



*The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus*

# Hatter Chatter

Newsletter of the Danbury Chapter, Yankee Division, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
Meeting every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

Volume 16 Number 9

[www.madhatterchorus.org](http://www.madhatterchorus.org)

September 2009

## Happy Hatters Have Harmonic Holiday

*By John Bradley*

**Worcester, MA** – For the second straight year, the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus sent more than a dozen members to Harmony College Northeast (HCNE), this year held over the August 7–9 weekend at Worcester State College in Worcester, MA. From the Friday night keynote address by the Barbershop Harmony Society's Mike O'Neil, through the annual "singfest" hosted by The Honeymooners, to Saturday Night's HX/HCNE show and afterglow, each Mad Hatter took away something special from the weekend.

The Saturday night show was certainly special. Perhaps it was a look into the future of our society as the Girls Harmony Explosion (HX) Chorus shared the stage with the Boys chorus for the first time. Also appearing were the quartets 4-Way Stop, Showcase, Bigtime! and The Gotcha-Tones.

"The facilities were the best I can remember," said chapter president, Bob Bradley. "The food was great, it was well organized, everything was within easy walking distance. Jim Coates did a great job of organizing the weekend."

According to Membership VP Danny Anderson, "The Saturday night show was worth the entire price of admission. Plus, all the classes were good and no one went hungry."

Said Mad Hatter bass Fred Baran, "The highlights of my weekend include singing and speaking with Gene Cokerof, the renowned tenor of the Suntones, 1961 International Quartet Champions. I told him that he was an early influence on my switch to singing tenor from bass."

The HatterTones was the only chapter quartet that was able to attend as a whole. According to bass, Dick Zang, "The HatterTones' most memorable coaching session of the weekend was with Gene Cokerof, tenor of the Suntones. Gene, now 74 years old, just leaned back on the couch and demonstrated several interpretive styles and had us ringing some beautiful chords.

"As I was making my way to my room once again at 2 a.m. on Saturday night," recounted lead Robert Golenbock, "it occurred to me that Harmony College is the closest thing to a time machine we have. Once again I'm young, invincible, without a care, doing what I love. Every once in a while it's okay to forget our responsibilities and be joyful. Harmony College is where I get to do that."

Perhaps the only negative shared by most of the attending Mad Hatters was the hard mattress. But even they could be softened with help from the beer, wine and song shared at the Friday night hospitality suite, sponsored for the second year by the mixed male/female quartet, The Honeymooners.

As Danny Anderson suggests, "I highly encourage everyone to begin planning now to attend the next Harmony College."



*Part of the Mad Hatter contingent at the 2009 Harmony College Northeast enjoying the Saturday night show. Picture by Robert Golenbock*



*History is made at the 2009 HX/HCNE Show, as the gals joined the guys for the first time.  
Picture by Robert Golenbock.*

## Mad Hatter Annual Show Looking For Angels

*By Fred Baran*



The Annual Show is our primary fund raiser, and its success is vital to allow our chorus to remain a financially healthy organization, able to meet the ever increasing expenses including rents, uniforms, competition fees, etc., which we incur annually.

To help us meet these financial needs, I am asking each member to become an Angel, and be listed in the annual show program as a supporter of the Mad Hatters.

With your donation of ten dollars, we will list you, your spouse, family and friends on a special page in the program, as we have done over the past years.

I will have a form available at the next Tuesday night rehearsal that you can fill out with the name(s) as you wish them to appear. I will collect either your check, made out to the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus, or cash, if you prefer.

A similar request has been sent out to friends, past members and dual members of the Chorus.

Please join me in trying to realize our goal of 100% of our members becoming angels in support of the Chorus.

## Mad Hatter Chorus Accepted Into The Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce

The Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus is now a member of the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce. The chorus will be listed in the Chamber's next newsletter, their Inside Business publication and also on their web site under the Business Directory.

According to Chapter membership VP and president-not-quite-elect-yet, Danny Anderson, "By becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce we hope to gain exposure to the local business communities. We'll be able to obtain a membership list to which we can send advertisements of our shows, sing-outs and Singing Valentines. And, we might even gain some new members.

When asked if it is unusual for a non-profit group to be a Chamber of Commerce member, Danny replied, "Yes. We will be listed under entertainment and social groups.

## There's Still Much Work To Be Done For Our Annual Show

*By Dick Zang*

We have a great show coming up on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Brookfield High School.



Lunch Break is one of the most entertaining quartets around, and we're just beginning to see the antics of Joe West, our emcee. I can't wait to see Lunch Break perform at the Afterglow at the Stony Hill Inn.

