

# **The *Rally Edition* of the *Carousel Organ*\***

## **The 15th issue — 2015**

**This year—eight rallies:**

- 1). Dutch Village, Holland, MI**
- 2). Lake Winnepesaukah, Chattanooga, TN**
- 3). Museum of Carousel Art, Sandusky, OH**
- 4). Worldwide Circus Summit, West  
Springfield, MA**
- 5). German Fest, Milwaukee, WI**
- 6). DeBence Museum, Franklin, PA**
- 7). Quassy Rally, Middlebury, CT**
- 8). Soule SteamFest/RailFest, Meridian, MS**

**\*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.*

Photos provided by Stefan Batist, Ron Bopp, Bob Cantine, Cathy Cantine, Gordie Davidson, Bob Ebert, Muriel Greenleaf, Ted Guillaum, Dick Hack, Larry Norman, Jean Orcutt, Mike Schoeppner, Paul Senger, Bill Sharkey, Dean Shepard, Craig Smith, Neil Smith, Tim Wagner, and Kent Zavcherl.

## Dutch Village Holland, Michigan April 25-26, 2015

The COAA rally was held at Nelius' Dutch Village in Holland, Michigan on April 25-26, 2015. Twenty-eight members enjoyed returning to this fine reproduction of the Holland Dutch Village, our hosts, village visitors and the commandery between members.



The visitors enjoyed a 105 Wurlitzer and a 105 Wurlitzer replica along with 15 smaller and hand-cranked organs that were being demonstrated throughout the village. We were entertained with the playing of the village's 90-key *Golden Angel*, a Carl Frei street organ and talented costumed Dutch dancers. We had the opportunity to view a smaller hand-cranked T.H. Heesbeen street organ, *The Red Tulip*, that was restored and readied for display by Luke Curtis, the village manager.



Bob Buckler, Luke Curtis and Joe Nelius.

local food bank. They received free admission and three more tickets for future admission with a donation of food. At the end of the day they filled a cargo truck loaded with food.



Joe Nelius presenting Carl & Cathy Cavitt a people's choice award.

There were lots of visitors with much interest in the organs. All day Saturday village visitors voted for their favorite organs.

The Nelius' Dutch Village gave COAA members free rides on their swing ride, ferris wheel and carousel. On Saturday evening, Dutch Village provided the members with a tradition-



Bob Cantine, rally organizer, with his Pell organ, in Dutch theme.

The weather was cool and over-cast at the village's Opening Day. It was also Community Appreciation Day where people could bring food for the

al sausage dinner. A brief meeting was held after the dinner and the village gave awards to Marc and Debe Dannecker, Bob Buckler, and Carl and Cathy Cavitt.



Dave Mahr playing his Raffin street organ.



Jim & Donna Partrick.



The Holland dancers with the 90-key *Golden Angel* in the background.



Dave Schroeder with his 31/119 Raffin..



## The 2015 'Special Rally Edition' of the *Carousel Organ*



Bob Buckler playing his Pell organ.



Grinders galore: Angelo Rulli, Suzie Hendricks, Debe and Marc Dannecker and Gordie Davidson.



Debe Dannecker cranking the Wittman.



Kathy Cantine.



Tom Perna.



The Eberts, Bob & Marcia.



Dave Vincent and Carl Cavitt.



A Raffin convention: Dave Mahr, Gordie Davidson and Dave Schroeder.



## Lake Winnepesaukah Rossville, Georgia May 23-25, 2015

The Memorial Day Weekend rally at Lake Winnie was a big success this year. The park is celebrating their 90th year in operation as a family owned park and the weather was unusually pleasant for this time of year. Sixty-seven people registered from 14 states and Canada bringing five large band organs, 15 crank organs, one concertina, and a bagpipe! Two organs made their debut at this rally. Mike and Sandy Schoeppner from Kansas City, MO purchased the Stelleman Dutch Street organ four years ago from the Charles Walker estate near Lake Winnie and spent 3 ½ years restoring this beautiful Dutch organ.



Mike and Sandy Schoeppner's Stelleman

Al Good debuted his new home-built organ and it is an organ to be proud of. Lake Winnie evidently is becoming THE rally to debut your organ. Last year marked the American debut of Stefan Batist's Verbeeck Model C organ from The Netherlands.



All and Ruthie Good proudly present Al's newest organ.

