



THE REEDER

“Have harmonica, will travel”

March / April 2023

News & Views / Bulletin Board

By Linda Jacobs

GHC's Gig Calendar is Filling Up!

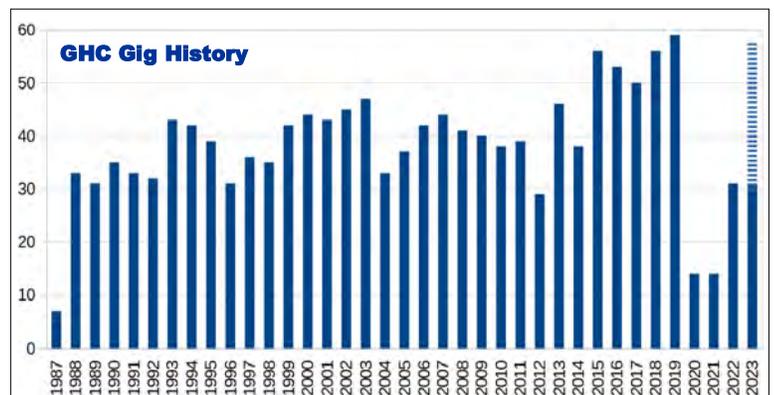
From the beginning, our club averaged three gigs each month. Then, in 2015 our schedule soared to an average of one gig for each week of the year. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, our opportunities to entertain plummeted. During 2020 and 2021, there were very few gigs on the books. Finally, as the health threat became less severe, our business picked up, but it was nothing like before the pandemic. One thing remained the same throughout the years; no matter what, members continued to come together, through Zoom or in person, practicing weekly and looking forward to opportunities to share our harmonica music with the public.

Since its inception in 1987, the Gateway Harmonica Club has performed throughout the St. Louis area and surrounding communities. Four members, at right, have been responsible for arranging nearly 1,500 performances during the 36 years that the Gateway Harmonica Club has existed. Methods of booking gigs have progressed from the telephone and postal service, then to the fax machine, and, most recently, to cell phones, email, and scanned documents.

In early 2023, scheduled gigs were few and Booking Agent **Jim Melchers** took matters into his own hands to achieve a full schedule of performances for the year. Rather than waiting to hear from organizations in need of entertainment, he began a direct-calling campaign, personally contacting prior customers and potential new clients alike. With much success, its only early March and we already have 31 gigs scheduled for 2023!! At this rate, it could be a banner year!



GHC's booking agents (L-R) Joe Fey performed the duties from 1987 - 2002; Charlie Pratt, 2002 - 2012; and Herb Huebner, 2012 - 2018; Jim Melchers (below), 2018 - present, booking a gig



Remembering Theon Heisserer

Theon Heisserer passed away on December 28, 2022, after 98 years of life. Born in 1924, he was part of a demographic referred to as the “Greatest Generation.” Theon was a WWII Army veteran, a retiree from Cupples Products, and a proud family man.

Throughout his life, he was always ready to share a song on guitar, piano, harmonica or even kazoo. After joining the Gateway Harmonica Club in 2005, Theon became known for his enjoyment of playing what he called “the corncob”, the paddlewheel-style harmonica, a musical instrument where numerous tremolo harmonicas in different keys are joined at the rear of the combs, making it possible to rotate the harmonicas to easily change keys. In recent years, whenever the club had a performance at his home, the Village at Mackenzie, we could always count on Theon to join the band with a solo on his special harmonica.

In 2022, Theon was selected as an Honorary member of GHC and is remembered as a man who loved people, brought joy to all, and enjoyed music, singing, dancing, and playing many instruments, including the harmonica.

Theon will be remembered with admiration and gratefulness.

(More “News & Views / Bulletin Board” on p. 2)



Theon Heisserer
June 19, 1924 - December 28, 2022

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News & Views / Bulletin Board

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GHC Annual Dues

Thanks to everyone who paid dues for 2023. Current GHC members are listed on Page 11.

SPAH Convention Registration & Volunteers

GHC members, friends, and family can volunteer through GHC or online for the SPAH convention. Don't forget...if you volunteer, there's free entry to seminars and events during that same day. The policy is "Work a half day, play a half day." So, on the day that you are signed up and work to support the club's responsibilities, you will get a pass for free admittance to seminars, the teach-in, and evening entertainment on that same day.

If you or a friend would like to get involved as a seminar presenter, camera operator, or stage assistant, go to spahstore.org/convention-events/upcoming-convention/get-involved-at-the-convention/. To register for the SPAH convention, August 15-20 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet, go to spahstore.org. For a hotel room only, call 1-888-627-7066; ask for the discounted S-P-A-H rate, \$119/night.



Freebies and Door Prizes Needed

Samples, promotional items, or other freebies are needed in preparation for the SPAH convention. The items will be included in the "goodie bags" provided to attendees of the Saturday morning "Companions Breakfast" during the convention. We're also looking for new or gently used items for door prizes for that same event. If you have items to donate or have a suggestion about a possible source, please contact **Helen Allen** at helenallen@att.net.



New Address

Kathy Kelly recently moved. Her new address will be included in the soon-to-be-available GHC directory 2023.

Newest Lifetime Members

Congratulations to **Henry Heppermann** and **Tim Heppermann**, GHC's newest Lifetime members.



Returning Member

Gregory Hommert became a GHC member in 2004. After some time away, and much harmonica playing in the meantime, he recently renewed his club membership. There's an interesting video interview at right. His contact information will be included in the soon-to-be-published GHC directory. We're happy he's back!



Updated GHC Membership Start Date

Ernie Roberts ran across a receipt for the first club dues that he ever paid: \$15, paid on 2/25/1997, which included a \$10 annual membership + \$5 new member registration fee; this news updates his GHC membership start year to 1997.

ANNUAL
PICNIC
MUSIC FUN FOOD
23 SEPTEMBER
11 TO 4PM
LOVE PARK
MUFFIN PAVILION
2239 MASON LN, BALLWIN MO 63021

GHC
Christmas Party
DECEMBER 12 AT 7 PM
The Rock Church
9125 Manchester Road
St. Louis

Happy Birthday

March

- 3 Glenda Warren
- 11 Tim Heppermann
- 13 Don Johnson
- 15 John Grindon
- 17 Pat Hotze
- 21 Jim Solari
- 22 Ann Samuels
- 25 Bob Ripley
- 27 Jennie Ojeda
- 31 Leonor Trustman

April

- 19 Marie Roberts
- 20 Clara Schuh

Congrats

Happy housewarming to **Kathy Kelly** as she gets settled into her new home.

Henry Heppermann will soon move back to St. Louis from Chicago where he's lived since graduating from college.

Get Well Wishes

Wishes for a smooth recovery to **Nancy O'Neal**, spouse of Dan O'Neal, after a knee replacement.

We've missed **Bill Davis** lately. Hoping to see him again soon.

Bennie Norton, spouse of Bob Norton, has been under the weather. We hope that she gets well soon.

Wishing **Sandy Bonfiglio** a recovery of energy after illness in January.

Condolences

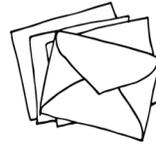
Sympathy is extended to **Joe Stenger** and his family on the passing of Joe's mother, Fran.

