

The **Diamond STATEment**



The Multiple Award Winning Newsletter of the Greater Little Rock Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

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Novice Quartet Contest Approaches

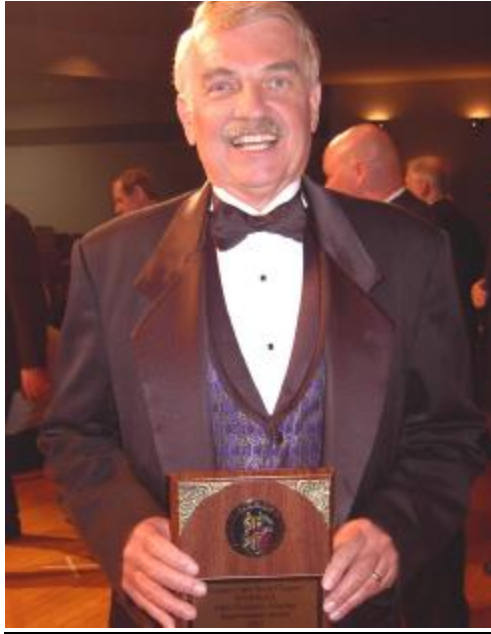
by **Lamar Setliff**

Hopefully everyone is planning to attend and participate in the annual Chapter Novice Quartet Contest on Saturday, July 26 beginning at 5:30 PM with a family potluck to follow. Historically this event has been a high point of fun for members and their families, as it gives us a chance to let our hair down and really have some fun after a working so hard to produce our show, and before we start the hard work for the District Contest. Please visit the sign-up poster so ably manned by Paul Moore, and read the rules, and also note the posted articles from the Diamond Statement concerning the results of the last three contests. The rules are also available on the chapter website.

We would like to have at least 20 quartets to sing in the regular contest and at least four comedy quartets. The time to start organizing your quartet (s) is now. Don't wait for someone to approach you—take the initiative and ask first. If you have always wanted
Novice (Continued on page 6)

Annual show called best ever

Setliff named winner of Glenn Chambers Award



In a surprise move on the annual show, **Lamar Setliff** was singled out to receive recognition as the most improved singer in the chorus, and presented the **Glenn Chambers** award. Lamar proposed the award a few years ago and has been the coordinator of the presentation ever since. This year, the award was “forgotten” in December and given to Lamar on stage at the annual show on June 14, 2003, in front of an audience of over 500 enthusiastic fans.

Another Great Show

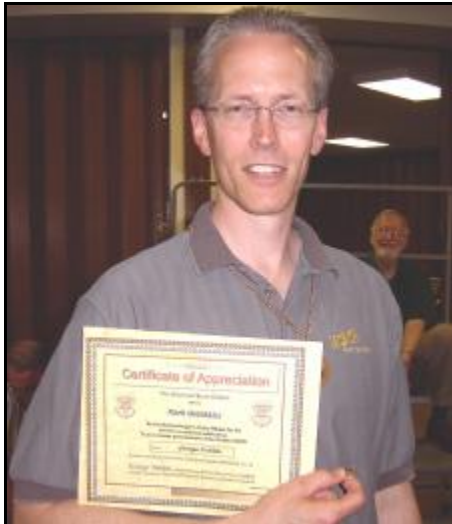
Well Gentlemen of the Diamond State Chorus, you have done it again.

I have heard many comments stating “this is one of the best shows ever.” Speaking for myself, I had more fun on the risers and could feel the audience enjoying the show we were presenting, more than the other two shows in which I have sung. Maybe it’s becoming easier, or maybe we were better prepared and relaxed and it showed in the performance. Whatever the answer, I want more. More chorus performances, more new music, more songs in the show, more coaching to improve further, and above all MORE chorus members to share this great hobby with.

Here is a long list of people to thank for their part in the annual show, in no particular order; **Ted Deweese**, many hours of program layout, **Burt Wilkerson**, ad sales accounting, **Bud Holeman**, ad sales coordination
Show (Continued on page 3)

Barbershoppers of the Minute

Three deserving men honored to wear the golden ooo in May/June.



Mark Hotchkiss

For writing an article that appeared in a national publication. Mark was delighted to receive the honor.



Bud Holeman

For being the in-house contact for PVCC and coordinating building usage. Bud was thrilled



Vic Moore

For many behind the scenes activities, including handling sign-up lists. Vic was speechless.



