



# The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen  
May 2019 - Issue #14



## **May 2019 President's Message: by President Harry Williams**

Hi Youal, Wow, May is here already. Lots of proof that April showers bring May flowers, beautiful flowers all around town.

We had the opportunity to sing another Heat Hockey game Anthem down on the ice again for the last game of the year.

We are blessed to do a return Memorial Day performance at Cherokee Memorial cemetery on May 27th.

Lots of practice time at Zion as we prepare for this great event.

Our Chapter is in the process of adopting the new Barbershop Harmony Society and Stockton Chapter by-laws so our female members will be able to hold office as Chapter board members. This will be accomplished in the month of May.

Till next month`s Captains Log  
Pres. Harry

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

As you plan to come to chorus rehearsal every Tuesday, **what are your expectations?** What memories of past rehearsals do you hope to experience again? What things could happen that would make each rehearsal worthwhile?

Since we embraced a new direction into the *Mixed Chorus Competition* realm, I've been trying to **envision what excites each of you** about being a Portsmen. Things that come to my mind are:

- Making beautiful music
- Being a better singer
- Being a better performer
- Being more healthy
- Sharing friendships
- Entertaining others
- Teaching others
- Keeping the unique style of barbershop alive.

Those are all pretty standard things that anyone in any chorus might say, but I don't think we experience all those things every week. They say a picture is worth a thousand words – so I included some links of the

**WELCOME TO HEAVY MEDAL  
- THE MEDALIST CHOIR OF  
"BARBERSHOP IN GERMANY" - BING!**

WE HAVE BEEN SINGING TOGETHER AS A MIXED  
BARBERSHOP CHOIR SINCE 2012 AND ARE CONSTANTLY  
GROWING WITH NEW MEDALISTS. MUSICALLY, WE ARE AT  
HOME IN THE FOUR- TO SIX-PART À CAPPELLA  
ARRANGEMENTS, FROM ROCKY TO MELANCHOLIC, CLASSIC  
BARBERSHOP, SWING, BLUES ... THE COMPLETE RANGE, THE  
MAIN THING IS TO RING THE OVERTONES!

The members of Heavy Medal come from all regions of  
Germany and we meet only two or three times a year for  
rehearsals. But the weekend is always an event: singing from  
morning to night and then comfortably with a lot of laughter  
and fun to end the evening ... or even the night.

[Get ready for Nashville](#)  
[I Love Being Here With You](#)  
[Stormy Weather](#)  
[Haven't Met You Yet](#)

group – **Heavy Medal Chorus** – that has inspired me. My intent in this discussion is not for the Portsmen to become them (or any other group), but there are things about them that I think will motivate you, too.

The make up their chorus is quite different from ours in that:

- They only meet 2 or 3 times a year
- Ages are younger
- Music selection is more challenging

But there are traits that we could incorporate into our training and performances and into developing the way we view ourselves.

Take 5 minutes to click on the link

- [Get ready for Nashville](#)

A number of things caught my eye that would make our experience more enjoyable and allow new levels of excellence.

Before rehearsal even starts, there is a buzz of excitement – some people warming up their voices, some stretching and loosening up their bodies, some working the choreography, some getting individual coaching, and some chatting and enjoying each other’s company. Is that energy something you’d like to feel more of before and after rehearsals?

I didn’t realize until I went to their web site (thank you Google for translating it from German), that they only get together a few times a year. Because of that, they come prepared - knowing their music, knowing the basic choreography, bringing their excitement and best abilities to the rehearsal, and ultimately to the performance. They **expect magic to happen** when they are together. Because we meet weekly, you might not feel that push to come prepared, expecting instead to learn the music in chorus. I was pleasantly surprised in preparing for the ice cream social that we didn’t need to teach everything in *I’m Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover* – many of you did your homework that allowed us to manage the song. Does being prepared bring more enjoyment to your chorus experience? Do your homework so you can lead as opposed to lean.

