

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

## 2011 - No.7 – September

### GoF “Retreat” – 2011



#### By Paul Peachey

Over the weekend, starting in the evening of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 50 members of the GoF participated in a weekend retreat at the North Vancouver Outdoor School (NVOS) in Brackendale north of the village of Squamish. Several members stopped at the local White Spot for dinner, sixteen or so played a round of golf in the morning and one hardy trooper (**Ron Maki**) actually cycled up.

Upon arrival, gear was stowed in cabins and we met for the evening session. Our Director (**Charlie Metzger**) had arranged to bring in one of the premier SAI Coaches (**Kari Metzger**) for the weekend. For those of us at our first retreat at NVOS, the first impression of the location was one of beauty and serenity in a lovely forested area on the banks of the salmon filled Cheakamus River.



We were advised to expect that souls and bodies would be tested over the weekend, and they were. We worked to the best of our ability to try and bring an A-Level attitude to singing and performance, taking away from this many lessons...finding the emotion from within to capture the hearts of an audience. The bottom line was to strive from simply being good to becoming great, and

everything we do (rehearsal, performance, small group work) should/will be done with an A-Level mind set.

Saturday night (after a very long day of hard work) saw us gather for the traditional campfire...numerous musical instruments, great singing and a variety of song “repertoire” saw an end to a terrific day.



[Photos by Kevin Mellis]

On Sunday morning we prepared a performance package for the staff of the NVOS, and some visiting students. It included songs from **Antique Gold** and **Mo-Tones**, and was quite well received. As a group, we have taken ourselves one step closer to achieving our goals. The GoF members are bonding, and embracing each other in such a way that in the not too distant future we will not be speaking of past glory days, but we will be looking to future excellence...and then retreat came to an end, and we made our way back to normal life.

#### Inside this Issue

- GoF “Retreat” - 2011
- Harmony Hollow 2011
- New Members
- Down Memory Lane
- The State of Sunshine
- Happenings & Reminders
- Calendar

### When Insults Had Class

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

*“He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them.”* – James Reston (about Richard Nixon)

## 2011 Chapter Officers

### President

Doug Affleck 778-284-1179

[dhaffleck@gmail.com](mailto:dhaffleck@gmail.com)

### VP Music & Performance

George Gregory 604-879-0436

[ggregory@gregoryandgregory.ca](mailto:ggregory@gregoryandgregory.ca)

### VP Chapter Development

Carl Gung 604-594-7147

[csgung@gmail.com](mailto:csgung@gmail.com)

### VP Communications & Promotion

Ed Arnold 604-929-2904

[ed\\_arnold@telus.net](mailto:ed_arnold@telus.net)

### Secretary

Al Alain 604-464-7780

[ajalain@telus.net](mailto:ajalain@telus.net)

### Treasurer

Rich Clark 604-572-5588

[clarkrs4@telus.net](mailto:clarkrs4@telus.net)

### Past President

Peter Lissett 604-929-3235

[plissett@shaw.ca](mailto:plissett@shaw.ca)

### Board Members-at-Large

Sean Murch 604-765-1435

[sean@nlgames.com](mailto:sean@nlgames.com)

Shanti Ghose 604-873-4285

[sghose@shaw.ca](mailto:sghose@shaw.ca)

### Musical Director

Charlie Metzger 604-581-1423

[cometzger@shaw.ca](mailto:cometzger@shaw.ca)

### Assistant Director

Byron Walton 778-689-9337

[waltonbm@shaw.ca](mailto:waltonbm@shaw.ca)

### Youth in Harmony

Bill Martin 604-291-1744

[billthebaritone@gmail.com](mailto:billthebaritone@gmail.com)

## Harmony Hollow 2011

**Gordon Ross:** For those that didn't make it to Harmony Hollow this Labour Day weekend, you missed one of the best events of the year. HH has always been a great experience but the new camp this year, at Mt Baker Bibleway Camp, is simply awesome. More space, better food (large servings!), better accommodation, more activities, etc, etc. You should definitely put it on your calendar for next year NOW! For some reason we seem to get only about a 40% turnout from the GOF. Even if you just come for the day you will have a great time, guaranteed. Aside from it being fun, you also get to mix with your barbershop brothers from all over the Pacific Northwest. The new Saturday afternoon quartet contest was worth the price of admission alone with the standard being up at high district level. If you are concerned about the distance and time to get there, it is really quite simple. Only about a half hour from the Sumas border crossing and very little line-ups considering it's a holiday weekend. A spectacular setting along the road to Mt Baker. Hope to see you there next year.



