 10.

Fall Convention and hotel registration forms are now available on the Pioneer district web site. Check under "next convention."

## AROUND THE WORLD

**Ed Watson**, a career Navy Captain with thirty-three years' experience as a Barbershopper, has accepted the position of **Executive Director/ Chief Executive Officer of the Barbershop Harmony Society**.

An F-14 aviator with carrier experience, Watson rose through the command ranks to serve as Executive Officer of the Navy Air Reserve/Santa Clara, Chief

of Staff of the Navy Air Reserve Force, New Orleans, and Commanding Officer of Navy Air Reserve Norfolk.

Up beat and enthusiastic, Watson is an avid Barbershopper of long experience. He has moved twenty times in the past thirty years but never interrupted his Society membership. His credits include singing in quartets, appearing on the international with the San Diego **Sun Harbor Chorus** with whom he served as music VP and wrote numerous shows and contest packages. He has carried those same roles with his current chapter, the Norfolk **Commodore Chorus**. Active in community theater, he has played Professor Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, and directed productions of *Godspell* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*.

Appropriately, Watson is expected to commence his work on the Fourth of July. Interim CEO Roger Lewis will remain in place to coordinate the Salt Lake City convention and ensure a smooth turnover of responsibilities.

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After a long illness, **Paul Mayo** passed away Sunday June 5. There was a memorial service in La Canada, CA. Paul Mayo's warm-up tape has been useful to many, and there is crossover between his approach and the Speech-level singing movement.

Our 2003 International Champions **POWER PLAY** sang on the west coast June 18<sup>th</sup> in the Bay Area Metro show in Pleasanton, CA. Their performance drew significant praise on the Harmonet from those sophisticated west coasters. ("Their level of performance was one of the highest, if not the highest, of any quartet I had ever seen before.") ("But the fun story was, Brian Besser, a rather new lead from my chorus was outside the auditorium before the show trying to teach his three daughters and a couple high school boys a tag when three passersby introduced themselves as Mark, and Don, and Mike Slam-something and worked with them wonderfully. **POWER PLAY** will be the guest quartet at **Bush League** this fall.")

**Hand-held mic's.** Some members of the society are studying whether to use four microphones rather than two microphones in quartet competitions. Two mikes lock a quartet in, geographically. Four can be handheld, with consequent advantages and disadvantages. A particularly good summary of the plusses and minuses was posted on the Harmonet by Lloyd Erickson Lloyd Erickson of the Insiders' quartet and the Houston Tidelanders chorus. I can email it to anyone interested. Richard Treptow is leader of the "Hand Held Mic Test Team" which will be posting results of its study online.

Oh, dear, a **barbershopper was shot on the David Letterman show**, June 10<sup>th</sup>. As reported by a Sweet Ad in the audience, "four young men dressed alike in

blue vests came out and said their name was THE PERFECT PITCH and they were wondering if the audience would like to hear a song. Letterman said no but the audience clapped, and the guys began to sing "I've got a girl from Kalamazoo-zoo-zoo..." They were singing in unison most of the time and I don't really think they ever really hit a decent four-part chord. All of a sudden, there was a very loud shot as one of the barbershoppers was shot in the chest and fell to the ground! Paul Shaffer, the CBS bandleader, was holding the 'smoking gun' and he said he couldn't stand the singing anymore. The shot barbershopper was then dragged off of the stage by the other three singers. Letterman then said, "What goes with barbershop music? Murder and mayhem!"

For a more favorable public response to barbershop, Tom Emmert writes on Harmonet, "I collaborate with George Hambrecht, retired principal flutist of the Cincinnati Symphony, in a radio show. He tells me of the time when he was with the Cleveland Orchestra on tour in Toronto, and a barbershop convention was in progress. Cleveland's renowned director **George Szell couldn't get enough of the "lock & ring" overtones!**"

If you can't attend the whole Harmony College (Columbus, OH, July 31 – August 7), consider the new special "**Harmony College Sampler**, on the weekend of August 5-7, 2005. For just \$125, you get the Friday Night Parade of Quartets and the "Best of Barbershop" show on Saturday night featuring The Alliance, Gotcha!, and the Harmony College and Next Generation Chorus; three miniclasses on Saturday selected from Music Fundamentals, How to be a Great Quartet, Tag Singing, Tune it or Die, Vocal Techniques, The Inner Game of Barbershop, Woodshedding, MC/Spokesman, Marketing for Your Chorus or Quartet, Directors Seminar; and meals and housing on the campus of Ohio State University. Register now! Harmony College - Weekend registration form -- [www.spebsqsa.org/ID\\_065295](http://www.spebsqsa.org/ID_065295)

## SALT LAKE:



If you won't be in Salt Lake City yourself, (that includes everyone except Bill Nevaux and the Macomb County double dippers) you should take advantage of **your computer** to enjoy the webcast, or at least the postings on the website.

