

River Ramblings

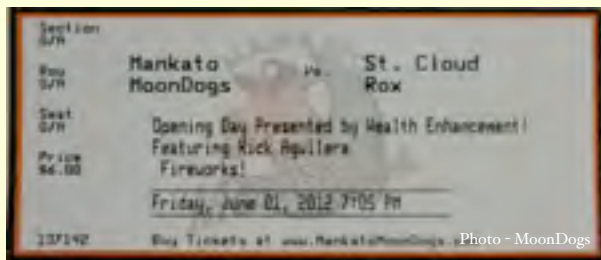
Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

A Busy Chapter is a Happy Chapter!



Photo - j. grimmer

The Boys warming up for the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner"



Opening Day Ticket Stub



Photo - The Free Press

Some good Free Press Coverage

The tradition continued as the Riverblenders opened the 2012 season of baseball for the Mankato "MoonDogs" on June 1st, at 7:00 PM. It was a packed house and we received a standing ovation from the fans at the end of our singing - or did we

get it when we started singing? We had a good mix of 20 singers as we marched on and performed the national anthem. Many of the members then stayed to watch as the "MoonDogs" won their 2nd game in a row. A great start for the season!



Photo - j. grimmer



Photo - MoonDogs



Photo - j. grimmer

More Chorus Performances



Getting ready to sing "Oh Canada" & "Star Spangled Banner" at the MoonDogs game

MoonDogs 2 - On June 8th the "Riverblenders" showed up at Franklin Rogers Park to sing not only the "Star Spangled Banner" but also "Oh Canada" the national anthem of Canada. The Thunder Bay team was down from Canada and were not treated very well as the MoonDogs sent them back to Thunder Bay with a loss.

Church Performances Begin



The first group of church performance singers - June 10, 2012

Our summer church performances started off on June 10th, 7:30 AM at "Christ The King Lutheran Church". From there we went to "Centenary United Methodist", "First Congregational", "Grace Lutheran", and ended our day at "Oak Lawn Health Care Center" in Mankato. We had a great group of performers and we surely hope it continues for the rest of the summer!

Thanks to Joel Botten, everything went according to plan and ran very smoothly.

Performances at Pathstone and Sibley Park



Pathstone and Sibley Park Chorus

The Riverblenders showed up at “Pathstone Heath Center” for an early suppertime performance for their residents. We sang a bunch of songs, kidded with the audience, and everyone had a great time. We then transferred to the Chapel where we rehearsed for a while and then headed over to Sibley Park and made a guest performance with the “Mankato Area Community Band”. It was hot, but we were blessed with clouds and a nice breeze to keep us cool. The “Band” played for about a half hour and they did an

outstanding job. They also had a Soloist that sang 2 pieces and she was fantastic! We were on at 8 PM and sang for the same attentive audience who gave us a standing ovation after we finished. Our thanks to everyone involved as we had a great time.

Our evening was not over!! We headed back to Pathstone to rehearse until 9:30 after which we had a meeting and then a bunch of us went down to the Wine Cafe to end the evening with song, pizza, and a beverage of choice.

Still More.....



The “Relay for Life Chorus”



Our MC “Bruce Gray”

And More.....



The “Riverblenders” and the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines performed at the 20th Annual Nicollet County Relay For Life” in St. Peter on Friday June 15, 2012. Thanks to Teri Walsh for sending us picture of the event as the editor forgot his camera. As you can see by the picture we had a good group show up. The day was beautiful and the crowd was very receptive.

Some of the members took a walk around the lights while others decided to check out all of the food and crafts that were presented.

Thanks to everyone for taking your time to attend and we are looking forward to next years walk.

And - More Churches....



Church performance singers - June 24, 2012

Our summer church performances continued on June 24th, 7:00 AM. As you can see, this was a nice sized group of singers. We sang at “Our Saviors Lutheran”, “Belgrade Methodist”, Bethlehem Lutheran”, “1st Presbyterian”, and finished at “Good Council Hill Chapel”.

At noon, this group went to Marv Ostrom’s “Service of Death and Resurrection”, where we were joined by, Tim Schubbe, Len Huls, Willy Derner, Dean Kluge, Curt Buhl, Don Miller, and Frank Selvey.

Marv’s family was really impressed and send thanks to all of the “Riverblenders” for their wonderful friendships with Marv. They also

want the “Riverblenders” to know that they were a huge part of Marv’s last years on this earth. “Thank You So Very Much!! - Marv Ostrom’s Family and Friends.

