



The Charivari Dundalk, Md. Chapter

Chapter for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America
Meets every Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. at the Govt. Center Auditorium, Merritt Blvd. and Wise Ave., Dundalk, Md.
Official Bulletin of the Dundalk Maryland Chapter, Western Division, Mid-Atlantic District

P.R.O.B.E. International bulletin champion, 1971, 2001
International chorus champion, 1961, 1971



Let's get behind
our music plan

Home of the Chorus of the Chesapeake, Mr. Rick Taylor, directing
2006 Barbershopper of the year - James Yeh

Volume 49 Number 9-10

Just Do It !

Sept.-Oct., 2007

Dundalk Qualifies for International Contest in July, 2008.

by Cross O'Donovan, editor

The **Chorus of the Chesapeake** went to the Mid-Atlantic Contest in Wildwood in October with a mission. **Dundalk** needed to show that last year's third place finish was not a fluke, and heaven knows there were plenty of choruses which would be both talented enough and happy enough to compete in our place in Nashville if we had even one misstep.

The set of songs was, shall we say, familiar to us. We sang "Sailin' Down the Chesapeake Bay" and "Olde Lang Syne," the same duo that got us to the International stage in the first place. Rick still had to do some fine tuning and even some last minute note corrections, much to everyone's surprise. The rehearsals leading up to the District Contest seemed uneventful as we also worked on our collective, long-term weakness, stage presence.

In Wildwood, things were pretty much the same as when we left last October. The Royal Hawaiian Motel had room for almost the whole chorus, and on Saturday night, they opened up the indoor area on the ground floor for our hospitality room. On Saturday morning, we again warmed up at the recreation center, a Spartan building with nothing to distract us from the job at hand. It is perfect for our needs.

The Convention Center seemed to have upgraded their sound system. The sound presented to the audience seemed particularly clear this year, and significantly, this year there was no Monster Truck Rally anywhere within earshot, and no gale force windstorm came through. Everyone in the audience was happy about those two program deletions.

Dundalk sang just after intermission. Some of us like to hear what we are competing against, and some do not, but most of us found it pretty scary to hear the rest of the competitors who followed us.

They were good! **Alexandria** still produces a rich, full sound which projects to the back wall, and **Manhattan** has a couple of wonderful dancers who are the focal points for The Big Apple's program while the chorus behind them sings very well indeed.

Jack Pinto's chorus from **Easton**, Pennsylvania came in fourth, and **Westchester County** was fifth. The scores for the top four choruses were all within a hundred points, and it should be noted that this year's scores were inflated by having four judges in each category instead of three. Many other competitors improved their scores as well.

When the dust had all settled, **Dundalk** was again in third place, proving that last year's scores were no aberration. Once again none of the top four choruses can afford to rest on its laurels. While The Harmonizers won by forty points, The Big Apple was only sixteen points ahead of Dundalk who, in turn, was thirteen points in front of Easton. A three judge panel would have cut those margins by 33%, a frightening thought.

All in all, the Mid-Atlantic Division Contest was just that, a real battle and a very entertaining one for both the audience and the singers.

***Going to
Nashville
With
No Man
Left
Behind***

Huge Quartet Contest at Convention

by Cross O'Donovan, editor

When the Society set up the Mid-Atlantic District Convention, they decided to really encourage quartet singing. Kenosha combined an open Seniors quartet competition with the regular quartet shoot out. Fifteen senior quartets signed up to complete a field of 38 competitors.



Al Evans

Luckily many of the senior quartets could get to Wildwood early; so the contest began on Friday at 2 PM. After the afternoon session, there were still 21 quartets left for the evening bill of fare, which did not adjourn until almost 11 PM.

