



Dixie Town Crier

Dixie's monthly chapter newsletter dedicated to the original town crier, Chuck Witherspoon

Volume 1, Issue 7

October 31, 2009

BLackJack, 2009 Dixie Senior Champs by Jim Nappier

I wanted to share the origination of **BLackJack** and it's short journey to the Fall Contest in Chattanooga, TN, the weekend of October 2-4, 2009. Back in late July, **Larry Reinhart** called me because he wanted to put together a Seniors quartet for this fall. Since he was so young he needed a, ah, shall we say, an older, more experienced baritone to fill out the group he had picked out. Larry and I had sung together in RTP's "**General Assembly**" years ago, but had not actually sung in a quartet together. I told him I would enjoy getting together and trying it out. I had met **Bryson Ley** once, but did not know **Kirk Binning**.



(From L-R) Kirk Binning, Tenor, Larry Reinhart, Lead, Bryson Ley, Bass, and Jim Nappier, Baritone.

Since they are all from Wilmington's "**Cape Fear Chordsmen**", and I am in Clayton, NC, we decided to meet at a midpoint in Wallace, NC. We met and sang a few pole cat songs and a couple of Larry's chorus numbers. We had a great time, and I really enjoyed getting to know Bryson and Kirk. We topped off the evening at "The Boars Nest", a restaurant near River Landing, for an adult beverage. It was obvious to all of us, that this could be a special time and we scheduled the next meeting the following week. From then we met almost every week up to contest time.

We talked for several weeks trying to come up with a name, and finally we tried an experiment that we could use the first letter of each name and find a word that would fit...thus **BLackJack** was formed using **B**-ryson, **L**-arry, **K**-irk, and **J**-im.

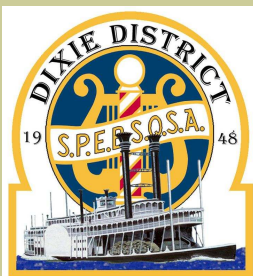
BLackJack had a couple of coaching sessions with **Robert Cox**, and one with **Steve Tremper** and before you knew it, the contest weekend was upon us. We decided that we would compete only in the Seniors quartet contest on Friday night. The fact that we only knew two songs well - played a big part in reaching that decision.

For Kirk, this was his first time competing in a contest with a quartet. You would have thought he was a veteran as he did not show any signs of panic. When we took the stage about 9:30 p.m. Friday night we were relaxed and confident that we could do the best we could do at that very moment. When we walked off the stage, we were all pleased with what took place, considering the short time we had been together.

Our anticipation grew through the evening as the contest included a record nine Seniors quartet competitors. Finally in the end, our good buddy, Steve Tremper, Dixie District VP of Contest and Judging, called out the 2009 Seniors quartet champion and Dixie representative to the 2010 Senior International - **BLackJack!!!**

We were very happy and felt blessed to have won. We will work hard to represent Dixie well in the Seniors International in Tampa, FL this January. Come on down and cheer for **BLackJack**. The journey continues and that is what makes this hobby so much fun.

On behalf of Bryson, Larry, Kirk and I, thanks for the support, and we look forward to seeing you soon.



Music City Chorus from Nashville, TN by David Belden

When it comes to a wonderful barbershop experience, the men of the **Nashville's Music City Chorus** could not have had a more wonderful month than the month of October.

The trip to the Dixie District competition in Chattanooga was a remarkable experience. Friday night saw the reigning district champion quartet, "**The Nashville Singers**," lead off the evening as mike testers. During the evening they were followed to the stage by "**Standard Deviation**," "**That's Life**," "**Blinkered**," "**Honchos**," "**Second Fiddle**," and "**The Real McCoy**," all representing the chapter.



Saturday afternoon the chorus took its spot on stage, earning the right to represent the Dixie District at the 2010 international competition. MCC's second straight trip to international comes with a score of 83.9, the highest score ever attained by the Nashville chapter. Equally as important to the men of the chorus was the third consecutive "Most Improved Chorus" award – a symbol of continued progress which is the basis of each weekly rehearsal. The men of MCC are thankful for the talents of director **Mike O'Neill**, assistant director **Dusty Schleier**, and the entire music team for their posi-

tive encouragement in our strive for excellence.

The Saturday evening quartet finals saw "The Real McCoy" place second, "Second Fiddle" place fourth and "That's Life" place eighth! What a night!

The evening was capped by the chorus performance on the show of champions. It was a thrill for each MCC member to be on stage, performing in front of such an appreciative and supportive Dixie District audience.

There is nothing better than a Dixie District crowd!

Of all of the accomplishments that weekend, the Music City Chorus was probably the most proud when director emeritus **Freeman Groat** was inducted into the Dixie District Hall of Fame! Congratulations, Freeman!

An additional highlight for Freeman was bringing the weekend to a close by directing "Keep the Whole World Singing" at the Saturday night show.

All the competition activity was just the start of a busy month. MCC was also gave a guest performance on the Tune Town Chorus's annual show at the beautiful Acuff Theater in the Grand Old Opry complex. The Acuff will be the site of the Music City Chorus spring show in May.

The attention of the chorus shifted from singing to being supportive audience members when the Sweet Adelines International convention came to Nashville. Almost a quarter of the men in MCC have spouses, fiancés, or daughters in the Tune Town Chorus or the Metro Nashville Chorus. Both Nashville SAI choruses competed in the international contest, finishing 16th and 22nd respectively. We could not be prouder!

The memorable month finished on a bittersweet note as the chorus was asked to sing at the funeral of Gloria Shireman, wife of longtime MCC member **Bill Shireman**. The experience was a reminder of the camaraderie and brotherhood that exists among the members of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Please remember that tickets are now on sale for the Music City Chorus holiday show, "We Need a Little Christmas." There will be a 2:00 p.m. matinee and a 7:00 p.m. show on Saturday, December 12 at Father Ryan High School in Nashville. Tickets information is available on the MCC website:

www.musiccitychorus.org.

