



The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus

Hatter Chatter

Newsletter of the Danbury Chapter, Yankee Division, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society
Meeting every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

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August 2010

Hatters Happily Hear Harmony At HCNE

15 Danbury Members Attend Harmony College Northeast

By John Bradley

Wooster, MA - On August 13-15, fifteen members of the Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus made what has become an annual pilgrimage to Massachusetts to take part in Harmony College Northeast (HCNE), a weekend of coaching, classes, learning tags, treeses and breezes and getting together with fellow barbershoppers throughout the Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, which covers New England, a piece of New York State and northeastern Canada.

This year, barbershop history was made at Wooster State College when 81 girls formed the first all-girl chorus, joining the 97 boys onstage in what may have been the biggest and most exciting Saturday night Harmony Explosion performance ever. According to Joe Hudson, Danbury Mad Hatter music director and the Northeast District's vice president of Youth in Harmony, "Being able to see the excitement in the students' eyes as they were singing gave me a thrill to know that this Society and barbershop music is now in their minds and hearts."

Happy To Return

By Dick Walter

The last time I attended Harmony College Northeast was 2007 when the event was held in Fitchburg, so I was happy to return this year and participate in the quartet coaching with the rest of our quartet, Real Chemistry. Or, at least most of the quartet was there.

Since our regular tenor, Augie D'Aureli, couldn't attend, our former tenor, Steve Horhota, who relocated to Massachusetts several years ago, filled in skillfully. It was like old times.

Our four coaches throughout Saturday were very knowledgeable and gave us some excellent tips on improving our performance. One example was keeping the performance moving through each breath.

The coaches seemed pleased with our singing as we "wowed" then with "Whispering," "I Only Have Eyes for You," "Ten Feet Off The Ground," and "Silhouettes." We even performed our waiting to go to dinner song, "Coney Island Baby," after our last coaching session.

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Harmony Explosion Girl's Chorus



Harmony Explosion Boy's Chorus

Pictures by Steve Salamin

Happy to Return

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One of the judges, Steve Wheaton, knew the movie in which "Ten Feet Off the Ground" was performed, Disney's *The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band*. Not only had he seen it, but knew the film intimately.

The Harmony College Northeast weekend was well organized and ran smoothly thanks to the talented and dedicated leadership of the Northeastern District, including Danbury's "favorite son" (or the son we never wanted), Joe Hudson, District vice president of Youth in Harmony. The sleeping accommodations at Wooster State College were comfortable (especially if you like sleeping on plywood) and the huge and tasty selection of food was just amazing.

The Saturday night show was top-notch barbershop harmony from Men in Black and Acoustix (1990 International champions) to the 180 boys and girls from the Harmony Explosion camp sinning their lungs out.

All in all the weekend was a great experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it. If you have never been to Harmony College, be sure to attend next August.

Hooray for barbershop harmony!



*Saturday's grand finale
Picture by Steve Salamin*

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

If it weren't for my lawyer, I'd still be in prison. It went a lot faster with two people digging..

Thanks Fred

By Dick Zang

Of all the contributors to the *Hatter Chatter* over the years, none has been as prolific as Fred Baran.

Fred has kept us regularly posted on the many activities of Rare Occasion and has always entertained us with his column "Stories About Songs" and later "Stories About Song Writers."

Our readers always enjoyed the interesting stories behind the songs we sing, the composers who wrote them and the singers who made them famous - from Sigmund Romberg and Harry Von Tilzer to Cole Porter and Gene Autry.

But, alas, last month's bio of Harold Arlen was the last of the long-running series. Fred has decided to take a break and we'll miss his monthly contribution.

Perhaps it was fitting to end with Harold Arlen - he wrote the music to a Mad Hatter favorite, "Over the Rainbow."

Repertoire Notes

"On the Sunny Side of the Street" (1930) is a song with music composed by Jimmy McHugh and lyrics by Dorothy Fields, which was introduced in the Broadway musical *Lew Leslie's International Revue*, starring Harry Richman and Gertrude Lawrence.

