



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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14th Bolton Landing Barbershop Festival 8/29-9/1!

by Jerry Walter, Editor

This coming weekend, the Bolton Landing Chapter of our district will hold it's first, but actually the 14th, annual Labor Day Festival of wall-to-wall barbershop (except for a little Dixieland on Friday evening). Under the tutelage of Saratoga Springs's Bruce Checca, the festival will include a chapter show format Friday evening beginning at 7 p.m. including the Bolton Landing Chorus, under the direction of International Champion Director of Masters of Harmony and lead of Champion Michigan Jake plus a number of other known performers including the return of the six-person dixieland band from Montréal, le Dixieband.

Great barbershop entertainment will be provided by the following groups throughout all or part of the weekend: Swinglish Mix (Sweet Adelines' 2003 Quartet Champions), Uptown Sound (SPEBSQSA 2003 fourth place medalist), HEAT (MBNA 2003 College Quartet winners), Fanatix (Sweet Adelines' 2002 Quartet Champions), Wheelhouse (SPEBSQSA's 2003 ninth place), Saturday Evening Post (SPEBSQSA's 2003 tenth place), Fortissimo (MBNA 2003 fourth place medalists) and lots of local talent.

Not only will you get the chance to rub elbows with these talented singers, but famous arrangers like Walter Latzko, David Wright, Mark Hale, and Ed Waesche, will also be in attendance.

All event tickets will be available through Friday for \$55 (US)/\$82.50 (CDN) and include: Friday night show, Saturday morning boat ride, afternoon and evening shows and afterglow, Sunday night show and afterglow. Individual event tickets are \$15 (US) for the Friday night show and \$20 (US) for Saturday and Sunday night shows.

Saturday starts off with the famous free boat ride around Lake George at about 9:30. At 1 p.m. there is the Show in the Dome, hosted by Mike Maino. Then at 6:30 is the big Saturday Evening show followed by the free afterglow.

Sunday's activities begin at 9 a.m. with the open quartet contest, open to any group of four singing one song, all of which are eligible for the \$3,000 grand prize drawn at random. The Sunday evening show begins at 6:30 followed by another free afterglow.

For tickets and further information see the festival/chapter web site at:
<http://www.boltonlandingchapter.org>

Holiday schedule firming up fast -- some issues still open

by Jerry Walter, Editor

During the last week, a number of issues concerning the chapter's activities during the upcoming holiday season have been raised.

First, at last week's board meeting, we learned that we will not be singing at the First Night Celebration in Burlington; and most likely we will not be singing in Rutland or Montpelier.

Second, Charlie Church has been appointed as our coordinator for any potential joint holiday shows with the Champlain Echoes and/or the Barrettones. At present, he has determined that the best date for a holiday show is Saturday, December 6. The locations would likely be Burlington and Waterbury Center.

Third, we already have a commitment to provide at least a mini-chorus for the Burlington Order of the Elks' annual Memorial Service for the early afternoon of Sunday December 7.

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The Undertone

2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year
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Burlington Chapter Board of Directors

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
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| VP Devel. (Membership) | Reid Allen | 802 862.-8987 |
| VP Music & Performance | Charlie Church | 802 879-1981 |
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Chorus Manager Don Pierce
Package Show Producer Charlie Church

Al Carpenter

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

To Pot or Not

by *Charlie Church, Music VP*

Your Music Team has been struggling with the concept of "beefing up" our Fall Retreat a tad by augmenting the Saturday session with either a lunch cooked at the Retreat site or an after-Retreat function at the Retreat site or someone's home.

We first concluded that there would be less member fallout if we held the function at the Retreat site, Lone Pine Campground. Second, we think we've settled on a two point function - a "happy hour" (complimentary beer/wine/soda) directly after the Retreat. And after the "happy hour," we would have a Pot Luck dinner. We have secured the services of a volunteer who is willing to call wives, significant others, to sign-up to bring food, etc. for the Pot Luck.

