



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop 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

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66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

May 6, 2003
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Audition/Contest great fun!

by Jerry Walter, Editor

Last Tuesday evening, at the suggestion of Charlie Cerutti, Quartet VP, the Burlington Chapter held a contest between quartets planning to sing on our upcoming annual show, May 31.

What a blast it was, as no less than **seven** quartets showed up to do battle. Sharing the MC responsibilities were Charlie and Mo Cerutti. Esteemed judges were Glory Douglass, Music Teacher at Essex High School, Jerry Huetz and a not so recent attendee, Len Beams, aka The Wizard of the North. Even though there were attempts by some contestants to bribe the judges, nothing seemed to sway them from their honest duty to pick winners.

Contestant/Performers were Grade A Fancy, nee Evergreen, (Mo Cerutti, Mike Lamay, Bob Cauley and Dave Stonecliffe) singing "The Story of the Rose (Heart of My Heart),"

CVQ (Charlie Cerutti, Neil Cerutti, Chuck Laufer and Brian Stone) was up next singing "Sincere" and a great rendition of "Without a Song."

The Dreamers (Dick Labrecque, Dave Merrill, Ed Bechtel and Jerry Walter) sang "Together, Where Ever We Go."

High Voltage (Charlie Church, Bruce Spector, Greg Morrill and Don Pierce) singing "With Plenty of Money and

You," (with which they apparently successfully bribed the panel), followed by "Lida Rose" and The duet of "Lida Rose/Dream of Now" with Charisma (Donna Kaynor, Carol Hathaway, Pat Heise and Sally Boutin). Charisma then sang "Fit as a Fiddle."

Next up was The Half Steps (Billy Thompson, Drew Carlisle, Sam Chapple-Sokol and Joel Pastor) from Essex High School singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," *a la* FRED's off beat version, followed by "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" including plenty of creative moves, noises and up-staging of each other.

Lake Effect Harmony (Tom Fountain-Provost, Ron Clarke, Rick Bunning and Bill Baker) ended the session singing "When I lost you."

After much deliberation, the judges announced Charisma in third place, The Half Steps second and the winner – High Voltage.



Early Singout next Tuesday -

by Reid Allen

Don't forget, next Tuesday we will begin our meeting at an early singout at Holy Cross Senior Housing, 468 Church Road (Vt 127), Colchester. We will warm up at 6:30 and sing from 7:00 to 7:30, as usual. Uniform is red/white striped shirt, khaki pants, black belt, socks and shoes and green sweater, if too cool for short sleeves.

We will plan to return to St. Francis School by around 8:00 to hold the remainder of our regular Tuesday meeting.

Directions from I89, take Exit 16 (Costco), take US 7, north, about 1.7 miles to Blakely Road, turn left at light, go about 2.3 miles to Malletts Bay Ave and Lakeshore Drive (Vt 127) (light), go straight at light and go 2.0 miles to Church Street on the left (VT 127), turn left and go about 0.4 miles to the Center, directly across from the Clover House restaurant. More directions p.4

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The Undertone

2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

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Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2002

Al Carpenter

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

Music Team Report - April, 2003

1. The Music Team last met on 4/16/03 at the State complex in Waterbury. The following are salient points from that meeting.

2. Greg Morrill noted that he felt the chorus did a great job in Saratoga, that we can now be more aggressive in the Fall.

3. The Team picked the following new songs for the "Songs of Inspiration" segment of the 2004 Annual Show:

1) "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (Society arrangement #7687).

2) "How Great Thou Art" (either Saratoga or Ruby Rhea arrangement)

3) "Hush" (probably Saratoga arrangement)

In addition, we picked the following GMC repertoire songs for inclusion in this segment:

1) "God Bless America"

2) "It Is Well With My Soul"

3) "Lucky Old Sun"

4) "So High,"

4. We reviewed the status of the 2003 Annual Show - all songs are still doable but we're still encountering difficulty on "Happy Days", "Buffalo Bills Medley", "So High..." & "Sam". Daily learning tape usage by chapter members will help solve. The Music Team is recommending to the Show committee that the second half format consist of one song by the GMC, two songs by the MMU kids, two songs by "Half Steps" and a joint song by all ("Hello, Mary Lou"). Friday, May 30th, has been lost as a Tech Rehearsal date at SBHS; the Music Team is suggesting to the Show Committee that the Tech Rehearsal be on May 31st in the mid a.m.; "Techies" would will start their work at 7:00 a.m.

5. One year and five year Music Team goals were deferred until Board holds its planning session.

6. Assistant Section Leaders were designated:

a) Tenor - R. Labrecque

b) Lead - D. Brochu

c) Bari - R. Allen

d) Bass - J. Huetz

7. Assistant Directors were designated:

a) C. Laufer

b) P. Heise

c) R. Allen ("emergency" director - as Reid notes, he can

wave his arms!)

