

The Shampoo

www.ElectricCityChorus.org

NEWSLETTER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ELECTRIC CITY CHORUS · SINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY SINCE 1944

Chapter K44 of Barbershop Harmony Society

Volume 65: the January 2010 Issue

Schenectady, NY Chapter



Officers

President: Roger Murphy
Music VP: Jim Stearns
Chap. Development VP: Ron Messersmith
Mrktg/PR VP: Mark Hodges
Youth Activities VP: Dave Matice
Secretary: Wally Adlemann
Treasurer: Chris Jensen
Past Pres.: Walt Lane
Delegate to HOD: Chris Jensen
Chorus Manager: Joe Betz
Board of Directors: John Bowen, Jack Kidalowski & Mark Hodges

Directors

Director: Chuck Eaker
Director Emeritus: Leo Mailhotte
Assistant Directors: Joe Millett, Steve Lawrence, & Chris Jensen

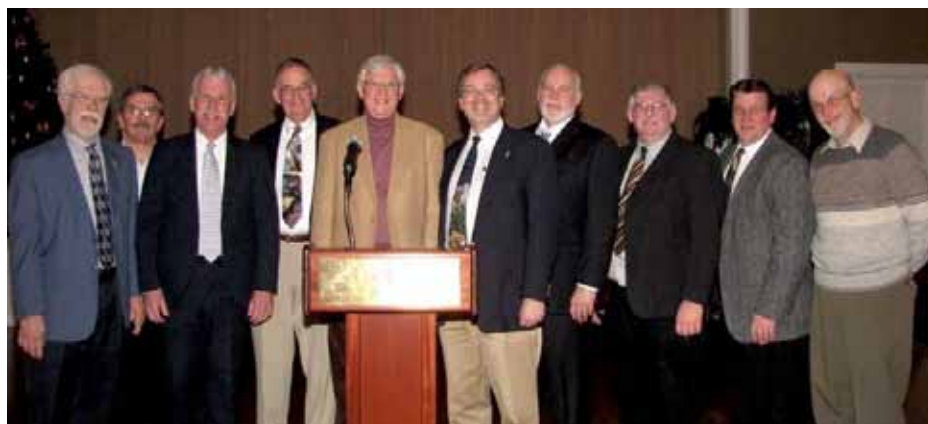
Shampoo

Editor: Jim Bowen
Circulation: Ed Gifford

Visitors Welcome

Rehearsals are every Tuesday (except Holidays) at 7:30 PM at the Faith United Methodist Church at the corner of Brandywine and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady. Park at the side of the Church and enter from Brandywine. If no one is at door, ring bell and wait.

visit@electriccitychorus.org



The Installed Officers for 2010

A Celebration of Our Officers

The Installation Dinner was a grand event with which to begin 2010. Held at the Edison Club for the second time, it gave us an opportunity to dress up, recognize those who serve the chapter, and entertain our significant other. Organized by three Jacks the event also included singing the officers, the chorus, a VLQ, and chapter quartets Homespun Harmony and Revisions.

Roger Murphy, President for 2010 thanked Chuck Eaker, Chorus Director, for his dedication and great leadership and presented him with a token of our appreciation. (See photo below.)



The wandering photographer caught some of the guests enjoying the party. Photos to the right are KC and MJ White, Larry and Pat Clow, Chet and Evelyn, P achucki, and Joe and Patty Smith. (More photos on page 4.)

Roger and Chuck





Monthly Comments
of the Electric City
Chorus President,
Roger Mrphy



The First Thing Mr. President Says Is “Nothing”

When Larry Clow, Mr. Nominating Committee Chairman, asked me to run for Chapter President, he said that the job was easy and “there’s nothing to it.” Well, I told him that I’d think about it. So, Larry said that he would “pencil” me in on his draft slate of officers. Little did I know that he was using indelible ink! But if Larry says that “there’s nothing to it,” Larry should know because he is a past chapter president! Right?! Those words of wisdom and encouragement from Larry really gave me confidence to accept the nomination and propelled me to my election night victory in October (O.K., the outcome was assured since I ran unopposed!). I knew I could handle an elected office where I didn’t have to do “nothing.” Thanks Larry, and to all those who voted for me!

