

FROM THE EDGE

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



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March, 2007

From the President

Bob Koons



I always look at March 1 as the “downhill” side of winter, getting close to the warmer weather which I much prefer, although we can still have snow in March and even into April.

Our next performance at Snowflake PAC should be a great evening. I will be surprised if we’re not singing to a full house.

Then on to practicing for the convention. Some of my choir friends in Tempe asked me how we can spend a whole day practicing two songs. I’m sure I asked the same question 5 years ago.

I can still remember coaching sessions with **Steve Dygert** when we would seldom sing more than a couple measures before he would stop us, back up, and refine one note, or one vowel or some other refinement that

made a world of difference in the final product. **Steve** was my co-favorite coach along with **Dan Ryan** and his great humor.

Some among us are not keen on the “competition” theme of the convention. And I can understand their thinking on this. For the High country Chorus to compete with The Spirit of Phoenix is about like me stepping into the boxing ring with Mike Tyson. But I just sit back in awe while watching and listening to those guys perform, and I am proud just to perform in the same theater, the same program and on the same stage as those guys. In comparison to the environment we work in on top of the mountain, we are relatively as good as any of them.

So let’s ratchet up our motivation and enthusiasm for having fun with our singing hobby, ‘cause that’s what it’s all about.

Prez Bob K

March Birthdays

Mar 6	Jim Morrow
Mar 14	John Graham
Mar 29	Bob Cutlipp

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

35

**However, 7 are not with us this winter.
Invite your neighbor to come and sing with us!**

From the Director: Doc Dockendorf



The old adage is that the “Time just flies by as you get older”, and that is certainly the case with me, and I suspect most, or all, of you. It is hard to believe that we

are already into the third month of 2007. Our appearance at the Az/SN/SU Divisional Convention is only six weeks away, and what seemed like a long time in the future, our St. Patrick’s show, “Big Band and Barbershop” is a week from Saturday. We will be spending time obviously on making it a great show, as is our goal for all of our appearances. The program for this show is on page 6 in this issue, so make sure that you have memorized and learned the music and words to these songs. The chorus has improved mightily in owning your own “space” on the risers, to emote by being facially and physically involved in each song we do, and believe me, it makes a big impact when you do this. Thanks to **Bob Lawson** and **Alan Johnson** for the work they do with our physical performance.

Let me talk for a minute about the Divisional Convention on April 28th. As you know, we are singing “Mister Touchdown USA”, and “My Fraternity Pin”, and will be appearing in our College outfits, as we did on our annual show, so please have in mind what you are wearing on the stage there. Make it as colorful as possible. Who knows what our college clothing was, so many bright letter sweaters, colorful shirts, and accessories are the style of the day. These

outfits should be very comfortable, so you should be comfortable on the stage, and when you are comfortable, and relaxed, you can perform in that manner, with no tension in your voice. You will look and feel happy, and the audience and judges, will sense that you are having a good time, which you are going to have. Also remember, that we are having our annual day long coaching session on Saturday, March 24th, with **Bill Biffle** from Albuquerque, New Mexico. This day will be spent primarily on working on our Sound, and using our two convention songs as vehicles for that work, but remember, everything we do to improve those songs should be transferred on to every song we sing. Wouldn’t it be great if we could capture the “Most Improved” award again? Having said that, all we can do is really show improvement. Whether our improvement is the largest of anyone depends on what other chapters do, so our goal is to improve, and let the chips fall where they may. I understand that Sedona will be competing, and if I recall, they scored very low in their first appearance at the convention several years ago, and I am sure will be shooting for the same award. So, lets go to the Convention, have fun singing our two songs, enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow Barbershoppers, and let them know there is Barbershop life in the White Mountains. I am personally looking forward to it, and I hope each of you are, as well.

