

# “Rally Edition”

# CAROUSEL ORGAN

## 2011

The Official Journal of the  
**Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA)**

*Devoted to enjoying, preserving and sharing knowledge of all outdoor mechanical musical instruments, including band, fair and street organs, calliopes, and hand-cranked organs of all sizes.*

### Living History Farms—Urbandale, Iowa May 14-15, 2011

The 2011 COAA rally season began in Urbandale, Iowa, a suburb of Des Moines on May 14-15. The Living History Farms requested a repeat performance from last September when we were such a big hit with the crowds that we broke their attendance record for the

Farms. Unfortunately, the weather this year was against us and the 55 degree temperatures and cloudy skies kept the crowds to a minimum. Our intrepid members still put on a fine show with the four large organs and a dozen small organs representing 11 states.

The Evarts brought their new 78-key Stinson all the way from N. Tonawanda, NY and the Wasson's accompanied from Pennsylvania. Two Wurlitzer's were there representing Iowa, and Minnesota. Others trekked from far off places like Minnesota, Georgia, Tennessee, Illinois, as well as the surrounding Midwestern states bringing their colorful collection of smaller mechanical musical instruments.



Eddie and Bernice Evarts with their new 78-key Stinson organ.



Jim Lester and his Wurlitzer 146.

We never go hungry at the Living History Farms. Friday night many of us gathered at The Machine Shed restaurant located next door to the Comfort Inn host hotel. We ate like farm hands thanks to the famously large portions of entrees and complimentary appetizers provided by the

Photos for the 2010 Rally Edition were provided by several COAA members including Mary Jo Bopp, Gordie Davidson, Dan Davis, Ted Guillaum, Angelo Rulli, Paul Senger, Craig Smith, Neil Smith, Tim Wagner, Roger Wiegand, Dan Wilke and Ron Bopp.

Comfort Inn. Saturday night the Living History Farms provided the group with a country picnic of BBQ pork and bratwursts, baked beans, slaw, and brownies with ice cream for dessert. The dinner was moved indoors due to the cool temperatures and we all retreated to the hospitality room at the Comfort Inn for more lively conversations.



Charles Tyler with his phonograph collection.

Everyone in attendance had a good time and looked forward to another visit in the future. The Living History Farms is an ideal venue to present our style of music in a historical setting. COAA continues to attract interest in new members in the Midwest by making available new rally opportunities as we attempt to broaden our geographical reach. Come join in the fun the next time we rally at The Living History Farms.



Dale Heller cranking a Hofbauer organ.



Mike Schoepner with his Castlewood organ.



Marlene Erickson.



Jim Partrick and Tom Bode.



Betty and Jerry Golmanavich entertain Paul Amundson and Paul Osterholp.



Tom Logan proud of his self-constructed Wurlitzer 105 band organ.

## Lake Winnepesaukah—Rossville, Georgia May 28-30, 2011

On Memorial Day Weekend, May 28–30, Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park in Rossville, Georgia was the place to be for great organ music and great fun. COAA Members and friends gathered for the seventh annual Lake Winnie organ rally, and it was certainly another rally to remember. Sixty one people attended the rally from seventeen states and Canada, bringing four large organs and ten hand cranked organs.



The traditional Lake Winnie organ concert.

The organs played for three days, and as always, the Lake Winnie Staff provided us with the finest in Southern Hospitality. The traditional Lake Winnie Crank Organ Concert was great fun, as was the annual COAA band concert with *Trudy*, where David Wasson and *Trudy* performed his new arrangement of *Saxophobia*.



John Ashworth and Pauline Leonard look on as Ron Keisler holds the birthday cake.

On Saturday afternoon, we celebrated the 100th birthday of Pauline Leonard’s North Tonawanda Band Organ. This organ was built in 1911, and was purchased by Great Lakes shipmaster Captain John Leonard in 1956. This organ was used to provide background music for the baseball movie *The Natural* starring Robert Redford, so it is certainly one of the most famous organs owned by any COAA mem-

ber. Pauline Leonard and John Ashcroft have been faithful Lake Winnie Rally participants for many years, traveling all the way from Ontario, Canada to Rossville, Georgia and back every year. We all enjoyed a birthday cake which contained an edible photo of the organ, and Pauline played a special *Happy Birthday* roll with many variations on the familiar birthday tune. Pauline and John are real troopers, who truly enjoy sharing the happiest music on earth with others.



Marc Dannecker plays a 20-note John Smith.

As always, there was plenty of good food to keep us going. Everyone enjoyed the traditional Saturday evening meal under the picnic shed which was provided by the Park. Then, for those who stayed around on Monday, the Park provided a second meal, consisting of BBQ ribs and all the fixings. The food was outstanding.

Every evening we all gathered back at the hospitality room at the motel for more fun. As a special treat this year, Burl Updyke played his accordion and we enjoyed singing along with many old familiar tunes. That’s the great thing about COAA members—not only are they talented at playing their band and street organs, but many have musical talents playing non-mechanical instruments as well.

We all want to say “thank you” to Adrienne, Talley and the entire Lake Winnie Staff for hosting us again in 2011. It was another great rally.



