



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
December 2019 - Issue #21



December 2019 President's Message: by President Harry Williams

Hi Youal. As Winter has finally decided to arrive, hoping each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving (Turkey and fixings).

We just finished a very good Doo Wop Show. Great job by all involved especially our show chairperson Chuck Thurman and his staff.

As we end November, we continue to practice and prepare our Christmas music for December.

We finished off November with our first Anthem at the Stockton Kings Basketball Game on Nov. 30th. We start December with a remote practice at O`Connor Woods on Dec 3rd. This is followed by a strolling sing for the Festival of Trees on Dec 7th. On Dec 8th, we are at the Bob Hope Theatre for our annual Dec Christmas Sing. Our next event is our Chapter Christmas Dinner Dec 14th, to be followed by our last event of the year, a remote practice at Rio Los Palmas on Dec 17th. We are Dark on Dec 24th and Dec 31st.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Youal
Looks like another great month in Barbershop Music!!!

Till next month`s Captains Log
Pres Harry

December 2019 - Issue #21
December 3, 2019

Musical Director's Message: by Bill Litz

Welcome Advent... The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Preparing songs to sing this Christmas season has been more fun than past years. Maybe because we worked pretty hard putting a Christmas Show together last year which made those songs more ingrained in our minds. Maybe it's because, through the contest cycle we have actually become better musicians and singers. Or maybe it's because we are singing with less pressure on ourselves this year.

Probably all three reasons combined together to allow us to have more fun and feel joy as we sing songs this season. I love seeing the smiles on your faces and hearing the smiles in your voices.

Hearing a smile in your voice is the right balance of BRIGHT and WARM. When a pitch is sung, several tones sound simultaneously giving the sound vocal color or a unique timbre. The other pitches are called overtones. Each overtone can be amplified by the natural shape of your neck, throat, and face. You may also manipulate the sound by changing your facial expression, opening the back of your throat, lifting the cheekbones, or making other physical changes. As barbershoppers we try to allow our voices to have the resonance to create those overtones.

To explain BRIGHT and WARM – consider these definitions of tone:

- Brash – Overly bright sound with brassy tone quality.
- Ear-Splitting – Another term for overly bright singing. High overtones are amplified and the voice lacks the lower ones to add warmth and depth.
- Bright/Light – Higher overtones are created and amplified.
- Well-Balanced – A well-balanced voice has both bright and warm qualities. The higher overtones allow the voice to project to the back of the room, and the warm tones add color and contrast making for overall beautiful tone quality.
- Warm/Dark – A warm voice has lower overtones.
- Breathy – Air leaks through the vocal cords and sounds like a sigh. The remedy is to close the vocal cords more efficiently. In practice, that means adding a brighter tone quality to the voice.
- Swallowed/Woofy – When someone is overly warm, the voice tends to sound stuck in the throat or swallowed and lacks the ping of the higher overtones.

Our target should be to sing with a well-balanced voice. Each of us needs to be aware of our sound production and use our best natural voice that is expressive and a pleasure to listen to.

Singing these Christmas songs and carols that we know so well, is allowing each of us to sing with smiles and confidence. Let's continue to create beautiful sounds as we sing through the holiday season – and then don't pack your Christmas voice up in the box with your Christmas decorations. Instead, keep it out to use on the songs we sing throughout the year.

Celebrations

December Birthdays

Harry Williams	12/11
Christian Hagan	12/15











Tune Struck Quartet



Since our last post, Derick Sturke had to fill in for Bob at the FWD Fall District Convention Afterglow and for the Portsmen's 65th Annual Show. It's always good to have talented folks available to step in when work and family obligations make attending a gig for one of us impossible to do.

We are very happy that we are all set to go for our December gigs. The Holidays are usually filled with opportunities to share our music and seasonal joy, and this year is no exception.

