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Upcoming Events

- ◆ **August 1–3**, Sweet Pea Festival, [Setup July 31st]
- ◆ **October 24–25**, Evergreen District Contest, Boise, ID
- ◆ **November 1**, Leadership forum, Helena
- ◆ **November 11**, Veterans Day Show, Grace Bible Church
- ◆ **April 17–19, 2009** Annual Show, Grace Bible Church



FRED to headline 2009 Annual Show!



How to Be a Great Chorus Member

Following are comments from Frank Johnson who recently attended Harmony College Northwest.

Thank you fellow Chord Rustlers for sponsoring me to attend Harmony College Northwest. The classes I attended were excellent. The following is my summary of the seminar facilitated by Paul Hunter titled "**How to Be a Great Chorus Member.**" I'll provide similar summaries for several of the other classes in future issues of *The Old Chorale*.

Before someone can be a *GREAT* chorus member, he must first be a *GOOD* chorus member. Some characteristics of a good chorus member identified by the class include:

- 1) **Attend rehearsals.** There will be times when something comes up that prevents any member from attending an occasional weekly chorus rehearsal, but coming each week increases the likelihood of being current with the music, the choreography, and the chorus plans.
- 2) **Attend performances.** The best chorus sound is achieved when there is a good representation of the chorus membership.
- 3) **Maintain riser discipline.** Basic courtesy includes not talking when the director is addressing ANY section (not just your own section), paying attention to the director for verbal directions, and body

language while they direct. Don't get in the way of others learning by talking while instruction is going on.

- 4) **Learn the music.** Learning the notes and words BEFORE chorus rehearsal allows the chorus to focus on IMPROVING the singing during rehearsals.
- 5) **Pay dues to keep membership current.** This is a requirement for show and contest participation.
- 6) **Work to improve personal vocal production.** Do basic work, such as daily vocal warm up exercises, breath support, or perhaps private voice lessons. Sing with good posture and breath support.

Most of what we do in chorus rehearsals has an input on how well the chorus sings. The results of our behavior can positively or negatively affect our achieving the goals of the chorus. What ARE the goals of our chorus? They are not the same for every chorus. Paul Hunter recommends actually defining the culture of the chapter, establishing goals and norms, and then encouraging individual members to meet their commitments. One good way to find out what the goals are is to ask the members both as a group and as individuals what they want to get out of their chorus experience.

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"The Sweet Pea effort is very labor-intensive. Nearly everyone turns out to work. And if you watch a while, you'll see a variety of horses."

-

Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless

HORSES OF DIFFERENT COLORS

Sweet Pea weekend will soon be here, and once again the Chord Rustlers will be center stage. I'm going to try a connection here that might not work; but here goes...

In the thirties in southwest Nebraska, our family farmed with horses. And those horses and mules had personalities. For instance, one team was Buster and Buck. Buster was the nearest to a racehorse type and would grab any opportunity to run away. He would spook if he stepped on a one-inch twig. Buck, however, was the calming one. He just wouldn't run. Old Dick, a big white horse, just put his shoulder into the tugs and worked all day. Then there was Jack, the musician. He was one of a mule team named, of course, Jack and Jenny. In the late thirties the Burlington Railroad initiated the first (I think) streamline train, the Zephyr. It came through about 7:00 every evening on the tracks about a mile from the farm. One

criticism of the Zephyr was that the horn didn't sound like a steam whistle. Jack would stand out in front of the barn every evening and answer the Zephyr horn with the loudest bray you ever heard.

Now, to make a very tenuous connection... The Sweet Pea effort is very labor-intensive. Nearly everyone turns out to work. And if you watch a while, you'll see a variety of horses. There's the "racehorse" that goes like crazy for two furlongs and then rests for an hour. There's the "Percheron" who works all day every day—not fast, but steady. There's the "Buster" whose attention strays easily to another job. There's the "show horse" that makes an entrance, goes around the ring, and disappears. And then, of course, there are the "musicians"—everybody.

The remarkable thing about this stable is that together they get the farming done. It's a fascinating show.

