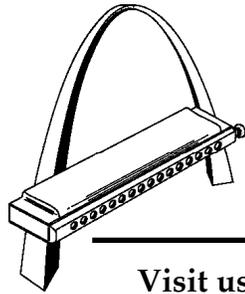


September—October 2004



# The GHC REEDER

Visit us on the Internet at [www.gatewayharmonicclub.org](http://www.gatewayharmonicclub.org)

## NEWS & VIEWS *by Mary Ann Love*

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### SPAH Report

Where to start? Thanks to the whole team for pulling this convention off in a very successful and delightful manner. Due to the preparations that have been going on over the past year, the experience was very rewarding. Special tributes and awards were made to Joe Fey, A Citizen's Award, for promoting and teaching the harmonica and to Peg Davis as stated below:

SPAH  
The Official Society Award  
is presented to  
Peg Davis

The ever-cheerful, ever resourceful Lady who is truly the Peg O' Our Hearts

World famous entertainers were on stage every day and night for the enjoyment of convention attendees as well as classes, open mic sessions, seminars and demonstrations. It was great to see old friends and make new. Several youthful harmonica players were featured and put us on alert how much we have to learn!

The spouses programs were an overwhelming success thanks especially to the ladies in charge; namely, Peg Davis, who coordinated the city tours and also sponsored the Saturday morning breakfast with entertainment "Broadway on the Driveway" a delightful duo of enthusiastic local teenage girls who are well on their way professionally. Sharon Davis took charge of the Hostess Suite, with relaxation, games, refreshments, and just plain fun. Sharon also knitted a cotton dishcloth for every lady. Teresa Stieven and her helpers outdid themselves on the Silent Auction, adding \$916.50 to the coffers of the club. It took a lot of time and effort for these ladies and their helpers to accomplish such outstanding results. Thanks to all the

ladies involved! Behind every success, look for the lady!

Club members volunteered to assist in the many different areas and we thank all who gave of their time to make this event a huge success. Even the number of 30 envelope stuffers was announced as amazing. One of the SPAH officers declared that St. Louis was probably one of the best clubs in the country. Kudos to all club members!

### Health Report:

Good news for Jackie Pratte! Two casts have been removed and she has started to drive again.

Henry Gerfen and Jean Gerfen are coming along with recovering from their respective surgeries.

Greg Hommert reports his grandfather is in remission from leukemia at present.

Peg Davis has begun another round of radiation and Lillian Krueger is taking chemo.

Joe Uhl has suffered a heart attack, but is now recovering at home. Our best wishes and prayers to all.

### Welcome New Members:

Al Reinsch  
2833 Sparrow Dr  
O'Fallon, MO 63366-8045  
(636) 240-0760  
Birthday 6/29  
Email: [dralbertlee@earthlink.net](mailto:dralbertlee@earthlink.net)

Arpad deKallos  
P.O. Box 782  
St. Louis, MO 63188-0782  
(314) 781-6579  
Birthday 11/12

*(Continued on p. 2)*

THE GHC REEDER is a bimonthly publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer  
47 Orchard Lane  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(314) 821-8651  
e-mail: BuddyHarmonica@aol.com

For information about club activities and performances, contact:

Charles Pratte, President  
1547 Azalea Dr.  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
(314) 961-7764  
email: CAPJR68@aol.com

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Mary Ann Love  
Recording & Corresponding Secretary  
1162 Villa Flora Dr.  
O'Fallon, MO 63366-4443  
(636)-379-7707  
e-mail: maryannlove@charter.net

Information about the club's activities is also available on the World Wide Web at:

[www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org](http://www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org)



Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of the GHC family who are celebrating birthdays in September and October:

<u>September</u>		<u>October</u>	
Greg Hommert	9/1	Norma Uhl	10/6
Horace Amos	9/6	Jim Bricker	10/6
Rosemary Nesslein	9/7	Bob Reynolds	10/8
Charlie Pratte	9/9	Richard Sax	10/9
Jim Melchers	9/17	Ron Beer	10/18
Frank Davis	9/25	Bill Boal	10/24
Geza Dombi	9/25	Bill Dulin	10/30
Joe Bowman	9/29		
Julie Melchers	9/29		
Jerry Bonfiglio	9/29		

If we have missed a member's or spouse's birthday, please let us know so we can correct our records. Thanks.

