



*Carolinas District*

*Barbershop Harmony Society*

# Carolinas Quartet and Chorus District Champions and International Contest Competitors

## A Mini-History of Barbershopping In The Carolinas 1948-2010

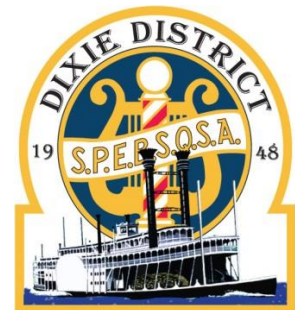
This mini-history of *Barbershopping in the Carolinas* identifies and celebrates the quartets and choruses from the North and South Carolina chapters that were Dixie District Champions or represented the Dixie District at International Contests of the Society of the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing, Inc. (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.), now called the Barbershop Harmony Society, from 1948 until the Carolinas District was established in July 2010.

The first “Carolinas” chapters of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. were Asheville, NC (chartered June 10, 1948), Canton, NC (chartered December 30, 1948), and Winston-Salem, NC (chartered January 18, 1949). It did not take long for a Carolinas quartet to become the Dixie District Quartet Champion and compete at an International Quartet Contest—the *Vagabonds* from Winston-Salem, NC competed at the 1950 Contest in Omaha, Nebraska and were the 1952 District Quartet Champion.

Over the following 60 years:

- 12 quartets were the Dixie District Quartet Champions
- 15 quartets competed at 30 International Quartet Contests
- 7 choruses won a total of 15 Dixie District Chorus Championships
- 3 choruses competed at 11 International Choruses Contests including a 5<sup>th</sup> Place Medal by *General Assembly* in 1986
- 8 quartets were the Dixie District Seniors Quartet Champions
- 5 quartets competed at 10 International Senior Quartet Contests
- 5 quartets were Dixie District Collegiate Quartet Champions
- 9 quartets competed at 12 International Collegiate Quartet Contests including three medals all by quartets from Appalachian State University: *Low Down Sound*—2<sup>nd</sup> Place in 2000 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in 2001; and *King Street Blues*—5<sup>th</sup> Place in 2002

The 1980’s was the Carolina’s decade for Dixie District Championships and representing the District at International competition. It was a Carolina chorus that won the District Championship and represented the District at the International Contest every year 1980-1989. Carolinas quartets represented the District at the International Contest seven of the ten years.



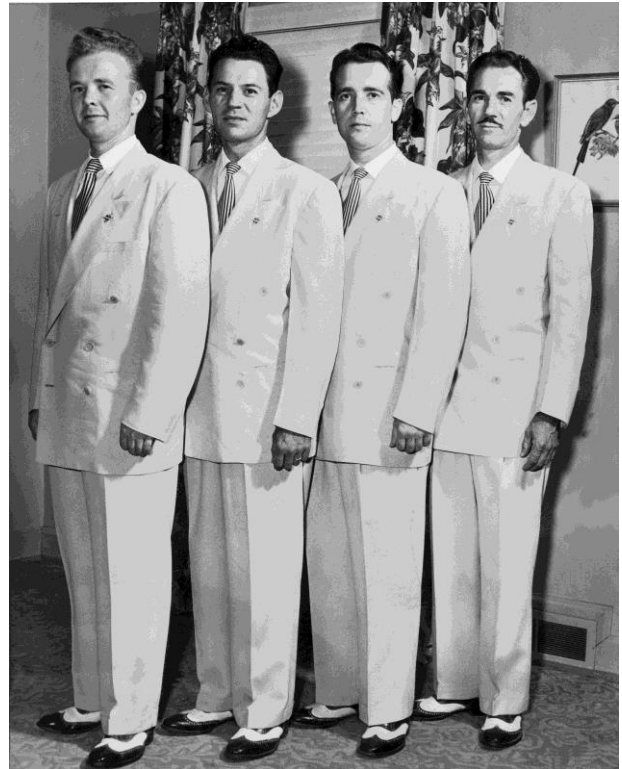
## The Vagabonds

Winston-Salem, NC

The Dixie District 1950 Regional Preliminary contest was held in Memphis, TN on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The *Vagabonds* from Winston-Salem placed second behind *The Florida Knights* of Tampa, FL. However, the “Knights” were not able to compete so the *Vagabonds* traveled to Omaha, NE for International Quartet Contest and came in 37<sup>th</sup>. They qualified again for the next three International Contests. They placed 15<sup>th</sup> at the 1951 contest in Toledo, OH and 14<sup>th</sup> at the 1952 contest in Kansas City, MO. They qualified for the 1953 contest in Detroit but did not compete due to personal commitments. The *Vagabonds* were also the 1952 Dixie District Quartet Champion—the first Carolinas quartet to be crowned District Champion.

While International quartet contests were held each year starting in 1939, it was not until 1954 in Washington, DC that the Society held the first official International Chorus Contest. Two choruses represented the Dixie District. The *St. Petersburg Chorus* had won the first Regional Preliminary Contest (held in May) for choruses and won the right to represent the District at the International Contest in June.

The *Tobacco Belt Chorus* from Winston-Salem, NC Chapter was also invited to sing in the 1954 International Contest. They were directed by Archer Livengood and finished 22<sup>nd</sup> with 24 men on stage. It would not be until 1980 that another Carolinas chorus, *General Assembly* from the *Research Triangle Park Chapter*, competed at an International Chorus Contest.



**Vagabonds**

Jack Bennett (T), Floyd Cromer (L),  
Robert Bennett (Br), Hardin Cromer (Bs)



**Tobacco Belt Chorus**  
Winston-Salem, NC  
Archer Livengood, Director

## Southern Aristocrats

Greensboro, NC

The *Southern Aristocrats*, from Greensboro, NC, were organized in July 1957. They qualified at their first preliminary contest in 1958 and over the next nine years represented the Dixie District at eight International Contests and were the 1963 Dixie District Champion.

