

FROM THE EDGE

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



Vol. VI, No. 8

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

September, 2005

From the President

The fall has been great and now we are beginning the preparations for next Spring and the Divisional Convention. The Board recommended that we look at the possibility of going to District Convention and we agreed. However, Doc found out that the District Convention will be in San Jose which would be prohibitive for our travel expense budget. We will definitely work to present the best songs and presentation we can and who knows we might even qualify for District. The good news is that the District Convention in 2007 will be held in Phoenix. The consensus of the Board is to work towards a goal of qualifying and attending the District Convention in Phoenix. So on we will go honing our skills to the best of our abilities and looking to produce the best show we can for next year. It's called perseverance. You know, it's like the story of the little engine that could. All the other engines made fun of the little one and when the chips were down and the big engines

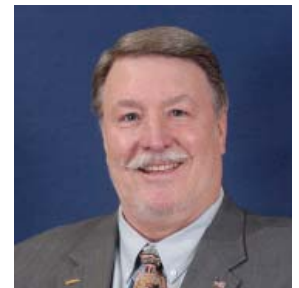
couldn't do it, the little one chugged up the mountain saying "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can." We need to be just like that little engine thinking we can do what ever we set our minds on and do it.

Thinking about the present, we have our semi-annual road clean-up coming up. We really need the help of everyone who is able to pitch in and as they say at Show Low High School, *Gitter Done!!* Please plan on being on hand to help keep our part of the mountain clean and beautiful. See you on the road. We meet at 8:30 a.m. on September 10th behind the White Mountain Movie theater.

As always in harmony,

Bob

Bob Cutlipp



Don't
Forget
Sept. 10



From the Director - Show Chairman

We have completed our show, held a guest night, and have had time to take a deep breath and kick back for a month. Well, it is time to get back to work. Now is the time of the year when we can review our repertoire, bring new members up to speed on a lot of our old music, and continue to work to improve our singing, and especially our visual performance. Remember, our next performance is to be held on October 8th at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at NPC in Taylor. We will sing the western songs from the show in western attire, without the lines and jokes, since we only will have 30 minutes. **Steve Taylor** will provide the MC duties with a revised script. We will be reviewing this music during September and early October, leading up to the performance.

For those of you who have not heard, our show theme for 2006 will be "College Days," so start thinking what you will be able to put together for your costume for the first half of the show. White letter sweaters, beanies, school shirts or sweaters with logos, etc. will be very appropriate. I would appreciate hearing about your ideas for costuming. Some of the songs we will choose from are as follows:

- "Singa-Tagga-Daya Fraternity Song"
- "Mister Touchdown USA"
- "You Gotta Be a Football Hero"
- "Doin' the Raccoon" (Quartet)
- "All American Girl"

Doc Dockendorf



- "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" (Quartet)
- "College Medley" or "Collegiate Love"
- "Betty Coed"
- "The Whiffenpoof Song"
- "Moments to Remember"
- "College Years" (Quartet)
- "My Fraternity Pin"
- "Halls of Ivy"

Should be a lot of fun, and most importantly, entertaining for our audience.

Back to improving our singing and performance skills, we will be spending time each week working on facial and head involvement, vowels, singing in tune, and singing together. Great concepts, right? **Everett Peterson** is going to be working with us on some exercises from a course he took, "Inner Game of Music." We plan to learn a new tag each month, and we have a new tag for "Wait Til' the Sun Shines Nellie" to teach you. I am anxious to have **Ron LaMar** introduce us to some "woodshedding". All in all, we plan to have some fun as we improve our vocal abilities.

Doc

From The Edge Enters On Line Bulletin Contest for 2004

Our monthly newsletter is published on our web site every month. It made sense to enter the on line bulletin last fall, so we did. The judging has been completed and the results published, please see the results below:

2004 International Online Bulletin Contest Placement

On Line Bulletin Contest

<u>Entrant</u>	<u>Entry Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>A&F</u>	<u>D&G</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>GRM*</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Daniel Bartholomew	InCider Press	Central States	225	531	581	193.3	1530.3
David Haase	The Hawkseye	Central States	296	536	506	188.8	1526.8
Ken Steffen	Score	Cardinal	270	466	577	190.5	1503.5
Todd Anderson	Harmonotes	Central States	195	538	536	191.5	1460.5
Sean Bradford	Scoops and Slides	Ontario	285	469	494	182.9	1430.9
Steve Anderson	GNU News	Land O Lakes	285	454	495	189.4	1423.4
Dorothy Acton	Squeezin's	Far Western	283	488	430	193.9	1394.9
Dick Lambert	The Serenader	Rocky Mountain	205	440	514	191.0	1350.0
Jerry Schrunk	From the Edge	Far Western	300	393	420	193.8	1306.8
Stephen Herte	The W.C.	North Eastern	300	420	368	189.2	1277.2
Christopher Baker	Surfside Announcer	Sunshine	300	301	394	163.6	1158.6
Brad Grabill	The Tampa Herald	Sunshine	240	374	346	188.2	1148.2

Judges

CON: Content: Lowell Shank

GRM: Grammar and Style: Craig Rigg

D&G: Design and Graphics: Steve Jackson

A&F: Accessibility and Functionality: Grady Kerr

* Contest Scores were scaled for weighting purposes

Notice that there are 4 categories that are judged. We have received the rated score sheets for two of the categories to date:

Grammar and Style: We placed second out of 12, and as the evaluator suggests, the problems can be addressed with more attention to the editing. Our errors were somewhat consistent from issue to issue.

