



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

Jerry Walter, Editor (802) 985-8714
66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

November 25, 2003
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Chapter to appear twelve times in next four weeks!

by *Al Carpenter*, Booking Agent

Beginning this Saturday, the Burlington Vermont Chapter will be appearing a dozen times in various forms and locations before Christmas.

Here's the latest rundown of events and details:

We have the following singing opportunities scheduled from now through the end of the year. Please check your busy calendars and watch *The Undertone* for updates and additional details.

Saturday, November 29, Warm-up 2:15 p.m.; Sing 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. University Mall - Octet Plus - Holiday Music, South Burlington.

Sunday, November 30, Warm-up 2:15 p.m.; Sing 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. - University Mall - Octet Plus - Holiday Music, South Burlington.

Thursday, December 4, Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Fanny Allen Campus, Vt 15, Colchester, 4 p.m.. Wear warm clothes. Sing for patients following tree lighting.

Saturday, December 6, Combined Holiday Show two locations:

1. Warm-up 1:30 p.m., Show 3:00 p.m. North Avenue Alliance Church, North Avenue, Burlington (just opposite the North Avenue exit off of the beltway) and

2. Warm-up 6:00 p.m. - Show 7:00 p.m. Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly, Waterbury.

Sunday, December 7, Elks Memorial Service, Warm-up 12:30 p.m., sing 2:00, Burlington Elks, North Avenue, Burlington.

Saturday, December 13, Warm-up 2:15 p.m.; Sing 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. - University Mall - Octet Plus - Holiday Music, South Burlington..

Sunday, December 14, Warm-up 12:30 p.m.; Sing 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Vergennes Opera House - Holiday Concert and Sing Out, Vergennes.

Tuesday, December 16, Warm-up 6:30 p.m.; Sing 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Country Park, Hinesburg Road, South Burlington then to Heineberg Senior Housing, Heineberg Road, Burlington (off of North Avenue); Sing 8:00 p.m. then party at John and Dede Villere's Colchester.

Saturday, December 20, Warm-up 2:15 p.m.; Sing 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Burling-

See **Holiday events** page 2

COTS openings still available!

by *Bruce Checca*, NED COTS Coordinator
There are still plenty of space at the Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center, North Falmouth, Massachusetts, January 9-11.

Chapter Operations Team Seminars are yearly sessions for traditional chapter officers like president, secretary, treasurer, Music VP, Membership VP [Chapter Development] plus chorus director, marketing and PR, Young Men In Harmony and Chapter Counselor.

Plus, this year a special seminar on Grant Writing will be offered.

Spouses and significant others are also invited. Special events are planned including a session on Feng Shui, a wine tasting session and other entertainment. Meals are included with room rates.

Room and board rates are: one night — double occupancy \$150 per person, Single room \$190, Mr. and Mrs. \$240 per couple; two nights — double occupancy \$200 per person, Single \$285, Mr. and Mrs. \$345.

[The chapter will pay for travel plus the single night rate for any chapter attendees. Please let Dick Labrecque know if you are planning to attend. Ed.]

Inside

Holiday uniforms and song lists	p. 2
Music team Report - November	p. 3
District contest review	p. 3
Thanks!	p. 4
Coming Events	p. 4

The Undertone

2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

A publication of the Burlington, Vermont Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a nonprofit, charitable and educational organization, published each Tuesday on which a chapter meeting is scheduled.

Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles are written by the editor, who assumes all responsibility for accuracy and content. Articles represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the members or officers of the chapter. To the extent permitted by space, all written communications received by the editor will be published. The editor, reserves the right to edit all copy for punctuation and length.

Deadline for copy is 9:00 p.m. Monday preceding each issue. Copy is accepted in the following order of preference: email, IBM compatible 3.5 diskettes - almost any word processor, ASCII text; facsimile to 802 985-8661, oral dictation by phone and, of course, hard copy.

E-Mail: JerWalter@hotmail.com

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Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2002

Al Carpenter

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

Uniforms for Holiday performances

Here are the uniforms to be worn for our various holiday sing-outs and shows. Note that we've made an attempt to "spooof up" the U Mall uniform - we may change this again after a trial run this weekend:

a) U Mall and Burlington Town Center holiday ensemble performances:

Regular white shirt

Black tux trousers

Paisley bow tie

Paisley vest

Black sock/shoes

Possibly a holiday sprig

b) December 6th joint concerts and December 14th show in Vergennes:

White tux shirt

Black tux trousers

White tux jacket

Red or green bow ties

Red or green cummerbunds

Black socks/shoes

c) December 7th Memorial Service / sing-out at the Elks club:

Regular white shirt

Paisley straight tie

Grey trousers

Blue GMC blazer

Black belt and socks/shoes

d) 12/16 Caroling and holiday party - travel uniform

Khaki pants

Red/white shirt

Green sweater

Black socks and shoes

with sprigs and Santa hats.



