

Chord Rustlers

BARBERSHOP CHORUS OF BOZEMAN, MT



October 16, 2012
Volume 5, Issue 6

"The Old Chorale"

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ **November 11**
Veteran's Day Show
4:30, Senior Center
- ◆ **December 4**
Christmas Sing-a-round



Chord Rustlers Reach New Performance Highs!

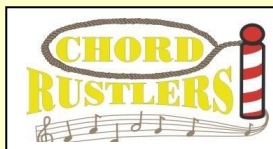
The Chord Rustlers under the direction of Natalie Berdahl reached new high performance scores averaging 69.8% with a few scores in the low 70s. Placing 8th among the top choruses in the Northwestern US and Canada is worthy of personal "pats on the back" from non-competing members and members as well.

The District Contest in Spokane was one to remember with at least five excellent quartets and another seven or eight pretty darn good quartets. **Momentum**, **Madison Park**, and **Code Blue** certainly stole the show. The **Senataires Chorus** from Salem wowed the audience with their cavemen set that was introduced at International last summer in Portland. It is a performance that I am sure had the judges scratching their heads as to the "barbershopness" of it all. It was very entertaining, nonetheless.

Northwest Vocal Project came in 2nd in the chorus competition (six points behind Salem) with sweet singing, high energy, and no furs. They got my vote for the best chorus.

Keeping up the energy of the **Chord Rustlers** is always hard after competition. So much goes in to making our performance the best that it can be. The challenge from here is to make our chorus better. Of course, the obvious is to sing better and perform better. I would also like to challenge the chorus to be a better ambassador for our hobby to the Bozeman community and surrounding area. We should consider more "singouts," more involvement with the schools (including MSU), and a bigger individual personal commitment volunteering for our chapter activities.

We are a special community of singers that has a remarkable history and can have an even more exciting future. It's up to each of us to take the bull by the horns and make it happen. *DH*



Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless

“What time does the next swan leave?”
Dwight Adams



Dewey

SCREW-UPS

Whenever public performances are involved, things can go wrong. There's the rubber chicken that falls at the wrong time. There's the spotlight that doesn't work or comes on at the wrong time. There's the microphone that is open and isn't supposed to be. I read a story once about a famous operatic scene where the tenor is supposed to mount a big swan that is pulled from the stage by a rope. In this case, the stagehand pulled the rope too soon before the tenor had finished his song. The story is that he turned to the audience and said, "What time does the next swan leave?" I managed to cause a screw-up at least once. Our quartet, **Flat Baroque**, was doing a song on the annual show. I made the fundamental mistake of looking down at the audience. There in the front row was a very overweight woman whose top had crawled up revealing a very large tummy. I started to giggle. Fortunately it was not a serious song and the other three covered very nicely. Before every future show someone would peek through the curtain and announce, "Hey Dewey, your groupie is here." She always sat front row center.

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard!!!

♪ Music Team ♪

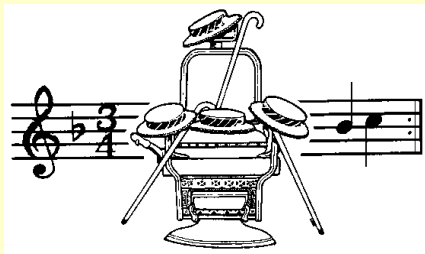
Directors: Natalie Berdahl	406-579-2211
Assistant Director: Jesse Lee	406-390-1794
Music VP: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
Section Leaders:	
Lead: Steve Adams	406-580-1227
Baritone: Tim Lund	406-570-1234
Tenor: Kevin Mattson	406-388-6232
Bass: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
Chorus Mgr: OPEN	
Librarian: Jack Lehman	406-388-3121

♪ Committees ♪

Tater Pig Chairmen 2011:	
Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
Jerry Mollock	406-570-2468
Don Greer	406-586-7871
Kevin Mattson	406-388-6232
2013 Divisional Contest Chairman: Sig Dehn	406-586-5747

Chord Rustler Officers

President: Don Greer	406-586-7871
VP Music: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
VP Chapter Development: Frank Johnson	406-586-1857
VP Marketing/PR: Paul Newby	406-586-2804
Treasurer: Sig Dehn	406-586-5747
Secretary: Frank Smith	406-586-4676
Immediate Past President: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
Board Members at Large:	
Mike Tank	406-585-9437
Kevin Mattson	406-388-6170
Shane Strasser	605-940-4971
Executive Vice President: Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
Sunshine Chairman: Jesse Edgar	406-579-5354



Good Singers Can Be Good Speakers

Can good singers also be good public speakers? Maybe as a chorus singer you have not thought about being a public speaker...too afraid of making mistakes or of appearing “naked” on the stage. When was the last time you heard a quartet or soloist announce their next song or tell a joke only to find that their delivery was weak, barely audible, and completely disorganized?

