

KEEPING THE
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

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

SEPTEMBER 2014 - VOL.70 - NO. 8

Pitch and putt for Harmony Foundation



Dawn broke with a hint of rain on Monday morning, August 11, but by the noon tee-time at the Elk River Golf Club, the 56 participants in the 2014 Barbershop Harmony Society Open were greeted with temperate sunshine.

After scores were posted, after dry whistles were wetted, after the *apre*-golf meal of burgers, and trimmings was served, **David Calland**, Director of Development for the Harmony Foundation, was introduced. Opening his remarks with a most sincere thanks to the members of **TFLBT-MOT** (*The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday*) and the Open patrons, David briefly recounted the remarkable growth of the Youth In Harmony program whereby literally thousands of young men have been introduced to four-part *cappella* harmony in the Barbershop (with the capitol "B") style.

The awards ceremony was next on the agenda and several Commodores walked away with prizes: **Dave Speidel** skipped with a \$100 dollar check for closest-to-the-pin;

Dick Riemenschneider copped the putting contest prize for the second year in a row winning a pass for the 2015 Open; **Al Matchinsky** earned a share of *Doc's Dulcet Delight Sea Salt Caramels* in the 1st-place mixed foursome; and **Neal Mortensen** took home the beautiful *Golfing in the Rain* watercolor, painted and offered for raffle by **Marilyn Jacobson**.



David Calland and Gary Jacobson

This 6th Annual Open would not have been possible without the busy hands of the BHS Open "Board"; **Gary Jacobson**, **Judd Orff**, **Carl Quist**, and **Tyler Smith**. Special kudos must also go to the *Random Sample* quartet, **Harlan Mellem**, **Jerry Larson**, **Darrell Egertson**, and **Jim Hedding**, for six consecutive years of dedicated assistance as closest-to-the-pin monitors and for providing some post-match harmony.

Of course none of this could have been possible without the unwavering support of Elk River's head PGA Professional, **Chris Singer**, and his crew. His dedication has assured us of a **2015 BHS Open on August 10, 2015**.

**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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A change of seasons

By Dan Williams, President

It's that time of year again, the end of summer and the beginning of fall. The feeling begins early August in the Williams' household. An anxious feeling of impending doom, frustration, panic, excitement, just plain old fear! You see



Dan Williams

Kathy, my wife, is a schoolteacher and she knows that the vacation is about over and the work begins. **SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION!** While she dreads this time of year, I really enjoy the fall. Cooler weather, the football games, the color-change of foliage; well, the list goes on. But, have you considered the changing Barbershop season? We have completed our "summer-performance season" and now we're headed into our "fall-performance season".

Yes, fellow Commodores, the vacation is over and now we must begin the **WORK!** I have outlined below most of the activities you need to begin thinking about and preparing for.

- Fall Contest: Know your music and choreography.
- Two performances in November: Know your music and choreography.
- 2014 Christmas Show: Learn your music and choreography.
- 2015 Annual Show: Begin preparation for *Under the Big Top*.
- Sales: Sell nuts and show tickets.

The last item is perhaps paramount—selling nuts. You are going to be told a number of times in the next few months, how important the nuts sales are to our chapter. So here it is, one more time, **THE NUTS SALES ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR CHAPTER!**

From Out Front

By Paul Wigley, Director

Our Barbershop style is unique. The combination of incredible detail to technical proficiency, with the emphasis on visual presentation and musical artistry, makes our musical genre significantly different from almost every other performing art. We take our own successes, when they happen, way too lightly. Great singers may have flawless technique, but are not gifted when it comes to visual connection with an audience. Conversely, many of our modern-day pop stars are over-the-top with their visual presentations at concerts, but their technical prowess can leave something to be desired.



Paul Wigley

The opportunity to go to Barbershop contests, and receive feedback from qualified judges in visual presentation, vocal proficiency, and musical artistry, is something that the Minneapolis Commodores are lucky to have! I truly believe that without our contest system we would never be achieving the incredible level of performances that we are now seeing from our top choruses and quartets.

*Go to **Wigley**, Page 3, Column 1*

I think it would be really exciting to see if we can fill Dick Riemenschneider's garage with nuts! Please review to whom you sold last year. More than likely they will purchase again this year. Make a goal of X-number of pounds, or increase your last year's sales by 25 or 50%. Don't make me raise your dues! (Thank you, Dan Cole!)

Summer vacation is over and the Fall Barbershop Season is upon us. Start today with your preparation for the coming events! Let's have a great Commodore Fall!

Proud to be a Commodore!

Wigley from Page 2

As we move into these next few weeks of contest-rehearsal mode, we will be working on visual and vocal techniques that will carry over to ALL of our music throughout the year. The most exciting part of contest preparation for me is the improvement that the Commodores show in all areas of musical performance. Every man singing in the Commodores can feel when a phrase has been mastered, or a chord has been perfectly balanced...and then you want more...and more!