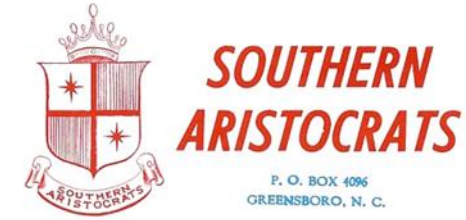
The first version of the quartet (top right) included (L-R) Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T), Jack Elkins (Br), Jim Henderson (Bs). They placed

- 37<sup>th</sup> in 1958 at Columbus, OH,
- 37<sup>th</sup> in 1959 at Chicago, IL and
- 29<sup>th</sup> in 1960 at Dallas, TX.

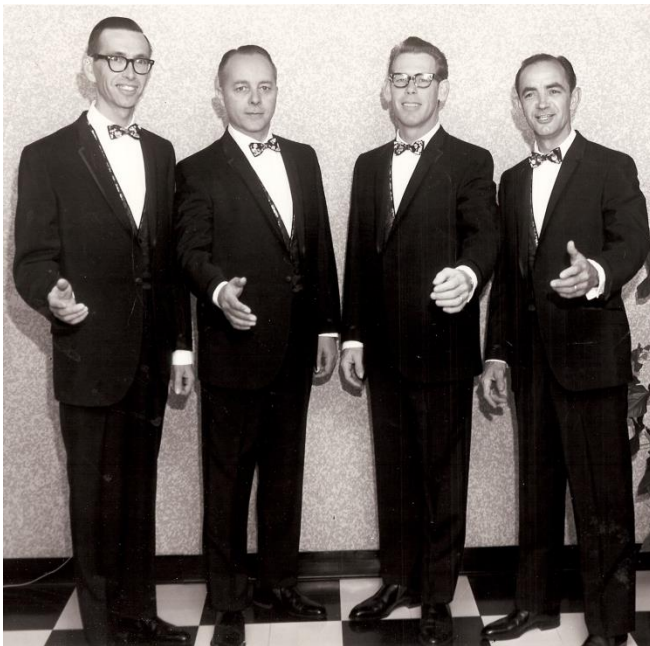
In 1962 Mac Campbell joined the quartet as the bass and they placed 28<sup>th</sup> in 1962 at Kansas City, MO and were crowned the 1963 Dixie District Champion (bottom right).

With Gil Sechrest as bari and Don Moore as bass, the quartet (below) went on to compete at the next four International contests placing

- 32<sup>nd</sup> in 1964 at San Antonio, TX,
- 37<sup>th</sup> in 1965 at Boston, MA,
- 20<sup>th</sup> in 1966 at Chicago, IL, and
- 25<sup>th</sup> in 1967 at Los Angeles, CA.



Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T),  
Jack Elkins (Br), Jim Henderson (Bs)



Al Connell (T), Baxter Westmoreland (L),  
Gil Sechrest (Br), Don Moore (Bs)



Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T),  
Mac Campbell (Bs), Jack Elkins (Br)



## Dixie Colonels

High-Point- Thomasville, NC

The *Dixie Colonels* were formed in May 1957 and by November of that year they had placed high in Dixie District competition. They were instrumental in forming the High Point-Thomasville, NC Chapter. “The Colonels” won the Dixie District Quartet Championship in 1960 and competed at the 1961 International in Pittsburgh placing 33rd. At this point they were a really good show quartet but decided that competition was not their thing. “The Colonels’ continued to be a popular quartet on the show circuit for many years.



Glad Lawson (L), Dave Livengood (Br),  
Red Seacrest (T), Jerry Livengood (Bs)

## Early District Chorus Champions

Although the Dixie District had been holding preliminary chorus contests since 1954, it wasn’t until 1964 when they crowned the first Dixie District Chorus Champion—it was the Atlanta Peachtree Chorus. Four of the next six Dixie District Chorus Champions were from the Carolinas.

The *Tar Heel Chorus* from Greensboro, NC was the 1965 Dixie District Chorus Champion<sup>1</sup>. The Greensboro Chapter was chartered in January 1951. The chorus was directed by Baxter Westmoreland who had been directing the chorus since 1954 and was the lead of the *Southern Aristocrats* quartet.



A photo of the 1965 Greensboro *Tar Heel Chorus* Dixie District Chorus Champion has not been found.

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<sup>1</sup> The May-Jun 1964 Rebel Rouser reports that Greensboro won the District Chorus Contest at the Spring 1964 convention. However, the official records of the Dixie District designate Greensboro as the 1965 District Chorus Champion. This same date anomaly also applies to the Marion (1966), Raleigh (1967), Spartanburg (1970), and Raleigh (1975) Championships.

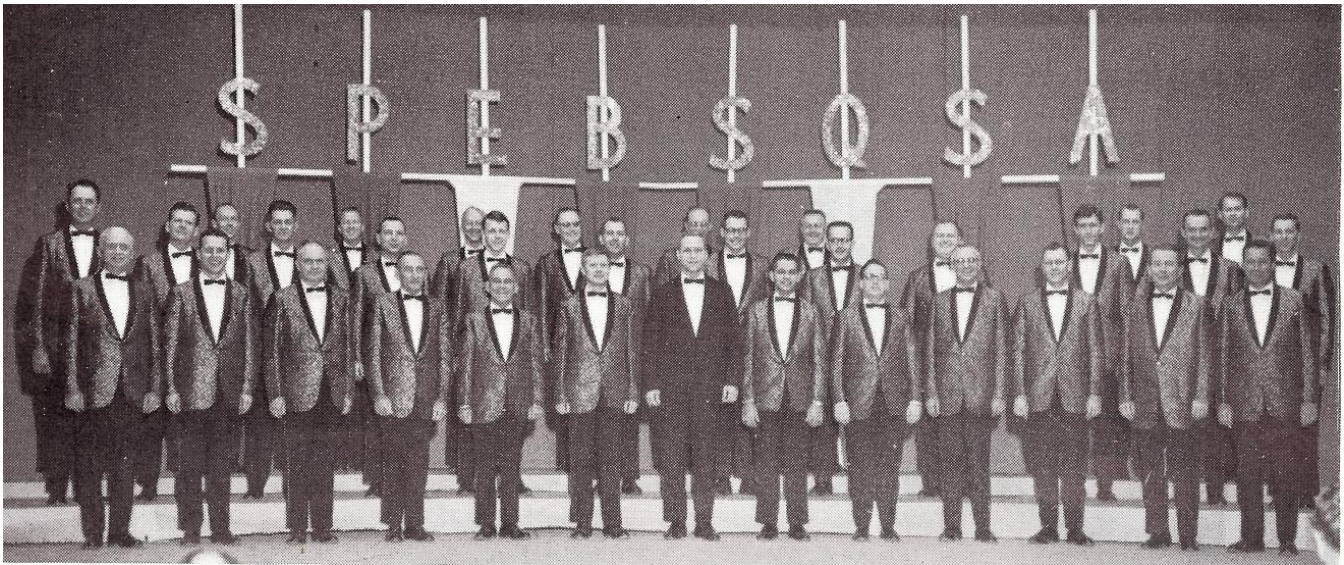
The Marion, NC Chapter has chartered in June 1959. The *Marion Barbershop Chorus*, under the direction of Robert Gourley, won the 1966 Dixie District Chorus Championship.



