



# RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

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## MAJOR OVERHAUL OF THE CONSOLE WIRING

The first major overhaul of the Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ since the middle 1980's has started. Below is the new keyboard and piston junction board that allows the keyboards to be removed for maintenance. The wiring harness for the stops was also reconfigured so the horseshoe can be raised to its maintenance position to get to the keyboards



## FIRST OUTDOOR SOCIAL, HOW DID IT GO?

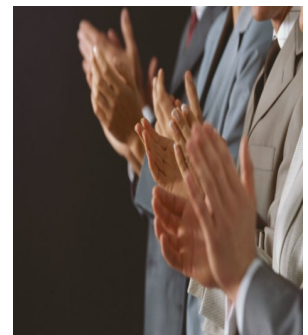
Our first joint outdoor social with CATOE at the home of ATOS Chairman of the board, Taylor Trimby was a success. It was a beautiful day, around 82 degrees, a lite breeze, low humidity. You couldn't ask for a better day. Attendance was 55 people along with the local news paper which made front page. May faces we have not seen in a while both for JATOE & CATOE. Donnie Rankin did a fabulous job on the virtual Wurlitzer 4 manual Hauptwerk theater organ. His selections were wonderful showing many of the great pipe organ sounds. People also got to see the renovated Arcada Console, waiting to go back in the theater. We even had a few celebrities with us. Tedde Gibson played the night before at San Filippus and joined us Sunday. The newly elected ATOS Chairman of the Board David Finkle was there from Indianapolis, Bill Campbell, our chapter liaison came down from Wisconsin. Taylor's neighbors joined us too. It was a great time. Our own Rick Steinke cooked 60 hot dogs for the group. Of course we had so many goodies members brought to share from cookies, cole slaw, Ice tea, Lemon Aid, Root Beer, water, potatoe chips. JATOE never has a shortage of goodies to share. There was open console for anyone who wanted to try the Wurlitzer out. It was a very good time! It was a very successful event! So how did it go? GREAT!!!!!!!!!!



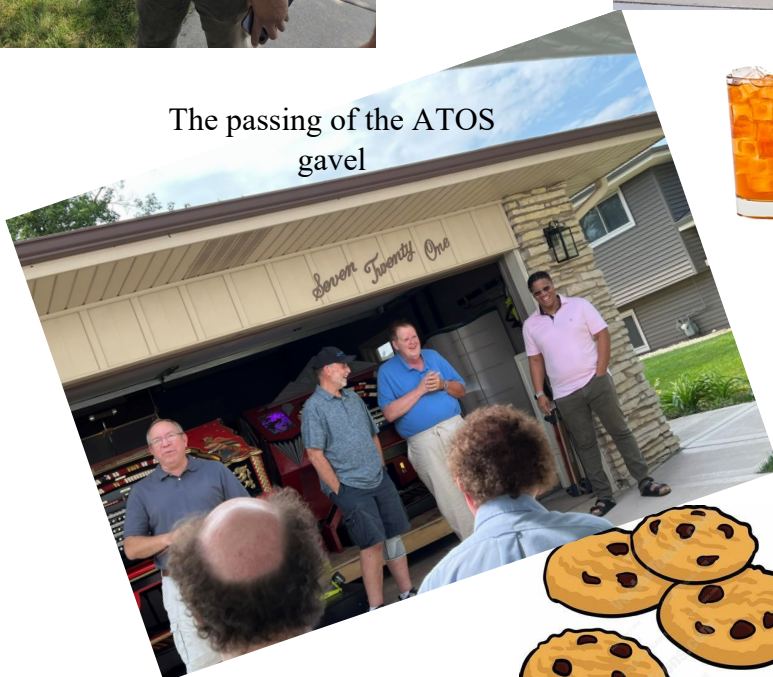
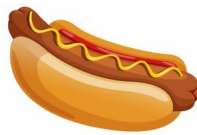
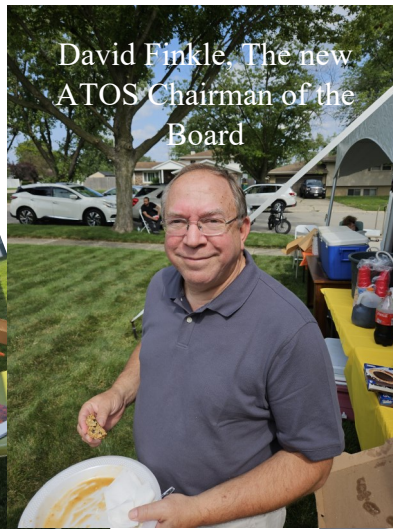
## OUR NEWEST LIFETIME MEMBER



