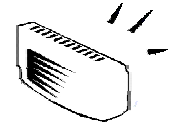


The Reeder



Please visit us on the Internet at
www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

NEWS AND VIEWS –by Mary Ann Love

NOTE

Joe Fey of our club has always been the designer and publisher of this newsletter since its inception, while I submit the content. At this time Joe is experiencing some serious medical issues and is being treated for a brain tumor. Until he is able to return to this function, I will try to carry on. Joe is requesting prayers for him and his family to accept and handle this situation. He appreciates our support. We will keep you posted on his progress.

– Mary Ann Love

CONGRATULATIONS

To **John and Elva Bottchen** who celebrated their 70th Anniversary on February 1. They received a letter of congratulations from the President of the United States. They send their greetings to everyone.

Sadly, John Bottchen Sr., one of the long-time members of The Gateway Harmonica Club, passed away at the age of 95 on April 9. Last year the Club played, at No 1 Mc Knight Place, where he lived with Elva, his wife. John played with the group and also played a solo---*Memories*. He loved the harmonica to the end. Club members were invited to play several songs at John's funeral service. We extend our sympathies to Elva and the family. A memorial gift was sent by the club in his honor to the St. Louis County Library Foundation.

From Mrs. Barbara Kodner: (Bottchen Daughter)
 To: Gateway Harmonica Club

Please extend my deepest appreciation to the Gateway Harmonica Club for performing at my father's funeral at Bopp Chapel this past Tuesday. It meant a lot to my family to have this organization which my father enjoyed so much as a part of the service. And, I know it would have meant very much to my dad, John Bottchen. He loved his time of playing the harmonica with your group. I noticed in your bulletin that you use your treasury funds to help various charitable organizations in St Louis. Please accept this check for \$50 in memory of John Bottchen for your worthwhile endeavors.

Thank you so much.
 Sincerely,
 Mrs. Barbara Kodner

Congratulations to **Bob Pangilinan** and his lady, **Sonia**, on their engagement to be wed within the year.

To **Frank Davis** on receiving his 50 year pin in the Masonic Lodge on March 3. Frank dedicates much of his time and proudly explains this organization as follows:

"I have been a member of the Masonic Fraternity for 50 years and was honored by the fact by receiving a framed certificate and 50 year pin from the Grand Lodge of Missouri on March 3rd at the Wentzville Lodge #46. There were approximately 100 people at the celebration including my son, Rick, his wife; and my brother, Bill and Sharon....What a night...I proudly wear and display the emblem of masonry, the Square and Compasses.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY????

There is no secret about who we are, and what we do. We are men trying to improve our lives through faith, hope and charity. We help our communities, fellow man, serve our country and protect our families.

Freemasonry is the oldest fraternal organization in existence. Written records date back to the year of 1390. The first written record of a Masonic meeting in Missouri is dated back in 1821 in St Genevieve at the Green Tree Tavern.

We are: Charitable: Freemasons in North America give over 2.6 million dollars each day to charities. To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all of us. From the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital and Burn Centers to the Orphanages and Masonic Homes, from The Knights Templar Eye Foundation to the specialized charities of the Scottish Rite and Royal Arch Masons. Freemasons freely give of their earnings to help others escape the bonds of poverty, loneliness and despair. We provide homes for the elderly and orphans, provide college scholarships to promising young men and women. Missouri Masons have a free Child Identification Program (MOCHIP) that is the best in the country. Over 117,000 children from 722 events have had digital photos, digital finger prints, DNA and teeth impressions taken since the program started.

We are: All of the above and more. It is truly a system of morality, veiled in allegory and teaching men by symbols to better themselves in their religious bodies, their communities and their families. It gathers under its

(Continued on Page 3)

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 Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Jessie Hirsch, Treasurer
 47 Orchard Lane
 Kirkwood, MO 63122
 (314) 821-8651
 e-mail: love24get@aol.com

For information about club activities, contact:

Bill Dulin, President
 4985 Seibert Ave.
 St. Louis, MO 63123
 (314) 752-9909
 e-mail: imafosi@att.net

To schedule a club performance, contact:

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

All other correspondence should be directed to:

MaryAnn Love
 Recording & Corresponding Secretary
 1162 Villa Flora Dr.
 O'Fallon, MO 63366
 (636) 379-7707
 e-mail: malove123@msn.com