## NEWS & VIEWS *(from p. 1)*

L. J. Atkison (Associate Member)  
3395 Hwy Z  
Edgerton, MO 64444  
(816) 790-3724  
Birthday 8/2  
Email: LJ3395A@Hotmail.com

## "HARPIN ON THE NET"

Ok all of you chromatic players. It might take you quite awhile to get through this very informative site but It will be worth the time spent. Lot's of great info on the finer art of chromatic playing. Keep on harpin'

[www.angelfire.com/music/HarpOn/](http://www.angelfire.com/music/HarpOn/)

Enjoy and I'll see you next issue!

Michael LaRue

## WEDDING STORY

Submitted by Ed Heininger

Several weeks before SPAH, Jim Melchers received an email from a couple in Sweden who wanted to get married while they were in the United States attending the convention. He mentioned this to Rev. Ed Heininger who agreed to correspond with them. After exchange of messages Mikael Backman and Ulrika Weinz arrived early on Sunday evening and met with Rev. Heininger. Monday morning they applied for a marriage license in St. Charles and explored the area of the Chalet for an appropriate location for a small wedding by the lake. After the three day waiting period the service was held late Thursday afternoon. Joe Filisko and Jimmy Gordon were the witnesses. Joe Filisko was a featured artist and instructor at the convention. Mikael is the harmonica player and plays with a band. Ulrika is a graphic artist, and they met during arrangements for a TV program. They will make their home in Pitea, which is in the far north of Sweden.

## SPAH 2004 CONVENTION: A JOB WELL DONE BY ALL

by Joe Fey

I can't begin to tell you how proud Frank Davis and I are of the way GHC members pitched in to make sure that the convention would be a success — and it was a success indeed! Success can be measured in a number of ways and I think this was a successful convention on all fronts. To name a few:

GHC Group Effort — GHC members and spouses turned out en masse for the jobs requiring a lot of heads, hands and hearts.

- Last November we filled a large conference room at the hotel for our meeting with the SPAH Board members to learn the scope of the job ahead and to volunteer for work in specific areas.
- In March there were about 30 of us who showed up at Rock Hill Baptist Church for the big job of assembling and stuffing 1100 registration mailing packets.
- On the Saturday before the convention we again filled the room for assembling, stuffing and labeling about 350 Attendee Packets.

Coordination with SPAH Officers, Hotel Personnel and Others — Since SPAH decentralized several years ago from its Detroit area leadership, the SPAH officers have been scattered around the country (Colorado, Michigan and Ohio) and across the Atlantic (England), and have had to depend more heavily on local host clubs for convention preparation details. This has required extensive communications via telephone, email and even Internet chat room conferences. The SPAH officers, Frank and I kept the wires humming continually with questions, answers and decisions on a wide range of details. As we got further into things, our network expanded to include technical and graphics specialists (Texas and Florida) and additional GHC members working on specific assignments (Louise Cook on the kids' event; Ron Beer on the Model A Restorers' involvement; Jim Melchers on additions to the GHC website; and Ernie Roberts, Mike LaRue and Ed Cenatiempo on photography). There was also extensive communication with hotel sales, reservation and catering personnel.

All of this coordination ran quite smoothly with a minimum of hitches, due in no small part to guidelines from SPAH President Douglas Tate. And what I have described above does not begin to cover the communications between SPAH Vice President Paul Davies and the various performers and seminar presenters, plus seminar equipment/materials coordination by Tom Stevens of the Harmonica Organization of Texas. The lineup of talent was outstanding, well balanced to meet the varying musical tastes of blues, jazz and traditional enthusiasts.

