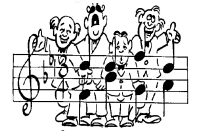




The Dundalk Charivari

Dundalk, Md. Chapter

Barbershop Harmony Society, (formerly known as SPEBSQSA)
Official Bulletin of the Dundalk, Maryland Chapter, Western Division, Mid-Atlantic District
Meets every Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. at the Govt. Center Auditorium, Merritt Blvd. and Wise Ave., Dundalk, Md.



Let's get behind
our music plan



International quartet champion Oriole Four, 1970
SPEBSQSA International chorus champion, 1961, 1971
Top P.R.O.B.E. International bulletin, 1971, 2001
Home of the Chorus of the Chesapeake, Mr. Rick Taylor, directing
Dundalk Barbershopper-of-the-Year 2007 Roger Heer

Volume 50 No.8-12

Make it happen !

Aug.-Dec 2008

Chorus stars in 'Ice Capades'

Chorus declines International invite

At the October M-AD chorus contest, the Chorus of the Chesapeake managed to capture second place, the first time in decades we achieved that ranking. Edging out the Big Apple Chorus by a mere four points, our chorus qualified for an invitation to the "big show," the International chorus contest in Anaheim, California this coming July. Of the ten wild card choruses this year, we were the final one to make the cut.

However, in polling our membership, we found that almost half of our members wouldn't be in a position to make the journey. The voice mix of the remaining members chorus indicated that we could not expect to be in a good position to field a representative "Chorus of the Chesapeake." After a prolonged consideration, the board chose to decline the 2009 opportunity. We will be aiming for the 2010 International which will be held in Philadelphia.

Old School takes M-AD quartet crown

Old School, consisting of **Rick Taylor** (tenor,) **Joe Connolly** (lead,) **Jack Pinto** (bari,) and **Joe Krones** (bass,) captured the top spot in the M-AD quartet contest. **Rick Taylor** and **Joe Connolly** are members of the Dundalk Chapter. Singing a stellar set of "Dear Old Girl," "The Old Piano Roll Blues," "Last Night Was the End of the World" and "I Want a Girl," this foursome topped their nearest competitor by over 300 points after the dust had settled. Look for great things in Anaheim.



Rick Taylor

Frederick gig turns dangerous

The evening of Saturday, December 6, was supposed to be a highlight event as we performed on the 41st annual show of the Frederick Catoctones. Frederick has fallen upon some hard times recently, and the Dundalk Chapter was going to show up 96 men strong to headline the Catoctones show in what was to be basically a benefit performance.

Ma Nature had other ideas. Normally an hour's drive away, the trip should have been uneventful. However, a relatively light snowfall produced a thin coating on I-70, which rapidly turned into black ice. There were a few who either left home early or were extremely lucky. Those were the ones who managed to get into Frederick. Most of the others either got stuck in a multi-mile long I-70 parking lot, or detoured onto alternate roads with the same tie-up results. The really lucky ones managed to safely turn back or not come at all. It was a mess!

The same dilemma faced the show patrons, with the result that about a hundred fans were distributed around the auditorium, while the ticket desk received countless phone calls of regrets. After about a half hour delay waiting in vain for the arrival of more COC members and Catoctones' fans, the show started. The audience was entertained by the fine sound of the Catoctones, as well as by chapter and guest quartets; the *King's Chorders*, *Ring of Gold, 41st Edition*, *On the Road*, and two youth quartets, *Finish Line* and *All In A Chord*.

Finally, the curtain opened on the "mighty" Chorus of the Chesapeake. And there we stood, all 22 of us, with an odd assortment of voice parts. The risers looked woefully empty. (See *Ice Capades*, page 6)

Thoughts from the Prez

by **Paul Murrell**, president

I searched my mind and have found it hard to remember any district event that was as successful, from a Dundalk perspective, as the 2008 district contest has been. Director Rick, (with the support of Glenn, Sue, Cari, Joe and Kevin,) directed us to present the finest competition performance package that we have experienced. That one of our own, **Joe Stangl**, District President, presented us with the second place chorus trophy was icing on the cake. He shared with Rick and me how delighted he was.



Paul Murrell, president

As regards to *Old School* and the district championship, when did you ever hear a sound like they produced with their four song package? I never have. WOW!

Two of our dedicated members, **Bob Demmler** and **Mike Frances**, were inducted into the M-AD Hall of Honor. Bob earned the recognition for his many years of photography, along with many other contributions. Mike's work as the M-AD stage manager since his dad, **Mitch Frances**, retired in 1996 was recognized. Of course, Mike started out as Mitch's stage assistant for many years before that.