Former District Champs

Ringers (Rob Seay, Scott Disney, Mike Pinto, and Al Mazzoni) were welcomed back as mike testers, and then the fun began. Dundalk was well represented among the Seniors. **Special Occasion** with **Al Evans** singing bass won the Senior trophy. **Clean Sweep (Carl Kauffman, Warren Beckhardt, Steve Griffith, and Al Engler)** finished sixth, and they were dogged by **Classic Connection (Dan Smoot-Wood, Ed Shaw, Bob Mattes, and Sam McFarland)**. Newcomer **Surprise! (Cross O'Donovan, John Grant, Bob Hirsh, and Bruce Minnick)** finished well back in the pack.

In the non-senior segment of the contest, Dundalk was again well represented with **AirPower (Bob Wilson, Brad Jones, John Hohl, and Vince Tepe)** and **New Release (Ryan Griffith, Shawn Thomas, Noah Morrison, and Joe Eckert)**. **New Release** was crowned as the new District Champion after they put on a very intricate set of songs.

All in all, the Dundalk Chapter did very well at the Mid-Atlantic District Convention. Strong finishes by **Special Occasion** and **New Release**, confirmed their credentials as representatives in the International Senior contest and for the International Quartet contest. They will join the Chorus of the Chesapeake on the stage in Nashville in July, 2008.

Not too shabby.

Prez Sez:

by Paul Murrell, Chapter President



Congratulations to each of us for one incredibly wonderful weekend in Wildwood. There are just so many positives regarding our experiences.

We were declared winners by the judges, those in the audience and within our hearts as a result of the performance of 130 men who competed in the chorus contest. Gentlemen, the competition was superior. The MC declared us winners by awarding the Dundalk Chapter the 3rd Place Trophy. T'was not many years ago that such recognition was not even in our thinking. We added to the very positive reputation that the Mid-Atlantic family has long held for Dundalk. Having so many people compliment me on behalf of the Chorus and seeing so many others compliment and shake the hands of Dundalk members really did my heart good. The same thing occurred at the House of Delegates meeting I attended on Sunday. WE, WITHOUT QUESTION, ARE WINNERS as are all the other chapters who went on stage and gave their very best. The competition stage was graced by 997 singers this weekend.

Sixteen Dundalk Chapter men including **Rick Taylor** and **Joe Connelly (Old School)** represented Dundalk on the stage singing in quartets. That is A level participation.

Scoop and **Dolly Wheatley** performed his usual outstanding job in handling the housing for our weekend stay.

Scott Adams gets a special pat on the back for his perfect administration of the very difficult registration and ticket job. This was Scott's first time but one would never know it as things went so smoothly.

Bo Diebel coordinated Dundalk's successful and entertaining hospitality room. **Reggie Garey** coordinated the excellent food served throughout the lengthy evening, and **Brian Owens** was a masterful hospitality room MC.

Once again, **Marilyn Doyle** and **Bob Fogle** worked behind the scenes to do so much that no one sees while also lined up the perfect practice site.

Finally, special thanks to the MA-D Events team which included **Roger Heer, Bob Hastings, Bob Demmler, and Sam McFarland**.

District Photographer Demmler Retires

After a long and distinguished career as the official Mid-Atlantic District photographer, Bob Demmler announced that he is retiring. This past October's convention was his last.

Throughout the years, Bob has had lots of help from his family. Betty Demmler was usually at the table coordinating things, and, as often as not, daughter Stephanie would be there to help as well. More recently, Beverly Snyder pitched in too.



Bob Demmler

Bob attended the House of Delegates meeting after the District Contest, and he was received with a standing ovation in acknowledgment of his many years of service.

Bob, if you would like to be able to sit in the audience and actually listen to a contest, turn around and face the camera!

No Man Left Behind by Bob Fogle, Sr.

In preparation for our 2006 District Contest and our 2007 trip to the International Contest In Denver, we adopted the slogan, "No Man Left Behind." This was done as a public relations campaign to let everyone know that the Dundalk Chapter/Chorus of the Chesapeake does not compete with a screened chorus of only the best singers available. What we do is to give every man a chance to perform if he desires to do so. Yes, you need to know the notes and words. By competing at International and wearing our buttons, our message has spread faster than "the shot heard round the world."



