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## Annual Show Headliners—"McPhly"

**McPhly**, the guys with the funny name, have been contracted to sing on the Chord Rustlers' annual show May 1, 2010. Our first choice, "**Realttime**" had a scheduling conflict and had to cancel. Getting an up and coming quartet like **McPhly** (pronounced "mac-fly") will give our audiences a look at the 15<sup>th</sup> best quartet in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

According to their web site (<http://mcphlyqt.com/>), **McPhly** is from the Denver area and so far, in their short existence, have performed in nine states, won the Rocky Mountain District Championship, and placed 15th at the most recent Barbershop Harmony Society International Contest. **McPhly** is a young quartet with an average age of 29 years old; however, they love to sing the good old songs. All four coming from different popular groups, **McPhly** is quickly becoming a new standard of *a capella*. You can hear and see their winning set as recorded on YouTube at their web site.

**McPhly** Quartet: Brian Fox, Curtis Terry, Ryan Wilson, and Travis Tabares *DH*

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **November 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Veterans Day Show, Senior Center
- ◆ **May 1, 2010**  
C.R. Annual Show, Ellen Theater

McPhly





*“...what if the name of the town wasn't especially pretty?”*  
**Dwight Adams**

## Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless

### YOUR HOME TOWN

*“On the Road Again,”* the spring show, has lots of place names in it. There are probably some place names harder to write about than others. The songs are usually about nostalgia about the old home town. But what if the town was a better place to be from than at? Or what if the name of the town wasn't especially pretty? Here is a list of places I think would be hard to write about:

**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**Cawker City, Kansas**  
**Pahrump, Nevada**  
**Herculaneum, Missouri**  
**Sleepy Eye, Minnesota**  
**Mule Shoe, Texas**

You can think of dozens, too. I didn't Google these names; maybe they have songs about them. The one multiple place name song most of us know is *“I've Been Everywhere.”* By the way, *“Home on the Range”* came from a few miles from Smith Center, Kansas, words by Brewster M. Higley. No extra charge for that information. *Dwight Adams*

## Ask the Expert

**Question:** I have a pitch pipe with one bad note—it's almost half a tone flat. I opened it, cleaned out the dust and belly button lint, and didn't see anything obvious wrong. Does anyone know whether/how these are adjustable?

**Response #1:** “Blow the pitch, hum a 1/2 step higher and start singing.”

**Response #2:** “A lot of people don't know this, but they actually make these to fit certain voice parts. Yours is quite rare though, as most “bari pipes” have way more than just one flat note. I would hold on to that one.”

## Free Music from the Barbershop Harmony Society

The entire *“Heritage of Harmony”* song book of great barbershop songs is available for **free** to download and print. There are great songs like “My Gal Sal,” “A Bicycle Built for Two,” “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” and a whole lot more. Go to [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org), “Resources,” “Music,” *Heritage of Harmony*” and download the song you want to hear. You can go directly to the *“Heritage of Harmony”* downloads at <http://www.barbershop.org/document-center/category/20-heritage-of-harmony-sheet-music.html>



## Are Barbershoppers Getting Their Money's Worth?

I attended a workshop for barbershop choruses that was held in Twin Falls, ID this last summer facilitated by **Chuck Greene**, a long-time barbershopper, quartetter, and director living in North Carolina. (Some of the comments below are adapted from a write-up of a similar Chuck Greene workshop held in the Central States District in 2009).

*Chuck Greene has conducted workshops for thousands of Barbershoppers and positively changed the thinking of what activities create "Compelling Chapter Meetings."*

Chuck engaged the audience and had many clear directives that can help choruses grow in interest and numbers. One of the things that caught my attention was the fact taken from the results of a survey conducted among members of service organizations, non-profits, and barbershop choruses. One of the goals of most Barbershoppers is to bring the average age of their chorus down. **Fact:** Members of organizations who were born before 1945 tend to join organizations for the "social value"; younger members join for self-improvement, a feeling of contributing to a worthy endeavor, and a sense of improving the quality of the organization. While this doesn't always apply to all members all of the time, it is something worth considering. If we offer a program that attracts people for its "social value," we are likely to attract more senior members. If we offer a program that attracts people for its self improvement value, we are likely to attract younger members. Also younger members typically have very tight work/play schedules that don't allow them to spend time in what they consider to be "frivolous" activities.