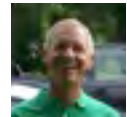
The “Riverblenders” would like to thank Marv’s family for having us sing at Marv’s celebration of life. While he was a member, we enjoyed his wit, optimism, joy of life, and the many poems that he wrote and presented to us. He is probably bugging the big guy about singing in the celestial chorus and is also most likely writing poems to his Father and to many of the angels that have befriended him. We will sincerely miss him and will cherish the fact that we got to know him.

Other Important Messages

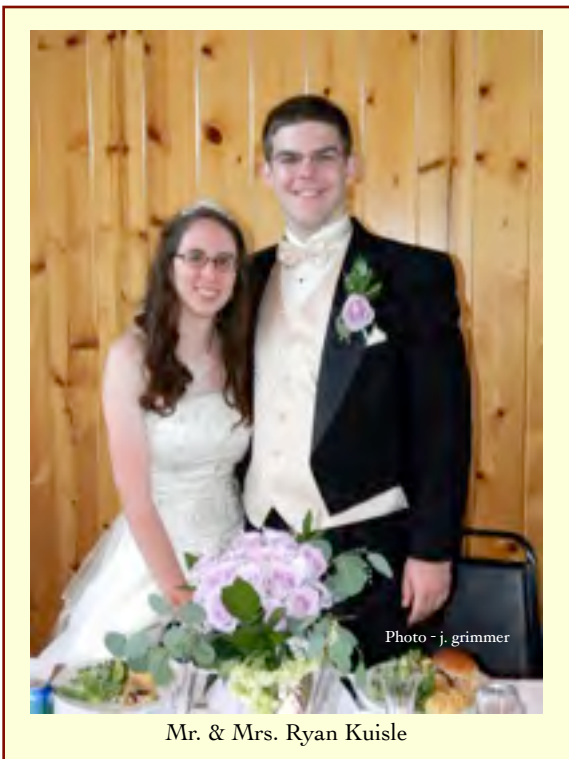
Summer Sing-outs are going strong. Thanks go out to Joel for lining up the June events in Mankato. Mark your calendar for July 15th - we'll be in Lake Crystal and North Mankato and July 22 in the Nicollet/Courtland area. Thanks to all who are taking the time be there!!

Don't forget to sign up for the Fall Contest in Rochester on Oct. 26-27. I will be coordinating hotel rooms, driving, and contest registration. The Board has agreed to pay \$25 of the \$45 registration fee so \$20 needs to be paid ASAP. Refunds can be made if stuff happens to change your plans. Your Pitch Piper has more details or call me at 507-385-1070/home - 507-525-0419/cell or e-mail me at stanbruss@charter.net

Stan Bruss - House Manager



June 24, 2012



Do you recognize the couple at the left? Well let me tell you of who they are. They are the newly wed couple of former "Riverblender" (Baritone) Ryan J. Kuisle and his new bride Minnesota Valley member Laura M. Buswell.

Carol and Jeff Grimmer attended the wedding which was held at Historic St. Boniface Church in Hastings, Minnesota. The weather was perfect, the grounds and church were immaculate, the bride was beautiful and the groom was handsome. What else could you ask for!! It appeared to me that all parents and grandparents were in attendance!

The ceremony was followed by a great dinner and some really good dance music. A good time was had by all and I would venture to guess that Ryan's face was really sore the next day as I never saw him without a smile!

I know that I speak from the hearts of all "Riverblenders" when I say - "Have a happy, love filled, and harmonious life together!"

Oh - and the rest of the good news is - Ryan got a job - where, you might ask, why at Loyola High School!!

We hope to see Ryan back on the risers very soon!

A Poem By "Marv"

Faith

Marv Ostrom

'Tis Edgar Guest who said it best, in his treatise on faith he has written,
I tried on my own, but I felt all alone. When I read his words, I was smitten.

"It is faith in his dreams that keeps a man face front to the odds about him.
And he shall conquer who thinks he can in spite of the throngs who doubt him.

So keep your faith in the God above, and faith in the righteous truth.

It will bring you back to the absent love and the joys of a vanished youth.
You will smile once more when the tears have dried. Meet trouble and swiftly rout it.

For faith is the strength of the soul inside and lost is the man without it."

