



BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



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

Vol. 5, No. 11, (#59)

March 1, 2006

From the Prez:

From all reports, it would appear that we have concluded another successful Singing Valentines Program. My thanks to everyone from "Valentine Central" (Bill & Barb Holmes and Jack Teuber) to the Big Chief Chicks, and last, but not least, the deliverymen, our quartets and "fifth wheels". My apologies to anyone that I may have overlooked. It certainly is not intentional, and believe me, your contribution was equally important.

My special thanks to Jack Teuber and Bill Holmes, neither of whom even flinched when I asked them to chair the program this year. Great job, guys!!! You'd better start searching for a hiding place now, 'cause next year's Prez is gonna come lookin' for ya.

BCC Valentines Singouts:

Five quartets sang 50 gigs to 1411 people. They were:
CELEBRATION (Brede, Teuber, Dabbs, Moss, Dar Johnson),
GEMTONES (Mazzara, Keith, DeNio, Carinci, Myre),
HARMONY KNIGHTS (Twomey, Blackstone, Spires, Ensign, Dick Johnson)

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE (Doig, Monroe, Cowlshaw, Melkonian, Prueter),
and
C NATURAL (Brede, Teuber, Johnson, Holm)



Photo by Dar Johnson

CELEBRATION (Brede, Teuber, Dabbs, Moss, Dar Johnson) had a five-day blast singing over a dozen different songs at twenty gigs to a combined audience of 387 persons. Dar Johnson's participation as fifth wheel was invaluable with driving, mapping, greeting and picture taking. Ask him about the varied, positive responses to our harmony.

It all began Saturday with four guys in tuxes, red vests and red bow ties dressed appropriately for the Tea Room at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham...the bystanders barely noticed. Quite a contrast when later we walked into Lowes at Walled Lake amidst the building contractors and home improvement customers. Everything stopped for a moment and a crowd gathered around as we embarrassed the interior decorations manager with a rose and love songs.

Then, mid-afternoon on Sunday, we dropped in on an ice cream social at Woodward Hills for almost 100 residents and families. We table-hopped and sang almost everything we know, finishing with a group sing of God Bless America while standing, hand over heart, some saluting. The highlight of Monday took place at a Charter School in downtown Pontiac where we sang valentines to the teacher of the 3rd-graders while the kids sat obediently and listened. But then, during Kitty Kitty, one little boy stood up next to his desk in the aisle and, all by himself, directed our singing. Then, the vocal teacher made

us promise to come back for the rest of her kids. We had other help too that day. One client, the retired symphony director for Oakland University, joined us to sing "The Ol' Songs" and the next morning a co-worker of Greg's joined the four of us in "My Wild Irish Rose." (How many in your quartet?)

Later on Tuesday, we stopped at Dolly's Pizza in Union Lake who had advertised a Celebration special. To our surprise the real "Dolly" was there from the home office so we "wished" her a happy valentines day too. Then onto the White Lake Township Offices where it was an active tax day. But the busy operation came to a halt as we sang in the hallway to a couple dozen staff and locals; their frowns about work and taxation turned to smiles and we couldn't leave without a few more songs.

The five days were capped off with a performance for two groups of enthusiastic students at Walled Lake Central who were thrilled with the harmony of barbershop and our rendition of "Central We Love You, Central We Love You, Love You in the Spring and in the Fall..."! That was Wednesday morn and Greg and Bill had prior commitments so Dick and Roger graciously filled in. We blew them away and one very perceptive girl even said I was "cute"...now there's an astute, bright girl with a promising future. Jack called our combined Celebration/B Natural ad hoc quartet, "C Natural." I didn't object, knowing that when I did go flat, I'd immediately morph into a B Natural. (From **Bruce Brede**)

On Valentine's Day, our quartet pulled up to a small engineering firm to deliver a Valentine to "David." To our surprise, he was walking back from his car, which had a flat tire. He came to our car, asked if we had finished singing to his wife, and said he had mailed the check. At that point, we were confused--our information said it was *to him* from his wife. He offered that we could follow him to his wife's office, and he would borrow his brother's car.

