



THE AMICA



AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN



The Heart of AMICA:

A Community That Connects, Celebrates, and Lifts Each Other Up

BY JACKIE LUCAL

There's something special that happens every time you open the AMICA Facebook group. It's more than updates, more than photos, more than reminders about upcoming events — it's a glimpse into a community that genuinely cares about one another.

In a world that moves fast, this little corner of the internet feels like a warm front porch. Members stop by to share good news, ask questions, celebrate accomplishments, and stay connected between gatherings. It's a place where creativity, kindness, and community spirit show up every single day.

A Space Where Everyone Belongs

What makes the group so inviting isn't just the posts — it's the people behind them. Members welcome new faces, cheer on milestones, and offer support without hesitation. Whether someone is sharing an event, posting a photo, or simply saying hello, the tone is always the same: you're part of something here.

Celebrating the Moments That Matter

From arts showcases to community events, from personal achievements to shared memories, the group has become a living scrapbook of AMICA's story. Every post adds another brushstroke to the picture of who we are — a community rooted in connection, creativity, and compassion.

Keeping Us Connected, One Post at a Time

The Facebook group has quietly become one of AMICA's strongest tools for staying connected. It keeps members informed, engaged, and involved. It reminds us of upcoming gatherings, highlights opportunities to participate, and gives everyone a place to share their voice.

Most importantly, it keeps the spirit of AMICA alive between the moments when we're together in person.

A Digital Home Filled With Heart

If you've ever scrolled through the group and felt a little spark of joy, you're not alone. That warmth comes from the people who show up — not just to share information, but to share themselves.

And that's what makes AMICA's online community so meaningful. It's not just a group. It's a home.



Follow us to stay connected, inspired, and engaged with AMICA:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/amica/>

SOWNY Chapter Report

President – Mike Walter

It was a sunny day at the home of Tom and Chris Cardinal in the fair city of Rochester, NY. With the sun shining and the temperature moderate, members of the SOWNY Chapter of AMICA gathered with hopes of everything wonderful happening. Inside, notes from the 1926 Seeburg E Nickelodeon played merrily, while their 1927 Ampico grand piano offered melodious tones — though not at the same time.

Outside, on the screened porch, all was merry as well, with tales being told and unknown facts shared with eager ears.

After dinner had been promised and served, a Chapter Meeting was held. It had been quite some time since the previous meeting, so all were attentive as business resumed.

The main point of conversation was the announcement of a 2028 AMICA Convention in the Buffalo, NY area. It is hoped that members of the C.O.A.A. (Carousel Organ Association of America) and M.B.S.I. (Music Box Society International) will attend. The convention is tentatively planned for late August or early September to accommodate visitors from overseas.

Activities under consideration include:

- **A Band Organ Rally** in Pine Woods Park in North Tonawanda — a shaded park with shelter areas and electrical outlets for band organs (number of outlets TBD).

- **A visit to the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum** in North Tonawanda — located in the original factory buildings, filled with historical displays and featuring an operational carrousel.
- **A trip to the West Herr Riviera Theatre** for a silent film with organ accompaniment. The Riviera was one of the first Western New York theatres to have a Wurlitzer pipe organ installed, originally to showcase the instrument to potential theatre owners.
- **A visit to Niagara Falls** to see the Falls first-hand, whether for the first time or simply for the first time in a while.
- **A visit to the Pierce-Arrow Auto Museum** in Buffalo, celebrating one of Buffalo's early automobile manufacturers.
- **A visit to the Wurlitzer Building** may be arranged, though the interior has been completely altered. However, a candy company now occupies the front of the building.

Another new and noteworthy addition to Western New York's musical landscape is Buffalo's **solar-powered carrousel**, added in 2025 in the Canal-side district. Though diminutive in size compared to the ships in the harbor, the building provides a charming spot where music can be heard and the carrousel enjoyed — rides are \$1.00 each. More information: <https://www.buffaloheritagecarrousel.org>

Other sites may be suggested as planning continues.



From left to right: Glenn Roat, Linda Swanson, Larry & Paula Mackowiak



From left to right: Tom Cardinal, Holly Walter, and Glenn Roat



From left to right: Nick Rosica and Leroy Neeper



From left to right: Paula Mackowiak, Shirley Neeper, and Greg Swanson

Pacific Can-Am Chapter Report

President – Marc Sachnoff | Reporter – Mike Metcalfe



Rick demonstrated some miniature music boxes

On April 18, 2026, members of the Pacific Can-Am chapter of Amica along with members of MBSI held a meeting at the home of Rick Swaney in Sammamish, WA.

