



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman  
October 2022 - Issue #39

**President's Message:**  
**By Al Wolter**



## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

---

### SAY WHAT? – ISSUE 10

When I received the deadline for this month's *Captain's Log* from the Editor, that was my initial response. I had to immediately reply that I wouldn't make that. If you are reading this, she let me be late. I did have an excuse – been helping **Bob Yater** harvest.

I regularly have something written ahead of time, but this past month had too much stuff in it. In fact, as things go, there is little to talk about. That's both a great and bad thing, especially as we are ramping up for our performance during the Fall District Convention. Seventeen Portsman are expected to take the stage in Fresno, with everyone a 'regular' non-ringer member that are present Tuesday nights. That is a very good thing, just nothing that causes one to put pen to paper.

The Annual Chapter Meeting was convened, and Chapter Officers were elected, well mostly re-elected. The only changes were **Kitty Harmon** replacing **Steve Yund** as Secretary and **Tom Harmon** replacing **Bob Yater** as a Board Member at Large. Having another year to do what we do, with a better understanding of what that is, is a good thing. Bad thing is it doesn't compel me to encourage anyone about it at the moment.

One item to discuss is the decision, partly due to the absence during the time of some key people (namely the President, Music VP & Director), to not solicit Singing Valentines. This means we will only schedule those that call us out of the blue – so no Coordinator need be appointed. A bad part of that is the loss experience in scheduling Valentine Quartets to make the deliveries – will be starting over in a lot of ways. Not the positive kind of thing that I really want to point out, and as you can read – making me ramble.

As I was harvesting and trying to think of something to encourage and enlighten you with, I thought of a couple of phrases / quotes. As I close, knowing we will be gearing up for Christmas performances and hoping our Contest performance was in keeping with what our plan was, I leave you with the following.

Our ability to utilize ‘vocal visualizations’ gives Barbershop a unique opportunity to convey the message of a song to our audiences – Al Wolter.

“There is nothing more joyous than watching joyfulness” – Howie Mandell on America’s Got Talent.

‘Previous research noted that smiles not only trigger visible changes to a person's face, but also audible changes to the human voice. "(It's) what I call an auditory smile," [Pablo] Arias says.’ - Charles Choi (Discovery Magazine On-line)

## **Musical Director’s Message: By Bill Litz**

Think of your favorite quartets and choruses. What do you notice when you see them perform? What is it that attracts you to them? As we prepare for contest (and any of our performances for that matter), consider what elements make up their performances. Different mannerisms and performance qualities can take you on an artistic journey or they can distract you from enjoying the talents the entertainers have to offer.

I’ve watched groups that sing well, but don’t entertain me. Conversely, I’ve truly enjoyed groups that don’t sing as well, but their performance seizes my attention. We need to eliminate things in our performances that cause distractions. Saying “*don’t do this or that*” can just make us more likely to “*do this or that*”. As we consider “*don’ts*”, we need to replace them with “*dos*”. There are many things that seem out of our control, but we can be proactive and ready to do things that allow us to do the things that will entertain our audience instead of succumbing to things that allow their minds to wander.

- Smile and enjoy the moments - Fear, concern and even concentration don’t appear as confidence or fun. Use every breath you take to reset your mind, shooing your anxieties as you present the next phrase of the story your performance is telling.
- Sing the right notes and words – Practice until you can’t make a mistake. This is the element you have most control over. It is the one that can quickly show on your face when it doesn’t go perfectly. As you perform, keep telling your story and executing your performance plan. What you think may have been an error only gets bigger if you draw attention to it.

- We are *ALWAYS* telling a story - The whole group needs to tell the same story. Be prepared to make it special and dramatic. Find a visual focus for each phrase. Changing your focus more often is disrupting. Never changing your focus is uninteresting. Know what words are special and allow them to have importance. Sometimes you can't see the audience, but you still need to "see" them and communicate to them.
- Look the part – Be comfortable and self-respecting. The Portsmen dress outfit – black, white, grey, with a red splash is designed to allow each of you to feel elegant and comfortable. Take advantage of that so you feel proud of yourself and of the group. For events that have some flexibility in the attire (like polos and black bottom or no specific outfit), always dress in a manner that won't make you question what you are wearing when we get up to sing.
- Respond to your audience and the things that occur in ways that improve the performance – Be aware of their responses and their enjoyment. Be aware of things that happen with the singers around you. Hopefully all those things will be part of the plan, but if not, react appropriately. Being aware IS NOT looking for approval – always continue to tell the story and perform.
- Adapt to the sound and lighting conditions – Singing in small venues demonstrates the wonderful sound barbershop harmony creates. But in most public settings, we need amplification to be heard. Step into the light and up to the mics together so that our harmony can be heard as we intend. You won't be able to hear things the way you normally do in practice but do your best to sing the same way you normally do so that the mics can pick up what we normally do. If something doesn't seem right during a sound check, ask a question. Once the performance starts, be flexible, but *ALWAYS* continue to perform.
- Be grateful – Show your gratitude between songs and at the end of a performance. The audience will be grateful even if there were mistakes. Let the pleasure of performing artistically blend with the appreciation the audience feels.

