



The Captain's Log

The Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
June 2018 - Issue #3

Location: Zion Lutheran Church – 808 W. Porter Avenue – Stockton – CA
Website: <http://www.stocktonportsmen.org/>
Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194542747456>

Stockton Portsman “Mixed” Barbershop Chorus Makes History!!!



**Stockton Portsman invited to compete at
the 2018 Far Western District Chorus
Competition this Fall in Fresno, Ca**

President's Message: By Harry Williams

We are thrilled to be 1 of 25 choruses to be invited to compete in the 2018 Far Western District Competition that will be held in Fresno, CA in October. We plan to step up our game to get better vocal and performance judging scores. We now have vocal warm ups, section leaders, a music team, and a music schedule every week.

In addition to the exciting news of competing, the Chorus has been very busy this month performing at Stockton Ports games, Lodi & Tracy Street Fairs. Memorial Day we enjoyed our day together starting out at the Cherokee Memorial Park singing patriotic songs and later that evening enjoying a Stockton Ports game singing the National Anthem, 7th inning stretch and many other songs with fans. Tuesday, May 29th, we had our 2nd guest night of the year. We had at least 10 guests in attendance.

We are looking forward to the novice quartet contest at Bean Feed on June 12th, and a remote practice at O`Conner Woods on June 26th. We have a date for the fall show, December 2nd. Come enjoy the fun and joy of singing.

Thanks, President Harry Williams

Musical Director's Message: By Bill Litz

Wouldn't it be amazing to improve our performance – the way we look, the way we sound and the emotion with which we sing - improve it enough to win a competition. I've never been "*that guy*" worried about winning a medal. But I am "*that guy*" who wants to please the audience, to make them happy they stumbled across us at the street fair, or to unexpectedly move them with a song we deliver at a memorial or patriotic event. And to make them want to join us.

Thoughts of improvement made me want to add an accessory to our attire - maybe get everyone in the chorus a pendant – like the badge of courage that made the cowardly lion of *The Wizard of Oz* bold. And to make sure you knew it was yours, I'd put your picture in it. Then each of you could be "**independent**".... All kidding aside, barbershoppers are known for their bad jokes, so if you choose to be a barbershopper, expect a lot of bad humor. It's all part of the fun! Each of us needs to be **independent** as a singer and performer to bring our best to the performance.

Learning the music will make you independent: **sing** along with learning tracks; **write** the words so you can see them in your own handwriting (or at least **type** them so they flow through your being); **make time daily** to reinforce your learning, **sing** while you drive or shower, or even just **mouth the words** that seem to elude you when you can't sing out loud.

(Continued on next page)

Don't forget to add the performance aspect: **investigate** the words of the song; what is the music trying to say; what **expression** should be used convey those emotions; what body language will help tell the story without being distracting; what kind of **dynamic variation** will help to add even more to the message. Those elements will help you memorize the song faster and remember it for years to come.

Your independence will make you a leader instead of a leaner, and it will make your experience in the chorus much more fun and rewarding.

Chorus Craft: By John Eilers

There are 5 principles of good choral singing:

- Bowtie Posture
 - Aligning upper body by raising arms as if tying a bowtie
- Silent Breath
 - There should be no audible or visible indication that you are taking breath. Practice Stealth Breathing. (I described it in my April article.)
- No Scooping
 - Attack the note right on pitch, not below it and move up.
- FILO
 - This stands for First In Last Out. The purpose is to provide a smooth flow between both notes and words.
- No Pressure
 - Never force the word- sound/note as it will give a distorted sound that cannot ring.

Chorus News:

Lodi St Fair



Guest Night



Quartet News:

TuneStruck



From left to right: Al Wolter, Bill Litz, Bob Yater & Greg Hedges

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TuneStruck/?rc=p>

Tune Struck had the pleasure of providing strolling entertainment at the Kentucky Derby West fundraiser for San Joaquin Hospice. We have been asked to participate several times in the past, but circumstances prevented us from doing so. It was a really nice day; we saw lots of friends; and, it was good to be singing again.

We have gotten back to our regular rehearsal schedule and are even looking a new tune or two. With the Summer Choir hiatus season, we hope to visit a congregation or two.

Al Wolter
Tenor - Tune Struck Quartet
209.747.7499
www.TuneStruckQuartet.com

Mixed Meta4



From left to right: Joan Ray, Nick Adams, Al Farnum & Dave Harmon

Our quartet is new and working hard to get our blend established and a repertoire big enough to accept public performances. Thank you all for being such great supporters, as we grow. We participated in the Tracy and Lodi Fairs, sang a Mother's Day program for a Mom whose daughter lives in Washington, and sang at the recent chorus Guest Night. The money we earned performing will go toward the offer of matching funds from a private benefactor for chorus music.