"Music City Chorus earns the right to represent the Dixie District at the 2010 international competition"



Golf Capital Chorus from Pinehurst, NC, by Fred Wolferman

*“Come see the
show”*

Show Chairman **Bob Young**, Director **Bruce Blanton** and the rest of **The Golf Capital Chorus** are nearing readiness for their 2009 show, “That’s Amore.” It will be held Saturday, November 7, at the Pinecrest High School auditorium.

The show will feature the music of Harry Warren, the most prolific composer you never heard of.

Warren wrote over 800 songs, won the first ever Gold Record, and had 42 songs on “Your Hit Parade.” He was nominated for eleven Academy Awards and won three. The show’s title song, “That’s Amore,” was one of his biggest hits.

Some of his other hits to be featured in the show are: “Lullaby of Broadway,” “Forty-second Street,” “September in the Rain,” “Chattanooga Choo-Choo,” and “On the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.”

The traditional guest quartet will be **Max Q**, 2007 International Champions. Max Q is famous for its unique blend of harmony and comedy, and its ability to entertain audiences of all ages.

Tickets are available from any Chorus member, or call **Preston Smith** at 215-0682. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.



*“Barbershop
singing in
Afghanistan?”*

Main Street Harmonizers from Lexington County, SC by Randy Miller

Barbershop singing in Afghanistan? You bet there is and it's growing too. One of **Lexington County's** Tenors, **Tom Sanford**, left immediately following singing on stage with the **Main Street Harmonizers** in Chattanooga this year, to go to Afghanistan for two years. Before he left, he managed to take many Just Plain Barbershop books with him, and as many other arrangements we could spare him. He told us that he had started a barbershop chorus over there and the troops and civilian personnel alike were flocking to him, like a pied piper, all wanting to sing this "STUFF". Tom called me and asked me to order him some music and learning tapes, as many as we could afford to buy. I downloaded all of the "free music" and then sent him a pitch pipe and some learning tapes, along with some CDs I had.

Well the group over there are rehearsing at every opportunity they have away from battlefields and other work details, to sing. They are planning a Christmas performance for those others who haven't as yet signed up to sing. They already perform at Sunday services, singing many of our four part hymns. They are particularly fond of **Joe Liles'** arrangement of "It Is Well."

Tom sang in competition with a quartet while he was here, along with **Dan Walz**, Bass of **Sound Center** and **Johnny Nash** and myself. We made up "**Front Page**". I'm certain I'll be hearing more about the Afghan group, but I don't know if we can charter them? Maybe so, but who'll deliver the charter and more importantly, what District would they be assigned to? Bust a chord for Dixie Tom.

Leadership Academy Schools by Randy Miller, VP-Chapter Support Leadership Training

**“Come get
educated about
being a chapter
officer”**

The upcoming Leadership Academy Schools, (COTS), are now in their full planning mode. All chapters should have held elections by now, so you need to arrange to get your leaders to these schools. There are two schools this year. The first is in Woodstock, Georgia, where it has been held previously. The date for this school is January 9th, 2010. **Charlie Robinson** is the coordinator for the event and will soon be contacting all chapters to get you registered for this one-day school.

There is a second school which will be held in Lexington, South Carolina on January 23rd, 2010, for those who don't want to travel the distance to Woodstock, which is north of Atlanta.

Both schools will feature top instructing talent who are certified men in their disciplines or who will be getting certified in them. Along with the instruction you will definitely sing quite a bit, as we'll have some neat tags to share and some good quartets too.

The other good news about these schools is the cost has not increased. It's only \$50.00 per student, and you get all of the instruction to help you be the best at your elected office, plus some tag sheets, and a continental breakfast or close to that, and a very nice lunch. The school will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Anyone wanting additional info can contact me, either by phone toll free at (800) 434-9658 or email rm4parttoo@bellsouth.net, or touch base with Charlie Robinson. He can be reached via email csrobinson@juno.com, or call him (770) 972-6531.

There's more info about the schools coming out via other means soon too, but get signed up NOW!!!

Madison Elizabeth Dorn by Steve Dorn, Editor

**“And baby
makes 3”**

On October 24, 2009, Madison Elizabeth Dorn was born to Steve and Crystal Dorn, a Barbershopper and a Sweet Adeline. This is our first child and we are truly cherishing the miracle of life. We have also been looking for something we lost the day she was born. It is very precious to both of us and we would appreciate any help in locating it and returning it to our family. If you happen to stumble across our lost sleep, please contact us immediately!

I apologize for the October 31, 2009 issue of the Dixie Town Crier being published a little late. I ask for your forgiveness and understanding that some things in life actually have a higher calling than barbershop. I never thought I would hear myself say that. :-)



Steve and Madison Dorn

Dixie District Calendar of Events by Don Lang

*** 2010 ***

“Events”

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT</u>	<u>WHERE</u>
1/9	COTS / Leadership Academy	Woodstock, GA
1/23	COTS / Leadership Academy	Lexington, SC
1/26-31	BHS Mid-Winter Convention	Tampa, FL
3/12-14	DIX Spring Convention	Greenville, SC
6/27-7/4	BHS International Convention	Philadelphia, PA
7/8-11	Harmony Explosion Camp - West	TBA
7/15-18	Harmony Explosion Camp - East	Furman U
7/16-18	Harmony College Southeast - DIX	Mini-Hep Furman U
8/1-8	Harmony University	MWSU, St. Joseph, MO
	- Quartet College, Director's College	
10/1-2	DIX Fall Convention	Knoxville, TN