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

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

SPAH CONVENTION 2011
*Society for the Preservation and
 Advancement of the Harmonica*
August 9-13, 2011
Virginia Beach, Virginia

The 48th Annual SPAH Convention is right around the corner. Now is the time to start making your plans to be in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This year's festivities will be taking place on August 9 through August 13 at the Holiday Inn, Virginia Beach-Norfolk Hotel Conference Center. SPAH members will be (or already have) received their package mailings. Detailed information and registration may also be made on line. www.spah.org

22nd Annual Yellow Pine Harmonica Contest
 August 5th, 6th & 7th, 2011

For more information www.harmonicacontest.com
 One entry fee \$20 – Cash prizes in each category
 Yellow Pine, Idaho

Happy Birthday!!!

MAY

Sarah Muriel	5/1
Michael LaRue	5/3
Robert Scurlock	5/8
Sharon Davis	5/11
Bob Pangilinan	5/13
Donn Hornberger	5/12
Dan Kellermann	5/22
Doris Rassman	5/27
Louise Cook	5/28

JUNE

Carole Hackmann	6/1
Joyce Barber	6/4
George Garrett	6/5
Lynn Garrett	6/6
Jean Gerfen	6/6
Guy Vaccaro	6/7
Doris Michelin	6/9
Theon Heisserer	6/19
Alice Asbury	6/15
Mary Kellermann	6/16
Pamela Hartig	6/21
Doreen Scurlock	6/25
Mike Maschek	6/26
Bill Nesselin	6/27
Laurie Hayduk	6/27
Bob Winston	6/28
Bill Davis	6/29
Rose Schmidt	6/29



Happy Birthday & Congratulations to all!

Editor's Note: Please notify us if you or your spouse's birthday is missing or incorrect. We welcome publication of any member's special highlight dates!

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to **Eunice Biermann**. Eunice has been a great sales lady 'helper' for club merchandise. Eunice is also Sal Miano's friend and travel buddy.

(FREEMASONRY – Continued from Page 1)
umbrella men of all faiths, all nations, and all classes
without distinction.

We Are: The oldest fraternal organization. It has
persevered through the years, despite the attacks of the
ignorant and the powerful, because it teaches toleration
for all faiths, acceptance of all men of good character, and
support of free government institutions, wherever found.
Freemasons are loyal citizens, support a God centered life,
and emphasize duty to aid his fellow man. Because we
steadfastly adhere to these principals, we have lasted
through the ages, despite the tyrannical attacks of
despotic governments and narrow minded sectarians.

What do we believe?
We believe in some pretty old fashioned things.
We believe in God.
We believe in the Brotherhood of Man.
We believe in service to those who are less fortunate.
We believe in helping young people get a head start in life.
We believe in Freedom.

There is a lot more written about the fraternity but I
better shut up for now."
- Frank Davis

It doesn't cost anything to be nice.

Kudos

Thanks to **Tom Sutterfield** for providing the gig hand-
outs each month and keeping the schedule up -to-date.
Also to **Joe Fey** for keeping the web calendar! And to
Charlie Pratte as the Booking/Scheduling Agent for
countless years.
Thanks to **Bill Dulin** for replacing the zipper on one of
the suitcases where we store some sound equipment.
Thanks to all the volunteer teachers at the schools,
colleges, libraries and pre-practice sessions (to include the
blues enthusiasts). A special shout-out to **Ron Beer**, who
has been the head coordinator for numerous years of these
classes.
We thank all members who have renewed their dues. A
special Thank You to **Melba Lackey** and **Neil Cantwell**
who have sent additional donations to the club with their
dues. Melba says she loves receiving the Reeder and
keeping up with friends.
We have many good members who jump in to do
whatever is needed. Thanks to all!

**I am only one. But I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.**
-Helen Keller 1880 - 1968

**I believe that we are solely responsible for our
choices, and we have to accept the
consequences of every deed, word and
thought throughout our lifetime.**
- Elizabeth Kubler-Ross - Psychiatrist

That's Entertainment

At a recent 50+ club meeting where I am a member,
the entertainment was totally inspiring! The ladies
had all been contestants in the Ms. Missouri Senior
America Pageant and several of them had been
crowned Queen. They entertained with a variety of
talents: songs, dance, musical instruments or other
specialties. There was a Patsy Cline sound-alike.
There was a harmonica solo, a baton twirler and a
group tambourine number. There were also some
sing-alongs. One lady told funny quips about
growing older entitled "The Age of Elegance." We
all know a few jokes about that! So funny!

