

Meet Your Member

It all started over 40 years ago at an auction featuring a Regina music box. It was a very nice sounding 15-1/2" double comb box and I was concerned that I overpaid as I wrote my \$450 check. Shortly thereafter, I bought a Swiss music box which needed some minor attention and learned that a gentleman in Cincinnati, George Theders, worked on music boxes. George showed me his wonderful collection which included a small Limonaire organ and I knew then it would only be a matter of time before I had such an instrument.



Herb and JoAnn Brabandt in front of their Carl Frei 89-keyless organ.

After a few years, I yearned for a larger organ with increased musical capabilities and was able to acquire a very nice Carl Frei 89-keyless fair organ from my good friend Dan Slack. Dan was one of the “movers and shakers” who gave life to the organ scene in this country and I really miss conversations with him and many of the “old timers.”

I was fortunate to get involved in the hobby early enough to meet Arthur Bursens, and get to know Carl Frei Jr., George Cushing, Tom Varley, Arthur Mason and others in Europe

My first organ was a 49-key Limonaire purchased from G.W. MacKinnon. As I learned more about various organ builders, music scales and their capabilities, a 57-key Gavioli in the possession of Haning and White in Troy, Ohio became available. So I sold the Limonaire and traded up to the Gavioli. I needed more book music and found it was available from an arranger in Belgium named Arthur Prinsen. As one might see, there was a pattern developing—one thing leads to another and before you know it, you’re totally immersed in the world of organs and automatic musical instruments.

well-known for their involvement in the organ world. All these people, now deceased, were generous with their time and very kind in the early years.

One of the most pleasurable things about this hobby is the people we’ve met along the way. JoAnn and I enjoy attending rallies and visiting collections and venues featuring organs and other instruments. We hope to continue enjoying the music, the peripheral surroundings, and the company of wonderful friends for many years to come.

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.

2005 Organ Rally Dates			
<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #1	Lake Winnepesaukee Amusement Park Chattanooga, TN	Charles Walker (404-892-0065)	May 28 - 30, 2005
Mid-Am (MBSI)	Sandusky, OH	Marge Waters (330-334-1344)	July 7 - 9, 2005
COAA Rally #2	Midway Park Jamestown, NY	Dan Wilke (716-825-7266)	July 15 - 17, 2005
COAA Rally #3	St. Joseph, MI	James Partrick ()	Aug. 26 - 28, 2005
COAA Rally #4	Findlay, OH	Terry Haughwout (419-454-3671)	Sept. 9 - 11, 2005