Planning for the show has been the work of a few, but now comes the hard part. We've all got to pitch in to make the show financially successful as well as fun.

Besides learning all the music and cues, each of us should be selling tickets and program ads. There are 30 of us, so to meet the show budget goals each member on average will account for selling \$270 worth of ads and tickets – that's one full page ad and one half page ad plus four adult and five senior tickets. (We are expecting another \$1,700 in tickets at the door as a result of our advertising.)

Please get the ad forms back to Lee or Andy no later than Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and ticket money and unsold tickets back to Dickson or Charlie no later than Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**More Harmony College Northeast coverage on Pages 3, 5, 7, and 8**



## Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*



### **The HatterTones – By Dick Zang**

At the 2009 Harmony College Northeast, The HatterTones got some great coaching from Men In Black members Tony Nasto and Ray Johnson and we were scheduled to have a session with Jim Kline, bass of Gotcha! who formerly sang bass with the 139<sup>th</sup> Street Quartet. Jim was hurting most of the weekend with a dislocated rib, so Bob Shapiro took his spot and gave us a lot of help.

The 139<sup>th</sup> Street Quartet had some TV credits, appearing on *Night Court* and *Cheers* several times. Dickson and I did get some coaching from Jim Kline in the “How to be a Better Bass” class on Friday night. One of the lessons learned was that we basses have to sing like leads and treat our part like a melody.

As reported earlier in this issue, the HatterTones most memorable session was with Gene Cokerof, tenor of the Suntones. The Suntones won the international championship in Philadelphia in 1961 with Gene Cokerof on tenor; Bob Franklin, lead; Harlan Wilson, bari; and Bill Cain, bass. They ran away with the contest, winning by 343 points. Drayton Justus, former lead of the Gentlemen's Agreement (1971 Champions), took over the lead slot when Bob Franklin retired in 1980.

Next to the Buffalo Bills of *The Music Man* fame, the Suntones probably are the Society's best-known quartet to non-barbershoppers, thanks mainly to their long run on Jackie Gleason's television show of the '60s. The quartet made numerous appearances and worked behind the scenes, providing background music and other services, for as long as the show originated from Miami. They also appeared before millions of viewers on several nationwide broadcasts of the Orange Bowl Parade.

The Suntones performed from 1957 to 1985 in over 1,000 appearances, and along the way recorded 10 albums and shared the bill with such greats as Benny Goodman, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Danny Thomas, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Louie Armstrong, Eddy Arnold, Kate Smith, Joe Williams, Bobby Goldsboro, President Gerald R. Ford, and The Four Freshmen.

### **Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran**

On Saturday August 15, with Dick Zang filling in for our missing bass, we sang at a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Party for Ken Fredericksen, in Bethel. He was surrounded by a huge family that included seven children and 46 grandchildren (I lost count of the great and great-great grandchildren). Ken is a spry and full-of-life guy, who although hard of hearing, genuinely enjoyed the barbershop tunes that we presented for him.

While posing for a picture with us, he broke into song and then got up and performed a lively dance with one of his grand-daughters. We were in a huge backyard, under a canopy of trees and a perfect setting for a family birthday party and picnic, with all kinds of lawn games and activities. Ken was decked out in a patriotic themed striped shirt, tie and suspenders, topped off with a genuine straw "skimmer" hat, and would have fit in with us at the recent "Old Timers" base ball game.



*Rare Occasion with Ken Fredericksen  
Picture by Tina Maddocks*

While he was seated, sipping from a nice, ice cold glass of beer, I found out that he was a veteran of the Coast Guard and had met his wife while serving in Staten Island, NY. He said that we should not get him started on telling "war stories," or he would go on forever. It was a great experience singing for such a wonderful old gentlemen who enjoyed barbershop music. Incidentally, his official birthday, August 13, is the same as our baritone, Jim Hopper, which made Jim number one in his book.

On Friday evening August 28, we are scheduled to sing in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, at the reunion of a world war Veterans Group, and Dick Zang will be joining us on that occasion, for which we are extremely grateful to him, so we are able to appear. We thank Dick for making himself available, attending rehearsals and learning some of our quartet songs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our new bass who is currently rehearsing with us and learning our repertoire and with whom we hope to be performing in the not too distant future. His name is Steve Holtz, and he joins us from the Manchester, CT, Silk City Chorus, where he recently served as president. Many of you who attended HCNE had an opportunity to meet him.

Steve grew up in Rochester, NY, in a barbershop singing family and continued singing barbershop through high school and at Middlebury College from which he graduated in 1963. He continued to sing during graduate school (Columbia, MBA). Since joining the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1963, he has sung in nine different chapter choruses, wherever his marketing and sales career has taken him. Steve has had the honor of performing on the Barbershop Harmony Society International contest stage 10 times with three different 75-to 140-man choruses which medaled seven times.

