

The Rally Edition of the Carousel Organ*

2016—Our 16th Issue

Five great rallies this year:

- 1). Ella Sharp Museum, Jackson, MI
- 2). Lake Winnepesaukah, Chattanooga, TN
- 3). Knoebel's Grove, Elysburg, PA
- 4). Princeton, NJ (with AMICA convention)
- 5). 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 Bob and Cathy Cantine, Gordie Davidson, Terry Fitch, Ted Guillaum, Mike and Beth Mills, Larry Norman, Jean Orcutt, Paul Senger, Wally Venable, Tim Wagner and those that contributed to Weebly.com

Ella Sharp Museum Jackson, Michigan May 14-15, 2016

The 14 and 15 of May 2016, 42 COAA Members and guests gathered at Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson, Michigan for which developed into a uniquely interesting rally with a great display of 24 organs



Jim and Donna Partrick with their 105.

We began setting up in the cold and windy weather Saturday morning.

The museum opened their planetarium because it was so cold and treated us to a sandwich lunch inside. The rest of the weekend the planetarium was used as a warming area.



Kathy and Gerry Koole with a neat Wurlitzer 147 band organ.

After our lunch it began to mist rain and the museum opened one of their barns for us to get out of the rain. The participants made the best of it and partied with the organs in the barn.

Saturday evening we went to Marinos Pizza for dinner and a brief meeting.



Members taking shelter and playing organs in the barn.

Sunday morning when we returned to Ella Sharp Museum it was spitting snow.

Bob Cantine grilled hot dog and sausages for lunch then a few organs were played inside the planetarium and some braved the cold and played outside.



Bob Cantine serving hotdogs.

It was great to see a new Raffin 20/31 organ proudly displayed by a young new COAA member Spencer Meachum for the first time at this rally.

Despite the inclement weather everyone claimed they had a great time.

Bob Cantine



Spencer Meachum with his organ.



Debe & Marc Dannecker cranking to warm up.

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Tom Penna & Bob Buckler..



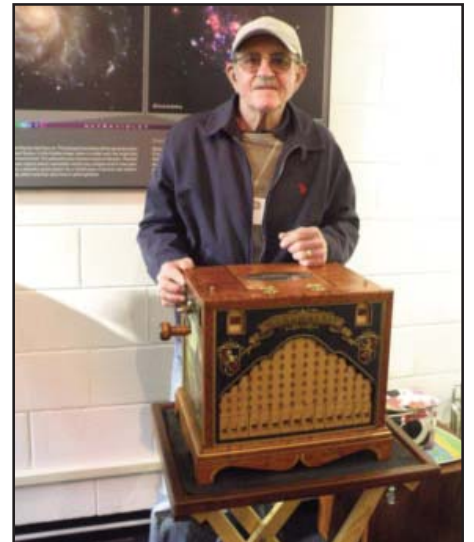
Henk & Irene in front of their Dutch street organ.



Cathy Cantine cranking her Schmider.



Garg Craig with his Stuber organ.



Dave Schumacher with his reproduction organ



Gary Colburn cranking while Stefan Batist looks on.



Norm Otto playing his Perlee street organ.



Paul Boggs taking a turn at the organ.



Lanny & Ruth Vogle display their organ.



Dan Wilke cranks his Hofbauer street organ.

Lake Winnepesaukah Rossville, Georgia May 28-30, 2016

For the twelfth consecutive year, Lake Winne Amusement Park hosted a COAA Rally on Memorial Day Weekend. Located just outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lake Winnie has hosted yearly COAA Rallies since 2005.



Danell & Doug Mauldin along side of Mark Chester.

The fifty-six attendees were from twelve states and Canada. This was down a little from recent years because several of the Lake Winnie regulars had conflicting family events. None of the regular hosts was able to be there Friday, but we put together a “management team,” with Ted Guillaum handling scheduling and publicity, Stefan Batiste doing hotel liaison, Dave Mahr doing the hospitality room and me doing registration. We were a “non-committee” since each of us worked rather independently.



Dave Mahr with his 31-note Raffin street organ.

We had three “large organs” and thirteen crank organs actually playing.

The trailered organs were two playing Wurlitzer 150 scale and one playing Wurlitzer 125 scale rolls, with none actually built by Wurlitzer. The small organs included four playing paper rolls, one barrel organ, and eight playing MIDI or cartridge systems. Of these, 3 were 31-er, 2 36-er, 1 32-er, and the rest 20-er as I recall. This gave a good variety of instruments. At Lake Winnie organs are positioned in ways which assure that virtually every park visitor sees multiple organs, and public interaction is always good.