Having become a jazz standard, it was played by such greats as Ted Lewis, Dave Brubeck, Earl Hines, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Errol Garner, Dizzy Gillespie, Art Tatum and Count Basie.

Frankie Laine had a hit with his recording, and the song also was recorded by other leading vocalists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, Keely Smith, Nat King Cole, Jo Stafford, and Frank Sinatra. Arguably the best known arrangement is found in the 1945 record by Tommy Dorsey and the Sentimentalists. The children's group Sharon Lois and Bram recorded a version for their 1990 hit *Sing A to Z*, and performed the piece on their critically acclaimed hit television series, *Sharon, Lois & Bram's Elephant Show*.

Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, and Sonny Stitt recorded their well-known version on their 1957 album, *Sonny Side Up*.

Steve Allen in his mystery novel, *The Talk Show Murders* (1982), suggested that the song refers to "passing" - the possibility of light-skinned blacks passing for whites.

About 1966, Gene Kelly recorded a cover version with slightly altered lyrics:

*If I never had a cent, I'd be rich as David Rockefeller
Barry Goldwater at my feet, on the sunny side of the street!*

Another Appearance at Meadow Ridge

Redding, CT – The Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus returned to the Meadow Ridge Continuing Care Retirement Community on Tuesday evening, August 10, for an evening of song and smiles.

Outside of a rendition of “I’m Always Chasing Rainbows” in which the chorus forgot the words and music, and sang in four or five different keys, the 60-minute performance was energetic and well received.

The chorus performed in a fully-equipped auditorium, which is unusual to find in a continuing care center. But this facility seemed to be first-class all around.

“It reminds me of an Embassy Suites hotel,” said baritone, John Bradley, as he surveyed the inside central courtyard filled with flowers, walkways, a fish-filled pond and a waterfall.

“We have access to tennis courts, a putting green and I’m a member of a croquet team,” said one resident after the show.

The Meadow Ridge management was kind enough to allow the Mad Hatters to remain in the auditorium after the performance so the chorus could conduct its regular Tuesday night rehearsal without having to return to Danbury.

“It saved us a lot of time,” said music director Joe Hudson, “which is important with contest and our annual show coming up.”

Do You Recognize This?

Below is a venue at which the Mad Hatters sang. Do you recognize it? If you are the first to respond by email with the correct answer, you win 100 points!



Congratulations to Mad Hatter tenor Charles Smith who correctly identified last month’s venue as Hancock Hall in Danbury.

Also congratulations to Andre F. Lesperance of Holly Springs, NC, who won 100 points by correctly identifying both funny song titles in last month’s *Hatter Chatter* repertoire listing. But Andre, sorry, the points cannot be turned in for a new car.

Emails to the Editors



Please e-mail your questions and comments to either the Hatter editor, John Bradley, at jbrad1313@earthlink.net, or the Chatter editor, Dick Zang, at jezang@charter.net. If your e-mail appears, you will receive an autographed picture of our 2008 Yankee Division Bulletin Editors Award.

I saw your group perform for the first time a number of weeks ago. I didn’t know Danbury had a barbershop chorus. How long have you been in existence? Are there other Barbershop choruses around?
Dotty from Danbury

Dotty, the Mad Hatters were formed in 1966. There are many choruses throughout the world. We are members of the Barbershop Harmony Society which is comprised of 30,000 male barbershop singers, organized into chapters, of which the Mad Hatters is one. There are also two societies of female barbershoppers, Harmony, Incorporated and the Sweet Adelines.



Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Rare Occasion: By Terry Dunkle

Rare Occasion lived up to its name in August by having no rehearsals.

First, bass Terry Dunkle went away for a week to bask in a mildew-infested cabin in the woods in Pennsylvania. Next, tenor Fred Baran went fishing in Maine. Then baritone Jimmy Hopper went off to visit relatives in (where was that, Jim?). Lead Robert Goldenbock stayed home -- or maybe I'm misremembering.

