



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
November 2023 - Issue #52

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



THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

"ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?" – ISSUE 23

I have had a number of things cross my mind that I should share from my 'View for the Helm'. My idea for these missives is to educate and encourage, though I am far from a teacher and not always the most positive person.

How many of you watch the current batch of talent shows being offered; i.e., American Idol or The Voice? The Voice has become a staple in the Wolter household, as Donna has found it enjoyable. In the Battles - Round 2, Reba McEntire gave some sage advice to two young girls on her team that had to sing together – that being just singing words and notes will not get you far. You have to find the emotional connection to the meaning of those words. In rehearsals, these girls embodied those remarks and brought Reba to tears, but on-stage, nerves and whatever caused them to go back to the near emotionless presentation and the song was not near as effective for them.

I often say that I am the presentation guy, letting Bill worry about the words and notes. In that vein, I often encourage finding that collective emotional connection. We had an evaluation after a contest appearance that encouraged that same thing. As we really start to move forward to be "On to Normandy," we will really need to work hard to find those emotional connections as we will not be as able to rest on just words, some of our audience won't know or understand them. They will get the emotion though.

An item in this train of thought is driving, yeah totally out of left field – but here's the connection. Most of us have driven vehicles for years, some better than others. I am one that is observant of those driving around me, and I am amazed at the level of visual confidence (or lack thereof) of those driving around me. Since the pandemic, the quality of driving has really changed. Some of that is due to what new drivers are being taught, some is due to the trepidation that the pandemic instilled in some folks ('oh, we're gonna die'), and some is just the opposite. If a person can get an idea of the mindset of a driver by their physical appearance, how well can they sense what someone's song means to them (and it may truly NOT be what they are expecting to portray).

Bill has expressed concern about working on such a wide variety of songs, with Patriotic songs for Veterans Day, Holiday songs for the Holiday Harmonies Show and keeping the three big songs fresh in our minds (as well as figuring out what new Hollywood / WWII – Normandy Songs we need to start learning). I do agree to a point. I have been an advocate of keeping songs and adding a minimum amount over the years, but we have the three big songs we just added this year, the two new Holiday songs, and are looking at several new songs for April / June.

I think it is rather interesting that we have gone from the 'red-headed stepchild' of the FWD to a leader, with our trip only being a part. We will be hosting the Novice Contest; have been fairly active in supporting the Youth Harmony Camp(s); are a more than viable competitor in our division, with a reasonable opportunity to move up from AA Category; and one of the few growing Chapters. I find it very interesting that our District appearance and win as the first mixed chorus keeps popping up on Facebook.

So, if you are not experienced yet, I do believe we all will be by this time next year, and I for one am looking forward to it.

Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

A recent experience made me want to take some time to talk about quartet singing. Many members of the *Portsmen* have performed in quartets doing everything from tag quartetting in a chorus rehearsal or doing a singing valentine to competing at levels from novice to district.

I'll start by saying thank you to some quartets that I might take for granted since they have been around for a while:

- **The Forget-Me-Notes** (formerly known as *The Mall Walkers*) with **Joan Ray** being the only remaining member still active in the chorus, had members dating back to inception of the *Portsmen*. They developed their own repertoire while making sure to know the chorus songs to be a foundation of the chorus.
- **Tune Struck** currently made up of **Al Wolter**, **Chuck Roots**, **Bill Litz**, and **Bob Yater** have been a part of the *Portsmen* for twenty years. They should be commended for their influence performing in the community and being the *new core* of the *Portsmen*.
- **Royal Flush** are the next generation to influence the *Portsmen*. They are the first chapter quartet in many years to qualify for District Competition while still using their talents to drive the chorus toward A level quality.
- **3 Lads and Alas!** Our newest quartet employing **Kitty Harmon**, **Tom Harmon**, **Dave Harmon** and our newest *Portsmen*, **Willys Nitschke** have reminded me how special quartetting can be.

Not to make light of the accomplishments of any of the *Portsmen* quartets, past or present, this article will detail the joy **3 Lads and Alas!** has brought me. I hope they can inspire each of you to quartet. To start let me make a few observations about their personnel even though I know so little about each of them.

- **Dave** has the most barbershop experience and is a very good baritone, but just as most baritones are invisible, he's been one of those members of the chorus that is a silent influence. I'm so much more aware of his skill and what he brings to this quartet and to the *Portsmen*.

