



The REEDER

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NEWS & VIEWS by Mary Ann Love

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

At the November 6 business meeting, the following candidates for 2008-2009 officers were nominated:

President: Bill Dulin, Ron Beer
 Vice President: Ernie Roberts, Louise Cook
 Treasurer: Jessie Hirsch
 Secretary: Chris Pondo

Voting for these offices will take place at the December business meeting. Write in votes will be acceptable. If you wish, you may mail your vote to any officer prior to the December 4 meeting.

A GREAT IDEA FROM FRANK DAVIS

Frank Davis sent the following e-mail:

“When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

A Recovering American soldier
 c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

“These guys need all of the good cheers and goodwill that we can give them.”

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE GALS?

Sharon Davis has assumed responsibility to coordinate the ladies events at the SPAH convention in August 2008. Judy Beer will lead the tours, and Sharon Davis will host the Hospitality Room. This is a suite where convention attendees (both men and women) can gather during the day for relaxation, socialization, games, refreshments, and prizes. Sharon also asks the ladies to be on the lookout for \$1 prizes. Other ladies will be asked to volunteer to help in each of the above categories. Your help is necessary and appreciated.

For SPAH: Bring to the December 4 meeting any gift bags (size 7" wide x 9" deep) you may have around the house for use at the Ladies breakfast for SPAH. The silent auction has been cancelled.

For the Christmas Party: Bring a \$5 wrapped gift if you wish to take part in the gift exchange and also bring a dish of party foodstuff to share.

PHOTOS WANTED

Ernie Roberts is requesting that any photos that were taken at SPAH be forwarded to him or Joe Fey to possibly be included in the SPAH *Harmonica Happenings* magazine.

These photos may also be used for the 20th year commemorative booklet.

Thanks go to Ernie for his help in taking individual and group photos for the commemorative booklet on several evenings. Thanks also to Ernie's helpers: his son, and wife, Marie.

GET WELL WISHES

Please keep all of these members in your prayers for successful treatment and recovery:

Arpad deKallos is scheduled for a minor surgery,
 Bob Scurlock (husband of Doreen) has developed a heart problem,
 Betty Ford, who suffered a mild stroke,
 Jerry Bonfiglio who is scheduled for cataract surgery,
 Bob Norton who is scheduled for tummy surgery,
 Woody Woodring who is having knee surgery.

WELCOME BACK

It was great to see the following faces lately: Bob Provar, Si Abcouer, Henry Gerfen, John Bottchen, Tony Wilbraham, Scott Campbell, Wally DeShon, Arpad deKallos and Donn and Charline Hornberger. Sometimes these folks cannot attend all the meetings, but it's like homecoming when they can get here.

Kudos go to Bill Dulin and Audria Gebhardt for volunteering to chauffeur Bob Provar and Arpad deKallos when these gentlemen needed transportation to club meetings.

UNIFORMS

Uniform attire at performances is now the red vest and long sleeve white shirt with black trousers or pants. If you would like to order a red vest, contact Jessie or Buddy Hirsch.

BUDDY ROCKS

Buddy Hirsch and Ernst Hackmann were seen on Channel 5 KSDK-TV on October 9, 2007 in a news segment where Buddy was playing his saxophone on the street corner. Ernst was looking on.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

for the December 4 meeting. We have a lot going on that evening. There will be election of officers, distribution of charity funds, and a Christmas party.

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, contact:

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

To schedule a club performance, contact:

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

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Chris Pondo
Recording & Corresponding Secretary
1166 Waldorf Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63137
(314) 868-9557

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

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Happy Birthday!!!

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

NOVEMBER

Leslie Hanlin 11/05
Marlin Woodring 11/11
Arpad deKallos 11/12
Leo Kluesner 11/16
Dan Welsch 11/24
Martine Wirth 11/25
Stan Musial 11/27
Wendy Wilbraham 11/29

DECEMBER

Bill Mann 12/8
Audria Gebhardt 12/9
Ed Cenatiempo 12/10
Rudy Michelin 12/11
Melba Lackey 12/13
Shirley Perez 12/17
Jean Markivee 12/21
Joe Fey 12/24
Mary Carol
Kluesner 12/26
Tina Cassimatis 12/26
Ernst Hackmann 12/27
Christine Pondo 12/29
Elva Bottchen 12/31

Editor's Note: Please notify us if your or your spouse's birthday is missing or incorrect.

