



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.
Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont -- Call 802 985-8714

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September 2, 2003
Volume 19, Number 23

Bolton Landing another bbshop blowout!

by *Jerry Walter*, Editor,
as found on the Harmonet

[The following is a first impression by Joe Kane from the Muncy Valley-Laporte, Pennsylvania, Chapter, after attending the Bolton Landing Festival last weekend. Ed.]

Just having returned from my first Bolton Landing Festival, I have one thing to say - if you love barbershopping, if at all possible you owe it to yourself to go next year.

Bolton Landing is on Lake George in upstate NY, and it was chock-full of **fabulous** barbershopping on this past weekend. The superb entertainment included SPEBSQSA finalists Wheelhouse and Saturday Evening Post, SAI Queens Fanatix and Swinglish Mix, and College quartet champs Heat and medalists Fortissimo, among others, in four great shows over three days. From what I am told, the SPEBSQSA names may not have been as big as in some other years, but the energy and entertainment value were absolutely top-notch all around; there were scads of standing ovations.

(An aside - while all the featured talent were great performers and, as far as I could tell, wonderful people, four quartets in particular stuck out in my

mind. Fanatix' sound, with new bass Bonnie, is marvelously rich and full - wow! Fortissimo was by turns moving and brilliant and has to be considered the early favorite for next year's college competition. Saturday Evening Post showed once again that they are great showmen as well as singers - Alan was hilarious, and their old tenor (Scott?) is back and sounds great. Finally, and perhaps most impressively, Wheelhouse absolutely blew me away. They are a terrific, special quartet. Look for these guys to medal soon - in the next year or two - you heard it here first <G>).

Better yet, between shows and during the Saturday boat ride and at the two afterglows there was plenty of singing and tagging among many of the festival-goers (and with featured talent as opportunities presented themselves, as they frequently did <G>). Lotsa fun! The quartet "competition" among both organized and pick-up quartets was a blast, with bribe-happy "celebrity" judges, all in an idyllic outdoor setting overlooking Lake George. Quartetters sang up and down Lake Shore Drive

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Praises from a performer, too!

by *Mike Kelly*, Wheelhouse

To the fine people of the **new** Bolton Landing (NY) Chapter,

Congratulations on your new charter and thanks for a glorious weekend on Lake George. All of the members of Wheelhouse had a terrific time both on and off the stage. The barbershop audience was first rate!

We had the privilege of performing not only on the stage and the afterglow, but also on the boat ride and in town at the shops and on the sidewalks for the non-barbershoppers. We made some new friends and got to know some old acquaintances better.

To Bruce, Rich, Andy, Mike, Jeff & Steve, and to the countless others who make the weekend a success, we cannot express our appreciation enough! **Thank you, thank you, thank you!** We will remember this weekend for a long time.

Again, Thanks to Rich for the invitation and Bruce for the top notch attention you give to making this a fantastic event.

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DIRECTOR'S

C Potential!

by Greg Morrill, Director

As we try to reach our goal this Fall of finishing in the top five in the District, we are carrying a very heavy burden. That burden is "potential!" We've heard respected coaches and judges say, "This chorus has the 'potential' to finish in the top five at District." While that is great news, it is usually followed by a "but..."

Potential means you demonstrate that you can perform at a certain level, but then you don't. And what keeps us from performing consistently at that higher level? It is us! ("We have met the enemy and he is us!" *Pogo* 1971.) Potential is indeed a curse.

How do we turn potential into reality? We each have to care enough to make the difference! That may be oversimplified, but it really boils down to a matter of caring. Caring that every time you sing you assume good singing posture; caring that every singing breath is an abdominal breath through an open throat; caring that you produce the best vocal sound you can and that it matches your section and ensemble. The list could go on and on. Each of us has some work to do, if we care enough to do that work to the best of our ability, we will achieve our potential.

Local input - quote of the weekend...

By Pat Heise last Saturday at Bolton Landing after hearing both the fourth place (Fortissimo) and first place (HEAT) college quartets sing - "They got the medals mixed up in Montréal."

Song learning schedule

2004 Annual Show Song Introduction and O.O.S. Dates

Song	Introduction Date	Out of Spots Date
"Battle Hymn Of The Republic"	Done	9/2/03
"South Rampart Street Parade"	Done	9/2/03
"Way Down Yonder In New Orleans"	Done	9/9/03
"Darkness On The Delta"	Done	9/2/03
"The Birth Of The Blues"	9/16/03	12/2/03
"Basin Street Blues"	1/6/04	3/2/04
"Hush"	1/6/04	3/2/04
"The Impossible Dream"	1/6/04	3/2/04
"When The Saints Go Marching In"	3/2/04	5/4/04
"How Great Thou Art"	3/2/04	5/5/04

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all Sunday afternoon, on sidewalks and in shops and restaurants. The whole town seemed primed for the occasion - barbershops were everywhere. And this year, the new Bolton Landing Chapter was also chartered, with its chorus giving its inaugural performance under Mark Hale's direction on Sunday night.

While everyone was having such a great time, a lot of work went on behind the scenes to pull it all off. Congrats to Bruce Checca, Andy Pratt, their able assistants Scott, John, and Amy, Rich Taylor, Mike Maino, and everyone else who worked so hard to make the 2003 Festival the artistic and musical success it was. And my personal thanks to everyone who shared a song or a tag with me!

I'd say the Bolton Landing Festival provides a nearly ideal atmosphere for barber-shopping fun. It's a **great** weekend, not to be missed, and for me the first of what I expect will be many Bolton Landing Festivals.

Whew! Hope to see you next there year...

Want to sing?

VLQ to organize

by Dave Stonecliffe

There has been a lot of interest and discussion in the formation of a Very Large Quartet from the members of the Green Mountain Chorus. The Music Committee has asked me if I would spearhead the effort. Our goal is to have: 3-4 leads, 2 tenors, 2 baritones and 4 bases for a total of 11 to 12 singers. We will be singing a variety of music including chorus repertoire and a selection for the 2004 show. There are many other details to discuss and finalize however, our immediate concern is we are looking for men who want to volunteer for this unique quartet experience. This sounds like a lot of fun. If you have the time and you are interested please let me know.



- September 9 (Tuesday) -- Music Coimmittee meeting St. Francis School 6:00 p.m.
 - September 10 (Wednesday) -- Board of Directors meeting Shaw's Colchester store 7:30 All welcome!
 - September 16 (Tuesday) -- Early Singout Wake Robin Shelburne 6:30
 - September 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) -- Fall Retreat Lone Pine Campground Coach - Gary Bolles
 - September 20 (Saturday) -- Champlain Echoes Show Flynn Space, Burlington 2 and 8 p.m. featuring 'Round Midnight
 - September 27 (Saturday) -- Barre-Tones Show Barre Opera House
 - October 24-25 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Convention and Contest -- Saratoga Springs, NY
 - December 2 (Tuesday) -- First 20 Week Club Drawing (Tentative)
 - December 6 (Saturday) -- Annual Holiday Show (Tentative)
 - December 7 (Sunday) -- Elks Memorial Service Warm up 12:30
 - December 14 ((Sunday) -- Vergennes Holiday Show 4:30 p.m. Vergennes Opera House (Tentative)
- 2004
- January ? -- Installation Banquet
 - January 31 (Saturday) -- Great Northern Harmony Workshop, Montréal with Uptown Sound
 - February 14 (Saturday) -- Singing Valentines
 - March 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Prelims, VLQ and Western Division Contests, Albany area
 - April 16 (Friday) -- 20 Week Club Banquet (Tentative)