

## Meet Your Member—Ron & Glynn Keisler

It seems like we've always been interested in band organs. Glynn and I both grew up listening to melodies from the Myrtle Beach Ruth Concert Organ. Our life together was pretty normal until our 5th wedding anniversary, when Glynn decided to buy an antique carousel horse. She had always wanted one as a child and it seemed like a nice anniversary gift, especially since wood is the traditional gift for five years of marriage. However, we never imagined how that wooden horse would change our lives!



Ron & Glynn Keisler in front of their Ruth Style 33 fair organ, the *Southern Rose*.

After joining the carousel societies, we were quickly attracted to band organs. We were amazed to learn that there were actually individuals who owned band organs! That possibility had never even occurred to us. We were hooked and had to have one of our own!

Because of the Myrtle Beach Ruth, we decided to purchase a small Ruth organ, if possible. It took over two years to find it, then we finally located a Ruth Model 33 that was for sale in Chicago. It sounded awful, but at least it played, and we were ready for a challenge! The organ was rebuilt over the next two years, with a lot of advice from our good organ friends, especially the late Ken Smith and Mike Kitner.

From the beginning, our primary objective was to share our organ and her happy music with the general public. So, it was

put on a trailer and taken to festivals and special events. Since that time, we've played our *Southern Rose* band organ at hundreds of special events, and it has been a privilege for us to be able to share her music with many thousands of people all across the Southeast.

Both of us have enjoyed being members of the COAA, and the many friends that we've made since joining the organization. I am currently pleased to serve as Vice-President of the COAA and in recent

years, Glynn and I have worked to organize the COAA Organ Rallies at Lake Winnepesaukah.

In addition to Band Organs, there are other musical interests that we enjoy. We both play instruments in local community bands and orchestras. Glynn plays the oboe and I play percussion. Most recently, Glynn has organized a small twelve-piece Salon Orchestra that dresses in vintage style clothing and plays popular light music from the 1880s through the 1920s. This orchestra is named The New Century Salon Orchestra and she and I play many of the same songs that are Band Organ favorites, including *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *Teddy Bear's Picnic*, and *The Old Timers Waltz Medley*. Whether played on a band organ or by a salon orchestra, it is hard to imagine a world without this happy music from the past!

### 2009 - 2010 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #4	Dutch Village Holland, MI	Joe Nelis 616-396-1475	July 18 - 19, 2009
COAA Rally #5	Waynesville, OH	Norm Gibson 937-372-9877	Aug. 14 - 16, 2009
COAA Rally #6	Quassy Amusement Park Middlebury, Conn.	Ron Gustafson 203-758-2913, ext. 109	Sept. 5-6, 2009
COAA Rally #1 (2010)	Lake Winnepesaukah, GA	Ron & Glynn Keisler	May, 2010
COAA Rally #2 (2010)	Knoebels Grove, PA		June, 2010
COAA Rally #3 (2010)	Merry-Go-Round Museum (Sandusky, OH)		June, 2010
COAA/AMICA Rally	Wurlitzer Building (Buffalo, NY)		July 10 - 11, 2010
COAA Rally #5 (2010)	St. Joseph, MI		August, 2010
COAA Rally #6 (2010)	Shelburn, VT	Timi Wagner	September, 2010