

# River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

## JACOB RITTER ARRIVES!

We are extremely happy to announce that Jacob has finally arrived!! He showed up with a great big smile, a lot of good will, and determination to do his best for the chorus.

We had a good number of people show up and the members were really up beat as Jacob warmed us up and gave us a few new vocal techniques.

He then listened and recorded a lot of our repertoire so that he could make any necessary changes that he sees fit.

We sang through our contest songs for him, from both the past division contest and the up coming October District Contest. We tried to impress him on what we sound like on our finely tuned songs.

We also received a few tips for our limited choreography from Jacob and they worked well.

Jacob was well received and under his direction we know that we will become a better chorus. We are looking forward to the future and have hopes that Jacob will be with us for a long time.

The next item we need to take care of is getting more members for Jacob to direct.

Welcome, Jacob, to the 3rd place 2012 International Achievement Chorus as its new director. We all

pledge to do our very best for you and for ourselves so that we represent Barbershop and the local area in a professional style.



Photo - j grimmer  
President Ron Meyer officially welcoming Jacob Ritter



Photo - j grimmer

The "Riverblenders" first rehearsal under the direction of our new director "Jacob Ritter" - Welcome Jacob!

## Chapter Achievement Program

Gentlemen,

Congratulations! Earlier this year, you filled out our Chapter Achievement Program survey which tabulated a wide range of things the Society thinks are necessary to be a successful chapter. Thank you to you and your chapters for having such a healthy balance of fun, fellowship, fulfillment, and excitement in your chapter life! As a result of your efforts, you have been placed in the Top 10 of chapters participating in the 2011 Chapter Achievement Program. This achievement should bring great credit upon yourself as leaders of a very successful chapter. A special congratulations goes to the Louisville No. 1 Chapter for earning the top spot!

Thank you for perpetuating our style in such a healthy manner! Please share this wonderful news with your chapter however you best see fit.

The reward for this accomplishment is simply notoriety. We will feature you in the Harmonizer, on Live Wire and on the Society website. In order to feature you in the best way possible, please help us by sending us a write up and some recent pictures along the following guidelines:

**Chapter's biggest strength:** (Briefly tell the story behind the chapter's best statistical areas and how they were achieved.)

**What the stats don't tell you:** (What the chapter is most proud of that couldn't be statistically quantified and why)

**Looking forward:** (How chapter plans to build upon current successes and what is the next mountain to climb.)

**Pictures:** Recent photo of the chapter. Preferably not contest photos, but shots that visually communicate what the chapter is about. (They don't have to include every chapter member – faces matter more than bodies)

Expect to hear from Lorin May giving a little more clarification on the above requests regarding a spot in the Harmonizer.

Congratulations!!!

Mike O'Neill

Music Educator

[Barbershop Harmony Society](#)

615-673-4126

Place	Chp ID	Chapter Name	Chorus Name	Total
1	F031	Louisville No 1 Chapter	Thoroughbreds	224
2	G069	Western Hills	Cincinnati Gateway	220
3	H047	Mankato	Riverblenders	193
4	Q040	Wilmington	Cape Fear Chordsmen	173
5	I011	Grand Rapids	Great Lakes Chorus	155
6	B098	Atlanta Metro Chapter	Atlanta Vocal Project	154
7	A101	Papillion	Sarpy Serenaders	152
8	L026	Simcoe	Gentlemen of Harmony	152
9	E007	Bloomington	Sound of Illinois	150
10	D008	Santa Rosa	Redwood Chordsmen	149

This award is a great honor for the Mankato Chapter and shows that we do a lot of great things for ourselves and for the surrounding communities.

A very large THANK YOU goes to Tim Schubbe, our Secretary, for documenting each event that the chorus and quartets perform, and then filling out all the paper work for International. If it were not for him we would not have received this award.



Secretary:  
Tim Schubbe

THANKS TIM!!

## More Church Performances



Church performance singers - August 5, 2012

On August 5th, the chorus headed out to perform at several churches in St. Peter, and Scandia Grove. We car pooled at Happy Chef and headed to St. Peter's Trinity Lutheran Church for coffee and rolls and the ever tough morning warm ups.

