

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER:

PRESIDENT: Jere DeBacker Denver CO

VICE PRESIDENT: Ken Hodge Parker CO

SECRETARY Louise Lucero Aurora CO

TREASURER: Barry Weiss Boulder CO

REPORTER: Larry Emmons Ten Sleep WY

BOARD REP: Jere DeBacker Denver CO

The Rocky Mountain Chapter had an active year which started on April 25, 2009 at the home of Barry Weiss in Boulder Colorado. This event was an “old fashioned” singing party starting at 6pm accompanied by the Conway player piano (Simplex Mechanism) playing rolls of great old American songs. A potluck dessert party rounded out the evening.

On June 24th we convened at the home of Don and Owanah Wick in Colorado Springs for an afternoon of food and entertainment featuring the Wick’s 1927 Wurlitzer Pipe organ. This organ is of significant historical interest having been initially installed in the Empire Theatre in Montgomery, Alabama (now the Rosa Parks Museum) and then moved to the Martin Luther King Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. The Wicks acquired the organ in 1974. We were treated to music played by Denver’s Paramount Theater Organist Bob Castle. In addition, a 1925 Steinway XR Duo-Art, 1927 Chickering Ampico and many other instruments and artifacts were played and displayed. Of particular interest were Owanah’s large doll collection and the phonograph and train collections. We were pleased to have members from 5 states in attendance.

By invitation several chapter members provided mechanical music entertainment during the Englewood Days and Car Show Festival near Denver, CO. Merchants provided indoor space for a Seeburg foot-pumper with Jere DeBacker and Jud Murphy providing the rolls and motive power. A melodious little bird named ‘Ciello’ provided accompaniment. Barry Weiss demonstrated an 11” Regina Style 20 music box and an Edison Model D cylinder phonograph at another location. Ken Hodge and Pat Moore provided outdoor entertainment with the Verbeeck Street Organ while Bryan Marklin patrolled the event with a Pell Harmonette Monkey Organ. A ‘well done’ was received by the Englewood Days Organizing Committee and Chamber of Commerce. Ken Hodge also entertained with his Verbeeck at locations in California, and at the end of March at the “Vintage Voltage” Expo in Denver (a major Denver show featuring old audio, radio, phonograph, musical equipment and arcana).

2009 was rounded out with a Holiday Party Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, at the facility housing the Bill and Rosanna Harris’ large collection of European dance organs, orchestrions, nickelodeons and other mechanical instruments in Denver. This was a joint event with

members of AMICA, MBSI, and phonograph collectors in attendance for entertainment and the proverbial potluck dinner with all of the trimmings. We followed the party with a second set of meetings on Sunday, Dec. 13. First we went to the home of Steve McCormick for a Sunday brunch, a business meeting, election of officers and music provided by Steve's reproducing pianos. We then moved a few blocks away to the home of Dick Kroeckel where he entertained us with his great renditions of hand played ragtime followed by a concert produced by his famous 9'6" Steinway DR Duo-Art.

On February 15, 2010 a hardy group of members braved bad roads to travel to Art Reblitz' shop in Colorado Springs to witness the rebirth of a 1918 Wurlitzer CX that Art recently restored. The best way to view and hear the instrument is via the You Tube Video edited by Bob Taylor <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omoos87WEPg>. A visit to Art's shop is always a treat. He had received a hand carved Mason and Hamlin for restoration (this instrument is featured on the front page of July 2009 Membership Directory). Another project is the restoration of an unusual prototype violin/cello player made by the Stewart Whitlock Company. After the meeting, members enjoyed music from Art and Jean's Seeburgs followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Our next scheduled meeting will be held June 26, 2010 at the home of Ed and Karen Zimmerman in Denver. We will also plan a meeting (yet to be scheduled) at the new 'Carousel of Happiness' in Nederland, CO scheduled to open to the public in May of 2010.

[The following is a brief treasurer's report for the Rocky Mountain Chapter as of April 3:

The Rocky Mountain Chapter currently has 39 member families. A concerted effort has been made over the past six months to collect back dues and we are happy to report that our membership is now current. Almost all back dues resulted from the membership not knowing where and when to send them. Unfortunately, we have had some members drift away over the years but have some new members to make for a stable membership.

At our December meeting, the membership agreed to raise the chapter dues from \$5 per annum to \$10. It was thought that this would facilitate the establishment of enough funds over time for the chapter to expand its activities and outreach to local community functions such as street fairs. It was noted that we were not collecting enough funds to pay to move a piano to some of the community fairs where our membership participate.

Currently, the Rocky Mountain Chapter has \$1248.66 on hand (April 3).

Barry WeissTreasurer, AMICA - Rocky Mountain Chapter]

Submitted by: Larry Emmons Chapter Reporter