In the printed program, there was a list of the leaders of the district who have contributed to the organization's success. Seven of them are members of the Dundalk Chapter: **Joe Stangl, Rick Taylor, Bob Fogle, Sr., Neil Keihm, Mike Frances, Roger Heer** and **Bob Hastings**. **Freddie King** was recognized by two items in the program, one of which was a two-pager reviewing his background. That one was heart wrenching.

Counting the quartet mike testers, Dundalk had five men taking part in the quartet contest. These were **Ryan Griffith, Rick Taylor, Joe Connelly, Mike Stoll** and **Al Evans**. On Saturday, **Rick Taylor** directed the Awesomely Bodacious Chorus which served as the chorus contest mike testers.

If you were there, you know the important role the chorus played in the visual and musical program in the Jamboree salute to Freddie. If you weren't able to be present, I do not have the words to describe it. Singing *en masse* with the DELA group and the Past District Quartet Champions with "Auld Lang Syne" was one of the highlights of my barbershopping career.

Roger Heer and **Bob Hastings** were ever present with their registration responsibilities. We were also well represented at the House of Delegates on Sunday morning with four Dundalk men in attendance. I was pleased to have been asked to open the meeting by offering the invocation. **Neil Keihm** noted that he couldn't recall when he had experienced a finer "sermon."

To have had so many delegates compliment me on behalf of the chorus for our fine performance was amazing. I even received compliments regarding our hospitality room on Saturday evening. I lost count of the number of fine quartets that entertained us. I know that the singing went past 2:30 a.m.

Assessing in total all that involved Dundalk, this was indeed a Dundalk weekend, and I am grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make it so.

Summer Choir

This year, our Summer Choir program was scaled back to only four performances. The primary reason for this was the fact that in July, we were headed for Nashville to compete in the International chorus contest, and all of our efforts prior to that contest were concentrated on honing our skills. That left us with a few weeks in late July to rehearse the choir songs, and five Sundays in August for performances. However, on Sunday, August 10, we sang for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's celebration, so we only got to sing in local churches on four Sundays. Good thing August had 31 days, or we'd have been down to three sites. Directing duties were shared between **Bill Eberius** and **John Treff**. Since we aren't going to compete at Anaheim in 2009, perhaps we'll be able to return to a full summer of Summer Choir singing.

Try to remember . . .

. . . when you were a tender and callow fellow. What, you may ask, is a callow fellow? According to Mr. Webster, he is a person lacking experience, one who hasn't developed his "full flight feathers," and is still a fledgling, so to speak. Now you know.

Charivari distribution guidelines

Please remember that while the Charivari is written as a hard-copy edition, all members who have Internet access should download it from the chapter web site. Paper copies will only be sent to those without web access and the widows on our mailing list.

Harrisburg hosts Corn & Doggie Roast

On Friday, August 12, a busload of barbershoppers ventured from the Baltimore area to Mechanicsburg, Pa., where we were hosted by the Harrisburg Chapter in its revival of the old Lebanon Chapter's Corn & Doggie Roast. There were 27 men from Dundalk along with six members of the Baltimore Chapter.

As could be expected, the principal activities were eating super-fresh corn and doggies, along with sufficient beverages to wash them down. Actually, when you get right down to it, there has to be another activity going on at any barbershop bash, and that is gobs of singing. In addition to unlimited pick-up quartet singing, several foursomes and choruses put on a show that entertained the assembled multitude.

Harrisburg started things off with several of their favorite numbers, but the one I found most surprising could have had the title, "The Fight Song of the Six Dwarfs." However, director **Fred Womer** announced it as "Get Happy!" A parade of quartets followed, many of which were assembled on the spot. Pick-up quartet or long-time foursome, it was a great evening. Plan on going next year!

Some folks didn't cut it, but Freddie did

by **Dan Dekowski**, bari, *Calliope* quartet

A few years ago during a visit with Freddie, he reminisced about his journey into the world of music. As a kid, he had a music teacher living nearby who taught piano to neighborhood youngsters after school. Fred went to his house, knocked on the door and asked if he could teach him music. The teacher agreed to do so, but on the condition that Freddie would cut his grass every week. From that week on, Freddie cut the grass, and you know the rest of the story. Perhaps the generosity of the teacher had something to do with Freddie's charity to everyone wishing to tap into his vast musical knowledge.



Well after his grass-cutting days, Freddie is seen here participating in his favorite activity - quartetting. Shown above are Dick Webber, John Russo, Freddie and Joe Colon at a Grand Night for Singing in 2004.

Almost anybody can be "loud"

by **Tom Wheatley**, editor (and acoustics engineer)

As you may recall from the last issue, I made the statement that we shouldn't mimic pianos where every fresh note is a new dynamic attack when the keys strike the strings. However, there *is* a musical instrument group that is frequently compared to the human voice, and that would be the violin family.



