

# The New MexiChords, Albuquerque Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Rocky Mountain District



# SERENADER

Official bulletin of our barbershop chapter devoted to our style of music, singing and quartets

Volume 53, Issue 04

Chapter founded in 1952

July / August 2005

Visit us at [www.newmexichords.com](http://www.newmexichords.com)

## New Banner

You likely have noticed the new Serenader banner above. As a member of PROBE (society PR and Bulletin Editors), I received feedback from the 2004 BETY contest regarding a number of judging criteria related to format, grammar, style, content and layout. This is the first issue to incorporate changes related to these judging criteria. I'd be interested in any feedback you might have on these changes.

## Isotopes Sing-out



Once again, the New Mexi-Chords received a standing ovation while singing the Star Spangled Banner at the Isotope's baseball game on June 24. The crowd loved us!



Serenader

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



For those of you who missed this year's convention in Salt Lake City, you missed a great one! Congratulations to gold metal winning quartet, Realtime



And to the Masters of Harmony chorus.



The highlight of the week was the *Sacred Gold* concert on Sunday morning, sung by the 360 member Mormon Tabernacle Choir and 600 society gold metal winners. It was truly something to behold!



Don't miss the next close-by opportunity in Denver in 2007.

## St John's Church Sing-out



The chapter performed their first 2005 church sing-out on July 17 at St. John's Central United Methodist Church, under the direction of Doug Arrington.

July / August, 2005

## The New MexiChord's

### 2005 Board of Directors

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### Serenader

The New MexiChord's *Serenader* is published bi-monthly and is distributed to interested parties free of charge. Editorial comments, articles, donations and address corrections may be sent to the editor, Dick Lambert, at the chapter address or send email to: [dicklamb@swcp.com](mailto:dicklamb@swcp.com)  
505-867-4360  
Note: Articles without bylines are written by the editor.

## Prez Sez

by Gil Whalen  
Chapter President



I have just returned from Salt Lake City and the finest International Convention I have attended in my six years with the BHS - great Chorus and Quartet competitions! The highlight of the week was attending the Sacred Gold concert in the fantastic LDS Center, and listening to the combined 600-man gold metal chorus and 360-voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir. It was real nice to see so many young singers taking to our hobby. The championship quartet, *Realtime*, is fresh out of college.

We will have an opportunity to recruit some young (and not so young) new members with our society-wide recruiting program, titled UCANSING2. You probably read about it in the March-April issue of the *Harmonizer*. Our special guest night will be Tuesday, September 13. Start making your list of prospects now so we can mail them an invitation.

The final figures are in for our successful spring show. Thanks to all you super-salesmen we made a net income of over \$12000. This was very close to our best year of the century in 2000. Now

that we know the attributes of the new National Hispanic Cultural Center, we should have no excuses for selling it out next May. Our music committee is hard at work finding barber-shop arrangements for Disney music and we are hoping to hire the *Dapper Dan's* from Disneyland as our guest quartet. They performed at the Salt Lake Convention and were very entertaining.

We are getting excited about the district contest in Cheyenne on September 23 and 24. The chorus is hard at work at retreat and special coaching sessions whipping *PLL BE SEEING YOU* and *I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT* into shape. If you miss the contest, you will miss one of the most fun events of the year. The summer church sing-out program is under way and we will also be singing a more complete program at the Balloon Fiesta on October 8. Don't wait until September to invite your guests. If we don't grow—we die.

***KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING!***

***Don't Miss Our Christmas Shows December 10 - 11***

### Sharing and Caring

Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers for healing;

Doug Arrington  
Dale Harris  
Varne Kimmick  
Julia Vertrees  
Dick White

## Singing at Carnegie Hall

by Doug Arrington  
Music VP



Most of you know that Mandy and I recently traveled to New York City with a group from our church choir to join a much larger choir, full orchestra, and soloists to sing parts II and III of the Messiah in Carnegie Hall. I thought you might be interested in some of the details of my experience, and some things I learned about singing better.

The combined choir, which included 11 individual choirs totaling about 230, was made up of high school, community, and church choirs. All groups were charged with preparing the music at home, based on manuscripts of the music that had been marked in detail by the conductor.

The performance was just electrifying – we got three standing ovations! Remember that these were standing ovations in Carnegie Hall – my skin was really tingling. How could this level of performance have been reached after such a short rehearsal period with a group of people that had never sung together before? I hoped you'd ask.