Bob Fogle, Sr

I have had requests from many other chapters wanting to know if I could send them information about our motto. "No Man Left Behind" is a great philosophy. I must say that I do not want our motto to become a catch-all excuse for anyone wanting to join in the fun. There are concerns about some members who live a distance away, hindering the attendance at rehearsals. I am also aware of some concerns on this issue from within our membership.

Please, DO NOT use this motto as a recruiting tool to attract dual members from other chapters. It is in no way meant to be a recruiting tool, This is simply not ethical.

Get 'er
Dun-Dalk!

Our 2007 Board of Directors

Office	Name
President	Paul Murrell
VP-Membership	Dave Gemmell
VP-Program	John Myers
VP-Music/Performance	Rob Wolff
VP-Marketing/PR	Bill Fogle
Recording Secretary	Frank Sigwart
Financial Secretary	Bruce Neumann
Treasurer	Tim Pratt
Chorus Manager	Dick Dods
Secretary	Ed Baker
Sergeant at Arms	Nick Biscotti
Members at Large	Jim Hackman
	Bob Hastings
	Jim Kimos
	Tom Wheatley
Immed. Past President	Bob Fogle, sr.

Fan Mail!

We at the Recreation Association can only offer our apologies for the audio problems during a nice performance by the Chorus. We understand that one of Dundalk's squirrels met an untimely demise in causing an outage.

The Chorus did not let the lack of a microphone deter them one bit. I'm sure you noted attendees inching their chairs a bit closer to ensure that they did not miss a thing. My dad and I really enjoyed "A Simple Melody," and he always looks forward to the Armed Forces medley as well. He proudly stands when the Air Force is announced, and we all experienced a moment of pride.

Please be sure to share this letter with all of the members of the Chorus of the Chesapeake. I wonder if Greater Dundalk realizes just how lucky we are to be the home of such a renowned chorus. We in the audience at your concerts realize it, and we extend our sincerest thanks to all.

Joe Stadler
Dundalk Historical Society

Something Old: Paul Murrell, President

by Cross O'Donovan, editor

Bud Crusse, Ken Lawton, and Bill Catterton ganged up on **Paul Murrell** when they took him to a rehearsal at Eastpoint in 1963. He has been a member of the Dundalk Chapter ever since. In the intervening 45 years, he has held every chapter office except Secretary and Treasurer. He has been Chapter President three times, the first time in 1971, when the group won the International Contest, and he returned to office in 1976. He is now in his first year of the third term and feels he has a couple more miles left in him.

Murrell grew up in Salisbury and graduated from Wicomico Senior High. He then spent a couple of years in Germany in an Ordinance unit before being picked up for OTC. He did well in OTC and was encouraged go to college, and he chose to go home to Salisbury State College where he met Joan in 1958 in an English Class. Joan was from Overlea, and she and a job opportunity in Baltimore brought him to the Big City. His main quartet experience was in college. He says that **Ron Allen (Sussex Counts)** was not good enough to beat Paul out as tenor; so Allen sang baritone. Several years later, Allen was a MA-D District Champ.

Paul began teaching elementary school in Baltimore County at Elmwood ES, and he was vice-principal at Rosedale Elementary. In the process he received a Master Degree from McDaniel (then Western Maryland) and a Ph.D. in Education from Southeastern University.

For 32 years he has been a principal all over Eastern Baltimore County, at Patapsco Nec, Merritt Point, Berkshire, Carroll Manor, Pine Grove and Pot Spring Elementary Schools. He retired in 2004, and Joan retired from teaching in mid-2007. Between them they have spent 70 years inside schools.

The Murrells have two sons, one of whom is also a teacher, and six grandchildren, three boys and three girls. They are pleased that all of them are living in Maryland.

