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# The WINDSHEET



Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY  
 PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625 510/644-2707

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal  
 August/September 2009



Ron at the Console of his Allen GW4  
 photos from Neal Wood



Who am I—  
 Junkyard, Dolly,  
 Fraulein, or Duke?



Kevin King and Chairperson Neal Wood off on a tour

## NORCAL PICNIC Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Ron and Gay Bingaman's in Grass Valley (Directions on Page Three)

## A Picnic Afterglow (near Grass Valley)

On Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> you are in for a treat. **Ron and Gay Bingaman** have graciously opened up their home in Grass Valley to host the annual NorCal picnic. Their beautiful home is perched on a hill overlooking a pastoral valley. This unique setting is home to not only to Ron and Gay, but also their four llamas, Junkyard, Dolly, Fraulein and Duke and three pet chickens. Ron's on-site hydro-electric power house is fun to tour. It supplies ALL the power for the property

When Ron and Gay purchased this estate, Ron was thinking about a setting whose acoustics would be ideal for his Allen GW4, four manual organ. He got it right. With tile floors, a ceiling chamber and a sloped ceiling in the huge living room, the organ is a perfect fit.

This is a picnic, so bring your own food as well as dishes and silverware, and if you

wish, beer or wine for yourselves. A grill will be provided for those who wish to 'cook out', and Ron will have coffee, tea and soft drinks, and of course, the organ for open console. The fun begins at 11:00 AM with lunch about noon, and we hope many Sierra Chapter members will join us.

Although the house is air conditioned, wear some summer clothes, in case you decide to wander around the estate.

*DIRECTIONS TO THE BINGAMAN'S continued on Page Three.*

## DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges donations from **Ms. Kathleen A. Mayer** in memory of her father, **Robert Mayer; Mr. and Mrs. John T. Carlton;** and from **Kevin Lesch** for the 2009 *ATOS Youth Camp*;

**Bill Trabucco** of Sierra Chapter has offered to show his own home organ as an 'After Glow' of our picnic. He is about 8 miles from Grass Valley.

Bill writes: "The organ is a bit different, in that I definitely don't have a theatre organ, but my weird, mostly home built organ is now at 8 ranks (it might get to 11 ranks if I get the 3 rank mixture connected by then) and is primarily a classical instrument. In an earlier venue and stage it made it into an *American Organist* magazine article about home organs. I've also got a small tracker organ, an 18<sup>th</sup> Century replica of what Handel used for the first Messiah in Ireland which was built by Hupalo and Repasky; a French Double Harpsichord; and a piano".

*Please let Bill know if you will visit him. Printed directions are available at the Bingaman's. His phone number is 530-273-4252 and email is billtrabucco@saber.net.*

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*When emailing, include ATOS in the subject line. Otherwise, if you are unknown to the recipient's computer, its SPAM filter may divert your mail.*

## ATOS RADIO STATION

Chris Nichols forwarded this from a *Theatre Organ* source on the Internet.

“ATOS is excited to announce a new Internet radio station: *ATOS Theatre Organ Radio*. In partnership with **Steve Worthington**, longtime ATOS member, theatre organ audiophile and pioneering Internet broadcaster, we are pleased to offer a collection of 700+ vintage theatre organ tracks together with a growing number of selections from today’s top recording artists.

In the coming months, we will begin to offer a variety of new scheduled programmed content including: interviews with theatre organ personalities, musical, historical and technical educational content along with ‘live’ concert broadcasts.

For the moment the station is only available via the ATOS web site via the following link:

<http://www.atos.org/radio>

All the old TOR Material is there along with lots of New CD material, and will very shortly have exclusive content, only available through this medium. Because this is a ‘pro’ station a lot of the limitations placed on a ‘personal broadcaster’ are lifted and we can do some exciting things.”

## Last Minute Notice

*Sierra Chapter* has invited *NorCal* Members to their picnic at **Pete McCluer’s** home in Shingle Springs on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Those attending with a last name beginning with A - K are asked to bring a main dish, and those with a last name of L - Z to bring either a salad or desert.

