



Dixie Town Crier

Dixie's monthly chapter newsletter
dedicated to the original town crier,
Chuck Witherspoon



August 2013

Volume 5, Issue 8

Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend, Harmony Explosion Camp

What a weekend!



HARMONY
EXPLOSION
CAMP



(Photos courtesy of Bob Davenport)

Tom Riggle shares the experience

TV Time for North Georgia Barbershop Singers



President Dan Sullivan called me last night and said we need a group to sing in the morning at the Cumming Playhouse. "Be there at 4:45 a.m." I set my alarm for 2:45 a.m. and went to bed. I was there by 4:25, but the parking lot was nearly full! Well, a hot air balloon and a giant (and loud!) steam calliope took up most of the adjacent parking lot!

It turned out that TV station WXIA Channel 11 (the Atlanta NBC affiliate) was on hand doing one of a series of specials about the smaller communities in its viewing area. They were featuring Cumming, GA this particular morning, and the setting was the front yard of the historic Cumming Playhouse. We were not alone. There were over 30 groups on hand waiting to promote their activities. There were also a whole lot of TV station vehicles and people with wires running everywhere. That is a lot of stuff going on in the dark at 4:30 in the morning!

We had 10 NGBS members on hand by 4:45 and were told we would go on at 5:15 AM. It was not long before we were told the plan had been changed; we were now to sing at 6:36. I found out the reason only after I got home. June said they introduced the Bob Russell Singers (a mixed jazz group) as

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the Bob Russell Barbershop Singers at 5:15 a.m. That was the source of some early confusion!

The **11 Alive Morning Show** runs from 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, and most of their on-air personalities were there. They were joined by the mayor and other VIPs from the city and the playhouse. Since we were awake and all dressed with nearly two hours to wait, we went off a ways and sang a few numbers as a warm-up and refresher. We were to be on for about one minute so our instructions were to “do one song and you probably won’t get all the way through it” before they move on. We did “Hello Mary Lou” for a morning waker-upper. The others on hand seemed to like what we were doing, and some of the TV crew even started dancing. According to my home viewer report, most groups got 5 to 10 seconds before they cut away. We nearly finished our song, so NGBS got a lot of time compared to most.

Then the traffic reporter lady asked us to sing a few seconds of something happy to help introduce the traffic report. We had one minute to get something together. Andy Doetsch quickly created a short ditty using the tune of “Happy Birthday.” Then they asked us to sing something else to close the show. We had two minutes to get ready, so we chose “It’s a Good Day,” agreed on the first word, and finally settled on A-flat as the key. We had to say in unison, “We are the North Georgia Barbershop Singers and this is your 11 Alive wake-up call,” and then got right into the song.

Tam’s Restaurant had set up a real nice, and free, breakfast buffet under some tents, and The Donut Connection provided enough donuts for all. It was a hectic schedule for all, but it was very well done.

In looking at the Bob Russell Singers as they prepared in the dark, I thought I recognized a familiar face. I asked Terry Gillim, “Is that John Marino in the back?” John had sung lead with NGBS for a few weeks several years ago, but he became quite involved in the Holly Theater productions and dropped out. Terry said, “I don’t know, but I’ll go ask.” It was John indeed. The guy sitting right next to John said, “Hey, I used to sing baritone in a barbershop group. In a short amount of time Terry gave him a NGBS business card and invited him to visit on Tuesday. He said, “OK, I will.”

I am really glad Dan Sullivan, President of The North Georgia Barbershop Singers, pushed us to get up real early today and do this thing. We got some good TV time for NGBS, made a lot more friends, and maybe we have a member prospect. The effort will pay off for our chorus – plus, it was fun!