**Sean Murch:** I second the motion... what a great weekend!!! The talent at the evening shows was unbelievable. It was also nice to see all the kids and extended families having a blast too. There were a ton of activities organized for everyone, even non-singers. My family said it was the best holiday we've had! Kudos to **Jim Bates** and **Kari Metzger** for organizing an amazing weekend. Walton-ville (last night party at Doug Walton's trailer) was also a huge highlight for me!!

**Bill Kowk:** I was amazed. What a great setting and with free WiFi for those unfortunates without cell reception and the all powerful Android phone. ;) The facility makes it so easy to travel light and have quiet time when you choose! The best part was the quality of singing on the stage. What a treat! Yet I still had plenty of opportunity to sing with the all my friends in Walton-ville until the wee small hours of the morning!

**David Meehan:** And don't forget the stunning view of Mount Baker! There were also lots of big fish swimming up-stream in the river beside us (but I don't think we're allowed to eat them).

## Harmony Hollow Horseshoe Tournament 2011

**Ross Hood:** The new facilities and space allotted for horseshoes is the best we've had at any event. The area is such that many could sit or stand around singing under the shade of the trees while the tournament was going on. That was so for many, except it seems for those who should be there to start their game. All that aside, the tournament went over well, (a bit too long). This year we had 26 teams entered and - The results - **Doug Walton** and his son **Braeden** lost their fourth



game to the team of Hollander #1 (there were three Hollander teams) then had to work their way back to face them again in the final game. Unfortunately they were beaten, but they took home the second place trophy. The same Hollander team were 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners last year behind **Gord Ross** and **Rod MacLeod**. Next year we will try something new - pre-registering your team for the tournament, so we can get under way right away. I'll try (somehow) to rate the teams that have played before so the best won't be kicked out too soon.

## New Members

### Jean Michel Mistrot



Jean Michel has settled in Vancouver after spending most of his life travelling from place to place engaged in various technical and artistic endeavours. Over the years he has been a sculptor, musician, educator, web developer, CHI researcher, vfx artist, technical art director and software developer among others. He is an avid skier, and outdoor enthusiast who likes spending time with his wife and family consisting of a Chihuahua and a Drathaar (German Wirehaired Pointer). Jean Michel is known for occasionally procrastinating while attempting to write short bios describing himself. He is also known for speaking himself into socially awkward situations by discussing politics while drinking beer. Introduced to the GoF by **Sean Murch**.

### Travis Gamble



Born and raised in Brandon, Manitoba, I lived there until I graduated in 1998 with a degree in Computer Science at Brandon University. I spent a few years living and working in Waterloo, Ontario until I met my future wife Elissa in 2001 while on a business

trip to Vancouver. She had little trouble convincing me to make the move to the west coast and I've been here ever since. We now live in Coquitlam and we have two great kids, 3 year-old daughter Lauren and 5 year old son Lucas. I work as an IT Architect for Health Shared Services BC, helping to design the computer network systems for the BC Health Authorities. I enjoy a number of sports (in fact my wife claims that I may actually own equipment for every sport known to modern man) but I especially love golf, downhill skiing and I spent many years as a competitive curler.

My love of acapella music started in grade 5 when a group of my friends and I entered a lip sync contest with our stirring rendition of "All I have to do is Dream" by the Nylons. I wish I had started singing at that time, but unfortunately it took much longer before I gathered up the courage to do so. About a year ago I was convinced to join the choir at Coquitlam Eagle Ridge United Church. It was my first experience singing in harmony and I was completely moved by the experience. After so many years of enjoying listening to music, it was very fulfilling to finally be an active participant in making

music. I just can't believe that it took me this long to give it a try!