Administrative Note by Dave Gemmell

Effective September 7, 2007, we will no longer enter the rehearsal hall from the lower door we now use. In order to keep the noise down and reduce congestion in the corridor while Rick is holding practice, we will all enter from the front entrance.

The sign-in table will be in the Upper Lobby, as will all sales of tickets for future functions.

Thank you for your understanding.

Something A Little Less Old:

Mike Frances, District Stage Manager

by Cross O'Donovan, editor



Mike Frances

Mike Frances has been thrust into the unenviable position of having to fill his father Mitch's very large shoes. Mike's only regret is that the two of them did not sing together on the Denver stage.

Mike was not a charter member of the chapter; he was only two years old when the Dundalk chapter formed. His father, Mitch, was recruited as part of the Bethlehem Steel contingent that was so crucial to the formation of the Chorus of the Chesapeake, and Mike hung around the rehearsal halls for years. He began helping his father with risers when he was twelve, but he was not allowed to join the chapter until he was sixteen. He did become a member just before the chorus went to New Orleans, but, Mike is quick to point out, he had been rehearsing for four years. While he is officially a bass, his other responsibilities keep him from singing. The Denver convention was almost the first time he had sung on stage.

Frances has a lot of fond memories of working with his father. There apparently was a show in Bridgeport, CT. one Fathers' Day Weekend. The show chairman put the two of them up in his home and treated them like visiting royalty. The two Franceses set up the auditorium sound and the risers, pulled off a successful show, and then the two of them got totally lost in New York City on the way home.

Mike took over his father's job as District Stage Manager in 1995. His first contest in 1995 was on Long Island, and the auditorium had been used for a trade fair all day Friday. Mike had to help with the clearing of the hall, hang lights, set the sound, and set up the quartet shell. The start of the contest was delayed two hour. Mike was sweating bullets; the newly retired Mitch was in the bar, drinking a Scotch.

Mike has held chapter offices as well, being a Member at Large, Recording Secretary, and Membership Vice President. He was Barbershopper of the Year in 1976, and was elected Master Barbershopper in 2000. He has been a member of DELA since 1993.

Frances is a local product. He graduated from Sparrows Point Senior High in 1973, and he has driven a truck for a portable toilet company for 36 years. He married Terri, the long-time head of the Josephines in 1983, and they have one child, Mitchell Frances, IV. They now live in Perry Hall.

Splinters from the Board: Sept.-Oct.

by Frank Sigwart, Recording Secretary

The most exciting news is that our membership stands at 201. The Board approved the applications of Glenn Phillips for reinstatement, Bill Chambers as a new member, Mike Pinto and Al Mazzoni as dual members, and Bob Mazzoni who transferred from Frank Thorne. (*Ed. Note: Frank Thorne is a designation the Society uses for active, paid up member who choose not to sing with any one chapter.*)

We have a number of shows coming up, the most interesting being at Cape May Court House in December and in Pottsville, PA in April, 2008. We are still in negotiations with Monumental Life for their 2008 meeting.

We will be hosting the Western Division contest in Lancaster in 2008.



Dave Gemmell

Bob Fogle reported that 114 members have had their \$134.75 registration fees returned to them. Twenty-nine members declined the refund for a savings to the Chapter of \$3900. The Board formally recognized Dave Gemmell for chairing this event.

The Fall Show planning is well underway. Ryan Griffith will have learning disc available for two new songs. The Afterglow will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall again.

Bob Fogle reported on the annual boat ride, and for the first time, the chapter lost money. This event is primarily a social event, but we have depended on other chapters to buy tickets to keep us in the black. Regardless of the type of event, the chapter cannot subsidize this type of event; we may have gone to the well too often, and the event may have to be changed next year.