Sympathy is extended to **Debbie Kinard** and **Jim Heisserer** on the passing of their father, **Theon Heisserer**.

THE REEDER is a bimonthly publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc., of St. Louis, Missouri, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica.

Send corrections, additions, articles, photos and ideas to editor@gatewayharmonicaclub.org or call (314) 325-6819.

We Get Letters



From the Family of Theon Heisserer

Thank you for your donation to the Missouri Baptist Healthcare Foundation in memory of our dad, Theon. The foundation was very diligent in following up with his healthcare and showed concern.

The Theon Heisserer Family

From the Family of Dave Sorenson

Your generosity is very much appreciated. We have no reason for why this tragedy happened. There are no words to express our sorrow and the loss of hearing his harmonica being played. How I miss that! He really enjoyed his friends there [at GHC meetings]. I really enjoyed meeting you at the funeral home. Thank you to everyone who came to show their respects.

Barb Sorenson and Family

If I Lived Close Enough

I just love going through the newsletter. Every now and again, I get Jerry's harmonica out and play a few simple tunes hoping he can hear them! If I lived close enough, I believe I would love to play in the club and learn more. I know I would enjoy it!

Sandy Bonfiglio

GHC Newsletter - January / February

Somehow, just saying "thank you" doesn't seem like enough, but I hope you all know how much your kindness has meant to me. Our family will always cherish "The Reeder" article about Dave. I miss his playing on the couch - the house is too quiet now.

Barb Sorenson

Thank you for sharing the "Reeder" with me. It is an outstanding newsletter. Congratulations!

Owen P. Evans, SPAH Marketing

I'm looking forward to getting the new newsletter in the mail. I hear it is fabulous. Thank you for doing it, and getting so many people involved.

Ann Samuels

What a wonderful article you put together regarding "Norton". Great job!

Chris Waltrip

Thank you for "The Reeder". I am really enjoying it.

Alice Russell

I want to add my thank you for "The Reeder" - I agree with all the words of appreciation expressed in the Jan/Feb "We Get Letters" section. And thanks to **Michael LaRue** for sharing the e-mail greeting card of beautiful roses.

Thank you also to all who continue to make the Gateway Harmonica Club a source of enjoyment for so many.

Sue Fey

The newsletter is fantastic. I think that its very informative for people who can't go all the time. It keeps us a little more in touch with the club. Thank you.

Bennie Norton



Thanks for GHC's Donations



**Shriners Hospitals
for Children**

For almost 100 years, Shriners Hospitals for Children has worked hard to change and improve the lives of our patients. Your recent donation allows us to provide the MOST AMAZING CARE ANYWHERE! We are grateful for your generosity and support of our mission.

Thank you for being part of our Shriners family.

Lori O'Donnell
Asst. Director of Development



Thank you for your contributions to The Rock Church of St. Louis during 2022. It is through your care and generosity that we are able to carry out this ministry and mission.

The Rock Church of St. Louis

100 NEEDIEST

Thank you for contributing to the 100 Neediest Cases program in 2022. Because of your generosity, more than 4,700 individuals and families throughout the St. Louis region will receive assistance and support during this significantly challenging time.

On behalf of all of those helped through 100 Neediest Cases this year, thank you for serving as a bright light in our region.

Becky White
100 Neediest Cases Manager

What's Happened & Happening

By Linda Jacobs (photos by Ernie Roberts, exceptions noted)

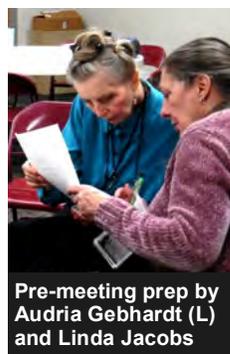
Sales

Tim O'Connell, backed up by **Clara Schuh**, continues to do an excellent job while selling mini harmonicas and GHC CDs at the club's performances. Tim reports that mini harmonicas with mini songbooks have been outselling music CDs at a rate of 5:1.



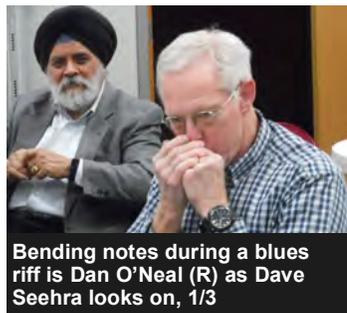
Business Meetings

During the January meeting, **Flint Fowler**, President of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis, visited to talk about possible collaboration with GHC for an instructional harmonica program. Also, the January/February "Special Program" presentations were **Bill Dulin's** "Harmonica Toolbox" and **Ernie Roberts'** "Valentine Trivia".



College Classes

GHC members **Linda Jacobs**, **Don Johnson**, **Jim Melchers**, and **Mark Olesnicki** continue teaching diatonic harmonica classes through the St. Louis Community College. In February, there were two three-class sessions: at the Forest Park campus, seven students were enrolled; at the Meramec location, nine students were on the roster.



Blues Group

During weekly meetings, the blues group practiced riffs, licks and songs with an occasional discussion of music theory. Recent music selections highlighted Little Walter and War.

Music Program

Music Director **Bill Dulin** recently added "Moon River" and "Melody of Love" to the club's practice list.

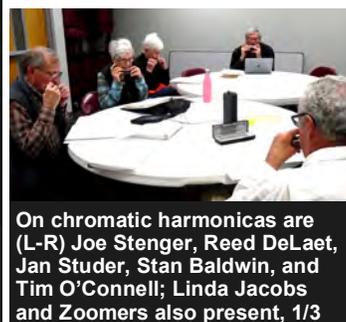


Beginners Class

The beginners class isn't only for "beginners"; harmonica experience of the 16 regular participants averages 5.5 years. Each Tuesday they gather to play a wide variety of music on chromatic harmonicas. Special thanks to **Reed DeLaet**, **Henry Heppermann**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Ann Samuels**, **Joe Stenger**, and **Jan Studer** for volunteering



during January and February to lead the playing of music and to **John Grindon** for keeping the group informed via email.



Golden Melody Progressive

On February 23rd, GHC members were invited to a livestream by **Hohner Harmonica** to celebrate the launch of the **Golden Melody Progressive**, the first redesign of the original Golden Melody harmonica since its release in the 1970s.

The new diatonic harmonica is tuned to equal temperament. Also, the redesign improved the harmonica's handling, stability and airtightness. While retaining the warm tone which has made it a favorite of single-note melody players in many different styles, the new **Golden Melody Progressive** offers a fuller, more powerful sound combined with optimal playing comfort.

The livestream event featured an incredible lineup of musicians, including Missouri's **Julia Dill**, **Indiara Sfair**, and **Rachelle Plas**, who is regarded as one of the best harmonica players in the world.

Specifications

Reed plates:	Brass, 0.9 mm thick
Reeds:	20, Brass
Comb:	ABS, red
Mouthpiece:	ABS, polished
Cover plates:	Stainless steel
Cover attachment:	2 torx 7 screws
Keys:	C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, F#, G, Ab, A, Bb, B
Type:	Diatonic
Tuning:	Richter, equal temperament
# of holes:	10
Tonal range:	3 octaves
Length:	10.7 cm / 4.2"

GHC Performances January / February 2023

Lansdowne Place

On January 13 at 2:30 PM, we played at Lansdowne Place. The audience was very enthusiastic as their Covid-19 lockdown was lifted and visiting entertainers were welcome. The residents and employees sang, laughed and enjoyed themselves, as did the band members.



