

# FROM THE EDGE

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



Vol. VIII, No. 1

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

February, 2007



Some of you singers probably think that your Prez has joined the “summer singers” group, as I have attended only two rehearsals since Thanksgiving.

I was laid up all of December and into January with a debilitating ailment. I finally got well enough to travel to Show Low for two rehearsals plus the installation dinner.

Kudos to the award recipients at the dinner, especially the BOTY, **Bob Lawson**. I was not happy to hear that **Bob** will be leaving us. The party was great even if the string beans were cold. It surely didn't affect the quality of the music!

As I write this letter, I am laid up again because of carotid artery surgery. I am

impressed with the Mayo Clinic but they sure jacked me around with confusion and schedule changes. I finally had the surgery on Monday afternoon 01/29. I have a long slash up the left side of my neck from the collar bone almost to my ear. I am grounded (no driving) for a week because they don't want me turning my head too much until the incision heals. I haven't tried to sing yet but I don't think they cut deep enough to affect my voice.

I presume **Everett** is moving along with the Valentines program. This is a popular program that could be even bigger with aggressive advertising.

I have about a 50/50 chance of making the 02/06 rehearsal. I'll try my best.

In Harmony,

**Bob K**



**Bob Lawson receives 2006 BOTY Award**

## Barbershopper of the Year - 2006

**Bob Lawson** received the 2006 Barbershopper of the year (BOTY) award at the High Country Chorus annual officer installation dinner on Jan. 13, 2007.

The recipient is chosen by the previous BOTY award winners with input from the chorus in total. Again this year, the recipient was essentially the unanimous choice. The award was presented by **Alan Johnson**, with **Jerry Schrunk** (left) and Director **Doc Dockendorf** (right) looking on. *Congratulations Bob!*

## From the Director: Doc Dockendorf



Well, here we are in a new year. How many of you make New Years Resolutions? I do each year, and this year is no exception. I have a number of personal

resolutions, but I would like to share my Barbershop resolutions with you, so here goes (I believe that resolutions should be achievable):

- Attend the 2007 Mid-winter convention in Albuquerque
- Support a successful Singing Valentine Program for the chapter
- Prepare the chorus for an enjoyable participation in the Az/SoNev/SoU divisional Convention, where we give our best effort to improve our performance, as compared to 2006 (Bottom line, I hope we can improve more than any other chorus, so that we can win the “Most Improved Trophy” again, but that is out of our hands)
- Improve the chorus singing and performance ability through coaching of the “basics”; posture, tonality, vowels, breath support, singing through the phrases, facial involvement, attacks and releases, using internal and outside coaching
- Prepare the chorus for a successful 2007 show
- Support the Show Low 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade by singing on the

NPC float

- Hold a successful 2007 show
- Grow the chorus to 30 singers on a regular basis (we had 30 singers on the 2006 show)
- Attend Harmony University Directors College, with the express goal of improving my directing and musical teaching abilities
- Support the initiation of a Young Men in Harmony program in the local High Schools
- Sing at the annual NPC Program in October
- Prepare the chorus for the Christmas Shows, including participation at the 12 Days of Christmas in Snowflake

I would hope that each of you think about making a couple of personal Barbershop resolutions for yourselves, like “I resolve to become a better singer in 2007, by ... (insert a goal that you may be weakest in, like improving breath support, discovering the feeling of a soft palate and how it improves my resonance, vowel production, etc, etc).”

With regard to our annual show, we had the privilege of seeing and hearing OC Times at the Mid-Winter Convention. Gentlemen, you, and our audience, are going to be blown away by this group. I hope that you are dedicating yourself to learn your music, so that our audience experiences the finest show that has ever been held on the Mountain, not just Barbershop.

(From the Director - continued on page 4)

**Singing Valentines: Everett Peterson**



Our Singing Valentines publicity program is off and running! Thanks to every member who is helping by posting our flyers at businesses, post offices, churches and other places in the communities.

Thank you to Jim Burden for taking on the job of printing 250 great looking flyers for us to distribute. Flyers have been given to the Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside and Snowflake Chambers of Commerce. I got to speak in front of the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber members at their monthly Perk-Up Breakfast last Friday morning, and our flyers were displayed at each of the tables.

