

HEART OF AMERICA

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The Heart of America Chapter currently has 94 members. About 40 members show up for any given meeting. The Christmas meeting usually has 60 to 70 in attendance in most years. We have members representing seven states in the Middle West.

The Heart of America held the obligatory four meetings in 2009. On May 17th and 18th our first meeting of the year was held at the home of John and Barbara Washburn in Grain Valley, MO. The group met first in Independence, MO for a tour of a motorcycle museum followed by a tour of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. After lunch at Arthur Bryant's famous barbeque restaurant we visited the World War I museum. On Sunday we had a brunch at the Washburn's followed by a business meeting.

Our second meeting was a monkey organ rally held at the Deanna Rose Farmstead in Leawood, KS on August 1 and 2. The Farmstead is a children's farm that attracts 1,500 people on any given weekend. There were several small organs that performed on Saturday. This was followed by a brunch and business meeting at the home of Jan and Harold Engelhaupt on Sunday.

Another monkey organ rally was held at the Missouri Botanical Garden on September 12th. We had eleven organs and two accordions that played from 9 AM to 4 PM. That night we met at Gary Craig's house for barbeque and a power point presentation on the history of street organs done by Cynthia Craig.

The Christmas meeting was held December 5th and 6th at the home of Mike and Sandy Schoeppner in Kansas City. On Saturday evening Mike and Sandy's favorite Mexican restaurant catered a delicious meal. On Sunday we had our normal Christmas brunch followed by an exchange of gifts which is usually a "dog eat dog" event. This was followed by a business meeting where we discussed meetings for 2010.

Submitted by:
Gary Craig, Board Representative