I am sure all the attendees were wondering just what **Chuck Greene** might have to say that we had not already heard before.

Chuck commented that young men visit chapter meetings and then choose whether to commit their discretionary time with us. It is up to each chapter to ensure that members and potential members are getting the "best value" for their time? What hooks men and what makes them stay? How can we improve on our product and grow our chapters? These were questions that were asked of us at the workshop in Twin Falls. Chuck discussed and demonstrated, and we learned that by changing chapter priorities, we can have "*Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings.*"

Some suggested tools were:

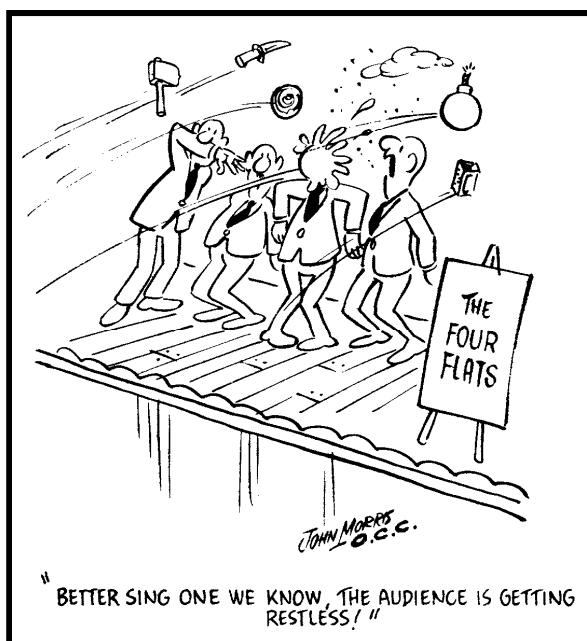
- During *warm-ups* – maximize the singers' looks of success, happiness, ease and grace
- Use *Arc Singing* for individualized audio and/or visual coaching during part of a the warm-up
- During *song rehearsals* – encourage singers learn to uplift and entertain audiences by visual portraying the mood of the song
- Use *Mini-Group Breakouts* for ear training and fine tuning by four to eight singers with a mini-group coach
- Promote attractive, successful and efficient *quartet (or octet) singing* during meetings to efficiently teach in-tune singing, vocal production, style techniques, and synchronization

- *Innovation Breakouts* for a voice part sectional [He demonstrated the tool of *innovation breakouts* by having all attendees participate in these activities. In one activity, we all learned a new song in forty minutes, and then we sang this song on risers that afternoon. Unbelievable? But we did it. [*The Chord Rustlers have proved that it really works, too!*]
- Chapter members can take active roles in the new scheme. At each meeting members can be *Watchers, Listeners, Audio Coaches, Audience Advocates, Entertainment Coaches*, etc. on a rotating basis. These roles actively involve the members.

In Chuck's own chorus in North Carolina, the chapter changed its priorities and look what happened....

- Active members (those who are regular Tuesday night singers) went from 26 to 53.
- Average attendance of active members was 18 and is now 41.
- Average age of the active members has gone from 67 to 58 years.
- Percentage of visitors becoming chapter members has gone from less than 10% to 70%
- Men arrive at chapter meetings a half hour early to sing repertoire songs and then sing tags afterwards.
- Chapter members are singing, listening, watching, coaching, and directing the chorus – they do not consider themselves being in a “competitive” chorus, but in one that competes to improve.

His points at the end of the day were that barbershop-styled singing is still incredibly worthwhile and barbershop harmony with its constant overtones is the “black belt” of a *capella* singing. Since the workshops, participating chapters are starting to experience similar changes. As we have heard many times, “change just for the sake of changing is seldom effective.” However, change that produces positive results is certainly worth considering. I encourage everyone to be active in the chapter, visit board meetings, suggest ways we can become a better chapter, and invite someone to come to a rehearsal. There is interest in bringing Chuck to Montana to conduct similar workshops. A commitment from several chapters is needed before we can commit to the expense. *DH*



HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN



## Chord Rustler Officers

<b>President:</b> Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
<b>VP Music:</b> Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
<b>VP Chapter Development:</b> Jerry Hovland Mike Tank	406-585-8500 406-585-9437
<b>VP Marketing/PR:</b> Gerry Mollock	406-522-8894
<b>Treasurer:</b> Al Sprenger	406-587-2453
<b>Secretary:</b> Frank Smith	406-586-4676
<b>Immediate Past President:</b> Sig Dehn	406-585-5747
<b>Board Members at Large:</b> Lyman Jansson Wyman Schmidt Dewey Adams	406-388-0896 406-587-8013 406-585-2815
<b>Executive Vice President:</b> Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
<b>Chorus Manager:</b> Steve Adams	406-388-3359
<b>Show Chairmen:</b> Bill Ranard Jerry Mollock	406-585-9375 406-522-8894
<b>Sunshine Chairman:</b> Jesse Edgar	406-579-5354

## Music Team

<b>Directors:</b> Natalie Berdahl	406-451-2516
<b>Assistant Directors:</b> Charlie McGuire Jerry Hovland	406-582-0471 406-585-8500
<b>Music VP:</b> Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
<b>Section Leaders:</b> Lead: Wyman Schmidt Baritone: Lyman Janssen Tenor: Dennis Bloxham Bass: Bernie Bissell	406-587-8013 406-388-0896 406-223-7824 406-586-2966

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**SMILE**  
**Without it...**



**you're just another  
face in the crowd!**

## 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 member was born in Great Falls and was raised on a farm southwest of Power, MT. His Mom was a homemaker and part time secretary and his Dad homesteaded in 1937 and, in addition to farming, did construction work. He believed there was more opportunity in Montana than North Dakota.

While in high school, this barbershopper played football, basketball, was on the track team, and played trumpet in the band. After graduating from Power High School in 1965, he attended MSU, quit in 1969 to earn more money for school by working for the Anaconda Copper Company Smelter in Great Falls, and then enlisted in the Montana Air National Guard in 1970. After working for the Air Guard as an aircraft mechanic, he was selected for pilot training in 1973 and after returning from training in 1975, flew as a squadron pilot for a year before returning to MSU. He graduated from MSU in 1977, with a Mechanical Engineering Technology degree. He flew as a pilot for Continental Airlines starting in 1978, was furloughed in 1980, and after flying for the Air Guard in a part-time capacity, was selected to work full-time as Chief of Weapons and Tactics instructing other pilots in aerial weapons employment and air-to-air tactics from 1983-1989. He was a flight instructor and flight examiner in the T-33, F-106, and F-16 aircraft. In 1989 he relinquished his full-time job at the Air Guard to start working as a pilot for Northwest Airlines. He retired from the Montana Air National Guard in 1995 and retired from Northwest Airlines in 2007 as a captain. Altogether he has approximately 17,000 hours of flying.

Sig and Donna Dehn were married in 1975 and have three sons including Kirk, who is married and works for the Montana Air Guard while living in Elko, Nevada; Jeff is a student at MSU; Mark is married, has one child, and is a project engineer for a large construction company in Centennial, Colorado. Donna is a retired registered nurse who specialized in geriatrics, and is also retired from the Montana Air National Guard. She volunteers as a docent at the Museum of the Rockies and is an avid quilter.

Sig enjoys singing (always a bass), reading, genealogy, RVing, and flying. He is a member of the Manhattan Flying Tigers and frequently pilots one of the club's single engine planes around the area. He has been a barbershopper since 1991, and a Chord Rustler since 2000. As an avid quartetter, he has been singing with the **Boothill Betterment Society** since 1992 and with **Implied Harmony** since 2002. He has been President, V.P. of Marketing/P.R. and a board member. He received the Barbershopper of the Year award in 2007.

During his years as a pilot, he never faced a terrorist or hijacking. However, on one trip, while on the Minneapolis airport tarmac in line with about 25 other planes, a small dog got loose from its carrier and proceeded to relieve itself up and down the main aisle. Sig had to turn his plane around, but with that many planes in line to take off, the return to the gate took about 20 minutes with everyone holding their noses because of the stench. Passengers gladly went back into the terminal, and the plane was thoroughly cleaned, with particular attention to removing the "doggy essence." My guess is that when everyone re-boarded, the little dog smiled all the way home.

*Jerry Mollock (with assistance from Sig)*

Chord Rustlers meet Tuesdays at Grace Bible Church, 3625 South 19<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman. Rehearsals are from 7:00–9:00 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.”



Dan Hopper, Editor  
3120 Augusta Dr.  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
dan\_hopper@bresnan.net