*Continued on the next page*

## Quartets

*Continued from the previous page*

Steve's quartet experience includes singing with six other quartets, three of them in competition. He currently describes himself as either semi-retired or semi-employed, and is contracted to Crestcom International to help them sell and facilitate their management and leadership training programs through a continuously revolving 12-month seminar series in Hartford, CT.

He resides with his wife of 45 years, Jane, in Wethersfield, CT, and is getting used to the commute to Danbury to rehearse with Rare Occasion. While at Middlebury, in addition to meeting his wife-to-be, he sang with the Dissipated Eight, a college a-capella vocal group similar to the Whiffenpoofs of Yale.



*Steve Holtz, new Rare Occasion Bass*

While we can never replace Bill Manion, a Mad Hatter legend, we welcome Steve into the fold and look forward to many hours of singing and ringing chords as we do our part to keep our hobby alive.

### **Real Chemistry** – By John Bradley

On Friday, August 14, Real Chemistry traveled to Founder's Hall in Ridgefield, CT, to serenade a senior's group at their Ice Cream Social. This has become an annual visit for the quartet. Although being rusty from a summer with little rehearsal time, we thick-shaked the crowd with "Ten Feet Off The Ground" and "Trickle Trickle," a song we added as a comment on this summer's prevailing weather. The quartet then melted the audience's sundaes with "I Only Have Eyes For You" and "Whispering." But, the cherry on top was certainly "Somewhere Over The Rainbow."

We also performed, of course, our ice cream cone lapping song, "Coney Island Baby." And, we managed to fit in "Dream a Little Dream Of Me" to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Arts Festival, although none of us were sure if Momma Cass or the rest of The Mommas and The Pappas were at the concert.

I was too young to attend, Augie was busy arresting hippies, Dick still has no idea what Woodstock was, and Bob, the only quartet member in attendance that wet weekend in 1969, was in no condition to remember anything, outside of mud.

Despite the rust, we feel we left a sweet taste in the mouths of the audience.

While leaving Founders Hall, tenor Augie D'Aureli looked up at the sky and said, "Those clouds remind me of whipped cream."

## Emails to the Editors

*Please e-mail your questions and comments to either the Hatter editor, John Bradley, at [jbrad1313@earthlink.net](mailto:jbrad1313@earthlink.net), or the Chatter editor, Dick Zang, at [jezang@charter.net](mailto:jezang@charter.net). If your e-mail appears, you will receive an autographed picture of our 2007 Yankee Division Bulletin Editors Award*



I sing with my high school chorus, but do not have any real knowledge of music. Is there an easy way to tell the key of a song without memorizing how many sharps and flats each key has?

Sal from Southington.

*Sal, your question is timed perfectly. In a class earlier this month at Harmony College, we discussed this very topic.*

*In the past, when it came to a key with flats, I always looked at the second flat from the right. In Figure One, that would be a B-flat, which gave me the key. The problem with that is like the one with the old "I before E except after C" rule in English spelling – there are exceptions and you need to memorize the exceptions.*

*At Harmony College I learned that the last flat (first on the right) is always "Fa." So, on the "Do, Re, Me, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do" scale, "Fa" is three steps higher than "Do," which is the tonic of the scale. So, in Figure One, if "Fa" is E Flat, "Do" must be B Flat.*



*Figure One*

*In Figure Two, B Flat is "Fa." Therefore, "Do," being three steps down from "Fa," must be F.*



*Figure Two*

*The rule for sharps is similar. The last sharp, the one furthest to the right, is "Ti." That means "Do" is the next step up. Therefore, in Figure 3, the last Sharp is C Sharp, making the next step up D.*



*Figure Three*



## Stories About Songs

By Fred Baran

**We've Only Just Begun** - Words by Paul Williams, Music by Roger Nichols

When Crocker Citizens Bank in San Francisco decided to shed its image as a bluestocking, upper-class institution in 1970, its advertising agency drew up a low-keyed TV commercial intended to attract people in their 20's and 30's. "We wanted them to know that we understood they had a long way to go in life, and we wanted to help them," one executive pointed out.

The scene for the commercial was to be a wedding in a white-spired church. As musical background, the agency wanted a ballad to be called "You've Only Just Begun." They asked Burt Bacharach to write the song, but he wasn't interested. Then they approached Jimmy Webb, but he couldn't do it because he was on his way to Europe. However, he recommended a young song-writing team, Paul Williams and Roger Nichols, and they turned out the song in two days. After the commercial was aired, there was a deluge of requests for the sheet music from couples who wanted to use the song at their weddings. And finally, with only one word changed – "You've" to "We've" - the TV commercial became a pop hit thanks to a recording by the brother-sister team The Carpenters.

