

"WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP, WE ENRICH SOCIETY WITH A-LEVEL BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"

2009 - No.8 - November



Our Whistler Convention

By Peter Lissett

What an unqualified success! The largest Evergreen District Convention in 30 years and nary a hitch during the whole event. Well, when you have **Harry Gray** and **Moe Jones** leading the charge, you wouldn't expect anything less!



The idea of using the Whistler Convention Centre stemmed from a suggestion by **Roxie Giles** three or more years ago. The notion percolated for a while, then grew legs. It really was an excellent venue for a District Convention. It had everything you need in the way of warm-up rooms, seating, registration area and so on...except a stage, with curtains. The convention committee wasn't put off at all by that and wheels were put in motion such that a small army of people came in and assembled the stage, curtains, sound system, the lot, on the day of the Quartet Semi-Finals. It cost a fair bit but it was well worth it when you consider the last few conventions we've been to where there have been no curtains and not much of a stage. We did it right!

Yes, we certainly did do it right! The program was first class; laid out by **Ted Staunton** and chock-full of advertisements organized by **John & Gloria Loucks** with the high quality printing set up by **Rod MacLeod**.



T-Shirt Sellers Extraordinaire

The 70 or so volunteers were coordinated by **Maya Whittier** (above centre). When you look back and remember how many yellow t-shirts there were running thither and yon with everything running on time without a hiccup, you will appreciate what an awesome job she did. Way to go, Maya, I think you have a job for life! I had an insight into what planning is involved in getting a chorus from one warm-up room to the next and finally on stage on time when my wife **Yolande** took on the job of 'runner'...there's a lot to it! I heard through the grapevine that the Judges' schedule was equally well planned by **Gord Ross**. **Dorothy Fallan** did a stellar job setting up the Ladies Program and Hosting; we all heard how much it took to get their packages together and that was just for starters. And what a huge vote of thanks we owe **Ray Fallan**, not only for his great 'MCing' of the Quartet competition but for all the work in getting the risers there and back. The 1,000 registrations were smoothly handled by **Don Rush** and his crew.

Inside this Issue

- Our Whistler Convention
- District Results
- Down Memory Lane
- MLT Update
- Obituary – Don Matheson
- On Fathers and Sons
- Calendar

Among the several extra-curricula events organized by the committee was the 'Mass Sing' in the village square.

We only managed to get to the second half as our evaluation ran into that time. However, it was quite the event. From the Youtube video you can see **Abie Klassen** directing. **Charlie** took over for us in the second half. The Olympic Mascots were also in evidence, much to everyone's delight.



The quartet finals and the Show of Champions were great to watch; all the contestants and participants performing really very well. An added bonus was a virtuoso performance by **Realtime**. They're beyond outstanding!

Having the QCED Afterglow in the huge foyer of the convention centre was another masterstroke by the organizing committee. The place was packed! A bar was open and pizza was on hand. A stage had been set up at one end of the building, complete with a sound system and a large number were able to enjoy the performances of several quartets and the QCED chorus. Realtime closed out the show. Fantastic!

Maya Whittier says: interesting to note there were 65 volunteers covering 130 positions. Numerous volunteers wore several hats doing a couple of positions and others worked all 3 contests. Here are the volunteers:

Allan Pinvidic, Arthur Loyie, Bill Lake, Byron Walton
 Carl Gung, Carol Argue, Carolyn Morrison
 Chrys Lauzon, Clive Allen, Daryl Sue Morrison
 Dave Jones, Dave Whittier, David Ellis, Don Frost
 Don Giles, Don Rush, Dorothy Fallan, Dorothy Frost
 Doug Affleck, Doug Morrison, Ed Arnold
 Frances Hollington, Gary Korstrom, George Wakeham
 Gloria Loucks, Gord Ross, Harry Gray, Helen Alain
 Holly Harbers, Jan Holisky, Jeannette Affleck, Jim Bates
 Jim Lohnes, John Loucks, Karen Metzger, Laurie Dye
 Lawrence Spencer, Leroy Pattison, Linda Jones
 Marg Walton, Marilyn Arnold, Martha Todd
 Maya Whittier, Melissa Martin, Moe Jones, Peter Lissett
 Pym Dye, Ray Fallan, Rich Clark, Rick Morrison
 Rod MacLeod, Roxie Giles, Roz Casad, Sarah Martin
 Shanti Ghose, Shari Clark, Sherryl Swann
 Shoji Whittier, Sue Gibson, Taro Whittier
 Tucker Goodwin, Trudy Zonneveld
 Val Lohnes, Wendy Gung, Yolande Lissett