“Irish Medley” at Lansdowne Place, 2/13, (L-R) Jim Melchers, Linda Jacobs, Mark Olesnicki, Reed DeLaet, Joe Stenger, Tim O’Connell, Don Johnson, Mike Ives and Director Bill Dulin



“Brazil” (L-R) Director Bill Dulin, Jim Melchers, Tim O’Connell, Joe Stenger, Herb Huebner, Clara Schuh, Don Johnson and Julie Melchers; also present was Ernie Roberts



Seeing double? On the left, Joe Stenger (R) solos “Russian Christmas”, accompanied by Jim Melchers on chord and Linda Jacobs on bass harmonicas; in the photo on the right, Jim (L) plays a solo “Amazing Grace”, accompanied by Linda and Joe

St. Charles Senior Center

Nine early risers played at the 10 AM gig at the St. Charles Senior Center on Friday, January 20. With **Jim Melchers** directing, the audience enjoyed the program of waltzes, polkas, and 40s and 50s hits, as they followed along with lyrics sheets. In addition to those in the photo below, musicians included **Herb Huebner, Julie Melchers, Tim O’Connell, Mark Olesnicki, Clara Schuh, and Tom Sutterfield.**



GHC trio, St. Charles (L-R) Joe Stenger on chromatic, Linda Jacobs on bass and Jim Melchers on chord (photo by Julie Melchers)

St. Joseph’s Church

It was Tuesday, February 7, at 12:30 PM, as we performed for the seniors group of St. Joseph’s Church in Ballwin. The enthusiastic audience, many of whom wore Valentines Day red, truly enjoyed themselves as Director **Jim Melchers** led the playing of music by GHC members, including **Reed DeLaet, Linda Jacobs, Julie Melchers, Bob Norton, Tim O’Connell, Mark Olesnicki, Ernie Roberts, Clara Schuh, and Joe Stenger.**



Bob Norton delights the audience with “La Vie en rose”

St. Peters Senior Center

A Valentines Day party was held at the St. Peters Senior Center on Thursday, February 16, at 10 AM. Tables were filled with energetic seniors who even requested an encore after delighting in the harmonica music played by the eleven GHC members.



Encore at St. Peters: “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” (L-R) Tim O’Connell, Herb Huebner, Joe Stenger, Mark Olesnicki, Linda Jacobs, Director Jim Melchers, Reed DeLaet, Clara Schuh, Tom Sutterfield and Julie Melchers; also present was Ernie Roberts



Playing the chromatic harmonica (above) are Tim O’Connell (L) and Herb Huebner; GHC soloists (at right) Mark Olesnicki (top) shares “Button Up Your Overcoat!” and Tom Sutterfield plays “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Bentwood Nursing Rehab Center

On Friday, February 24, at 2 PM, we performed at the Bentwood Nursing Rehab Center in Florissant. Fun was had by all!



Bentwood Activities Director Lisa Wilson (center) with (L-R) Ernie Roberts, Reed DeLaet, Jim Melchers, Clara Schuh, Herb Huebner, Julie Melchers, Bill Dulin, Linda Jacobs, Mark Olesnicki, and Tom Sutterfield

Legacy

Mary Ann Love

“When I heard the club perform, I was impressed and wanted to join. I was surprised to learn how much there was to the harmonica world.”, wrote Mary Ann in her 2007 autobiography for GHC.

Her harmonica skills began and grew as she played simple tunes on a diatonic harmonica. After joining the club in 1998 and building upon the music-reading skills learned during childhood piano lessons, she progressed to becoming a Lifetime member and one of the lead chromatic players. She showcased her skills, along with 17 other GHC members, in two one-hour sets at the Sheldon Concert Hall in 2012 and as part of a GHC septet playing the National Anthem in front of 47,000 fans on the 2013 opening day of Busch Stadium, commemorating the passing of Stan Musial. In 2006, one of her accomplishments was featured on the front page of the GHC newsletter; the headline read “1ST WOMAN PRESIDENT!!” In addition, Mary Ann gave of her time and talents as the club’s secretary and newsletter editor.

After retiring from being an Administrative Assistant at Boeing, she enjoyed quilting, playing bridge, and writing for the club newsletter. Mary Ann and her husband, Francis, enjoyed their three sons, Joseph, Mark, and Charles, and numerous grandchildren. She passed away in 2015 and is missed by family, friends, and club members.



Mary Ann Love, 2004

Lauren Olesnicki

When Mark Olesnicki met his future wife Lauren 37 years ago, he said he was attracted to her good looks. However, Lauren knew better; it was her piano that reeled him in.

They share a strong appreciation of music with Lauren coming to hers educationally and professionally. A lengthy and very fulfilling music career in education and performance followed Lauren’s attainment of a Bachelor of Music degree.

Together, Mark and Lauren enjoy attending local and professional symphony concerts. Separately, Mark enjoys playing harmonica while Lauren lends her voice to a choir. Lauren’s other passion is wearing high heels (except when hiking!).



Lauren Olesnicki, 2022

Support

Ernie Roberts

In 1940, Ernie was born into a musical family, with his parents playing guitar and harmonica. He got his first harmonica at 7 or 8, but “couldn’t get it”. He kept trying on and off, finally “getting it” in 1995 soon after he saw a GHC show.

After attending occasional meetings, Ernie joined the club in 1997 and learned a lot in a class by Frank Davis and Joe Fey. Ernie frequently participates in the club’s open mic sessions, playing diatonic or chromatic harmonicas, demonstrating a wide range of musical interests. As a Lifetime GHC member, he’s always willing to lend a hand, share a good story or two, or take pictures as the club’s photographer.

A Tulsa native, Ernie’s family moved throughout the US. While in the Army, he spent 3 years in Germany. Settling in St. Louis in 1966, he married Marie in 1968 and later had three children. With a Masters in Computer Science, Ernie’s career was at Boeing. In his spare time, Ernie enjoys computers, album collecting, NASCAR, and photography. In fact, he’s an official photographer during SPAH conventions.



Ernie Roberts, 2023



Bob Ripley

Living in Collinsville, Illinois, and often traveling for his job, Bob Ripley often joins the GHC meetings through Zoom. He humbly claims that’s for the best...“Then people can’t hear how bad I am.”

Born in the St. Louis area in 1949, he spent 20 years with Union Electric as a Supplier Quality Engineer for a nuclear plant. Currently, he’s conducting ISO 9000 quality audits, determining the effectiveness of organizations’ quality management system.

In his time off, Bob leaves behind the seriousness of his job. Instead, he enjoys dressing as a hippo at children’s events and creating scenes with his collection of plastic skeletons, posing them and posting a photo, along with holiday greetings, on Facebook.

Bob has always liked the harmonica. His first one was a diatonic, received at the “Cardinals’ Stan Musial Night” at Busch Stadium in 2013. In February 2021, he participated in a harmonica class through the St. Louis Community College and joined GHC, becoming a Lifetime member in 2021. Now, Bob plays “with the button”, enjoying the chromatic harmonica and the variety of music during club meetings.



Bob Ripley, 2023

New Member

Art on Display

Michael LaRue has many talents. In addition to playing the harmonica, trumpet, and guitar, he is a photographer. Often exhibiting his photos in the St. Louis area, Michael enjoys sharing his art through many outlets.



