

# THE AMICA

AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN





# SOCAL AMICA MEETING

Southern California Chapter

Diane DeTar, President & Reporter | Lowell Boehland, Photographer



Attendees standing in front of Jerry and Diane's house. Diane Minzey, Arabella Julien, Frank Nix, Diane DeTar, Wayne Johnston, Lisa Levitt, Bruce Levitt, Jerry Pell and Robbie Rhodes.

Our May meeting at Jerry Pell's and Diane Minzey's was a great get together. The weather was perfect in the San Bernardino community of Wrightwood. The Bridge fire had raced through the area of Mount Baldy and Wrightwood last year and luckily just missed Jerry and Diane's house. They had evacuated leaving all of their instruments behind. So this meeting meant a lot to all of us. The devastation of the fires in California had affected all of us. Jerry's collection is so special and listening to it again brought to mind the question "What if???" I appreciated the members that took to the highways and drove the distance (3 hours for Wayne and me) to hear these beautiful, well regulated and perfectly sounding instruments. When a member takes the time to make sure that every instrument sounds like it should, like it just left the factory, I'm impressed. So kudos to Jerry and a big thank you for having this a meeting for our AMICA members to enjoy.

Jerry has written a bit of background information to share with everyone on how he became interested in player pianos and AMICA.

*"When I was 7-8 years old I encountered and heard my very first player piano. It was located in the basement of my cousin's house. (As an aside my cousin was a WWII veteran.) When he came home from the war, he built his home living in the basement while the rest of the home was being built, common practice at the time. After the home was completed the player piano could not be moved and it's probably still in that basement! Watching a piano that played itself was magical to me as a child and I decided that we (my family) should have one. But my father, who was a professional musician/entertainer from 1916 to 1939, (born in 1893) refused to have one in the home. We always had a piano in our home, but never a player. As they say, life gets in the way. School, college, 4 years military, and finally at age 29 I bought my first player piano. It was in 1971, a restored Apollo player from Don Rand. That was the start of my addiction to player pianos. And as they say... the rest is history!"*





*Jerry playing his  
1918 Wilcox & White  
Artrio-Angeles. An  
absolutely wonderfully  
sounding piano.*



*Frank Nix  
announcing his  
plan to host an open  
house every month.*



*Robbie doing a "show  
and tell" on an Aeolian  
Pipe Organ roll he hopes  
to have recut.*





# SALLZOLA

ELECTRIC PIANO MUSIC ROLL

## A-0045

### "CALIENTE EL CINCO DE MAYO ESPECIAL"

(Dedicated to Bart Off)

- 1 Machaquito, Paso Doble Bolero
- 2 Aficianades, Paso Doble
- 3 Ramon Navarro, Marcha
- 4 Zacatecas, Marcha
- 5 Alma Andalusia, Pasa Calle
- 6 Mi Cielo, Paso Doble
- 7 Lindas Mexicanas, Marcha
- 8 Banderillas de Fuego, Paso Doble
- 9 Mexico en Chicago, Paso Doble
- 10 De Madrid a Manila, Paso Doble
- 11 Mantón de Manila, Paso Doble
- 12 Maytorena, Marcha

**JOHNNY'S MUSIC ROLLS**

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Special for Styles A, B, C, E, F and K • Courtesy of Bart Off

Special thanks to Tim Baxter of Meliora Music Rolls for all his help

**U·S·A**





*Jerry's Seeburg C playing his favorite A roll, "Caliente El Cinco de Mayo Especial," a Jazzola roll cut by John Mottoros.*



*A 1923 Seeburg KT playing a tune.*





*A Western Electric  
Selectra Nickelodeon.*



*A 1930 Marshall & Wendell Ampico "B" playing a favorite of mine "Who?"*





*Group picture standing by the beautiful Reproduco.*



*The Reproduco playing a roll. It sounds as good as it looks.*





# MIDWEST CHAPTER July 11-13, 2025

President Gary Rasmussen | Reporter Christy Counterman



*Mike Barnhart showed us his latest creation, using his 3D printer to replicate parts needed for instrument restoration, a great solution for pieces no longer available, or for creating new ones.*



*If you look closely, the tiny convention favor, a replica of this larger Seeburg at the Barnhart's, imitates its larger playing cousin that was once a part of the Sanfilippo collection.*

Members of the Midwest Chapter joined the MBSI Mid-Am 47th Annual Band Organ Rally at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton, Ohio. Before the rally began we gathered Friday evening at the home of Liz and Mike Barnhart for refreshments, our business meeting and most of all, to enjoy their wonderful collection of automatic musical instruments.