[Now that's a horse of a different color. D.H.]

Sweet Pea Festival is August 1–3. Setup is Thursday July 31st.

Everyone's help is needed.

***"Nobody can eat just one Tater Pig™."* Earl Vining**

How to Be a Great Chorus Member *(Continued from Page 1)*

What are the individual's priorities and how can we best reinforce or feed into those priorities? Is he looking for a sense of inclusion and belonging in a social network? Is he eager to be a better singer? Does he want to compete? Does he want to be in a quartet? What is important to him? Before we can meet the needs of our members, we must know what those needs and goals are. It is not unreasonable for each chorus member to ask *WIIFM*? (What's in it for me?) Paul also discussed some values of having a chapter orientation program for new or prospective members, and I reminded the class that the Salem Senate-Aires graciously will share their excellent orientation manual with any other chapter.

In summary, perhaps this session didn't teach how to be a *GREAT* chorus member as much as it identified basic characteristics of a *GOOD* chorus member. Maybe if each Chord Rustler strove to fulfill his own responsibilities in the six basic areas outlined above, the collective result would help move our chapter towards greatness.

Frank Johnson

Who is This Chord Rustler?

Periodically, "The Old Chorale" will have an article describing a member's life and experiences. See if you can figure out who it is before the end of the article.

This fellow Chord Rustler was born in Ocheyedan, Iowa and raised on a farm. After high school, he spent four years in the Air Force serving in the Korean War. He was stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, South Dakota and in Thule, Greenland, both times in a B-36 Wing of The Strategic Air Command. His specialty was Russian Target Intelligence. The GI Bill helped pay for his college education at Idaho State University and the University of Montana. Ultimately, he got his PhD in Forest Ecology Research at the University of Montana with specialty course work at Yale University. His working career was in forest science research at the University of Montana at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory and in forestry research at Montana State University.

Our member sang barbershop in high school and in a quartet with his brother and two cousins travelling around the Midwest. He later sang with a competing quartet in the Air Force and several quartets in Missoula and Bozeman. This will be his 40th year as a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society...a charter member of the Missoula Chapter in 1968 and a Chord Rustler since 1975. His quartetting has spanned over 60 years from the late 40's to the present.

Of course, by now you recognize Wyman Schmidt, a valuable member of our lead section. Wyman and his wife Patty have been married for 55 years and have five children. Their daughter, who designed our logo, is a professor in the Art Department at the University of Texas in Austin. Two of Wyman and Patty's sons live in Missoula—one son is a contracting officer for the Forest Service and one works for a company that makes particle board. Their other two sons live in Bozeman and both work in construction-related industries.

Wyman has always demonstrated the true qualities that define a Barbershopper—leadership, integrity, good humor, friendship, and a wonderful singing voice. He is a former president of the Chord Rustlers and recipient of the "Barbershopper of the Year" award.

Thank you Wyman for all of your years devoted to making the Chord Rustlers better.

Jerry Mollock

Boxes Needed for Pigs!

Please try to pick up as many flats as you can find for carry outs of Tater Pigs™. These are the short boxes, not big boxes. I've been working Town & Country, so if you can get other stores, great! *[Be sure they are clean and discard any that are soiled or badly damaged.]*

Earl (Ole Windy)

2009 Show Features FRED!

The Chord Rustler's annual show has been scheduled for Grace Bible Church April 17–18, 2009. The show will feature **FRED!**, a comedy quartet from the Atlanta, Georgia area that captured the Quartet Gold Medal at the 1999 International Convention in Anaheim, California. Check them out at <http://www.fredquartet.com/>.

DH



Photos from Buckaroost



Evan croons a tune!



