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# CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY



MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER  
\*\*\*\* A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE \*\*\*\*

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

JULY 2017- VOL.73- NO. 6

## Summer Aires by the Commodores



Diana Pinard' Photo

It has been a busy summer thus far for the Minneapolis Commodores with several more scheduled performances in the weeks ahead. The photo above was taken on a wonderful June 13th evening at the *Boerboom Veterans Park* in Osseo.

Undaunted by the narrow stage at the site, the Commodores unveiled their emergency, seven-step riser formation with those members unaffected by acrophobia manning the sixth and seventh rows. (County EMTs were alerted in case of any potential problems with altitude sickness.)

From the outset the audience was most receptive to the offerings of the Commodore assembly. One of our attendees asked if we would grant a special request as she was about to be married thus providing us an excellent opportunity to serenade the couple with our well-received ver-

sion of *When I Fall In Love*.

Of course, as you might expect, our finale of *YMCA*, with all its bells and whistles, *brought up* the house, that is, the audience. Everybody that could, jumped to their feet semaphoring the four letters with all their collective energy. (It was near-fatiguing just to watch them.)

Following the concert many of the members retired to *Dicks Bar and Grill* on Central Avenue where the beer was well-chilled and the burgers grilled to perfection.

Sunday afternoon, June 25, found the Minneapolis Commodores in the MacMillan Auditorium at the *Minneso-*



YMCA the Commodore Way in Osseo

ta

Go to *Summer Aires*, Page 2, Column1  
*Summer Aires*, from Page 1





Diana Pinard Photo

### The Commodores at the Arboretum

#### Summer Aires, from Page 1

*Landscape Arboretum.* where our music slowly but surely drew a crowd estimated at about 200 by the time we concluded. Once we started, the people kept coming in until almost all of the seats were filled. Once they were drawn in only a very few left before the concert ended.

Emcee **Dr. Bob Dykstra**, as he did at the Osseo performance, kept the audience chuckling between numbers with his malapropic news captions and other bits of humor.

In attendance that day was one of our former Commodore bass-compatriots, **Dr. Tom Hallin**, who retired to Florida some years ago.

Before joining the Minneapolis Chapter, Tom sang in a church quartet with Jim Erickson (of *Georgia Grind* fame), and destined-to-become Barbershoppers with the then dynamic Minnetonka Chapter, and Thurm

Slack and Don Mosher.

Tom Hallin eventually found the Commodores and later when Erickson was searching for a place to sing, invited Jim to visit the Minneapolis Chapter. Slack, since his retirement a few years ago has joined the Commodores as a non-singing member (no doubt to be added to the Chord-Inator mailing list). All the rest is history.

Tuesday, July 18, was the date of the St. Paul Chapter's annual *Twin City Area Barbershop "Jamboree."* Choruses from Faribault, Hilltop, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Polk County (Wisconsin), St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Stillwater, performed at the Como Pavilion in St. Paul.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies for the evening was **Steve Zorn**, St. Paul Chapter President and also a dual member with Hilltop, who did an excellent job with the introductions of the individual choruses.

After singing their first two numbers, *Crazy Thing Called Love* and *My Girl*, the Commodores brought the audience to their feet with their

choreographed and specially-costumed number, *YMCA*. (WOW! How they love that Barbershop!)

Although the forecasters had predicted heavy rain and weather, the evening turned out to be one of the most pleasant in all the years the event has been offered. No doubt most of the current attendees will find themselves back at Como next year.

The Commodores will next be seen and heard on Thursday, July 27, at *Downtown Park* in Hopkins as part of the *Hopkins Summerfest* program. The evening will be sponsored by *Amy's Cupcake Shoppe*, 701 Main Street. (Cupcakes anyone?)

Downtown Park is located on 9th Avenue just south of Main Street. Public off-street parking is plentiful in the area but seating is limited in the Park. Bring your camp chairs.



Diana Pinard Photo

The standing-room-only crowd at Como.

Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter  
Land O'Lakes District, BHS  
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7625 Chicago Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423  
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Lead Section Leader. ....  
.....**Vacant**

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Bari Section Leaders .....Dave Speidel  
Assistant - Matt Richards

Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

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Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams

## Could this be the - Start of Something Big - ger?

By Denny Maas, President

At the June Music Committee Meeting we were discussing the new process that requires those who want to participate in the fall contest, sing, for Paul, both songs in a quartet to demonstrate they know the words, notes, and artistic nuances of each. I mentioned to the Committee that for any member who has never sung in a quartet, this requirement could be very intimidating even though it is not meant to be.



