

55 YEARS



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet singing in America, Inc.

Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont -- Call 802 985-8714

Jerry Walter, Editor (802) 985-8714
66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

August 13, 2002
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Summer picnic -- a great success Lots of fun, singing and more singing!

by **Charlie Church**, Reporter

The Burlington Chapter was well represented at a fantastic chapter picnic hosted by the Plattsburgh Chapter on Sunday, July 14 at Point Au Roche State Park. Participating chapters were Burlington, Greater Montreal, Plattsburgh, South Shore of SPEBSQSA and Champlain Valley and West Island chapters of Sweet Adelines. The event started at noon and went on for a solid four hours.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. were provided by the host chapter, everyone brought a dish to share. Besides a lot of food, drink, and woodshedding, the highlight of the day was the organized events for folks of all ages. These events/contests included horse shoes, lawn

darts, raw egg tossing, water filled balloons, ring toss, watermelon seed spitting, sit on a balloon relay, and golf chipping. Ten quartets participated in a pick-up quartet contest. The Burlington Chapter was represented in two of the four winning quartets.

A massed chorus sing was directed by Jim Varno, Rob Mance, Lou Bernard, and Jeff Mance.

A 50/50 raffle helped off set expenses and was won by a nine year old potential singer.

A tip of the hat goes to chairman Rod Saunders.

Net: A good time was had by all with a beautiful ferry ride as a bonus.

Expos game this Thursday!

by **Don Pierce**, Chorus Manager

The Chorus will be performing the National Anthem at the Vermont Expos game this Thursday evening, 8/15/02. Warm_up at Centennial Field will be at 6:30 p.m. behind the far end of the right field grandstand. We will be singing at 7:05, the normal start time for evening ball games.

Let's live up to our reputation of being the best National Anthem singers the Expos have the entire season. This is our last chance this year.

The uniform is red striped shirt, khaki trousers, black shoes/belt. Bring yourself, bring your family, and have fun!

Chordiac Arrest selected for 2004

At last Wednesday's (8/14) Board of Directors Meeting, the Music Team recommended that our guest quartet for our 2004 Annual Show be Chordiac Arrest, one of the funniest quartets around. The quartet has performed in all states except Rhode Island, Alabama and Vermont, we

were offered a special deal to help CA fill out their map of the United States. The board approved the choice.

Denis Brochu, Treasurer, pointed out that we have a serious cash flow problem for the end of the year --- a shortfall of over \$500 is expected.

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2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

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Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles are written by the editor, who assumes all responsibility for accuracy and content. Articles represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the members or officers of the chapter. To the extent permitted by space, all written communications received by the editor will be published. The editor, reserves the right to edit all copy for punctuation and length.

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E-Mail: JerWalter@hotmail.com

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Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2001

Ed Bechtel

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

Dan Signor on Resonance

[This email appeared on the "NED" email group on groups.yahoo.com on Tuesday August 13, 2002 and is very relevant to our coaching session next Wednesday. ED]

I have had a lot of people ask me what this whole resonance match thing is all about(see my two previous emails). I just wrote an email to a buddy of mine explaining my point of view(one man's opinion) on this subject and I didn't know if some others would like to read it.

Please don't think I am forcing my ideas on anyone and, certainly, don't think I am asking for coaching gigs — **'cause I am not.** For the record — I have had the wonderful benefit of receiving a lot of training through school and coaching with Overdrive and the judging program and all I am trying to do is help the NED and give back to my barbershop family. So when I sign my emails "I am here to help", please take it at face value. Thanks.

Here goes —.

Resonance. Many people confuse resonance with placement. Even though they can kinda sorta sound like similar things they are two different concepts. You can sing with only your front resonator and have a darkly placed voice and it will sound one way or you can sing with only your back resonator and have a forwardly placed voice and it will sound another way — similar to the untrained ear, but totally different.