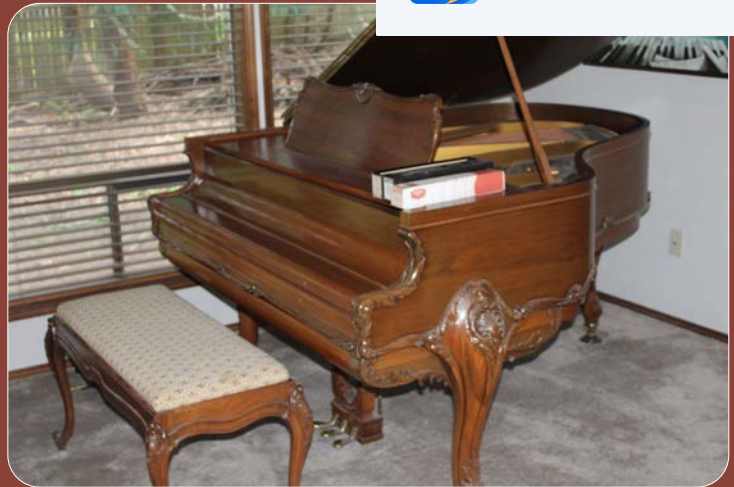
Rick has a sizable collection of antique music boxes, record players and jukeboxes throughout the home. There is also a nice Ampico player piano in the living room and a Violano is in the music room. Rick gave a great demonstration of these instruments for us.

Finally, Rick once again entertained us with some magic tricks. There were card tricks, ring tricks and others. There was nothing up his sleeve either - he had a short-sleeved shirt. He does a great job keeping us all mystified.

Carl Dodrill led a small meeting and then we all enjoyed a nice potluck lunch.



*The Violano and other musical antiques
in the music room*



The Chickering Ampico



*The Peacock Jukebox, one of the rarest
vintage jukeboxes*



Time for some card tricks



The ring trick



A record player in a lamp

SOCAL Chapter Report

Author - Diane DeTar | Photographer- Lowell Boehland

It was a beautiful day in Dana Point at Mike and Cathy Choate's. And it was a perfect day to have an AMICA meeting. Around 65 members, their family and friends attended. This is always a favorite meeting for me. Mike and Cathy have a wonderful collection of musical instruments, carousel animals and even an old 8N Ford tractor in the garage in brand new condition, except for the Chevy engine. Rosanna and Mike Argain drove 6 hours from Fresno to attend. Many from the Los Angeles area also braved the traffic to attend. That included Frank Nix and his two sons Steve and Doug. At 92 years old, Frank Nix and Mike Ames were the oldest members there. This once-a-year event is always well-attended and a favorite of all the members.



*It's amazing that we were able to get everyone in this picture.
A few members had left early but there were a total of around 60.*



Kathy and Mike Choate



Wayne Johnston and Diane DeTar in front of the Nelson Wiggins, player harpsichord and Link orchestration.



Listening to the Violano in the living room.



One DeCap playing in the living room.



Another DeCap playing in the Music Room. In front stands a lion from the Knott's Berry Farm carousel.



A few more carousel animals along with a 1954 Seeburg jukebox and Cremona Orchestral. All tucked into the entry way to the music room.



The Cremona Orchestral.



Joel and Cathy Felman.



Robin Biggins, Don Henry, Diane DeTar, Wayne Johnston, Rosanna Argain, Mike Ames, and Mike Argain.



Link Orchestration



Stinson Band Organ



Lisa and Bruce Levitt. Steven and Kim Edwards. Don Henry. John and Janice Osborne. Wayne Johnston. Mike and Rosanna Argain.