**Sean Huston** (Lead for The Squares quartet, and former GoF member) who also sings in that same choir convinced me that I needed to get out and try barbershop and singing with the Gentlemen of Fortune. When I finally did come for the first time, I was immediately captivated by the amazing sounds ranging from the sweet heart-felt melody of "Love at Home" to the power of the rafter-rattling tag of "Overture". I feel very fortunate to be a part of the warm, welcoming and incredibly talented group that is the Mighty Gentlemen of Fortune!

### Arthur Sanderson



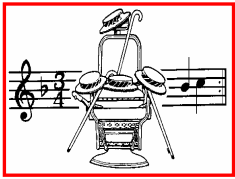
I grew up in a house with my father thumping his foot on the floor rhythmically while he played the piano. My older siblings had piano lessons, but I think my parents decided I did not sit still long enough for this musical endeavour. One piano

teacher was saved the stress of a rather rambunctious pupil. Luckily, scout camps opened up plenty of loud singing around the campfire. In elementary school I took up the clarinet which evolved into the tenor saxophone, which I thought had a more handsome look about it. At Burnaby North Secondary I continued playing in the band and joined the Jazz Choir. Plenty of early mornings and stories... "This one time at band camp..." I also got involved in the musicals at 'North' but only in the chorus.

Later, while attending university in Dusseldorf, Germany, I stepped back onto stage to perform. It was a medley of musical and theatrical shorts about love. My biggest part was prancing around as Adam, with a strategically placed fig leaf, as I explored the trials and tribulations of my relationship with Eve. The GoF uniform is looking more appropriate to the Canadian climate. It has been years since I have been singing formally in a group. I have continued to sing at campfires with friends and love to have my grade 6/7 students signing at our annual camp. I am looking forward to having some focus for my vocal chords and to broaden my repertoire so that my soap dish and shower curtain can enjoy some new songs. I am ready for a great new chapter of music in my life.

### *Puns for Educated Minds:*

**#27:** Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.



September 2011  
**Down  
 Memory Lane**

By Ross Hood

**40 years ago this month (1971)**

The **Barberpole Cat** program was being presented to the chapter for the first time. The Society thought this was a great way to have most members know at least 6 songs. It was soon increased to 8 and now it is at 12. But what a great program it was and still is. We held our annual golf tournament at Meadow Gardens with **Ben Fast** taking second place behind **Herbie Tyler** from Vancouver chapter. **Jack Moyes** took low net and **Don Frost** took low gross. 100 people showed up for a **Halloween Howl** hosted by the Burnaby chapter (GoF). There were prizes galore donated by members and almost everyone went home with an award for something, such as best dressed.

**30 years ago this month (1981)**

At Cultus Lake the annual **Harmony Hollow** took place for once without rain (that was rare at Cultus). 350 barbershoppers and friends were counted among the trees and canopies. Visitors were from Canby, Oregon, PEI and Florida. Our chapter hosted the chicken dinner cooked by **Clive Allen, Orland Lee** and **Ray?**. Sunday dinner was a corn roast put on by the **Langley** chapter. The **Haps** (Most Happy Fellows Quartet) were all there as were the **South Sounders** and **Pacific Exchange**. We had to wait 45 minutes before we could sing for the General Agents and Managers Insurance Conference at the Vancouver Hotel, but the money was good.

**20 years ago this month (1991)**

Several members didn't know what a "**gas line crossing**" looked like and missed a very important turn in the **Annual Chapter Car Rally**, and ended up driving all the way to the border on 364<sup>th</sup> instead of ending up at **Rob Hood's** back yard where we had a great party; where we sang, swam, played horseshoes and soaked in the hot tub. We had another great golf tournament and ended up again at **Abie & Carol Klassen's** for a great party.

