



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

June 2023 - Issue #47



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

## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

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### WHAT DO YOU CALL SUCCESS? – ISSUE 18

What is success? Eureka, "I found it" is the California motto and is oft used as a statement of success. However, finding something, is it success? Could be, there is a Scriptural reference that indicates that to be the case.

Now, you might ask why am I asking about this, could be cut and dried in your mind. Did the Chapter make money on the Show: Yes or No? That could be the bottom line. I feel there are a lot of other reasons that might make the May 6<sup>th</sup> Show a success. These things would be like having the Chorus sing a fair amount of songs, the Chorus singing those songs well, giving every Chapter affiliated quartet (registered or not) a spot to share their song, showing our audiences a good time and good singing.

I am writing this in the glimmer of the Show. For those of you not cognizant of that term in regards to Barbershop events, there is the event 'Afterglow', the 'after-Afterglow' and then the 'Glimmer'. The real days of Glimmers have gone by the way-side, where the party went on to near the break-of-day and the event "high" finally faded away. Still, as my energy and adrenaline slowly ebb and wear away, I look back and see our show as very successful.

First, I want to say that in all those things I listed; number of Chorus song, sung well, with lots of Chapter quartets being involved, and a fully entertained audience, that we were more than successful.

Second, there is the intangible of moving up to more difficult charts and songs that challenge our abilities. I will be the first to say that my performance of Lucky, Rainbow and Dreams were not what I wanted them to be today, but it was in the upper ninety percentile and as they continue to be sung, I expect myself and all of you to get better. The fact that those fairly difficult charts were sung start to finish with no major failures is a testament to the talent of all of you on the risers.

Another indicator of success were the crews that set things up and then took things down. "Teamwork makes the dreams work" – and it was pretty nice to have had most everything set up with time to spare and things taken down in a timely manner.

After a three-year hiatus, getting back to the production of shows is not a walk in the park. It was great to have so many folks step up to get things done.

At this point, only our Treasurer might have an idea on if the Show was a financial success. Even with needing to get hotel rooms for '**Never Too Late**' to ensure they made it down the hill from Reno, we only needed to sell about one hundred tickets to make a profit.

So, I want to ask you – were you a success? Did you walk away happy with yourself, your ability to participate, the Chorus and its sound. Were you happy with the ticket sales you made, are you sorry that you didn't tell someone else about the Show?

The last part of this, how is success built upon? If this was successful, how to WE make the next one more-so? For the first time in a long time, we know the title/theme of the 2024 Show: **"Hollywood and Barbershop."** It will be a take on the '*Great American Songbook*' as found in the movies. The song list will have a goodly share of this year's songs, but there will be a new song or two as well.

As I close, with the energy seeping out of my body, I want to reiterate how proud I am of you all. All of you who worked hard (in the rain [rain in May – is the California?]), learned new songs, gave of yourself, smiled and gave the audience a good show and deserve a round of applause. I hope you gained insight on what we need to do next year. I think that we impressed not only our guest quartets, but also a couple of other Barbershoppers in the audience.

Our seas are calm, the skies are clear, our course is set – time to start to prepare for our next mission. Memorial Day and the pre-showing music for "Strategic Air Command." By the way, Harry Williams encourages everyone to make a trip to the Castle Air Museum in Atwater to view a B-36 Peacemaker, the true star of that movie.

## Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

This has been a special year for me as director of the Stockton Portsmen. Time continues to fly by as we've weathered another contest cycle and produced a wonderful 66<sup>th</sup> annual show. It is my 21<sup>st</sup> year directing the Portsmen. One would think... that much experience would make me an *adult* barbershopper. But I'm still learning more and growing as a performer. Each step forward opens my mind to things that we can do better.

Most of my years with the Portsmen have been promoting a safe place to sing. Cultivating an environment where anyone can feel free to sing without feeling the pressures of trying to be perfect. In the last few years your skills and attention to detail have made an expectation of knowing the notes and words. I appreciate each of you for working on the mathematics of music to allow us to delve into the artistry of music.

We talk over and over about needing to show genuine emotion as we perform. I'm the kind of person that even views that as a mathematical formula starting with developing a story to envision as we perform a song. Then finding important words to emphasize in each sentence or phrase. There are lots of places in songs to add texture that should bring out something heartfelt.....but is that method truly heartfelt!

During the coaching session after the *Division Contest*, **Jon Kready** painted a possible picture that could inspire our singing "*From The First Hello To The Last Good Bye*". I've hesitated to do that as a director, cramming a story down your throat that may or may not have an impact on each of you. But even just having that little scripted thought of seeing our loved one turn away, probably for the last time, during the last phrase singing "*from the first hello, to the last*" was able to elicit many different real emotions as we sang our last "*good bye*". When we performed that song on the *Sentimental Journey* show, I could feel the audience audibly gasp at the end of the song because your message was so heartfelt.