Pete will give chamber tours beginning at 10:00AM, **Greg De Santis** will play from 11:00AM to Noon, Open Console follows.

McCluer’s address is 5001 Mistywood Lane, Shingle Springs, CA and their phone is 530-676-5922.

*The drive from Sacramento to Shingle Springs should take about 45 minutes.* From **Hwy 80** (east) in Sacramento, proceed through Sacramento to **Hwy 50/Placerville**. Approaching the city of Folsom, watch on your left for the *Intel* complex (note your odometer reading). *Exactly 14½ miles from Intel take EXIT 39 (Shingle Springs Drive).* Turn **Left**, under the freeway to the gate ahead. After the gate take first **Left (Tennessee Drive)**, then **Right** on **Mistywood Lane**. The mailbox for **5001** is on the **Left**. Drive in and park, *walk* past the main house and into the long building straight ahead.

Page Two

## Concert Review GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2009

June 14<sup>th</sup> was a bright, sunny day in San Jose and our artist, **PW Bowen**, played at *Grace Baptist Church*. Special guests were members of both the Grace congregation and the congregation of *Friends Community Church* where PW plays gospel piano.

The organ at Grace Baptist is a 3-manual **Robert Morton** theatre pipe organ originally installed in *San Jose’s Liberty Theatre* in 1922. The theatre was on Market Street, ‘across from the Telephone Building.’ It was relocated to the church in 1941. *NorCal* Member **Bill Brooks** is working on the continuing restoration with technical work by **Dave Moreno**.

PW opened with a very symphonic **Stranger in Paradise**, based on a theme by Alexander Borodin as used in the musical *Kismet*. In contrast was his 1920’s styled **Wedding of the Painted Doll**. With Grace Baptist in mind, PW played an old gospel song, **I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked**. Next was an up-tempo **Besame Mucho. You’ll Never Know** was followed by a jazzy **Blues in the Night**, and a beautiful, tender **The Touch of Your Hand**.

Back to the 1920’s sound, PW played **The Sheik of Araby** with jazzy variations. He then played the gospel song **Oh Happy Day** in two different styles – first “as we used to sing it” and “the way we play it now.” “Now” was an amazing recreation of the sounds of a drawbar Hammond speaking though a really wound-up Leslie speaker! **Sentimental Journey** featured a continuous bass motif on the pedals.

Before playing the theme from **Exodus**, PW said “This is the kind of music this organ was made for.” His arrangement was a stirring wide-screen blockbuster. At this point, PW said, “Will someone tell me the name of this? It’s been running through my mind all week.” The bouncy melody seemed familiar but no one present could name it. PW wrapped up his program with a stirring **The Impossible Dream** from *Man of La Mancha*. In reference to the upcoming refreshments, PW’s encore was a sing-along version of **I Love Coffee, I Love Tea**.

Due to different starting times having been given to the several groups attending, the event opened with four ‘cameo’ performances, followed by refreshments, the main event, and then open console. The first cameo performer was **Jack Gustafson** who was visiting from the Palm Springs area.

Windsheet



Jack and his partner, Richard, lived in San Jose for many years. They hosted several *NorCal* events featuring Jack’s theatre pipe organ, which has been reinstalled in their new home. Jack played **Poinciana** and **Stars Fell on Alabama**. One could not tell from Jack’s playing, but this was the first time Jack had played (or even heard) the Grace Baptist instrument. Next, **Jerry Nagano** played a medley of three George Gershwin songs: **Embraceable You, But Not for Me, and I Got Rhythm**. Continuing on, **Warren Lubich** played **I’m In the Mood for Love** and **When You Wish Upon a Star**. Wrapping up the cameos, **Craig Browning** played **Ain’t Misbehavin’** and **Tea for Two**.

This was followed by refreshments and then PW’s concert. The afternoon concluded with Open Console artists **Craig Browning, Jeff Porto, Don Siefert, and Art Woodworth**.

Many thanks are due to the Grace Baptist congregation for allowing us to spend an afternoon with them, and many more thanks to them for providing the delicious refreshments (cookies, cake, punch, coffee, tea, etc.).