Once again, the International will be **webcast**. But this year the rules have changed. Rather than pleading for contributions to support the expense, a variable price will be charged. At the low end, dial-up audio is free. At the high

end, broad-band audio and video is \$20 per session or \$50 for the week-long pass.

**PROBE**, the subgroup of the Barbershop Harmony Society for "Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors" will once again maintain a web site with news, results, and photos from SLC, using FIVE reporters/photographers/webmasters who will be there for you, sending reports out. The site is <http://www.harmonize.com/PROBE/SaltLake05/>

For all the details go to [www.SPEBSQSA.org](http://www.SPEBSQSA.org), click on Home, Click on Happenings, Click on **Salt Lake City 2005**. Or just click on [http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/1pub\\_saltlake\\_home.hcsp](http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/1pub_saltlake_home.hcsp)

There you'll find:

- Webcast schedule (July 6-9, but note that all times are Mountain Daylight Time. (Add +2 for EDT).
- Webcast test center
- The Probe site
- Schedule of major events (The finals of chorus and quartet competition are Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.)
- Order of appearances

Pioneer District's representative, the **Macomb County Harmony Heritage Chorus**, will be competing on Saturday, singing 12<sup>th</sup>, probably about 3 pm our time. Our district quartet, **Infinity**, with BCCer Bruce LaMarte, sings 6<sup>th</sup> out of 49 quartets in the first round.

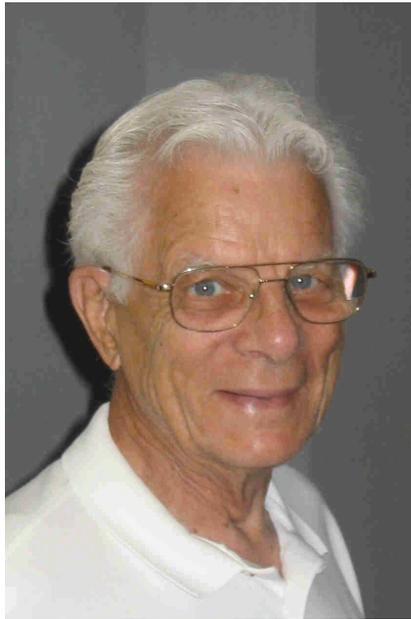
Top quartets going into the home stretch are:

MAX Q	2130 pts (~89%)
REALTIME	2113 pts
RIPTIDE	2067 pts
METROPOLIS	2065 pts
VOCAL SPECTRUM	2065 pts
FLIPSIDE	2058 pts
3 MEN & A MELODY	2028 pts
OC TIMES	2024 pts (~84%)

## MEET NEIL BRAUN

Neil was born in Mt. Clemens in 1924. He remembers it as a very musical town. His dad was a medical clinical chemist. He was also a good baritone and sang semiprofessionally in operettas, minstrel shows, and Gilbert and Sullivan. His mom was a secretary in Social Services and was the driving force behind Neil's early musical training, initiating piano studies.

Neil had a full high school experience. He played sports – tennis, track, and swimming. He was in Boy Scouts and Sons of the American Legion. He was a tuba player in the marching band. He sang in the high school choir and was also selected for the a cappella choir. When his dad's work took him to the post hospital at Selfridge field, Neil went along and hung out at the hangers and, as a sixteen-year-old, took flying lessons at the old Hartung Airport in Mt. Clemens.



Neil eagerly entered the service as a high school senior and spent two years in the Air Corps, doing teletype maintenance and repair. His path took him thru the South Pacific, from New Guinea to the Philippines.

Back in Michigan, he finished high school and enrolled at Michigan State University. After a year, he was recalled to service and was posted to Europe with the Strategic Air Command for three years. From a hilltop in French-occupied Germany (Dirkenfeld), his aircraft control squadron controlled all of the air traffic in Europe – from southern Spain to Southern England and Scandinavia. This was during the time of the Berlin airlift, and Neil rode along during one memorable flight into Berlin on a C-54 as Migs flew at them and under them.

