



FORTUNETELLER



Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune
An affiliate chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Evergreen District
Editor Harry Gray: e-mail bunionbari@gmail.com
Info: (604) 526-2212 or online <http://www.gof.bc.ca>

**WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP AND HARMONY, THE GENTLEMEN OF FORTUNE CHORUS ENRICHES SOCIETY
WITH EXCELLENT BARBERSHOP MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT**

2010 - No.7 – October

GOF Goes to District

By Gerry Borden



The Evergreen District Convention, September 25-26, 2010, was held at the Convention Centre in Portland, OR. Twenty-eight quartets and seventeen choruses strutted their stuff across the stage and left the audience saying, “This was one of the best contests in a long while”. The quality of the singing was very good, with the quartet contest being decided by ONE point: **3rd – HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH** [That’s four teenagers; Ed] (2609); **2nd – West Coast Fusion** (2627); **1st – The New Originals** (2628). All three quartets have members from Western Washington Chapter.

2010 District Quartet Champs



The New Originals

the familiar physical and vocal exercises. Attention was given to the beginning of each song to ensure confidence and bring it to the forefront of individual memory.

At the appointed time, singing 8th in the contest, the chorus entered the venue and found their places on the curtain-less risers. At Charlie’s signal, the lights went up, the MC announced the chorus, and the pitch was

The Gentlemen of Fortune met Saturday morning at the headquarters hotel to gather and head over to the contest venue for warm-up and preparation to mount the stage. In the warm-up room, director **Charlie Metzger** took the members through

given. We snapped into position and rolled into our uptune – *You May Be My Used-to-be*, and then followed that with the ballad - *There Goes My Heart*. The stage was probably the most ‘live’ space we may have ever sung on; it was almost like singing in a cement washroom, with the sound blasting out of the speaker system and bouncing off the back wall.

Following our performance, most members returned to the hall to enjoy the performances of the other choruses. One after one, we heard the last ten choruses present their packages. Overall, a very enjoyable experience. Finally, when the contest was concluded, the top three choruses were announced: **3rd – Bellevue Northwest Sound** (80.8%); **2nd – Salem Senate-Aires** (81.3%); **1st – Western Washington Northwest Vocal Project** (83.7%). Western Washington opted to attend the Mid-Winter convention in Las Vegas, and compete in the



West Coast Fusion

collegiate chorus competition instead of going to Kansas City, so Salem will be the district representatives at International. The original Official Scoring Summary had the GoF in 8th place, but the CAs found an error and moved the chorus to 7th position, but still under 70% average. For a chapter that has performed at a much higher level, we have lots of work to do. It will require strong, individual attention and focus to help make that happen. (Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

- GOF Goes to District
- GOF Retreat September 2010
- Down Memory Lane
- Horseshoe Champs
- New Member
- Happenings & Reminders
- Calendar

When Insults Had Class

(Before English got boiled down to 4-letter words)

“*He had delusions of adequacy.*” Walter Kerr

All in all, the contest experience is a great opportunity to share the work that has been done and to hone individual skill within a very confined environment – sympathetic audience, skilled judges and friendly, competitive peers. We will need to make our next experience a better one, hopefully with more than 30 members on the risers.

2010 District Champs



Western Washington Northwest Vocal Project

District Convention- Portland, Oregon

By Byron Walton

What a great convention in Portland! The convention was well planned & seemed to go off without any hitches. Congratulations to Salem & Northwest Vocal Project Chorus. Also, congratulations to The New Originals – new District Quartet Champions and West Coast Fusion who were in 2nd place by only 1 point...1 point!!!! The top 10 Quartets put on an excellent contest Saturday evening & the top 3 Chorus – Salem, NVP & Bellevue - thrilled us with all 3 choruses joining for the finale song...what a sound!!! We didn't place exactly where we had planned, however I think we sang & performed our best with the smaller number of GOF'ers on stage on Saturday. Thanks to all performing members for giving your best effort. We are doing many things well but just require more commitment from each member to continue with our journey to becoming once again the "MIGHTY GOF CHORUS"

