



In Tune

with the

HUNTERDON Harmonizers

Barbershop Chorus



Mid-Atlantic District

Flemington, NJ

VOLUME 6, Issue 2
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Administrative Assistant

Sharon Cole

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Music:

Assistant Directors

Rusty Williams
George Schwerdt

Choreographer

Vida Allworthy

(continued on page 5)

HUNTERDON HARMONIZER 2004 SCHEDULE

make sure to confirm your commitment to performances (sign-up sheets)

Regular scheduled Chapter Rehearsal/Meeting, Tuesdays, at the Elks

165 Highway 31, Flemington, NJ

7:30 p.m.

1st Monday of each month, Music Team meeting at

Don Reckenbeil's house

8:00 p.m.

3rd Monday of each month, Board Meeting at

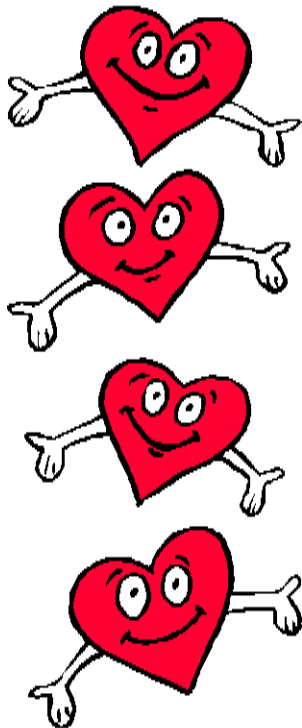
Lee Roth's office

91 Main Street, Flemington, NJ

Other Important Dates:

Weds	Feb 18	Lyons Veterans Hospital	Meet at Elks	7 p.m.
Sat	Feb 28	CD Recording session	Milford Church (Tentative)	8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sat	Mar 6	CD Recording session (alternate date)		
Fri-Sat	Mar 12-13	Intl Prelim Quartet Contest	Parsippany, NJ	TBA
Tues	May 11	Family night before contest	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Fri-Sat	May 14-15	M-AD Northern Division Contest	Split Rock Lodge, Lake Harmony, PA	
Fri-Sat	Oct 1-2	M-AD Northern District Contest	Wildwood	TBA

On the Valentine Trail



The following are just a few comments from some of the guys who participated in the Singing Valentines this year.

Comments from Mike Fordice:

As we left 91 Main Street (Valentine Central), **George Schwerdt, Ron Roth, Jensen Gelfond, Bruce Budde** (The Lumberjack!), and I headed north to an assisted-living complex behind BJ's on Rt. 31 (across from the hospital). Here I took a break and Bruce sang bass because this singing valentine was for Bruce's mother-in-law (see photo on next page). I used the time to study the maps for the rest of our appointments.

We then headed north to Califon, covering several back-road short cuts thanks to Ron, and arrived at the Little Brook Nursing Home. Everyone was at lunch so we delivered our songs in the cafeteria with an audience of about 40 people. Very enjoyable.

Next stop was at the Hunterdon Medical Center with enough time to hit the lunch room for a quick snack. Not everyone approved of my pistachio muffin and its intense green color (should have been St. Patrick's Day), but it was delicious! This was a great stop for us as there were two jobs in one location. The first was for a supervisor in the kitchen. Arranged for by her husband, she thought it was wonderful. There were a few others in the area who listened also. As we were singing, a group of teenage girls walked in and it appeared that they couldn't believe their ears! (Editor note: Guess they've never heard 4-part harmony before, huh?)

We continued on to the patient area and sang to someone's fiancé. She was very appreciative. As we left her room, there was an older gentleman standing outside. He asked us to visit his brother-in-law, a patient 2 rooms down, who used to sing barbershop. Turns out that

(continued on next page)

ON THE VALENTINE TRAIL (cont'd)



the brother-in-law is **Donn Grady** (a former HH). He sang along with us on "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Probably the best therapy he got that day!

Then on our way out, we sang for the main nursing station. A crowd gathered and we got a nice round of applause.

For our next Singing Valentine, we headed cross-country to Neshanic Station, where we were greeted by a dog (inside a fence). We sang for the lady in the presence of her husband and son. We asked the guys if they had any interest in singing and got the usual "not able to carry a tune in a pail." We told them that we had plenty of pails. As we sang the first song, the husband stood behind us because he wanted to see the expression on his wife's face.

