

STOP RAIL

Arizona Chapter of
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

Volume Thirty Four ♦ Issue Ten ♦ October ♦ Two Thousand Nine

October 11th meeting at John Bittner's home

October 11th - 2:30 pm. Slate/nominations presented at this time.

Step up to the plate and run for an office!

We always have a great time at John's house. It has been a while since we have been to his home in South Chandler. Copper will be home then from her cruise job in Alaska and will be there! John has been very busy with work and getting a new business off the ground. He has a really nice three manual Allen organ, which was originally at NAU in Flagstaff. There is a piano in case you want to play along with the organ. You will enjoy their house and garden on the lake. Guest artist(s) being planned.

Take the 202 south and get off on Alma School Road, go past Queen Creek. Turn right on West Powell Way, (which is Fulton Ranch on the East side of Alma School) left on South Vista Place, (which becomes west Bartlett Way). Turn right on South Verbenia Place. House is on the right at the end of the street. Be sure you take these directions. 4905 S Verbenia Place, Chandler AZ 85248 Phone 480-802-9709 if you lose your way.

Phx College Meeting

Sunday, September 27th - 2:30 pm

in the Bulpitt Auditorium at Phoenix College. Nominating committed to be appointed. After a couple of years of current work, (not to forget the years in the 70s) the Wurlitzer is now up and running. We're not there yet, but there is plenty going on. Artist(s) are planning a great program. There will be a Power Point slide presentation of the ATOS Summer Youth Camp. Park in the lot on the northeast Corner of 19th Avenue & McDowell.



Silent Saturdays
New name for our Silents Films.

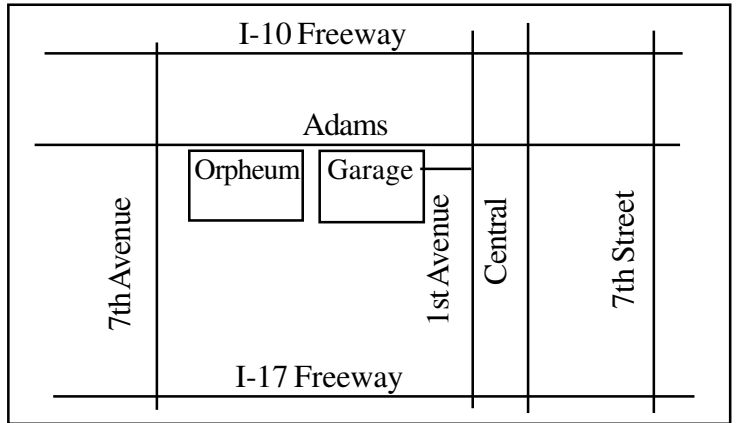
Phantom of the Opera Film October 24th

October 24 - 7:00 pm. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W Adams in downtown Phoenix

Be sure and save the date and invite your friends and family for this scary "Fright Night". It is Saturday night, October 24, a week before Halloween, so it won't interfere with either going out with the kids or handing out treats. Event starts with a haunted organ concert by Ron Rhode at the mighty Wurlitzer! A special Master of Ceremonies will be Michael Dixon from KTAR radio. 1925 film Phantom of the Opera features Lon Chaney and Mary Philbin. Tickets: General Admission \$15.00, children under 12 are free. Bring your friends for a great evening of entertainment. Costumes encouraged. For more information check our website: <http://silentsundays.vots-atos.org>



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 off 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. See you there!



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Open House at Fizzell's

We have many talented folks who will play at an open house but not at a meeting where an artist is scheduled. Why is this? Ten VOTS members came to the open house and gave the instruments a great workout. People playing



were Johnny Sharp, John Bittner, Katy Johnston, Keith Miller, John Weber and Mark Crenshaw. Johnny Sharp even brought his accordion. There were some great duets between Johnny and Mark, and then John Bittner and Johnny on the organ and piano. Such great talent we have! Johnny Sharp was having such a good

time he played for over four hours almost continuously on both the organ and piano. There were many yummy treats to enjoy, cake, chips, popcorn, coleslaw, cream puffs, cookies, water, soda and beer. There was no sheet music brought to trade.

Tom said he would like to have an open house here more often. There will be a ladies jam session here in the fall and maybe a mens jam session in the spring.



Mark Crenshaw had a good time!

We wish you a Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our October birthday cake eaters, Thomas Custer, Tom Fizzell, Sharon Diaz, Charlie Balogh, Eric Fricke, Chuck Mallory, Ken Winland, Darwin Borden, Archie Archibald and Norma Mackie. If we missed yours, let us know. So, blow out those candles and have a good time!



The Stoprail

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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.

