

The Bulletin of the Miami-Shelby Chapter's Melody Men Chorus
A Friendly Bunch of Guys in the Johnny Appleseed District Who Love to Sing

July 2006

Apple Corps 2006



Brian Phillips

By Brian Phillips

Apple Corps weekend, June 8th through June 10th, was a great time as usual. I rolled into Gambier, Ohio, about 5:30 on June 8th, got registered, and settled into my room. Activities for Thursday consisted of dinner at 6:30, a general session at 7:45, and chorus practice from 8:30 to 10:30. This year the school divided the students into two choruses. The idea was to take a piece of music, rehearse it during the weekend, and perform it on the Sat night show. The director of our chorus was Dave Calland. Dave directs the Alliance chorus and he really worked us hard.

I took two different classes on Fri. The first one was "I'm not dead I'm singing". This class reviewed the various ways to bring a performance to life. We talked about, facial expression, eye connection, body energy, attitude, movements, costumes, & props. The second class I took was titled "Basic Choreography". We reviewed ten basic choreography moves. I will be working to get the definition of each of these moves to all of you so that we can begin to use these moves where appropriate in our songs. Both of the above classes were taught by Cindy Hanson.

On Sat I took a class called "Tune it or die". In this class we worked on horizontal & vertical tuning, vocal warm up techniques, and the importance of "getting ready" to sing. I have given those ideas to Jim Riley to see they can be used in our warm up sessions. This class was taught by Mike O'Neill from Kenosha. The rest of the day was spent observing quartet coaching and watching Cindy Hanson work with the Alliance chorus on their international contest presentation.

The Sat night show was great as usual. We heard from two of the quartets headed for International, Hot Air Buffoons & The Allies. The Alliance Chorus did their International package. What a presentation! The special guest for the weekend was Fred and they really put on a show.

As always I enjoy going to Apple Corps for many

Indy Results - JAD Did Well!!

- 1 Vocal Spectrum
- 2 Max Q
- 3 OC Times
- 4 Metropolis
- 5 Flipside
- 6 Wheelhouse
- 7 Saturday Evening Post
- 8 State Line Grocery
- 9 **MatriX** **JAD**
- 10 Storm Front
- 1 The Vocal Majority - TX
- 2 The Westminster Chorus - CA
- 3 The Northern Lights - Ontario
- 4 New Tradition - IL
- 5 Midwest Vocal Express - WI
- 6 Sound of the Rockies - CO
- 7 **The Alliance - OH JAD**
- 8 Great Northern Union - MN
- 9 Alexandria Harmonizers - VA
- 10 Atlanta Vocal Project - GA
- 11 **Singing Buckeyes - OH JAD**
- 12 **Southern Gateway - OH JAD**

Look for Member Articles on the Indy Experience inside this issue!!

reasons. I always learn something every year. I get recharged about this hobby and the fun it brings to my life. I would encourage the members of this chorus to make it a goal to attend this school one time because I know you will not regret it. If you enjoy this hobby, this school is a must.

Lastly, I am proud to say that Dick Baker upheld the tradition set by a former chorus member in that he was first in the food line at almost all the meals.

MY SABBATICAL

By Dick Baker



Mr. Baker

From May 9th through July 11th, I took leave from my duties as Music Director for the Melody Men Chorus to change and improve my perspective by singing with the Great Southern Gateway Chorus at International. I wanted to be a chorus member and learn from a medalist chorus just how they prepared for competition. I got what I had hoped for and more.

Their work ethic is sound and productive. We did at least 30 minutes of warm-up drills and exercises to lock in the sound that the coaches wanted. Word sounds were drilled often. Singing with the proper resonance was demonstrated and practiced at each rehearsal. We learned to sing the meaning of words and phrases. We learned an interpretation plan for the music and the stage presence plan for the presentation. Each time we got together, we worked hard and smart. There were extra practices for each section on an off night. That helped each singer to learn his part and the coaches to help correct faults.