He went inside to get keys to his brother's car, but his brother came and got us. It turned out that David had bought a Barbershop Valentine for his wife from another group, and his wife had bought one for him from us! In addition, both Valentines were to be delivered at about the same time! And that flat tire? Well, the guys in his office had let the air out of the tire to keep David around long enough to get his Valentine. (From **Greg Moss**)

GEMTONES (Mazzara, Keith, DeNio, Carinci, Myre)

While having lunch at the Summer Set Collection, a lady sweeping the floor in the food court asked why we were all dressed alike and when we told her she thought that was pretty neat so Pete suggested we sing her Little Liz with her name so we did and it really made her day and everyone in the food court seemed to like it. She must have said thank you 10 times. (From **Dave Myre**)



Photo by Ted Prueter

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE (Doig, Monroe, Cowlshaw, Melkonian, Prueter) sang ten gigs Tuesday. Our most interesting gig was singing to the 500 high schoolers eating lunch at Walled lake Northern. But a close second was knocking on the tour bus of HINDER, a rock band preparing to sing at downtown Pontiac's Clutch Cargo night club, to deliver a Valentines from a sweetheart. Singing in the aisle of a bus is a challenge.



Photo by Dick Johnson

Harmony Knights sang eight gigs in six different communities.

AROUND THE PATCH

The chorus is sending an audiotape to **Detroit Tigers baseball**, in hopes of singing the National Anthem(s) before a ballgame this summer.

Dave **Bartilson** has decided not to renew his membership. He has found it increasingly hard to participate, given his schedule. He writes: "I really appreciated how everyone made me feel welcome from day one. It really is a great bunch of guys and I wish them the best."

MEMBERSHIP (at 64)

New Members: Bob Butcher, Terry Jamison. Welcome guys!

Renewals: Len Barnes (51)

Departing: Dave Bartilson

March Birthdays: Ted Prueter (9th), Don Sheridan (12th), Walt Bachman (16th), Fred DeVries (18th), Bruce LaMarte (18th), Dan Valko (19th), Tom Blackstone (22nd), Bob Brain (22nd), Don Carrier (23rd), Bill Holmes (25th).

Medical: Bob Marshall had a cardiac attack New Year's Eve (after dancing!) Bob Legato was there to give him CPR. Marshall is now recovering nicely from aortic valve replacement surgery. Dale Thomas' father died suddenly this month.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Though we can be rightly proud of our Valentines program, in **Kalamazoo**, they had six quartets singing 120 gigs, and a very perceptive write-up in the local paper by Linda S. Mah. "There's something a bit anachronistic about barbershopping. No instruments, no amplification, no background recordings spinning discreetly on a portable CD player -- just four guys singing. Nowadays, we think about music having, well, more bells and whistles. Barbershopping seems too simple. Yet when you hear four voices blending, sometimes hitting that harmonic ring so sweetly that it turns the air to honey, you think simple isn't so bad. What poured forth was sweet, simple music well suited to express the most wonderful sentiment of all."

The **D.O.C. show**, Cruisin' Down the River, is this Friday and Saturday (Feb 24, 25) at Clarenceville High School. Guest quartet is RIPTIDE.

Al **Fisk** reminds us that we need lead-time to verify **the legality of our competition songs**. "The Society has made the proper decision to have us sing legal music on the contest stage; copyright laws, arranger/composer rights, legal

technobabble (Star Trek term...), etc. Thus, on the online contest entry forms (both quartet and chorus), there is a new area that asks questions regarding your choice of songs. Make sure they are fully and properly filled out before you submit your entry (which comes to me). If you have questions (and there were many amongst us board members at our meeting today!), please contact Kenosha ASAP. Don't put this off! If there are issues to resolve, you may need time to do it."

