

# River Ramblings

*Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer*

## The Mankato Riverblenders = "WINNERS"



Photo - Bobby McFall

Contest winning performance by the "Riverblenders"

A successful day for the Mankato "Riverblenders"! Not only did the whole contest come off with high marks from everyone involved, but we also took home some hardware. The Chorus received two plaques: Plateau AA Champions and Southwest Division Champions. Mankato's VLQ was the Southwest Divisions Very Large Quartet Champions. Grand Design sang for points and did a super job! Good Luck to them in Portland!



Photo - Bobby McFall

Contest winning performance by the "Riverblenders" VLQ



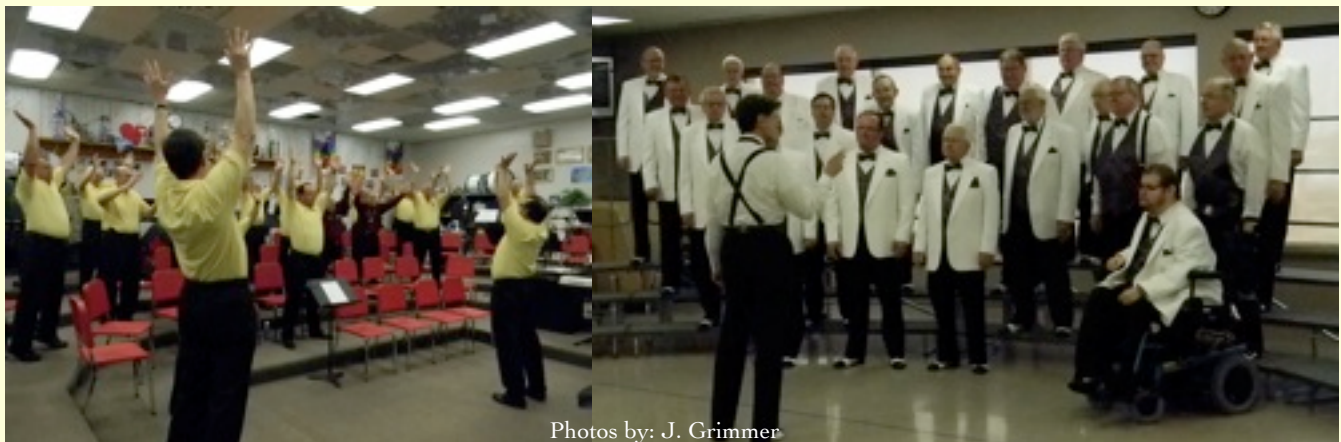
Photo - Bobby McFall

Grand Design after the contest

## Pre-Contest Preparations



The above photos represent a small part of the Riverblender contingent that put together and ran the 2012 LO'L Districts - Southwest and 10,000 Lakes Division Contests. Great comments were heard from the contestants as they experienced a smooth running event. Many thanks go out to Arv Zenk for his leadership in this years contest. Untold hours of preparation and the redoing of many items was the theme of the day. However, everything was taken care off and with the help of our members we did ourselves proud! Thanks also go out to the LO'L for their assistance and to the judges for taking their time and talents to contribute. Below are a couple of pictures that show the chorus stretching out and just before going on the contest stage.



Thom Schubbe getting us stretched out

Doug giving us some last minute instructions in the Warm Up Room





# Contest Scores



## OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, BHS, SW and 10,000 Lakes Division Quartet and Chorus Contests

Land O' Lakes District, 10,000 Lakes & Southwest Divisions, Chorus Finals, Mankato, Minnesota, March 31, 2012

Contest Legend: 4=Southwest Division Chorus, 6=Southwest Division Chorus District Qualification (Score), 8=Southwest Division Plateau A Chorus, 10=Southwest Division Plateau AA Chorus, 13=Southwest Division Most-Improved Chorus