President Paul Murrell asked Terry McNight to facilitate the forming of 12 quartets from our chapter to register and compete in the Western Division contest in June, (*ed. note: in about 1984 the Chapter, under John Myers, started the Aegis Quartet Program. A lot of chapter quartets formed, sang in the Division Contest, and performed on the Fall Show. The Chorus's singing also improved.*)

President Murrell suggested forming a committee to redefine parts of our bylaws and to write job descriptions for our Chapter committees.

Sailing Down the Chesapeake, Literally

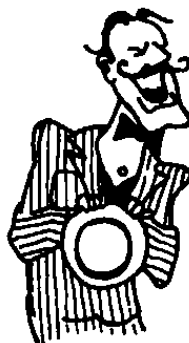
In what has been an annual ritual, the annual boat ride took place on August, &&&. The Chorus boarded the Bay Lady at the Inner Harbor on Saturday morning to sing our collective ways down the Bay.

The weather was absolutely spectacular, and Dave Gemmell packed as many people as he could onto the ship. We took off singing, and we wound up singing The Star Spangled Banner as we passed Fort McHenry on the way home. The only problem was that we did not have enough people signed on for the trip.

In the past the ride has attracted old and new members as well as singers from as far away as Pittsburgh (and even Vancouver) one year. This year we were not so fortunate, and only 137 people signed on. The result was a loss for the Chapter. The ride had to be cancelled in 2006 due to a fire on the boat a couple of months prior to our booking, and that break did not help us at all. Then the International Contest took a large chunk of time out of the calendar, but there was also a general feeling that we need to look for another social occasion which would not compete with the Chapter picnic but would take advantage of the nice summer weather in Baltimore.

Pat and Ike

by Tom Wheatley



Hey, Pat, I seem to recall that there was an old barbershop song about a girl wanting her boyfriend to take her cat to a sporting event. Does anything about that ring a bell?



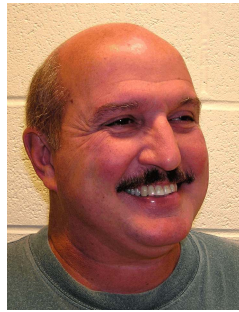
Yeah, Ike, it does. As I remember, the girl's name was Nellie, and the boyfriend was named Joe. Oh, yeah, and the title of the the title of the song "Take Meow to the Ballgame."

Note: The editor assumes no responsibility for the length or volume of the groans engendered by Scoops' gags.

Summer Picnic at Merritt Park

by Bob Fogle, sr. Master of Ceremonies

Every summer there are a couple of opportunities for members and guests to get together to sing, socialize, eat, and have fun. This summer was no exception as we celebrated our chapter and its performance at International with the summer boat ride and with the chorus picnic at the Dundalk Athletic Club.



Mike O'Donnell

Co-chairmen Mike O'Donnell and his son Mike, Jr. ordered a beautiful September afternoon, and the members and their wives turned out in force. The format is informal, and truthfully, more attention was paid to eating than to singing, which, I guess, is why we call it a picnic.



Part of the entertainment revolves around pick up quartets singing. Members are invited to form their own foursomes, and sing, mainly for their own entertainment, and sing they did.

Pick up quartets included **The Last Quartet, Quads, Used To Be, All Bass Quartet, Round House Four, Len's Boys, Exit Minus One, BMs, and Bear Creek Crickets Revisited.** You can see that a lot of thought went into the name selections. Winners were chosen by audience applause, and the prize was an extra piece of dessert.

First Place in the Pick Up Quartet contest was awarded only after a sing off because of a tie, and the proud winners were **Mike Taylor, Len Garey, Bob Fogle, and Bob Hastings** singing under the *nom de plume* of **Bear Creek Crickets Revisited.** Oddly enough, **The Last Quartet** did not wind up last at all. **Mike Taylor, Ed Allen, Bob Fogle, Jr., and Brian Owens** were nosed out and finished in the second spot. In an unprecedented ending, there was a seven way tie for third place.