At some point, our "regular" Thursday evening rehearsals got interrupted by chorus contest rehearsals.

We did get together for coaching at Harmony College, however. There, Acoustix lead Rick Middaugh told us we had a "wonderfully fat sound," which bass Dunkle at first thought was a comment on his waistline.

Tenor Baran, who roomed with bass Dunkle, observed that Dunkle sounded like "a wounded water buffalo" when snoring. Dunkle reciprocated by complimenting Baran on *his* snoring, which, thanks to Baran's many years of practice, delivers a low A of exemplary timbre.

Finally, the Cincinnati Reds beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-2 last Sunday -- but I'm not sure that's relevant.

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Quartets

Continued from the previous page

Real Chemistry – John Bradley

In August, Real Chemistry began its “Reunion Tour” at Harmony College Northeast when our former tenor, Steve Horhota, joined us at Wooster State College for a fun weekend of song, food and very hard beds. We sounded pretty good despite not singing together for about a year. Maybe regular practices are overrated.

Steve remembered “Ten Feet off the Ground,” “Whispering” and a couple of other songs well enough to work with the coaches. Our instruction centered mostly on performance tips.

We’ve all decided it’s very handy having a spare tenor for our jaunts to Massachusetts and points north.

Our regular tenor, Augie D’Aureli, rejoined the quartet on August 20 when we sang at the wedding reception of Mike and Mandy Fritsch at Castello’s Restaurant on Padanaram Road in Danbury.

We sang “I Only Have Eyes for You,” for the bride and groom, “Don’t Blame Me,” for the mothers and fathers and “Whispering” for the grandparents.

“Whispering” managed to evoke a tear or two from the small gathering.

Since Mike is a United States Marine who just recently returned home from Afghanistan, and a number of the guests were also Marines, we performed “God Bless America,” which we have never sung as a quartet.

Fortunately, the audience sang along with us loudly, drowning us out, thereby not offending the Marines.



Left to right: Steve Horhota, Bob Bradley and Dick Walter of Real Chemistry at Harmony College Northeast. John Bradley’s shoes are in the foreground.

August Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Submitted using a stromuhr by Robert Golenbock, secretary.

Meeting called to order by Danny “Papa Doc” Anderson at 6:15pm on 08/03/2010 at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY’S REPORT was handed out. Motion to accept by R. Walter, second by J. Hudson. Approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Dick Walter, approaching his 80th birthday, has declined to be nominated for treasurer for next year. In five years, when our finances are in a total mess, we will ask him to return. Motion to receive the treasurer’s report made by A. Bayer, seconded by R. Golenbock. Approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: We discussed the possibility that too many members are pushing our guests to join prematurely. While we have been very fortunate that our recent guests have enthusiastically embraced our chorus and that they are clearly talented singers, Dick Walter reminded us that guests should be given time and room to decide for themselves.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Dickson DeMarche will be meeting with Terry Dunkle to discuss previous successful PR strategies. We will be getting out our show poster and ad forms this month. Dickson will handle tickets. Andy Bayer will be involved with ad sales. Dick Zang will help get the program book and tickets printed. We hope Fred Baran will once again handle the Angel page, which was so successful last year.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: The Committee is looking for a song to replace “Where Is Love?”

OLD BUSINESS: The Board has decided to do only one annual show performance and to do that at 7 PM. Once we fill the auditorium, we can talk about having two performances again.

The annual show afterglow will be at the Stony Hill Inn. The deposit has been sent. Jimmy Hopper will be collecting payment.

At a special meeting of the Board, the concept of “The Wizard of Wonderland” was accepted. The show will be called the Wizard of Barbershop, but will have themes from both The Wizard of Oz and Alice in Wonderland. Joe Hudson will be handling props and costumes. We expect that Joe West will be handling the job of emcee once again.

NEW BUSINESS: Groupanizer, a private website for members, was presented to the Board. We are implementing its features for a prolonged free demo that ends in September. Thereafter the cost is \$20/month.