The goal is to have a forwardly placed voice (tongue forward, lips off the teeth, vibrating behind your eyes) and all your resonators open all the time. There are different thoughts about how many resonators we have, but there is good proof that we use

three major resonators when we sing: nasal ("WE"), soft palate ("HAVE"), and throat ("LONG"). If you can open them all up you have it knocked.

Sing any note on the word "WE." Feel how the vibrations happen above your front teeth, the nasal resonator. (No air should be coming out the nose, however.) Everyone should use that resonator most when singing low notes, but it should be used all the time.

Sing the word "HAVE" and feel the soft palate raise — we should use this resonator most when singing high notes, but it still should be used all the time.

Sing the word "LONG" and feel your throat resonator open way up — this gives us that "fat" sound (not swallowed, these are two different things).

Yes, these resonators should be used all the time.

Add all this to an open throat (yawn, silent breath, inward) and steady flowing warm air outward and you have a well produced sound that will blend with anyone else who is producing sound the same way. This will give you that sound that will ring all day long. You will be able to sing at a "3" volume and you will be so fat and ringing that it sounds like a "10." Thus, resonance. (As an aside --- actually singing softer) allows the throat to be more open (relaxed) and you must use

See **Resonance** page 3



50/50 Draw to be reinstated 8/21

by **Bob Grevatt**, 50/50 Chair

Back by popular demand! As indicated at last week's meeting, we will once again be starting the Early Bird Draw (EBD) on Wednesday the 21st of August and every Tuesday thereafter.

The EBD serves three purposes. For those not familiar with them, the following is a brief explanation:

A) it is an incentive for all chorus members to be on time for our meeting/rehearsals;

B) it gives those who are on time an opportunity to leave for home (or wherever!) with some of your fellow barbershopper's money; and

C) it helps the Chorus financially, as the proceeds go to our Educational Foundation Fund.

Here are the rules:

1) You must be present and have your chit 'in the pot' before 07:00 p.m., any later and you are not eligible for that night's draw; each

individual's conscience will be the arbitrator for participation in that draw. (However, should a chorus member be present before the 07:00 p.m. deadline and involved in a chorus related meeting or working on chorus business that precludes them getting their chits in before the deadline, the organizer reserves the right to determine their eligibility.)

2) Cost is a dollar (US) per chit and an individual may have one or more chit in each draw.

3) At the end of the meeting a name is drawn from the total chits placed in the draw and this individual is then entitled to draw for the odd coloured "pea" which is separately drawn, i.e. a two pot draw, from a pot initially containing a number of peas of the same colour and one odd coloured pea.

4) Should the odd coloured pea not be drawn, all money collected is

carried over to the next weeks draw.

5) Should the odd coloured pea be drawn the individual doing so is entitled to fifty percent (50%) of all money collected up to that point with the other fifty percent going to the chapter.

6) Each week that the odd coloured pea is not drawn, the total number of peas in the draw is reduced by one, thus, increasing the odds of winning for the next draw.

7) Please note that there will always be a minimum of two (2) peas in the pot.

Participation in the EBD is voluntary. Nevertheless, it is hoped that each member will view this as a tangible way to further assist the chapter and be an active participant as well as have a little fun in doing so.

Resonance from page 2

more warm air. You can hear better so tuning and balance and blend is better also. We should never sing past our ability to sing pretty.

How you change the sound of your quartet to give you that special sound that you want is to then change the placement — i.e. more like Michigan Jake as compared with Riptide. Michigan Jake is very frontal, but never lacking of resonance or sounding pinched. Riptide is more warm and fuzzy cause they match their placement a little farther back — but it is sure matched. Both quartets ring all day long and barely ever sing over a 5 volume.

Cool stuff — works every time to get ensembles lined up.

Again, this is one man's opinion and simply offered to give people something to think about. I am not requesting coaching opportunities or forcing my opinion on anyone. I just want to help everyone I can to sing better and easier and thus enjoy our wonderful hobby of barbershop to the fullest.