Doc

Singing Valentines: Everett Peterson



Joel & Maggie

Joel won our Pine Tones Singing Valentine by correctly answering a trivia question on the radio after we sang. (The trivia question was:

“What is the name of the quartet that just sang?”) The radio host asked Joel if he had a sweetheart to deliver the Valentine to; Joel replied that he didn’t, but that he would send it to his mother who meant the world to him. We drove out to the mobile park where they live, and after a cell phone call to Joel we were able to establish which travel trailer they lived in (the one with the old beat-up white Ford truck in front). After the call, we joked that maybe we could have just “phoned it in” and had her come out to our vehicle for the card and rose (that could open a whole new market of “drive-thru Singing Valentines”), but we knocked on the door.

A small dog was barking, but after a minute a 30ish-looking woman with jet-black hair came out. I asked if she was Margaret, and she said she was “Maggie”. Joel followed her out the door to their front deck. We asked if they would like us to sing inside or out on the front porch, and they said the porch would be fine (it had stopped snowing, and the sun was out, so we were OK with that; plus, I don’t think 6 people would have fit in that small a trailer with all the stuff we could only imagine they must have jammed in there with their little dog.)

We dutifully delivered our two songs, rose, and card from Joel....Half-way through the first song, “Let Me Call You Sweetheart”, Maggie began tearing up and Joel gave her a small hug--we had determined early on that Maggie certainly wasn’t Joel’s mother!!! They both thanked us for coming as we made our exit.

I think we were glad for the way it had worked out: that Joel had phoned in that morning remembering our quartet’s name to deliver a Singing Valentine to his real sweetheart, Maggie. (We couldn’t figure out why he hadn’t acknowledged her as his sweetheart on the radio, but that’s Joel’s story to tell--or perhaps NOT tell). We also understood that Joel may never be able to afford the \$35 fee to order a Singing Valentine, so we felt that this truly was a special, perhaps “once-in-a-lifetime” event for both Maggie and Joel.

Everett Peterson, Tenor
Pine Tones Quartet
High Country Chorus
White Mountains, Arizona Chapter
Singing Valentines Chairman



“Crooks Trail” had a very busy Valentine’s Day. Please see the article by Larry Kennedy on the next page!

Singing Valentines:

Larry Kennedy



CROOK'S TRAIL COGITATIONS

I sit here this morning pondering the irritated red ring around my neck, which in this case came from twelve plus hours in an unaccustomed

starched white collar, and considering that in two months, on April 15, the same type of ring may be there due to a different type of torture device, this one being a noose wielded by the folks from the IRS. But I digress, which, of course, is not a new thing.

What I really wanted to talk about was Feb. 14, and the Singing Valentines which we delivered. There was a fair amount of stress involved, especially in riding from one place to another in a blizzard with **Bob C** driving! But the results were well worth the effort!

Crook's Trail started by totally embarrassing a young man out at the Torreon Country Club. We caught him in a staff meeting! When we had finished singing, Bob C noticed a young lady at the end of the table who had a few small tears in her eyes. Come to find out, she had purchased a valentine for her husband, and she was glad to have had a chance to hear and see what he would soon be receiving! A quick check of the schedule showed that her husband was next on our list! It was a neat way to start out!

Off we went to the Ponderosa Car Wash, where Jon, the young lady's husband, worked. It was closed due to the snow, but we found Jon and two co-workers out back in the detailing building. Jon was happy with, and suitably embarrassed by, the singing valentine! And before we got out of there, we had sold two

more valentines to his co-workers! Cool! More to come on this.

We went on our merry way, singing to young ladies in two separate dental offices. Both were most appreciative, and I rather suspect that there may have been some fun and games being planned with their respective husbands for later that night! It was considered among the quartet that perhaps we should change the name of our group to "Four Play!"

On the road again to Ashley Realty this time, where a husband and wife team had, unbeknownst to each other, (and also unbeknownst to our scheduler!) arranged valentines for each other. We sang one song, and set about trying to figure out what had happened! The mystery was soon solved, and we quickly ran back to the car, got another rose, sang a few more songs for both, and everyone was happy! This was an older couple who had only been married for five months. The love in that relationship was really cool to see! And it was the first time any of the quartet members had ever sung a "two 'fer!"