**1966 Dixie District Chorus Champion**

*Marion Barbershop Chorus* • Marion, NC • Directed by Robert Gourley

The Raleigh, NC Chapter was chartered December 1961 with 26 members. Over the next few years the chapter grew under the musical leadership of Paul Conway to the point in 1967 that the chapter had over 80 members and for several years was the largest chapter in the Dixie District. First known as the *Capitalites Chorus*, they were known as the *Capital Harmonaires* when they won the 1967 Dixie District Chorus Championship, under the direction of Paul Conway. By 1974 they were known as the *Sir Walter Chorus*.



**1967 Dixie District Chorus Champion**

*Capital Harmonaires* • Raleigh, NC • Directed by Paul B. Conway



## ***Kappa Tones***

Raleigh, NC

In the 1960's the North Carolina State' Men's Glee club included a barbershop quartet. The March-April 1963 *Rebel Rouser* reported that "Raleigh Director, Paul Conway, has a new quartet in the fold—they're the ***Capi-Tones*** featuring Walt Richardson, tenor; Al McConnell, lead; Jack Ritterscamp, bari; and Rudy Partin, bass." Indeed, this was the NC State quartet and they joined the Raleigh Chapter and registered in 1963. In 1964 they changed their name to the ***Kappa Tones*** and with new lead, Mac McCrary, and bari, Richard Austin, were on the fast track. They competed at the Fall 1964 contests in Chattanooga (the first quartet to compete from the Raleigh chapter), performed on the Columbia, SC Parade of Quartets in March 1965 (their first parade) and on the Raleigh Parade of Quartets in May 1965. The ***Kappa Tones*** won the 1965 District Quartet Championship at the Fall Convention in Mobile, AL taking the honors over 14 quartets. Their average age was 21 and they were still students at NC State. As reported in the June-July 1965 *Rebel Rouser*, "With Rudy's arranging, these lads combine a modern trend with solid old favorites into a distinctive new style."

With a new configuration of the quartet (Rudy Partin moved to bari and Bill Bernhard took over bass) the ***Kappa Tones*** qualified for the 1970 International Contest (placing 17<sup>th</sup>) and 1972 International Contest (placing 25<sup>th</sup>).



Walter Richardson (T), Mac McCrary (L),  
Rudy Partin (Bs), Richard Austin (Br)

**1965 Dixie District Champion**



Walter Richardson (T), Mac McCrary (L),  
Bill Bernhard (Bs), Rudy Partin (Br)

**1970 International Contest**  
Atlantic City, NJ – 17<sup>th</sup>

**1972 International Contest**  
Atlanta, GA – 25<sup>th</sup>

The **Spartanburg, SC Chapter** was chartered with 42 members in October 1965. In the fall of 1969 they won the District Chorus Championship. Their director, Warren Bowen, also happened to be the Dixie District President 1969-1970.



**1970 Dixie District Chorus Champion**  
*Palmetto Statesmen* •Spartanburg, SC • Directed by Warren Bowen

***Early Time Five ‘N Dime***

Greensboro and Raleigh, NC

**1973 Dixie District Champion**

**1974 International Contest**

Kansas City, MO – 43<sup>rd</sup>

Finishing his Army tour in the fall of 1972, Chuck Greene returned to his studies at NC State and the Raleigh Chapter. He quickly joined a quartet which registered as of the *Early Five n’ Dime*. After a few months their bass transferred to new job. The quartet solved that problem by recruiting a new tenor, Carl Ballard. The others moved down a voice part with Bill Fletcher singing lead, Art Collier singing bari, and Chuck singing bass. The quartet went to Harmony College in Birmingham that summer and then spent several months of intensive rehearsals and performing weekly at the Carowinds Theme Park. All this performing was excellent preparation for the fall quartet contest where they set several firsts by becoming the 1973 Dixie District Quartet Champion—first time the quartet had competed, first time that any member of the quartet had competed, and first time a Dixie quartet had ever won the championship on its first try. The quartet went on to qualify for the 1974 International in Kansas City placing 43<sup>rd</sup>.



Carl Ballard (T), Bill Fletcher (L),  
Chuck Greene (Bs), Art Collier (Br)



The 1974 Spring Convention in Charlotte, NC was a successful one for the **Raleigh, NC Chapter**. Not only did the *Early Five 'N Dime* win the right to represent the Dixie District at the 1974 International Contest in Kansas City, but the *Sir Walter Chorus* won its second Dixie District Chorus Championship with 46 men on stage. At the time Raleigh was still the largest chapter in the Carolinas and second largest in the Dixie District.



**1975 Dixie District Chorus Champion**  
*Sir Walter Chorus* • Raleigh, NC, • Directed by Paul B. Conway

***Main Street U. S. A.***

Research Triangle Park, NC

**1975 Dixie District Champion**

**1976 International Contest**  
 San Francisco, CA – 37<sup>th</sup>

This foursome combined more than fifty years of barbershop experience in presenting an exciting new sound. Lead singer, Walt Richardson and baritone Rudy Partin, were former *Kappa Tones*. Tenor, Harold Nantz, cut his barbershop teeth with the *Chord of Arms*, and Maitland Brann shared his unique bass with the *Virdanaires*. All four were members of the **Research Triangle Park Chapter** which was chartered in August 1975. At their first contest in Raleigh, NC in October 1975 *Main Street USA* won the Dixie District Championship. In March 1976 they won the right to represent the Dixie District in the 1976 International Contest held in San Francisco, CA where they placed 37<sup>th</sup>.