—Art Woodworth

## NorCal BOARD MINUTES

Every *NorCal* member is entitled to request copies of the Minutes of meetings of the *NorCal* Board of Directors, which meets 6 times a year. Requests should be sent to the Secretary, whose email address and telephone number are published at the bottom of Page One of every issue of the *Windsheet*.

August/September 2009



**DIRECTIONS TO THE BINGAMANS**  
(continued from Page One)

1. Take **I-80 East** from Sacramento
2. Take the **CA-49 exit, EXIT 119B**, toward Grass Valley/Placerville. . Go **0.2 miles**
3. Turn **LEFT** onto **CA-193/CA-49**. Continue to follow CA-49 north for **10.4 miles**.
4. Turn **LEFT** (west) onto **WOLF RD**. Go **3.2 miles**
5. Turn **LEFT** (south) onto **GARDEN BAR RD**. Go **1.0 miles**.
6. Turn **LEFT** (south) onto **COUNTRYSIDE RANCH RD**. Go **0.4 miles**.
7. Turn **LEFT** onto **SWEET RD**. (*Mapquest says RIGHT, but that is not correct*). Go **0.1 miles**. You will see a *sign on the left, RON and GAY BINGAMAN, 25855 SWEET RD*. Follow the road up the hill. Go **right at the fork** in the road. The house will be on the **right**.
8. Cell phone coverage is not that great, but if you get lost, Ron's number is: 530-268-2153

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome:

**Mark Herman**

Chicago, IL  
and

**Joseph Cotsirilos**

Berkeley, CA

Thanks to **Chris Nichols** for this gem.

Recently discovered early prototype of a  
Unit Orchestra



**Notes from the Editor Pro Tem**

There are a number of 'bits and pieces' of note this month that are worth your attention.

The Summer Classic Films at the *Paramount* and *San Jose California Fox*, as well as the *Stanford Theatre's* summer programs are gems. Unfortunately I didn't get notice in time for the last Windsheet, but the remaining programs are noted under 'Other Venues'.

ATOS now has a radio station where you can hear Theatre Organ music on your computer. Check out the article on Page Two.

Thanks to all who donated to the Youth Camp, NorCal reached its goal of \$1,500 in matching funds, so we were able to send a check for \$3,000 to the camp. Way to Go!

Another high – we now have two students of Berkeley High School as NorCal members! Please welcome ALL young people you meet at concerts.

—Jan La Fetra

**CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE**



I've just returned from a wonderful cruise to Alaska. I'm slowly warming and coaxing my mind back to normalcy. *Neal*

**MORTON MADNESS 2010**

Next year Morton Madness will be a one day, one venue event held at the **Kautz Ironstone Winery** with a buffet luncheon.

**OPEN CONSOLE**

This is an opportunity for NorCal members to try their hand at playing the chapter's Wurlitzer at the Berkeley Community Theatre. When the theatre is available, these sessions run from **1:00 to 5:00 PM**. The next scheduled dates are:

**Sunday, September 6**  
**Sunday, October 11**

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, **Chris Nichols**, ensures that any NorCal member feels comfortable. He lends help and support to anyone who needs it. Depending on how many members are present, each has one or more 15-minute sessions at the console, in rotation.



**Important:** Call the NorCal voice mail at (510) 644-2707 on that Sunday morning to confirm that the theatre is available. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

**A SPECIAL NOTE FROM CHRIS**

I will start sending reminders about Open Console to those who have attended. If you would like to be on that list go to [www.theatreorgans.com/norcal/emailus.asp](http://www.theatreorgans.com/norcal/emailus.asp) and give your name and email address. (I get all email sent to that URL.)

**MEMBERSHIP BADGES**

Have you admired the blue membership badges that many NorCal members wear to concerts? They are available for **\$13** shipped to the member's address.

