



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

April 2022 - Issue #33

President's Message:

By Al Wolter



THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

BLUE WATER – ISSUE 4

Blue Water is often used to describe the open ocean, that place in the ocean when the effects of the shore are minimized, and the depths have less effects on the surface.

It looks as if we are getting ready to move into Blue Water, finally! As I reported in the last **'View,'** we are looking at both receiving money and singing at the International Preliminary Contest May 14th. Both Chorus and Quartet Contests will be held that day at McNair High School. This is a chance to get a measuring stick of how we are doing in comparison to the other Chorus' in the District and the first time it will be a direct comparison (the Society just made all contests open to whatever makeup your Singing Community is).

There are other things that are starting to indicate we are making out into the Blue Water, an invitation from Cherokee Memorial Park to provide Pre-service and Post-service music (just how all that will work has yet to be worked out with the Park and the Music Team). Ports Baseball Anthems are expected to be scheduled soon.

Now that we are leaving the more restrictive waters and entering the Blue Water, it's time to start working on those things that make us more ready for the future. First, before we start "drilling," and learning other people's jobs, I want to take a second and praise our Editor of the Captain's Log. Sue does such an amazing job getting this out and making it a positive and uplifting read, one of the reasons she was a shoe-in for the 2021 Barbershopper of the Year.

Now for drills and training, my past experience in the Navy instilled the need for everyone to understand the jobs others do and to be prepared for anything. We have had a goodly period of time to gain confidence in ourselves and what we do individually. Those that have been attending Chapter meetings and Chorus rehearsals regularly have improved in the understanding of what is expected of them. Now I don't expect anyone else to start singing multiple parts, but I do hope and pray that you will show me up every time I sing your part with

you. With Contest coming up and the other performances, getting more solid and being able to confidently lead your part would be a wonderful thing.

There are things that the Music Team can do on Tuesdays to help with that, but there are also things that you can do at home to help yourself. One of those things is to find three other part singers and have yourselves a quartet or quartet+ rehearsal on your own. Organized quartets should sing through Chorus songs (as the chorus sings them) every once and a while. The more each individual feels confident on their part, the better collective sound we will make.

Lastly, learning other people's jobs includes what the Board and Music Team do, how they function and what the rules are. Everyone is welcome to observe Board Meetings and Music Team meetings. Each military unit has to have turnover and thus there is always training going on. As the one in charge of our helm, I hope through the year that I will be able to help many of you to know and understand the administrative workings of the Chapter. All good Blue Water work.

Here's to being able to answer a standard bell and making some decent headway, with calm seas and following winds.

Musical Director's Message: By Bill Litz

As many of you know, I'm undergoing a change in my life – I'm working on identifying as a baritone..... So, I wanted to share a little bit about that process of teaching an old dog new tricks. It's both exciting and frustrating. In some ways I feel like I'm a newbie, just like many of you chorus members are. Even if you have been a barbershopper or singer for a long time, when we add a new song to the repertoire, you get to be a newbie again, so I think we can all benefit from analyzing how to get past the frustrations of feeling inadequate to feeling accomplished.

Even for me, barbershop is a hobby in that *a hobby is an activity done regularly in one's leisure time for pleasure. Participation in hobbies encourages acquiring substantial skills and knowledge in that area.* In order to find barbershop pleasurable, we need to improve our skills to get past the frustrations of NOT BEING ABLE TO SING AND PERFORM. In my transition to baritone, two things stand out:

- Being able to learn the music
- Being able to sing the music

And it may seem obvious, but each of those take time. The notes and words don't magically appear in my head and the ability to sing different notes doesn't happen by being silent – the THINK SYSTEM does not put ideas in our long-term memory or develop muscles for singing.

As I started working on learning the baritone notes, I found myself singing daily...you know...the thing I encourage you to do every week and in the director message every month. And surprise!!! Of course, I knew I had to work on learning the new baritone notes, but singing every day helped me exercise my voice.

