

# FROM THE EDGE

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



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<http://wmhcbc.com>

March, 2010

## From the President Denny Shankland

March Madness.....

A time of the year in between the cold of winter and the warmth of summer. And yet, for the High Country Chorus, March marks the beginning



of the push for performance quality that will resonate, beginning with the contest in Phoenix and culminating in the show in July. Are you ready for the challenge?

Jeff Dolan, who has been working with the Tucson chorus and has proven his ability to bring quality and musical excellence out of this group, will be our coach on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. This annual chorus workshop is our opportunity to spend a few quality hours under the direction of a visiting director and get new ideas to improve our techniques.

This workshop is not just for those going to contest. It is for everyone who is playing on this TEAM we call the High Country Chorus. Yes, the two songs for contest will be our focus, but the coaching and techniques we learn will apply to all of our music. It is my sincere hope that we have a 100% turnout of all chorus members for this event.

Of course, this is just a hobby, you're not getting paid, and no boss is watching over you to demand your attendance or judge your performance. I was thinking about this hobby vs. job scenario and had these thoughts, which I would like to share. When I was a kid, cars were my life and joy and passion. Some of you probably think they still are, and to some degree you are correct. Before I had my own car, I was into model cars.



Every waking moment was spent assembling parts, customizing and painting. I loved this hobby. I could recognize the year of any Chevy from 1953 to 1970 by just seeing the taillight. Can you?

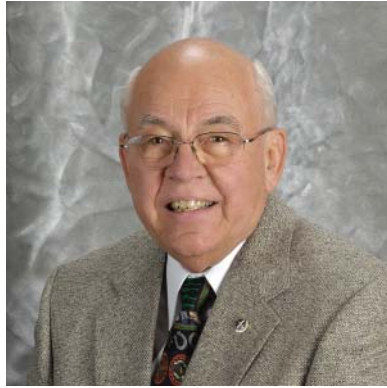


What is interesting to me is that my passion for cars has waned somewhat, but my passion for music has always stayed with me, and though it has never been a paid occupation, the commitment to this "hobby" is equal to or greater than any job. I hope you love singing with the chorus. Your passion will show by your involvement in all of our activities.

**Together Everyone Accomplishes More**  
**Denny Shankland - President**

## From the Director: Doc Dockendorf

While I was pondering a subject for this month's article, it dawned on me that our Barbershop Chapter is extremely fortunate. We



are financially sound, which is a problem that many small, and even large chapters are unable to overcome. For example Paradise Valley, for one, just could not sell show tickets, so were always on a marginal financial situation. Their dues were \$40 per year, which is not earth shattering, but a challenge for some of their members. That, of course, was not their only problem, since they had trouble also attracting members due to Director issues.

As most of you know, April 18<sup>th</sup> is our Chapter's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That date in 2000 we had our first organizational meeting, so Happy Birthday! When we started in existence, we had zero money in our treasury. I remember the first paid performance we had that year, which was in Heber at the County park pavilion. It was for a retirement party for the outgoing District Superintendent of Schools, and we were paid \$150. **John Welker** and I talked about what to do with the money. If we opened a bank account, the fees would eat up the money in a short time, so John kept the money until we could get enough to make an account feasible.

In 2001 we decided to have our first show, **"An Evening of Barbershop Harmony"**,

and believe it our not, we did not do it for the purpose of making money, though we did budget a small profit for it. We did it just to have a chance to perform for an audience. Paradise Valley Chapter, being our sponsor, agreed to come at no cost to us and perform on our show with us. To our amazement that first show, held at Blue Ridge High School auditorium, sold out, and we had a standing room only audience. We had budgeted to make a modest \$1186. We ended up making a \$1300 donation to the PV Chapter and their quartets, and had a net profit of \$2363.74.

Our 2002 show, **"Sittin' on Top of the World"**, which we had moved to Show Low Auditorium to increase the audience room, was nearly cancelled because the Rodeo-Chediski fire was still going on two weeks before our show, and the firefighters were being housed in the auditorium. I remember talking my way into the Fire headquarters to try to talk to **Jim Paxon**, the Fire commander. Well, I only made it to his assistant, and told him we were planning to have a show in the auditorium the following Saturday night. He looked at his logistics plan, and assured me that they would be out of the auditorium by Monday. Well, it happened, and we had our show. We had a large audience, and after donating \$500 to the PV Chapter, we had a net income of \$2385.94.

In 2003, we were back at the Blue Ridge Auditorium, and had our first Matinee/ Evening performances. **"You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet"**, the story of Al Jolson, made the Chapter \$2734.

In 2004, the show **"Remember Radio"**

(From the Director, cont. on page 3)

(From the Director, cont. from page 2)

netted us \$4,030. Ticket prices had been raised to \$8. Program ad income had increased to \$2025.