There are good reasons for this. Violin strings and the human voice have similar activation mechanics. For the violin, the string is more or less continually vibrated by the bow moving over the strings. Our vocal cords are similarly activated by the air from our lungs moving across them. (To be technically correct, they are called "vocal folds," but the comparison I want to make is better served by the mental image of cords.)

When a skilled violinist draws the bow across a string, it vibrates not only at a fundamental frequency, but also at the harmonics above it, giving it a rich and resonant sound. (We'll get to those harmonics in another issue.) However, if the violinist does not play in good quality, the sounds can become just a tad more harsh, especially if he tries to play loud sounds. If you need convincing, just ask me to play the violin for you.

When a skilled singer holds a note, the vocal cords similarly vibrate at many harmonics with very little noise content. If the singer doesn't use his vocal cords with good quality, the music will suffer and those sounds will contain more noise and less harmonic content, and it doesn't get better when you get too loud! So, when our director asks you for "all of it," he is asking for all of it that you can sing in good quality. He has even said those exact words from time to time.

If your quality starts falling apart at 70% of your loudness limit, STOP GETTING LOUD! In short, scale your singing to your quality limits, not your loudness limits. By the way, everybody's quality limits are reached before they reach their loudness limits. Loud without quality is commonly called screaming! Save that for baseball and football games.

In the next issue, we'll start talking about that 'sacred' sound of barbershoppers, the barbershop seventh chord. Meanwhile, start practicing to sing within your quality limits.

Contributors to this issue

Jay Brown, John Clayton, John Dawson, Dan Dekowski, Dick Dods, Bill Eberius, Al Evans, Ted Evans, Bob Fogle, Jr., Bob Fogle, Sr., Len Garey, Larry Klein, Bob Mattes, Bill Moreland, Paul Murrell, Cross O'Donovan, Glenn Phillips

You can be a writer for your award winning Charivari, too. Come join the fun. Help the editor keep his sanity!

Charivari staff and credits

All articles not written by the editor are as credited.

Be a contributor and see your name in print.

Photos are by Tom Wheatley unless otherwise noted.

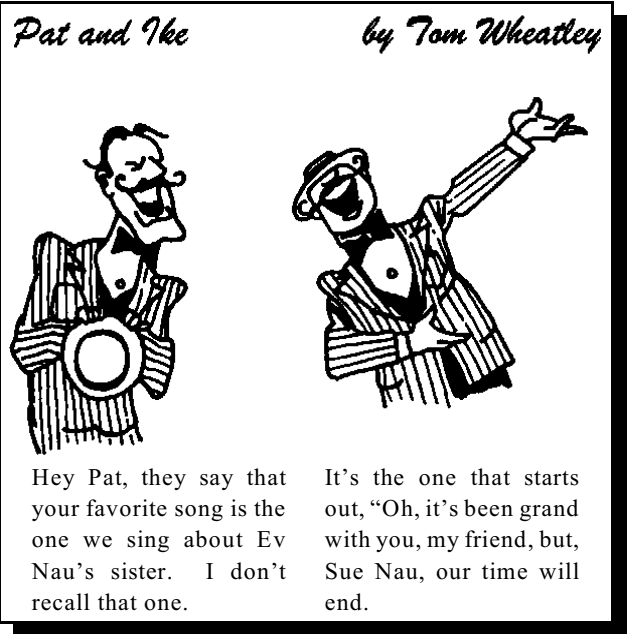
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Dolly Wheatley

The Dundalk Charivari - be part of it

Anonymous articles will not be used.



2008 and 2009 Boards of Directors

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|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
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| Members-at-Large | Neil Keihm | 302-737-6141 | (Neil Keihm) |
| | Sam McFarland | 703-448-5949 | (Marc Dawson) |
| | Bill Nash | 410-557-9403 | (Bob Fogle, Jr.) |
| | Tom Wheatley | 410-252-5584 | (Dan Mirota) |

* non-elective positions

Have something you want brought to the attention of the board?

Submit it in writing to one of the members-at-large, and they'll bring it before the whole board.

After all, that's one of their jobs.



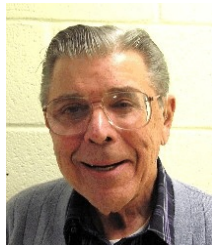
Photo courtesy of Don Gunther, Robert Headley

A Glimpse at Our Chapter’s History

’Twas a show to remember!

by **Bill Moreland**, past president

The picture tells the story. Well, at least it starts to tell it. I’m talking about the time that the Chorus of the Chesapeake was a feature group at the Baltimore showing of “The Music Man.”



Bill Moreland

Recently while reading a new Images of America book, “Maryland’s Motion Picture Theaters” by Robert K Headley, I came across this picture of the Stanton Theater in downtown Baltimore. It was taken on the day of the premier showing of the Music Man, and as you can see on the photo, the date was July 31, 1962, 46 years to the day before this article was written.

