

Sacred Harp Colorado

May 2010

Who We Are and What We Do

The Rocky Mountain shape note singers exist to preserve and promote the music and the traditions of American shape note harmony along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. We sing principally from the 1991 Denson revision of the Sacred Harp (Red Book), but use some songs from the Cooper Book (Blue Book). From time to time we will sing from other traditional books such as the Missouri Harmony and Norembega Harmony depending upon the spirit and the occasion. We welcome any and all to join us at our monthly singings held in the cities along the Front Range. Loaner books are available for use or purchase. Our monthly singings are usually held to the schedule supplied at the end of this newsletter, but holidays or special circumstance may dictate that we move a singing date. If you are new to us, please contact one of our members listed below for current location, day/date and time of a singing in your area.

Editorially Speaking

Well, after staying home for quite a while, Susie and I are off this month on another trip to the South. The plan is to visit the folks in Hoboken, Georgia at their monthly singing; attend the annual singings at Mt. Pisgah and Darien PBC in Alabama; drop down to Panama City, Florida to join in their monthly singing and then pass thru McMahan, Texas to sing at the SW Texas Convention before heading home. In between all that singing we hope to see a bit of Savannah, Charleston, the Sea Islands and some of the Gulf Coast. It is time to go back. While we have sung with our Southern friends here and in places like Texas and Washington State, we haven't sung in the South since the Summer of 06 and that's a very long time. Come on out and join us at McMahan over the Memorial Day weekend. Its is a reasonably easy drive and an even shorter one from the airport in Austin.

As a final note on the Pikes Peak singing: Of the 76 tunes sung, 52 were from the Denson Book and 24 from the Cooper Book. This looks to be the heaviest usage of the Cooper Book we have had to date. Thanks for coming down to sing with us. One of the highlights was the social evening Saturday at the home of Martin and Melissa Nussbaum. Gaylon once again led us in singing from the Harp of Ages – A seven shape hymnal. Those of you who went home right after the singing missed a great evening. If you have sung from the Harp, it provides a most wonderful mix of Sacred Harp and gospel tunes. We will sing from it again this Fall as we expand the La Junta singing to two days. Join us then and sing on.

Quote of the Month

"What a beautiful ramshackle racket. Needs to be heard loud." -- Paul in Nottingham

Looking Ahead

110th Annual Southwest Texas Convention 29 – 30 May [Cooper Book] Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, McMahan, TX. For additional information contact: Tom Owen, (512) 398-6075, or Curtis Owen, (512) 398-2017.

Camp Fasola - Sunday, June 13 (5:00pm) through Thursday, June 17 (8:30am) – Programmed for Adults – Camp McDowell near Double Springs, Alabama (<http://campmcdowell.com>).

Camp Fasola - Monday, July 5 (4:00pm) through Friday, July 9 (8:30am) - Programmed for Youth (ages 10 and up) and Adults under age 30 and families who wish to accompany their Youth – Youth will have priority – Camp Lee near Anniston, Alabama (<http://camplee.org>). Registration will begin January 1st.

Rocky Mountain Convention 25 – 26 September 2010 [Denson Book] Fuller Lodge 2132 Central Ave, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. Other details TBA.

Arkansas Valley Harvest Singing – Saturday 23 October 2010 [Denson and Cooper Books] Harmony Hall #13 5th Street, La Junta, CO 81050. 24 October singing from the Harp of Ages Location TBA. For additional information, contact: Pete Mathewson [719]469-5241 or 71mgbgt41@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead to the Rocky Mountain Convention

With the convention this year moving from Albuquerque to Los Alamos, it is time to speak a bit about the Enchanted Circle.

From www.newmexico.org:

Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway

Laurie Frantz

The Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway has a taste of everything that's New Mexico. It links the oldest continuously occupied residence in New Mexico, Taos Pueblo, with Angel Fire, which was incorporated in 1986. It is home to the United States' first memorial to Vietnam War veterans. It passes by Elizabethtown, New Mexico's first incorporated town, now a ghost town. Much of the Byway traverses land formerly part of the Maxwell Land Grant, once the largest private individual holding in the western hemisphere. The movie industry discovered this area long ago, producing such films as “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” and “Easy Rider”.

The Byway begins in Taos on NM 522. The first to call the Taos Valley home were Tiwa-speaking Pueblo Indians, who settled there about 1000 years ago and built two communal dwellings on either side of the Rio Pueblo. Taos Pueblo's beautiful multi-story skyline was already there when Hernan de Alvarado arrived in 1540. The upper stories are only reached by ladders, since there are no interior stairways. Modern utilities are prohibited in this part of the pueblo.

Taos was established about 1615 as an outpost of New Spain. It was an early gathering place for mountain men, including Kit Carson and Ceran St. Vrain. Taos has been an artists' haven ever since the Taos Society of Artists was formed in 1914. Later, art patron Mabel Dodge Lujan brought noted artists and authors like D.H. Lawrence, Georgia O'Keeffe, Nicolai

Fechin, and Ansel Adams. The town is a treasure trove of old homes, museums, interesting shops, and art galleries.