Design & Graphics: We were 10th out of 12 here. We did get some bonus points due to the use of pictures. We lost points mainly in the "nameplate" and "Masthead" or top of the first page layout, which we can improve. There were other suggestions that will help to improve the newsletter in this section.

We do not have score sheets for the following sections, although we hope to receive them soon:

(Continued on page 4)

(On Line Bulletin Contest - from page 3)

Accessibility and Functionality: We scored 300 points which was an excellent score.

Content: We placed 9th in this section. We hope to receive the score sheet to help us improve here.

The items judged for content are:

Inform of coming events;

Record recent barbershop events; Reflect views of chapter officers and members as to chapter well-being (weaknesses, strengths, plans for future, etc.;

Recognize efforts and accomplishments of members and others;

Educate about chapter, district, and Society aims and goals, about various aspects of singing craft, and about events and actions that shape the future of barbershopping;

Promote barbershopping in general, together with chapter, division, district, and Society events and programs;

Recruit by encouraging members to bring guests, supporting membership drives, and publicizing guests and new members;

Encourage pride and participation in our hobby and Society.

We have been striving for, and receiving, more newsletter articles by chapter officers and members. With the goals above in mind, even more contributors to the newsletter will help improve the “content” section.

The Editor

Sweet Adelines Chorus Forming

If any ladies are interested in singing with a Sweet Adelines International chorus, they may contact **Jean Baseley** (**Dean's** wife) at 928-532-8499 or email at cjbaseley@yahoo.com. Jean would like your name, contact information and the part you would sing. (Tenor, Lead, Baritone or Bass.)

They are just now trying to get organized and need a certain number of people to get chartered with the Sweet Adelines International. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested, please let them know.

September Birthdays

September 9 - Ivan Mahaydik
September 13- Everett Peterson
September 20 - Tom Pennell
September 25 - Lloyd Lange

New “Tri-Fold” Recruiting Brochure

Dan Lewis has a new tri-fold recruiting brochure at the printers (thanks NPC) that should be available in September. It tells potential members about the Barbershop Harmony Society, The High Country Chorus, how to reach us and how to find the web sites of both.

Look for it soon!

RISEP (What I Learned at Harmony College)

What an experience! I felt like a freshman at St. Olaf all over again (Um Yah Yah!) while on the beautiful campus of the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. I hope more of our members will have the opportunity to attend Harmony College in the future.

We started our day with a general assembly at 8:45 a.m. with warm-ups by different chorus directors each day, followed by learning a new song each day from our registration packets. It was incredible to be in an auditorium somewhat smaller than Blue Ridge with about 500 quality singers around ringing chords. Then we were in classes from 10 a.m. until 9:45 p.m. each day with the exception of our Wednesday evening picnic "Bash". The "First Timers" got to perform a parody piece for the "entertainment" of everyone. I randomly selected the "Blue Chorus" when I registered and wore a blue "First Timer" ribbon from my name tag all week (these ribbons replaced the traditional "beanies" that **Doc** had to wear five years ago when he first attended). Our Blue Chorus actually won the "contest" with the Red and Green Choruses, so I wore my ribbon with pride the rest of the week! Our final evening we were entertained by the Directors College that both **Doc** and **Keith** got to sing in, as well as the 2004 International Medalist Chorus (fifth place) "**Alliance**" from central Ohio, and 2005 International Quartet Champs "**Gotcha**"...what an incredible sound!

One of my best classes was "Vocal Techniques" taught by Russ Young, assistant director of the Spirit of Phoenix Chorus (formerly the Phoenixians). He taught us **E-R-I-S-E-P** as a way to keep in mind using the best technique to produce quality sound without straining the voice (and to prevent vocal problems that can come from improper singing). There were about 20 of us in the class, and we got to produce sound, sing short passages, and critique each other's

vocal techniques by giving both positive feedback to each other and offering suggestions as if we were the person's vocal coach.

Everett Peterson



Here's R-I-S-E-P:

R= Relaxation The relaxed body posture Doc is always talking with us about: feet at shoulder width; good posture with face and shoulders relaxed, with the feeling that the crown of the head is about to touch a lowered ceiling.

I= Inhalation Low breathing; a good exercise is to bend over while inhaling with hands on lower ribs to feel the proper expansion of the lower diaphragm as we inhale.