How could we exist - deprived of the gist. Of the bards gone on afore us.

Words of pure truth - nothing uncouth, arranged with the skill of a poet.

Simple, yet bright as that star in your sight, so that all catch the flavor and know it.

Long Time Friend, Riverblender, & Poet

Poet Marv Ostrom, was added to planet Earth in the year 1926, in Harvey, North Dakota. His formative years were spent in St. Paul, Minnesota, and after time he became an army medic. He returned from the war to finish college at the University of Minnesota. After 33 years, retirement began and he found enjoyment in writing poetry. He has a book filled with approximately 400 different poems. Marv Ostrom, a 16 year member of the Riverblenders, died on June 20, 2012 at the age of 86. The Riverblenders were part of his life's celebration held at Centenary United



Marv Ostrom

Methodist Church in Mankato. Pastor Dean Wolf lead the group in the remembrances of Marv's life. Several other guests reminisced about the life and times of Marvin.

Marv was not only a member of the Riverblenders but he was also our resident Poet Laureate. Marv composed over 30 poems about the "Riverblenders", music, and singing. He did most of this writing during the later years of life, as he turned to poetry as an outlet for his creative mind. Always an optimistic upbeat member of the chorus, he will be deeply missed.

Mr Marvin Ostrom:

"Nothing that is happening at the "Riverblenders" today, is as important, as remembering our friend Marv Ostrom..."

When I think of Marv Ostrom, I remember a man with a very enthusiastic attitude about anything or anybody. We always joked that Marv seemed like he was running for office, as he was "acting like a politician", except that Marv had no election agenda, he just genuinely took an interest in that person for that moment. He would be in conversation with that person, often to the frustration to the rest of us who were in the midst of a Riverblender activity. Marv didn't care, he was giving that person his full attention. I recall, singing for events at Pathstone, long after he had been there for one of his many stays. Many staff people called him out and greeted him.

I gave Marv many rides to and from Riverblender events and his attitude was always filled with gratitude and appreciation. Whatever car I was driving, was always a "fantastic" car, in Marv's view. I recall his determination to not use the wheelchair too often initially. His determination would cause the Chorus movement to slow down, but he persevered none the less. To sum this up, when I think of my friend Marv Ostrom, my thoughts go to words like: Determination-Gratitude-Appreciation-Thankfulness-People-Interest-Humor-Enthusiasm-and a great Lover Of Life.

Ron Meyer



Possibly a New Riverblenders Director



Photo - j. grimmer

Potential Director - Jacob Ritter



Photo - j. grimmer

Jacob attending festivities at the Wine Cafe

The possibility of the "Riverblenders" getting a new director may be close at hand. Jacob Ritter, a music teacher in the Waterville, Elysian, Morristown school system, is interested. It was his first year in the district and he says "The year went fine". He was even able to get some of his students to attend the "Youth In Harmony Festival", put on by the "Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines" and the "Riverblenders" this past January.

He will be busy this July but plans on attending our rehearsals when he finishes with that commitment.

We are hoping that he enjoys how we sing and the fact that we are a very active chapter. Keep your fingers crossed.

MAGIC Performing at MSU



Photo - msu

MAGIC sang at a retirement party for a MSU retiree on June 22, a surprise for the person. Over 100 people attended in the ballroom of MSU Union. Lots of fun and some MAGIC. bag

RFD Performs at the Sterling County Picnic



Photo - j. conrad

RFD with new Tenor - Steve Pettis



Photo - j. grimmer

"Another Standing Ovation!"

On Wednesday, June 13th, RFD, with the help of MAGIC's tenor Wayne Hughes, sang for a great audience at the Sterling Township's annual picnic. Sterling Township is just East of Amboy, for you location buffs. The building we sang in was very old but nicely updated. We sang for approximately 45 minutes and then were invited to have some dinner. Lots of food and great desserts!! Thanks to the good people of Sterling Township for having us as their guests. We hope to entertain them again in the future.

A Parade at Nicollet, Minnesota

We had a great time over there. Lots of response to our presentation and the float!

Sandy Allen picked up the generator, Arv, Stan, and I went over early to set things up (Stan did most of the work).

Ron Meyer, Richard Muesing, Harold Rodning and Charles Youngblom were the quartet up in the truck and not only looked great but did a great job waving! Wayne Hughes, Steve Pettis, Ron Conrad, and Stan Bruss worked the crowd and passed out candy. I handled the music (from the cab)!