Al Good and Wally Venable at the crank organ concert.

Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. we held a crank organ concert at the Lakeside Stage. At these presentations the organ owners get a chance to see and hear each other's organs perform, and the general public has a opportunity to compare them.



Adrianne Rhodes, owner of the amusement park, addresses the group.

Weather was mostly partly cloudy with one or two short showers and with

temperatures around 90°. Some of us noted that this was a big change from the snow flurries of our first rally two weeks earlier in Michigan



Wally Venable thanks Tally Green for the great weekend.

Lake Winnie provided us with a delicious meal, dessert and plenty of seconds for those who were still hungry. Each registered group also received a small gift as a token of their appreciation for our group. This is just another illustration of the great southern hospitality that we receive from the Lake Winnie park staff, as lead by Adrian and Tally. 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 free admission and a hand-stamp for unlimited rides and water park use.



Mikey Mills' birthday and graduation cake.

Mikey Mills usually gets a Birthday cake at the picnic. This year,

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his cake read "Congratulations Graduate." He has finished high school and began studying music at Northern Kentucky University this fall.



Larry Norman tries his hand at cranking the Raffin street organ.

As usual, on Sunday evening we had a group dinner at the local Grecco-Italian restaurant, Portofino's. We had over thirty 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.

It seemed that more organ owners than usual stayed to play on Memorial Day.

Wally Venable, Rally Registrar



Wally & Norma Venable crank and relax.



John Ashworth, Mark Chester, Marie Sherman and Bill Griswold.



Howard Wyman, Craig Darlak and Tom Bode take a break from the intense crank organ concert.



Ted Guillaum and Jim Grayson relax between organ concerts.



Pat & George Kichinko waiting for the buffet.



Members await the crank organ concert.



Organ music is so sooooooooloing.



Craig Darlak, Tom Bode, Wally Venable and Kay Bode take in the crank organ concert.

Knoebels Amusement Park Elysburg, PA June 18-19, 2016

The Knoebel family proudly welcomed COAA members back for a seventh visit to America's Largest Free-Admission Park the weekend of June 18-19, 2016. The rally again set a record with more than 196 members and friends in attendance. There were 23 large organs including *The General*, the *Ambassador*, the *Diamond Jubilee*, and the *King William* to name a few. In addition there were 34 small organs which were featured in concerts at The Lighthouse four times each day.



H.C. Beckman entertaining Dan Wilke.

Tim Wagner, the founder of the Knoebels rally, expertly hosted these concerts which featured a variety of organ types and a "concertina" concert. It was a great opportunity to educate park attendees about the differences in how organs operate and provide music.



Carl Cavitt cranking his Raffin street organ.

There were plenty of opportunities to enjoy the variety of rides featured at the park, especially the Grand Carrousel and its two fully operating organs thanks to the complimentary book of ride tickets included in the rally packet. Roller coaster enthusiasts were able to ride the latest in coasters, the "Flying Turns" and the new "Impulse" steel coaster. In addition we had a chance to see and hear some of the ten plus organs owned by the park.



Jan and Terry Bender with pet owl (and caliope, too).

On Saturday night we all enjoyed the picnic meal of roasted chicken and fixings generously provided for by the family. President Angelo Rulli welcomed all in attendance and offered special thanks to the Knoebel family for their hospitality. Dick Knoebel brought us up to date on the additions made to the park since we were there two years ago. Although the rally officially ended Sunday evening a number of hardy souls returned to take advantage of a day of unlimited rides on Monday, an ongoing tradition associated with this rally.

Suzanne Hendricks



Paul Senger enjoying Knoebels park.



Lauri and Leanna Knoebel joining in on the fun.



Beth Ann Mitchell cranking a German organ.

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Mary Jane Anderson very intent on making music.



Dennis Green with his brass calliope.



John Ashworth & Pauline Leonard with their North Tonawanda organ in the background.



Burl and Shirley Updyke take time to relax between playing the organ.



Bernice & Eddie Evarts take a breather.



Sam and Ann Harris in front of the carousel.



Stefan Batist & Gordie Davidson.



Pat & Terry Fitch with their *Carousel Queen*.



Ed Ditto producing happy music.



Darold Davis at the crank organ exhibit.



Mike & Liz Barnhart working their Stinson 165.



A large crowd at the crank organ concert.