Winnie for the 11th time in a row. Once again Adrienne Rhodes & Talley Green, park owners, extended their usual warm southern hospitality as well as a delicious picnic dinner Saturday evening, individual gifts to remember the park, and unlimited rides for all three days. A \$90 dollar value! How can you beat that? COAA presented them with a complimentary membership and a plaque of appreciation to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the park and the 11th consecutive organ rally at their park. They are certainly doing their part to promote outdoor mechanical music.



Tally Green and Adrienne Rhodes receive a plaque from rally organizer, Ted Guillaume.

The parks antique PTC carousel is sporting two restored horses thanks to COAA members Ron & Glynn Keisler. They spent ten days at Lake Winnie in April stripping, sanding, and painting the two horses. They really stand out. Ron said he never saw Glynn paint so fast—a lot of work. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the carousel so perhaps more if not all the horses and chariots can be restored.

A new feature of the rally this year was a presentation of small organs outside the host hotel to welcome members and other guests as they checked in. Several organs gathered on the sidewalk near the entrance which made for

Members traveled at least 58,498 miles round trip from their homes to bring the "Happiest Music on Earth" to Lake

a very pleasant "Welcome To The Rally"



Craig Darlak cranks the Verbeeck organ while Stephan Batist looks on.

We had some serious local interest in organs this year and picked up one family membership at the park when Al Good's son and family signed up. Craig Darlak became a member just before arriving. Stefan Batist talked to a couple from Atlanta who are in the market for a large organ and possibly becoming members. Two other guests from Tennessee expressed great interest and possible memberships in the future.



Anna Dannecker and Kay Bode enjoying.

The interest is spreading and the COAA members are getting the word out as they present the organs and keep playing "The Happiest Music On Earth" Come to Lake Winnie next year and help us celebrate.



Jim Grayson and Bill Klinger.



## The 2015 'Special Rally Edition' of the *Carousel Organ*



H. C. Beckman and Tom Bode in conversation.



Darold and Judy Davis.



More conversation: Bob Moore and Mikey Mills.



Dean Shepard sporting a new look.



Meghan Ryan tries on the cranking routine.



Tom Bode plays his 37-note Bode/Bird organ.



Crank organs line up for a concert.



Mike and Sandy Schoeppner pose with Stefan Batist and Jonathan Bopp.



A group photo of Dean Shepard, Bill Klinger and Don Sosbe.



Marie Pendelton and Larry Norman enjoying Bob Moores Wurlitzer band organ.



## Museum of Carousel Art Sandusky, OH June 13-14, 2015

COAA Rally Brings Happy Music to Sandusky, Ohio. The happy music of band organs and organ grinders wafted through the park in downtown Sandusky, Ohio on June 13 and 14, 2015. Invited by the Merry-Go-Round Museum, 66 COAA members and their organs from eleven states and Canada were welcomed by curator Kurri Lewis and the museum staff.



The Merry-Go-Round Museum.

There was an embarrassment of musical riches as the Wurlitzers, Raffins, Hofbauers, Stinsons, a Johnson, a Carl Frei, Stubers, a Bluml, a Wittmann, Jaeger and Brommers, a Pell, John Smiths, an OSI, the NBC *Distelvink*, the *Judith Lane*, a Ruth, an Allan Harmonette, a Perlee, a large NBC Dutch Street Organ, and others entertained the very large number of local folks and tourists who came to hear "The Happiest Music on Earth." Even a brief downpour on Saturday did not dampen either the enthusiasm or size of the crowds that came to hear the



Shawn Patton is proud of his Wurlitzer 148.

14 organ grinder organs and 17 large band organs located around the beautiful park in downtown Sandusky.



Bob and Marcia Ebert, rally organizers.

The Merry-Go-Round Museum is in the magnificent and stately old Sandusky Post Office. The centerpiece of the Museum is a Herschell carousel which came without any animals but now has figures from the Museum's collection as well as some figures on loan and a Wurlitzer band organ. The Merry-Go-Round Museum staff was most gracious as hosts for this wonderful rally. Their attention to detail and working with Marcia and Bob Ebert, who were the COAA Rally Organizers, made the event a joyful experience for all.



Paul Senger poses with his John Smith organ.



Dave Clark with his Wurlitzer.



Andrea Bogert.



Joan Haughwout relaxing.



John Prtylaga and George Cooper.



Dave Vincent and Norm Otto with the Perlee.



## The 2015 'Special Rally Edition' of the *Carousel Organ*



Robert Gregory's Wurlitzer reproduction.



John van Dorn doing repair work.



Clark Haynam playing *Judith Lane*.



Dave Schumacher and Gary Colburn.



Beth and Mikey Mills taking a break.