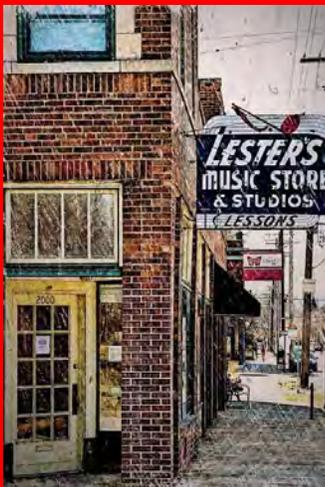
"Carondelet Park - Boat House Lake"

Here are links to Michael's photography website and photography Facebook page.

<https://www.bextraordinaire.com/m-larue-gallery.html#/> (Website)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075639627960> (Facebook)

Also, in June, Michael will have a solo show at the St. Louis Public Library - Buder Branch in South St. Louis.



"Once Upon a Time"

Spotlight on Members



"Simple Beauty"



Bird's eye view as Linda Jacobs plays the bass harmonica, 1/10 (photo by Ernie Roberts)



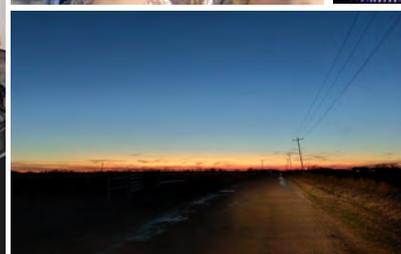
Bill Davis, a GHC founder, in 2022 and 1993



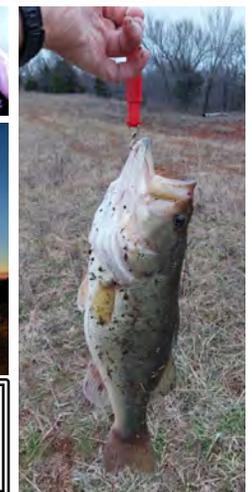
Joe Stenger (L) and his biggest-ever buck taken on Halloween in Barton County, Missouri; Joe babysitting his grand puppies



Enjoying open mic, "friends for many years" Michael LaRue and Audria Gebhardt, 2/28 (photo by Julie Melchers)



"Easier Said Than Done" by Bill Dulin (below) via Zoom, 1/31; Oklahoma sunset during Bill's February trip; Bill's over 4-pound bass, 2/21

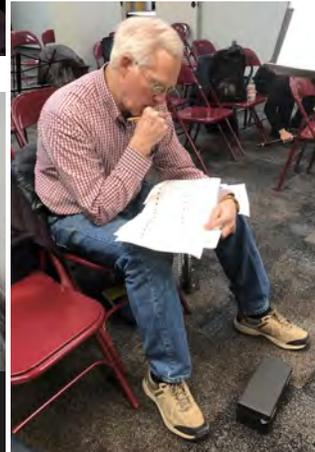


Stan Baldwin sings "I Heard the Bells", 1/3 (photo by Ernie Roberts)

Perfect Pitch

An 11-year club member, Stan Baldwin often treats the open mic audience to an interesting song selection and beautiful interpretation through his harmonica playing and bass vocals. He's always perfectly on

pitch, according to Bill Dulin's analysis by comparison with notes from his chromatic.



Dan O'Neal (L) carefully studies his bass harmonica chart, 3/7 (photo by Linda Jacobs); Bob Ripley delights the crowd in his hippo costume at a holiday event

GHC's Tuesday Meetings

Around the club's beginning in 1987, recollected Bill Davis, the original members were sitting around at Vince Manno's house, wondering which evening would be the best for meetings. Vince, who was a postman, carried a little calendar in his pocket. He took a look at it and declared that "Tuesday nights seemed to be open." So, from that day on, the Gateway Harmonica Club meets on Tuesdays evenings.

So What's New With You?

Members are always invited to share items of interest for this newsletter.

Outstanding Players

By Linda Jacobs

Ever since its debut in the early 1800s, the harmonica has always had a prominent place in the music scene. Countless singer-songwriters have used this instrument to add that special something to their music, even though the harmonica had already secured its spot in history by being used in classic songs that are still played today. Here are a few of our favorite accomplished harmonica players. To hear each artist play the harmonica, scan the associated QR code with your smart phone or, if you're viewing an electronic newsletter, click the QR code.

More Harmonicists in the Spotlight



Christelle Berthon

Berthon fell completely in love with the harmonica in her late 30s, in 2008. Living in Paris, she enjoys playing a broad range of genres: blues, pop, Celtic, and jazz. She's worked a lot on the technique called "overbending" which allows one to play the full chromatic scale on a diatonic harmonica. A YouTube star, with over 2 million views, she plays a Dannecker harmonica and won the title of World Harmonica vice champion in 2009. She strongly recommends practicing every day.



Hey Jude

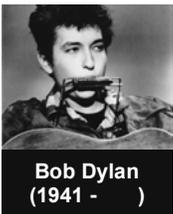


Bill Dulin

Suiting his clear, melodic playing style, Dulin prefers using a prior-model Hohner Super 64 chromatic. He started with a Chrometta 8 in high school, 1957 or so. In 2002, he discovered the harmonica club and has been a member ever since. As the GHC music director since 2018 and, after decades of service to the harmonica community, he was recognized with the 2022 Stan Harper Award for Special Merit, presented by the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica.



The Girl From Ipanema



Bob Dylan

Dylan began his career more than 60 years ago with nothing more than his voice, a guitar, and a harmonica. He wrote countless songs that feature the harmonica prominently, but "Mr. Tambourine Man" may be the most well-known. For the largest part of his career, Dylan used a diatonic Hohner Marine Band. Known as one of the most influential figures of the 20th century, musically and culturally, he was awarded ten Grammy Awards and a Nobel Prize in Literature for his songwriting.



Mr. Tambourine Man



Buddy Green

He once said of playing the harmonica, "...messing around with it, and I was intrigued with the portability, express-ability and the compactness of it." He became a singer/songwriter, who often plays harmonica, including Hohner diatonic and chromatics. Most of his recordings are gospel, with a country and bluegrass influence. He co-wrote the song "Mary, Did You Know?" A harmonica legend, he once played a classical medley, including the "William Tell Overture", at Carnegie Hall.



Classical Medley



Marion "Little Walter" Jacobs

Born in Louisiana and eventually settling in Chicago in the 1940s, Little Walter played with blues legend Muddy Waters, which led to various recording sessions, including Little Walters' first solo, "Juke". Occasionally playing a Hohner 280 chromatic, he mostly played a diatonic Hohner Marine Band, and his songs are dominated by the second position. He is the only artist inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame purely as a harmonica player.



Juke



Billy Joel

One of the most influential songwriters of all time, his song "Piano Man" has been a chart-topper for decades, ever since its 1973 release. In the infamous song most famous for its harmonica part, he plays a Hohner Marine Band in the key of C in the video, but, in live performances, Joel often uses the Special 20. Winner of six Grammy Awards and Kennedy Center Honors, he is one of the best-selling music artists of all time and is remembered for his singing, and piano and harmonica playing.



