

FROM THE EDGE

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



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October, 2006

From the President:

Bob Koons



Well guys, we've had a successful summer with several great performances and great audiences. We have at least two more performances in

the next few weeks. And I'm sure we're all looking forward to getting the 2007 show music. It's all new stuff, so it's time to get started. Kudos to **Ron Lamar** for volunteering to chair the 2007 show.

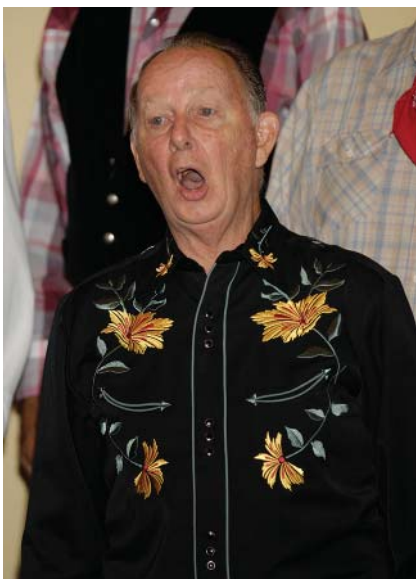
Bob Lawson has brought us some new physical exercises to help our creaking bodies support our squeaking voices, and

Dennis is doing a great job of helping us get the squeaks out of our voices.

It's time for election of officers for next year and all seats are open at this time. If you have a desire to serve in any capacity, make your intentions known to the Nominating Committee consisting of **Ron LaMar, Everett Peterson and Jim Morrow**.

I'm personally looking forward to an enjoyable conclusion to 2006. It's been a great year so far and I'm sure the rest of the year will be the same.

Bob K



Ron LaMar



Bob Koons

From the Director: Doc Dockendorf



Back to the Basics:

You may notice that there is a modified format for the chapter meetings recently, with **Bob Lawson** doing the physical warm ups, and **Denny**

Shankland doing the vocalization exercises. The music team is convinced that to improve the quality of the chorus singing, we must do everything that we do better.

One thing that I notice is that as soon as **Bob** and **Denny** start to give the chorus instructions, there are a number of singers that feel it is necessary to crack jokes about it, and while your intentions, I am sure, are not to do it, it serves to disrupt the flow of what **Bob** and **Denny** are trying to do. I know that I appreciate your attention while I am in front of the chorus, and I would ask that you give **Bob** and **Denny** the same respect.

So, what are we trying to accomplish? First, **Bob** learned at Harmony University that it is extremely important that we are physically warmed up prior to begin singing. You should not just go out the door and start running, or start any sport without warming up your muscles. Singing is no different than any other physical activity, except for the muscles you are using. What **Bob** is working on is to remove the tension in the muscles that are associated with the vocal apparatus, and to get the blood flowing to that area. Remember, our goal is to produce a resonant, tension free,

supported sound. To do that, you have to prepare yourself. This is something you can do at home every day, but especially prior to coming to rehearsal.

Denny has the goal of improving the sound of the chorus. He is promoting listening to each other, not over singing, enhancing the unit sound, matching the vowels the chorus is singing, and singing in tune. These are the elements and the essence of making us a top-notch barbershop chorus. It is no more work to sing well, than it is to just gang sing, and it is a lot more fun hearing the overtones of a balanced, in-tune chord, than one that is just sung with no regard to proper technique. So, he is emphasizing the proper technique to sing better. You also can make his life easier, if you would vocalize each and every day, by humming, by experimenting with your voice to find what you have to do to obtain maximum resonance. Remember blowing air over a coke bottle to make it resonate? When you do that to obtain the lowest, loudest, and most closely sounding like a ships horn, you have to have the soft palette raised, and your vocal apparatus in a near optimum singing position. Try it, and it will improve your understanding of proper singing. Now, the challenge is to take everything that you are being told, and to incorporate it every time you sing. I spoke awhile back that if each singer could make some improvement every week, regardless how small, it would make each singer better, and of course have a positive impact on the whole chorus. So, sing well, have fun and enjoy this great hobby of ours.

Doc



MEMBERSHIP GUEST NIGHT

October 10 we will hold our annual Membership Guest Night, and YOU need to be a part of its success, by bringing at least one person as a guest.

