

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

## 2017—Our 17th Issue

- Eight great rallies & gatherings this year:
- 1). Lake Winnepesaukah, Chattanooga, TN
  - 2). Schupp’s Grove, Reinhold, PA
  - 3). Dutch Village, Holland, MI
  - 4). October Fest, Milwaukee, WI
  - 5). Olcott Beach, Olcott Beach, NY
  - 6). OctoberFest, St. Charles, MO
  - 7). Soule SteamFest/RailFest, Meridian, MS
  - 8). Mid-winter Meeting, Sarasota, FL

\*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, Gordie Davidson, Ted Guillaum, Larry Norman, Paul Senger, and Gary Stevenson.

## Lake Winnepesaukah Rossville, Georgia May 27-29, 2017

Our annual organ rally was held at Lake "Winnie" on May 27 to 29th, 2017. We had 45 attendees who brought a total of 20 organs. Of those, two were large band organs and two were made by the organ displayer themselves.



Anne & Sam Harris and family.

We had three families that brought several children including the Cockeys from Saratoga, FL; the Harris' from Greenville, NC; and the Mills' from Cold Spring, KY.



Bob Buckler cranking his Verbeeck street organ.

Mark Chester organized the rally along with help from Wally Venable.



Mark Chester, Mikey Mills and Meagan and Debbie Ryan.



Bill Klinger.



Danielle Mauldin cranking an organ.



Stefan Batist with his 36-note Verbeeck street organ.



Our hosts, the owners of Lake "Winnie," Talley Green and Adrian Rhodes, have a light moment at our dinner.



## The "Special Rally" issue of the *Carousel Organ*—2017 Edition



Craig and Andrew Darlak.



Darold and Judy Davis.



Doug Mauldin cranking.



Larry Norman having fun on the bumper car.



Ted Guillaum, Al and Ruthie Good at the arcade.



Dave Mahr happily cranking his Raffin organ.



Howard Wyman cranking his self-made organ.



Jim Grayson and Marie Pendleton with Jim's Johnson Model 157 band organ.



## Schupp's Grove Antique Market Reinhold, PA June 24-25, 2017

Shupp's Grove was an unexpected pleasure in that combining forces with MBSI in a different type of venue proved to be successful in an different way. As it turns out people seeking antiques were a perfect audience for us. They proved to be very inquisitive and fascinated by the organs.



Eddie and Bernice Evarts along with Mark Chester in front of the Evarts' organ.

The crank organ concert was extremely well attended both days and the crowd stayed to ask questions about the organs. Many large organs were present and we had plenty of space so that they could all play simultaneously. Lots of shade to boot. We were able to recruit new members and spread the joy of mechanical music. The owners of Shupp's grove proved to be exceptionally accommodating and they provided an excellent meal for the business meeting followed by a world class magic show. Even the dinner on Sunday in a local restaurant was a treat with lovely German food, a private room and great company. We are welcome back to Shupp's Grove in the future.

Reported by Bob Yorburg.



Peter and Jill Hallock with Sadie Mae between.



Richard Simpson trying a crank on Paul Senger's organ.



Dan Wilke stands proud with his Hofbauer.



Schupp's Grove owner, Marilyn, welcomes us.



Ian Fraser describing his mechanical organ-nuitte.



Bob Yorburg performing a magic act.



Rally Organizer, Bob Yorburg, helping with the crank organ concert.



## The "Special Rally" issue of the *Carousel Organ*—2017 Edition



Irene and Henk Noordemeer pose with their lovely Dutch street organ.



Ed Ricci at the crank organ concert.



An exuberant John Ravert.



Wally Venable entertaining with *Erie Airs*.



Ron Yancy and Ruth Secamiglio with their display.



Barbara Hildebrant performing at the crank organ concert.



COAA members celebrating the rally were (left to right): Anne Wilke, Irene Noordemeer, Norma Venable, Henk Noordemeer, Peter Hallock, Dan Wilke, Jill Hallock, Mark Chester, Kent Zacheral, Wally Venable, and Laura and Bob Yorburg.