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Board Meeting

Continued from the previous page

It is time to collect names for next year's officers. Joe Hudson will collect names and act as nominating committee.

Lyle LaPlante, in declining to continue as Program Chairman, noted three issues that need to be resolved concerning this position:

1. The position is not defined.
2. The program chairman should be a vice president so he has status as a board member.
3. There needs to be a clear delineation of what part of the meeting script is determined by the director and what part is determined by the program chairman.

Andy Bayer noted that there are not enough outfits for our new members as our numbers increase, especially shirts and sweaters, since Sears has plenty of Land's End khakis in our color. The President has requested that Andy come up with a recommendation.

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Zlamany

OFFICERS PRESENT: J. Hudson, R. Golenbock, D. Anderson, R. Walter, L. LaPlante, D. DeMarche, A. Bayer, A. Roberts.

Next meeting will be on September 6. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

2011 Chapter Officers

On August 31, the Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus voted for its 2011 slate of officers. Following are the members who will comprise next year's Board of Directors.

President:	Danny Anderson
Music Director	Joseph Hudson
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
Public Relations VP:	Dickson DeMarche
Music VP:	Jim Hopper
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Tim Keiser
Member at Large:	Dick Walter
Member at Large:	Art Roberts
Member at Large:	Chuck Kreiger
Program Committee Chairman	Lyle LaPlante



Mad Hatter Board of Directors Meeting

The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson



This has been an awesome month for our chapter. We had 15 of our membership attend Harmony College in Wooster, MA.

We had a good sing-out in Redding, began preparation for District competition, had extra practices and a Saturday practice session, plus we have made good headway on our choreography to go along with our competition songs.

We even managed to have 32 men on the risers during our last August rehearsal.

Three quartets received individual coaching from top coaches at Harmony College. Individual Mad Hatters attended some very good classes where they learned things to help improve the chapter.

I believe that that we had a record attendance at Harmony College this year. The venue was good; the food service was as good and as plentiful as last year at Wooster State College and the sleeping rooms were good, but the beds were not any softer than last year.

The Saturday night show was very good, except for the lack of air conditioning in the auditorium. We were assured that AC will be installed by next year's show.

The highlight of the evening, in my opinion, was seeing 170 + young men and women on stage singing barbershop. I learned that several of these young men are from our area. We hope to see some of them at a future practice.

Our annual show will be here soon. Joe has supplied us with the songs which will be sung during the show. I would urge that we spend time with our practice tapes, CDs and music to be sure we have the songs down pat.

The Honeymooners will be our featured quartet during the second act of the show. We will have a high school group from New Fairfield to perform. Begin now to talk up the show to your friends, neighbors, family, work associates and church members. This show will feature the new songs we have added to our repertoire this year.

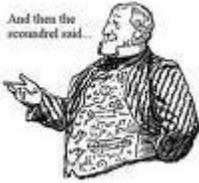
We all need to be selling ads for the program book. Our goal should be that we sell enough ads to pay all the expenses of the show, then the money received from the ticket sales would be our profit. We should each purchase an angelgram to be placed in the program book.

The summer months of vacations have resulted in reduced numbers at our weekly practices. I would encourage all members to place an emphasis on making all the practices between now and the show date so that we will be prepared to put on a great show.

And don't forget, The last day for submitting ads to Lee Smeriglio is Tuesday, September 21.

Robert's Raconteur Ramblings

By Bob Bradley



We four in Real Chemistry have been going to Harmony College since it was invented, it seems. Some times I wonder if it does us any good, but who cares, we always have a great time.

In contests twice after our visits we have won the most improved quartet. Now that age is overcoming us and we no longer compete, we will not know the joy of judges' critiques at two am.

Steve Horhota, former member of the Danbury chorus and one of the most famous directors to lead a chorus in Saratoga, sang with us to reprise his role as Real Chemistry tenor. We sang quite well, which just goes to show you that rehearsing once a year can work.