Harold Nantz (T), Walter Richardson (L),  
 Rudy Partin (Br), Maitland Brann (Bs)



## ***Male Order Music Company***

From the beginning the ***Male Order Music Company*** was truly a long distance quartet made up of four singers from multiple cities in two states. It all started with a chance woodshedding event in San Francisco during the International Convention in July 1976. The four were John Whalen, a tenor from Memphis, TN, Daryle Teague, a lead from Nashville, TN, Art Collier, a bari from Nashville, TN, and Chuck Greene, a bass from Asheville, NC. After a couple serious singing sessions in Nashville later that summer they registered as a quartet and placed second in the Dixie District Quartet competition in Nashville in October 1976. They qualified in the Spring to represent the Dixie District at the 1977 International Contests in Philadelphia where they placed 31<sup>st</sup>.

Harold Nantz from the Research Triangle Park, NC chapter (so now the members are from two cities in two states) joined the quartet at tenor prior to the Fall contest where they won the 1977 Dixie District Quartet Championship. The quartet went on to qualify for the next two international contests placing 15<sup>th</sup> in both the 1978 International Contest in Cincinnati, OH and the 1979 International Contest in Minneapolis, MN.



John W. Whalen (T), Daryle Teague (L),  
Chuck Greene (Bs), Art Collier (Br)

Asheville, NC; Memphis and Nashville, TN

**1977 International Contest**  
Philadelphia, PA – 31<sup>st</sup>



Harold Nantz (T), Daryle Teague (L),  
Chuck Greene (Bs), Art Collier (Br)

Raleigh, RTP, Asheville, NC; Nashville, TN

**1977 Dixie District Champion**  
**1978 International Contest** Cincinnati, OH – 15<sup>th</sup>  
**1979 Int'l Contest** Minneapolis, MN – 15<sup>th</sup>

## The Eighties – The Carolinas Decade

The 1980's was the Carolina's decade for Dixie District Championships and representing the District at International competitions. A Carolina chorus won the District Championship and represented the District at the International Contest every year 1980-1989. Three Carolinas quartets won the District Quartet Championship and those Carolinas quartets represented the District at the International Contest seven of the ten years.

Leading the charge for the choruses was *General Assembly* from the Research Triangle Park, NC Chapter. The chapter was chartered in October 1975 with Rudy Partin as its musical director. They went on to win an impressive seven chorus championships and seven trips to International Contests (1980-82, 1984-86, and 1989) all of which were top ten finishes including a Fifth Place Bronze Medal in 1986. *The Harmonizer* January-February 2004 described the chorus' impact this way:

Back in the 1980s, before the *Louisville Times* or *Toronto Northern Lights*, a small chorus was succeeding at the international level. The **Research Triangle Park** chorus from North Carolina stunned the barbershop world with a breathtaking series of performances at international always with fewer than 40 singers. In Salt Lake City in 1986, they took down a fifth-place medal with just 33 men, to the enthusiastic acclaim of the crowd.

*General Assembly* performed with a great freedom and exuberance while using a deeply resonant vocal production to produce a sound startlingly different from the exclusively "pingy" sound in vogue at the time. Under the direction of Rudy Partin, an extraordinarily talented iconoclast if ever there was one, they were the first "little chorus that could" in the modern era. And although their identify morphed after Rudy's departure, their convincing demonstration that quality did not have to stem from quantity paved the way for the current international chorus landscape, where more is not necessarily better.

Rounding out the District Chorus Champions and International Competitors during the 1980s were:

- *The Auctioneers* (Winston-Salem, NC) directed by Jim Gay – 1982 Champions and 1983 International competitors.
- *Carolina Chord Company* (Charlotte, NC) directed by Larry Lane – Champions in 1986 and 1987 and International competitors 1987 and 1988.

The three Carolinas District Quartet Champions and International Competitors represented a mini-youth movement. The first quartet was originally known as the *Carpetbaggers*. Mark Connell (T), Brian Gray (L), Ben Atkinson (Br), and Bruce Atkinson (Bs) were all from the Greensboro, NC Chapter. Within two years of forming they qualified for the 1980 International Contests in Salt Lake City placing 44<sup>th</sup>. They changed their name to *Vocal Impressions* and won the 1980 Dixie District Champion that fall. Mark Connell was the youngest of the group. Brian Gray would become the Greensboro Director for many years. The Atkinson brothers had been singing together for a long time--they are twins born seven minutes apart.



Mark Connell (T), (bottom) Brian Gray (L),  
Bruce Atkinson (Bs), Ben Atkinson (Br)



Next up for the quartets was *Blue Ribbon Edition*, a young quartet from Winston Salem, NC. They started singing together at a Christmas party in 1979 and liked the sound and blend. In the fall of 1981 they rode the bus along with the Auctioneers (Winston-Salem Chorus) to the Dixie District Convention & Contest in Chattanooga, TN but had not registered and did not intend to compete. When they got off the bus they decided to compete and were allowed to enter the contest. When all the scores were tallied they had placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

In the spring of 1982, BRE decided to compete in the International Prelims about four weeks before the contest. The guys thought they sang pretty well at the prelims in Raleigh, NC. The judges said they were second place and had qualified for the International Contest in Pittsburgh, PA. Between prelims and international they worked really hard, performed on a few chapter shows, and got some coaching. They placed 43<sup>rd</sup> in Pittsburgh. They again qualified for the 1983 International Contest in Seattle, WA. They were more comfortable on the international contest stage this time around and placed 32<sup>nd</sup>. All four quartet men also performed with the Auctioneers who placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the chorus contest. That fall they went to the Dixie District convention in Savannah, GA and won the 1983 District Quartet Championship.

