

2009 - No.2 - February

Mid-Winter Seniors Quartet

By Byron Walton

Synchromesh had a great time coming 15th out of 24 quartets & only 19 points out of 10th place. The top 5 Seniors quartets were very good with several past International Quartet members in the quartets. It was a tough contest but a ton of fun for us in our first International Seniors Quartet Contest.



Saturday afternoon featured 7 groups in the Youth Chorus Festival Competition. What an awesome event seeing these young

men. **Northwest Vocal Project** from Evergreen District was outstanding and walked away with 1st place honors. Look out for these young guys in future Division & District contests in Evergreen!!! These young men will surely carry on our Barbershop model well into the future.

The Saturday night Show Of Champions was one of the best Barbershop shows I have ever seen. The best of the best quartets performed along with our very own **Antique Gold** – 2006 International Seniors Champions, with a superb performance. We were pleasantly surprised with the guest appearance of the **Masters Of Harmony** Chorus on the show....what an incredible singing & performing machine these guys are. After the show was the Afterglow. I even got some tag singing in with some the young guys!!!

Synchromesh – Mike Wilcox, Gord Harris, Byron Walton, Bill Findlay (left to right in the photo). We would like to thank you all for your best wishes and support. We had a great time in Pasadena and hope to attend next year's Mid Winter Seniors Convention.

The Barbershop Harmony Society Winter Convention

By Moe Jones

The BHS winter convention held in Pasadena, California, January 29 to February 1, 2009, was considered the best winter convention yet. This was the opinion of the barbershop officials and the audience at large. And why was this? Well, it was the 2nd year of the **International Youth Chorus Festival Contest**. What a great contest, and what a pleasure to see the excitement of over 300 young men enjoy a barbershop weekend. There were 7 choruses competing whose ages ranged from 15 to 29 years. One group, a high school chorus, had 17 singers on stage and the average age was only 17.2 years old. The top chorus was **Northwest Vocal Project** from Western Washington, under the direction of **Donny Rose**. They had 36 singers on stage with an average age of 23 and their score was 77.1 (Watch out GOF, they will be at District in Whistler!)



It's an exciting time for the Society as the executive has turned its attention to youth. The development of youth camps, workshops, barbershop music in high schools and

colleges has sparked the growth of the youth movement which we now see in youth quartet and chorus contests as well as the growth in recruitment. The Society BOD recently passed a resolution where society dues for young men under 26 years of age, will be \$10 for the first year and half fees after that.

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The convention was also impressive because of the high calibre of the Seniors Quartet competition and the spectacular Friday and Saturday evening shows. They featured the top five International quartet medal winners; the **Masters of Harmony**; the **California Chorus** (including **Doug Affleck**); last year's collegiate quartet champions, who are from Sweden; the past senior quartet champions' chorus; and our very own **Antique Gold**.

The bar keeps rising each year for the seniors' quartet contest. **Audacity** finished 1st with a score of 75.9. **Synchromesh** from Langley, with our own **Byron Walton**, placed 15th out of 24, which is an excellent showing. Had they received 20 more points, they would have been in 10th place.

The afterglow was spread throughout the lobby as well as in afterglow rooms with singing everywhere. The young men were mingling and they even had their own hospitality room with video games, refreshments and much singing. Tucker and I were singing a polecat with two other old guys when a young man, about 20, came along and tagged me out to sing lead.

George Wakeham, George Metzger, Charlie Metzger, Dave Anderson, Byron Walton, Doug Walton, Doug Affleck, Tucker Goodwin and I had a wonderful time at the convention. We especially enjoyed the glorious California T-shirt weather.

California All Star Chorus

By Doug Affleck



This is a picture of the **California All Star Chorus** directed by **Greg Lyne**. It was drawn from choruses all over California. As one of the members of the chorus, I spent Friday being coached by Greg and the members of **Mark Hale**'s quartet, **Masterpiece**. What a day. All the preparation was towards performing on the Friday night show. Greg is truly a genius when it comes to getting the most out of each performer and the chorus as a whole. It was one of those special barbershop moments that make Barbershopping a great hobby.