The badges are now totally engraved (no silk screening to rub off). Send your check and exactly how your name is to appear on the badge to:

**Bill Schlotter**  
6203 Elderberry Dr.  
Oakland, CA 94611-1621

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. August 15<sup>th</sup> — Sierra Chapter Picnic at the McCluer's home in *Single Springs* (see Page Two)  
[sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org)

Sunday, August 23 — Members Picnic at the *Grass Valley* home of Ron & Gay Bingaman (see Page One)

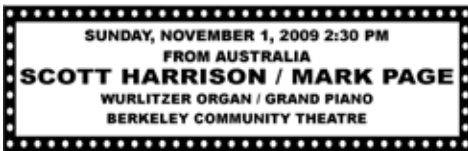
Open Console BCT  
Sundays – Sept. 13 & Oct. 11  
(see Page Three)

[www.theatreorgans.com/norcal](http://www.theatreorgans.com/norcal)

NorCal presents –



NorCal presents –



## 2010 NorCal Events

Sunday, January 24, 2010  
Annual Business Meeting – BCT

NorCal presents –



NorCal presents –



Saturday, April 17, 2010  
Morton Madness  
Kautz Ironstone Winery  
(see Page Three)

NorCal presents –



## OTHER VENUES

Castro Theatre, 4/22 *Wurlitzer*, 429 Castro St. SF, CA. Organ is typically played before both evening shows on Fri-Sat Nights, and before the first evening show on Sun-Thurs. by David Hegarty, Warren Lubich, Mark Putterbaugh or Harry Garland. (415) 621-6120.

[CastroTheatre.com](http://CastroTheatre.com)

Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 *Wurlitzer*, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA. Intermission music: Warren Lubich or Gordon Pratt (Fridays) & Kevin King and Gordon Pratt alternate on Saturdays. (510) 452-3556.

Palace of the Legion of Honor, 4/63 *E.M. Skinner*, Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM. Free after museum admission. David Hegarty plays an *Organ Pops Concert* on the first full weekend of each month, other artists play classical concerts on the other weekends. (415) 750-3600.

[LegionOfHonor.org](http://LegionOfHonor.org)

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 *Wurlitzer*, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10 AM. (510) 465-6400. On August 21<sup>st</sup> Classic Film Nights will show *Rear Window* with an Organ Overture 7:30 PM.

Stanford Theatre, 4/26 *Wurlitzer*, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA. The organ is played before and between films. (650) 324-3700. [StanfordTheatre.org](http://StanfordTheatre.org)

San Jose's California Fox's Classic Film Nights will feature *Lawrence of Arabia* at 7 PM with either Jerry Nagano or David Hegarty playing the Lobby *Wurlitzer* at 6:30 PM, Friday/Saturday August 21-22.

California Auto Museum, 3/21 *Wurlitzer*, 2200 Front St., Sacramento, CA. Sierra Chapter presents Chris Elliott playing for *Show People (1928)* on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 8 PM. [\$10 General, \$20 Family, \$5 Students, \$8 Members.]  
[SierraChapterATOS.org](http://SierraChapterATOS.org)

Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 *Wurlitzer*, 300 W Main St., Visalia, CA.  
(559) 625-1FOX (1369)

## NorCal Website

We now have copies of the current and two previous *Windsheets* on our web site—and in color! They are in .pdf format, which requires that your computer has a copy of the *free* Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We also have an up-to-date Calendar Events online. Be sure to visit it!

[TheatreOrgans.com/norcal/](http://TheatreOrgans.com/norcal/)

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, Inc.

*A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society*

ATOS is dedicated to promoting the tradition of the theatre pipe organ and public understanding and appreciation of the instrument and its music, and shall aid in any way possible the preservation of theatre organs through rehabilitation of instruments and fostering the arts of playing, building, voicing and maintenance. If you would like to join us, please call or write:

Mr. Neal R. Wood at (415)861-7082 <[nealwood@pacbell.net](mailto:nealwood@pacbell.net)> , PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625.

Dues are \$20 for NorCal TOS only and an additional \$40 for National ATOS (\$60 total) per year for full voting membership and subscription to *Theatre Organ* the six times a year glossy journal of ATOS. Spouse and children living at home may be included in your membership. We hope you will join us to help preserve and enjoy these great instruments.