

### Meet Your Member: Tim Wagner

Hello friends, it pleases me to tell you that I've just become Fairport, New York's first organ grinder, and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to my new "baby" (and first organ), *Finster Baby*. At 12 pounds, *Finster Baby* is the smallest commercially available 20-note organ. Manufactured by Der Orgelbau im Wienerwald, in Pressbaum, Austria, my bauchorgel (belly organ) was designed by Christian Wittmann.



Tim Wagner with his new *Finster Baby*, a small belly organ which is just 12 pounds.

*Finster Baby* is a small organ with attitude! My wife Ruth, prefers her "baby," a geriatric cat named Grizzly (short for Grisabella, the glamour cat). At least my baby doesn't shed!

Professionally, I work as a film technician and archival projectionist in the motion picture department at George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film in Rochester, NY. Photography and filmmaking join my passions for organs, movie palaces and roller coasters. Organ rallies often provide opportunities to visit amusement parks along the way, catch up on the latest coasters, and share the thrill of gravity with COAA members.

Growing up in Buffalo, NY, my family and I visited Roseland Park in Canandaigua, NY every year. Home of the perfect after-dinner coaster, the Skyliner, Roseland Park also featured a classic carousel (P.T.C. #18, 1909) with an Artizan band organ. This sweet-voiced instru-

ment was the first band organ I ever heard. Even from an early age, the organ was as memorable as the amusement rides. Roseland Park closed in 1985, the year of my first organ rally in Fremont, Ohio. A real treat for a budding enthusiast, this MBSI Mid-Am rally was an incredible experience, highlighted by many brass trumpet organs and topped off with a Decap dance organ. I'll never forget Decap party time that night!

I attended the June 1998 organ rally at Trolleyville in Cleveland, OH where COAA was formed and have been a member since. In 2004 and 2006 I hosted the COAA rallies at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, PA.

What I find so interesting about outdoor mechanical organs is the confluence of arts, crafts and disciplines that come together to create an organ; the mechanical knowledge and craft of the organ builder, the artistry and skill of the façade carver and painter, and the talent of the music arranger. These skills are brought together to create a self-playing instrument that looks as good as it sounds, dazzles the eye and ear, and continues to amaze people in the 21st century. Outdoor mechanical organs never cease to amaze me, and I have been blessed with the friendship of many COAA members who help me learn more about every aspect of this hobby. As I often say in prayer, "Thank you for the music."

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

2008 Organ Rally Dates			
<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
Mid-Am Rally (MBSI)	Roscoe Village Coshocton, OH	Myron Duffield 740-992-4197	July 18 - 19, 2008
COAA Rally #4	Olcott Beach Amusement Park Olcott, NY	Dan Wilke 716-825-7266	July 26 - 27, 2008
COAA Rally #5	COAA/AMICA Rally Leavenworth, WA	Bill Mote bandjrest@worldnet.att.net	Aug 15 - 17, 2008
COAA Rally #6	Dutch Village Holland, Michigan	Joe Nelis 616-396-1475	Aug. 23 - 24, 2008
COAA Rally #7	Riverside Park Findlay, Ohio	Terry Haughawout 419-454-3671	Sept. 12 - 14, 2008