Jack Greenleaf with his 64-key Dutch organ.



Carl & Sue McDonough enjoying the rally.



Jim Grayson displaying a Johnson 157.



Doug Herschberger chats with Dan Wilke.



Mike & Liz Barnhart with their Stinson 165.



Jim Partrick making a 'point.'



Tom Perna & Bob Buckler.



Robert Gregory.



Judy and Dave Clark take a breather.



Mike Barnhart riding on the carousel.



## Worldwide Circus Summit West Springfield, MA July 15-18, 2015

The Worldwide Circus Summit (WCS) featured a stunning variety of activities. This included a live 308 piece circus band provided by the Windjammers. They were featured in the Cole Brothers Big Top, one of the few enormous tent shows still traveling today. Live entertainment included trained horse shows, dog and pony shows, a genuine sideshow, an all star Ringing Brothers reunion show, kids circuses from around the country and much more. All of this was interspersed with displays, exhibits, live talks, demonstrations and interviews. Experts from around the globe gave superb historical presentations supported with videos, photos and live acts. In short, one COAA attendee said that it was "the best rally ever attended."



Welcome to the Worldwide Circus Summit!

In all, there were over 800 attendees and COAA was given space for our own booth with displays and information. We signed up four new members and spread the word about mechanical music. There were nine trailer mounted organs including The Big E's own Stinson organ. A great variety of hand cranked organs represented everything from historical pieces to modern home-made examples. The public had a chance to crank an organ and receive a custom

designed certificate with COAA information on it.

The Big E in West Springfield, MA offered an incredible venue with over 300 acres of exhibition buildings, a historic village, tavern, eating venues, replicas of state capitals and a circus museum. The extended length of the rally provided members the opportunity to bond, enjoy meals together and have the time to present demonstrations and PowerPoint talks.



Organizer Bob Yorburg pulled off a great rally.

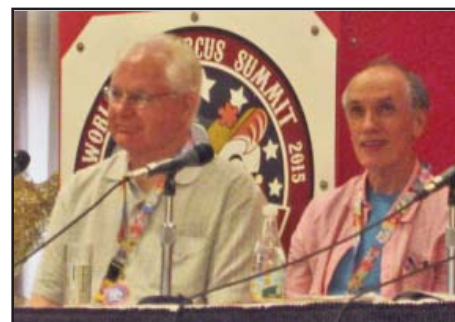
The success of this event implies that it may be repeated in approximately five years with the location still to be determined.



Tim Wagner posed with his organ.



Debbie and Neil Smith's completed Wurlitzer band organ project.



Panelist Fred Dahlinger and David Carlyon (a Dan Rice scholar) awaiting questions.



Marie Beemish enjoying the party.



Rita Sharkey enjoys Burl Updyke and Suzie's jamming.



## The 2015 'Special Rally Edition' of the *Carousel Organ*



Jan and Terry Bender dressed for the rally.



Peter and Jill Hallock.



Suzie and Angelo clowning around.



Vincent Morgan and Wally Venable.



Debbie and Neil Smith pose with newly restored Wurlitzer band organ.



Craig Smith explaining his barrel organ to members of the public.



Dessert time for Renee Bolduc.



Aliyah Lucetti and Kathay Smith.



Laura Yorburg and Maryann Morgan.



The Hallocks Wurlitzer Band Organ Style 105.



Bob Buckler explaining to Bill Sharkey.



Craig Smith manning the COAA booth.



## German Fest Milwaukee, Wisconsin July 25-26, 2015

In general, COAA's Organ Rallies share a general format—providing opportunities for our membership to gather and share their enjoyment and knowledge of the instruments and music with each other and a broader public audience. They are a means of reaching beyond the organization to spread knowledge and interest, while also building enthusiasm and reinforcing camaraderie among current members. It is the individual moments created and shared by members at a rally that generate the memories that are specific to that rally. In Milwaukee this past July, we believe some great moments were shared by the over 70 individuals representing 31 COAA membership families who travelled (by car, train, plane and two different ferry boats) with 32 instruments to meet up on the shore of Lake Michigan for the German Fest Rally.



There were moments of fun and friendship shared on Friday evening at the dinner outing to Organ Piper Pizza and at the hospitality at the Dannecker home.

