

# FROM THE EDGE

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



Vol. VI, No. 9

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

October, 2005

## From the President

**Bob Cutlipp**

**H**ey you guys, I can't tell you how proud I am of you. Well, I guess I can, so here goes. What a great turnout we had for the road clean-up. I don't exactly know how many folks we had, but it was substantially more than the last round. And, as usual, we even had some of the wives helping us keep our White Mountains, and our little corner of it, clean. To me that says you are taking pride in more than just singing.

And what about that singing? We've been having outstanding attendance at our rehearsals this past month. I know some of you guys will be leaving soon for the winter months in warmer climates, so it is great that you are getting a jump on our Show music and next years competition songs.

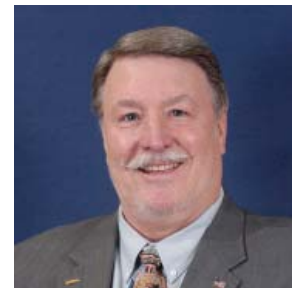
Now comes the trigger that made my buttons bust. Without blinking an eye you guys stepped up to the plate and looked beyond your own pockets to help so many people who no longer have a home or even a bed to sleep in that is their own. The \$1,000.00 effort was added to the White

Mountain United Methodist Church's response and brought the total from those two organizations to \$5,760.00. Not too shabby for a group of folks from the mountains. Not only will that go to help the Louisiana and Gulf states but it will also help the coming need from Hurricane Rita.

I am proud to say to anyone that I am part of the High Country Barbershop Chorus and I know you are too. Next year's show promises to be better than ever, especially with the possibility of O. C. Times being our headline quartet. Keep up the great dedication to learning the music and the benefits will pay off in Raccoon Coats and other college stuff.

Thanks guys, I'm honored to serve as your President.

**Bob Cutlipp**



The **Crook's Trail Barbershop Quartet** would like to thank the Fall Festival attendees for their generosity. Crook's Trail is the newest Barbershop Quartet within the High Country Barbershop Chorus. As the newest quartet, their coffers are low, but they wanted to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. They decided that they would gain permission to stroll the Festival grounds on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 24, soliciting donations. (Thanks to the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce for granting them permission.)

(Continued on Page 4)

## From the Director - Show Chairman

Well, we are starting to work on our 2006 show. By the time you read this, you will have a packet of music and a learning CD with all the songs. We will not sing all the songs in the packet. Three songs will be sung by quartets, e.g. “Doin’ the Raccoon” by the **Pine Tones**, and two others by quartets. We will also eliminate two of the remaining songs, so you will have a total of 12 songs to learn. I think this show will be entertaining to our audience, and I am really excited to have the **OC Times** quartet on our show. Also **4 Ever 4** expressed interest in returning for a final time. I can see them in cheerleader outfits for the first half. Down, Bill!

Our musical goal this year is to improve our tonality (singing in tune). Singing is pretty easy when you think about it. Each singer sings the correct notes and words on the paper, in the proper volume relationship, starting and stopping at the same time, using the same vowel formation, with breath support, a free and resonant sound, with appropriate facial expression, coordinated and appropriate choreography, ... Well, perhaps it is a bit more complicated, but each of us need to commit to improve in each area of the above description. I have a feeling, that when you finish reading this article, you will say to yourself, “Self, I know I can improve my singing capability pretty easily, by working on my music at home, standing in front of the mirror to improve my facial expressions, by doing regular breathing exercises to improve support, listening to

## Doc Dockendorf



the guys around me, and to the leads, not accepting gang singing, but insisting on singing well each and every time I sing whether it be in the chorus, in an octet, tag singing in the corner, or at the Pizza Hut.” I have talked recently about making the pitch pipe sound dull. That means singing on top of the note, not just accepting singing at the pipe pitch. It is a mind-set, to have that pitch (do) in your head, and continually put tissue paper pitch increases under the notes as you sing.

We also have been working on our two contest songs, “Little Pal”, and “I Love That Old Barbershop Style”. All of the vocalization exercises we insist on, in doing the contest songs are for all the songs we sing. I have been stressing proper vowel and diphthong singing. I would ask that you conscientiously think about the proper vowel formation on all our songs, until you just can do them automatically. Remember that most of us have been singing wrong for our entire life, and all we are doing is learning to sing properly together. We were happy to sing with “Unconscious Incompetence”, but now we are trying to progress to, first “Conscious Incompetence”, and then to “Unconscious Competence”, with the ultimate goal to achieve “Conscious Competence”.