The performance on the International Stage was at a level about 90-95% of what we had practiced. The sound on the stage was different for us then the ones in our hall or in the rehearsal rooms in the convention center. The openness of the stage area allowed our sound to go away from us so we did not hear the same sound. Still, we did what we were trained to do and got 'A' scores for our work. We had hoped to place higher than we did but were pleased with the progress on the chorus sound.

I hope to be able to teach some of the techniques I learned to the Melody Men to help us improve our contest and public presentations. I hope we all can benefit from my experiences. I had a great time, renewing old friendships, making new friends and learning a lot.

What A Great Week in Indy

By John Rechsteiner



Dr. Rechsteiner

What a great week of barbershop entertainment and competition in Indianapolis. Since our daughter and family reside in a suburb called Carmel, we know the town pretty well and getting to the venues was quite easy. Parking was convenient and much cheaper than a hotel room.

The location of our seats turned out to be a great blessing, located in the third row above the floor, with extra leg room that greatly accommodated my left knee, healing slowly from surgery.

We were impressed with the number of quartets and choruses representing our Johnny Appleseed District. Chorus competition was, as always, very entertaining, all the way from the famous Vocal Majority to the very final chorus, Midwest Vocal Express. This chorus had every last audience member on his or her feet screaming with applause over their very unique and very original "fish aquarium" motif. Be sure to watch for pictures in the next Harmonizer or on the web site. Another impressive chorus presentation was 200 barbershop fathers, sons, and grandfathers from across the country.

As expected, Max Q, with Tony DeRosa and Jeff Oxley, came in very strong. However, when they chose to be very comical in the finals, I surmised that maybe they were aiming for second or third place. It was very satisfying to see Vocal Spectrum capture the championship.

Wheelhouse surely did very well. No doubt Max Q will be looking at 1st place next year. Denver should be a great place for competition and then vacation travel in that locale.

Check out what John was referring to by noting the pictures taken by Lorin May, posted on the Midwest Vocal Express web site at: <http://www.mve.org/> Editor

Keeping it Fun... Even at Contest

by Bob Moore

"Having fun yet?" A question that is usually asked sarcastically when things are usually mundane or worse. But seriously... are you having fun yet? I hope the answer at least leans more toward the positive and not toward the negative. To me I find it easier to have fun when in the proper mind set and I think for hobbies such as ours it has to be somewhere in between 'don't take it so seriously' to 'the better I do something the more fun it is to do.'

I take that attitude with my other hobbies... or at least I try. I'll be the first one to admit to using a vocabulary not suitable to all audiences when a golf ball sails over the out of bounds line or my fishing line snaps when I believe I have more than just a snagged log on the end of my line. I suppose it is just my competitive side coming out. If I didn't become a little hyped up over things that are perceived as trivial, I wouldn't be doing any justice to the testosterone surging through my veins!

Competition in the right mind does give you the desire to improve what you are trying to accomplish. When you are trying to beat your brother-in-law in golf, or trick that slimy critter into taking your bait (I'm still talking about my brother in law...), you want to perform to the best of your ability.

We will have that opportunity on September 9th in Fostoria. We have seven weeks to give Mr. Baker and

Barbershop is More than Just Singing, Just Ask Hooters!

by Stephen McCall

I believe a good vacation includes barbershop, golf, good food and friends. Going to the barbershop convention obviously took care of barbershop. And with a few searches on the Internet tee times were easily set up. However making sure that you had good places to eat during the convention week can be a little tougher to plan.

After getting to Indianapolis Tuesday evening I scouted the area for different restaurants and venues. My main concern was of course finding a place to eat right away for dinner and planning for breakfast in the morning. Dinner was on my own so I decided to try to find an establishment that I could get the latest sporting results and located close by. After interrogating the valet and a few workers I discovered that we only had a few selections that were close. It just so happened that a Hooters was just next door. Of course I enjoyed dining at Hooters for their famous buffalo chicken sandwich smothered in hot sauce.