District Results

31 quartets competed, including 10 seniors;
 19 choruses plus Chilliwack as mic testers (550 men)

Quartets:

Quartet Champs – Fast Track, Div II - 78.1
 2nd place – West Coast Fusion, Div I - 76.4
 3rd place – Sincerely Yours, Div II - 75.6
 Seniors Champs – Social Insecurity, Div IV
 Seniors Midwinter Rep. - Social Insecurity
 Novice Quartet – And How!, Div I

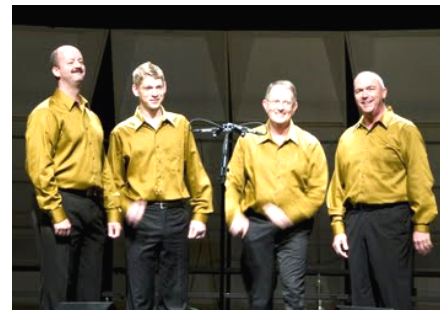
Choruses:

Champs – Northwest Vocal Project - 83.3
 2nd place – Salem - 79.1
 3rd place – Bellevue - 78.9
 4th place – GoF - 77.2
 Small Chorus Champs – Abbotsford



**West
 Coast
 Fusion**

Pat Downton, Sean Huston, Jeremy Wong, Andry Layarda



Placeholder

**Dave Whittier, Nick Tinney, George Gregory,
 Peter McBride**



For the Judges:

Sound Check

**Allan Pinvidic, George Wakeham, George Metzger,
 Ed Arnold**

2009 Chapter Officers

President

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

VP Music & Performance

Byron Walton 778-298-2409
waltonbm@shaw.ca

VP Chapter Development

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

VP Communications & Promotion

Ed Arnold 604-929-2904
ed_arnold@telus.net

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 778-284-1179
djaffleck@telus.net

Musical Director

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

Assistant Director

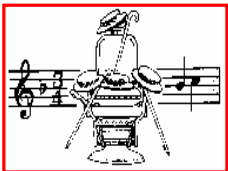
Andry Layarda 604-420-6969
alayarda@gmail.com

Youth in Harmony

Bill Martin 604-291-1744
baribill@shaw.ca

2010 Chapter Officer Elections

In mid October the election of the 2010 Chapter Board of Directors took place. Past President Peter Lissett presented the slate from the Nominating Committee – the 2009 Chapter Board had all agreed to serve another year. There being no more nominations the 2010 Board of Directors were thanked and acclaimed unanimously.



November 2009 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1969)

Portland was the place where we competed 40 years ago. It was also the place where we showed off our new tams. Yes, we had tartan berets as part of our travel uniform. It was the place where **George Meehan** appeared in street

clothes in the final warm up room, just before our appearance on stage. The only officer elected for 1970 that is still with us is **Marty Lovick** who was Membership Vice President.

30 Years ago this month (1979)

Calgary was the place where the District contest was in 1979. The weather waited for us to check in before it dumped a few inches of snow on us. The **Calgary Chapter** handled it in their stride. Our chorus placed 5th, just one point behind **Bellingham**. The **Sound Policy** placed second and **Jim Dandies** fourth.

20 Years ago this month (1989)

At the Portland District Contest in '89 the **Eugene Cascade Chorus** replaced their clown costumes with pirates and won the right to compete in San Francisco. We came in 6th only 2 points behind the **Sea Tac Harmony Kings**.