After dinner we would sing for the wives/significant others and campground residents. All this looks pretty good but we're a little afraid that the participation level may not be high enough to warrant all the activity of organizing the Pot Luck dinner.

Please take a few minutes **today or tomorrow** to contact, call or email Charlie Church with your thoughts. Your input is important and will count!

Holidays? from page 1

Fourth, the board was favorable to the seeking of four to six dates for an ensemble (not the entire chorus) to sing holiday songs at University Mall, as we have done for the last several years.

Fifth, we have been contacted to sing in Vergennes Opera House on Sunday December 14 at 4:30 for about an hour.

The board of directors approved all events, except the Vergennes show at the last board meeting.

We need a full chorus commitment for the Holiday Show and the Vergennes show. We can live with a skeleton crew, as long as we can generate four parts, for the Elks and Mall singouts. Mall singouts require 10 to 12 singers. Last year we had about 20 for the Elks service.

We have several options which would not be too inconsistent with our current pre-Vergennes:

1. We can accept the Vergennes show along with the other items, scheduling the Mall singout around the firm dates. This

adds about \$500 to \$750 extra cash to our treasury.

2. We can accept the Vergennes show and drop the joint Holiday show. This adds about \$500 to \$750 (Vergennes) less about \$350 (joint show) or a net of about \$150 to \$400 to our treasury.

3. We can accept the Vergennes show and drop one or more Mall Singouts to reduce the number of days required for those who feel obligated to participate in all activities. You know who you are. Mall singouts have generated \$250 per day in the past.

4. We can refuse the Vergennes show and proceed as planned already. We then lose the potential of \$500 to \$750 and any applause we might have gotten there.

Please let some one on the board know your position before next Tuesday -- see adjacent column for board members information.

A funny thing happened at contest!

It is always nice to see that other choruses choose to sing the songs the Green Mountain Chorus has sung in contest. This year's Illinois District winners performed the following songs:

Illinois District Contest 8/23/03

| Chapter / Nickname | Song | MUS | PRS | SNG | Total | Avg | Cnt |
|-------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|-------|------|-----|
| 1 Northbrook, IL (1,4) | There Is Something About A Soldier | 172 | 178 | 172 | 1042 | 86.8 | 111 |
| New Tradition | White Cliffs Of Dover | 173 | 173 | 174 | | | |
| 2 Bloomington, IL (1,4) | Looking At The World Through Rose | 145 | 142 | 145 | 872 | 72.7 | 65 |
| Sound of Illinois | Once Upon A Time | 146 | 149 | 145 | | | |

HOD and HCNE -- what a weekend!

by *Dave Southcliffe*

[Bob Cauley and Dave Stonecliffe were privileged to attend Harmony College North East as students held at Fitchburg State Collage in Fitchburg Massachusetts Friday August 8th to Sunday August 10th. Dave also represented the chapter at the House of Delegates meeting held Friday afternoon. It was excellent. Carl Phillips who was a quartet coach for the weekend accompanied Dave on the trip. This article is an overview events which occurred. Ed.]

House of Delegates meeting

I was a bit overwhelmed to be asked to represent to Green Mountain Chorus at the House of Delegates to the Northeastern District Association of Chapters of SPEBSQSA at 3:00 on Friday afternoon. It was a very interesting meeting. President Alan Lamson conducted the meeting. There were the usual reports and calendar reviews. Twenty-one of the coached quartets, including mixed quartet 'Round Midnight (Dan and Gaye Signor and Jay and Gale Hall), sang to show us their stuff. A detailed copy of the minutes will be sent to the delegates at a future date. Of special interest were several business items that were discussed at length and then voted on by the delegates. Unlike other business meeting, at the HOD the votes or "yes" and "no" were sung to match the key piped on a pitch pipe.

