

Meet Your Member: Terry & Peggy Warner

Peggy and I first became interested in mechanical music items over 30 years ago when we saw and heard a large upright Regina music box playing in a local antique shop. It was a wonderful sound and intriguing mechanism. We then began searching for more information on music boxes and that led us down the slippery slope toward all sorts of “self-playing, mechanical musical instruments.” I will admit that although Peggy enjoys the music and friends we make, most of the interest in this area was driven by my own fascination with such devices as an engineer and inveterate tinkerer. She has been very supportive of my affliction, although I have detected some slight flinches in the past, such as the time I brought home a Seeburg MO as an added feature for our house. We all have to admit that this hobby tends to be somewhat space intensive and may require adjustments to the interior décor theme!

Peggy has developed her own extensive collection of dolls, specifically Red Riding Hood dolls. The Red Riding Hood story has evolved over a couple hundred years and dolls have been made as long as the story has been told. Therefore there seems to be no end to the types of Red Riding Hood dolls that can be found. Ebay opened up a whole new world for finding such dolls. Thankfully, they are a lot smaller than band organs!

Family and careers limited the time we could spend attending events and rallies during our earlier years, but we continued to



Peggy and Terry demonstrate a Warner-built organ.

maintain an interest in mechanical music and attended as many functions as we could work into our schedules. As our career and business involvements have relented somewhat, we hope to find more time to be involved in our hobbies. A few years ago I decided to focus my attention and interest on the area of band and street organs. As an engineer, I've always enjoyed the challenge of designing and building things. Over the years, I've acquired every book and other information that I could find on organ design and construction, as well as observing existing organs. I also have a fairly extensively equipped wood and metal working shop.

A street organ seems like a fairly simple instrument when it's all completed and working. When starting from scratch, however, there are a number of variables to be considered and all components must be designed appropriately to achieve a satisfactory end result. Some of the factors to consider include size of organ, source of music, number and types of pipes and registers, type and size of valves, type and size of bellows, pipe layout, channel sizes, wind pressure desired, roll transport and cranking mechanism, and case style and decoration. The smaller the organ, the more critical these parameters become.

Beyond the theory lies the practical application and construction of the instrument. Over the past few years, I've experimented

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2008 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #1	Lake Winnepausauka Chattanooga, TN	Ron & Glynn Keisler 803-356-4515	May 24 - 26, 2008
COAA Rally #2	Knoebels Amusement Park Elysburg, PA	Ted Guillaum 615-226-5098	June 28 - 29, 2008
Mid-Am Rally (MBSI)	Roscoe Village Coshocton, OH	Myron Duffield 740-992-4197	July 18 - 19, 2008
COAA Rally #3	Olcott Beach Amusement Park Wolcott, NY	Dan Wilke 716-825-7266	July 26 - 27, 2008
COAA Rally #4	COAA/AMICA Rally Leavenworth, WA	Bill Mote bandjrest@worldnet.att.net	Aug 15 - 17, 2008
COAA Rally #5	Dutch Village Holland, Michigan	Joe Nelis 616-396-1475	Aug. 23 - 24, 2008
COAA Rally #6	Riverside Park Findlay, Ohio	Terry Haughawout 419-454-3671	Sept. 12 - 14, 2008

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(This is a COAA approved item—all proceeds are deposited with the Treasurer)

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and built numerous variations of organ components and have learned much from the trial and error approach, always striving to improve the functionality, reliability, and size of my designs. I've now built a number of street organs from 20/34 to 31/110 in size. One of the unique features that my organs have is a "fast forward" capability that allows the grinder to skip past tunes on the roll that he prefers not to play. I plan to continue to make organs such as these and have numerous ideas for variations and features that I wish to incorporate

Overall, learning to design and build street organs has been frustrating at times, but enjoying a successfully completed organ is very rewarding. Peggy and I are looking forward to continuing to be very much involved in the world of mechanical music, especially band and street organs. We especially enjoy meeting the diverse people that are brought together to enjoy the "Happiest Music on Earth."