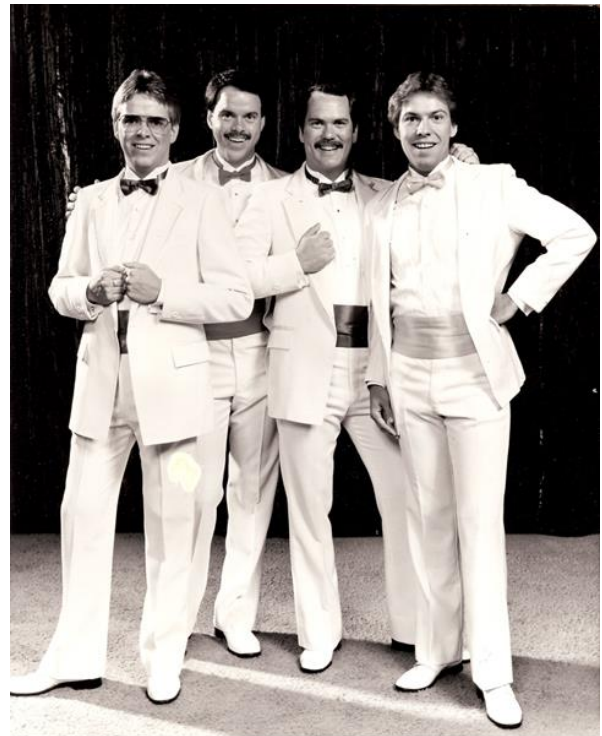
*Midnight Express* was another young quartet to have quick success. All four had extensive quartet experience and were members of the Charlotte, NC Chapter. They entered the 1983 fall competition with five weeks' practice having prepared two songs. When the men made the finals, they spent a frantic Saturday learning more music and finished a respectable third. In the Spring they qualified for the 1984 International Contest in St. Louis, MO placing 33<sup>rd</sup>. The quartet went on to compete at the 1985 International Contest in Minneapolis, MN placing 40<sup>th</sup>, won the 1985 Dixie District Quartet Championship, and competed at the 1987 International Contest in Hartford, CT place 22<sup>nd</sup>.

All the guys had a strong musical background. Jeff Osborne was a classical clarinetist. Sandy (Bondo) Blackwelder was once a member of the rock group Blacksmith. David Lorenz, an arranger, directed the Charlotte Chapter in 1983. Larry Lane played jazz trumpet and took over as chorus director in 1985 and directed the Carolina Chord Company to Dixie District Championships in 1986 and 1987 and at International competitions in 1987 and 1988.

The pages that follow are a year-by-year review of the Carolinas choruses and quartets at International Contests during the 1980s.



Joe Doub (T), Brett Pryor (Bs), Jon Vickers (L), Mike Sotiriou (Br)



Larry Lane (T), David Lorenz (L)  
Sandy Blackwelder (Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)

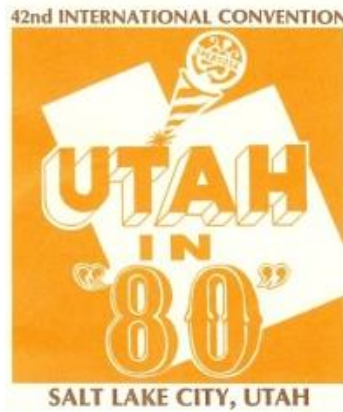
**1980 International Contest  
Salt lake City, UT**

***General Assembly***

Research Triangle Park, NC  
1979 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
6<sup>th</sup> place with, 37 men on stage

***Carpetbaggers***

Greensboro, NC  
44<sup>th</sup> Place



***Carpetbaggers***

Mark Connell (T), Brian Gray (L),  
Bruce Atkinson (Bs), Ben Atkinson (Br)



***General Assembly*** • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director



**1981 International Contest  
Detroit, MI**

***General Assembly***

Research Triangle Park, NC  
1980 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
7<sup>th</sup> place with, 37 men on stage



***General Assembly*** • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director



## 1982 International Contest Pittsburgh, PA

### *General Assembly*

Research Triangle Park, NC  
1981 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
9<sup>th</sup> place with 41 men on stage

### *Blue Ribbon Edition*

Winston-Salem, NC  
43<sup>rd</sup> Place



### *Blue Ribbon Edition*

Joe Doub (T), Jon Vickers (L),  
Brett Pryor (Bs), Mike Sotiriou (Br)



*General Assembly* • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director



**1983 International Contest  
Seattle, WA**

***The Auctioneers***

Winston-Salem, NC

1982 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
9<sup>th</sup> place with 74 men on stage

***Blue Ribbon Edition***

Winston-Salem, NC

1983 Dixie District Quartet Champion  
32<sup>nd</sup> Place



***Blue Ribbon Edition***

Brett Pryor (Bs), Jon Vickers (L),  
Joe Doub (T), Mike Sotiriou (Br)



© Miller Photography

***The Auctioneers*** • Winston-Salem, NC • Jim Gay, Director



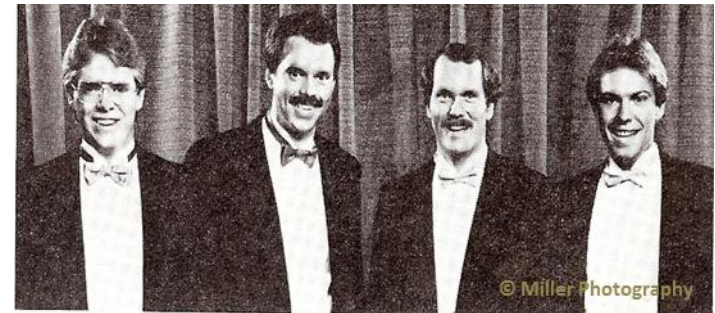
**1984 International Contest  
St. Louis, MO**

***General Assembly***

Research Triangle Park, NC  
1983 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
6<sup>th</sup> place with 46 men on stage

***Midnight Express***

Charlotte, NC  
33<sup>rd</sup> Place



***Midnight Express***

Larry Lane (T), David Lorenz (L)  
Sandy Blackwelder (Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)



***General Assembly*** • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director



## 1985 International Contest Minneapolis, MN

### *General Assembly*

Research Triangle Park, NC  
1984 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
6<sup>th</sup> place with 59 men on stage

