

STOPRAIL

Arizona Chapter of The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

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In This Issue

- I April Meeting
- I Wicks needs home
- I December Help

- 2 Membership Info
- 2 Board Members
- 2 Fun at FCC
- 2 Fun at OSP

- 3 College work dates
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 3 Letters
- 3 Cheri Carr

- 4 Board Minutes

- 5 Other News
- 5 Organ Forum

- 6 Marketplace
- 6 Birthdays
- 6 Warren's Band

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Orpheum Theatre in April!

Wow! We get to hear member Ken Winland at the Orpheum on Sunday, April 11th. Ken is no stranger to theatre organs. He played a program for us at the Orpheum in October 2008. He had seven years of private instruction on piano and organ, and three years of college instruction at Ohio University. He was organist for Rolling Plains United Methodist Church from 1974 to 2001, and Red Mountain United Methodist Church in 2005. He was on call resident organist for Ralph Charles of Somerset, Ohio. That organ was in a private 150 seat residence, a four manual 20 rank mostly Rober Morton, with all the bells and whistles including piano, traps, organ roll player etc. and was entirely built and installed by the owner. He played the organ after the February program at First Christian Church and thoroughly enjoyed himself. He is scheduled to play a 60 page piece for an Easter celebration next month.



Ken has beat an illness and is back with a flourish! He lost 75 pounds during his ordeal and has gained back twenty. Look at him now! Good fight Ken! He and his wife Deborah are getting ready to move to a new house in Queen Creek. Come to the Orpheum and bring your friends to enjoy the afternoon, Sunday April 11th at 2:30 pm..

ORPHEUM PARKING The Orpheum Theatre is at 203 West Adams in downtown Phoenix. You will find parking in the garage directly East of the theatre. The entrance to the garage is on First Avenue South of Adams. It's best to use a freeway exit near the West side of downtown, 7th Avenue is a good choice. Or you can find a parking space on the street near the Orpheum. You can take the light rail also to avoid parking.

7-rank Wicks Pipe Organ needs home

We need to get this organ out of storage ASAP! It is in a storage unit. Hassell Moores has been graciously paying the fee for the storage. Do you have a place we could move it? Bill Hagey has donated this seven rank Wicks theatre organ to the chapter. It has four original ranks and three others. If you know someone in the market for a small pipe organ, let Bill Carr know. 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net.

If you would be able to help install Bill Hagey's Wicks organ in a new location, let Bill Carr know. 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

Help Needed For December Event

Bill Carr has requested members to work on committees to get the Orpheum Christmas Extravaganza off and running. Call him to find out what they need. 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

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Fun with First Christian Church Wurlitzer!

What a great entertainer we have in Don Story! We had the potential for a bad rain and wind storm that afternoon when he set out for Phoenix, but fortunately the storm didn't materialize. Twenty four people came to the meeting, proving that an evening meeting will work for many of us. Let us know what you think.

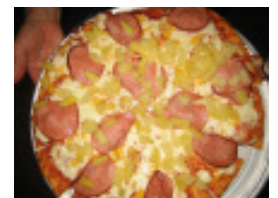
The Wurlitzer has recently been tuned and sounds great. Even though he plays songs not easily recognizable by most of us, he told us what each one was and a little about the pieces as he went along. Don began his program with *Making Believe*, and went right into Fats Waller's *Have A Little Dream On Me*, then *Good Night Vienna*, *Hello Frisco Hello*, *Green Leaves Of Summer*. He played a rainy day tune - *Isn't This A Lovely Day*. On he went with *All Is Fair In Love and War* and many others, in spite of having back pain. He played an encore of *Canadian Capers*. Thanks, Don, for a great evening!



Oh Baby! Do We Ever Love Organ Stop Pizzas!



Lew Williams was our organist for the Sunday afternoon. We haven't heard him play for a long time. He played many of the regular evening time pieces that really show off the organ, including *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *Alley Cat*, and then many requests. He played a medley of Phantom Of The Opera pieces. Lew gave us a great tour of the



organ, explaining its capability and the different sounds. There were many new people there. The pizza buffet is always a great draw, and we had over 60 people in attendance. Later on, some folks went back for their dinner hour. I guess we can't get enough of this place. Thanks, Organ Stop, for this wonderful afternoon!

The Stoprail

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Send name, address & check to VOTS/ATOS PO Box 36151 Phoenix, Arizona 85067-6151

The Valley of the Sun Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a recognized tax exempt educational and charitable organization under section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue Code and is a nonprofit corporation organized in the state of Arizona.

Cheri Carr in Hospital

Cheri has been in the hospital for several days and is undergoing treatment for a blood clot. No other information is available.

