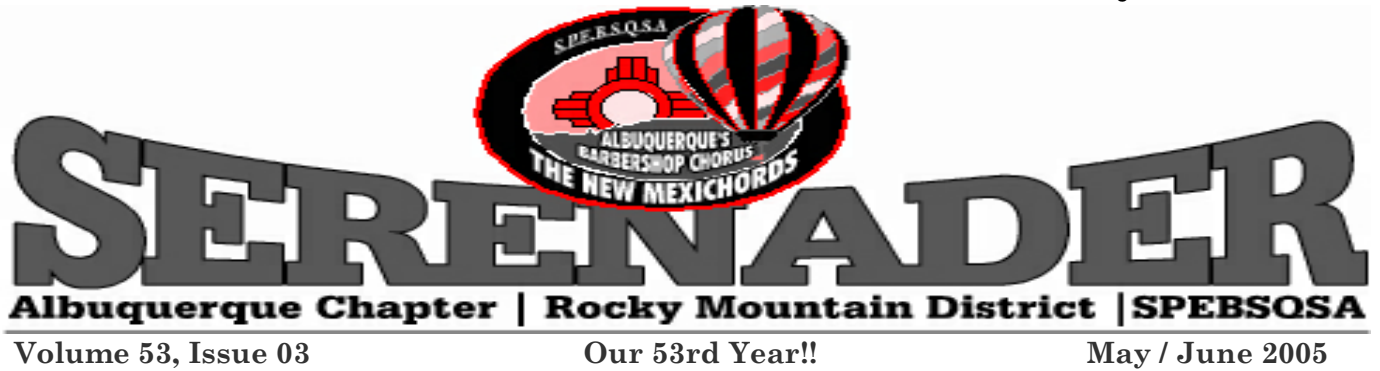


Barbershop Harmony Society



The Spring Show is Declared a Smash Hit!



Chordial Celebration

More than one source has said that the spring show, held at the new Roy E. Disney theater at the National Hispanic Cultural Center on May 7, was an unqualified success! The chorus sang well, and the variety was very entertaining, including a Big Band, girlie singers, Abbott and Costello, and the Andrew Sisters – what a combination! Thanks again to our talented Performance VP, Bob Cochner, who wrote the script, and to his show committee.

Congratulations to Betty Richards and Linda Katonak, both from Albuquerque, for winning the CD drawing at the May 7 performances. There will be another opportunity to win at our annual Christmas concert this coming December.

May / June 2005

Tickets, Tickets, Tickets....

by Bob Duckett



Tickets sales for our “G.I. Jive” show were very good. The current tally of ticket sales is 1160 for both shows. That is about 85% of the theater capacity! The sales came primarily from four different areas; members sold 35%, telephone sales accounted for approximately 34%, box office sales amounted to 15%, and senior group sales contributed about 12%. Dean and Billie Crouse did yeoman’s work in manning the phones for the weeks leading up to the show. They are to be commended and congratulated for doing an outstanding job under trying circumstances. Gil Whalen did a great job of coordinating senior group sales and brought in our wonderful fans, “The Red Hatters.” Gil contacted many of the retirement homes,

nursing homes, and assisted living facilities in the area.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

Spring Show Top Salesmen

Please take the next opportunity to congratulate the following folks for selling over \$500 in show tickets and/or program ads.

Tickets; Bob and Myra Cochnar, Dean and Billie Crouse, Bob Duckett, Tom Hoover, Dick Lambert, Carl Pennington, and Gil Whalen.

Ads; Les Elmer, Tom Hoover, Fred McCracken, Carl Pennington, and Gil Whalen.

Congratulations to All!

