

# Rally Edition of the Carousel Organ

## 2013

The official journal of the  
**Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA)**

*Devoted to enjoying, preserving and sharing knowledge of all outdoor mechanical musical instruments, including band, fair and street organs, calliopes, and hand-cranked organs of all sizes.*

### ***Dutch Village—Holland, Michigan April 27-28, 2013***

The Holland Rally is history and ended up being a lot of fun. Primarily, the weather was wonderful both days with plenty of sunshine and warmth bolstering our spirits. Friday evening 20 of us met at Logans Roadhouse for “Dutch Treat” and a good meal. We then went back to the motel for social time to renew friendships.



Jim Partrick, rally host, and Paul Boggs.

For excitement, Mark Dannecker had purchased a 20-note Pell Busker crank organ three days prior and lamented that one of the notes didn't play. Several of the guys there jumped in to help find the problem. One of the first things they did was to

remove the top, turn it over and shake it to see if there was anything obstructing the windway. A small pile of sunflower seeds fell out. As it ended up, the problem was a broken wire in the wind chest found by Carl Cavitt. Wallace Venable happened to have an electrical meter to identify the exact cause and Paul Boggs happen to have a soldering iron to repair the errant wire. How many people does it take to make an organ work perfectly? About half a dozen COAA members.



Henk and Irene Noordermeer receiving award for best large organ.

The hit of the rally was the beautiful Dutch organ that Henk Noordermeer from Canada brought. He garnered most votes

earning him a prize for the best large organ. A beautiful wood bowl was presented to him and Carl Cavitt for most popular large and small organs at the evening dinner that was provided by Dutch Village.



Carl and Cathy Cavitt receive the best small organ award for their Jaeger & Brommer circus organ.

Sunday found more of the same wonderful weather and folks enjoying our organs. This truly showed how much fun COAA people could have at our rallies.

Jim Partrick  
Rally Host

Most but not all rally photos were provided by Jonathan Bopp, Judy Campbell, Bob and Kathy Cantine, Gordie Davidson, Dan Davis, Ted Guillaum, Craig Smith, Jean Orcut, Donna and Jim Partrick, Angelo Rulli, Mike Schoeppner, Burl Updyke, Wally Venable and Ron Bopp.





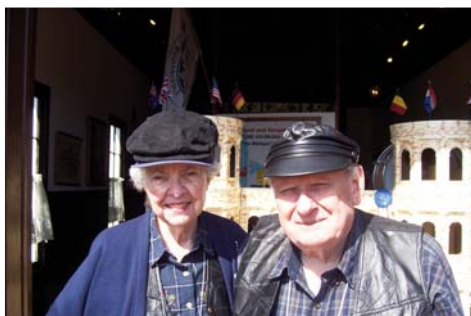
David Schroeder cranking his 50-key Kalliorgel.



Dave Vincent and Bill Frisk



Terry Younce.



Liz and Mike Barnhart.



Gloria and Tim Trager with their 43-key Hofbauer.



Gordie Davidson performing with his 20 and 31-key Wittmann MIDI crank organs.



Gary Craig and David Cantine discussing the rally.



Kay and Tom Bode getting ready to crank their custom 'see-through' Jaeger & Brommer organ.



Kathy Cantine.



Dave and Barb Schumacher posing with their OSI organ.



Burl and Shirley Updyke and Suzie Hendricks and Angelo Rulli.



Paul Boggs, Marc Dannecker, Wally Venable, Jim Partrick, Dave Schumacher and Carl Cavitt stand proud after correcting the organ's problem.



## Lake Winnepesaukah—Rossville, Georgia May 25-27, 2013

Fifty two people gathered at Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park on Memorial Day Weekend, 2013. We had attendees from 15 states and Canada. There were 13 instruments in total. The weather was just beautiful. We had clear skies, moderate temperatures and no chances of rain. What better weather could we ask for?



The park's carousel with its Style 33 Ruth organ.

I decided to try a new activity for members this year. Seven members (including myself) set sail on the Southern Bell Riverboat at 7:00 pm on Friday afternoon. I had hoped more members would be able to join, but those of us who attended really had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect and the sunset was beautiful. The food was absolutely delicious, although the entertainment was a bit lacking (those who were there know what I mean, *he he*). After dinner, everyone on the boat was welcomed into the pilot house to see how the boat is operated. Upon request, a few of us were also given a small tour of the engine room. What riverboat ride is complete without a calliope? The captain made sure to play the calliope several times and the music was great. I hope that we are able to get more members to attend this event next year.



