



The 112th International Convention and RV Expo held in Perry, GA this past March can best be described as a roaring success for the Frustrated Maestros. We accounted for 24 coaches, 20 Band members, 11 Chorus members, a Music Director (Sue Siegler), a Rally Captain (Elisabeth Schultz), and 7 support personnel. Five of the six active Maestro Chapters were represented.

The theme of the Rally was **Changes in Latitudes RV Beach Party** and was hosted by the Eastern Area FRVA Chapters. All of the Maestro Performances were on the Kleen Tank Town Center stage in the McGill Marketplace. We played for the Thursday-Saturday Morning Coffee Hours as well as an afternoon concert on Friday during the Ice Cream Social. In keeping with the Jimmy Buffet theme of the Rally, the Maestros began each performance with *Changes in Latitude*. An a cappella quartet that included Donna Crandall, Bonnie Porter, Yvonne Remz and Walt Porter sang *O Canada* and the *Star Spangled Banner* for the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday evening.



With a full band and chorus the Maestros performed many of the crowd favorites like *Sweet Caroline*, *Mountain Dew*, *The Beer Barrel Polka*, *Bye Bye Love*, *The Armed Forces Tribute*, *God Bless America*, and *God Bless the USA* just to name a few. We also performed many of our newer additions to our library such as *Just the Way You Are*, *Under the Sea*, *New York, New York*, *The Blues Brothers*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Copacabana*, *Hawaii 5-O*, and of course, *Margaritaville* (it's five o'clock somewhere).

We were able to showcase much of the wonderful individual and small ensemble talent within our

ranks. Yvonne Remz sang *Georgia On My Mind*, accompanied by the band and chorus; Judith McKnight sang *These Boots are Made for Walking*, also accompanied by the band; *Ain't He a Genius* was performed by Jim Carroll and the rhythm section; Ben Woods and Yvonne Remz sang *A Pirate Looks At 40*; Carl & Marty Turner did *Traveling Time* and *Brown Hair Gray*. A trumpet trio of Ari Siegler, Phil Fuller and Bruce Taylor performed *A Bugler's Holiday* accompanied by the trombone section and piano; Walt Porter (banjo) and Bonnie Porter (mandolin) sang *Rollin' in My Sweet Baby's Arms*; Nick Heffner gave a bluesy rendition of *Tuff* on his tenor sax, accompanied by the band. Don Black showed off his solo talent on the alto sax with *Watermelon Man*, accompanied by the band; and finally, a brass quintet of Ari Siegler and Bruce Taylor (trumpets), Walt Porter (trombone), Bonnie Porter (French horn) and Don Sweger (tuba) performed *The Tiger Rag*.

Our performances at this Rally showed that we were truly worthy of being called Maestros.

Charity Silent Auction

The Maestros were proud to participate in the FRVA fundraiser to support The HALO Group. They are a non-profit vocational and life skills day program that serves adults with developmental disabilities and autism. The fundraiser was a silent auction and our submission was a "tub" full of



items for a beach party donated by the Maestros. Our Rally Captain, Elisabeth Schultz, coordinated this project and with the artistic help of Bonnie Porter managed to get everything into it in a very attractive (and huge) package. It brought one of the highest bids (if not the highest). One of our own, Rick McKnight, won the bid. Thanks to all who helped make this happen.

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Social Activities

It's always five o'clock somewhere! The Maestros started off Sunday evening with Happy Hour and concluded the following Sunday morning with a pancake breakfast hosted by Sue and Ari Siegler. In between we had a Pizza Party provided by the SEA Sharps Chapter on Monday in conjunction with their Annual Meeting and traditional Happy Hours on Tuesday and Saturday. On Wednesday we celebrated Helen McKeever's 96th birthday with sub sandwiches, Sangria and a birthday cake all provided by Cliff Freed and Helen. It was also Kathy Fuller's birthday so it was a double celebration.

On Thursday it was "Party in Perry" night with restaurants, food stands and shops along with a band on the



Helen McKeever &
Cliff Freed

Courthouse lawn in Historic downtown Perry. Kathy Fuller arranged a group dinner at the Swanson House for the Maestros in conjunction with this event.