Don't Miss Our Christmas Shows December 9, 10, 11

The New MexiChord's

2005 Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President; | Gil Whalen |
| VP Performance; | Bob Cochnar |
| VP Music; | Doug Arrington |
| VP Membership; | Tim Tripcony |
| VP Marketing | Oz Wehlander |
| Secretary; | Jason Goldberg |
| Treasurer; | Fred McCracken |
| Past President; | Dick Lambert |
| Director; | Larry Archambeau |
| Director; | Joe McGinn |
| Director; | Del Patten |
| Director; | Chuck Taylor |

Music Committee

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Music Director; | Jerri Foster |
| Assoc Director; | Doug Arrington |
| Program Director; | Tim Tripcony |
| Tenor Sec Leader; | George Franklin |
| Lead Sec Leader; | Joe McGinn |
| Bari Sec Leader; | Tom Hoover |
| Bass Sec Leader; | Phil Middleton |

Committee Chairmen

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Que Pasa Editor; | Bud Wildin |
| Notes Editor; | Bob Cochnar |
| Serenader Editor; | Dick Lambert |
| Serenader Co Ed; | Lola Lambert |
| Web Site; | Tim Tripcony |
| Uniforms; | Bud Wildin |
| Quartet Promotion; | Ron Randall |
| Sunshine; | Nick Maxwell |
| Riser Crew; | Al Schoenung |
| Historian; | Dick Harris |
| Quartet Coord; | J.D. Lucas |
| Show Scripts; | Bob Cochnar |
| Learning CDs; | Johnny Biffle |

The 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: dicklam@swcp.com

Note: Articles without bylines are written by the editor.

Prez Sez

by Gil Whalen
Chapter President



Another successful spring show is in the history book. It was a pure pleasure to make a tribute to our military veterans. As a coincidence, it occurred on the 60th anniversary of the surrender of Nazi Germany on May 7, 1945. The Roy E. Disney Center was an excellent venue for our performance, with great seating, acoustics, back-stage accommodations, lighting, and general ambiance. The location was no problem, being only a few minutes off Interstate 25. Many thanks to Bob Cochnar for his vision to take us there with the **G.I. Jive** theme, and to Tim Tripcony and his many sub-chairmen that brought us an almost full house and good net income.

Now that all our hard work has paid off in a great spring show, we can look forward to even more barbershop activities this summer. We are now brushing up on our songs for our church choir replacement program that begins July 17. Please consider signing up for as many of these gigs as possible. There is also one of the best opportunities to attend an International Convention that is nearby in Salt Lake City on July 4-10.

You can get full details and registration information by going to our society website at www.spebsqsa.org. If you would like to sing even more than we do at International, you may want to consider the Silverton (Colorado) Barbershop Festival on July 15 and 16. Ask **Rio Bravo** or Bud Wildin how much fun it was last year. It is also time to register for Harmony College held at OSU in Columbus, Ohio, in the first week of August. So far we know Jerri will be attending the Director's College portion on a full scholarship from our District. Ben Kahalekulu is taking advantage of our 50% scholarship for first-time NMC members. There are three more scholarships available, so see me if you are interested. I am returning to see if the ice cream will be as good as it was in Missouri last year. This is an excellent opportunity to learn to sing better and have some fun. There is a \$100 increase in fees after June 15. Go to www.spebsqsa.org for more information and registration.

Please give an opportunity to enjoy this fantastic hobby to others by bringing in a new member. He will thank you for it many times over.

KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING!

Sharing and Caring

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

Dale Harris
Varne Kimmick
Julia Vertrees
Dick White

CRAFT CORNER

by *Bill Biffle*



(Fifth and last of) FIVE EASY STEPS TO GOOD VOCAL TECHNIQUE

(Ed note: A very special thanks to Bill Biffle for this excellent series on improving our craft. Bill is well known in our society as a talented director, music category judge, and society board member.)

Well, men, we've come to the end of this five-part, five-month, discourse on vocal technique. If you've been diligently practicing these techniques, they have become habitual with you and you're enjoying singing as you never have before! If you haven't been working, you're still making about the same contribution to the sound of the New MexiChords that you were four months ago (Shame on you!).

Now, the good news is that it's not too late to put these techniques into action. If you have the past four issues of the *Serenader*, you can refer to the ones you missed and BEGIN NOW to improve your enjoyment of this great hobby, and increase your contribution to this great chorus. If you don't have the past issues (you mean you don't bind them in May / June 2005

hard covers and store them in your walk-in safe deposit box?), I'm sure your happy editor will gladly to give you a full set. Just let him know.