Remember Rule #6.

**Doc**

## From the Chapter Historian

Larry Kennedy

### THE FIRST YEAR!!

As I promised (or was it “threatened”) in the last article, today we talk about the first year of the High Country Chorus. Fortunately for me, there are not too many “facts” from previous articles that require “readjustment.”

Records show that the first meeting of our chorus took place on 18 April, 2000. The catalyst for this new chorus was, of course, **Doc Dockendorf**.

The early practices were held at First American Title, across from Charlie Clark’s, and the first was attended by a total of ten folks. Included on the first attendance roster were a few familiar names, **Lloyd Lange, Keith Gore, Jim Morrow, John Welker, Everett Peterson, Ivan Mahaydik**, and, of course, **Doc**. In early May they were joined by **Jim Porter**, with **Tom Pennel** joining later in the month. **George Slone** signed on in August. There were quite a few others, but these are the folks we are familiar with.

The first sing out performed by the High Country Chorus that I could find was at the Navajo County Park in Overgaard on 16 June, 2000, where the crowd was treated to a variety of old songs, including “Down Our Way,” “In the Good Old Summertime,” and “The Star Spangled Banner.” Things change all over the world. By mid-June, the chorus was practicing in our current venue, the Episcopal Church of Our Savior. Some other things in life change as well. According to information found in the June 22, 2000 issue of the Apache and Navajo County “Observer,” the “Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America” was formed in 1938 by a gentleman named **O.C. Cash**. He was a lawyer, but I suppose we can forgive him for that. The name of the Society, the acronym of which was SPEBSQSA, was chosen as a spoof on all the government programs which had sprouted during the Depression; WPA, CCC, etc. And SPEBSQSA is the name I remember from when my Dad took me to my first Barbershop concert fifty two years ago in Wausau, Wisconsin. Today it all has been changed to “The Barbershop Harmony Society,” which is a bit of a shame. As “the Old Gunny” used to say back

in Marine Corps days, “All progress requires change, but all change ain’t necessarily progress.”



But I digress. This was not supposed to be an OpEd piece. The High Country Chorus continued a busy schedule through the fall and early winter. September 14th found them singing at the Navajo County Fair. September was also when the chorus applied formally to the SPEBSQSA to form an official chapter in the White Mountains. In October, they sang for the White Mountain Christian Women’s Club, treating them to a variety of old songs, as well as “The Lord’s Prayer,” and “Love at Home.” In December, the chorus started its tradition of performing Christmas shows at Walmart, and the Infinia Nursing Home, then known as Pueblo Norte.

Other familiar names showed up on the High Country roster during this time, folks such as **Bert Van Bebber, Gene Vogt, Alan Beste, Steve Dygert, and Charlie Lovett**.

As for quartets, “Hook, Line, and Sinker” was still around at this time. And I found a quartet called “High Country,” which was a bit puzzling at first. Then I found out that this had been the original name chosen by “The Pine Tones.” When the quartet applied to the Society for chartering, they were told that “High Country” had been already chosen by an outfit from Prescott, so they opted for “Pine Tones.” Danged inconsiderate of the Prescott guys, I would say. But again, I digress.

That about wraps it up for 2000. It appears to have been a very productive year, considering that it was a formative time for the chorus. Membership in the chorus had more than doubled from its start. A new and, it would appear, more permanent practice venue was located and put into use. And most important of all, **Barbershop music had returned to the White Mountains!**

Larry

## From the Membership VP

Dan Lewis

### Ucansing2

On the page next to this, you see the prompt by our Barbershop Harmony Society. Unfortunately, we missed the 'kick-off' date, but we want to be very involved in this activity. WHY?

- First            The chapter with the largest numerical growth gets **\$10,000.00.**
- Second        A **\$3,350.00** Grand Prize package to the individual winner for the most new members!
- Third         The individual with at least 5 new members gets a chance for a shot at a random

drawing of **\$1,000.00!**

You will be assisted by myself and your new VP of PR with articles in the paper, on radio and advertising posters. This is a BIG push and NOW is the ideal time!