- **Kitty** has a shy demeanor but isn't afraid to speak to important things. She probably has the least barbershop experience....whoops, maybe a little more than *Willys*, but *Kitty* has only been singing barbershop for a year or two. She is a clear and accurate tenor and as she gains confidence, she is a personality that we want to get to know.
- **Tom** has a song in his heart of gold every moment of every day. Even though he is a member of *Voices Of California* (and has been their president), he didn't come to the *Portsmen* with a strong quartet background. Not that long ago, in an impromptu contest, Tom had an impossible time finding his first note to start the song. He has come so far in the last year to not let moments of failure hold him back and he is letting us see the depth of his emotion as he leads this quartet.
- **Willys**What can I say about a two month old barbershopper stepping out to sing his first public quartet performance in a headliner position on the *Folsom* show!!! As is true with many barbershoppers, *Willys* had music training through at least high school playing in the high school band. I don't know what he's done in the forty years since then, but his musicianship is incredible as is the richness of his bass voice. His presence in the *Portsmen* catapulted the capabilities of *3 Lads and Alas!* beyond what anyone expected.

After winning the **Nor-Cal East Novice** crown with **Alex Bernal** as their bass, *3 Lads and Alas!* had the savvy to recognize the talent of the new kid on the block and the confidence to bring *Willys* into the fold. With the *Folsom* show just over the horizon, they worked together to use the *Portsmen* library of songs to put together an entertaining set worthy of the headliner spot they were to fill. Honestly, I was shocked at the program they were able to put together.

I'm sure they had plenty of ups and downs in rehearsing, ultimately putting any worries or fears aside to find success. Maybe their encouragement of each other completely overshadowed the trepidation they might have each felt. Or maybe they were just having so much fun, they didn't have time for fears to surface. I challenge each of them to write up their story of their journey to share with us in a future *Captain's Log*.

I hope they can be an inspiration to each of you to try quartetting. Put aside feelings of inadequacy and worries about how to put something together. Stop waiting for someone to invite you to sing in a quartet. Our *Very Large Quartet (VLQ)* sessions after regular quartet rehearsals are the perfect opportunity to explore what it feels like to be in a quartet. Take advantage of that and ask three other people to sing a song or tag.

You might not have the time to commit to a registered quartet, but you will enjoy developing the skills and confidence to:

- sing a tag at a convention
- deliver a Singing Valentine
- perform in a step out quartet
- fill in for a missing quartetter
- sing in a novice contest
- or maybe find a group that wants to go to contest or perform around town

Singing barbershop style music comes pretty easy in a chorus environment, but as you get comfortable singing in the chorus, make an opportunity to experience singing in a quartet. It will change your view of barbershop and inspire you to greater performances.

Just Do It....



Celebrations

Belated October Birthdays

Megan Litz-Kjelstrom – 10/9

Kitty Harmon – 10/11

Ron Spohn – 10/15

Rosie Estrella – 10/17

November Birthdays

Al Wolter – 11/7

Bob Yater – 11/23

Board of Supervisors

Certificate of Recognition

Presented to

STOCKTON PORTSMEN BARBERSHOP CHORUS

In Recognition of

Your Invitation to Perform at the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion in France in 2024 is an Example of How You Exemplify the Values of Harmony, Unity and Community Spirit Through Your Exceptional Musical Performances. Furthermore Your Continued Showcasing of Incredible Talent at Events Such as the Bob Hope Fox Theater, Friends of the Fox Classic Movie Series, Stockton Ports Games, Stockton Heat Games, Asparagus Festival, Lodi Grape Festival, Celebrate America at Hutchins Street Square, Veterans Day Celebrations, and the Installation of New Officers for the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department Displays Your Continued Dedication to the Preservation and Promotion of the Art of Barbershop Harmony Which Has Touched the Hearts of all Who Have Experienced the Pleasure of Your Performances.

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Extends Its Deepest Gratitude For Your Many Years of Service to the Community!

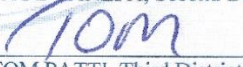
Presented this 10th Day of October 2023




ROBERT RICKMAN, Chairman, Fifth District



MIGUEL VILLAPUDUA, Vice-Chair, First District


PAUL CANEPA, Second District


TOM PATTI, Third District


STEVEN J. DING, Fourth District

Members of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of San Joaquin
State of California


San Joaquin County

...On to Normandy Update:

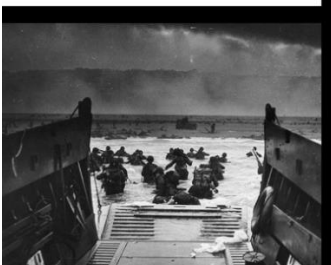
President Al, Director Bill and yours truly were able to meet our "team" from Music Celebrations International (MCI) via Zoom. The plans for our trip are coming together, although the itinerary is still fluid. Speaking for myself, the call just got me more excited about our travels! Yes, there is still a lot to do, but it will be worth it!