2009 Calendar of Events

Sunday September 27 - 2:30 pm Phoenix College general meeting
Sunday, October 11 - Nominations meeting at John Bittner's residence
Saturday October 24 - 7:00 pm Fright Night! Phantom to play at Orpheum
November 15 - Organ Stop meeting - 2010 election results announced.
December 12 - 11:00 am - Christmas Potluck at FFC Fellowship Hall
December 12 - 3:30 pm open house after FCC - Carr Residence 3:30 pm
Silent Films - October 24, 2009 Phantom of the Opera - Lon Chaney
 November 21, 2009 Blood and Sand. - Rudolph Valintino
 January 9, 2010 Safety Last - Harold Lloyd
 March 20, 2010 Ella Cinders - Colleen Moore

For more information : Fred Watson 602-993-7266 mrfgw@cox.net

Phoenix College Organ Work Dates

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

Alabama Jubilee 2009

The final touches are being made for the Alabama Jubilee 2009, Nov. 27 thru 29. The registration form is available for downloading and mailing back. We are still working on a way to do online registration. Don't delay. We only have 2200 seats left. here is the link: <http://www.alabamatheatreorgan.com/convention.html> Hope you can make it. Larry Donaldson

Letters to the editor



Ed Rogers

Thanks so much, Beverly! I will be anxiously awaiting my hard copy of the "StopRail".

I am so glad to hear there will be some events this Fall that will Not be on Sunday afternoon. Sunday morning to late afternoon is the only time I am working now, since the Legislature raided the Parks and Heritage Fund.

In the middle of October, my best friends from Florida will be visiting us for about nine days. He is a professional organist (retired). He is eager to go to the "Organ Stop."

Johnny Sharp *WRTOS on WVIZ Applause Now On-Line (the Cleveland Oh Chapter on PBS)* I thought you might enjoy a segment of a PBS TV program, devoted to Theater Organs, sent to me from Cleveland. Starts about 22 minutes into, through the end of the program. <http://www.wviz.org/WVIZ/applause/26526>

Jessica (camp student)

Beverly and Tom, Thanks so much for sending us your newsletter! We really had a good time in Phoenix, and are most grateful for your hospitality. Jessica

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

Organ Reports

If you want to work on the organs call Crew Chief Tom Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or President Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 .

Orpheum: Nothing technical is happening. Mark Hawn played recently for a group of event designers. (See story on page 6)

First Christian Church: work has been done on the toy counter, including the wiring on the snare drum. Crew tightened up the head of the bass drum. Tuning will be done before the Christmas party.

Phoenix College: A lot of work was done in July. The 16 foot extensions are in and working. Five ranks in the main chamber have been washed, regulated and rough tuned. Trems for flute, diapason, string, clarinet and oboe are working. On the solo side, vox, tibia and tuba are working. Stop tabs and shutters are working. Junction boards are done. Second touch and couplers are the next step. We need to get a new back rail in. The organ will need to be tuned before the next meeting.

Bill Hagey has a 7-rank Wicks theatre organ that he may want to donate to the chapter. When we decide what to do with it VOTS crews may be moving it to another location soon. If you know someone in the market for a small pipe organ, let Bill Carr know.

Another kind of Organ Report

Whenever my friends' social circle gets together, they always set aside some time to moan about their latest aches and pains. These whine fests are so popular with the group that they even have a name for them:

Organ Recitals.

Rob Richards replaces Terry Charles at the Kirk of Dunedin's

Rob Richards, house organist at the historic El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., has more than 5,000 national and international performances to his credit. Some have even taken place at the Kirk. Terry introduced Rob to the Kirk many years ago when Rob was just getting started. How ironic for him to be stepping into Terry's position. As principal guest artist, Richards' first performances will be at the Kirk of Dunedin's Christmas concerts, Dec. 16-19.

"When my concert career was just taking off, Terry booked me at the Kirk, and then repeatedly rolled out the welcome mat through the years," Richards said. "The grand organ he created at the Kirk of Dunedin is inspired and unique, and one of the first pipe organs to include digital stops as well as pipes. And who else has ever dared to imagine two grand pianos remotely playable from one

organ console?" Terry Charles and his "Grand Duchess," the pipe organ at the Kirk of Dunedin Community Church, have made beautiful music together for forty one years.

