The Weekly Newsletter of the
Choo Choo Chorus

You're receiving this e-mail because you are a member or friend of the Choo Choo Chorus

Rehearsing for Scout Flag Day

June 3, 2013

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Creekside, June 8, Assemble 1:15PM

Chapter Meeting, Monday, June 10, 7 PM. Because of parking problems at Bessy Street Strut, we will meet at East Ridge Church of Christ. Details in next week's newsletter.

Over 50 Club, Thursday, June 20, 5:30 PM, Alhambra Shrine

Summer Cookout, June 29, See story below.

Ruby Falls, Thursday, July 4, Arrive 11:15 AM

Lakeside Harmony Weekend, July 19-20, Huntsville, This is our chapter retreat for 2013.

Ruby Falls, Saturday, July 27, Arrive 11:15 AM

Annual Show, August 17, GPS, Lunch Break is guest quartet.

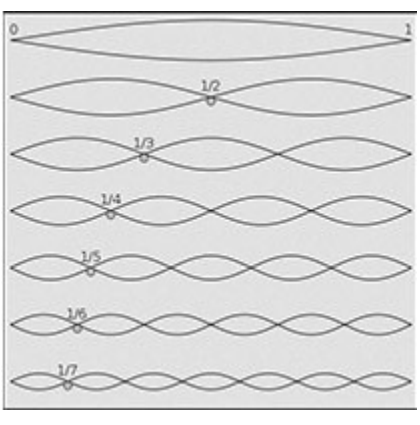
Fall Contest, October 4-5, Chattanooga, we are host.

Christmas Show, Thursday, December 19, Tivoli

Christmas Party, December 15 (tentative)

Summer Cookout Update

The reservations are made for the cookout at Chester Frost Park on June 29th from 3-7 PM. We will be in the 4th Shelter located past the ranger station on the left at the end of the road. We have two grills, bathroom facilities and seating for over 100 people. So plan now to attend and invite your friends to join us. More to follow on what to bring, etc. *SteveG*



Chapter Retreat Update

The registration form I have the Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend says that if we are a "Coached Chorus", we are to send in our registration forms together in one mailing. I have not heard this addressed in the MLT meeting or at Board. Our deadline is July 1. I will be on vacation June 15-July 6 and would like to have this taken care of with my check before then. Are we staying off campus or on campus? What are our plans? Is there going to be a car pool?

Wilbur would like to get an accurate count of those going on Monday. *Gary*

Birthdays

2 - Gary Fisher
3 - Art Southerlin
5 - Rich Ptacin
10 -Tanya Fleury
18 - Erby Erwin
21 - Tom Keegan

Anniversaries

4 - Johnny and Sally Jackson
5 - Steve and Janet Wixson
18 - Fred and Judy Jesse
22 - Art and Debbie Southerlin
24 - Lebron and Margie Brock

Online Archive

Script for Monday Meeting

7:02 Chuck leads warm up
7:15 Chuck - Polecat - Down By The Old Mill Stream
7:30 Paul - Celebrate Harmony
7:50 Paul - Sweet Adeline
8:05 Paul - Focus Session on Vowels
8:20 Announcements & break
8:30 Four on the Floor - Brock/Br, Daniel/L, Charlie/B, Chuck/T
8:40 Risers - Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia
8:50 Risers - Lulus Back in Town
9:00 Risers - Darkness on the Delta
9:10 Risers - Simple Melody
9:20 Risers - Caroline
9:28 Gandy Dancer Award and KTWWS

Highlights of Last Meeting

There was no meeting last Monday.

Highlights of Scout Flag Day SingOut

Seventeen showed up not long after sunrise to cool. but pleasant weather for what turned out to be a great performance. Marcellus did a yeoman's job making sure everyone had a red coat and blue tie. As shown in the photo above, we rehearsed in our waiting area facing the lake warming up quietly. After the flag presentation, we sang the *National Anthem, Armed Forces Medley* and *God Bless America* as a set. A highlight of the day is scouts placing flags at grave sites as shown in the photograph from last Monday's newsletter.

Highlights of Memorial Day Sing Out

Twenty three showed up for the Memorial Day Sing Out. While not singing the *National Anthem,* we wowed them with the *Armed Forces Medley* and *God Bless America,* and each part of the AFM was met with applause as men and women stood when their service song was sung. It is such an honor to participate in this event. A photograph will be in next week's newsletter.

Thanks From The Director

Thanks for two great performances over the Memorial Day weekend. Seventeen brave and hardy souls joined for the Boy Scout/Girl Scout flag-planting on Saturday, where we sang all three songs back-to-back, to rousing applause. On Monday, I believe the final count was 22 plus me. Our *Armed Forces Medley* was a great success, and *God Bless America* brought tears to many in our audience. Afterwards, Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke told me what a great job we(you!) did. I responded (cleverly, I thought) by reminding him that we were available for city events. We'll see... In addition, our local American Legion District Commander approached me to be sure that we would be available for Veteran's Day. All in all, a wonderful weekend. *Paul*

Note From Business Manager

Good attendance at the cemetery. Many compliments from the crowd. We sing next at Creekside Retirement, 7511Shallowford Rd. Saturday, June 8, arriving @ 1:15pm. It's a little past Gunbarrel Rd on the left. Look for the sign. Gravel entrance because of Shallowford widening project. Patriotic outfit. *Rich*

Barbershop Term of the Week (BTOW)

I have mentioned overtones in a previous article or two and you hear that term thrown around a lot in barbershop. From context, they are obviously desirable, but what the heck are they? You can't talk about overtones without talking about the harmonic series, so I'll start there and come back to overtones at the end.

Acoustic instruments usually make sound by vibrating something that oscillates well like a string or a column of air. Many different frequencies exist on that oscillator at the same time, bouncing around, canceling each other out, and reinforcing one another to create standing waves. These different frequencies give an instrument its characteristic timbre, the color of its sound that makes it distinguishable from other instruments.

Multiples of the fundamental pitch of the note struck resonate very well and can be picked out by a trained ear or computer. These notes form the harmonic series. If you think about harmonics like notes on a guitar string, the first harmonic is sounded by simply plucking the string and letting is resonate. The second harmonic is sounded by fretting half-way up the string from the bridge, the third harmonic by fretting ⅓ from the bridge, the fourth harmonic ¼ from the bridge, and so forth. So, clearly, the first harmonic is the fundamental pitch (e.g., C) and the second harmonic is the note an octave above the fundamental since the string is cut in half (C) , but where do the others lie? The third harmonic is a perfect fifth above the second harmonic (G). The fourth harmonic is a fourth above that (C), bringing it to two octaves above the root. The fifth harmonic is a major third above that (E) and the sixth is a minor third above that (G).

Do these intervals sound familiar? They are the most consonant and common intervals in our music and I have mentioned all of them in past articles. The first five harmonics together form a major triad, something we see constantly in barbershop and western music. So where do overtones fit in all this harmonic business? Overtones are simply harmonics but excluding the fundamental. So the first overtone is the second harmonic and the second overtone is the third harmonic and on and on down the list. They get harder to hear as they get higher and softer very quickly, by the way, so don't go trying to hear the fourth overtone

. Just hearing the first one is enough to give some guys goosebumps. You have to trust that they exist, though, and strive to create as many as possible with perfect harmony and vowel matching. A bad note in there won't create the sound waves necessary to reinforce the fundamental frequency and make the overtones stand out. *Wally*