



# Frustrated Maestros - Eastern Sharps & Flats

## August 2024 Newsletter



### GEAR

October may seem like a long ways off, but we all know how time slips away from us faster and faster as we get older. The point: If you haven't yet registered for GEAR you need to do it now. It runs from October 23-26, 2024. The theme is *Autumn in the Appalachians* and it will be in Fletcher, North Carolina, which is the Asheville Area. October is "prime time" for camping in North Carolina and we were fortunate to be able to secure the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center for the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR). The fall foliage should be spectacular and let us not forget that October is Halloween month, another huge draw for area campgrounds. As always, be sure to note you are a Frustrated Maestro volunteer so you get proper parking credentials.

GEAR is always a fun Rally and certainly the Asheville area has much to see and do. Phyllis Britz, the Eastern Area President, and her committees have worked hard to make this another GREAT event. Wednesday night there will be a Talent Show open to all attendees. It is being organized by our chapter, so we will need lots of help. We are still looking for acts. A Flyer is on the last page of this Newsletter.

Since Halloween is just around the corner, there will be a contest for the best Halloween decorated RV. More details of GEAR events can be found on the Eastern Area website: [www.fmca-ea.com](http://www.fmca-ea.com)

The WNC Ag Center has a few challenges to keep in mind. First of all, if you recently registered you may have been told that the electric sites are sold out and that you can be put on a waiting list. This happened because not all of the electric service has been mapped out by the Fairgrounds. The last time we were in Asheville the Maestros were parked in such an area and we were able to find electric for 20+ RVs. We were also able to get most of our members close enough to reach a sewer to dump when needed. We expect to be parked in the same area this year. If you register without electric you will just pay the electric fee after you are parked.

Having said all of that you need to bring electric extension cords if you can, lots of water hose and a water Y. And since it is in the mountains, bring leveling blocks,

#### MUSIC CAMP COMMITTEE 2023—2024

Cliff Freed	610 972-2888
Philip Fuller	803 556-1813
Secretary: Kathy Fuller	803 467-2594
Music Director: Ron Hazelett	330 701-7523
President: Bruce Taylor	706 255-4081

### Music Camp

Music Camp is shaping up to be a good mix of band and chorus, but we can always use more. As previously noted, this year's edition will be held in Gaffney, NC at Peach Haven Campground. While we are somewhat past the date that they guaranteed sites they have so far been able to find space for everyone. Again, we can always use more participants, so give them a call if you still would like to get in. They may also have cabin space available. The camp-ground number is **864 489 4022**.

The dates for both Music Camp and GEAR are shown in the box below. Note that Music Camp will run Wed-Sat with Tue being the normal arrival date. We cannot caravan to GEAR until Monday, so Sunday will be used as a rehearsal day for GEAR. We will also have our Annual Business Meeting with dinner provided by the Chapter on Sunday evening.

We are fortunate to have two great Music Directors as members of our Chapter—Ron Hazelett and Sue Siegler—and both will be at Music Camp and GEAR. We will need both of them this year since we are in charge of producing the Wednesday night Talent Show as well as our normal performances during the Rally. If enough acts do not come forward from Rally Participants the Maestros will need to fill in with individual and small groups from our own ranks.

It's going to be a busy two weeks for the Frustrated Maestros but it should be fun.



Ron Hazelett

and



Sue Siegler

#### Music Camp & GEAR Key Dates

October 15 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Normal Music Camp Arrival Date
October 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Wed-Sat	Music Camp
October 20 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Rehearsal for those going to GEAR Departure for those not going to GEAR
October 21 <sup>st</sup> Mon	Caravan to GEAR (Fletcher, NC)
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	GEAR Rehearsal
October 23 <sup>rd</sup> Wed—am	GEAR Rehearsal
October 24-26 Thurs-Sat	Morning Coffee Performances
October 27 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Departure



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### In support of other rallies

By Gail Taylor

As we planned our summer travels to visit our kids and grandkids spread around the country, we tried to include as many FMCA Rallies as possible. It began with the Northeast Rally in Herkimer, NY followed close behind by the Midwest Rally in the Amana Colonies, IA. As I write this article, we are on our way to Redmond, Oregon for the FMCA 109<sup>th</sup> International Convention & RV Expo. Our Rally season will end with the Eastern Sharps & Flats Music Camp in Gaffney, SC followed by the Great Eastern Area Rally in Fletcher (Asheville), NC.

#### Northeast Area Rally (NEAR)



#### Back Row L to R:

Russell Bertrand, Richard Morgan, Mac MacEwan, Dale Averill, Bruce Taylor, Sue Siegler, Ari Seigler, Phil Monat, Jim Hamby, Sandy Martin, Paul Monat.

#### Front Row L to R

Janice Hamby, Kathy Averill, Joan MacEwan, Debbie Monat, Edda Martin, Karen Bertrand, Gail Taylor

This was the second year that the Rally was in Herkimer and it was immediately evident that the fairgrounds had made improvements since last year's Rally. Improvements included many new electric hookups--lots of 30 amp and quite a few 50 amp (for an additional fee).