**Dilbert's Rules of Order**

**#37:** An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true.

**The State of Sunshine**

By Dave Ellis



I know that this isn't really how this column is supposed to work i.e. in reverse, but I'd like to take this opportunity thank the many chorus guys who bothered to suspend their daily activities and come to VGH to cheer me on after my recent surgery. It was humbling that so many bothered to drop in and give me their best for my recovery - it really does raise one's spirit a whole lot when you're struggling to get well. I'm not sure how lucid I was when some of you were there, but do be assured that absolutely every visitor was most welcome.

Surgically I'm recovering really strongly from a 25-staple cut right down my abdomen, and if the docs can get the right antibiotics into me, then I'll get rid of the hospital gastro-bug which is currently holding back my recovery a little. Until then, my good wishes to you all for District, and again monster thanks to those who came to visit - uplifting indeed. See you on the risers soon.

**Happenings & Reminders**

**Finishing Christmas CD Recordings**

By Charlie Metzger



We have some songs from last year recorded and being held for a Christmas CD to be available during the coming Christmas season. We have selected and begun working on seven more Christmas songs to be learned and qualified for performance on our Christmas show, as well as recorded for the CD.

In order to record or perform the songs, we singers must know and be qualified on them. The seven songs are listed under Christmas Repertoire on our web site. Learning tracks of reasonable to good quality are available for all of them. We will begin learning the rest of the songs and holding qualifying sessions on the first Tuesday of October. We must record the first four songs by **October 29** and the last three by **November 19**, giving us less than a month to create the CDs from the raw recordings - a tight schedule.

We have about 30 guys qualified or ready to qualify on *Wassailing, Mountain* and *Secret*; about 20 ready to qualify on *Noel* and we have learning sessions for *Rock, Snow* and *Winter* planned for October 4, 11, and 18.

We really need a blitz on this guys! I know that contest is on all our minds right now and, given our philosophy of excellence, we are putting our time there. But things are getting urgent on the recording front because things are urgent on the financial front. Please be learning your Christmas music so that we can do something to solve our financial woes. We need a good recording product to sell that reflects the excellence to which we aspire, and a full complement of singers qualified for the Christmas Show. Please don't decide it can't be done - it certainly can be done by everyone in this chorus. It just takes intention, time and determination as well as good learning habits and skills.

**Random & Visiting Quartets**

The most recent quartets (chosen by Charlie) to entertain us at break were: **JAC Frost** (Jeremy Yang, Arthur Loyie, Carl Gung, Don Frost) with “*Jeanie*”; **Now We Present:** (Don Giles, Wilf Martin, Dennis Burich, Arthur Loyie) with “*Heart of my Heart*”; **The DJs** (Jean Michel Mistrot, Dave Anderson, Don Klassen, Doug Affleck) with “*Down South*” tag.

**Christmas Show**

Mark your calendar for the 2011 Christmas Shows which will be at a new location this year. Matinee and evening shows will be at the **James Cowan Theatre**, Shadbolt Arts Centre, 6450 Deer Lake Drive, Burnaby on **Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. As usual, rehearsal will be at the theatre on Friday night.

**Comment #52** by Bill Gibbons

“You’ll find the best advice for going into a contest on the label of a mayo jar; keep cool, but don’t freeze.”

**Deadline for the next issue is October 18, 2011**

**CALENDAR**

**2011**

- Sept 28-Oct 2 PanPacific Convention, Brisbane
- Sept 30-Oct 2 **District Convention** Spokane, WA
- Oct 10 Thanksgiving
- Dec 17 **Christmas Shows**

**2012**

- Jan 17-22 Midwinter International, Tucson, AZ
- Jan 20-21 QCED Show, Seaside, OR
- Feb 14 **Valentine’s Day**
- Mar 30/31 **Division I Convention** Abbotsford
- April 6 Easter
- April 27-28 Division II/Prelims, Bellevue
- June GoF Cabaret TBA
- July 1-8 International, Portland, OR

- Jul 20-22 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
- Sept/Oct **District Convention** TBA
- Oct 30-Nov 3 SAI International, Denver CO

**2013**

- Jun 30-Jul 7 International, Toronto, ON
- Oct 11-13 **District Convention** Boise, ID

**Seen at Retreat**



[Photos by Carl Gung]