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Mikey Mills riding the carousel.



Dean Shepard wit his Raffin organ.



Members of the band warm up.



Crank organs line up for the concert.



Jill, Pete and Sadie Mae Hallock.



Barbara Hildebrant cranking a small Raffin street organ.



John Prtylaga and John ravert discussing band organs.



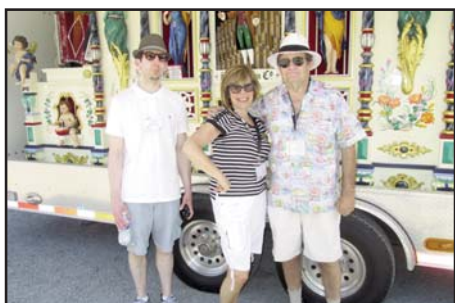
Bob Moore taking a break between playing tunes on his band organ.



Lawrence McGowan with his calliope.



Greg Swanson cranking another tune.



Dan Robinson joins Sweetie Pie & Bill McClary in front of the Stinson MA-2000 band organ.



Jim Pazderski at the crank organ concert introducing his mini Raffin crank organ.



Marlin Douglas cranking a Bacigalupo crank organ.

COAA Rally with AMICA International Convention Princeton, NJ August 4-7, 2016

What happens when you host a band organ rally in a tourist destination city? Why, success of course!

Coordinating a COAA band organ rally in conjunction with the annual AMICA convention in Princeton, NJ, event chair Glenn Thomas assured a win-win proposition for AMICA, COAA, and the pedestrian friendly city of Princeton, NJ. From August 2nd thru the 7th, members of the Automatic Musical Instrument Collector's Association (AMICA) and COAA gathered for a week of collection visits, workshops, activities, friendship, and a band organ rally. Outdoor mechanical organs were well represented in the collection tours and workshops, in addition to the successful weekend rally.



Arnold Chase giving details of his collection.

After an interminably long bus trip to Connecticut, visitors to the Arnold Chase Collection were awed by Mr. Chase's impressive home theater, restored vintage arcade games, and world-class collection of automatic pianos, orchestrions, dance organs, and band organs. Mr. Chase warmly welcomed us to his impressive facility, providing lunch on the outdoor terrace and a musical tour through his collection. European treasures manufactured by Hupfeld, Popper, Philipps, Welte, Weber, Mortier, DeCap, Limonaire, and NBC, were complemented by the domestic offerings of Coinola, Peerless, Mills, Link, Seeburg, De Kleist, North Tonawanda, and Wurlitzer. Restored to perfection, the instruments appease the eye and ear. The magic of MIDI provided an opportunity to experience two Wurlitzer style 125 organs playing in sync stereo!



Just some of the organs at the American Treasures Tour

The American Treasures Tour in Oaks, PA featured an endless collection of coin pianos, orchestrions, and band organs. An entire row of Artizan band organs comprises just some of the 100+ organs on display. A cluster of air calliopes accent the Bursens, DeCap, Gavioli, and Mortier organs. De Kleist, Artizan, North Tonawanda, Stinson, and Wurlitzer band organs are representative of US manufacturing. Three Wurlitzer style 165 organs are present, two of which perform in sync. Completed just in time for this event, a sole surviving Wurlitzer style 175 organ made its restoration debut.



Glenn Thomas demonstrating his Wurlitzer Style 165 band organ

The Glenn Thomas collection (NJ) featured magnificently restored coin pianos, orchestrions, reproducing grand pianos, a Wurlitzer style 165 band organ, a Wurlitzer style 165/166 band organ, and a recently expanded 125-key Verbeeck fair-ground/concert/dance organ. A band organ concert here provided the opportunity to sample the talents of several music arrangers, including Andy Park and Mikey Mills, two talented young fellows attending the convention.

Many folks enjoyed an original-installation Wurlitzer 2-manual, 7-rank theater organ concert and silent film presentation at the historic 1928 Rahway Theater (Union County Performing Arts Center). The hospitable and talented Bernie Anderson provided delightful accompaniment to Buster Keaton's imaginative *Sherlock, Jr.*



Bill Klinger & Marie Beemish.

Convention workshops included Bob Yorburg presenting "Carousel Organ Carving and Painting," "Arranging Music for Large Band Organs" by Mikey Mills and Andy Park, "MIDI Explained for Mechanical Music" by Bill Klinger, "Primer for a 153 Band Organ and Its Music" by Mikey Mills, and "21st Century Arranging for Band Organs" by Wally Venable. Interest was high and questions were many.