### *Midnight Express*

Charlotte, NC  
1985 Dixie District Quartet Champion  
40<sup>th</sup> Place

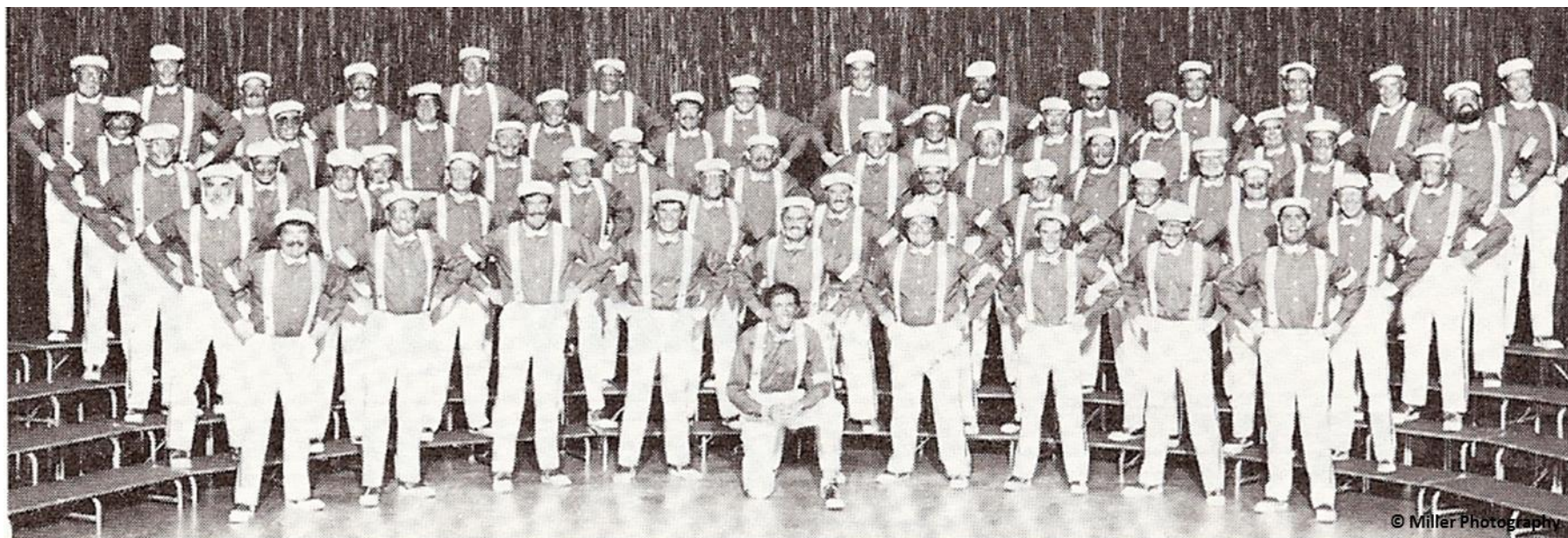


TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA AREA



### *Midnight Express*

Larry Lane (T), David Lorenz (L)  
Sandy Blackwelder (Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)



*General Assembly* • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director



**1986 International Contest  
Salt Lake City, UT**

**General Assembly**  
Research Triangle Park, NC  
1985 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
**5<sup>th</sup> Place Bronze Medal**  
with 59 men on stage

**Match Point**  
Asheville, NC  
45<sup>th</sup> Place



**Match Point**  
Bob Eubanks (Br), Chuck Greene (Bs)  
Scott Hughes, (L), Ed Scruggs (T)



**Fifth Place Bronze Medalist**  
**General Assembly** • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director



**1987 International Contest  
Hartford, CT**

***Carolina Chord Company***  
Charlotte, NC  
1986 Dixie District Chorus Champion  
11<sup>th</sup> place with 62 men on stage

***Midnight Express***  
Charlotte, NC  
22<sup>nd</sup> Place



***Midnight Express***  
Larry Lane (T), David Lorenz (L)  
Sandy Blackwelder (Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)



***Carolina Chord Company*** • Charlotte, NC • Larry Lane, Director



## 1988 International Contest San Antonio, TX



**Carolina Chord Company** • Charlotte, NC • Larry Lane, Director  
1987 Dixie District Chorus Champion • 16<sup>th</sup> place with 58 men on stage

## 1989 International Contest Kansas City, MO



**General Assembly** • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director  
1988 Dixie District Chorus Champions • 11<sup>th</sup> place with, 51 men on stage



**1991 International Contest  
Louisville, KY**

***Crackerjacks***

Research Triangle Park, Frank Throne, NC  
19<sup>th</sup> Place



***Crackerjacks***

Chris Slacke (Br), Greg Zinke (Bs),  
Larry Reinhart (L), Steve Tremper (T)

Four experienced quartet men, two of which had recently moved from “up north” got together around January 1991 and formed the ***Crackerjacks*** to compete in that Spring's prelims contests in Knoxville, TN. When the results were announced, Dixie had qualified a record FIVE quartets that year, including FRED...but the Crackerjacks had outscored everyone, and they were ecstatic! At International their first set went really well and they were shocked (but excited) to learn they made the top 20 their first time out, finishing 19<sup>th</sup>

**1992 International Contest  
New Orleans, LA**

***New Attitude***

Charlotte, NC  
51<sup>st</sup> Place



***New Attitude***

Larry Lane (L), David Lorenz (Br)  
Steve Stricker (T), Ted Leinbach (Bs)

## International Collegiate Quartet Contest

The first MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest was held at the 1992 International Convention in New Orleans, LA. Fourteen college quartets from across The Society competed including the **Blue Ridge Blenders** from Appalachian State University, located in Boone, NC. Medals were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place and all other quartets were tied for 6<sup>th</sup> Place. The **Blue Ridge Blenders** placed 6<sup>th</sup>.



Carolinas Collegiate Quartets would represent the Dixie District at 12 of the first 17 contests. Eight quartets from Appalachian State University went on to compete in 11 International Collegiate Contests—an impressive accomplishment, the more so considering that it included three Collegiate Quartet Medalists. Songs sung in the barbershop style were a part of the Appalachian State University Men's Glee Club repertoire and for several years the last stop on their Spring Break Tour was to be the mic testers at the Dixie District Spring Chorus Contest.