Our coaches were excellent, as usual, and we worked on singing each line of the song by telling the story. How do we sell the music to an audience? How do we breathe to make each breath at part of the music? These werethe questions we pursued.

We could only sing a few songs with Steve, songs we have been singing since we formed the quartet over 12 years ago. We know "Whispering," "Ten Feet Off the Ground," "Don't Blame Me," "I Only Have Eyes For You" and one or two doo-wop songs.

What I take away from the weekend is that it is better to learn a few songs very well than many songs poorly. Even though we have not sung for over a year together, and before that for two years, we were able to pick up where we left off with songs that we knew cold. We did not need work on notes or words, nothing on projection, etc. All we worked on was what seemed to be sophisticated methods of making our songs better.

I have been away from the chorus for a few months and have come back for contest. Before I left, we did a gig for a men's club and found that we could not take a random group of chorus members and have them sing our repertoire songs well. We did not know the words or music to songs we had been singing for months.

I mentioned this a few times to the music committee. Now that I am back I find that we have even more songs that we cannot sing well.

The other night going over "Million Dollar Baby" in rehearsal was an example of the fact that we may sing many different songs, but we KNOW none of them.

When I was in high school and college, I was in a frantic pace to score with as many girls as possible, drink as many beers as I could, go out every night just to do it. After one gets older

the idea of forcing more and more, just to have or do more and more, is shallow and has little meaning.

Although our score card says we sing 30 songs, are there any that we can do well? Could we separate and after a year could we come back and sing our repertoire songs together and do a good job? I think not. Mick Jagger never thought he would be singing "Satisfaction" at 60, but he is. And he does it well.

I don't understand our race to mediocrity. Would it be better to sing a dozen songs very well and to know them inside and out, to have worked on nuances of meaning and being sure that all chords are rung every time. Why move on to learn a new song when we do not know the old songs?

Singing is a joy, but it is also a hobby, enjoyed by people who have busy lives. There is an obvious reason why members do not listen to music during the week on a regular basis as there is too much of it. Maybe that is why I enjoy singing with the quartet so much, that we can take the time to perfect our songs to the best of our ability.

The other day we picked up the music again to "Whispering," 12 years and still perfecting. I am too old for races. I play golf instead of jog. I would rather do a few things very well than dozens of things poorly.

Program Posts

By Lyle LaPlante

I sure enjoyed once again the experience of singing and hearing great quartets and choruses of both the kids and the adults at Harmony College Northeast. And I learned a few things as well.

Breathing - everywhere that seemed to be a common theme. Joe has already begun some exercises to help us improve. Better breathing and breath control will help us all to be better singers. It will lead to less strain and a better chorus sound.

Smoothing the transition from head voice to chest. Start as high as you can in your head voice or falsetto and work down by half steps as low as you can reach. Keep at it and eventually you should be able to go back and forth without a noticeable break. Keep the inside of the mouth open. Think of saying "aw".

Singing tags. Great composers and good arrangers can hear the music in their heads. For us of lesser skill, it's fun to read through your part and then see how it all blends together. Chorus tags are fun, but I get the most kicks out of quartetting the tags.

In addition, Some interesting ideas and thoughts were presented at a session I attended on Better Chapter Meetings. Joe, Andy and I will work to incorporate some of these into our future Chapter meetings.

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Program Posts

Continued from the previous page

The next two months will be very intense with preparing for the show in early October and the competition in late October. We have one new song to learn before the show ("Sunny Side of the Street") while we practice on all the show songs and perfect the competition songs.

But we still need to have fun meetings with all of this focussed activity. One of the things everybody seems to enjoy is tag singing, so throughout this period, the Chapter meetings will include tag singing as our "fun" time.

Something to look forward to after all this work: The last meeting in October will be a time for relaxation. We'll sing some tags, do some quartetting, discuss the show and the competition. Any other ideas? Maybe some pizza? Let me know.