Barbershop singers have all the advantages that make good public speakers:

- They have had lots of face time in front of an audience
- They routinely get instructions on how to properly breathe and to phrase sentences
- They are coached in appropriate gesturing (not too much, but just enough to emphasize the points that are made)
- They have learned how to make eye contact with the audience
- They have a rich, resonant voice (especially Basses) that many speakers would die for

The only thing missing from the above list is practicing the speech. One of the ways I practice public speaking is through an organization called Toastmasters, International. It is a safe place to practice speaking, make mistakes, and to learn about a lot of fascinating topics. Once a week I get together to present prepared or impromptu speeches to the club (or just to listen) depending on the assignment for that week. I receive feedback from the audience with ways to improve my presentations. My career working for large corporations frequently required speaking to small or large groups with well-prepared presentation (with notes). More often, it was those “What do you think, Dan?” questions during business meetings that threw me a curve. Without my notes, I often did not have an opinion or the research to back up what I was thinking. After being a member of Gallatin Valley Toastmasters in Bozeman, Montana for almost eight years, I can say that my fear of speaking in public has been substantially lessened.

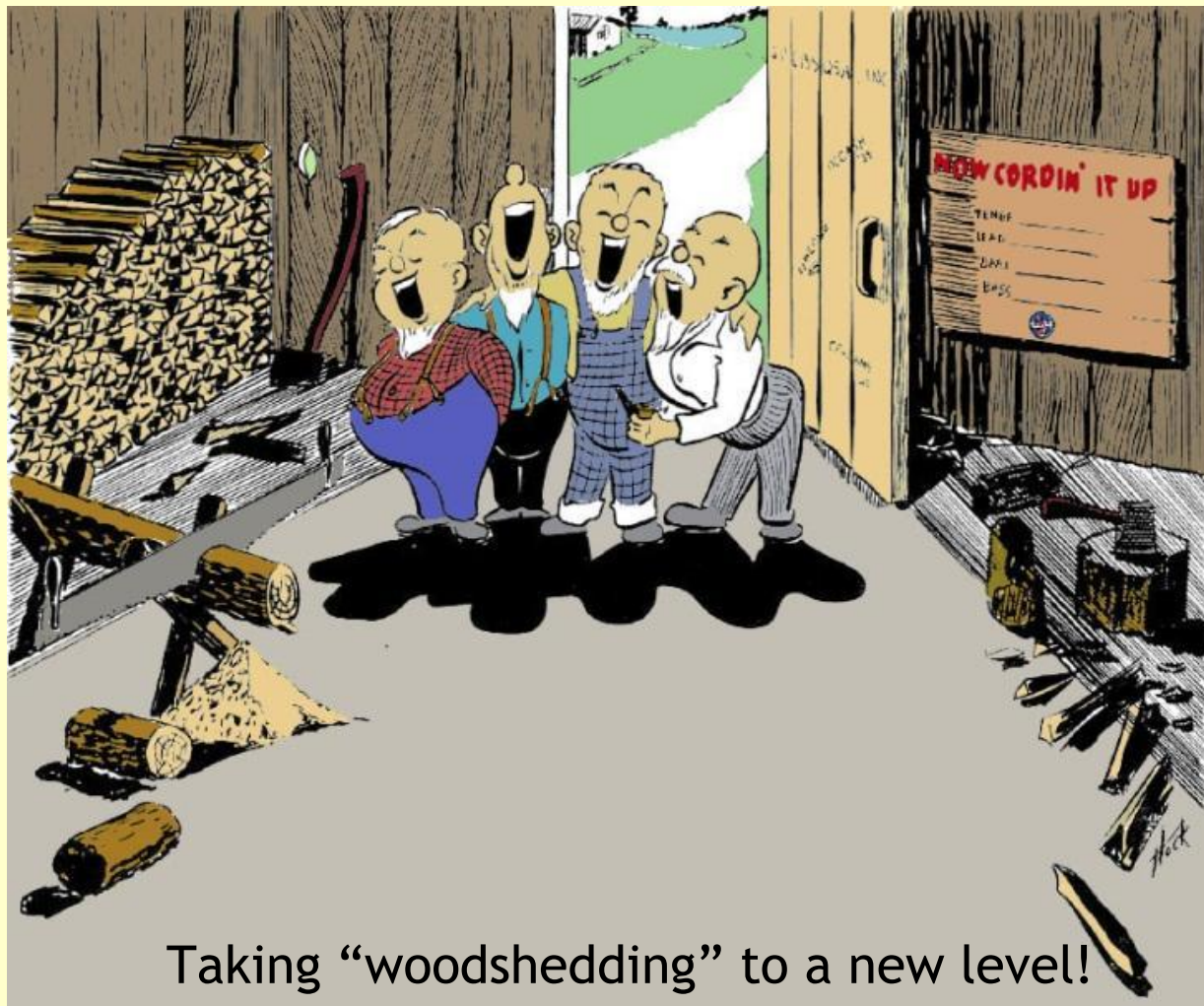
Barbershoppers can take their own public speaking abilities to a higher level by volunteering to emcee sing-outs or chapter shows, by leading craft sessions at their weekly chapter meetings, or by participating as an officer on the board. One of the activities from the Chuck Greene seminars to build emcees is to have a member announce the next song. It builds confidence and you may just find a budding emcee amongst the ranks. And, of course, you could join a Toastmasters club in your area.

Dan Hopper, Executive Vice President



October, November Birthdays

Oct 3	Richard Kintz	Nov 2	Brice Todd
Oct 9	Liessman Sturlaugson	Nov 3	Dennis Bloxham
Oct 9	Dennis Tayor	Nov 4	Bernie Bissell
Oct 31	Samuel Hersman	Nov 19	Paul Newby



Taking "woodshedding" to a new level!

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.”



“The Old Chorale”
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