I don't feel like I am very good at coming up with that story, or that special emotional moment of the song. As we prepared for the show, I was thrilled to have us sing "A Million Dreams". It was probably the melody that attracted me to it to start. I'm sure the words spoke to me, but I wasn't even sure what they were saying. But as I prepared to introduce the song, I was challenged to find the importance of the song – to make it personal – to find words that might inspire people to hear it speak to them. Even up to the moment of going on stage to perform the finale, *a million thoughts* were going through my head. All of a sudden, the phrase "*share your dreams with me*" gripped my heart. A million dreams floating around in our heads doesn't make them come true. It's sharing the dreams and celebrating the success of making dreams come true that brings joy.

As we learn new songs, take the time to come up with your own introduction to the song. Find that word or phrase in the song that makes it worth singing. Share that thought with me or your chorus mates. Those are the genuine, heartfelt emotions can unite us and can create the moments that our audience will appreciate.

### **Portsmen go to Paris!** **(Nancy Hennefer)**

In case you haven't heard, the chorus has been invited to sing at the 80th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy Beach in France, summer of 2024. The first steps will soon begin, including plans for fundraising and spreading the news to our communities! Our hope is to have a full complement of singers along with the company of other family and friends to join us. Stay "tuned"!

# QUARTET MUSTER

## **Tune Struck**

The month of May was interesting for Tune Struck. It has been nice getting to where a performance set exists. We still seem to be struggling with the balance of secular verses religious songs.

In that vein, we received a request to sing for the National Day of Prayer event in Ripon, with the request to sing *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying.”* We were able to pull an arrangement together and learn it well enough to perform it in just three rehearsals. The event was very uplifting and we were proud to have been a part of it.



We also were pleased to be a part of the Portsmen's 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. The fact that there was a goodly number of Chapter quartets participating and singing well gives us both hope and chills (we are not THE quartet anymore).



We currently have nothing on the schedule, part of this is trips: Bob and Melinda took a Hawaiian Island Cruise, Bill will be going to New York to see Jordan star on Broadway, and Chuck and Isaura have lots of family things going on. Hoping to expand our secular repertoire.

## Royal Flush



Stephanie Thurman (Tenor), Chuck Thurman (Lead),  
Paul Grant (Bass) & Nancy Hennefer (Baritone)





## Expanding Our Horizons

Royal Flush had a good month participating in the FWD Northeast/Northwest Division Contest and singing at the Stockton Portsmen Annual Show. We scored a respectable 804 points (67.0) in the contest. It was our first official stage competition together since the 2020 Novice. We had fun at the Postmen Show sharing the spotlight with some fantastic singers! We feel we have made some great accomplishments. Now RF has decided to explore more of the A Cappella world and now has our sights set on the 2024 Harmony Sweepstakes Competition.



THREE  
LEADS  
and...  
ALAS!  




Rehearsal picture in Toole's Garage – Great Acoustics!

Dave Harmon (Baritone), Kitty Harmon (Tenor),  
Alex Bernal (Bass) & Tom Harmon (Lead)



We were very pleased with our debut show performance but recognize we can get better. We are working on solidifying the songs we know well and adding new ones. There are a couple of possible performances in the works, and we welcome suggestions on finding more.

## *Front Runner*

For a foursome of race fans that has only sung the Anthem a couple of times, singing on the Portsmen show was big step. The four of us have been working on "In My Life" off and on, without any serious effort, till we needed to get it down for the show. It was special to step out and share this song with everyone.



Al, Sue, Alex & Bill

Front Runner is looking forward to getting back to the track and the opportunity to sing the Anthem before the call to "start your engines!"

**More Show Pictures**

**Hunt Brothers**



**Joe, John, Bob & Bill**



**Claim Jumpers**



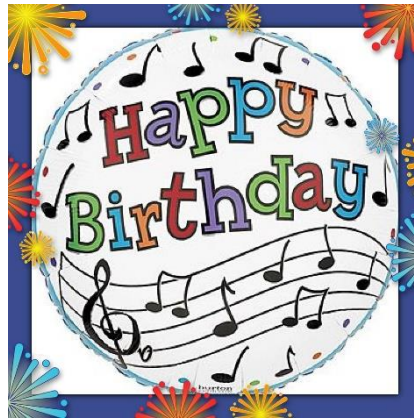
**Scott, Kent, Dave & Howard**

**Never Too Late**



**Kevin, Ken, Jean-Paul & Adam**

## Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus



### Celebrations

#### **June Birthdays**

Chuck Kenney 6/8

Bill Litz 6/22



*Presents The Annual Bean Feed  
A Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest*