Chapter / Nickname	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Avg	Cnt
★ 1 Mankato, MN	When It's Night Time In Dixie Land	136	137	124	792	66.0	26
Riverblenders (4,6,10,13)	You Don't Know Me	136	133	126			
★ 2 Faribault, MN	Let The Rest Of The World Go By	118	122	126	730	60.8	21
Lakelanders Chorus (4,6,8,13)	The Barbershop Strut	115	122	127			
3 La Crosse, WI	Sing Me That Song Again	114	120	111	698	58.2	27
Coulee Chordsmen (4,6,10,13)	Hello My Baby	119	124	110			
4 Albert Lea, MN	There's A Rose On Your Cheek	111	112	108	658	54.8	28
Harmony Junction (4,6,8)	Yona From Arizona	109	112	106			
5 Rochester, MN	Give My Regards To Broadway	112	119	106	646	53.8	17
Music Men (4,6,8,13)	I'm Sitting On Top Of The World	98	114	97			

★ Mankato, MN is the Southwest Division Chorus Champion.

Choruses scoring 720 points or greater qualify for the District Chorus Contest.

Faribault, MN is the Southwest Division Plateau A Champion.

Mankato, MN is the Southwest Division Plateau AA Champion.

La Crosse, WI is the Southwest Division Most Improved Chorus.

Chapter / Nickname	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Avg	Cnt
★ 1 Mankato Riverblenders VLQ	Everybody Loves A Lover	120	127	122	724	60.3	11
	It's Only A Paper Moon	113	123	119			

Mankato Riverblenders VLQ is the Southwest Division Very Large Quartet Champion.

The VLQ contest is for Encouragement, Score and Entertainment only.

Finals	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Subt	Prev	Total	Avg
★ 1 Vocal Express	The Little Boy	143	134	141			826	68.8
(2,4)	Taking A Chance On Love	141	131	136				

Vocal Express is the Southwest Division Champion.

District qualification for quartet contestants will be determined after all division results are completed.

Chapter / Nickname	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Avg	Cnt
1 Minneapolis, MN	It's Only A Paper Moon	149	152	150	893	74.4	60
Commodores (3,5,11,12)	I'm Beginning To See The Light	147	149	146			
2 St Croix Valley, MN	Little Pal	131	135	132	793	66.1	38
Croix Chordsmen Chorus (3,5,9,12)	It's Only A Paper Moon	134	131	130			
3 Greater St Paul Area, MN	Home On The Range	131	130	133	783	65.3	18
North Star Chorus (3,5,9,12)	Almost Like Being In Love	131	128	130			
4 Polk County, WI	I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)	124	130	120	729	60.8	22
Indianhead Chorus (3,5,9,12)	The Little Boy	117	122	116			
5 Bloomington, MN	My Old Kentucky Home	118	123	120	711	59.3	17
Good Times Chorus (3,5,7,12)	Everybody Loves A Lover	111	127	112			

Minneapolis, MN is the 10,000 Lakes Division Chorus Champion.

Choruses scoring 720 points or greater qualify for the District Chorus Contest.

Bloomington, MN is the 10,000 Lakes Division Plateau A Champion.

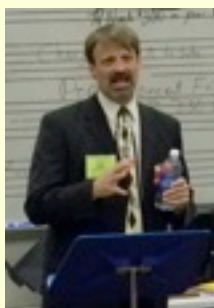
St Croix Valley, MN is the 10,000 Lakes Division Plateau AA Champion.

Minneapolis, MN is the 10,000 Lakes Division Plateau AAA Champion.

Bloomington, MN is the 10,000 Lakes Division Most Improved Chorus.

**Congratulations to the Faribault Chapter and their very own "Vocal Express" quartet for doing such an outstanding job!!!**

## Our Three Post Contest Coaches (Judges)



Tony Sparks - New Mexico



Dave Tautkus - Simi Valley, CA



Roger Stanfield - Savage, MN

Photos by: J. Grimmer

Our panel of judges that critiqued us and gave us some items to work on



### Hi Arv:

On behalf of the panel and myself, I thank you for all your hard work to make this past weekend run so smoothly. We know when the legwork has been done, and in this case everything ran so smoothly that we know your and your crew spent many hours in preparation for a great contest weekend. Please congratulate and thank all your committee heads and workers for a job well done. I hope it was the success that you had hoped for. SING-cerely, Bob Swenson, Contest Administrator, LO'L Southwest & 10,000 Lakes Divisions Chorus and Quartet Contests.

