

THE STOP RAIL

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

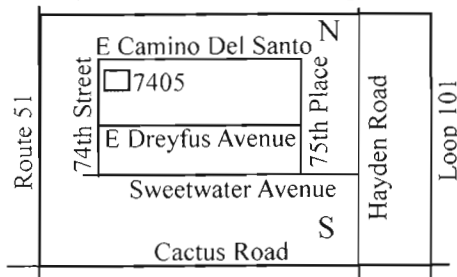
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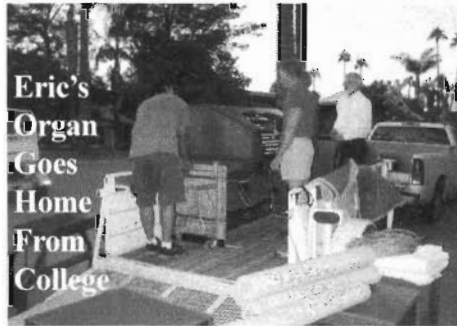
CHRISTMAS POTLUCK !

Saturday, December 8 - 1:00 pm

We would love to have all chapter members and guests attend our annual Christmas Potluck hosted by Bill, Nancy and Eric Fricke in Scottsdale. After a delicious meal, we will be entertained by our young organist, Eric Fricke, and a special surprise guest. We are also looking forward to having members share their Christmas joy by playing their favorite song at open console. **DIRECTIONS:** Either take 51 North and exit at Cactus Road and go right (east) to Hayden, or take 101 north and exit on Cactus Road and go left (west) to Hayden. Go north on Hayden to the first traffic light at Sweetwater and turn left (west). After the school on the left, turn right on 74th Street at the traffic circle. Go to the second street on right (Camino Santo)—first house on the right.



SILENTS OFF AND RUNNING!



Ron Rhode began the Phantom concert with Teddy Bear's Picnic and other spookie Halloween favorites. There were new faces at Phoenix College to see The Phantom Of The Opera and the Comedy Films. We even had new members signing up. We didn't have the attendance we expected, but we were competing with football games, Halloween parties and then the Thanksgiving holiday for students. Next time we expect to have a substantial improvement, especially when members bring the six people the treasurer requested. Eric Fricke graciously (though he seemed worried at the time) gave up his Allen organ to accompany the films while we finish the Wurlitzer for the last two films.

2008 DUES DUE NOW

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send them to Ed with the renewal form in the enclosed envelope. In case you are already paid, share the renewal form with a friend. If you decide to not renew, January will be your last newsletter and we will talk about you.

If we aren't here just shove your money under the door.

(A notice seen in the window of a shop after closing time)

WHAT \$40.00 WILL BUY THESE

DAYS *Something very important: YOUR VOTE. It's true! When you join National ATOS, you will receive the fabulous Theatre Organ Magazine and voting power, both on the National level and the local level. And those great National conventions!!! Just ask Madeline LiVolsi what great fun they are. Traveling? See what organs are there, plus so much more. Come join the rest of us who are National members as well as local members. See you at the next convention. Bet you never thought \$40.00 could buy so much. If you want to send your National dues along with your local dues, we'll even do the paperwork for you. Such a deal. Now, just do it.* Ed Benoit

FROM YOUR TREASURER After a review of the revenue received from the past two Silent Sundays we are running a severe deficit. At the last film less than 20% of our membership showed up. In order for us to continue the Silent Sundays Series next season we need every members' help. The new years challenge for each member is to actively go out and find friends, neighbors and acquaintances and encourage at least six people to attend our films. If we can meet this challenge we could fill the auditorium, making the series successful. Without the help of the general membership our group will not be able to have a 2008-2009 series. Any possible sponsors or other ideas to increase attendance would be greatly appreciated. Forward comments to AdrianPhillips@cox.net. It is the desire of the board to continue the Silent Sundays Series, but we as a club can not continue the Series in a negative cash flow status. I look forward to making Silent Sundays a team effort and a success in the coming year *Adrian Phillips*

BOARD MEETING

There will be a board meeting Saturday December 1st 1:00 pm at the Beatitudes Call Bill for more information: 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

**2008 ELECTED OFFICERS
AND BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Bill Carr

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NOVEMBER MEETING A HOOT!