In 2005, we put on the western show, **“Happy Trails”**, and our net proceeds reached \$5,425.

In 2006, the show **“College Days”** had a net profit of \$5861, with program ad sales at \$3300.

In 2007, the show **“Thanks for the Memories”**, with our guest quartet, **OC Times**, made \$7,738, with ad sales reaching \$4,400.

In 2008 brought us the show, **“Disney’s Favorite Songs”**, netted us \$8487, with ad sales of \$4,476.

And last year, with the show, **“Sentimental Journey”**, as our audience grew once again, we netted \$7307, which would have been a lot higher except for the expense of bringing in the **Duke City Chorus**, and hosting them in a first class way. Program ad sales reached \$4600.

In 2001, I was recruiting **Steve Dygert**, who at the time was head of Music at NPC, to come and sing with us. We had lunch that day at the **China Café**, which has now been absorbed by the **Branding Iron Restaurant**. He started talking about a proposal to have our chorus become a class at NPC, and as he described the benefits, I kept thinking of that phrase, “If something is too good to be true, it usually isn’t true”. We would receive FTSE money from NPC; I would become part of the Adjunct Faculty; they would provide printing and other support for us, and all we had to do was to agree that we would promote the college in

all of our advertising and promotions. Of course, you know that this was true, and when it came to fruition, our relationship with the college brought us about \$6000 per year for each of the nine years of our agreement.

Now, due to the State budget crisis, our relationship with NPC is coming to an end, and we will be on our own to fund the Chapter expenses. But look at the financial position we are in due to this steady stream of revenue for all of these years: our own risers, riser trailer, music library, chorus tuxedos, and chorus shirts. As we move on, our **Revenue Enhancement Team** has outlined plans to keep us financially solvent, and we are lucky to have caring members that have stepped up with generous donations.

So, in addition to a great group of guys that love to sing, those are the reasons that I think we have been extremely fortunate as a Chapter moving into its tenth anniversary. Thank you for being the members that you are; I appreciate each and every one of you.

**Doc**

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### MARCH: BIRTHDAYS

James “Jim” Morrow.....6th  
Steve Voller.....11th  
John Graham.....14th  
Bob Cutlipp.....29th

### MARCH: ANNIVERSARIES

Carl “Doc” Dockendor.....6th

**New Member Induction  
Tuesday March 2, Rehearsal Night  
United Methodist Church**

*Submitted by James H Burden  
Photos by Denny Schankland*

**O**ne of the most exciting things that happens at a barbershop rehearsal, besides singing harmony, is inducting new members and fellowship time!



*Left, Jim dye, Donnie Pansulla and James H Burden exchange handshakes in an awkward moment of congratulations!*

A father and son team, **Steve and Donnie Pansulla**, were recognized by **Jim Dye, Chorus Secretary, and James H Burden, Chorus VP Membership**, with **Donnie** receiving his membership pin and his father, **Steve**, receiving the man of note pin. “I am looking forward to getting to know the chorus members better, learning to control my voice better, and being part of the youth quartet,” **Donnie** said. Steve Pansulla’s oldest son, **Alexander**, is on the list of future new members soon to be inducted. *Way to go Dad Pansulla.*

Memberships, received his man of note pin for bringing his son, **James-Mark H. Burden**, known as **Jark**, into the chorus.

The first father and son induction took place about two years ago when James H Burden, current VP

The chorus is working hard to keep current members singing, inviting members who have not been attending back, and most of all searching the mountains for new blood, the youth of the community. In the past two years the chorus has brought in five new young people. Great work, High Country Chorus members! “Let’s bring in three more new members this year,” **James** exclaimed!



*Photo: left to right, Jim Dye, Steve Pansulla, Donnie Pansulla and James H. Burden present father and son their pins.*

## Community Event

### Open Mic Friday at “Addi J’s”

#### 10 to 4! Darn good odds! by: Larry Kennedy



Well, it happened again, and it was a lot of fun again! On 26 February, The White Mountain Belles Chorus, The Silver Belles Quartet, and Crook’s Trail got together for another night of Barbershop Music, this time it was at Addie J’s “Open Mike Friday”



program, hosted by Wes and Karen Alderson on the last Friday of each month. We had a ball! And I think the folks who were in the audience did as well!

A plethora of genres showed up to perform that evening. They included folk guitar and vocal, country and western, bluegrass (complete with a musical saw!), poetry reading, spirituals, and of course, barbershop harmony!