I was interviewed by Barbara Bruce and Susan Preston from the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber on their program "Business Matters," promoting our Singing Valentines program. I had several minutes to discuss our program, and gave Doc's phone number to take orders for Singing Valentines. The half-hour program will air on White Mountain Radio 970 (AM) and 1270 (AM) on Sunday morning, Feb. 4, at 8:30 a.m. and on City 4 television (Cable One) at 10 a.m. on Feb. 3, 3 p.m. on Feb. 4, 5 p.m. on Feb. 5, and 5 p.m. on Feb. 8.

Doc is arranging for our quartets to sing live on one or more of our local radio stations to promote our Singing Valentines. Jean Barton from 95.7 (FM) will have the Pine Tones sing on her morning show between 7:30 and 8:00 AM on Wednesday, February 7th.. Everett Robinson from the NPC graphics department has our print ad ready for the White Mountain Independent, with will run in the Feb. 2, 6 and 9 papers.

We can expect to raise over \$1000 for our

(Singing Valentines - Continued on page 5)

**From the Membership VP Ron LaMar**



**H**ave you noticed lately that we are a shrinking chorus? In thinking about that I am reminded of the phrase "grow or die."

That's a truism regarding all organizations. they either grow or they die because of normal attrition. I don't want that to happen to us, and I don't think that you do either. So what can we do about it?

***We can keep our present members.*** Has a friend of yours missed a meeting lately? Call him the next day and inquire about his situation. Let him know that he was missed.

Have you met someone lately and NOT asked him if he sings? Do you wear your lapel pin so that others know of your hobby and may ask about it. Are you thinking about who you might invite to the next guest night? Why not invite him to a regular session?

When someone is a guest at our meeting, do you make a point of meeting him and sharing your enthusiasm for barbershopping?

I am hereby appointing each of you assistant vice president for membership.

**Ron**

(From the Director - continued from page 2)  
 You have had the music and the learning CD for five months; it is time to get serious about getting the music off the paper so that our performance team can start working choreography. Also, start thinking about who you are going to sell tickets to, and from what businesses you are going to ask for a business card ad. This is all about a team effort, and like a chain, it is only as strong as it's weakest link. Are you willing to be the weakest link? I have confidence that you do not want to be that. Thanks for your continued support. Let's continue to make this chapter the best small chapter in the Society.

**Doc**

**Show Committee Update - Ron LaMar**

Show Committee Taking Shape  
 Thus far the show committee consists of:

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Ron LaMar</b>
<b>Ticket sales</b>	<b>John Graham</b>
<b>Advertising/PR</b>	<b>Doc Dockendorf</b>
<b>Program</b>	<b>Jim Dye</b>
<b>Staging</b>	<b>John Welker</b>
<b>Afterglow</b>	<b>Bob Koons</b>
<b>Glimmer</b>	<b>Doc Dockendorf</b>
<b>Usher/Box office</b>	<b>Ivan Mahaydic</b>
<b>Door Prizes</b>	<b>Jim Morrow</b>

We need a few more good men for the following jobs, and I will be looking at YOU soon:

Flyer placement: See to it that flyers are distributed to all areas and getting members to place them.

Corporate sponsorship: Approach corporate sponsors to support show costs.

Thanks in advance for your support.

**Ron**

**FWD, White Mountains Arizona Chapter:  
High Country Chorus**

**Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Koons</b>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Bob Cutlipp</b>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Ron LaMar</b>
<b>VP Performance</b>	<b>Alan Johnson</b>
<b>VP Music</b>	<b>Alan Beste</b>
<b>VP Marketing, Public Relations</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>John Graham</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>John Welker</b>
<b>Board Members at Large</b>	<b>Bill White</b>
	<b>Jerry Schrunk</b>
	<b>David Wheeler</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Doc Dockendorf</b>
<b>Asst. Directors</b>	<b>Alan Beste</b>
	<b>Jim Murphy</b>
<b>Music Librarian</b>	<b>Dennis Shankland</b>
<b>Sunshine Chairman</b>	<b>Jim Murphy</b>
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	<b>Jerry Schrunk</b>
<b>Web Master</b>	<b>Jerry Schrunk</b>
<b>Chorus Photographer</b>	<b>Conrad Monroe</b>