Mikey and Beth Mills enjoying the music.



Bill Klinger and Walt Gerber await their turn at the Crank Organ Concert.



Pauline Leonard displays the banner signifying the 100 year birthday of her organ.



Above: Tom & Kay Bode perform with their Jaeger und Brommer organ.

Left: Kim & Jimmy Skates in deep conversation with Kay Bode.

## Flag Day Rally—Gallipolis, Ohio June 10-12, 2011



Debbie Smith on a carousel horse (?).



LeRoy Schumacher's carousel horse and organ set the tempo for the Flag Day Rally.



Oran and Candy Speas.



Wally Venable and his monkey do tricks.



LeRoy Schumacher.



David Wasson tutoring Stefan Batist.



Jonathan Bopp posing for the photographer.



Bob Ebert entertains.



Beth Ann and Mark Mitchell.



Dave and Pat Mahr from Decatur, IL.



Bob and Nancy Mathewson.



Mary Jane Anderson making a point.



Dave Vincent and Dave Reichart.



Pauline Leonard and another celebration cake.



Ted Guillaum & Stefan Batist playing together.



George Cooper and Burt Lindhart.



Patty and Paul Dyer.



Flutist Marcia Ebert (COAA band).



Paul Senger.



Gary Colburn and Kim Pontius.



Martin Anderson.



Tim Wager and *Finster Baby*.



Jim Welty and John Ashworth.

## Olcott Beach, New York July 29-31, 2011

**After** a most successful rally in 2008, COAA returned to Olcott Beach in Northwestern New York State for another weekend of fun and sharing the Happiest Music on Earth. Just over 100 members from 17 states and Canada helped to set a new record for the largest number of instruments ever at a COAA rally, topping out at 62. This included a most impressive total of 39 small organs, five barrel pianos and 18 large organs. Two organs in particular that were new to the rally scene were Dave & Barb Schumacher's pristinely restored Wurlitzer 103 with drums and Shawn Patton's North Tonawanda/ Wurlitzer 148 with bells. Kim & Ruth Pontius' replica ruth organ had a whole new look with a brand new reproduction Artizan facade and the ever popular COAA band performed several times during the weekend with Dave and Darlene Wasson's *Trudy* concert organ.



Dave & Barb Schumacher with their "new" Wurlitzer 103.

As an added activity Friday afternoon before the rally, 55 COAA members enjoyed a boat cruise on the Erie Canal, traveling through the locks in nearby Lockport, NY. The locks act basically as a water elevator for boats, and the two locks in the city of Lockport raise and lower a total of 49 feet. An added bonus was having our own boat for the two hour cruise.

The town of Olcott sits on a small bluff overlooking Lake Ontario. most of the large organs were placed in a beautifully shaded picnic park right on the lake, and the breezes all weekend were a welcome relief to many members who had been experiencing record heat at home for the previous few weeks. A wonderful meal consisting of typical Buffalo fare including pizza, chicken wings and beef on weck

was provided Saturday evening by volunteers from the Olcott Beach Carousel Park. in addition, plenty of drinks and desserts insured that no one left hungry or thirsty.



Cris Kehoe working the back of John Ravert's Paige & Howard Organ.

Afterwards we enjoyed several private concerts on Henk and Irene Noordemeer's NBC Dutch street organ; John Ravert's Paige & Howard street organ; and David Wasson's *Trudy* concert organ that played until 11:00 pm.



A birds-eye view of the COAA band.

Sunday morning started off with Bill McCleary playing a selection of hymns on his big Stinson/Decap organ before all other organs entertained large and enthusiastic crowds for the second day of the rally



Maureen Wilke handing out "spice-to-life" cookies (in the shape of a music note).

About 40 members then converged on one of the local restaurants in Olcott, many taking advantage of the Sunday chicken and biscuit special before coming out to view an outstanding sunset over Lake Ontario. Truly a perfect end to a perfect organ rally.

Dan Wilke



Shawn Patton and his Wurlitzer 148 band organ.



Grinder's significant others including Jan Kast, Carol Ditto, Mary Jane Anderson and Beth Ann Mitchell (back).



Tom Billy and his Ruth organ.



"Sweetie Pie" and Bill McCleary.



Mark Chester takes an attempt at cranking.



Norm Otto converses with Terry Haughwout.



Irene and Henk Noordermeer.



Ed Ditto.



Pauline Leonard (background) supervises our youngest grinders: Ian Fraser, Alex Strauss-Fausto, Viktoria Billy, and Mikey Mills.



Mary Lou and John van Dorn.



Mike & Liz Barnhart taking a break.



Rally organizers, Dan & Anne Wilke.



Robert & Audrey Cole with his hurdy-gurdy.



Joan Haughawout selling shirts.



Doug Herschberger & David Stumpf.



Howard Kast.



Carl & Sharon Curtis.



Mike Knudsen cranking away.



Bob & Sandy Moore with his Wurlitzer.



Jim Pazderski playing his organ.



John Prtylaga & Margie Hagen.



Mary Jo Bopp & "Euro."



Harold Wade with his Raffin.