2010 Chapter Officers

President

Rich Clark 604-572-5588
clarkrs4@telus.net

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

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

Youth in Harmony

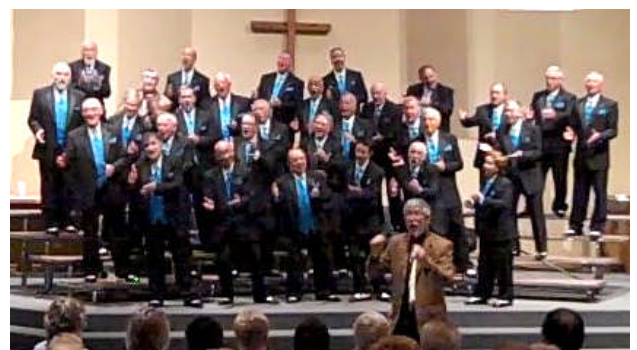
Bill Martin 604-291-1744
baribill@shaw.ca

GOF Retreat September 2010

By David Jones



The Retreat this year was a departure from the norm in that we were unable to muster enough members to make attendance at the residential North Shore Outdoor School in Brackendale financially possible. Instead we were fortunate to have the use of the **Mount Seymour United Church** in North Vancouver and the retreat took place on Friday evening and all day Sunday, September 10th and 11th culminating in a Barbershop Show sponsored by the church to aid the funds of both the GOF and the church.



We were also fortunate to have the top ranking Presentation Judge of the Society, **Marty Lovick**,

coaching us, not only with our two District Contest Songs to perform in Portland later this month, but also with our presentation package for the evening show.

The chorus would like to thank **Maya Whittier** for the excellent and helpful notes she recorded during Marty's coaching sessions, both for our contest set and for the evening show. We also recognize **Mac Matheson's** flip chart account of key reminders for our contest performance.

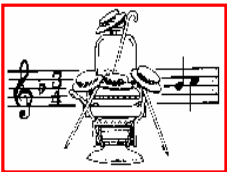
There were 35 chorus members at the retreat, all of whom enjoyed the great variety of food platters, drinks and desserts, organized by **Byron Walton**, after the coaching session and before the 7.30pm performance. Thank you Byron, very much appreciated.



At the show the audience was admirably entertained by our own International Senior Quartet **Antique Gold**;

and our Master of Ceremonies **George Gregory**, in his own inimitable way, provided smooth introduction to the varied elements of our musical program.

Thanks to **Ed Arnold**, (presently climbing Mount Kilimanjaro), for his organization of the venue and to the Mount Seymour United Church for allowing us to use their comfortable premises for our retreat, including the opportunity to stage our show to a small but appreciative audience.



September 2010 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1970)

The Big Wheel was hosted by the **Victoria Chapter** and won by **Memory Four** (**Earl Colpitts, Jack O'Brian, Ben Fast** and **Gerry Staton**) all from our chapter. Included with the contest was a mini quartet school directed by International representative, **Mac Huff**. Our annual show was to be titled "**Quartet**" and was to consist of four different quartets.

30 Years ago this month (1980)

A unique start to our annual show was when we sang O Canada from the balcony where we stayed as a chorus to watch the first half of our show which included the

Tualatin Valley Chorus from Oregon. Do you remember any of these songs that were part of the show? Five Foot Two, You're in Love with Everyone, Sweetest Song in the World, Hush, Spanish is the Loving Tongue, Take me to the Land of Jazz, and Minstrel Montage.

20 Years ago this month (1990)

Rob Hood chapter president reported on the aftermath of our New York trip to Carnegie Hall. Starting off with the question that had been asked: "What are you going to do now that you've done Carnegie Hall?" He wrote about looking for the right audience, and ended with the fact that we could find the perfect audience to do our entire package... as champs for 15,000 barbershop enthusiasts in Louisville Kentucky. He ended the article with "It really is up to each one of us. We have the apple; all we need to do is polish it."