We have exciting performance opportunities coming our way in the next few months, and we will be balancing music learning for all of these performances during our Tuesday meetings. You guys have done an amazing job getting music *off paper* when we have asked you to. Thank you! Thank you! It's the most fun for all of us when we can be singing together, and fine-tuning music, rather than just hacking through notes!

As we go forward with all of these performances, please introduce yourselves to each other! It's just too easy to chat with your same small group of friends, and not reach out to new members, or members you may not have met. This is an amazing family of singers, and a family of singers who want to connect—with an audience, and with each other. Take every opportunity you can to connect in a positive way with the great men that comprise the Minneapolis Commodores. I thank all of you for your dedication, your camaraderie, your talent, and your love for music. Grab every opportunity you can to make great music. It will pay you back tenfold.

Happy Anniversary

- 09/15 Jim & Linda Lee
- 09/16 Dan & Susan Kregelberg
- 09/21 Jack & Sharon Beaver
- 09/30 Joel & BreAnn Rumsch
- 10/06 Robert & Lou Dykstra
- 10/07 Kevin & Janet Huyck (20)
- 10/09 Jim & Judy Windey

SUNSHINE
HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

Dale Lynch has responded well to his treatment for diverticulitis but in the meantime has had a severely painful recurrence of his hip problem dating back several years to his hip replacement surgery. Dale is most thankful for your thoughts and prayers.

Remember: Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I'm in the dark. Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. Just a short note of encouragement or a brief phone call can make the day of a person who's not feeling well.

Happy Birthday

- 09/14/1936 Jim Jorgensen
- 09/15 Sharyn Maas
- 09/26 Beverly Slattery
- 09/29 Cathy Ortenburger
- 10/03 Guy St. Martin



August Reenlistments

■ Dean Lambert.....	9 yrs.
■ Rich Ongna.....	11 yrs.
■ Jim Lee.....	28 yrs.
■ Dave Wall.....	31 yrs.
■ Neal Mortenson.....	36 yrs.
■ Al Matchinsky.....	37 yrs.
■ Harlan Mellem.....	37 yrs.
■ Russ Born.....	40 yrs.
■ Chuck Guthrie.....	62 yrs.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of August 21

By Bill Warp, Secretary

- Membership report: Ten guests in the third quarter of 2014; and 15 new members recruited for the year thus far.



Bill Warp

- Music / Performance Report: Members planning to sing in the District contest must qualify in an octet starting September 2. Contest uniform will be tux trousers, black shirt, matching vest and tie, black shoes and sox. The chapter's mini-chorus plan seems to be working well and will be continued.

- Marketing: The website redesign is lagging, the Groupanizer support is minimal and the site management unusual. Paul Swanson will consult with Dan True for advice.

- Altruistic Service report: Several seemingly worthy organizations have been suggested and will be researched.

- Chapter's 70th anniversary celebration: The Richfield Legion Hall is being considered for the event. Costs would be minimal.

- Truck replacement: A 20-foot trailer is being considered at a cost of about \$6500. A search for a grant might be a possibility.

The next meeting will be on September 18 at Wooddale Lutheran.



2014 Annual Nut Sales

Drive Is Off And Running

By Dick Riemenschneider, Nut Administrator

It's late August and the Vikings are



Dick Riemenschneider

2014 Commodores Annual Nut Sales Effort!

on a winning streak of three wins and no losses for the pre-season as I write this article. So let's all of us make the Commodores a big winner this year as we kick off the 2014 Commodores Annual Nut Sales Effort!

For all those new members who may not know about our nut sales here's the back-story. The Commodores have been supplementing their annual budget for over 30 years by holding annual nut sales. I have found nut-sales material dating to 1983 when three nut types were sold. The whole effort was spear-headed by Bill Hamre and his wife Eunice. After the sales effort started to take off Don Milton joined the administrative staff. During those 31 years of documented nut sales the profits have contributed significantly to the Commodores treasury. In the eight years I have been on the nut administrative team \$75,200 has been contributed to the treasury, an average of \$9,243 per year. That dollar amount represents 21,163 bags of product. My garage floor groans with the thought of all that weight.

With the potential of that kind of cash enhancement to the Commodores' treasury, every member should be working at selling these nuts. For those new to the program, these are top quality nuts from a Minnesota supplier. Usually they are less than two weeks from the roaster to the customer, a claim that the top-tier grocery and specialty stores cannot match. Our customers rave about the quality of our product, and our prices are at least competitive with the fancy stores (and in fact, are lower on some

items). Our customers are friends and relatives of Commodores members. Some members sell to neighbors, work-mates, spouse work-mates, and friends from their churches. I've heard of orders from members' banks, dental offices, barbershops, and insurance offices. A lot of these orders get bigger every year because these nuts are so delicious.

Here are some statistics from the 2013 Nut Sales Campaign:

- 40 % revenue gain over 2012.
- 2,520 bags of product sold.
- 69 Commodores sold nuts, a 47 % increase in member participation.
- \$10,500 contributed to the treasury.