Ted Guillaum, Mike and Sandy Schoeppner and rally host, Jonathan Bopp on the deck of the Southern Bell Riverboat.

The crank organ concert was a success as always. The highlight of the concert was the unveiling of several new 20-note arrangements by Wayne Holton. I must say that I was very impressed by the quality of these 20-note arrangements!



Pauline Leonard and John Ashworth with the Style 91 North Tonawanda Musical Instrument works organ.

Lake Winnie provided us with a fantastic meal, dessert and plenty of leftovers for those who were still hungry. Each registered group also received a recording of the Ruth organ at the Carousel. This is just another illustration of the great southern hospitality that that we receive from Lake Winnie each year. For those who cannot get enough dessert, the Mills family was kind enough to bring birthday cake for everyone in celebration of Mikey's birthday.



Bob and Marsha Ebert and their 20-note Stuber.

Unfortunately, the Wassons were not able to attend this year. This meant we were not able to enjoy the legendary *Trudy* Concert after dinner. We all hope that they are able to attend next year as we missed their presence and the customary concert.

Sunday evening included the usual group dinner at one of the local Italian restaurants, Portofino's. We had around 30 people present for the meal. The food and prices are always great, but the best part is

eating, relaxing and talking with other fellow COAA members after a long, hot day at the park. I think the restaurant has gotten pretty used to our group eating there every year. The manager did comment that we were "a noisy bunch!"



Judy and Mike Campbell enjoying the rally.

Although we had only a few people remaining on Memorial Day, it was still a special day. This was the grand opening for the new five acre water park. This new section of the park features several water tubing rides, water slides, a wave pool, a circulating river and much more. If you plan to attend next year, bring a swimsuit with you!



Larry Norman and Ted Guillaum playing a Castlewood.

If enjoying the organ rally was not enough for some folks, Lake Winnie is always generous enough to offer every person registered for the rally an unlimited ride pass for all three days! One of my favorite pastimes is to ride the roller coaster late on Saturday and Sunday nights. Usually the weather has cooled off by this time and all the roller coaster lights are lit and blinking. The best part is listening to Pauline Leonard's North Tonawanda band organ play while you wait in line for the ride. This makes standing in line much more enjoyable.





Mikey Mills and Wayne Holton.

One of my best memories for this rally was riding the carousel with a large crowd of other rally attendees. The ride was not the best part...the best part was getting to hear Wurlitzer 165 arrangements made by Mikey Mills play on the Ruth organ. What a treat! It's a wonderful thing to see younger members getting so involved with carousel organs and their wonderful music. A special thanks also goes to Doug and Danell Mauldin who worked very hard to keep the organ playing in tip-top condition.



Al Good, a new and enthusiastic member.

Al and Ruthie Good attended their first rally at Lake Winnie. They are new members and it was great to meet them at the rally. We also had some members who had never attended before. Everyone who attended told me that they had a great time and would love to come back again. This is always what I love to hear!



Marc Chester, John Ashworth and Mikey Mills.

There are many people I must thank for making the rally such a success. Of course the park does a wonderful job of working



The parks owner and hostess for us is Adrienne Rhodes.

with us and treating us with such great hospitality. My co-host, Ted Guillaum, did a terrific job of assisting me in preparation, helping during the rally and making the dinner announcements last longer (some might say too long, *he he*). Most importantly, I would like to thank everyone who attended the rally. Without attendees, there would have been no rally. I know many of our members travel long distances to attend this rally, so I always appreciate each and every person who attends.

I'm already looking forward to next year. It will be our 10th consecutive rally at Lake Winnie!

Jonathan Bopp,  
Rally Host



Jonathan Bopp, rally host.



Danell Mauldin, Ted Guillaum, Al Good (back to camera), Mike Schoeppner and Doug Mauldin.



The Chicken Dance played by Mike Schoeppner.



Bob Ebert playing& Jonathan Bopp recording.



Park visitor & Bill Klinger with his self-made organ.



Glynn and Ron Keisler, Ted Guillaum and Sandy Schoeppner.



Chris Ayers and Bill Klinger.