Treasurer Gene Hansen in Michigan received all of the registration forms and payments, paying the bills as they came in and forwarding the forms to Secretary Roger Bale in Colorado. Roger entered all of the participant data in the SPAH membership database and later used it to prepare name badges, dinner tickets and labels for attendee packets.

GHC Performance — Our band worked hard on the tunes we had chosen to perform and, judging by the extremely flattering feedback we got from a number of people in the audience, our hard work paid off. Special thanks are due to Bob Provart for his vocal on "Meet Me In St. Louis, Louis" and to Greg Hommert, who led us through some intensive rehearsals to really tighten up our performance.

GHC Representation in Special Events — GHC was well represented in Judy Smith's HERmonicas ensemble, which rehearsed early on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and opened the Friday night show, and in the Simpson/Smith Workshops, which met on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. We're looking forward to hearing some improved performance skills as well as some new arrangements from the folks who got in on these events.

GHC Convention Volunteers — Once the Big Week arrived, there was much work to be done on the convention floor. The GHC team came through with flying colors to see that every need was met: information desk personnel, seminar assistants, ushers, SPAH store personnel, open mic sound transportation and setup personnel and others were available in abundance and with enthusiasm to make sure that our guests had positive convention experiences at every turn. Special thanks are also due to the out-of-town volunteers who pitched in, including Marvin and Roger Monroe and Dick Lawrence who gave unselfishly of their time to make sure that the open mic sessions were a big success.

Spouse Activities — From the beginning, Peg Davis got busy lining up a good selection of sightseeing tours and coordinating the final selections with the SPAH officers. She also negotiated the details of the Ladies' Breakfast with the hotel and, based on a suggestion from Marie Roberts, enlisted some special entertainment. Feedback on both the tours and the breakfast was enthusiastically positive.

Teresa Stieven, with the help of many item donors and in-store helpers, did a masterful job on the Silent Auction.

(Continued on p. 4)

## SPAH 2004 CONVENTION

*(Continued from p. 3)*

Sharon Davis and her helpers kept the Ladies' Hospitality Lounge open every day to provide a much-needed escape for those ladies who had overdosed on harmonica music or were just plain exhausted from the pace of the convention

Model "A" Restorers' Event — Howard Stahlheber, a SPAH member and an antique car enthusiast from the Chicago area, contacted us early in the year to suggest that we invite the local Model "A" club to exhibit some of their cars at the convention and to attend the Saturday night dinner and show. With the help of Ron Beer, himself a vintage car enthusiast, we were able to make the necessary arrangements. In addition, Howard brought his own Model "A", in which he proudly gave rides to convention attendees throughout the week.

Children's Event — Through contacts with a number of child care centers and home school networks, we were able to pre-register about 115 kids (ages 6—12) in Buddy Wakefield's Friday morning session, at which they and their accompanying 25 adults received free

harmonicas, music books and sack lunches. The harmonicas and books were furnished by Hohner and the lunches were provided by SPAH. This event got a lot of local newspaper and TV coverage.

Concert for Seniors — About 100 area Senior Citizens responded to an invitation to join convention attendees for a Saturday afternoon "Trios And More" show organized by Jim Lohman. The show featured many of the convention headliners playing in ensembles, either existing or ad hoc ones. Special thanks are due to Frank Davis for recruiting most of the seniors groups who attended.

\* \* \* \* \*

I know I'm forgetting to acknowledge some other contributions to the success of this great convention, and for that I humbly beg your forgiveness. But in summary I believe the SPAH officers, the Gateway Harmonica Club and all others who contributed in so many ways can be proud of a job well done.

So start saving your pennies for next year in Kansas City!

## MILE HIGH HARMONICA CLUB

is hosting the  
Rocky Mountain Harmonica Festival  
Thursday thru Saturday, October 7 - 9, 1004  
Sheraton Denver Tech Center Hotel  
7007 S. Clinton St., Englewood, CO 80112

There will be seminars and Open Mic during the day,  
great shows in the evening and a blues jam after hours.