Think about all the people that you run into every day or so, and ask yourself, “Have I asked him if he sings?” If the answer is “no” then tie a string around your finger or do whatever you need to remember to ask each of them the next time you meet.

That night we will teach the whole group, chorus and guests, a new song, and we will have a great time, so be prepared to have some fun and bring a new member into our chorus.

SHOW COMMITTEE

We need a few good men to work on the show committee for 2007. This year’s committee did a great job, and its not too soon to be starting to get our ducks in line if we want to do as well or better, so if you would like to help with any part of the show committee, I’d like to hear from you.

I’d also like to get suggestions from last year’s committee on things that need to be done, so if you were one of them please let me know your thoughts so that we aren’t reinventing the wheel.

Ron LaMar

An intense Harmony University week has just culminated in a great show headlined by REALTIME, and featuring MEN IN BLACK and three choruses in a beautifully restored theater in downtown St. Joseph, MO.

John, Everett, Bob and I arrived last Sunday to begin an intense week of schooling in many facets of barbershopping, combined with plenty of tag singing and meeting new friends. My focus was on learning to sing more easily, so I was signed up for two vocal technique classes, where I picked up lots of ideas on breathing and sound production. I also took a class in music theory for barbershoppers where I came to realize just how clearly our form of music is defined through chord progressions.

The last class of each day on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday was tag singing with David Wright, and during those three days we sang through over eighty tags. With about a hundred guys we really rang some great chords.

During the week the four of us had plenty of time to spend talking about our chorus and things that we can do to make it an even better organization, and I know that you will be hearing about some of these ideas in the weeks to come.

This has been a week to remember for us, and we are all returning with renewed enthusiasm for our hobby. Think about attending next year if you want to have a week that will rev you up for singing barbershop. It sure did it for us.

Ron LaMar

Wedding Rehearsal

Not what it sounds like, but actually a *wedding* at our chorus *rehearsal*! **Jack Miller** and **Pat Bell** were married on Tuesday evening, July 25, 2006. **Jack** is a lead in the High Country Chorus.

Since the chorus practices at the Church of Our Saviour, where **Jack** and **Pat** chose to get married, it came together quite well.

Rev. Jim Porter, rector and pastor at the church, and also a chorus member, officiated at the wedding.

Doc Dockendorf, our director, said this was a first for him in all of the years he has been in Barbershop.

Congratulations to Jack and Pat!



FWD, White Mountains Arizona Chapter: High Country Chorus

Officers

President	Bob Koons
Immediate Past President	Bob Cutlipp
VP Membership	Ron LaMar
VP Performance	Alan Johnson
VP Music	Alan Beste
VP Marketing, Public Relations	Open
Secretary	Jim Murphy
Treasurer	John Welker
Board Members at Large	Phil Rioux Jerry Schrunk Open

Director	Doc Dockendorf
Asst. Directors	Alan Beste Jim Murphy
Music Librarian	Dennis Shankland
Sunshine Chairman	Jim Murphy
Bulletin Editor	Jerry Schrunk
Web Master	Jerry Schrunk
Chorus Photographer	Conrad Monroe



Pat, Jack & Rev. Jim

High Country Chorus Performs at Show Low Senior Center

The High Country Chorus performed at the Show Low Senior Center on August 19, 2006. John Graham, chorus member and manager at the center, set up the performance date. The house was packed to watch the “western package” performance, and who knows who had more fun - the chorus or the audience?

**Alias:
John
Graham**



September Birthdays

September 7	Dennis Shankland
September 9	Ivan Mahaydik
September 13	Everett Peterson
September 20	Tom Pennell
September 25	Lloyd Lange
September 26	Jim Dye

October Birthdays

October 1	Bob Lawson
October 23	George Slone

FROM THE EDGE Oct. 2006

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Oct. 7, 2006	NPC Performing Arts Festival	1 PM	Snowflake
Oct. 10, 2006	Membership Night	6:30 PM	Practice Hall
Oct. 24, 2006	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
Nov. 18,&19, 2006	COTS		Southern California
Jan. 21-28, 2007	Int'l Mid-Winter Convention		Albuquerque, NM
Jan. 13, 2007	Chapter Officer Installation Dinner		TBD
April 20-21, 2007	AZ/SN/SU Div. Convention		

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