



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman
March 2023 - Issue #44

**President's Message:
By Al Wolter**



THE VIEW FROM THE HELM

MISSION ALTERATIONS – ISSUE 15

Every vessel has its itinerary. Most aircraft submit flight plans before take-off and major ocean-going vessels have an itinerary to which they adhere. It is important to know when something is leaving, where it is headed and when it is supposed to arrive, especially when they are carrying freight or passengers. Even the sleuths of the deep, submarines, have a schedule to which they adhere so the powers-that-be on land have a clue that they are doing their job and don't need to be located and 'saved.'

Still, as any of these trips are undertaken, there lies the 'off chance' of having the intended route, destination and arrival times altered, changed, or out and out eliminated.

This can have either a positive or negative effect on folks, both those on the vessel and those on either end of the journey. Anticipated happenings won't happen, or will be delayed, risky routes maybe eliminated or enjoined. They say, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry," well at least Robert Burns did after he plowed up a mouse nest.

The key as a leader is to help everyone to accept the change, roll with the punches, and move forward with new plan. These past years have tried everyone's abilities to do that. As usual, there is sadness, joy, irritation, anger, and more than a little indifference. I believe the indifference is the worst of the responses.

I am pleased that the Portsmen have continued to be the “deal with it” group we have been over the years. During the lock-down years, we bucked the system a bit and did all we could to keep singing safely. For those that sang with us during those times, there was a lot of personal growth.

Still, there are course changes afoot. First, is the loss of Past Stockton Chapter President, Past Far Western District President, Senior Quartet Champion Tenor (several times with “Potluck”), Tenor of Chapter Show favorite “Dis...” and Army Veteran William ‘Bill’ Cale. Bill was always an upbeat and positive guy that made singing Barbershop a happy experience. I had the pleasure of serving as his Bartender in his President’s Suite during a District Convention. His loss to time will leave us needing to fill a lot of holes in the Barbershop World.

Next is the need to cancel the 2023 Novice Quartet Contest. We just got a little behind the curve, and with folks able to register without qualification for the District Quartet Contest in 2022 and not enough notice – it just wouldn’t be financially advantageous to proceed (really only had one participating Quartet by the end of February). Don’t fret, this is more of a change than a deletion, as we will try again for 2024 with a much better idea of timing and such.

Lastly, as the winter wears on and illness (not necessarily pandemic illness) wears on, we need to be able to deal with changes to personnel line-ups in order to fulfill performance requests. That and work or family conflicts can change things at a moment’s notice. Now this may seem as a bad deal, but actually it gives folks opportunities to experience the joy of quartetting that they may have never had a chance to experience before. In order to make this a reality, there needs to be some common songs. I am glad that we have kept a number of PoleCat and PoleCat II songs in our repertoire for which quartets can sing with substitutes and still be entertaining.

I do hope every one of us checks the Events Calendar for what’s happening and more importantly that all the foursomes make entries for their gigs. Always good to know what we are doing and is good evidence of travel requirements for taxes if you itemize. Let Bill or I know if you don’t know how to access it.

Musical Director's Message: **By Bill Litz**

I am thrilled at what you've been able to learn on your own, coming to rehearsals prepared to sing. I thought ***A Million Dreams*** would be a pretty easy pick up once the basses realized that they needed to be leads and it is quickly becoming a great song for us. But I was stunned by how good the first run through of ***How Lucky You Are*** went at the last rehearsal. It will be fun to polish those songs up over the coming weeks. Be assured, I am proud of each of you for your commitment to learn and your flexibility to try new things that might be out of your comfort range. I love the extraordinary things we can do together.

Time is flying by as we get back to performing more. It's exciting to see opportunities to share barbershop harmonies with our community. At the same time, it's a bit daunting to learn all the music that we will be performing over the next few months. Here are some upcoming performances to think about.

- **Spring Division Contest – April 15th** - possible songs could include:
Just In Time
From The First Hello To The Last Good Bye
How Lucky You Are
Over The RainBow
- **Annual Portsmen Show – May 6th** – current song plan includes:
Sentimental Journey
Old Songs Medley – Old Songs; Down Our Way; Honey/Little Eyes; Shine On Me
Yesterday
From The First Hello To The Last Good Bye
Bye Bye Blues
How Lucky You Are
Over The Rainbow
A Million Dreams
What A Wonderful World

- **Memorial Day Ceremony – May 29th** – Exact list will firm up closer to the performance:
 - Just In Time*
 - What A Wonderful World*
 - A Million Dreams*
 - Armed Forced Medley*
 - National Anthem*
 - God Bless America*
 - America The Beautiful*
 - God Bless The USA*
- **Celebrate America – July 3rd** – songs will be a combination of Show and Memorial Day songs
- **And I'm sure there will be some other performances like**
 - O'Connor Woods**
 - Friends of the Fox**
 - And Quartetting Events like the Bean Feed or the Portsmen Picnic**

Thanks to *Al Wolter* and *Sue Atkins* for getting the show designed. It's nice to know what's ahead so we can focus our rehearsals and individual practice.

Please, continue to work on your own, learning your parts to bring accuracy to each rehearsal. Each of you is capable of delivering a 100% accurate performance of the songs listed above. Work the notes and words during the week so we can create artistry together each Tuesday night.

Personally, I am so excited at the performances you will bring to each performance we have scheduled.