FUN AT OPEN MIC

At open mic, Ron Beer came up with a fun song as follows:

Sweet Violets

There once was a farmer who took a young miss
in back of the barn where he gave her a . . .
lecture on horses and chickens and eggs
And told her that she had such beautiful . . .
manners that suited a girl of her charms,
a girl that he wanted to take in his . . .
washing and ironing and that if she did,
they could get married and raise lots of . . .
sweet violets, Sweeter than the roses
Covered all over from head to toe,
Covered all over with sweet violets.

It was a happy sing-a-long! Thanks, Ron!

Another evening Ron had a play-along to the tune of "Up A Lazy River."

Impromptu sing/play-alongs are always an unexpected blast of fun and good times.

When Christine Pondo entered the word Harmonica into the library's computer search engine to look for some related reading, the book Lentil by Robert McCloskey, (Viking Press - 1940) appeared. Chris brought this book to the club meeting and read it to the members. It was a wonderful children's short story about a boy who played the harmonica and brought happiness to his town and himself. Thanks for sharing, Chris!

Harmonica Biography: Ernie Roberts

I began playing the harmonica at about age 7 or 8. Both my Dad and my Mom played the guitar and the harmonica and I enjoyed listening to them. I think I tried to sing along with them a time or two and one day my Dad said, "Son, this is a french harp." (Even the bucket I tried to carry a tune in leaked.) Then he showed me how to play a few simple tunes on his Hohner Marine Band but I kind of lost interest until about the 8th grade.

A neighbor was at our house and Dad and Mom and he were singing and playing together. I played a couple of tunes on my Dad's harmonica and the next day the neighbor brought me a harmonica of my own -- a Kratt harmonica, as I recall, with a plastic comb. It also had a little instruction book with a few songs in it. I enjoyed playing that harp because it did not make my tongue sore like the wooden comb on the Marine band.

The first song I learned to play by heart out of that book was "Old Black Joe". Anyway, I then went on to play several other songs, mostly by ear -- just listening and trying to match the tune with the words I heard. The only formal music training I can recall is I had one year of violin lessons when I was in the fourth grade using a violin furnished by the school. But then we moved and I was not able to continue. I mostly played for my own enjoyment.

Editors Note: Ernie is much too modest. He plays very well and takes care of the club library and teaches beginner instructions. Ernie is also the main club photographer at any event. Ernie has been a member more than 10 years and is a fine gentleman and credit to the club. Thanks, Ernie!



When I was in the Army in Germany in 1964 I bought a Chromatic, but could not seem to master it. Then I got married, went back to school, had kids and never seemed to have time to play the harmonica. I don't recall when I first heard about the Gateway Harmonica Club, but I do recall going to an event they apparently sponsored at Westport. I remember seeing a lot of harmonica players and I think Rich Krueger and his sons played one evening.

Anyway, I was too busy with work and other interests (including photography and computers) to get involved with the Club until 1997 when I had an operation to remove part of my colon (surgery was performed by John Bottchen's son-in-law, Dr. Ira Kodner). While I was recovering from that, I had a few weeks off from work and couldn't do much physical activity, so I came to a few meetings and started to get involved.

I took the Beginning and Intermediate Harmonica courses taught by Joe Fey and I kind of began to get the hang of the Chromatic. I enjoyed coming to practice when I could, but I had a couple of other Club meetings on Tuesday nights so I couldn't always attend. Then when I retired last year, I was able to begin attending regularly and go to some of the gigs. I really enjoy playing with everyone, but still don't feel like a "performer".

THANKSGIVING POEM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS!!

Submitted by Ria Meagher

A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyze myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.

The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know. . . .
Is what tells each one where to go!

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it.
For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt...

KETCHIN' UP WITH KALEENA

Kaleena Hutchins is part of a documentary film called "A Pocket Full of Soul." The movie will soon be released. She is one of 100 listed harmonica players from around the world. For more info: www.pocketfulofsoulmovie.com and click on players and scroll down and you'll see Kaleena's name under Taylor Hicks (American Idol winner) and just above Jelly Roll Johnson.

Kaleena was selected by SPAH to lead a committee to get more young people to play harmonica and she enjoyed playing this summer several times monthly at Mountain View Folk Center and John Taylor's Country Jamboree. We are so proud of our talented youngest member.

Chris Pondo tells us that Kaleena has won the #1 State Championship for Talent in Arkansas for the second year.

