



The Captain's Log

The Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen
August 2018 - Issue #5



Picture taken at Lead Sectional which was held on July 20th - Thanks to Chuck Thurman!!!
(Harry Williams, Al Farnum, Chuck Thurman, Sue Atkins, Dianna Brown-Goodwin & Tim Tuggle)
(also in attendance were Victoria Chrys, Stephanie Thurman & John Eilers)
Tenors, Baritones & Basses will you follow our lead???

President's Message: By Harry Williams

Hi Youal , Here it is August already. Some good things to look forward to in August : Singing at Venetian Gardens for National Night Out, Bob Hope Fox Theater (Movie is Smokey and the Bandit), Stockton Ports Ball Game, and our annual Chapter Picnic. Not as much singing out as we are used to doing. The Chapter is getting ready for the Fresno competition on October 13th.

We had our 1st lead sectional meeting at Dianna's house led by section leader Chuck Thurman. Good Job Chuck! Other sections are planning on doing the same.

The Chapter welcomed and accepted 3 new members in July. Their names Bob Moore, Renee Beers, and Tim Tuggle. Welcome to the Portsmen.

Our Chapter Quartet mixed meta4 continues to practice and is quite active in singing out. Good job Joan and crew!

Bill continues to do a great job of directing the chapter each week. Helping us to improve. We all appreciate his time and effort.

Till next month's Captain's Log,
Pres Harry Williams

Musical Director's Message: **By Bill Litz**

Barbershop Harmony Society ... That title replaced the verbose *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America*. I wonder if that is a better description of what we are or did we lose some descriptive nuance in coming up with a catchy name with a lot less letters to remember. Specifically, I feel the word "PRESERVE" needs to not be forgotten.

We ARE a **society** - an organization formed to share **barbershop harmony** – between each other and with the world. I've also heard the old guys refer to us as a fraternity – men (and women) feeling friendship and mutual support as they make barbershop music together.

I think O.C. Cash had more in mind than just getting together with a bunch of guys to sing as he got a small band of men together in 1938. The Harmonizer of December, 1943 was dedicated to O. C. Cash by a foreword which said in part: "*Cash has done more than spread wholesome enjoyment to the early 1940s; he has furnished the means to preserve a period rich in American traditions . . . It is conceivable that his Society may in the future be the connecting link between whatever generation is current, the one preceding it, and the one to follow, as oldsters and youngsters group in harmony*".

Preserve not only means maintaining and protecting our art form, it implies there is something worth keeping alive. This isn't just about getting together with friends.

Even the simplest of songs can be delivered in an artistic way:

- Make sure to sing in tune
- Balance your part, blending with others to make one voice
- Use dynamics to add dimension to the song
- Connect with your audience – visual appeal is as important as aural
- Invest your emotions in the song in order to deliver something emotional

Let's create art worth preserving every time we sing together.

Chorus Craft: **By John Eilers**

1. Different vowels should be sung with the same vocal placement – don't let a vowel determine how your instrument is to be played – keep the voice "in line" and sing the various vowels thru that consistent placement.
2. Singable consonants should be sung with at least 2-3 times the intensity of a vowel without collapsing the vocal mechanism – in general, singable consonants should begin sooner and last longer because they carry a great deal of emotion in sound.
3. Maximize the length of target vowels and maintain the integrity of target vowels – that is, the vowel shape or placement should NOT change throughout its duration.

Chorus News:

Patriotic celebrations in Lodi

Images

Previous Next



See Ahbeck/News-Sentinel

BEA AHBECK/NEWS-SENTINEL The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus perform during the Celebrate America at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi Tuesday, July 3, 2018.

Posted in the Lodi News – Sentinel
Sue Atkins, Christian Hagan, Roberta Keith,
Carol Clark, Raphael Pazo & Dianna Brown-
Goodwin

[Click here for more photos from Celebrate America](#)



Chuck Thurman, Bill Litz, Sue Atkins, Tim Tuggle & Stephanie Thurman met up in Ripon for **GVC's Webcast Party – BHS International**. Thanks Bruce Sellnow for the invite and for everyone's hospitality. We had a Great Time!!!