At our July 21st social, our Crew Chief and Board Member Lee Rajala was made JATOE's newest Lifetime Member by the membership. Lee has been a long time member and supporter of JATOE. His knowledge of the inner workings of the pipe organ have been invaluable. The work crew has learned much from Lee which has enabled us to maintain the Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ. We are very happy for Lee having this honor bestowed upon him. Thank You Lee for sharing your knowledge. Anyone wanting to join our work crew is more then welcome. We usually meet on Mondays and Tuesdays each week at 10am at the Rialto.









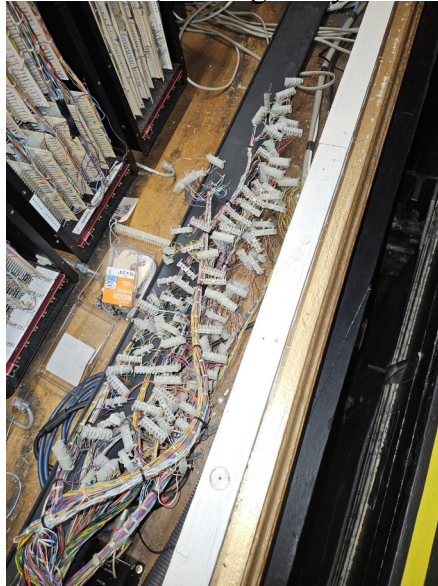
# JATOE WORK CREW UPDATE

## BARTON CONSOLE GETS REWIRED

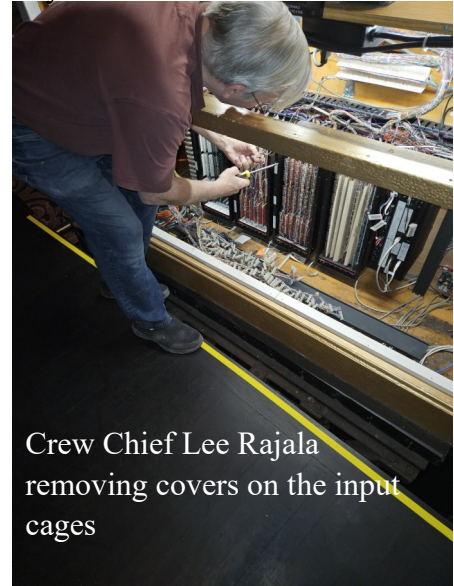
Before Pictures, Getting ready for Monday



Right side of the horseshoe.  
Syndynes unplugged.



Right side syndynes pulled thru.