Well, to recap the steps to good singing and a healthy attitude:

I. Stand up straight. Keep the chest up and expanded with the shoulders down and relaxed (see Part One).

II. Expand the area around the belt line, NOT the chest (it's already up and expanded, remember?) as you inhale (see Part Two).

III. As you inhale, expand and extend the vocal cavity (the mouth and throat) by dropping the jaw, opening the throat, raising the soft palate, placing the tip of the tongue on the inside of the front teeth and extending the lips off the teeth -- Whew! (See Part Three, then see it again!).

IV. As you exhale, keeping the chest elevated and the vocal tract open, support the tone with the lower muscles of the abdomen (the ones you expanded in Part Two) WITHOUT undue tension (see Part Four).

Now, for the LAST STEP. Keep the face as involved in the act of singing as is the rest of the body! You must raise the cheeks slightly (SLIGHTLY) and express the emotion of the song in your face. We call this the "active" face and it is not only essential to your stage presence, it really affects your sound in a positive way, too. I repeat, the facial expression you have is as much a part of vocal technique as is good posture, breathing, or anything else we have discussed. This is the "UP" face

:-) as opposed to the "DOWN" face :-("UP" is better! (Remember to keep the lips off the teeth and shape the mouth in a more "vertical" rather than "horizontal" way. Keep the corners tucked in slightly for all vowels.)

Spend five minutes a day in front of a mirror, singing your part. If you look like a singer, you'll be a better singer. It's really that simple. Watch your posture, your inhalation and exhalation techniques, your mouth shape, and YOUR FACE! If we would all spend just FIVE minutes each day for few weeks doing this simple task, the chorus's contest scores (and audience appeal) would SKYROCKET - I MEAN SKYROCKET! Let's really dedicate ourselves to being the best chorus member we can be.

Thank you for your attention these past months. And remember, if you want a complete package of these steps to better singing, just let your fearless editor know. Good luck and good singing! – Bill.

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.**

The Songs We Sing

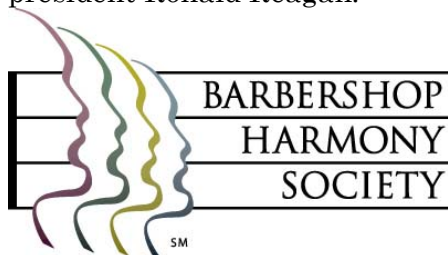
Battle Hymn of the Republic

Words: [Julia W. Howe](#), 1861, alt. This hymn was born during the American civil war, when Howe visited a Union Army camp on the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. She heard the soldiers singing the song "John Brown's Body," and was taken with the strong marching beat. She wrote the words the next day:

I awoke in the grey of the morning, and as I lay waiting for dawn, the long lines of the desired poem began to entwine themselves in my mind, and I said to myself, "I must get up and write these verses, lest I fall asleep and forget them!" So I sprang out of bed and in the dimness found an old stump of a pen, which I remembered using the day before. I scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper.

Music: "John Brown's Body," 19th Century American camp meeting tune ([MIDI score](#)). John Brown was an American abolitionist who led a short lived insurrection to free the slaves.

The hymn appeared in the Atlantic Monthly in 1862. It was sung at the funerals of British statesman Winston Churchill, American senator Robert Kennedy, and American president Ronald Reagan.



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

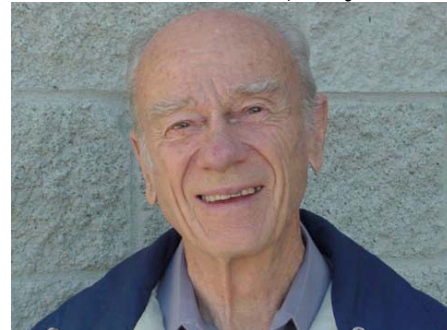
Whachamacallitz

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

Spotlight on Members

In this issue, we will begin an ongoing 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!