You have to keep in mind, these are only a few high points from the many that we encountered as we delivered, to my count, sixteen paid for valentines as well as a double handful of freebies. Remember back to the guys at Ponderosa who bought valentines that morning? Well, the first was delivered to James's wife at the Branding Iron where she worked. We waited for a few minutes as she finished serving a table, and when she realized what we were there for, she was heard to mutter in a good natured voice, "That a****le!" She had tender tears in her eyes before we left. Ya gotta love it!

Kevin, the other guy from Ponderosa, sent us over to the NPC Cosmetology School where we found his girlfriend, Danyel. Singing in front of about fifty twittering prospective

cosmetologists whilst breathing the noxious fumes that come from the stuff ladies use on their hair was an experience for us all! We think that Kevin may have done something that was not nice in his relationship with Danyel, and since she seemed to really enjoy the valentine, we sincerely hope that we were a bit of help in getting him out of the doghouse!

We stopped to sing for the principal of the Show Low Junior High. This is where **Bill** underwent a bit of Post Traumatic Shock Syndrome, as he saw flashbacks to his prior life!! We sang to a teacher at Show Low High school as well. We found her with her class, and the applause we received from those kids was heart warming. Perhaps, with a little bit of luck, they may have learned something about loving and caring for one another in the few minutes that we were there. It was cool!

While we were between engagements, we got a last minute add-on via phone. This young lady wanted us to sing for her husband, Dean, who worked at the ADOT Maintenance facility! There we were, singing to an absolutely embarrassed man while his co-workers stood around and watched! It was a bit distracting to our singing when we heard one of these bruisers say, "Sumbuddy git da camera!!"

As I mentioned earlier, we also sang many freebies, usually to friends or co-workers of quartet members. One was to **Judy, Bob C's** wife, whose office is above the library. Not too sure if she was happy, embarrassed, or a bit upset by our presence, but she did smile! And during our second song we found ourselves looking into a camera from City 4 Television! Wow! Stardom!! Or maybe just another day of infamy! On our way back downstairs from the city offices, we found out that the librarians had all been eavesdropping on our songs, so, of course, we had to do a song for them! As we left the library, we heard one of them say, "OOOOOH! I've still got goose bumps!" We

stopped at the Bank of America to sing for a few of **Bob L's** co-workers there. One lady who was due to transfer out of the bank in a short while was heard to say as we walked in, "Oh good! Are these the strippers for my going away party?!?" During our second song for the group, **Bob C**, who was kneeling and holding the hand of one of the ladies in a bit of significant emoting, caused her to say, "Can I take you home with me, please?" Not too sure that Judy would be smiling over that thought!!

After closing out our official day with an hour long sing-out at El Rancho, we went to the White's house to sing a valentine over the phone to the girlfriend of **Bill and Linda's** son. Linda was holding the speaker phone for us, and we were really getting in the groove when Linda broke into uncontrollable laughter. This was soon followed by laughter from **Bob L** and **Bob C**, after which came a train wreck of epic proportions!! It seems that Hanna, the White's Lab pup, had chosen that time to give **Bob L** a nose shot in the family heirloom! Hanna was banished to the back yard, and the next song went much better!!!

All in all, it was a long and demanding day, but very enjoyable. And there is something that I think we can all learn from it. As the day progressed, I found myself wanting to just engage auto-pilot and let the performance roll out mechanically, but something in the back of my small brain told me that this was not the thing to do. These are special times for all the folks involved, and we would short-change them if we delivered a substandard product. It was time to click off the auto-pilot and hand fly the thing. We should feel duty bound to do our best at our practice sessions so that when singing for the public we can do our best for them. Remember, they are the wind beneath our wings.

Thanks.

Larry

Division 5 Convention 4/28:

Are you tired of being reminded about the upcoming convention? No, I'll remind you again, then.