[Doug took the other pictures as well and sings with the Palm Springs chapter in the winter. Ed.]

2009 Chapter Officers

President

Rich Clark 604-572-5588
rich.clark@investorsgroup.com

VP Music & Performance

Rick Morrison 604-948-0766
rickmoe56@gmail.com

VP Chapter Development

David Whittier 604-466-2920
scarybari@shaw.ca

VP Communications & Promotion

John Loucks 604-589-1232
johnloucks@shaw.ca

Secretary

David Jones 604-984-4047
davej34@telus.net

Treasurer

Gord Ross 604-736-2204
gordon.ross@telus.net

Past President

Peter Lissett 604-929-3235
plissett@shaw.ca

Board Members-at-Large

Don Giles 604-929-7864
dongiles@shaw.ca
 Doug Affleck 604-778-284-1179
djaffleck@telus.net

Musical Director

Charlie Metzger 604-581-1423
cometzger@shaw.ca

Assistant Director

Andry Layarda 604-420-6969
alayarda@gmail.com

Valentine's Quartets

At press time, just before the 2-day (13th-14th) Valentine quartet singouts, here's the line-up of GoF quartets:

“**CQT**” Alex Leung, Will Chen, Charlie Metzger, Andry Layarda (alternates Gar Discher & Lynnessa)

“**Something Smooth**” Rod MacLeod, Allan Pinvidic, Jim Bates, Rick Morrison

“**Central Park**” Rich Clark, Chris Ogilvie, Gord Ross, Mac Matheson

“**The Jones Boys**” Gary Korstrom, Bob Bradley, Don Giles, David Jones

“**B's & G's**” George Gregory, Bill Lake, Shanti Ghose, Andy Holisky

“**Next Attraction**” Carl Gung, Sean Huston, Lawrence Spencer, Al Alain, (alternates Taro & Shoji Whittier)

“**The Music Men**” Moe Jones, Tucker Goodwin, Peter Lissett, Ed Arnold

“**Pacific Spirit**” Wayne Tamkin, Leroy Pattison, Don Frost, Don Rush



2008 Awards Nominees

Here are the Greater Vancouver Chapter 2008 Award Nominees showing the award for which they are nominated. Ballot vote is **Tuesday February 17th** with the presentations to be made at the Awards and Installation Banquet on **March 7th**.



Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY)

Gord Ross - It was Gord's tremendous effort and organizational skills that made the Cabaret Show and Silent Auction such an enjoyable and financial success.

Carl Gung - Although quite new to the chorus, Carl stepped up and took on the daunting task of Christmas Show Chairman. Everything was run smoothly and the shows were greatly enjoyed by audience and performers.

Ray Fallan – worked very hard on the new uniforms (still is). He continues to deliver the risers to different locations and never charging the chapter for gas, or wear and tear on his truck. He put in a .huge amount of work on the Spring and Christmas shows.

Don Rush - Does a huge amount of work for the chorus behind the scenes. He doesn't just count our shekels!

Barbershop Fellowship Award (BFA)

Moe Jones - Here is a man who, despite being very busy with non-barbershop things, is always willing to step in and help members whether with projects, health or personal situations. Moe shepherded the members through the very successful and enjoyable Hawaii trip to the Pan Pacific Convention.

Jim Bates - This man is always there for the group, he opens the Church and is the last one to leave, he copies all the music and produces our learning CD's.

Jim Lohnes - Everybody loves Jimmy. He loves to sing, will sing with everybody.

Carl Gung - Always a smile. Has become the chorus's photographer.

Ian McGillivray - For offering his place for the Summer Picnic.

Harry Gray – For his outstanding contributions to the chorus in producing the '*FortuneTeller*'.

Rod MacLeod - For his support and dedication to the chorus. He is very sensitive to the membership with his help such as: the Squamish golf tournament, Valentines, programs and other print material.

Arthur Loyie - Arthur is eternally cheerful, always positive and goes out of his way to make sure our new recruits are taken care of and have their questions answered, both during practise and otherwise. Arthur cares deeply for this Chapter and the men in it, and this is reflected in his entire approach.