And here are some salesperson statistics:

- Three Commodores sold over 125 pounds of product.
- Three more Commodores were in the exclusive 100 pound club.
- The average number of bags sold was 36.5 bags for each salesperson.

So, here are some challenges for the 2014 Nut Sales Campaign:

- Add 10 more salespersons to a total of 79 persons selling some product.
- Each salesperson add 5 % to their total sales.

Unfortunately, there are some price increases this year. The wholesale price of pistachios has risen significantly by 23 % so there is a corresponding increase in the price of pistachios from \$10.50 to \$12.00. Note the price increase is only a 16 % increase so we are taking less profit from pistachios this year.

Smaller price increases of \$0.50 can be seen in cashews, mixed nuts, salted and roasted almonds, chopped walnuts, and the dried apples. But don't let these price increases scare you from selling. Remember, this is top quality product and our customers are still getting their money's worth in product

alone as well as providing support for our great organization.

This issue of the Chord-Inator includes the form you need to get started selling, the 2014 Nut Order Form. Put your name on the bottom salesperson line, make copies of the form or get extras from me (also available via email from me in Excel format), and pass out forms to anyone that might buy nuts. As you pass out the forms, tell your potential customers about the quality and freshness of the nuts and how their nut purchase will assist the Commodores in their mission. As your orders pour in make sure that you get payment from all customers. We do not extend credit.

You may turn in orders to me, Dick Riemenschneider, at Chapter meetings, via phone 651-487-9993, or email dmriemen@comcast.net as you get them, using the 2014 Nut Order Form (one form per customer). Please ensure that orders have the appropriate amount of cash or a check (made out to A-Commodears). Orders needn't be turned in all at once as it is easier if you turn in orders as you get them. That way I don't get swamped at the last minute. Also, a legible form makes the process easier. For those who track their own orders I will also have some Salesman Nut Order forms available.

Returning this year is the gold foil gift bag. Each bag has the usual one pound of nuts, but instead of a clear plastic bag the nuts are distributed in a gold-foil gift bag. The foil bag is heat sealed and re-closeable after initial opening. Its label has a Commodore logo, the type of nuts in the bag and a "To" and "From" for gift giving. A total of 372 of these-0 bags were sold last year and these bags add a lot of class to the product. On the Customer Order Form please be sure that the foil gift-bag count is on the same line as the type of nuts that will be in the bag.

If you know of any small businesses that would like to give nuts as a perk

Go to Nuts, Page 5, Column 1

Nuts from Page 4

for favored customers, I'm willing to work with them to get their logo or message on the foil gift-bag. The business should supply their label, ready to put on the bag (please, no larger than four by five inches). Last year, business-owning Commodores purchased our product in foil bags imprinted with their company logos. I had good feedback from those that used our product in that way.

Begin selling immediately and be sure to collect the money at order time. Only prepaid nuts are ordered. Our vendor makes only one delivery and we receive an extra 2% discount for payment within 10 days of delivery. Thus it is essential to collect the money at time of the sale.

There are other ways to assist the nut sales efforts. On November 12-14 over one hundred 20-pound boxes of nuts will be packaged into one-pound bags for distribution. Help is needed to complete the bagging. This bagging operation will go on for three days so there is plenty of time to help. Talk to me for details.

We promise delivery to our customers by Thanksgiving. To assure that delivery date is met, the very last chorus meeting day to turn in nut orders will be Tuesday, October 28. I will be placing the nut order with the supplier on the next Wednesday morning to meet the delivery schedule.

For those that absolutely need to get another order I will accept extra-

special, supernumerary, one-time-only, procrastinators special late orders until November 18th, as that is the date when I need to get the last order submitted to ensure product for sale at the Christmas show.

This deadline is nine weeks from now. A week-by-week countdown will be posted at the next nine chorus meetings. Don't put off starting to sell. The nuts will be distributed to all sales persons at the chapter meeting on Tuesday, November 18. Remember, we sell and deliver nuts of very high quality and freshness. Any sale helps the Commodores continue as a first class Barbershop singing organization.

It's GREAT to be a Commodore!



Chord Candy #125

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister

The Blarney Stone is a block of limestone in Blarney Castle, near Cork, Ireland. According to legend, kissing the stone endows the kisser with the gift of great eloquence or skill at flattery. The stone was set into a tower of the castle in 1446. The castle is a popular tourist site in Ireland, attracting visitors from all over the world to kiss the stone and tour the castle and its gardens.



Jim Richards

The ritual of kissing the Blarney Stone is not casually achieved. To touch the stone with one's lips, the participant must ascend to the castle's peak, then lean over backwards on the parapet's edge. This is traditionally achieved with the help of an assistant who willingly accepts a gratuity and then wipes the stone "clean?" with a cloth rag in preparation for the next kisser. After Ebie and I visited the Castle on tour in 1999 everyone on the tour bus caught a cold, thus inspiring the creation of this tag. It is an easy one with the melody line made only of scale notes (no accidentals). Enjoy!