Stockton Portsmen Annual Picnic/BBQ

The chorus is looking forward to the annual picnic which will be held on Sunday, August 26th at John Eilers House in Linden, CA from 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM. See flyer attached on the last page of newsletter for more details.



Quartet News:

mixed meta4 musings

by Joan Ray, tenor



Joan Ray – Tenor

Al Farnum – Lead

Dave Harmon – Baritone

Nick Adams – Bass

Mixed meta4 quartet is now about to celebrate a ¾ year old birthday! Two of us are long time barbershoppers and two are newbies. Nick Adams and I have been singing for so long that it's almost a century of experience, and Al Farnum and Dave Harmon are relatively new as barbershop chorus and quartet singers.

This has posed some fun new awarenesses. We're getting used to each other's senses of humor, musical likes and dislikes, quirks, families etc. And now on to learning the notes and words, developing blend, maybe even some choreography and more. We appreciate any help from you all as we grow our skills.

A long lasting quartet needs to really like each other for it to jell. These friends of mine are even more special now; we rehearse together weekly, and sing in our terrific chorus, and participate in all the related activities. Barbershop is really an extended family disguised as a choral association. It's all about the joy of singing, and sometimes we even get to perform!

We shared a performance with an "unnamed four" at the last Tracy Fair, sang a lullaby from a daughter who couldn't be with her mom for Mother's Day, hung out in a grocery store for quite a while to sing for a retiring long-time employee, and probably more but my memory is getting weaker as more of life happens.

Tune Struck



Al Wolter, Bill Litz, Bob Yater, Greg Hedges & Abigail Litz-Newman

Tune Struck has been quiet again, but we sang for our newest "fan" at our July 23 rehearsal. Abigail joined the family a couple of weeks ago, and it was our first visit with her.

We confirmed that we will be caroling in Woodbridge December 15th.

Member Spotlight:

By: Nick Adams



Music, especially singing, has been my life since church – third grade choir at Saint John the Divine in Manhattan. Started singing bass/baritone in high school, and it's been downhill since! Didn't know I was singing barbershop, because basses are root, fifth and occasionally fourth. In the Navy, I sang in the Bluejacket Choir on the Ed Sullivan Show. After that, Harvard Glee Club and the Dunster Dunces – a double quartet. Back in the late sixties and seventies, I did a lot of community theater – Hadj, the lead, in Kismet; the barber in Man of La Mancha; the Starkeeper in Carousel. I've also done a variety of stage drama but feel most comfortable singing.

In 1997, after moving to Annapolis, I saw an ad in the paper looking for men who wanted to sing Christmas music. That was it – barbershop! The Sons of the Severn until 2002 when I moved back to California and sang with Bay Area Metro in San Jose. I think I joined the Portsmen about twelve years ago. I love this hobby. It's like skiing, sailing, playing bridge – it's fun at every level. You're never perfect, always learning and hanging out with old friends while making new ones. mixed meta4 is the second quartet for me. In Maryland, it was Duly Noted.

My love and ability have skipped a generation. My granddaughter is on a five year mission commitment in Taiwan. Music is her way of teaching the children the Gospel.

Can you guess who this adorable current member is???



Honoring & celebrating the past can you guess the name of this former Stockton Portsmen?



Want to learn Music Theory?

Did you know that Barbershop Harmony Society offers music theory tracks?

Offering “free” four online music theory tracks makes learning the basics of music theory easy. Each track includes online lessons and a worksheet for each lesson.

Check out link below:

<http://www.barbershop.org/education/online-education/music-theory/>

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.

What in the World Does That Mean?

