

### Meet Your Member—Burl & Shirley Updyke

My first exposure to a band organ was when I was about ten years old. My family was visiting near-by Hanson’s Amusement Park situated at Harvey’s Lake in north-eastern Pennsylvania. A Wurlitzer 145B was blaring away, and it was love at first “hearing.” As a teenager, I developed an interest in Hammond organs, and later on, pipe organs in general. Not able to own an organ, I



convinced my parents to get me a used accordion. After a period of time, I learned to play several songs, and told myself that it really sounded quite a bit like an organ. At about that time, I started going to a local roller skating rink to enjoy skating to (you guessed it) Hammond organ music. At the rink one evening, I spied the prettiest girl that I had ever seen. When it was time for “trios skate,” I talked my cousin Ken into asking her to join us. And as they say, “the rest is history”! Her name is Shirley, and we later became married, raised a family of four boys and a girl, and have been happily married for fifty nine years.

I have been a Amateur Radio Operator (W3SOC) since 1950, and that experience helped me qualify for the First Class Radiotelephone License necessary for employ-

ment in broadcasting. My first job was as a studio engineer at WBRE-TV, Wilkes-Barre, PA., where I remained for ten years. Then Shirley and I founded a weekly newspaper, “Suburban News,” and operated it for twenty years. After that we founded two religious radio stations WRGN-FM, Sweet Valley, PA, and later WIVH-FM, Christiansted, ST.Croix, USVI,

which we continue to operate to this day.

My interest in organs of all types continued to grow over the years. Several years ago I contacted John Smith , Flitwick, UK, for his plans, and built the “Busker” and then the “Senior” street organs.

We then joined COAA, and that re-kindled my interest in band organs. Working from plans by Bob Stanozek, and using ideas and techniques gathered from various sources, I designed and built a MIDI operated band organ based on the Wurlitzer 105. This project , and the fun of COAA rallies has resulted in many new friends, and much enjoyment! I wish to express thanks to you all, and for the great resource available to us all in the COAA journal.

God indeed has been good to Shirley and me.

### COAA’s Olcott Beach Rally

Plans are well under way for another exciting rally at Olcott Beach, New York, north of Buffalo on the shores of Lake Ontario. After a most successful rally there in 2008 (topping out at 57 organs), the town has been enthusiastically awaiting the return of the COAA (and another rally). As an optional pre-rally activity, we will have the opportunity to cruise on the Erie Canal as it is being raised and lowered 49 feet through the locks in nearby Lockport, NY. Further information including a rally registration form is available at the web site <http://olcottrally.weebly.com/> .

2011 Organ Rally Dates			
COAA Rally #4	Lake Olcott Olcott Beach, NY	Dan Wilke 716-825-7266	July 30-31, 2011 dwilke@ganddmanagement.com
COAA Rally #5	Quassy Amusement Park Middlebury, CT	Ron Gustafson 203-758-2913	August 27-28, 2011 Ron@quassy.com
COAA Rally #6	Festa Italiana/Riverboat Rally St. Paul, MN	Angelo Rulli 651-775-7575	September 23-24, 2011 angelorulli@gmail.com
COAA Rally #7	Eastern States Exposition West Springfield, MA	Roger Wiegand 508-358-2563	Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2011 roger@carouselorgan.com