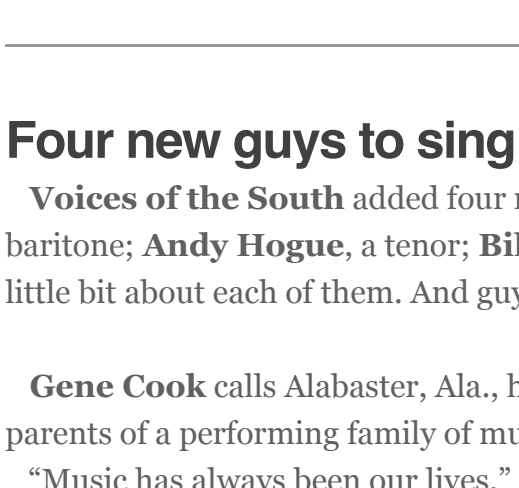


‘Take me out to the ballgame’

What can be more American than baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and barbershop harmony?

While there may not be any apple pie available, there will be plenty of baseball, hot dogs, and **barbershop harmony** at Regions



Field in downtown Birmingham on Friday night, July 1st. The Barons play the Biloxi Shuckers. Batter up at 7:05 p.m.

Voices of the South will kick off the holiday weekend by singing the national anthem at the Barons ballgame. Also, rumor has it that there might even be an “impromptu” concert by **Voices** outside the stadium before the game.

Come join us for a night of fun, fellowship, and — oh yeah — baseball. **Play ball!**

Four new guys to sing Barbershop with Voices

Voices of the South added four new members in April — **Gene Cook**, a

baritone; **Andy Hogue**, a tenor; **Bill Logan**, and **Kyle Stringer**, basses. Here's a little bit about each of them. And guys, welcome aboard!

Gene Cook calls Alabaster, Ala., home. Gene and his wife **Linda** are the proud parents of a performing family of musicians.

“Music has always been our lives,” Gene says. They have a son,

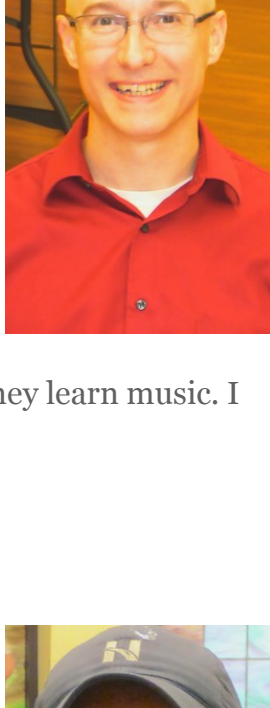
Chris, and a daughter, **Kay**. The four of them sang Southern Gospel in a large number of venues throughout the South.

Gene’s had a long career in music, mostly centered around the Columbus, Ga., area, where the family lived. His last full time music job was with the **Fountain City Chorus** in Columbus.

He said he found **Voices** because knew the reputation of former Chorus Director **Kenny Ray Hatton**. “I heard about him in Kentucky, and I just found you guys because of him.”

“My wife and I moved to Alabaster to be close to our grand children, **Eli**, 6, and **Nathan**, 4.

You can email Gene at lgceagle@bellsouth.net.



Andy Hogue has lived in Argo, Ala., for nearly two years. For 14 years before that he lived in Moody, Ala.

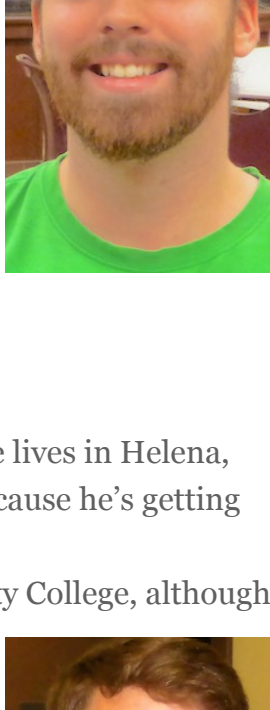
He grew up in and around Houston, Texas. He graduated from Hewitt-Trussville High School and went to college at Herzing College. He’s a project manager for Regions Bank. He and his wife **Becky** have two children, **Tyler**, 12, and **Kaytlin**, 9.

“I’ve been singing since my freshman year of high school,” Andy says. “This is the first time I’ve sung barbershop.” He

heard about it from **Voices** member **Jim Phillips**. They attend the same church.

“I wanted to sing barbershop because I love the sound of a cappella music. This group of guys knows how to have fun while they learn music. I love that!”

You can email Andy at andohogue@gmail.com.



Bill Logan lives in Hoover, Ala. He’s been singing all of his life.