## ***Oatka Festival—LeRoy, NY*** **July 13-14, 2013**

Our COAA rally in Leroy, NY, held in conjunction with their annual Oatka Festival, was quite successful, enjoyable, and very satisfying for our members. Were it not for the efforts of COAA members Craig and Kathay Smith, this rally wouldn't have happened at all. Early this year, in response to the lack of a COAA rally in the northeast, Craig took proactive steps to make one happen, despite the fact that he was coordinating a June regional gathering for the MBSI East Coast Chapter. Craig contacted Genesee Country Village Museum, site of MBSI organ rallies in years past. Unfortunately, they could not accommodate us in their schedule this year. Kathay then suggested that Craig get in touch with their former public relations person (Lynne Belluscio), who now manages the JELL-O Museum and is affiliated with the LeRoy, NY Historical Society. As Craig will tell you, this suggestion was the key to our rally, as Lynne is also in charge of the Oatka Festival and welcomed us with open arms.



Paul Senger in front of the JELL-O Museum.

Sadly, just three days before the rally, Kathay Smith fell while ice-skating with her

grand-niece, and broke her hip and arm. We were shocked to learn this from Craig as he registered folks at the rally. Craig missed our Saturday dinner to be with Kathay in the hospital. Despite informing us that he wouldn't be at the rally on Sunday, he did join us, as Kathay insisted he do. What spirit! Please keep Kathay and Craig in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.



Margie Hagan & John Prtljaga.

Thousands of folks came to Leroy, NY on Saturday, July 13th to enjoy the parade which kicks off the weekend. Sunshine and marching bands put everyone in a great mood to enjoy the food, craft vendors, band organs and crank organs that were scattered throughout Trigon Park and along the banks of Oatka Creek. Our members enjoyed the opportunity to share mechanical music with a new, and very appreciative audience, savor some tasty vittles, "chew the fat" with friends and enjoy "The Happiest Music on Earth." The LeRoy House Museum and JELL-O Museum across the street from the park provided an extra added attraction.



Joe van Steenburg and Ray Ashmun.

COAA members from several states and Canada brought many machines to delight the senses. Henk & Irene Noordermeer brought their delightful NBC organ. Bill "Just Plain Bill" and Marion

"Sweetie Pie" McCleary brought their impressive "King William" Stinson organ. Pauline Leonard and John Ashworth serenaded rowers on Oatka Creek with their spry 102 year old North Tonawanda brass trumpet organ. Bob and Sandy Moore drove up from Florida with their snappy Wilhelm Bruder organ. John Ravert presented his sweet Page & Howard book-playing organ, while John Prtljaga and Margie Hagan favored folks with John's impressive self-built carousel band organ. Eddy and Bernice Evarts entertained with their Stinson organ and miniature carousel. Holding court on the east side of the park, Trudy fascinated marching band members at the end of their parade route.



Dan Wilke & Bill McCleary.

The large crowd provided plenty of face time for our organ grinders. Robert Cole, Craig Smith, Wally & Norma Venable, Bob Buckler, Jeff Vincent, Greg & Linda Swanson, Dan Wilke, Paul Senger, and Tim Wagner entertained and educated folks with crank organs and conversation.



Jeff Vincent with a vintage 20-note Molinari and Bob Cole with his reproduction.

Our members travelled from Melbourne, Ridgeville, and St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, and the states of NY, PA, OH, MI, WV, MD, FL, and OR. That's



right, Oregon! COAA member Ray Ashmun travelled from Portland, Oregon to enjoy the rally and test-drive some of the crank organs as he looks to acquire an instrument. It was a real pleasure to make his acquaintance and introduce him to *Finster Baby*.



Greg and Linda Swanson.

The Oatka Festival folks hosted a catered dinner for us on Saturday, in the park. They expressed their delight in having us join the festival and provide musical environment that added to the festive atmosphere. A true measure of success, we have been invited back to join the festival, whether as an official COAA rally or not. After dinner, we spent an enjoyable evening relaxing in the park, listening to Trudy and savoring the camaraderie.

Throughout the weekend, we received many unsolicited comments on how nice it was for us to be a part of the festival. There is no doubt, we'll be back!



The COAA band organs make an appearance in the annual Oatka Festival parade.



Renee Boldue and Bill Guimes.



Eddie Evarts and Mark Chester.