The Five Steps Necessary to Produce Quality Tone

By Bud Miller, Music VP, Cherry Hills NJ -- part 4 of 5

The fourth in a series of five lessons on producing good tone addresses sustaining the tone. In the first three lessons you prepared to sing by understanding "preparatory set" (getting the body ready physically).

You learned proper breathing techniques and how to start the first tone correctly. Now that you are breathing correctly and producing good tone, your main objective is to keep producing good tone until you take another breath.

In the last lesson, we talked about the balance and coordination between the contraction of the muscles of breathing and the resistance provided by the tension of the muscles of the valve. Maintaining this balance and coordination throughout the remainder of the musical phrase is absolutely necessary if you are going to have good "control", that is, be able to sing good tone for any length of time.

Often singers who have poor technique sing good tone for the first four or five words in a phrase then deteriorate the tone quality through the end of the phrase. The remaining tones in the phrase were either starved for air and therefore pinched (a result of too much breath pressure for the muscle-set of the valve) or a breathy, wimpy tone (too little breath pressure for the muscle-set of the valve).

Let's review the use of the breath (respiration) and phonation (producing sound). Although discussed briefly in the last lesson, it is the most important aspect of maintaining good tone. If you can achieve this, you can sing throughout the entire range of your voice without any noticeable change of quality.

How much should the diaphragm permit the abdominal muscles to build breath pressure and how much should the valve resist this breath pressure? The answer is not to compromise to try to find a tone that is midway between breathiness and tightness. This simply results in vacillation between looseness and tenseness.

The secret is to flood the tone with as much breath as possible and to keep from making it breathy by offering it as firm a resistance as necessary in the valve.

You evaluate this by listening to the resultant tone. If the tone is free, round, steady and even-flowing with sustaining length and has resonance, the balance and coordination is fine. You will need help from an extra pair of ears in making this evaluation. **YOU MUST NOW PRACTICE!!!**

As you improve your balance and coordination, you will find that you can sing longer phrases with more control than you can now.

Staccato exercises can be helpful in achieving coordination: Make four short staccato attacks while you think of producing a clear, clean stroke followed by a sustained tone. HUH! HUH! HUH! HUH! If the sustained tone is produced with the same abandon of breath and firmness as in the staccato strokes, it will be full and free.

Transfer this feeling into the singing of some phrases which are in a comfortable range. Be patient and you will succeed.



Left to right: Fred Baran, Bob Golenbock and Jim Hopper playing poker at HCNE



Left to right: Chuck Kreiger, Lyle LaPlante and Dickson DeMarche at HCNE



Society and District Notes



LET'S REVIVE AN OLD BARBERSHOP TRADITION!

I've been around this danged hobby of ours for 60 years now and there are some things I really miss from the old days. Back in the 1950's and 1960's it was pretty standard procedure that us barbershoppers would go to each others annual show. Guess we were way more sociable back in the day and our lives weren't so cluttered with TV and electronic entertainment.

This is the way it worked back then. A few weeks before a chapter show, a quartet from that chapter would show up at your meeting with a handful of tickets, sing a few songs and sell a whole bunch. We were entertained and got to see some old friends all at the same time.

We had afterglows in those days that lasted into the wee hours of the morning and any quartet that showed up could sing on the glow. Heck, what I liked best about those days is I got to see friends almost every week. Now we're lucky if we catch up with barbershop friends a couple of times a year and that ain't anyway near enough.

MY CHORUS (THE SEACOAST VOCAL UNION) WANTS TO BRING BACK THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS (And we'll give you a discount to help make it happen!)

See, this year we're having our show on Sunday afternoon, 2 PM, September 26, at Portsmouth High School. We moved the show to the afternoon to set up some different kinds of possibilities like having the glow last longer.

Our primary ticket is called the Show & Glow ticket and we're selling it for 20 bucks. Yeah, that's right, 20 bucks for the whole package. We'll entertain ya AND feed ya! Now comes the really good part! If you can gather together 10 or more folks from your chapter (wives included!) we'll give you a \$5 discount per ticket. Yeah, that's right. 15 bucks a person if you bring a group. No, we haven't lost all our marbles. That's how much we think the idea of getting friends together means to us.