During 2010, it’s time to focus on “nothing.” The Electric City Chorus (ECC) should let nothing stop it from becoming a more widely known and respected men’s singing organization in the Capital District. Nothing should discourage us from improving our singing quality, regardless of the outcome of a past division or district contest. Listen and learn from our skilled Director, Chuck, and his assistants. Give them nothing, except the respect and attention they deserve.

As a fellowship of men who love to sing and create that wonderful 4-part harmony sound, we can have nothing but fun at our weekly meetings. (Our music team is working on the fun part!) Seeking out men in the tri-city area who have nothing to do on Tuesday evenings must be a primary goal in 2010. Membership efforts must think, “outside-the-box” by attempting new and innovative ways to enlist more members. Furthermore, we must implement a strong marketing and public relations program on a year round basis. I can’t predict how many new members we can enlist in 2010, but nothing (as in the number zero) must be forever banished from our thoughts. Finally, nothing but good, solid performances (both paid & gratis) by the ECC throughout the year will entice more men to become members.

So there, I guess “there’s nothing to it” as long as we all continue to sing our best and work together harmoniously as we build the quality and quantity of the Electric City Chorus.

Hanging around the Pole

with Jim Bowen, Editor



It is there again.....

After months of frustration, I have control of the web site, www.ElectricCityChorus.org, again. If you have not already, take a moment to find it on the internet. You will see that our web site has been newly redesigned. Although not complete yet, I would like to know what you think and if you have any suggestions.

The second February Photo Contest is about to begin. The rules and the procedure are about the same. See all the details contained by the flyer on page 7.

Good things come to an end. That’s life. Millions of American women were sent into shock when their favorite soap opera was taken off the air after they spent decades of sitting in front of the TV. Then when Cheers was cancelled there were only tears.

Now it is happening to us. Our favorite Super Hero has been cancelled with Episode 13 by our super hero author, Jim Stearns, and Rin-Tin-Ear, his fabled dog, is left staring into an empty phone booth.

Thank you Jim for 13 great adventures. What is next?

E-Mail :

eccnews@nycap.rr.com

You Just Had To Be There

Part I

By Don Flom

Don has pretty-much finished his memories of the early days of the Schenectady Chapter.. This issue features the first of at least a three-part exploration into his past. You just had to be there is a perfect title for this series. I'm sure you will enjoy. -Editor

Remiscing about the old days is an act of self—indulgence, of interest to the story-teller but of marginal interest, if any at all, to the reader or listener. So, Sonny Boy: just go and listen to your loud, discordant, screaming modern songs (if you can call them songs) with the violent, obscene, nonsense lyrics (which no one can understand even if they can make out the words) and leave me alone. I'm going to indulge myself for a little while. Besides, you probably couldn't relate to what I'm going to say -- you just had to be there.

I remember as a little tyke some t@#\$\$% years ago, sitting in the kitchen of my three Norwegian bachelor uncles and listening to them tell the same stories over and over again. I understood just enough of the language to recognize the punch line and could always anticipate when they would break out into uproarious laughter. It never failed — and it never failed to amaze me how they could enjoy the same stories over and over again. This, of course, was in the old days: B.C. (Before Cash). You just had to be there.

But that's a lot like barbershop memories too. It must be difficult for newcomers to this hobby to relate to the memories of us old-timers (I use the word loosely). Schmitt Brothers? Mid- States Four? Buffalo Bills? Pittsburghers? Did they come before or after the Rolling Stones or the Grateful Dead? These are questions I come up against regularly. The only thing one can do is shrug his shoulders and feel just a little sadness for the wonderful experiences these newcomers will never know. You see, you just had to be there.



Something Don Found

By Don Flom

The following was lent to me by Bob Weinhold, Chapter Historian. So I pirated the thing and put it here for y'all to read. Excerpt from the November - December 1977 issue of the Harmonizer submitted by Shirley Hall, wife of Erie, Pa. Member Clifford.

A Wife Notes

“He came home from work exhausted and could hardly drag his feet. He managed to get to the table, but was too far gone to eat.”

“He finally moved to his easy chair with the paper he planned to read. It was too heavy, as was his head, so I said, ‘Dear, sleep’s what you need.’”

“His eyes went closed for a moment, then opened, ‘What night is this?’ ‘Good grief, I gotta get going!’ He said goodbye with a kiss.”

