

FROM THE EDGE

A periodic Newsletter of
the High Country Barbershop Chorus,
White Mountains Arizona Chapter



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<http://wmhcbc.com>

April, 2010

From the President Denny Shankland

“Turn Your Radio On”.....

And other
Auplifting
reasons to be
part of the High
Country Chorus.
On April 15th and
April 18^h we had
the pleasure of
bringing some
musical joy to
two different



groups; Blue Ridge Elementary Talent Show
and Shepherd of the Valley Community Sing.
We have done these before and will no doubt
do them again. It brings me great joy to be
able to serve as your President and also as
Assistant Director. I find directing “Turn
Your Radio On” to be the most fun song I
have ever directed.

So what turns you on when it comes to our
High Country Chorus? I have decided to list
10 things that I am thankful for regarding our
Chorus:

1. Our dedicated Director, **Doc Dockendorf**
2. The personal friendships I have made
over the last 5 years
3. The pride of knowing we put on an
amazing show each year
4. The Board of Directors who are work-
ing together to lead us forward to new

heights of success

5. The opportunity to express my musi-
cal talent with others
6. Attending Harmony College
7. Being part of a **TEAM**
8. Working hard, singing well and then
enjoying the social get together after
the events.
9. Being able to work through the occa-
sional challenges that are inevitable in
any organization
10. The compliments that follow every
performance, because I know we
“turn other people on” with our mu-
sic and performance.

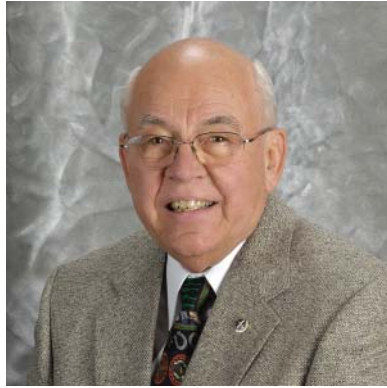
I would like to thank all of you for what you
mean to me. I would also like to encourage
you to write down your own list of the 10
things about our Chorus for which you are
thankful. I hope you love singing with the
chorus. Your passion will show by your
involvement in all of our activities.

Together Everyone Accomplishes More

Denny Shankland
President

From the Director: Doc Dockendorf

Over the past 10 years, we have used the annual **Arizona Division Convention**, in addition to exposing our members to the camaraderie of the rest of the



Division Barbershoppers, as both a sounding board for the chorus and an opportunity to improve the chorus through pre-convention coaching and post contest feedback from the judges. Over those 10 years, we have been coached by **Dan Ryan** twice, **John Erickson** twice, **Bill Biffle** and **Shawn Mondragon** twice, **Farris Collins**, and this year **Jeff Dolan**. All of these eminent coaches have shared with us not only their talent but also their personal time away from their family, for which we are appreciative. Each coach brought us a unique way of approaching how to sing better, and for each coach we adopted certain techniques to improve and accomplish what we were taught. This year, we were privileged to have Jeff Dolan with us, and I for one believe he brought us a set of working concepts that we not only related to, but that we need to ensure that we embrace going forward as a chorus.

I sent out a summary of my notes, via email, from his coaching session, but would like to make sure that each of you has a hard copy of them by including them in this month's issue of "**From the Edge**". It would be my recommendation that we plan to invite Jeff back again next year to build on what he taught us this year. I have added a few comments to the original summary, but here it is again:

❖ Mouth Shape

Use a vowel to sing through, as a base for

all words sung. He had us use "oh," "ah," and "ee" as the base, and then suggested we try the word "church." This is the one that is used by Mark Hale of the Masters of Harmony (hard to argue with the success of that group). It flairs the lips like the horn of a trumpet, and pulls the lips away from the teeth, making a uniform mouth shape for all the singers, increases resonance, and 'space' in the mouth. The improvement in the sound of the chorus was immediate. We agreed to incorporate this methodology.