We had won our first international Barbershop Chorus championship in Philadelphia, Pa. in June of 1961 and had all seen the Broadway production of The Music Man, with the *Buffalo Bills* quartet as the members of the school board in the show. A close

relationship developed with that foursome, and they performed on our annual shows at the Lyric Theater for many years.

This opening premier performance opportunity came through a personal visit to the theater a few weeks before the opening. With the enthusiastic cooperation of the Stanton, JF Theaters and Warner Brothers, the producers of the film, announcements were made and a marching band was hired for a parade up Howard Street. Ticket sales took off with lines formed around and up to Center Street. We opened to a full house in the 4,000 seat theater.

Following a great organ recital, the Chorus of the Chesapeake then performed under the direction of **Clarence Wroblewski**. Clarence had taken over when **Bob Johnson** resigned to become the SPEBSQSA International Director of Music where he reigned for 20 years. Clarence was with us for four years and directed many other great shows and events, but that’s going to be another story. The Master of Ceremonies was our own great **Jim Hackman**. What a great tenure he has had with the chorus ever since. We love him! But, now back to our day at the Stanton. (Cont. on p6)

We had pictures of the chorus on stage, but didn't know about the outside marquee. I have also recently learned that Clarence has the whole show on tape. It was a great show and premier, fun to do and one of which we can always be proud.

The author of the book, **Robert K. Headley**, directed me to the owner of the photo, **Don Gunther**, who had been the Executive Director of JF theaters throughout the mid-Atlantic for 14 years during that time. My wife and I visited him at his home in Jarrettsville, Md. recently. He was very enthusiastic about The Music Man opening and our big part in it. He has been most helpful, and even provided two copies of the picture for us to use.

One copy of the photo is being presented to the chapter for its archives, while the other is getting its inaugural Dundalk Chapter publication use in this article. Mr. Gunther looks forward to being with us at our November annual show. The Arcadia Publishing Company has also been most cooperative in this search. The book, "Maryland Motion Picture Theaters" is available for only \$19.99 at local retailers, on-line bookstores or directly through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com, or at 1-888-313-2662. The Dundalk Chapter wishes to express its appreciation to the various parties for their support in enabling the publication of this photo and other information.

Ice Capades, continued from page 1

Several of our multi-voiced singers volunteered to sing outside of their regular part. This put a limit on our available repertoire, since we were limited to songs in which they knew the other part. However, we managed to put on a respectable, albeit short, presentation package. Then, to get a reasonable size chorus, we invited the Catoctones to join us on the risers. Fortunately, they knew several of the same arrangements that we did, and the audience was treated to the sounds of a reasonably large chorus.

To the best of our knowledge, no one was injured in the mess. In other articles, which will be found on pages 7 through 10, you will find tales of some of the woes endured by our hearty compatriots.



This might have been faster!

Give 'em a night out.

by **Charlie Allen**, former Dundalk Chapter member

Reprinted from 2003

For several years now, I have been a patient at the Riverview Nursing Centre. I've gone through rehabilitation, and there have been times when I've been confined to my bed and room. I know what most of the patients at the center go through when they don't have contact with the outside. Many do not have an opportunity to break the boredom, monotony and frustration.



Charlie" Allen

Fortunately, I am a barbershopper and have many friends, including **Lou Fraass**, **Bob Gulas**, **Curt Ketter**, **Walt Bleucher** and many more. They sign me out and take me to many rehearsals, shows and meetings.

The reason I'm writing this is to draw attention to the shows that a chapter or quartet can put on for the shut-ins. These are rare "night out" opportunities for these residents. They get out of their beds and dress up in their best. Then it's into their wheelchairs and out they go. "Out" for them is getting to the dining room to hear your entertainment.

Many don't applaud, because they are unable. However, look into their faces, and you will see something better than any applause. So the next time you are asked to visit a nursing or retirement home, please think of those who need a "night out."

This is from one who knows. We have a gift to share, and there will rarely be a more appreciative audience to share it with. See you on the risers!

I know this has been printed before, but I believe a rerun is in order. I feel that Charlie's thoughts might be a good message to share with all barbershoppers. Though he passed away a few years back at the age of 97, he was always a constant inspiration to each of us in the Dundalk Chapter.

By the way, he repeatedly insisted that the "medicine" that he got by being able to come to our rehearsals and sing with us did him more good than all the official type medicine that he got in the nursing home.

Editor, Tom Wheatley

Tales from the Frozen Highway

Dumb luck often beats clever planning

by **Tom Wheatley**, editor

I'll start this section by telling my own tale. I totally avoided the icy roadways by my superior application of simple arithmetic. The plan called for Dundalk members to arrive at the performance hall by 6:30 PM, and that the travel time getting there was projected at one hour. That fixed the time of 5:30 PM firmly in my brain.