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### Arv and all the Mankato chapter members,

A great job on Saturday, things couldn't have run smoother. We had an excellent panel and great evals. You guys really know how to do it up right. Sorry we didn't get to the afterglow, just too long a day as it was. Judd Orff - for Turning Point quartet & Croix Chordsmen chorus.

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### Guys:

As a "spectator", I want to say congrats on a well deserved Championship. Not only on stage, but off stage and behind the scenes. The man power and hours it took to organize and keep the smooth flow of the contest, "on time" is not as easy as it looks. Thank your leadership/contest organizers; the chorus is truly made up of champs. It felt so good to know that the Mankato chapter is still on top, and by over 60 points (from 2nd), I might add. Good work; stay in that spot! Good luck to you all on a wonderful 2012 "Disney" Show and be sure to enjoy the Humdingers - they are superb! Grand Design thanks you all for your support and great comments following our performance on Saturday, it means a lot.

Happy Singing! - Derek Glenna for Grand Design

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I feel very honored to be the President during this showtime part of the year. With all the great things going on, it gives me a great deal of pride to be out front, so to speak. Even though all of you are doing all the heavy lifting, it's a pride-filled moment for me.

It feels especially good to also be your BOTY recipient and have the pleasure of awarding recognition to a couple as worthy as Carol & Jerry Larson. Thanks to Joel and Charles for the dialogue work and great candidates. There were also a couple other great nominees for 2012, that hopefully will be resubmitted for 2013.

As some of you know, I was just a little surprised to learn about the speaking parts I had for the show. The good news was that my script was very flexible

and somewhat liberal. My coach Thom guided me through the rough and choppy waters to what in the end appeared to be almost a sea of glass. Thanks Thom!

Bruce is out scouting for additional show locations, give him your ideas.

We also are working on bringing stability to our Director search. Thanks Doug, for all your great efforts!

Now it's on to learning the church songs. Please try your best to be at the Sunday performances and while you're at it, bring another new member or two.

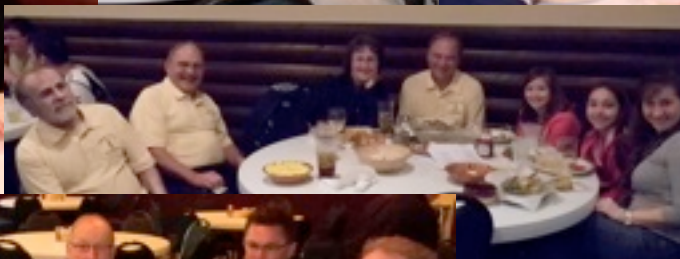
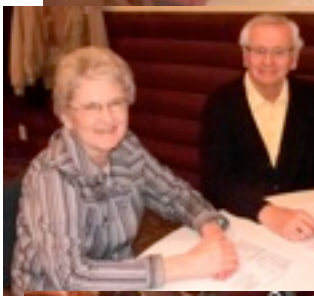
President:

Ron Meyer





## The Southwest - 10,000 Lakes Afterglow - Loose Moose



Photos by: J. Grimmer



## 2012 “Disney” Pre-Show







Fourtosity Quartet



MC  
Chuck Brooks



Humdingers



Sunday Punch



Riverbend



Soul Purpose

Photos by: J. Grimmer

Did Someone say  
“AFTERGLOW”



Magic



# After Contest



# After Show



Photos by: J. Grimmer

# PARTY!!!!

We had a well deserved after contest, after show party at the Loose Moose.  
Many folks showed up and had a great time! Thanks to everyone!!!!