Piano Man

More Outstanding Harmonica Players



Howard Levy
(1951 -)

Howard Levy

As a harmonica innovator and founding member of Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Levy won two Grammy Awards. He plays jazz, classical, rock, folk, Latin, blues, country and world music and draws attention for his chromatic playing style on a diatonic harmonica, debuting overblow and overdraw techniques in 1970 which allow a diatonic harmonica player to obtain all the missing chromatic notes. His favorite harmonica is the Hohner Golden Medley.



Autumn in
New York



Charley McCoy
(1941 -)

Charley McCoy

A melodic and conversational style harmonica player, McCoy was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2009, and he's won a Grammy, two CMA, and seven ACM Awards. He's remembered for the 19 years that he worked as music director for the popular TV show *Hee Haw* and was a member of the all-star band that performed on the show. How to best learn the harmonica? He suggests people listen to records, especially old-school blues.



Orange Blossom
Special



Jim Melchers
(1957 -)

Jim Melchers

He showcases his skills weekly as the top-notch player of GHC's open mic session. Able to play the diatonic, chromatic, chord and bass harmonicas, Melchers mentors harmonica players at the local community college, during club meetings, and at private lessons. As a young adult, he got his start by playing along with the car radio. Now he hones his skills by listening to accomplished harmonica players on YouTube. His favorite harmonica? It's a diatonic Hohner Golden Melody.



Summertime



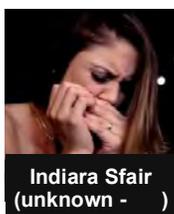
John Popper
(1967 -)

John Popper

Popper, a famed songwriter and co-founder of the rock band Blues Traveler, expressed a preference for the Hohner Special 20, calling it "the Porsche of harmonicas". He created over-the-shoulder belts with enough pockets to hold diatonic harmonicas in all twelve keys plus extras. Since 2015, he uses his own signature Fender harmonicas. As a child, he studied numerous instruments, but none appealed to him until he and a friend did a Blues Brothers routine; then, he took up the harmonica.



Run-Around



Indiara Sfair
(unknown -)

Indiara Sfair

As a contemporary blues player and composer from Brazil, she quickly grew a fan base across the world with her unique soulful playing style. Known for lightening-quick solos and for showing emotion through her music, her videos are popular on Spotify and YouTube. Her favorite harp player is Carlos Del Junco, and she prefers the Hohner Marine Band 1896 due to its clean, bright sound and ease of play. In addition to being part of a Brazilian blues band Milk 'n Blues, Sfair plays rock and soul.



Improv in Cm



Toots Thielemans
(1922 - 2016)

Toots Thielemans

Thielemans is at the top of the world's famous harmonica players. Flemish born, he played accordion, harmonica, and guitar. After emigrating to the U.S., he worked with world-famous artists like Quincy Jones, Billy Joel, and Paul Simon. He is considered one of the greatest jazz musicians in the world and composed "Bluesette" (1962), probably his most well-known song, which he played on a Hohner Chromonica chromatic harmonica. Motto: "Be yourself, no more, no less."



Bluesette



Stevie Wonder
(1950 -)

Stevie Wonder

He began as a singer and harmonica/bongo player with his first No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1963, "Fingertips", recorded at 12 years old. Through the decades, his songwriting and musicianship influenced R&B, pop, soul, gospel, funk, and jazz. Wonder has won 25 Grammy Awards and plays the chromatic Hohner Super 64 in many songs, including "Isn't She Lovely". In 2012, he performed "Alfie" at the White House tribute to Hal David and Burt Bacharach; harmonica solo at 2:28.



Alfie

Harmonicist

in the Spotlight

AL Smith

By Linda Jacobs

Harmonica band player **AL Smith** was born on June 18, 1932. Through the years, he was a member of numerous harmonica bands, including the Harmonifiques and Harmonica Rascals, and a duet with his wife Judy as the Harmonica Hotshots. He loves to work with harmonica clubs and wrote arrangements for large harmonica bands. Many of his arrangements are included in the music library of the Gateway Harmonica Club and clubs throughout the US.

AL grew up with no music in his home, not even a radio. He was born in Arkansas on a farm and discovered the harmonica when he was just three years old, when a cousin came to visit in 1935. AL remembers it very clearly because the cousin played the harmonica and AL just loved it. He remembers laying on the floor and listening to his cousin play. So, AL presumes that was the beginning of his interest in the harmonica.

There were nine kids in the family and AL's dad was a farmhand. In 1941, they all moved to Michigan after his dad took a job there. In preparation for the long bus ride, AL's mom bought him his first pair of shoes; however, AL didn't like them and, rather than wearing them, AL carried his new shoes in a bag during the entire trip.

In his new neighborhood there were four brothers with instruments and AL learned to play chords. One evening AL went babysitting and the people left a harmonica laying on the couch. By the time they got back, he could play two or three tunes. They were amazed and gave the harmonica to AL on the spot. The rest of his life he's never been without a harmonica, or a hundred of them. That gift of a harmonica changed AL's life.

While in the Navy in the early 1950s, he played many shows as a member of the Harmaniacs, which resulted in him auditioning and joining the Harmonica Rascals. A highlight of the group was a nine-month residency at Moulin Rouge in Hollywood playing two shows a night. To take a look, access a video recording through the QR code "Harmonica Rascals". AL still enjoys playing his harmonica and performing in other various groups with different instrumentation.

His accomplishments were recognized as, for the first time ever, SPAH awarded two of its most prestigious awards to one person. AL Smith was the 2011 winner of the Bernie Bray Harmonica Player of the Year and The Pete Pedersen Lifetime Achievement Awards. In addition, he is an Honorary member of the Gateway Harmonica Club.



Harmonifiques, 1968, AL Smith at bottom left



Harmonica Rascals, Johnny Puleo (L) and AL Smith, performing at the Moulin Rouge in 1954



Harmaniacs, 1953, AL Smith (center), rehearse for the Arthur Godfrey Talent Scout show



AL Smith plays a chord harmonica



Harmonica Rascals



Chord Solo Peg, 1984



Harmonica Hotshots AL and Judy Smith, harmonica duet, 2005 show



Harmonica Hotshots



AL Smith, Rhythm Master



AL Smith, in his home office in 2020, reflects about discovering the harmonica as a 3-year-old farm boy

GHC Goals 2023

Our Focus

- Enjoying club membership
- Share harmonica music
- Remain viable as a club
- Support SPAH convention

Club Business

- October
 - Initiate election process
- November
 - Approve donations to charity
 - Nominate officers
- December
 - Conduct bi-annual election

Education

- Community College
 - Florissant Valley
 - Forest Park
 - Meramec
 - St. Charles
- Harmonica orientation
- Beginners chromatic class
- Blues group
- Business meeting "Special Program"

Membership

- Add new members
- Start/end activities on time
- Increase member involvement
- More active members
- Contribute to bi-monthly newsletter
- Support SPAH convention

Music

- Increase number of gigs
- Add new songs to music program
- Increase participation at open mic
- Add rhythm players
- Add harmony players

Special Events

- SPAH convention 2023
- Annual picnic
- Christmas party

President's Message

Membership, Gigs & Meetings



As the annual dues drive comes to an end, nearly all have renewed membership for 2023. With a healthy members roster, we can continue to take action toward our common objectives: to cultivate and improve the art of harmonica playing and to encourage camaraderie among the club members as well as the worldwide community of harmonica enthusiasts.