KETCHIN' UP WITH CHRIS

Chris Pondo will present a program of Polish music on Sunday, November 25 at 2:00 p.m. at Steinway Gallery, 12033 Dorsett Rd., (3 blocks east of I-270.) She will perform folk songs on harmonica, sing patriotic songs in Polish and play four piano solos by Paderewski in her new Polish costume. All are invited to attend. Chris gave club members a sampling of her performance at a recent club practice where she sang, danced and played the harmonica in her Polish costume.

On October 20 Chris attended a Japanese Puppet Show at the University of Missouri Campus and was very excited to play the Flower Drum Song at open mic on the following GHC practice session. Chris was costumed in a beautiful silk kimono and likes to add authentic flavor to her artistic presentations.

Thanks also to Chris for submitting notices to the various Suburban Journal newspapers inviting new membership. We have had many members find our club through such articles in the past.

Chris read in "Antique Collecting Magazine" that Billy Murny, the little red-haired son in Lost In Space TV Show, is an avid guitar collector because he plays and composes music. He also plays banjo, drums and harmonica. He is still acting and voices many commercials."

GROANERS

Shared by Carroll Markivee

- Two peanuts walk into a bar. One was assaulted.
- A jumper cable walks into a bar. The barman says "I'll serve you but don't start anything."
- A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says, "Sorry, we don't serve food in here."
- A dyslexic man walks into a bra.
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."
- Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"
- "Doc, I can't stop singing 'The green, green grass of home.'" "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome." "Is it common?" "It's not unusual."
- Two cows standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," said Dolly. "It's true, no bull" exclaimed Daisy.
- Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first one replies, "Yes, I'm positive ..."
- Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.
- A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet and says, "My dog's crosseyed, is there anything you can do for him?" "Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him." So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth. Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put him down." "What? Because he's crosseyed?" "No, because he's really heavy."
- I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any.
- I went to a seafood disco rave last week and pulled a mussel.

TENNESSEE WALTZ (REVISED)

Submitted by Bob Norton

I was dancing with my darling to the Tennessee Waltz,
At the annual Fireman's ball.

All the people were staring because my love was wearing
a newspaper dress – that was all.

Oh, she had racing tips from her knees to her hips
Where her Want Ads were I can't recall.

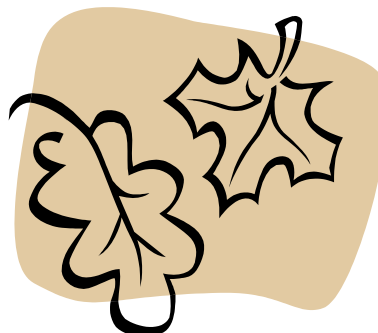
Then the dress it caught afire and burned her entire
Front page, sports section and all.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

THE MAIN THING –
IS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING –
THE MAIN THING. . .

Age is only a state of mind;
that is, provided you have one left.
Gene Perret, comedy writer

The soul needs friendship, the heart needs love.
Ed Habib



SPA H HAPPENINGS

2008 Convention: Paul Davies and Tom Stryker have been busily lining up headliner acts for the 2008 convention shows. It looks as if this will be another exciting year, with plenty of favorites plus some outstanding stars who have not appeared at past conventions.

2009 Convention: Work is also proceeding on selection of a host city for 2009. Several clubs have submitted proposals, including past sites as well as one that has never before hosted a SPAH convention. A committee is proceeding with hotel and locale inspections.

GUESS THE COMPOSER

Christine Pondo, Secretary of GHC, delights in puzzles and mind games. She sponsored the following contest, and clues were for the last name only. Chris was disappointed that not many entries were received and the contest is now closed. The winner was Jim Melchers, who will receive a \$20 prize. The solutions to the puzzle look so easy in print. Thanks, Chris, for adding this fun, and congratulations to Jim!