Happy singing.
I am here to help,

Dan Signor
Certified Singing Judge
Vocal Music Educator
Private Voice Teacher

Quartet and Chorus Coach
District Quartet Champion
Bolton Landing Quartet Champion
Proud Director of the NCC
Lead_ 'round Midnight

Bolton Landing space available

Bruce Checca reported on the Harmonet: Just a note to let you know that motels in the area, and they tell me there are still rooms available for the Festival weekend! So if you're thinking about coming up, **come on!**

For the best info on what's going on, check out the web site at www.boltonbarbershopfest.com

DIRECTOR'S

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A lesson for the future

by Greg Morrill
Music Director

First, let me say how good our recent rehearsals have been. I detect a conscious effort on your part to incorporate good singing habits and raise the overall level of the chorus. It's been exciting for me to hear the difference!

Having said that, Saturday's performance in Troy may not have been up to those standards. Oh, we entertained the audience and they were appreciative, but I think we know we could have done better. One of the main factors that rose up and bit us was that there are several numbers from last year's show that collectively we just didn't learn the words and notes. While it may be too late to correct that for last year's songs, let's resolve not to let that happen for this year's new songs.

We've got a great set of songs picked for next year's show, but they are more difficult than those we did in this year's show. We've got a great learning tape/CD, but only if we use it. It is each individual singer's responsibility to learn the notes and words. Yes, we go over them in rehearsal, but you should not rely on that as your sole learning approach. It is not fair to those who do assume the responsibility to have to keep repeating the same things week_after_week. So let's learn from the Troy experience — start learning the new songs now!



No Meeting next Tuesday!

by Charlie Church, Music VP:

There will be no rehearsal next Tuesday. Instead, we'll have another mini-retreat next Wednesday, 8/21/02, with coach Dan Signor. Those who attended Dan's sessions in the Spring and in June will recall outstanding events. This session with Dan is the last in our summer series of weeknight coaching. Everyone is urged to attend.

Interchapter Meeting next Tuesday

by Gary Brunell, Program VP:

Our chapter has been invited to attend an interchapter meeting next Tuesday evening, 8/20/02, in Plattsburgh, New York. Other attending chapters are expected to include Greater Montreal, Plattsburgh, and South Shore.

Since our regular chapter meeting will be on Wednesday next week, the occasion affords us a perfect opportunity to get together with fellow barbershoppers from the northern end of the Mountain Division. Reid Allen is driving — see him tonight or get a hold of him this week if you're interested in attending.

**Board of
Directors
Meeting
tomorrow
August 14
Shaw's
Supermarket
7:30**



- August 14 (Wednesday) - Board of Directors meeting Shaw's Supermarket 7:30 All welcome
- August 15 (Thursday) - National Anthem Vermont Expos Centennial Field Warm up 6:30
- August 20 (Tuesday) - NO MEETING See Aug 21 Interchapter meeting at Plattsburgh, see article p.3 CANCELED!
- August 21 (Wednesday) - Mini Retreat -- Dan Signor St. Francis School 7:00
- August 24 (Saturday) - Package Show -- Vergennes, VT Warm up 11:30, details next week SHOW TIME 1:00 p.m.
- August 30 -- September 1 (Fri. -- Sun.) - Bolton Landing Barbership Festival See article page 3
- September 17 (Tuesday) - Early singout Place TBD Warmup at 6:30, Sing 7:00
- September 27-28 (Fri. -- Sat.) - Fall Retreat Place TBD Gary Bolles
- October 20 (Saturday) - Package Show - Randolph, VT
- October 25 - 27 (Fri. - Sun.) - District Convention and Contest -- Lake Placid, NY
- November 19 (Tuesday) - Early singout 3 Cathedral Square, Burlington Warm up 6:30 -- Sing 7:00
- December 1 (Sunday) - Elks Memorial Service
- February 14 (Friday) - Singing Valentines
- April ?? - 20 Week Club Banquet Date, place and time TBD
- May 31 (Saturday) - 55th Annual Show Featuring 2002 Champs Four Voices