Wow! What a party! It was worth the drive and after going through the hot dry desert, it was "ta daa!!!" a surprise to drop into Ed's cool music room, decorated festively with happy pumpkins



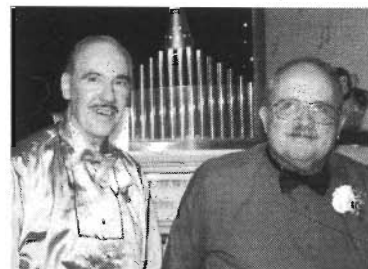
and lights. We were greeted by John Baker's Dolly, the

smallest (five pound) dog ever. Both the Allen organ and the piano were played flawlessly by Ed Benoit and Don Story. (We even recognized your pieces, Don). Guest singer Lee Ona Morris flew

in from Denver and hopefully we will hear her again in the future. We had unusual entertainment - magician Sylvia, our very own bubble accompaniment to the song *Tiny Bubbles*, and a sing-a-long. At open console we were entertained by pianist and new member Bob Ryan. Reluctantly letting our musicians go, we enjoyed pizza and great conversation. A great afternoon. Thanks, Ed!

NOTE FROM ED BENOIT: John and I started the pizza party format in Denver as a fund raiser. The first year we removed the furniture from the living and dining room of our home and put in card tables. We had two groups of around 30 people. It was a huge success with local organists providing the organ music with Lee singing some selections. The second year we held it in the Holiday Hills ballroom and had over 400 people. The Rocky Mountain chapter has been holding it ever since and is highly successful. It is something we should think about for our chapter. Mr. Ed.

Ed Benoit & Don Story



CHARLIE COX ORGAN BASH

Charlie sure knows how to throw a party! J.S.Bach (Bill Swazey) showed up for the party in turquoise traditional dress and powdered wig of Bach's time and played some of his old time favorites. There was great food and plenty of it for the 100 plus guests. Many artists played the Rodgers organ, including Bill Swazey, Virg Howard, Scott Helm, Dan Miller, Lew Williams, Eric Fricke and Mark Crenshaw. Lew said late in the evening that it was his day off and look what he was doing. We heard everything imaginable from *Elmers Tune to Come Sweet Death*. Many Bach pieces were enjoyed by the varied audience. The party went on well past 11:00. We are fortunate to have such a man in our midst as Charle Cox. Thank you very much, Charlie.

*Lew Williams and JS Bach (Bill Swazey)
photo by photographer Leno Marin*



THE STOP RAIL

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Most Chapter Meeting Start at 2:30 pm

December 8 - 1:00 pm - Christmas Potluck at Fricke Residence
 January - No firm date for Possible Farewell Concert at First Christian Church
 January 20 - 2008 2:30 pm - Meeting at Pete Knoblocks home
 January 27 & March 9 2008 - Silent Films at Phoenix College
 For information contact Nancy Fricke 480-607-2970 Nancyfricke@aol.com

PHXCOLLEGE WORK DAYS

Hi All... Here are the work dates as of now at Phoenix College. Please let me know when you can work (dates & times) so I can have work set up for you to do. We can work from 9:00 am till 6:00 pm any of these days. If they conflict with a meeting we will not work that day. If you just show up I can't guarantee work will be set aside for you. So, please reply. ~ Bill ~

December

Sunday -12/2
 Sunday - 12/16
 Saturday -12/22
 Saturday - 12/29

January

Saturday - 1/5
 Saturday - 1/12
 Saturday - 1/19
 Saturday - 1/26



Eric Fricke from Arizona is a 15-year-old flautist organ student of Lew Williams.

ERIC FRICKE TO PLAY TWO EVENTS

Our own Eric Fricke will perform a recital on Wednesday, December 12 at 11:30 am at the Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Road in Scottsdale Arizona, and a concert on Sunday, January 6 at 2:00 pm at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Avenue, Fair Oaks, California. For more information, contact Eric at 480-607-2970.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Card

3225 W Marlette Ave
 Phoenix AZ 85027 Cell 206-4998

Robert Grommes

12415 N Via De Penasco
 Fountain Hills AZ 85268

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Warren Bechhoefer Many of you may not know this long time VOTS member and talented and devoted man from years ago. Retired from the Post Office for many years now, he recently got involved again with the Phoenix College Wurlitzer project. He was a key person and worked on it in the 1970s with Al Davis and Bill Carr, among others. He was one of the founding people who started our VOTS chapter in 1976. He also contributed time and talent at the First Christian Church.

Happy Birthday To You! Lets party!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our December birthday cake eaters Pat Ingram (Nov 30) Walter Strony & Rob Richards If we missed yours, let us know. Soooooo, blow out those candles and have a blowout of a good time. Remember, this will be the birthday you will have this year so make it count, baby.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beverly, I hope other people are telling you how well the Stop Rail is being finely drafted and produced. I know it's a lot of work and it just keep getting better and better. So cheers to tooting your whistle.