8. We're still looking for responses to the Bill Rashleigh request for a ride back from Montreal.

9. Date and Time of next meeting: Tuesday, May 6 at 6:00 P.M. sharp at St. Francis Xavier School.

Respectfully submitted by:

C. Church

Music & Perf. VP, 4/27/03

Saratoga presents Dickens and Boston Common!

As reported by Neil Cerutti

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY --- The Racing City Chorus, the Saratoga Springs chapter of SPEBSQSA, presented their annual show at Maple Avenue School in Saratoga Springs on Saturday, May 3. A few intrepid members of GMC, having made this same trek in a terrible snowstorm for division contest, looked at each other and saying, "what, me worry?" set out to catch "The Recrudescence Tour" of The Boston Common.

GMC members Bob Cauley, Charlie Cerutti and Neil Cerutti--with the last-minute addition of Neil's wife Alison Cerutti--enjoyed lovely weather during the trip to the impressive new school auditorium building in Saratoga Springs.

Racing City took a gamble this year, presenting Gary Stamm's "What The Dickens: A Partridge in a Parody". The show was enlivened by its setting, eternally sunny Hawaii, allowing the chorus members to perform Yuletide favorites in Hawaiian shirts, Bermuda shorts, and shades. There were many memorable

performances, including Mike Pickett, as the Scrooge-like Ernie, who hates everything to do with music, Warren Feulner as failed music teacher Jack Murley who must walk the earth until he restores a love of music in at least one of his students, young Sean Bala as the Spirit of the Past, the outrageous Pete Wilson as the Rip-Torn-esque Spirit of the Present, and Pete Henningson (in a bonehead move) as the Spirit of Time-Yet-To-Come.

The chorus's new director, Mike Nichols, when he first took the reigns in Racing City, said: "There is so much experience and talent within this group, it's just a matter of working from our strengths to reach the goals we aspire to." On Saturday, he lived those words down, leading the men of Racing City through lively and enjoyable performances.

After a brief intermission, the men of the hour arrived: Kent Martin (tenor, carpenter), Rich Knapp (lead, educator), Terry Clarke (bass, ad executive)

and Larry Tully (baritone, social worker) of 1980 International Champion, The Boston Common. Almost 30 years since they first sang together, they still possess all the qualities that made them champs. With lovable and easy stage personality, they performed some old "Common" favorites ("Sweet Adeline," "There'll Be No New Tunes on this Old Piano," "Old Songs Medley," "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby"), homages to their favorite quartets (The Mills Brothers: "Don't be a Baby, Baby;" The Four Rascals: "Any Time at All," "Till Tomorrow"), with some surprises ("I'm Sitting on Top of the World," "Song and Dance Man").

After a rousing ovation, the four unexpectedly returned for an encore of the rambunctious Sun Tones hit, "The Chordbusters March."

Our four intrepid travellers returned to central Vermont through starry skies, satisfied to have seen living legends of barbershop harmony and the Northeastern District.

Harmony Inc holds Contest in Nashua

On April 25-26, the 2003 Area 2 Quartet and Chorus Convention was held in Nashua, New Hampshire. Vermont's two Harmony Chapters participated.

In the Friday Quartet Contest, the winner was Boston Accent, from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, boasting two-time gold medal winner Wendy Mercier founder and past director of the New England Voices in Harmony, Nashua, NH.

In all, nine quartets qualified for the 2003 International Contest to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia November 12-16. The Long and the Short of It, from the Barre-Tones was a qualifier and also

the winner of the Jean Beal Award for the most improved quartet in the Presentation category.

Unfortunately, Burlington's Charisma did not make the cut this year.

In the Chorus Contest Women of Note, Hudson, Mass., under the direction of Jean Patterson (Yes, she's Dave's wife.), took gold beating out last year's winner, Capital Chordettes, Inc.; Ottawa, Ontario.

Both the Barre-Tones, under the direction of Carol Hollenbeck, and the



Barre-Tones', The Long and Short of It show off their award.

Champlain Echoes, directed by Becky Senesac, missed the cut.

[Thanks to Carol Hollenbeck for tipping me off to this material. Ed.]

DIRECTOR'S

C Good News / Bad News!

by Greg Morrill, Musical Director
 First the good news. I was very heartened by the spirit and good singing at last week's rehearsal. I thought the quartet contest was great -- and not because I was in the winning quartet! (Bribery always works. All of the new show songs we tried went well. With only four Tuesdays counting tonight until the show, that's an important checkpoint.

Now for the bad news. Our performances on the new songs at the 20 Week Club did not go as well as at rehearsal. That's not unexpected, but it should act as a reminder that we all have some work to do. This show can be one of our best, but only if each of us really apply ourselves. That means recognizing what you need to work on which may be different for each of us, and then doing something about it between Tuesday nights!

