



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

June 2022 - Issue #35



President's Message:

By Al Wolter

THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

MISSION SUCCESS! – ISSUE 6

Kudos to you all! Our performance at the Spring Prelims and Chorus Festival showed the progress that has been made by each of you. I will say that the core of us that have met during the Pandemic made a lot of progress in the execution & confidence of our parts. As I mentioned last month, there is a lot of training that goes into our craft. Going from low 60s to high 60s is really a big step. The fact that the rehearsals following, working on our Patriotic Set for Memorial Day, we sang with the same execution of our craft is also a success to our mission.

Now I know there will be at least one of you reading this will say “hey, that doesn’t follow with our published ‘Mission Statement.’” For those that don’t know or remember, our official Mission Statement is: “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.” Much like a military organization, this is our overall mission, with lots of smaller missions in support of the larger overall mission. The Contest was a mission to evaluate the quality of our chorus music and singing for Memorial Day provides that quality chorus music to the greater Stockton area in the form of wholesome family ‘entertainment.’ Being able to use good singing craft in all we sing only enhances the quality of our songs.

I want to take a moment and point out some of the other benefits we received by participating in the Prelim event. First, it demonstrated to the District that not only are we, the Portsmen, alive and well – but also an invaluable asset in the support of these events. Richard Lund had already stated that he would share any proceeds with both California Delta (VoCal), Central California (GVC) and us, but I don’t think he would need the help we provided. With many VoCal members testing positive and their somewhat protective stance they took regarding their new risers, our ability, flexibility and willingness made his life much easier, and he told me as much several times.

Second, it gave our new folks a special opportunity to see and experience Barbershop in a new way. Seeing other quartets and choruses is always a good thing for all of us (what do we know and what are they doing in regard to that?). I know that **Brad** and **Isiah** had a great time afterwards singing with **Mike Stewart** and **Randy Myers**. Our hobby is special in that a multi-time **District Champion** and the **District Vice President of Contest and Judging** will happily sing Polecats and tags with new members.

Before I close, there is the opportunity to sing in the District Chorus Contest at the Fall Convention in Fresno. There are no previous score requirements to enter, it is a ‘first registered – first in’ kind of thing, knowing that there will be a cap to the number of entries. While the powers that be think that there will be a mad rush to enter, I am not sure – still it would be better to register early than late. So, I am asking you: “do you want to compete in Fresno?” It will mean registering as a competitor, likely paying for a hotel room, paying for gas and working on two songs to push us into the 70’s. I will say that **Diana** has already thrown her hat into the ring, saying she would fly back again just to do it.

Still, my view from the helm is looking like calm seas and following winds – best you can ask for.

Musical Director's Message: By Bill Litz

I'm excited about the growth we've had this last year. Growth in adding new people. Growth in improving the quality of our product and growth in developing interpersonal relationships between each other. All those things reflect change. Change can be scary. Change can be unbridled and out of control taking on a life of its own. Change can force us to look at our shortcomings as an organization and as individuals. Even though we say that we want to grow as an organization, many times we have a vision that DOESN'T include change and stays safely entrenched in things we already know.

As we continue to grow, I think it's important to have a flexible attitude and positive mindset that gives change a chance to succeed. We all have varying knowledge and skills that we've built up over time. Let's not let those be walls that limit what we can do as we grow. New members have knowledge and skills that can reinforce things that we are already trying to achieve, but they may also have new ideas, skills and energy that can help us improve.

As new and potential new members "give us a try" – really, who is auditioning for who – let's keep our eyes and ears open for the positive things they have to offer. I love the opportunity saying "yes" permits.

- Yes, to new songs that make us sound appealing
- Yes, to new songs that stretch our performing skills
- Yes, to trying new ways to learn and to teach
- Yes, to making new friends, seeing the good in them
- Yes, to trying a new part as we need skills in different areas
- Yes, to reaching out to new audiences

Let's look forward to each meeting; each new face; each new song; each new performance; each joy that successfully navigating change brings.

TUNE STRUCK QUARTET

The month of May was actually quite busy for both versions of Tune Struck, with a total of five different performances (well six with both sessions of the Contest/Festival). First, Version 2 sang the Anthem for the UOP Tiger Baseball Game against the University of San Diego.

That was our warm-up for the return of the Annual Hospice of San Joaquin County Kentucky Derby Fundraiser. Always a good time, and being able to sing 29 songs makes the time fly by. The highlight this year was singing with Jennifer Lind, woodshedding harmonies to Under the Boardwalk.



Sadly, this is most likely the last gigs of Version 2. But we are looking forward to a June BBQ to send the Hedges' off to Kansas and start a new tradition with the Roots'.

Version 3 kicked off the Month with the afore mentioned two performances at the FWD International Preliminary Quartet Contest. Finishing with a solid 60 score was respectable for a quartet that had been together for essentially two months.



Next up was Version 3's first trip to Banner Island Field and the Anthem for the Stockton Ports. It is always fun to warm up with songs as the fans file in the gate, especially when they are friends like Erica Kleinert and her camera shy husband Brandon.



Lastly, we had the pleasure of introducing ourselves to Chuck's extended family at their family reunion. Due to not having a lot of songs down cold, we actually needed spots for a couple, but we had a good time and those gathered seemed to enjoy our offerings, though our white and shiny legs may have scared a few.



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

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

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

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

See calendar for up-to-date information:

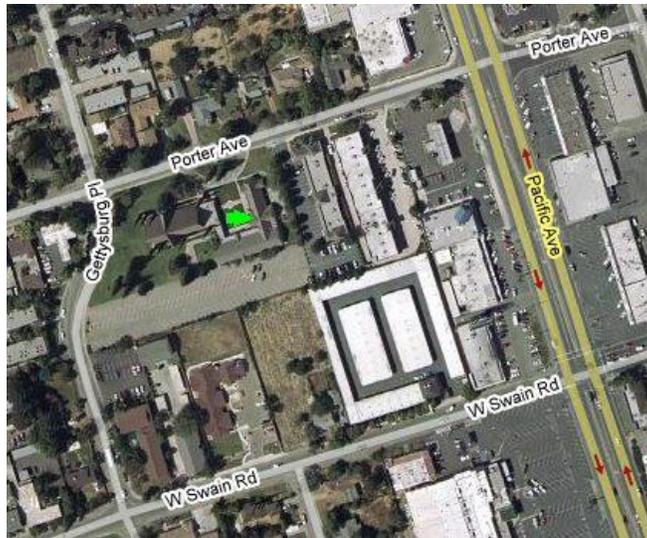
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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
- Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

****SAVE THE DATE****

- 6/10 National Anthem @ Stockton Ports Game (6pm arrival – sing at 7pm) – Chorus
- 6/16 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 7/3 Celebrate America Hutchins Street Square (Lodi, CA) (5pm – 7pm)
- 7/3 – 7/10 International Convention (Charlotte, NC) [Link to see jam-packed schedule](#)
- 7/15 Friends of the Fox Cinema Classics (Independence Day)
(Doors open at 6pm) – Chorus
- 7/21 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 8/18 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 9/15 Sacramento Harmony for Lunch Bunch (11am – 1pm)
- 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)

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/>