Dolly and I planned to eat somewhere in Frederick, and I allowed an hour for that activity. Now let's see - one hour travel time plus one hour for eating meant that I had to allow two hours. Simple arithmetic told me that two hours subtracted from 5:30 meant we should leave by 3:30, and so we did. (Dumb luck often beats clever planning.) I was aware of the light snow predicted, but had also seen that the whole weather pattern was slated to move to the north-east before it could produce any detrimental effect.

We pulled into a Frederick restaurant around 4:20, and enjoyed a leisurely meal. By this time, of course, I had realized the error of my timing calculations, and knew that there was no reason to rush to get to the high school. As I looked out the restaurant window, I could see that the snow was still coming down very lightly, and the streets were simply a little wet. We left there and arrived at the high school about 5:45. The moon was shining through a thin cloud layer, and the weather pattern was clearing out. Much to my surprise, only a few Dundalk guys were there. What could be delaying the others? We soon found out! Read on and you will, too.

[Following are some of the tales of the trials and tribulations of just a few of our members who found many different ways to locate ice covered roads on that treacherous night of Saturday, December 6. Read on, and see another aspect of our old saying, "There's nothing like being a barbershopper!"]

Sing when and where you can

by **Larry Klein**, member

I was stuck in the front of the crowd stopped on I-70, about a half mile from the accident. This lasted from about 6 PM until 10:15. My GPS said that I should have been at the school about 6:15, but what does a GPS know about snow and ice? I was alone, but I did get in a lot of singing along with my CD player.

Even presidents are not immune

by **Paul Murrell**, president

I left home at 4:15 PM and saw a couple of messages about possible icy conditions ahead. I then encountered a few short backups and felt I was "home free" once I was rid of them. At 6:05 PM, I was halted on I-70 right by a sign that indicated that Frederick was only 15 short miles away. I was in the middle lane and couldn't move. I spied an "Authorized Use Only" turn-around only about eight car lengths ahead of me, but the emergency vehicles wouldn't let me move.

Hooray! I spotted two state highway salt trucks coming. However, one blocked the right shoulder and the other blocked the turn around. So there I sat, taking turns reading my Bible class material and listening to my barbershop learning tapes.

FOUR HOURS those salt trucks just sat there. Why weren't they out salting the roadways? I learned that there was a large bridge that was totally iced over, and they had to salt it three times. Then they had to wait for the salt to do its work. Finally the truck blocking the turn-around left and I worked my way up and turned, using the turn-around. This was at 10:25! Wearily, I made my way home at 11:50 PM.

It's good to have a daughter in Damascus

by **John Clayton**, member

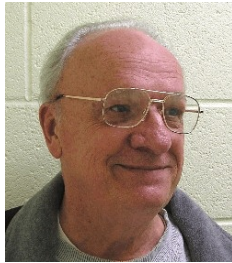
We had traveled to Frederick in the afternoon to visit my wife's college roommate, and then gone out for dinner at a nearby restaurant. That was where we learned the roads were getting bad and that there were many accidents. When we left the restaurant, we could see the stopped cars on the road we needed to use to get to the high school. I tried to go back to I-70 but missed the turn and ended up on I-70 eastbound instead. What with the developing road conditions, we then decided to head for home, since we could see that the westbound traffic was all tied up. We inched for about six or seven miles to the Mt. Airy exit. That's where we decided to head for our daughter's house in Damascus for the night. This was about 6:30 and still nothing was moving westbound. When we finally got to our daughter's house about 8:30, we learned that I-70 was completely closed. Perhaps we can have better luck the next time.



John Clayton

I should have taken a taxiby **John Dawson**, member

I started out for Frederick at 5 PM. Traveling south on Route 27 out of Westminster, it didn't take me long to realize that I was in for a night of tough traveling. I expected the pace to be slow, but within five miles, the traffic came to a halt. Knowing my way around the country roads, I drove on the shoulder to Stone Chapel Road hoping to snake my way over to Route 31, but Mother Nature would have none of that.



John Dawson

When I came to a relatively sharp downgrade, I looked up to see a car that had slid sideways on my side of the road. I managed to stop with much difficulty, but not for long. As I pondered the situation, a car came up behind me and slid into my rear end, pushing me over the precipice. My car just slid over and down the hill toward the car straddling the road. A four wheel drive vehicle went around my left side and started down the hill on the wrong side of the road. I involuntarily started to follow him, but each time I would touch my brakes, the car would start to slide off the road to my right. Each time I took my foot off the brake, I gained traction.

So here I am going down the wrong side of the road with a car in front of me, without the ability to stop even if I wanted to. Thank God the car in front of me kept going, and so did I, both without touching our brakes until we reached the bottom of the hill. It took me an hour and a half to get back home, and I only had a small cut on my rear bumper to show for it. *I should have taken a taxi!*

It broke my heartby **Glenn Phillips**, associate director

I want all to know that it broke my heart not to be able to make it through the ice to sing that show. I had been looking forward to doing it since I first heard of the opportunity in July. I waited for four and a half hours in that I-70 parking lot. I just hope and pray that none of our Dundalkers was involved in the myriad of accidents that night.