Front page on *The Princeton Packet*.

All this fun was then capped off by our band organ rally. What a week! Thanks to Glenn Thomas' effective promotion, four newspapers published articles about the convention and band organ rally in advance of the activities. Local folk-sand tourist pedestrians filled the side-

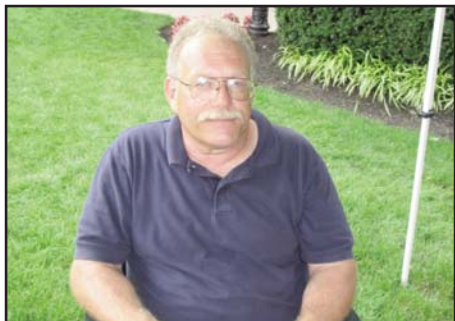
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walks on Saturday and Sunday, captivated and amazed by our musical marvels. Roger Weigand's magnificent *Diamond Jubilee* 89-key VB scale Gavioli organ anchored the west end of downtown in spacious Monument Park. Mike and Liz Barnhart's *Treveris* Stinson organ serenaded the congregation of Nassau Presbyterian Church as they departed Sunday morning service. Across the street, fronting Palmer Square, many organ grinders took advantage of the tree-shaded setting. Vincent Morgan and Bill Klinger provided organ accompaniment to the information table. Nearby Paul Senger, Ted Guillaum, Stefan Batist, Bob and Marcia Ebert, and Wally and Norma Venable presented a veritable potpourri of crank organs to delight the constant stream of pedestrians. Music from Castlewood, Stuber, Bull, Raffin, OSI, and John Smith instruments sweetened the air.



Roger Weigand with his *Diamond Jubilee*.

Holding court in Princeton's park-like Palmer Square, John River's delightful *Dewitt Page & Howard* book organ, based on the 90-key Carl Frei scale, alternated with David Wasson's impressive *Trudy* concert band organ, a 98-keyless chromatic instrument with MIDI adaption. Alternating organ performances promoted curiosity, conversation, and an opportunity to hop across the street to sample flavorful treats from The Bent Spoon Artisan Ice Cream & Good Ingredient Bakery. Yum!



Dave Vincent relaxing.

A block away at Hinds Plaza, spectators enjoyed the music of two amazing organs without leaving their café tables. Joe Hilbert's powerful Wurlitzer style 153 band organ sat side-by-side with Michael Venetia's unique *Gaviolitzer*, a 1926 Wurlitzer conversion (to 150 roll scale) of a circa 1905 Gavioli 57-key book organ. Further up the street, Jim Kenney presented the sole surviving Wurlitzer style 164 Military Band Organ. Despite the bold brass trumpets, trombones, piccolo's, and clarionettes singing forth, the cemetery residents across the street remained undisturbed.



Jim Kenney posing with *The General*.

Across from Princeton University, Tim Wagner and *Finster Baby* cranked for pedestrians on Nassau Street, while Tom Billy's Coney Island Ruth Organ anchored the east end of our rally. Folks were awed by the powerful sound and skillful arrangements performed on this 56-keyless, A. Ruth & Sohn instrument.



Kent Zacherl with Tim Wagner.

Thanks to great event planning, maps of the band organ locations helped AMICA members and the public locate and enjoy our instruments. Our music and musical machines received much-appreciated interest and engagement throughout the toasty weekend, making for a most successful and rewarding event. Hats off to event chair Glenn Thomas and the many volunteers for crafting a truly memorable convention and rally.

Tim Wagner



Andrew Barrett cranking *Finster Baby*.



Norma Venable & Liz Barnhart relaxing.



Vincent Morgan in the park.



Paul Senger cranking in front of the Einstein monument.



Tom Billy in front of his 56-keyless Ruth organ.

Soulé Steamfest/Railfest Meridian, MS November 4-5, 2016



"Meet and Greet" members included (left to right) Jim Quashnock, Roger Smith, Greg Hatcher, Earl Orcutt, Jean Orcutt, Jonathan Bopp, Romany Mohareb, Ted Guillaum, Kathy Quashnock & Stefan Batist.

The final and highly successful COAA Rally of the year is now history. Thirteen members and guests enjoyed picture-perfect weather and warm Southern hospitality in historic Meridian, MS. Folks began to arrive on Thursday, November 3, most staying at the new host hotel, Country Inn & Suites. A generous hospitality suite was provided by hosts Jean Orcutt and Greg Hatcher with assistance from Roger Smith, Manager of the Meridian Temple Theatre.