Thanks go out to all of the members of the Riverblenders Family (this includes our better halves) for all of their time and talents that they so unselfishly gave to the production of the 2012 show. We had the best year ever for ad sales and we had the largest audiences that we have had in recent memory. This stuff doesn't just happen, it is because of your dedication to the cause. I am prejudice, but I really think that you guys just put on our best show ever. Congratulations and thanks again for everything you did!! 2012 Show Chairman - Jeff Grimmer





Marv at his computer

## Poem By "Marv"

### R/B's

*Marvin Ostrom*

The invincible R/B's are off to the races,  
 Moving bodies and smiling faces.  
 Another contest coming soon.  
 Sounding good in proper tune.  
 Well memorized, all the contest verses.  
 No tongue in cheek or or muffled curses.  
 Gotta get it right, that evasive note.  
 Play that C/D, learn by rote.  
 We'll be ready then to climb the riser.  
 If we drop a clunker they'll be none the wiser.  
 But it's imperative we do our best,  
 To score high when we take the test.  
 The judges decision soon is nigh.  
 If we don't score well, I'll wonder why.  
 I'm certain we have won again.  
 But if we don't, on our lives 'twill hinge ?  
 'Tis a great hobby; there are more important things.  
 Friends, Family, and Fortune, are goals that happiness brings.

2012

## Award Of Harmony

The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus presented their annual Award of Harmony to Jerry & Carol Larson of New Ulm. The pair have been part of the "Key Notes" for many years, an ensemble headquartered in New Ulm. They are also part of the New Ulm Theatre Company.

Carol is the organist in many different churches. They also spend some of their time composing, producing and directing. They are very generous to those in need, with their time, talent and monetary resources.



Photo: J. Botten

Jerry & Carol with President Ron Meyer

## Calendar

### April 30, 2012 - Monday

Last day to order Show Photos

### May 1, 2012 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

### \*May 8, 2012 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

### May 13, 2012 - Sunday

Mother's Day

### \*May 15, 2012 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

### \*May 22, 2012 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

### May 28, 2012 - Tuesday

Memorial Day

### \*May 29, 2012 - Tuesday

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

### \*June 5, 2012 - Tuesday

#### Summer Rehearsals

*Christ the King*

### June-August - Sunday's

Church Performances

### August 25, 2012 - Saturday

Annual Riverblenders Auction

Jeff & Carol Grimmer's

### Oct. 26-27 - Fall Contest -

Rochester

## Items of Interest

Doug Peterson's Father in law passed away on April 29, 2012.

Photos of the Contest  
 and the Show by:

Bobby McFall

[www.bobbymcfall.com](http://www.bobbymcfall.com)

## The "Riverblenders" Support Local Groups



Cub Foods East Manager invited us to sing as a Show Promotion Concert at the store

## 2012 Summer Sunday Sing-Out Schedule

Mark your calendars – we need at least 20 guys every Sunday. Also, please check your black pants!! I would like to coordinate a group purchase for those of you that would like to replace your black pants used often for our uniforms. After numerous washings they get a little gray, lose their shape, crease, and shrink. It would also unify the "look" of the group. Steve Pettis and I will be bringing information and pricing to the group in upcoming weeks. Stay tuned, Stan Bruss

June 10 – Mankato  
 June 24 – Mankato  
 July 15 – Lake Crystal/North Mankato  
 July 22 – Nicollet/Courtland  
 August 5 – St. Peter/ Norseland  
 August 19 – Mapleton/Medo

Coordinated by: Joel Botten  
 Coordinated by: Joel Botten  
 Coordinated by: Wayne Hughes  
 Coordinated by: Bruce Gray  
 Coordinated by: Bruce Gray  
 Coordinated by: Chuck Schubbe/Ron Conrad



### Other important dates to mark:

June 5 – start rehearsal at Christ the King for the summer  
 Oct. 26-27 – Fall Contest – Rochester

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As your Southwest Division Vice President, I'm preparing to represent us at the International Prelims in Steven's Point the week end of May 5<sup>th</sup>. I'll be joined by Arv Zenk and Chuck Schubbe in their respective roles as Secretary and Executive Vice President.

I received a note from Aaron (the fella that took the DVD of the show) "I just took a look at the footage and I am really pleased, it looks great! The sound is really good throughout. I love the handbell choir playing "Pirates of the Caribbean"! (Aaron Evans)

Thanks!

Thom Schubbe