Jim Richards - 1999

Does it make any sense one should gain eloquence by
 kissing the Blarney stone.
 Blarney stone.

Quartetting – the foundation of our Society

By David Speidel, Ass't Director



Dave Speidel

It seems that so much of our time in this hobby is spent rehearsing as a chorus for a show, a contest or a paid community performance. Yet the original premise of our Society founding fathers was to perpetuate the art of four men singing together in glorious four-part harmony. In the "Olden Days" of the Society quartetting was the *only thing* and it wasn't until several years later that choruses were formed initially, in all probability, to add a little variety to the customary "Parades of Quartets," the standard means of performing before the public. However, today it is not uncommon to walk into any Society chapter meeting and never see quartet activity of any kind. This has left a void for many avid Barbershoppers who thrive on the challenge and thrill of ringing chords with three other guys of good character.

Your Commodore Music Team recognizes the fact that quartetting improves one's singing skills. Those skills include performance confidence, better vocal production and improved tuning. It is evident as you look at successful chapters in our Society that choruses with many active quartets tend to do much better at competitions. Hmm...what can we deduce from this relationship? Although we haven't gone as far as I would like with quartet activities during chapter meetings, we are experimenting with a few things that are quartet oriented.

The *voice part in the bucket* octet concept for performance qualifications is a fun way to ease the anxiety about singing in small groups.. No one is immune to the process, and as we saw in last Tuesday's rehearsal, the guys observing the octets were

enthusiastically supporting the performance of each group. Everyone gets an opportunity to come closer to the actual quartet experience.

James is bringing *tags* back into the warm-ups. Tags are a great way to take a few bars of music and experiment with pick-up quartets during rehearsal breaks. Test the Waters...try it, you'll like it...if you know what I mean.

The three mini-chorus project is another way we can break down the anxiety barriers. Your directors will be able to work with smaller groups and give you all more personal attention. As individuals, you will also find that you have to be much more responsible for your notes and lyrics when singing in a smaller group. In addition, you will find honing your listening skills is easier to do in smaller groups.

It wouldn't be an article, *by yours truly*, without some mention of the Harmony Brigade concept. The Commodores have been very supportive of our efforts with developing the *Northern Pines Harmony Brigade Chapter*. In turn, I believe that the chapter has also reaped some benefits from the our chapter's Brigade members. Men from the chapter who attend are more likely to be inspired to get into a quartet. For fellows who are newer to Barbershop, this is one quick way to immerse yourself into the quartet experience without taking a great deal of extra time away from the chapter or your other personal or family time. By the way, on-line registration is now open at (www.nphb.org) and music is ready! *Hint! Hint!*

I have also noticed some positive interaction during our breaks and after rehearsals with veterans inviting new members to sing an impromptu tag or two. This is something that we are seeing more of and is a positive indicator that we have more quartet-capable singers joining our chapter.

Keep it up!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the positive increase in the number of our community performances. These performances give our chapter quartets and VLQs an opportunity to take our rehearsals out of the can and perform for receptive audiences. Thanks to **Bob Ostergaard** and **John Lloyd** for all their hard work securing such rewarding performance venues!

So what is my point? I'm very encouraged to see these quartet-oriented activities becoming a more integral part of our chapter meetings and performances. As many of you have observed, if it weren't for the quartets and VLQ's within our chapter we would have a tough time filling up the programs for our 90-minute performances. I firmly believe that this will cultivate a healthier chapter environment and hopefully improve our overall singing capabilities—not just for competition, but for each time we perform in front of the public.



Northern Pines
Harmony Brigade
An eXtreme
quartetting experience
February 20-22, 2015
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Plymouth, Minnesota
Register Now!
www.nphb.org

**A - Commodears
2014 Nut Order Form**

Customer: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Work: _____
 City / State _____ Zip: _____

Description	Quantity (pounds) (Apples are per bag)	Price/Lb.	Foil Gift Bag (Add \$1.50 per bag)	Total Amount
Deluxe Mixed Nuts (no peanuts)	_____	@ \$11.00 +	_____ =	_____
Cashews Medium	_____	@ \$11.50 +	_____ =	_____
Honey Roasted Peanuts	_____	@ \$4.00 +	_____ =	_____
Almonds (natural whole raw)	_____	@ \$8.00 +	_____ =	_____
Almonds (salted & roasted-whole)	_____	@ \$9.00 +	_____ =	_____
Pistachios, White	_____	@ \$12.00 +	_____ =	_____
Trail Mix, Deluxe	_____	@ \$6.00 +	_____ =	_____
Pecans, Mammoth	_____	@ \$12.50 +	_____ =	_____
Walnuts, Chopped	_____	@ \$12.50 +	_____ =	_____
Dried Apples (cinnamon flavor) (5 oz package)	_____	@ \$7.50 +	not applicable =	_____
TOTAL:	_____			_____