## Nelis' Dutch Village Holland, MI June 24, 2017

Luke Curtis, Park Manager at Dutch Village, invited the Carousel Organ Association of America on Saturday June 24th of this year, to bring out our crank organs and to play the "happiest music on earth" at their annual Kids Day event at the park. Although it was not an official COAA Band Organ Rally, no less than 15 members bringing five instruments attended a wonderful Saturday at Dutch Village in Holland, MI.



Stefan Batist and Luke Curtis in front of the 67-key 'De Vier Kolommen'.

A good crowd of people from the Holland MI community showed up and showed genuine interest in the instruments. Numerous people told us how



Carl Cavitt and grandson, Roland, play for the attending crowd.

they love the big Dutch street organ, the 90 key Carl Frei *De Gouden Engel*, in the park and most of them had never seen the smaller organs we brought. Kids enjoyed cranking the organs and amongst fellow COAA members we had a great day.



Joseph van Steenburg cranking his 20er organ.

Luke Curtis took good care of us and on top of complimentary admission to the park we were treated with coupons to enjoy a Dutch style meal. Luke also hosted a tour to the Windmill Island Park to show COAA members another Carl Frei Dutch Street Organ from which Luke just completely redecorated the façade, *De Vier Kolommen*.

Just a few weeks prior to Dutch Village's first opening day of the year,



Spencer Meachum hand-cranking an organ.

the owners of Dutch Village decided it was high time to have some extensive restoration work done on their precious Dutch street organ *De Gouden Engel*. Therefor in early 2017, some vital, mechanical parts of the organ were send off to The Netherlands to be restored by Leon van Leeuwen from the world famous G. Perlee Firm in Amsterdam. Luke Curtis went over to The Netherlands to take an apprenticeship at the Perlee workshop to learn more about restoring and maintaining organs. In April of 2017 Leon van Leeuwen came over to Holland MI to install the restored parts back into the organ and, together with Luke Curtis, they did a fantastic job bringing *De Gouden Engel* back to life. To many Dutch street organ fanatics, the organ sounds like it did many years ago when the organ first came to Dutch Village back in the 1950s. As a special treat exclusively to COAA members and after the park closed, Luke hosted a mini-seminar about and mini-concert on *De Gouden Engel* to end a perfect non-official COAA Crank Organ Event at Dutch Village.



Luke Curtis cranking a Verbeeck organ for tourists.

Luke and Dutch Village are extremely looking forward to hosting an official and large COAA Band Organ Rally in 2018!

Reported by Stefan Batist



## German Fest Milwaukee, WI July 29-30, 2017

The last full weekend of July has, for over 35 years, meant German Fest in Milwaukee. In 2017 members of COAA from far and wide made the trip to enjoy the 3rd COAA rally held on the German Fest grounds. And it was worth the trip.



Bob Buckler, alias "Mr. Pretzel," participants in the German Fest parade.

Three days of perfect weather set the tone for rally. Friday evening included a popular visit to Organ Piper Pizza for good pizza, great friends and excellent music on the Organ Piper's 30-rank the-



COAA guest, Romany Mohareb, tries his hand at cranking a Raffin street organ.

ater organ. From there the evening moved to the Dannecker home for hospitality, a mini "mart" and even (thanks to the Perskys) an impromptu birthday celebration for hostess, Debe Dannecker.

On both Saturday and Sunday the 75 acre German Fest grounds were filled with Milwaukee Gemutlichkeit, great food and beverage options, live performance stages and a great representation of COAA members and their organs. At the request of German Fest, COAA members and their instruments were in place at each of the admission gates to the grounds to entertain the crowds that gathered before the gates opened each day.

Once inside the grounds, the nearly 100 thousand attendees had no problem finding opportunities to listen to, dance to and even crank hand-turned organs of many different sizes and from many different builders. Organs were presented as part of the German Fest Parade and were

well represented all along the pathway at Lake Michigan's edge. Crowds of listeners gathered around organs which have come to be a familiar sight at German Fest rallies, and this year was no exception. Additionally, grinders willing to give attendees a chance to crank were likely to have lines form of volunteers awaiting their "turn." German Fest attendees take an active interest in the instruments and music, often asking specific questions about the mechanics and history of the instruments. This interest is further fueled by the Organ Building exhibit presented by COAA member, John Miller (visiting home during a break from his organ building apprenticeship in Germany) in the culture tent.