In my genealogy research, I ran across this English ca. 1640 anecdote which is interesting and funny to me, and you may want to include it in one of your future issues. All spellings are correct and two hundred years later the added comments in italics were added. Now here we are nearing four hundred years later enjoying the same Box of Whistles. Best regards, Jim Bell Tucson, AZ

A BOX OF WHISTLES

When the Scots invaded the Northerne parts, 1640, a Sergeant Major was billeted in one Mr. Calvert's house, who was musically dispos'd, and had a portative organ for his pleasure in one of his chambers. The Scotch man being of the preciser straine, and seeing the instrument open, "Art tou a Kirkman?" says he. "No, Sir," says he. "Den what a Dele, mon, dos't tou with this same great Boax of Whistles here?" L'Estrange, No. 407, My Father Portativi, or regals, were a kind of diminutive portable organ, formerly much used in public processions. Hawkins speaks of this instrument as being not uncommon in Germany even in his day. The regal

was borne through the streets on a man's shoulders; when the procession stopped, it was set down on a stool; the performer then stepped forward, played upon it, and the man that carried it blew the bellows. I am indebted for this question to Mr. Dauneys admirable volume, "The Ancient Melodies of Scotland," one of the most interesting works on the subject of musical history which has appeared in late years; and in which may be found the following illustration of the new name bestowed in this anecdote upon the organ, "The whistle is the popular appellation in Scotland for every species of flute, fife or flageolet."

John G. Nichols,, Esq.,FSA, 1839

VOTS MARKETPLACE

To place your ad, call 602-243-9546 e-mail beverlyfz2@cox.net

(Deadline is the 20th of next month)

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AD RATES

one year \$90.00 or one month \$10.00
one year \$70.00 or one month \$6.00
one issue \$10.00 (free to VOTS members)
\$5.00

JANE DORIS LODERHOSE, 81, passed away on November 4, 2007 in Scottsdale. Jane and her husband were charter members of the American Organ Theater Society. They installed the New York Paramount Theater organ into their independently owned theater, the Bay Theater, in Seal Beach, California, in 1975. Jane greatly assisted St. Anthony on the Desert Episcopal Church in Scottsdale in building its main sanctuary building. Jane was also a lifetime member of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach, California.



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WURLITZER WEEKEND 2008

Plans are well underway for another exciting Wurlitzer Weekend 2008 beginning Friday evening, January 11, 2008 and concluding on Sunday, January 13. A variety of artists will perform at various Wurlitzer installations throughout the Los Angeles metropolitan area during what has become an annual event attended by locals as well as many from out of town and out of state. Wurlitzer Weekend 2008 is again co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society and the Orange County Theatre Organ Society, and this year it is again chaired by long time Wurlitzer Weekend Chair and LATOS member Wayne Flottman.

The Weekend begins Friday evening, January 11, 2008 with a silent movie accompanied by well known theatre organ artist Chris Elliott at the original Wurlitzer installation at the historic, and beautifully refurbished, downtown Los Angeles Orpheum Theatre. While the silent film is yet to be finalized and announced, as in past years, the crowd will be swelled with members of the Los Angeles Conservancy's "Broadway Initiative" who are devoted to all things downtown and silent films shown in the old movie palaces.

Saturday will be a full day of three Wurlitzer performances starting with an early morning program at the exquisitely restored El Capitan Theatre in the heart of Hollywood, squeezed in before the regular Saturday morning screening of the latest Disney cinematic offering. In the afternoon, well know Los Angeles native Donna Parker will be at the console of the LATOS owned Wurlitzer installed almost 30 years ago in Sexson Auditorium on the campus of Pasadena City College on Colorado Boulevard. Saturday evening will feature long time LATOS friend and world renowned Walter Strony at the console of the newest Wurlitzer installation located in the beautiful art deco Auditorium of the South Pasadena High School.

Wurlitzer Weekend 2008 continues on Sunday, January 13, 2008. In lieu of a morning Wurlitzer performance, participants will receive information on several church organ installations in the Los Angeles metropolitan area that they might visit during regular Sunday morning services. The final "official" Wurlitzer Weekend 2008 performance will be on the console of the original installation Wurlitzer organ in Plummer Auditorium on the campus of the Fullerton Unified School District High School. Lyn Larsen will be the host and will act as master of ceremonies at this exciting presentation of several well known theatre organ artists.

While not an "official" Wurlitzer Weekend 2008 event, again, as in years past, long time friend of the Old Town Music Hall and Phoenix based theatre organist Ron Rhode will be performing Sunday evening at this well known and loved El Segundo venue. The \$20 ticket cost for this separately priced event may be purchased along with regular Wurlitzer Weekend 2008 passports and individual events.

The cost of the five Wurlitzer Weekend 2008 events, when purchased as a package in advance is only \$89. Single tickets for each performance may be purchased in advance for \$20 for each event, except that the El Capitan single ticket price is only \$12. LATOS website (www.latos.org) by the time you receive this Organ Log. You can order on line using Visa or Mastercard. or by toll free phone at 1-888-LATOS-22, or by mailing a check payable to LATOS (or credit card information) to LATOS % Dawson/Flottman, 2721 W 182 ST, Torrance, CA 90504-5228.