His legacy — the pipe organ he designed and built in 1968 — will remain, but Charles is leaving to pursue new horizons in the world of pipe organs. "Mr. Charles has been at this church since before there was a building," said Pastor Jerry Rittenhouse. "He's been a driving force behind the Kirk Organ Series, the curator and featured concert organist for 41 years. He's kept our concert program going." "He is an outstanding person, devoted to his enthusiasm for theater organ music and his responsibility as the curator to the 'Grand Duchess,'" said Geletka. "His music makes the Duchess sing and dance. I shall miss him & I know everyone else will." *unknown source*

September Board Meeting Minutes

The VOTS/ATOS board meeting was held Saturday, September 5, 2009 at the Beatitudes Campus. Attending were Bill Carr, Fred Watson, Madeline LiVolsi, Adrian Phillips, Pete Knobloch, Don Reasor, Warren Bechhoefer, Beverly Fizzell, Tom Fizzell and Hassell Moores. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

Bill began the meeting with a quote from Theodore Roosevelt, and spoke about teamwork. The chapter is a big responsibility and we need more active members, working together. Bill also announced that Hassell Moores will be working on promotions for our events.

Secretary read the minutes from the June 13, 2009 meeting. Tom moved to accept the minutes as read, second by Pete. Motion passed.

Adrian presented the treasurer's report. We currently have \$2925.66 in checking, \$1015.82 in savings, and \$1420.18 in the money market account, for a total of \$5,361.66 in all accounts. There is still \$431.23 in Phoenix College donations remaining. The Silent Saturdays shows have been prepaid at the Orpheum. We will no longer have hand-written checks — we now have Quick-Book checks. Checks for any amount above \$500 must have two signatures per the bylaws. Nothing more has happened with the Wyndham issue. Warren moved to accept the treasurer's report, Don second. The motion passed.

Vice-President/Program Chairman Fred spoke about upcoming chapter events. Sunday, September 27, will be at Phoenix College, featuring several artists. Sunday, October 11, will be at John Bittner's home, artist to be announced. November 8 will be a salad and pizza buffet at Organ Stop, with a staff organist. The chapter Christmas party will be a pot luck on Saturday, December 12, at First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, artist to be announced. Following the party, there will be an open house at Bill Carr's residence. Crew Chief Reports Orpheum — Nothing technical is happening. Mark Hawn played recently for a group of event designers. FCC — work has been done on the toy counter Phoenix College — A lot of work was done in July. The 16 foot extensions are in and working. Five ranks in the main chamber have been washed, regulated and rough tuned. Trems for flute diapason, string, clarinet and oboe are working. On the solo side, vox, tibia and tuba are working Stop tabs and shutters are working. Junction boards are done. Double touch and couplers are the next step. We need to get a new back rail in. The organ will need to be tuned before the next meeting.

Membership In Ed's absence, Bill reported that we currently have 108 members, 41 of which are national ATOS members.

Newsletter No changes at this point. Beverly is to send the newsletter to Fred and Madeline to check for accuracy before sending out to everyone. The deadline for items to be included in the newsletter is the 15th of every month.

Old Business The dates for the new Silent Saturdays shows will be 10-24-09, 11-21-09, 01-09-10, and 03-20-10. Shows are scheduled for 7:00 pm. There will be give-away tickets available for promotions. General admission is \$15.00, children 12 and under are free. Posters and flyers will be available. Fred made a motion that we purchase and send out postcards that would feature pictures of all four films and pertinent information, second by Warren. The motion passed. Hassell Moores will be helping with promotions. Some downtown restaurants may be interested in partnering for promotions. Michael Dixon will be our special master of ceremonies for "Phantom."

New Business Beverly stated that Johnny Sharp is available to play if needed at the last minute for public functions at the Orpheum. Bill reported on donations to the club of Gulbranson electronic theatre organs. He has two at his home, parts of both put together could make one good organ. Ed knows of a church in Liberty that could use the organ. We agreed to proceed with this if there was no expense to the chapter. Bill Hagey has a 7-rank Wickes theatre organ that he may want to donate to the chapter. Hassell has offered to pay for storage for ninety days until we decide what to do with it. Fred moved to accept the donation, second by Warren. Motion passed. Adrian spoke on the Orpheum organ agreement with the City of Phoenix. After several revisions sent back and forth, the hopefully final draft was sent August 31, 2009. Adrian is waiting for the city's response.

Open Items Bill said he plans to have a Power Point slide presentation at the September meeting of the ATOS Summer Youth Camp. Fred moved to adjourn, second by Warren. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Madeline LiVolsi

Where will your organ go?

One mans' fear:

I will explain what my wife has in mind when the time comes. She is planning a "Viking's Funeral" for me, where she will set the Wurlitzer ablaze, then toss my mortal form upon the funeral pyre. My only fear is that she will not wait for me to die before putting her plan into action.

Larsen Video

This is a great video of Lyn Larsen playing an organ for a cigarette ad.