Song list for Holiday Ensemble

Here is the song list that the holiday ensemble will choose from for the Mall sing-outs. As in the past, we'll sing primarily the secular holiday songs.

Holiday secular: (in the order we sang them last year)

Winter Wonderland - Eb

Jingle Bells - Ab (alt pitch = A)

Rudolph - C

Jingle Bell Rock - C#

Rockin' Around. - C

White Christmas - D (alt pitch =

Eb)

Holiday sacred:

Angel Medley - C

O Holy Night - C

Selected non-holiday material:

Hello Mary Lou - Bb

Boardwalk - Ab

Bye, Bye, Love - Ab

Muskrat Ramble - C

Lion Sleeps - F

Alexander's - G

Darkness - F

So High - F

Holiday events from page 1

ton Town Center (formerly known as the Burlington Square Mall) Octet Plus - Holiday Music, Burlington.

Saturday, December 21, Warm-up 2:15 p.m.; Sing 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. -

University Mall - Octet Plus -

Holiday Music, South Burlington.

(Last job for 2003.)

Please mark your calendars and attend whenever your schedule permits. It is easier and more fun to "ring" those barbershop chords with a full complement of singers. Proper uniforms and song lists for these events are listed in Column 1, above.

Music Team Report - November, 2003

The Music Team last met on 11/4/03 at St. Francis School. Here are salient points from that meeting and subsequent updates.

1. Upcoming holiday performances dates, locations, and times were updated and reviewed.
2. We reviewed the status of the 2004 Annual Show music. Progress continues to be made but more member effort needs to be spent on Learning Tapes. The VLQ is progressing with rehearsals started and Learning Tapes/CD's distributed. VLQ membership stands at 12 but with only one Baritone. (some would say that's one too many Baritones!)
3. Status of songs, directors, script, emcees, sound/lights, quartet talent, etc. for the various holiday shows was reviewed: Chuck and Pat will direct the December 6th afternoon show. We're light on quartets on 12/6 in the afternoon and on 12/7 at the performance after the memorial service. A 30 song sheet of holiday song words has been sent to Vergennes for perusal.
4. We engaged in a lengthy post-mortem of the Saratoga contest. In general, the Team felt that the guys really stepped up their level commitment and performance. The issue of "where do we go from here?" was discussed. It is clear that we need to work further on matching target sounds, etc - issues raised by Garry Bolles - not clear yet how/when/who we start tackling these issues. Music Team inputs into 11/15 Chapter planning session were discussed and identified.
5. The Spring Retreat date has been set for February 21st. Karen Rourke will be our coach.
6. Participation in the 2004 Vermont A Cappella Summit (March 5,6, 7) was discussed in depth. The Team decided to invite Joe Antonioli for further information. Joe will meet with us at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday November 25th.
7. Chuck Laufer indicated that Jim Bennett (Norwich University) may be agreeable to a February inter-chapter meeting with us, the cadets, and Hanover Chapter. Chuck will follow-up with Jim.
8. Date and Time of next Music Team meeting: Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in Waterbury at the State complex. This will be a joint meeting of 2003 and 2004 Music Teams.

Respectfully submitted by,
C. Church, Music & Perf VP
11/24/03

How many are going to Louisville?

by *Jerry Walter*, Editor

The annual fall contest series have been completed. The district quartet champs have been chosen and the International Chorus Preliminaries are now over and the contenders for the 2004 Championship round in Louisville have been identified. Not, however, after some interesting turn of events. Here are some of the things you may have missed.

Chorus contenders

Most of last year's contenders will be returning next year. New comers include Westminster, California's Harmony Showcase, winning the Far Western District contest, after being disqualified last year for having a number of ineligible dual members on the risers. Not so this year.

Of the new district winners, Batavia, New York's Holland Land Harmonizers won their first Seneca Land title, the Rocky Mountain District's Saltaires of Wasatch Front, Utah and the Senate-Aires of Salem, Oregon, Evergreen District, plus the Heart of America chorus from Kansas

City', Missouri joined the ranks of this year's contenders.

Tried and true

All of the returning contenders stayed with their Montréal songs to gain another chance at winning a district title. Even 2001 champions The New Tradition, repeated their gold medal pair: "There's Something About a Soldier" and "White Cliffs Of Dover."

"Old St. Louis," a favorite in SWD

In the Southwestern District, "Old St. Louis" was chosen by no less than six quartets in the semifinal round. When Park Place started their set in the finals, they displayed a large sign reading "EVERYBODY SING!" It brought the house down, but didn't help them finish better than sixth.

Seeing double!

