



BRIDGE TOWN SOUND

www.bridgetownsound.org

Portland Metro Chapter Men's Barbershop Chorus

Six-Time Evergreen Division IV Champions

SOUND - Bites

October 22, 2013

BTS takes 6th at District Wins Most Improved Small Chorus

Chorus Results

- First Place: Salem SenateAires (80.5)
- Second Place: Western Washington (80.3)
- Third Place: Bellevue (80.2)
- 4. Boise (77.1)
- 5. Calgary Foothills (73.1)
- 6. Portland Metro Bridge Town Sound (71.3)
- 7. Kitsap (69)
- 8. Bellingham (68.7)
- 9. Greater Vancouver (67.5)
- 10. Bozeman (64.7)
- 11. Spokane (62.2)
- 12. Pullman-Moscow (61.2)
- 13. Federal Way (60.2)
- 14. Columbia Basin (56.3)

Quartet Results

- First Place: Via Voice
- Second Place: Madison Park
- Third Place: 4.0
- 4. Momma's Boys
- 5. Code Blue
- 6. The Bons Vivants
- 7. Something in Common
- 8. The Mix
- 9. Coda
- 10. Signature Sound
- 11. River City Sound
- 12. Seventh Standard
- 13. Timelines
- 14. DURF
- 15. IPA
- 16. Late Again
- 17. The Executives
- 18. IN Harmony
- 19. Hometown Harmony
- 20. Social Insecurity
- 21. Breaking Point
- 22. Harmony Knights
- 23. HIGH GEAR
- 24. Tripledee-queue
- 25. Autumn Blend



Via Voice

2014 Board of Directors

On Tuesday October 15, 2013 at a Chapter meeting, Portland Metro Chapter members present, by unanimous consent, voted the following slate of officers as the Chapter Board of Directors for calendar year 2014:

- President - Bud Roberts*
- Secretary - Larry Perkins
- Treasurer - Paul Lewis*
- Music and Performance VP - Paul Graves*
- Marketing and Public Relations VP - Rick Barrier
- Chapter Development VP - Carlos Aguayo
- Program and Fellowship VP - Dick Handley*
- Immediate Past President - Steve Wright*

* = two year terms

- Member at Large - Music - Brian Levy
- Member at Large - Marketing - Mark Smith
- Member at Large - Chapter Development - Jeff Welsh

And the following, non-Board positions, affirmed by appointment:

- Sunshine Chairman - Norm Lawson
- Trustee of the Ron Uphoff Memorial Fund - Bob King
- Chorus Manager - Todd Dignan
- Music Librarian - Brian Levy

Members elect of the 2014 Board are encouraged to attend the November and December Meetings of the Board to ensure an informed and seamless transition.

With great gratitude for those who served on the 2013 Board under the superb leadership of President Steve Wright,

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Watson

2013 Portland Metro Officers

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Musical Director
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Sound-Bites Editor
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We meet every Tuesday from 7-9:30 pm
at Holladay Park Church of God,
2120 NE Tillamook, Portland
Please join us!

Bridge Town Sound is affiliated with the
Barbershop Harmony Society



Norm's Two-Minute Report

By Norm Lawson

Who raises chickens, grows apples and pears and horseback-rides while still singing barbershop?

It's **Ron Johnson!** Ron and Jean are just great in their retirement years. They go camping in their fifth-wheeler, enjoy retreating to their mountain cabin up in Santiam Pass, garden when they are at home and occasionally, horseback- ride. As a matter of fact, a not-well-known practice they have begun is riding portions of the Pacific Crest Trail. They have had horses for some time, but only recently have they ridden them on sections of the historic trail between Mt. Hood and McKenzie Pass.

In terms of our favorite pastime, barbershop, Ron is singing with the Senate Aires. He and Bob Lorenz are trying to pull a quartet together, as well. Any takers for lead and bass?

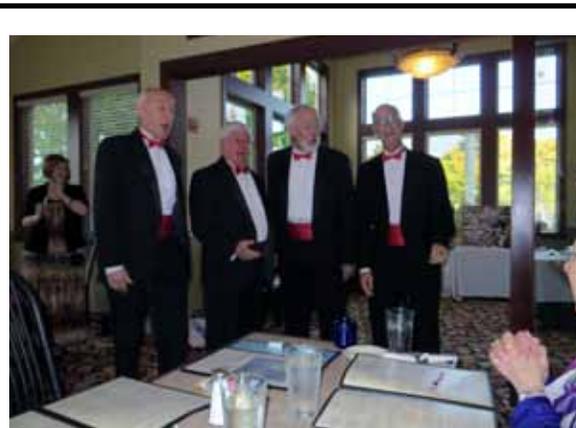
Ron stated that a fair amount of his free time is spent at their cabin, doing repairs. A neighbor was felling a tree. It fell on their cabin's roof! Ron and Jean weren't there when it happened, so there's no certainty of who's to blame.