1. Too much sun + pitcher	Leonard Bernstein "West Side Story" – Tonight
2. Secluded	Franz Joseph Hayden Gypsy Rondo
3. Masculine + Patella + Bass	Barry Manilow At The Copacabana
4. Medicine container	Kurt Weill Three Penny Opera- Mack the Knife
5. Five metacarpals + boring	Frederic Handel Messiah Oratorio
6. Tea + bovine + water sport	Peter Tschaikowsky Nutcracker Ballet-Waltz of the Flowers
7. "Hello Dolly" + brooch	Frederic Chopin The Minute Waltz
8. Buick + sound enhancer + total	Hoagy Carmichael Stardust
9. Tree trunk growth + motel	Irving Berlin God Bless America
10. A minor	Francis Scott Key Star Spangled Banner
11. Pickling herb + amidst	Bob Dylan Blowin In The Wind
12. Conflict + small bird	Harry Warren You're My Everything
13. Roller skate + Mary Poppin's friend	Franz Schubert Marche Militaire
14. Brand name of famous barbecue grill	Abdrew Lloyd Webber "Phantom of the Opera" All I Ask Of You
15. Obese tummy + Patella	Giacomo Puccini Turnadot Opera – Nessun Dorma
16. Body of water + first digit on foot + truck	Ludwig Van Beethoven Moonlight Sonata
17. Tiger sound + Be quiet! + triple cherries	George Gershwin Porgy and Bess Opera - Summertime
18. Death Valley Altitude	Frederick Loewe "My Fair Lady" I Could Have Danced All Night
19. Determination + Junior	Meredith Wilson "The Music Man" Till There Was You
20. Even in golf + two thousand pounds	Dolly Parton Better Get To Livin (Her latest and one of her best compositions)

Letters . . .

September 5, 2007

Midwest Bank Centre
2191 Lemay Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125

Attention: Sue Weber

Dear Ms. Weber,

Thank you for your donation of \$31.00 to the Gateway Harmonica Club. Bob Norton told our club how he played for your group and explained that the club administers our proceeds to St. Louis based charity organizations. He said your group then "passed the hat" and I wanted you to be ascertained that the donation went into our charity funds.

We are so glad you appreciated Bob's playing and thank both you and Bob for the kindly donation. If you would like to hear the entire ensemble sometime, you may contact the person listed on the enclosed card.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Love, President
Gateway Harmonica Club

Note: This club immediately booked a performance!

* * * * *

Nov. 1, 2007

Gateway Harmonica Club,

Thank all of you for your prayers, cards and well wishes. I feel sure I'll be back in the swing of things shortly. I loved the card that all of you signed and your messages.

Thank you all so much.

Sincerely,

Betty Ford

* * * * *

From: D B. Lahiri

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2007 8:52 AM

To: j melchers

Subject: RE: Gateway Harmonica Club

Dear Jim,

Time flies like only time can. Please forgive me for the late reply. Since my arrival, it appears that my office work, civic and social duties, all conspired to keep me busy, and it is only now that I have started delving into my mail.

The July-August copy of 'The Reeder' was mailed to me by my daughter as soon as she received it - and what a Treat! I have been through many Newsletters (in fact, back at school I used to be on the editorial board of our quarterly publication) and have seen very few to match the presentation, range, quality and maturity of articles and above all, the underlying Spirit of The Reeder. In spite of the wide menu it was very well integrated, like the folks who are behind it. I thank you for the mention given to me and my family. Probably one of the best things I did during my USA tour, was to spend a Tuesday evening in the company of Members of The Gateway Harmonica Club! In fact, after reading about it in your newsletter, I felt most unfor-

tunate to have missed the Markivee's Get Together! It would have surely given me an opportunity to get to know all of you better, and add to my treasured memories.

Yes, I want to catch up on my Blues training. Let me check on my own first and then I will be in touch with you for some real insight.

Thanks a lot and keep up the wonderful work of the Gateway Harmonica Club!

D. Lahiri (Bardda, India)

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Lahiri,

So sorry it took so long to reply, things got very busy here. I'm glad you enjoyed your visit here and had a safe trip back home. I'm sure you had a good sized pile waiting for your return.

Thanks for the kind words regarding the Reeder, we're quite proud of our little publication and there's a lot of work that goes into it. The Markivee's Get Together was quite enjoyable and we were hoping you would have been able to make it. They have a lovely home on top of a "mountain" (the nearest thing we have in our part of the world, anyway) with quite a view from their huge deck.

Hope you've been able to work on some blues techniques for your repertoire since your return. I think they give a whole new level of expression to one's playing. Bending can be particularly tricky to get figured out but once you get the basic idea down it's just a matter of refining it for all of the notes.

Keep in touch and keep us posted on your progress. When we take the GHC band on our first world tour we'll be sure to schedule a stop in Bardda!

Best Regards,

Jim (Melchers)

* * * * *

From: vitor lopes [<mailto:vitorlopes@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2007 5:40 PM

To: info@gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Subject: [GHC] Hello from a brazilian harp player!!!