2010-II Silent Film Schedule

We now have four dates for the Silent Film series this fall. Fortunately for us, these hard to get dates are on Saturdays, since we changed our series name to Silent Saturdays. Dates are: October-30th and November-20-2010 February-26th and April-09-2011



Great use of our Wurlitzer!

On March 5th, the American Council on Education had their Board of Directors meeting and dinner (on the stage) at the Orpheum Theatre. Our Ed Benoit accompanied their dinner on the Wurlitzer, and he did a grand job! It was so restful as he played pleasant background music. He played a great medley of pieces from South Pacific and many old fashioned love songs. It is great to get this kind of exposure for people who haven't heard it before, or may not even know it was there. There were about 60 people from all over the state there for the event. Our organ work crew, Tom Fizzell and Pete Knoblock were there tending the organ. Fortunately it behaved beautifully because at the last minute, one of the council members said we couldn't leave the chamber ladder up in case of organ problems. It would have taken too long to access the chambers on a vertical wall ladder and walkways to get there. *by Beverly Fizzell*

2010 Calendar of Events

April 11, 2:30 pm - Orpheum Theatre with Ken Winland
Sunday May 16 2:00 pm - Meeting at Fizzell's - Bill Irwin to play
July We are hosting the Youth Camp again this year. More info to come.
Sunday October 17 - 1:15 pm Organ Stop Pizza - Doors open at 1:15
More information: Hassell Moores 623-215-2953 hmoores@cox.net

Phoenix College Organ Work Dates

Contact Bill Carr for the April Phoenix College work dates. If you want to work on the organ at Phoenix College, call Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 for more information and to let him know you are coming.

Stoprail Mailing

It was a failure to recruit another person to take the responsibility for the Stoprail printing, mailing and e-mailing. The circulation person has resigned. Mailing and e-mail will now be done again by Beverly Fizzell. If you have an e-mail address, she can send the Stoprail there instead of in the regular mail, and save VOTS about \$12.00 per year in printing and mailing costs. (e-mail copy is in color) Let her know if there are any problems.
 602-243-9546 or beverlyfz2@cox.net.

For changes in your information contact: Ed Benoit at 623-327-1437 or e-mail WurliTzer@q.com or 30110 W. Latham Street, Buckeye, AZ 85326

To avoid problems it is important to contact the right people.

If you don't get your Stoprail:

Call Beverly 602-243-9546 or e-mail her at beverlyfz2@cox.net

For Membership changes/corrections:

New and former member info, address, phone or e-mail changes and birthday info, contact Ed Benoit at 30110 W. Latham Street, Buckeye, AZ 85326 Tel: 623-327-1437 or E-mail him at WurliTzer@q.com

For any other issues: Contact a board member.

Letters to the editor

Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments.

Send letters to beverlyfz2@cox.net or Beverly Fizzell 2201 East Siesta Dr Phoenix Arizona 85042 We can even include photos with your letter!



From Susan Fancher:

Thank you so much for your lovely tribute to my dear husband, Jack Fancher. It was wonderful to see Bill & Cheri Carr at his Memorial service here in Carlsbad. I look forward to many more of your events & thank you for keeping me posted.
 Greetings to all, Susan Fancher

Dear Bev,

Thank you so much for your wonderful tribute to my dear husband; he enjoyed VOTS so much when he was able.

The photo of us together was on his 77th birthday, Scripps Hospital Encinitas, CA, 2/10/10!

Greetings & best wishes to all of you,
 Susan O:-)

VOTS/ATOS Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

The VOTS/ATOS board meeting was held Saturday, March 6, 2010 at the Phoenix College Bullpitt Auditorium. Attending were Bill Carr, Hassell Moores, Madeline LiVolsi, Adrian Phillips III, Pete Knobloch, Warren Bechhoefer, Ed Benoit, Tom Fizzell and Beverly Fizzell. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

The secretary read the minutes from the November 7, 2009 meeting. Adrian moved to accept the minutes as read, second by Warren. The motion passed.

Adrian presented the treasurer's report: We currently have \$1768.27 in checking, \$1016.08 in savings, \$1315.52 in the money market account, for a total of \$4099.87. He reported that last year's net income was \$2613.66, mostly due to contributions. Our 2009 income was \$27,146.25, with expenses at \$29,442.59, showing a loss of \$2,296.34. We need to secure new donations this year to further our cause. Adrian has itemized lists of all expenses if anyone wants to see them. He will give a copy to Pete. Bill asked that each board member give him information of expected expenses for this year for a budget. Warren moved to accept the treasurer's report, second by Tom. The motion passed.

As vice-president/program chairman, Hassell reported on upcoming events. March 14 will be the salad and pizza buffet at Organ Stop Pizza. April had been planned for the Orpheum, but date may need to be changed due to availability of the artist, Mark Hawn. May will be Bill Irwin at the Fizzell residence. We will return to Organ Stop in October. Matthew Bason is scheduled at the Orpheum for November 7.

