

River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

Mankato "Riverblender's" 2011 SW Division Contest

The Mankato Riverblenders successfully hosted the 2011 Southwest Division Contest at Fitzgerald Middle School on March 26, 2011.

The Riverblenders wish to thank the LO'L for their guidance and support during the planning of this event.

The contest was small with only 4 choruses, 2 Very Large Quartets, and 4 Quartets competing. Because of its size, it was decided that the 2 contests should be combined into 1. This saved everyone a lot of time and produced more time for us to get together at the afterglow and have some good fun with the other chorus members. Hopefully we will have more competitors next year. We need to remember that this is a contest, but it is also a time in

which we can all get together to enjoy this great hobby of ours.

We want to thank the choruses, VLQ's, and the Quartets that performed on the contest stage in Mankato. We hope that they had a great time and are already making plans for next years competition. Congratulations to the Faribault Chapter for their **Southwest Division Plateau AA Championship!!**

With Arvid Zenk's leadership and guidance the contest went off without a hitch. Many Riverblenders lent a hand to put the contest and afterglow together and we would like to thank them all.

As far as the results of the contest are concerned we owe copious amounts of praise to our Director Derek Glenna, our

choreographers Doug Peterson and Thom Schubbe, and our coach Pete Benson.

Not only did the aforementioned people work hard guiding us, but the Riverblenders themselves worked extra hard to sponsor the event and they took home a lot of hardware:

Mankato, MN - Southwest Division Chorus Champion

Mankato, MN - Southwest Division Plateau AA Champion

Mankato, MN - Southwest Division VLQ Champion

Grand Design - Southwest Division Quartet Champion (with Riverblenders Derek Glenna and Leonard Hulls)

Soul Purpose - Southwest Division Novice Quartet Champion



"Manning the Registration Desk
at Fitzgerald Middle School"



Contest Chairman - Arvid Zenk
"Taking his only break"



"Having a little lunch
at Fitzgerald Middle School"

Directors Comments On 2011 SW Division Contest

Congratulations and welcome to the winner's circle!

Chorus members already "sprang ahead" this spring!

We are winners in every aspect of this chorus!!! Congrats! I owe a big thanks to many members of this chorus. Arv, Jeff, and all the men who helped make this contest run smoothly. Many of us don't know how much "behind the scenes" work is involved. Having the capabilities and man power to put this kind of thing together is awesome! That shows the LO'L district what we are capable of besides winning a Division contest!

Thank you to the active singing members of our chorus, for what we do; bringing joy to others with our high quality performing!

The endless hours standing on risers, tired legs, knees, and voices, we climb to new heights with the effort we put forth! Remember what you put into it is what you will get out of it! That's part of the success men. This success is because of your extra time spent in and out of rehearsal. THANK YOU!

As we warmed up and did some chunking on stage, I knew members of the other choruses were casually standing and listening...aspiring to be like us. We made a BIG impression! As you can see by the score sheets we are mighty AWESOME!

I need to really thank three important people in my life; Doug Peterson, Peter Benson,

and of course, my Emily! Doug takes on so many responsibilities for this group and for me as the director. Doug has shown the chorus his musical talent as a quartet guy, arranging skill, directing, dedication, and attendance to us. I have no worries when I am absent, I know that Doug does a fabulous job both in front of the chorus and as a front row singer, thanks Doug! Mr. Peter Benson has been my personal barbershop mentor for many years now. I aspire to be like him each time I step out in front of the groups I direct and coach. His attitude and humor alike, plus his skillful ears and finesse to fine singing are attributes I really want to have. I need to thank him for all of his inspiration to go the extra mile and effort for this chorus. He wants us to be successful! Thanks Pete.

Thank you to my sweetheart Emily. Did you know that our contest was the same day as her 22nd birthday?? What a trooper! She sat through many hours; the contest and both chorus and Grand Design judging evaluations. The time I spend with her during the week is limited but precious, due to work, college, and barbershop schedules... yikes... how does she put up with it....well, she loves me. She understands that my time is so important to me at rehearsals and even down at the Wine Cafe'. There are times when I come home from rehearsal

frustrated and even still the next day she listens to me complain. Her curing words are always the same, "honey, it's just a hobby and for fun." Then I get over it! Her understanding and big heart is why I can do this hobby and share the gifts I have been given, which is priceless to me. Thanks Emily!