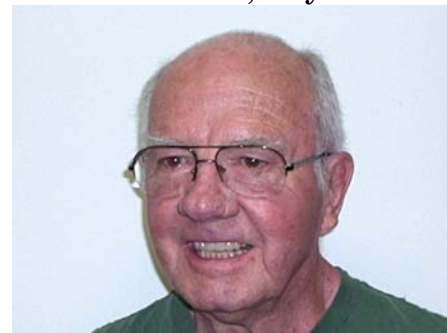
Charlie Jackson; 52 years



Chuck Vertrees; 52 years



Dick White; 45 years



Just One More --

What do you call a baritone with a lobotomy?
-- Gifted.

Society Briefs
Chapter, District, Society



Doug Arrington will be a CONTEST JUDGE at the International Convention to be held in Salt Lake City on July 3-8. Congratulations to Doug! It's also a reminder of the talent that we have in this chapter. This is a fine time to thank Doug for all the things that he does for the Barbershop Harmony Society and for the New MexiChords.

The Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society has accepted the resignation of CEO **Don Harris**, effective April 20. "We are grateful for the new perspectives that Don brought to us, and for his many efforts to move the Society forward during a period of significant transition," said President Rob Hopkins. "We wish him well in future endeavors," he said. President Hopkins named Past President Roger Lewis as the interim CEO, pending the completion of a search for a new CEO and the appointment of same by the Society Board of Directors.

The Albuquerque *Serenader* placed 2nd place in the 2004 RMD Bulletin of the Year (BETY) contest! (Toot, toot!).

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

by Gil Whalen

A special thanks to Anita (Nita) Smith, widow of former New MexiChord member Fred Smith, for a contribution to our scholarship fund for first-time attendees to Harmony College.

Bits from the Board

by Jason Goldberg

New Mexichords Board Meeting Minutes, May 16, 2005

The secretary and treasurer reports were submitted and approved.

Our 2006 spring show will feature a Disney theme with the Disney World own *Dapper Dan's* as guest quartet.

Church singouts will be on July 17, Aug 7, Aug 21, and Sept 4.

A membership drive is planned for Aug 1-Oct 1 with National GUEST NIGHT promotion for Sept 12-15.

It was agreed to send our director, Jerri Foster, to International Convention in Salt Lake City (Ed. as well as Harmony College).

The events chairman is to plan Installation Banquet for Jan. 14, 2006.

The chapter is seeking a new Programs chairman for next year. Needs computer skills, will train.



Visit our Web Site!
at www.newmexichords.com

Email Us!
at
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 MexiChords
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!

**Three (more) Ways
You Can Help Your
Chapter**

1. Wear your name badge at every rehearsal; it helps our guests and new members get to know us faster.
2. Don't talk on the risers when a director is out front. Refrain from joking, carping or otherwise interrupting the rehearsal. It is distracting, unproductive, disrespectful, and rude to the director.
3. Take the time to greet every guest after the welcome song. Remember how special that made you feel when you first joined?

The New MexiChords
 Albuquerque Chapter SPEBSQSA
 P.O. Box 22076
 Albuquerque, NM 87154-2076

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Return Services Requested

| <u><i>New MexiChords 2005 Calendar</i></u> | |
|---|----------------|
| BHS International Convention, Salt Lake City | Jul 3 – 9 |
| Silverton Music Festival | Jul 15 - 16 |
| Harmony College OSU, Columbus | Jul 31 – Aug 7 |
| NMC Retreat | Aug 12 – 14 |
| Buckeye Invitational, Columbus | Aug 18 - 21 |
| RMD Fall Convention, Cheyenne | Sep 23 – 24 |
| Sweet Adeline’s International | Oct 4- 8 |
| COT’s, Salt Lake City | Nov 12 - 13 |
| NMC Christmas Show, CUMC | Dec 9 – 11 |
| 2006 BHS Mid-Winter Convention Sacramento, CA | Jan 15 – 22 |

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.