Quartet Singers Wanted / Quartet Singers Available

If you're getting tired of waiting for a quartet to call, don't despair. You can now find singers to 'make your own quartet'. You can also search to find out if there are any barbershop quartets or singers in your area that you can match up with. Check out link below:

<http://www.quartetmatchup.com/>

Member Spotlight

My journey to Barbershop
By Chuck Thurman

A cappella singing has been in my life since birth. It has been such a blessing to be a part of a musical family. Many of them are musicians of all different types, but all are singers. My grandparents, along with my mother, her four brothers, and their cousins all learned how to sing *a cappella* at church. I grew up with all of our family gatherings consisting of singing. I have so many fond memories of all those get-togethers and of being sung to sleep by my mother or grandmother. It instilled in me at a very young age a great love for music, but especially singing.

In elementary school, I sang in choir and learned to play the Saxophone. I sang in a special choir at the State Capital for lawmakers voting on a Bill to fund school air conditioning. All you young people out there... you're welcome! I excelled quickly in band and earned many medals at competitions while in elementary and middle school.

In high school, I learned to play the Trombone for marching band and field show competitions for Tokay High School. I marched in the Fullerton Founders Day Parade and the Portland Rose Festival Parade, as well as many band reviews, even winning sweepstakes a few times. I also performed in three high school musicals, "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oklahoma," and "Little Shop of Horrors," as well as winning first place at my high school talent show for singing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." I was also the lead singer in a few rock and heavy metal bands while in high school and performed in other school talent shows. When I was a senior at Tokay High, I had four music classes, one of them being concert choir. My first year in choir I made it to the San Joaquin County Honor

Choir, only later to be cut because of falling ill with a 104°F fever and missing a rehearsal. I also had the honor to sing the national anthem at the commencement of my high school graduation ceremony.

After graduation I sang in three different San Joaquin County Delta College choirs. One was called Studio Arts Ensemble and had mandatory auditions as a prerequisite. I made many enemies of the upperclassmen my freshman year when I took the last spot in the small ensemble. One day in my concert choir class, we had a very special visit from four older gentlemen. They sang for us a song called "Down Our Way," and then afterwards, they invited four students to come up to sing with them. Fate would have it that I was one of the four. I couldn't imagine the impact that experience would have on me at the time, but nonetheless the seed was planted.

After college I continued my music, but it was mainly singing at church. There were other sporadic occasions I had opportunities to sing, like at family and friends' weddings or at funerals. It would be nearly 20 years later at dinner, with my then girlfriend's (Stephanie's) family, that fate would bring me back to an old song I learned so many years ago at Delta College. One night in January, at Angelina's in Stockton, I heard a group of men singing in the next room! Stephanie went with me to go peek around the corner to hear the harmonious sound of men and women's voices blending together with great joy! It just so happened that a friendly woman, named Susan Pazo, saw the excitement in our eyes, brought us a Stockton Portsmen business card, and invited me to come out on Tuesday to sing with them. Stephanie took the card and the rest, they say, is history. I have been involved with Barbershop ever since!

(Continued on next page)

Now, my lovely wife, Stephanie, and I both sing in the Stockton Portsmen Mixed Barbershop Chorus and plan on carrying on the family tradition of music. Currently I work as the minister of the Galt church of Christ in Galt, CA. We worship and sing *a cappella*, just like how my family had learned to sing so many years ago. The love of Barbershop music just came naturally to me, due to my love of *a cappella* singing. I came into this world surrounded by beautiful *a cappella* singing and I plan on leaving this world the same way. Barbershopper for life!
☺

Guest Member Article

Stepping Up The Game

By Raphael Pazo, Ph.D.

Have Fun Doing What You Do!

This is indeed a tremendously exciting time to be a part of all that is going on at the Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus and the Stockton Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Last month, on April 14, 2018, the Chapter made history by being able to compete for the very first time at the Division Level as a Mixed Barbershop Chorus. The Stockton Portsmen Chorus earned a respectable score and received a favorable evaluation by the contest panel of judges. But, the best part of participating in that contest is that it sparked an interest for many to “**step up the game**”.

[Continue Reading...](#)

Barbershop... Live long & prosper!!!

Join the Stockton Portsmen Mixed Barbershop Chorus and enjoy the healthy benefits of singing. At link below see Harmony University Vocal Health Articles on the Health Benefits of Singing.

<http://www.barbershop.org/education/vocal-health/health-benefits-of-singing/>

- Scientists say singing boosts immune system.
- Many studies done over a number of years have focused on the health benefits of singing, and the evidence is overwhelming.
- Singing can help prolong life.
- Sing yourself happy and fit!