There were moments of discovery and amazement as we visited the installation in progress of the Carma Labs/Carmex organ pipe organ. COAA member John Miller secured the invitation for us from Paul Woelbing, President of Carma Labs to visit



COAA members enjoying the organ concert.

this unique installation in progress. With less than half of its eventual 80 plus ranks operational at the time of our visit, the instrument—which strives to

recreate the versatility of the Wannamaker organ—is already able to make quite an impression. Our attendees were able to enjoy the sounds from Carmex warehouse floor and to wander among the ranks in one of the pipe chambers as organist Ron Reseigh demonstrated the versatility already present in the instrument.



The skies were alive with plane formations.

Once at the German Fest grounds, wonderful weather set the stage for moments of occasional distraction as the afternoon featured flyovers by the US Air Force Thunderbirds and the Breitling Jet Team among others performing at the adjacent Milwaukee Air and Water Show. The opportunity to view the show from the German Fest grounds helped build German Fest attendance to over 100 thousand people and many of those were drawn to the edge of the lake where most of our instruments were located and where the best views of the air spectacular were available.



Stefan Batist cranking his Verbeeck hand organ.

Moments of wonder were expressed on the faces of hundreds of young children who watched the organs intently or began

dancing on the walkways to the sounds of happiness the instruments produced. Moments of delight emerged for the dozens of children who were given the opportunity to crank an instrument and realized they were making the music play.

Moments of curiosity and inquiry were constant as attendees of all ages listened, cranked, compared and asked questions.

Promotional moments were provided by color signs with the COAA logo and website given to each organ owner for display next to their instrument at this and hopefully future rallies.

There were moments of remembrance and appreciation for Johnny Verbeeck shared by members who enjoyed Stefan Batist's Verbeeck Organ on hand from Georgia.



Mike Schoeppner and the newly restored Stelleman Dutch organ.

Mike and Sandy Schoeppner provided once-in-a-lifetime moments to over a hundred members of the public who took their turn (often having waited in line) at cranking the freshly restored Stelleman 58 key.



Darryl Coe with his Stüber 31 /100 trumpet organ.

Darryl Coe made it possible for members to have moments of comparison by travelling all the way from California with his Stüber 31 /100 trumpet organ; allowing the many of us who have only heard the similar Raffin models a unique opportunity see these models nearly side-by-side at one venue.



## The 2015 'Special Rally Edition' of the *Carousel Organ*

Bob Buckler brought moments of whimsy to the grounds with his giant inflatable pretzel photo opportunity alongside his Pell 31 note.

Moments of achievement were celebrated by a number of our members including Spencer Meachum who declared late in the evening on Saturday that he was finished . . . having succeeded in playing over the course of the day every roll available for our Raffin 20 / 31 which he had done an excellent job of helping keep in near constant use over the course of the day as we were distracted elsewhere.

Personally, we celebrated family moments with extended family from across the country including for the first time all three of our grandchildren in attendance at a rally.

Thank you to all of you who made the trip to Milwaukee to make these moments possible. We hope to share more of them with you in the future. And thank you to everyone who helped us put together the logistics for the rally.



Chris Dysing and James Huffer.



Leona and Ron Jordan.



Bill Nunn in front of his Mortier band organ.



Carl Cavitt cranking away.



Marc and Debe Dannecker were the rally organizers.



Carol and Ralph Schultz.



Bill and Bridget Winston.



Above: Bill Klinger.



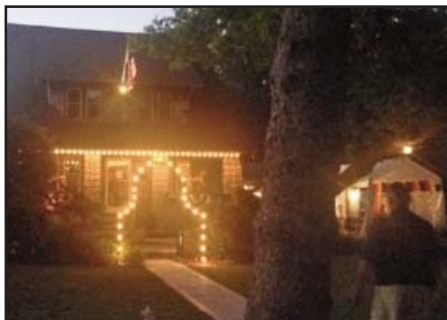
John Miller.



Tracy Tolzmann and Mick Merrick making a point.



Below: Mary Jo Bopp and Anita Dahlinger.



The Dannecker house awaiting guests.



Kathy Cavitt.



## DeBence Museum Franklin, Pennsylvania August 1-2, 2015

In 2015, the band organs returned to Franklin. Our rally featured two band organs in addition to 20 small, hand cranked organs. No court proceedings were interrupted this year. Forty-three people were in attendance. In addition to the rally itself, registrants also participated in a group tour of the Tiffany windows at St. John's Episcopal Church. After the tour, John Ravert and Chris Kehoe entertained us with a music program on the church's organ. The weekend also included free time in the museum for registrants to enjoy our collection.



John Ravert listening to his organ, the 90-key *De Witte*.



DeBence's Antique Music World museum.



Diane and Alice Bogert listening.