During the first minutes of the first rehearsal, director Donald Neuen, challenged each of us to sing like professional singers, like Metropolitan Opera singers – at all times. He told us

we could, and in the end, I think we did. Professional singers know what is needed to produce their best tone and they do it at ALL times. They ALWAYS use good breath management, good posture, and good vertical vowel formation. They pay attention and concentrate at all times. When the conductor tells them how he wants a passage sung, they do it the next time and they do it EVERY time. Professional singers don't have to be reminded each time, because their livelihood depends on them getting it right each and every time, and every time they sing, they have to produce their best quality. I couldn't help but think how much this attitude can apply to all of us as barbershop singers. Just think how much better the chorus would sound if we all took the responsibility of singing like a professional singer ALL THE TIME. We could always sound at least as good as we do after a particular good rehearsal, and we could move on from there. Jerri has given each of us the tools we need to sing well, and we have demonstrated on more than one occasion that we can sing VERY well - when we're pushed, prodded, threatened, praised, etc.

I challenge each of you to USE those tools ALL THE TIME. I challenge you to sing like a professional singer ALL THE TIME. Good singing doesn't happen by accident, and if we all sing our very best all the time, the chorus will improve by leaps and bounds.

And if you ever get a chance to sing at Carnegie Hall, take it in a heart-beat!

## New MexiChords Quartets Call 242-4451 to book!!



### Deliverymen

Gil Whalen (465-6435)  
Tim Tripcony  
Joe McGinn  
Barney Brumley

### Finishing Touch

Jim Law (294-4508)  
Steve Cooper  
Phil Middleton  
Dennis Ledbetter

### Harmonikats

Nick Maxwell (898-7541)  
Scott Free  
Bill Lemen  
Ron Randall

### Rio Bravo

Rol Blauwkamp (837-2121)  
George Franklin  
Johnny Biffle  
Stan Hafenfeld

### The Senior Staff

Dick Harris (884-9662)  
Stan Back  
Chuck Vertrees  
Al Schoenung

### Whachamacallitz

Oz Wehlander (298-5205)  
Dick Goins  
Les Elmer  
Mike Taylor

## Spotlight on Members

We continue our on-going recognition of our more senior (experience, not aged) chapter members. We are proud to have the support and contribution of these men for so many years!

### **Jim Law, 42 years**



### **Phil Middleton, 39 years**



And please welcome our newest member,

### **John Milholland**



John was born in Memphis, Tennessee and was reared in Arkansas. It was in junior high school that he had his first experience singing in a quartet and church choirs. He earned a

B.A. in Language Arts, Theatre and Speech from the University of Albuquerque, and an M.A. in Theatre from UNM. John spent 4 years in the Air Force in Security Forces and later, after enlisting in the AF Reserves, transferred to the chaplain career field, where he retired after 20 years. He spent 26 years teaching theatre, language arts and TV production at Del Norte High School while working at Channel 13, Channel 4, KZIA radio, and KKOB radio as a news anchor and reporter.

John has also directed and acted in over 200 plays at the Albuquerque Little Theatre, Old Town Studio, Corrales Adobe Theatre and ACLOA. And he has acted in several films, TV productions and commercials.

He is married to Judy and they live on two acres in the East Mountains where they enjoy the peace and quiet of rural living along with their dog, Sassy and cat, Boots.

They enjoy traveling, gardening, reading and just generally enjoying life together.

## **The Songs We Sing**

### **The Old Songs**

Author unknown, but most recently seen in "*The Ballyhoo*", La Cresenta Chapter, Bob Barnes, Editor. Submitted to PROBE web site by Wm. Grant Carson, former PROBE Vice-President of Bulletin Editors.

"The old songs, the old songs, the good old songs for me . . ."

was composed by Geoffrey O'Hara who was born in Ontario in 1882. O'Hara was a banker and professional musician. He received an honorary doctorate in music from Huron College. O'Hara composed songs for Al Jolson and Enrico Caruso. Two of his better known popular compositions were "*K-K-K-Katy*" and "*Your Eyes Told Me So.*" He also composed many spirituals including "*There Is No Death*" and "*I Walked Today Where Jesus Is.*" It isn't known whether he wrote barbershop songs although he was the founder and first president of the Manhattan chapter.

"*The Old Songs*" is really an introduction to a more complete work of 14 pages, "*A Little Close Harmony.*" It is a glee club type song with banjo and other instrumental background.

In the early days of our society, O'Hara gave permission to use the introduction as our theme song.

### **2005 Chapter Goals**

- Increase the revenue at the annual shows by 10% over the 2004 shows.
- Increase the membership to 70 men by year's end.
- Grow the performing chorus to 50 singers by the fall contest.
- Place third place or better in the fall contest.
- Have at least three chapter quartets in the fall contest.
- Perform in public at least four times in addition to the spring and Christmas shows.