**Some Enchanted Evening** - Words by Oscar Hammerstein II, Music by Richard Rodgers

*South Pacific*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1949 musical, was based on some of James Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific*. The show's unusual hero was a middle-aged French planter, Emile de Becque, played by the 57-year-old Metropolitan Opera star, Ezio Pinza. It was with "Some Enchanted Evening" that de Becque proclaimed his love-at-first-sight for U.S. Navy Ensign Nellie Forbush (Mary Martin). Nellie at first resisted de Becque's impassioned pleas, singing "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," but it wasn't long before she was joyfully singing "I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy."

**Blueberry Hill** - Words and music by Al Lewis, Larry Stock and Vincent Rose

"Blueberry Hill" was the product of three of the more successful hands in Tin Pan Alley: Vincent Rose, who also wrote "Avalon," "Whispering," and "Linger Awhile," Al Lewis, writer of "The Breeze," "Now's the Time to Fall in Love," and "Rose O'Day," and Larry Stock, who composed "Your Nobody Till Somebody Loves You" and "You Won't Be Satisfied." They wrote "Blueberry Hill" for Gene Autry to sing in the 1941 film, *The Singing Hills*. But it was Glenn Miller's recording of "Blueberry Hill," with a vocal by Ray Eberle that put the song on the Hit Parade that year.

*Continued on the next page*

## The President's Podium

By Bob Bradley



This year's Harmony College Northeast was just as good as last year's was, and the year before that, etc., etc. I have a collection of tee shirts from all of the past Harmony Colleges and find that the pile is growing and I am getting older.

You can mark the years by birthdays, other holidays, or by HCNEs.

I miss the reason that Real Chemistry started to go, which is quartet coaching, but such is life with a hobby. Dick has enough grandchildren that he goes to a wedding a week. Not so bad when they are local but they are scattered all over the country.

Next year the date may be changed to accommodate John and me who have to attend a wedding on that weekend.

This year I took courses and found them very interesting. If you enjoy the hobby of singing there are few better places you can go to improve on your craft. It is not as if the local Michaels has Saturday classes on singing along with macramé. Therefore, it becomes a rare opportunity for us to learn more about music.

John and I took a course in the afternoon on sight reading. I was supposed to take something else, but had a good first course with the same teacher and stayed for his next offering. This is another good thing about the school, that if something else grabs your attention while there you can go to that class as opposed to what you registered for. The school is user friendly.

Dorms were great, and as always, thanks to the Honeymooners for the Friday party.

We have to have them perform at our show one year, if for nothing else then to thank them for the hospitality they show every year at HCNE.

For those who like to eat, what about that food!!! I have been on a diet now for a year and have lost 40 pounds. I went off it for the weekend just to enjoy the variety that we had - mussels at a college eatery??!!!

For those who did not go, or could not go, there is 2010. Joe Hudson, the DVP of Youths in Harmony, says that next year's HCNE will be the best ever.

The International contest in Philly is coming up. There are 250 chapters within 500 miles of the city, and they expect over 9,000 people at the convention, so make arrangements early.

Summer is coming to an end. Our show is soon. Sell ads and tickets, and remember that in the cooler weather the golf is better and the greens fast.

## Songs

*Continued from the previous page*

In 1949 it was picked up by Louis Armstrong when he was reviving his jazz career with The All Stars and his record company was trying to get him back in the pop field by recording him with Gordon Jenkins' orchestra. "Blueberry Hill" did it for him then, and even after Fats Domino gave the song a third revival in 1957, Armstrong continued to rely on it as a big number until his death in 1971.

## More Harmony College Thoughts

*By Dickson DeMarche*

I joined the Mad Hatters in 2008 just before Harmony College. My calendar did not allow me to go that year. I did however reserve the dates for the 2009 event and I am glad I did. Now I know why half of our chorus attended. The participants all knew about the "green shirt" contingent.

When an event like this is only a two hour drive away, we are foolish not to take advantage of this learning experience. I quickly realized that I need to memorize the Polecat songs. They were being sung all over the campus.

Worcester State College was a perfect site, with modern, clean and air conditioned buildings and the food was diversified, abundant and tasty.