MLT Update

By Byron Walton



Go For The Gold" Show. Gentlemen, your show committee is hard at work to ensure we have a successful & profitable show this year. All we need now is your individual commitment to getting the news out about our show & selling tickets. Pick up your posters at chorus rehearsal & plaster them anywhere there are going to be large crowds of people to see them. Our show is going to be very entertaining with Antique Gold, Realtime & newly crowned International 2nd place Lions Gate Chorus Champions!! Let's all dig down to ensure YOUR show is going to be awesome and one you will be proud of !!

Evergreen District Contest & Convention: WOW!!! What a huge success our convention in Whistler was. I have heard nothing but great feedback from Quartets & Choruses from the District about how well organized & fun the convention was. To all of you and the volunteers who helped to make this such a success – THANK YOU!!!! To **Moe Jones, Harry Gray** & your team...you were awesome with your organization & hard work to ensure such a successful convention!!

Comment #3 by Bill Gibbons

"90% of the members of any given barbershop chorus will consider themselves to be in the top 50% of that chorus talent pool."

Obituary



MATHESON **Donald Malcolm** **1924 - 2009**

Don Matheson passed away peacefully on October 20, 2009 at the age of 85 years. Forever in the hearts of his loving and devoted wife of 60 years, June Eleanor (Nee Gray), son Malcolm (Mac) his wife Tracy, and daughter Gail. Don was a 47 year resident of North

Vancouver; Canadian Merchant Marine, RCAF pilot, Investment Councilor, devoted barbershop tenor (45 years) and gifted story teller. He was an avid sport fisherman with a passion for plains, trains, steamships and the written word.

Memorial Service

By Gord Ross

On Saturday afternoon, November 7th, about 25 members of the GoF attended the memorial service for Don Matheson at North Lonsdale United Church in North Vancouver. It was a beautiful service befitting the life of this gentle man. The GoF began with one of Don's favourite songs "*If I Were a Rich Man*". Mac and his sister Gail then shared some wonderful memories of their father. This was followed by a memory montage of Don's life and the GoF closed the service with "*The Lord's Prayer*" and "*The Irish Blessing*".

Following the service, everyone retired to the church basement for tea and sandwiches and an opportunity to share more memories of Don. Mac, his sister Gail and their mother June expressed their deep gratitude to the GoF for their songs and support to the family. I only knew Don as a buddy on the risers but will always remember him as caring man who always had a ready smile and a sincere interest in other people.

On Fathers and Sons –

By Marty Lovick

The recent passing of our long time friend Don Matheson, and my long-time friendship with his son Mac, led me to some musings. When I first joined the chorus, it's home was in New Westminster and we were called the Royal City Chorus. A week after my 17th birthday found me at a chapter meeting and within a month my Dad, Kent, was in the fold. During my first year we had two other father/son combos, Stu and Murray Knox, and the Hoods (Alex, Ross and Rob).

Well, a lot of years have passed since that time but the history of the chapter is full of Father and Son groupings: Bates, Klassen, Halstrom, Kellam, Metzger (3 generations), Matheson, Morrison, Walton, Whittier to name just a few. I sincerely believe if you ask any of the fathers about how it feels to participate in this wonderful hobby with his son/s, the eyes will start to moisten. In my own experience, the gold medal moments were when my parents were introduced to the audience at San Francisco in 1990, the first time I judged International. Also, standing with my Dad in the father/son chorus at District some years ago and having someone say "there's Marty ... where's his son?" Only to have someone else say "he's the son... that's his Dad beside him".

I've observed Don Matheson and/or Byron Walton and/or Charlie Metzger (you get the picture) watching their sons perform and seeing the pride. Man, what a moment! You know, there's one chorus I'm aware of in the Mid-Atlantic District that had 4 generations of one family on the risers at one time! Of course we all know of many Barbershoppers whose father or son aren't singers but are great supporters of our endeavours. This is truly a family hobby.

