

Meet Your Member

Fred's initial exposure to band organs occurred about 1959, when he saw and heard the big 89-key Gavioli on the Royal American Shows during an engagement at the Wisconsin State Fair in suburban Milwaukee. It took several years before he learned what had captured his imagination. Exposure to several band organs and calliopes at Circus World Museum followed in the 1960s. A call from the late Dan Slack in the mid-1970s led to a great friendship that connected Fred with many other enthusiasts who shared an interest in band organs. Desiring to learn as much as possible about band organs, Fred has extensively searched both public and private collections to unearth the stories of organ builders and the showmen that presented them before the public. Commencing in 1991 he abandoned a career in engineering project management and took on responsibility for all of CWM's archives and later the artifacts collections. One assignment was planning the restoration of the great Gavioli that had first enthused him thirty years earlier. Fred has started to write a book about band organs in America and it will be serialized in the COAA journal, commencing with this issue.



Anita and Fred Dahlinger in front of Circus World's impressive Gavioli organ.

It took just 32 years from when Anita and Fred first met as high school juniors in Milwaukee until they made a permanent combination in 2000. Anita is a relative newcomer to the world of mechanical music, but she claims that Fred's enthusiasm is infectious. She comes from an "organ-ized family." Her father was the organist at North Shore Presbyterian Church on Milwaukee's East Side. Anita learned not only keyboard playing from him but also acquired a cultivated taste for great organ music. Her exposure to band organs has been limited, but there are now many opportunities to experience them. One of her greatest enjoyments comes from exploring for the fine dining and shopping experiences that occur with organ rallies. Anita is a professional care giver, serving as a clinic RN. She also enjoys sewing, reading, time with friends and the lives of her two grown children.

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COAA Web Site

Check out www.carouselorganassociation.org for the latest information about rallies, membership and COAA items for sale. Vice-president Larry Kern has taken over responsibility for the page and has done an outstanding job. This is a good site to refer your friends to who are considering membership in the COAA.

2002 Organ Rally Dates			
<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #2	Bearcreek Village Bryant, Indiana	Kim Pontius 765-348-0107	July 26 - 28, 2002
COAA Rally #3	DeBence Antique Music World Franklin, PA	Lynn Zillmer 814-432-8350	August 2-4, 2002
Band Organ Rally Mid-America (MBSI)	Monroe County Fair Dundee, MI	B Bronson 743-529-2087	August 2-4, 2002
Band Organ Rally Heart of America (AMICA)	Eureka Springs Arkansas	Marty Roenigk 800-671-6333	August 23-24, 2002
COAA Rally #4	Naperville, IL	Carl Cavitt	Sept 20-22., 2002
COAA Rally #5	Applefest Zoar, Ohio	Ed Ditto 330-343-7697	October 4-5, 2002