And on top of all this, if you sing in a quartet, put together a group of 10 or more chapter members to come with you (including the quartet) and we'll reserve a place on the glow for you to sing a song.

ANOTHER GOOD THING ABOUT OUR SHOW IS THAT IT WILL BE ALMOST AN EXACT COPY OF THOSE GOOD OLD SHOWS.

Back then, the district champ was always the headliner. None of those 'fly-in' quartets with all the medals. Just local kids workin' their way up and needing our support. Well, we're bringing in On Q, our 2009 NED champs as well as On Air (we call 'em the "On Boys"!), last year's runner-up.

Plus we've enticed the New Hampshire Gentlemen, a terrific a cappella group from University of New Hampshire, to join us. And the Seacoast Vocal Union, 2009 Granite-Pine Small Chorus Champs. Even have local favorites, Concord eXpress, singing with us. Should be quite a show!

So what do you say? How about spending a sociable Sunday afternoon with us like we used to do it in the old days. Listening to some great singing, enjoying some chow together and just catching up! Gather some of your friends together and come and meet some new friends in Portsmouth, NH, and see how much fun it was back then. We'll have a barbershop party!

Yours in Harmony,
Jim Dodge
Director-Seacoast Vocal Union
Resident Old Guy

PS: Your ticket contact is Don Houldsworth (603-436-3025) or don.houldsworth@gmail.com.

District Advertising

Announcing a new opportunity for quartets, chapters, supporters of our singing men (and women!), businesses ...

Reach over 1,200 men, women and youth -singers, supporters, lovers of barbershop -with a display ad or line listing ad in the NED's 2010 Fall District Convention & Contest Program!

Advertise your barbershop harmony show, performance, meeting, party, class, training, workshop. - Spread the word that your quartet is available & wants to perform on shows!

Businesses: Advertise your product or service in/from the Portland & NED region and beyond!

Support your contest singers with a "Good Luck" line-listing ad!

Now is the time to support barbershop harmony and reach the ones you love! Do it today with an ad in the Fall Convention & Contest printed program. More info, prices, layout and guidelines [HERE](#):

http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=62

See the "Program Advertising" section (right-side) of this Fall Contest page. Or, download and view the PDF from here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2dddph3>

Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

A church's bell ringer passed away. So they posted the position and a barbershop baritone came in with no arms wanting the job. The clergy weren't sure he could do it, but he convinced them to let him try it.

They climbed the bell tower and the guy ran toward the bell and hit it with his head. They gave him the job.

The next day he went to ring the bell, tripped, bounced off the bell and fell to the sidewalk below. Two guys were walking past.

One asked, "Do you know this guy?"

The second guy responded, "No, but his face rings a bell."

The next day, the dead bell ringer's twin brother (also a barbershop baritone) comes in for the again vacant bell ringer position. He also has no arms. They lead him up to the bell tower, he runs at the bell, trips and falls to the sidewalk below.

The same two guys walk by. The first asks, "Do you know him?" The second guy responds, "No, but he's a dead ringer for the guy we saw yesterday."

A barbershop baritone comes into a coffee shop and places his order. He says "I want three flat tires and a pair of headlights."

The waitress, not wanting to appear stupid, goes to the kitchen & asks the cook, "This guy out there just ordered three flat tires and a pair of headlights. What does he think, this is an auto parts store?"

"No," the cook says, "three flat tires means three pancakes and a pair of headlights is two eggs sunny side up".

"Oh," says the waitress. The waitress thinks about this and then she spoons up a bowl of beans and gives it to the customer. The guy says, "What are the beans for?"

The waitress replies, "I thought while you were waiting for the flat tires and headlights, that you might want to gas up."