Gas House Gang at the afterglow. From left, Mike, Jim Henry, Rich Knight, Kip Buckner

Fun at Fun Fest

About 25 men from the Diamond State Chorus were among the 65-70 who attended Fun Fest at Hot Springs on Saturday, June 7, 2003. A great time was had by all in learning from a master, Joe Liles. We worked during the day on three songs plus a "God Bless America" overlay that Joe had written, and then performed a show that evening at Lakeside High School. It was great!

The Fun City Barbershop Chorus
PRESENTS

"Lost in the Fifties"

FEATURING
Bojohanson Quartette
Crystal Chimes
Spa City Bop and Swing Dance Club
Big Band Combo

August 9, 2003

Horner Hall

For information call 501-844-4440

baribill@cablerynx.com



Joe Liles directing Fun Fest

SHOW

(Continued from page 1)

nator, **Lou Anderson**, excellent PR work and door prize organization, **Larry Walton**, ticket sales, makeup and stage crews, **Todd Tucker**, afterglow, **Karl Krebs**, lobby coordinator, **Richard Zelnick**, taping, **Paul Moore**, building and stage crew, **Jim Linsley**, promotional productions, **Dan and Joy Cook**, taping our show, **Chris Foreman**, sound work backstage, **Art Bohannon**, keeping us fed, **George Tribble**, show accounting, he keeps us honest, and **Heather Dabbs** for backstage and general gofer duties.

**Elwin Jones**

For the second year in a row, Cary Martin, KATV, Channel 7 News Anchor has been our emcee. It is really great to have someone who appreciates our hobby in this extremely important role. Cary has a comfort level with the chorus and the audience making his job easier and our performance better.

What would we do without our friends who answer the call for help with such great dedication? **Milana Dennis** did her usual great job, "calling the show". And along to help backstage, **Janell Barkley**. Our lighting and sound crew, **Duane Anderson**, **Ernie Zelnick**, **Richard Ripley**, and **Sandy Ripley** did an outstanding job. **Ellen Withers**, **Ann Berg** with **Bill** right beside her, **Ann Lewis**, **Brenda Miller**, **Peg Blanton**, **Pat Duncan**, and **Eloise Oldridge** did a great job in the lobby.

Gas House Gang, what can be said, to perform at that level with a fill-in baritone, and the pressure of **Rob Henry's** illness heavy on their minds. We were lucky to have them here. Our audience seemed to really enjoy their performance. I know we did.

A special thank you to **Lou and Darlene Anderson** for their support in the lobby with cookies and lemonade, a special touch which our audience really appreciates.

Thank you to **Don Snow and Terry Mercing** for leadership and training in this great hobby, and the many hours of work necessary to bring our chorus to the performance level we are achieving. And to all members of the chorus for the hard work with new music and more songs on the show than before, you have set a higher standard and our chorus is better for it.

Elwin Jones, Show Chairman

June Fest at Ferncrest

by **Michael Fess**

The June Fest picnic outing at the end of the Yellow Brick Road overlooking Ferncrest Estates was a "Fun Fest" and the setting was inspirational. We brought more food than we could eat and the food was so good that recipe requests were rampant. Most attendees took the impressive tour through the **Richie** mansion constructed of huge logs from Oregon. Our host, **Wayne Richie** gave **Jim Linsley** a private tour of the fascinating electronic portion of the home.

**Michael Fess**

Matt Tatus had trouble finding anyone who could challenge his skill at the pool table or at any of the video games while our "mascot," **Heather Dabbs** tested the swimming pool. **Paul Moore** and **Art Bohannon** recruited **Larry Walton** and **Michael Fess** to sing "Down by the Riverside" to some of the ladies including our hostess, **Paulette Richie**. **Paul Chism** lead another quartet made up of **Terry Mercing**, **Matt Tatus**, and **Michael Fess** singing a special "Old St. Louis" to our appreciative hostess.

Paul Moore, **Marvin Chism**, **Jenny Mercing** joined **Paul Chism**, **Matt Tatus** to lead a group sing of several songs. Our host, **Wayne Richie**, made a vocal presence in several of the selections. The group then entertained the hosts and each other with a tag session including some of the guests from "Guest Night" who were in attendance, thanks to **Bernie's** effort.