Back in the car and back cross country west this time to Annandale. Guess what, another dog greeted us. This was a really cool 3-year old black lab who helped us sing, too. As we walked into the house it was suggested that we come in and not sing in the laundry room. Into the kitchen we went. This room had the most wonderful acoustic properties! We sounded just great. Along with her husband were her two children (young adults). The girl came up and stood with Mom and they really enjoyed the whole thing. We also caught Dad singing along a bit, so he got all the info about our chorus.

After about 3.5 hours and 60 miles and several roads that I've never seen before, we were finished with a successful day of Singing Valentines.

Comments from Ron Newsom:

Both Friday and Saturday were tremendous. On Friday morning, **Lee Roth, Charlie Mohr, Ed Kunkel** and myself sang to "Big Mike." He was a pretty big guy at a plant that we were sent to. Everyone knew him and he was pleasantly surprised. It was great to sing for a group of people that really cared for "Big Mike."

Later that day, the most touching time we had was when we went to sing for a doctor at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick. After singing for the doctor we paid a visit to my parish pastor

who was recovering from kidney surgery. Monsignor Liam Minogue is a true Irish pastor. So we sang "My Wild Irish Rose" (while he mouthed the words) and "Heart of My Heart." Monsignor was very appreciative and I am very grateful to my fellow afternoon singers, **Charlie Mohr, Ed Kunkel** and **Chris Heitkamp**, for helping to bring a bit of Valentine's Day sunshine to a very wonderful man.

Saturday morning was great as **Rusty Williams, Dave Farber, Tom Bashtarz** (his first Valentine trip), and I sang for my wife. She was caught unaware, dust rag and Pledge in hand. She told me later that it was really good and she loved our facial expressions. Thanks guys, for making her day!



Comments from Bruce Budde:

After 9 years with the **Harmonizers**, this was the first year I actually got out there and sang the Valentines. I had a ball! I recommend it to all our members. Whether you think you can sing in a quartet or not, step up and be counted, and have a helluva lot of fun doing it! Hell, I even sang to my mother-in-law (picture attached . . . she's the one in the red dress) and even SHE loved it!

We had about 57 engagements this year. Well, I for one will be hitting the ground with enthusiasm to drum up business for next year. We should be able to double that! I've also made some recommendations on pricing restructuring that I've sent to Art.

PUBLISHING DEADLINE

Manuscripts must be in the editor's hands on the 13th of each month for publication in the *In Tune with the Hunterdon Harmonizers* bulletin. E-mail articles to lindaw23@earthlink.net or send them to Linda Williams, 24 Toad Lane, Ringoes, NJ 08551.



Another great holiday show! Thanks to all who made it possible! That's **Bruce Budde** as the Lumberjack, **Rich Taylor** as Winterkin Dumkin, and **Don Reckenbeil** directing the chorus along with the North Hunterdon Regional High School choirs.

LADIES' AUXILIARY NEWS

Thank you to all the **Harmonizer wives, moms, and friends**, for answering our plea for cookies to sell at our Holiday Show. We received an overwhelming response and that was well received by our patrons. Our profit after expenses for selling cookies and beverages was \$322.61.

Also, a special thank you to **Amy Heitkamp** for her Longaberger donations that enabled us to have our in-house raffle realizing a profit of \$216. All the winners were grateful for receiving such a treasured door prize!

The selling of refreshments and our raffle were the only fundraisers the **Ladies' Auxiliary** sponsored this year. These funds are used to purchase needed items for the chorus. In addition, if funds are available, a breakfast for the ladies will be provided at the Mid-Atlantic District Contest, being held at the Split Rock Resort in Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania in May.

Once again, thank you for your support!

Carol McKevitt and Sharon Cole, *Co-President*
Linda Kacvinski, *Treasurer*
Linda Williams, *Secretary*

SFL SUCCESSFUL AT ADJUDICATION

by Rich Taylor, *SFL Coach and Advisor*

On Friday night, February 6, *Scarred for Life* and their coach, **Rich Taylor**, began their journey to Fredericksburg, Virginia, to participate in the Southern Youth Adjudication Event on Saturday, February 7.

The Southern Youth Adjudication brought together 16 young quartets from New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. There were 8 male and 8 female quartets, all trying to do their

best to earn a rating that would allow them to continue on to the District "Finals" of the adjudications in March.

These adjudications, unlike a contest, have no "winner." Each quartet performs two songs and is scored by certified SPEBSQSA judges. They are then assigned a "ranking" of "Good," "Excellent," or "Outstanding" for their performance on stage. We saw a couple of familiar faces judging — Marty Israel and Rich Lavene (director of the Princeton Chapter). There were 2 judges in each of the three categories of singing, music, and presentation.