There is a **conflict between the date of the 2006 Fall District Competition and the Sweet Adelines International in Las Vegas**. Unfortunately that will split some couples. Raleigh Bloch has looked at solutions unsuccessfully. Linda Clements (of Spirit of Detroit) writes that "the problem arises because the Sweet Adelines International competition is not one specific week like the men's International... We move around due to cost and availability at the best cost for our members. Hope this helps in understanding the conflict that arises every few years."

Our **new District President**, replacing Al Bonney, is **Raleigh Bloch**.

He begins his tenure with the frank admission that: "We have a number of problems in the district that you already know about. Harmony Round Up has not been held for 2 years due to lack of attendance, our Top Gun program is in the same boat, Bush League was almost called off this year, and our Standing Ovation Program is almost non-existent.

"As your president I have already begun taking some steps that will hopefully find the solutions to these problems. As many of you know, my basic training was as a mechanical engineer. One thing that I learned as an engineer is that before you try to solve a problem, you need data in order to define the problem. Too often in the past, our boards came up with solutions to problems like those above by using the visceral approach. In other words gut feel.

"So in an effort to understand and solve the problems with Harmony Round Up and Bush League, I've established a Task Force. This Blue Ribbon Taskforce is comprised of Roger Lewis, Erv Erickson, Matt Tipton, Ralph LeRoy, Jim Kunz, Raleigh Bloch and Al Bonney as Team Leader. After hours of discussion, they have put together a survey with the help of a professional survey writer. We want as many Pioneer District members as possible to take this survey.

This is where you come in. Please take this survey seriously. We truly want to create events that you want to attend and will benefit your Barbershop experience. We will summarize and report the results back to you and then use the data to establish events that will dazzle your Barbershop senses."

Toby Shaver of PARTY OF FOUR announces the establishment of a monthly informal get-together for tags, drinks, snacks, and fellowship, this month at Boulders Restaurant in Plymouth. PARTY OF FOUR also got to sing for Grosse Pointe's special dinner honoring their quartet, FERMATA NOWHERE (whom PART OF FOUR nosed out as Pioneer District champions this past fall).

AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD

Wish you were a **better sight-reader?**

There is an online course in sight-reading, from Ed Hinkley. You must join a yahoo barbershopping group, but that is free and easy to do, at

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/bbsightreading/>

When you join, you will automatically receive the first six lessons and the basic music theory document available on the BBS Sight Reading email list site. To access the Files section, you will need a Yahoo ID. You do not have to accept the Yahoo email address they'll try to give you when you register. Uncheck the Yahoo email box and enter your regular email address when prompted.

Those who have already joined can just go to the site and download the files you need. The rest will receive them when their membership is activated.

In the rarified air of barbershopping there is the **AIC, the Association of International Champions**, "open only to quartets who have won the International Quartet Contest held annually by the [Barbershop Harmony Society](#)." But their newsletter, *The Medallion*, is open to all to read, and is chock-full of photos, stories, and gossip about barbershopping at the international level. Check it out at: <http://www.aicgold.com/AboutUs-Medallion.asp>

Big Chief Jeopardy #4

1. Answer: They were the guest quartet on our "Dorothy Returns to Oz" show. (Issue #18) Question: Who is Chordiac Arrest?
2. Answer: "If the stars go out tomorrow, I will still have you, my love." (Issue #25) Question: What was John Smith's suggested lyric for which he asked us all to compete with submitted music? (His own entry was in the June issue.)
3. Answer: A gift of a chain saw in the 1960's led to a sideline as a tree surgeon, which capitalized on his youthful experience cutting wood by hand on the farm and scaling heights as a lineman. (Issue # 33) Question: Who is Art Ripley?

Big Chief Jeopardy #5 (Try These.)