The Rio Grande Gorge bridge, twelve miles northwest of Taos on US 64, is a must-see side trip. When it was built in the mid-60s, it was called the bridge to nowhere, because funding didn't exist to continue the road on the other side. It is the second highest suspension bridge in the United States.

Returning to the circle, Arroyo Hondo is nine miles north of Taos on NM 522. It grew out of an 1815 Spanish land grant on the Rio Hondo. In the 1960s it was the home of the New Buffalo commune. The hippies from the commune have since dispersed into the general population of northern New Mexico, adding their own flavoring to the local culture.

The entrance to the D.H. Lawrence Ranch is on the way to Questa. Lawrence only spent a total of eleven months in New Mexico, but it influenced him profoundly. He wrote parts of several works here, and his ashes are housed in the memorial chapel. The Ranch is now owned by the University of New Mexico, which uses it for educational, cultural, and recreational purposes.

The next stop is Questa. Settled before the 1840s, it is situated in the middle of wonderful hiking and camping places, including Cabresto Lake, Mallette Canyon, and Midnight Meadows.

East on NM 38 from Questa and traveling toward Red River, the road is a roller coaster ride. Red River was settled by miners from Elizabethtown in the late 1800s. The mines petered out, and the town is now known for its beautiful, high alpine scenery, skiing, fishing, and switchback roads through old mining country.

The road runs through Bobcat Pass, at 9820 feet, and descends into the high alpine Moreno Valley. The Valley is bounded by some of the most spectacular peaks in New Mexico: Agua Fria at the south end, Baldy on the north, and Wheeler on the northwest. Wheeler Peak, at 13,162 feet, is the highest point in New Mexico.

The Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel is a soaring white structure pointing to the sky from a hill just west of Angel Fire. Inside the simple monument are photographs of Vietnam casualties and a shrine of mementos and candles left by visitors.

The circle closes in Taos, entering town on tree-lined Kit Carson Road. What more could a traveler ask than a road that ends at its beginning and offers such wonders in a day's drive?

Where We Sing and How to Find Us

In Colorado

Arkansas Valley Regular singings are 4th Mondays of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the home of Pete and Susie Mathewson 417 Carson Ave. La Junta. Contact Pete at 719/383-9056 or 71mgbgt41@gmail.com.

BOULDER Regular singings are 2nd Friday of each month 7-9 pm, at the home of Peter and Mary Lou Van Laanen. Contact Mary Lou for details at 303-447-9379 or e-mail her at vmarylou@indra.com

COLORADO SPRINGS - Sings regularly on the 2nd Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the

Pikes Peak Primitive Baptist Church 12th and Pikes Peak on the Westside. Please bring a dollar donation to the book fund. Pete Mathewson is the contact at 719-469-5241 or e-mail him at 71mgbgt41@gmail.com.

DENVER - Sings weekly each Monday except the first Monday from 6:40 – 8:40pm at St. Mark's Orthodox, 1409 S. Vine, Denver. Special singings may be arranged [in addition to the regular Monday evening singings] for out of town visitors to the Denver/Boulder area. Out of town singers should call Sharon Kermiet at 303-931-8445 or email her at skermiet@goodwilldenver.org and at coral96@indra.com to arrange a special singing. Bring a dollar as a contribution to the book fund. For the location of any specific singing, please contact Pat Dolan at 303-778-6297 or e-mail him at ruralplain@aol.com or Sharon Kermiet at skermiet@goodwilldenver.org.

FORT COLLINS - The singing is normally the first Monday of each month 7-8:30 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 2000 Stover Street. Contact Hill Grimmett for specifics at 970-231-1197 or e-mail him at hill@sacredharpcolorado.org

Elsewhere in the Southwest

Albuquerque, NM - Second and fourth Sundays, 2:00-5:00pm at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church 114 Carlisle Blvd. SE Albuquerque, NM 87106 For general info, contact Nancy Nortz (505)281-0267, nnortz@nmia.com

Las Cruces, NM - Meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 6 pm, remember 2 - 4 - 6. They meet at the Universal Unitarian Church building on Solano Street in Las Cruces. From I-25 South, take the University exit (exit 1). Continue on University through 3 stop lights at Triviz, Locust, and Jordan. The 4th light is Solano. Turn right (north) and go about 1/2 mile. The church is just after Wofford street on the left. We park on the north side of the church and use that entrance. For additional information please contact Janet Morgan at 505/795-9614.

Tucson, AZ - First and Third Saturdays - 2-5 pm Sonora Co-housing Common House 501 E. Roger Rd. just west of First Ave. in Tucson. For additional information please call: call Erika Roush (520) 887-0589 or Paige Winslett (520) 743-1268

Sacred Harp On The Web

Our local websites are Sacred Harp Colorado at www.sacredharpcolorado.org and the Rocky Mountain Shapenote Singers at <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~dakspk>. The national web site is www.fasola.org

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