

# **BARBERSHOP POINTERS**

Stevens Point, Wisconsin chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

Meeting every Monday 7:30 P.M.

Harmony House – 3500 Harmony Lane

P.O. Box 482 – 715-344-9052

**Packerland Division – Land O Lakes District**

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Now that summer vacation is over.....

When we last saw our hero, Bill Jenkins, he was on the verge of a great expedition in life. Bill has since completed his journey and offers this synopsis of the trip.

On July 31 I completed a bicycle ride across America with two friends from my hometown (Stevens Point): Dr. Dave Henneghan, an orthopedic surgeon, and his son Pat, a student at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. The three of us are all avid cyclists, having cycled in various cross-state tours around the Midwest. The plan was hatched two summers ago as a father-son experience for Dave and Pat, and I joined the team when I expressed my interest; I had always dreamed of accomplishing such a feat. A team of three is optimal for mutual support without the unwieldiness of a larger group. Throughout the 53 days on the road together, we meshed well and never got on each other's nerves. We looked out for each other when riding and provided assistance when effecting bike repairs.

Our trek took us from Puget Sound, Washington, to Bar Harbor, Maine. We carefully planned the trip using maps purchased from Adventure Cycling Association. The trip began June 7 when the three of us flew to Seattle, having shipped our bikes west one week earlier. We stayed with a former Navy shipmate on Whidbey Island, who provided us a base to prepare our bikes for the long ride ahead. We began the ride on June 9 and cycled over the North Cascades of Washington, across northern Idaho and Montana via Glacier National Park, then across the plains of Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, and into Wisconsin where we stopped in our hometown for one day. We continued the journey across Wisconsin, crossing Lake Michigan on the midnight ferry into Michigan. We entered Ontario, Canada, at Marine City and spent 3 days following the north shore of Lake Erie. We reentered the U.S. at Niagara Falls and followed the Erie Canal past Rochester, then cycled up to Lake Ontario for two days, then moved east across the Adirondacks into Vermont at Ticonderoga. The last week took us across central Vermont and New Hampshire and into Maine. We completed the trek on July 31, having cycled 3751 miles for an average of 71 miles a day. Of the 53 days on the road, we camped 42 nights, stayed with friends 7 nights, and used motels only 4 nights (usually prompted by poor weather).

The three of us cycled the entire trip self supported, meaning we carried all gear necessary for survival in panniers (saddlebags), including tents, sleeping bags, cold and foul weather clothing, cooking gear, and bike repair tools and parts. We carried food as necessary, provisioning at supermarkets along the route for campsite meals, but also partook of local restaurants along the way. Pat and I each rode Trek 520 bicycles with steel frames specifically made for long-endurance touring. Dave rode a recumbent bicycle in which the rider sits back while peddling in front. No major problems were experienced with the bikes, other than 6 flat tires and the replacement of the rear tire on each of our bikes in New York from wear and tear.

Our most memorable experiences were the beauty and difficulty of the North Cascade Mountains and Glacier National Park, the friendliness of the people along the route, and the poor quality of the roads in New England. In general, motorists gave us plenty of room in passing. One axiom in cycling is that weather dictates each day's ride; planning for such a trip must take into consideration the weather and prevailing winds. Out west, we experienced very favorable weather. We rode accordingly, taking advantage of what the weather gave us. In Montana, for example, we cycled four consecutive days over 100 miles each day (called "centuries"). In the east, we experienced difficult conditions: heat, humidity and rain. In fact, our shortest day (25 miles) was the result of incessant rains in upstate New York.

Our ride also had a fundraising component. Since both of our families have been touched by cancer over the years, we decided to raise funds for the Livestrong Foundation. To date, we have raised over \$3850. We recorded our experiences along the

route on a blog that can be accessed at

[www.crossamericabikeride.blogspot.com](http://www.crossamericabikeride.blogspot.com) there is a link at the blog to the Livestrong Foundation for anyone wishing to contribute to this worthy cause.

Our bike ride provided a lifetime of memories and experiences, and proved to me that anyone with the time, knowledge of cycling, and patience can complete such a cross-country trek. The greatest joy for me was in reinforcing my belief in humanity; people all along our route were very helpful, interested, and courteous. We spent nearly two months away from the negativity of the news media, discovering instead the beauty of life in small town America and Canada. I would recommend it to anyone.

### **Another Hobby**

*-submitted by Dan Schobert*

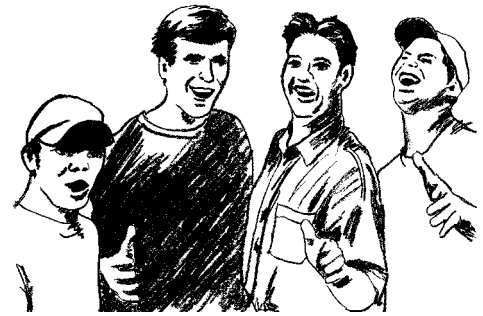
It is safe to say that barbershoppers have many other interests as well as singing. Some fellows take great pleasure trying their luck on the golf links while others might work at getting 300 at the bowling alley. Admitted we come to barbershopping with a lot of other things on our minds. One I, and a number of other barbershoppers enjoy, including Jim Lee our immediate past president as well as Joe Larson of our chapter, is amateur radio, sometimes called "Ham" radio. Playing the dials of our radios in hopes of reaching some distant country, we often work late into the night.