We then sang at the following churches - Trinity Lutheran - St. Peter, First Lutheran - St. Peter, Union Presbyterian - St. Peter, Scandia Grove

Lutheran - Scandia Grove, and St. Peter's Catholic Church - St. Peter.

Jeff forgot to check the power in his batteries so the above photo is the only one that took. You can really see how relaxed everyone is and how great the chorus looks without Jeff in the picture.

Thanks to everyone that were involved in setting up the performances.



Church performance singers - August 12, 2012

Our final church performances were on August 12th, in the Mapleton/Medo area.

Our schedule was to meet at Gander Mountain at 6:30 am!!! We then headed out to St. Teresa Catholic Church in Mapleton to sing before the 7:30 am Mass. We then headed to Medo Lutheran for coffee and rolls and then sang at 8:30. From there we headed back to Mapleton and performed

at United Church, Mapleton Community Home, Country Neighbors Assisted Living, and ended up at Faith Bible Church where we were asked to sing several more songs.

It was a great day and we thank everyone that was involved in setting everything up.

Thank you to everyone that drove this summer!!!

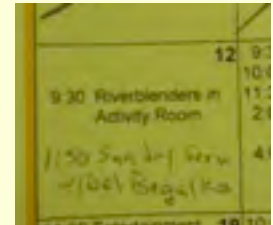


## Country Neighbors in Mapleton



Photos - j ritter

The group singing at Country Neighbors in Mapleton



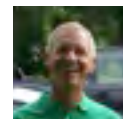
We were even listed on their daily events calendar

## Summer Singout Chair Speaks Out

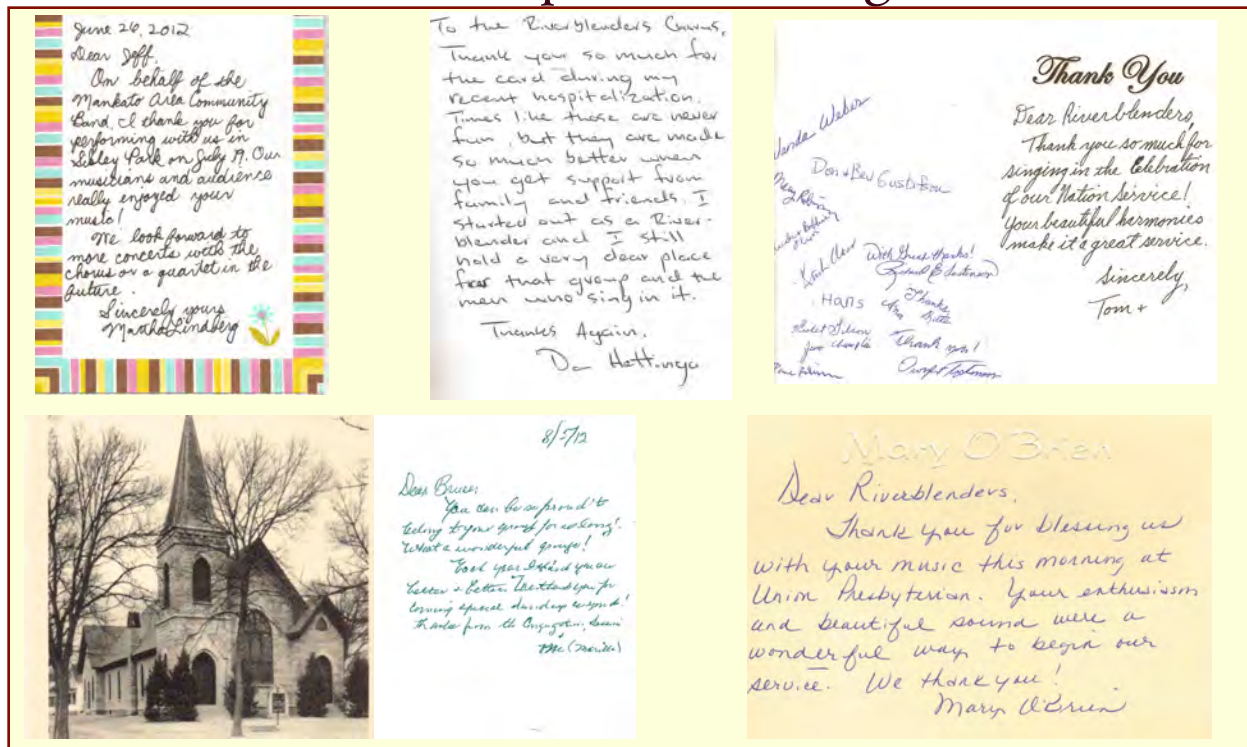
What a Super Sunday Sing-out Summer we had!!! Every Sunday went off without a hitch, thanks to the great advance planning and communications. There was very little "down-time" and nobody got a speeding ticket going between places. We started off in Mankato on June 10th and 24th, in various churches and nursing homes, all coordinated by Joel Botten, great job Joel!! Then we took a little break due to the International Barbershop Convention and resumed our program on July 15th, at Lake Crystal and North Mankato thanks to the hard work of Wayne Hughes, way to go Wayne!! Then we headed for uncharted territory on July 22, in the Nicollet/Courtland/Lafayette area as a foretaste of our upcoming show in Nicollet in November. Bruce Gray did an outstanding job getting us in churches we thought might not consider our talents, within their church walls, and we felt very welcomed - Bravo Bruce! Also, Duane Bieber arranged a great coffee and rolls event in the Pine Street Cafe in Nicollet. Then, on August 9th, we were off to St. Peter/