Denny Maas

I shared with the Committee that I am a five year member and had never sung in a quartet. We also discussed that the Chorus Survey completed about two years ago says that many members would like to have the opportunity to sing in a quartet. I also mentioned that during my visit to the Mankato Chapter's practice where I brought a Mankato Performing Arts student, the student sang in a quartet the same night. We have had only one practice during which we arranged for everyone to sing in a quartet.

I think the new requirement that allows each of us to sing in a quartet (getting a free voice lesson at the same time) is the **Start of Something Big** for the individual members and the Commodore Chorus as a whole. It should give each of us who need it, a huge boost in our confidence and consequently improve our performance skills and their outcomes.

Regardless of the foregoing, I must admit I am still a bit nervous about qualifying for the contest but am actually looking forward to it. I really need to sing in more quartets before trying to qualify. If you are like me and have no or little quartet

## I know you will do it!

By Paul Wigley, Director

What a terrific summer to be a Commodore! These public performances have been entertaining for our audiences, rewarding to us as participants, and generating terrific public relations for the Minneapolis Commodores!



Paul Wigley

Thanks to all of you who are contributing so much to making all of these events so successful.

To take that success even further, the Music Committee has adopted a slightly more exciting approach to the LOL District Contest this fall in Rochester. You all are aware that we have been using the *shotgun* riser arrangement for some time (and I strongly feel that it's more fun, and we sing better in tune!) We also have done some voice placement within this shotgun formation, to enhance and support every individual singer as best we can. Your acceptance and support for these changes has been energizing for me personally, as your director. The desire to *raise the bar* for our musical performances is exciting for all of us!

The District Contest is a chance for the Commodores to get a true measure of where we stand musically, as judged by talented men from all across the country. This is a time where we re-calibrate our methods of rehearsal, vocal technique, musical interpretation, visual performance, etc. To challenge ourselves a bit more this fall, we are using a system of quartet qualification to perform on the risers in Rochester.

Before you start hyperventilating, I Go to **Wigley, Page 4, Column 1 Wigley from Page 3**

experience, let's hook up and sing some polecats so we get more comfortable with quartet singing. I really do think this is the **Start of Something Big** for the Commodores!



want to assure ALL of you that is NOT meant to be punitive in any way. In my mind it is an issue of fairness. Every man deserves to be standing next to a man who has prepared fully and competently for the songs we are singing. The quartet qualification process is a means to show that you have learned the words and notes accurately. It doesn't measure the degree of musicality that you bring, or how long you can use your breath to hold phrases, or how great you smile. The qualification process is purely to lock in ACCURATE memorization. Lack of accuracy in memorization leads to lack of confidence in performance ... and we all want our very best level of confidence on that

contest stage (Well ... actually EVERY time we perform in public!).

We already have a number of contest singers that have qualified. Whenever you feel you are ready to 'show your stuff', just let Carl Pinnard or myself know, and we will group you with other singers that are also prepared to qualify (or have already qualified.) The process will be simply be to sing the music accurately from memory.

The Minneapolis Commodores remain an inclusive chapter! We do not have attendance requirements, our audition process is basically "Can you carry a tune?", and we welcome all *men of good character* to sing with us.

This process of Fall Contest preparation/qualification is just one more way of maintaining the high level of performance that our listening public deserves. And we all deserve to be standing alongside well-prepared singers every time we step on the risers!

I could not be more proud of the Commodores! I am sure every one of you feels the same! Thanks for everything that every single one of you contributes.

It's GREAT to be a Commodore!

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



*Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.*

### From the meeting of June 8, 2017

*By Bill Warp, Secretary*

- **Marketing:** Steve Grady reported that 1000 *Join us* cards have been printed, and that he has been working with **Mark Ortenburger** on bulletin inserts for sing-outs.



**Bill Warp**

**Don Keller** will be working on the 2018 Show graphics with Show Chairman **Matt Richards**.

- **Membership:** Harvey Weiss observed that although the *Visitors Night* was well-planned and attended, there was probably not enough singing. More attention should be given to the whole spectrum of Barbershopping, and less to the rehearsal aspect of the chapter meetings.

A process is being formalized for contacting members who miss more than an occasional chapter meeting.

- **Music & Performance:** *Start of Something Big* will be added to the summer repertoire on July 27.

## Happy Anniversary

07/13 Bill & Marsha Shaw  
07/20 Brooks & Sandy Bergersen  
07/20 Dave & Jamye Casperson  
07/22 Jim & Mary Erickson  
07/23 Tom & Bonnie Dahlen  
08/04 Alan & Karen Matchinsky  
08/05 Larry & Kathy Nelson  
08/05 Dan & Carol Smith  
08/08 Fred & Ardis Von Fischer

Contest qualification via singing in a quartet is beginning. The qualification retreats are scheduled for August 12 with **Kevin Keller** and September 23 tentatively with **Peter Benson**.