I made my way to the restaurant and was invited to sit anywhere I wanted. I surveyed the room for the best location as to see the best view ... the TV's. This happened to be across from the bar, which faced eight TV's. I sat there for about ten minutes being updated about the Hot dog eating champion and the results of the baseball scores. During this time I did notice several waitresses waiting on other tables, but none had stopped to assist me. After another ten minutes of trying to flag someone down I decided to ask for help at the bar. That was when I found out I was sitting in an area that was titled "self serve." I did not realize I was supposed to put my own order in with the bartender. After my obvious surprise to find this out I managed to place an order and watch as it had top priority. Within five minutes I had my sandwich. The bartender then made sure for the rest of the evening that my glass was full. Life is good.

The other concern was breakfast for the first day. As we all know breakfast can make or break the rest of the day. Having a bad breakfast can leave you feeling poorly the rest of the day. With the convention situation of being in seats for most of the day choices can be very critical. As before, I sought local knowledge of the breakfast scene. After a discussion with the desk clerks at the hotel I had some selections to take back to the rest of our gang to decide upon. The choices given were ... the Hotel buffet ... which at \$15 was probably a little much as to the price per meal, but I think I could have done fine based on the cost/quantity factor ... second was The Red Eye ... a little establishment nearby that was open 24 hrs ... and a breakfast/lunch restaurant that was 6 blocks away, but had good recommendations from all three clerks.

The decision was made to try the Red Eye based on the location, price, and the 2-1 vote of the clerks that it was not greasier than a waffle house. Our food was adequate at the Red Eye, but the help was a little overwhelmed as many barbershoppers stopped at the bar/eatery for breakfast. One item that was important to our group was having enough coffee to go with the



Mr. McCall

cream that was provided. As they found out this was a difficult task.

Eating at the contest site, while normal hunger pangs might exist, is very expensive. I planned on two meals a day and plenty of candy during the events. Eating during the contest is like buying popcorn at the movie theaters. I hate being a captive audience and forced to pay prices for something that anyone can buy elsewhere for 30% the cost. With this in mind we made sure that we found places that were convenient, but also relaxing to dine at for dinners. We also tried to avoid the fast food locations, although we only found a Steak and Shake to our liking out side of the mall food court ... just a note... Dale was good and did not order any ice cream all week. Dinners took place at Hooters, Spaghetti Factory, Smokey Bones, and Hooters again for Don's party. The manager was nice enough to recommend we bring our own cake rather than paying them per slice. With this kind of service I made sure to have one more drink to thank them.

As for our quest to find a good breakfast location, Dale and I ventured the six blocks to breakfast since we were abandoned from our other breakfast comrades for Don's 50th Breakfast provided by the society. He was allowed to have one guest. He chose the person driving home so he was guaranteed a ride home. The name of our breakfast place was La Peeps. The food and service were well worth the walk. Any place that can serve you unlimited coffee with your own carafe on your table, plenty of cream and sugar that you don't have to open from packages already has a leg up on their competitors. We ended up eating there the rest of the week for breakfast. The information from the clerks was correct. It was a good place to eat. The best breakfast by far was the chicken Quesadilla with a chipotle sauce and Red Hot sauce.

No matter where we ate one common factor was the enjoyment of the company. It was very entertaining watching Don defend himself or the cream or sweetener that he had stashed away to guarantee his supply. Believe it or not the dining experience is more than just the food. Just like barbershop is more than just singing. Just ask Hooters.



Don Heffner and the gang at Hooters!!