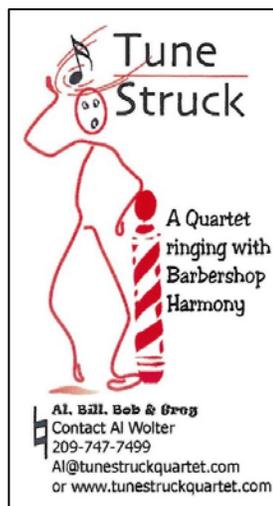
Al Wolter

Tenor – Tune Struck Quartet

209.747.7499

www.TuneStruckQuartet.com

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Royal Flush Barbershop Quartet



mixed meta4

mixed  **meta4**

a barbershop harmony quartet
209-881-SING (7464)

Joan Ray – Tenor	Al Farnum – Lead
Dave Harmon – Baritone	Nick Adams – Bass

Harmony Camp 2019

Setting the Stage

It is 2:00 pm October 18th. The registration table is set up ready for the Harmony Campers to check in and pick up their name tags. Bill Faulkner arrives at 2:45 bringing the risers in the VoCal trailer. The riser set up crew arrives at 3:00 and they have the risers set up in the gym by 3:30. In the meantime Dave Wallace arrives with Wildfire in tow, having picked them up at the airport and stopping for a bite to eat. The registration crew enjoys hearing them rehearse in their room as the boys begin to arrive. The first to arrive are four boys from Chico who enjoyed the trip with Don Franklin our security guy for camp. After registering, the boys run up the hill to claim their bunk for the weekend and get acquainted until getting in line for dinner at 5:45 pm.



Residence Cabins

What a weekend!!! Wildfire quartet was fantastic!!! They interacted with the boys, helped out with the teaching, and of course they even sang Great!!!

Wildfire just happens to be the International NextGen Quartet Champion and after spending the weekend with them we can understand why they are the Champion. They also all happen to be young and related easily to the high school boys; and they are all just great guys.



Wildfire singing for the boys

We increased our attendance from last year, welcoming 56 boys this year and as usual, the sound was amazing and their propensity for quick learning was unbelievable!! At the request of music educators we moved camp into October this year and yes it was cold Friday evening. The good news is that we discovered the cabins do have heat! Equally exciting was the addition of boys attending from five new schools. We seem to be moving from having a large number of boys from one school (10 or so) to fewer boys from each of more schools. Schools do have cycles in their programs and we see this in camp participation. Would we like to increase the number of boys attending? The answer is yes however I do believe we are increasing our base of schools and long term this will serve us well.

Saturday afternoon we have a meeting with music educators who attend camp for all or part of camp. In my experience this was the best meeting we have had in 17 years. We had seven educators participate in our meeting in addition to Gabe Caretto and Steve Kirch. The discussion was lively, informative and very positive. The unanimous recommendation was to continue with the October camp date. It seems there are always conflicts (this year it was homecoming) and the music educators felt there will always be conflicts. Two of the educators attended Harmony University in 2019 on scholarships provided by Harmony Foundation and with travel assistance from Voices of California and Voices in Harmony. At their suggestion we are purchasing the teaching materials used at Harmony University for all of the music educators attending camp. Quite honestly the group was so engaged we had to hustle to make dinner on time.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention one more time that one of our campers from 2010 is now a music educator in Chico. He returned to camp this year and brought students with him and yes his quartet did compete in Salt Lake City this past July. I am also reminded of another camper from the Central Valley who is now a music educator in Texas and who brought a mixed chorus to Midwinter in January 2019. Add to these individuals the growing number of former campers who are currently singing with choruses throughout the United States. Sometimes it is easy to want more instant results however long term we are making a difference thanks to the continued support of so many barbershop members and chapters.

Our clinicians, Gabe, Ron, Chris, and Bruce were outstanding. Gabe, the pied piper, had the boys in the palm of his hand. Ron was his usual magical self in his creative and over the top teaching style. Chris Lewis brought his Fog City magic with him to mold his song, Love Me and the World Is Mine, into a truly memorable event at the show. And Bruce Sellnow exhibited his own brand of magic in his very first year of being a clinician directing Drivin' Me Crazy. Bruce was magnificent!!!