Members who want to upgrade their flight are encouraged to do it soon. Otherwise, MCI will be booking us onto the same flight out of San Francisco on June 4th. I encourage you to check out their web site and their Facebook page.

Plans for the November 9th Sponsor's Gala are in full swing. Kitty, Tom, Dave, and I have been busy securing auction items, cash donations, writing thank you letters, item descriptions and bid sheets, and figuring out the logistics for the Van Ruiten Winery. At this writing, there have been nearly \$3000.00 in cash donations and about \$5,000.00 worth of auction items. Thank you also to Regina, Al F and Joan for their efforts. We will be able to take credit cards for purchases, thanks to Al Farnum and his efforts in getting our Normandy account set up at Farmers and Merchants Bank. To be a success, the event will take all hands-on deck. There will be friends and family anxious to hear us sing, bid on their favorite items and to support the chorus. Keep passing out those invites!



Thursday
November 9th, 2023
5:30PM-7:30PM
Van Ruiten Winery
340 W. Hwy 12,
Lodi, CA



You are cordially invited to join us for an evening of fun, including catered refreshments, a silent auction, and live entertainment.

All proceeds will support the Portsmen performances in Normandy, France for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in June of 2024.

RSVP's requested by
November 1st
209-881-7464
info@StocktonPortsmen.org

Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

.....ON TO NORMANDY – FUNDRAISER

Join us for an evening of fun, including refreshments from Papapavlos, silent auction, and live entertainment. All proceeds to support the Portsmen performance in Normandy France for the 80th Anniversary Invasion and Liberation, June 2024.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2023

5:30 pm-7:30 pm

VAN RUITEN WINERY

340 W Highway 12, Lodi, CA 95242

Please RSVP by November 1st

209-881-7464 (Sing)

info@StocktonPortsmen.org



[Click link to see the Portsmen... On to Normandy video](#)

Quartet Updates

Three Lads and ALAS!

Three Lads and Alas! had a double debut in October—our first performance with our new bass Willys Nitschke and our first ever show performance, at the Folsom Harmony Express annual recital. We had a great time and the audience seemed to be appreciative. Now we are preparing for the Gold Rush cabaret show in Placerville (on November 18th—come see us) and getting ready for Christmas, hoping to have several opportunities to sing HolidayGrams. Tom, Dave, and Kitty are also on the Normandy Fundraising Committee and are working with Nancy Hennefer of Royal Flush on the November 9th Gala. A busy time for us!



Tune Struck

Seems we are a bit 'hot' & 'cold' these days. Part of our quiet month of October is harvest season, where Bob is consumed with preparations and the like to harvest walnuts, well Al helps a little. We did start to get back into the rhythm in rehearsals for the end of the month.

The very end of the month holds the promise of lots of performances, starting with a pre-Halloween trip to Ripon. We met a couple of residents on our First Responders Walk and, as at least one resident is a long-time member of Chuck's Church, they lobbied to have us come and perform. One of the special treats was having Anna, a 104 year-young resident, whose father and husband had both been members of a quarter. They were a wonderful audience and we all agreed to a return engagement, maybe next spring.



Royal Flush news

Royal Flush has doubled up on rehearsals in preparing for the November 18th, Gold Country Cabaret and the Holiday Harmonies Show in December. We are pushing ourselves to learn some intricate and interesting arrangements of new music. We are realizing when to press on and when to postpone! A new experience was an Anthem Sing at the 99 Speedway, with the help of Al W. as the bass. (Chuck and Steph even got caught kissing on the track.) We are hoping to be able to deliver some Holiday Grams in December!



Festival of Trees Update:

The Stockton Portsmen will once again have a tree on display at the Micke Grove Festival of Trees in December. The theme will be.....well, of course, ...On to Normandy. Decorations will consist of ornaments and items reflecting D.Day, 1944. The tree will be set up and decorated on Nov 28 and/or 29th. All are welcome to come help.