“I was watching the late evening news, when I heard his key in the door. The voice that hummed a familiar tune just wasn’t the same as before.”

“The fatigue had somehow disappeared; the frown on his face was gone. He shared with me his experience of good fellowship in song.”

“The hours he spends with the chorus add fun and joy to his life. So - I’m not a barbershop widow, I’m a Barbershopper’s wife.”



“Let Freedom Sing”

2010 International Convention

Philadelphia, PA June 28 - July 4, 2010

More Banquet Photos



Chris and Randy Rosette Jensen



Don Cotugno

Living in Upstate New York

Do you know that our region makes the national news 96 nights a year because Saranac Lake is the coldest spot in the nation, and Syracuse gets more snow than any other major city in the US,

If you consider it a sport to gather your food by drilling through 36 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by, you might live in Upstate New York and your friends call you Larry. (Like in Clow.)

FENDLEY AWARD FOR 2009

The following is the script for the presentation of the Fendley Award for 2009 to Jim Stearns

Samuel D. “Doc” Fendley was the first chorus director of the Schenectady Chapter, serving from 1944 to 1955 at which time he was transferred by GE to Waynesboro, VA. Doc has passed on but in a phone conversation a few years ago he reminisced about the early days of the chapter and was just as cheerful and upbeat as he was when he directed the chorus. During those 11 years Doc jumped around the stage, flailed his arms, and did the total choreography bit all by himself.

The Fendley Award was established in 1956 to honor the memory of Doc. It is roughly equivalent to the Barbershopper of the Year award given by other chapters. The Fendley Award is presented annually by the Schenectady Chapter to a member in good standing who has made a significant contribution to the Chapter. Initially, the award was based on a point system, with points given for offices held, quartet activity, leadership, meeting attendance, and a host of other factors. Later, this system was changed and the recipient is now selected by a committee comprised of the three most recent Fendley Award winners.



This year’s Fendley Award recipient has not been hard to identify. Talented beyond hope and adored by his wife and a few other women, he represents standards of being cheerful, upbeat and jumping around a lot. He is a popular, handsome, outgoing person with a beautiful, resonant voice. Nearly weekly we find our recipient, when not bent over in pain, standing before the chorus attempting to keep our attention.


Our winner is also a fine singer, either as baritone or lead and a stable force in an ever evolving quartet.

Not only is our awardee a leader and a singer of note, he is an accomplished comic and joke writer. For those of us who can read, he has become a regular featured contributor to the nearly monthly and award winning newsletter, *The Shampoo*, and has for two years been also featured in the Chapter’s yearly newspaper.

This dedicated man, to the delight of hundreds, has written the chorus’ show scripts with great success and humor. He is our front man at performances and handles all of our song introductions.

He has become a nearly permanent member of the Chapter Board, serving as a Vice President.

By now you all know that our Fendley Award recipient for 2009 is — much like his creation, Joe Barbershopper, — our own Super Hero, **JIM STEARNS**.



Watsup!
Coming Events

Feb. 12, 13, & 14- Singing Valentines

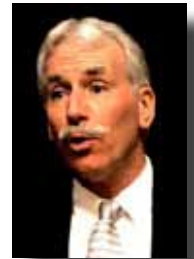
Apr. 9 & 10- Patriot and Granite & Pine Divisions Contest in Nashua, New Hampshire

Singing Barbershop Family
In case you missed it in Walt's e-mail, here is a video clip from You Tube that would warm the cockles of the grumpiest barbershopper's heart:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3OLfvjOFk>

Highlights from the January

ECC Board Meeting:

Submitted by Wally Adelman, Secretary



Installation Banquet – Edison Club, pretty much same as last year, Jack Kidalowski submitted proposals from his research and work.

Singing Valentines – Signup sheet next week. Mark will advertise. Three days, February 12th, 13th, & 14th; 1-6 on Sunday.

Chuck Eaker to Director's College – Walt made the motion that the chapter pays Chuck's tuition for the college – Joe seconded the motion – all in favor.


Roger will appoint a chair for the nomination and audit committees.

Bondable members: For 2010; Steve Lawrence, Richard Lenehan, Roger Murphy, Chris Jensen, and Bill Palmer; motion made by Richard Lenehan, seconded by Joe Betz, all in favor.