He started singing in his local church’s children’s choir and then moved to the youth choir, then to Hoover School’s choirs

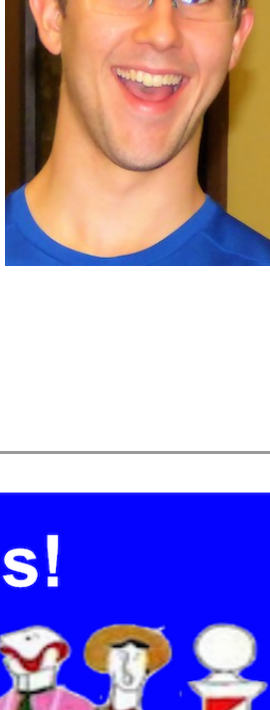
and then to Jefferson State Community College’s choir.

Bill works at Organic Harvest in Hoover where he manages the meat department.

“I joined **Voices of the South** because of **Alex Garrison**,” who is also a member of **Voices**. Alex and Bill sang together at Jeff State.

“My grandfather sang barbershop. I remember listening to him when I was just 5 or 6 years old. When Alex asked me to sing barbershop with him, that’s all it took.”

You can email Bill at williamlogan80@yahoo.com.



Kyle Stringer has been singing just about all of his life, too. He lives in Helena, Ala., with his parents, but that will change in a couple of weeks because he’s getting married.

Kyle went to Pelham High School and Jefferson State Community College, although he is currently enrolled at the University of Alabama at

Birmingham in Materials Science and Engineering. He works for Switch Audio Video in Birmingham as a technician/installer.

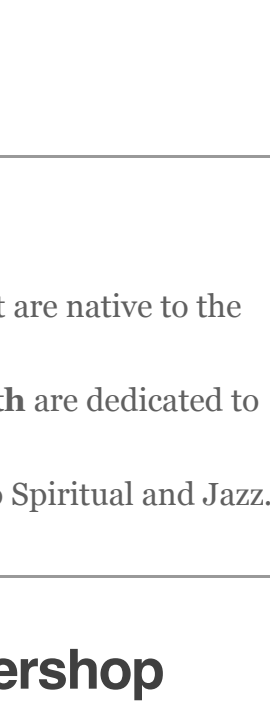
He found **Voices of the South** because of **Alex Garrison**.

“We became acquainted while singing in the Jeff State Singers program,” Kyle says.

“I absolutely adore the sound of Barbershop. Although I never sang it until I joined up with you guys.

“Words can’t describe the feelings that listening to and participating in music makes me experience.”

You can email Kyle at rms_panther63@msn.com.



We want you to sing with us!

Come by any Monday night and sing with us.

You don't have to be an accomplished singer. Most of us in the *Voices of The South* chorus don't read music. We use "learning tracks." Also, we provide sheet music and recordings of our music that are part-predominate.

If you can sing "Happy Birthday," we can teach you everything you need to know to be able to hop on stage with us. There's only one restriction — you do have to be a male. Sorry ladies!

We rehearse from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays in the Fellowship Hall of Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 2901 Columbiana Road, Vestavia Hills, Ala., 35216. You can also call us at 205-252-SING (7464) or visit us at VoicesOfTheSouth.com.

Recent visitors

We love to have guests drop in on our Monday night rehearsals.

In April **Jim Hartman** from West Unity, Ohio, stopped by and sang with us. Also **Benjamin Morgan** from Irondale, Ala., sang with us.

Thank you for visiting us. We hope to see you again!

Did you know...?

Barbershop harmony is one of only three forms of music that are native to the United States.*

The **Barbershop Harmony Society** and **Voices of the South** are dedicated to preserving this unique form of American music.

* The other forms of music are the Negro Spiritual and Jazz.

Frank ‘Knarf’ Buttler has been a Barbershop Harmony Society member for 50 years! Yes, 50!

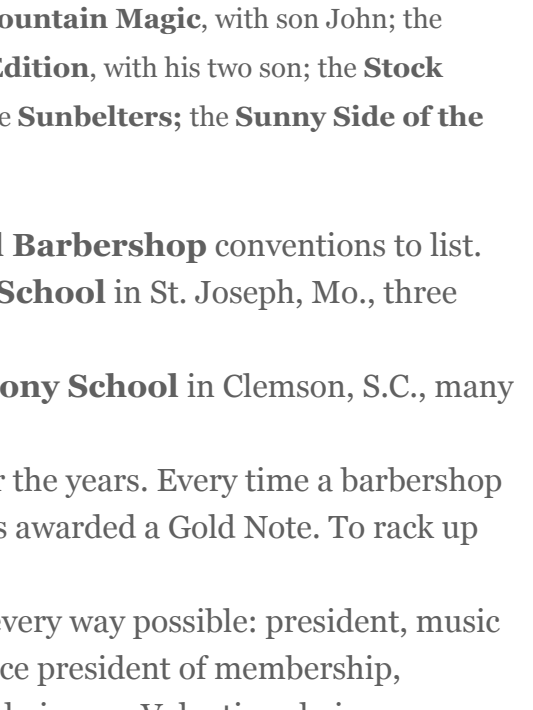
When **e-Voices** asked **Frank Carlos “Knarf” Buttler** to answer some questions for this **Spotlight** piece, he turned in a 10-sentence, cryptic, typed note that said so

