

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Potluck AND OPEN CONSOLE



JUNE 2010

SUNDAY,
JUNE 13TH

HOME OF
PETE & DIANNE
MCCLUER

Once again, Pete & Dianne McCluer have graciously opened their "barn" to Sierra and Norcal Chapter members for a Potluck / Open Console event. Come and hear Pete's completed 3/19 Wurlitzer.

We are requesting that attendees with last names beginning with

A - K bring either a salad or dessert.

L - Z bring a Main Dish.

Everyone bring their own plate and eating utensils.

Drinks and napkins will be provided.



When:

1:00PM to
4:00PM

Time to eat:

1:30PM

**Open Console
After Lunch**



Note: Hazel St bridge will be closed on June 13.

← Sacramento
Hwy. 50

South Shingle Springs Rd.
Shingle Springs

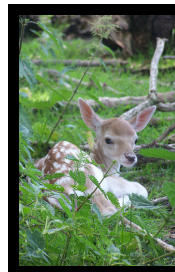
Ponderosa Rd.

5001 Mistywood Ln.
Tennessee Dr.

Exit #39

Shingle Springs Dr.
Shingle Springs Dr.

Placerville →



Pete & Dianne McCluer
5001 Mistywood Lane
Shingle Springs

530-676-5922

ATTENTION: AMTRAK riders to the Seattle Convention

If you have purchased tickets, or plan to purchase tickets for the Saturday evening (June 26) train to Seattle, **please contact Dave Moreno (davem@lanset.com)** and let him know how many are going. He will arrange for Amtrak to have sufficient seats available, for everybody, on 1 car.



Rosa Rio
June 3, 1902 – May 13, 2010

ROSA RIO, famous theatre organist for silent films, radio and television, was born on June 3, 1902 in New Orleans. At 107, Rosa Rio was a testament to the will of spirit. Her career began with a simple declaration to her family at age 8. "When I grow up, I want to play a big piano, wear pretty clothes and lots of jewelry, and make people happy." Her extraordinarily positive, motivated and determined attitude allowed her to seamlessly adapt to changes in the entertainment industry (silents, talkies, radio, TV, and back to silents). "I can't believe that I've been so fortunate to have been in so many things that went out and I bounced back", she said.

Her path was not without challenges. As the only skirt in the orchestra pit, she routinely challenged men who considered her second fiddle because of her gender. She allayed those stereotypical reactions with talent, charm and, at times, a bawdy sense of humor. Rosa began taking piano lessons at 8 and at 10 landed her first job at a silent movie theater in her hometown of New Orleans. She studied music at Oberlin College and silent film accompaniment at The Eastman School of Music.

Rosa accompanied silent films in movie palaces. The balloon burst in 1927 with the advent of "talkies". In the 1930s and 40s, Rosa was dubbed "Queen of the Soaps", providing organ accompaniment for 24 soap operas and radio dramas, dashing from one studio to another with seconds between shows. On average, she played 5 to 7 shows per day, including "The Shadow" with Orson Welles and "The Bob and Ray Show," "Cavalcade of America," "My True Story," and "The Goldbergs." Rosa was hired by NBC as a temporary replacement while they searched for a man. "I asked them if they were looking for a man or an organist" Rosa said. She stayed for 22 years and was the first

woman hired into an orchestra of 156 men. Transitioning to television, Rosa played the organ for many network series, including "The Today Show", "As the World Turns", and "The Guiding Light".

On piano, Rosa accompanied many vocalists, but most notably Mary Martin's middle of the night, no-notice, audition with Cole Porter. In 1960, Rosa Rio moved to a new home in Connecticut, outfitted with a large music room and recording facilities, where she published musical arrangements, played, taught and recorded. She later moved to Florida.

Since 1996, Rosa performed for over 30 silent films with full houses at the Tampa Theatre on their 1,400-pipe Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ. Well-deserved standing ovations were the norm. She graciously returned the accolades, "I have such gratitude for the wonderful people who have such love for the theatre organ, silent pictures and Tampa Theatre."



Chapter Officers

President
2nd term expires Dec 2011
Carol Zerbo
916/624-9182
E-Mail: cazbo@sbcglobal.net

Vice President/Publicity
1st term expires Dec 2010
Randy Warwick
661/392-0269
E-Mail: rwarwick@bak.rr.com

Secretary
1st term expires Dec 2010
Terry Clifton
916/863-6344
E-mail: terry@parklaneblessings.com

Treasurer/Web Master
1st term expires Dec 2011
Dave Sauer
916/925-7440
E-Mail: davesauer@comcast.net

Program Director
Craig Peterson
916/682-9699
E-Mail: peterson59@comcast.net

Historian
Barbara Harris
916/332-2837

Recording Library
Beverly Harris
916/332-2837



Board Member
1st term expires Dec 2010
Robert Barrett, MD
916/962-1988
E-Mail: artiebee2@aol.com

Board Member
2nd term expires Dec 2010
Marian Galbraith
916/722-0411

Board Member
2nd term expires Dec 2011
Jim Leach
916/797-9125
E-Mail: jleach@surewest.net

Board Member
2nd term expires Dec 2011
Craig Peterson
916/682-9699
E-Mail: peterson59@comcast.net

Membership
Terry Clifton
916/863-6344
Terry@parklaneblessings.com



Newsletter Editors
Sherry & Terry Clifton
916/863-6344
Sherry@parklaneblessings.com

Organ Technician
Dave Moreno
916/484-7356
davem@lanset.com

Music Librarian
Jim Leach
916/797-9125
E-Mail: jleach@surewest.net



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO



How time flies when you're having fun - or about to. I got to participate in my first organ workday at CAM. Professor Dave Moreno showed Adele Warwick and me how to cut leather for gaskets, glue bumper felts and gaskets and wrap pneumatics (always wondered how that worked). We had fun!