Scarred for Life performed "Oh You Beautiful Doll" and "Coney Island/We All Fall Medley" with the skill and dexterity of a mature quartet. Their performance drew loud and long applause from the audience that included more than 70 members of the *Alexandria Harmonizers*, the "host" chapter. When *Scarred for Life* did their comedic interludes in "Coney Island," especially Murray's "ba ah ah ah" on the "just like leading lambs to slaughter" line, the audience roared with laughter. They were truly one of the most entertaining quartets of the day.

They were given a ranking of "Excellent" with an average score of 59.5 in all categories. There was a female quartet from Virginia, called *Trademark*, that was the only quartet to rate an "Outstanding" in their performance. They were absolutely remarkable on stage and a true credit to their vocal music program and their music educator, Sherri Matthews. Sherri has had one of the longest running barbershop high school programs in the district and has had her quartets finish in the "medalist" ranks of the MBNA Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest.

The quartet now goes on to Parsippany in March. If you have not gotten your tickets for the "Pre-lim" contest, get them now. You will have the thrill of hearing . . . "And now, representing the "School Without Walls" and the Hunterdon County Chapter, welcome Murray, Jesse, Jensen, and Michael, *Scarred for Life.*" You and I will be very proud.

PRE SIDENT NOTES

Art Cole, Jr.

FEBRUARY IS MOVING FAST

Thank you to all who participated in the work that went into putting on our 2003 Holiday Show. I know that there was a part of each of us that just couldn't wait until January 24, 2004. Now we can move on and do the things that we need to do this year as a chorus.

This chorus is going to have a great year and each member is going to know what is expected of them. If we expect to be a growing and successful chorus, every member has to do their part. What I mean by that is, we all need to work together and be the best singer we can be. We need to work on our music at home, not just on Tuesday nights. As a board member, we need to ask for help when the job seems overwhelming, and don't give up. The only way we will be able to continue to enjoy this American art form of music is by looking around to see what *we* can do to *help*.

It makes me proud to announce that the chairman for our 2004 Annual Show is **Ron Newsom**. He has graciously taken the challenge for another year. This year's show will focus on *better* singing to a *larger* audience. I am confident that we can take care of these two items. Actually, there has already been a meeting to discuss ways to improve our show for 2004. So the planning stage has begun!

Our music team, headed up by our music vice president, **Mike Fordice**, has put together a schedule to learn and qualify for division contest. See the article by Mike on page 5 of this bulletin.

Our program vice president, **Rich Cronce**, has put together a weekly schedule for learning this new music and the taping dates. If you do not have a schedule, see either Mike or Rich.

This type of schedule will be used also for our district contest as well as our Holiday Show for 2004. That is how we hope to improve our singing.

Now, for tickets and selling our seats to our annual show. **Ron Newsom** and I will be talking to the board about ideas that have been discussed concerning ticket sales. I think we have come up with some great ideas but now what we need is a volunteer to chair ticket sales. This project, as we see it, will need to be a team of between 2 and 4 men.

Let's concentrate on the areas where we know we need the most work as we go forward in 2004. We all want to enjoy this great hobby, so let's get busy, learn our music so we can perform it well, and at the same time, have some fun, because ...

It's Great to be a Barbershopper in Hunterdon County!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Lee Roth, VP Membership



Ron Newsom is handing Ron Todd his new membership package from SPEBSQSA. He and Bill Haller are our first new members of the year. Unfortunately, Bill was out of town at the time.



Ed Kunkel introduces our first guest of the year, Mark Bentley. He had previously sung with the Montclair Chapter. He said he came out because he saw Don Reckenbeil's picture in The Harmonizer magazine. Don used to sing with Montclair also.



The best way to get used to singing in a quartet is to sing in a "Fifth-wheel Quartet." This is the first time Ron Todd and Chris Haitkamp have sung in a quartet or small group. Here they are with old-timers Art Cole, Clarke Applegate, and Pat Cerillo.

HOBBIES, AMATEURS, AND FUNDRAISING

by Lee Roth, *VP Membership*

Barbershop singers are fond of referring to singing as their “hobby” or referring to themselves as “amateur singers.” There are about 800 chapters of barbershop singers in the country. My guess is that about 80 or so of these chapters are populated with men who have a sincere interest in singing as well as they can. They engage in competition, they study, they practice, and they put a lot of time into their barbershop activity. Others like to enjoy barbershop singing, but with various levels of commitment, ranging from some contest participation to social & family performing.