Glenn Phillips

One body short of a quartetby **Ted Evans**, member

I left a rehearsal in Annapolis at 5:15 and drove over to pick up **Carroll Stevenson** and **Bill Van Houten** in Severna Park about half an hour later. The snow was just starting to fall, but no problems were expected. Everything was fine until we got onto I-70 west. Just after the Route 97 overpass, traffic slowed. As we looked at the east-bound cars, we saw that they were moving slowly or not at all. Then it was our turn. We stopped for a while, then crept on at about two mph.

Over an hour later, we elected to get off at Mt. Airy. By that time, we knew that if we could get to Frederick at all, it wouldn't be before 9:30. We spied a gas station, filled the car's tank and emptied our own. The cars on Route 144 seemed to be moving at about 15-20 mph, a decided improvement.

Then we came upon a hill with a steady line of cars ahead of us. It looked slick. I made the mistake of saying, "As long as everyone ahead of us keeps moving, we will make it." Then it happened. The van in front of us came to a stop halfway up the hill. He tried to turn to the shoulder, but as he did, a guy in front of us came to a stop just short of hitting the van. I took a look behind us and saw a pick up truck turning around behind us. Ahead of us, the van is sliding down toward us. We were able to back about 10 feet, and were safe once more. "Look, an opening in front has opened!" We gave it the gas, held the wheel and prayed.

After clearing that bottleneck, we sped along at a hefty 20 mph for about an hour, then reentered I-70 eastbound. We wanted to get off at Route 100, but it was closed due to many accidents. We gradually wended our way back homeward, where I was able to drop Carroll and Bill off at 9:15 and getting home myself at 9:40, just a little short of five hours in the car. It was a long day, but we were glad to be home safely. What was bad about the trip, you may ask? Consider being packed in a car for five hours with one man and two voice parts short of a quartet.

Determination pays offby **Jay Brown**, member

It took me four hours and 103 miles to work my way through the icy mess before I came to the performance hall. I pulled up at 9PM fully expecting that I had missed our chorus performance. When I left home, I was really



Jay Brown

looking forward to being able to sing our hour's worth of songs. It had been six weeks since I could sing with the group. This rarely happens for me, and to me, singing is what it's all about. Maybe there'll be a next time. Tell me, tell me! When is our next hour show? And there's one more point I want to make. These out-of-town shows can really be tough on us old men.

[Jay was the last man to arrive for the show.]

It ain't the first time for wintry woes

by **Bob Mattes**, 2003 Fall Show chairman

This past Saturday was the first weekend in December, and the weather presented us with a stumbling block that prohibited the majority of the Chorus of the Chesapeake from performing at a scheduled show. Hmmm! That has a familiar ring to it.



Bob Mattes

For the last five years, our own fall show has been held in early November. Because it is so far removed from December 25, it is somewhat impractical to include Christmas music. However, there was a time in our recent past when we did perform our shows in December and at Loch Raven High School. Being within shouting distance of Christmas, we performed seasonal music. Now, as Paul Harvey might say, "And now here's the rest of that story."

Several years prior to my joining the Dundalk Chapter and for a few years afterwards, I recall attending the Fall Shows in early December. On a few occasions, I recall putting up with some snow, but never enough to be a real trouble. However, in the entire history of the chapter, the weather never prevented us from having our show. However, all that changed in December of 2003.

I was chairman of the show, and many of you may recall that the format called for the performance of a count-down presentation culminating in the number one Christmas song. In addition to the chorus, we had four chapter and two guest quartets all participating in the theme. Everything was a "go" and we had close to a sell-out. However, Mother Nature decided that she wanted to dump a foot of snow on that particular Saturday afternoon.

It was a weekend and our venue was in a public school located on a side street, which meant that snow plowing the area held a low priority on the County's task list. We had to cancel the show for that evening.

Then since we could find no workable alternate venue within the pre-Christmas time frame, we couldn't reschedule.

Ever since that year, the leadership has chosen to reduce Mother Nature's potential and has scheduled the Fall Shows in November. This recent Saturday was the first time since 2003 that the chorus has tried a December show. Do you think Mother Nature is trying to tell us something?

[Editor's note: Ah yes, I remember it well. That's because I was president that year, and I was the one to pull the plug. Looking only at the income that would be lost, it would have been a hard decision to justify. However, looking at the health and safety of our members and fans, it was easy! One canceled show in 50 years ain't too bad a record.]