In Memory of Bill Cale



In April 2022 the Stockton Portsmen, the Far Western District and the world lost a bright light and cheerful leader. William K “Bill” Cale had a long and storied Barbershop career (yes, it’s our hobby, but it can be and is more).

Having had the pleasure of knowing Bill for nearly as long as I have been a Portsmen, I always enjoyed his quiet presence. He wasn’t a man of stature, but what he lacked in height he more than made up for in cheer and positivity. This is what made him a good leader, serving the Far Western District Board ultimately as the District President.

Bill was an active quartet singer, singing Tenor for several quartets; Desperation (a Show favorite) and Pot Luck (District Senior Quartet Champs).

One of the highlights of my Barbershop life, and yes there are a lot is seems, was serving as the bartender for Bill’s President Suite for the Convention in Reno.

Still, it was a sad but special treat to sing for his family at his graveside service. While none of his children caught the bug, they do enjoy the artform. As an Army veteran, Bill was honored with a 21 Gun Salute, a Flag Folding Ceremony and Taps and our own Chuck Roots officiated the service.

QUARTET MUSTER

Tune Struck

February was as full as we had hoped, with an Anthem performance for the UOP Men's Basketball game against the Pepperdine Waves. Have no clue how the game went as we left promptly to go across campus to the Military and Veteran Student Center and some rehearsal time.

We followed that up with a 20 minute set for the Ripon First Congregational Church's Valentine Soup and Pie Social. Proving that this is a small world, the brother of Golden Valley Chorus' bass Mike Viss, Carl, was in attendance and asked if we knew him (of course). Was nice to sing for an attentive and receptive audience.



As a departure from the norm, we were not involved with Valentines. Bill and Sue went to the East Coast, to share a little Disney time with her grandchildren and a visit to her Dad, while Al and Donna celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary and the start of 'goat kidding season.'

The last week of the month had two performances, one sad and one sweet. The performance that good be considered sad was the Memorial Service for our brother in harmony Bill Cale (see my write up elsewhere).

The sweet performance was for the Central California Chapter's President's Day Cherry Pie Social. Joining Royal Flush, What's Next, and the Golden Valley Chorus (GVC) to sing for an enthusiastic crowd of Barbershop fans. Our thanks to Nancy Hennefer for stepping in to sub for Bill, who was both voice-less and needing to attend his youngest daughter's graduation. Truly the best part of the day was the warm cherry pie that was served for intermission. GVC had to alter their mission a lot, as the River City Sweet Adeline Chorus was to perform as well, but with key members being under the weather, they just swelled the audience numbers.



Mixed Meta4

Mixed Meta4 is rising from the ashes. We have been diligently practicing at Joan's house at 1:30 on Thursdays. We have expanded (unofficially) to 5 members and sometimes 6 depending on everyone's schedules with the addition of Brad Nieman and sometimes Harry Williams filling in to enhance our sound. We did a performance for the Retired Teachers Association of Stockton Unified just prior to Christmas at the church which was the old Mallard's Restaurant on March Lane. In addition, we did a full day of singing for Valentines Day visiting six venues including 50 staff members at Van De Pol trucking in which they contributed a very generous donation to the quintet for performing. Joan also had several of her friends which were delighted to hear us perform. It was a great time and quite successful. Thanks to Sandy Harmon for fixing 55 vases of roses and to Kay Williams for printing out the beautiful cards for all of our recipients. We're currently focusing on our upcoming show with the four new songs being sung at every practice.



We had a great coaching session with Paul Kimball and are looking forward to performing soon.





Celebrations

March Birthdays

Marc Jantzen	March 1 st
Mike Drouin	March 9 th
Susan Atkins	March 20 th

WHAT TYPE OF BARBERSHOPPER ARE YOU?



WWW.BARBERSHOP.ORG

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Fireside Room)

VLQ (Quarteting) 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:

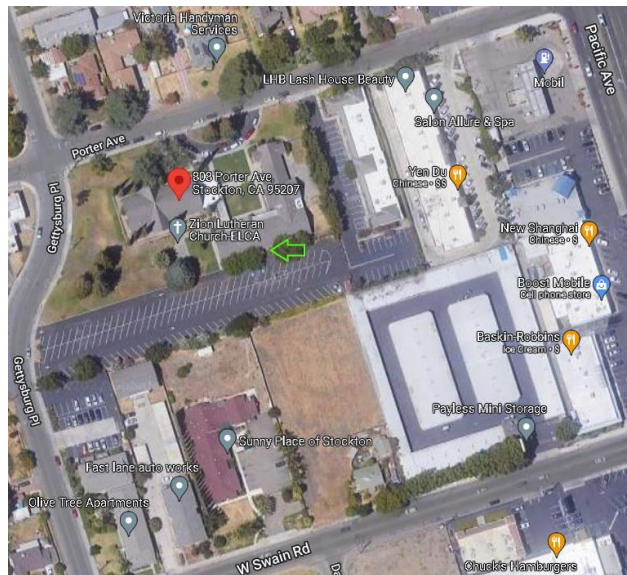
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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 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****

- 4/15 2023 NorCal Divisions Convention (Davis, CA)
[Click link to register and for more information](#)
- 5/6 2023 Stockton Portsmen Spring Show (TBD)
- 5/29 Memorial Day at Cherokee Memorial (Lodi, CA)
- 6/4 Friend of the Fox Cinema Classis showing Strategic Air Command
- 7/2-7/9 2023 International Convention (Louisville, Kentucky)
- 10/12 2023 FWD Fall Convention (Gilbert, AZ)

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/>