All orders must be prepaid

Orders must be received by October 28th

Please make checks payable to: The A-Commodears

Delivered to Chorus on Tuesday, November 18th

Salesperson: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

2014
SALESPERSON NUT RECORD

Salesperson: _____ Phone: _____

Customer Name	Bags are \$1.50 each	Deluxe	Cashew	Honey Roasted	Almond Raw	Almond Roast & Salt	Pistachios	Traff Mix	Pecans	Walnuts	Dried Apples	Total Due	Total Paid
1	nuts bags	\$11.00	\$11.50	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$7.50		
2	nuts bags										NA		
3	nuts bags										NA		
4	nuts bags										NA		
5	nuts bags										NA		
6	nuts bags										NA		
7	nuts bags										NA		
8	nuts bags										NA		
9	nuts bags										NA		
10	nuts bags										NA		
11	nuts bags										NA		
12	nuts bags										NA		
TOTALS	nuts bags										NA		

Copy the individual Nut Order Forms to this sheet and turn this sheet in

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, 'Bout Baritone Brent

Recently, **Brent Graham** announced that after many years in Minnesota, he would be moving on to Arizona and the Far Western District. Things change, I fully realize, and yet it doesn't mean that some changes are accepted easily

but with all best wishes going to the person making the change. Not that we will withhold one iota of those best wishes, but for many of us there will be a tugging to try to keep things that are not in the cards to be kept. So let's reminisce a bit to try to ease the impending!

I'm not completely sure of some of these statements, but humor me, OK? I believe Brent may have first been involved with the Commodores when he was an interim director while a replacement director was being sought. That was before my time, but I understand that Brent smoothed the transition while keeping the chorus on a steady path. Along that line, he has appeared from time to time to coach the chorus offering a differing perspective to enhance our performances. His approach was always one reflecting close attention to what was transpiring and then focusing the choral attention to addressing what needed to be done to show improvement.

I won't mention his being the director to other choruses and groups as I only have an inkling about bits and pieces of what he did for them while in Minnesota. But my overall impression is that he always left those in better shape than when he first encountered them—and with enthusiasm!

My first contact with Brent was when the VLQ, *Sounds of Renown*, became more serious about making a contribution to the Commodores by seeking to improve their singing

through regular coaching sessions. Initially, there was some shakeout as to how the group would best operate and what would be most helpful. Following that (about ten years ago), Brent was solicited and he joined shortly thereafter as coach. For many of the first few years, the VLQ met once a week with Brent coaching each session. But as the group moved into a more comfortable pattern and learned to work with Brent as coach, it began to consider where it could make use of what it was learning. Even early on, the group appeared at the annual concert and some other venues. But later, there were public outreaches



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

to veteran's homes, nursing homes, and a variety of other places and events. Each year seemed to present new and fun challenges to a group focused on growth through what Brent had to offer.

And what was that? Well, my recollection was that he realized this was sort of a "beginners" group, which had little exposure to singing in such a small bunch and the Barbershop style of singing. But, they were excited to charge ahead and learn all they could. And Brent was there to start with them wherever they were and from there, to move ahead.

But not move ahead in grueling, ponderous fashion. The weekly sessions were filled with insight as to how best to sing. Also, how to approach the song in question, what emotions were involved, and on and on. But they were also filled with stories about Brent's experiences at

the International contests in which his quartet competed. Sometimes Brent told of his high-school singing and what he had learned from directors in those younger days. Other times about "characters" he had met, sung under or with and the like. The change of practice session pace helped to further the understanding of each VLQer and appreciate more of the Barbershop world.

Somehow, Brent was able to work all that in while surgically dissecting what was being sung and suggesting insightful corrections. I was in the "charter" group of VLQ members, some of whom are still in the VLQ, and after singing in the VLQ for a couple of years, I told Brent at one session, that I appreciated his ability to clearly critique or criticize any one of the singers and yet do so in a calm and patient manner. This helped the one being critiqued to accept it without embarrassment or defensiveness. He smiled a kind of an impish smile and then answered me saying, "In earlier times, I was not always that patient or understanding!" I guess even a coach can grow with experience.

Brent liked to be involved in what we were doing. More than once, I asked for ideas to write about for the Georgia Grind. He always had material. The most memorable for me was when he gave me a list of the characteristics of a lead, bass, etc. His descriptions were funny, but also truer than most might want to admit. (Maybe I'll reprint them someday) And he often tinkered with the songs we were learning. More than that, he came up with fitting arrangements for the VLQ to sing at concerts. These had to fit the "theme" of the show and often called for special treatment.

Quite recently, the annual concert theme involved the "Hut Four" quartet and their experiences as they raced to the International contest in Los Angeles following the historic Route 66. Brent was able to come up with the unlikely marriage of: (1) the cowboy star, Roy Rogers, song "Happy Go to *Grind*, Page 10, Col 1

Grind from Page 9

Trails to You,” with (2) the then modern theme song from an early TV series entitled, “Route 66.” Both were immediately recognized by practically everyone in the audience, but the surprise came with the blending of the two. We started with “Happy Trails,” jumped into “Route 66” in the middle, and then returned to “Happy Trails” to the climax! Just when listeners thought they knew where the song was going, it changed. They loved it! Behind the scenes, Brent took all the steps to obtain permissions, have the arrangements approved, and cover the details necessary to get the two songs to the VLQ-stage performance. For someone who was heavily involved in so many aspects of Barbershopping, he seemed to find the time to bring much fun into making better singers and performers of us all.

And more. From coaching quartets how to enter the stage and effectively make an appearance and all that goes with it, to bringing in special, talented individuals to work with the VLQ, the Commodores, and individuals, he enthusiastically threw his energy into making us all better at our hobby. For instance, with recent visits by the likes of Debra Lynn and Theresa Weatherbee, he brought us specialists who really had a very positive impact on us. Not to mention that they seemed to be handpicked to bring a really fun element to it all.

Ah, well, I have probably gone on too long about what Brent brought to Minnesota during the time he was here, time that is too quickly coming to an end. And there are probably limits as to how many good things you can say about someone’s leaving, but I, for one, will miss him a great deal. I have learned so much from him. And been entertained in the process. Facebook will be a faint replacement for what he is up to but I guess it will have to suffice. For now then, Brent, I wish many “Happy Trails to You” as you venture to cactus country via “Route 66!”

Quartet Quaffs

Four Seasons

Writer’s Note: Doc, Here it is. A little brief, but this could be an inspiration for brevity in the Georgia Grind.

The Four Seasons enjoyed participating in the last Commodores outdoor summer concert series at Centennial Lakes park in Edina. The largest crowd of the summer showed up



Rollie Neve

and responded enthusiastically to the heavenly harmony and hilarious humor that rewarded their attendance. Looking back on our performances, it was one of our most active summers in many years. Joining with other choruses at Como Park put a chord-pleasing climax to the season. With this momentum, we’re ready to embark on the coming activities with enthusiasm and better singing.

Vacationing and cabin time at the lake offered little time for quartet performances this month, but practice time has prepared us for an active fall schedule. Which reminds me that we do well to take time to smell the roses. Enjoy our harmony hobby to the fullest, because time flies by so fast you want to make the most of it.

Research goes on, sort of Georgia Grind style, on **Gentleman Jim Erickson’s** comment about an individual’s out-of-sync singing at a recent *Sounds of Renown* rehearsal. This research is centered around the Barbershop phenomenon of ringing chords that produce overtones. The “cat out of the bag” reve-

For the rest of you readers, “Roll as Rollie Neve Rolls,” Make that Barbershop Bucket List, keep on recruiting and hold fast to that which is good! More on the Big Reveal next

lation of this individual (me) by Jim was, I’m sure, an accident. (We seniors do have our moments.)

This revelation does bring into question Jim’s capacity to keep secrets, and could even create concerns of possible memory malfunction. No true Barbershopper would argue that this is a baritone trait, but being a baritone, Jim might possibly lead one to what would be a guilt-by-association conclusion. Nevertheless, overtones are a fact of Barbershop life. Our research continues to explore the potential tie between out-of-sync singing and overtones. One has to realize that this is obviously a complicated issue, and resolution may not be possible without an oscilloscope analysis by Jim Richards.

Further research in this matter might enter the domain of an individual’s good name being called into question. One can recall the case of former Governor Jesse Ventura’s lawsuit that he won, vindicating his good name. Perish the thought that I might consider such action. If it did come to pass, however, you can bet your last Barbershop buck that I would not retain Jim Erickson as my legal counsel, especially with his legal expertise and supernatural ties to Baritonía.

Development of restoration of my good name is not a major concern, and likely will never be pursued. The point here is that research can lead to many paths of inquiry from even the smallest bit of foundational information. That’s the nature of research. It might even lead to colleges writing for research grants for funding. In this regard if anyone would like to fund this research effort they are welcome to do so.

Outside of the costs involved, any money left over can go to the Chord-Inator’s Writers’ Retirement Fund. A web site will be generated with all the details on how you can contribute when the level of support justifies its creation. This is an exciting prospect. Just think what a short remark from a *Sounds of Renown* rehearsal Go to **Quaffs**, Page 11, Column 1

Quaffs from Page 10

can generate. That's one reason that I always read the Chord-Inator. You don't want to miss a thing, so scoop up the next issue and get the latest on this ongoing saga. Who knows, it may bring back Jim Erickson from his summer solitude in Wisconsin. It's great to be a Commodore and a Barbershopper.

