



BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

All the News that's Phit to Print from  
The Polk-Burnett County Chapter



## The Smoke Signal

Chapter sings Monday nights, 7:30 pm in the lower level of the Polk County Government Center at the NE corner of "I" and "46" — [www.indianheadchorus.com](http://www.indianheadchorus.com)

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Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 7th Avenue N., Nashville, TN 37203-3704 [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org)

Land-O-Lakes District - LOL home page: [www.loldistrict.org](http://www.loldistrict.org)

1,000 Lakes Division –Probe Member

*This magazine is winner of 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Electronic International Bulletin Contest.*

### *Volume 53, Number 4, April, 2010*

#### **Check out these Upcoming Events for barbershopping!**

April 5 – Contest coaching with Gary Jacobson –*Son of the Sea & RR Rag*

April 12 – Contest coaching with Jim Emery –*Son of the Sea & RR Rag*

April 19 – Monthly chorus board meeting at 6:30 PM (*note new date*)

April 30 – May 2 – 10,000 Lakes Division Contest in Mankato, MN

May 15 – Retreat: Planning meeting

June 17-20 – Youth In Harmony Camp in LaCrosse, WI

June 23 – Centennial Celebration in Milltown, WI at 6 PM

August 10 – Music in the Park at Luck, WI

October 9 – Harvest of Harmony at Unity School with “Expedition”  
and “Four Man Fishin’ Tackle Choir”

**Our Chorus Mission Statement:** *“The Indianhead Chorus is a fraternity of men drawn together by a love of singing four-part, close acappella harmony music known as barbershop. We are committed to:*

*1-Improving the vocal and visual level of performance, 2-Growing the chapter, and, 3-Sharing our music with an ever-growing audience.”*

## **CHAPTER PLANNING RETREAT AHEAD!**

The Board has begun the planning of a retreat session slated for Saturday, May 15th. The first thing I want to stress is that this retreat is open to ALL MEMBERS! In a nutshell, the Board is hoping to create a 3-5 year vision and establish the steps to achieve that vision for the Indianhead Chorus. We need the input of everyone in order to provide us with the best direction possible. The Board has authorized an outside consultant to assist us with the session to make sure that we have a productive day. We still need to work out a few more details, but we anticipate that it will start sometime between 8 and 9 and be done by noon or 1 pm. We are still working on a location. If you are unable to attend, please take a minute to talk with a board member about your desires for our chapter in the upcoming years. We want to work to make our chapter the best that we can be, AND that it will fit our members' needs.

Special thanks to the Board for recognizing the need, authorizing the activity, and for the work already done.

**Mark Nelson**, *president*

### **Let's eat!** (Monday night lunch schedule):

*April 5-Mark Nelson, 12-Karl Peterson, 19- Jon Buss, 26- Clint Gjerde, May 3-Darrel Peteron, 10-Gary Peterson,, 17-Paul Peterson, 24-Neil Pickard, 31-Earl Hillstad, June 7-John Roeber, 14-Harley Schafer, 21-Duane Stone, 28-Steve Swenson, July 5-Dan Valentine, 12-Rick VanArnum, 19-Fred Weber, 26-Karl Wicklund, Aug. 2-Chuck Williamson, 9-John Hertog, 16-Pete Rupp, 23-Al Stocker, 30-Kent Muschinske, Sept. 6 –Loren Nelson, 13-Alan Salmela, 20-Gary Noren*



**The Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir** is Country's premier Sportsman's quartet. Their brand of up north humor has allowed them to "worm" their way into audience's hearts all across Michigan, Canada, and the Midwest. The unique sound of these "Four Phenomenal Fishermen from Michigan" has won them several awards, including the 2000 Pioneer District Championship.

*"... the Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir is FUNNY. Their parodies and stories keep young audiences entertained, and older audiences awake. They're a wonderful addition to any program or show."*

Roger Lewis, Past President  
The Barbershop Harmony Society

## **Vocal Function Exercises**

by Milton J. Dance Jr. --Head and Neck Rehabilitation Centre

The Vocal Function Exercises should be done twice in a row, two times per day. They should be produced as softly as is possible with an easy onset (initiation of sound) and forward placement of the tone (avoid a swallowed or dark vocal sound).

Sustain the vowel sound "eee" for as long as possible on the musical note F above middle C for women, below middle C for men. The tone should be produced as softly as possible, but without breathiness. A good supported breath should proceed voice. The "eee" should be produced with an extreme "forward" tone focus; almost, but not quite nasal. The goal is to sustain the sound without breaks for as long as possible. Sustain an "eee" as long as possible.

Glide from your lowest to your highest note on the word "knoll" or on a lip or tongue trill. Voice should be soft, and a forward focus used. If breaks occur, continue to glide without hesitating.

Glide from a comfortable high note to your lowest note on the word "knoll" or on a lip or tongue trill. Voice should be soft, and a forward focus used. If breaks occur, continue to glide without hesitating.