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Performance A

Always
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
Cabaret
Heart
Hey, Look Me Over
How Are Things in Glocca Morra
I Feel a Song Coming On
I Found a Million Dollar Baby
I'm Always Chasing Rainbows
Over the Rainbow
Please, Mr. Columbus
Sh-Boom
Thanks For The Memory
There is Nothing Like a Dame
You Make Me Feel So Young
Don't Build a Wall Round a
Graveyard When No One Wants To
Go In.

Contest Songs

Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue
I Don't Mind Being All Alone

Patriotic

Star-Spangled Banner
America the Beautiful
God Bless America

Inspirational

I Believe
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Lord's Prayer
Amazing Grace

Upcoming Songs

Give My Regards to Broadway
You'll Never Walk Alone
This Land Is Your Land

Lullaby in Ragtime
If I Loved You
On The Sunny Side of the Street
Loch Lomond
Goodnight, Sweetheart

Annual Show Songs

I Feel a Song Coming On
Give My Regards to Broadway
You'll Never Walk Alone
On The Sunny Side of the Street
Goodnight, Sweetheart
Lullaby in Ragtime
Over the Rainbow
Breaking Up Is Hard to Do
You Make Me Feel So Young
Heart
There Is Nothing Like a Dame

The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

President:	Danny Anderson
Musical Director:	Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director:	Jim Hopper
Assistant Director:	Don Sutherland
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
Public Relations VP:	Dickson DeMarche
Music VP:	Jim Hopper
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dick Walter
Member at Large:	Fred Baran
Member at Large:	Art Roberts
Member at Large:	Charlie Rosa
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Chairman	Lyle LaPlante
Uniform Chairman:	Andy Bayer
Harmony Foundation	
Chairman:	Danny Anderson
Music Librarian:	Lyle LaPlante
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith
Package Show Chairman:	Dick Walter
Chorus Manager:	Robert Golenbock

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

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The editors of the Hatter Chatter welcome submissions from all chapter members and friends of the Mad Hatters. E-mail, mail, paper airplane us your thoughts, observations, opinions, singing tips and whatever, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

Mark Your Calendars

September 14: Chapter Singout. The Greens at Cannondale, 435 Danbury Rd. (Rt 7), Wilton, CT. Warmup 6:30 PM, sing 7:00.

September 12: Chapter Singout. News-Times Community Parade. Rose and Main Streets, Warmup 10:30 AM, step-off 11:00 AM.

September 25: Chapter Singout. Meadow Ridge Continuing Care Retirement Community. 100 Redding Road, Redding, CT. Warmup 3:30 PM, sing 4:00 PM.

October 2: Mad Hatter Annual Show. Brookfield High School. Details to be announced.

October 22 – 24: 2010 Northeast District Convention, Portland, ME.

Push to Portland: Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday September 14 = 9:15 - 10pm

Thursday September 16 = 7 - 9pm

SEPTEMBER 21 and SEPTEMBER 28: presentation coach
Joe Hunter

Tuesday October 5 = 7:30 - 10pm

Tuesday October 12 = 7:30 - 10pm

Tuesday October 19 = 7:30 - 10pm

FRIDAY - SUNDAY OCTOBER 22 - 24 = NED CONTEST

September Milestones

Birthdays: 14 - Shirley Walter

4 - Jane Golenbock 30 - Art Roberts

6 - Judith Kreiger

7 - Bill Gleissner

12 - Susan Roberts

Wedding Anniversaries

12 - Dick and Shirley Walter



Westbrook Performing Arts Center
(at Westbrook Middle School)
[471 Stroudwater St.](http://www.westbrookperformingartscenter.org)
Westbrook, ME, 04092

The Danbury Mad Hatters Barbershop Chorus presents

THE WIZARD OF BARBERSHOP

featuring The Honeymooners, mixed comedy a cappella quartet and New Fairfield High School chorus
Rebel Clefs with Joe West, MC

Brookfield High School
45 Long Meadow Hill Road
October 2, 2010
a madcap musical review
7pm

Phone: 915.661.810 (senior/student contact)
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