Our man in charge, **Lou Anderson**, with his able assistant, **Darlene**, organized the layout and made everything work smoothly until he began to load his equipment at the end. He had parked his van in some loose gravel and couldn't move it under its own power. **Paul Moore** came to the rescue and pulled him out with a towing strap.

I think music itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music. Billy Joel

DIRECTLY SPEAKING

Tool Time!

WHAT A GREAT SHOW!! Everybody loved your performances and thought it was the best ever! A lot of at-taboys to **Elwin, Burt, Bud, Ted, Larry**, family, friends, and just good old Barbershop supporters! Everyone had a hand in making it a great night, a great time, and a great show! Thank YOU for all of your hard work, long riser rehearsals, and a winning attitude.



Don Snow, esteemed musical director of the *Diamond State Chorus*.

So what's next! I hope to be sharing some in-depth tools from my "tool kit" and I want to share some insight into what I'm doing.

I'm doing some remodeling at my house as some of you now know. I'm kind of a handy type guy and I will be doing a lot of the work myself. As we got started, it was carpeting (badly needed). A reputable company was consulted, a schedule and contract signed; all we had to do was arrange for the pianos to be moved on the day they were to remove and lay carpet. Simple huh?

Then tile was added, now the existing tile has to be removed as well as the kitchen vinyl. Don has a new skill to learn, laying tile as this was not a part of the contract. They also suggested if we wanted to do some painting, now, before the new carpeting was laid, would be a good time... four rooms, with trim! And what would look good with the new paint, tile and carpeting...? why a larger room with a load bearing wall replaced with a span beam, which required a temporary wall, which required the old carpeting be removed, which revealed the particle wood

flooring, which explained the bumps under the carpeting which started this whole scenario! Whew!!

Not wishing this to be a lengthy diatribe (too late) I'll get to the point (finely)! My point is the whole mishmash of a massive reconstruction project was the fact that at some time in the construction phase of our home a cost savings of maybe two hundred dollars occurred with a single decision. Something cheap and expedient was used in lieu of the proper product.

We each endure these "reconstruction phases" in our singing life when after trying on all the bells and whistles we find an "underlying" cause to the problems we encounter in our individual singing style. When these faults or misconceptions are identified and corrected, the reconstruction flows smoothly and seamlessly into a healthy and rewarding singing skill. On that new skill we can reshape our sound and style to something uncommon and uniquely ours. As I have said, "...no two instruments are exactly the same...nor should they be."



Cary Martin, show emcee in 2002 and 2003.

Be involved in the warm ups each Monday night. Most nights we are working a particular skill for what will be sung that evening. Be flexible in our warm up sessions, examine the results of your singing efforts. Are they enhanced or diminished by what is being taught? Are you actually using through the night, those things we learn in warm-up time? If not, Why not?

It is your time to use as you wish. I encourage you to use it to your advantage.

OB

"Hey buddy - How late does the chorus sing?"
"Oh, about a half a beat behind the director."

"We learn by DOING !"

by Michael Fess

There is a wonderful opportunity coming up to get some experience and improve your skills during the month of July. Get together with three other guys and rehearse a song selection for the "Novice Quartet Show."

If you feel inadequate to sing your part alone, this is a chance to change that and quit being a "leaner." If you "bomb," who cares . . . at least you have moved one step toward standing on your own and learned something about the process.

This event is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members of the chorus . . . as you know, we have little time to visit during rehearsal. Who knows, you might find other guys you really like to sing with and do it on a regular basis in your own living room.

For those members of registered quartets, this is an opportunity to pick out other guys with some talent and help them with

some techniques.

You may discover that you are singing with your future "bass, lead, tenor, or bari."

The "Barberpole Cat" songs are full of rich, barbershop harmony and lend themselves to experimenting with new voice blends. Don't stick with the Valentine songs . . . try "Down by the Old Mill Stream," or "Sweet Roses of Morn." Don't just sing them the way they are written . . . present them with a little creative interpretation. By all means, have fun with them.

For pure entertainment, the comedy contest offers a chance to really enjoy our hobby. Many of you are good with words and have a terrific sense of humor . . . writing parodies is not rocket science. Try your hand at it, you may surprise yourself. Sure, rehearsing is work, but when it comes to improving your mind and skills . . . it is worth it.