We look forward to a near record number of gigs this year, offering opportunities to enjoy each other's company while playing music together, in addition to bringing entertainment and cheer to the audiences, both young and old.

Tuesday meetings continue to offer diverse formats for learning and playing the harmonica, whether in person or through live online streaming. There's a harmonica orientation class, blues group, beginners class, band practice, and open mic, something for everyone!

Finances

GHC's holdings continue to be stable. Thanks to Treasurer **Mark Olesnicki** for the annual report, below. Although there was a slight loss during 2022, we are confident that the club's income will increase during 2023 due to a surge in performances and sales plus income from the increased number of community college classes.

GHC Goals

Thank you for your inputs for the club's 2023 goals. The result is at left. Please take a look and let's work together to meet our objectives.

Happy Spring!

The clocks have "sprung" forward, days are getting longer, and it's a wonderful time to play the harmonica!

Thanks for all you do,

Linda Jacobs

Gateway Harmonica Club Financial Report for 2022			
From:	January 1, 2022	To:	December 31, 2022
Checking Account			
	Opening Balance	\$	12,137.58
	Additions	\$	6,558.95
	Subtractions	\$	(7,924.64)
	Closing Balance	\$	10,771.89
Insurance Account (Savings)			
	Opening Balance	\$	5,581.30
	Addition (interest)	\$	0.48
	Closing Balance	\$	5,581.78
Petty Cash			
	Opening Balance	\$	26.25
	Additions	\$	125.00
	Subtractions	\$	(80.00)
	Closing Balance	\$	71.25
Total All Accounts:		\$	16,424.92

GHC Members 2023

Regular Members

Helen Allen
 Stan Baldwin
 Jerry Chapman
 Audria Gebhardt
 Louise Georgia
 John Grindon
 Margaret Gustafson
 Gregory Hommert
 BW Honeycutt
 Jay Hotze
 Herb Huebner
 Mike Ives
 Kathy Kelly
 Margie Kindt
 Michael LaRue
 Shelly Lee
 Mark Olesnicki
 Dan O'Neal
 Don Phillips
 Ann Samuels
 Clara Schuh
 Joe Stenger
 Jan Studer
 Peter Trustman

Lifetime Members

Bud Anders
 Scott Aschinger
 Bill Davis
 Reed DeLaet
 Bill Dulin
 Donna Hall
 Henry Heppermann
 Tim Hepperman
 Linda Jacobs
 Don Johnson
 Amanda Keith
 Jim Melchers
 Julie Melchers
 Bob Norton
 Tim O'Connell
 Jennie Ojeda
 Chris Pondo
 Janice Rambaum
 Bob Ripley
 Ernie Roberts
 Alice Russell
 Dave Seehra
 Jim Solari
 Fred Stover
 Tom Sutterfield
 Glenda Warren
 Eugene Williams

Honorary Members

Sandy Bonfiglio
 Ed Cenatiempo
 Harley Crain
 Pierre Dacquin
 Sue Fey
 Mike Maschek
 Bill Nesslein
 Shirley Perez
 AL Smith
 Sandy Weltman

Just for Fun

By Linda Jacobs

Thoughts About Playing the Harmonica

During a recent update of the “Beginning Harmonica” book that we use while teaching at the local colleges, the following quotes were included as an inspiration to those who are beginning to play the harmonica. Hoping that you’ll enjoy and be inspired by some of these fresh perspectives, too!



Stan Musial

I’m a musician. I play harmonica for relaxation.
A good way to relax and entertain people.
An excellent way to have fun.

Stan Musial, St. Louis Cardinal & Gateway Harmonica Club member

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

Pablo Picasso, Spanish painter



Leopold Stokowski

A painter paints pictures on canvas.
But musicians paint their pictures on silence.

Leopold Stokowski, British conductor



Les Brown

Music is a higher revelation than
all wisdom and philosophy.

Ludwig van Beethoven, German composer

Everything we do is practice for something greater than
where we currently are.

Practice only makes for improvement.

Les Brown, American jazz musician

Practice does not make perfect.
Only perfect practice makes perfect.

Vince Lombardi, American football coach

Practice puts brains in your muscles.

Sam Snead, Professional golfer

Don’t practice until you get it right.
Practice until you can’t get it wrong.

John Flanagan, Australian author

It takes a long time to sound like yourself.

Miles Davis, American jazz musician

It’s not about perfect, it’s about effort,
and when you bring that effort
every single day, that’s where transformation happens,
that’s how change occurs.

Jillian Michaels, American personal trainer



Confucius

Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.

Tim Notke, Basketball coach

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached,
don’t adjust the goals,
adjust the action steps.

Confucius, Chinese philosopher

Music is a great natural high and a great natural escape.”

Shania Twain, Canadian singer



Pablo Picasso



Ludwig van Beethoven



Vince Lombardi



Miles Davis



Shania Twain

Living St Louis

Nine is celebrating the 20th season of the *Living St. Louis* program. With more than 600 episodes and over 30 Emmy Awards, *Living St. Louis* continues to build community pride and provide a space for lifelong learning, showcasing the people, places and things that make St. Louis unique.



Recently **Sue Fey** and **Alice Russell** let us know that GHC was highlighted on *Living St. Louis* during first show of 2023. As the narrator Jim Kirchherr reminisced about how the program began in 2004, he recalled that the first program introduced viewers to the “tuneful renditions of the Gateway Harmonica Club”. Here is a link to the 2023 show with GHC mentioned at 3:14.



We are lucky to also have a link to an excerpt from the original 2004 broadcast, where Jim Kirchherr catches a performance of the Gateway Harmonica Club at the St. Ann Community Center, featuring folks we may know or remember: Music Director Frank Davis, Ria Meagher, Charlie Pratt, Joe Fey, and many others.



Living St. Louis is on Mondays at 7 PM on Nine PBS and to livestream go to [ninepbs.org/live/](https://www.ninepbs.org/live/).

Musicians, Songs and Listeners

Photos identified left to right, top to bottom.

Stan Baldwin

"I Heard the Bells", 1/3
 "Try a Little Kindness", 2/14
 "Lent Medley", 2/28

Bill Dulin

"Once in a While", 1/17
 "Alfie", 2/28
 "Feels So Good", 1/10

Audria Gebhardt

"Look of Love", 2/14
 "Stormy Weather", 1/17
 A song, 2/28

Louise Georgia

Enjoying open mic, 1/10

Herb Huebner

"Freebird", 1/17
 "Let There Be Peace on Earth", 2/14

Linda Jacobs

"Lover Man", 2/28
 "The Nearness of You", 2/14
 "Red River Valley", 2/21

Michael LaRue

Relaxing during open mic, 1/10

Jim Melchers

"All of Me", 2/21
 "Body and Soul", 2/7
 "You Don't Know Me", 1/17

Julie Melchers

A hymn, 1/3
 A hymn, 2/28
 "When You Wish Upon a Star", 1/24

Mark Olesnicki

"Button Up Your Overcoat", 1/24
 "Isn't It Romantic", 2/14
 "Button Up Your Overcoat", 2/14