Authenticity is a word that judges will use as they critique your performance. By managing all the things that make you afraid or concerned, you'll be able to present each song we sing, and each performance the Portsmen do with an authenticity that creates a heartfelt presentation of which you can be proud of.

# QUARTET MUSTER

## **Tune Struck**

The month of September was a repertoire building period, with three weekly rehearsals in a row before walnut harvest and scheduled trips got in the way. We are up to 42 total songs that we are working on, 20 of which are Holiday / Christmas songs.

One highlight of the month was revamping our website [www.TuneStruckQuartet.com](http://www.TuneStruckQuartet.com). Hope you all stop by and check it out. We appreciate any suggestions to make it better too.

November's scheduled performances include a trip up to sing on the Placerville Show November 5, where they will host a Parade of Quartets. Come on up to the American Legion Post on Greenstone Road and support our friends up the hill and of course us.



The next day we will be in Turlock to sing at Rustic Roots, Chuck's daughter's store for the Shop the Blocks event.

We fully expect to not only sing for the Festival of Trees but also for our usual Holiday performance at Dillard's the first Sunday of December.

## Mixed Meta-Four

This summer we performed two gigs: Sunday, July 4th for a patriotic breakfast and service at Dave's Church, Lincoln Presbyterian, and in August for a grave-side memorial at Cherokee Cemetery honoring Joan Ray's longtime friend, Ann Reucher, from Sweet Adelines.

Following a lengthy period of frequent interruptions, our quartet has resumed weekly rehearsal at Joan's home. We welcome Brad Nieman, Bass, who joins us along with Ron Spohn, Bass, who stepped in after the passing of Nick Adams.

Our group is completed by our talented Lead, Al Farnum.

Submitted by Dave Harmon, Bari.

## Aces High

Aces High is a newly formed quartet. Its members include Tenor, Stephanie Thurman, Lead, Chuck Thurman, Baritone, Nancy Hennefer, and Bass, Alex Bernal. We've decided to go "all in" and "lay all of our chips on the table" and take our quartet to Far Western District quartet competition! We hope to put smiles on people's faces and song in their hearts. Of course, we hope we win "the pot" as well! See you all there!



# Harmony Camp 2022



## MIDTOWN

### INTERNATIONAL 5th PLACE FINALISTS

**Along with four topnotch clinicians:**

**Gabe Caretto, Ron Black, Chris Lewis, and Bruce Sellnow**

**October 21-23, 2022**

**Sly Park Educational Center**

**5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines**

**\$100 for the entire weekend**

**This is an Educational, Tag singing, Fun filled, weekend capped off with a Friends and Family Show Sunday morning at 11 am**

**Richard Lund 530-621-1904 [rlund@innercite.com](mailto:rlund@innercite.com)**

<https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/events/youth-harmony-camp>

# *Stay Tuned Chorus*

## **PERFORMANCE AND DESSERT DASH FUNDRAISER**

OCTOBER 22, 2:30PM

tickets \$15 (presale only)



**CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM**  
4746 EL CAMINO AVE, CARMICHAEL

## Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church – 808 W Porter Avenue (Stockton, CA)

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Fireside Room)

VLQ (Quarteting) 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM (except board meetings nights)

*(Please verify for location of rehearsal as it may change)*

See calendar for up-to-date information:

[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### Website:

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

### Facebook:

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



### 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.

## 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](mailto:Info@StocktonPortsmen.org)
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

### **\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

- 10/8 Grace Church of Lockeford 160<sup>th</sup> Celebration (3:30pm – 5pm)
- 10/14 - 10/16 FWD Fall Convention (Fresno, CA)
- 10/20 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 10/21 - 10/23 Harmony Camp (Sly Park)
- 11/17 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 12/3 Festival of Trees Micke Grove Lodi, CA (10am – 12pm)
- 12/4 Festival of Trees Micke Grove Lodi, CA (10am – 12pm)
- 12/15 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 12/18 Friends of the Fox Theater (12:30pm – 4:30pm)

### **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/>