❖ Breathing

Breathe in using the "church" mouth shape. Take all breaths with the mouth in this position. You then are ready to sing the first, or next word using that shape. Result is uniformity from singer to singer.

❖ Sound Flow

The produced sound should be a constant flow (except when breathing). Visualize the sound as a river, with consonants being represented by small pebbles dropping in at times (plink, plink, plink). It results in only a minor perturbation in the sound, with no interruption. I like Jeff's analogy better than the one I have used, which was that sound is like a turned on water faucet, with consonants being represented by a sharp knife passing quickly through the flow. It is better to think of sound as flowing horizontally, ever forward, as the music flows forward, rather than vertically.

❖ Visualizing the sound from the singers mouth

The singer holds his hand out, mid-chest high, palm down, first finger slightly extended. As he sings, there is energy

(From the Director, cont. on page 3)

(From the Director, cont. from page 2)

in the hand, moving forward, pointedly, toward the end of the phrase. The energy of the sound does not reduce; in fact it increases as the end of the phrase is reached. Sound then stops, a quick breath is taken, and the sound resumes with the same supported energy as before, through the next phrase. Use of this technique gives the singer a sense of forward flow, adding physical body energy to the vocal energy that is being produced, and a sense of a physical 're-set' of the change of thought from phrase to phrase.

❖ Notes (Pitch)

Jeff pointed out that there is no such thing as a "high" or "low" note, just notes with shorter or longer frequency (pitch). On a piano, the higher frequency notes are on the right, and the lower frequency notes are on the left. Singers that visualize higher pitched notes as spatially higher tend to lift the chin to reach them, causing unwanted tension, just as singers who visualize lower frequency notes as spatially lower tend to lower the chin to reach them, which cuts off, or at least minimally reduces, the natural air flow. Either of these visualizations take away from the concept of sound flowing from the mouth as described in the "**Visualizing the sound from the singers mouth**" described in the previous paragraph.

❖ Notes (Lifting)

To bring life to the notes as you sing them, visualize that each note has a "lift" to it as it is sung. Take your hand, palm down, waist high, and as if you had a basketball attached to it, lift your hand as you sing each note. As an exercise, play the learning CD to Mamselle', and as you sing, feel the lift in each note, and the energy and emotion that it adds to the song for you.

❖ Notes (Not static)

Notes that are held should "go somewhere". There should be a change in timbre, emotion, volume (higher or lower), forward feel, or withdrawal - anything but static.

❖ Bass Sound

In a phrase like in the end of "Sentimental Journey," where the Basses sing "My journey home" through an octave, they need to focus the sound into the mask (behind the nose), brightening it in intensity as it moves lower in their range. The issue is that in every voice the resultant sound needs to be the same in all parts of the range, but the methods used to keep it sounding consistent will change depending on the notes and volumes and textures needed. When a singer goes into his lower range, they must put more snarl into the sound to match the ring and placement that more naturally occurs in their mid voice. Similarly, the higher notes need to have more space and less snarl to match the mid voice. The result is a sound, which is consistent, but the methods used to achieve that are altered.

❖ Entertain the Director

Your Director needs to work less hard, not feel the need to sing, and spend his time listening enjoyably to the group as you focus your singing, energy, emotion, and entertainment through him to the audience. I will look forward to that.

Doc

**Photos of our practice session
with Jeff are on page 4**



Director: Doc Dockendorf, Coach: Jeff Dolan, President: Denny Shankland



The "Warm-Up"



"Line Up" this way



It goes something like this ---

Break time →



Contributed by: Dick Murphy

Birthdays & Anniversaries

APRIL: BIRTHDAYS

Robert McDonald	Apr. 11th
OC CASH. Spebsqsa	Apr. 11th
Alan Johnson	Apr. 12th
Mick Mitchke	Apr. 13th
HCBCChorus	Apr. 18th
Richard "Dick" Murphy	Apr. 26th