1. Answer: Macomb County's Harmony Heritage Chorus refused to sing in the evening show. (Issue#19)
2. Answer: Trombone in the Les Brown band and the Bob Hope Christmas tour of Korea in 1956. (Issue #26)
3. Answer: He spent three years in Japan, as a soldier, mail clerk, baseball player, and, believe it or not, football player. (Issue # 34)

Pete Mazzara announces the 2006 SINGING RETREAT TALENT

Coach – Gene Hanover
Director – Dick Johnson

Assoc. Directors – Bill Holmes

Section Leaders: Mike Keith, Fred McFadyen- Tenor

Jeff Doig & Bruce Brede - Lead

Roger Holm & Greg Moss - Bass

Dave Shantz & John Cowlshaw – Bari

Warm-Ups – John Cowlshaw, Greg Moss, Dick, Gene...

Music Team – Roger Holm & The Fab '7'

Tag Master – TBD

Risers – Art Ripley & Roger Holm

Snacks – Jack Teuber, Ron Clarke, Dave, Bill

Bar – Howard Lynn & Art Carinci

Group Photo – Howard Lynn, Bill Dabbs, Dave Myre

Walking Leader – Bruce Brede

Chorus Manager – Art Carinci

Presentations: 1. Woodshedding – Dick Johnson

2. Prepared To Sing – Greg Moss & Bruce Brede

3. Joe Barbershop Song – John Cowlshaw

4. Quartet Activity/Polecats – Bruce Brede & Zaven Melkonian

Set Up & Clean Up –

MEET JIM OWENS

When I interviewed Jim, he was in between his latest two projects. First of all, Jim is the Detroit-area coordinator of the Christopher Leadership Course. He is teaching one of the seven courses that will be given this year in the metro area.

Second of all, Jim's latest passion has arisen in response to a Canadian docu-drama, aired in January on the potential devastation of a pandemic mutation of Avian flu, H5N1. After hundreds of hours of research, Jim believes that there is a very high probability that we will be hit by a very serious pandemic. He further believes that we must be better prepared at a local and individual level. Jim is organizing a responsive effort and is currently applying to work with the Oakland County Health Division as a full-time volunteer. He suggests the web site of the **Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy**, <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/>, as a reliable source of information. Oakland County is also hosting two public symposiums on Bird Flu March 17 and March 24. (Registration at 248-858-1287)

Jim and Carol also run CH Enterprise out of their home. They make and sell CATHOLES....www.CATHOLE.com

How did all this start? How does he have time?

Jim was born in Pontiac in 1939, the oldest of three children. His father worked at Pontiac Motors.



Jim attended Waterford schools. He attended Lawrence Tech for his bachelor's degree in Engineering, and graduate coursework in Engineering Science at the University of Detroit. He began working at Detroit Edison, moved to Bendix Research, but spent most of the professional life with IBM. He retired from the position of Consulting Systems Engineer in 1993.

Jim's wife, Carol, worked in the employment office at Detroit Edison. They met and married in 1963. They have three married children, Dan and Paul who live locally, and Beth, who is married to an Air Force dentist. They have four beautiful grandchildren - Meghan, Makaylah, Brendan and Hannah.

Jim and Carol bought their present lovely home on Elizabeth Lake in 1972. Jim basically put the whole addition on it three years ago, working with and training his son in electrical, plumbing, and remodeling matters during that year. They, in turn, were both trained by the "world's best tiler," whom Jim brought in from California to live with them for three days. Carol was a little apprehensive at first – but everyone really enjoyed Michael Byrne's company.

Jim had done a little half-hearted singing in a church choir. But he considered himself a greenhorn when neighbor Mike Keith invited him to visit the Big Chief Chorus seven years ago. Jim's immediate impression was that it is a lot of fun, and he is really intrigued by how so little talent can go so far.

Carol is also involved in music, singing in their church choir and the Tuesday Musicales of Greater Pontiac.

On the lighter side, he plays lots of platform tennis in the winter. His son Paul is a very good player and teams with him as his partner. They especially enjoy playing on the interclub team against some of the better players in the area. Paul is good enough to "carry" Jim in these matches. Jim windsurfs and sails on his Sunfishes. And he enjoys woodworking. He likes all kinds of music, during our interview mentioning Willie Nelson, Eric Clapton, jazz horn player Chris Botti, and classical concerts at Orchestra Hall. He is enthused about his progress in learning "lead sheet" piano playing.