Each of these groups have different goals and funding needs. Some do well on the dues and an annual show for themselves and their friends. Others seek a larger budget that will cover the cost of coaching, learning tapes, and support for their educational and improvement programs. The top ten percent come close to being obsessed with improvement. They regularly screen new singers and have self-recording and audition programs in place to continuously improve the quality of their members’ personal singing.

When this top group refers to themselves as engaging in a “hobby,” or allow themselves to be called “amateurs,” they may do a disservice to their funding opportunities. Grant givers do not fund hobbies nor do they seek to support amateurs. Take a minute to look at the words used.

Amateur

The dictionary says that an amateur is “Somebody who does or takes part in something for pleasure rather than for pay.” And, “Somebody who loves or is greatly interested in something.” I take pleasure in singing with the chorus and with my quartet. I work hard to improve my singing. I invest a lot of time in the activity. I spend money on obtaining help in my effort to improve.

But my dictionary also says that an amateur is “Somebody who has only limited skill in, or knowledge of, an activity.” I’m afraid that grant givers latch on to this alternate definition and put all who sing barbershop music into this category and don’t consider the ability of the amateur (Tiger Woods was once an amateur golfer).

Hobby

We also have a tendency to refer to our activity as a hobby. As long as the definition in mind is “an activity engaged in for pleasure and relaxation during spare time,” then we are probably engaged in a hobby.

Many of our hard-working top singers get paid. Are they no longer amateurs? Our chorus and quartets are paid for major public performances to support our cost structure. The better a group sings the more they are considered to be worth. So are they engaged in a hobby? Are they professionals or amateurs?

Perhaps until grant givers and other supporters of the arts understand that we are serious about what we do, we should drop the words “hobby” and “amateur” from our barbershop vocabulary and tell people that we are members of an arts organization. Rather than calling ourselves amateurs and hobbyists, we should refer to ourselves as artists and performers.

ANOTHER “DOLL” FOR THE HARMONIZERS


by Mike Fordice, *VP Music & Performances*

On February 3, 2004, the new contest song was introduced to the chorus, “Paper Doll.” This, along with “Oh You Beautiful Doll” is our contest package for 2004. The music and learning tracks for “Paper Doll” were distributed at the February 3 rehearsal. If you didn’t get yours, pick them up as soon as possible. The music and learning tracks are also available on the web site in the members-only section as MP3 files. We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding contest season with our new “Doll” Package.

In other news from the music team, we have decided to keep “One Voice” (from the holiday show) and possibly add it to the upcoming CD. Some re-arrangement will be required as the existing arrangement was intended for performance with the guest high school group.

The music team has also decided to put “The House I Live In” on the “back burner.” No further work on this number for the near future.

And . . . we’ll be bringing back “Phone Medley.” **Rusty Williams** has revised portions of the lyrics to update the song. We’ll also be adding a new tag. So, look for that in the near future, too.



Don Reckenbeil (3/4)
 George Schwerdt (3/16)
 Chris Fordice (3/17)

*Any birthday missed only means that you didn’t age this year, but get me your DOB and we’ll make sure that you age next year!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (cont’d)

Music:

Section Leader, Tenor
George Schwerdt

Section Leader, Lead
Pat Cerillo

Acting Section Leader, Baritone
Don Reckenbeil

Section Leader, Bass
Rusty Williams

Electronic Equipment & Learning Tapes
Charlie Mohr

Music Librarian
Ron Todd

Vocal Coach
Ron Knickerbocker

Shows and Performances:

Craft Show
Richard Cornelison
Tony Weber

District Convention
Bruce Budde

Holiday Show
Ron Roth

Picnic
Richard Kacvinski
Rusty Williams

Singing Valentines
Jim Knight
Charlie Mohr

Church Choir Relief (summer)
Jack Gardner

Membership:

Public Relations
Jack Gardner

Young Men in Harmony
Ron Roth

Chorus Welfare:

Badges/ Health & Welfare
Nick Rigas

Uniforms
Lou Bowers

Housing (Elks)
Art Cole

Chorus Merchandise:

CD’s
Richard Kacvinski
Ron Roth

Cups, etc.
Dennis McKeVitt

Programs:

Meetings
Rich Cronce

Refreshments
Clarke Applegate

LADIES AUXILIARY

Co-Chairpersons
Sharon Cole
Carol McKeVitt

Treasurer
Linda Kacvinski

Corresponding Secretary
Alice Rigas

Recording Secretary
Linda Williams