Norseland. Once again Bruce had us booked in some great churches and we shared our music with many parishioners that morning. Finally on August 12th, we completed our summer mission in the Mapleton/Medo area thanks to the diligent planning of Chuck Schubbe and Ron Conrad. Thanks Ron and Chuck for a very coordinated effort!! Thanks to all who volunteered to drive in the various car pools, all who had anything to do with the coffee and rolls every Sunday. It was great having over 20 guys at every sing-out and a huge thank you to Doug Peterson for teaching and directing our music; also Arv for stepping in to direct when we were a little short on baritones. In my opinion, there is no better example of our "sing well-have fun" theme, than the Riverblenders summer sing-out program. Hats off to all who participated!! Hope to see all of you (and more) next year.

Stan Bruss  
2012 Summer Sing-Out Chair  
Mankato Riverblenders



## Other Important Messages



Grandfather Chuck & Grandson Nick Selders &  
Grandfather Ron & Grandsons Sam & Charlie Redmond



Bruce and Sue Gray at Portland.  
Bruce was honored for being a member for 50 years.

Recently I was invited to join the Loyola Mission Trip Group on a trip to Cairo, Illinois, a once-thriving community that was flooded last year. The town of Cairo has had a long history of hard times. Once Cairo boasted a thriving community of 20,000 people, now it has been reduced to less than 4,000. While there, the group conducted a Kid's Club for the children of the town; weeded gardens, painted fences, outside



walls and bedrooms at the local nursing home; and interacted with the community. It was great to see the youth get their hands dirty and help this community. The group members greatly enjoyed their experience (maybe not the thirteen hour car rides) and are looking forward to planning another trip next year. Maybe even bringing some song with us!  
Ryan Kuisle

Jeff,

## More Important Messages

Enjoyed learning about your new director, and the Riverblenders who sang in Portland. GNU was sensational! I sang there (bass) with the Jacksonville "Big O" Chorus (17th), and am envious of the Riverblenders who were part of such a great performance. I'll be looking for a resurgence by the Riverblenders in the next few years under your dynamic new director. Charlie Barbarisi



## Lots of Stuff Happening at Rehearsal

Tuesday, August 28, 2012 - Christ The King Lutheran Church 7-9:30 pm. Coaching session with our favorite coach Mr. Pete Benson of GNU fame!