My amazement was about the tap dancers. Every
lady in the group (6 to 8 dancers) wore beautiful and
elegant costumes as they danced with style,
precision and professionalism, and they all had
retained their beauty queen figures and great legs.
Their ages ranged from 60 to 85, but it would have
been a challenge for anyone to guess. The
costumes were plush and elaborate with sparkles,
bangles, fringes and plumes. Several of them had
two knee replacements that were never noticeable.
I would suppose the dancing was good therapy and
exercise. Each lady wore a wide smile at all times
and their enthusiasm and sparkling energy was
contagious.
They all thoroughly enjoyed their activities and their
inner beauty was apparent.

The name of the group is "Missouri Cameo Club
Showcase." Several of the ladies also belong to the
"St. Louis Strutters," an organization that has been
performing dance routines with a rich history of skill
and dedication to their talent. Fashioned from the
early 1900's - to Jazz - to Broadway, this fast
tapping, high-kicking chorus line performs rhythm
tap dances with style and glamour.
- Submitted by Mary Ann Love

*All are invited to share their travel experiences or other
subject matters of general interest.*

NOTES (Included with Dues)

From Tucson, Arizona: See you in April.
– **Bud Anders**

Thank you for your kindness in continuing to send me the Reeder.
I appreciate it very much. God’s Blessing on your Club.
– **Melba Lackey**

Hi Jessie: Here’s my dues – Good to see you & Buddy. –
Pam Hartig

Hello to all: While I’m not able to attend meetings, I love reading the great newsletter that lets me know how things are humming along.
My prayers are with members having a difficult time. –
Laurie Hayduk

Thank you so much for keeping me on your list. Love catching up on the news. Jerry is now recovering from pneumonia. Sonia continues to be brave. Hope to see you all someday. Hope everyone is well. – **Sandy Bonfiglio**

I allowed my membership to lapse a couple years ago as I live too far away to take any active part in club activities. The Reeder has continued to arrive anyway. I do enjoy receiving it, so to keep it coming and to help out the club in some small way I am renewing the membership. My best wishes to the club and its members.
– **Gene Dodson (Lexington, KY)**

Health Matters

We send our greetings and best wishes to: **Bud Anders**, who has had open heart surgery and plans to visit the club soon.

Jean Gerfen is recovering from several hospital stays from that mysterious disease mono.

Jackie Pratte who is recovering from lip surgery.

Frank Davis is battling a case of gout and **Bill Davis** some nerve damage.

Best wishes and prayers also go out to **Ron Beer**, **Joe Fey** and **Jerry Bonfiglio**.

Keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

CHANGE OF UNIFORM

The club has changed over to the summer polo shirt uniform for gigs and other public performances as of May 1.

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY

After several communications and attempts to collect current dues, the Gateway Harmonica Club is saddened to report that we must discontinue newsletter mailings for those who have let their dues lapse. This will be the final notice and those names in arrears will be dropped.

Seen Around Town

Simon Abcouwer was out and about. He is now able to drive again and proudly states he is 92 and will pay a visit to the club soon.

It was good to see **Scott Paulding** from Denver who paid a visit to the club while visiting his family in St. Louis. Scott always participates with some lively tunes at open mic.

GHC PICNIC JUNE 18

Plan to attend the GHC picnic on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at Shady Springs Park in St. Peters. We have had several picnics there and it is a lovely private setting with great accommodations including pavilion and barbeque pits. Bring your own picnic lunch and drinks along with family and friends. Everyone is welcome. We always have a good time and play our harmonicas as a group and individually. Anyone who wants to play additional instruments – this is your opportunity. Starts at 12 noon. Come for awhile or all day.



Directions to Picnic: Take Hwy 70 West to Cave Springs Exit 225, continue west on I-70 North Outer Service Road until you pass Baue Funeral Home and turn right after U-Haul on Shady Springs Rd. Continue several blocks until you reach the park. See you there!!
Remember to bring your harmonica!!

BLUES CORNER

– Submitted by Michael LaRue

**The Top Twelve Harmonica Mastery Skills By
Richard Sleigh**

Whoever said practice makes perfect got it partially right. Practice the wrong things or practice the right things in a sloppy way and you will never make "perfect" no matter how much you practice.

