



What's Happening?



Official Weekly Bulletin of the "Fairfax Jubil-Aires"

**** Mid-Atlantic District 2009 Southern Division Plateau AA Chorus Champion ****

Fairfax Virginia Chapter, Southern Division, Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Vol. 57, No. 4

Chartered November 30, 1953

26 January 2010

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Tonight we're rehearsing at **Lord of Life, West Campus**

Attendance Jan 19 – 35 Members plus 3 "old" guests (Pandu, Mark and Sam)¹ and two new guests: Chuck Clopton, and Manual Lavallo



Chuck Clopton



Manual Lavallo

2010 Events

- Feb 11-14 Singing Valentines
- March 6 St. Paddy's Day
- APRIL 10 Jubil-Aires Spring Show!
- May 28-30 Southern Div Contest, Roanoke

¹ Sam and Pandu are actually new members, but we sang the Welcome song to them anyway!

- June 17-20 Harmony College East
- June 28-July 4 BHS Intl Convention, Philadelphia
- July 4 Independence Day Parade
- July 25-Aug 1 – Harmony University
- October 1-3 Mid-Atlantic District Contest, Lancaster
- Dec 9 Tall Oaks Senior Ctr, Reston
- **Red = Newly Scheduled Event**

January Birthdays (Meeting date/this week)

Bix Doughty	10	Charlie Preuss	13
John Kneueven	24		

Lost & Found

Missing something? Let us know.

NDB Plan for January 26, 2010 - Tom Meier -

Doug's away, so you get a detail-free plan. What you need to know is we are doing Moon River without spots this week. And finally, we get to sing DO (fist pump) in our quest to build a better diatonic scale!

Meeting Plan

- 7:00 – 7:30 Riser setup, quartets, warm-ups
- 7:30 (Sharp!) (On Risers) Call to Order
- 7:31 Introduce Guests (whoever brought them) – your line is, "Hi, <guest name goes here>!"

A fellowship of men devoted to the art of a cappella barbershop singing, committed to excellence in musical performance and good will in the community.
Visit the Fairfax Jubil-Aires's Web page at www.thefairfaxjubilaires.org

- 7:31 – 7:45 Technical warm up/exercises – timing and breath – (**John Knueven**, with help)
- 7:45 – 7:55 Scale Degree of the Week #4 – (introduced by **Tom Meier**)
- 7:55 – 8:20 Repertoire Review (for Annual Show)
- 8:20 – 8:40 Moon River (**Tom Norin**)
- 8:40 – 8:48 Business Meeting – Keep items to 90 seconds or less and germane to our near-term goals! Seriously, 90 seconds MAX
- 8:48 – 8:50 Introduce and sing to guests – Welcome Song
- 8:50 – 9:00 Break (Polecats, etc.)
- 9:00 – 9:40 Singing Valentines – building the quartets
- 9:00 – 9:50 Interspersed with repertoire review for those not in SV quartets; more Moon River?
- 9:50 – 10:00 Break the Set, KAS
- 10:10 – 11:15 Afterglow – American Legion Hall (Oak Street, Fairfax)

Phil's Phyles - Phil Merkel –

Here are some things to look forward to and to plan for this year:

- Delivering Singing Valentines is great fun. We need some experienced members to recruit a quartet, show them the ropes and get ready for our major fund-raiser.
- Participating in the show is just part of being a member. This includes selling ads and selling tickets in addition to the show itself. Ray LaTurno is coordinating the roles of the Jubil-Ladies without whom the show would never succeed.