The second half of the entertaining was a parade of registered quartets including **Surprise!, On The Way Out, Classic Connection, Calliope, and Dundalk Avenue.** Special guests **Dick and Lynn Webber** arrived in time to hear **John Treff** direct the whole group in the tag to "Auld Lang Syne."

My Two Cents Worth

by Cross O'Donovan, Chavari Editor

Your intrepid editor got persuaded to join a registered quartet this summer on the boat ride. The offer came out of the blue from three other seniors and near seniors who just wanted to compete at the senior level.

John Grant, Bob Hirsh, and Bruce Minnick were standing in a corner of the ship and invited me over to sing with them. Bob and Bruce had sung together with The Harmonizers and in another registered quartet several years ago. John had sung with a couple of quartets when he was with the Bowie Chapter. My only quartet experience was with a novice quartet we called **The Three Potato Four (Wayne Corkran, Jim Goetz, and Jim Kimos)** We sang on a Novice Quartet Contest at Southern High in 1974 and never sang again.

Anyhow, John, Bruce, and Bob were short a tenor; so they asked if I could fill their missing part. Anyone who has ever heard me sing tenor knows that I should never have tried it, but they caught me at the right time. One of my secret hopes was to sing in a quartet, on a stage, while I still could. So novice quartet **Surprise!** was born.

Rehearsals were hard with Bob and Bruce living in the Washington suburbs, but some careful car pooling allowed us to get together weekly. We met at the Sweet Adelines rehearsal hall in Perry Hall, at John's home in Charles Village, at Bob's home in Rockville, and even at his cousin's home in Burtonsville. We met virtually any place that would not throw us out. We were lucky enough to have one coaching session with Dick Webber in late September.

Our goal all along was to sing on the MA-D contest in October. A separate part of the 2007 quartet competition involved an open Seniors Competition, meaning that no one had to qualify to get a place on the stage. For us, that was a good thing. We had a very limited repertoire of two songs that were presentable, and those two ditties made up our contest package. We rehearsed diligently in Wildwood, and then we entered onto the stage and sang our little tonsils off. It was nice to sing in the afternoon because we could actually see the smiles on the audience's face and pick out our families in their seats. We left the stage knowing that we had sung acceptably and not much better. **Rick Taylor** assured us that our wives were more nervous for us than we were for ourselves, and that was certainly true.

Surprise! came in next to last, and we had a ball. It was an experience I will always treasure.

Chorus Sings at Camden Yards

The Chorus was invited to sing the National Anthem at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Friday, July 27th, for a huge crowd attending the game against the Yankees. Chuck Freeman's son Steve was instrumental in guiding our tape through the Orioles' screening process, and we were pleasantly surprised to be invited for a high profile game with a near capacity audience.



Chuck Freeman

In the process of warming up and walking to the right field corner access door, we got to see a whole segment of the stadium that is invisible to most of the baseball fans in the stadium. Even a thunderstorm just before the start of the game only served to make the field a little prettier.

It was a lot of fun to stand on the warning track in right field and hear our voices reverberating around the huge arena. Then we were ushered to the upper deck near the left field foul pole where we had a whole segment of seats reserved for us and our wives. We even outnumbered the New York fans in the area!

One of the best aspects of the evening was that we got "Taken Out to the Ball Game," and it was made even better by an Oriole win.

Poet's Corner, by Tom Wheatley

The Philosopher

I gaze up at the heavens
 In the middle of the night
 And see th stars all shining
 With their mystic marvelous light.

I wonder of their being
 What it means and what it meant,
 But when my wife looks at them
 She says, "Someone stole our tent."

By Thomas Henry Wheatley
 From Fireside Glow
 Maryland Poet Laureate Nominee

Chorus Returns to Heritage Park

by Cross O'Donovan, editor

For the second time in over twenty years the Chorus was not on the marquee to sing at Dundalk's Heritage Fair during the community's July 4th celebration. Amid mixed emotions, we had a gig in Denver that we all really wanted to do.