The Stockton Portsmen
Barbershop Chorus

Proudly Presents

"Holiday Harmonies"
Songs of the Season

December 9th @ 2:30PM

Tickets: \$20 General Admission

Kids 12 and under are Free

Zion Lutheran Church
800 W. Porter Avenue
Stockton CA

209-881-SING (7464)

StocktonPortsmen.org

2024 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest



FOR REGISTRATION FORMS
AND CONTEST RULES GO TO:
WWW.STOCKTONPORTSMEN.ORG



EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
INFO@STOCKTONPORTSMEN.ORG
OR CALL 209-881-7464

THERE WILL BE 2 CATEGORIES:

- 1) REGULAR (ANY 4 BHS MEMBERS)
- 2) HIGHSCHOOL (ANY 4 STUDENTS)

\$10 PER QUARTET MEMBER

\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

JANUARY 30TH

MAXIMUM OF **20** QUARTETS

**The Marin
Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus
presents**



Beatles! Beach Boys! Barbershop!



TICKETS:
Scan here
or go to
tickets.marincenter.org
or any chorus member
\$35 / junior \$25 includes fees



*A show celebrating
two of the greatest
groups of the '60's*

**Sunday 2pm
November 5, 2023
The Showcase Theatre
at the Marin Center**



Presents the

“...and Friends”

CABARET

A Barbershop Harmony Event

Performing Alongside
Gold Rush Chorus:

our house quartets

Panning for Chords
El Dorado Gold
Claim Jumpers



and our friends

Escapade
3 Lads and Alas
Royal Flush



Saturday, November 18

6:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)

American Legion Hall Post 119
4561 Greenstone Road
Placerville, CA 95667



TICKETS

\$15 Adults
\$5 Students

Contact Howard

email: howtekinc@gmail.com
or call: (530) 647-6513 to Venmo

Tickets purchased in advance
can be picked up at Will Call.



JOIN US

for the after-show

Afterglow

at Round Table Pizza
3370 Coach Lane
Cameron Park

— T H E —
F O G C I T Y
S I N G E R S
present

Celestial Jies

Two performances:

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16
San Francisco, St. Mark's Lutheran, 8 PM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18
Oakland, St. Paul's Episcopal, 2 PM

HOLLYWOOD
Harmonies
For the Holidays
Presented by Voices of California

Saturday, December 2, 2023
2:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.

Performances by:
VoCal
VOICES OF CALIFORNIA

The Muses • Brassy!
Sacramento Valley Chorus

Tickets: VIP \$35 / General \$25 / Student \$12.50
Purchase at: voicesofcalifornia.org

Richard Brunelle Performance Hall
Davis Senior High School
314 West 14th Street, Davis, CA 95616

Voices of California is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Grace Hall)

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:

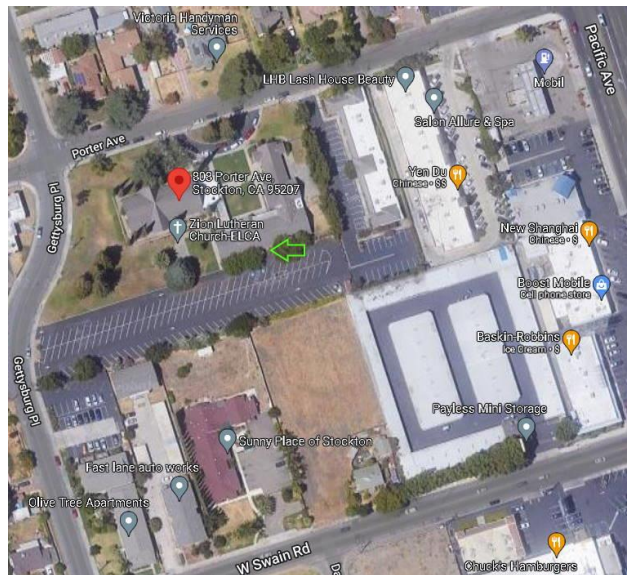
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

****SAVE THE DATE****

- 11/9 Sponsor Gala - Silent Auction Fundraiser
(4pm – 8pm – Van Ruiten Winery)
- 11/18 Gold Rush Chorus "...and Friends" Cabaret (Placerville, CA) - 6pm
- 12/2-12/3 Festival of Trees (Micke Grove - Lodi, CA)
- 12/2 Voices of California - Hollywood Harmonies (Davis, CA) – 2pm
- 12/9 Stockton Portsmen Holiday Show
- 12/10 Bob Hope Theater Friends of the Fox (Stockton, CA)

2024

- 3/14-3/17 2023 FWD Spring Convention, NorCal Divisions (TBD)
- 6/4 – 6/12 **D-Day 80th Commemoration Concert Tour**
- 10/17-10/20 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Bakersfield, 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/>