Addie J’s is a small restaurant harkening back to the days of beatnik coffee shops. The staff is friendly and welcoming. With 10 barbershop gals to 4 barbershop guys, that could certainly be construed as good odds for the guys! The food was tasty, and the entertainment very enjoyable! And even though the lead singer from Crook’s Trail was seen to be acting up a bit, we’d do it again at the drop of a hat. Come on along and join us next time!! (More photos, page 9)



#### Crook’s Trail Quartet

(L-R) Bill Stephens, Tenor; Bob Cutlipp, Lead; Larry Kennedy, Bass; Rich Hall, Baritone



#### The Silver Belles

(L-R) Ann Anspach, Marilyn Waldrop, Yvonne Ager, and Jan Kennedy

*Knotty Pines Blend performs  
For the Baker Marriage Reception*

*By James H Burden*

*Photos by a wedding guest*

March 6<sup>th</sup> was a night to remember for the newlyweds, Mr. & Mrs. Baker. The beautiful bride and her dazed groom sat lovingly gazing into one another's eyes as the Knotty Pines Blend serenaded them with several love songs! The reception was held at Licano's Mexican Restaurant in Show Low on the evening of Saturday, March 6, 2010!

Steve Countryman, tenor, James H. Burden, lead, Jim Dye, bass and Rich Hall, baritone took their place in front of the DJ booth and prepared for the set. It was not the best performance ever sung by the quartet, but things smoothed out when the DJ moved the lucky couple from the head table to two chairs carefully placed right in front of the quartet.

It was a little dark, and no sound system to speak of, but the room just lit up like a beam of sunshine slipping over the horizon when the bride and her groom looked at the quartet with great expectation.

"I've not seen a happier countenance on the face of a bride for many years!" said James. And the groom sat with his eyes glued on his beautiful bride, in a kind of a daze, as if he were in seventh heaven.

As was said in the movie, *Forrest Gump*, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." The newlyweds accepted the quartet's songs with an expressed joy, even though they did not know what they were going to get, either from us or in their future life.

The groom said, "I love four part harmony and I wish I had time to try it. But I will be satisfied for what you guys did for my wife and friends! I thank you!" as he smiled, still with that dazed look in his eye as he surveyed his new bride.

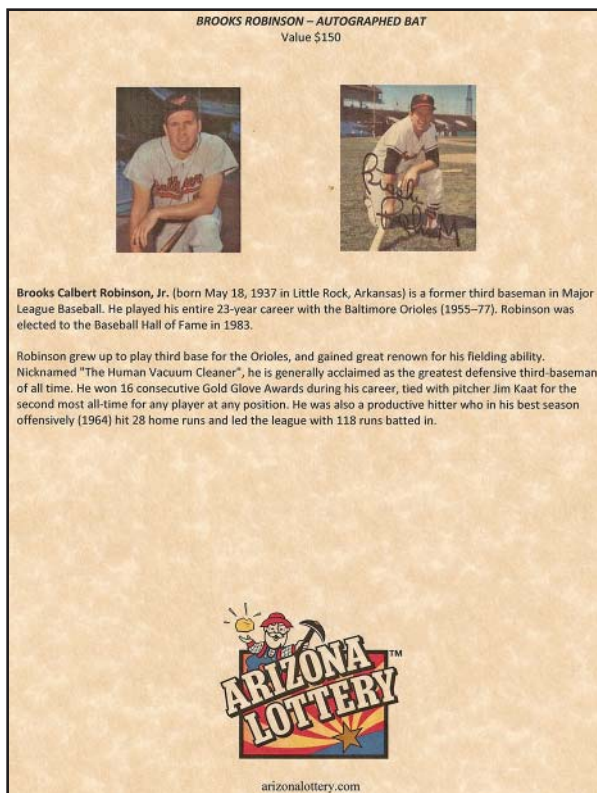
"We may not have been at our very best, but we wish this couple the best life can bring them", the quartet said!

**James**



## Revenue Enhancement

Who would have thought of contacting the Arizona Lottery for support of our chorus? Well, **Larry Kennedy** did contact them, **James H. Burden** followed up, and the Lottery provided a generous response. They have provided the Chorus with a signed baseball and bat. The ball is signed by **Gaylord Perry**, and the bat is signed by **Brooks Robinson**. The value of these items was quoted as \$150.



## Web Site Gets Noticed!

### **A True Story About Our Web Site Submitted by: Doc Dockendorf**

Recently, I received, out of the blue, a phone call from **Pleasure Bent Tours** of Tucson. The lady on the other end of the line (Beverly) asked me what our ticket prices were to be for our upcoming show in July. I told her they were \$10 in advance, but that they were not yet printed, and why was she asking?

She said they were putting together a tour of 35-45 people to bring to Show Low for the “**Decade of Harmony**” show. After further conversation, it came out that they had seen our new web site, and thought that a group of people from Tucson would enjoy getting away from the heat to visit Show Low, and be able to attend our show in addition to enjoying the cool mountain weather.

How neat is that? What a powerful tool is a well-designed and informative web site. Let’s all be proud of the work that our Web Manager, **Jerry Schrunk**, and our Web Master, **Jennifer Hazzard**, have put into this valuable tool.