Email **Paul Moore** or **Lamar Setliff** and sign up . . . **you can do it !**

THE PERKS OF BEING OVER 40

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run into a burning building.
4. People call at 9 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 P.M.
9. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
10. You enjoy hearing about other peoples operations.

Year 2003 Leadership

Officers:

President	Larry Walton
Secretary	Bob Cox
Treasurer	George Tribble
VP Music	Elwin Jones
VP Devel/Mktg	Lou Anderson
VP Membership	Bernie Powell
Board	Bruce Dabbs
Past President	Tim Copeland

Music Team:

Music Director	Don Snow
Director Emeritus	Terry Mercing

Section Leaders:

Tenor	Gary Hawkins
Lead	Lynn Schatz
	Asst
Bari	Mark Hotchkiss
Bass	Steve Purdy
	Terry Mercing
	Asst
	Jim Linsley

Coaches

Lynn Schatz
Don Snow

Committee Chairmen:

Show	Elwin Jones
Div. Convention	Lou Anderson

New Member Audition

Coordinator	Terry Mercing
Qtet Activity Chair.	Lamar Setliff
Librarian	Todd Tucker
Uniform Manager	Bernie Powell
Performance Coord.	Tim Copeland
Music Team Internal	
Marketing Mgr	Mark Hotchkiss
Program Manager	Dan Cook
Greeter	Vic Moore

Chapter Counselor

Karl Krebs
George Tribble

(to assist other chapters in the area)
DSC Counselor **Tom Rush**

Bulletin Editor

George Tribble

Staff Photographers

Gary Hawkins
Richard Zelnick

Web Master

Richard Zelnick

Celebrations



Birthdays

Jul 2 **Paul Moore**
 Jul 5 **Marvin Blaes**
 Jul 6 **Dean Sikes**
 Jul 20 **Andy Holt**
 Jul 23 **Richard Zelnick**

Anniversaries

Jul 7 **Jennifer & Gary Hawkins**
 Jul 10 **Gloria & Art Bohannon**
 (50 years)
 Jul 16 **Carol & Bill Oldridge**
 Jul 17 **Bettye & Pops Francis**
 Jul 22 **Jo Lynne & Bill Ragan**

Coming Events

Jun 29-Jul 6 International Convention at Montreal

Jul 13 50th Anniversary celebration for Gloria & Art Bohannon—Park Hill ? Christian Church, 2-4 pm.

Jul 26 Annual Novice Quartet Competition and Family Pot Luck Social

Aug 9 Top of the Rock Show, featuring Sterling and the Diamond State Chorus

Aug 9 Hot Springs Chapter annual show

Aug 23 Coaching with

Dwayne Brobst

Sep 16-20 Sweet Adelines International Convention, Phoenix

Sep 20 Coaching with Dwayne Brobst

Oct 11 Greater Fort Smith Show Alma Performing Arts Center

Oct 12, Sunday, 2:00 PM Spring Hill Entertainment Association Cherokee Village, Arkansas Paid Performance Paid Travel Expense Full Tux

Oct 24-26, 2003 SW District Convention - Corpus Christi

Jan 14, 2004 Bob5 In Wynn, AR

The Diamond State Chorus meets every Monday from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, 10900 Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock Arkansas. Guests are always welcome. Call 791-SING (7464) WWW.arkdsc.org

Novice Contest

(Continued from page 1)

to sing in a quartet with someone now is your chance!

We are looking forward to the traditional sectional quartets—Dinglebaris, Testostertones, Leaders and Tenortones.

In preparation for the contest we will continue to have polecat qualifications for those not yet qualified. This will also help qualified polecat singers to “brush-up” Novice quartets that are formed for competition should rehearse several times. Come early or stay late on Monday night, or if you are really serious get together some other night of the week. Don will usually allow some regular rehearsal time for novice rehearsals as contest time gets



2002 Novice Quartet Champions ***The Real Leaders***, from left, **Paul Moore, Don Snow, Elwin Jones, and Jim Morris.**

closer. The name and members of the competing quartets will be kept current on the chapter website.

Let me reiterate the two important restrictions with regard to members of registered quartets:

1) No more than two registered quartet members singing their regular voice part may participate in a novice quartet.

2) Up to three registered quartet members not singing their regular voice part may participate in a novice quartet.

LET'S HAVE THE BEST CONTEST EVER!
(See related article on Page 5)