They have taken the fifth-wheeler to San Diego to visit their children and casually brought it home on scenic coastal routes - a pleasure!

Though Ron, with the SenateAires, will be competing against us at Boise in October, he wishes us the best as we prepare for that great fall contest.



Ron & Jean Johnson



Lynn surprised everyone at my mom's 90th birthday party on Oct. 12th with special music from a quartet that Doug Watson put together.

They did a marvelous job and all the guests were thrilled. Lynn had them include music for our 45th anniversary, which was the week before. Thanks fellows for a job well done. It brought back memories and it was appreciated.

—Martha Haldeman

In remembrance of a wonderful guy

By Roberta Miller

A long-time barbershopper and dear friend to all of us passed away during open heart surgery on Thursday, October 10. Bob Van Gordon was a loving husband and brother, proud father, and adoring grandfather, as well as a loyal and active barbershop member. He sang bass with the Vocal Gentry and when they closed up shop, he made the switch to Bridge Town Sound. When help was needed for shows, sing-outs, guest nights, and other events, Bob was generally first in line to volunteer, and he never failed to fulfill his duties and obligations. He went above and beyond what was asked of him. Bob especially loved to greet people at the door when they visited BTS. His big smile and hearty handshake welcomed guests and members alike. He once told me that greeting people was what he liked the best. He felt that



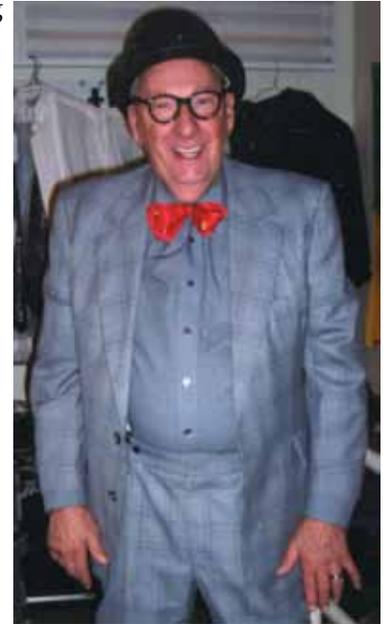
Bob "Scoop" Van Gordon

when visitors see a smiling face and are greeted warmly at the door, it makes a big difference to how they perceive their all-around experience. It is not a coincidence that our newsletter, *Sound-Bites*, has not been the same since Bob, a.k.a. "Scoop," left Bridge Town Sound. Over the past 10 years since I've been editing the newsletter, Bob was my "stringer." For those who are not into journalism lingo, a stringer is a freelance journalist or photographer who contributes reports or photos to a news organization (in our case, a newsletter) on an ongoing basis but is paid individually for each piece of published or broadcast work. Of course, in our case we omitted the payment part! If you are new to Bridge Town Sound and haven't checked out our years of newsletters, you may be surprised to know that Bob attended nearly all of

the barbershop shows and events around town and then wrote reviews of them. Looking back over those many years, I can see why it was easy for me to put together a weekly newsletter since Bob was a regular contributor. His folksy way of writing and my tweaking it a little bit made for interesting and entertaining reports. Bob had a simple, small pad and took very few notes (sometimes even by flashlight!), but combining that with his phenomenal memory, he was able to gather lots of information about the quartets and choruses. He would list every song they sang and make positive comments about their performance. This was a skill and talent he developed over the years that made for interesting

reading and now provides a historical picture of the many barbershop events, locally and out of town, over the past 10-15 years. When Bob left Bridge Town Sound, I lost my best writer and good buddy. We always thought we made a good team and we kept in touch regularly. Besides writing for *Sound-Bites*, through the years Bob composed many poems, essays and short pieces of family trivia along with his youthful memories. A few years ago he gave me a bound booklet called "Poems, Thoughts, and Reflections" that he had written. He was a very sentimental guy who had wonderful recollections of his childhood. His memories were mostly of happy times and of how things used to be when he was a boy. I would like to leave you with a poem from Bob's book that showed his optimistic view of life.

All dolled up for a special event



All dolled up for a special event

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Bob with former Vocal Gentry guys

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Don't Throw the Past Away

*Don't throw the past away,
save it for a gloomy day.
Remember the people and places,
lots of good times, friendly faces.
Think about all the good days,
bringing happiness in so many ways.
If you dwell upon the trouble you've had,
it's no wonder the past looks bad.
Times remembered with a smile
can help you go that extra mile.
So, don't throw the past away,
you may need it some rainy day.
Just think on this a little while,
things look better from behind a smile.
When it seems the day will never end,
those happy memories can be a friend.
You can make any day a sunny day,
just don't throw the past away.*

—Bob Van Gordon

BTS President says yes to Bob

I knew Bob from way back when I was the choir director at our church. He's been the front door greeter as well for the years since.