Detours piled upon detours

by **Al Evans**, member

My trip started from Delaware. I picked up **Mitch Justice**, **Bruce Smith** and **John Zamesnik** at 4 PM. According to my GPS, that should have brought us into Frederick at 5:10. About 5:30, I got a call from **Dave McConagha** about a tie-up on I-70. He suggested that we switch over to US 40 to bypass it. A half hour later, he called to suggest that we get onto Route 144, because the tie-up extended beyond the I-70/US 40 junction.



Al Evans

Next, we got a call saying that the jam cleared up by Route 97, so we got back onto I-70 for about five miles. We came to a standstill only 15 miles from US 15. By 7 PM, Dave reported that he hadn't moved for a half an hour, and we had only been able to crawl slowly, with our left tires on the snowy grass for an hour.

That's the time we found a break in the guard rails and decided that there was no way we were going to get to Frederick in time. We turned around and headed for home. We dropped John off at his house at 9 PM. That's when I called Dave and found that he still hadn't moved an inch. I guess we made the right choice.

[Editor's note: For those of you who aren't aware of it, this is the group that comes each week from the environs of Delaware and the far eastern end of Maryland. Talk about a dedicated effort!]

How did the 22 guys make it?

by Len Garey, member

I guess by now, you've heard many tales of woe, but I want to add mine to the list, just for the record. I left home around 4:40 PM, and my trusty GPS told me that I would be pulling into the school parking lot in Frederick at 6:15 on the nose. However, by 7:30 I was still 14 miles from Frederick. I figured that with any luck, I could get there by 9:30. There was no luck. Though I was in the far right lane, I saw an opening in the median across to the east bound lanes. I put my left turn signal on and shot through that opening and high-tailed it for home. Actually, better make that low-tailed it.

Frederick County, Carroll County and Howard County formed one big ice rink. However, when I got to Baltimore County, it was like nothing had happened. After driving between three and fifteen miles per hour, I couldn't figure why cars were going by at 60. My big question is, how did the 22 guys make it to the school when we couldn't?

You guys are unbelievable!

by Bob Fogle, Sr., show chairman

I commend all who made a valiant effort to attend the Frederick Chapter show. I know you really tried. Marilyn and I have gotten several e-mails and phone calls, and my hat is off to each of you.

*Bob Fogle, Sr.*

Yes, we did the show with the 22 men who somehow got through the mess. We managed to sing three songs with just our chorus and then had the Cactoctones join us for three more. I would like to thank both the 22 men who somehow got through that mess, as well as the 74 others who couldn't be there. We did get a standing ovation by the audience, all of whom also managed to brave the icy road conditions.

Those of the Chorus of the Chesapeake who performed included **Rick Taylor, Roger Heer**, our fill-in MC, **Jay Brown, Bill Chambers, Tim Pratt, Ryan Griffith, Tom Wheatley, Bob Bartholomew, Bob Wood, Bob Fogle, Sr., Bob Hirsh, Bill Fogle, Ed Shaw, Bob Hastings, Ron Furrow, Sam McFarland, George Wagner, Richard Weeks, Bud Wright, Bill Nash, Jim Goetz** and **Dick Webber**. We also wish to acknowledge those ladies who accompanied us on the perilous trip to Frederick.

Jay Nowak found us

by Cross O'Donovan, biography reporter

Jay Nowak is one of those rare animals who literally walked into our rehearsal off of the street. No one had to convince him to come to one of our chapter meetings. He looked "barbershop singing" up on the internet, found our chapter listed near the top, joined us one night, liked what he heard, and has been coming back faithfully.

Jay has done a lot of singing since he was 10 years old. And at the age of 11 he had the starring role in *Oliver* in a dinner theater near his home in Alexandria. He also performed in *Guys and Dolls* and *Man of La Mancha* in high school as well as *West Side Story* while he was in college at Lenoir Rhyne in North Carolina, graduating in 1979 with a degree in business administration. After college he has worked in the field of information technology. Currently he commutes from near Annapolis to Alexandria for his work as a senior network engineer.

While Jay had never sung barbershop harmony prior to a year ago, he has sung in church choirs and men's choruses for years. His stage aspirations pretty much blew over after he graduated from school.

He has been married to his wife Susan for twenty years. They have two boys, Joshua 19 and Jeremy age 17. The older is in community college, and the younger is a junior in high school. Their younger son has shown some musical talent, not for singing, but for clarinet and piano.

Local quartet has active schedule

by Dan Dekowski, Calliope baritone

Calliope quartet has had plenty of public exposure this year. In February we helped at the high school adjudication held at Patapsco High School including mic testing for the adjudication. That month we also spent a day delivering Singing Valentines for the Dundalk Chapter.

*Dan Dekowski*

April found us attending Founders' Night, where we sang a few songs at our table. The same month we performed on the Chapter show at the Boumi Temple.