NED Int'l Senior Quartet Fundraiser: Chris suggested we pass the hat; made the motion for a donation of \$100 total including chapter match, Ron seconded the motion, all in favor.

Roger Murphy and Chris Jensen are check signers of record; motion made by Jack Kidalowski and seconded by Walt lane, all in favor.

Here's to the
Birthday Boys




JAN:

Wally Adelman:	01/21
Bill Palmer:	01/21
Frank Mauriello:	01/03

FEB:

Nick Hodges	02/14
Joe Millett:	02/25
Ray Benoit:	02/26



The Electric City Chorus
proudly presents
"The Conway Award"
to
Wally Adelman
in grateful recognition of his service
to the chorus as Chapter Secretary
and communications director
extraordinaire"

Past President, Walt Lane, Presents Wally Adelman with the Conway Award

JOE BARBERSHOPPER Super Hero

Created by Jim Stearns



Episode 13:

And So It Ends – Time to Hang Up the Cape

Jim Stearns, VP- Music & Performance

Over the past several months, I've tried to relay to you the explicit details of what I learned from my series of interviews with Joe Rousseau; he never actually put on his well worn super-suit, so I can't say I interviewed Joe Barbershopper. To this day he keeps those two identities totally separate and only a very few individuals have made the connection. Joe did relay a story of how he was once caught in mid-costume change by a costumer at Lou's Used Car Emporium. Joe had to bribe the guy into silence by actually selling him a used car that hadn't been through any form of natural disaster nor had its odometer turned back. That was a one and only occurrence at Lou's. I did see the famous outfit in a hall closet; cleaned, pressed and carefully wrapped in a plastic bag.

Joe is a truly fascinating individual, with a natural ability to tell a story; probably picked up from listening to Ernie and Edna telling tales while sitting around the fire place at the old chicken farm back in Kansas. But the years, and numerous encounters with some truly dastardly villains, have taken its physical and emotional toll; and Joe's body displays a bunch of scars as proof of battle. Like the time he encountered Gloomy Gus up in Alaska on a dark and dreary winter afternoon. The villain had the auditorium so dark that Joe stepped off the stage, dropping into the orchestra pit. Falling eight feet into a harp and struggling to get free of those strings can really leave some marks! Joe is now worn-out from his countless battles for the preservation of vocal quality. And he is discouraged in this time of electronic mega- noise and lip-synced performances.

And what of his ever-faithful companion, you may ask? Well Rin Tin Tin-ear, remains faithful but now is basically a total mess. He spends most of his time lying in a dog bed wearing a diaper; but hey, he's earned not having to get up and go outside every time nature calls. Many a time the little "Tin-ear" saved the big guy's butt by looking totally innocent (and rather stupid) but acting with truly super speed, cunning and determination! Barbershop singers around the world owe a special debt of gratitude to this dopey little mutt.

Our two super hero's exploits, as legendary as they may be, are done, finished, ka-put. But the struggle goes on!!! As Joe says, he can no longer fight the fight; it's up to each one of us to do what ever we can to beat back these evil robbers of a good vocal sound; so that quality singing can

be enjoyed for generations to come. We need to recognize, and then vanquish these foes that Joe wrestled with throughout his illustrious carrier. It's important to remember that; although this famous duo is now old and just about used up, the evil-doers they fought are ageless, still strong and able to destroy our quality singing in a heartbeat!

"It's up to you now," Joe called out as I walked from his house. And I say it to each of you.... It's up to you; stand up straight, take a deep breath and remember Rin Tin Tin-Ear and Joe Barbershopper.....TRUE SUPER HEROES OF OUR SINGING SOCIETY!

Now go out there and sing the good song....

Finally,
THE END

"Joe, I'm going to wait here until you come out again.... Even forever."



shampoo

FEBRUARY
2010
PHOTO
CONTEST



Electric City Shampoo Newsletter February Photo Contest II

Any member of the ECC family with a camera is welcome to submit up to three photos.

The Shampoo February Photo Contest is underway. The rules are simple and easy. Here is all you need to know.

