

FROM THE EDGE

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



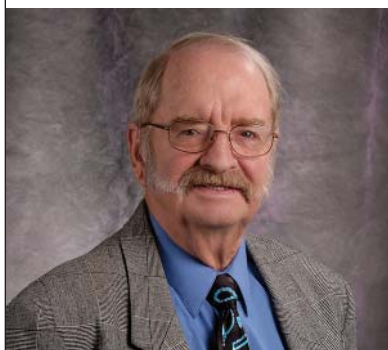
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February, 2006

From the President:

Bob Koons



Well here we go on a New Year with a new Board of Directors for the Chorus. Our BIG events are as usual - the Division 5 competition in

April and the summer show. We have three months to prepare for the competition and six months for the show. We have a lot of new songs for the show and there is not enough practice time with the group to learn this music. We must do most of this on our own, practicing at home and listening to the CD while driving.

As some goals for the New Year, **I have challenged the chorus to endeavor to re-capture the "Most Improved" trophy again this year.** It has been done before, so I know it is possible. **Another goal**

is to add some new members to the chorus. We need men of any age who love to sing and are willing to dedicate some time and energy to this great hobby. Like the Marines, we need a few good men. I'm hoping for 6 to 8 new singers this year. Also, **I have asked the chorus to think about ways to better support our Director.** I'm thinking of some direct action like relieving **Doc** of some of the mundane chores such as hauling the riser trailer, and some more subtle things such as "stop talking when the pipe blows" and working on our "shining faces".

I encourage everyone to look at your priorities and try to "ratchet up" the chorus on your priority list with the intent of improving the quality of our performance. We have come a long way in a few years but we can continue to improve.

Bob

February Birthdays

February 11

Phil Rioux

**Presidents -
Past
and
Present**



From the Director: Doc Dockendorf



We really don't want to dwell on it, but the High Country Chorus is making Limony Snickett, and his Series of Unfortunate Events, look like an amateur so far this year. With

the loss of **Dean Baseley**, **Bill Sachak's** serious accident, **Denny Shankland's** hospitalization, **Jim Porter's** visit to the hospital, and a number of members fighting colds and the flu, we have had more than our share of Unfortunate Events. It has to get better.

I am excited about 2006 and the future of our chapter under the leadership of **Bob Koons**. I am sure Bob surprised a lot of you at the Installation Dinner with his vision speech. I was personally very impressed with not only the content, but that he spoke off the cuff and from the heart. I hope you have personally thanked him for this well thought out and professionally delivered talk.

Our 2006 show, "College Days" promises to be another fun show for our audience and the chorus as well. Of course that all depends on your individual commitment in learning your music so that we can perform the songs well and with enthusiasm. For those of you that do not know, our MC will be **Dr. Michael Solomonson**, head of Music and Drama at NPC. Mike will appear in graduation robe and cap to do the narration. We also hope he can come to a rehearsal or two to help us with the flow and performance of the show. He has reviewed the script we sent him, and thought it looked

very good.

The chorus is looking forward to our appearance at the Divisional Convention in Phoenix on April 21st. I hope each and every one of you have marked your calendar, to make sure you don't have a conflict with that date. I would hope we have at least 30 on stage for that performance. **Bob** and my goal for 2006 is to have 40 to 45 members by year end, and at least 36 singers on the risers at each and every performance. Sound is what it's all about, and the more singers we have will definitely improve the sound.

The music committee is already working on our 2007 show, and it will feature all good music, that includes a rousing opener, a comedy number, a gospel number, a calypso number, several great ballads, and a couple of numbers from Broadway. We hope to contract **O.C. Times** for this show. It will most likely be called, "Thanks for the Memories", and features that song as the closer. Our plan will be to have the music and learning CD's in your hands the week after our Show.

We are also excited, that we have been asked by **Jo Baeza**, from the WM Independent, who is in charge of the Cowboy Celebration on July 22nd, to appear as the headliners for their Cowboy show at BRHS, which is one week after our show. We will make sure we have a song on the program each week to keep the package fresh and give new members a chance to learn them.

By the way, the chorus sang great at **Dean Baseley's** memorial service on Feb. 21, 2006.

DOC

High Country Chorus 2006 Officers Installed January 17, 2006

The annual officer installation dinner for 2006 was held at Licano's restaurant in Show Low, AZ., on January 14.



We were pleased to have the **Eastsiders**, from Tucson, and their wives as our guests. The **Eastsiders** performed the installing of the officers, giving each officer a gag prop to help them perform their duties. They then entertained the crowd with a wide variety of songs. A good time was had by all.