The annual convention for Division 5 (that's Arizona, Southern Nevada, and Southern Utah [aka AzSnSu]) will be held at Cactus High School in Phoenix on April 28, 2007. Come with us to hear the best quartets in the division, including our own Pine Tones, at the Quartet Competition in the afternoon. Then, join us on the risers for Chorus Competition in the evening.

We're out to better our score from last year, so make sure you know every word and every note of the two songs that we'll sing: *Mr. Touchdown, U.S.A.* and *My Fraternity Pin*. Oh yeah, knowing the choreography wouldn't be a bad idea, either. We don't want polite applause this year; let's wow the audience!

Thanks to **Jim Burden** and **Doc**, we've collected most of the room reservations, save a few. Remember that the chorus will contribute \$100 toward your expenses. You may also want to check into car-pooling to bring your expenses down further.

The convention registration forms are now available, you should be able to pick one up at Chorus practice, or Jerry Schrunk can email you one.

Bob Lawson
2007 Convention Chair
White Mountains High Country
Barbershop Chorus

Song List for the March 17, 2006 Performance:

Cabaret - Let's celebrate...Eb
Cohan Medley - I'm a Yankee doodle dandy... Bb
My Wild Irish Rose - My wild Irish Rose (Jim)...Bb
This Little Light of Mine (Jim) - This little light of mine...A
Lone Prairie - Oh, bury me out...F
Deep In the Heart of Texas - The stars at night...Ab
Shenandoah (Alan) - Oh, Shenandoah...F
Hello, Mary Lou (Alan) - Passed me by one summer day...Bb
When There's Love at Home - There is beauty all around...Ab
Mister Touchdown USA - Rah, ta, ta...G
My Fraternity Pin - When I went to college...C
Irish Blessing - May the road rise to meet you...F

Uniform for this event: Class A (Tux)

FWD, White Mountains Arizona Chapter: High Country Chorus

Officers

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Immediate Past President	Bob Cutlipp
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VP Performance	Alan Johnson
VP Music	Alan Beste
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Web Master	Jerry Schrunk
Chorus Photographer	Conrad Monroe

A teacher was getting married at the Snowflake Justice Court and asked us to surprise his new bride-to-be with a Singing Valentine as they exited the Court House at 4:00 PM. We arrived a bit early and sat in the car until the appointed hour. The snow had stopped, but it was a bit chilly, so we went inside the lobby and established that the couple was indeed in the court room.



We had just sat down to wait when the door opened and the judge stuck his head out the door and announced that they needed two witnesses for the ceremony. So we entered the court room and the Tenor (**Everett**) and Bari (**Denny**) of the Pine Tones agreed to witness, Lead (**Lloyd**) would serve as the audience, and I agreed to take pictures of the ceremony. Immediately following the brief ceremony we sang our two Valentine songs to the new bride before signing the marriage certificate. It was truly a memorable event for all concerned.

Doc Dockendorf
Bass, Pine Tones Quartet

The Valen-Tones

Steve Countryman (Tenor), Jim Burden (Lead), John Graham (Bass) and Alan Beste (Bari) came together as the Valen-Tones to assist the Pine Tones and Crook's Trail with the Singing Valentines program for 2007.

This new quartet sounded great, had a wonderful day and were deeply appreciated as the Singing Valentines event hit a record this year.



From the Edge would like to thank **Jim Burden** for submitting this photo of the quartet in action.

FROM THE EDGE Mar. 2007

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Mar. 13, 2007	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM	Practice Hall
Mar. 17, 2007	Big Band and Barbershop - Class "A" Uniform	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
Apr. 10, 2007	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM	Practice Hall
Apr. 24, 2007	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
April 27-29, 2007	AZ/SN/SU Div. Convention - "College Days" costume		
May 12, 2007	Road Clean-Up	8:30 AM	Show Low WME Theatre
May 12, 2007	Chorus Party	5 PM	Doc's House
July 14, 2007	Annual Show - "Thanks for the Memory"	2PM & 7 PM	BRHS

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