Norma and Wally Venable and their John Smith Organ.



Alex, Christine and Arnell Straus-Fausto.



Tim Wagner and his *Finster Baby* organ.



Rally organizer, Craig Smith.



Dan Wilke.



Bob Buckler happily cranking a 31-note Pell organ.



John Ravert.



Sean Ravert and Simon Ludovico wearing hearing protection.



## German Fest—Milwaukee, WI July 27-28, 2013

The Summer Fest grounds on Lake Michigan's shore served as venue for the first COAA rally to be held at Milwaukee German Fest. Thirty-five COAA families made the trip for a total of 76 registered participants. Attendees traveled from ten states and The Netherlands bringing with them 28 instruments to share with the more than 70 thousand attendees at German Fest on Saturday and Sunday.



German Fest time!

Rally attendees began arriving on Friday evening and we had time during registration for a small "mart" in the hotel conference room as happy hour took place in the adjacent bar and lobby areas. Over 50 members of the group then met up for dinner at the Organ Piper Music Palace for good pizza, great friends and excellent musical accompaniment by house organist Zach Frame on the Organ Piper's 30-rank Wurlitzer theater organ. Temperatures were cool but the rain had subsided so the evening was able to wrap up with hospitality in the garden at the Dannecker's home. President Angelo Rulli used that gathering spot to make announcements and present a number of certificates of appreciation to members in attendance



Marc and Debe Dannacker, our rally hosts, having fun at the rally with a 20-note Stuber.

Saturday morning brought the opportunity to visit Nolte Organ building where John Nolte provided breakfast, the opportunity to visit his shop, and a presentation on his company's work. The presentation included extensive question and answer based discussion of the details and precision that go into making organ pipes speak properly.



Tracy Tolzmann and Mike Merrick with their Artizan band organ.

Then, we finally got around to the rally. The 75 acre grounds were filled with Milwaukee Gemutlichkeit, great food and beverage options, live performance stages and—nearly everywhere you turned—COAA members and their organs. If you entered at the North Gate you were greeted by Tracy Tolzmann, Mike Merrick and their Ruth Artizan. The instrument drew a crowd

and Tracy held their attention with presentations on the organ's history and the project to restore it as Mike changed rolls. If you entered through the Main Gate you were sure to be drawn to Ralph and Carol Schultz' Stinson 47 which was in fine voice playing its wide repertoire.



The COAA band with energetic band members.

At the lake's edge at the center of the grounds there was no missing Bill Nunn's trailer presenting his Mortier 69 and Limonaire 46 to a very appreciative audience. At the South end of the grounds crowds gathered to see the Live Glockenspiel and were treated to David and Darlene Wasson's *Trudy* playing throughout the day between Glockenspiel performances. Those with lucky timing had a chance to catch a concert by a small version of the



A bird's eye view of Bill Nunn's organ trailer and the always present crowd in front of it. Bill brought both a 69-key Mortier and a 46-key Limonaire fair organ.



COAA band and even the inaugural performances of music arranged for Trudy by Jonathan Bopp.



Dave Schroeder playing his 50-note Kalliorgel.

More organ grinders? They weren't hard to find either. Located up and down the lakefront and in among the other entertainment venues everything from the tiniest 20-note belly organ to the Dave Schroeder's homebuilt 50-note Kalliorgel found an eager audience. The German Fest parade included COAA members coordinated by Gordie Davidson playing two 20-note Wittman organs and two 20-note Hohner Concertinas all wirelessly synchronized generating great crowd response as the parade wound through the grounds. Listeners catching the live radio broadcast from the grounds likely heard the interview with Stefan Baptist and his demonstration of the Holl barrel organ brought to the rally by Jim and Sherrie Krughoff.



Ted Guillaum cranking the Krughoff's Holl barrel organ.

Attendees who visited the extensive Culture Tent were likely to meet John Miller or Marty Persky at the information exhibit that John created for the event. The presentation included vintage photos of German crank organ factories and a hands opportunity to see and touch most of the individual components of a 20-note crank organ which were present in the form of the pieces of a Stuber organ kit.