**Wednesday, June, 14th 6pm**

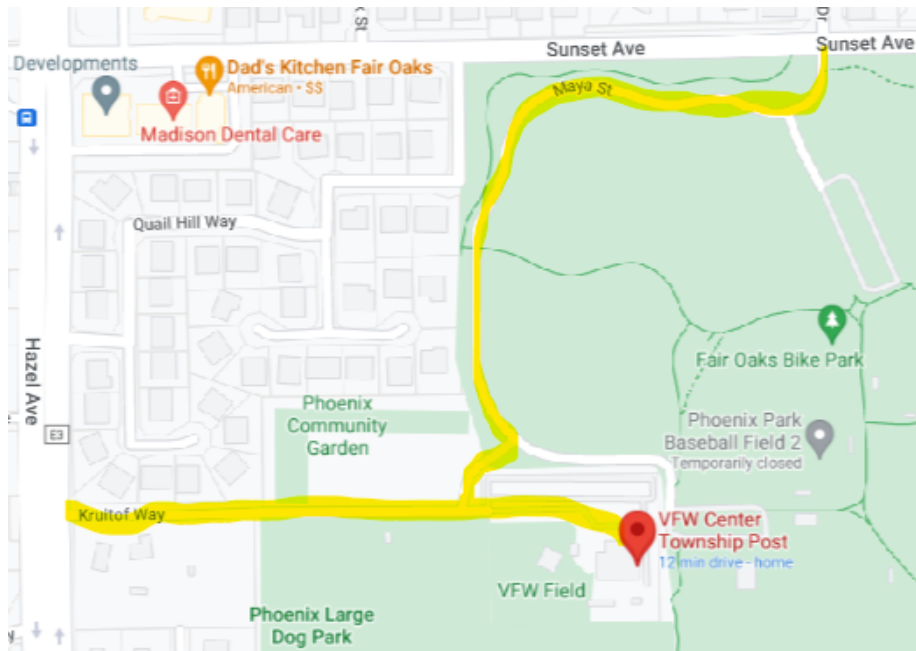
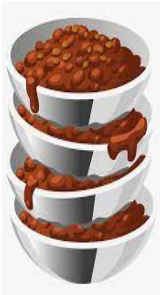
*At The VFW in Fair Oaks*

*8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628*

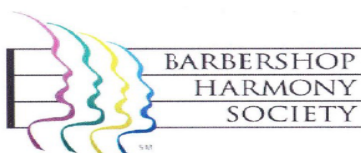
*Celebrating Over 30 Years of*

*Bean Feeds and Barbershop Quartet Contests*

*Tickets are \$10.00 at the door*



Folsom Harmony is a non-profit Organization





# *Celebrate* AMERICA July 3rd at 5pm

HUTCHINS STREET SQUARE - WEST PARK

*Pack a picnic and join*  
Master of Ceremonies Jeff Wayne Sutherland  
as we Celebrate America with live music from  
The Lodi Community Band &  
United States Air Force Band of the Golden West

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT  
DRESS IN RED, WHITE AND BLUE  
FLAGS FOR THE FIRST 500 GUESTS!





## 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 meeting nights)

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

See calendar for up-to-date information:

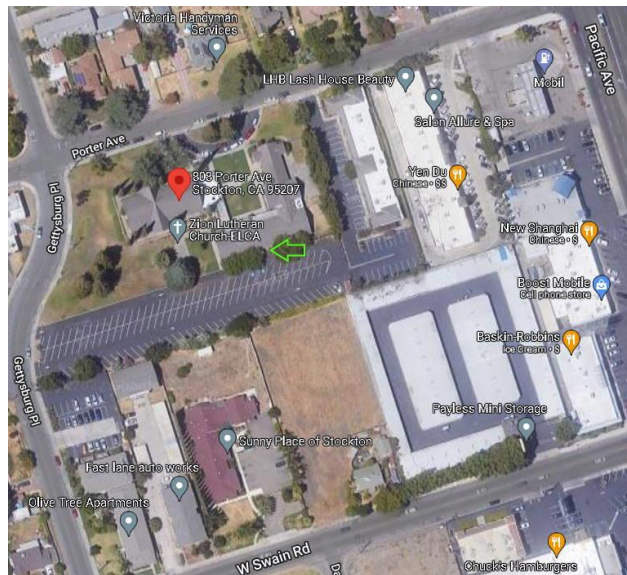
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### 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 Road, 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\*\***

- 6/4 Friend of the Fox Cinema Classis showing Strategic Air Command (12:45 pm – 1:30 pm or stay and watch the movie!)  
[Click for Link](#)
- 6/10 VoCal Show - A Little Old Fashioned Barbershop (*A Cappella at its best with The Ladies, 2023 Queens of Harmony, Artistic License, International Quartet finalist and Voices of California*) – 2 shows (2pm & 7pm) [Click Link for Tickets](#)
- 7/2-7/9 2023 International Convention (Louisville, Kentucky)
- 7/3 Celebrate America Hutchins Street Square (Lodi, CA) (5pm-7pm)
- 10/12 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Gilbert, AZ)
- 10/20-10/22 Harmony Camp 2023 (Sly Park) Teaching Quartet - Vocalocity

### **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/>