S= Suspension The brief moment after inhalation prior to exhalation.

E= Exhalation Starting each singing phrase by exhaling PRIOR to producing sound. This eliminates the hard "glottal" banging of the vocal chords together that can produce poor sound as well as have a detrimental effect on the voice if done repeatedly.

P= Phonation The production of a quality sound by utilizing all the available resonators: letting the breath move up behind the soft palate into the sinuses and out through the facial resonators (tongue, teeth, lips) to produce a "warm" sound.

I would like to thank the chorus and the board for allowing me the opportunity to attend Harmony College.

Everett

New Member Profile:

Steve Taylor

It may be difficult to think of Steve Taylor as a “new” chorus member because he has frequently



been involved in our annual shows as the MC. This year, Steve preformed double duty - MC and performer.

To tell us more about Steve, here is a modified excerpt from the 2005 annual show program:

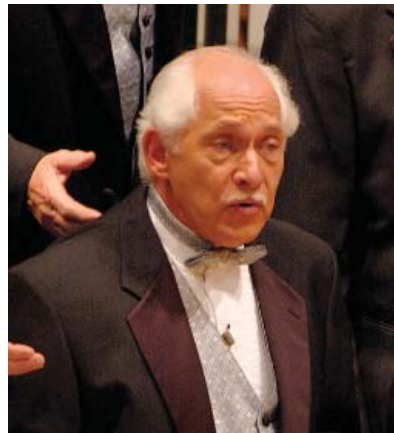
Our Narrator Steve Taylor

Steve has been involved in music, acting and art for most of his life and has appeared in many Northland Pioneer College theatrical productions. Memorable performances include Tevya in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Marryin’ Sam in *Li’l Abner*, Oliver Warbucks in *Annie* and Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*. He also appeared as Al Jolson’s agent, Louis Epstein, in our 2003 Show and as the Announcer in last year’s production of *Remember Radio*.

He has been an active member of the Arts Alliance of the White Mountains and currently serves as the organization’s president. He is a watercolor artist specializing in portraying the modern day cowboy. One of his paintings appeared on the front

cover of the 2005 program.

Steve has been employed by the White Mountain Independent in advertising sales for over 21 years. He resides in Linden with his wife, JoAnn.



Thanks Steve for being part of our High Country Chorus!



Congratulations Cynthia

All photos in this publication (except Dan Lewis) were taken by Conrad Monroe.

From the Membership VP

Dan Lewis



How many of us remember the concert we had at Venture Inn, this past June? During that concert, I asked the audience if every one of us were smiling. Remember? Do you remember what they said? The answer was *NO!* So, let me ask you a serious question..., do you not enjoy singing to people, or singing barbershop, or...??? If you don't, just why are you up there?

Now, I know that all of us are enjoying what we are doing. We all are grown-up, 'mature' men, and if we did not like singing barbershop, to people, we would not be doing it. It is just that simple! Well..., maybe.

As parents, we have all gone to our kids 'shows' during elementary school. It is easy to spot the ones who have been forced to do this, the ones who are scared to death and would rather be anywhere else, and those who just seem to be loving it on stage. As easy as it was for you to spot them, so it is easy for our audience to spot us, and make the same assumption.

As I said, none of us are forced to do this, and none of us are really scared to death. All of us really like doing this, which is 'our thing'. So, why are we telling our audience that we do not like it?

How are we telling them how we feel?
By the expression on our face! Don't

believe me, look at your pictures from past shows, or... Go to the mirror and 'smile' the way you thought you were smiling during our last presentation. Now, smile in the mirror the way you think that person in the last row, will know that you are smiling. Does it feel different? That is how you need to have your face feel when you are on stage. Uncomfortable? Don't worry, you will get used to it. Fake? What does it matter, who can tell from the end of the auditorium? Remember, you are selling that you are having a good time.

One of the best ways to show a 'smile' while you are singing is to lift your brow, show those barbershop wrinkles and open your eyes so they will sparkle. No, you can't have a grin on your lips all the time you are forming the words we are singing, However, your eyes and forehead **CAN** show a smile, all the while. Press forward a little. On the balls of your feet. Lean in and focus on Doc, or who ever is directing. Smile at him! (Or grimace at him, the outward end result is the same.) Forget everyone else. If he leads us astray, it is on him! All the more reason to **SMILE!**

Dan

FROM THE EDGE Sept. 2005

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Sept. 10, 2005	Road Clean-Up	8:30 AM	Behind WME Theater
Sept. 10, 2005	Octoberfest Party	06:00 PM	At the Doc's
Sept. 13, 2005	Music Committee Meeting	06:00 PM	Practice Hall
Sept. 20, 2005	Chapter Board Meeting	05:30 PM	Practice Hall
Sept. 22, 2005	September Newsletter Articles Due		Editor's Deadline
Oct. 8, 2005	Performance at NPC	12:30 PM	PAC - Taylor, Western Theme

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