Wow, one member said - "800%" improvement on the two contest songs from 7:30 to 9:30 pm!" Yes there was a great deal of progress that was made Tuesday evening. "However, in order to get better, every member must remember everything that was taught to us by Pete and Jacob." So don't sit on your laurels, keep your nose to the grind stone and we will surprise some folks maybe even ourselves!

Pete was heard to say, "I like this song, anybody know why? Because I have never heard it in contest before - it is fresh." We were heard to say ———→ **"Thanks for the great coaching session!!"**



Pictured above is the program quartet for the Tuesday night rehearsal with Pete Benson!

Len Huls, Bruce Gray, Tim Schubbe, and Thom Schubbe



The transfer crew is caught taking a brief time out as they moved the risers and sound system back to Loyola where we will be practicing starting September 4, 2012.

Jeff Grimmer, Carl Schoenstedt, and Stan Bruss

## Auction Notes

Who else but the Riverblenders could make a very fun event out of selling unwanted items people donated. This special event would NOT occur, were it not for the very generous time and energy commitment on the part of all the volunteers and especially the use of Jeff & Carol's home. Thanks again to Jeff & Carol for their generosity and use of their home. So, do we get 2013 Blender Bucks for attending such a fun event? It's never too early to begin accumulating that next stack of Bucks for the next Auction!!! (Name?)

A Big Thank You should go out to both you and Carol also. For doing such a great job hosting and letting us all into your home. I know that couldn't have been an easy task. Wish I could have stuck around to help clean up.

Steve

Wish I could have been there, but Norway is great fun too! Lena and Ole are on our bus and they cause a lot of trouble. Ole breaks wind on every hair pin curve. Uffda!

Joel



## The United Church

201 Troendle, SW, P.O. Box 413  
Mapleton, MN 56065  
507-524-3141

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)



*Called to be the People of God*

Rev. Mark E. Buck, Transitional Pastor  
Cell Phone: 618-791-7062

August 14, 2012

Mr. Jerry Grimmer,  
The Riverblenders  
52098 Deerwood Trail  
North Mankato, MN 56003

Dear Mr. Grimmer:

Please accept the thanks of the Congregation of the United Church of Mapleton for opening our services last Sunday with the Riverblender's hymn renditions. Both your singing and your bright yellow shirts enlivened what was starting out to be a rather gloomy (weather-wise) morning. But more, the "männerchor" allowed us to have special music as a part of our mid-summer's worship experience – a rather quiet time as our choir does not perform during this season.

Your music also took me back to my days with the Elmhurst (IL) College Men's Glee Club with which I performed for four years, singing at least two of the three hymns you performed. I found myself humming along the bass lines of those two hymns (I hope it wasn't too distracting).

Again, thank you for your performance, and the men's volunteer hours which make such concerts possible.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Buck  
Transitional Pastor  
The United Church of Mapleton  
Mapleton, MN

### **Two Hittites, Ole and Sven (from Minnesota)**

Ole and Sven are walking down a street in Minocqua WI, when they see a sign on a store that reads, "Suits \$5.00 each, shirts \$2.00 each, and trousers \$2.50 per pair."

Ole says to his pal, "Looky here! We could buy a whole gob of dese, take 'em back at Dulute, sell 'em to our friends, 'n make a fortune. Now when we go in der, you be quiet, okay?"

Just let me do DA talkin cuz if dey hear yur accent, dey might tink we're ignorant 'n try to cheat us. No way, dey'll know we're from Minnesota." They go in and Ole says with his best "Wisconsin" accent, "I'll take 50 of those suits at \$5.00 each, 100 of those shirts at \$2.00 each, and 50 pairs of trousers at \$2.50 each. I'll back up my pickup and..."

The owner of the shop interrupts, "You're from Minnesota, ain't you?" "Vell...yeah," says a surprised Ole. "How'd ya know dat?" "Because this is a dry-cleaners..."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Book Chronicles History of African American Students at Gustavus**

ST. PETER, Minn. (August 21, 2012) – Bruce Gray '61, former dean of students and associate in the advancement office at Gustavus Adolphus College, has written, with assistance from former president Dennis Johnson '60, a personal memoir about the history of African American students at the College. Titled *Black and Bold*, the book features a forward by Gustavus alumnus and current Board of Trustee member Talmadge E. King Jr. '70.