Dilbert's Rules of Order

#9: On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.

Horseshoe Champs

By Ross Hood



The horseshoe tournament at **Harmony Hollow** this year was once again a popular participation and spectator event. Not as popular as it was two years ago when they had 32 teams, but it was rained out last year. We had 16 teams this year,

three of which were made up from the **Hollander family** from Seattle area. One of their teams made it to the final game when **Rod MacLeod** and **Gordon Ross** (r) beat out **Henry** and **Chris Hollander** for the championship. Once again I have taken over the event as I have done from its inception when we dug two pits at White Rock. Let's hope next year will be bigger and better.

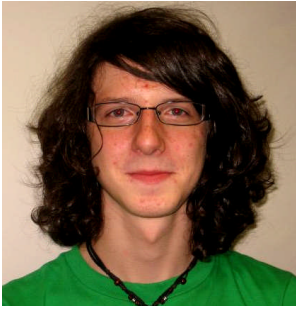
UNDERSTANDING TOOLS

Craftsman 1/2x24-inch Screwdriver: A very large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

Puns for Educated Minds:

#10. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then, it hit me.

New Member



Tim Dirks

I live in Abbotsford and I haven't had much experience singing before, besides school choir. The two things I love doing the most is playing awesome music and hangin' with my pals. **Alex McDonald**, a GoF summer

visitor from the **Nanaimo Tidesmen**, introduced me to barbershop and the **Gentlemen of Fortune** around mid-July and I was hooked. I play the sousaphone in the M.E.I. (Mennonite Educational Institute) marching band and I enjoy writing scripts for movies and then directing them with friends.

I watch a lot of movies and have a wide variety of interest in music from heavy metal to hardcore country. I have three older brothers, one of whom is severely mentally and physically handicapped. When I was younger I always joined in sports teams, until grade 7 when I was diagnosed with a disease called Osgood Schlatters, due to being too active. [Activity-related pain a few inches below the knee-cap in pre-teens. Ed].

Happenings & Reminders

GOF Annual Show: The next major project for the GOF is our Annual Shows on Dec 4, 2010 (dress rehearsal Dec 3). Byron says your Show Chairman – **Carl Gung** will need the full support of every member to help again make our annual show a huge success like last year. Carl is presently forming the Show Committee and if you would like to be involved please contact Carl.

The Installation Dinner is being held on Feb 12, 2011. **Doug Affleck** is organizing it and it will be a Valentine Dinner Dance/Installation, to be held in Coquitlam at Place Maillardville.

Comment #20 by Bill Gibbons

“Your favourite song, on your favourite barbershop tape, will always come out of your car speaker when you reach your destination.”

Deadline for the next issue is November 2, 2010

CALENDAR

2010

Oct 11 Thanksgiving
 Oct 12(?) Election of GoF Board of Directors
 Oct 19-23 SAI International, Seattle, WA
 Dec 4 **Christmas Shows** MJ Fox Theatre

2011

Jan 14-15 QCED Show, Seaside OR
 Jan 18-23 Midwinter International, Las Vegas
 Feb 12 Valentine Dinner Dance/Installation
 Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
 Mar 18-19 Division II/Prelims Renton, WA
 April 1-2 **Division I Convention** Abbotsford
 April 22 Easter
 July 3-10 International, Kansas City, MO
 July 22-24 HCNW Tacoma, WA
 Sept 28-Oct 2 PanPacific Convention, Brisbane
 Oct 7-9 **District Convention** Spokane, WA
 Oct 10 Thanksgiving

2012

Jan 17-22 Midwinter International, Tucson
 July 1-8 International, Portland OR

Internationals

2013 Toronto, Ontario
 2014 Las Vegas, Nevada
 2015 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 2016 Nashville, Tennessee
 2017 Minneapolis, Minnesota
 2018 Orlando, Florida
 2019 Salt Lake City, Utah

On the way to catch the Amtrak home



Amtrak comfort



[Photos by Carl & Wendy Gung]