APRIL: ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Koons	Apr. 3rd
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MAY: BIRTHDAYS

Alan Beste	May 6th
Joel Empie	May 15th
Joe Stone	May 21st
Michael Burden	May 24th
Jerry Schrunk	May 28th

MAY: ANNIVERSARIES

Steve Pansulla	May 26th
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Remember

Chorus Blood Drive
at the
White Mountain Bible Church
3171 East Show Low Lake Rd.
May 1, 2010
10 am to 2 pm



New Web Site and Blog

Check them out at:

<http://wmhcbc.com>

<http://wmhcbc.com/blog/>

Photos and stories are being transferred
to the new site as time permits.

Previous site:

<http://spebsqsafwd.org/wmac/>

FWD, White Mountains Arizona Chapter:

High Country Chorus

2010 Officers

President	Denny Shankland
Immediate Past President	Ron LaMar
VP Music & Performance	Everett Peterson
VP Marketing & PR	Steve Voller
VP Membership	James H. Burden
Secretary	Jim Dye
Treasurer	John Welker
Board Members at Large	Joe Stone
	Steve Pansulla
	Ron Monette
NPC Representative	Everett Robinson

<http://wmhcbc.com/shop/>

<http://wmhcbc.com/blog/>

<http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/wmac>

Director	Doc Dockendorf
Asst. Directors	Alan Beste
	Jim Murphy
	Denny Shankland
Music Librarian	Joe Stone
Sunshine Chairman	James H. Burden
Bulletin Editor	Jerry Schrunk
Web Master	Jerry Schrunk
Chorus Photographer	Conrad Monroe
Chapter Historian	Larry Kennedy

High Country Barbershop Chorus
 c/o Jerry Schrunk, Newsletter Editor
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 Show Low, AZ 85902

FROM THE EDGE April., 2010

Calendar of Events				
Date	Event	Time	Uniform	Comments / Location
Notice - Update Mar., 2010	Rehearsal Hall changed to the White Mountains United Methodist Church	7 PM		261 N. 5th St., Show Low, AZ
April 24, 2010	Arizona Division Convention/Contest		Class A	Moon Valley H.S., 3625 W. Cactus Rd., Phoenix, AZ
April 27, 2010	Chapter Board Meeting	6 PM		Rehearsal Hall
May 1, 2010	Second Annual Blood Drive White Mountain Bible Church	10 AM to 2 PM	Chorus Polo shirt, black pants	3171 East Show Low Lake Road
May 1, 2010	Quartets sing at Elk's Charity Event / Car Show	Approx. 10-2	Chorus Polo shirt, black pants	Show Low Elks Club 805 E. Whipple
May 11, 2010	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM		Rehearsal Hall
May 15, 2010	Woolford Road Clean-Up	8:30 AM		Back of WME Theater
May 15, 2010	Chorus Party	5:30 PM		At the "Doc's"
May 25, 2010	Chapter Board Meeting	6 PM		Rehearsal Hall
June 8, 2010	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM		Rehearsal Hall
June 22, 2010	Chapter Board Meeting	6 PM		Rehearsal Hall
July 3, 2010	Show Low Parade	TBD		Show Low July 4th events will be held July 3
July 13, 2010	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM		Rehearsal Hall
July 14, 2010	Technical Rehearsal for Show	7 to 9 PM	Casual	Show Low H.S.
July 16, 2010	Dress Rehearsal for Show	7 to 9 PM	1st half attire	Show Low H.S.
July 17, 2010	Annual Barbershop Show	2 & 7 PM		Show Low Auditorium
July 27, 2010	Chapter Board Meeting	6 PM		Rehearsal Hall
September 18, 2010	Woolford Road Clean-Up	8:30 AM		Date to be confirmed
September 18, 2010	Chorus Party	TBD		TBD
December 6, 2010	High Country Chorus in Concert	6:30 PM	Class A	Shepherd of the Pines Methodist Church, Heber/Overgaard