Gray chronicles President Edgar M. Carlson's vision and plan for making the recruitment of blacks a centerpiece of Gustavus's contribution to the civil rights struggles of the '60s and '70s. Gray takes readers from the small towns and cities of the South to the urban centers of the North, where he and former Admission Director Owen Samuelson '58 convinced students of color to make the bold decision to come to a small liberal arts college in St. Peter, Minnesota.

This book, an important contribution to the sesquicentennial history of Gustavus, salutes those students while it tells of their trials, tribulations, and triumphs as they pursued their degrees. Through Gray, readers hear their voices and discover what the students accomplished once they left Gustavus.

The book is expected to be available for sale in the Book Mark by Sept. 1 for a price of \$17.50.

### **About the Author**

After earning his undergraduate degree from Gustavus in 1961, Gray began a 44-year career at the College when he was hired as an admissions representative in 1963. He is credited with formalizing the College's program to recruit minority students and with helping to establish the Black Student Organization at the College which is now the Pan Afrikan Student Organization.

During his time in the admission office, Gray established a working relationship with Paul Rucker, a high school guidance counselor in Quitman County, Mississippi. Through their partnership, Gustavus enrolled approximately 80 minority students on campus during the '60s and 70s.

In 1966 he accepted an assignment as financial aid director where he helped to successfully lobby the Minnesota State Legislature to establish the framework for what is now the Minnesota State Grant Program. After an 11-year stint as Dean of Students from 1975 to 1986, Gray joined the College's institutional advancement staff as a senior development associate, becoming a national figure in the area of planned giving. Gray helped to develop a pioneering venture with Lutheran Brotherhood (now part of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans) that promoted a multi-million dollar Pooled Life Income Fund with Gustavus as the sole beneficiary. He was also instrumental in helping the College secure a \$5.1 million gift from the Olin Foundation to build, furnish, and landscape Olin Hall.

In 2004, Gray and his wife Sue created an endowed scholarship in their name to help students with financial need, with preference given to minority students.



## Riverblenders Annual Auction, Quartet Contest and Barbecue!

The annual Riverblenders get together was held this year at the home Jeff and Carol Grimmer's with about 40 people in attendance. The weather wasn't real cooperative so the meal and small talk were held indoors with the quartet contest and auction being held outdoors. A mixed bag!

The meal was a real buffet with so much food we could have fed another 40 people. Thanks go out to everyone for bringing some fantastic dishes.

Thanks to Curt, the quartet contest was another success with 7 competing quartets. Curt also did the emceeing duties and told rather interesting stories. I am told that the stories were "All True"!

The judges, shown to the right, were, (L to R) Karen Rosevold, Doris Brooks, Don Miller, April (Norell) Scheck, & Eric Scheck.

Judging the contest is a daunting task as all they hear is Barbershop singing and all of the performers are amateurs. Sorry, we do not pay for repair of any hearing problems that occur from the actual event.

The Riverblenders would like to thank them for taking the relaxing time from the annual event to work. **THANKS!!**

Curt is checking over his notes to make sure everything goes properly.



Photos - j grimmer

The outdoor layout showing some of the spectators, the judging panel and some of the auction items.

## Sohli's Singers 1st. at Auction

Congratulations go out to Sohli's Singers, the winners of the Annual Auction Quartet Contest. They performed a flawless rendition of their song and scored higher than any quartet has scored at an auction event.

Thanks go out to Curt Buhl for lining up the contestants and being the emcee at the event. Thanks also go out to all of the performers that made this an unforgettable event.

Last, but surely not least, we would like to thank the panel of judges that came from near and far to judge this event!

Plans are already in progress for next year's event. So start lining up your quartets!