This gives us two questions to answer about practice: 1. What? 2. How?

Let's start with question number 1. What to practice. I am going to give you a list of what I think are the top twelve harmonica skills to develop through practice. You can use these ideas to make a checklist, or you can use these ideas to start discussions or arguments. Whatever floats your boat is great if it helps you clear up your own thinking-have at it!

My contribution on question number 2. – how to practice is this: I will tell you why I think a set of diatonic harmonicas is the best exercise equipment for any harmonica player. The issue of sloppy practice will have to wait for another time.

OK, why is the "short harp" or diatonic harmonica is the best harmonica to start with, no matter what harmonica you choose as your main axe, and why is it such a great harmonica to practice on in general?

I think of the diatonic harmonica as a piece of exercise equipment as well as a musical instrument. You can develop breath control faster on diatonic harmonicas compared to other harmonicas because there is nothing between your breath and the reeds in the harmonica. You don't need to deal with slides, windsavers, or double reeds.

The direct connection of your breath to diatonic harmonica reeds gives you sensitive, precise feedback. If your technique is off, you will find out fast. You will shut reeds down, bend notes when you don't want to, or not bend when you want to. When you can play chords and notes free and clear on low as well as high range diatonic harmonicas, you will find it much easier to control other harmonicas.

No matter what kind of harmonica you play, you have to learn how to breathe through the instrument before you can do anything else effectively. When you play chord rhythms on the low end of a diatonic harmonica you have nothing to distract you from breathing through the instrument, hearing and feeling the results. The lower pitched diatonic harmonicas give you the best overall workout for controlling your breath as you practice chord rhythms.

What follows here is my personal list of the top twelve skills that you use when you play the harmonica. This list is focused on physically training your muscles to build control, strength, speed, timing, and endurance. Constant improvement, however slight, in these areas will give your playing power and grace, and make you an ever more effective channel for music to flow through you and out of your harmonica. If you play other harmonicas, you will have other skills to add to the list. The most obvious one is using the slide on a chromatic.

I also encourage people to tackle bending notes and tongue articulations (the "tucka tucka" kind of rhythms that make use of the tip of the tongue forming t's and d's and other hard consonants) LAST. Yes, I know these techniques are sexy and flashy, but they are so much easier and natural to do when you have a basic control of your breathing and strategic relaxation. Actually, I did not even include tongue articulation in the list, because I decided ahead of time to stop at twelve skills, something had to give, and that is just the breaks of the game.

So, with no further ado, here we go:

1. Balanced Rhythmic Breathing – matching the in-breath and out-breath in volume, tone, and timing.
2. Controlling your air supply. The ability to empty or fill the lungs as needed while playing the harmonica, regardless of how many blow or draw notes you may be playing in a row.
3. Strategic relaxation: The ability to keep your throat and upper body relaxed and open as your resting or default position. Disconnecting all muscles that don't help you play the instrument.

4. Precise control of breath shifts. The ability to shift from in-breath to out-breath, out-breath to in-breath instantly with the least amount of effort.

5. Precise control of starting and stopping air flow with the diaphragm. The ability to completely stop the in-breath and out-breath with perfect timing as you keep your throat and tongue from blocking the air flow in any way.

6. Precise control of starting and stopping air flow in the throat.

7. Precise control of dynamics. The ability to play the full range of volume from your instrument and shift from loud to soft, soft to loud at will.

8. Control of tone color by manipulating the throat and tongue to increase and decrease the size of the vibrating mass of air.

9. Control of sideways movement from one chamber to another. This requires mastering the combination of hand, mouth, tongue, and jaws.

10. Tongue blocking – The ability to play chords, intervals, and create textures by controlling the off and on movement of the tongue to the mouthpiece of the harmonica.

11. Tongue switching – the ability to control the sideways movement of the tongue to play interval jumps or create textures.

12. Control of pitch – the ability to bend and over-bend notes, in-breath and out-breath, to play the complete range of shades of pitch available on any diatonic harmonica. Another way of saying this is that you have mastered bending blow and draw notes, overblows and overdraws.

I hope it helps you to think of how you are using your practice time.

By Richard Sleigh
<http://rsleigh.com>
Harpe Diem!