A. Incorporation of Chapters - It was announced that if your chapter is not incorporated, you officers are individually liable. [Burlington is incorporated in Vermont. Ed]

B. Regional Conventions- After reports and discussions it there was a counted vote to adopt the Regional Convention format as has been in place for that last two years. The vote was 23 (yes) to 15 (no). I sang a "no" vote on behalf of the Burlington Chapter. The main argument for the Regional format was the money that would have been saved by the district. A District Financial Summary 1999-2003 documented this argument. Several delegates raised additional issues against the regional concept.

C. Halifax 2005 - After much discussion and stories, it was unanimously adopted to hold the 2005 Northeastern District Convention and Competition September 29 - October 2, 2005 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Related items of interest were: (1.) There are an estimated 12 chorus in the Sunrise Division that would participate in the 2005 Halifax Competition. (2.) The District is exploring the option of chartering up to 15 busses from Boston or an airplane from Manchester New Hampshire to assist in the transportation to Halifax.

HCNE

Friday Opening Session - was held in Percival Auditorium. The song "America the Beautiful - Overlay" was presented and sung by our group in preparation to sing it at the Saturday Show. Dr. Jim Henry, bass for Gas House Gang (1993 Int'l champs) and a choral music professor holding a Ph.D. in music, gave a fascinating presentation on the "Origins of Barbershop Harmony" of which the earliest barbershop quartet references can be traced back to African-American quartets at the turn of the twentieth century.

Saturday Classes - Each of us took two classes. I took "Sight Reading and Sight Singing" in the morning and "Vocal technique" in the afternoon. The sight reading class was taught by Eric Ruthenberg, baritone of Overdrive, Choral Director at Newport Middle High School and Music Director of the Concord, New Hampshire chapter chorus, The Concord Coachmen. He is also the chairman of the Society's Young Men In Harmony Committee.

The vocal technique class was taught by Richard Brunner, the baritone, and Bruce Morgan, the bass for the comedy quartet, Freestyle (this year's 11th place/mic testers in Montréal). There were 17 students in the class. Each student had the opportunity of standing up in front of the class and singing a song of his choice to be evaluated by the class. I found the first thing that goes when you are nervous is your breathing making the solo in front of the class even more challenging. Bob took and enjoyed Wood Shedding class and a Presentation class.

Saturday Show - There was standing room only in Wilson Auditorium for the evening show. Starting Thursday of that week was Harmony Exposition, a camp of 121 high school young men from the New England area who learned, in two and 1/2 days, and performed six songs Saturday night. The section leaders for the Harmony camp were the members of the Saturday Evening Post (10th in Montréal). Not too shabby.

Then we had no fewer than six premier quartets sing for us including: Saturday Evening Post, Overdrive (2000 NED champs), Road Show (2001 NED champs), Gas House Gang and Freestyle. One of the many excellent songs was "Tin Roof Blues" sung by Saturday Evening Post. For the finale we sang Joe Liles' "America the Beautiful" with the Overlay that we had been rehearsing all weekend. It was unbelievably emotional and uplifting.

Saturday Afterglow - was held at Chartwell's Cafeteria after the Saturday show. This was a venue for the quartets who had attended Harmony College North East and were coached by the invited coaches. Twenty-one of the coached quartets, including mixed quartet 'Round Midnight (Dan and Gaye Signor and Jay and Gale Hall), sang to show us their stuff. Several of the premier quartets closed the evening.

All weekend there was a lot of discussion and sympathies expressed for Rob Henry the baritone of Gas House Gang who is ill and in bed with cancer of the esophagus for the last three months. We signed two huge cards for him and a scholarship collection was taken for his 2-year-old son Ryan. The last song of the afterglow was a very tender moment when Dr. Jim Henry bass for Gas House Gang introduced a song and then Gas House tried to sing it called "Good Night My Angel" dedicated to Ryan Henry. As they sang the Gas House Gang crashed with tears and emotion. Thinking the song would not be completed, the audience picked up the tune and the quartet completed the song. It was an electric experience. It was beautiful and what a tribute to Rob and his son. Another testimony to the skill and brotherhood of these quality

See HCNE page 4

DIRECTOR'S

C Good Weekend!