He always let me know when Vocal Gentry and BTS were competing or having a show. He also was persistent about inviting me to come and visit a practice. Patty and I attended a few shows over the years and thoroughly enjoyed them. I finally said yes to Bob late in 2007 and have been with BTS since. I greatly miss his ready handshake and great smile.

—Steve Wright

A memorial service for Bob Van Gordon will be held at 2pm, on Saturday, October 26, at the Portland Metro Assembly of God Church, 5004 NE 6th Avenue, Portland 97211.

Photos by Dean Brown

Another friend has transferred to the Chapter Eternal

Bob Van Gordon was the strong, silent type and a man of impeccable character. I recall meeting Bob when I joined the Vocal Gentry (West Portland Chapter) in 1993. He wasn't a quartet man, he wasn't very vocal in meetings, and he avoided the limelight. He didn't serve in many formal administrative capacities but his contributions

to his chapters were immeasurable. Need some props made? Bob's got it. Signs for the chorus? Call Bob. Crates to make Valentine deliveries easier?

No sweat. Vans will be available for the mobility-impaired to get from the parking lot to the entrance but concerned that getting in and out of the vans might be difficult? Custom BTS stepstools, coming right up.

Bob also took it upon himself to share barbershop with others through his reporting of events everywhere. "Scoop" always wrote positive and very complete and thorough reviews on his "Palm Pilot" ... which is what he humorously called his ever present, hand-sized, pocket spiral notebook. He was also the unofficial Poet Laureate of Portland barbershop, often writing odes and epic poems exhorting and inspiring his brothers in harmony.

Bob didn't reject technology, but lived and loved others through the art of personal touch. Phone calls, cards, letters, newspaper clippings, trinkets, even quarters for my daughter, Maria, when as a youngster she had to accompany me to Vocal Gentry rehearsals ... I loved and relished these wonderful, but simple gifts.

Bob may just have been a "Joe Riser Guy Barbershopper" but his impact on Portland barbershop will never be forgotten. RIP, my friend ... and thank you.

—John Burri



Meeting Script –Tuesday, Oct. 22

THREE THINGS WE LEARNED IN BOISE (if we didn't know already) ...

1. We can sing with the big boys.
2. "Most Improved" is sweet!
3. District is in Surrey next year. We've got 11 months to make sure our passports are up-to-date.

THREE THINGS TO DO AT THE 10/22 rehearsal

1. Be on the risers at 7:00
2. Put what we learned in the evaluations into practice.
3. Enjoy every one of the 165 minutes.

7:00 - Warm-up

7:25 - Guests

7:30 - Repertoire run-through

It's Today

Harmony Leads The Way

Home On The Range

I'm Beginning To See The Light

Jezebel

Happy Together

Accentuate The Positive

Jingle Bells

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Something Inside So Strong

God Bless The USA

8:10 - *I Wonder As I Wander!*

8:30 - Business and Break

8:50 - *Silent Night*

9:00 - *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*

9:10 - Repertoire run-through again

9:45 - Resolutions Chief and KTWWS Director ... John Burri

Congrats to the Most Improved Chorus and great performances by both of our quartets! Let's use this as a springboard into our Christmas season and 2014!

Please give your newly elected board your full support - you can volunteer before being asked :)

—Steve Wright

Holiday Songs

Here is the BTS Holiday Rep list, which we will re-qualify on in the following order ...

I Wonder As I Wander

Silent Night

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Jingle Bells

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

The Secret Of Christmas

We Need A Little Christmas

It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Veni Emanuel

Mary's Little Boy Child

My suggestion is you review and prepare these songs in this order, as we will re-introduce them in rehearsals in this order.

Let's continue to take great pride in the amazing musical result that comes from knowing our music, for ourselves and our brothers.

Coming Attractions

Oct. 18-19	Evergreen District Contest	Boise, Idaho
Nov. 3	Rose City Park Concert - 3pm	U. Methodist Church
Nov. 16	6th Annual All NW Tag Party	Vancouver WA
Dec. 7	Holiday Show	Holladay Park COG
Dec. 17	ZooLights Performance -7:15pm	Portland Zoo Entry Plaza
Dec. 23	Chorus Performance	The Grotto - 7pm
Jan. 7	Installation/Awards Banquet	Old Spaghetti Factory
Mar. 29	Retreat for Division Contest	TBA
Apr. 25-26	Division IV Contest & Convention	Salem

