



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

December 2024 - Issue #64



Performing in the lobby at the Bob Hope Theatre  
Friends of the Fox - November Classic Film PT-109  
Photo taken by Richard Yates at Capture Culture Films

## THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

BY AL WOLTER

### THE END OF THE ROAD - ISSUE 36

This missive has been rolling around in my head for a long time. Over the past few years, especially when I was a VP, my messages were titled by snippets or titles of songs that related to what I was trying to say.



There are two songs that have lived in the back of my mind – it's a long story as to why sad songs resonate with me: 'Alone Again, Naturally' and 'I'm Always Chasing Rainbows' are a couple besides 'The End of the Road' that have always had a place in my psyche.

I write this, knowing that this is the end of my commission as Ship's Pilot. This means that I will pass my control of the Helm over to Nancy Hennefer, who will help our Captain Bill Litz traverse the channels of 2025.

I will say that the last three years have seen a lot, and yet things have not deviated far from our norm. WE are still a Chapter of around 35, a chorus of around 18 (yes, we have had more than a few performances at 21), and a Chapter that is focused on family and community. I am pleased that I helped guide us through the COVID reconstruction years with positivity and support for the long-range life of not only the Chapter, but the District and the Society.

As I write this, we are looking at our 20th-some visit to Micke Grove for the Festival of Trees and our Holiday Show, while planning Singing Valentines, the 2025 NorCal Novice Contest, and our 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Show (this should have been higher, as we just celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – thank you COVID). Lots of positive things, while still basking in the afterglow of our trip to Normandy, France to observe and honor the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, our first hosting of Novice, successful Valentines, Shows and appearances throughout the community. To say that our navigation of our seas has been successful is easily a 'no-brainer'.

As my voice is coming to an end, it's not gone (much to the chagrin of many, I am sure) - just no longer in a place of authority, "I will say one thing to..." the new board – our current headings have been true and can send us to lands of plenty. That doesn't mean that other lands would not be more inviting, but don't be fooled by enticing images.

January 7<sup>th</sup> will be our 'Change of Command' Ceremony. Nancy; as a past Chapter President, knows the drill, still will need all your support. The current aspect of non-profit and more importantly, Barbershop Harmony, life means that what was good then is no longer good and what worked then no longer works. I hope that we keep our family and community focused vision, while working to be ever better and challenging ourselves with more modern and difficult charts and still embracing the square and good ol' barbershop songs (PoleCat I and Yuletide Favorites).

As I close out my last “View” I want to say that this has been an exceptional term. All those things we did made me proud. The issues that they created make me sad and embarrassed. The family members we lost make me sad, especially those that we will only sing with in the heavenly chorus. The family we gained, or welcomed back, make me smile and wonder what all we can do to ensure they and everyone else will remain with us. Over the years, there has always been a discussion about new verses existing member – how do we gain – keep them. I believe we all know the answer – it is what the Portsmen family is: LOVE.

### **Musical Director’s Message:**

**By Bill Litz**

As we close out this year, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we’ve accomplished together. This year has been one of growth, dedication, and heart—and I couldn’t be prouder of each and every one of you.

From our weekly rehearsals to the many performances in a variety of styles that brought smiles and joy to so many, your passion for barbershop music has been a beautiful thing to behold. We’ve faced challenges, but we’ve also overcome them as a unified team, lifting each other up and pushing forward with a shared goal of musical excellence.

The energy you bring to every practice, the effort you put into improving your craft, and the camaraderie that makes this chorus more than just a group of singers, these are the things that make this experience so special. You’ve made this year unforgettable, and the work we’ve done together will set the stage for an even brighter future.

As we look ahead to the new year, let’s take pride in all we’ve achieved and use it as fuel to reach even greater heights. I’m excited about what’s to come and for the music we will continue to make together.

Thank you for your hard work, your time, and most of all, your love for this chorus and the music we create. Wishing each of you a wonderful holiday season and a joyful new year filled with music, growth, and continued success.