At the evening shows you will be entertained by great Harmonica players:

Harmonica Hotshots (Al and Judy Smith),  
Harpers Bizarre - Classic harmonica trio from Columbus, OH  
Clay Kirkland - a virtuoso diatonic player  
Ken Mergentime & Ronnie Shellist - Blues at its best  
And lots more!!!

For complete information and a registration form:

visit our website: [www.members.aol.com/mhhclub](http://www.members.aol.com/mhhclub)

or

Call the festival director, Roger Bale: 303-973-5428

Register and make your hotel reservations NOW!

The festival is only a month away

## HARMONICA BIOGRAPHY: GREG HOMMERT

I suppose my musical interest first started through school. In fourth grade some students become exposed to the band program. Each student picks a traditional instrument and they take classes on that instrument twice a week before school, until sixth grade where those classes become a part of their regular school schedule. When I got to fourth grade, my mother almost immediately signed me up for my school's band program. Trumpet was my instrument of choice, and from there on out I received almost daily musical training. Over the stretch of a few years my knowledge of music and its theory grew and became more solid, which was an easy thing to me simply because, again, I was surrounded during one class period daily by an orchestral band setting. If there is any question as to where any of my musical knowledge comes from, that is the answer. From playing the trumpet I gained a respect and somewhat love (which did not fully develop until my mid-teen years) for musical styles such as jazz, blues, and classical as opposed to rock or punk which is standard to my age for musical taste. The trumpet was my first and only connection to these musical styles at the time, until I began exploring them on my best and most loved instrument, the harmonica!

Around the time I picked up the trumpet I had gone on vacation with my Grandparents and other family to a place called Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. I suppose I couldn't have been older than 10 then. The theme park happened to be having a craft fair at the time, and one of the booths, by chance, sold harmonicas as its feature craft. As a gift to me and my cousin, my Grandmother bought us each a little 10-hole diatonic. My cousin played with his some during the time we spent at the theme park, as did I, the difference was that I kept at it when we left.

Over the next six years I developed spurts of interest in the harmonica. I gradually learned more and more, mostly by ear and from an occasional book or two. I found it very easy to apply what I had learned from my formal training on the trumpet, to the theory behind playing the harmonica. So, naturally, I picked it up pretty quickly. I've tried various other instruments, including banjo, guitar, and piano, but find I love the harmonica most.

Over the past two years my love for jazz and blues has become a large aspect of my life, after I discovered I could incorporate my harmonica playing easily into these styles of music. I find that I always have something to learn from both jazz & blues, and also that I've never really mastered the instrument I love so much. A few months ago, around early 2004, I came into contact with a club I have come to call home with my harmonica endeavors. The Gateway Harmonica Club has so far proved to be the best environment for me, a place where I can easily share in the same interest as so many others. Whereas outside the club it's a rare thing for me to even find someone who plays! That brings me to about the point I am now in my life, and I couldn't be enjoying it more thoroughly if I tried.

*Editors Note: Greg blows us away! The first evening he joined the blues group he jumped right in helping and teaching others. Shortly thereafter, one evening both directors were absent and Greg stepped right up to the plate and began counting and clapping and exacting correct theory and technique. His articulate and mature command of the practice group was astonishing for a 16-year old. Greg turned 17 on September 1. Greg also directed the Gateway Harmonica band at the SPAH convention. Keep up the great work, Greg - we are proud to call you our own and we love ya!*

## SENIOR CITIZENS ENJOY MEETING AT TURNER HALL — WELCOME LOCAL BAND

By Kevin Darr, Staff Writer of the *Monroe County Clarion Journal*, Columbia, IL

Columbia senior citizens gathered Thursday afternoon at Turner Hall to listen to some polka music and partake in a bingo match. A monthly occurrence, the seniors hold court at the tan building on E. Cherry Street to talk and have some fun before the weekend hits. Food is served and a local entertainer is present at the meeting with a round of bingo to close out the event.

