

Meet Your Member

When Carl Cavitt asked his wife, Kathy, if she would like to go to St. Louis for their anniversary in October 2000 she thought they were going for a romantic weekend. Carl planned for them to visit the St. Louis Botanical Gardens. Again, Kathy thought “how romantic,” especially after 28 years of marriage. The Cavitts went to the Gardens and Kathy was surprised to see a mechanical music show! Carl had always been interested in mechanical music, owning several music boxes and a player piano he had rebuilt in from 1977 to 1978.

It didn't take long for Kathy to understand that Carl's interest in mechanical music (and monkeys) was the real reason they were visiting the Gardens. Carl studied all the street organs, asked question after question, and had decided by the end of the day that he had to have one. He studied all fall, winter, and early spring on the extensive subject of mechanical organ music. By May, and an organ rally in Kalamazoo, Michigan, he was ready to decide whether to build his own or purchase one from a European organ maker.



Carl and Kathy Cavitt with one of their hand organs at the 2003 COAA rally in Holland, MI. Photo: Howard Davis

Carl walked up and down the streets of the outdoor mall where the organs were playing. He listened, cranked, and finally decided he would purchase a Raffin 20-note organ. Hal O'Rourke helped Carl & Kathy place the order while Bob Cantine kept congratulating Kathy on getting their first organ! Kathy, being very naïve in the world of mechanical music, insisted it would be the only organ for a long time to come. The Raffin made its first appearance at the 2001 COAA Holland, Michigan rally and indeed, it was just the beginning.

The Cavitts now own the Raffin, a large 20-note Yeager and Brommer, a small 20-note Y&B “belly” organ, and a band organ that is still a work in progress called “Patriot.” They are hopeful “Patriot” will be ready to unveil by the Knoebels Grove rally in June this year. Both Kathy and Carl enjoy the showmanship of playing the organs, dressing up in different costumes, and seeing how many different types of monkeys can be added to the collection. They plan on attending as many of the rallies this year as their nursing careers allow.

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 who are considering membership in the COAA.

2004 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #1	Knoebels Grove, Elysburg, Pennsylvania	Tim Wagner 585 425-7072	June 11-13, 2004
COAA Rally #2	Dutch Village Holland, Michigan	Terry Haughwout 419-454-3671	June 18-20, 2004
Mid-Am Rally	County Fairgrounds Medina, Ohio	Ed & Carol Kraus 330-239-1794	July 9-10, 2004
COAA Rally #3	Crossroads Village Flint, Michigan	Carl & Sharon Curtis 734-428-0159	July 24-25, 2004
COAA Rally #4	Sugarcreek, Ohio	Ed & Carol Ditto 330-343-7697	August 20-21, 2004
COAA Rally #5	DeBence Antique Music World Franklin, Pennsylvania	Lynn Zilmer 814-432-8350	September 10-12, 2004