Barbershop singing - one of America’s greatest pastimes – is a type of culture with its own expressions, phrases and terms. Here are some of the expressions we often use and their definitions:

- **Gang Singing:** group singing in a careless, reckless way; the direct opposite of *Effective Singing*. Gang Singing is often the cause of distractions, stress, nerves or simply not knowing about it. Gang singing must always be avoided. Gang singing uses a lot of energy but yields no positive results. To avoid gang singing, it’s important to recognize its signs. They include:
 - Singing with physical tension and vocal pressure – caused by body stiffness, tension in legs, arms, body core, neck and singing structures (tongue, lips, larynx, etc.)
 - Singing loudly (also getting louder and louder)
 - Loss of blending – due to inability to hear the other parts
 - Scooping – not singing notes in pitch, sliding up to them
 - Loss of rhythm - speeding up (sometimes also slowing down)
 - Audible breaths (gasping when running out of air as opposed to silent breathing)
- **Flattening:** gradual drop in pitch
If you find yourself in a “gang singing” situation, you’re encouraged to: stop singing, take a deep breath, reset your body and mindset and pay attention to how to sing more effectively by employing the *Basic Building Blocks of Effective Singing (BBBES)*: Bow-tie posture, Silent breathing, NO Pressure, NO Scooping and F.I.L.O. (First In, Last Out).

- ***Fifth Wheeling***: a frowned upon activity in Barbershop singing where a person joins a group of four uninvited by singing along. To avoid this faux pas, wait until they are done and ask if you can sing along on the part you know. They will smile and say YES!
- ***Hanger***: One of the voice parts holds one long note on a single vowel of a word, while the other voice parts change chords and words around the singer, at times for as long as 30 seconds. This is most typical in the Lead part, but it can be in any part. A good example of this is the tag “Behind”.
- ***Swipe***: A glissando (controlled slide) from one note to another.
- ***Tag***: The ending (coda) of the song with a flourish of chord changes. This ending has become such an important part of our Barbershop culture that we often teach these little endings to each other as a stand-alone musical experience. Our tradition is to teach them by ear, without printed music, which can be confusing at first, but becomes easier with practice. Much like any musician who “jams” with another, Barbershoppers sing tags to hone and sharpen their quartet singing skills, as teaching tools and to help others sing in four-part harmony for the very first time. Tag singing is a great fun activity to be enjoyed by all; but it’s also serious business. Singing tags has become sort of a sport among Barbershoppers, who considered tag singing as our “*raison d’être*” – “*reason to exist*”. After rehearsals, shows, afterglow parties or other gatherings (especially after Division, District or International contests and conventions), Barbershop singers congregate to sing tags for hours on end.

Source: Several of these definitions are taken from a BHS and HU FAQ page for new barbershop singers on <http://www.barbershop.org/harmony-university/faqs/>

Here is a bonus for those who enjoy singing Tags:
Click this link to download a FREE copy of Classic Tags published by BHS: [Classic Tags](#)

Harmony Camp 2018

We need your support! Planning is in progress. However, at this point, this year’s Harmony Camp (September 21 – 23) is a figment of our imagination. The missing piece is funding, and you are the chapter and individuals who can make this happen.

This letter is going out to all chapters in Northern California /Nevada to expand our reach to bring you up to date on the benefits of Harmony Camp. We ask that you not only share this information with your chapter but also with your chapter members.

Harmony Camp has become a fixture in Northern California /Nevada that brings young men into the fold of barbershop harmony. Harmony Camp benefits you and your chapter by exposing young men to the magic of ringing chords and transforming many into lifelong barbershoppers. Don’t get me wrong. This is a multi-year process. We are now seeing young men who attended Harmony Camp 10 or 15 years ago joining us at the chapter level. Many go on to sing with their college choirs after high school. The obvious benefit to you and to all of our brothers is that these young men, at some time in their lives, look back on that magical weekend of barbershop and seek out the nearest barbershop chapter

(Continued on next page)

We want to share this magical hobby of ours with as many young men as possible not only for the future of our hobby but also for the incredible benefit of Barbershop harmony on these young men in their daily lives. But we can't do it alone. We need your help!!

There are a number of you from chapters in the Northern California /Nevada region who have also experienced the magic of Harmony Camp as adults by volunteering at Camp. We need YOUR help. We would like you to share your thoughts and feelings about your experience with Harmony Camp with your fellow chapter members and help raise financial support for Harmony Camp from within your chapter to continue the Camp this year.

Please ask, plead, cajole, your chapter to fulfill the request below to pledge and send a minimum donation of \$500 to Harmony Camp, ensuring another year of ringing chords in the foothills.