O *by Greg Morrill, Director*
R Thanks for the good turnout Saturday in Vergennes! I thought the show went very well with some good singing by all concerned. The Vergennes Opera House is one of those great places to sing and I could tell that you guys sensed that and sang within your capabilities! Also what a good audience - both in size and responsiveness! I could tell that they stood up for "God Bless America" by looking at your faces. You all stood a little taller and prouder. Special thanks to CVQ and Charisma for their work before and during the show. I believe that CVQ's and Charisma's singing on the green before the show got us that large audience!

Also thanks to those who sang at Grace Methodist Church in Essex Junction on Sunday. As you could tell that's a church that appreciates music and they were very complimentary after the service. Plus, we got lunch and a make-your-own Sundae for dessert! (I mention that so that those who didn't make it will feel bad!) Good job guys!

Special thanks here to Charlie Cerutti for sharing "Lucky Old Sun." Despite the hour Charlie did his usual great job. I really got swept up by that number Sunday. When we selected "Lucky Old Sun" for the chorus over a year ago, I could picture the impact it could have. Sunday, I could feel that impact becoming a reality. Thanks again, Charlie!



HCNE from page 3

barbershoppers is Mike Slamka, lead from Power Play (this year's champs) singing baritone in place of Rob while he is ill.

We closed around 12:15 a.m. with "Keep The Whole World Singing" lead by Steve Tramack.

Sunday Breakfast - was at the Chartwell cafeteria. It was an opportunity to have a good meal, have some good discussions and meet some new friends before turning in our keys, checking out and traveling home. Carl and I were back in Colchester by 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Conclusion - We met some nice folks and hope to be able to return next year and we are looking forward to going to Halifax in 2005. Our prayers and good thoughts are with the Rob Henry and his family. The only sad part for Bob and I was that we missed ringing cords with our quartet, Grade A Fancy. It would be nice to go with our friends from the Green Mountain Chorus next year.

GHG celebrates 10th finally!

As reported by Jim Henry

Last weekend, after several delays, The Gas House Gang finally got to celebrate their 10th anniversary of winning gold.

After finding the champagne received at Calgary corrupt, GHG toasted with Asti Spumante brought by Kipp Buckner.



All five Gas House Gang members and Ryan celebrate the tenth anniversary of the winning of their gold medal in Calgary in 1993. Joe Fink (left), original tenor, shaved his head in sympathy with Rob's plight.



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|-------------------------------------|---|
| August 29 - shop Festival | Bolton Landing Barber- |
| September 1 (Fri. - Mon.) | |
| September 16 -- (Tuesday) | Early Singout Wake Robin Shelburne 6:30 |
| September 19-20 -- (Fri. - Sat.) | Fall Retreat Lone Pine Lone Pine Campground Coach - Gary Bolles |
| September 20 -- (Saturday) | Champlain Echoes Show Flynn Space, Burlington 2 and 8 p.m. featuring 'Round Midnight |
| September 27 -- (Saturday) | Barre-Tones Show Barre Opera House |
| October 24-25 -- (Fri. - Sat.) | NED Convention and Contest -- Saratoga Springs, NY |
| December 7 -- (Sunday) | Elks Memorial Service Warm up 12:30 |
| December 2 -- (Tuesday) | First 20 Week Club Drawing (Tentative) |
| December ? -- | Annual Holiday Show |
| | 2004 |
| January ? -- | Installation Banquet |
| January 31 -- (Saturday) | Great Northern Harmony Workshop, Montréal with Uptown Sound |
| February 14 -- (Saturday) | Singing Valentines |
| March 19-20 -- (Fri. - Sat.) | NED Prelims, VLQ and Western Division Contests, Albany area |
| April 16 -- (Friday) | 20 Week Club Banquet (Tentative) |
| May 29 -- (Saturday) | Annual Show featuring Chordiac Arrest |
| June 27-July 4 -- (Tues.-Sun.) | International Convention and Contests - Louisville, Kentucky |