On Saturday we all went back to school. It is amazing how much we still have to learn. Over 40 options were offered, so there was something for everyone. My classes had new barbershoppers to multi-year veterans. The evening ended with a diversified show. Listening to the youth, who only practiced together for the weekend, was an inspiration. They were followed by four quartets, including a mixed quartet with three 2008 gold medal winners and one gold medal winner from 1961. WOW!! If you are looking for a fun and learning weekend with other barbershoppers, don't miss next year's HCNE



A "comfy mattress" at Worcester State College. I've slept on rocks softer than this. Picture by John Bradley

## July Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



*Meticulously recorded by Robert Golenbock, Secretary.*

*Meeting called to order by an incredible simulation of Bob Bradley, on August 4, 2009 at 6:06 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Danbury.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT was last seen being ignored in the Hatter Chatter. Motion to accept by D. Anderson, seconded by R. Walter. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Payments included Harmony Explosion camp scholarships, payment for show tickets printing, and singing A's coaching. Our balance does not include payment for our last two singouts. Motion to accept by R. Golenbock, seconded by F. Baran. Approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: No report.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: We are sending a notice of our show to the Yankee Division. We are planning to put ads in the *News-Times* before our show, and we have been assured that they will publish a human interest article with a picture as well. Our approximate budget for the ads will be \$1000. Updated chorus photos will be available for the program book.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: No meeting. The Singing A's coach was a success. "Butch" Ashdown will return before the annual show. We will work on "Hey, Look Me Over" and "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" for the show.

OLD BUSINESS: Show tickets and ad forms are available. Use them!

NEW BUSINESS: We are getting quotes for new risers from several companies. Can we apply for a grant to cover the cost? Perhaps.

OFFICERS PRESENT: R. Bradley, D. Anderson, R. Golenbock, F. Baran, L. LaPlante, R. Walter

Next meeting is September 1. Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.



*Mad Hatter Board of Directors*



## The Director's Den

By Joe Hudson

### HCNE Thoughts and Memories

Wow! What a wonderful weekend! Absolutely amazing! These are my comments to this year's Harmony College Northeast (HCNE).

This was the first year I had the pleasure of not only getting coached, but also working with the Harmony Explosion (HX) Camp and the high school kids. If you want to do HCNE, but do not know what classes to take, I would highly recommend being a chaperone for the kids. It's a great thrill to work with them.

So, while the weekend for most barbershoppers began on Friday afternoon and the trip up, mine began on Thursday morning with the trip up to Worcester State College in my wife's car, as it was that weekend that I had a rental and didn't want to bring that up to HCNE (although it would have been awesome to drive a sports car on I-84). It gave me a chance to listen to some of my CDs; the ones playing the whole trip were my learning CDs, both for my quartet and the chorus. There's no better time to work on music than in a car by yourself for two and a half hours.

When I got up there, I helped setup for the kids' rehearsals and got a feel for the campus on which I would be spending the next few days. Next, it was time to greet the 62 students coming from all over New England and some from Canada. To tell you the truth, one of the best times of Thursday was getting the chance to teach some tags to eager high school students waiting around outside for the rehearsal to start. Then it was on to the rehearsal of all the pieces with the kids. AMAZING! They sounded great from day one. Then, time to try the food at this college. WOW! College food that tastes good!

The first rehearsal for the music educator and chaperone chorus was next. Not having sung with the people around you was great fun. And, I think the Mad Hatters should get some fun out of this: I WAS ASKED TO SING BASS! It didn't last, I was moved to lead. Singing a couple of beautiful songs under the direction of the wonderful Dan Washington, former director of Lowell, MA, was truly a treat.

Then, it was time for the fun to really start - the kids went to bed! After-hours singing was "key" for Music Educators. On Thursday, we actually stayed up until at least 1:00 a.m. singing tags. Friday found the kids rehearsing while we were watching and seeing the growth at an amazing pace. I also got to see the directors "stack" the chorus. Then, I got to go to my first House of Delegates meeting. What an experience, seeing and hearing the goings-on in the NED from the past year and seeing where we hope to go in the future.

I finally got to see the others from my quartet and chorus at dinner!

I missed the beginning of the general session, because of a rehearsal for the educator chorus but got to hear the key-note speech from Mike O'Neill! And what a speech it was. He said what a lot of people need to realize about our hobby is just that - IT'S YOUR HOBBY! Enjoy it the way that you want to. I have been thinking about that for myself, and am still trying to come up with the right thing for me. I will say that I love singing with and directing all of you!

Then it was time for a Board of Directors meeting, which sadly went until about 12:30 AM, which was too late to sing for our coaches the next day, but I got to sing a little afterwards with members of my quartet and chapter!

## Harmony College Memoirs

By Lyle LaPlante



It keeps getting better! I certainly enjoyed last year's experience, but this year we had better facilities, better instruction and a better show. It's hard to imagine what next year will be like.