Kansas City Heart of America

Reporter: Dan Davis

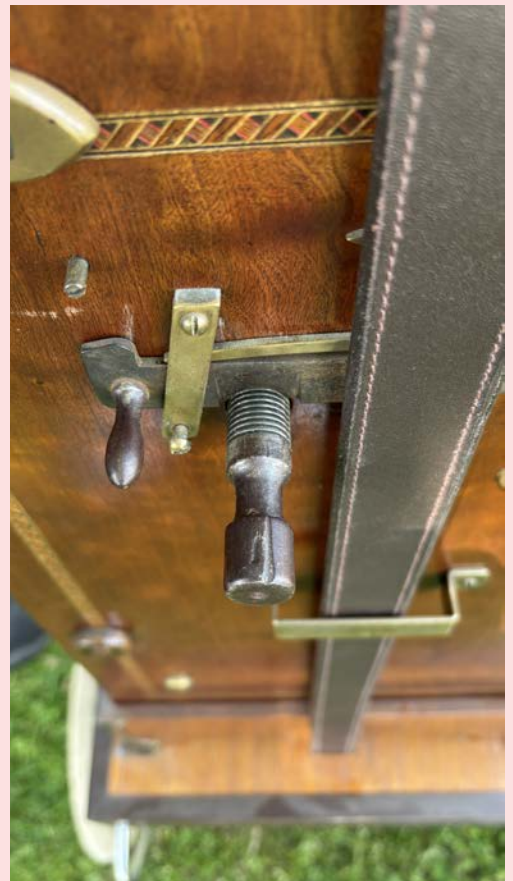
On May 1st, thirty-eight members of the AMICA, COAA and MBSI Chapters attended the Mountain View, Arkansas Iris Festival. These members were from six different states and played twenty-three instruments. Guests attending were Rose May, Michael May, Mardi Nevel, Adrian and Glenn Muller. Additional Mauldin family members William, John and April attended. The weather was perfect for all of our outdoor activities. Group meals kept everyone happy and the evenings were cool, but allowed for much visiting and enjoying desserts. This was the seventh year the chapters have attended the Iris Festival. It is all possible due to the hard work of Doug and Danell Mauldin and Mike and Sandy Shoepner. An additional thanks goes to Mike Schoepner for creating the great poster.



Angelo Rulli and Suzie Hendricks



Filardo's Organ





Bear Schultz and Beverly Chatfield



Bill Klinger



Danell Mauldin



Doyle Bohl



Diana Bryant, John Hall and Doyle Bohl



Gerold and Debbie Koehler



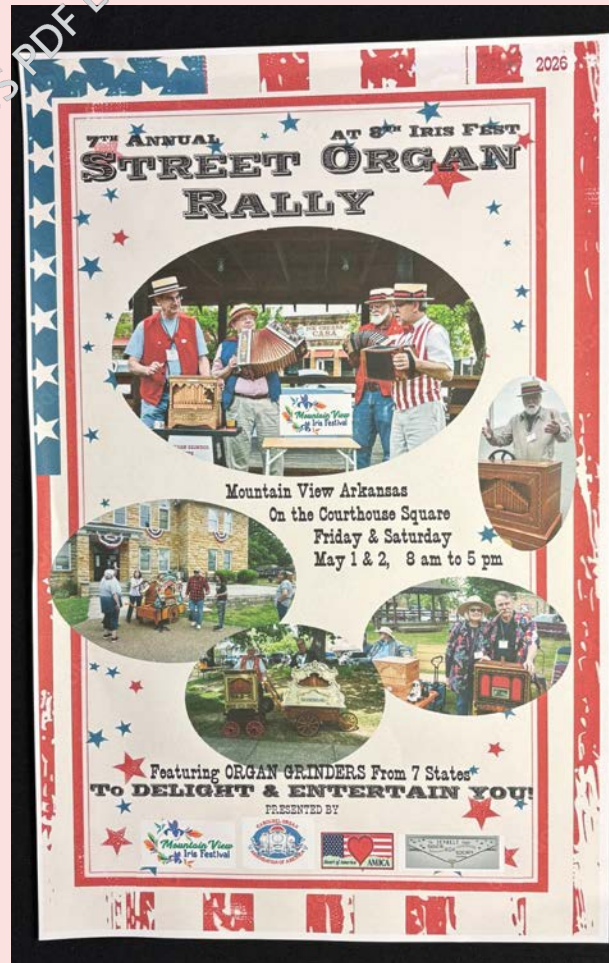
Jeff Ingebrigtsen



Jim Quashnock



Mike Schoeppner



Poster created by Mike Schoeppner



Robbie Tubbs



Tom McAuley



Visitors welcomed from the Sunbelt Chapter of MBSI. Rose Ellen May is Secretary and Marti Nevel is President.