## Letters to the Editor

By Russ Born

Hi Dick, I couldn't help but notice the picture of Dick White in the last issue of the Serenader. Back in the summer of 1969, a Greenhorn lead wannabee by the name of Russ Born attended his first chapter meeting in Hopkins, MN with the Minnetonka Clippers Chorus. My entire high school quartet ended up joining the chorus that summer. I am the only one that made it a lifetime hobby, unfortunately. The first tag I ever sang was with Dick White singing tenor, along with Reme Grones on bari. I think Bud Hertig (their director then, and now) sang bass. I last saw Dick at District Contest in Greeley a couple of years ago. Hope he's doing well. Please say "Hi" for me, and if possible, forward this e-mail to him.

Since 1966 (or thereabouts), the Friday Noon Lunch Bunch has been holding luncheons attended every week by 30-50 Barbershoppers from around the Twin Cities area. At these luncheons there is much camaraderie and singing of the Old Songs. Due to a lack of places to hold the luncheons on Fridays, they now meet on Thursdays. The new revised official name is "The Friday Noon Lunch Bunch That Now Meets on Thursdays." They even have their own Yahoo Groups site to keep the "Members" up to date on activities. Long time Minneapolis chapter member, Dick Plaisted, e-mails a report after every luncheon for those of us that can't attend regularly. Living in Montana makes it tough to get there too often, except when we visit

family in the Minneapolis St. Paul area.

But I digress (I know you were wondering where I was going with this post) -- Back in the mid to late 70's (we moved to Montana in 1990), I was a regular at the luncheons, and at one time, Dick White and I were the "Hosts" for the luncheons. That meant we were the guys that got the tables organized, etc. I think we got picked because we were either too dumb to say "no" or were willing to work really cheap (like for free). Anyway, those were great times and they continue to this day, nearly 40 years later! They are absolutely some of the most reward-ing barbershop experiences I partake in year after year. Always fun seeing guys I've known for 36 years!

Russ Born  
BE, Billings Big Sky Chorus  
Weekly Update BE

### RMD CONTEST



Don't miss the upcoming district fall convention and contest in wonderful Cheyenne, Wyoming, on September 23/24! It should be a repeat of the fun times we had there last year!



## Enchanted Mesa Show Chorus

### 'MIXED NUTS'

Please join EMSC for an evening of dinner and song.  
**September 9 & 10, 7 PM**  
Sandia Presbyterian Church,  
Eubank and Paseo del Norte.  
Tickets are \$20 ea. and must be purchased by Sept 5. You may also purchase a \$25 ticket which will include admission to our holiday performance on Dec 3. Please call **296-7361** for tickets and information

Visit our Web Site!  
at [www.newmexichords.com](http://www.newmexichords.com)

Email Us!  
at  
[singers@newmexichords.com](mailto:singers@newmexichords.com)

Phone Us!  
at 505-242-4451

Write Us!  
The New MexiChords  
P.O. Box 22076  
ALBQ, NM 87154

Join Us!  
The New MexiChord's  
Barbershop Chorus meets  
every Tuesday from 7 - 10pm  
at the Central United  
Methodist Church on  
University AVE at Copper,  
one block north of Central

Come sing with us!

# ***Barbershop Harmony Society***

Albuquerque Chapter SPEBSQSA

P.O. Box 22076

Albuquerque, NM 87154-2076

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## ***New MexiChord's Calendar***

NMC Annual Retreat	Aug 12 – 14
RMD Fall Convention, Cheyenne	Sep 23 – 24
Sweet Adeline's International	Oct 4- 8
Balloon Festival Gig	Oct 8
COT's, Salt Lake City	Nov 12 - 13
NMC Christmas Show, CUMC	Dec 9 – 11
2006 Installation Banquet, Santa Ana	Jan 14
BHS Mid-Winter Convention Sacramento, CA	Jan 15 – 22
Valentine's Day Sing-out	Feb 14
RMD Spring Convention, Ogden	Apr 28 - 30
NMC Annual Show,	May 13

## ***The New MexiChords Mission Statement***

The members of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America dedicate themselves to:

- Continually seek the joy to be found in singing well in the barbershop style,
- Promote the benefits of our hobby at every available opportunity,
- Provide our community with high quality musical entertainment, and
- Foster continual musical growth and fellowship among the members.

## ***Vision Statement***

It is the vision of our chapter to achieve continuous improvement in our music, presentation, and singing, and to achieve a high level of performance.

Oct 8