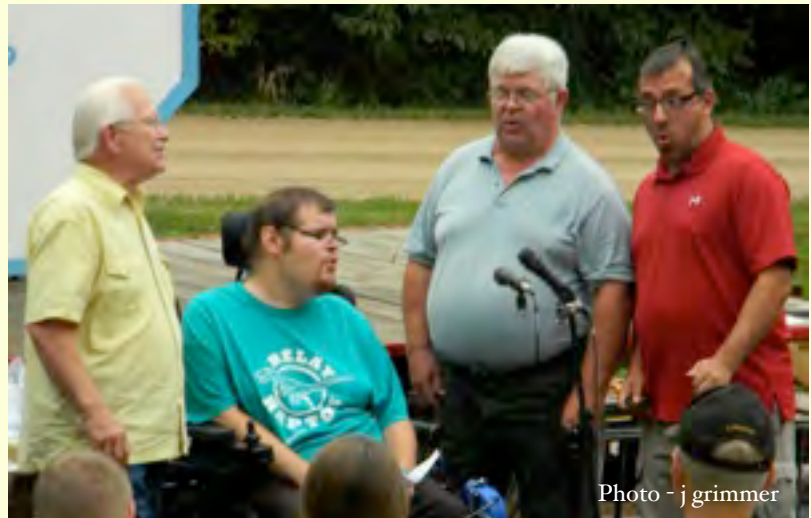


Photo - j grimmer

Sohli's Singers Quartet - L to R

Tenor Greg Rosevold, Lead Curt Buhl, Bass Ron Conrad, Baritone Thom Schubbe

## Other Performing Quartets



Make Believe



Recently Formed



What are WE Going to Call Ourselves



Top of the Line



Photos - j & c grimmer

The Winners



What the Heck



David M. Balke, age 69 of Mankato, died on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.



The Balke family will greet friends on **S a t u r d a y**, August 18th from 2 to 5 P.M. at Arnoldt-McRaith Funeral Home & Crematory in Janesville.

David spent the early part of this life in and around Edgerton, WI. He participated in sports, music and theater throughout high school. David attended the University of Wisconsin River Falls and soon after took his first position with 3M in New Hampshire. He later moved to southern Minnesota to work as a pharmaceutical sales rep.

He settled in Pemberton to raise a family. He also developed a love for golf, fishing, politics and watching his two sons, David and Derek in all their school activities. Later, he put his many talents to work in computers by sharing his emails and his love of music, movies and jokes to many who asked, and his humor was second to none, as his moniker suggests: King David. Also, he kept up his love of singing by participating with the *R i v e r B l e n d e r s*, Mankato's Barbershop chorus. Dave was an excellent cook and liked nothing better than making a great meal on a Sunday, and sitting down to watch his beloved Green Bay Packers. For online condolences go to [www.mcraithfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcraithfuneralhome.com)

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Former Riverblender David Giersdorf recently died. We wish the best to his family and friends. The Riverblenders Chorus  
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## Calendar

### **\*Sept. 4, 2012 - Tuesday\***

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7 PM

Coaching - Scott Kvigne

### **September 11, 2012 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School Band Room

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

### **September 18, 2012 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7 PM

### **\*Sept. 25, 2012 - Tuesday\***

Loyola High School Band Room

Regular Practice - 7 PM

Coaching - Pete Benson

### **Oct. 26-27 - District Contest**

Rochester

### **Nov. 18, 2012 - Sunday**

Disney Show

Nicollet

### **April 13, 2013 - Saturday**

Annual Show

July 22, 2013 -



Photo - schubbe

C. Schubbe's ??? Class Reunion



J & Marlene Krogstad-Kunard

RFD has had a busy month performing at different venues with different personnel. Pictured above is the quartet performing at Chuck Schubbe's ??? high school reunion. Next to it, is a performance at Laurel Lake, a great time. To the right is the quartet performing at Kernel Days in Wells, with lunch being served in the Wells Federal Bank parking lot. The bank fed over 1,100 people that day.

(Email) "Jim Sauer asked that I e-mail you a picture from our Kernel Days Luncheon last Friday. We really appreciate you guys performing at the lunch - everyone absolutely loved it! We had a great crowd on Friday and were very happy with the event. Thanks again for helping make our lunch a success!"

Jill A. Koekler - Marketing Coordinator - Wells Federal bank



Kernel Days Performance