### Blue Ridge Blenders

Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Quartet 6<sup>th</sup> Place



### Blue Ridge Blenders

Joe Buckner (T), Robert Harrison (L),  
Brian Lang (Bs.), Greg Johnson (Br)

## 1993 International Contest Calgary, Alberta, Canada

### Limestone Tonz

Limestone College, SC  
Collegiate Quartet



### Limestone Tonz

Donnie Brown (T), Jonathon Moss (L),  
Tony Warren (Br) Joe Jones (Bs).

Collegiate Contest: Mike Testers **Senior Style** from the NC School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, NC. Members were Jody Cummings (T), Brian Liebnow (L), Roby Rose (Br), and Chris McCrone (Bs).



## 1996 International Contest Salt Lake City, UT

***“What’s Your Pleasure?”***  
Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Quartet 10<sup>th</sup> Place



***“What’s Your Pleasure?”***  
Ben Edwards (T), Josh Day (L),  
Rob Carrington (Br), Jeremy Remley (Bs).

## International Seniors Quartet Contest

The first International Seniors Quartet contest was held in 1986. In previous years all International quartet and choruses contests were held at the International Convention held in July. International Mid-Winter Conventions are held in January (normally in some place warm) and included administrative activities but also featured Friday and Saturday Night shows with the quartet medalists from the previous International Contest. (It has to be noted that the only International Convention ever held in the Carolinas was the 1958 Mid-Winter Convention in Asheville, NC.)

The Society decided to add a Seniors Quartet Contest at the Midwinter Convention and the inaugural contest was held in Tucson, AZ, January 25, 1986. To qualify for the Seniors contest each member had to be at least 55 years old and the quartet ages must total 240 years or more by the date of the next International Seniors Quartet contest. And of course that meant the each district had to hold Seniors Quartet Contests and crown District Seniors Quartet Champions.

It took several years for the Carolinas to get in the groove for seniors quartet competition, but once they did they had an impressive record. Over the 12-year period starting in 1997 the Carolinas produced eight Dixie District Seniors Champions and eleven International Seniors Quartet qualifiers.

### ***Never Home Four*** Research Triangle Park, NC

**1997 Mid-Winter International Contest**  
Sacramento, CA – Seniors Quartet 15<sup>th</sup> Place

**1997 Dixie District Seniors Quartet Champion**

**1998 Mid-Winter International Contest**  
Tampa, FL – Seniors Quartet 15<sup>th</sup> Place

**1999 Mid-Winter International Contest**  
Biloxi, MS – Seniors Quartet 21<sup>st</sup> Place



Bill McFadden (T), Dick Smith (L),  
Bob Dickson (Bs), Archie Sheen (Br)

Four guys from the RTP Chapter started singing together in a Singing Valentines quartet in 1995. They registered as ***Never Home Four*** and went on to set an impressive standard for Carolinas Seniors Quartets combining a District Championship with competing in three International Contests. Along the way *The Harmonizer* (May-June 1997) included their photo and recognized their efforts to introduce barbershop to choral directors at area high schools.

**1997 International Contest  
Indianapolis, IN**

***Chorder Boys***

Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Quartet: Unknown Place



**Chorder Boys**

Scott Liner (T), Nathan Mountjoy (L),  
Rob Beers (Br), Eric Kesler (Bs)

**1998 International Contest  
Atlanta, GA**

***Road Show***

Asheville, NC and Knox County Metro, TN  
29<sup>th</sup> Place



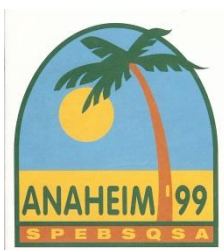
**Road Show**

Bob Eubanks (Br), Mike Tipton (L),  
Chuck Greene (Bs), Jack Donaldson (T)

**1999 International Contest  
Anaheim, CA**

***4 Point 0***

Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Quartet: 6<sup>th</sup> Place



**4 Point 0**

Barak Cline (Br), Jonathan Maness (Bs)  
Rob Jordan (L), Trevor Way (T)



***Chord Street Station***

Winston-Salem, NC

**2000 Dixie District Seniors Champion**



***Chord Street Station***

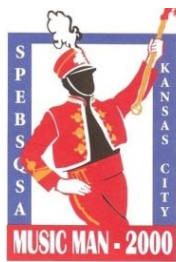
Joe Mountjoy (T), Al Braye (L),  
Dick Franklin (Br), Bill Rehrendt (Bs)

**2000 International Contest  
Kansas City, Mo**

***Low Down Sound***

Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Second Place Silver Medalist

**2000 Dixie District Collegiate Champion**



***Low Down Sound***

Josh Day (T), Jonathon Maness (Bs),  
Rob Jordan (L), Jason Remley (Br),

**2001 International Contest  
Nashville, TN**

***Low Down Sound***

Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Third Place Bronze Medalist



***Low Down Sound***

Josh Day (T), Rob Jordan (L),  
Jonathon Maness (Bs), Jason Remley (Br),

***Crescendo***

Winston-Salem, NC

**2001 Dixie District Quartet Champion**



***Crescendo***

Matt Troy (T), Mark Chandler (L),  
Tom Parker (Bs), Jim Nappier (Br)

***Joint Venture***

Research Triangle Park, NC

**2001 Dixie District Seniors Quartet Champion**

**2002 Mid-Winter International Contest**  
Riverside, CA – Seniors Quartet 20<sup>th</sup> place

**2003 Mid-Winter International Contest**  
Albuquerque, NM – Seniors Quartet 20<sup>th</sup> place

**2004 Mid-Winter International Contest**  
Biloxi, MS – Seniors Quartet 17<sup>th</sup> place

John Adams and Mike Myers transferred into the RTP Chapter in August 1999. They had known each other from previous quartet activities on shows in the eastern seaboard area. John had won a Seniors Quartet Gold Medal as the tenor of *Reminisce* in 1995. They joined with Dick Dee and Gene Martin during the summer of 2000 to form *Joint Venture* and went on to win the 2000 Dixie District Seniors Championship and compete at the 2001 and 2002 International contests. Alan Durick (baritone of *Reminisce*) joined the quartet and they competed at the 2003 and 2004 International contests continuing to make “The Twenty”.