Are finances in need? You bet they are!! We are currently raising funds for "operations" for Harmony Camp 2018 AND we are also raising funds for the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund to ensure the continuation of Harmony Camp into the future. The Steinkamp fund is growing rapidly (currently at 72K) with a goal of \$200,000. Our real need right now is for operations. Any amount will help tremendously!!

Harmony Camp 2018 will feature about a hundred high school age / college age boys, the eighth-place quartet, Artistic License, and also the hot new quartet, Capitol Ring, along with four top clinicians, Gabe Caretto, Ron Black, Chris Lewis, and James Estes, along with a total of about forty-five volunteers to oversee the operation, interact with the boys, and make things run smoothly!! Camp is located at Sly Park Educational Center, 5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines, CA. Camp will run from Sept 21 to Sept 23.

It's an incredible weekend, one that makes us realize just what we are really accomplishing. I invite you to join us Sunday morning, Sept 23, at 11:00 am for our Friends and Family show that will just amaze you!!

Check may be made out to: "FWD Harmony Camp", and sent to: Richard Lund, [6164 Windlestraw Road, Placerville, CA 95667](mailto:6164Windlestraw.Road@placerville.ca.us).

We invite individuals to join us in supporting Harmony Camp with their personal statement of commitment to the cause and send a check to the above address.

Lastly, I love coming to your chapter meeting and talking about Harmony Camp and the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund. Let me know when a visit works for your chapter and I will be there and please share this letter with your chapter members. Don't hesitate to call me with any additional questions you may have.

Thanking you in advance,
Richard Lund, Director
FWD Harmony Camp
530-621-1904

Celebrations:

August Birthdays

Dianna Brown-Goodwin	8/1
Derick Sturke	8/5
Gregg Willis	8/14



Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church –
808 W. Porter Avenue – Stockton – CA
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.*

Website:

<http://www.stocktonportsmen.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194542747456>

Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association

Page:

<https://www.mixedbarbershop.org/ensemble/stockton-portsmen-barbershop-chorus/>

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)

****Save the Dates****

2018 Events

- Aug 9** **National Night Out Sing - Venetian Gardens**
(5:45 PM – 7:00 PM) & Zion Lutheran Church
(7:00 PM – 8:00 PM)
- Aug 12** **Bob Hope Theater**
(12:30 PM – 4:30 PM) & Stockton Ports Anthem
(5:30 PM – 10:00 PM)
- Aug 14 Coaching Session w/ Mike Cating
(7:00 PM – 9:30 PM)
- Aug 26** **Stockton Portsmen Annual Picnic/BBQ**
John Eilers House – Linden
(12:30 PM – 5:00 PM)
See flyer for more details
- Sept 3 Stockton Ports Anthem
(5:30 PM – 10:00 PM)
- Sept 23 Harmony Camp 2018
Friends and Family Show
Sly Park
(11:00 AM)
- Oct 11** **FWD Fall Convention**
(October 11 – 14, 2018)
(Fresno, CA)
<https://events.farwesterndistrict.org/fwd-fall-convention>
****Early bird* deadlines:***
9/14/18 Convention Registration
9/22/18 Hotel Registration
- 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'Connor Woods West Hall
(6:45 PM – 8:15 PM)
- Dec 9 Bob Hope Fox Theater
(12:30 PM – 4:30 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/>

Stockton Portsmen

PICNIC

Sunday, August 26, 2018

John Eilers' Home
21355 E Walnut Drive
Linden, CA

RSVP: portsmencontact@gmail.com

(209) 881-SING (7464)



- Family & Friends Welcome!!!
- Random quartet contest
- Burgers, polish dogs & drinks provided
- Bring potluck side dish or dessert
- Bring swimsuit & towel for pool
- \$ for "Youth-in-Harmony" encouraged



Directions to John's House

- Take Highway 26 [Fremont St] from Highway 99 heading East
- Go THROUGH beautiful downtown Linden (about 3 more miles)
- When you get to Fine Road turn left
- Go about a half mile on Fine to Walnut Drive - turn left
- When Walnut turns left (about a quarter of a mile)
- go straight into John's driveway