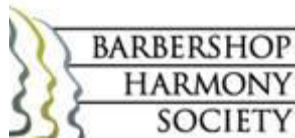
The courses I attended were right on target for what I was looking for. Friday night gave specific instructions on how to improve baritone singing. The Saturday morning session was geared to improving our singing through instruction and participation. And on Saturday afternoon we learned about placing ourselves properly in a quartet by extensive demonstrations.

It turns out that it's important not only who you sing next to in a quartet, (or chorus for that matter), but also where you sing relative to the person or persons on either side of you - forward of, parallel with or slightly behind. Everything we did on Saturday was practical, hands-on instruction.

The group sessions were great. We learned part of a new song and a few tags, and had previews of and a Q&A with the show quartets. And of course the show Saturday night was outstanding. It's hard to believe how quickly young kids can learn to sing so effectively as a chorus.

I had a couple of interesting personal incidents. The one I was proudest of was walking down a hallway past three guys who asked me if I was a bari. (Does your appearance suddenly change when you switch to bari?) I was able to join them and sing one of the Polecats fairly close to the written music. On a more embarrassing note, I was again walking down a hallway (they had lots of hallways!) and heard some guys in a room singing "Old St Louie," but without the bass. Brimming with foolhardy confidence, I ducked in and offered to sing the bass part and they were happy to oblige, but just as we started, their bass appeared so I bowed out (fortunately). Later I found out that this was the teaching quartet for the kids.

All in all, it was a great weekend. I'm already looking forward to next year.



## Society and District Notes



### NED Shed

If you are thinking about purchasing items from Harmony Marketplace for Holidays, order the items through the NED SHED and you won't have to pay the shipping and handling charges.

Items can be ordered by individuals, Quartets and chapters.

So NOW is the time to make these orders for the Fall Cantest in Manchester, CT, Oct 23-24, 2009.

You can order items from the Harmony Marketplace Catalog, including music.

Please supply the following information when ordering:

Item Number

Item Name

Quantity

Person Ordering item

Your email

Phone number

Also indicated if some one else, other than yourself, will be pickingup the merchandise in Manchester, CT.

All orders must be to me Scott Salladin, [LKahuna@hvc.rr.com](mailto:LKahuna@hvc.rr.com), Subject line NED SHED ORDER, by Sept 15, 2009.

### Paul Wietlisbach to lead Education Department of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Paul Wietlisbach will lead the Society's education and training programs as the new Director of Education. Having discovered barbershop harmony in 1971, Paul is a past member of four Society choruses and six quartets in four districts. Paul brings years of experience as an accomplished professional educator and creator of multimedia training programs.

"Paul's past experience in the areas of training and education, as well his long history with the Society, makes him the ideal candidate for the new Director of Education position," said Society CEO Ed Watson.

Most recently from the mountains of southern Oregon, Paul is a 34-year U.S. military veteran who started barbershopping with the Southern Gateway Chorus in his hometown of Cincinnati. A 1976 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), he toured the country eight times with the USNA

Barbershop Quartet as a part of the recruiting efforts of the USNA Glee Club.

As he moved for military assignments, Paul performed and competed with the Pensacola (Fla.), Sun Harbor (San Diego) and Alexandria (Virginia) chapters and with six quartets: Sunshine Statesmen (SUN), By Appointment Only (FWD), Unstrung Heros (SUN), Route 140-4 (EVG), Chord Jesters (EVG) and Pentagon City (MAD). Paul has also played the leading role in eight community musicals and has directed or helped produce seven others, most recently as director of The Music Man.

In community service, Paul is a driver for both Meals on Wheels and Disabled American Veterans, and he runs a food pantry that feeds more than 800 people per month.

Paul states, "I am honored and excited to be given the opportunity to help enrich the lives of people worldwide by promoting and improving Barbershop Harmony and Entertainment."

### Northeastern District's Fall Convention

During this weekend over 1100 Barbershop Harmony singers and their families will descend upon Manchester, CT, for their regional major Convention to meet dear friends, make new ones, and determine who will be their champion quartet, champion chorus and champion senior quartet.

This will be a gathering of singers and friends from all over the Barbershop Harmony Society's Northeastern District which consists of chapters from New England, eastern New York and Canada's Quebec, Maritime and Atlantic Provinces.

Join those who love barbershop a capella harmony for fun, camaraderie, and the sound of chords ringing!

Hope to see and hear you there!

- The Fall District Convention will be hosted by the Manchester, CT chapter.
- The Dates of the Convention are Friday 10/23 through Sunday 10/25.
- The Sheraton Hartford is HQ hotel, and your best value!
- The contests will be held at Manchester High School.

For more information:

<http://www.nedistrict.org>

## Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper*

### **Caddying for a baritone.**

Baritone Golfer: "Think I'm going to drown myself in the lake."