Membership: Ed reported that as of March 5, we have 80 local chapter members, and 10 honorary members. Forty-eight of our local members are ATOS national members. The question was asked if we should keep issuing membership cards, as they are not required for admission to anything, nor discounts given by showing the card. It was decided that we will keep them for now, but it is something to think about.

Newsletter: Things did not work out well with the recent distribution plan, so Beverly has taken that back as part of her job. She needs a current mailing list. Bill will send out a current list to Beverly, Ed, Adrian and Madeline. His list has current members who wish to be listed, members who do not wish to be listed, and people who paid last year but have not paid this year. Warren picks up the mail at the post office box. He needs to be sure to send memberships to Ed and checks to Adrian. We are currently caught up on all membership deposits.

Crew Chief Reports: Tom reported that Ed Benoit had played a program for the American Council on Education Board of Directors reception and dinner on March 5 at the Orpheum. Another set of gaskets has been replaced. A ladder has been put in for easy access to the chamber. The bars have been tuned on the vibraharp. At First Christian Church, Grahame Davis tuned the organ about a month ago. The organ sounds a lot better. Everything is working -- more or less.. There have been mouse problems at FCC -- one stop action has been eaten. Beverly suggested investing in RIDDEX to get rid of the mice. Everyone agreed.

Old Business

Desert Winds, 2008 -- Bill received an invoice from Mr. Keller for \$1985. Adrian said that he had sent a check for \$479 for items sold which has not been cleared. At this time, we can not afford to pay the remainder off in one lump sum. We will see if we can send him smaller payments. Beverly will put something in the Stop Rail to see who can handle the items we still have not sold. Bill will check with John Sheak.

City of Phoenix/Orpheum agreement -- Adrian reported that we are up to draft #5. A lot of the things in the current contract do not apply to us. Adrian plans to meet with the city with an attorney present. We are also trying to get the city to give us \$500 off of the Silent Saturdays rental rate, and we will list them as sponsors.

The Phoenix College agreement has not been signed yet, but we do not foresee any problems.

Silent Saturdays: Bill wants to continue having it four times a year, but is having problems getting dates from the Orpheum. We are about \$2800 in the hole right now, and need to do well on the next film to balance out the season. Bill is asking someone else to step up to run the next season. We are planning on Christmas At the Orpheum for December, and we will need someone to coordinate several different groups. We need a committee, not just one person. Adrian said that we need to ask all of the membership for help with Silent Saturdays and Christmas At the Orpheum. We can ask at the meetings and in the newsletter.

New Business

Hassell hopes that we can find a home for Bill Hagey's Wicks organ that we have in storage. He has been paying the monthly rent for the storage.

Tom asked if we have any paperwork that says we own the organ at First Christian Church. Bill said that we can get that, and give them a donation slip.

Warren moved that we adjourn, second by Tom. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Madeline LiVolsi

Insult to a Pipe Organ

From Woody Norvell I think they've gone one step too far with this one! Organs aren't supposed to double as cigarette lighters!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdiQU6MbNnA&feature=related>

Poorman's Pipe Organ Convention 2010

from Jim Spohn

This year's 2010 Poorman's Pipe Organ Convention will be held on Sat May 1st and 2nd. Admission is FREE. As always guests are invited to bring sleeping bags and crash in the theatre Saturday night. This year, as last, I will be bringing in a live audience so that willing attendees can play a short concert for the audience and/or try their hand at playing a silent movie to a live audience. The organ will be doing what it was built to do: Play movies in a theatre for a crowd of movie goers. The artists for the convention and show will be the attendees.

In the darkness of the economy, we are doing our part for the theater organ community by having our event FREE. Even if there is only one attendee, the convention will go on. Doors open at 8am Saturday May 1st at the Granada Theatre

616 Kentucky Street Bakersfield, CA (661) 326-1308
For information please visit our website and or contact Jim Spohn at (661) 330-6733 (cell phone)
www.theatreorgans.com/spohngranada Jim Spohn

The Organ Forum - John Bittner

Looking for information or have a question about organs? Have an organ to sell or looking for a new one? Want to meet people from all over the world who share your love of the King of Instruments? You might want to visit the Organ Forum, a friendly online community that offers all these things for free.

Back in 2003 I had an idea for a place on the Internet where organ enthusiasts could meet and exchange information; a place that would be open to all, archival and completely searchable. Most importantly, I wanted this to be a place that encompassed the entire world of the organ, from trackers to Hammonds and beyond. Seven years ago I created the Organ Forum website for just this purpose. Unlike a mailing list that you have to subscribe to, or a Yahoo Group that you have to join to see what's inside, everyone has access to the resources of the Organ Forum absolutely free.