What's my point? Hmm. Could be I want to say thanks to the Chorus for being there so I could sing with my Dad. Could be we need to keep fostering this opportunity for the coming generations. Could be "the family who sings together stays together". Or maybe it's just one on those unique things about our fraternity that makes us special and gives a chance for us to experience something together, without getting all talky about it!

Oh, one other thing. Watching our long time friend Neal Booth directing a chorus of mostly young guys to a convincing win in the chorus contest at Whistler reminds me of something else we offer. Seeing Neal sing in a quartet with his son Sam, and Danny Tangarone, one of Neal's mentors, really brought a tear to my eye... a happy tear. This is very much about passing the torch. It is also about mentoring our young singers, related to us by blood or not. So, when you remember Don Matheson in prayer and song, and when you give Mac a hug, do it for all the fathers and sons, and say "thanks".

Whistler Contest Emcees



John Newell



Ray Fallan

UNDERSTANDING TOOLS

Hacksaw: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

Deadline for the next issue is December 15, 2009

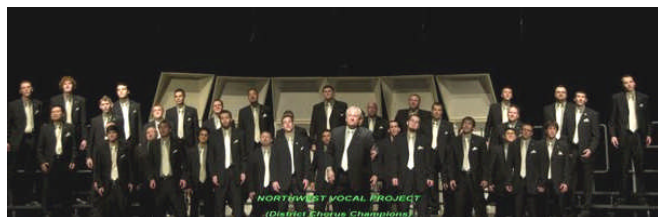
CALENDAR

2009

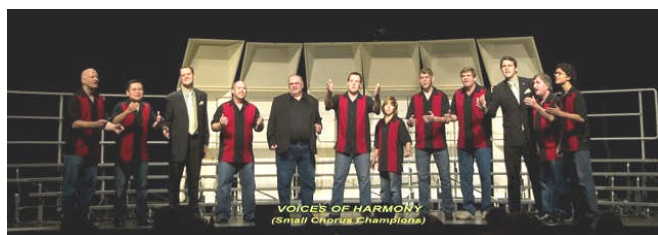
Nov 28 **50/50 Show** St Mary's Parish
 Nov 29 **50/50 Show** Como Lake United
 Dec 4 **Rehearsal** MJ Fox Theatre
 Dec 5 **Christmas Shows** MJ Fox Theatre
 Dec 9 **Show** Lions Gate Hospital
 Dec 10 **Show** Courtyard Gardens
 Dec 12 **Singout** Lougheed Mall
 Dec 13 **50/50 Show** Ridge Meadows
 Dec 15 **Show** Century House
 Dec 19 **50/50 Show** Fleetwood Centre

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
 April 9-10 **Division I /Prelims** Abbotsford
 May 24 Victoria Day
 June 27-July 4 International, Philadelphia, PA
 July 16-18 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
 Sept 6 Labour Day
 Sept 23-26 **District Convention** Portland, OR
 Oct 11 Thanksgiving



2009 Champs – Northwest Vocal Project



2009 Small Chorus Champs – Voices of Harmony

Whistler Kudos & More Pics



The beauty of the Whistler Resort was an extraordinary place for this event. To think almost 1,000 Evergreen District Barbershoppers and their family members were in attendance is amazing. This is indeed a tribute to all the organizing, advertizing and efforts made by everyone who had a hand in making this one of the finest Society district conventions ever.

Jim DeBusman – Judge and BHS Rep



Co-Chairs **Moe & Harry** read the Proclamation of “Barbershop Harmony Week” in Whistler

You guys ran the most organized convention I have seen in my 35+ years as a Society member.
Allen Gasper – Judge

Thank you to the organizers for the mass sing, Olympic Mascots, and pointing us to the trick or treating. It made the weekend a lot more family friendly for young children, which really enhanced the whole convention experience.

Sean Huston – Abbotsford

I want to thank you for the efforts you put in to provide a marvelous convention for our District. I get to see how others do it, and there are not many (if any) who do it better!

Bob Thomas – Emcee & Contestant

An awesome job this weekend. You need to teach other districts how to host a convention!

Kevin Keller – Judge



Registration Crew