In the Seneca Land Chorus contest, the number thirteenth chorus competitor was Painted Post, New York's The arrow Head Chorus sang

their set with 18 on stage. The curtain closed and after announcing the fourteenth chorus, Hornell, New York's Maple City Chorus, the curtain opened to reveal the same 18 singers as had recently closed. The "new" chorus sang their two numbers, one being a repeat of their previous set. How can this be? It turns out neither chapter could stage a full chorus, so each member of both chapters became a dual member of the other chapter. Thus, all 18 singers got to sing twice in two choruses.

A Guinness record?

A Seneca Land record was set by multiple chapter member Jerry Weisenreder who went home with four blue ribbons. One from his performance in Batavia's District win, one from Rochester's AAA level championship, one from Geneva's AA championship and a fourth for being the International representative for 2004. As it turns out Jerry is a dual member in four chapter's when one counts his winter chapter, Central Florida!

See **Double** page 4

DIRECTOR'S

C O R N E R Thanks!

by Greg Morrill, Music Director

We've got a busy Holiday season coming right up and I want to make sure we put our best foot forward! There are the Holiday shows on Saturday, December 6th, plus the Elks Service on Sunday, December 7th. Then there is the Vergennes show on the following Sunday, December 14th. Also, for those who have signed up, there are the various University Mall and Burlington Marketplace jobs. Combine this with the general Holiday hubbub and we'll be **busy!** However, I was at the meeting where you guys voted to do it all. Now it's time to do it **all!**

In the spirit of the season, I do want to thank all of you for your efforts this past year. Particularly your efforts leading up to the Fall contest. Your work ethic was admirable and you did what we asked you to do.

Please express my thanks to your families for their support as well. This wonderful hobby does require a time investment and requires family support for that investment. I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving with all the trimmings — including Tums!

Holiday show update

Ticket sales continue for the joint Holiday Concerts on December 6th. (shows at 3:00 p.m. at North Avenue Alliance Church in Burlington and at 7:00 p.m. at Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly in Waterbury Center).

Warm-up for the Burlington show will be at 1:30. p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for the Waterbury Center show. Each chapter member has been asked to sell four or five tickets in advance - see Jim Mallabar as extra tickets.

Posters will be available tonight - feel free to take a few and do some creative posting!

And we're still looking for door prizes - see Charlie Church.

Double from page 3

Tale of another dual member

NED's own member, Tom McQueeney, became famous in our district as he sang with Saratoga's Racing City Chorus,, Seniors winning quartet, New York Central Connection and second place medalist Bourbon Street. Tom's participation in multiple competing groups was maxed out when he sang with Manhattan's Big Apple Chorus, second place in the Middle-Atlantic District and temporarily a wild card chorus for Louisville.

As it turns out, Tom, applied for a dual membership in the Manhattan Chapter between the time the BAC had qualified for the MAD contest and October 4 when the MAD District Chorus contest was held. According to the Official Contest Rules this action renders a dual member ineligible to sing in a district contest. The administration of the Manhattan Chapter was aware of the rule, in fact they had two local dual members for which a waiver had been sought and denied. Believing the rule did not apply to members from different district, no waiver was sought for Tom.

As a result, the MAD C and J Chairman disqualified the Big Apple Chorus, thus, depriving them of the chance to compete in Louisville. An appeal to the Society Board of Directors was not successful.

A side note is that both Tom and Steve Plumb had travelled to New York City to sing with the Big Apple Chorus. Steve missed the chorus contest only because his son was getting married the same day. Otherwise, there might have been two reasons for disqualification.

Perhaps the rule needs some clarification.



November 29 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 3-5 p.m. Warm up 2:15 Mall Office See article page 1
November 30 (Sunday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 3-5 p.m. Warm up 2:15 Mall Office See article page 1
December 4 (Thursday)	-- Christmas Tree lighting 4 p.m. Fanny Allen Hospital Wear warm clothes
December 6 (Saturday)	-- Annual Holiday Show 3 p.m. North Avenue Alliance Church, Burlington Warm up 1:30 7 p.m. Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly, Waterbury Center. Warm up 6 p.m.
December 7 (Sunday)	-- Elks Memorial Service Warm up 12:30
December 13 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
December 14 (Sunday)	-- Vergennes Holiday Show 2:00 p.m. Warm up 12:30 Vergennes Opera House
December 16 (Tuesday)	-- Caroling and Holiday Party Place(s) to be determined (NEW DATE)
December 16 (Tuesday)	-- First 20 Week Club Drawing
December 20 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble Burlington Mall 2-5 p.m. (NEW EVENT)
December 21 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m. (NEW DATE)
December 23 (Tuesday)	-- NO MEETING
2004	
January ?	-- Installation Banquet
January 10-11 (Fri. - Sat.)	-- NED COTS Sea Crest, Massachusetts
February 7 (Saturday)	-- Great Northern Harmony Workshop, Montréal with Uptown Sound NEW DATE!