

# Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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August/Sept 2016

## President's Message

### Social date:

**Sunday, Sept. 25,  
2016. 2:30 pm  
doors, 3:00 pm so-  
cial.**

**The social location  
is the Allen Organ  
Showroom in  
Bolingbrook, IL.**

**181 W. Crossroads  
Pkwy, Suite D,  
Bolingbrook, IL  
60440**

I certainly hope you members didn't lose too much weight in the heat at our last social. I also hope you enjoyed Mark Noller as much as I did. I also hope you enjoyed Brett Miller, the 14 year old who played open console.

I played 2 tours in July and could almost wring out my shirts when I got home. Playing was not pleasant with sweat running into my eyes.

Everyone keeps asking me about the Rialto Theatre and I have to say that I don't know much. I do know that there are 5 groups that want to run the theatre. They will have to make a decision soon. I also know that the Pipe Organ Extravaganza has been moved again from September 24 to a date in April of 2017.

We are skipping the month of August and concentrating on providing a social for you in September. The social will probably be at the Allen Studio in Bolingbrook. Hopefully, we can get back to the theatre after that. The theatre stated to me that everything should be back up and running sometime in September. I certainly hope this happens.

Those of you that were not at the last social, I stated that the cleaning crew quit because of non-payment, Lori Carmine the production person has another job and Kari the box office manager also left. Because of the theatre's shortage of personnel, JATOE was forced to pay \$238 to setup/takedown the tables for our social. This is the first time as I can remember that it cost JATOE for this service.

Some of us were privileged to hear the ATOS Youth Camp, which we started some 10 years ago. The students and their teachers (Jelani Eddington, Donna Parker, Chris Elliott, Jonas Nordwall and Martin Ellis) travelled to the Chicago Theatre, The Pizza Parlors, Fred Hermes home, Rialto Theatre, Sanfilippo Mansion and I don't remember the rest. They were all great kids. At the end of the week, all the teachers performed at the Sanfilippo Mansion. That was also a wonderful program.

Those of you that have been asking me about my back operation, I can say that it was a success. I am fine and pain free.

Stay Happy, Healthy and Cool!

— Jim Patak

Allen Organs, Chicago

181 W Crossroads Pkwy, Suite D, Bolingbrook, IL

"Allen Organ" awning is visible from Rt 53)

From I-55 take Rt 53 south to the second traffic light which is Crossroads Pkwy. Turn right to the FIRST drive on the left and follow around the building to the front.

From Rt 53 drive north to the second traffic light which is Crossroads Pkwy. Turn left to the FIRST drive on the left and follow around the building to the front.



## Bill Campbell to perform for the first time for JATOE members!

Bill Campbell is currently the organist for the Paramount Iceland Skating Rink located in Paramount, California. He provides music for special occasions and regular open skating sessions each week. The Iceland Rink is a local landmark which opened about 75 years ago in suburban Los Angeles, California. The organ is a 3 manual 19 rank Wurlitzer, which was originally installed in a theater in San Jose, California. The organ was moved to Paramount in the 1940's and to the best of our knowledge is the only pipe organ being played in the United States for ice skating. Beyond this fact, the owners of the rink are the Zamboni family, inventors of the ice smoothing machine. Their machine is sold worldwide to arenas to clean up the ice during hockey games and skating exhibitions.

Bill Campbell has been a very active member of the American Theatre Organ Society for more than forty years. Originally a member of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he began his theatre organ playing career as the organist at the Avalon Theatre in Milwaukee in the 1970's while attending high school. He was the movie organist and played weekends before some of the era's most famous films such as *The Longest Yard*, *Tommy*, *The Amityville Horror*, *The Exorcist*, and *Titanic*. His musical preludes to the movies always included selections from the movies whenever possible. His association with the theatre lasted until the theatre finally closed its doors in 1999.

In the mid-1990's, Bill's love of theatre organ was reflected in the only recording to have been produced at the Avalon's 3/28 Wurlitzer, *Avalon, Volume 1*, which received a great review from the Theatre Organ Journal.

In addition to appearing at the Avalon Theatre, Bill also spent about ten years as a Pizza Parlor Organist in Milwaukee appearing at the Pipe Organ Pizza and Piper Music Palace.

Bill's theatre organ concert experience extends from concerts on the East Coast, having performed many times at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York, to appearances for the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Illinois, and Dairyland Theatre Organ Society in Milwaukee. When Bill's full-time career as a computer professional changed and he moved to the West Coast in 2004, he continued to perform at venues on the West Coast. These included performing for the Wurlitzer Weekend in 2008 at the Paramount Ice Rink, the Los Angeles Orpheum Theatre historical tours, Orange County Theatre Organ Society at Fullerton Auditorium, South Pasadena High School, annual concerts for the Valley Organ Society in Los Angeles, and the Allen Organ Club of San Diego.

In all of his concerts, Bill likes to present a variety of music from different time periods which reflect some of America's most famous composers. A typical program may include selections from Irving Berlin, Cole Porter or George Gershwin. He's always on the lookout for new selections that can be adapted to the theatre organ.

As a member of the American Theatre Organ Society, Bill has taken an active role in many annual ATOS conventions. He has fulfilled many roles including Treasurer, Transportation Chairman, and Chairman/President of the conventions hosted in Milwaukee in 2000 and again in 2004. On a local level, Bill served a two-year term as the President and Chairman of the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society.

**Showroom doors open at 2:30 pm, and the program begins at 3:00 pm.**