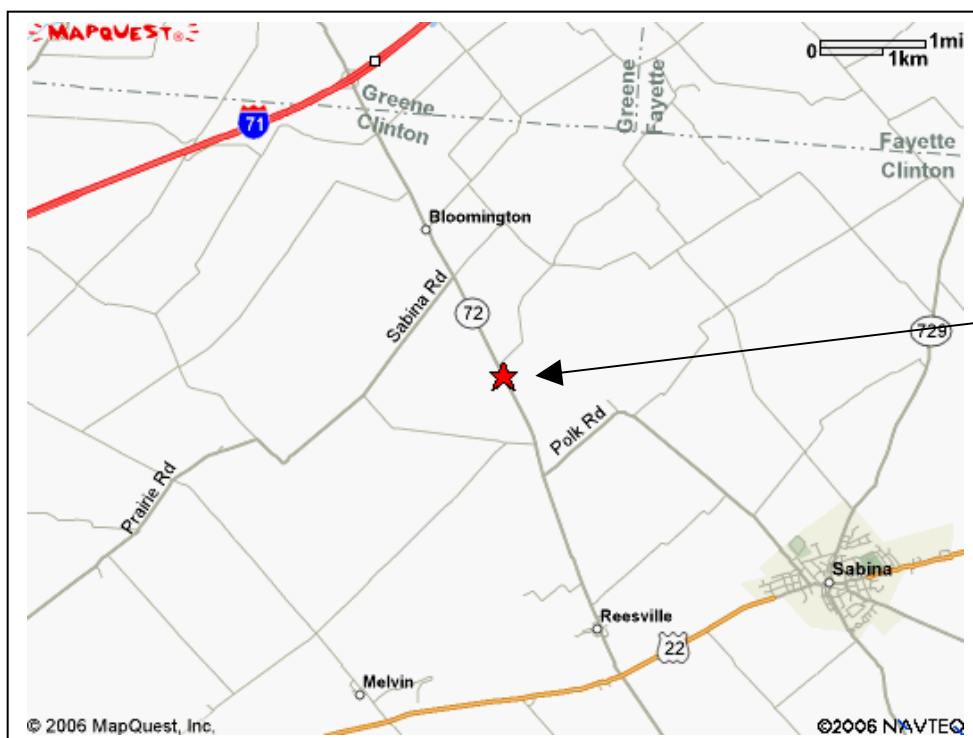
We would be grateful if you would read (and post?) this announcement at your next chapter meeting:

**IT'S CORN ROAST TIME
COME AND SING A LINE,
AND CHOMP TIL NINE,
ON GRUB SO FINE.**

**AND MAYBE EVEN BETTER YET,
YOU'LL GET TO KNOW A LARGER SET
OF VOICES THAT, WITH YOURS I BET,
WILL MAKE A WINNING CARD QUARTET.**

**ON AUGUST 5TH COME SHARE SOME SPACE IN ARNIE'S
WOODS, CAUSE THAT'S THE PLACE FOR SUMMER FUN
WITH MANY A FACE
ALIGHT WITH LAUGHTER, SONG AND GRACE**

We sure hope you are planning to join us this year for our annual summer celebration with corn-on-the-cob, quartets, camaraderie and customary cuisine. 2PM til ?? \$12 a head – (adjusted for youngsters), half-price for registered (participating) quartets and FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, bring you Card Quartet Winner's Mug and your drinks are on us. See map below for directions. Questions? Call Dave Nies at 937-426-1038 (Cell: 937-232-7416).



Arnie's Place
3271 N State Route
72 Sabina, OH 45169-
1417 (about halfway
between Columbus
and Cincinnati off
I-71.)

Keeping it Fun... Even at Contest continued from page 2

others helping with performance (smile, dammit!) our best shot against our JAD brethren. I will use the word opportunity here often, but I think we will have the opportunity to...

1. Have fun with our fellow chorus members,
2. Have fun with our fellow JAD members,
3. Perform in front of people who actually like barbershop like we do,
4. Compete to perform our best,
5. Be judged by some of the best on the society, and
6. To take that critique and use it to become more entertaining to our audiences.