An informal "Meet and Greet" was held in Meridian's Highland Park with free rides on the historic Dentzel Carousel.



Members relaxing in the hospitality suite.

In true Southern tradition, members then played "follow the leader" with a seven-car convoy to Long's Fish Camp in

nearby Enterprise, MS, for a taste of Mississippi's home-grown catfish and seafood with all the trimmings in a unique country atmosphere. We were delighted to be joined there by Angelo and Suzie who somehow managed to locate the rather rural but highly-rated fish camp. We returned to the hospitality suite where folks gathered throughout the weekend.



Two Verbeeck street organs plus a 20-note Raffin await to play for students and others.

Friday has traditionally been the first day of the Meridian rally to allow for school groups to expose students to the history of steam and mechanical music. This year was no exception, and the gorgeous weather continued.

Saturday was the big day for the Festival with thousands of visitors coming from around the country to see live steam

in action. The great weather continued as the "Happiest Music on Earth" filled the streets.



David Benson playing the organ at the Temple Theatre.

Saturday evening the rally attendees had "Dinner and a (silent) Movie" at the Temple Theatre. Hosted by the Industrial Heritage Museum (meal) and Roger Smith, Manager of the Temple Theatre, COAA members and guests were joined by the volunteers who worked with the Soule' Museum to make this year's SteamFest a success. All enjoyed a delicious catered barbeque meal and fellowship. Afterwards, the silent movie classic, *Cops* starring Buster Keaton filled the Temple's 40' screen, with live organ accompaniment provided by organist David Benson at the console of the Mighty Morton Theater Pipe Organ. We returned to the Hospitality Suite for an informal wrap-up and farewells to this year's event. Hosts Jean Orcutt, Greg Hatcher and Roger Smith wish to thank all who joined us this year.

Jean Orcutt



Jean Orcutt relaxing after a hard day's organizing the rally.

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Roger Smith, Suzie Hendricks & Ted Guillaum.



Jim & Kathy Quashnock at the carousel.



Stefan Batist enjoying the carousel.



Brian Thornton cranking the 36-note Verbeeck.



Ted Guillaum with his 20-note Raffin.



Rally attendees enjoying home-grown catfish and hospitality.

Comments from the Rally Chair

With the rally season behind us it is time to reflect on what makes a successful rally. This has been the perfect season to look at contrasting examples of success. We started with a rally in Jackson, MI at the Ella Sharp Museum where the weather was cold and rainy/snowy and there was virtually no audience. Yet we had a wonderful time playing for each other in what will forever be known as the "Barn Rally." We had a great time sharing the music on our organs, as we sang and danced with each other. There were forty-five registrants which is certainly a healthy level of participation.

We ended the season with a November rally in Meridian, MS at the Soulé Steam Festival where the weather was a beautiful, sunny 75 degrees. While there were only 15 registrants, including family and friends, the number of people visiting the festival and their enthusiasm for our music made this a very gratifying experience for all the grinders. My point is there is no single model for what constitutes a successful rally. Yes, we need to figure out how we might increase our member participation at the Soulé Rally but it still has to be considered a successful rally.

In between these two events we had three traditionally successful rallies at Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park, Knoebels Amusement Park and Princeton, NJ. I want to extend my thanks to all the rally hosts, Bob and Cathy Cantine, Wally Venable and Dave Mahr, Mark Chester, Glenn Thomas, Jean Orcott and Greg Hatcher, who worked untiringly to provide these opportunities for both a lot of fun and a chance to communicate the joy of mechanical music to the public at large.

The schedule for 2017 is beginning to take shape. The winter meeting is scheduled for Jan 13-15, 2017 in Sarasota in conjunction with the Southeast chapter of MBSI and Windjammers Unlimited, the circus music historical association. The rallies already scheduled include Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park, Rossville, GA, May 27-29, Scupp's Grove Antique Market, Reinhold, PA, June 24-25, Germanfest, Milwaukee, WI July, 29-30, and Olcott Beach Carousel Park, Olcott Beach, NY. Plans are underway for rallies at Nelis's Dutch Village in Holland, MI, during August and Oktoberfest in St Charles, MO during September and Soulé Steam Festival in Meridian, MS in November.

Suzie Hendricks

COAA's 2016 Rally Season now over!

The end of the rally season—a tired rally organ cranker takes time to rest.