So we were all happy to be back in Dundalk on a lovely Tuesday evening in July to perform as part of Baltimore County's program of Concerts In The Park. Dundalk residents brought their chairs, and the hot dog vendor in the back of the field did a brisk business while we sang most of our repertoire.

The only glitch was that we had no electricity; so we had no amplification at all. While the chorus could deal with the squirrel-induced problem, quartet like **Dundalk Avenue** and **Calliope** struggled to project chords to the rear of the crowd. Our home town crowd did not disappoint; however, they turned our in force, and they were generous with applause.

Keep Singing Legal

We have all been surprised by the remarks of our President Paul Murrell and our Music VP Rob Wolff about avoiding copyright infringement. Today we received an e-mail from the Mid-Atlantic District on the same topic; so a lot of people must be worried about being sued and fined because of borrowing or copying music.

The truth is that copiers and computers have made duplication of music so easy that the temptation to copy instead of purchasing is almost overwhelming. As **Scott Ward**, District VP, said in his mailing, "The leadership of the Mid-Atlantic District encourages each and every chorus and quartet in the district to be 100% compliant with all music copyright laws. Each quartet and chorus is responsible for making sure they adhere to copyright restrictions at all times."

There are many sources of information available to make sure your singers do not get into trouble: "**Copyright Basics for Barbershoppers**" is available on the Society webpage by clicking "Sing" and then selecting "Get Music" from the drop down menu. "**Providing Proof for Copyright Clearance for Competition**" is also available on the Society webpage using the same instructions as above.

For a more comprehensive look at copyright law you can look at Judy Galloway's article in the July/August, 2007 issue of "**The Harmonizer**." She reminds us, "If you didn't buy it, you do not own it" We support the rights of song writers and publishers.

Here's part of what's in the works

Day	Date	Event	Location
Saturday	11/10/2007	Fall Show	Kraushaar AuditoriumGoucher
Tuesday	12/18/2007	Christmas Party	Rehearsal Hall
Thursday	12/27/2007	Bowie/Dundalk Blast	Michael's in Glen Burnie
Sunday	02/10/2008	Paid Show	Oakcrest Retirement Home
Thursday	02/14/2008	Singing Valentines	
Friday-Saturday	02/16-17/2008	Woodshed Weekend	Timonium Holiday Inn
Friday-Saturday	03/07-8/2008	International Prelims	
Saturday	04/05/2008	Founders Night	Sparrows Point Country Club
Sunday	04/13/2008	Paid Show	Pottsville, PA
Saturday	05/10/2008	May Show	Kraushaar Auditorium
Friday-Saturday	05/30-31/2008	Western Div. Contest	Lancaster, PA

Table of Contents

Dundalk Qualifies for International	1	Splinters from the Board: Sept.-Oct	5
Huge Quartet Contest at Convention	2	Sailing Down the Chesapeake, Literally	5
Prez Sez	2	Summer Picnic at Merritt Park	6
District Photographer Demmler Retires	3	My Two Cents Worth	6
No Man Left Behind	3	Chorus Sings at Camden Yards	7
Our 2007 Board of Directors	3	Poet's Corner	7
Fan Mail!	3	Chorus Returns to Heritage Park	7
Something Old: Paul Murrell, President	4	Keep Singing Legal	7
Administrative Note	4	Here's part of what's in the works	8
Something A Little Less Old: Mike Frances	4		

Visit us on the Web at <http://www.dundalk.org>

Dundalk Md. Chapter, SPEBSQSA, home of the Chorus of the Chesapeake, Mr. Rick Taylor, directing

Editor: Cross O'Donovan
3023 Dunglew Rd.
Dundalk, MD 21222
Home Phone 410-282-8745
[E-mail odonovanoc@aol.com](mailto:odonovanoc@aol.com)

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