Tim O'Connell

"This is All I Ask", 1/17

Chris Pondo

"Helena Polka", 2/14
 "Polish National Anthem", 2/21

Ernie Roberts

"Jeepers Creepers", 1/10
 "Vaya con Dios", 2/21
 "Hank Williams Medley", 2/24

Joe Stenger

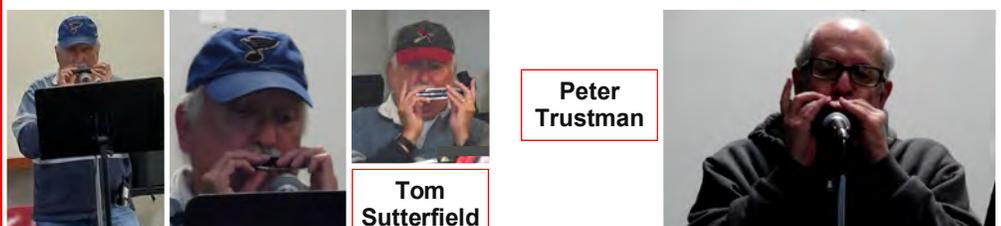
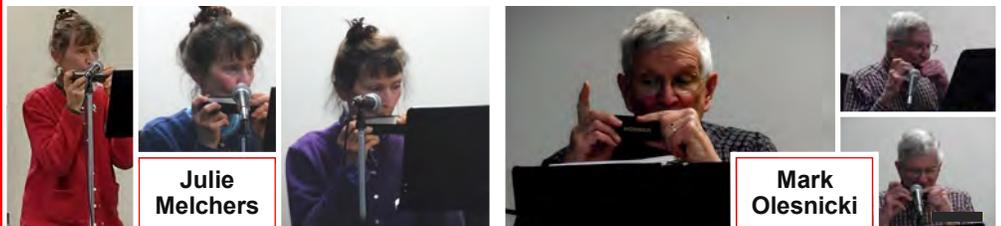
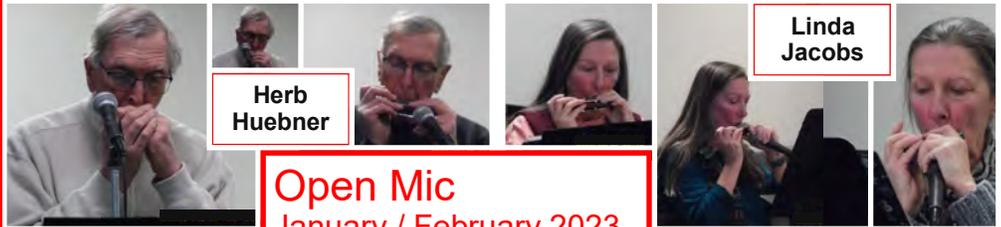
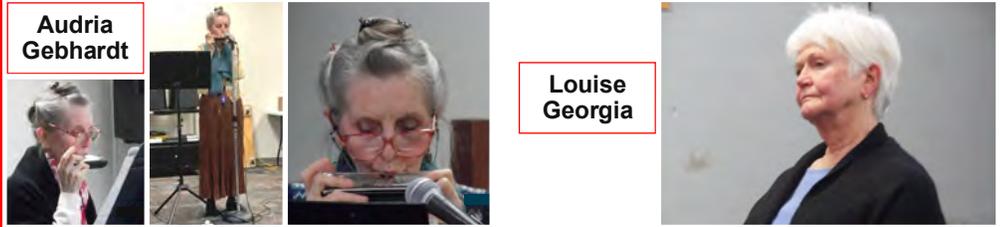
"The Day I Jumped From Uncle
 Harvey's Plane", 2/14
 "Mama Tried", 1/10
 "Heart of Jesus", 1/31

Tom Sutterfield

"I'm in the Mood for Love", 2/7
 "When Will I Be Loved", 2/14
 "On the Sunny Side of the Street",
 1/24

Peter Trustman

"Latin Quarter", 2/21



Open Mic
 January / February 2023
 Photos by Ernie Roberts with a few by Linda Jacobs and Tim O'Connell.
 Details at left.

Harmonica Toolbox Checklist

Suggested harmonica toolbox contents are as follows:

- ___ Alcohol wipes
- ___ Cloth or rubber pad
- ___ Fuel line tubing, small
(Local hardware store)
- ___ GS-Hypo Cement
(Found at Hobby Lobby, Walmart, Amazon or Schaeffer's)
- ___ Jeweler's loupe
(Amazon, Hobby Lobby or JOANN Fabric)
- ___ Jewelry files
(Frequently in packs of 10 in variety of sizes and light metals - Amazon)
- ___ Metal security strips
- ___ Needle nose pliers
- ___ Reed wrench
(Online at: hotrodharmonicas.myshopify.com)
- ___ Scissors, small with a straight edge (not curved)
- ___ Screwdrivers
(Harbor Freight carries Pittsburgh Pro 16-piece and 34-piece sets of precision screwdrivers in own storage case)
- ___ Screws, small in various lengths/sizes
(Local hardware store)
- ___ Storage container/box, 4" deep x 6" wide x 3" high
- ___ Toothbrush
- ___ Tweezers
- ___ Windsavers
(Available from Hohner)



Jennie Ojeda

Harp Corner

Contents of a Toolbox for Your Harmonica

By Jennie Ojeda

During the January GHC business meeting, **Bill Dulin** made a presentation about his "harmonica toolbox". In case you missed it, here is a summary of that talk.

Bill not only enjoys playing his harmonicas but also repairing them. To maintain, repair and rebuild his harmonicas and those of others, he has acquired a number of specialized and general tools. To make repairs, a set of small-tipped screwdrivers is essential to have in order to fit the variety of screws found on the many different types and brands of harmonicas.



Reed wrenches



Needle nose pliers



Tweezer



Jeweler's clip-on eye loupe

Other items are a reed wrench, needle nose pliers, and a tube of G-S Hypo Cement. The G-S Hypo Cement is used to attach windsavers. Alcohol wipes and a toothbrush are used for cleaning. Small scissors are used to trim windsavers to their proper length.

Oh, yes, a pair of tweezers really helps to pick up small parts when fingers are just too big. Having a jeweler's loupe provides needed magnification and a set of jewelry files are a great help when adjusting reeds. A simple storage container or box, 4" deep x 6" wide x 3" high, should hold all of these basic tools.

Bill also shared that the metal strips inside many stores' security strip packets found on new clothing, furnishings, and electronics are of perfect thickness (1/1000 of an inch) to work the gaps between the sides of reeds and the reed plates. Carefully dismantle the packet to remove the individual metal strips.

The next item is small fuel line tubing (made for small engines like chainsaws), which is sold at most hardware stores. The tubing, cut to the proper length, can be used as a slide bumper replacement.

To keep from losing the small parts while dismantling a harmonica, Bill suggests working over a cloth or thin, soft rubber pad and to keep the parts in the order removed. Practicing first on cheap harmonicas will prepare you to work on more expensive harmonicas.

Furthermore, if you have questions, just call Bill or catch him at most Tuesday GHC practice sessions. The harmonica toolbox checklist, at left, is to provide a shopping list for yourself or as a gift idea list for that next birthday, anniversary or holiday.

In the meantime, Happy Harping!!