They come with the goal of **being entertainers**. They **move freely** and look comfortable in their own skin. They **want to communicate** the meaning and feeling of the song to the audience. For me, the most memorable instruction in the [Get ready for Nashville](#) video was at the 1:29 mark – “**dig into any important word** – that will make the audience feel a great performance.” Deliver each song as an individual with energy while being aware of how you fit into the way the group delivers the message of each song.

They are good singers, and **they strive to be even better singers**. Notice that I **DID NOT put this into the section above** about things that make them different – **You are a good singer** and can strive to be a better singer. I’m sure they learn things from singing in the group, but they **each do individual practice** to be better singers. Does **bringing in coaching** and **working on the craft of singing** in rehearsal give you new skills and confidence to perform better? That is the starting point for your personal growth to overcome singing and performance weaknesses. **Sing daily** to strengthen your instrument and cultivate confidence. **Commit to a personal goal** that can make your experience better. You might want to:

- Improve your tone quality
- Increase your range (sing higher or lower notes)
- Learn to read music
- Improve your singing diction (pure vowel production)
- Move more freely
- Connect with your audience in a genuine authentic manner
- Sing in a quartet or a very large quartet(VLQ)
- Develop memorization techniques

**Share with me your goal** on how you can be a better singer as we continue through the contest cycle this year so that I can work with the music team and your section leaders to help create steps for your improvement.

They have **pride in their group!** They are clearly pleased with their performances and recordings. I loved watching them sign their CDs – would you like to be able to create something permanent to remember our moments? I'm sure they have moments when songs are rough, but they know that their final product is going to be amazing. What would make you feel the confidence to know that we would be amazing in our performances – confidence that will make you excited to invite your friends and family to see you?

They **bring positive energy.** Do you feel energized or drained at the end of a rehearsal? My desire is that after each rehearsal and performance that we feel strength and success. Help me to identify when you don't feel that so that we can replace exhausting situations with ones that buoy us up and make us never want to miss being together.

Take some time to look at other Heavy Medal performances (there are three links above). Glean ideas on how your performance can be better. What concepts do they employ that we could use to make our chorus performances more entertaining – ones our audiences will want to make sure they never miss?

I can't wait to hear from each of you and see what we can accomplish together.

### **FWD Spring Convention: Prelims, NE/NW Divisions Competitor Photo**



## Tune Struck Quartet



Things finally slowed down for Tune Struck in April, with only one performance – that for the Escalon Masonic Lodge Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. It was really nice to share our music with a new audience and one on the East side of the area. We were blessed to have Bill's daughter Emily and his granddaughter Abigail with us.

Al Wolter  
Tenor - Tune Struck Quartet  
209.747.7499

[www.TuneStruckQuartet.com](http://www.TuneStruckQuartet.com)

[Click here to follow us on Facebook](#)





## **mixed meta4**

The month of APRIL was an interesting one for our group. ½ of our members (Joan and Al) were doing some traveling going first to Arizona to visit Al's sister who lives in Tucson and also visiting the Sedona Area as well as the cliff dwellings north of Phoenix. Another week was spent in the Lake and gold Country east of Turlock in Al's RV at Lake McSwain with members of the Stockton Sailing Club's "Trailer Trash." The rest of the month was spent deciding on and finally purchasing our first official "Uniform," a really classy long sleeve black shirt embroidered with our logo that can be worn with a number of pants combinations.

We had one "gig" during the month singing our repertoire of 7 or 8 tunes to a delightful lady who turned 100 years young at Arbor Senior Living center in Lodi. We're practicing weekly at Joan's home on Wednesday's at 3:00 for a couple of hours getting better at listening to one another and learning how to blend our voices for a better sound. We're having fun and always looking to perform wherever we can.

