

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Officers:

President: Jere DeBacker Denver, CO

Vice President: Ken Hodge Parker, CO

Secretary: Louise Lucero Aurora, CO

Treasurer: Fred Wilson Golden, CO

Reporter: Larry Emmons Ten Sleep, WY

Board Representative: Larry Emmons Ten Sleep, WY

The Rocky Mountain Chapter had a very active year with a number of chapter meetings and events. Two events were of special interest to the chapter and required major commitments by the attendees. The first of these was in late June, 2007 and revolved around the AMICA 'Adopt A Piano' dedication in Virginia-Nevada City Montana. Members traveled from the Denver area for the 450 mile trip to Ten Sleep, Wyoming for a chapter meeting, dinner, and evening of mechanical music at the home of Larry and Judy Emmons. The following day, several car loads continued on through Yellowstone National Park for the next 350 mile leg to Virginia City, MT. The dedication of the Wurlitzer DX was part of the Montana Heritage Commission's 'Old Fashioned 4th of July Weekend and Celebration of Mechanical Music in Alder Gulch'. The AMICA members in attendance were treated royally by the Bovey Collection staff and local residents.

Many of the RM Chapter members took part in the Adopt a Piano project by way of management, restoration, transportation, etc. The chapter donated cash to the project as well. Reblitz Restorations and associates provided first class services at a discounted rate and transportation of the restored DX to Montana was donated by members. The Wurlitzer DX sounds terrific! As a direct result of AMICA International's efforts and Richard Rutinger's perseverance, additional major funds have been made available to restore more of the Bovey Collection.

The second great 'event' was the Chapter's inaugural Band Organ Rally held on September 8, 2007 in Englewood, Colorado. We didn't have a large number of instruments to display but we did have a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the participants! John and Colleen Haass drove from Casper, Wyoming with their Wurlitzer 105 and Tom Zook's built up Orchestrion. Ken Hodge brought two Street Organs and Jere DeBacker spent the day performing a 'one man pumper contest' for whoever happened to be listening. Ken Hodge did a great job of organizing the rally. We all had such a great time that it was decided on the spot to do it again in 2008. Not necessarily at the same location, but do it for sure somewhere in the metro Denver region. We hope that more instruments can be featured in 2008. It would be great to have participation from non-chapter AMICA members as well.

Members braved a spring snowstorm on March 24, 2007 to attend our chapter meeting hosted by Louise Lucero and her mom, Clara Wingfield, in Aurora, CO. Our hosts provided a nice meal and then a business meeting was held. The current agenda was

discussed, our revised chapter bylaws were voted on and approved, discussion on a possible future organ rally and other future happenings took place. Following the business meeting Ken Hodge presented two videos: Bob Taylor's "A Brief History of the Aeolian Pipe Organ" and Huell Howser's program on KCET about the 2002 AMICA organ rally at Descanso Gardens near Los Angeles. Later we relaxed with music from the 1911 Melville Clark Apollo 88 note player piano and the 1914 Ellington by Baldwin. Dick Kroeckel's hand played ragtime rounded out the meeting.

Chapter VP Ken Hodge hosted our November 3rd meeting at his home in Parker, CO. After lunch and the business meeting we were entertained by Ken's Verbeeck Street Organ, 1926 Knabe Ampico A, and other instruments in his collection. Ken's collection of antique radios and 60 years of aerospace memorabilia added to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

The Chapter's December 15, 2007 meeting and Christmas party was again hosted by Rosanne and Bill Harris at the facility containing their large collection of instruments. The American and European Orchestrions got a good workout as did the 80 and 102 key Mortiers. Judging by the numerous other large instruments lurking in the shadows we can expect more magnificent performances in the near future. President Jere DeBacker conducted a short business meeting where all 2007 officers were nominated and agreed to serve for another year.

The RM Chapter is somewhat handicapped by the huge area that it covers. Many members drive great distances and commit several days to attend meetings. 1000 mile round trips are not uncommon. Although we have 41 member households, at a typical meeting average attendance is somewhere around 15. In 2007 we added 2 new members. The Rocky Mountain Chapter currently has \$801.66 in its treasury.

Submitted by:
Larry Emmons
Chapter Reporter and Board Rep for 2008