In May *Calliope* performed on an all day cruise on the John W. Brown Liberty ship. This is one of only two remaining Liberty ships surviving from World War II. We also performed at a 50th wedding

anniversary party in Westminster. (Coincidentally the Carroll County Chapter had a show that day and held their afterglow at the same motel while we were singing in the next ballroom. The quartet members all sang in the chorus at the May show at Goucher. This month we also represented the Dundalk Chapter at the M-AD Western Division contest.

In June, we had an encore performance aboard the John W. Brown plus a show at the Annual Picnic of the International Masters, Mates and Pilots. At John Treff's 50th wedding anniversary party, we sang "When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New." **Doug Treff** filled in at bass while John was doing the recitation. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

In July, we performed the National Anthem and "O Canada" at an Orioles game against Toronto at Camden Yards, and sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" on the Heritage Park show.

In August we got together for three events. One was at the Chapter show for the Monumental Insurance Company in downtown Baltimore. **Bob Bartholomew** filled in for **Ray Agnello**. Calliope was also present for the 20th Anniversary Party for Project Liberty Ship (John W. Brown). To complete our August activity log, we were a part of the Parade of Quartets that has become a standard part of the Dundalk Chapter's annual picnic.

September found us performing at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, after which we stopped at the Inner Harbor for a snack and performed two songs during the break between the paid musicians. During a stroll through the pavilion, a young woman asked if we know "Lida Rose." When we sang it for her she joined us by singing "Will I Ever Tell You" beautifully. We also attended the **Freddie King** remembrance at Tall Cedars Hall.

In October, we were at the M-AD Convention in Wildwood and sang at the Dundalk Hospitality Room and at the Anne Arundel Chapter's afterglow.

Barbershoppers-of-the-Month

Since the Charivari publication has been a bit spotty of late, we have accumulated a number of deserving Barbershoppers-of-the-Month during the year of 2008, including several months where we have had multiple recipients. We are pleased to offer some degree of recognition for these fine gentlemen for the extra effort they have provided for our benefit.

Selecting the BOTM is just one more task that is placed upon the shoulders of our Members-at-large.

For 2008, this group consisted of **Neil Keihm**, **Sam McFarland**, **Bill Nash** and **Tom Wheatley**. Just in case any of the recipients may have slipped your mind, here's the 2008 list.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| January | Rob Wolff |
| February | Dan Dekowski Ed Baker Tom McPoyle |
| March | Bill Eberius |
| April | Chuck Hamrick Bill Nash |
| May | Paul Murrell |
| June | Glenn Phillips Dave McConagha |
| July | Bob Demmler |
| August | Bud Laumann |
| September | Rick Taylor |
| October | John Dawson Marc Dawson |
| November | Dennis Hawkins |
| December | Bob Fogle, Sr. |

My two cents' worth

by **Tom Wheatley**, editor

On page 1, you may have noticed an article telling of some of the wintry difficulties the men of the chorus encountered as they attempted to wend their ways to Frederick, Md. for the Catoctones show. On page 7 through 10, you probably spotted some of the tales of misadventure encountered along the way. Thanks to all who submitted their tales of tribulation.

In addition to this disconcerting episode, the chapter has been quite active during 2008. However, your editor has not matched that activity level. As a result, publication of the Charivari has been more than just a tad hit and miss. Many things I normally would have reported about have been among the "missed."

So that's why I am making a 2009 New Year's resolution. I hereby resolve to be better in my publication efforts. That way, you should wind up with about a half dozen issues.

That being accomplished, I now ask that you consider joining me in a different resolution. That one is to make an ongoing effort to learn each new piece of music as rapidly as possible. This would include not only words and notes, but our presentation plans and of course, the choices on the various vowel and consonant sounds that go with our singing. Let's not make Rick re-teach such things week after week. Just think of how far we could go!

*The Poet's Corner:***My Night Before Christmas**

'Tis the night before Christmas, I haven't a clue
 Of what you'll get me or what I'll get you.
 Oh sure, all the stockings are hung by the chimbley
 And I trimmed the tree nicely, if not very nimbly.

A train in the garden chugs 'round that big tree
 Where a star is on top, shining bright as can be.
 We've a manger scene stuffed with some moldy old hay,
 While eight blinking reindeer are pulling a sleigh.

A record plays sounds of each prancing hoof,
 And a big plastic Santa stands perched on the roof.
 We put cookies and milk on the mantle tonight
 For Santa himself to be taking a bite.



from Fireside Glow, 2008 Thomas Henry Wheatley Md. Poet Laureate Nominee



 (And a Happy New Year to you and yours!)

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

To download the Charivari, click on Chapter then Charivari boxes on the tool bar at the top of the page.

You will need to have a PDF reader, e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader, to view & print the bulletin.

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

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Please Read Our
 Bulletin Entirely.

DON'T FORGET

The deadline for the next Charivari is Tuesday, February 10