John Adams (T), Mike Myers (L),  
Gene Martin (Bs), Dick Dee (Br)



John Adams (T), Mike Myers (L),  
Gene Martin (Bs), Alan Durick (Br)





**2001 Dixie District Chorus Champion**

*General Assembly* • Research Triangle Park, NC • Robert Cox, Director

**2002 International Contest  
Portland, OR**

Collegiate: *King Street Blues*  
Appalachian State University, NC  
Fifth Place Bronze Medalist

**2002 Dixie District Collegiate Champion**



***Older But Wiser***

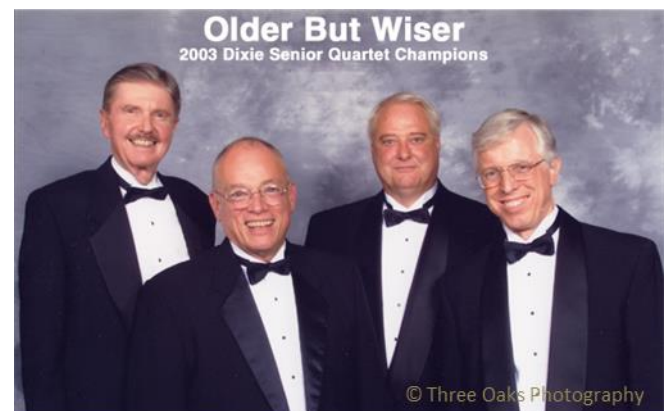
Rocky Mount and Research Triangle Park, NC

**2003 Dixie District Seniors Champion**



***King Street Blues***

Trevor Way (T), Jonathon Maness (Bs),  
Rob Jordan (L), Barak Cline (Br)



***Older But Wiser***

Charlie McCann (T), Dave Collins (Bs),  
Charlie Rose (L), Larry Triplett (Br)

***Out of Nowhere***—Landon Sutton (T), Gary Harwell (L), Jon Haas, (Br), Jason Wells (Bs)—was the **2003 Dixie District Collegiate Champion.**

**King Street Blues** Appalachian State University, NC— John Watson (T), Trevor Way (L), Barak Cline (Br), Nathan Osborne (B)—placed 16<sup>th</sup> at the 2003 International Collegiate Contest in Montreal, Canada.

**2004 International Contest  
Louisville, KY**

***Genesis***

Greensboro, W-S, Frank Thorne, NC  
34<sup>th</sup> Place



***Genesis***

Chris Slacke (Br), Mark Chandler (L), G  
Gregory Zinke (Bs), Mathew Troy (T)

***Daytime***

Spartanburg, SC

**2005 Dixie District Seniors Champion**

Qualified for the  
**2005 Mid-Winter International Contest**  
In Jacksonville, FL but were not able to compete  
due to short term medical problem.



***Daytime***

Steve Pace (T) Ted Pociеча (L),  
John Witmer (Bs), Grant Libramento (Br)

**2006 International Contest  
Indianapolis, IN**

***Relative Pitch***

Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Quartet 11<sup>th</sup> Place

**2006 Dixie District Collegiate Champion**



***Relative Pitch***

Mathew McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L),  
Nathan Osborne (Bs), Harrison Bumgardner (Br)





© Three Oaks Photography

**2006 Dixie District Chorus Champion**

*The Rocky Mount Chorus* • Rocky Mount, NC • Jay Giallombardo, Director

**2007 Mid-Winter International Contest  
Albuquerque, NM**

***Still Standing***

Charlotte, NC  
Seniors Quartet – 26<sup>th</sup> Place



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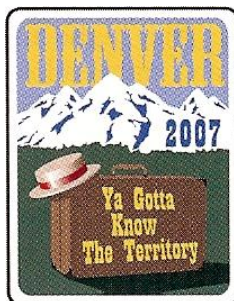
***Still Standing***

Alan Sundling (T), Chuck Villier (L),  
Wally Cluett (Br), Dick Kruse (Bs)

**2007 International Contest  
Denver, CO**

***Relative Pitch***

Appalachian State University, NC  
Collegiate Quartet 12<sup>th</sup> Place



© Miller Photography

***Relative Pitch***

McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L),  
Nathan Osborne (Bs), Harrison Bumgardner (Ba)

***Village Green***

Rocky Mount, RTP, Winston-Salem, NC, Alexandria, VA

***2007 Dixie District Seniors Champion***

***2008 Mid-Winter International Contest***

**San Antonio, TX**

Seniors Quartet 11<sup>th</sup> Place



***Village Green***

Alan Kousen (T), Charles Rose (L),  
Jon Vickers (Bs), Jim Nappier (Ba)

***2008 International Contest***

**Nashville, NC**

***High Country Post***

Appalachian State University, NC

Collegiate Quartet 13<sup>th</sup> Place

**2008 Dixie District Collegiate Champion**



***High Country Post***

Matt McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L),  
Nathan Osborne (Bs), Harrison Bumgardner (Ba)

***Archives***

Research Triangle Park, NC

**2008 Dixie District Seniors Champion**



***Archives***

Curtis Russell (T), Larry Triplett (L),  
Gene Martin (Bs), Roy Gurney (Br)



**2009 Mid-Winter International Contest  
Pasadena, CA**

***Village Green***

Rocky Mount, RTP, Winston-Salem, NC  
Seniors Quartet 7<sup>th</sup> Place



***Village Green***

Jim Nappier (Br), Charles Rose (L),  
Jon Vickers (Bs), Ted Leinhart (T)

***Let's Sing!***

RTP, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, NC

**2009 Dixie District Quartet Champion**

**2009 International Contest  
Anaheim, CA – 42<sup>nd</sup> Place**



**2010 International Contest  
Philadelphia, PA – 48<sup>th</sup> Place**



***Let's Sing!***

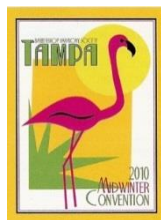
Steve Tremper (T), Mark Chandler (L),  
Greg Zinke (Bs), Joe Doub (Br)

***BLackJack***

Wilmington and Research Triangle Park, NC

**2009 Dixie District Seniors Champion**

**2010 Mid-Winter International Contest  
Tampa, FL  
Seniors Quartet 23<sup>rd</sup> Place**



***BlackJack***

Jim Nappier (Br), Bryson Ley (Bs),  
Larry Reinhart (L), Kirk Benning (T)