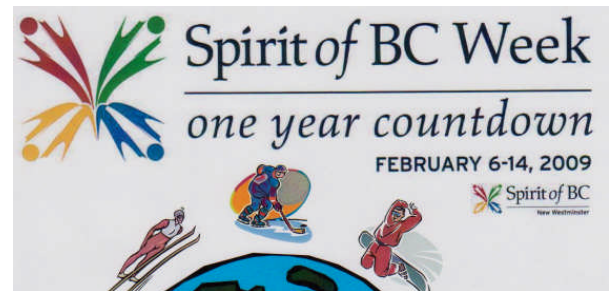
Barbershop Woman of the Year (BWOTY)

Frances Hollington - For all her work helping with the uniforms, measuring all the chorus members then spending hours putting the items together.

Maya Whittier – Also for a huge, similar contribution on the uniforms.

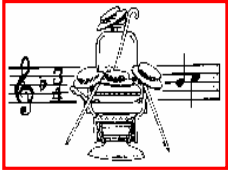
Yvonne Martin - CD and Cookbook sales lady at the Christmas Show and at sing out venues (where possible).

Pre-Olympic Singout



On **Saturday February 7th** twenty men of the chorus attended the Spirit of BC Week "One Year Countdown" celebrations at the Royal City Mall in New Westminster. The week is the prelude to the start of the 365 days leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics. **Charlie Metzger** directed us through the National Anthem and the crowd were then entertained with a variety of songs from our repertoire. **George Gregory** emceed with his usual flair.





February 2009
**Down
Memory Lane**
By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1969)

Paul Beaupre along with **Kent Lovick** attempted to put together a set of rules for the upcoming **Big Wheel** night. A set that seems to change year to year. They hoped that two categories would work. The first – a quartet that would have a maximum of 2 members who have sung or were in a registered quartet, and second – a quartet that contains no member of a registered or organized quartet. Neva hoppen. The **Vancouver Thunderbird** chorus had the **Golden Staters**, the **Howe Sounds** and the **Poets** on their show. Tickets were hard to get, and they were using the QE Theatre. The first mid-winter convention in 7 years was held in San Antonio.

30 Years ago this month (1979)

The chorus performed for the Timber Club at the Vancouver Hotel in our Hobo costumes. It was unfortunate that we were performing our Berlin, Hobo, and Vaudeville packages as they paraded in for dinner. The acoustics were terrible but perhaps that didn't matter since the guests had just attended a rather prolonged happy hour. Later we went up to the Panorama Roof dining room and did the Vaudeville package for the wives of the Timber Club. The **Jim Dandies** stayed around and did a bit more quartetting. **Kent Lovick** reported that since 1974, the year sales of lottery tickets started, the Chapter had received a total of \$6,326.50 from sales commissions.

20 Years ago this month (1989)

January, February and March of 1989 must have been slow months. Because there was no January issue of the *Fortune Teller*, I stole information for the last issue from the February issue. So, now in looking for something to write about for February, I find nothing left. I also note there is no March issue, so I can't steal from there. I then went to my collection of Harmonizers and find a very slow International issue, reporting on the International Mid-Winter in Hawaii, and the Senior Quarter Contest. I did find that the District Quartet Champs for Evergreen that year were **Four Crying Out Loud** from Salem OR.

Chapter Development

From the VP **Dave Whittier**

I'm going to try to place a regular blurb in the *FortuneTeller* to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments in the wild Chapter Development world. We held a Strategic Planning Session on January 24th, 2009, with a view to confirming our mission and creating a roadmap that would help take the chapter through the next 3 to 5 years.

From a Chapter Development perspective, the key discussion was around **Recruiting**, and there was no shortage of ideas! At a minimum, we will always need some new members to replace attrition, but I've accepted some concrete goals for Chapter growth: by the end of 2011, to have 85 members in the Chapter with 65 on the risers. Some of the many ideas to help us get there:

- Personal contact – provide recruiting tools for members
- School and College performances – chorus or quartet
- Demo CD to guests
- Electronic contact options – Internet, website/Facebook
- Guest focus – more involvement and welcoming of guests by chorus members
- Inter choir visits
- Joint performances
- Mall promotion - “Auditions for Admission” – maybe at an actual Barbershop

Here's a list of your Chapter Development Team as it stands currently. Note there are many positions left to be filled, so don't be shy about stepping up. My plan is to complete the team by the end of March so we can spend the following few months figuring out what we actually need to do, so don't be surprised if I tap on your shoulder some day asking for some help!

