

# The Organ Spiel

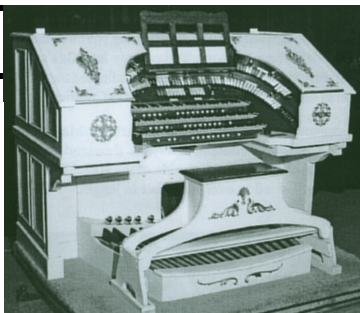
NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

OPEN CONSOLE

SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 2ND

FAIR OAKS  
CLUBHOUSE  
7997 CALIFORNIA AVE

2:00 - 5:00PM



July 2009

It's been several years, now, since we have had a strictly "open console" at Fair Oaks, so your board thought it was about time we gave you a chance to play a real Theatre Pipe Organ. This is not a formal event. Just come anytime between 2:00PM and 5:00PM, and sign-in at the door. Members and Friends who wish to play will be limited to three songs, or 15 minutes, whichever comes first. After everyone on the sign-in list has been given a chance to play, the process will be repeated.

**Admission is free.** You may bring your family or friends and play the organ, or just sit and listen. Friends of Sierra Chapter and non-members may play the organ on their first visit. If they wish to continue playing at open console, or schedule practice sessions, they must join the Chapter as a Regular member.

No food or drinks will be permitted inside the Clubhouse. The membership table will be manned for those wishing to upgrade or join as a regular member. **Please join us on Sunday, August 2nd for Open Console** on the 3/13 George A. Seaver Memorial Theatre Pipe Organ at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse—See YOU there!!!



We've noticed more and more complaints about the condition of newsletters received in the mail. So, this month, we are trying a tri-fold in an attempt to reduce the damage and still keep costs down by avoiding envelopes.

Now for the Green part. **Did you know that our newsletters are also available on the Sierra Chapter Website? Not only that, but if you view/print them there, they are in color.** Give it a try and see the pictures from this Newsletter now. Go to: [sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org) and click on "Download the Organ Spiel Newsletter".

**If you choose to view the Newsletter online & save the chapter money,** we will e-mail you a notification each month when the newsletter is published online.

*This is strictly optional.*

To opt out of mail delivery, just send an e-mail to [terry@parklaneblessings.com](mailto:terry@parklaneblessings.com)

If you do nothing, you will continue to receive the Spiel in the mail.



## Special Donation

The Sierra Chapter board wishes to acknowledge and thank **Rod Tyler** for his \$450 gift in memory of his friend Ormond Robbins who was killed in April, 2008 in a hit-and-run pedestrian incident. Rod requested that \$100 be put into each of the organ maintenance funds, with the remainder going into the general fund.



## LOSING CHORDS



Sierra Chapter lost three members this last month.

**Truman Troop** did a fantastic job as editor for the Boni Organ Club. His articles about members were very touching and informative.

**Zealand Hillson-Hutton** (Father Zea) was forever helpful in helping one of our members get positions to play at services and memorials. He enjoyed silent movies (his father played a Wurlitzer for the silent movies) and listening to the Theatre Pipe Organ.

**Milon Thorley** was always interested in attending our concerts, picnics, and would even come to Fair Oaks to practice on the organ. He was also an avid volunteer for the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum.

# Open House

## Wendell Jacobs' Home



Taking advantage of playing the Pipe Organ below is our own **Joan Grootveld** & next is our own **Dave Marino**.



Left: Wendell's 1920s home in College Park. Above: **Wendell** told about all of his Music Machines & played them for us. Below: Wendell gave a tour of the Pipe Chambers.



Left & Below, some of our Members enjoying the day! The finger foods were YUMMY!!!



The biggest "treat" was hearing two of our reclusive members play: Left—**Craig Peterson** shows the organ to New Member, **Troy Killhorn**. Above was a fast-paced Duet with **Carol Zerbo** on the Hammond B3 & **Joyce Clifford** on the Pipe Organ. The duet was truly FUN!

All pictures courtesy of Gary French . See more photos at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/GaryJeanne4Ever/ATOSWendellJacobOpenHouse>

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—CAROL ZERBO



It's picnic/open console season and it has started off with a bang! On Sunday, June 7th a bunch of Sierra Chapter members toured Wendell Jacob's new music room. This being Wendell's first "organized gathering, he was somewhat concerned about the number of people his room would hold and how they would navigate around a room lined with mechanical musical instruments. Not to worry, the 40+ people had no trouble getting up close and personal with these novelty instruments and memorabilia he has so carefully preserved.