Caddy: "Think you can keep your head down that long?"

Baritone Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course."

Caddy: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."

Baritone Golfer: "Do you think my game is improving?"

Caddy: "Yes Sir. you miss the ball much closer now."

Baritone Golfer: "Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?"

Caddy: "Eventually."

Baritone Golfer: "Please stop checking your watch all the time, it's a distraction."

Caddy: "It's not a watch, it's a compass."

Baritone Golfer: "How do you like my game so far?"

Caddy: "Very good sir, but personally, I prefer golf!"

Baritone Golfer: "That can't be my ball, it's too old."

Caddy: "It's been a long time since we teed off, sir."

Baritone Golfer: "This is the worst course I have ever played on."

Caddy: "This isn't the golf course, we left that an hour ago!"

•••

A baritone salesman named Sam was speaking to his psychiatrist. "I'm on the road a lot," said Sam, "and my clients are complaining that they can never reach me."

"Don't you have a cell phone to use in your car?" asked the psychiatrist.

"That was a little too expensive, so I did the next best thing," answered Sam, "I put a mailbox in my car."

"Uh ... how's that working?" asked the good doctor.

"Actually, I haven't gotten any letters yet," said a dejected Sam.

"And why do you think that is?" asked the doc.

"Well," replied Sam, "I figure it's because when I'm driving around, my zip code keeps changing."

Tim, a barbershop baritone, was walking his Irish Setter in the countryside. He picked up a stick and threw it, the dog went and retrieved it and brought it back. Tim then threw it in a different direction and the dog once again went and retrieved it and brought it back. Tim then threw it in another direction and it landed in a small lake. The dog went down to the water's edge, walked across the water, picked up the stick and brought it back. Well, Tim was astounded. He couldn't believe what he had seen and threw stick in the lake again, and the dog once again walked across the water to bring the stick back. As he went into town, he promised that he would show his dog's wonderful new trick to the first person he came across.

Once in town the first person the dog owner came across was the town drunk. Tim dragged the drunk to the lake to show him what his dog could do. Once again, the dog owner threw the stick into the small lake and the dog went to the water's edge, walked across the water, picked up the stick and brought it back to its owner.

Once the drunk saw that, he turned to the dog owner and said, "Why that's great, mister! But when are you going to teach your dog how to swim?"

•••

A small zoo in Arkansas obtained a very rare species of gorilla. Within a few weeks the gorilla, a female, became very difficult to handle. Upon examination, the veterinarian determined the problem. The gorilla was in heat. To make matters worse, there was no male gorilla available. Thinking about their problem, the zoo keeper thought of Bobby Lee Walton, a barbershop baritone and part-time worker responsible for cleaning the animal cages. Bobby Lee had little sense but possessed ample ability to satisfy a female of any species.

The zoo keeper thought they might have a solution. Bobby Lee was approached with a proposition. Would he be willing to mate with the gorilla for \$500? Bobby Lee showed some interest, but said he would have to think the matter over carefully. The following day, he announced that he would accept their offer, but only under four conditions. "First", Bobby Lee said, "I ain't gonna kiss her on the lips." The Keeper quickly agreed to this condition. "Second", he said, "You can't never tell no one about this." The Keeper again readily agreed to this condition. "Third", Bobby Lee said, "I want all the children raised Southern Baptist." Once again it was agreed. And last, Bobby Lee said, "I'll need another week to come up with the \$500.00."

# September Rehearsal Schedule

Submitted by Lyle LaPlante



Another busy month ahead. The upcoming show on the 26<sup>th</sup> is the main focus, but we have a performance at the Crossings scheduled for September 15, and Butch, our Singing A's coach, will be with us on September 22. Our last meeting of the month on the 29<sup>th</sup> will give us a chance to get back to some fun activities as well as revisit some of the rest of our repertoire. And, we'll also be introducing our next song – "The Way You Look Tonight" – on that night.

## Sept 1st

6:00 Board Meeting  
7:30 Warmups, Craft and Tags  
8:00 Finish work on "Hey, Look Me Over"  
8:30 Break/ Show & business activities  
8:45 Administration  
8:55 Show practice with sectional work  
10:00 KTWWS

## Sept 8th

6:00 Voice Coaching  
7:30 Warmups, Crafts and Tags  
8:00 Show Practice  
8:45 Break  
9:00 Administration  
9:10 Show Practice with Sectionals  
10:00 KTWWS

## Sept 15th

6:30 Warmups at the Crossings  
7:00 Performance  
8:30 Administration and show business activities  
8:45 Show Practice with Sectionals  
10:00 KTWWS