Veteran's Day Celebration at Bob Hope Theatre  
photo taken by Ulmer Photo - Tim Ulmer



## Celebrations

### **December Birthdays**

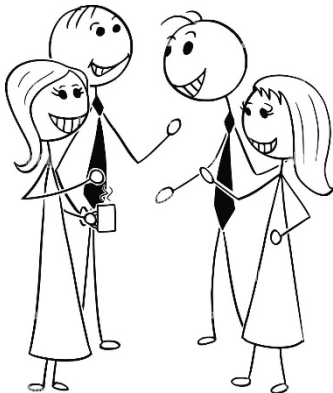
Tom Harmon – 12/5  
Harry Williams – 12/11  
Christian Hagan – 12/15  
Von Wallin – 12/17  
Carol Walker – 12/20  
Steve Yund – 12/23

## Farewell, Three Lads and Alas!

We regretfully announce that this will be the last article regarding Three Lads and Alas! as the quartet will be disbanding at the end of the year due to the relocation of Kitty (tenor) and Tom (lead).

It has been a wonderful ride, and we're not quite done yet. Our final performances will be the Wells Fargo retiree Christmas luncheon and the Portsman Christmas show. Some of our fondest quartet memories include winning the Northeast Division Novice Quartet Championship, performing for civic groups, and the wonderful camaraderie that fills our rehearsals. Tom and Kitty will keep singing in Arizona, and Dave and Willys will make excellent additions to any quartet lucky enough to snag them. Farewell!

## BS Quartet



BS Quartet enjoyed their first performance on the Placerville Show last month and is looking forward to performing at our upcoming Christmas Show.

## Royal Flush

Royal Flush had a great time performing at the Placerville Show. They are looking forward to being together again and performing at our upcoming Christmas Show.

# Tune Struck

Even while we remain on hiatus, we received a call from the Stockton Kings to sing the Anthem for the Opening Home Game (second game of their season). Knowing that there are a couple of individuals that could fill the empty part, the request went out to them and the first to confirm desire was Steve Yund.



The question of the future still is unanswered while the new fourth version is unknown.

## Pictures from the Afterglow after the Placerville Show

















## **Thank you to our sponsors!!!**

Angie Rogan, Akalia and Staff  
- Van Ruiten Winery, Lodi  
Betsy Smith - Velvet Grill Creamery, Lodi  
Christal - Corner Scone Bakery, Lodi  
Seth - Lodi Beer Co, Lodi  
Avenue Grill, Lodi  
Jennifer - Airport Café, Acampo  
Joe Fiori - Fiori's Butcher Shoppe & Deli,  
Lodi  
Papapavlo's Stockton/Lodi  
Bon Appetite, Lodi  
Darlene - The Hollywood Café, Lodi  
Dee - De Vinci's, Lodi  
Thai Spices, Lodi  
Smack Pie Pizza, Lodi  
Arroyos Mexican Café, Stockton  
Genoa Bakery, Stockton  
Buds Seafood, Stockton  
Whirlows, Stockton  
DeVega Brothers, Stockton  
Christine Robles - Red Lobster, Stockton  
Michael Gilliland  
- La Mesa a Mexican Kitchen. Stockton  
Big Belly Deli  
Cindy Burke - Burke's Family Restaurant  
The Mud Mill, Lodi  
Mark Armstrong - Lodi Grape Festival  
Nikki Burgess - The Dermal Clinic, Lodi  
Yvonne Holland - Dermal Clinic, Lodi  
Richard Lund and Patsy Miller  
Lori Makabe  
Mark Huntley  
Gary Floyd - Tokay A's Model A Club  
Arecelli - Stockton Civic Theater,  
Stockton  
Judy - Minerva's Furniture, Lodi  
Liana Roman - Now and Zen Yoga, Lodi  
Castle Oaks Golf, Lone