However, we are behind the 8-ball as this started a month ago and runs until October 31<sup>st</sup>. As a board member, I will be seeing if our chapter can make a local contest that would run through the end of this year.

Dan

### The High Country Chorus Performs:

The High Country Chorus performed at the Fall Festival at Blue Ridge High School in Pinetop / Lakeside on Thursday, Sept. 22. The chorus sang "Zip-a-dee Doo-Dah," "Shenendoah," and "This Little Light of Mine." There were several outstanding performances by members of the community and the school.



### October Birthdays

October 1 - Bob Lawson

### Barbershopper of the Month, 2005

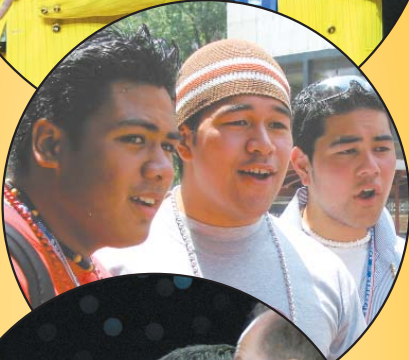
- January - **Dan Lewis**
- February - **Pine Tones (Doc, Everett, Lloyd and Ivan)**
- March - **Bob Lawson**
- April - **Alan Johnson**
- May -
- June - **Dan Lewis, Bill White**
- July - **Alan Johnson**
- August - **Jerry Schrunk**

(Crooks Trail, cont. from page 1)

The quartet strolled and sang for one and one half hours on Saturday afternoon and raised **\$234.78** for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. These monies will be donated to United Methodist Commission on Relief; 100% of the funds will go to the relief effort.

**Crook's Trail** also performed at the welcoming party for the new Pinetop-Lakeside police chief on September 19. Bill White has joined Crook's Trail as baritone, joining Bob Lawson, tenor, Bob Cutlipp, lead, and Larry Kennedy, bass.

# UCANSING2



**Our Biggest Recruiting Effort Ever!  
Media Support. Big Prizes.  
A Chance To Make A Change  
And Grow Your Chapter.**

## *What's in it for you?*

1. More members means more tenor singers.
2. More members means more quartet singers.
3. More members means more tag singers.
4. More members means more people to sell show tickets, bigger show audiences and louder applause for your performance.
5. New members means more new ideas and bigger networks of influence translating into more opportunities for your chapter to sing, perform, and serve your community.
6. More members means more future role models. Imagine being the genius who recruited Dave LaBar into the Society. Or Dave Stevens. Or Jim Kline. Or Vocal Spectrum. Imagine the countless lives your protégés might influence.
7. More members may mean more future coaches for your chorus or quartet. The new guy you recruit might be the one who brings out your inner champion.
8. More members means dynamic and talented music and administrative leaders to grow existing chapters or start new chapters.
9. Any member recruiting another member will be eligible to receive cash prizes. Individuals are eligible to win up to \$5,000, plus convention tickets, recognition and more.
10. Top recruiting chapters are eligible to win up to \$10,000, plus free arrangements and coaching

**The campaign runs  
Aug. 1 - Oct. 31, 2005.**

**A North American  
Guest Night Celebration  
will be held the week of  
September 12-16, 2005.**

### **The Society will provide:**

**Media Lists • Lapsed Member Lists • Advertising Tools  
Manuals • National Advertising**

For more information:  
**1-800-876-SING**  
**[www.barbershop.org/ucansing2](http://www.barbershop.org/ucansing2)**



| Calendar of Events |                                  |          |   |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Date               | Event                            | Time     | Comments / Location                       |
| Oct. 11, 2005      | Music Committee Meeting          | 06:00 PM | Practice Hall                             |
| Oct. 18, 2005      | Chapter Board Meeting            | 05:30 PM | Practice Hall                             |
| Oct. 20, 2005      | November Newsletter Articles Due |          | Editor's Deadline                         |
| Oct. 22, 2005      | Performance at Love Kitchen      | 05:15 PM | Love Kitchen, behind Eddy's Store Pinetop |
| Jan. 14, 2006      | Officer Installation Dinner      |          | To Be Determined                          |
| April 21- 22, 2006 | Divisional Convention            |          | To Be Determined (Phoenix Area)           |

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