Jeff Vincent and barrel pianos.



Craig Smith demonstrating.



## Festa Italiana, St. Paul, MN September 23-24, 2011

On September 23,24 Harriet Island in downtown St. Paul, MN, was the site of a truly unique organ rally. With the Mississippi River lapping at the Island shore, and the St Paul Cathedral and skyline in the back drop, over 35 COAA members joined more than 20,000 attendees at the first Festa Italiana. Fourteen crank organs and four carousel organs joined with some of the best local and national Italian performers one could find. Mix in a fabulous cultural exhibit, gondola rides on the river, food and drink galore, and it was an event to remember.



Ralph Schultz and his Stinson.



Dave Mahr playing with Gordie Davidson.



Merrie and Tracy Tolzman having a good time.

After the event all were invited to the fabulous collections of Bill and Stacy Nunn for a bar-b-que and brief meeting to thank all those who came from seven states to be part of this special event.



Mike and Sandy Schoeppner.



Donna and Jim Partrick.



Tom Kuehn and his self-built organ.



Bill Klinger.



Gary Stevenson with his Hrubes organ.



Carl Cavitt and Gordie Davidson.



Host Bill Nunn.



Rally organizer Angelo Rulli.

## Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA September 30-October 1, 2011

In an experiment to try to present organs to a very large audience we held a rally at the Eastern States Exposition on the last weekend of the 17-day fair. The Big E functions as a combined state fair for the six New England states. On September 30 and October 1. The weather was lovely on Friday, becoming cold and rainy on Saturday. Nevertheless the crowds showed up, combined attendance for the two days was over 150,000 people.



A night-time view of the midway.

Placing the large organs on a very busy fairground was a challenging task, complicated by last minute changes made by the fair management. Ultimately the organs were placed where they could be enjoyed by very large numbers of people, with the small organs in the green of the recreated historic Storowton Village and the larger organs situated near the entrance gates, as they might traditionally have been on a fairground. Playing hours were long, with the crowd arriving in force starting at about 9 AM and remaining until 11 PM.



Pete and Jill Hallock with their Bruder.

On Thursday night most of the participants gathered for dinner at a great seafood restaurant recommended by local residents Pete and Jill Hallock. Portions were enormous, the food delicious, and everyone went to be happy. The rally hotel was a new hotel near the Hartford airport

that everyone seemed to find quite nice for the price, about 20 minutes drive from the fairgrounds.



Larry Kern and the *Ambassador*.

During the fair the Big E provided dinner at one of the many eating establishments (Italian Buffet), but the fair food captured most people's attention. The offerings ranged from the sublime (lobster rolls, New England Clam Chowder, Vermont apple dumplings) to the ridiculous (maple-bacon ice cream) to the truly disgusting (deep fried cheeseburgers, fried Kool-Aid, fried butter). When not tending their organs rally participants enjoyed the horse shows, the daily parades, the carnival midway, and a spectacular circus produced by the fair CEO Wayne McCary.



Bill Grigsby.



Bernice and Eddie Evarts.



Beth Ann and Mark Mitchell.



Gary Craig with his Stuber organ.



Norma and Wally Venable.



Ed O'Brien and his NBC organ.

## Steamfest/Railfest, Meridian Mississippi November 3-5, 2011

**Forty-four** members from 17 states brought about 20 organs and gathered at Meridian, MS for a historic first time rally in the state. This was also the southernmost location for a COAA rally. We began on Thursday afternoon with a "Media Hour" for the press at the historic Dentzel carousel that was built for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Roger Smith and The Temple Theater hosted a pizza buffet followed by rides on the carousel. We then continued the evening with a reception at the Temple Theater for desserts and a concert on the original Morton theater organ followed by a comedy short accompanied with original music composed for the movie.



The Dentzel Carousel with its Artizan organ.

Friday morning began early with the Steamfest at the Soulé Steam Feed Works museum. The day remained chilly and our northern friends were beginning to think that they had been bamboozled with the promise of warm weather. A large, appreciative crowd was on hand including at least three school groups. Everyone showed much interest in mechanical music and the students had especially good questions for the organ owners.



Host Roger Smith at the Temple Theater.

The festival promoters hosted dinner for COAA and the festival volunteers in



Jim Brewer and Bill Endlein.

Union Station. Following dinner nearly everyone moved to The Temple Theater for another organ concert followed by The Sucarnochee Review, a live broadcast of Mississippi Delta style music shown on selected Public Radio and TV stations.



Louis Boyd playing his Hofbauer Harmonopan.

Saturday morning was another early morning but this time the warm southern sunshine was there as promised and the crowds were even larger than Friday. Everyone went home full of enthusiasm for the rally and festival. We are already making plans to return next year on the first weekend in November so mark your calendar now!



COAA members Marilyn and Jerry Buechner.



Merchandising Chairperson, Danell Mauldin and husband, Doug, selling shirts at the rally.



Darlene Wasson hard at work.



Jimmy Scates with his self-built calliope.



Mary Jo Bopp and Sandy Schoeppner.



Burl Updyke with his self-built 105.

*The things we do to have Fun!*