Perhaps the clearest indication that we had found a welcoming audience was when Carl and Kathy Cavitt finally made it to the

tent to store their instruments for the night and recounted that the short walk had taken so long because people kept asking them to "Stop and Play." A far cry from the "Stop Playing" so many of us have heard at one time or another. It was a story also told by Mike and Sandy Schoeppner and that echoed the prior German Fest experience of Tim Trager. On Sunday morning we were greeted by German Fest's VP for Culture and Entertainment bearing a sample of the suggestion forms they received on Saturday: "The music machines/drehorgelen are wonderful. Please bring them back next year Vielen Dank!"



Marty Persky and John Miller demonstrating at the cultural center.

Thirty-five COAA member families, three days, five venues and 20 pages of agenda and directions . . . we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having you!



Kathy Cavitt.

COAA has been invited to return to German Fest for 2014 but in the interest of only doing it when we can do it well we have declined. We hope you will pencil in Milwaukee for your rally planning in 2015 when we tentatively plan to host a return rally in conjunction with the 35th annual German Fest: July 25th and 26th 2015.

Many thanks to all the COAA members and experienced rally hosts who helped make this rally possible and helped keep us sane throughout the process. We could not have done this without them and especially the efforts of: Ted Guillaum; John Miller;

Barb, Jeff and Nick Kamholz; and Joe, Mary, Katherine, Caroline, Elizabeth and Anna Dannecker.

Marc and Debe Dannecker



Dan Davis on his way to take another photograph.



Bernie Gaffron playing a book-operated 31-note Prinsen organ.



Stefan Baptist and Sherrie and Jim Krughoff.



Sandy and Mike Schoeppner.





Kay and Tom Bode with their 20-note Jaeger & Brommer and Concertina.



Ralph and Carol Schultz.



Jim McNees and David Wasson.



John Miller explaining crank organs.



Barry Schultz and Beverly Chatfield.



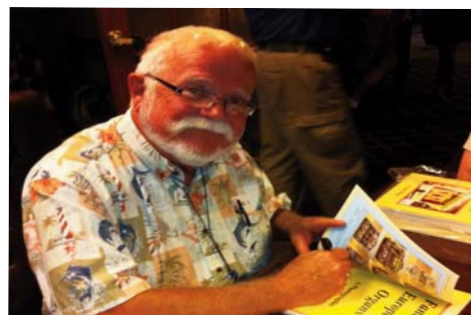
Bill and Bridget Winston with Kathy Cavitt.



Mikey Mills.



Stefan Batist came from the Netherlands to enjoy the rally.



Ron Bopp autographing books.



Mary Jo Bopp adding clothes to keep warm.



Fred Dahlinger in deep thought.



Gordie Davidson and his array of Wittman organs.



Bill Nunn behind his organ trailer.



Ralph Schultz and Dick Lokemoen.



## ***Illinois Railway Museum—Union, IL*** **August 10-11, 2013**

On August 10 & 11, the COAA was invited to the Illinois Railway Museum (IRM) in Union, Illinois for the first ever band organ rally to be held there. With plenty of power outlets throughout the grounds, band organs were able to spread out throughout the IRM and set up without interfering with each other. Several monkey organs were placed throughout the grounds near several of the barns housing train equipment. In fact, right by the entrance gate were several monkey organs so that they were the first thing patrons saw and heard upon entering the grounds!



Wilbur and Sandra Herr.

The weather proved to be perfect for the weekend, only starting to sprinkle Sunday evening at the end of the day.

Saturday after a full day of playing the organs, everyone was treated to a guided trolley ride around the grounds of the IRM. After getting off of the trolley, everyone made a short walk to the main station for a private ride on the museum's 5-mile track behind a diesel train. After the trip, we re-boarded the trolley car as it took us around to the "Grand Pavilion" where waiting for us was a cook-out with burgers, hot dogs, and brats. Other goodies were provided as well, with one of the museum's members bringing in several freshly baked pumpkin loaves.



A Union Pacific train on display.

A great time was had by all. Unfortunately, due to a commitment at work that he couldn't get out of, Dave Calendine, co-host of the event with his brother Jeff, had to leave to head back to Detroit after the cookout.



David Mahr.

Sunday morning everyone came back to the ground of IRM early for a rare treat—a tour of the steam department's workshop, which is normally closed to the public. Co-host Jeff Calendine is one of the workers in the steam department, and he took everyone through the steam shop explaining how they are overhauling their main steam engine, "1630." This steam engine has been out of service for over a decade, and is now well on its way to being brought back to service next year. After the tour, everyone went and got ready for the day and the music started. The weather held out until the end of the day, only starting to rain after everything shut down for the day.