There is one aspect of this hobby when other barbershoppers can help. It is with what we call "traffic." This is a greatly appreciated part of the hobby because as we handle messages (traffic) around the globe, we are actually working to maintain our status as one of the few civilian routes used so often in emergencies. And this is where other men can come in. What we need is for fellows to send messages, like for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.

A personal message like these can mean a lot to the one getting the note. It is easy too. All is needed is to give me the name, address, phone number of the party intended to get the message and also what you wish to say, usually a max of 20 words. These messages are, therefore, passed along to other stations until they get to their destination.

Through this daily routine, 'ham' operators get to practice the skills which will come in handy in times of emergency. So let me encourage all in the chapter to bring me messages and tell your spouses/friends about this too. I would like to get 100 per month. If I can make that goal, I get a special medal. Big deal! But it is fun. Or send messages to me at my email address: [W9MFG@Charter.net](mailto:W9MFG@Charter.net)



## How Music Has Influenced My Life



*By Daniel Hooper*

There are certain activities we do as children that continue our entire live. Music has been my ground to this earth since I can remember. My Mother played piano and sang to her children. My Father and his Father both enjoyed singing harmonies, though they tended to slide out of key after a couple nips of moonshine. Raised on a small farm in Appalachia, I was given my first guitar at the age of seven, costing nine dollars; it took my parents three months to pay it off. That guitar and the joy of singing has been the greatest gift ever given to me. I'm now fifty years old and still have that guitar to remind me where I came from.

I began singing barbershop at the age of fifteen. My music teacher, Mr. Stubler, formed a quartet with four adolescents named "The Little Rascals". I sang the bass part due to the fact that at fifteen, my voice dropped three octaves and I grew massive amounts of hair, but I digress.

The first song "The Little Rascals" performed publicly was Bill Grogan's Goat. I still sing the bass tag to myself.

Though other musical genres have entered and left my life, barbershop has always remained as one of my favorites. Attending college, enlisting in the Air Force, traveling the world, I've found that music is the universal language. Music has broken the ice in many situations, introducing me to hundreds if not thousands of people. Many of whom I still stay in contact with to this day.

Recently moving to Wisconsin, I was walking down my street when by serendipity, I met Bill Metter. This is how I would end up singing in The Northern Gateway Chorus. My barbershop path continues, truly being honored to sing with a great group of gentlemen. My personal music goal is to hopefully make people smile, for that is my reward.

Remember, "Sing from your heart."

## A Musical Puzzle



**So, how many guys are in your quartet?**

No, that's not the puzzle....but consider this.

Having been a part of this great organization for 40 plus years, I sometimes think that all you new comers have more knowledge than I

think you do. On various occasions a musical term has been thrown at you and some of you get a puzzled look and some even ask the question, 'What is the tonic?' We aren't talking about something served with gin here.

In my quartet experience, I even have a guy who is pretty well versed in the musical world and even he became confused by what the tonic was. This usually happened when trying to tune that chord before starting any given song. Because my degree is in geography, not music, I was not able to explain what exactly this tonic thing was until I was delving into a book entitled This Is Your Brain On Music, by Daniel Levitin. He summed it up in one sentence. *The starting pitch is also called the tonic of the scale.*

Basically, one looks at the key signature of the song you have chosen and that particular key note, be it the ever present B flat or perhaps A minor, becomes the tonic baseline for that song. In our style of music, the lead will sing or hum the tonic note with the bass singing it an octave lower. The baritone gets the fifth and the tenor the third above the lead. The resultant sound is the basic tonic chord for the designated key signature. Now with that bit of ground covered, the song doesn't necessarily start on that note. When this happens, we barbersingers have to migrate to the starting note of the song. (That migration has long been referred to as a 'swipe')

Let's pick on our warm up standard, "My Wild Irish Rose" The key signature shows that the song is arranged in B flat, but that just becomes a starting point. More precisely, the tonal center around which, the song will revolve. While the Lead part will sing the B flat with the other parts harmonizing around it as the tonic chord or starting point of this song, the actual Lead starting note of the song is an F. The

other four parts also have a different starting note than the note they just tuned to. So, when we blow that pitch pipe, it is usually the tonic of the song we choose to sing, unless the group decides otherwise as might be the case with a minor key.

Now, in the future, when someone refers to that tonic note or chord, you should have a vague idea about what it is and how it fits in to the grand scheme of what we are trying to accomplish.

*-Editor*



It is now time to put on the table your plans for the 2009 Singing for Life blood drive. While it may be true that some of you didn't get involved in this year's program, this doesn't mean you can't get to it this coming year. The Barbershop Harmony Society has again urged that we all get on the same page and work to increase the blood supplies across the Society. ..in our many communities. There has been established a January 31, 2009 registration deadline.