Visiting the Banjo Club

- Submitted by Sam Hardy

Bob Norton has frequently delighted the Harmonica Group playing over CDs of the Banjo Club, The Ragtimers, the Stompers and Banjos&Brass. On Thursday evening, April 28th, Bob shared his artistry with members of the Banjo Club and their audience at Concordia Turners Hall on Gravois when he played several selections backed up by many of the same musicians on the CDs he has used at the Harmonica Club.

On the bandstand for the event were Bobby Grimm, tenor banjo, music director of the Banjo Club and banjo player with innumerable groups going back to the days of Gaslight Square, Your Father's Mustache, The Stompers and Banjos&Brass.

Al Stricker, plectrum banjo, who has played with the Ragtimers for over 50 years dating back to the Natchez Queen in Gaslight Square, The Levee House, The Showboat Goldenrod, The River Queen and Ragtime Festivals all over the Country. The Tuba player was Steve Hoog of Banjos&Brass

Bob's performance was augmented by members of the Banjo Club and the audience singing along with him.

The St. Louis Banjo Club was formed in 1969 and has continuously brought the sounds of the four-string banjo to audiences for more than 40 years. The Club (currently 55 members) strives to keep this music alive and well. The club invites and welcomes everyone who plays a four-string banjo to become a member. A group of people will help you learn and/or improve your banjo skills. Sing-a-longs are encouraged.



Usual meetings take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Concordia Turner Hall, 6432 Gravois Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116.
See: www.stlouisbanjoclub.org

My Favorite Old Time Poem

“I found this old clipping inside a Bible belonging to my husband’s mother,” writes Alice Nemitz, Chittenango, New York. “He is 86, and she passed away 37 years ago. I hope your readers enjoy the poem.”

Give Me Your Flowers

I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend,
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.
I would rather have a pleasant word
In kindness said to me,
Than flattery when my heart is still
And this life has ceased to be
I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true,
Than tears shed around my casket
When this world I bid adieu,
Bring me all the flowers today,
Whether pink, or white, or red,
I’d rather have one blossom now
Than a truckload when I’m dead.

- Author Unknown
- Submitted by Geza Dombi

The Strange Power of Songs by Mike Asbury

Words have always moved me. I was an only child and while my dad was being shot up on Saipan during the Second World War, before TV and Nintendo, my mom sang to me and read to me. I listened. We eventually got a radio that we listened to together while she sewed little booties (piecework, 10 cents a dozen) for International Shoe Company. I remember “the Shadow Knows” about Lamont Cranston who had the power to “cloud men’s minds” and “Gang Busters” about the FBI, but they were only on at certain times; the rest of the time we sang. “Dance with a Dolly with a Hole in its Stocking,” “Can She Bake a Cherry Pie, Billy Boy?” and “Somewhere over the Rainbow.”

“Fibber McGee & Molly”, a forerunner of the sit-com, was funny and entertaining and had its moments, but music was special, you could hum along, even whistle or you could take it with you, sing along wherever you go, like the Boy Scouts later taught. “I’ll sing you ten ho’s, Green Grow the Rushes Oh.” I have no idea what it meant but it was a rousing song that made you



feel good when you finished it. Later, the Army had uplifting chants (some rather risqué) as we marched along to the mess hall, to the dispensary to get shots, to the parade field to do calisthenics, whatever the Army deemed vitally important.

The other day the car radio played a Bob Dylan Song “Forever Young.” I had heard it many times but not by Joan Baez. At least that I knew about. After we got home I searched my collection of CD’s, found her version and listened to it carefully several times. What pleasure!

Didn’t Beethoven say “without music life would be pointless”? And Fats Domino said “Doesn’t music make you feel good; it makes me feel good.” Me, too!



GHC GIGS, CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at The Rock Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:
6:00 PM – Blues Group, led by Louise 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, CLASSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A list of the club’s upcoming performances, classes and special events is distributed each month at the business meeting. For the most up-to-date calendar of all GHC performances, classes and special events, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar, which takes you to our online calendar. You can view the calendar in Week, Month or Agenda (list) format by clicking on the tab of your choice. To move the display backward or forward in any view, click? or? in the upper left-hand corner of the calendar.

Gigs and special events are shown in RED, classes in BLUE. To the right of the tabs, there is a small ? symbol that you can click to open a drop-down checklist if you wish to display only a specific category or categories by checking selected boxes. ? .

GATEWAY HARMONICA CLUB
47 Orchard Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122