little about him you readers would not have had a clue how valuable he has been to the world of Barbershop singing.

Next month **Frank** will get his membership letter from the **Barbershop Harmony Society** stating he has been a life-long member for **50 years**.

He represents **Voices of the South** and the barbershop genre with a grace, a life-long achievement record, and an attitude that **e-Voices** is proud to display to the whole a cappella, barbershop singing world.

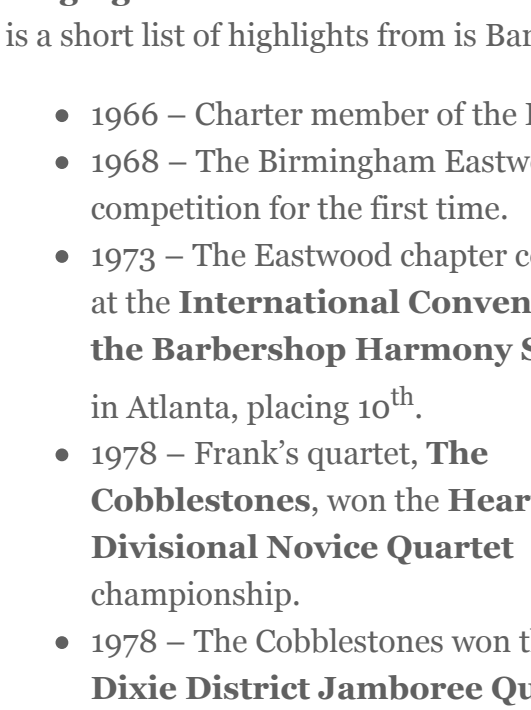
We salute you, “**Knarf**”!



Who are you?

“I was born February 25, 1930, in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico. When my father graduated from MIT with his mining-engineer’s degree, he moved to Mexico to be able to find work in the mining industry. Our family lived in Mexico until I was 12. When we moved to Lancaster, Texas, I spoke no English, only Spanish. I attended Lancaster public schools. I am a Korean War veteran. I served in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952. I was a radar man on the USS Wright (CVL 49), a cruiser-aircraft carrier. I went to **North Texas State College** in Denton, Texas, where I graduated in 1956 with a degree in production management — a business degree.

“I married **Jean Digennaro** on August 21, 1954. In 2016 we will be celebrating our 62nd anniversary.”



It was when Frank was serving in the Navy as a radar man that he got his nickname, “**Knarf**.” On board ship, the radar operator, at times, sat opposite an officer. A plastic screen separated the two. To identify oneself to the guy on the other side of the screen Frank had to write his name backwards on the divider. So throughout most of his Naval career Frank wrote his name while on duty as “knarf.” Much later while attending a barbershop board meeting Frank had to write his name on the attendance pad. He wrote “**knarf**.” It stuck. Barbershoppers know him as **Knarf**.

“I retired from the All-State Insurance, Co., in 1996. I was an All-State agent in my own business for 34 years. You can email me at fbuttler2955@charter.net.”