Because the world of the organ is so large, you could easily have trouble finding your way to what interests you. For this reason, the Organ Forum is organized (pun intended) into specific areas of interest called Groups. The groups are Announcements, Forum Info, Event Calendar & Product Reviews, Organ Classifieds, Classical Organs, Theatre Organs, Hammond & Home Organs, Organ Music, Organists, Organ Building, Repair & Restoration, and the Blower Room.

Each Group is further broken down into individual forums. For example, the Organ Classifieds Group contains separate Buy & Sell forums for Church & Classic Organs, Theatre Organs, Hammond & Other Organs, Music & Other Items, MIDI and Sound Equipment as well as the How Much Is It Worth forum where you can seek the opinion of Organ Forum members as to the value of your item of interest. Another group, the Blower Room Group, contains

Rosa Rio suffers broken hip - Recovering following surgery

The legendary Rosa Rio fell and broke her hip Sunday night at her home in Sun City Center, Florida. The 107-year-old organist and indefatigable star had surgery Wednesday morning to repair the broken bone in her left hip, and came through the surgery remarkably well, and in very good spirits. She is not in pain, and hopefully will begin rehabilitation soon.

Egyptian Theatre Morton

Hello Esteemed List Folk,

I just thought y'all might be interested in what's happening in Boise.

The original 2/8 Morton (1927) in the stunningly restored Egyptian Theatre is undergoing restoration by Clark Wilson and friends. It's a HOT little organ - definitely the biggest 8 ranks I've ever heard! Clark is accompanying Wings there tonight, and the event has caused quite a media stir. As of Tuesday, 2/3 of the house (which seats 750 due to modern comfortable seating) was sold. We expect an SRO crowd.

Below is a link to last night's local TV news story. The link to the video is in the upper left.

<http://www.fox12idaho.com/global/story.asp?s=12081069>
Rich Lewis

Organ Forum continued from page 5

general discussion forums like the General Chat, Soapbox, and Grease Pit forums. There's also a Polls forum where you can vote your opinions on a variety of subjects or create a poll of your own. Contained in each Forum are the individual discussion topics that Organ Forum members define and contribute to. For example, there's a discussion of the Wurlitzer Style D in the Specifications forum of the Theatre Organs Group. Perhaps, even with this arrangement, all this information still seems daunting to you. The good news is you can customize the Organ Forum to your own interests by choosing to display only those Groups, Forums, and Topics that interest you. To save you the trouble of having to visit the Organ Forum to keep up with what is going on, you can subscribe to Groups, Forums, and even individual discussions and receive an email or RSS notification whenever something new is posted in that section.

Unlike a mailing list, you'll often find photos embedded in the various discussion threads on the Organ Forum, but there is also a Photo Gallery where members post collections of their organ related photos and diagrams.

As I write this, the Organ Forum contains over 52,000 different discussion threads and over 117,000 individual posts from over 23,000 members. It's good thing that you can easily search the forum to find just information you're looking for. Even better, the entire Organ Forum is indexed by Google, Bing, Yahoo and other search engines so you're likely to see information from the Organ Forum crop up in your Internet searches as well.

You don't have to join the Organ Forum to view this wealth of information, but if you wish to post you have to sign up as a member. This requirement keeps the Organ Forum free of spammers and scammers. Membership is completely free. I could go on describing the features of the Organ Forum to you, but why not visit it yourself at <http://www.organforum.com>. I'll see you there!

Marketplace

Rates

Have something to sell or buy? To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or e-mail information to beverlyfz2@cox.net. She can also help you write your ad. Send by the 20th for next month's Stoprail.

Business Card	one year \$90.00	one month \$10.00
Member Card	one year \$70.00	one month \$6.00
Classified Ads	one issue \$10.00	or free to members
Add a photo to your ad - \$5.00		

Help Wanted

We need someone to take charge of the sale of the shirts and jackets etc. from Desert Winds. We still owe money to the man who made the items, so it would be great if we could settle our bill with him. Read about this in the Board Minutes on page 4.

Call Bill Carr if you can take this job. 623-694-1746 or billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net



Attention!

Do you need a band for a party or function? We have access to experienced musicians here in the valley. The size of your group depends on

your needs and cost. Call Warren Bechhoefer at 602-279-0386

We want to wish you a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** when your special day comes around. Let us know the month and day, and we will be tickled to put it in the Stoprail. Just let Ed Benoit know at 623-327-1437 or e-mail him at: WurliTzer@q.com

We wish you a Happy Birthday!



Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our April birthday cake eaters - Ed. Benoit, Wilma Charles, Alice Ehlers, Joanne Harris, John Kelso, Bill Keller, Dorothy Arnold, Terry Cox, Katy Johnston and new member Duane Spooner. If

we missed yours, let us know. So, blow out those candles and have a good time!