This event was sponsored (for us) by the "Coming To Nicollet In November Committee" our contact being Alesia Slater. Thank you Alesia, for all of your hard work getting everything set up for us. We are looking forward to November!

I am now researching how Rochester and other choruses are getting paid to be in parades. Another idea for fund raising for the "Riverblenders".

A GREAT DAY!

Bruce Gray



"Riverblenders" Van Man



"Stan with his van"



"Stan's new trailer"

The Riverblenders are a very lucky group in the fact that they have so many dedicated and hard working members. Among the for mentioned group is our own Stan Bruss. Stan the van man is often seen hauling around the "Riverblenders" risers in his van. He has graciously offered to do this without receiving anything in return.

Last year Stan the van man bought himself a trailer to haul his motorcycle around. Most of us do not believe that that is the real reason he bought it, as we have only seen risers and show props be transported in said trailer. With members such as Stan, the "Riverblenders" will be singing long into the future -Thanks Stan!!

Calendar

July 2, 2012 - Monday

Salute to America

Church of the Holy Communion
Episcopal - St. Peter

Performance - Celebration of our Country

Perform at - 7:00 PM

July 3, 2012 - Tuesday

Christ The King

Regular Practice - 7 PM

July 10, 2012 - Tuesday

Christ The King

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

July 17, 2012 - Tuesday

Regular Practice - Christ The King

July 24, 2012 - Tuesday

Christ The King

Regular Practice - 7 PM

July 31, 2012 - Tuesday

Regular Practice - 7 PM

August 25, 2012 - Saturday

Annual Riverblenders Auction

Jeff & Carol Grimmer's

Oct. 26-27 - Fall Contest -

Rochester



Another Relay For Life Picture

"RIVERBLENDER'S" ANNUAL "BLENDER BUCKS" Auction / Picnic / Qt Contest AUGUST 25, 2012



JEFF & CAROL GRIMMER'S
52098 DEERWOOD TRAIL
NORTH MANKATO, MN 56003
507-947-3183
507-327-0682



NOTE:

Bring a dish to pass
Bring plates and flat ware
Bring chairs to sit on
Bring your own beverages

Bring all your 2012 Blender Bucks (other years will not work)

Free will offering to cover meat etc.

Bring items to auction - new, used, white elephant items, etc.

Auction Rules:

Auctioneer - NEED ONE - has final say
Only current 2012 Blender Bucks may be used
Bidders may combine bucks from other members
Blender Bucks may be purchased for \$1.00 = \$1,000 BB
Items won must be removed at the end of the auction or a
\$10,000 fine of 2012 Blender Bucks will be enforced

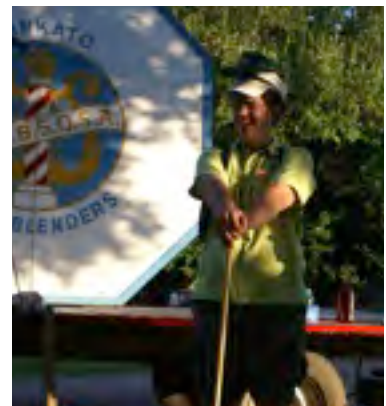
Starts at 2 pm

Dinner at 4 pm

Quartet contest follows dinner

Auction follows Quartet contest

Possible hay ride after everything else
(email me if you want to do this)



2012 Barbershop Auction Quartet Contest

RULES

Quartet Members -

You must have 4 members in your quartet -

Any current chapter quartets cannot have another member of their quartet in their

Auction Quartet(s) -

Past chapter quartets can have only 2 members of their past quartet in their

Auction Quartet(s) -

You may enter into as many quartets as you desire -

You must sing and finish 1 song on which will be judged, or you are automatically disqualified -

Judges -

We will have an impartial judging panel consisting of 5 chorus members wives or friends -

Scoring -

Scoring will be done after the quartet finishes singing and each judge will have

10 points to award a quartet -

The scores will be tabulated by the judging tabulator -

Winners -

The top 3 Quartet Winners will be announced and receive the appropriate awards -
(only one award per member) - (Gold, Silver, Bronze - Plaques)

OFFICIAL QUARTET ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____

MEMBERS:

TENOR: _____

LEAD: _____

BARI: _____

BASS: _____

Fill out form and give to Quartet Coordinator - **Curt Buhl**