[ViscountAdvert.wmv \(2495.2 KB\)](#)

With the opening of the Dendy organ in April 1967, the Wurlitzer was hot property. Viscount were already using the ¾ version as an ad, and with the ever resourceful Robert Ward of the Dendy Theatre and Bill Armstrong Recording Studios, it was thought that a theatre organ version would be the go. Being resident at the Dendy I was summoned to meet with composer Peter Best and work something out. Peter was great jingle writer and arranger, but had zero knowledge of theatre organ. We fiddled and faddled with his arrangement but it got all too hard. Then Lyn arrived in late 1967 and in early 1968 Armstrongs recorded his famous "Sadie" and "A Walk in the Black Forest". After the recording session they ran the Viscount past him and Lyn instantly burst forth with this jazzed up arrangement. It never went to air. *unknown source*

Pipe organ played a part in 1969 movie

Notes and U-Tube videos of the pipe organ in the movie *Angel in my Pocket* Letters taken from ongoing conversations from a Pipe Organ e-mail list.

Jerry Kautz

Remember that movie with Sheriff Taylor in it, what's his name, Andy Griffith called *Angel in my Pocket*, 1969? The church ladies caught the good Reverend trying out the pipe organ (subsequently donated to and installed in the church by the VERY NEXT WEEKEND no less) in the bawdy theatre and my oh my was he in trouble just for being in such a place. Great movie from another time.

Stan Krider

Remember the key word in theatre organ is "THEATRE", and during the 20s,30s,& 40s, anything even hinting of "THEATRE" was considered as (shudder) evil because the theatrical life was, well, SINFUL! No self-respecting country church would even think of looking at a theatre let alone bringing inside their sanctuary the damnable thing that accompanied those damnable actors. I grew up in that atmosphere. I also outgrew that point of view!

Bruce Gentry

That movie is very significant to me. I had heard theater organs occasionally, and loved the sound, but did not know what they were or what recordings to look for. The movie answered the question and set me on a path that truly changed my life. I have wondered for some time who played the oom-pah-pah version of "I Dreamt that I dwelt in Marble Halls" featured in the film. I think the organ is the Radio City studio. Was there an organ in Los Angeles or Hollywood that sounded the same?

Cletus Goens

From the old movie *Angel In My Pocket*, here is an in-theatre clip of Andy Griffith playing the pipe organ for the dancer. Can't put my finger on the name of that tune, and it is NOT a Hammond or other electronic. The scene (battered organ in a run-down theatre) is emphasized by some written-in flubs by the organist. Enjoy:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw4C4Jevq-g>

Ian McIver

Angel in my Pocket movie: The song is "I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls" from the 1843 opera *The Bohemian Girl*. It was written by Alfred Bunn and composed by Michael William Balfe.

Here is a link to a YouTube video showing the two manual Wurlitzer part.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mco_rkD_JEM

VOTS Marketplace

To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546
or e-mail beverlyfz2@cox.net (Deadline is the 20th of next month)

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Ad Rates

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Add a photo to your ad	\$5.00



For Sale: Real trap unit for Rodgers organs. This unit can be installed on any analog Rodgers organ and with minor changes to the interface board, will work on almost any organ. The actions are all driven by electric solenoids powered by a 15 volt power supply (no blower or wind line). The instruments can be keyed from the tabs on the stop rail or played in patterns using the Rodgers rhythm unit. Gorsuch Enterprises (Chris Gorsuch) in San Diego designed and built only one of these units. Schematic diagram included. Plenty of pictures available upon request. Very unique and a real conversation piece. \$1500 OBO Tim Kreifels Indio, Ca. 760-668-4210 tkgn@aol.com

Orpheum Wurlitzer enjoyed by Special Events Folks

The Arizona Chapter of the International Special Events Society had a meeting and dinner at the Orpheum Theatre in August. They requested that the organ be played as they entered the auditorium and at the grand curtain opening to reveal the lavish stage, set up for a formal dinner. Mark Hawn agreed to play at the last minute and did a great job.

It was interesting that they were able to turn the stage into a grand dining room using creative lighting.

After their meeting and people were going onto the stage, our organ crew - Pete Knobloch, Tom Fizzell and Beverly Fizzell were invited to join them for dinner at the last minute. And to think we were planning to go for a hamburger at Hooter's! At least we didn't wear T-shirts. Unfortunately, organist Mark Hawn left right after his performance and missed the dinner. Formal dinner included four courses, each served with a different wine.

Aventura Catering Company served a great appetizer of oysters and shrimp, an interesting salad that was almost too pretty to eat, main dish of lamb, scallops and pork. The dessert was baked Alaska. The fire department was standing by for the flaming cherries. It took three hours to enjoy this dinner, and it was worth lying awake over later. This group is event planners, and this event was pretty impressive with a great video presentation and talk by experts in the field.



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