Chapter Development Team

Awards and Recognition Director - Open
Hospitality Director – Arthur Loyie!

Recruiting Director – Open

Education and Training Director - Open

Membership Coordinator - Open

Mentor Coordinator – George Gregory!

Riser Buddies - George Gregory, Bill Martin!

Sunshine Coordinator – David Jones!

EVERYDAY LAWS

Law of Mechanical Repair:

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch or you'll have to pee.

Happenings & Reminders

2008 Awards and Installation Banquet

The Installation of the 2009 Chapter Officers and recognition of the 2008 GoF Award Winners will take place on **Saturday March 7th** at the **Surrey Golf Club** 7700 – 168 Street in Surrey (note change of venue). Get your tickets (subsidised @\$35.00) from Don Rush; it's 6.30 for 7.30pm.

Division Convention Registration

Everybody who will sing on stage must be a paid up member, and have purchased an All Events Registration for the Division I Convention & Contests in Vernon on **March 27/28**. Give your completed Registration Form and cheque to Don Rush by **February 24th** to get the Early Bird rate and tax receipt.

Pre-Contest Retreat

Saturday March 14th at the Como Lake United Church, Chorus Retreat and Coaching to prepare and polish for the Division Contest in Vernon. Times to be advised.

What I think about GOF

By Taro Whittier

About three years ago, the Gentlemen of Fortune had an open house, during which they had a demonstration of their singing style, and I was hooked. About 3 weeks later we were singing and doing shows. 3 more weeks later and we were official members of the GOF. The GOF is a great chorus. One of the reasons is we get to travel, like in October when we went to Hawaii for the Pan Pacific Competition. In about 3 years we might be going to Australia for the Pan Pacific Convention.



There are about 45 members in our chorus, and all but one are older than me (my brother Shoji). All act their age except one member - he acts as if he was 13 when he is probably 49 - 56. Everyone is very nice and after some time you will make lots of friends. We compete all over the world: Seattle, Hawaii, Abbotsford. I have gone to 4 contests, where we came in 1st, 4th, 1st, and 3rd. I have been in 3 shows too and many gigs.

Every year we sing valentines to people as a fundraiser. We split into groups of 4 and sing all day (as long as they pay). Last year we sang for 8 people. I think there are going to be more this year. The people we sing to get a box of chocolates and a rose.

Comment #23 by Bill Gibbons

"Advice to newly formed quartets; a pitchpipe makes an excellent medium-range weapon."

Deadline for the next issue is March 10, 2009

CALENDAR

2009

Feb 13/14 **Valentine's Day** Quartets
March 7 GoF Awards & Installation Banquet
March 14 **Retreat** Como Lake United Church
Mar 27-28 **Division I Convention** Vernon, BC
April 10 Easter
May 8-9 Prelims/Div IV, Portland, OR
May 12 BC Election Day
May 18 Victoria Day
June 20 **Singout** Richmond
June 28-July 5 International, Anaheim, CA
July 17-19 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
July 26 Anacortes Salmon BBQ
Sept 5-7 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC
Sept 7 Labour Day
Sept 11-13 **Retreat** Brackendale, BC
Oct 12 Thanksgiving
Oct 30-Nov 1 **District Convention** Whistler, BC
Dec **Christmas Show**

2010

Jan 26-31 Midwinter International, Tampa, FL
Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics
Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics
April 2 Easter
May 24 Victoria Day
June 27-July 4 International, Philadelphia, PA
July 16-18 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
Sept 6 Labour Day
Oct 11 Thanksgiving
Oct 15-17 **District Convention** Portland, OR

Internationals

2011 Kansas City, MO
2012 Portland, OR
2013 Toronto, ON
2014 Minneapolis, MN
2015 Pittsburgh, PA
2016 Nashville, TN