Forget Me Notes:

Meetings:

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays

Sherwood Mall Food Court, South End

- Info@StocktonPortsmen.org
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

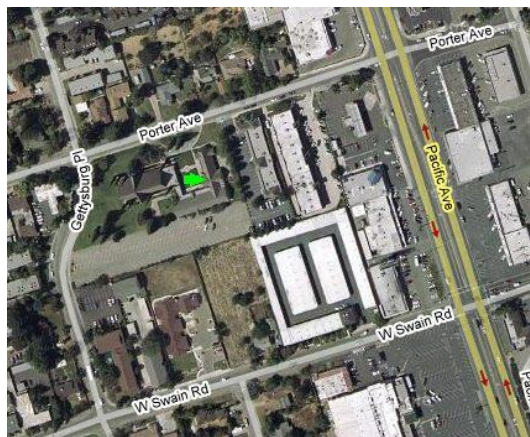
Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Tuesdays 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

See calendar for up-to-date information

<https://www.brownbearsw.com/cal/Portsmen>

Map:



Directions:

From Pacific Avenue go west on Porter Way turn south on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.

From Pershing Avenue go east on W. Swain Rd turn north on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.

We meet in Grace Hall on the northeast side of the complex.

Mission Statement:

Provide the greater Stockton area with quality Barbershop chorus and quartet music and wholesome family entertainment, while encouraging every individual of good character who loves to sing the opportunity to find their place with us.

****Hire Us****

Book us for your next event:

- Community Concerts
- Fairs
- Festivals
- Grand Openings
- Holiday Tree Lightings
- Memorial Services
- National Anthem
- Singing Valentines
- Summer Concerts

Performance times usually range from 20 to 40 minutes but can be adjusted up or down to fit your specific program. Contact us by email or phone below for a proposal:

- Info@StocktonPortsmen.org
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

Lunch Time Barbershop Harmony Fun:

- Save the third Thursday of each month for great camaraderie and singing with the Harmony for Lunch Bunch
- You'll know the repertoire; it's the polecats plus a few other oldies
- Arrive at Sam's Hof Brau at Watt and El Camino, Sacramento at 11:30 in order to beat the crowd and have your food down before the singing begins at noon. Food is delicious!
- Share a ride with Joan Ray (my car holds 3 more), Kep Keplinger, or Chuck Thurman
- More details available from Kent Borrowdale, 2459 Rogue River Dr., Sacramento, CA 95826 or kborrow@comcast.net Click on this email if you want to receive the monthly newsletter.

****Save the Dates****

2018 Events

- June 12 Nevada Placer Chapter Presents:
The Twenty-Eighth Annual
John Gurule Memorial
“Somewhat Serious” Quartet
Contest and Bean Feed
(6:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
- June 26 Stockton Chapter Meeting &
Portsmen Chorus @ O’Conner
Woods West Hall
(6:45 PM – 8:15 PM)
- Jul 1 BHS International Convention**
(July 1 – 8, 2018)
(Orlando, Florida)
- July 3 Celebrate America Hutchins
Street Square
(Lodi, CA)
(5:00 PM – 7:00 PM)
- July 21 Stockton Ports Anthem
(6:30 PM – 10:30 PM)
- July 31 Guest Night**
- Aug 12 Stockton Ports Anthem
(6:30 PM – 10:30 PM)
- Sept 3 Stockton Ports Anthem
(6:30 PM – 10:30 PM)
- Oct 10 FWD Fall Convention**
(October 11 – 14, 2018)
(Fresno, CA)
- Oct 30 Guest Night**
- Dec 1 Festival of Trees (Micke Grove)
(12:00 PM – 2:00 PM)
- Dec 2 Annual Show – Christmas Theme**
Zion Lutheran Church
(2:00 PM – 4:00 PM)
- Dec 4 Stockton Chapter Meeting &
Portsmen Chorus @ O’Conner
Woods West Hall
(6:45 PM – 8:15 PM)

2019 Events

- Feb 14 Singing Valentines (2019)
- Mar 17 Ice Cream Social (2019)
- Mar 21 FWD Spring Prelims NE/NW**
Division (2019)
(March 21 – 24, 2019)
- Oct 10 FWD Fall Convention (2019)**
(October 10 – 13, 2018)
(Sacramento, CA)

Barbershop Links

- Barbershop Harmony Society
<http://www.barbershop.org/>
- Far Western District
<https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/>
- Mixed Barbershop Harmony
Association
<https://www.mixedbarbershop.org/>
- VoCal Voices of California
<http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>