Thank you to all who made the choice to come to Milwaukee for German Fest. Truly, it was three fantastic days of "The Happiest Music on Earth."

Reported by Marc Dannecker



Bob Buckler and Ted Guillaum.



David Mahr.



Mark Dannecker helps a small one crank a organ at German Fest.



## Olcott Beach Carousel Park Olcott Beach, NY July 29-30, 2017

2017 saw the return of the publicly acclaimed band organ rally in Olcott Beach, NY. The townsfolk and organizers in Olcott anxiously awaited the return of "The Happiest Music on Earth." Festivities began on Friday with an evening potluck (with the grills manned by rally founder Dan Wilke.) The potluck also served as a going away party for Tim Wager, who recently moved for a job opportunity. Members were encouraged to bring something to share, and the whole thing went off rather well.



Tim Wagner cutting some of his cake.

Prior to the evening warm up concert, Dan ushered attendees to the Olcott Beach Carousel Park Carousel for a session of exclusive ride time. He introduced the carousel, gave an extensive history of the carousel and park, and showcased the carousel's newly



Mike Barnhart sending music signals via his computer to his organ.

acquired Wurlitzer 105 organ! Dan also gave away some intoxicating prizes over the ERT session. The evening proceeded with numerous large organs playing through the sunset over Lake Ontario.



Dan Wilke grilling meat for members.

Saturday saw a tremendous crowd of people flock to Krull park to see the organs. With the Old Olcott Days celebration taking place, the town had a nice flow of visitors. COAA members and the public alike enjoyed visits to the various shops around Olcott looking for new treasures. The dinner was graciously provided by Carousel Concessions owners Nelson and Barb Colley. They presented a spread of Western New York favorites including buffalo wings and Beef on Weck.



Advertising for our band organ rally.

After dinner, Town Supervisor Tim Horanburg greeted the attendees and thanked us for our presence. We really had the town's full support in this per-

fect venue. Professor Phineas Feelgood amazed us with a few tricks (he's the world's greatest magician in the world, y'know) that kept us spellbound. A 50/50 drawing was held, with proceeds being donated to the Carousel Park on behalf of the COAA.



Town Supervisor, Tim Horanburg, welcomed our members to Olcott.

After the entertainment, I shared with the crowd that we had attendees from 15 US states, Canada, and the UK. The most popular announcement however, was the fact that the Olcott rally will no longer occur every three years, but every two with the next rally being in 2019! After a thunderous applause, we proceeded to enjoy another beautiful evening of music in the park. John Ravert's De Witte was the last organ playing after 11:00!



Clark Haynam poses with his self-built organ.



## The "Special Rally" issue of the *Carousel Organ*—2017 Edition

On Sunday morning, Dan Wilke led the COAA worship service with readings by various COAA members, and music provided by crank organs.

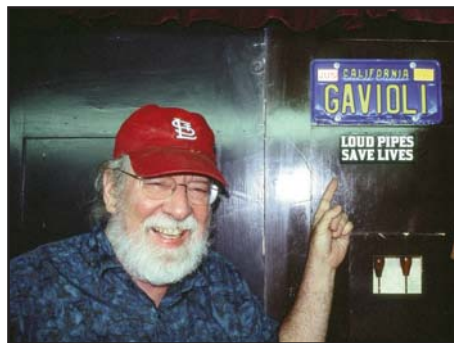


Robert Cole plays his self-made Molinari.

The day brought many more visitors to the park just to hear the organs play. After the rally officially concluded, some of the rally goers met up at the Mariner's Landing restaurant for dinner. As a post rally treat, Roger Wiegand's Diamond Jubilee serenaded us through the evening! The music finally came to an end at 9:30 with the final song being "God Save the Queen."



Joan Haughwout selling jeweled t-shirts.



Roger Wiegand's "Loud Pipes Saves Lives."

The Olcott rally was an immense success with over 50 organs and 100 people in attendance. The town of Olcott Beach (and COAA members) cannot wait for 2019.

Reported by Kent Zacheral



Rally Host, Kent Zacheral.



Al good posing with his self-made street organ.



