

The Burlingtone



The Voice of the Green Mountain Chorus of the Barbershop Harmony Society since 1947

We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont-Call 879-3105

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WEB SITE: www.greenmountainchorus.org

Halifax or Bust—GMC Travels to Convention



VIA TRAIN ENGINE THAT HAULED 31 GMC MEMBERS TO HALIFAX FOR RECENT DISTRICT CONVENTION.



NED
Northeastern District SPEBSQSA

GMC Travels to District Convention by Car, Train, Plane (and Taxi)-

-Did you know that all trains blow their whistles in either an F or G pitch?

-There is the well known 'sea legs' syndrome after days at sea on a rocky boat, but did you know that there is also a 'train legs' syndrome with similar consequences?

-Ask Charlie Church if he collected on his bet and got a free drink from the members of the Montreal chapter who bet him on the plane they would finish ahead of the GMC.

-Is it true John and Carol Zweighaft in their Z3 drafted behind logging trucks on the way to Halifax and achieved 50 mpg gas mileage??

-The picture of the front of the train was sent to John Huetz who is more familiar with the rear of the train as it pulled away from the Miramichi station in N.B.after a whistle stop. He actually hopped a taxi and met the train at the next station in Rogersville. (Whew!! close call)(See **Train**, p.2)

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(**Train**, cont'd.)

-Another close call involved Ann Nichols and Don Pierce who were receiving lessons on how to drive a train while actually seated in the engine of the train itself. Fortunately, they were found and the train proceeded onward—the passengers were much relieved (we all know how Don Pierce drives)

-Halifax will not be the same—Jim Mallabar ordered the “Barrel of Breakfast” at the Apple Barrel restaurant one morning, and proceeded to ask for SECONDS!—he has since been banned from the Apple Barrel.

-In Halifax after 10PM the bars are very active but they do not serve food—hard to believe, but it must be a union thing. The street vendors with their hotdogs and such do a land office business until the wee hours of the morning.

-**CVQ** did the Chorus proud with a 9th place finish overall and received the Comedy Quartet Award for the weekend. Their performances at the Afterglow included “*Lion Sleeps*” and “*Lucky Old Sun*” which wowed the crowd.

-Bill Roberts, one of our ‘snowbirds’, was thrilled with the opportunity to sing with the Chorus at Convention this year. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience and Mona, his wife, thought the overall experience was “exciting” and the singing of “exceptional quality”.

-Steve Janes reported having a successful weekend as he made money in the Casino—Steve you gambling fool.

-A consensus of train people was that the camaraderie experienced on the train was tantamount to having a “Keewaydin” type of weekend—we all got to know each other a lot better, and like Keewaydin, we now know who the snorers are.

-Is Halifax a friendly city or what??

-Mike Hermann, train person extraordinaire, comes equipped with eye shades, ear plugs, and Depends(not really). He commandeered the train ride and was a great help to all—nice going Mike!!

-**Men in Black**(MIB) powered their way to the top and has set a standard for the Northeastern District not seen for decades. Thoroughly enjoyable, and WE have them on the 2006 show!!

-Found out why Scots wear kilts (not printable)

-Lance Brown, a first timer, loved the concert on Saturday night, **MIB**, the **Chord Sharks**, and the parody by **On Q** of MIB. He has been humming “the Jones Boy” tune of **Scully Square** ever since the weekend.

-The chorus breakfast lacked the Gary Brunell monologue and roast, but nonetheless gave us a chance to gather for a meal prior to contest. Greg recognized that Ed Bechtel, Fran Sheridan, and Monroe Allen, our 50+ year members could not be in attendance but were there in spirit.

-Hershel insists the highlight of the weekend was John forgetting to get back on the train.(See **Train**, p.3)

(**Train**, cont'd.)

-Tour highlights in Halifax included Peggy's Cove, the Harbor Hopper, the Citadel, Keith's Brewery and, for some, a tour of Cape Breton. I am sure there are others as well.

-Jerry Walter and Lance Brown spent Thursday night in a B&B (Do Duck Inn) in Dartmouth on the couch and floor—the price was right and they received a free breakfast. You have to be flexible when you are traveling with this chorus.

-Bruce Spector lent his talents and actually organized a brief nominating committee meeting with John Villere on the train and helped immensely in pushing forth this process.

-Last but not least, Greg and Pat felt good about the Chorus' effort in competition, and have come away with an even firmer resolve to do better in Providence next year—Greg's comments follow.

Director's Corner—

Congratulations, guys, on a job well done!! Listening to the tape of our performance from Halifax not only confirmed what I had thought, but showed that it was even better than I had thought. This is one time that we did peak on stage!! Through our preparation and rehearsals we try to bring our performance level as high as we can, but still within that level there is a range of possible outcomes. Your goal on contest day is to attempt to be at the top of that range. It doesn't always work out that way, but this time it did. That's a real compliment to you guys because what happens on that stage has more to do with you than with the directors! Yes, as directors we try to prepare you for that moment, but truth be told, (See **Director**)

(**Director**, cont'd.)

we have little control over what happens on that stage! So congratulations for your hard work and great job on stage.