Carol Cavitt having fun at the rally.

Many visitors took the time to stop and enjoy each organ. Some of the patrons also got to take a turn cranking a tune on one of the many monkey organs that were there. In total there were seven trailedd organs, and eight hand organs.

The staff and volunteers at the Illinois Railway Museum loved having the organs at the museum, and were very quick to ask the co-hosts when they could come back! Those COAA members that came are also asking "When can we go back!"

A great time was had by all, and we look forward to next year's rally over Labor Day Weekend, August 30-September 1, 2014.

Dave Calendine,  
Rally Organizer



Burl and Shirley Updyke taking a train ride.



Jeff Calendine explaining train workings.



A nice mixture: trains and band organs.



## Oktoberfest—St. Charles, MO

The weekend of September 27-29 40 COAA and AMICA members from seven states rallied in historic St. Charles, MO for the annual Oktoberfest celebration. Grinders had the option of locating either on the quaint Main St or two blocks away in Riverside Park. Several large circus tents were set up and played non-stop live German music. All grinders were provided great German food and drink courtesy of local Lions Clubs. It was a fabulous and memorable weekend.

Special thanks go to Gary and Rose Stevenson for a fabulous rally and weekend.

Angelo Rulli



Gary Stevenson, rally organizer and our COAA Membership Chairman.



Marlene and HC Beckman pose with their 40-note John Smith organ.



Mike Campbell playing his 20/40 Raffin hand organ.



Yousuf Wilson playing his self-made merry-go-round organ.



Bill Klinger and calliope.



Dave Mahr, Angelo Rulli, Suzie Hendricks.



Gary Craig cranking his 27-note Stuber.



Star and Sky pulling a vintage barrel organ. They are owned by Dan Hoadley & Bob Bullock. The organ is a 28-key Molinari barrel organ.



Galen and Linda Bird.



Tom Hutchinson, Dave Mahr, Bill Klinger and Gary Stevenson.



## ***Soulé Steam Fest—Meridian, MS*** **November 2-3, 2013**

I just returned from the Soulé Steam Fest Rally and another rally season is wrapped up for the year. Even though the COAA turnout was the smallest for Meridian we still were able to show a good representation of organs to a very large and appreciative audience. Howard Wyman from Varico, Florida brought and displayed for the first time his beautiful Wurlitzer replica plus a Jäger and Brommer busker organ. Roger Smith from the Temple Theater brought out his 1928 Wurlitzer that has been in storage for years. Surprisingly, after a very weak first few songs the longer it played the better it sounded.



Jean Orcut, the rally host.

Saturday Doug and Danell Maulden arrived and Doug started doing his magic with a borrowed screwdriver and by the end of the festival the organ was 1000% improved! There was still a lot of music hiding in the old Wurlitzer after all. Roger also dusted off his air calliope which was sounding strong. Chris Ayers displayed his home built organ by the food vendors and was a big hit with the kids who lined up to crank. Jack Eckard who registered and attended his

first COAA event decided he was going to become a member and find a crank organ to play at future rallies. Anyone out there have a lead on a nice crank organ for sale??



Howard Wyman

There were many improvements to the exterior of the Soulé Factory building since last year. The front has had the brick and mortar repaired and painted. New wrought iron signage and security gates to "Steam Alley" have also been added. The weather was absolutely perfect both days after a rainy Halloween on Thursday and the crowds turned out larger than ever before. Two school groups toured the grounds and listened to the music on Friday.



Lynn and Karen Herche celebrating a birthday.



Roger Smith, Greg Hatcher and Jean Orcut.

The audience in Meridian is thoroughly appreciative of anything mechanical, especially music. Jean Orcut, our COAA Host, Roger Smith—Temple Theater Owner and COAA Member, and Greg Hatcher—Executive Director of the Soulé Museum did a superb job of organizing the rally with donations of time and resources. The Hospitality Room got good use each evening till the wee hours of the morning. Many thanks to all involved.

Ted Guillaum



Roger Smith and Chris Ayers.

### **In summary, members capturing the rally experience**



David Wasson and Tim Wagner toasting another great COAA rally.



John Ashworth and the Capt. Leonard organ.



Dean Shepherd, Terry Williams and HC Beckman having a good time.