50th Annual Woodshed Contest (April 7)

Nineteen Michigan barbershoppers have responded so far to our special invitation to all past Woodshed badge winners. If you, or someone you know, has been a past badge winner, could you please reply to our V.P. of Marketing and Public Relations, Jack Teuber, at JackTeuber@aol.com or 248-334-3686.

(Beginning a semi-regular contribution from Bruce Brede on...)

Sound and Music theory and Exercises.

"Sound is created as a vibratory motion of particles and objects. The vibrations that produce sound represent an energy that is found throughout nature, not only within ourselves and our world but far beyond into the realms of moons, stars and the Universe. Music is a special type of sound. It not only pleases our ears but the patterns of its vibratory motions encapsulate a system of rhythms, relationships, proportions and harmonies that exist throughout the natural and man-made world"

Paul Mayo vocal training program now available on CD

You asked for it: a CD of the famous Paul Mayo "Road to Better Singing" program. Although Paul is now deceased, his fabulous teaching will live forever through this new CD. Anyone wanting to improve his or her singing should have this booklet and CD set that features warm-up and voice-building exercises for all voice types. Order now ([stock no. 4675](#) , \$20.00) at www.harmonymarketplace.com

"People who sing regularly improve their breathing, increase their oxygen supply and stimulate their circulation," says **Mort Crim** in his article, "Want to feel better? Sing," in the Feb 22nd issue of Detroit Free Press.

Here is a bizarre use of barbershop in commercial advertising. **The ad is Pizza Hut, the sexy woman is Jessica Simpson, and the barbershop quartet is REVEILLE.** Go to the Pizza Hut website - <http://Pizzahut.com> - you will find a new promotion for "Hot Bites" with Jessica Simpson singing "These Bites Are Made for Popping." If you click on the box in the upper right hand corner, you will be able to do your own remix, adding a different musical style to Jessica's singing. Barbershop is the "hot bite" at about 6 o'clock on the pizza.

If you haven't checked out **CASA** (The Contemporary A Cappella Society) you should. Their web site has a number of interesting articles.

First of all, they have just announced their nominations for 2006 annual Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards (CARA). They "recognize the best recorded a cappella and aim to support this burgeoning culture of instrumentless enthusiasts. We are the only truly global a cappella recording awards. Every year since 1992 hundreds of albums are considered in this celebration of the best a cappella recorded around the planet."

This year's nominations include three for best Barbershop Album (**I Wanna Be Around** – The Rounders, **Paper or Plastic?** – State Line Grocery, and **The Sky's the Limit** – The Northern Lights) and three for best barbershop song (**Alabama Bound** – The Northern Lights from **The Sky's the Limit**, **I Wanna Be Around** – The Rounders from **I Wanna Be Around**, **The Glory of Love** – State Line Grocery from **Paper or Plastic?**, and **Yes Sir, That's My Baby** – Heart of Texas Chorus from **Inspiration From the Heart**.) It's at http://www.casa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=373&Itemid=152 Winners are to be announced on April 1, 2006.

Second is an article on legal arrangements. Click on http://www.casa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=401&Itemid=81

Third is an article on Social Meanings and Barbershop Harmony, contributed by Joshua S. Duchan, a doctoral student at the University of Michigan. http://www.casa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=391&Itemid=117

The parent site is www.casa.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING February 8, 2006, Excerpts from Bill Holmes minutes.

Zaven Melkonian presiding. Minutes approved as presented.

Treasurer Dick Johnson: current balance is \$19,390.57. Dick is working on the 2006 Budget and reported on last year's expenses.

Chapter Development VP Wayne Cheyne: presented the applications of Terry Jamison and Bob Butcher for membership which were approved.