I have sent details, with contact information, to our Show Chairmen and Ticket Chairman about this proposed tour.

**Doc**

**wmhcbc.com**



# Riser etiquette

From the March, 2010, Issue of the *InCider Press* newsletter,  
Manhattan, Kansas, Little Apple Chorus.  
From a past issue

I am going to give you the Ten Commandments of Riser Etiquette so you can have them all before the Spring Show. There are enough new members who maybe haven't heard them and a review doesn't hurt anyone.

1. No talking while on Risers
  - a. Unless given permission by the director
  - b. Being on the risers is not a social time.
  - c. The director will give you time to relax and visit
  - d. For questions needing an immediate response raise your hand
2. The Primary Position while on the risers is "LEAN AND BEAM"
  - a. There will be times when you are asked to make gestures
  - b. There will be times when you are asked not to "beam"
3. Primary focus is on the director.
  - a. No eye darting
  - b. Your relationship is with the director (not your neighbor).
  - c. At times the director may ask you to have a relationship with the audience
4. Find your window and stay in it.
  - a. You need to see the director.
  - b. The chorus needs to look balanced.
5. Look Confident.
  - a. The only way you can do this is to have your music learned.
  - b. You should be able to be asked to stand anywhere on the risers and hold our own.
6. Keep a positive attitude.
  - a. The director may ask you to become uninhibited (play along with him).
  - b. The director may tell a joke. (laugh)
  - c. The director may get angry with a person or section (accept the criticism and continue to work toward the common goal.)
  - d. The director may ask you to perform some choreography that you have never done
7. Take the pitch with the rest of the chorus
  - a. Anticipating the taking of the pitch is unprofessional, as is not singing the pitch.
  - b. Getting the correct tonal center is imperative to the song. The only way is to the right pitch, and breaking into a chord.
  - c. Watch for the director to give the signal for the pitch; then listen, and watch for the gesture to sing it.
8. Be careful to not make random movements with your extremities
  - a. Hand movements are the most common.
  - b. Body gestures are OK if in context; scratching one's nose is not.
9. Recommendations concerning interpretation, etc. should be made privately to the director, not during rehearsal..
- 10. Even if you do not agree, remember, "THE DIRECTOR IS ALWAYS RIGHT"!**

<http://littleapplechorus.org/>

## Addi J's Open Mic Night



**Everett Peterson (L),  
Tenor in the chorus,  
plays guitar with Wes &  
Karen Alderson**



**The “crowd” included  
many chorus and quar-  
tet members**



## 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**

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

**<http://wmhcbc.com/shop/>**  
**<http://wmhcbc.com/blog/>**  
**<http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/wmac>**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Doc Dockendorf</b>
<b>Asst. Directors</b>	<b>Alan Beste</b>
	<b>Jim Murphy</b>
	<b>Denny Shankland</b>
<b>Music Librarian</b>	<b>Joe Stone</b>
<b>Sunshine Chairman</b>	<b>James H. Burden</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>
<b>Chapter Historian</b>	<b>Larry Kennedy</b>

High Country Barbershop Chorus  
 c/o Jerry Schrunk, Newsletter Editor  
 PO Box 3897  
 Show Low, AZ 85902

**FROM THE EDGE** March., 2010

Calendar of Events				
Date	Event	Time	Uniform	Comments / Location
Notice - Update Mar., 2010	Rehearsal Hall changed to the White Mountains United Methodist Church	6:30 PM		261 N. 5th St., Show Low, AZ
March 23, 2010	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM		Rehearsal Hall
March 27, 2010	Sat. Practice for Contest, Jeff Dolan - coach	8AM to 2 PM		Rehearsal Hall
April 13, 2010	Music Committee Meeting	5:30 PM		Rehearsal Hall
April 15, 2010	Blue Ridge Talent Show	7:00 PM	Class B	BRHS
April 18, 2010	Sing & Celebrate Shephard of the Pines Methodist Church	7:00 PM	Class A	Heber/Overgaard
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	5:30 PM		Rehearsal Hall
May 1, 2010	Second Annual Blood Drive White Mountain Bible Church	10 AM to 2 PM	Maybe not something white	3171 East Show Low Lake Road
May 1, 2010	Quartets sing at Elk's Charity Event / Car Show	TBD		Show Low Elks Club 805 E. Whipple
May 11, 2010	Music Committee Meeting	5:30 PM		Rehearsal Hall
May 15, 2010	Woolford Road Clean-Up			Date to be confirmed
May 25, 2010	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM		Rehearsal Hall
July 4, 2010	Show Low Parade			Exact date TBD
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
September 15, 2010	Woolford Road Clean-Up			Date to be confirmed
December 6, 2010	High Country Chorus in Concert	6:30 PM	Class A	Shephard of the Pines Methodist Church, Heber/Overgaard