Wendell gave us a bit of history on how he acquired the items in his collection and then invited anyone who wished, to play. Several people took him up on his offer including a couple who NEVER play when folks might actually be listening. In a brief moment of insanity, I sat down at the Hammond B3 and Joyce Clifford and I decomposed *Nola*. It was fun and Joyce is a good sport, as always. Wendell musta put something in the fruit juice.

**Many thanks, Wendell** - we all enjoyed ourselves very much!

Our next get-together is August 2nd at Fair Oaks community club-

house. Since two picnics are planned for later in August, this event will be an open console. Here's y'all's chance to play a real live pipe organ.

Speaking of real live pipe organs: We went back to Atlanta for a long weekend and a first cousin's reunion. Great fun, good ol' Southern food, weather actually quite comfortable. My brother and sis-in-law took us on a tour of Atlanta and we ended up at, duh, the Fabulous Fox Theatre!

On a lark, we decided to try some doors to see if we could at least get a look at the Grand Lobby and Egyptian Ballroom. Well -- we ran right into Jim Lane, Site Coordinator for events at the Fox. After introductions all around, Mr. Lane must have decided we were worth being given a special tour so off we went. Mighty Mo would be heard that evening in an unscheduled "play the audience in" program for "The Jersey Boys". We were asked to return early to meet house organist Larry Douglas Embry for a visit with the great beast in the basement. I must say security there is tighter than Fort Knox but we cleared checkpoints and found ourselves crowded onto "Mo"s lift with

Larry on the bench. (FYI - for all the glitter and shine in the theatre, the only true gold in the whole place adorns the organ and grand piano that rise on the stage.)

For about 30 minutes, Larry gave us the organ's history, answered technical questions from my extremely knowledgeable companion and showed us what "Mo" had in her toy chest. Then he proceeded to fill the hall with those orchestral sounds, she is capable of producing.

Now, I have a hard time just playing with two hands and feet - Larry managed that plus piston changes, hand registering and running commentary all at the same time! This was an unexpected treat and a highlight of our trip. Thank you, Larry!!

By the time y'all are reading this. the ATOS Convention will be winding down. Here's hoping it was a huge success with much good news and exciting things to look forward to!

See y'all on August 2nd at Fair Oaks.

Carol Z



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members: **Mike Reeves** (Benefactor)  
**Troy Killorn** (Benefactor) **Mark Herman** (Regular)  
**Ron & Gay Bingaman** (Regular)

Renewing at the Contributing Level:  
**Frank & Sondra Fuson**

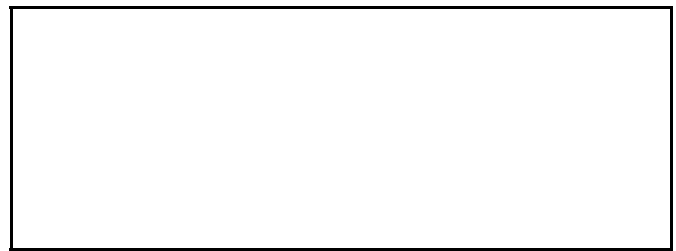




SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY  
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First Class  
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We are on the Web:  
[sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org)  
[youtube.com/  
SierraChapterATOS](http://youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

### SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Clubhouse  
Open Console



Sunday August 2  
2:00PM - 5:00PM

California Auto Museum  
2200 Front Street  
**Chris Elliott**

**Silent  
Movie  
Show People (1928)**

Friday Sept 18th  
8:00 PM

\$10/General  
\$8/Members  
\$5/Students  
\$20/Family

### SIERRA/NORCAL JOINT EVENT **Pot Luck**



Home of  
**Pete & Dianne McCluer**  
Shingle Springs  
**August 15 10:00AM**  
**Details in the August Spiel**

### NORCAL/SIERRA JOINT EVENT

Picnic

Home of **Ron Bingaman**  
Grass Valley  
**August 23 11:00AM**

### STOCKTON FOX EVENT

Bob Hope Theatre  
242 E. Main  
Stockton, CA

**Friday July 10 - 6:30 PM**  
Picnic

Featuring **Tom Thompson**  
On the Mighty Morton



The Chapter was organized in 1968 as a not-for-profit corporation under the statutes of the State of California and is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. It was organized for the purpose of preservation and promotion of the Theatre Pipe Organ and its music. Membership in the local Chapter also encourages membership in the National Organization, American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS.) [www.atos.org](http://www.atos.org)