- **Old Business:** A motion to establish a non-society Board seat has been tabled.

The truck will be disposed of by the August Board meeting.

**Dan Slattery** has been named *Chorus Manager*. **Neal Mortenson** will be the *Assistant*.

- **New Business:** The Commodores will jointly underwrite a hospitality room with the *Northern Pines Harmony Brigade* at the Rochester Fall Convention.

- **Next Meeting:** July 10

## Happy Birthday

07/10 Brooks Bergersen  
07/10 James Souhan  
07/12 John Hansen  
07/14 Beverly Koch  
07/16 Dianne Ongna  
07/14 Paul Wigley  
07/15 Harvey Weiss  
07/16 Jim McCarville (75)  
07/17 Lou DeMars (80)  
07/17 Jim Lee  
07/19 Bill Ashley  
07/27 Ken Glover  
07/27 Larry Nelson  
07/28 Marsha Shaw  
08/01 Karen True  
08/07 Debbie Mason  
08/07 Connie Miller  
08/09 Jean Warp

**PLEASE NOTE:** If your birthday or anniversary dates are missing from this list, please notify the Editor to update your records so you won't be missed next time.

**SUPPORT  
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**TFLBTMOT**  
**continues**  
**The Jim Richards**  
**Matching Funds**  
**Challenge**  
**at the**  
**10th Annual**  
**BHS Open**  
**Monday,**  
**August 7, 2017**  
**Elk River Country Club**  
**Scramble Format**  
**to benefit**  
**Harmony Foundation's**  
**Youth Festival**  
**For further information**  
**log on to**  
**[bhsopen.com](http://bhsopen.com)**

## Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

We are all saddened to lose **Rich** and



Hardin Olson

**Dianne Ongna** from our immediate Commodore family, she with her grace and charm, he with his fine baritone and his unrelenting dedication to his *Sunshine Hotline* column that

has embellished this publication for just two months shy of eight years.

The Ongnas have become lovable friends and I am sure that they will pop up on occasion to top off their Commodore buckets. After all, Wisconsin is not that far away (Well, eastern Wisconsin...maybe!).

The good news is that **Mark Bloomquist** has volunteered to fill Rich's big shoes and take over the reins of *Sunshine Hotline*. Done well it is a much bigger job than it might seem so make Mark's job easier by

Hi, Harvey [Weiss].

Thank you so much for performing for our visitors on Sunday. I heard nothing but great things about your performance.

I hope everyone enjoys the [enclosed] passes to come back again.

We would love to have your group back again. If it's OK with you I will keep your contact information on file. I will start looking for next summer's open dates around the first of the year if you are interested.

Thanks again,  
 Charlene

Charlene Wickenhauser  
 Guest Services  
 Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

keeping him aware of Hotline items and follow-ups in as timely a manner as possible.



## Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 11

Steal Away tag arr. by Bob Chilcott, re-arr. By Paul Paddock



Dr. Jim Richards

Watch out, this one's a high one! Inspired by the version done by the King's Singers, which I've sung with my ensemble in Asheville, NC, it puts a contemporary perspective on the spiritual. It emphasizes constructive dissonance (not consonance) to put strength and sound out at those altitudes, just like a trumpet quartet would. Really crush the slide at the end. It's meant to sound the proverbial trumpet and if you know the spiritual, the focus is wishful thinking about the Promised Land, during hardships. Do this one with your friends at the afterglow and you'll wow everyone around you! "Enjoy!"



Paul Paddock

Steal Away

Spiritual  
 arr. Bob Chilcott  
 rearr. Paul Paddock

The trum-pet sounds with - in my soul!



### July reenlistments

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Eric Nelsen.....3 yrs.           | Dan Kregelberg.....23 yrs.   |
| Ralph Nordquist.....4 yrs.       | Ken Knutson.....32 yrs.      |
| Gordy Aumann.....14 yrs.         | Steve Grady.....33 yrs.      |
| Glenn Retter.....14 yrs.         | Gary Cooper.....34 yrs.      |
| Rob Hartert.....15 yrs.          | Lance Johnson.....38 yrs.    |
| Lou DeMars .....16 yrs.          | Peter Michelson.....40 yrs.  |
| Richard Hartmann.....16 yrs.     | Russ Born.....43 yrs.        |
| John Lloyd.....16 yrs.           | Hardin Olson.....47 yrs.     |
| Ron Neujahr.....16 yrs.          | Lawrence Smalley.....50 yrs. |
| Stephen Daniel.....18 yrs.       | Chuck Guthrie.....65 yrs.    |
| Dan Cole.....19 yrs.             |                              |
| Dick Riemenschneider.....20 yrs. |                              |
| Travis Wuttke.....20 yrs.        |                              |
| Kevin Huyck.....22 yrs.          |                              |

## SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Mark Bloomquist, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952/541-0232

E-Mail: [mbloomquist@meagher.com](mailto:mbloomquist@meagher.com)

As of this writing **Jim Erickson** is recovering from a successful spinal fusion on July 12. He is staying at *Interlude Restorative Suites* in Plymouth for a few days, getting rehab reports that he is progressing steadily. The long term plan is for Jim, then, to receive a hip replacement in the autumn after recovery from the fusion. Please keep Jim and Mary and in your thoughts and prayers.



Mark Bloomquist

**Remember:** Please keep me updated about all who are ill. Our challenge is to brighten the days of our ailing members. A brief phone call or short note of encouragement can be wonderful medicine.

## Flying with the Roadrunners

By Ron Thomley, Roadrunners original Tenor

The Roadrunners quartet was formed in 1972 with Bass



Ron Thomley

Norm Wolfe, Baritone Dwight "Wile E." Mennenga, Lead Ron Stong, and Tenor Ron Thomley. We won the LOL District Quartet Championship on October 28, 1972,

our first time out. This was quite unusual and totally unexpected to say the least. Things happened so fast and we were not properly prepared for all of the singing jobs and chapter shows that were to follow.

We began to get requests to perform on shows that were beyond our driving distance. (about 150 miles) so we looked into chartering a small aircraft, i.e. single engine, five passenger.

Looking back, every trip we made was an adventure. Something happened on each and every flight that only supports the notion that "Somebody up-there is watching over us." What follows are a few snippets of *Flying with the Roadrunners*.

In 1974, we booked quite a few engagements that required flying. We

began to hire pilots from Anoka County Airport to charter our flights. Ron Stong soon saw his childhood dream of becoming a pilot approaching reality as he hooked up with a flight instructor who also served as our charter pilot. Ron sat in the co-pilot seat and occasionally took over the "stick."

On one occasion coming home late from a job (around 3:00 a.m. Ron decided the time was "right" for him to try an unassisted landing. There was a plethora of words between pilot and student as to whether this was the time for the "big test." Ron thought it was and prevailed.

Anyway, the first bounce on the runway resulted in the tip of the wing very nearly scraping the tarmac. After the second and third bounce, the pilot took over and got us safely on the ground. Tension in the aircraft could have been cut with a knife. Needless to say, a serious meeting followed in which it was decided that for now, Ron would not pilot the plane on quartet trips.

*Editor's Note: Look no further than in the August Chord-Inator for more exciting adventures of these Barbershopping Balladiers as they ply the majestic airways of the Upper Midwest. Tally ho!*



Lou Dykstra, wife of Dr. Bob Dykstra, passed away, after a brief illness on the evening/night of July 20. Visitation 10:00 a.m., Service 11:00 a.m., Aug 11, at Christ the King Church in New Brighton.  
Dr. Bob Dykstra  
1998 16th Street NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112



# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Brokeback Baritone

I really hesitated about choosing the topic for this article. Really, really hesitated! But in the end, I fell back on that time-tested writer's source of inspiration. That is, good or bad, everything, truly everything, is material for a writer. So here goes.

After years of fighting a battle with herniation, stenosis, and misalignment in my back, I am now succumbing to surgery. Among many reasons for my avoidance was that in the long run, surgical techniques were bound to become less invasive with shorter recovery periods and just plain overall better approaches. That has happened over the years of my foregoing, and even though the future probably holds even more promise, now seems the right time for me to get on with it.

What caused my back problems? Possibly congenital for the misalignment, but an aging body for the other two. Along with deliveries for my dad's hardware store in my teen years, of cast-iron stoves, large freezers, washing machines, and perhaps worst, manhandling those weighty, awkward propane tanks filled with 100 pounds of propane fuel, and that's not counting the weight of some of those old, beastly tanks. Not the new, slim/trim tanks of today.

And further along, with working in a grocery warehouse hoisting stacks of 100 pound sacks of sugar and stacking 6/10 sugar bags (i.e. bags of six, ten pound bags) ten high or more. Best shape I've ever been in my life! But there may have been a price for that body of the gods.