## Sept 22nd

7:30 Joe and Butch will work out the agenda to include a show run through and suggestions Butch may interject.  
10:00 KTWWS



## Sept 29<sup>th</sup>

6:00 Voice Coaching  
7:30 Warmups, tags and crafts  
8:00 Repertoire Work  
    "Always"  
    "Amazing Grace"  
    "God Bless America"  
    "What'll I Do"  
8:30 Break – DVD viewing  
8:45 Business meeting  
8:55 Show critique  
9:10 Fun time – TBA  
9:25 Sectionals on repertoire songs  
9:45 Pick up quartets  
10:00 KTWWS

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## Current Repertoire

### Group A

Always  
I Believe  
I Feel a Song Coming On  
Thanks for the Memory  
You Make Me Feel So Young  
You Can't Roller Skate In A Buffalo Herd

### Group B

Cabaret  
God Bless America  
I'm Sitting on Top of the World  
I Found a Million Dollar Baby  
I'm Always Chasing Rainbows

### Group C

Lord's Prayer  
Sh-Boom  
The Star Spangled Banner  
How Are Things in Glocca Morra

### Group D

Amazing Grace  
Over the Rainbow  
Please, Mr. Columbus  
What'll I Do?

### Group E

America the Beautiful  
Heart  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
There is Nothing Like a Dame  
Hey, I Look Me Over

### Annual Show Song List

Down Our Way  
I Feel A Song Coming On  
Old St. Louie  
I'll Be Seeing You  
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do  
Sh-Boom  
Glocca Morra  
Please, Mr. Columbus  
There Is Nothing Like A Dame  
I'm Always Chasing Rainbows  
Million Dollar Baby  
You Make Me Feel So Young  
Over the Rainbow  
Cabaret  
Heart (or Hey, Look Me Over, if it's ready)  
America the Beautiful (with overlay)

## The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149  
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

<b>President:</b>	Robert Bradley
<b>Musical Director:</b>	Joseph Hudson
<b>Assistant Director:</b>	Jim Hopper
<b>Assistant Director:</b>	Don Sutherland
<b>Membership VP:</b>	Danny Anderson
<b>Public Relations VP:</b>	Vacant
<b>Music VP:</b>	Jim Hopper
<b>Secretary:</b>	Robert Golenbock
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dick Walter
<b>Member at Large:</b>	Fred Baran
<b>Member at Large:</b>	Art Roberts
<b>Member at Large:</b>	Bill Manion
<b>Program Committee</b>	
<b>Chairman</b>	Lyle LaPlante
<b>Uniform Chairman:</b>	Andy Bayer
<b>Harmony Foundation</b>	
<b>Chairman:</b>	Danny Anderson
<b>Music Librarian:</b>	Chuck Kreiger
<b>Sunshine Chairman:</b>	Don Smith
<b>Package Show Chairman:</b>	Dick Walter
<b>Chorus Manager:</b>	Robert Golenbock

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*The editors of the Hatter Chatter welcome submissions from all chapter members and friends of the Mad Hatters. E-mail, mail, paper airplane us your thoughts, observations, opinions, singing tips and whatever, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy*

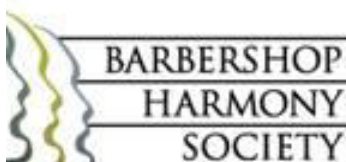
## September Milestones

### Birthdays:

4 - Jane Golenbock  
6 - Judith Kreiger  
7 - Bill Gleissner  
12 - Susan Roberts  
14 - Shirley Walter  
20 - Doris Stoppel  
30 - Art Roberts

### Wedding Anniversaries:

12 - Dick and Shirley Walter



## Mark Your Calendars

**September 15: Mad Hatter Sing-out. Ridgefield Crossings. 640 Danbury Rd (Route 7), Ridgefield, CT. Warm-up 6:30 PM, Sing 7:00 PM. Regular chorus meeting to follow.**

**Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus Annual Show – September 26, Brookfield High School, Brookfield, CT. Guest quartet: Lunch Break.**

**October 3, December 19: Mad Hatter Sing-outs: Meadow Ridge Assisted Living Center, 100 Redding Rd., Redding, CT. Warm-up 3:30 PM, Sing 4:00 PM.**

**The Danbury Mad Hatter  
Barbershop Chorus and Quartets**  
*present*  
**MURDER**  
**at the Barbershop**

**Saturday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m.**  
at Brookfield High School  
Tickets \$15 adult, \$10 senior/student

Featuring the hilarious  
**Lunch Break**  
Comedy Quartet from Nashville, Tenn.



[www.madhatterchorus.org](http://www.madhatterchorus.org)  
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