**Birthdays**

<b>Jan 01</b>	<b>Jim Burden</b>
<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Steve Countryman</b>
<b>Feb 09</b>	<b>Jim Vanderkolk</b>
<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>Phil Rioux</b>

**Official November Census Number  
 From the Barbershop Harmony Society  
 Web Page**

**37**

**However, 11 are not with us this winter.  
 Invite your neighbor to come and sing with us!**

(Singing Valentines, cont. from page 3)

Chapter through this project, so we appreciate everyone's support. I want to especially thank Doc and Jackie for allowing us to list their phone number in our publicity and for taking our phone orders. We are also listed on the web for anyone wishing to order a Singing Valentine online. The web site is: [www.singingvalentines.com](http://www.singingvalentines.com) or it can be linked through our Society web page.

Finally, I'd like to thank each member of our three quartets, and especially our wives, who give us up on Valentine's Day to perform for others. Those of us with jobs take a day off from work for this fund-raising project as well.

Our quartets are Crooks Trail (Bob Cutlipp, Bob Lawson, Bill White and Larry Kennedy), the Pine Tones (Lloyd Lange, Everett Peterson, Doc Dockendorf and Denny Shankland who is filling in for Ivan this winter) and our new Valentine Quartet who have just formed just to help us with our project (Jim Burden, Alan Beste, Tom Pennell and John Graham). John Welker has also offered his services if any of the quartets need a replacement singer.

A Happy Valentine's Day to all, and maybe you'll catch one of our quartets out in our community giving someone a moment they'll remember for a lifetime!

**Everett Peterson,**  
**Singing Valentines Chairman**

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## **Annual Installation Dinner**

The **High Country Chorus** Installation Dinner was held this year at **Torreón** Country Club. The atmosphere and food were great, and a good time was had by all. Special thanks go to **John Welker** for chairing the event, and to **Bob Cutlipp** who arranged the dinner with Torreón. **Russ Young**, Director of the **Spirit of Phoenix Chorus** did an excellent job in installing the officers, and entertainment was provided by our Chapter quartets, The **Pine Tones** and **Crook's**

**Trail**, and by guest quartet **Nostalgia** from Phoenix. **Bob Koons** presented two awards; the **President's Award** went to **Ron LaMar**, and the **Spark Plug Award** went to **Denny Shankland**. **Jim Dye** received the **Most Improved Singer Award**, and **Bob Lawson** (see page 1) received the **BOTY Award**. It was an extra special night for John Welker and his wife, **Jane**, who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Crook's Trail sang "**In My Room**", and the Pine Tones sang "**Happy Anniversary**", for them. We offer congratulations as well.

**Submitted by Doc Dockendorf**

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## **Points to Ponder:**

Can each member actually sing his part individually? With quality? I found that several singers in my former chorus spent lots of time with their learning tapes and professed they "knew" their notes and words. They could even tape themselves for evaluation within the section on the risers and were adequately passing tapes -- however, they were really just great FOLLOWERS! When asked to sing in a quartet, they were hardly able to hold their part -- didn't know pick-ups, had trouble with words and notes, didn't breathe in the right spots, had trouble with range, got nervous, etc. They were amazed!

Even though I had stressed rehearsing in performance mode at home, it wasn't happening. They started taping themselves singing alone at home and began fixing the spots they didn't really "know" so well. What a huge improvement.

***Suppose we could learn from this?***

**Jon Wagner**

Director, Par For The Chorus  
Supposedly the TEMPORARY newsletter Editor  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Sun City Center FL

*FROM THE EDGE* Feb. 2007

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Feb. 13, 2007	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM	Practice Hall
Feb. 14, 2007	Singing Valentines Day		
Feb. 27, 2007	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
Mar. 13, 2007	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM	Practice Hall
Mar. 17, 2007	Big Band and Barbershop	7 PM	PAC, NPC Taylor
Mar. 24, 2007	Chorus Workshop	8:30 AM to 5 PM	Practice Hall Lunch will be provided
Mar. 27, 2007	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
Apr. 3, 2007	Show Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
April 27-29, 2007	AZ/SN/SU Div. Convention		

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*High Country Barbershop Chorus  
c/o Jerry Schrunk, Newsletter Editor  
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