Bob Cole with his self-made Molinari.



Dan Wilke.



Kathy and Carl Cavitt.



Tom Bill; rally organizer, Kent Zacheri; and Mark Chester.

Overall, this year's rally was a great success. Crowds were reasonable on both days and participants had a wonderful time. We're hoping for more large organs at the next rally. I had a great time planning everything and can't wait to do it again.

See you in 2017!



# The 2015 'Special Rally Edition' of the *Carousel Organ*



Group photo: Tim Wagner, Wally Venable and John Ravert.



Ed Ditto examining his next roll to play.



Greg Swanson and Robert Cole.



Dawson Bogert.



John Ravert and John Prtylaga.



Margaret O'Dell.



Tana Otto with parrot.



Norma and Wally Venable.



## Quassy Rally Middlebury, CT September 19-20, 2015

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – Thirty-four Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA) members and guests took part in the Sept. 19-20 rally at Quassy Amusement Park.



Terry Fitch with his newly acquired NTMIW.

Five large organs as well as two hand-cranked were on hand for the two-day event under sunny skies with members attending from as far away as Missouri.

Quassy, one of the few remaining “trolley parks” in the United States, has held a number of COAA rallies dating back more than a decade.



Greg and Linda Swanson entertaining the public.

“We always enjoy hosting the event,” said George Frantzis II, a park owner. “With our unique heritage it’s a natural fit for us

and our guests really enjoy the band organ music in the park.”

Quassy hosted a barbecued chicken dinner following the Saturday evening of the rally and presented photos to organ owners in attendance.



Gary Craig cranking a Stuber hand organ.

The event also received a great deal of regional pre-publicity in magazines, newspapers on event Web sites.

For more information about family-owned Quassy, visit [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com).



Owen Christianson with a Wurlitzer 105.



Roger Wiegand and his Gavioli fair organ.



A group photo of those attending the Quassy Rally.



The last COAA Rally for the season took place during the Soule Live Steam Festival and RailFest on November 6-7. A total of 15 members and guests attended to create what was to be a memorable and most intimate gathering where people really got to sit down talk and meet one another.

Thursday night many gathered at Meridian's famous Dentzel Carousel in historic Highland Park. The City of Meridian donated the use of the Carousel and staff, and Roger Smith and the Temple Theatre donated the meal. The ladies in charge, employees of the City of Meridian, were thrilled to learn more about carousel organ music. They joined us for supper, and provided us with some history of the famous Dentzel carousel.



Rally hosts, Greg Hatcher and Jean Orcutt.

Rally Co-Host Greg Hatcher, a member of the Jimmie Rodgers Board of Trustees, opened the adjacent Jimmie Rodgers Museum and provided a guided tour highlighting the history and life of Jimmie Rodgers, world renowned as the Father of Country Music who was born in 1897 in Meridian. His original guitar, valued at over a million dollars, is on display.

Friday dawned a bit overcast and drizzly, but soon cleared to provide a warm sunny day. School tours are featured and students were completely fascinated by the mechanical music and the visual sounds and smells of live steam.



Ted Guillaum explaining the workings of a crank organ to a school tour group.

Friday night, COAA members were hosted by Roger Smith and the Temple Theatre to Friday Night Live! Particularly, they were invited to

come and hear Mr. Frank Evans play The Mighty Morton theatre organ prior to the opening of the live country music show.

Afterwards at seven p.m. all were treated to a spectacular, fully catered meal and tour at Meridian's famous and historic Merrehope Mansion, sponsored by the Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum.



Stefan Batist and Jim Quashnock with Jim's 52-keyless Gebr. Bruder.

The host hotel was the Meridian Holiday Inn with a brand new IHOP restaurant located directly next door that had just opened three days prior. Upon returning to the Holiday Inn after Saturday's meal, folks staying there found themselves a real part of what was to become a worldwide news story featuring the collapse of the IHOP parking lot and the loss of about 14 private individual cars, swallowed by the "sinkhole." By the grace of God, none of our members lost any vehicles or band organs! We were there,

and we watched from the hospitality suite as this drama unfolded. It happened just after we had all departed by hotel shuttle for supper, and returned to find the hotel without water.

By popular demand, we have been encouraged to host another Rally next year, 4-5 November. Watch for further details.



the IHOP's sinkhole.



Left: Roger Smith and Stefan Batist.  
Right: Jonathan Bopp.



Gary Craig, Ted Guillaum, Suzie Hendricks and Angelo Rulli all watching the carousel in progress.



# Parting shots . . .