Sustain the musical notes C-D-E-F-G, each as long as possible on the word "ol" ("old" without the "d"). Lips should be rounded; a sympathetic vibration should be felt on the lips.

**Yooper Airline Commercial:** We Are Pleased To Announce Yooper Air Is Now Operating In Upper Michigan and Minnysota. Ve are also Serving Visconsin, Nort And Sout Dakota. If you are travelin soon, consider Yooper Air, da no-frills airline.

On-board announcement by Yooper Airline stewardess: "You're all in da same boat on Yooper Air, where flyin is a upliftin experience. Dere is no first class on any Yooper Air flight. Meals are potluck. Rows 1-6, bring rolls; 7-15, bring a salad; 16-21, a main dish, and 22-30, a dessert. Basses and tenors please sit in da rear of da aircraft.

Everyone is responsible for his or her own baggage. All fares are by free will offering and da plane will not land 'til da budget is met!

Pay attention to your flight attendant, who will acquaint you wit da safety system aboard dis Yooper Air. "Okay den, listen up. I'm only gonna say dis vonce. In da event of a sudden loss of cab in pressure, I am frankly going to be real surprised and so vill Captain Olson, because we fly right around two tousand feet, so loss of cabin pressure vould probably mean da Second Coming or someting of dat nature, and I vouldn't bodar with doze liddle masks on da rubber tubes. You're gonna have bigger tings to worry about den dat. Just stuff doze back up in dair little holes. Probably da masks fell out because of turbulence which, to be honest wit you, we're going to have quite a bit of at two tousand feet, sorta like driving across a plowed field, but after a while you get used to it.

In da event of a water landing, I'd say forget it. Start saying da Lord's Prayer and just hope you get to da part about forgive us our sins as we forgive doze who sin against us, which some people say 'trespass against us,' which isn't right, but what can you do?

Da use of cell phones on da plane is strictly forbidden, not because day may confuse da plane's navigation system, which is seat of da pants all da way. No, it's because cell phones are a pain in da wazoo, and if God meant you to use a cell phone, He vould have put your mout on da side of your head.

We start lunch right about noon and it's buffet style with da coffee pot up front. Den we'll have da hymn sing; hymnals are in da seat pocket in front of you. Don't take yours wit you when you go or I am going to be real upset and I am not kiddin ! Right now I'll say Grace: 'Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let deze gifts to us be blessed. Fadar, Son, and Holy Ghost, may we land in Dulut or pretty close. Amen"

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 A Dutchman was explaining the red, white and blue Netherlands flag to an American. "Our flag is symbolic of our taxes. We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bills, and blue after we pay them."

The American nodded. "It's the same in the USA only we see stars too!"