I should also add that the performance environment on that stage was as tough as any I can recall which makes your performance even better. With a dead stage and no sound reinforcement it was very difficult to know how you were doing.

But you guys sang the plan! You sang soft and you sang loud; you maintained a good supported sound flow. An aside here: I believe our numbers really helped here! Having 32 guys on stage gave us enough of a critical mass to feel and hear our presence better. I believe some of the smaller groups were a little overwhelmed by the environment which impacted their scores. So thank you to all who made the trip! You really made the difference!

(In subsequent weeks Pat and I will include evaluations of our performance. Since we did not receive formal evaluations, we will review the tapes and give you the benefit of our assessments.)

Membership Notes—

C.Church, Membership V.P.

The past few weeks has seen a number of great guys joining us as Guests. They are: Joe Antonioli, Cal Briggs-Harris, Paul Clouser, Mitch Godburn, Don Jackson, Bruce McIntire, Alex Niquette, Ted Perry, and Jim Walsh. Welcome gents - we hope you'll enjoying your time with us and will consider submitting a membership application very soon.

A reminder to chapter members who submitted names / brought guests to the UCANSING2 Guest Night, now is a perfect time to follow-up with a phone call and another offer of a ride. Starting on Tuesday evening, we'll be shifting our focus to holiday music. There is no better time of year for one to join with us in singing the old holiday favorites - and in joining us in our four or five scheduled holiday (See **Guests**, p. 4)

(**Guests**, cont'd.)

sing-outs / concerts.

Speaking of the UCANSING2 Guest Night, the St. Lambert chapter's newsletter, "Tempo", noted in their Sept/Oct issue that Hershel Pesner reported that the Burlington chapter had 40 guests at its recent UCANSING2 Guest Night. I was upset that Hershel had misrepresented our 34 guests until I came to the realization that he was talking 40 Canadians. :-) c.c.c.

BOD Minutes-9/14/05

D. Stonecliffe, Sec'ty.

Treasurer's Report – was presented by Jerry Walter. Our operating fund is in the negative. We have enough anticipated to cover future near term expenses. There was a discussion on the cost of learning tapes and the licensing fees.

Membership Report - We had a great Guest Night. We will follow up visitor information. Greg Morrill and Charlie Church did a great job. There was good cooperation and we will continue to work with the guests and assign them Chorus buddies. The board voted to accept Jim Walsh and Bruce McIntire into the Chorus.

Public Relations Report – presented by Jerry Huetz. Most of the Public Relations this month had to do with **UCANSING2**. There was a discussion on radio advertising.. It hard to measure the effectiveness of the radio ads but at least one guest mentioned hearing them. We don't have a lot of money for advertising, but it would be good if we can advertise quarterly.

Program VP Report – was sent by Steve Janes. Events for August and October include- a performance by CVQ, a Sing Out and a Super Guest night, Chapter celebration, a tentative

Early bird sing out and a performance by Charisma.

Booking Report – was submitted by Al Carpenter. Rutland First Night Package Show is booked and the contract signed. The Board discussed having representation at the Vermont Music Teachers Annual Fall Conference at Essex High School for 10/20. We have an opportunity to perform 2 songs Veterans Day in Vergennes on 11/5. The Board approved up to 4 performances in the U Mall for the holidays. The board gave approval for the Green Mountain Chorus to participate in the Expos' raffle again, and for Al to fix a date in 2006.

Shows Discussion – For the 2005 Annual Show, ticket sales and advertisements were down. There was a discussion on booking **Men in Black** as our quartet for the 2006 Show.

Halifax –There are 35 quartets and 25 choruses participating. We also discussed the need for a Chorus Breakfast in Halifax.

Nominating committee - We need to report our Chapter officers to Kenosha by 15 October and are still looking for a President and a Booking agent.

Future Events – There was a discussion on the Joint Christmas Show and the proceeds going to the Katrina relief fund. The Chapter Installation dinner is scheduled for Saturday 14 January. The COTS will be the week before in Warwick, Road Island.
(Report shortened by Editor)

CALENDAR

-Oct. 25- Early Bird Singout-6:30PM-
Carpenter Auditorium, Rowell Bldg.,
UVM Medical School.

Nov. 5-Sat. 11am-Veterans Day Parade-
Vergennes-

Nov. 26-Sat. 11am-1pm-U Mall Holiday
Sing

Nov. 26-Sat. 3pm-5pm-U Mall Holiday
Sing

Dec. 17-Sat. 3-5pm-U Mall Holiday
Sing

Dec.20(?)-Caroling-Church Street
Marketplace