Honestly, the process scares me a little. I feel strong as a lead (although I do know I have weaknesses). Singing baritone is like learning a foreign language. I hope to be fluent someday, but it's going to take effort – more than I anticipated. I'm sure you all have the same feeling when we start a new song that will take learning new words and maybe a new style or utilize notes in our range that we aren't used to singing. I feel frustrated when I don't know every note (and every word) that makes up my part. I don't want to be the person that is keeping the group from sounding good.

As I practice every day, as I sing at rehearsals with my quartet, as I sing with the chorus and with pick up quartets after rehearsal, I get the joy of feeling capable again.

Making and taking the time to turn my hobby into a lifestyle is the most difficult part. I need to convince my brain that I only need to spend a few minutes at a time on my hobby to accomplish things. The [article referenced](#) about time management says, *"It's possible to have multiple hobbies, and even get pretty good at several of them. Just putting in 30-60 minutes a day can lead to remarkable results."* I believe it can even be less than that. Singing through songs on the way to work or while doing any chore can be that little bit that helps you remember your parts and exercise your voice for today. This can apply to other things in your life as well like other hobbies and personal relationships.

[Time Management for Work, Hobbies, Skills, Chores, Pastimes, and Interests](#)

Making barbershop a lifestyle DOES NOT demand ALL your focus. It just takes enough time to let go of daily annoyances for a few minutes to sing and smile.

TUNE STRUCK QUARTET

WOW! It has been quite a while since there was much to talk about regarding Tune Struck Quartet – the last real news was that the Hedges’ were moving to Kansas and we did Christmas as kind of a last Hurrah.

Well as posted on our Facebook/Instagram page, we now have two “active versions” of Tune Struck. We are proud to announce our newest official member **Chuck Roots**, and his first official performance of the Anthem for the UOP / Gonzaga Baseball Game.



Now if you are unclear as to why Bill is standing on the edge of the quartet where the Baritone usually stands and Chuck is in the normal Lead position – well that is because we have done more than just a part replacement – more of a solid reorganization, with Chuck singing Lead and Bill moving to Bari.

But ‘*Version Two*’ isn’t done quite yet. We joined the Portsmen in honoring **Shirley Wilkinson** at her COVID delayed Memorial Service by singing **Lida Rose** (her favorite song).

The month of April is full of more opportunities to share our music, with a stop in **Lodi** for the **Women’s Club** Luncheon for *Version Two* and a coaching session for *Version Three* (oh, did we say that we are registered to complete in the Prelims Contest in May?).

Here is to filling the greater **Stockton** area with song.

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

See calendar for up-to-date information:

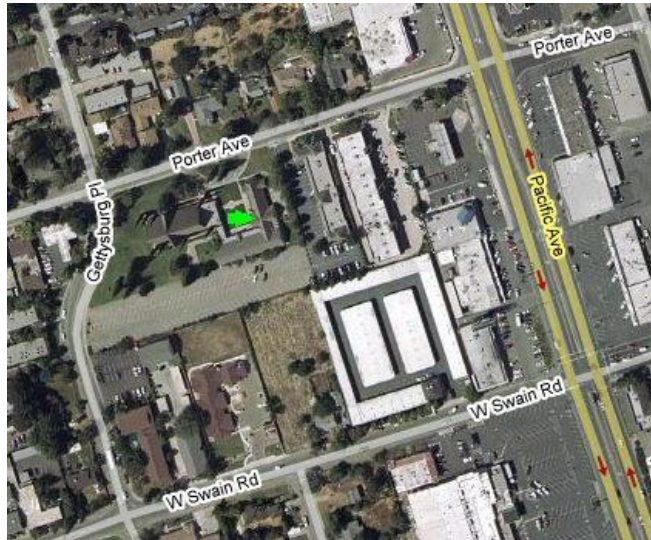
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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****

- 5/13 – 5/14 FWD Spring Prelims, Chorus & Quartet Festival
- 5/30 Veterans Memorial Day Service at Cherokee Memorial Park
- 7/3 Celebrate America Hutchins Street Square (Lodi, CA) (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM)
- 7/3 – 7/10 International Convention (Charlotte, NC) [Link to see jam-packed schedule](#)
- 10/12 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/>
- VoCal Voices of California <http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>