Music and Performance VP Roger Holm. Suggestions: the chorus should be familiar with the contest songs so we can sing well; the chorus should be recorded and taped at rehearsals for learning; have a song list of western songs from which quartets may choose for the fall show. Roger will explore membership with the Waterford Cultural Center.

Marketing and PR VP Jack Teuber: submitted a list of coming singouts for Board's review.

Spring contest: Dick is recommending the Class "B" uniform.

Fall Show: The Board is open to volunteers to chair the Fall Show Committee. Many sub-committees are already being chaired by those with experience. This will aid anyone who chairs the show committee. The main duty of this assignment will be to make sure the committees are proceeding in a timely manner.

Roger checked with other schools and discovered that they are similar to what we contract with Clarkston High School. He hopes to get that penciled in at Clarkston High for 11-4-06. Bruce said we are blocked in for the Cast Party at Shepherd's Hollow for 11-4-06.

The Board decided not to contract with "The Perfect Gentlemen" for our Fall Show. They are not available on 11-4-06. Dick is exploring other options, including "Fermata Nowhere".

Website: Jeff Doig is checking on the chapter's website.

The Board approved a motion to send Dick Johnson to Director's College if his schedule allows. The chapter would cover expenses not covered by the scholarship he may receive.

Jack will explore, with Chuck Murray, the cost of the proposed business cards.

Dick noted the SILVERDOMES will be the judges at the 50th Woodshed Contest on April 7, 2006. Dick may pick a co-chair to assist him.

The Barbershopper of the Month for January, 2006 is Gene Downie. Gene's significant work on the Juke Box as well as the Directory he prepares each year make him a well deserving person to receive this honor.

In addition, the same can be said for the two Barbershoppers of the Month for February, 2006, namely John Cowlshaw and Greg Moss for their effective assistance in improving and enhancing our singing through "warm-ups."

The Chorus members are reminded that the 50/50 raffle may not only be fun for the participants, but the money generated goes toward the purchase of sheet music by the chapter.



- Apr 28-30 Pioneer District Convention
- May 9, T, 7pm Lockwood of Waterford – M-59 at Crescent Lake (Behind Krogers)
- May 12, F 3pm Mothers' Day Tribute, American House, 3617 S. Adams, Rochester
- May 16, T, 7:30 Grosse Pointe Fun Night, Elks Club, 21728 Harper, St. Clair Shores (between 8 and 9 Mile Rds)
- May 19-21 Harmony Roundup, E. Lansing
- Jun 20, 7:30 Orion Township hall Summer Concert Series, 2525 Joslyn Rd, Class B's

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

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Dick Johnson,
 Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Lyle Howard, & Bill Holmes
 President: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)
 Past President: Pete Mazzara
 VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne
 VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
 VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber
 Secretary: Bill Holmes
 Treasurer: Dick Johnson
 Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Bruce Brede
 Chorus Manager: Art Carinci
 MusicTeam: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Pruetter

Calendar

Feb 28, T Rehearsal, Crary
 Mr 7,T Rehearsal, Crary
 Mr 8,W, 7pm Exec Bd. Meeting, 7pm, Roger Holm's house
 Mr 14,T Rehearsal, Crary
 Mr 17, F,7:00 Gig, Canterbury on the Lake
 Mr 21,T Rehearsal, Crary
 Mr 24, 26 Spring Singing Retreat, McMullen Cntr, Higgins Lake
 Mr 28,T, 1:00 Jay Shop, 5871 Dixie, Clarkston
 Mr 28,T Rehearsal, Crary
 Apr 4,T Rehearsal, Crary
 Apr 7, F, 7:30 50th Annual Woodshed Contest, PTK country club
 Apr 11, T Rehearsal, Crary
 Apr 12,W Exec Bd. Meeting, Pete's house
 Apr 18, T Rehearsal (Crary closed – Meet at Central Methodist Church.)
 Apr 25, T Rehearsal, Crary
 Apr 27, Th Possible extra rehearsal at Central Methodist Church