But, I don't know about Tom Norvell who was doing manual labor cleaning the chambers and Craig, cleaning the organ closet, and helping Paul Brown install the new computer system. Randy Warwick, all 6' plus of him, was stretched out in the solo chamber dropping the bottom board on the tuba windchest to remove bad pneumatics so Dave could do some repairs and put our pneumatics in. (If I sound like I know what I'm talking about - trust me- I had help writing this.)

But, we all had a good laugh at the end. When computer guru, Paul Brown, finished installing the new system, we turned the organ on, loaded a disc and Paul Quarino came through loud and clear. "Dang! It really works!" (or words

to that effect) was Paul's response. Group hug! And everything went beautifully for Chris Elliott's appearance on Friday, the 21st, to play Buster Keaton's silent film "Our Hospitality".

We are not due back at CAM until September but I would like to take some space to deliver a big **THANK YOU to Craig Peterson and Tom Norvell.** There would be no refreshments without these two fellows! They provide the ice, drinks, popcorn, candy - set everything up and Tom is popping away by the time people start coming in. It's a lot of work but it adds so much to our Silent Film nights and to the Scholarship Fund since proceeds from refreshment sales go there.

It's picnic time! Y'all come to Pete McCluer's in Shingle Springs on the 13th, Wendell Jacob's in Davis on August 22nd and Bert Atwood's in Clearlake on September 26th. Bert's picnic is a NorCal event, but we're invited just as NorCal members are welcome at our events. The ATOS Convention in Seattle rounds out our summer activities. Whoever says noth-

ing much is going on with theatre organs doesn't live around here.

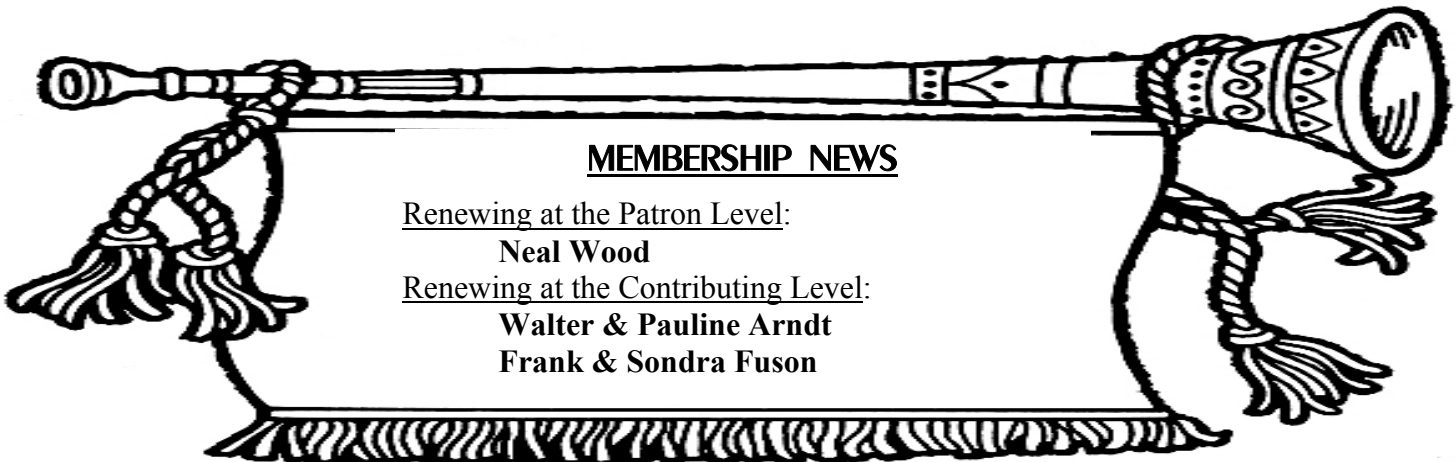
Here's a heads-up for anyone considering installing a theatre pipe organ. The beautiful 4/42 Wurlitzer, originally from the Oakland Paramount Theatre and now in the Roaring 20's Pizza and Pipes in Ellington, Fla., is looking for a new home. Yes, I'm aware it's clean across the country, but take a look on their website **www.roaring20spizza.com**. This is a Publix 1 and mostly original, one of few remaining. How nice it would be to preserve it intact SOMEWHERE in our area!!! Any takers? Contact Dan Sarmiento at 941-448-7837.

Well, I'm off to Jasper Sanfilippo's in Barrington for the Hopeful Heart Concert for Life.

This is all just so much fun!

See y'all at Pete and Dianne's picnic.

Carol



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Patron Level:

Neal Wood

Renewing at the Contributing Level:

Walter & Pauline Arndt

Frank & Sondra Fuson



P.O. Box 2017
Fair Oaks, California 95628

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We are on the Web:

sierrachapterATOS.org

youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Sunday June 13

Pot Luck/Open Console
Home of Pete & Dianne McCluer
Shingle Springs, CA
1:00PM - 4:00 PM



Sunday August 22

Pot Luck/Open Console
Home of Wendell Jacob
Davis, CA
1:00 - 4:00 PM

ATOS CONVENTION

Seattle, Washington



June 28 - July 4

www.atos.org

NORCAL CHAPTER EVENT

Sunday Sept 26

Picnic/Open
Console
Home of Bert
Atwood
Kelseyville, CA
11:30AM to Dusk



Stockton Fox Event

Friday June 25
6:30PM

Yankee Doodle Dandy
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