The Maestros were led by Sue Siegler (and Flautist extraordinaire). The ensemble was small but well balanced. Trumpets included Ari Siegler and Bruce Taylor; Jim Hamby played the Alto Sax (and Clarinet) and Sandy Martin played Tenor Sax (and Bass Guitar). Russell Bertrand played Rhythm Guitar; Paul Monat played the Tuba (and solo Cornet) and his brother Phil handled percussion. This was Phil & Debbie Monat's and Russell & Karen Bertrand's first time to perform as Maestros and they were wonderful new additions to the Frustrated Maestro ranks. We picked up a new recruit at the Chapter Fair: Richard Morgan is a trombone player and he sat in with us for the Saturday performance.

The Chorus started out as a very small group but it grew rapidly as arms were twisted—mostly spouses who lied about not being able to sing, but in reality strengthened the chorus admirably. The final makeup included Gail Taylor, Dale & Kathy Averill, Joan & Mac MacEwan, Edda Martin, Debbie Monat, Karen Bertrand and Janice Hamby. Also Barb Smith (Maestro member and FMCA National Treasurer) was able to join us for a performance. The Maestros played for the traditional morning coffee and donut times, the National Anthems for the Opening Ceremony and for the Thursday evening entertainment following the Opening Ceremony. Sue's mission was to get the audiences involved with singing, dancing, arm waving and cheering. She succeeded with crowd favorites like the Beer Barrel Polka, Do Re Me, It's a Small World, Yellow Submarine, Rock Around the Clock, New York, New York, When the Saints Go Marching In, Sweet Caroline (Ba Ba Bah---So Good! So Good! So Good!), and of course, God Bless America and God Be With You 'til We Meet Again.

The Yankee Doodle Dandies (YDD's) held their Annual Meeting during the Rally which was primarily to elect Officers. Ari Sielger was elected President; Dale Averill, Vice President; Mac MacEwan, Secretary and Joan MacEwan, Treasurer.

The Maestros concluded the Rally Sunday morning with a pancake breakfast hosted by Ari & Sue Siegler. What a great way to end the Rally!





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### Midwest Area Rally



The Amana RV Park & Event Center is a great venue for a Rally. Everything is laid out in grids, all sites are full hookups with 30-50 amps and they are level. The only drawback is that the Morton Building can only seat about 500 people so it limits rallies to 250 RV's. The Midwest Rally was sold out more than a month ahead of time. We know of some Maestros that missed out on a great rally.

Joanne Baker, President of the Midwest Notable Chapter, stepped in to direct the Maestros when the scheduled Music Director had to cancel due to family medical issues. She was assisted by long time Midwest Notable Keyboard and Accordion player, Sally Boie. Joanne played the Alto Sax. Her husband, Horst Schaller split his time between the Trumpet and Accordion. Gene Bell (from California) and Bruce Taylor

added two more Trumpets to the group and Sherri Head played the very versatile Roland Accordion. Her Accordion can imitate just about any instrument and she would quite often fill in the much needed bass line.

The chorus included Gail Taylor, Glen Boie (Sally's husband) and Barb Boie (Sally & Glen's daughter). Rozanne Harper and Barb Smith, both busy with other Rally duties, sat in with the Chorus as time permitted. Rozanne (accompanied by Horst on his accordion) also led the anthems at the Opening Ceremonies.



Horst Schaller & Rozanne Harper

Practices began Monday morning and continued through Wednesday.

Our first performance was late Thursday afternoon for an hour-long concert and we also played at the Friday and Saturday Coffee Hours. The Maestros provided a lot of Polka music (Go figure! Our director is from Wisconsin and we had three accordion players.). The Wednesday night entertainment was provided by a local group of high energy singers and dancers known as the New Amana Colony Folk Singers. Their German-inspired extravaganza was awesome.



Gene Bell, Bruce Taylor & Horst Schaller

A highlight of the Rally came as the Block Parties were held around the campfire with the chapters providing desserts after the catered dinner (served by Dostal Catering) on Saturday evening. Our Maestros Horst and Sheri provided music with their accordions and others sang and danced while many attendees joined in.

As is the custom at any Rally which Horst Schaller attends, Taps was played at 9:00 each evening. He was joined by Bruce Taylor and Gene Bell.

The Taylors are now on the road headed to Redmond, Oregon for the 109<sup>th</sup> International Convention.

Happy trails to all of you!

# Got Talent ?

## The Stage is Yours !

The first night of the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) 2024 in October will feature a Talent Show. Open to all FMCA members, it will be your time to shine on the main stage in the Davis Event Center. Singers, instrumentalists, acrobats, jugglers, magicians, stand up comedians, bands such as bluegrass, polka, rock, and other talents we may not have even thought of:



# Come One, Come All

## Let's get the ball rolling

## Contact

Ron Hazelett

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Ron is an active teacher and music director, so please leave your contact information if he is not available when you call.

# The Spotlight is on YOU !

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