Hello friend from the Gateway Harmonica Club,

My name is Vitor Lopes, I am a brazilian player specialized in playing brazilian music, like bossa nova and chorinho. I would like to present myself and my work to you. I already made seven tour in Europe, and I played with Joe Filisko, Keith Dun and Howard Levy, among many others.

So, make a visit to my websites, I am sure you will enjoy it!

Thanks for your attention!

All the best!

Vitor Lopes.

www.umtrioviralata.com.br

www.myspace.com/umtrioviralata

www.myspace.com/vitorlopeschorandoaspitangas

GHC EVENTS CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

6:00 PM - Blues Group, led by Louse Cook and Ed Cenatiempo — Everyone welcome

7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome

All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome

8:00 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A schedule of upcoming Gateway Harmonica Club performances and special events is distributed monthly at our business meeting. For the most current schedule, including maps and customized driving directions, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar.pdf

NEWS FROM IRAQ

(From Tony Wilbraham) Thought I would share this latest report on the Iraq situation with the GHC members. It was received a couple of weeks ago from our son CPT Andrew of the 1-5 CAV in Iraq

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

I apologize for it being such a long time since I sent out the last one of these and would like to make sure everyone is up to date:

Since the last SITREP in June, much has changed (for the better) in Western Baghdad. Ameriyah has gone from being one of the most dangerous areas of Iraq to being one of the safest. This can be credited to the sacrifices and hard work done by our soldiers. It can also be credited to the local Sunni groups which have decided to turn against Al Queda and ally themselves with the Government of Iraq and Coalition Forces. After nearly five years of this war (two of which I watched over here), this is one of the greatest events I have seen. This started in Al Anbar Province, moved to Abu Ghraib into Ameriyah.

The importance of Ameriyah was it was the first time something like this has happened in Baghdad. Since then, it has spread to other Sunni Areas of Baghdad, to include Gazaliyah, Jamiyah, Hi Adl, East Mansour and is starting to take root in Doura and Arab Jabour. This is also starting to happen in some Shia areas around Baghdad against Jaysh Al-Mahdi. While many are hemming and hawing in the US and other parts of the world, we are finally seeing success.

Why is this important? Because without the dedication and sacrifice by the soldiers of this company, we would never be here. The soldiers of Mad Dogs continue to conduct patrols daily in Ameriyah, working with the Iraqi Army and the Volunteers to keep the peace. For the first time in over a year, trucks are hauling away trash, electrical generators are being dropped for neighborhoods and streets are being

paved. The city went from being a ghost town to being a vibrant community again. The thanks goes to the tankers and infantrymen of the company. The soldiers of this company are by far America's Best and it is truly my honor to lead them.

Three of my soldiers, SSG Chris Kiernan, SGT Matt Apaun and SPC Donald "Mike" Young, made the ultimate sacrifice in Baghdad, but it is some comfort that it was not in vain. Through their sacrifice, other soldiers are able to operate in Ameriyah safely. We will never forget our brothers in arms and ask all to say a prayer for them and their families.

We have now dropped below the 100 day mark. In 25 days, the company will have been deployed a year. There is a certain excitement that is starting to occur as our days draw down. It looks like we will miss Christmas, but we should be home shortly after.

The family is well, with Elizabeth just starting Preschool (they grow up so fast). Catherine is walking and really enjoys yelling the words she knows. Jen and I are looking forward to the trip to the UK and the future beyond that. I'm currently begging for future employment with the Army and we will see where it gets me!

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to write or send some goodies to myself or my soldiers. We all appreciate the outpouring of goodwill everyone has shown and thank you all.

Wish everyone blessings this fall into the Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Andrew (Wilbraham)

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY,

Arpad deKallos read the following tribute and passed out pins to all the Army veterans present at the November meeting. Arpad also acknowledged all other branches of military service.

I AM FREEDOM

I am Freedom!
I have been torn by many conflicts
I have trudged the mud to lift up heavy hearts.
The waters of many worlds and their ideologies
Cannot destroy me.
I have been burned, But still I endure!
With many years of continuous labor I am still recognizable.
I will forever endure!
Wherever weary eyes weep
Freedom will be found.
Wherever suffering cries for relief, Freedom will arise.
Wherever loneliness longs to be comforted
Freedom brings hope.
Wherever noble hearts dream
Freedom can be seen!
Where children sing, Freedom will ring!
- *Frankie Edwards Robertson*