Whatever the case, I hope to be back to some sort of normal after the operation. And there may even be a silver lining. (No pun intended for those of a silver age like me) Chatting with the wife of one illustrious Commodore, she related that she had had a similar surgery and after the surgery, was two inches taller. Now who could

beat that? Now I have lost a little age-related height, so any gain would be nice. But I gave the surgeon strict instructions that I would accept no less than three inches. I have always wanted to be a little taller, and besides, I am hoping the stretching upward of my height will hoist those love handles right up out of sight.

And speaking of "out of sight," the summer is moving right along. And that means contest time is way out there in the future, but not so far that you can't hear the rumblings of the judge's stomachs as they sit a mere few feet from our front row. You do know (Just ask Judge **Paul**.) that in Judge University they learn how to



write fakey notes about which they will pretend to refer to when briefing the chorus members after the contest. Notes that are intentionally illegible so the judges cannot be contradicted if those scribbled hieroglyphics should happen to fall into the wrong hands. But the notes, to the experienced judge, are in a *harmoniacal* shorthand that just boils down to a few retreaded, but seemingly profound, critiques.

You know the drill. More proper emotion in the singing, enhanced dynamics, harmonious phonics, choice of music, and on and on. Of course, there is the advanced course on the finer critique points. Those points are reserved for the really top choruses that are so good, none of the basic shorthand scribbles will do. Not all judges have taken this advanced course, and those who

have not, have taken to arrogantly strutting back and forth when critiquing and speaking louder with enhanced precision, all in an effort to postpone their required attendance at the next semester of the Judge University.

I was going to suggest watching carefully for the strutting and volume at the next critique, but it becomes so obvious you could spot it in your sleep. And that might be a healthy alternative to digesting what they have to say. Now I want it to be clear that I am not talking about the fine judges who will be coming up with winning numbers at the fall contest when they judge the Minneapolis Commodores under the direction of **Paul Wigley**. (In case they need any info on to whom I am referring...)

So, fellow Commodores, enjoy the rest of the summer concerts you are performing so well to those appreciative audiences, but keep somewhere in the back of your mind that you are priming your singing to rattle extra contest points out of the judges. Aim high, sing well, and let's get ready to go all out for some of our best singing.

OK, I have a confession. Having this surgery was not on my Barbershopper Bucket List. Many things are. Not this! And though it will put a small dent in my research on the origins of the Georgia Grind, I will resume that in a couple of months, if the creek don't rise. In the meantime, hold fast to that which is good. Pay attention to what is going on around you. And sooner than you may wish, I will appear with some new parts and be even better than I am now. If that is at all possible....

Sing your heart out.

**Capital "B" in Barbershop - Why not?**

**Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor**  
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### Chapter Quartets

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Dan Cole.....612/940-4554

#### CHORD SMASH

James Estes.....612/237-3234

#### EASY LISTENIN'

Dan Slattery.....651/747-6384

#### HOT COMMODITY

Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325

#### JUST ONE MORE

Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756

#### RING IT ON

Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

#### RIVER CITY QUARTET

John Chouinard.....651/343-4145

#### MINNESOTA GO-4's

Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447

#### RANDOM SAMPLE

Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737

#### SWYPE

Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232

#### SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)

Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382

#### THE SHOES

Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

### CHORD-INATOR

*1st Place*

**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY  
INTERNATIONAL  
BULLETIN CONTEST**

**PROBE Hall of Honor  
Dr. Hardin Olson  
2016**

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website [minneapoliscommadores.org](http://minneapoliscommadores.org) starting with the January 2006 issue.



*Neither shared with the Girl  
Scouts nor dumped by the  
Sweet Adelines.*

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**To:**

### LOOKING AHEAD

- July 27, Thursday, **Hopkins, 6:00 p.m.**
- August 2, Wednesday, **Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, 3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park, 6:00 p.m.**
- August 20, Sunday, **Twins Singout, noon**
- August 22, Tuesday, **Minnetonka, Music In the Park, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. 5:30 p.m.**

#### District Level

- October 27-28, **LOL District Convention, Rochester, MN**

#### International Level

- January 16-21, 2018, **Midwinter Convention, Orange County, California**

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### 2016 Barbershopper Of The Year

***Bill Ward***

**Commodores and others \*  
contributing to this issue.**

Mark Bloomquist

Jim Erickson

Denny Maas

Hardin Olson

Paul Paddock

Ron Thomley

Bill Warp

Charlene Wickenhauser\*

Paul Wigley



**CHORD-INATOR  
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES  
Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA  
MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7625 Chicago Ave. S.  
Richfield, MN 55423  
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**