

Meet Your Member: Mike and Sandy Schoeppner

You may recognize our name, as you send me your money as Treasurer of COAA. It has been an exciting experience, and we are getting to know more and more of COAA's interesting members. How did we get here? Everyone has a story of how they came to be crazy for carousel organs, and we are no different. It began shortly after we were married in 1968. On a closeout book rack we found Ord-Hume's *Clockwork Music*. What captivating mechanisms! Naive as we were, we thought those kinds of things existed only in museums, and none near us in Kansas City. But next we saw an ad in a neighborhood newspaper for a Stella music box. We couldn't really afford it, but the next day we hauled it home. Then came a membership in MBSI, the discovery of Vestal Press, and an invitation to an Organ Rally. As we charged into that first rally, we encountered the Headley's fire truck & calliope, the Pollock's Wurlitzer 125, the Bopp's EZ-Go Wurlitzer 103, and the Fortunes' Wurlitzer 146. We were hooked! We attended all Mid-Am rallies from #14 to #31, and we joined COAA as it was being organized.

Sandy and I are both natives of Iowa, me from a small town and Sandy from Des Moines. We both attended Iowa State at the same time, but didn't meet until later. We settled down in Kansas City. I was an engineer in a manufacturing company and Sandy



Mike and Sandy Schoeppner pose with Ginger, assistant treasurer.

was a draftsman for the telephone company (there was only one back then). After two kids, we became restless and decided to start our own business. This was a nursery/garden center/landscape operation, and it was based heavily upon Sandy's degree in Horticulture. During that time we bought our Wurlitzer 146, a basket case. We tell people we brought it home in three trips! As time went on, we sold the business (15 years in retail should be enough for anyone) and finished out our careers in our chosen fields: me as a Professional Engineer for the Kansas City Public Works and Sandy as

Horticulture Superintendent for the Kansas City Parks & Recreation. We are now retired, and busier than we ever were before.

Our current projects include home remodeling, and trying to restore everything in sight. Most COAA'ers have a lot of "stuff." Our stuff includes a National Calliope, a 1966 MGB, a 1926 Ford fire truck (the calliope is too big to fit into the truck), a Castlewood Organ we take to at least two rallies a year, and of course, the Wurlitzer 146. The 146 is still under restoration, which has been an amusement for our friends over these many years. Someday we will show up at a rally with it in tow, and everyone who knows us will be impressed!

Check out the COAA at www.COAA.us

2009 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Mid-winter Meeting	Kissimmee, FL	Ron Bopp 941-201-6503	Feb 27-28 & Mar 1, 2009
COAA Rally #1	Lake Winnepausauka Chattanooga, TN	Ron & Glynn Keisler 803-356-4545	May 23 - 25, 2009
COAA Rally #2	Gallipolis, OH	Bob Hood 800-765-6482	June 20 - 21, 2009
COAA Rally #3	Midway Park, NY		July, 2009
Mid-Am Rally (MBSI)	Yipsalanti, MI	Dale & Janet Dohler 734-677-2084	July 31 - Aug 1, 2009
COAA Rally #4	Waynesville, OH	Norm Gibson	Aug. 14 - 16, 2009

Mid-Winter COAA Meeting

The Mid-Winter meeting in Kissimmee, Florida, (late February) is a chance to get away from the cold, enjoy the Florida ambiance and see/hear some great organs. It is also a chance to meet with your fellow organ enthusiasts. Lost or misplaced your registration form? Contact Ron Bopp at bopp@peoplepc.com or call 941-201-6503. See you there!