Roy Ireland - tenor

Rich Cates - bass **Wayne Lohmeier - bari**

Jay Ares - lead

2005 Barbershopper of the Year!

Alan Johnson



2005 Spark Plug Award

Everett Peterson



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Additional pictures from the Installation Dinner can be found at:

<http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/wmac/Officer%20Installation.html>

(Officers Installation, cont. from page 3)

President's Award Dean Baseley

President Bob Cutlipp presented the award to Dean's wife Jean, with an excellent dedication.



Most Improved Singer Larry Kennedy



East Valley Quartet Sings for Injured High Country Chorus Member

Bill Sachak, a lead in our chorus and a Board Member at Large for 2006, was seriously injured in a car accident recently. He was taken to a hospital in Phoenix for treatment, and is now resting at a relative's home in Payson. Bill's recovery to date has been more rapid than expected, and we hope that it continues to be.

Part of this excellent recovery may be due to some cheering up provided by the East Valley quartet **2 Under Par**. Responding to a request from **Doc Dockendorf**, they visited Bill at the hospital and sang some songs to cheer him up. Here are their comments regarding this event:

"We got r done today!!! What a treat to be able to sing for **Bill**. I am not sure who enjoyed it more Bill and his mom and aunt, or us. As orchestrated, we showed up as a surprise and caught Bill, by his mother's account, in his first really blue day since the accident. We spent a little more than an hour with him and even got him singing a couple of songs we all knew, and taught him a tag that Jim has taught the Chorus. He went from not a real happy camper to, by the time we were though, ready to climb out of bed and walk us to the door. Maybe that was what chased us out the door as we sung so poorly that we made his Mom cry. We had a wonderful experience and did provide a little chicken soup for him. We did take the liberty to blame all this on you but he was not surprised.

Thanks for thinking of us and giving our quartet the opportunity to bring a little bit of happiness to one of our less fortunate BarberShoppers. We did have a great time and left Bill with a wonderful smile on his face. Like you said this is what BarberShopping is all about."

Yours in Harmony,

2 Under Par

From the Membership VP

SERIOUS-UP!

On Tuesday evenings, how many times have we heard that?! Well, to be fair to **Doc**, **Bob** and myself, I don't think we have ever used that phrase, but we do use terms like it...: "common guys", and "let's get going", and so forth. **Doc** and **Bob** are good guys and like to spare feelings. I know that others of our group who have been in other Barbershop Harmony groups have heard that phrase.

Why would you hear that phrase, or the ones like it? Because we are busy (and noisy) having a lot of FUN! Think about it; would you be here on Tuesday evenings if you hated it? **NO!**

Have each of us met a or many guys we can now call friends in our Barbershop Harmony group? Guys that we would not otherwise have ever known... I know that I met a couple of guys that I was not sure I could ever like, the first week or two of starting with our group. Now they are staunch friends that I am proud to have. Each new prospect/member is a potential new friend.

A friend is someone whom you like and can overlook their irritating traits.



Someone with which we can walk out in front of thousands and sing, harmonize, entertain and depend on. Outside of our special other, this is a very special relationship.



As for me, I enjoy knowing LOTS of people, almost as much as **Doc**. It's true, spend some social time with **Doc** in the community. There are times that I think that almost every one on the mountain knows Doc. That is GREAT for us! He is our best ambassador. People like **Doc** because he smiles. He smiles because he is having Fun. **Doc** is serious about having fun and serious about our High Country Barbershop Harmony Group.

So? So, serious-up guys! We need to seriously focus on getting our friends and neighbors in to share our fun. Because, in our situation, having more guys to have fun with, is more fun! (It can be fun to occasionally ignore the director, also.)

Dan



FROM THE EDGE Feb. 2006

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Feb. 13, 14, 2006	Singing Valentines	As Required	White Mountains
Feb. 21, 2006	Music Committee Meeting	06:00 PM	Practice Hall
Feb. 28, 2006	Chapter Board Meeting	05:30 PM	Practice Hall
Feb. 28, 2006	Regular Rehearsal	07:00 PM	John Erickson will be there to coach
Mar. 14, 2006	Music Committee Meeting	06:00 PM	Practice Hall
Mar. 25, 2006	Saturday Chorus Workshop	8:30 - 5	Practice Hall John Erickson - coach
Mar. 28, 2006	Chapter Board Meeting	05:30 PM	Practice Hall
April 21- 22, 2006	Divisional Convention		Ramada Plaza, 12027 N 28th Dr Phoenix
May 13, 2006	Woolford Road Cleanup	8:30 AM	Behind WME Theatre, Show Low
May 13, 2006	Road Cleanup Party	06:00 PM	The Dockendorf's
July 12, 13, 14, 2006	Show Rehearsals	07:00 PM	BRHS
July 15, 2006	Annual Barbershop Harmony Show	2 PM, 7 PM	BRHS

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