Brenda Patterson - A Cut Above, Lodi  
Planet Fitness, Stockton  
Asia - Arthur Murray Dance Studio,  
Stockton  
Mr Alex Munro - Hilton Stockton  
Bob Weisenberg  
- Woodbridge Uncorked, Woodbridge  
Mangal Singh - Clements Ridge Produce  
and Bakery  
Zoom Car Wash, Stockton  
Regina Brown - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Kathy Duran - Voila Gifts and Home  
Decor, Lodi  
Denise Solari - SDS Designs  
Rhoda Legaspi - Baked with Love  
Robert Verhines  
Gerald Garfield - Food for Less, Stockton  
Gary Long - Gary Longs Jewelry,  
Stockton  
Made in Amador, Sutter Creek  
BedBug on Main, Lone  
Hotel Sutter Restaurant, Sutter Creek  
Monarch, Lone  
Sue Kenmostu  
Y Acosta - Acosta Construction, Lodi  
David A Neal, DDS - The Lodi Dentist,  
Lodi  
Christian Phillips - Phillips Financial,  
Stockton  
Bill and Audrey Churchill  
Dr Mike Pontius  
Roberts Retirement  
Anthony Neiddu  
- Raymond James Financial Services,  
Lodi  
Ron and Sue Van De Pol  
James Van Sickler, Jr. DDS

Robert and Rosemarie Keller  
Fritz and Phyllis Grupe  
Ron and Kris Katzakian  
Ken and Nancy Mullen  
Star Heers  
Carol Holt Bedell  
Daniel Bernick - Sacramento Artist  
Daniel Meza - F&M Bank, Lodi  
Sandy - House of Clocks, Lodi  
Brain Synowicki - Synowicki's Jewel Box,  
Lodi  
Sandy Padgett - La Fleurette Garden  
Décor, Lodi  
University of the Pacific  
Dave and Sandy Harmon  
- Member: Stockton Portsmen  
Tom and Diane Hofsommer  
Nancy Hennefer - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Colette Allen  
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William Litz- Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Jeana Ramos  
Ryan Venhuizen  
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Rosie Estrella- Member: Stockton  
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John Highsmith  
Joyce Tanaka  
Al Farnum - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Greg Devine  
Kathryn Olsen  
Anonymous  
Willys Nitschke - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Kitty Harmon - Member: Stockton  
Portsmen  
Mahesh Ranchod  
Jami Howland  
Thomas Lauzze

*Merry Christmas*

The STOCKTON  
PORTSMEN PRESENT

**Barbershoppin'  
Around the  
Christmas Tree**

DECEMBER 14 SATURDAY  
**2:30 PM**

**Donations Welcome**

Zion Lutheran Church  
808 W. Porter Avenue, Stockton  
[www.stocktonportsmen.org](http://www.stocktonportsmen.org)

209-881-SING(7464)

# NorCal Novice QUARTET CONTEST

Feb 22, 2025  
Lodi, CA



[stocktonportsmen.org/novice2025](http://stocktonportsmen.org/novice2025)

(209) 881-7464

## Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

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

VLO: 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) or Phone (209) 881-SING (7464)

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

- 12/7 & 12/8 Festival of Trees (Micke Grove, Lodi, CA) (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
- 12/14 Stockton Portsmen Holiday Show (2:30 pm – 4:30pm)
- 12/15 Friends of the Fox – Movie “Home Alone” (Stockton, CA)  
(Sing in lobby 12:45pm - 1:30pm [Click here for Details](#))
- 12/17 Remote Rehearsal – The Oaks (Stockton, CA)
- 12/24 No Rehearsal
- 12/31 No Rehearsal
- 1/28-2/2 2025 BHS Midwinter Convention (San Antonio, TX)
- 2/14 Singing Valentines
- 2/25 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest (Lodi, CA)
- 3/13-3/16 2025 FWD Spring Convention (Riverside, CA)
- 3/28-3/30 2025 FWD Northern Divisions Convention (Davis, CA)
- 5/2-5/4 2025 FWD Arizona Division Convention (Phoenix, AZ)
- 6/29-7/6 2025 BHS International Convention (Denver, CO)
- 10/9-10/12 2025 FWD Fall Convention (Fresno, 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/>
- Voices of California (VoCal) <http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>