### **Our Officers for 2010**

President: Mark Nelson .....	715-483-3152
Sec/Treas: Larry Fisk .....	715-327-8091
VP Marketing & PR & Bulletin editor: Ken Mettler.....	715-483-9202
VP Music: Steve Osero.....	715-268-8146
VP Membership: Clint Gjerde .....	715-483-3152
Asst. Music Dir. & Webmaster: Karl Wicklund.....	715-268-2685
Music Director: Steve Swenson.....	715-483-9797
Members at Lg.: Larry Durand .....	715-263-2201
Roger Johnson.....	715-825-4393
John Roeber.....	715-472-6164

~~~~~other functions~~~~~

|                                                     |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Young Men in Harmony: Jon Buss .....</i>         | <i>715-246-3074</i> |
| <i>Birthday/Anniversary cards: LeRoy Brown.....</i> | <i>715-857-5422</i> |
| <i>Chapter Historian: Gary Merchant.....</i>        | <i>715-646-9396</i> |
| <i>2010 Show Chair: Ken Mettler.....</i>            | <i>715-483-9202</i> |
| <i>Librarian: John Roeber .....</i>                 | <i>715-472-6164</i> |
| <i>Performance Coordinator: Dan Valentine.....</i>  | <i>715-472-2164</i> |

### **WINGS**, by Charles R. Swindoll

"Grab here, amigo." I grabbed. "Hold on tight, por favor." I held on. "When you come back toward the shore and I blow whistle, you pull cord pronto!" Within seconds I was airborne. A loud "whoosh," a long strong jerk, and I was three hundred feet or so above the picturesque beach at Puerto Vallarta.

You guessed it . . . my first try at parasailing. Four-and-a-half minutes of indescribable ecstasy sandwiched between a few seconds of sheer panic. Talk about fun!

Above me was the bluest, clearest sky you could imagine. Behind me was a full-blown dazzling red-and-white parachute. Down in front, attached to my harness and a long yellow rope, was a speedboat at full throttle. Below, the turquoise sea, various sailing vessels, a long row of hotels, sun-bathers the size of ants, and one beautiful lady wondering if she would soon be a widow.

I must confess, for those few minutes I forgot everything else. Never, since childhood, have I felt quite so free, so unencumbered, so completely removed from others' expectations and my own responsibilities.

I like to think that might be the true, authentic, carefree kind of leisure and relaxation Jesus had in mind when He encouraged His twelve to come apart and rest awhile.

How easily we forget the necessity of recreation; how quickly we discount its value! In our neurotic drive for more, more, more, we become all roots and no wings.

Life closes in and takes the shape of a chore instead of a challenge. Fun and laughter, originally designed to remove the friction of monotony from the machinery of existence, begin to be viewed as enemies instead of friends. Intensity, that ugly yet persuasive twin of hurry, convinces us we haven't the right to relax . . . we must not take time for leisure . . . we can't afford such rootless, risky luxury. Its message is loud, logical, sensible, strong, and wrong.

We all need roots and wings. But most of us are long on the former and short on the latter.

Expand your world, free your mind, and calm your nerves. Don't wait! Quit worrying about the risk or complaining about the cost.

Take time to soar!

*Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.*

### **The Old Songs**

There is something grand about old things that still work well. Old furniture, rich with the patina of age and history, is far more intriguing than the modern stuff. When you sit on it or eat off it or sleep in it, your mind pictures those in previous centuries who did the same in a world of candlelight, oil lamps, buggies, and potbelly stoves. Each scrape or dent holds a story you wish you knew.

Old hardback books are far more fascinating than today's slick paperbacks. I find it therapeutic to hold in my hands pages that have endured the ages, to pore over lines that other eyes have pondered and other fingers have marked. The authenticity of antiquity thrills me.

Old churches affect me the same way. As you settle into the creaking oak pew, you can hear the pipe organ filling the sanctuary with one of Bach's masterworks. The thunderous voice of the preacher is in the woodwork, and the altar beckons you to be still and know that God is God.

Strangely, such sights and sounds equip us to face our struggles today with renewed strength and happiness, for it's the old things---things that have outlived fashions and fads, that have endured wars and recessions, presidents and plagues---that remind us to pause and encourage us to strengthen our roots.

These do more than prompt nostalgic feelings. By standing on the shoulders of yesterday, the view into tomorrow is not nearly so frightening.

Here at Barbershop Chorus we sing the old songs. Though old, they never fail to offer something beautiful, something harmonious, something new.

*Whenever we sing something old, something new is stirred within us.*

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Fund</u>             | <u>Balance</u>         |             |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 2/1/2010    | Operating Fund          | \$                     | 835.94      |
|             | Income:                 | \$                     | 901.52      |
|             | Expenses:               | \$                     | 1,492.05    |
| 2/28/2010   | Operating Fund          | \$                     | 245.41      |
| 2/28/2010   | YIH Festival            | \$                     | 4,829.01    |
| 2/28/2010   | Uniform Fund            | \$                     | 3,163.31    |
| 2/28/2010   | Performance Fund        | \$                     | 1,000.00    |
| 2/28/2010   | Equipment               | \$                     | 939.58      |
| 2/28/2010   | Quartet Fund            | \$                     | 1,000.00    |
|             | Quartet Fund            | Certificate of Deposit | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 2/1/2010    | Social Fund             | \$                     | 160.30      |
|             | Income:                 | \$                     | 55.42       |
|             | Expenses:               | \$                     | -           |
| 2/28/2010   | Social Fund             | \$                     | 215.72      |
|             | Total of All Funds      | \$                     | 16,393.03   |
|             | Total Committed Funds   | \$                     | -           |
|             | Total Uncommitted Funds | \$                     | 245.41      |
|             | Valentines -Net         |                        | \$845.54    |

**Inside every older person is a younger person  
wondering, 'What ever happened?'**

### *How Good do Your Remember?*

A man who flew his own plane, or so the story goes, got tired of the long automobile trip from the airport to his country cottage which was situated on a lovely lake. So he equipped his plane with pontoons so he could land on the lake in front of his home. However, on his first trip with his newly equipped plane, he headed for the airport as he had always done. As he was going in for the landing his terrified wife yelled, "What are you doing? You can't land on the runway ... you don't have any wheels!"

"Fortunately, he was able to swing his plane around and head for the lake. After he landed safely, he heaved a big sigh of relief and turned to his wife and said, 'That's about the dumbest thing I've ever done!' Then he opened the door, stepped out of his plane—and fell directly into the lake!"<sup>1</sup>

I doubt very much the validity of this story but it does illustrate how easily and foolishly we forget.

How quickly so many who live in the U.S. forget—forget the basis of our incredible blessings of freedom, liberty, and opportunities. Furthermore, when we get too comfortable, we easily forget that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. We criticize and blame even good leaders when things don't go the way we want.

1. From *Illustrations Unlimited*. Cited in *Encounter* magazine

## **The Lone Ranger rides again!**

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep. Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, 'Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see? '

'The Lone Ranger replies, 'I see millions of stars.'

'What that tell you?' asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, 'Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What's it tell you, Tonto?'

'You dumber than me, Kemo Sabe. It means someone stole the tent.'

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**Yogo Bera reminds us that** “We must always go to other people’s funerals; otherwise, they won’t come to ours.”

And, “Nobody goes to Coney Island any more; it’s too crowded.”

*Thanks for reading to the end!*