

## Meet Your Member: Paul Senger

I was raised in Kenmore, New York next to the Tonawanda's, home of many organ builders. I have always been mechanically inclined and played the accordion as a teenager. It was many years later when these interests would come together.

There was a small family amusement park called Dealing's nearby which I went to often. I loved to ride the carousel and watch and listen to the band organ. I was always fascinated by the beaters on the drums, violently hitting the drums but making wonderful music. It was a small organ with drums on outrigger shelves like a Wurlitzer 105. I recently found out from Dan Wilke, who used to go to the same park that it was a North Tonawanda Musical Instrument Works organ playing Wurlitzer Rolls. Dan and I still wonder what happened to that organ.

After college I moved to Maryland. My dad started volunteering at the Rivera Theater in North Tonawanda restoring the theater and the Mighty Wurlitzer organ. When I came home to visit I always enjoyed going to theater when the crew was working to see the inner workings of the organ and attend organ concerts.



Paul Senger and his John Smith organ.

On a visit home in 1996 my dad said he read about a Band Organ Rally at the Herschel Carousel Museum. We went and there was a man at the entrance with a small band organ on a cart which I thought was really neat. I asked a bunch of questions and the man in a Greek fisherman's cap offered me an application to MBSI. The organs brought back the memories from my youth at Dealings. I also bought a cassette of Kim Pontius' Wurlitzer 105 organ. I found out six years later when looking at some old Mid-Am Chapter pictures that the man who gave me the registration was Frank Rider. I recognized the Greek fisherman's cap.

My first National Capital Chapter (NCC) meeting in the MBSI was at Durward Center's. I was amazed at his collection including his Welte orchestrion, clocks and old engines. I was overwhelmed to see all these machines and know that ordinary people could own them. That year I also attended the NCC organ grind at the C&O Canal and got to crank some monkey organs. It was great fun. A week before I wouldn't have believed I would be standing in public perform-

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## Check out the COAA at [www.COAA.us](http://www.COAA.us)

### 2009 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #1	Lake Winnepesaukah Chattanooga, TN	Ron & Glynn Keisler 803-356-4545	May 23 - 25, 2009
COAA Rally #2	3-Rivers Carousel Kennewick, WA	Dan Danko 509-783-7113	June 6, 2009
COAA Rally #3	Gallipolis, OH	Bob Hood 800-765-6482	June 20 - 21, 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 937-372-9877	Aug. 14 - 16, 2009

84-key Mortier No. 898 *The Trumpeter* (sold to Ronald Leach, Kent, now the *Brabançonne*, R. Balseau)  
92-key Gebr. Decap *Marie Jeanne* (arrival on 4 February 1970. Sold to Frank Bond, Taunton, in October 1971, now somewhere in England)  
92-key Mortier No. 229 (was located in Aalst, Belgium, arrival on 4 February 1970. Possibly the *Neptunus*, Peter Watts)  
77-key Clarinet (?) (arrival on 16 February 1973, no further information)

80-key Mortier *Clef* (arrival on 14 April 1973. Restored to playing condition and sold to Mr. Duman, Glasgow. In 1982 to David Vipán)  
84-key Alphonse Bursens *Ideal* with so-called banana façade (arrival in February 1973, now David en Lesley Evans, Canada)  
72-key Gebr. Decap *Lili* (sold to Mr. and Mrs. K. Wood, Hail Weston, Huntingdon, now Phil Ives, Olney, Bucks.)

101-key Mortier No. 985. *Floreal* (sold to Flora Bloom, Bressingham on 6 October 1973. Later Breitenmoser and now in the automobile museum in Oostvoorne)  
80-key *Baby* Mortier (sold to Mr. Stokes, Cardiff, later to Brian Kinsey)  
74-key Frans Decap (sold to Mr. Stokes, Cardiff)

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ing as an organ grinder. I went to the NCC Organ Grind every year and I started thinking about getting my own organ. My first acquisition was a 14-note mechanical organette I bought on e-bay.

In 2001 I decided to order the plans for a John Smith organ. The plans were intimidating, but I finally started building the organ in early in 2002. I was able to work my way through the plans and finally had a finished organ a year later.

At the 2002 MBSI annual meeting in Chicago, Larry Kern was passing out COAA Applications. He said they were going to have a rally in North Tonawanda at the Herschell Carousel Museum. I had just seen the Sanfilippo and Krughoff collections and had my enthusiasm for mechanical music raised another level. Going to a rally close to my old home sold me on joining COAA.

The first COAA rally I attended was the Midway, NY rally in 2003. Ed Ditto came up and said "come play with us." Ed and others showed me the skills and joy of organ grinding. I quickly felt at home and I had a great time. I have been going to rallies ever since. I try to make at least three rallies a year.

I have been contributing to the Rally Edition of the Carousel Organ. I sent some pictures to Ron Bopp once for a rally and he really appreciated them. Now I send pictures to Ron regularly. Its requires some extra time during the season but it is always satisfying to see them published in January.

When I retire and have more time I hope to do some more organ building or at least build some different types of pipes and learn how they work.

Belonging to COAA is like being in a big family. The members are always helpful when other members and rally visitors have problems or questions. Every spring I anticipate seeing all the people at the rallies. Leaving the last rally every year is always a sad time since you won't see friends again till next spring. The rally season goes quickly.

I always wonder what I would have been doing for the last dozen years if my Dad hadn't taken me to the Mid-Am rally, and Frank Rider hadn't given me the MBSI application.

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## COAA Resolution

### Ted Guillaum

It is with pleasure that I announce a recent resolution that was passed by the COAA Board of Directors honoring Ron Bopp for his enduring dedication to the publication of the *Carousel Organ* journal for the past ten years. Ron was presented with the resolution March 1st during the mid-winter meeting in Florida. Secretary, Mary Jo Bopp was able to keep a secret and I surprised Ron with the presentation while visiting Bill and Cindy Hall's collection.

Ron has served for ten years as the only editor of our journal and has worked diligently to write articles and to encourage authors to write on every aspect of mechanical music. The articles are scholarly, authoritative, entertaining and colorful. The variety is appealing to anyone that has an interest in the hobby. He works tirelessly to continually improve the quality of the publication and to meeting the deadlines.

Ron is one of the founders of COAA and has always served us well as a quiet leader. He avoids the spotlight but offers needed advice when requested to spread the message of "The Happiest Music On Earth."

Congratulations, and thank you, Ron for ALL the things that you do so well!