- Preparation for the Southern Division Contest in Roanoke May 28 & 29 has started with our learning “Moon River.” To prepare for the Presentation component of the judging, we will have a choreographer coach to help us design and present the best “stage presence” possible. We will also have a weekend coaching session locally to focus on all three judging categories. The date has not yet been determined, and it may include an informal buffet dinner party afterward. We will pin this down as soon as possible so as to get maximum participation.
- We have a block of rooms reserved at the Roanoke Hotel where the convention will be held. At some point, you will have to make individual reservations. And we will be hosting a hospitality room again, a great way to get to know other barbershoppers.
- A good number of us are going to the International Convention in Philadelphia over the July 4th weekend. This means that our presence and participation in the Fairfax City July 4th Parade will have to be carried by those not going to Philly. A Volunteer is needed to manage this one.
- And then there is the Mid-Atlantic District Convention in Lancaster, PA, October 1 – 3. In many ways, Lancaster is a much better venue than Wildwood, NJ, where previous conventions were held. Let's make sure we do well in Roanoke so that we're invited to this one. It's not automatic.
- Add in our local and regional performances, and there is a lot of activity. I guess this is what makes it Great to Be a Jubil-Aire.

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Singing Valentines for Deployed Servicemen

– Ron Obermeyer–

Our Chapter will deliver a Singing Valentine on behalf of a deployed serviceman (male or female) to anyone in our area, free of charge. To do that however, we need the request from the deployed serviceman. That's where we need everyone's help...to identify the deployed serviceman and get the word to him. This has to be done by personal contact through someone that knows him. We need your help in getting the word out to neighbors, church members, organizations (e.g., American Legion, VFW, Optimists, Lions, etc.) that this is available and to have them provide you with a way to contact the serviceman or a person (other than the intended SV recipient) that can contact them (e.g., friend, parent). If you provide that information to Ron Obermeyer, he will take it from there.

Have your wife get the word out to her social organizations too. Every year we have done a few more. Let's make this year our best year yet. It's a great way to support our servicemen who cannot give their loved ones a personal valentine because they are away serving their country ...and you and me.

Music Learning Tips

– Mike Stoll–

From an article posted to the Harmonet by Walter Dods.

We are learning new music in this new year and these tips will help make the most effective use of your time while using the learning tracks.



Preparation: Cultivate Familiarity

a. Care about doing the best you can do. The intention to do well increases the quality of your attention. Attention to the task is a major determiner of success.

b. Listen to the selection all the way through in order to get a sense of the whole. Listen for the song's structure, its melodic line, its harmonic pattern, its word meanings, its word sounds, and its emotional content. Imagine body expression that matches what you hear.

Repetition: Establishing Neural Pathways

a. Listen without singing until each note, as it comes, is not surprising, but expected.

b. See the rise and fall of the notes as you hear them. Move your hand up and down to the notes' rise and fall. Watch the music if appropriate.

c. When you reach the point where each note is expected before you hear it, start to sing along softly so that the recording predominates. Continue this way until your voice matches the words and notes of the recording. Repeat until every word sound, note and breath is the same.

d. Attend to tempo, quality and volume so that the recording is leading your learning and your voice is "inside" the sound of the recording. Follow rather than lead.

e. Now start turning the balance control to begin eliminating your part and hearing more and more of the other parts. If your player has no balance control, use a headset and place the earphone away from your ear.

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FARB's Life – Rookie FARBS?**–Aaron Watts –**

FARBS were out in strength at our first meeting at our new Prez's house 18JAN. As there are no tenors or baritones amongst the FARBS, we were thankful and honored to have veterans Lowell Holloway, Roger Lemieux, and as always, Mike Stoll. "Rookie" FARBS (OK, I know that sounds odd) Sam Patton, Mark Jones, and Manuel Lavalley joined in as Mike led us through maintaining vowel integrity, energizing singable consonants, and softening hard consonants, on our two Polecat Valentine's Day songs.

Even though we went through some technical jargon like key signatures, tonics, and roots of chords, Mike emphasized that we should not get discouraged or overwhelmed. As Mike said, "the main thing is to learn effective singing techniques that will make you sound the best that you can be, and have fun joining your voice with others."



It was a great time ... but we are missing some FARBS! Where were you?! You know who you are! Our next meeting is 1FEB! Make sure you contact Larry Gordon to get on the FARB email list; 703.975.1238.