A recent teleconference, among M/PR directors across the BHS, revealed that a number of chapters were of the opinion that this blood drive was to consistent largely of chapter men donating blood. Giving blood is always a good idea but the thought is that the local barbershop chapter will work with

the local blood center to generate interest in coming out to donate. It is a public relations program...in much the same way we might help by ushering at a ball game or handing out tickets for a band concert. We are there to help. In the helping, we may also find an opportunity to sing a tune to two and pass along info about what we do.

The point is: advertising in a good spirit. This being the case, lets hope many of you will start your planning soon and determine to be a part of the drive next May. For more details, check out the link at the BHS web page. <http://singingforlife.org/signup>. And remember the user name is: BARBERSHOP and the password is: HARMONY. Apparently it is important that cap letters be used as the site is case sensitive.

It would be nice if each chapter would send me a short note on their experience on this year's blood drive: if you participated or not...and the extent of your experiences. I want to know how you did.

Another thing coming up soon, something mentioned in my previous note, is the October LOL District convention at Appleton. It is my hope that many of you will show up, even if you're not on stage. There will be plenty of music and loads of enjoyment for all the family. I know we'll be there and look forward to seeing many of you.

Not far after this great event will be the COTS in January. With as much excitement I can muster, let me urge you all to generate a big crowd for this annual training session... a time for learning and a time for fun.

We have many things in barbershopping worth reporting... let's spread the news.

Dan Schobert  
M/PR for LOL

## **New Uniform Update**

*-from Jim Kruziki*

The planning and selection of a new uniform is underway. Phase one is to purchase a full vest with long tie which can be used with the tuxedo, or as a performance outfit without the tux coat. Three different vest colors/styles are on display at the clubhouse, and fitting of members began on Sept. 1. These vests represent samples of what are available, but there are over 100 different options when color and fabric are considered. The uniform committee will make a recommendation for the final choice before the end of the month. The desire to create a new updated appearance for the chorus is the driving factor, but concerns over present tux color matches is an additional concern.

Phase two of my uniform plan will call for the addition of a colored shirt to go with the vests which are selected.

This uniform component will be our focus in early 2009. Phase three may include several options: replace the ties which we currently wear with the red coats, replace the tux coats, or both? Hopefully this can be accomplished later in 2009.

How will these changes be funded? The chapter presently has a balance in the uniform fund as a result of a generous donation from a member last year plus a portion of our local dues which are earmarked for uniforms. Uniforms are a costly venture for any chorus, and additional funds will be needed. Your comments are welcome.

Jim Kruziki



**SHOW TIME!**

## **Northern Gateway Chapter Officers 2008**

### **President**

*David Quick*

### **Music VP**

*Nate Peplinski*

### **Chapter Development/Membership**

*Jack Edgerton*

### **Program VP**

*Joe Larson*

### **Marketing and PR**

*John White*

### **House VP**

*Boleslaw Kochanowski*

### **Secretary**

*George Pesenka*

### **Treasurer**

*Bill Jenkins*

### **At Large**

*Pat Rydberg  
David Peplinski*

## **CHAPTER VISION**

To continue to be a highly respected male choral organization, dedicated to:

- Maintaining the Barbershop tradition.
- Pursuing vocal improvement.
- Seeking opportunities for community involvement.
- Recruiting new members and retaining current members.
- Promoting personal development.
- Entertaining our audiences.
- Preserving the joy of Barbershop singing.

## **CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT**

The Stevens Point Chapter shall dedicate itself to striving for performance excellence, by continually improving the vocal and visual quality of its musical presentations.

The chapter shall strive to attract the kind of new members who will contribute their energy, talent, and a strong desire for excellence.

The chapter leadership, reflecting the interests of the membership, shall commit itself to maintaining an effective organization that ensures opportunities for improved singing, for quartet participation, and for promoting the Barbershop music style.



There's only a short time before our annual show, so let's keep attendance at 100%

- Monday Sept. 22 – Rehearsal – Harmony House
- Monday Sept. 29 – Rehearsal – Sentry Theater
- Tuesday Sept. 30 **HERE'S THE CHANGE!** – Rehearsal – Sentry Theater
- Friday Oct. 3 – Rehearsal – Sentry Theater
- Saturday Oct. 4 – Today's the day!



**A little business....  
if you please.**

## **NOTICE**

The time for the election of 2009 officers is coming up soon. The nominating committee is looking for suggestions and/or volunteers to serve on the 2009 board. If you wish to be considered, or have any suggestions, please let us know. The committee is the last three presidents, Joe Larson, Pete Leahy and John Lay.



# PLAN FOR FUTURE EVENTS

**Sept 29, 30 & Oct  
3 (Mon, Tues, Fri)  
Show rehearsal  
at Sentry Theater**

**Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, (Sat)  
Harvest of  
Harmony -  
Stevens Point**

**Oct 24-26, (Fri-  
Sun) L'OL Fall  
Contest -  
Appleton, WI**

**Nov 8 (Sat)  
Package Show -  
Iola, WI**

**Dec 13, Christmas Party -  
Spiedini's**

**May 9, 2009 (Sunday) Package  
Show - Spencer, WI**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