The entertainer this time was the Gateway Harmonica Band, an eight-piece polka band that plays standards from the 30's and 40's. The leader of the band, Frank Davis, introduced the band to the excited crowd.

"We are glad to be here and hope you all have a good time," Davis said. "We are here to play some polka and hopefully you will recognize some of these tunes." After cutting through some light hearted standards, Davis and the band struck into a slower number, "Sentimental Journey." Davis orchestrated the crew with waves of his hands, setting the rhythm for the number. He then put his harmonica to his lips and let it rip.

After the band was done and the crowd applauded, a quiet game of bingo was played to close out the meeting. With eyes and ears going at a mile a minute, the seniors looked right at home with numerous bingo cards in front of them. After the game was over, they shuffled out in anticipation of the next meeting.

*The members (of this eight-piece "polka" band) in attendance at this gig were: Frank Davis, Ernst Hackmann, Betty Ford, Guy Vaccaro, Louise Cook, Ron Beer, Bill Dulin, Jerry Bonfiglio and Joe Fey, and a group photo was included with the article.*

## WE GET LETTERS . . .

Subject: A fantastic convention  
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2004 9:37 PM  
From: R5tyg@aol.com  
To: <joefey@earthlink.net>

Doris and I and our daughter were truly glad we were able to come to St Louis and the convention. You and the Gateway club made us all feel good there, and the convention was the best. Two highlights for me were the opening number- "Meet me in St Louis, Louis" and Douglas Tate playing Saturday nite. So- many, many thanks to you both.

Rich and Doris Tygerson

\* \* \* \* \*

Subject: Madcat says Thank You  
Date: Saturday, August 28, 2004 7:33 PM  
From: conruth@umich.edu  
To: <paul.davies@comcast.net>  
Cc: <douglas.tate@btinternet.com>, <joefey@earthlink.net>

Dear Paul Davies, Joe Fey, and Douglas Tate,

The 2004 SPAH Convention in Saint Louis was Fantastic!

Thank you so much for inviting me and Muruga.

The overall quality of playing, both on and off the stage, was incredibly high.

The variety of harmonica styles was amazing.

Thank You All !

Peace & Joy,

Madcat  
madcat@madcatmusic.com  
<http://www.madcatmusic.com>

\* \* \* \* \*

Subject: Re: Madcat says Thank You  
Date: Sunday, August 29, 2004 12:55 PM  
From: Douglas Tate <douglas.tate@btinternet.com>  
To: <conruth@umich.edu>, <paul.davies@comcast.net>  
Cc: <joefey@earthlink.net>

No, thank YOU, you always raise the level of what goes on and the addition of Muruga adds another dimension again

As the dust starts to settle certain people, faces, performances stay above the surface whilst others fade. I felt that this year was rather special and for me there were more highlights than usual.

Thanks so much for adding so much to our enjoyment. It's getting harder and harder to top that!!!

As Pete used to say... BOGC

Douglas

# GHC EVENTS CALENDAR

## WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:

- 6:30 PM - Blues Group, led by Louise Cook — Everyone welcome
- 7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome
- All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome
- 8:15 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