Make Time your Friend

a. Work in a time frame of 10-15 minutes at a time. Stay within your attention span time. Work at it often. Several times a day works well, but don't miss a day if you can help it.

b. Recognize that your brain is working on this task unconsciously as well as unconsciously. You will notice progress between session.

c. Decide to use as much time as you need. Some are faster, some slower at this skill. Take the time and be content with it. You will probably get faster at it over time.

Other Options to Consider

a. Listen to small sections and memorize them one at a time.

b. Use the repeat function of a CD player or Mini-disc player.

c. Deal with subsequent changes to the original by understanding and accepting the reasons for the change and relating the change to the original.

d. Eventually, sing your part while audiating the other parts. (Hearing them in your mind.)

e. From time to time, sing with the music to give yourself a visual check.

f. Cultivate patience with yourself to persist and achieve success. Set aside any frustrations you might feel and choose to be aware of your own progress.

g. Write out the words by hand to assist in memorization.

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SHOW STATUS - Lowell Holloway -

We have at least 8 folks who have indicated that they can perform "speaking parts" for our "Camera, Action, Barbershop!" Show on April 10, 2010, so we will back off for now and see where this takes us! Fred Geldon and Palmer McGrew will assign "who does what" and, more importantly, "when" in the next couple of weeks!



Keep those ticket and ad sales going – See Brian Johnson to get your tickets.

We want to "fill the hall" for both the matinee and evening Shows and I am sure that Pete Brintnall still has room in the Show Program for as many ads as we can sell! So, keep at it!

To recap, the ticket and ad sales prices are:

✚ Reg Seating, Matinee & Evening:	\$20
✚ Patron Tickets (80% deductible)	\$100
✚ Military, Active Duty	\$10
✚ Senior Citizens (Residents of retired centers w/ID cards)	\$10
✚ Students (w/ID cards)	\$5
✚ Children under 12 years of age	Free
✚ Bus Drivers (for retiree ctrs/military hospitals)	Free

SHOW PROGRAM AD's

Back Cover (only 1– see Pete)	\$200
Inside Cover (2 available – see Pete)	\$150
Full Page (as many as we can sell!)	\$95
½ Page (ditto)	\$70
Business Card (ditto)	\$40

Remember: If we don't sell the tickets and ad's for OUR FJA's SHOW, no one else will!

Youth in Harmony News

- **Bill McDonald –**

Jubil-Aires,
I'm passing along this expression of appreciation sent to the Jubil-Aires by Joe Servidio of the New Jersey Tri-Star Youth Chorus. At the January board meeting our Board of Directors chose to donate \$350 to support their appearance at the Mid-Winter Contention. That amount will pay the way for one of their young chorus members. They will be representing the Mid-Atlantic District in the youth chorus competition. I emailed their original appeal for help to all Jubil-Aires on 12/19/09. If you're going to Mid-Winter, Joe says "stop by ... and say hello." It's great to be a Jubil-Aire!

Bill

Bill,

Thank you so much! If you or anyone from the Jubil-Aires are attending Mid-Winter you are welcome to stop by the Howard Johnson Hotel and say hello. We are very grateful for your generosity!

Warmest regards,
Joe (Servidio)

E-Mails to the Editor

[Hilarious! Especially watching Steve try to mimic Tom's expressions to figure out the vowels...](#)
[Lise Lingo](#)

Ed: Maybe Steve will share with us during "fun time"?

[Well, Cliff and Fred,](#)

[I admit to having ignored Cliff's Notes up to now. I was intrigued to see my own ... Cliff you write so eloquently! Then I read Roger's and learned a lot. So then, of course, I had to go back and read Bix's and Bills. All very well done and I did learn a few more things about them!](#)

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Thanks for all your hard work on these. I have a lot of back reading to do!

John (Knueven)

Fred, to assure you, I read these as I know many others do and really appreciate them. We older gentlemen have some really interesting lives and it is extremely enlightening and entertaining to read about them.

Thanks for doing this.

Dave Whitney

Fred and Cliff,

Where is the latest [Cliff's Notes](#)? I have an exam coming up!