The Buckaroost, on the Boulder River somewhere south of McLeod, MT. June 24, 2008
(Photos by Frank Johnson)

2008 Big Sky Youth Harmony Rendezvous

[Two of our Chord Rustlers reported on the 2008 Big Sky Youth Harmony Rendezvous. Please say thank you to the Chord Rustlers and sponsors who supported the Rendezvous. DH]

BSYHR Receives Support from BHS, SAI and Others

Thanks, **Chord Rustlers**, for your ongoing support of the **Big Sky Youth Harmony Rendezvous!** Our sixth annual program was held June 18–22 at Luccock Park Camp, South of Livingston, Montana. The BSYHR board of directors, ably headed by Dennis Bloxham, did a commendable job of organizing, planning, and following through. While the attendance was down a bit from last year—51 students attended—the sound of the boys' chorus was the best ever, as those of you who attended the Sunday concert heard. Jim DeBusman was well received by the boys, and has already consented to return for the 2009 camp (June 17–21, 2009). The girls' chorus also shone under the direction of Candy Johnson who generously served as the girls' coach.

We continued to receive wonderful support from the Harmony Foundation, the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), Sweet Adelines International (SAI), and Gary Tschache who made a generous contribution. Several other chorus chapters of BHS and SAI also provided financial support. Feedback from the participants was again glowing; most even commented that they liked the food better this year. To see over 170 photos, log on to the website

www.harmonyrendezvous.org

Frank Johnson

BSYHR is a Success Story Worth Sharing

The sixth annual Big Sky Youth Harmony Rendezvous was a rousing success if the concert on Sunday afternoon was any measure. The 24 young men and 3 adults under the direction of Jim DeBusman and the 27 young ladies and 5 adults under the direction of Candy Johnson put on quite a show and those who were not in attendance missed a real treat. The numbers at the camp were down this year for a variety of reasons but those that attended spent four days working under two great directors. Jim was impressed with the quality of the young men and by Friday he had them ready to perform the 3 numbers and then spent the next two days, with Natalie's assistance, working choreography into the presentation of the songs. This was Candy's first youth camp experience and the girls performed admirably, but for the first time in six years were outclassed by the young men.

Jim expressed how much he appreciated the maturity and willingness to work shown by the groups, as one of the pieces (*The Water is Wide*) was a contemporary song and did not have a learning CD like the other 8-part songs. *The Water is Wide* was so well done especially at the Saturday night dress rehearsal that Jim told the young men that that experience would rank in his top five of camps worked within his 23 years of working with the society. He compared it to a camp in Texas with a chorus of 120 young men. That says a lot about the young people we have in the Rocky Mountain States.

This camp is a great tool for reaching a great number of young people, and we as Barbershop Harmony Society members should take pride in working toward getting youth to sing. A comment that Jim made to Milt Gray and I at camp was that in 2000 the average age of our society was 62 years old; in 2006 it fell to 52, and as of March 2008 it had dropped to 47. This is due to the efforts put forth by programs like ours that are springing up all over the world and the influence that young choruses like the **Westminster** chorus is having on these young people. We need to become more involved in working with the schools in the areas where we live to encourage these youth to attend this or any other Harmony Explosion Camp. There were only six kids from Bozeman (two were my boys, two were Wyman's grandsons, and one was Al's grandson) and one from Belgrade attending camp this year; so somewhere we are failing in the mission of perpetuating the art form with the younger generation in the Gallatin Valley (there should be 30 or more just from our area). As board members of the BSYHR one of the things we need to accomplish is generate the ideas on how to approach more school music programs and then help the local chapters carry out those ideas. My thanks to the many Chord Rustlers and others that help in the rendezvous camp functioning as it does both with the man-hours and financial aid, and let's hope we can all make it function much better in coming years.

Dennis Bloxham

2008 Big Sky Youth Harmony Rendezvous Photos



Photos by Frank Johnson

Chord Rustlers meet Tuesdays at Grace Bible Church, 3625 South 19th, Bozeman. Rehearsals are from 7:00–9:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

Mission Statement Bozeman Chord Rustlers

“The mission of the Chord Rustlers is to sing *a cappella*, four-part harmony, in the barbershop style, to support vocal music education of youth, and to provide audiences with wholesome entertainment for all occasions by men who enjoy musical and social camaraderie, desiring to share their love of music within the community, and who aspire to grow in musical excellence and preserve the tradition of four-part harmony singing.”



Bozeman Chord Rustlers



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