## GIGS AND OTHER EVENTS

- 9/16/2004 (Thu) 9:00 AM — Solo-Tuned Harmonica (Part I - Diatonic) : Community Music School at Webster University (560 Trinity Ave. University City)
- 9/16/2004 (Thu) 1:00 PM — Santa Maria Apts.: 12565 Santa Maria Court, Hazelwood MO 63042 (from I-270 take Mc Donnell Blvd. North; go 4 stoplights to Dunn Rd.; take a left and go 1-1/2 miles--it will be on your right side)
- 9/23/2004 (Thu) 9:00 AM — Solo-Tuned Harmonica (Part I - Diatonic) : Community Music School at Webster University (560 Trinity Ave. University City)
- 9/30/2004 (Thu) 9:00 AM — Solo-Tuned Harmonica (Part I - Diatonic) : Community Music School at Webster University (560 Trinity Ave. University City)
- 10/7/2004 (Thu) 7:30 PM — Golden Achievers 50+ Club: St. Matthis Church, 800 Buckley Rd., Mehlville, MO (near Lemay and Sappington Barracks)
- 10/14/2004 (Thu) 9:00 AM — Solo-Tuned Harmonica (Part II - Chromatic): Community Music School at Webster University (560 Trinity Ave. University City)
- 10/21/2004 (Thu) 9:00 AM — Solo-Tuned Harmonica (Part II - Chromatic): Community Music School at Webster University (560 Trinity Ave. University City)
- 10/21/2004 (Thu) 7:30 PM — Moellenhoff/Pohlman Reunion: 14602 Mallard Lake Drive, Chesterfield, MO 63017  
(Directions: (If you are traveling west on Highway 40 ( I-64 ), cross highway 141 and take the next exit which is Timberlake Drive. Go to the stop light. Take a left on Timberlake Drive--cross over highway 40 and over South Outer Rd. Timberlake Drive goes into the subdivision. The road curves left and you take the first left onto Mallard Lake Drive.)
- 10/27/2004 (Wed) 1:00 PM — St. Ann Community Center: # 1 Community Center Drive, St. Ann, MO 63074 (I-270 to St. Charles Rock Rd.; East across Lindbergh Blvd and past Ashby Rd. about 100 feet; turn left and go behind Crown Optical to the Community Center)
- 10/28/2004 (Thu) 9:00 AM — Solo-Tuned Harmonica (Part II - Chromatic): Community Music School at Webster University (560 Trinity Ave. University City)
- 11/14/2004 (Sun) 7:00 PM — Tri County Cancer Support Group: First Baptist Church of Lake St Louis, 2230 Lake Saint Louis Boulevard (runs from Hwy 40 to I-70), Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367
- 11/19/2004 (Fri) 4:00 PM — In Betweeners: Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1570 Chambers Rd. (take Highway I-270 East to the West Florissant exit; go South and turn left on Chambers Rd.)
- 12/11/2004 (Sat) 3:00 PM — Meridian Village: 101 Evergreen, Glen Carbon, IL 62034
- 12/14/2004 (Tue) 12:30 PM — Bellefontaine Neighbors Seniors: Bellefontaine Neighbors Civic Center at 9669 Bellefontaine Rd. St Louis, MO 63137 (Take I-270 East; cross over Highway 367 (the road to Alton); take the next right onto Bellefontaine Rd.; go South about 4 miles and you will cross Chambers Rd. The Civic Center is a mile further)
- 3/31/2005 (Thu) 2:00 PM — St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley: Student Center Multipurpose Room, 3400 Pershall Rd., Florissant, MO 63135
- 5/11/2005 (Wed) 1:30 PM — Weber Road Branch, St. Louis County Library: 4444 Weber Rd., Afton MO. 63123 (From I-270, go East on Gravois Rd. for about 3 miles; turn right on Weber Rd.)

Heard this familiar oldie sung on the Red Radio Station (104.1 FM) and wanted to see those words in print. This tune is on our Dance Band Program but something is lost in the black and white version - minus Ella's sultry crooning or sung by soulful Duke Ellington. It's all in the *music!*

### Satin Doll (1953)

*Music by: Duke Ellington*

*Words by: Johnny Mercer, Billy Strayhorn,*

Cigarette holder which wigs me  
Over her shoulder, she digs me.  
Out cATTin' that Satin Doll.

Baby, shall we go out skippin' ?  
Careful, amigo, you're flippin',  
Speaks Latin that Satin Doll.

She's nobody's fool so I'm playing it cool as can be.  
I'll give it a whirl but I ain't for no girl catching me,  
Swich-E-Rooney.

Telephone numbers well you know,  
Doing my rhumbas with uno  
And that'n my Satin Doll.