Finally a special thanks to Charlie Cerutti for his spectacular job on Lucky Old Sun. The audience response shows what a powerful vehicle this song can be (and what a good job Charlie did). We (including me as Director) need to bring our level up to Charlie's on that song. There was a lot of searching/feeling for notes. If you're not sure, just don't sing! We're just the back-up group and if we do a good job, nobody will know we were singing. Any screw-ups draw attention to us and away from Charlie.

Holy Cross from page 1

From the Burlington area, take North Avenuetto Plattsburg Avenue or the Beltway north toward Colchester where they become Hineburg Drive (Vt 127), go to the traffic light at Porter's Point Road, turn left, go two blocks to Church Road (still Vt 127) turn right and go 0.468 miles (E 911 addressing) to Holy Cross Senior Housing on the left, across from the Clover House Restaurant.

To return, leave a trail of bread crumbs.

Goudreau wins \$1,000

by Dick Labrecque, Chairman

Last Friday evening, the annual 20 Week Club held its final drawing including two weekly drawings and one each for \$50, \$75, \$100 and \$1,000.

The big winner was Bob Goudreau, whose number 119 was already picked as a regular \$30 winner on February 4. His lucky number was sold by Denis Brochu. Other winners were -- weekly winner #209 of Rick Kotulak, also a double winner, sold by Jerry Walter; and #137 held by Clayton Wagner. The \$50 went to #164 held and sold by Michael Hermann; \$75 to #247 held by Michael Torpey sold by Dick Labrecque and \$100 to #10 held by Ken Carpenter sold by Al Carpenter.

In addition to a great catered dinner of steam ship roast beef and roast pork and all of the trimmings, the Green Mountain Chorus and quartets performed for the crowd of over 150.

Quartets performing were The Dreamers, CVQ, Charisma and High Voltage.

The chorus debuted three annual show tunes including "Happy Days," "Buffalo Bills Uptune Medley," "That Lucky Old Sun," featuring Charlie Cerutti singing the Vern Reed solo to the chorus accompaniment, and closed the evening with "God Bless America."

Convention News:

Volunteers still needed!

Yes, it's not too late to volunteer for the International Convention and Contest. Many more persons are needed in the contest venue. A Convention registration is **not** needed to volunteer.

Please complete the volunteer forms available at each chapter meeting.

If you have already volunteered, please make sure you complete a volunteer form, also, as times of availability (both days, and hours) are needed to staff all of the open positions.

20 Week Club Winners

Date	No	Winner	Seller
12/10	219	Deana Higgs	D. Higgs
12/17	101	Murielle Rugg	D. Blouin
1/07	225	Carol Hathaway	E. Bechtel
1/14	136	Virginia Charlotte	D. Labrecque
1/21	129	Arletta Allen	A. Allen
1/28	222	Terry Bechtel	E. Bechtel
2/04	119	Bob Goudreau	D. Brochu
2/11	231	Randy-Kay Lavalley	E. Bechtel
2/18	209	Rick Kotulak	J. Walter
2/25	222	Terry Bechtel	E. Bechtel
3/04	43	Corrine Bissonette	J. Walter
3/11	65	John Huetz	J. Huetz
3/18	18	Walter Fisher	E. Bechtel
3/25	140	Pat Bates	G. Brunell
4/01	116	Andre Blouin	D. Blouin
4/08	74	Michael Blouin	D. Blouin
4/15	34	Pat Sabalis	T. Crowell
4/22	21	John Zweighaft	J. Zweighaft
4/29	209	Rick Kotulak	J. Walter
5/02	137	Clayton Wagner	
\$	50164	Michael Hermann	M. Hermann
\$	75247	Michael Torpey	D. Labrecque
\$	100 10	Ken Carpenter	A. Carpenter
\$1,000	119	Bob Goudreau	D. Brochu



May 13 (Tuesday)	--	Early Singout Holy Cross Senior Housing 6:30 See article page 1
May 14 (Wednesday)	--	Board of Director's meeting Shaw's 7:30
May 31 (Saturday)	--	55th Annual Show Featuring 2002 Champs Four Voices
June 6 (Friday)	--	Package Show Morrisville, VT
June 22 (Sunday)	--	Package Show Tunbridge, VT
June 25 (Wednesday)	--	Mini Retreat - Dan Signor 7:00 p.m. St. Francis School
June 29 - July 6	--	2003 International Convention and Contest MONTREAL! Sign up now!
July 11 (Friday)	--	National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30
July 27-August 3	--	Harmony College St. Joseph, Missouri Sign up now!
August 1 (Friday)	--	National Anthem Vermont EXPOS