The Show is around the corner.....even though contest is over.... Does this mean we get a break???? Ah, no way!!!!!! We have a show that must contain everything we have to offer! We have a bang up script with props, costumes, and technology that will surpass last year's show! Please put forth your best efforts and commitment to get the show tunes and script in polished stages from now until our show! I warned our guest performers that the Mankato chorus is singing at a high level, don't let me down! If you sat out of our contest we missed you. Now is the time to jump back in if you want to be part of the show! Don't wait, hurry back, we need you!

Champion Chorus Director -

Derek Glenna



Emily & Derek



2011 SOUTHWEST DIVISION CONTEST CHORUS CHAMPIONS - “RIVERBLENDEERS”
2011 SOUTHWEST DIVISION CONTEST PLATEAU AA CHAMPIONS - “RIVERBLENDEERS”



2011 SOUTHWEST DIVISION CONTEST VLQ CHAMPIONS - “RIVERBLENDEERS”



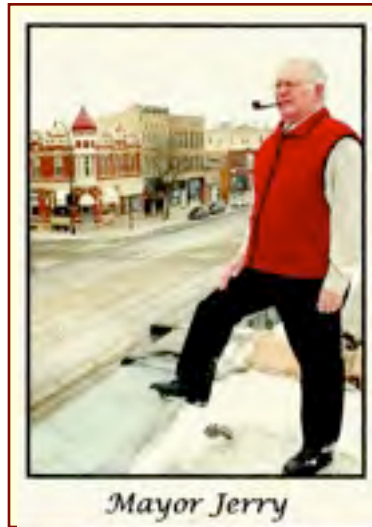
2011 SOUTHWEST DIVISION CONTEST
QUARTET CHAMPIONS - GRAND DESIGN

2011 SOUTHWEST DIVISION CONTEST
NOVICE QUARTET CHAMPIONS - SOUL PURPOSE

LOSS OF JERRY HAWBAKER

Long time friend and "Riverblender", Jerry Hawbaker pass away on March 1, 2011. Jerry was a barbershopper for 43 years and sang in a number of different quartets over the years. He received the 1978 Barbershopper of the Year Award from the Vermillionaires Chorus, Pontiac, Illinois which he founded. Then in 1987 he received the Barbershopper of the Year Award from the Mankato Riverblenders Chorus. Not only was he very active in the chapter in various offices and committees but he was also very active in the Land O' Lakes and Southwest Division.

Jerry was also very civic minded. He served on the boards of the Salvation Army and the Region Nine Development Council. He was the



Mayor Jerry

mayor of St. Peter for five consecutive terms 1996-2005. He will be missed!

Jerry Hawbaker

Marv Ostrom
March 10, 2011

Jerry H. was a unique guy,
He got the job done - not asking why.
In chorus or quartet a resounding bass,
Given as a gift from his Masters grace.
A wise administrator with folks dealt fairly,
Conflicts few, if fact, just barely.
We'll miss his talents and sparkling personality,
Who to fill his place, we've yet to see.
A truly great guy we miss him as a brother,
His spirit close by, oer our heads doth hover.



Calendar

April 5, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School - 7 PM
Regular Rehearsal

April 12, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Board Meeting - 6 PM
Regular Rehearsal- 7 PM

April 19, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Show Meeting - 6 PM
Regular Practice - 7 PM

April 26, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Regular Rehearsal - 7 PM

May 6, 2011 - Friday

Crossview Covenant Church
Dress Rehearsal

May 7, 2011 - Saturday

Crossview Covenant Church
Annual Shows:
2:30 & 7:00 PM
Preglow :
Best Western
Afterglow :
North Links Golf Course

May 10, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Board Meeting - 6 PM
Rehearsal & Pizza

Items of Interest

Marv Ostrom -

Went home Tuesday, March 29, 2011
Visit him at home as he is home bound
for a month and wants visitors

