

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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May/June 2008

Our next social will take place at the Rialto Theatre on Sunday, May 4, 2008 and will feature JATOE member Tim Charlton. Doors will open at 1:30pm and the program will begin at 2:00pm. Tim has often performed during open console. Don't miss his first official program.

Join us on Tuesday evening, June 10, 2008 as we welcome Ron Newman to the Rialto Barton. The stage door will open at 7:00pm, and Ron's program will begin at 7:30pm.

For those of you who have not paid your dues for 2008, this will be your last newsletter. Please renew to continue uninterrupted newsletter mailings.

President's Message from Jim Patak

By the time you have read this letter our Organ Extravaganza XII will be history. We hope many of you enjoyed this year's presentation.

April 15-16 we had Terry Kleven and Bob Swaney here from Century Organ Builders to check over the entire Barton. They had to rebuild the Tibia Tremulant, adjusted wind pressures, repaired some pipes, adjusted the tremulants so that the organ is speaking the way it should be. The Rialto Barton Grande is now happy, as Terry Kleven so eloquently puts it.

We also thank our friend, Jim Gruber, for the final tuning for the show. We also must thank Scott Peterson and Ken Wartenberg of the Peterson EMP (the relay manufacturers) for taking such great interest in this organ. Ken is here anytime I call him. That takes a great deal of pressure off Leroy and me. This would not happen if we elected to buy an out of town relay system.

The organ is in the best shape it has been in years, and we want to keep it that way. We are therefore not permitting anyone in the chambers unless accompanied by Leroy or myself. We want no one adjusting anything even if they think they know what they are doing.

The theatre is very busy during the summer months so Don Walker will let you know about an evening social we will have.

JATOE is sponsoring Emily Worthington for the ATOS Young Organist Competition. Emily is 23 and from Ames Iowa. We are proud to be doing this for her. She has already recorded her required numbers on the Barton. Mike Cierski did the recording for her. We wish her success.

JATOE is also helping with the ATOS Summer Camp on July 24, 2008. The students will be here and JATOE again will provide the dinner for them as well as for their parents. This is a feather in JATOE's Cap.

Some of you may not have known, but the Extravaganza Show format is going on the road. Steve Lamanna is producing the first such show in North Tonawanda, NY later this year. North Tonawanda is the home of the Wurlitzer Theatre Organs. We are proud to have our show copied for the rest of the country.

Have a great summer!!

Jim Patak

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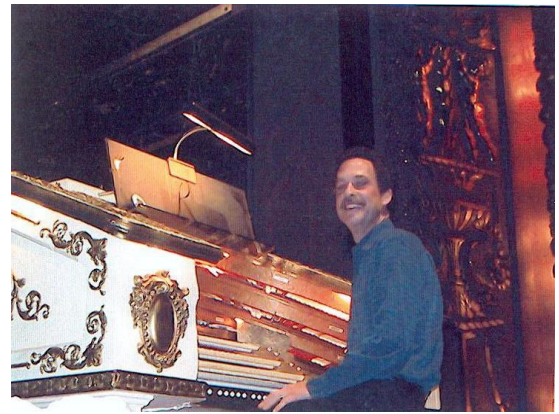
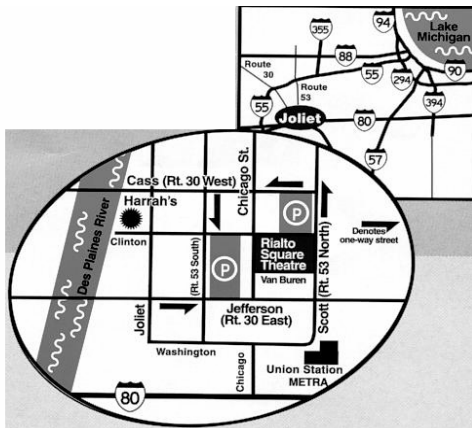
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JATOE Member Tim Charlton at the Rialto Barton!

Tim Charlton was raised in Elgin, IL. He has been a machinist for twenty years. Tim grew up listening to Tony Tahlman at the Elm Rink, skating and loving the sounds of the pipe organ. Tim has tried his hand at a few skating rink organs and often during open console at socials for both CATOE and JATOE. Tim has never taken lessons, and plays for his own enjoyment. Tim has a unique gift at the organ, and has the rare ability to play complex theatre organ arrangements entirely by ear. Don't miss Tim's exciting program in June!

Doors to the Rialto Theatre will open at 1:30pm, and the program begins at 2:00pm. Please enter at the rear of the theatre, stage door entrance on Scott Street. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Tim's performance.

**Rialto Square Theatre
102 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432**



Organist and former radio personality Ron Newman performs at the Barton!

Ron Newman was born into a musical family and started playing organ around the age of six. He got his first "professional" gig at the age of 16, when he played at the Kane County Fair for a local music store to draw attention from passers-by, and it was common for him to draw a crowd by the tent. He continued playing for both Catholic and Protestant services on land and sea while serving in the US Navy from 1967 through 1971. Upon his release from the Navy, he was hired to play for Mass at his home parish of St. Mary's Church in Aurora, a position he held for 30 years. During the 1980s, he entertained on his own CONN 652 Theatre organ at various places around Aurora, including the Hi-Way Lounge, the Hilton Inn, and the Holiday Inn. In addition, Ron was also the main organist at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles, IL, for 20 years on the 3/16 Geneva pipe organ which was installed in 1926. Some may remember Ron being the news director and talk show host on WBIG radio (AM-1280) in Aurora. His friendly voice and engaging personality won him a large audience of loyal listeners. Ron has his style of playing, but his arrangements follow more along the lines of the organists that were so popular in the 30s and 40s. Every song he plays is immediately recognizable, and a pleasure to hear. He likes to "keep it simple" and sticks to more traditional arrangements so that people can enjoy the music the way it was intended to be. Today, Ron spends a considerable amount of time entertaining senior citizens in nursing homes, retirement and assisted living centers where he gets rave reviews, not only from the residents, but also the activity directors, and even the staff. He performs on the Roland EM-2000 Keyboard/Arranger, which has to be heard to be believed.

Doors to the Rialto Theatre will open at 7:00pm, and the program begins at 7:30pm. Please enter at the rear of the theatre, stage door entrance on Scott Street. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Ron's performance.