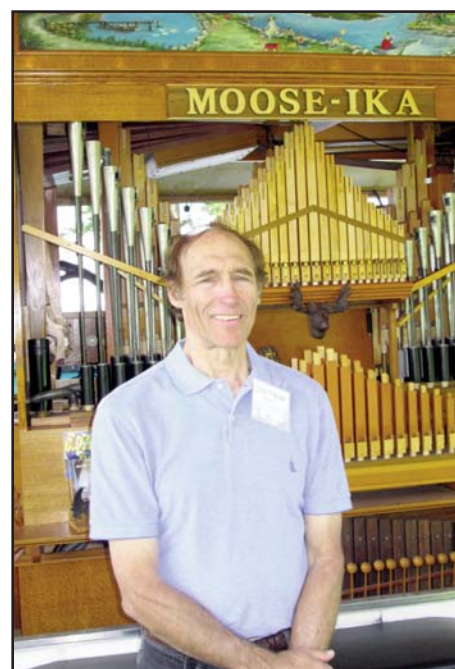
Tom Billy.



Dawson Bogert playing a tune for the crowd.



Jim Grayson next to his Johnson 157 band organ.



John Prtljaga in front of his Dutch-style fair organ.



The "Special Rally" issue of the *Carousel Organ*—2017 Edition



Noel Blair with his Wurlitzer 146 Special.



Doug Herschberger in front of the museum's Artizan D band organ.



John Gordon playing his 'granite calliope'.



Bob Yorburg practicing for his show.



Bob Moore alongside his Wurlitzer band organ.



Terry Haughawout watching his organ from inside the trailer.



Len Martinez with his Ragtime Calliope.



Jeff Vincent playing his Molinary barrel organ.



## The "Special Rally" issue of the *Carousel Organ*—2017 Edition



Paul Senger showing off his street organ.



Shawn Patton in the back of his Wurlitzer organ.



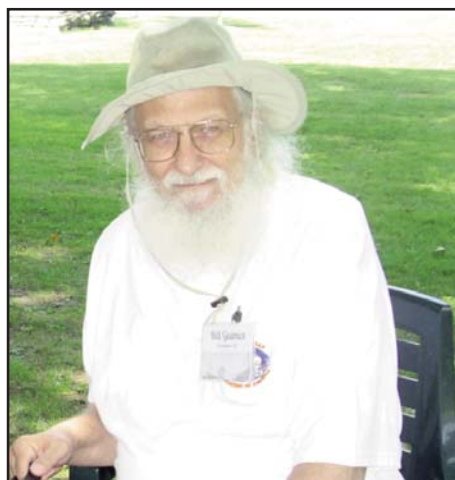
Kim Pontius taking a break from the organ activities.



Beth Ann and Mark Mitchell with their newly restored Bruder fair organ.



Dave Stull.



Bill Guimes enjoying the music.



Pauline Leonard taking a break from playing the North Tonawanda organ.



Dan Swartz cranking Kim Pontius' organ.



English visitors, John, Rosie and Anna Page seemed to enjoy the festivities.



## Octoberfest St. Charles, MO September 22-24, 2017

Thirty-five COAA members and friends from nine states were once again able to enjoy the beauty, warmth, and hospitality of Old Town, St. Charles, Missouri. On the 22nd and 23rd of September they traveled here to crank for the public along this unique street of vintage structures and thousands of festival goers.



H. C. Beckman with his home-built street organ.

The Oktoberfest lasted three days, and members could have played all three, but due to the unusual fall heat wave, reaching into the mid 90s, the rally ended Saturday night and many headed back home on Sunday morning.

COAA Member, Tracy Tolzmann, had the foresight to bring a counter to the rally. He reported that he personally performed for over 1000 viewers (and he choose to set up and play in the northern most location along the street, well away from many of the other grinders).



Carl Cavit and grandson.

Lastly, my wife, Rose, and I thank everyone who attended this 2017 edition of the rally in St. Charles, Missouri and hope to see many more grinders here again in three years.

Reported by Gary Stevenson



Mike Schoepner.



Tom and Kay Bode from Kansas City entertain.



Tracy Tolzmann performs for the public.



Rally organizer, Gary Stevenson cranks a Verbeeck organ.