Mini needle file set



Storage container



Security strip, top and bottom views



Small tip screwdrivers



G-S Hypo Cement



Windsaver



Alcohol wipes and toothbrush



Straight-edge scissors

City of New Orleans

Composer: Steve Goodman, 1971

Arrangement: John R. Grindon

} 3 3 3 3 3 (2) (2) 2
 [1-4] Ri - ding on the "Ci - ty of New - Or - leans",
 9 2 2 2 2 1 (3) (3) (3) 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 Il - li - nois Cen - tral Mon - day mor - ning rail, Fif - teen cars and
 14 3 3 (2) (2) 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 (T4) (T4)
 fif - teen rest - less ri - ders, Three con - duc - tors and twen - ty - five sacks of
 19 1 Bridge 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
 mail. All a long the south - bound o - dys - sey, the train pulls out of
 24 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 (3) (S2)
 Kan - ka - kee and rolls a - long past hou - ses, farms and fi - elds,
 29 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
 pas - sing towns that have no names and freight yards full of old black men and
 33 3 3 (1) 2 (2) (2) (2) 2 (1) 1 Chorus 4 4 4 4
 grave - yards of the rus - ted au - to - mo - biles. Good morn - ing, A -
 38 (4) (4) (4) (3) 3 1 (1) 2 2 2 1 (3) (3) (3) 3
 me - ri - ca, how are you? Say don't you know me? I'm your na - tive
 43 3 3 (2) 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 (3) 2 (1) 1 1 1
 son, I'm the train they call the Ci - ty of New O - or - leans, I'll be
 49 (3) (3) (3) (3) 3 3 3 3 2 1
 gone five hun - dred miles when the day is done.



Verses of "City of New Orleans"



History of "City of New Orleans"

Backing Tracks

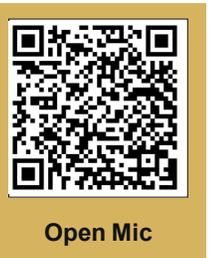
Three backing tracks, each unique, are provided for "The City of New Orleans".



Play-A-Long



Backing Track



Open Mic

Diatonic Tablature

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 -5 -5 5 5 5 5 4 -6 -6 -6 6 6
 Ri - ding on the "Ci - ty of New - Or - leans," Il - li - nois Cen - tral Mon - day mor - ning rail,
 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 -5 -5 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 -3 -3 4
 Fif - teen cars and fif - teen rest - less ri - ders, Three con - duc - tors and twen - ty - five sacks of mail.
 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 All along the south - bound o - dys - sey, the train pulls out of Kan - ka - kee,
 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 -6 -5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
 and rolls a - long past hou - ses farms and fi - elds, pass - ing towns that have no names,
 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 -4 5 -5 -5 -5 5 -4 4
 and freight yards full of old black men, and grave - yards of the rus - ted au - to - mo - biles.
 7 7 7 7 -7 -7 -7 -6 6 4 -4 5 5 5 4 -6 -6 -6 6 6
 Good morn - ing A - me - ri - ca, how are you? Say don't you know me? I'm your na - tive son,
 6 -5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 -6 5 -4 4 4 4 -6 -6 -6 -6 6 6 6 6 5 4
 I'm the train they call the Ci - ty of New O - or - leans, I'll be gone five hun - dred miles when the day is done.

GATEWAY HARMONICA CLUB

11828 DOVERHILL DR
SUNSET HILLS MO 63128



**Gateway
Harmonica
Club**



PLACE
ADDRESS LABEL
HERE



PLACE
STAMP
HERE



YouTube



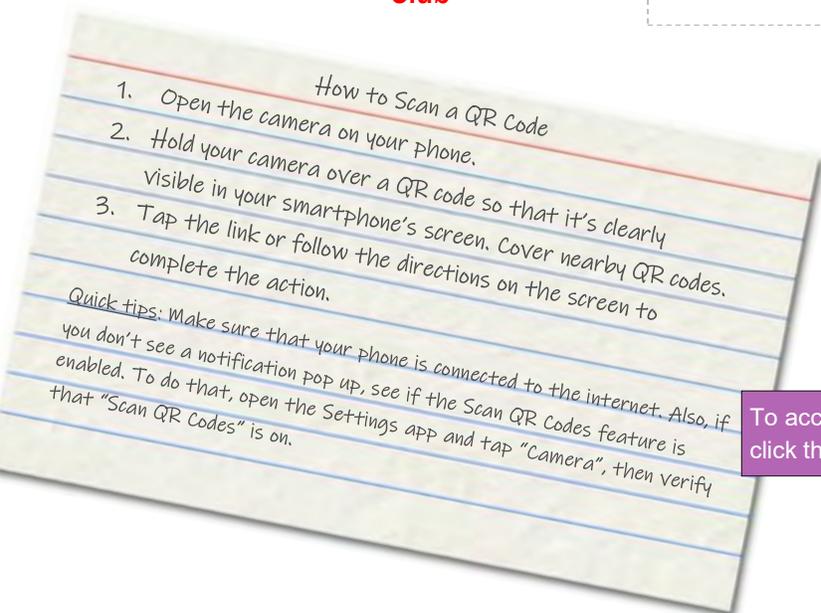
Facebook



GHC Website



Calendar



How to Scan a QR Code

1. Open the camera on your phone.
2. Hold your camera over a QR code so that it's clearly visible in your camera's screen. Cover nearby QR codes.
3. Tap the link or follow the directions on the screen to complete the action.

Quick tips: Make sure that your phone is connected to the internet. Also, if you don't see a notification pop up, see if the Scan QR Codes feature is enabled. To do that, open the Settings app and tap "Camera", then verify that "Scan QR Codes" is on.

To access from a computer,
click the QR code.

GHC Calendar

Events

- Aug 15-20** **SPAH Convention 2023**, Sheraton-Westport Chalet, St. Louis 63146
Sep 23 **11 to 4** **Annual Picnic**, Muffin Pavilion/Love Park, 2239 Mason Ln, Ballwin 63021
Dec 12 **7 PM** **Christmas Party**, Rock Church, 9125 Manchester Rd, St. Louis 63011

Performances

- Mar 10** **2 PM** **Autumn View Gardens**, 11210 Scheutz Rd, St. Louis 63146
Mar 17 **2 PM** **Nazareth Living Center**, 2 Nazareth Ln, St. Louis 63129
Mar 24 **3 PM** **The Willows**, 211 S Woods Mill Rd, Chesterfield 63017
Mar 30 **2 PM** **Mattis Pointe Senior Living**, 4962 Mattis Rd, St. Louis 63128
Apr 17 **6:45 PM** **Assumption 50+ Club**, 403 N Main St, O'Fallon MO 63366
Apr 20 **2 PM** **Meramec Bluffs**, 1 Meramec Bluffs, Ballwin 63021
Apr 27 **2 PM** **Manor Grove**, 711 S Kirkwood Rd, Kirkwood 63122
May 5 **3 PM** **Keystone Place**, 1050 Fountain Lakes Dr, O'Fallon IL 62269

College Classes

- Apr 5, 12 & 19** **St. Louis Community College** - Meramec campus
Apr 6, 13 & 20 **St. Louis Community College** - Forest Park campus

Weekly Meeting - Everyone's welcome!

Meetings are held every Tuesday, 6 - 9 PM, at The Rock Church, 9125 Manchester Rd.
For on-line streaming, join Zoom, Meeting ID 523 574 2860 / Passcode 201826.

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Contact Us

Give us a call or
send an email for more
information about our
club, performances, and
classes.

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