Al Farnum



## **Royal Flush Barbershop Quartet**



## **Celebrations:**

### May Birthdays

---

Dave Harmon     5/20



## **Harmony Lunch Bunch:**

### Sam's Hof Brau

2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821

11:30 AM (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month)

Kent Borrowdale [kborro@comcast.net](mailto:kborro@comcast.net)

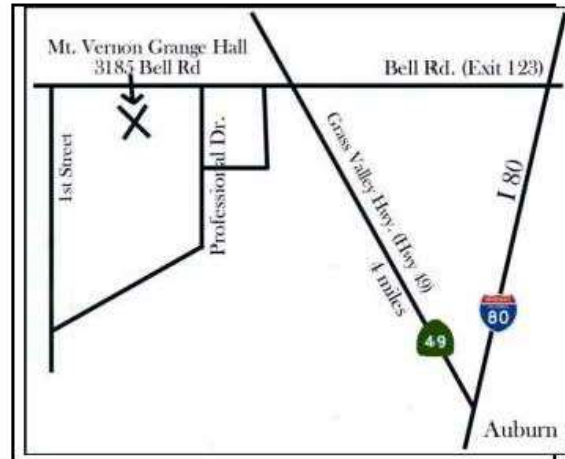
**THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL**  
*John Gurulé Memorial*  
**“SOMEWHAT SERIOUS” QUARTET CONTEST**  
**and BEAN FEED**

DATE: June 11, 2019  
 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 or organized quartet
3. Quartet sings only one song
4. A person may sing in three quartets but must change their part in the third
5. Women's & Mixed quartets are eligible
6. Matching attire optional
7. Limited to 25 entries



**MC: RICHARD LUND**

**JUDGES: The Best available**

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



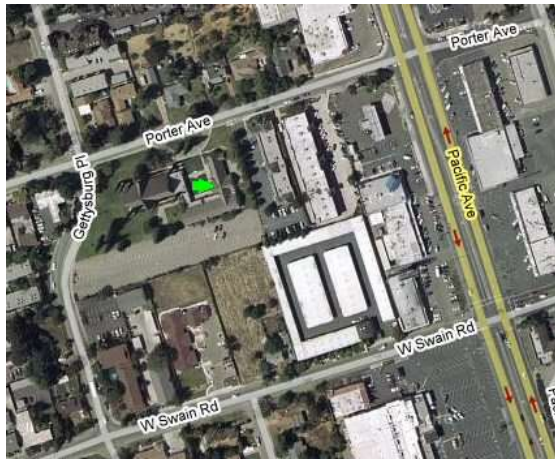
## Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church –  
808 W. Porter Avenue – Stockton – CA  
Tuesdays: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

[Click here to go to Stockton Portsmen Website](#)  
[Click here for Facebook Page](#)

See calendar for up-to-date information:  
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

### 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.



**STOCKTON PORTSMEN  
BARBERSHOP MIXED  
CHORUS & QUARTETS**

**\*\*\*Hire Us\*\*\***

**Book us for your next events**

- 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**
- **Ph. (209) 881-SING (7464)**

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

### **2019 Events**

- May 10 Southeast-Southwest Division  
Convention  
May 10-11, 2019  
[Click here for more info](#)
- May 11 The Golden Valley Chorus presents...  
The GVC SPRING SHOW  
Modesto, CA  
[Click here for more info](#)
- May 18 The California Delta Chapter presents...  
VoCal Spring Show  
Folsom, CA  
[Click here for more info](#)
- June 30 BHS International Convention**  
**Salt Lake City, UT**  
**(June 30 – July 7)**
- Aug 1&3 Fog City Singers presents...  
Barbary Coast show  
San Francisco, CA  
[Click here for more info](#)
- Sept 28 Voices of California presents...  
England 2020 Fundraiser Dinner Show  
Sacramento, CA  
[Click here for more info](#)
- Oct 10 FWD Fall Convention (2019)**  
(October 10 – 13, 2019)  
(Sacramento, CA)
- Oct 18 FWD Youth Harmony Camp  
Pollock Pines, CA  
(October 18 – 20, 2019)  
[Click her for more info](#)
- Nov 9 The Stockton Chapter presents...**  
**Doo Wop at the Barbershop**  
**First Baptist Church Community Center**  
**Stockton, CA**
- Nov 23 The Santa Rosa Chapter presents  
"Singin' In the Holidays"  
Santa Rosa, CA  
(2:00 pm & 7:00 pm)

### **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/>