Rollie for **Dan, Rich, and Tom**



Easy Listenin'

Easy Listenin' Sings for the River Rats Water Ski Show

On Tuesday evening, August 12, the *Easy Listenin' Quartet* had the pleasure of participating in a special show hosted by the Minneapolis River Rats Water Ski Club. The event was held on the west side of the Mississippi River just south of Broadway Avenue. The River Rats host over 20 water ski shows a summer, most of them at the Mississippi River location. Their club has been in existence since the 1970s and boasts over 100 skiing members. Their members include skiers who are relatively new to the sport as well as professionals.

The event *Easy Listenin'* participated in was the club's annual Military Appreciation Night. All proceeds from

the evening were donated to the Minnesota Military Appreciation Fund and the crowd of about 1,500 was eager to provide funds for that worthy cause.

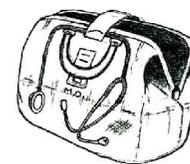
The evening began with a color guard from the Minnesota Air National Guard marching in with the flags of the United States and the Air Force with a bagpiper providing the marching music. After presentation of the colors the quartet sang the *Star Spangled Banner* and then saluted the five armed services by singing the *Armed Forces Medley*.

It was most gratifying for the quartet to participate in this event and we were given a personal "Thank You" for our participation from Captain **Amy Nordquist** of the Air Guard who coordinated the Guard's presence at the event. Captain Nordquist also happens to be the daughter of our chapter's newly-recruited Commodore, **Ralph Nordquist**.

After photos were taken the quartet hastened to Lake Como to participate in the St. Paul Chapter's annual area Barbershop concert.

Dick Riemenschneider for **Dan, John, and Rod**

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

Recently while I was perusing the latest issue (July/August) of the Society's *Harmonizer*, I noticed several (not enough to my liking) instances of the capital "B" as in Barbershop. I was gratified that at least there are a few others who share with me the sense of pride that such usage engenders. Would that all of the magazine's reporters adopt the same editorial license.



Hardin Olson

Perhaps I should write a personal letter to Executive Director/CEO, **Marty Monson**, and suggest that one in his position might have a little leverage to promote the idea among the powers that be...Nah, he's got much bigger fish to fry.

Post Script: Just two weeks ago, **Jack Beaver**, a long-time Barbershopper and Commodore for many years, gave to me the letter Marty Monson sent to him accompanied with a 50-year longevity pin. At that time I thought I might reproduce the letter in the *Chord-Inator* along with congratulations to Jack.

The letter has been rattling around on my desk in the meantime and it wasn't until I finished the above paragraphs that I picked it up and actually read it. Lo and behold, the first sentence of the third paragraph reads, "Your true dedication to preserving and sharing your love of Barbershop harmony..." Note the capital "B"!

So now you and I know that Marty is at least somewhat sympathetic toward the capital "B" cause. Perhaps *he will* use his influence with the powers that be. (By the way, Jack, congrats on your first 50 years!)



Fronted by the color guard and the guest piper is *Easy Listenin'*. From the left; John Carlotto, Dan Slattery, Dick Riemenschneider, and Rod Vink.

Harmonic Series and its Importance to Barbershoppers

Jim Richards

When we sing or speak, complex vibrations in our vocal folds produce a wide range of simpler sounds (sine waves) that collectively are known as the harmonic series. Although infinite in number, the higher frequencies tend to decrease in amplitude. The lowest frequency is that of the fundamental and we associate the pitch of the note to be that of the fundamental. We are less conscious of all of the higher pitched remaining notes (called partials, harmonics, and/or overtones) and each has a frequency that is a whole number multiple of the fundamental frequency. It is significant that if we were to filter out the lower frequencies, the summation of the remaining upper harmonics would continue to generate the pitch of the missing fundamental! This can happen whenever a chorus or quartet sings a perfectly tuned chord that has four notes selected from the harmonic series and we can hear the pitch of the missing fundamental. Voila! It's an undertone!

So what constitutes a "perfectly tuned chord?" Every 4-note chord has a total of 6 different pairs of duets. In a major or minor chord there are only 3 notes and 3-duets. In a Barbershop 7th chord, for example, using the notes C-E-G-Bb, there would be 6 duets consisting of the intervals of a perfect 5th, a major 3rd, a minor 3rd, a sub-minor 3rd, a harmonic minor 7th and a tritone (one half an octave). When each duet is tuned the result is a satisfying locked sound that raises the hair on your arms.

The figure (*right*) of the harmonic series shows the first 8 notes generated by a single sound source for the note C. If we also were to have the corresponding harmonic series for the notes E, G, and Bb having fundamental frequencies exactly equal to the corresponding harmonics of C the result would be beautiful harmony. Those notes are only approximated on the equally tempered notes of the piano keyboard or pitch pipe.