Again, having the proper mindset and knowing what we are going to take out of the experience is key whether it be practice on Tuesdays or contest on September 9th. Our mantra is to have fun with our hobby. My goal last year was to be a B level chorus at contest. We accomplished that feat. Now let's do the same or better and have a ton of fun doing it.

I know that golf, fishing and barbershop are hobbies. But I sure have more fun when I perform and have success when I'm in the pressure situation. Endorphins are a good thing.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIAMI-SHELBY CHAPTER SPEBSQSA INC.

HELD JULY 10TH AT GREENSTREET UMC, PIQUA OHIO

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Moore. The roll was taken . Those present in addition to Pres. Moore were:

Dave Eleyet	Ken Crawford	Jim Riley	Dale McKinney
Art Wehneman	Jim Haley	Bill Ganger	Neal Webster

SECRETARY'S REPORT

After changing an item in New Business (100%of the expenses up to \$1000.00...add, up to a total of) the Secretary's Report was approved by motion,second and voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month of June indicated Receipts of \$461.58, Expenses of \$3,968.33 and a balance in all funds of \$9,531.12. The report was passed by motion, second and a voice vote. Ken also shared with us the final figures for the 2006 spring show which indicated a net profit of \$3,525.63

MUSIC VP

Jim mentioned that we should soon begin work on contest music. A brief discussion was held concerning chorus contest participation and the possibility of members committing early so Dick can place people according to voice part etc....

NEW BUSINESS

Don Heffner has volunteered to head up a committee to place yard signs throughout the area advertising our chorus.

Dale McKinney mentioned that the guest music books which we provide our guests to sing from are very outdated and need to be brought up to date. Jim Riley will handle this.

A motion was made by Jim Riley and seconded by Dale McKinney to donate \$250.00 to Music Warehouse. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Ganger and seconded by Jim Haley to donate \$250.00 to the Campaign Co. Children's Choir. The motion carried.

The meeting venue for July 18th will be at Hayner(sp) cultural center in Troy.

The next Board meeting will be 8:00, August 7th at the church

There being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned with a motion,second and an affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Eleyet Secy. 5

2006 Chapter Officers

President	Bob Moore
Secretary	Dave Eleyet
Treasurer	Ken Crawford
VP Music	Jim Riley
VP Membership	Mark Reedy
Program Co-ordinator	Dale McKinney
Director of Public Relations	Open
Trustee 2006	Art Wehneman
Trustee 2006	Jim Haley
Trustee 2007	Bill Ganger
Trustee 2007	Dan Black
Trustee 2008	Theran Huffman
Trustee 2008	Neil Webster
Past President & District Delegate	Open
Show Chairman	Mark Reedy
Show Director	Dave Maxson
Service Chairman	Gordon Davis
Music Librarian	Art Wehneman
Quartet Contact	John Gearhardt
Editor	Jim Moore
Bulletin Production/ Distribution	Jim Haley
YMIH Chairman	Dale McKinney
Director	Richard Baker
Ass't Directors	Bob Moore Brian Phillips

Miami-Shelby Calendar

Sun, Jul 23 rd	St. John's Lutheran Church in Piqua
Sun, Jul 30 th	Shiloh in Dayton, Full Service
Sun, Aug 13 th	Miami County Fair
Sat, Au 19 th	Darke County Fair
Sun, Aug 27 th	Rosewood Plus (3-4 songs each) + Lunch and Golf Outing
Sat, Sep 9 th	Divisional Performance - Fostoria
Sat, Oct 21 st	District Performance - Independence

Rehearsals every Tuesday at 7:30, Greene Street Methodist Church, in Piqua, unless otherwise noted.

NotePaper is scheduled for distribution on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Miami-Shelby NotePaper
c/o Jim Moore
208 Stonemont Ct.
West Milton, Ohio 45383-1135



melodymenchorus@earthlink.net
<http://www.melodymenchorus.org>