1. All entries are to be made digitally using the "jpeg" format. A photograph must have a resolution of at least 200 and no greater than 400 dpi. (4x6" or 5x7" is preferred). Each photo

must be e-mailed as an attachment to: "eccnews@ElectricCityChorus.org" no later than February 29, 2010.

2. Photos may be just as they come off the camera or modified using a program such as *Photoshop*. If modified, that must be stated.

3. All photos must be certified as taken within the past 12 months prior to March 1, 2010.

4. The topic of the photo is purely up to the photographer.

Photos of questionable moral quality, will not be allowed.

5. Photos of barbershop activities or related to barbershopping will be looked upon favorably. Judging will be by committee.

6. And there might be more rules if we think of some.

Photo above is from Monument Valley, Utah. Photo to the right is of Antelope Slot Canyon, Utah. For additional photographs taken in September, 2009, by Jim Bowen, go to "Caravan 09" on web site: www.gallery.me.com/revjim



Electric City Chorus
Newsletter • the Shampoo
2010 February
Photo Contest

- The top 10 photographs will be published in the Shampoo.
- There will be prizes for winning and placing photos. (Jim S. is in charge of getting prizes.)
- Please enter now..... We need the encouragement!

Sidebar Humor

A Lead walks into the Barbershop. Barber says, "What will it be today?"

The Lead says, "well I want it going with my waves on top, faded on one side, plug the other, and just make it all out of shape and messed up."

The barber says, "Now why in the world do you want your hair cut like that."

The Lead says, "That's how you cut it last time"

The tenor's car couldn't get started and traffic was tied up for blocks. The light turned green, then yellow, then red. Finally one of the city's finest showed up on the scene with his hands on his hips.

"Whatsa madda, guy," shouted the officer. "Don't you like any of our colors?"

A new director was trying to make use of his psychology courses. He started the practice by saying, "Everyone who doesn't know the music, stand up!"

After a few seconds, one of the baritones stood up.

The director said, "So you are the only one who doesn't know the music?"

"No, sir, I know the music, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"

On Scientific Research

By Wally Adelman

Theorem: Change as we experience continued economic distress. As we endure this change, it is always good not to take ourselves too serious. Remember, *each action often has an equal and opposite reaction.*

Postulate: This took place in Charlotte North Carolina. A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, and then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires.' The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.

The lawyer sued and WON!

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim. Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$25,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART... After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$25,000 fine.

This story won First Place in last year's Criminal Lawyers Award contest.

ONLY IN AMERICA....NO WONDER THE REST OF THE WORLD THINKS WE'RE NUTS!

Barbershop Society's Harmony University

Harmony University held August 1-8 in St. Joseph, MO is an educational experience that every barbershopper should have at least once. Go to the web site below and give attending a thought....

<http://www.barbershop.org/harmony-university-main.html>

off the Cuff

by Ed Gifford



Forget Me Nots'; Clearly a matter of Tin Pan Alley rhyming. (with 'Tots'). Forget-me-nots are a pretty little plant 6 to 8 inches high with a small (3/8 inch) flower. At our place, they bloom in blue or white masses in the edge of woods in the spring, but what gives them their odd name is the little stick-burrs that come after the flower dies.

The burrs are small (3/16 inch) tan, round, flat things which stick to socks and pant legs and also decorate your shoelaces. The cats bring them home attached to their fur and plant them by the doorstep. So, when I sing "You Make Me Feel So Young" I think of the 'Tots' running across a meadow not so much taking time to pick the flowers as having a lot of little burrs sticking to their shoelaces, socks and pant legs. If we can afford to pay our taxes and thereby continue to live here, you can come in late Spring and see for yourselves.



Homespun Haromany and Revisions



EMAIL
VISIT@
ELECTRICCITYCHORUS.
ORG

If You Can Breathe You Can Sing!

The Shampoo
Newsletter of the
Electric City Chorus
Schenectady, NY





Give a Valentine

Singing Valentine



Say
I Love You



Sung by a quartet of the
Electric City Chorus
singing barbershop in the Capital District
since 1944.



Your Singing Valentine may be delivered to a work place or home on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday February 12, 13 and 14. Two Love Songs, A Card, and A Gift will surprise and delight your Sweetheart.... **All for \$50.00**

TO ORDER e-mail: valentine@ElectricCityChorus.org
Or telephone: 518-533-2505