In 1951, Neil came home. After working for GM as long as he could stand (three years), he job-shopped independent engineering assignments until his retirement five years ago. Since then he has helped out an old friend with a small business,

and has enjoyed pistol shooting as a member of the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club.

Neil met his wife Phyllis at MSU. Phyllis is an accomplished figure skater. They have three children, (Heidi in Naples, FL, Lisa in Clarkston, and Eric in Colorado Springs) and five grandchildren.

In his early adult years, Neil joined Lenny Barnes and other barbershoppers singing at the old GM building on South Blvd, and he joined the Pontiac chapter in 1952. That ended when overtime work increased, but he reentered barbershop sixteen years ago and has been an active baritone ever since. He is well known for his behind-the-scenes work, such as his present role ferrying Bill Pascher to and from events (for which he received Barbershopper of the Month award in July, 2004). Those of us who were part of our 2003 Ed Sullivan show will also remember Neil's remarkable clown costume.

**Upcoming Sing-outs:** (Times are warm-up times.)

July 15, Fri 5:45, Clarkston Depot Park, 375 Depot Rd, Clarkston

July 19, Tue 6:30, Clarkston Sunrise Apartments, 5700 Water Tower Place, Clarkston

Sep 14, W, 2pm, Woodward Hills, 39312 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, Class C uniform

Oct 11, Tue, 12:30, Pontiac Musicale, Class B Uniform, United Central Methodist, 3882 Highland Rd, (M-59), Waterford

Vice-President for Chapter Development, Wayne Chene, provides the following PR piece from Kenosha:

**Barbershop-Style Singing: Not Just a Hobby ... A Way of Life**

KENOSHA, Wis., June 24 /PRNewswire/ -- For a style of singing that's been around since the turn of the last century, barbershop singing is doing anything but showing its age.

Fathers, sons and grandsons are among the 30,000 members of the Barbershop Harmony Society, spread across 800 chapters dedicated to preserving and encouraging barbershop harmony. Today, barbershop enthusiasts are recruiting members to join quartets and choruses, sing recreationally, and compete.

Mark Fortino, lead in the 12th Street Rag quartet, had no musical training when he walked into a meeting of the Heart of America Chorus in Kansas City, Missouri, 21 years ago.

"People cannot believe how much fun it is," he said. "Those previously unfamiliar with barbershop are quickly drawn in by the 'ring' of the barbershop chord. If someone likes to sing, they owe it to themselves to go to a practice and experience the camaraderie and supportive atmosphere."

Barbershop quartets and choruses contribute more than 100,000 hours of labor

per year singing for more than half a million people. Their programs foster music education and music appreciation.

The Fortino family does its part. Mark's entire family is involved in barbershop. The Heart of America Chorus includes his brother John; their two sons, 12 and 10; his brother-in-law Jerry; Jerry's 13-year-old son; and Mark and John's dad Ron.

And, the beat goes on. Wife, mom and grandmother Mary attends all rehearsals and is an active member of the chorus' support group, The Heartbeats. This family involvement is repeated in chapters all across America.

"Although most of our members lack formal training and do not read music," said John Fortino, "they have learned to create an incredible sound. They have learned their musical trade in the Society."

Barbershop has taken center stage with professional musicians in many instances. Rock group Phish performed barbershop arrangements and featured quartet FRED on their 2001 Phish tribute album Sharin' in the Groove. Russell Crowe invited a barbershop quartet to warm up for his band, 30 Odd Foot of Grunts, at Chicago's House of Blues. Such performances help inspire more young people to consider a music style once practiced mainly by an older generation.

"When I joined a barbershop chapter at age 12, there weren't many young Barbershoppers," said Jim Kline of international champion quartet Gotcha! and a Barbershopper for 44 years. "Our Society enables singers to continue singing after their school days in a group other than a church choir. It's a way to keep singing and the fellowship is unbeatable."

Kline was instrumental in starting college competition at the annual barbershop convention in the early 1990s. He saw this as one way to preserve the music genre for future generations.

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Excerpts, June 8, 2005** Bill Holmes, Secretary

Members present were Pete Mazzara, Wayne Cheyne, Zaven Melkonian, Jack Teuber, Gene Downie, Bill Holmes, Dick Johnson, Ron Clarke, and Roger Holm.

Secretary Holmes reported sending out 57 mailings to our previous guests inviting them to participate in our Fall Show.

Treasurer, Dick Johnson, noted a current balance of \$5,522.15. Last year at about the same time period the balance was \$4,822.71. The board authorized the treasurer to submit to the Pioneer District \$2.00 per member at 58 members totals \$116.00.