Friday was a Chapterfest in the Reaves Arena. It was a chance to meet prospective new members. The Maestros had two long tables with "happy hour food" which disappeared in a matter of minutes when the crowd from the parade outside descended on the Arena. Fortunately, we saw what was about to happen and advised the Maestros to fix a plate for themselves. All and all it was a fun event. It rolled into the evening program which included the Volunteer Recognition followed by The Jimmy Buffet Tribute Show.

Chapter Fair

Many thanks to Kathy Fuller and all those that helped set up and man the Chapter Fair table. Also, thanks go to Carl & Marty Turner for providing live music. Interest was high and information and applications from all five chapters were available.

Photos

Photos used throughout this Newsletter are courtesy of Kathy Fuller, Kevin Derkowski, Gail Taylor and Don Black's Facebook page.

Northeast Area Rally

The Northeast Area Rally (NEAR) runs from September 30th through October 3rd which means the Maestros will be scheduled to arrive on Sunday, September 27th—exactly one week after Music Camp. That means we can caravan up to Essex Junction, Vermont and do a little sightseeing on the way. More details to follow but in the meantime you can register for **A Green Mountain Getaway**. It will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, the same location as last year. It is a beautiful facility. If you want to park with the majority of the Maestros you will need to register for 30 Amp electric/water. This area is right next to the Exposition complex.

The Eastern Sharps and Flats as well as the SEA Sharps have always supported the Yankee Doodle Dandies. In fact, many of us belong to all three Chapters. I hope all of you are including this Rally in your plans this year. The President of the YDD's is Ari Siegler and he assures me that Sue will be directing, although I'm not sure if he has a signed contract with her yet.

The fall foliage should be great this time of year in the Northeast and a caravan will be a lot of fun.



20th Annual Music Camp

When: September 13th to September 20th, 2026
Where: The Historic Triangle of Williamsburg-Jamestown-Yorktown
Location: American Heritage RV Park
146 Maxton Lane
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188
Contact: 888.530.2267 / 757.566.2133 Website: Americanheritagervpark.com.

What do you need to do?

- ◆ Make a reservation for a site at American Heritage RV Park **before July 26th**. They are holding sites for us only until that date.
- ◆ Let them know you are part of the Frustrated Maestros Music Camp .
- ◆ Let Bruce Taylor and/or Sue Siegler know of your intent to participate.

Cost

- ◆ Reservation deposit is one night plus tax at the regular rate (\$79.25).
- ◆ Net cost depends on your length of stay. The group rate is \$69 +tax or the weekly rate (stay 7 nights, pay for six at the regular rate). They offer various other discounts and they will work with you to find the best rate..
- ◆ Cancellation Policy: Full refund less \$10 if you cancel more than two days in advance. Less than two days forfeits your deposit.
- ◆ There is no advance Registration with the Chapter but we will be collecting \$15 per coach upon your arrival to cover miscellaneous expenses.

The schedule will be a mixture of traditional music camp activities with a focus on new music plus a generous dose of free time to explore the Williamsburg-Jamestown-Yorktown areas.

Questions/Comments— Contact:

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New Chapter Members

Three new member coaches joined the Eastern Sharps and Flats at the Rally in Perry. Two have been members of other Maestro Chapters for a while and one is a great new addition to our ranks.

Don and Peggy Black (F397659) live in Orlando, Florida. Don plays alto sax professionally and with our Maestros around the country when he can. Peggy gives support to our group.

Donna and Gary Crandall (F039223D) reside in Laramie, Wyoming. They are members of other Maestro Chapters but have joined Sharps and Flats as well. Donna sings soprano with the Chorus and Gary provides support.

Donald and Anita Sweger (F389206) are from Newnan, Georgia. They played with the Maestros once about 10 years ago but are now free to join us since retirement. Don plays tuba (and also trombone) and Anita plays tenor sax.



Don Black



Donna Crandall



Anita Sweger



Don Sweger

Welcome to all our new Sharps and Flats members !

In Memory of Horst Schaller



TAPS at 9:00 PM at every rally

It is with great sadness that we are informing you of the passing of Horst Schaller. Horst will be greatly missed by his loving wife, **Joanne Baker**, those that knew him and those that heard his music. Horst was a wonderful, talented and kind hearted musician. He enjoyed sharing his love of music with the Frustrated Maestros. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and by those who love to polka.