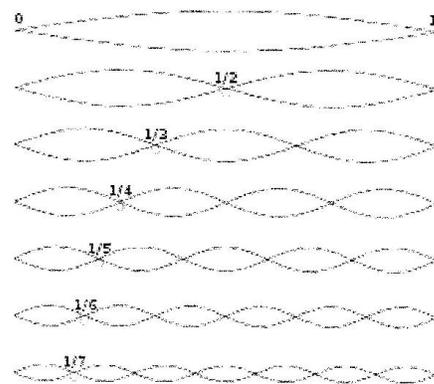
Common musical intervals are found in ratios of harmonics from the harmonic series:

Perfect 5 th	3:2
Major 3 rd	5:4
Minor 3 rd	6:5
Sub-minor 3 rd	7:6
Harmonic minor 7 th	7:4
Minor 7 th	9:5
Tritone	7:5

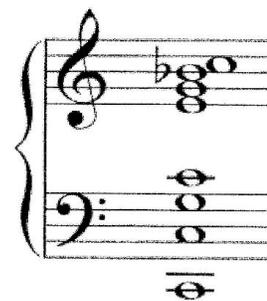
In equal tempered tuning the octave ratio 2:1 is divided into 12 equally sized ratio steps of 1.0594631:1. (For you mathematicians that is the ratio of the 1/12th root of 2 to 1) Starting on any note and taking 12 such steps one would arrive at exactly the octave of the starting note. In fact, that is the only perfect interval in the equally tempered scale. Another way of viewing this is to double your money by investing it at 5.94631% interest compounded annually for 12 years.

The number of cycles in each step increases logarithmically as the frequency increases. This makes it awkward to describe degrees of mistuning in terms of numbers of cycles per second. This inconvenience is overcome by using the unit of cents. If there are 100 cents in a semitone there are 1200 cents in an octave, independent of pitch. The perfect 5th is 2 cents sharper than the piano. The major 3rd is 14 cents flatter than the piano. The harmonic minor 7th is 31 cents flatter than the piano, not to be confused with the minor 7th used in minor 7th chords. That one is 18 cents sharper than the piano. Lest you be confused by all this arithmetic, just be convinced that the piano is a fine performance instrument, but in equal temperament it is slightly out of tune in every key. As Barbershop singers we are better advised to learn to listen carefully enough to make pitch corrections by ear.

In our search for perfection we also strive to sing beautifully matched word sounds. In particular, all vowel sounds are created by configuring the shape of the vocal tract to create unique resonances patterns (formants) for each vowel. That is a subject for another article. Meanwhile, ring those chords and let the hair on your arms tell you what a great job you are doing. Enjoy!



Harmonic series of a string with terms written as reciprocals (2/1 written as 1/2).



First eight harmonics on C.



Commodore visitor, Jason Warschauer, and Jim Richards, current and past faculty members of Harmony University, respectively, for the course in the Physics of Sound.

A Cappella Rocks the Holidays

With

The Minneapolis Commodores and
The Twin Cities Show Chorus

Kennedy High School, Bloomington, MN

December 7, 2014
3:00 pm

Come join two of the premiere choruses in the Twin Cities for a winter wonderland of soaring four-part and eight-part a cappella harmonies. If that's not enough to lift your holiday spirits, you'll also be entertained by a variety of quartets performing family-friendly holiday music for this special time of year. Our program will include:

I Saw Three Ships
Believe **Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree**
Baby It's Cold Outside **Joy to the World**
I'll Be Home For Christmas **You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch**

For Ticket Information contact:
Diana Pinard pinardbbs@q.com 612.927.9363
Monica Baker Bakersmon8325@yahoo.com 952.884.8810
tshowchorus.org / minneapoliscommodores.org
Or find us on Facebook ←



The Commodore Chorus performing at Centennial Lakes on Monday, August 4, in front of a happy, boisterous crowd in the packed amphitheater, and earning a standing ovation at the end of the evening. *Photo by Diana Pinard*

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**1st CLASS
 POSTAGE
 HERE**

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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Quartets

- EASY LISTENIN'
 Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
- FOUR SEASONS
 Rollie Neve.....952/470-2129
- HOT COMMODITY
 Dave Speidel.....612-437-4325
- MINNESOTA GO-4'S
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
- NOTESWORTHY
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- SKYPE
 Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- SOUNDS of RENOWN.....VLQ
 Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382
- TRIPLE Q.....VLQ
 Dave Speidel.....952/941-7153
- TURNING POINT
 Judd Orff.....651/439-3108

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Level

- November 2, Sunday, 2:30 p.m., **Lakeville Senior Resource Coalition, St. John's Luth. Church, 20165 Heath Ave. (Hwy 50)**
- December 7, Sunday, **Christmas Show with TCSC**

District Level

- October 24-25, **Fall Convention, Rochester**

**2014 Barbershopper Of The Year
 Rod Vink**

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

- Jim Erickson
- Rollie Neve
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Jim Richards
- Dick Riemenschneider
- Dave Speidel
- Bill Warp
- Dan Williams
- Paul Wigley



CHORD-INATOR

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 Annual Barbershop
 Golf & Steak Fry
 4-Ball Scramble
 Saturday, October 4, 2014
 12:30 p.m. shotgun
 \$40 all inclusive
 Register with
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