Editing assistance by Duane Hunter



Nashville Chapter, David Belden reporting

Never underestimate the power of a ballad

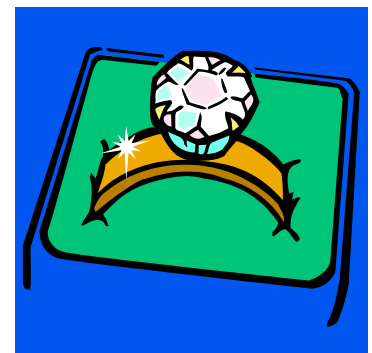
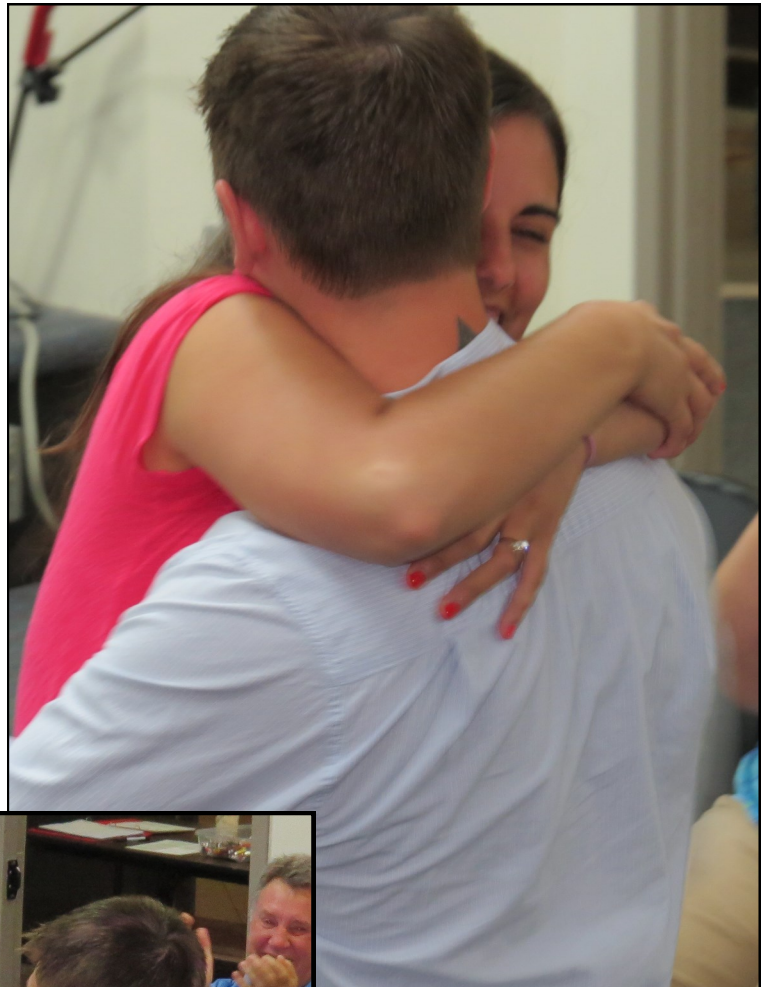
A July Tuesday night's rehearsal included what may have been a Music City Chorus first ... a marriage proposal!



As Rick Spencer brought the chorus into the tag of our contest ballad, Josh Hogancamp stepped out of his

spot in the baritone section and approached girlfriend Tessily Cannon with ring in hand. Oh ... and she said YES!

Josh and Tessily have been dating for eight years. (Baritones do like to take their time!) Congratulations!!



North Carolina Harmony Brigade Awards Chuck Greene Memorial Scholarships for 2014 Rally



Only a few months after The North Carolina Harmony Brigade announced its first annual “**Chuck Greene Memorial Youth Quartetting Scholarships**,” all ten openings had been awarded. The scholarship, funded by members and friends of the NCHB, was established to honor the memory of Chuck Greene, a charter member of the NCHB, a chorus director, a district champion quartetter, a motivational speaker and our friend. The scholarship was also created as an outlet for high-level youth quartet development. The awarded scholarship recipients are particularly ambitious young men with varied but substantive musical experiences, but not necessarily barbershop or quartetting, who have never attended an “eXtreme Quartetting™” rally.

The Scholarship Recipients hail from as far as Iowa, Oregon, Georgia, Tennessee, New York and, of course, North Carolina. They’ll be joined for an intensive weekend of “eXtreme Quartetting” in Pinehurst this January, by about 120 veteran North Carolina Brigaders coming from approximately 18 states and three foreign countries.

The interest and commitment shown by these young men resoundingly reaffirms that discipline, creativity, reliability, solid musicianship and good fellowship is not the exclusive domain of “seasoned” barbershoppers. While most of the 2014 scholarship recipients have some barbershop singing on their resumes, a number have sung only in college a cappella ensembles, church choirs and high school choir and theater programs.

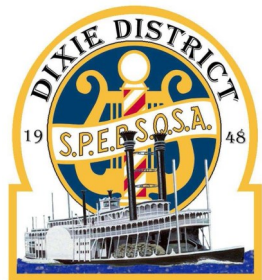
The Barbershop Harmony Society was blessed to have Chuck Greene's experience in bringing “*exciting and compellingly attractive*” chapter development techniques and activities to chapter leaders in seminars throughout the US that made a significant impact in chapters throughout our Society. In chapters where his practices have been implemented, the success rate in *recruiting and maintaining membership* have been well-documented. Chuck's passing in 2012 prompted the leadership of NCHB to find ways to foster one of Chuck's principal teachings: “*giving young singers opportunities to experience great music, fellowship and fun while, at the same time, expose them to the “roots” of our Society - quartet singing.*”

NCHB will continue to take giant steps to encourage participation in quartet singing by awarding future Chuck Greene NCHB Youth Scholarships. Without question, the 2014 rally will be greatly enhanced with the participation of these vivacious, musical adept, young men. It is our hope that by involving suitably able young men in our rally, they will be so engaged and rewarded by the experience that their continued interest in The Society and quartet singing will be assured.

Harmoniously,

Larry Kellogg, Co-Chairman

Neal Siegal, Co-Chairman



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is **AUGUST 25**. Submissions should be sent to:

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**Watch for
Dixie
District Fall
Convention
information
soon!**

www.dixiedistrict.org

**THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER, CHORUS,
AND QUARTET NEWS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 1 ISSUE
IS AUGUST 25!
SEND YOUR NEWS TO
DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET**