



# The Captain's Log

The Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman  
May 2018 - Issue #2

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>



**Mixed Chorus & Mixed  
Quartet Opportunities  
Students Welcome!!!**

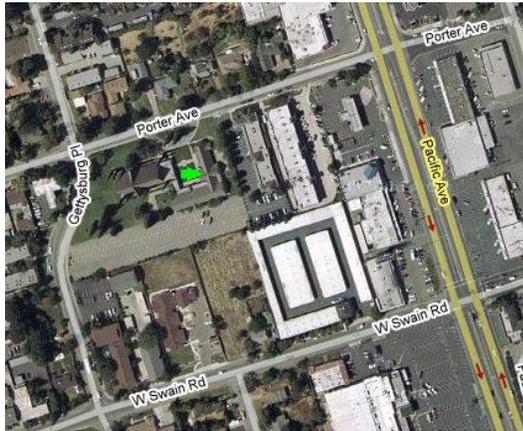
## **Weekly Chapter Meetings:**

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.

## **President's Message: By Harry Williams**

History was made in Brentwood on the 14th of April. The *Stockton Portsmen Mixed Barbershop Chapter* competed; "yes" I said competed at the NE/NW Division Convention. It's been many years since our last competition. And we have a new chapter name.

The chapter decided to have the Portsmen join the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association. We had a very good representation from the chapter; we sang well and were 5th in the placements. The judges were helpful during the evaluations, and we received a video of our performance that we will use to grow our awesome sound and performance skills. We all had a good time.

Lots of good performance opportunities are coming up in May: Ports Game national anthem, Lodi and Tracy Street Fairs, Memorial Day sing at Cherokee Cemetery, and our end-of-month guest night. Check the chapter calendar on our revised web site: <https://www.brownbearsw.com/cal/Portsmen>

We hope local high school and college music students will join us during summer vacation.

A great summer lies ahead. See you at Chapter. President Harry Williams

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

I'd like to welcome you all to the NEW & IMPROVED Stockton Portsmen Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association Chorus! I'm sure you've noticed the theme and focus of issue #2 leaning toward our new identification, embracing our mixed configuration - not apologizing for it.

As we have asked more from ourselves over the past few weeks, I have been amazed at what each of us IS capable of. I've seen: expressive faces; fluid, genuine body movements; and a more relaxed but focused and energized stance. I've heard: dynamics; improved singing quality; better intonation and balance of chords; phrases, not just notes and words. This is all paying dividends of more fun for each of us that I can't wait to see translating into entertaining and touching our next audience.

What's different?

I believe that in trusting each other as a group, each of us is daring to do things we didn't know we could. We might be afraid to sing too loud (or soft). We might be embarrassed to let our face show emotion. We might feel gawky in even making the smallest movements. But together, we have the support and power to deliver a moving message and take people on a journey through song.

What's next?

Don't let our personal fears limit what we can do together. Let's continue stretching our individual skills, giving energy and drawing confidence from our neighbors every time we sing. Together we will reach new levels of artistry in our performance as The Portsmen evolve into the musical organization that is fun for us and of which we can be proud.

Bill

## **Chorus Craft: By John Eilers**

Varying your singing volume when asked by your director is an important skill in Chorus. Volume is rated from 1 to 10 for voice. A typical low volume might be 2 or 3, while a high volume might be 8 or 9.

One must always be careful not to put pressure in your voice when increasing volume. Pressure leads to distorting your sound which can hinder a ringing chord.

Another factor in volume changes is a good support of air. Air support is needed at low volume as well as high volume. Project your voice further out in front of your forehead. Focusing the sound in front of you with air support, you can increase volume without pressure.

## Member Spotlight

How I've enjoyed the fun of singing.

By: Dave Harmon

(2017 Barbershopper of the Year)

I've been singing with the Portsmen for nearly three years. Previous musical experience includes high school and college marching band (trumpet), fraternity song team in college, and 35 years of singing tenor in several church choirs. Among my most enjoyable memories are rolls in two great musicals at Stockton Civic Theater. My first vocal experience occurred at UOP Music Camp in 1955 when as an instrumentalist we were all required to audition for the mandatory Music Camp Choir. Prior to that I mistakenly thought singing was only for people with "good voices."

That summer camp experience taught me that anyone who can carry a tune can quickly learn to read music and enjoy blending their voices with others. This opened the door for me to develop and revere a most rewarding lifetime hobby. Now, 60 years later, I still love every minute I can set aside to nurture my limited vocal talent, and do it with great friends in a safe, congenial environment where good times and encouragement abound. It is truly a blessing.

Among the highlights of these last three years with The Portsmen are: Participating in the heart-rending patriotic Memorial Day services at Lodi's Cherokee Cemetery; singing our National Anthem at Stockton Ports baseball games; performing before enthusiastic audiences at our local barbershop harmony shows; competing with talented quartets and choruses from other N. California chapters; and regularly feeling the rush of emotion as 15 or 20 vigorous voices blend in uniquely close harmony every time we gather for rehearsal under the professional-quality direction and encouragement of our own maestro, Bill Litz.

Since we are a "mixed chorus", we're more inclusive than most BHS Society chapters, and couples have an opportunity to enjoy this hobby together. Of course we are always inviting others to drop in and check us out during Tuesday night rehearsals at 7:00 pm at Stockton's Zion Lutheran Church.

## Chorus News:

The chorus had an amazing time in Brentwood at the Northeast & Northwest Division Convention on April 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful day where we spent time together singing & laughing with family & friends. Only 4 members had experience from prior competitions. Due to this experience the Chorus plans to commit and work harder on vocals and presentation.



Joan Ray, John Eilers, Victoria Chrys, Carol Clark



Joan Ray, Sue Atkins, Chuck Thurman, Dave Harmon & Al Farnum



Nick Adams, his daughter Beth & friend Bob.

Beth & Bob came out for day to support Nick & the chorus. We are very fortunate and appreciative for our supportive family members & friends.

## Quartet News:

### TuneStruck

Website: <http://tunestruckquartet.com/>

Follow us on Facebook

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



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

TuneStruck skipped the April contest in Brentwood, but above is the picture of them to reminisce about last year's event.

They'd much rather sing for you than spend the day doing a contest. Contact them to add some barbershop entertainment to your next event.

### 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/>

### Mixed Meta4



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

- Mixed Meta4 has been helping with the polecat qualifications.
- We rehearse on Thursday afternoons with the optimistic hope that we can represent the chapter at functions where a smaller group can fill the bill!
- Our Portsmen web site mentioned Singing Valentines; and a woman contacted President Harry Williams, and asked if we had a quartet who would sing for her mother the Friday before Mother's Day. Our quartet said sure!!! This might be another good chorus fundraiser.
- Communication media is working for us all. Thank you Chuck Thurman and Sue Atkins and any others who helped update our web exposure.

## **Polecat Qualifications**

**Joan Ray Assistant Chorus Director**

- The **Barberpole Cat Songbook** is a collection of old time favorites. They are meant to encourage quartet activity at chapter meetings. They also provide barbershoppers with a common repertoire that they can sing with any three other Society members at inter-chapter activities.
- Polecat qualifications are held 6:15 – 6:45 pm before chorus. They will continue until May 22; May 29 is a Guest Night.
- **Stephanie Thurman** has completed her qualifications. Pins will be awarded at the summer picnic. There are now 10 members who have at least one pin.
- **Carol Clark, Harry Williams, and Al Farnum** are still working on theirs. **Chuck Thurman** is now working on his second polecat qualification as a baritone – WOW.
- Carol is the last tenor to qualify. **We tenors challenge the other sections to all qualify.**
- CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU WHO COME EARLY TO SUPPORT OUR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.

## **Forget Me Notes:**

### **Meetings:**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays

Sherwood Mall Food Court, South End

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

## **\*\*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)

## **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](mailto:kborrow@comcast.net) Click on this email if you want to receive the monthly newsletter.



Stockton Portsmen  
Youth In Harmony Programs

With the school year drawing to a close, now is a good time to remind student and teachers you rub elbows with that the Portsmen have open rehearsals that anyone may attend to join in the fun of singing. This can be a good avenue for the students to keep in vocal shape over the summer while getting a chance to perform at local festivals, concerts and sporting events.

Have them visit our YIH page for details about special programs like:

[Youth Harmony Camp](#) - September 21-23, 2018 - Pollock Pines and [Adventures In Music Weekend for the young women](#) - Early 2019 - Sacramento.

**\*\*Save the Dates\*\***

**2018 Events**

- May 5 Lodi Hospice Kentucky Derby Fundraiser (TuneStruck)
- May 5 Golden Valley Chorus Spring Show The Melody Lingers On a Tribute to Irving Berlin  
Modesto Junior College Auditorium  
7:00 PM  
[www.gvc.org](http://www.gvc.org)
- May 6 Lodi St Fair (Chorus)  
(7:00 AM – 4:00 PM)
- May 12 Tracy St Fair (Chorus)  
(7:00 AM – 3:00 PM)

- May 19 VoCal Voices of California presents Dreams of Gold  
Harris Center for the Arts  
(2:00 PM & 7:00 PM)  
<http://www.voicesofcalifornia.org/>
- June 12 Nevada Placer Chapter Presents:  
The Twenty-Eighth Annual John Gurule Memorial “Somewhat Serious” Quartet Contest and Bean Feed  
(see flyer attached).
- Jul 1 BHS International Convention**  
(Orlando, Florida)  
(July 1 – 8, 2018)
- TBD Fall Show (Fall 2018)
- Oct 10 FWD Fall Convention October**  
(Fresno CA)  
(October 11 – 14, 2018)

**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)
- TBD Far Western District (2019)**

**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/>

# NEVADA PLACER CHAPTER PRESENTS!

## THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL

*John Gurulé Memorial*

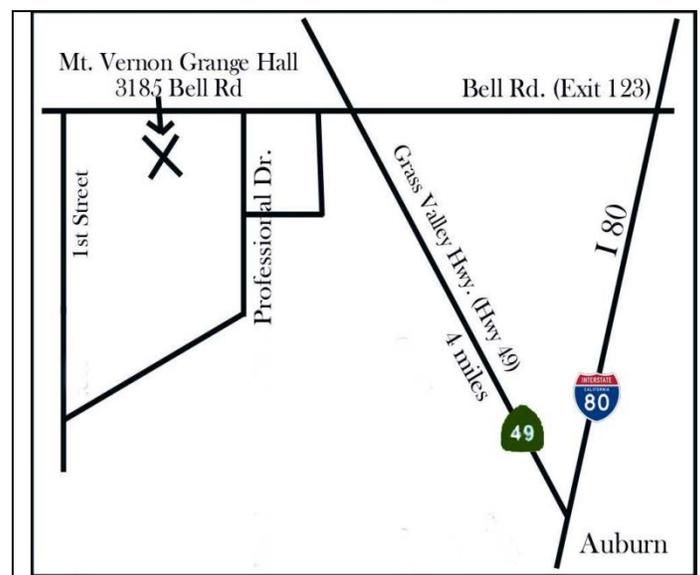
# “SOMEWHAT SERIOUS” QUARTET CONTEST and BEAN FEED

DATE: June 12, 2018  
TIME: 6:00 p.m. DINNER  
7:00 p.m. CONTEST  
LOCATION: MT. VERNON GUILD HALL  
3185 BELL RD., AUBURN, CA

ADMISSION & DINNER: \$10.00  
DRINKS EXTRA

### CONTEST RULES

1. Quartet must have a name
2. No more than two members from a registered, organized or winning quartet
3. Quartet sings only one song
4. A man may sing in three quartets but must change part in third.
5. Matching attire optional
6. Limited to 25 entries



MC: RICHARD LUND

JUDGES: ATRIA QUARTET

### SOMEWHAT SERIOUS QUARTET CONTEST ENTRY FORM

QUARTET NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME

CHAPTERS

TENOR: \_\_\_\_\_

LEAD: \_\_\_\_\_

Bari: \_\_\_\_\_

Bass: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: NEVADA PLACER SIERRANADERS, PO Box 4400, Auburn, CA 95602