

Meet Your Member—Henk & Irene Noordemeer

Irene and I live near a small town, Melbourne, in south western Ontario, Canada and we have been saving and collecting as long as we can remember. I came to Canada at 18 as an exchange student in 1961. I was to become a farmer but that didn't happen—instead I became a co-owner of a small machine shop along with my brother. Irene came to Canada from Holland with her family in 1951. In 1966 we were married.



Henk and Irene Noordemeer photographed at the 2010 Sandusky Rally.

Things got serious about 25 years ago when I bought an early Edison gramophone that was our first taste to mechanical music. In our collection we now have early gramophones, organettes, and Regina and Stella musical boxes. We also enjoy playing our Nelson Wiggins Nickelodeon and the player piano, which gives us a good work out.

Recently our toys have become bigger and we added a Wurlitzer 125 Military Band Organ to our collection

(built in 1922). It was bought by a Montreal company for entertainment for use in a skating rink. After sitting in a barn for many years it came to us fully restored and it's a pleasure to hear it play its music rolls.

In 2007, on a trip to Holland, we ordered and had the *De Cornelis Leendert* (The Dutch Canadian) built by the Dutch Book Organ Centre. It

was delivered in 2009. The *De Cornelis Leendert* plays on MIDI and is a very modern organ but looks and sounds like a traditional old Dutch Street Organ.

We have attended several mid winter COAA meetings and enjoy the organ rallies. We enjoy showing our collection of mechanical music in our home. Our organs are the highlights of our collection as we can take them on the road to rallies parades and fairs and share them with family, friends and fellow collectors.

Find the COAA on the internet at www.COAA.us

2011 Organ Rally Dates*

Mid-Winter Meeting	Plantation, FL	Ron Bopp 918-527-0589	February 19-20, 2011
AMICA Rally	Nunley's Carousel East Garden City, NY	Bob Stuhmer 516-294-4374	May 7-8, 2011
COAA Rally #1	Lake Winnepesaukah ("Winnie") Rossville, GA	Ron Keisler 803-356-4545	May 28-30, 2011
COAA Rally #2	Lake Olcott Olcott Beach, NY	Dan Wilke 716-825-7266	July 30-31, 2011
COAA Rally #3	Riverside Park Findlay, OH	Terry Haughawout 419-454-3671	September, 2011 (date to be determined)
COAA Rally #4	Riverboat Rally St. Paul, MN	Angelo Rulli 651-775-7575	September 23-25, 2011

*Call the rally host for more information regarding a rally.