"D Student"

Ed Response: Kudos to Cliff – I'm merely the messenger. FWIW, ever since chorus members have reading Cliff's Notes, final exam scores have been noticeably higher!

Thanks, WH team. The quality of the WH just keeps getting better. It makes a big difference in the esprit!

All the best for 2010.

Don (Collier)

Ed: And to you, and all other Jubil-Aires, too!

Editor's Note

– Fred Geldon

Last week's "Name That Vowel" contest drew many responses. The

closest were from Ron Obermeyer, Jere Richardson, and Chuck Harner. The third vowel stumped everyone – the most creative response was from Ron, who suggested it was Bix's "the" – and everyone missed the extra credit given for noticing that Tom was inhaling in Vowel Five.



But the best response, which is printed here in its entirety, came from Dick Smull:

"Fred,

I took a long look at the vowel contest in the latest What's Happening and I have concluded that it is a trick contest. What we are actually seeing is the cherished singable consonants loved by many choruses. Number one is easy to identify as the "n". You can tell by the small opening allowing for the most resonance when holding a sustained nnnnnn. Number two is the "l". This is best identified by the raised upper lip. This consonant is in substantial use during the Valentine season as in "LLLLast night alone..." and "LLLLet me call you sweetheart...". Number three is perhaps the most beloved consonant of all. It is the "r". It is easily identified by the proper placement of the tongue just below the lower front teeth. Unlike the "l", the "r" is usually best exhibited near the end of words as in "Hearrrt of my hearrrt I love you...."².

As this is a trick contest, the last two pictures are not consonants but actually show typical singer expressions. The first - number four - is a singer taking a big chest breath in anticipation of the next phrase. What is not shown in the picture is the raising of the shoulders in order to inhale the maximum amount of air. The last picture - number five - is the easiest to identify. This is the expression of chorus members when they are critiqued about their consonant singing and breathing techniques by contest judges.

I hope this has been an illuminating explanation of your very imaginative contest pretending it to be a vowel identification exercise.

Dick"

It's Great to be a Jubil-Aire!

² "Talk Like a Pirate Day is Septemberrrrr, 19th.

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**Oo as in MOON****Ah as in HEART****Ee as in WE****Oh as in GO****Ay as in LATE**

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'Tis a St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

Come join the Fairfax Jubil-Aires'
**Fourth Annual "Festival of Irish
Song, Barbershop Style"**

**When: Saturday, March 6, 2010,
12:00 noon to 4 PM**

**Where: American Legion Hall, 3939 Oak
Street, Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 273-2250**

**Who can attend: Barbershoppers and
friends.**

**Who can compete: Any amateur male
or female or mixed barbershop quartet
(Society registration not req'd) based in the
Washington, D.C. metro area**

**Cost: \$50 per quartet (w/reg'n *); \$15 per
guest**

***Not refundable after February 29, 2009
Cash no-host bar; hot Irish style lunch
included**

**Competitors: Sign your quartet up now and
mail to Don Collier at the address shown below**

Quartet name:

Point of contact:

Phone number:

E-mail address:

Singer's names:

**Contest rules: Competitors will sing two
songs of clear Irish content arranged in the
barbershop four-part harmony style (only G-
rated material, please); additional songs may
be sung, in batches of two until a winner of
Most Songs is determined. Quartets will be
judged on quality of music, performance, stage
presence, costume, and originality **Bring your
favorite limerick to tell between quartet
performances.****

Prizes will be awarded for:

- (1) Best male quartet
performance: quartet name
goes on rotating cup**
- (2) Best female quartet
performance; quartet name
goes on rotating cup**
- (3) Most unique Irish song**
- (4) Most authentic Irish costume
and props**
- (5) Best "in-character"
performance**
- (6) Most Irish songs in repertoire**

**Address: Don Collier/1713 Palm Springs
Drive/Vienna VA 22182
Phone: (571) 232-4474 e-mail:
jdonaldcollier@verizon.net**

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