Bruce Sellnow weaving his magic

We did add a new class this year – teaching the boys a couple of easy songs they could take back to their schools and teach their friends. This again, was at the suggestion of music educators last year. I have not had an opportunity to talk with the teachers to evaluate the class yet.

This year there also seemed to be many more friendships made. I know that as director of the Camp, I rarely get to have much time in the way of really personal interactions with the boys, but this year was different. I connected with two boys from Chico who were simply wonderful singers and personable young men and we talked about a myriad of subjects during one meal and, of course, solved all the problems of the world!!! I know I will always treasure that moment in time.

We also had two gentlemen who are Very special to Harmony Camp, as they happened to be at the very first Camp at Camp Wrightwood in Southern California. Ron Black who has been to Camp many times was a member of the “teaching” quartet at that first Camp. The really special treat was to have Todd Woolley at this year’s Camp. Todd was one of the very small group of guys, including Lloyd Steinkamp and John Krizek who actually came up with the idea of the weekend retreat and brought the idea to fruition in that first Camp in 1996.

Here we are some twenty-three years later giving Todd a look at what this creation called Harmony Camp has become. It was quite a privilege for me to see Todd’s expressions as he sat and watched the boys and the clinicians work together to make a whole lot of very special music.

All in all, Harmony Camp 2019 will go down as one of the all-time great Camps (every year seems to get better).

In Harmony,
Richard Lund, Director

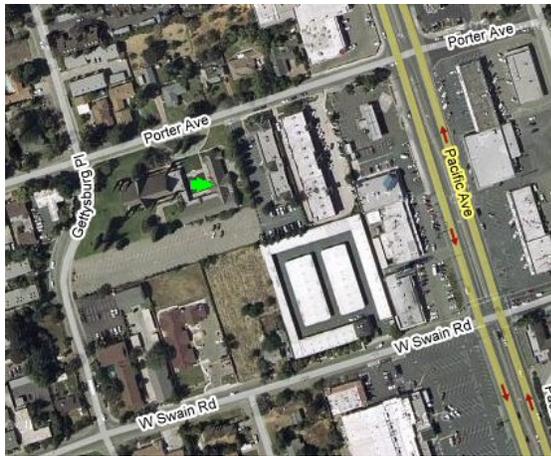
Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

- Dec 3 Chapter Meeting - Offsite Rehearsal**
O'Conner Woods West Hall
(Time: 6:45 PM – 8:15 PM)
- Dec 7 Festival of Trees**
Micke Grove, Lodi, CA
(10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)
- Dec 8 Bob Hope Theatre**
(12:30 PM – 4:30 PM)
- Dec 10 Chapter Meeting**
Zion Lutheran Church
(Time: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM)
- Dec 14 Chapter Christmas Party**
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
(5:00 PM – 9:30 PM)
- Dec 17 Chapter Meeting - Offsite Rehearsal**
(Last rehearsal for 2019)
Rio Las Palmas
(Time: 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM)
Board Meeting
(Time: 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM)

2020 Events

- Jan 15 Chapter Installations & Awards Dinner**
Angelina's Spaghetti House
6:00 PM – 9:30 PM
- Jan 18 NorCal Leadership Academy**
Saint Mark's United Methodist Church
Sacramento, CA
- Feb 22 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest**
Centenary Church - 1911 Toyon Ave
Modesto, CA
(Time: 10:00 AM)
- Mar 15 Spring Ice Cream Social**
Stockton Elks Lodge
(12:30 PM – 5:00 PM)
- Mar 19 FWD Spring Convention: Prelims,**
SE/SW Divisions
- May 15 NE/NW Divisions Convention**
Stockton, CA
- June 28 BHS International Convention**
Los Angeles, CA
- Oct 8 FWD Fall Convention Cruise**
Long Beach, CA – Ensenada, BC

Barbershop Links

- Barbershop Harmony Society
<http://www.barbershop.org/>
- Far Western District
<https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/>
- VoCal Voices of California
<http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>

Harmony Lunch Bunch

Sam's Hof Brau

2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95821
11:30 AM (3rd Thursday of each month)
Kent Borrowdale kborro@comcast.net