Saturday morning we were off to Carillon Historical Park where we were greeted by MBSI Mid-Am Chapter president Rob Pollock. Carillon Park was the dream of Edith and Edward Deeds, who fell in love with carillons while traveling to Belgium, and the massive carillon tower was a result of their efforts. The museum consists of dozens of historical buildings, some constructed in place, others moved from their original locations, highlighting the inventions and industries of Dayton. Highlights include Wright Hall which houses the 1905 Wright Flyer, the third plane of the Wright brothers, and the oldest building in Dayton, the Newcom Tavern. We learned about aviation, bicycles, trains and trolleys, cash registers and printing presses.

All of this history was the backdrop for a great variety of musical machines, sited throughout the park. Visitors enjoyed the variety of music, I heard one couple comment that they didn't know contemporary music could be heard from these kinds of instruments. Little children and even adults danced to the music. Members were glad to explain the origins and workings of their instruments, and I was impressed by the skills and knowledge of those in attendance. Instruments were built from scratch, rebuilt from parts or modified by their owners.

After an entire day of music and exploring the park, we met at the adjacent Carillon Brewing Company, the nation's only production brewery in a museum. Surrounded by huge wooden barrels illustrated with brewing history, we enjoyed a wonderful dinner with friends old and new.

Sunday morning those who are members of MBSI gathered for their business meeting before another afternoon of music in the park. We'd like to thank our hosts for inviting us to be a part of the fun musical weekend!





*Steve Barnhart demonstrates the replica Seeburg KT Special made by Bill Edgerton.*



*Bob and Marcia Eber show visitors their 20-note Organ Grinder Busker Organ and 28-note reed organ.*



*B Bronson plays "Can't Buy Me Love" - an accordion duet with Marcia Eber.*





Those who wanted to hike to the top of the hill could get a better look at the Deeds Carillon tower during the 3pm concert.



Christy Counterman, Liz and Mike Barnhart enjoy Mike's creation, Treveris, modeled after his favorite castle in Trier, Germany. The Stinson Band Organ plays Wurlitzer 165 Rolls.



Originally a 1947 Cushman Package Car, Dennis and Mearlyn Green have converted this scooter into a rolling calliope. Once used as a delivery vehicle, it can now be a mobile music machine in parades and rallies like this one.





*One of our multiple tables of happy diners at the Carillon Brewing Company.*



*John Ravert (center) brought along friends Judd and Justin to show off his former street organ, rebuilt several times since 1989.*



*Rob Pollock's Wurlitzer 125 Military Band organ was originally sold on October 31, 1903, and factory converted in 1915 to roll and pneumatic operation. Fast forward to 1984, when it was purchased in pieces by Dr. Clifford Pollock and rebuilt. Later Mary Pollock took over playing and displaying the instrument, which remains in the family!*





Named Moose-Ika as a play on words with John Prtljaga's affinity for moose, the instrument was a labor of love. It took 10 years to build from scratch and includes a lot of salvaged quarter sawn oak and features 316 pipes!



Sandy and Steve Dean play their Wilhelm Bruder Söhne 48-key organ from Waldkirch, Germany.



President of the Mid-Am Chapter of MBSI Rob Pollock and President of Midwest Chapter AMICA Gary Rasmussen man the welcome table at Carillon Park.



Victor Thomas sings along with his 27-note Alan Pell from London England, playing a selection from "The Sound of Music."



# HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER

Dan Davis, Reporter

In early May the Kansas City Heart Of America AMICA chapter attended the Mountain View, Arkansas Iris Festival. Irises were in full bloom all around the town. This is the sixth year the chapter has attended, hosting 35 attendees from 7 states. Heart of America Chapter was hosted by Danell and Doug Mauldin and Mike and Sandy Schoeppner. Mountain View is said to be the Folk Music Capital of the world, preserving its music and culture. The weekend also showcased a car show by the Team Corvette Possee of Arkansas. We are all looking forward to attending this festival in 2026.



*Group Photo*





*Dallas Dickens plays the saw accompanied by Mike Schoeppner.*



*Darold Davis*



*Beverly Chatfield*



*Bill Klinger*





*Deane Shepard*



*Doyle Bohl*



*Evening visits at the motel*





*Gerold and Debbie Koehler*



*Greg and Trudy Moffitt, and Gerold Koehler*



*Kathy Quashnock*



*H C Beckman*





Mike Schoeppner presented Danell Mauldin with a poster signed by all attendees thanking her for her several years hosting this yearly event.



Our Hostess, Danell Mauldin



Promotion poster created by Mike Schoeppner

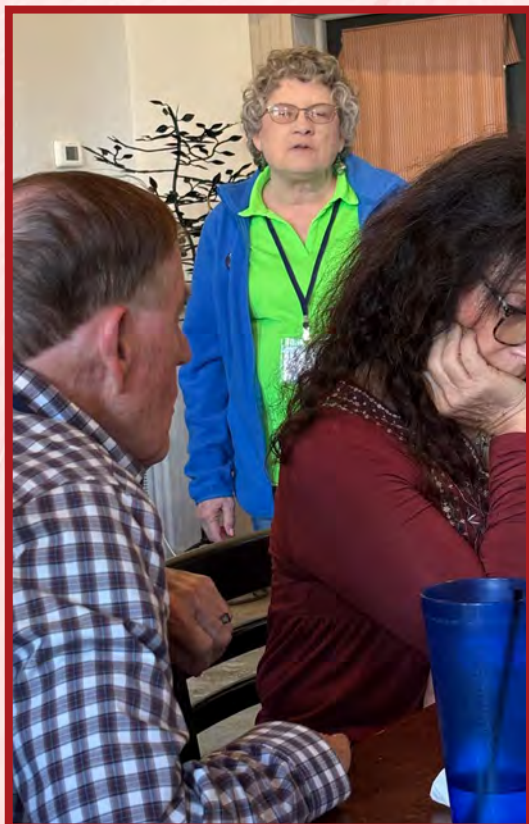




Mike and Sandy Schoepner



Sunday morning breakfast buffet at the Skillet Restaurant within Ozark Folk Center State Park.



President Robbie Tubbs Hosts the chapter meeting.



Suzie Hendricks





*Saturday evening dinner at the White River Anglers Restaurant. Note the river just out the window at flood stage, even in a dry county!*



*Tom McAuley*



*Viringia and Ken Filardo, Mike and Sandy Schoeppner*



# Pacific Can-Am Chapter Report

Reporter Carl Dodrill



*Standing in front of an instrument from the early 1800s, Phil gives interesting information*

The Pacific Can-Am Chapter met jointly with the Northwest International Chapter of MBSI on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at the home of Philip and Iris Dayson in Vancouver, British Columbia. More than 30 people attended with a good representation from both AMICA and MBSI and also from both the States and from British Columbia. Further, there were a number of guests in attendance.

The Daysons have been long-standing members of both AMICA and MBSI, they have been supporters of both organizations, and their broad collection of instruments shows these things. With some instruments dating back to the 1800's, the collection includes music boxes, organettes, an Aeolian Orchestrelle, various pianos, pipe organs, harpsichords, and others.

A special feature of the Dayson collection is a computer driven MIDI operating system by which nine instruments laid out around the room can be played remotely. These instruments include two bottle organs, two pipe organs, three harpsichords, a marimba, and a QRS Playola keytop unit which can be put on any piano. Even more stunning is the fact that all these instruments are interconnected so that they can be played in any combination whatsoever. Phil demonstrated this most remarkable feature.