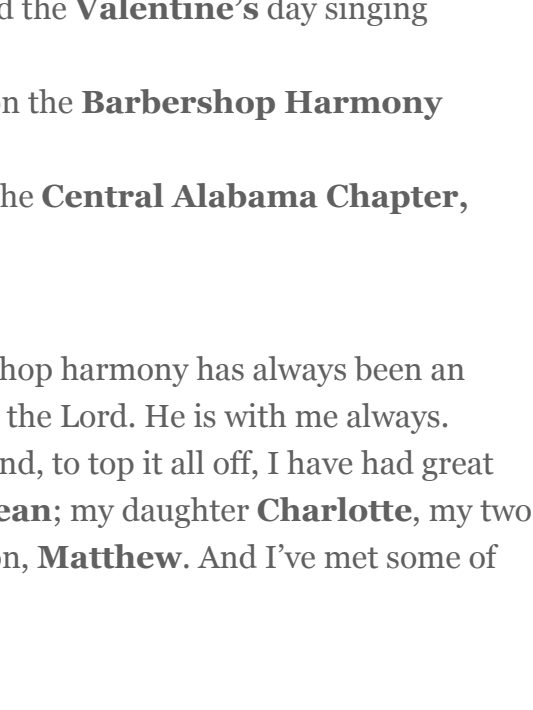
Here’s an incomplete, alphabetical listing of Frank’s quartet experience: **The Baritones**; the **Buzzin Bee’s**; the **Four Leaf Clovers**, with his two sons, **Frank Jr.** and **John**; **Front Row Center**; **Matthew and Company**, with sons Frank Jr., John and grandson **Matthew**; **Memory Street**; **Natural Selection**, with his sons; **Naughty 'n' Nice**; **Recreated**; the **Red Mountain Express**, with son John; **Red Mountain Magic**, with son John; the **Reprobates**; the **Seventh Chords**; the **Southern Edition**, with his two son; the **Stock Arrangement**, with Frank Jr., John and Matthew; the **Sunbelters**; the **Sunny Side of the Street**, with son John; and **Whistle Stop**.

- Frank attended too many **International Barbershop** conventions to list.
- He attended the **Harmony Education School** in St. Joseph, Mo., three times.
- He attended the **Dixie Lakeside Harmony School** in Clemson, S.C., many times.
- He has accumulated 32 **Gold Notes** over the years. Every time a barbershop singer signs up a new barbershopper he is awarded a Gold Note. To rack up 32 of them is a huge deal.
- He has served his chapters in just about every way possible: president, music vice president, program vice president, vice president of membership, secretary, board member-at-large, show chairman, Valentine chairman, baritone section leader, and as an interim chorus director.

Got experience?

Singing has been a singer all his life. He started singing barbershop with **The Sinking Gentlemen** as a charter member in 1965. He’s a **baritone**. The following is a short list of highlights from is Barbershop vitae.

- 1966 – Charter member of the **Birmingham Eastwood Chapter**.
- 1968 – The Birmingham Eastwood chapter won the District chorus competition for the first time.
- 1973 – The Eastwood chapter competed at the **International Convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society** in Atlanta, placing 10th.
- 1978 – Frank’s quartet, **The Cobblestones**, won the **Heartland Divisional Novice Quartet** championship.
- 1978 – The Cobblestones won the **Dixie District Jamboree Quartet** championship.
- 1979 – Frank’s chapter competed as **Alabama Jubilee** at the International Convention in Minneapolis, placing ninth.
- 1986 – Frank was awarded the **Joe Bernard Barbershopper of the Year**.
- 1987 – He earned the **Bob Oliver Award** for signing up the most chorus members in the **Dixie District**.
- 1991 – He became a charter member of the **Harmony Express** chorus.
- 1992 – He and **Jean**, Frank’s wife, started the **Valentine’s** day singing quartets promotions.
- 1996 – His quartet, **Memory Street**, won the **Barbershop Harmony Society, Division 5** championship.
- 2006 – He became a charter member of the **Central Alabama Chapter, Voices of the South**.



Why do you sing?

“Singing in church choirs and singing barbershop harmony has always been an enjoyment that keeps my heart and soul feeling the Lord. He is with me always.

“All I can say is it’s been a tremendous ride. And, to top it all off, I have had great support over all these 50 years from my wife, **Jean**; my daughter **Charlotte**, my two sons, **Frank Jr.** and **John L.**, and my grandson, **Matthew**. And I’ve met some of the best friends any one could ask for.”

2016 — Calendar

May

Monday, May 2 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, May 9 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, May 16 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, May 23 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, May 30 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, June 6 — Chorus Rehearsal *

* Rehearsals from 7 to 9:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Saint Mark United Methodist Church

Upcoming

Friday, July 1 — Sing National Anthem at Barons Baseball Game, Regions Field, Birmingham.

Sunday-Saturday, July 3-9 — **Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention**, Bridgestone Arena, Nashville

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 7-9 — **Dixie District Fall Convention and Contest**, Crown Plaza Atlanta at Perimeter, Atlanta.

Friday, Dec. 16 — **Voices Holiday Show**, Performing Arts Center, Oxford, Ala.

Saturday, Dec. 17 — **Voices Holiday Show**, Lyric Theatre, Birmingham.

Jones elected to Voices board

Dennis R. Jones has been elected to serve as a board member-at-large for the Central Alabama Chapter, BHS.

Dennis, who is the editor of **e-Voices**, will fill the unexpired term of **Matt Powell**. Matt’s board position became vacant when Matt was named Voices new director.

Congratulations, Dennis!