2012 Show Music - the "Disney" theme
music has been chosen and is available
for you on CD

Contact - Doug Peterson

THE MANKATO RIVERBLENDEERS
PROUDLY PRESENT
A Night at the Auditions



**FEATURING
SWEET ADELINES
CHORUS
FROM STILLWATER, MN**

VALLEE DE CROIX
SATURDAY
MAY 7TH, 2011
AT 2:00 & 7:00

**CROSSVIEW
COVENANT
CHURCH**
2000 HOWARD DRIVE
NORTH MANKATO

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM CHORUS MEMBERS, ALL CUB FOOD & HY-VEE STORES IN MANKATO, AND ALSO NUTTER CLOTHING IN ST. PETER OR CALL JON AT 507- 625-6141 FOR GROUP RATES, OR VISIT WWW.singmankato.com

2011 ANNUAL SHOW POSTER

THE MANKATO RIVERBLENDEERS
PROUDLY PRESENT
A Night at the Auditions

SATURDAY MAY 7, 2011 TIMES. 2.00 & 7.00
AT CROSSVIEW COVENANT CHURCH
2000 HOWARD DRIVE, NORTH MANKATO



More info @ www.singmankato.com

2011 ANNUAL SHOW POSTCARD

2011 ANNUAL SHOW

Date:

May 7, 2011

Show times:

2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Show Location:

Crossview Covenant Church, 2000
Howard Drive, North Mankato

Show name:

"A Night At The Auditions"

Well, now that the Contest is behind us, we can move forward and put full focus on "The Show". May 7th.

Before we leave the Contest . . . a big congratulations to The Riverblenders for all of our hard work and great accomplishment in the competition. Thanks to Derek, Doug, Thom and anyone else that motivated us to our great finish!

The Show plans are progressing nicely. There are lots of activities on-going...scripts are being written and re-written. Willie is starting to work on his part. Steve has finishing work on Posters and now they are appearing in public. Postcards are to be sent out soon, by Jon and Steve. Bailey and Jeff are doing publicity things. We will be working diligently on songs and Ryan will be weaving them into our weekly rehearsals. Derek and Doug will be sharpening the fine details for our songs.

Me I continue to plan our next meetings and call on people for last minute Sponsorships/Ads in case you didn't get this message in last month's bulletin: SELL SPONSORSHIPS/ ADS. SELL TICKETS. SELL SPONSORSHIPS/ADS. SELL TICKETS

Let's all work together, to make our May 7, 2011 Show the BEST EVER!!!!!!

Ron Meyer,

2011 Show Chairman



QUARTET NEWS

Rural Free Delivery has recorded and placed 2 songs on "You Tube". To view them, go to "You Tube" and type in ITEEA, look at the pictures and you will easily see RFD. Both songs were designed to promote the International Technology Engineering and Education Associations annual conference which was held in Minneapolis. The Executive Director of ITEEA liked the videos so much that he invited the quartet to sing at the opening of the 2nd general session. They

accepted and made up new words to Darkness on the Delta, performing to a crowd of 800 and receiving a standing ovation. They later sang in the Vendor Exhibit Area and then at the noon luncheon

Lead, Jeff Grimmer, was the Honorary Chairperson of the conference and was the welcoming speaker at both the first board meeting and the first general session. Donning his bright orange hunting hat he performed several renditions of Sven Olafson

during his speech. All but Jeff returned to Mankato and competed in the contest on Saturday. Great Time!!

Grand Design won the 2011 Southwest Quartet Contest held in Mankato Saturday, March 26, 2011. They beat the next quartet by 29 points. They sang well and are looking forward to District Contest this fall. Soul Purpose also sang on the contest and took home the Novice Quartet Contest trophy.



EMAIL NEWS

Hi Guys,

Just wanted to let you know what a good job you did. Please pass along my thanks to everyone who helped you with your many jobs. It was a great, little contest and I thought we had a lot of fun doing it! Thank you for the outstanding effort. I've had positive comments from every chapter and every quartet that participated. And I thought the attached message was a good summary of what we did and something you should all see.

Arv Zenk

Arv,

Thanks to you and all of the Riverblenders for your hard work yesterday at the Southwest Division contest. I expected that everything would go smoothly and I was not disappointed. Through the years, I've learned that getting things to go that well takes a lot of hard work; it doesn't happen by accident, plenty of planning is essential. You and your committee showed that you had indeed done the planning and you made the convention fun for everyone. Thanks again for your hard work.

David Bowen
Contest Administrator

