

Barbershoppers provide great ride at O.C. Music Pier

By ED WISMER
Ocean City Sentinel critic

OCEAN CITY - The Greater Atlantic City chapter of SPEB-SQSA provided the crowd at the Music Pier with a great ride in their 2004 show titled "All Aboard." For fans of barbershop style singing, it was a great trip

and a feast. The show represented a new departure for the group, in that they had an overall theme for it.

The show was called "All Aboard" and the singers and audience were on an imaginary bus ride to a convention in New Orleans. The nicely crafted bus stayed in the terminal throughout



the show, but the singers took all for a ride full of melody and humor. The first gag had one of the guys come on stage with two humongous suitcases which proved to contain the batteries for the biggest Walkman ever built. That should give some idea of how the evening went.

The Greater Atlantic City Boardwalk Chorus came on first, 36 members strong all duded out in aloha shirts and white slacks, all set for a holiday. After singing their signature song, "On the Boardwalk in Atlantic City," they followed with several standard barbershop tunes, namely "After Dark" and a lively "Muskrat Ramble." They have improved immensely since last year. In fact, they were at their best.

Quartets from within the general chorus stepped forward from time to time. The "Sea Chords" and "Here We Go Again" sang "Up a Lazy River" and "Down Our Way" to the delight of all.

It was a gala event celebrating the 47th annual show by the organization and they celebrated in style. They also made the humor part of the show special. They knew their lines perfectly

and segued right into the music portions without a hitch.

A featured quartet imported from the hinterlands of Lancaster, Pa. was within the rollicking spirit of the show. The "Razzmatazz" quartet brought some of the best close harmony I've ever heard. They were also four very funny guys who kept the crowd roaring with their antics. They had a bag full of costume changes and what they did with wigs is beyond description. The same goes for the duck call that one of them periodically employed. Decorum was kept within the bounds of family entertainment and nobody had to explain anything to the kids after the show. The straw boater and sequin vested guys sang their share of barbershop standards plus "Ain't She Sweet," but really made a splash with a doowop medley that featured every high falsetto obligato anyone could remember. They had all the choreographed moves too. The modest fee charged was money well spent for those attending. They got an evening of top flight entertainment, probably better than most casino shows.