

Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOE.org

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November/December 2005

Our next two socials will occur on Sunday, November 27, and Sunday, December 18, 2005. Please see page two for details and starting times. December 18 will be our Holiday Potluck social.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers long-time JATOE member Bill Graffis who has undergone major cancer surgery at Mayo Clinic recently. You may direct cards and well-wishes to his home at: 1409 Mayfield Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. We hope to see Bill at future events!



Happy Holidays from your JATOE Board!

President's Message

It is difficult to realize that the winter season is almost upon us. But before that descends upon us we will have a few more socials. On November 27, Dennis Scott will perform for us and we will have a potluck on December 18 with Col. Jack Moelmann hitting the keys. This will finish the 2005 year for JATOE.

In January, we are embarking on a rebuild of the upper main chamber. This chamber was thrown together in 1993 and is in dire need of new wind lines and repositioning some of the pipe ranks. The payment for this is the result of a grant we received from the Paul's Foundation. We are thankful for that.

Recently, we were very concerned about the blower for the organ since it was quitting on us at times. The culprit was the circuit breaker. It was replaced and the blower motor is running just fine.

We are also in the process of getting quotes for a new relay. The Theatre is financing this for the Barton. The problem is that we have to depend on companies that are very busy and we are being delayed because of them. We will eventually get things going.

We are fortunate that the organ is used for many of the shows at the theatre. This does not happen with many theatres that have organs available. I hope that you support the theatre so that we can continue using the wonderful Barton Organ.

I am somewhat disappointed in the tickets I have reserved for Extravaganza 10. I have many good seats, but not what I had expected. If you are coming to the Extravaganza, let me know so that I can provide you with quality seating.

Some of you may not know, but I am also the Curator of the American Theatre Organ Society Archives/Library. Dolores and I volunteer our time to keep the Archives running smoothly. The Archives are located in the Rialto Building and have just moved across the hall to a larger facility. We hope that all of you that are not ATOS members think about joining the parent organization. It will also guarantee that you are voting members of JATOE, since this is one of the rules we have to follow to be a chapter of the ATOS.

Have a nice Thanksgiving and even if it is the holiday weekend, we hope to see you on November 27th.

Jim Patak

Dues are Due as of January 1, 2006!

2006 JATOE DUES RENEWAL FORM—PLEASE CUT AND MAIL TO DON BORRE' OR BRING TO SOCIALS.

Membership Categories: Regular—\$25, Supporting-\$50, Sponsoring-\$100, Sustaining-\$150, Benefactor-\$500, Presidents Club-\$1,000

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Dennis Scott returns to the Rialto, November 27, 2005!

Dennis Scott has worn many musical hats since his days at the University of Tulsa where he majored in journalism -- not music. He worked in public relations in Chicago for a number of years before becoming a full-time musician. During the late 1970s, he traveled as a concert artist for an electronic organ company before getting involved in the pizza organ circuit, working in San Francisco and Detroit. He claims that was like playing for Vaudeville every night!. During those "pizza years" he also began accompanying short silent movies (20 minute two-reelers) as part of his evening's entertainment schedule. Working from a large library of two-reelers he played most of those films "cold" and quickly developed his improvisational skills while watching those films for the first time with the audience! This is much the same way it happened for the silent movie organists of the 1920s.

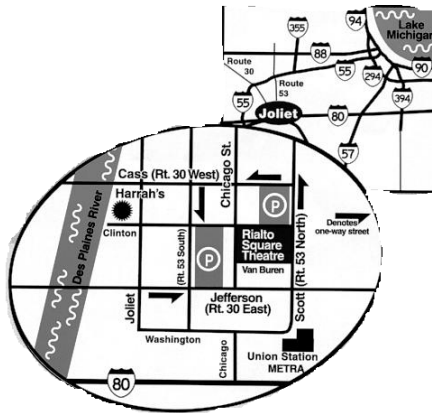
In recent years with a renewed interest in classic silent films, Dennis has been in increasing demand. Since his return to Chicago in 1992, he has played many solo organ programs around the Great Lakes, but he is by his own admission, most at home playing silent film presentations. He played intermissions for more than six years at the Music Box Theatre in Chicago. He is President of the Chicagoland Theatre Organ Society and a founder and President of the Silent Film Society of Chicago.

Last year, Dennis recorded a CD with Chicago's very popular West End Jazz Band, recreating the brief period in history when jazz bands and theatre organists performed together in the nation's biggest movie palaces. He and the band perform together often.

Dennis is a full time Graphic Artist for the Classic Cinemas movie theatre chain. He creates all the newspaper ads and lobby displays for 12 theatres across Northern Illinois. He has created the graphics for the last two Pipe Organ Extravaganza CDs and for the last four West End Jazz Band CDs.

He plays at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, performing on the John Muri Memorial 3/10 Wurlitzer and accompanies many children's theatre productions there, presented by Our Town Productions, adapted from the classics and directed by the Rialto's Stage Manager, Tina Salamone.

The Rialto stage doors will open at 2:00 pm, and the concert will begin at 2:30 pm. (Please note later start time.) Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Dennis' performance. Join us in supporting the President of our 'sister' chapter, CTOS! Dennis always has a few surprises, and fantastic vintage theatre organ arrangement, maybe even some hints of Pearl White?



Col. Jack Moelmann promises a great time at the Rialto Dec. 18!

Jack Moelmann is originally from Oak Park, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago). He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois in 1965. He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel in April 1991 after serving in the Communications & Electronics field for 26 years. His last assignment was at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois (near St. Louis) near which he currently lives in the town of O'Fallon, Illinois.

In addition to Jack's Air Force career, he also had a career in music and in particular the organ. Jack started in music (with the piano and soloist in the church choir) at age 8, and has pursued this avocation ever since. His main interests are classical, theatre, and popular stylings on both the organ and the piano. Jack has been a member of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) since 1967, served on their Board of Directors in one capacity or another continuously for the past 18 years, chaired several committees, and was the President of ATOS from 1985 until 1988. He currently serves as the ATOS Secretary and is still on the ATOS Board of Directors. He was elected as the ATOS Honorary Lifetime Member in May 1994.

The Rialto stage doors will open at 1:30 pm, and the concert begins at 2:00 pm. JATOE will provide the meat dishes for the Holiday Potluck social. Members whose last names begin with A-M, please bring desserts. Members whose names begin with N-Z, please bring salads, side dishes, appetizers or any other food items of your choice including beverages.

The JATOE Board appreciates your support over the past year, and we are happy to provide this social to celebrate our successes. Come and enjoy a holiday feast as only JATOE members can provide! Plenty of open console time will follow Jack's performance so bring your music.