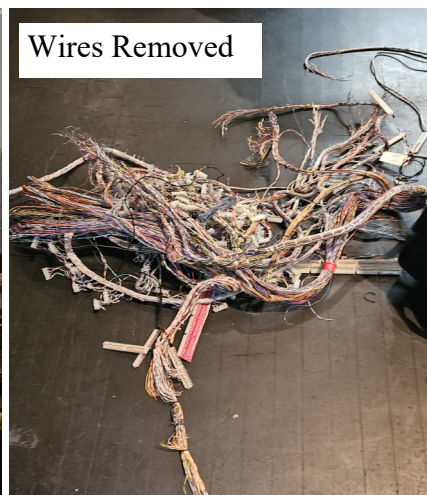


Crew Chief Lee Rajala  
removing covers on the input  
cages

The JATOE Board had decided to invest the money for this much needed project. There were plenty of “jumper” wires on the syndynes to make them work and just recently when Taylor Trimby was playing for a movie night, a couple of reed stops stopped playing. Some alligator clips on the syndynes made them work again for the time being. There is not enough wiring to raise the console to get to the keyboards, another reason for this project. On June 24th, Brian Koziel from Peterson started the rewiring of the Barton console. A \$8000+ project. This will correct everything. It will remove the “junk wiring” that does nothing and is just hanging in the console. Syndynes are grouped into groups of 24. Everything will be labeled. The keyboards and pistons are pluggable for easy removal. During the 2 months, the work crew can not go to the theater, the accomp keyboard was removed and taken to Lee’s house so we can make the necessary repairs. When we are allowed to go back into the theater, the keyboard will be reinstalled.



Brian planning his attack



Wires Removed



Brian & Lee planning



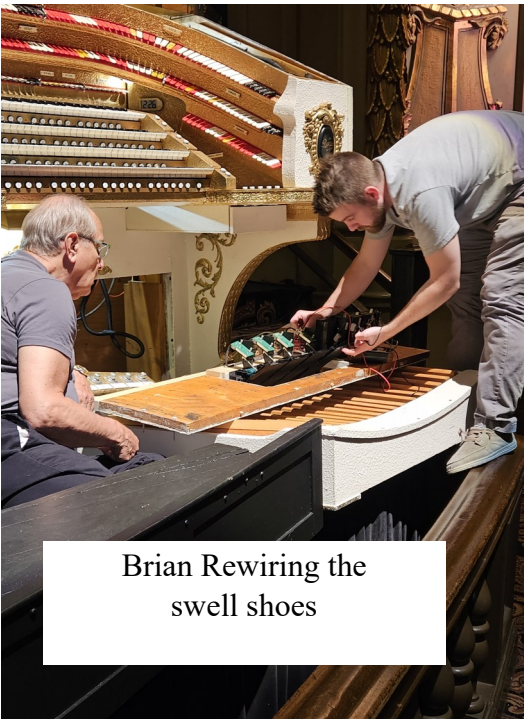
## AFTER PICTURES



Syndynes wired up and working



Wiring the keyboards and pistons



Brian Rewiring the swell shoes



Oh Dennis, where are you going?

It took 4, 8 hour days. 9am to 5pm. That was the time schedule we had from the theater. To tell the truth, if the theater didn't give us the time to do this project, we were just going to scrap the whole idea and do the best we could to keep the organ going. While Lee kept busy with Brian, the rest of us went to the work room and started to put things away and covering everything in plastic to prepare for the asbestos removal planned in the basement. When we return Sept 1st, The chimes will go back in along with the tuned sleigh bells. Two cymbals need to be relocated and some reconfiguration of the wind lines to make it all work.

As of June 28th, minor problems still need to be corrected. We can't get in the theater again until Sept 1st, So Brian will have to come back again and correct what needs to be corrected. It should only take one more day to do that. When this is done another major milestone will be completed. First was making everything play that is in the chambers, second was the rewiring of the console. Third will be the rebuilding of the pipe chests. Many are in need of an overhaul.

## 2024 Membership Update!

Total JATOE Membership	100	96%
Number of ATOS Members	46	44%
<b>Number of Members Lost</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13%</b>



### Where there's a will, There's a way.....

Bequests and other generous, thoughtful gifts do make a difference. When you write or review your will, please consider leaving JATOE a charitable bequest. Ask your attorney to include such wording as this: "I give to the Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to be used for furthering the goals of JATOE for promoting, preservation, care and maintenance of the Barton Grande Theater Organ." Your loved one's name will be put on the plaque that's on the back of the organ.



### *Hocus Pocus*

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 | 7 PM

PG | 1 hour 36 minutes

A teenage boy named Max and his little sister move to Salem, where he struggles to fit in before awakening a trio of diabolical witches that were executed in the 17th century.

**Doors open 30 minutes before showtime.**

**All seats are \$5 and seating is general admission.**

The Barton Grande Theater Organ plays 30 minutes before each show with house organist Taylor Trimby.

