

Finders Keepers Celebrates Ten Years of Fun



Finders Keepers at Contest - 2014

In 2005, Becky Wilkins left Texas and her much loved quartet of 20 years, Crystal Collection, and moved to North Carolina with husband, Wayne. She joined Queen Charlotte Chorus determined to be “Molly Member” for a while and take stock of her new surroundings. She and Cindy soon became friends.

Cindy Shook, director of Queen Charlotte, wanted to form a new quartet with Becky. That would be a difficult thing to do since they were both regional champion quartet basses (Becky with Crystal Collection and Cindy with Esprit de Corps). Cindy took the plunge and offered to try singing lead.

To see if this would be possible they asked Kristi (Cindy’s daughter) and Kristi’s friend Tera to sing bari and tenor to see if this bass-lead match might be a go. After much laughter and Becky’s

parrot screaming for them to “shut up” they decided to give it a try.

Cindy asked Karen Williams to sing with her and Becky. Karen (tenor of regional quartet champion Independent Party) and Cindy had sung together in a quartet. They asked Vickey Collom, quartet baritone and the chorus baritone section leader to join them, and Finders Keepers was born in January 2006.

The funniest response to this new quartet was from Cindy’s hubby Ken after being told that she was going to be singing lead. Immediately, he asked, “Who’s going to remember the words?”

Finders Keepers was soon competing and performing on chorus shows as well as other fun and unique performances. A friend of Becky’s, from a popular comedy quartet in Texas, sent some music to her. After a couple of rehearsals, Finders

Keepers’ alter ego was born. With their hillbilly twang and crazy humor, “Losers Weepers” began making appearances on their shows, much to the delight of their audiences.

We’ve been there for each other through sickness, health, divorce, new

jobs and new grandbabies! And we hope to continue entertaining you and laughing with you for a long time to come.



2010 photo by Claire Gardiner

Some of their best memories so far:

- Performing “Old Man River” with their beloved coach, Tom Nawrocki, as soloist;
- Being the main characters in the Myrtle Beach chorus show, where two of the quartet members played men;
- Contest when Becky was recovering from surgery. When it was announced they had won the Most Improved Quartet award, she leapt from her wheelchair and ran to the stage;
- Singing every Christmas season at the Billy Graham Library and the Southern Christmas Show;
- Helping Heart of Columbia chorus get its start and singing at the charter party;
- Coaching choruses as a quartet, dividing the lesson plans four ways;
- Participating in shows singing eight-part songs with Tom’s BHS quartet, Infinity, and BHS quartet, Still Standing;
- Singing the National Anthem at several venues, including the Charlotte Checkers hockey team and the Kannapolis Intimidators baseball team;
- Singing as the “Valley Ghouls” on their home chorus Halloween show;
- Having to recover onstage when Cindy screws up her lines – to the great amusement of the audience!