## The "Special Rally" issue of the *Carousel Organ*—2017 Edition



A COAA group consisting of Carl Cavitt, Ted Guillaum, Mike Gmoser, Bob Buckler and Gary Stevenson playing in tandem.



Tom Stevenson with his mother, Rose.



Darold Davis happily cranking.



Tom McAuley cranking his circus-themed Jager & Brommer street organ.



Davod Majr. from Decatur, IL, playing his Raffin trumpet organ.



Dean Shepard and his one-man ensemble.



Angelo Rulli, Suzie Hendricks and Bob Buckner play in unison.



## Soulé Steamfest/Railfest Meridian, MS November 3-4, 2017

For the seventh consecutive year COAA was invited back to the Soulé Steam Fest hosted by Greg Hatcher from the Soulé Steam Feed Works Museum and Roger Smith from the legendary Temple Theater in Meridian, MS. Thirteen COAA members attended bringing no less than six organs, a Wurlitzer Calliola and three Concertinas.



Angelo Rulli, Greg Hatcher & Jean Orcutt.

The Soulé Steam Feed Works Museum enjoyed a big crowd of people coming from all over the United States learning more about the industrial revolution bringing steam as a new way of life. Numerous volunteers presented stationary steam engine exhibitions, steam whistles and live demonstrations. COAA members again enjoyed genuine interest in the instruments they had brought to the

Steam Fest sites from the local community and all the visitors of the festival.

The weather treated us well and on both days of the event, the main street on the Soulé Steam Feed Works property was filled with the "Happiest Music on Earth." Jim & Kathy Quashnock's Gebr. Bruder *Airphon* was a real show stopper not only for its significant volume but also, wonderful music. Another special treat to the Soulé Steam Fest this year was the occasional duets played on the Quashnock's 40-key & Batist's 45-key Johnny Verbeeck street organs. A crowd favorite was the midified Wittmann crank organ and Concertinas synchronically played concerts by Ted Guillaume, Suzie Hendricks and Bob Buckler. The kids especially enjoyed cranking the small organs and trying to play the Concertinas.



The Temple Theater awaits COAA members.

Hatcher throughout the rally, both at the host hotel and on the event site. Other than the annual Lake Winnie rally, the Soulé Steam Fest rally is perfect example of an event with genuine Southern hospitality. The COAA, members and instruments are highly appreciated and welcome at the festival. Hopefully next the edition will bring out even more members and instruments.

Reported by Stefan Batist



John and Susan Gordon enjoying the carousel.



Jim Quaschnock playing the Verbeeck.



Roger Smith addressing members.

On Saturday night we were treated an exclusive Southern style meal served in the Ballroom of the Temple Theater, followed by a silent movie accompanied with live theater organ music played by a local organist. All credits go to Roger Smith for a wonderful Saturday night at the Temple Theater. The hospitality room was well taken care of by rally host Greg



The Quaschnock's Bruder *Aerophon*.



## Mid-Winter Meeting Sarasota, FL January 12-15, 2017

Eighty-one COAA and SE MBSI members attended the COAA's mid-winter meeting in Sarasota. The meeting began with two open houses, one at Rex and Ruth Burgett's home and the other at Ron and Mary Jo Bopp's home.



Rob Johnston cranking the Verbeeck at Show Folks.

Friday found twelve members playing organs at the "Show Folks" (an organization dedicated to the memory of circus performers). Later in the day members enjoyed workshops by COAA's Wally Venable and Paul Torin who talked about his beloved Wurlitzer Band Organ, *The General* (covered in issue 72 of the *Carousel Organ*).



Paul Torin and Wally Venable between workshops.

On Saturday members enjoyed a second rally, this one at Armand's Circle where the Circus "Ring of Fame" is located. That evening we had a dinner at a most unusual venue, "Bob's Train," where we ate in a restored train car.

Reported by Ron Bopp



Moe Goldy demonstrating his organ.



Howard Sanford with his motor-driven organ.



Joan and Terry Haughawout helping with the Bopp open house.



Although not a music box, Rex Burgett tries to make music with this organ.



John and Mary Lou Van Dorn at the Show Folks celebration.



Mary Ellen Myers, co-chair of the mid-winter meeting.



Marie Pendleton and Larry Norman taking a breather during the open house tour.



## Memorable Moments of 2017