As a further development of his MIDI control system, Phil has developed a MIDI Piano Roll Player. After extensive work, this compact, freestanding real-time piano roll player accepts paper rolls, provides all the conventional controls for roll playing, and in addition it provides adjustment for paper transparency and a de-bridging function to ensure that long notes do not play as a series of staccatos. The hole sensing is done using an array of IR LEDs and IR detectors arranged like a tracker bar with one LED and one detector per note. The outputs of the hole detectors are converted into MIDI by a 96-note encoder. Output can be played on any personal computer, iPad or smart phone.





*Many people listen to Phil's comments on each instrument around the room*

Two bottle organs have special places in the Dayson collection. The first of these is a 43-note Manischewitz wine bottle organ and the second is a 20-note organ which uses Boston round bottles. It is safe to say that these bottle organs produce flute sounds which are essentially unique among automatic musical instruments. These instruments and how to build them are described in detail in the AMICA Bulletin (March/April 2020, vol. 57, no. 2, pp. 18-25) in an article written by Phil and Carl Dodrill.

Later in the afternoon Rick Swaney, President of the MBSI chapter, put on a magic show for all in attendance.

Several tricks were shown, each of which truly stirred up interest in the audience. Then Marc Sachnoff got everyone's attention as he played a favorite on the piano. Finally, Iris Dayson made an extraordinary contribution to the entire event by offering a full dinner to all in attendance. What a contribution she made!

Overall, this was a truly outstanding meeting and one which will be remembered for a long time to come. The Pacific Can-Am chapter is now having all of its meetings with MBSI, and this is proving to be an excellent decision as people from both organizations work together and strengthen one another as they share and advance common interests.





*Many of these people drove many miles from the States to get to the meeting*



*The MIDI Piano Roll Player that Phil invented does truly amazing things*

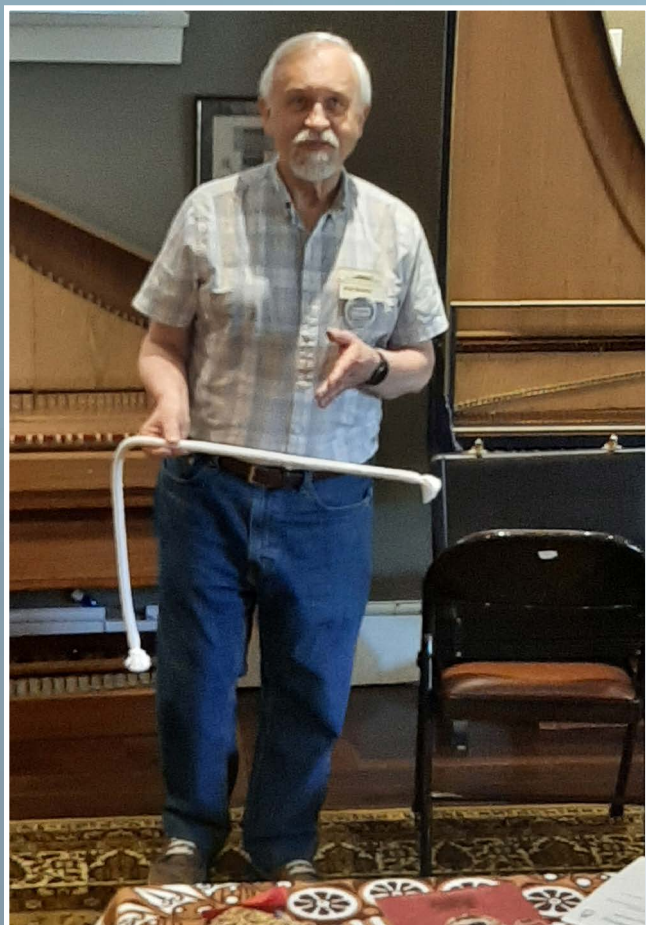




*Carl Dodrill (left) and Phil Dayson (right) stand on each side of the Manischewitz wine bottle organ*



*Phil and Iris Dayson, hosts of the meeting, stand on either side of their 20-note bottle organ*



*Rick Swaney performs a magic show which includes a Hindu rope trick*



*Marc Sachnoff provides real entertainment for the group on the piano.*