Wayne Cheyne will chair U Can Sing – Guest Night on September 13, 2005. Roger Holm requested the board consider a special planning committee be formed to develop a program for Guest Night.

It is expected the chorus will sing seven or eight songs at the Fall Show. A number of in-house quartets will be singing, including but not limited to FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, B NATURAL and JACKPOT. Roger emphasized the need for planning an approach for the presentation to the Foundation Officials regarding whether the Three Men and a Tenor would be presenting a program at the Clarkston High School assembly on Friday before the Show. The meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2005 at 7:30 a.m. Gene Downie agreed to assist in this endeavor at Roger's request.

Jack Teuber is in contact with Jeff Doig regarding some of the sing-outs and deciding how best to promote the Fall Show at these events. The board reluctantly gave permission to Jack to be on leave from June 20<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>. Jack reported Tom Ford will assist in his absence. The Board commended Jack Teuber for his fine work as VP of Public/Relations and Marketing.

The Board also recognized John Cowlshaw for taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Bulletin of the Year of the Pioneer District Contest.

Gene Downie reviewed highlights of the Society's position regarding sponsorships, a document which he distributed to the board members. Among other points, the sponsor can claim a tax exemption if they are named as sponsors and no advertising is presented by them.

Ron Clarke reported the membership is open to adding a new shirt to our Class A uniform. Since it may be very warm when using our Class B uniform at summer sing-outs, the men can be encouraged to wear short sleeve white shirts.

Ron and Pete will be meeting with Jeff Doig regarding the Show script and costuming.

Pete recommended the board consider raising chapter dues. He noted that our dues have been \$3.00 for sixty-two years. Macomb's chapter dues are \$20, Detroit Oakland's, Motor City's and Rochester's are \$10, and Wayne's are \$16. Much civil discussion was held regarding the matter and concern was raised over the total dues of the society and the district. The society's dues go up every year. It was emphasized that our costs as members with barbershop as a hobby are very low when compared to other hobbies. It was also pointed out that the chapter pays for many things for the members such as ties, subsidizing attendance at functions, and all of the sheet music. The Board approved raising the chapter dues to \$10 beginning January 2006 by a majority vote. Pete and others emphasized that: any member in good standing who might have difficulty

meeting this obligation would be able to receive assistance from the chapter. Dick was asked to notify the Society of this action.

Barbershopper of the Month is Fred McFadyen. Without question Fred has contributed much to our chorus with his sweet tenor voice. He is now a dual member with our chapter, he sings in quartets, directs on occasion and shares his wonderful experience and know-how with us.

The Big Chief Chix have always requested input from the members since forming their group. In keeping with this, Zaven requested the Chix consider having some of their get-togethers on a Friday evening. He and/or Lynn are freed-up for Fridays.

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The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are some of this year's winners:

Intoxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly

Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Glibido: All talk and no action.

Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Note: All unattributed articles and photos are by John Cowlshaw



## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Jim Troeger

(248-853-4360)

Assc. Directors: Dick Johnson

Board:

President: Pete Mazzara

(313-563-4026)

Past President: Gene Downie

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Chene

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bill Holmes

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Zaven Melkonian

## Calendar

July 4-10	BHS Convention, Salt Lake City
July 5, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
July 12, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
July 13, W	Exec Bd Meeting, at Bruce Brede's
July 15, F, 5:45	Sing-out, Clarkston Summer Concert Series
July 19, T, 6:30	Singout Sunrise Apts, followed by... BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
July 26, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
July 30, Sa	Barbershop River Cruise, D.O.C. sponsored, 6pm
July 31-Aug.7	Harmony College 2005, @Columbus, OH
Aug 5-7	Harmony College Weekend Sampler
Aug 2, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 9, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 10, W	Exec Bd Meeting, at Bruce Brede's
Aug 16, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 19, F, 7pm	BCC Picnic @ Tom and Beth Ford's
Aug 23, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Aug 30, T	BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Wtrfrd Oaks Park
Sept. 6, T	BCC Rehearsal, return to Crary
Sept. 13, T	Guest Night @ Crary MS
Sept. 14, W, 2 pm	Sing-out, Woodward Hills
Oct. 11, T, 12:30	Pontiac Musicale, Central United Methodist Church
Oct. 18, T	Election of Officers 2006
Oct 21-23	Fall conventioin, Pioneer District
Nov 5, Sa	Fall Show – Jukebox Classics